

JONE O' GRINFIELD

I'm a poor cotton weaver as many a man knows
I've nowt to eat and I've worn out me clothes
You'd hardly give sixpence for all I've got on
Me clogs they are broken and me stockings I've none
You'd think it were hard to be sent into world
To clem and do best that you can

Our church parson he kept tellin' us long
We'd have better times if we'd holden our tongue
I've holden me tongue till I cannot draw breath
I think that he means for to clem me to death
I know he lives well by backbiting the devil
And he's never picked o'er in his life

Old Bills o' Dan sent bailiff one day
For a shop score I owed him that I could not pay
But he were too late for old Bills o' Bent
Had sent an old cart and taken goods for the rent
There were nowt but a stool that were an old seat for two
And on it cowered Margaret and me

Old bailiffs looked round as quiet as a mouse
When they saw all things were taken out of the house
Says one to the other, "All's gone thou may see"
I says, "Never fret lads! You're welcome to me!"
They made no more ado but picked up the old stool
And we both went whack upon the flags

I says to our Margaret as we lay upon the floor
"We'll never sink lower in this world I'm sure,
For if we must alter, I'm sure we must mend
For I think in me heart we are both at far end
For meat we have none nor looms to weave on
Eh god! They're as well lost as found"

I tarried six weeks and thought each were the last
I tarried and shifted till now I'm quite fast
I lived upon nettles when nettles were good
And Waterloo porridge was best of our food
I'm tellin' you true I can find folks anew
That are livin' no better than me

Our Margaret declared if she'd clothes to put on
She'd go up to London and see the big man
And tell him about all the things she had seen
How the masters get fat while the workers grow lean
She has nowt against the king but she likes a fair thing
And we've woven ourselves to far end

Traditional: Arranged Smyth

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