

I'M SEVENTEEN COME SUNDAY

Collected by CECIL J. SHARP

As I walk'd out one May morn - ing, One May morn - ing so ear - ly,
 I o - ver - took a hand - some maid, Just as the sun was ris - ing.
 With my rue dum day, fol the did - dle dol, Fol the dol, the did - dle dum the day.

1 As I walk'd out one May morning,
 One May morning so early,
 I overtook a handsome maid,
 Just as the sun was rising.

4 "Will you marry me, my fair, pretty maid?
 Will you marry me, my honey?"
 She answer'd me right cheerfully:
 "I dare not for my mammy."

Chorus With my rue dum day,
 Fol the diddle dol,
 Fol the dol,
 The diddle dum the day.

5 "If you'll come to my mammy's house,
 When the moon is shining brightly,
 I will come down and let you in,
 And my mammy shall not hear me."

2 Her shoes were bright, her stockings white,
 Her buckles shone like silver;
 She had a black and rolling eye,
 And her hair hung down her shoulder.

6 O soldier, will you marry me?
 For now's your time or never:
 For if you do not marry me,
 I am undone for ever.

3 "How old are you, my fair pretty maid?
 How old are you my honey?"
 She answered me quite cheerfully:
 "I'm seventeen come Sunday."

7 And now she is the soldier's wife;
 And sails across the brine O!
 "The drum and fife is my delight,
 And a merry man is mine, O!"

NOTE

This ballad, with words re-written by Burns, is in 'The Scots Musical Museum' (ed. 1792, No. 397). The tune there given, which is different from ours, is a traditional one, and was recorded by Burns himself from a singer in Nithsdale. Other versions are printed in the 'Journal of the Folk-Song Society' (volume i, p. 92; volume ii, pp. 9 and 269); 'Songs of the West' (No. 73, 2d ed.); and Ford's 'Vagabond Songs and Ballads' (p.99).

The words, which are on broadsides by Bebbington (Manchester) and Such, have not been altered. The tune is in the Dorian mode.