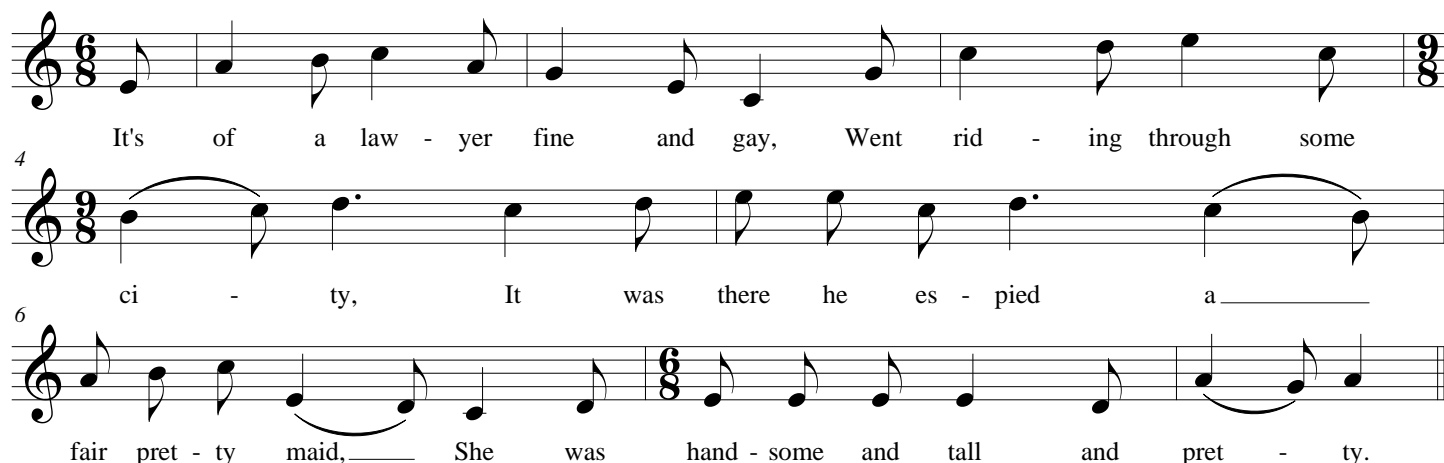


GB/6b/11 A Lawyer Fine and Gay

First Version

Noted by Francis Jekyll

Sung by Mrs. Verrall, Horsham, 1908



It's of a law - yer fine and gay, Went rid - ing through some
ci - ty, It was there he es - pied a
fair pret - ty maid, She was hand - some and tall and pret - ty.

1. It's of a lawyer fine and gay,
Went riding through some city;
It was there he espied a fair pretty maid;
She was handsome and tall and pretty.
2. "May I go with you, my pretty maid?"
He asked her so dearly;
"You can do as you please, kind sir," she said,
"But my father is there a-mowing."
3. This lawyer he got off his horse,
Thinking that he might gain her,
When she took such a fright right over the way,
Thinking he might undo her.
4. This lawyer ran like any deer,
Till he did overtake her,
When all that he whispered in her ear
Was what a fine lady he'd make her.
5. "I will take you up to fair London town,
"And all such lovely places,
"I will busk you into a silken gown,
"Gold rings and gold chains and gold laces."
6. "I will have none of your silken gowns,
"Nor go to none of your fine places.
"I'll never be busked in a silken gown,
"Gold rings nor gold chains nor gold laces."
7. "I never will be a lawyer's wife,
"To live in a house of ruin;
"I would rather be a poor man's wife.
"My husband loves me dearly."
8. "I would rather be a poor man's wife.
"My husband loves me dearly,
"And between us both we manage to keep
"A poor little innocent baby."

Note the Aeolian cadence in this otherwise purely Ionian (or major) tune
- R.V.W.

Is this the original of "Mowing the barley" now so much sung?
As "Oh where beese gwyng" a version can be seen in Rev. G. Hill's
"Wiltshire Folk Songs and Carols".
- D. K.

See also the note by Cecil Sharp prefacing GB/6B/11A - Ed.