'Way Down in Maine,
Come Home, Father,
Rollicking Old Man,
Old Bachelor’s Song,
Johnny Bell’s Wooing.

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Once upon a time I loved a feller,
'Way down in Maine;
Who seen me home with his umbreller;
It rained so hard that I got scar'd,
And my new calico all got teared;
And my new calico all got teared,
'Way down in Maine.

Pretty soon we arrived at home;
'Way down in Maine;
Mammy was tickled to see me come,
She asked my feller in the kitchen,
I give him a nudge and didn’t he pitch in;
I give him a nudge and didn’t he pitch in;
'Way down in Maine.

He took my hand and squeezed it so,
'Way down in Maine;
On earth I didn’t know what to do;
Asked me did I like him pretty well,
Says I get out now I sha’n’t tell;
Says I get out now I sha’n’t tell;
'Way down in Maine.

Said he’d be mine if I’d be hisen,
'Way down in Maine;
But now I knew he was only quizzin,
For see him again I never will,
So boys I’m in the market still;
So boys I’m in the market still;
'Way down in Maine.
Come Home, Father.

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Father, dear father, come home with me now,
The clock in the steeple strikes one;
You said you were coming right home from the shop.
As soon as your day's work was done;
Our fire has gone out, our house is all dark,
And mother's been watching since tea,
With poor brother Benny so sick in her arms
And no one to help her but me.
Come home! come home! come home!
Please, father, dear father, come home.

CHORUS.

Hear the sweet voice of the child,
Which the night-winds repeat as they roam;
Oh, who could resist this most plaintive of prayers,
"Please, father, dear father, come home."

Father, dear father, come home with me now,
The clock in the steeple strikes two;
The night has grown colder, and Benny is worse
But he has been calling for you;
Indeed he is worse, ma says he will die,
Perhaps before morning shall dawn;
And this is the message she sent me to bring:
"Come, quickly, or he will be gone."

Father, dear father, come home with me now,
The clock in the steeple strikes three;
The house is so lonely, the hours are so long,
For poor weeping mother and me;
Yes, we are alone, poor Benny is dead,
And gone with the angels of light;
And these were the very last words that he said:
"I want to kiss papa good-night."
The Rollicking Old Man.

I'm old in years, but young in heart,
   As lively as a top;
I feel so active and so smart
   I don't know when to stop.
Can any of you tell me where
   I can cheer up my life,
And find a partner for my care?
   I mean a handsome wife.

CHORUS.

Just look at me and you will see
   A rollicking old man,
I sing and dance at every chance,
   And do the best I can.

We're often told that when we're old
   We all should hold our tongue,
And it is right both day and night
   To go it while you're young.
I'm eighty-five, yet I'm alive;
   When I shall reach five score
It's very plain I'll be young again,
   And go it all the more.  (CHORUS.)

While on the street I often meet
   Whole lots of handsome girls,
And all the while at me they smile,
   And shake their pretty curls.
They always stop to see "Old Pop,"
   While gracefully I bow;
I do engage to improve by age,
   And be always as brisk as now.  (CHORUS.)
The Old Bachelor's Song.

A bachelor's life is merry and free,
    His heart is not shrouded with care;
He has no children climbing his knee,
    And squalling and crying out "Pa."
But his days roll on like a pleasant dream,
    And are calm as a summer's sky,
And serenely he glides down time's hasty stream,
    Till the springs of his life are dry.

He has no wife who uses sweet words,
    Who calls him "my dear" and "my honey;"
Who warbles her voice like the song of the birds
    Whenever she wants any money;
Who kisses and hugs him and says, "My love,
    I want a new bonnet and dress;"
And thus it goes on till the Benedict finds,
    He has got in a terrible mess.

But a bachelor's life is untrammeled and free,
    As the greatest of earthly kings;
While the married man must his wife obey,
    And pack up and be off to the springs;
And while the old bachelor's laughing in glee,
    And basking in pleasure's smile,
The married man is called by a voice,
    "My dear, take care of that child."
The married man is never at ease,
    For something is always askew;
His wife will torment him and henpeck him round,
    Till she makes the poor fellow look blue;
The bachelor has no such trouble or care,
But merry and happy is he;
Then who would not live in a world like this,
A bachelor’s life so free.

Johnny Bell’s Wooing.

The day was departing in bright golden flushes,
When Johnny Bell tappit at my mither’s door;
My mither ca’d “Come in; and why a’ those blushes?
Guid Johnny you’ve been here, man, aften afore!”
But Johnny looked blate, tho’ his eyes were a’ beaming
He spake na to mither, he spake na to me;
I kenn’d what it meant, for last night I’d been dreaming
That blithe Johnny Bell cam’ a wooing to me,
I lo’ed Johnny Bell that my mither kenn’d weel,
And weel I kenn’d mither lo’ed Johnny Bell too;
But when a’ the speech has gane out o’ a chiel,
Tis hard for a lassie to tell what to do.

Again cam’ blithe Johnny when bright flow’rs were blowing,
He lifted the latch and cam’ in as o’ yore,
He spak’ to my mither, and tenderly flowing,
His speech thro’ my ears drippit to my heart’s core.
He spak’ na o’ lands, he spak’ na o’ money,
His eyes full o’ pearl-drops, he looked into mine,
And wi’ voice as sweet as the fresh gathered honey.
He said: “Dearest Jessie, Oh! wilt thou be mine?”
I lo’ed Johnny Bell that I lang had kenn’d weel,
Lang, lang had I kenned Johnny Bell lo’ed me too;
And when there’s true love ’tween a lassie and chiel,
Get wed is the very best thing they can do.
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