

## THE CRYSTAL SPRING

Collected by CECIL J. SHARP

Down by some crys - tal spring, where the night - in - gales - sing,  
 Most plea - sant it is in sea - son to hear the groves ring.  
 Down by the riv - er side, a young cap - tain I es - pied,  
 En - treat - ing of his true love, for to be his bride.

1 Down by some crystal spring,  
 Where the nightingales sing,  
 Most pleasant it is in season  
 To hear the groves ring.  
 Down by the river side,  
 A young captain I espied,  
 Entreating of his true love  
 For to be his bride.

2 "Dear Phyllis," says he,  
 "Can you fancy me?  
 All in your soft bowers  
 A crown it shall be:  
 You shall take no pain,  
 I will you maintain,  
 My ship she's a-loaded,  
 Just come in from Spain."

3 "There are young men I know,  
 Great kindness will show,  
 They will offer and proffer  
 Much more than they'll do;  
 And whenever they can find  
 A maiden that's kind,  
 With laughing and chaffing  
 They'll change like the wind."

4 "But if e'er I prove false  
 To my soft little dove  
 May the ocean turn desert;  
 And the elements move;  
 For whatever I shall be,  
 I'll be constant to thee.  
 Like a rover I will wander  
 And swim through the sea."

## NOTE

I have no variants of this song, nor have I been able to find it on ballad-sheets or in any published collection. I believe the tune to be a genuine folk-melody, though the sequence in the first phrase is unusual. On the other hand, the middle cadence on the third degree of the scale (thus avoiding a dominant modulation) is very characteristic of the folk-tune proper.