

Wellington Harwood Manuscript - Zorra Twp.

POLLY PERKINS (Pretty Polly Perkins of Paddington Green)

I'm a broken-hearted milk-man, in grief I'm arrayed
All through keeping company, with a young servant maid
Who lived on board wages, the house to keep clean
In a gentleman's family, in Paddington Green

Chorus:

*She was beautiful as a butterfly, and proud as a queen
Was Pretty Polly Perkins of Paddington Green*

Her eyes they were black as the pips of a pear
No rose in the garden, with her cheeks could compare
Her hair hung in ringlets, so beautiful and long
I thought that she loved me, but I found she was wrong

Chorus:

When I'd rattle in the morning and carry milk below
At the sound of my milk cans, her face she would show
With a smile on her countenance, and a laugh in her eye
If I thought that she loved me, I'd lay down and die

Chorus:

When I asked her to marry, she said "Oh what stuff"
And told me to drop it, for she'd had quite enough
Of my nonsense - at the same time, I'd been very kind
But to marry a milkman wasn't just to her mind

Chorus:

The man that has me must have silver and gold
With a chariot to ride in, must be handsome and bold
His hair must be curly as any hairspring
With a mustache as big as a brush for clothing

Chorus:

In six months she married, this hard-hearted girl
'Twas not to a Viscount, 'twas not to an Earl
Or not to a milkman, but a shade or two worse
But a tipping conductor on a two-penny bus

Chorus:

This was a well-known music hall song, written and first performed by Harry Clifton in 1865. The tune is much the same as that of another music hall standard, "Cushie Butterfield", but also resembles that of the 18th century song, "Come Fathom The Bowl".