Old Black Joe

As sung by
Lily Richmond
08-23-1946 Lancaster, WI

Lyrics
Gone are the days
When my heart was young and gay,
Gone from this earth
To them cotton fields away.
Why should I mourn
When my heart doth feel no pain?
I hear those gentle voices calling:
"Old black Joe."
I'm coming, I'm coming,
My head is bending low.
I hear those gentle voices calling:
"Old black Joe."

Critical Commentary

HST notes:
In the Professional Papers series:
Aunt Lily Richmond. Sung by a colored lady, the last of the slaves of Wisconsin of the Lancaster vicinity.
Came to Wisconsin from Missouri near the end of civil war pursued by the confederates.

Editor's notes:
This song was written by Stephen Foster.
Sources:

K.G.