

# Horn Fair

C C F C/G G C

As I was a - walk - ing one morn - ing in spring, So

5 C C F C/G G C

soft blew the winds and the leaves grow - ing green.

F C C F G

13 C C F C/G G C

I met a pret - ty dam - sel all on a grey mare, As  
she was a - ri - ding on to Horn Fair.

I asked this pretty damsel for to let me ride.  
'O no'; then: 'O no, my mammy would sigh;  
And besides my old daddy would forbid me for sure,  
And never let me ride on the grey mare any more.

'I can find by your talk you're for one game of play,  
But you will not ride me nor my grey mare today.  
You will rumple my muslin and uncurl my hair,  
And I shouldn't be fit to be seen when I get to Horn Fair'.

'O, O, my pretty damsel, how can you say so,  
Since it is my intention Horn Fair for to go?  
We will join the best of company when we do get there,  
With horns on our heads as fine as our hair'.

There were the finest horns as ever you did behold,  
There were the finest horns as were gilded with gold;  
And ride merry, merry, merrily Horn Fair we did go,  
Like jolly, brisk couples, boys, and all in a row.

Sung by Frederick Teal, at the  
Wheatsheaf [now the Owl],  
Kingsfold, Surrey.

Collected by RVW on Dec 23, 1904.

The Horn Fair was held annually on  
October 18 at Charlton, then in Kent.  
It supposedly relates to a story about  
King John and a miller's wife; in  
return for her favours, he granted her  
husband the land from Charlton to  
Rotherhithe (Cuckold's Point) and  
the fair was established to  
commemorate this event, for the sale  
of horns and goods made of horn.  
The Fair included a procession from  
Cuckold's Point, through Deptford  
and Greenwich and ending in  
Charlton. It was suppressed in 1874.