

Chicago Gambler

As sung by
Noble B Brown
11-17-1946 Millford, WI

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come all my young com - pan - ions. Where ev - er you may be, I'll". The second staff, starting with a measure rest labeled '5', contains the melody for the second line: "give to you a war - ning. To shun bad com - pa ny." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some longer notes and rests.

Verse 1.

Come all my young companions
Where ever you may be,
I'll give to you a warning
To shun bad company.

Verse 2.

My home 'twas in Pennsylvania
Among those pleasant hills,
The memory of my fireside
Is in my memory still.

Verse 3.

I did not love my fireside,
I did not love my home,
My mind was bent on rambling
I was inclined to roam.

Verse 4.

I had a loving sister,
As loving as could be;
Down on her knees before me
She pleaded long with me.

Verse 5.

I had a loving mother,
As loving as could be;
Down on her knees before me,
These words she spoke to me:

Verse 6.

"Fare thee well my loved one
May God protect my boy,
My blessing be with you forever
Throughout your rambling joy."

Verse 7.

I bade adieu to loved ones,
To friends I said farewell,
I landed in Chicago
In the very midst of hell.

Verse 8.

'Twas there I took to gambling
I sinned both night and day,
But always in my bosom
A feeble voice would say:

Verse 9.

"Fare thee well my loved one
May God protect my boy,
My blessing be with you forever
Throughout your rambling joy."

Verse 10.

I courted a fair maiden,
Her name I will not tell;
For why should I disgrace her
When I am doomed for hell.

Verse 11.

T'was on a moonlit evening
The stars were shining bright,
I raised my ugly dagger
And bade her spirit flight.

Verse 12.

But justice overtook me
As you can plainly see,
My soul is doomed forever
Throughout eternity.

Verse 13.

I now stand on the scaffold,
My moments are not long;
You may forget the singer
But don't forget the song.

Critical Commentary

Alternate titles/related songs: "Bad Company."

Sources:

Treasure Chest of Cowboy Songs. New York: Treasure Chest Publications, 1935. "Bad Company."

K.G.