Oh Will You Wear the White
Jenny Jenkins *

Verse
Oh will you wear the red oh my dear, oh my dear, _ oh will you wear the red, Jenny Jenkins? _ I will not wear the red, 'tis the color of my head. _

Refrain
Just buy me my till-a will-a double and my su-ki du-ki ride and my wine bange a-beer, bum a-roa bum a-where Jenny Jenkins _

Verse 1.
Oh will you wear the red
Oh my dear, oh my dear,
Oh will you wear the red, Jenny Jenkins?
I will not wear the red,
'Tis the color of my head.

Refrain
Just buy me my tilla willa
Double and my suki duki ride
And my wine bange a-beer,
Bum a-roa bum a-where Jenny Jenkins.

Verse 2.
Oh will you wear the green
Oh my dear, oh my dear,
Oh will you wear the green, Jenny Jenkins?
I will not wear the green,
In that color I'll not be seen.
(refrain)

Verse 3.
Then will you wear the white
Oh my dear, oh my dear,
Oh will you wear the white, Jenny Jenkins?
I will not wear the white,
For the color is too light.
(refrain)

Verse 4.
Oh will you wear the yellow
Oh my dear, oh my dear,
Oh will you wear the yellow, Jenny Jenkins?
I will not wear the yellow,
'Tis the color of my fellow.

* Title provided by editor, "white" to match HST's notes.
Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by MB and HST.

**HST notes:**
In the Professional Papers series:
*Sung by Winifred Bundy, age 62, Madison, 1946.*

This song was often used at social gatherings which Miss Bundy attended in her childhood home at Packwaukee. Verses were composed to fit the color of the ladies' dresses. The last verse was added by Miss Bundy during the draft evasion of World War I ("Oh will you wear the yellow ... It's the color of my fellow.")

Linscott states, "The earliest printed text of this song is called 'Jane Jenkins' and is found in The Green Mountain Songster, Sandgate, Vermont, 1823."

Alternate titles/related songs: "Will You Wear the Red?," "Jennie Jenkins."

**Sources:**
"Will you wear the red? or "Jennie Jenkins" tunes only slightly similar.

Digital Tradition Folk Music Database
<http://sniff.numachi.com/~rickheit/dtrad/pages/tiJJENKIN2.html> (accessed 1 May 2005) Text only, nearly identical except nonsense words are different. Note at bottom gives credit to *A Treasury of Folk Songs* by Sylvia and John Kolb.

K.G.