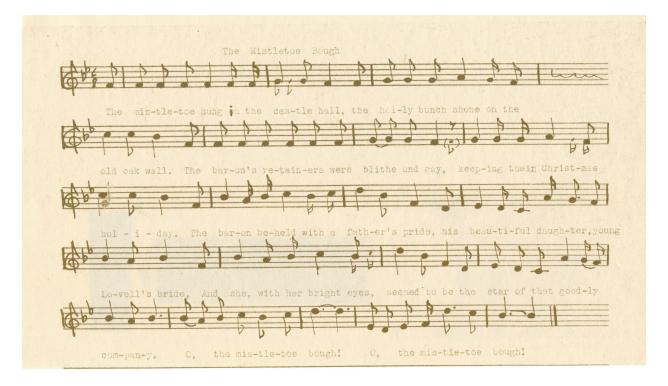
# The Mistletoe Bough



Verse 1.

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall, The holly branch shone on the old oak wall, The baron's retainers were blithe and gay, Keeping their Christmas holiday. The baron beheld with a father's pride, His beautiful daughter, young Lovell's bride. And she with her bright eyes seemed to be The star of that goodly company.

Oh, the mistletoe bough, Oh, the mistletoe bough.

Verse 2.

"I'm tired of dancing now," she cried, "Here tarry a moment, I'll hide, I'll hide, And Lovell, be sure thou art first to trace The clue to my secret hiding place. Away she ran and her friends began Each to search, each nook to scan, And Lovell cried, "Where dost thou hide? I'm lonely without thee, my own dear bride." Oh, the mistletoe bough, Oh, the mistletoe bough.



Verse 3.	Verse 4.
They sought her that night, they sought her next	At length, an old chest that had long lain hid
day,	Was found in the castle, they raised the lid,
They sought her in vain as the years passed	A skeleton form lay mouldering there
away,	With the bridal wreath of the lady fair,
In the highest, the lowest, the loneliest spot,	Oh sad was her fate, in sportive jest
Young Lovell sought wildly, but found her not.	She hid from her Lord in the old oak chest.
And the years passed away and his grief at last	It closed with a spring and her bridal bloom
Was told as a sorrowful tale, long past.	Lay withering there in a living tomb.
And when Lovell appeared the children cried,	Oh, the mistletoe bough, Oh, the mistletoe
"See the old man weep for his fairy bride."	bough.
Oh, the mistletoe bough, Oh, the mistletoe	
bough.	

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

## **Critical Commentary**

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 223, and HST

#### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series: Sung by Winifred Bundy, age 57, Madison, 1941 for H St-Th Another familiar old English ballad which may or may not have some relation to "Lord Lovell."

### Editor's notes:

According to Bacon, the words of this song are by Haynes Bayly, and the music by H. R. Bishop. Randolph adds that a similar text was published in *The National Temperance Songster*, 1855 (ed. Rev. James Young, Cincinnati, OH) (Bacon 323).

#### Sources:

Bacon, Mary Shell Hoke. *Songs Every Child Should Know*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1906.

Hatton J.L, and E.Faning. The Songs of England, vol. 3. Boosey n.d.

- Johnson, Helen Kendrick, comp. *Our familiar songs and those who made them*. New York: Arno Press, 1974.
- Peters, Harry B., ed. Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.
- Randolph, Vance, collector and editor. *Ozark Folksongs*. Vol. IV. Columbia, Mo.: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1946-50.

K.G.