

You Can't Keep A Shantyboy Down

Sung by Ron Sisson, West Guilford, ON
George Proctor Collection Recorded Circa 1960
Chord suggestions by Ian Bell

D D7 Em A G

Kind friends your at - ten-tion I'll ask for a while, a few facts I'll en - dea-vour to show ___

F#m A D D7 Em G A A7 D

8 This world is a net-work, wove ve - ry small, 'Twill snare you as through life you go. ___

A D E7 A

16 Well trou-bles and toils we all have our share, That's the way weal-thy men gain re -

A7 D D7 G G#dim A A7 D

24 nown, And the way that you show it I'll now tell to you, for you can't keep a shan-ty boy down ___

Chorus: (sung to second half of verse melody)
Then hold up your head, this world never dread
Care not for a sneer nor a frown
Stare fate in it's face, if your heart's in it's place
For you can't keep a shantyboy down

Now take this old building, it stands here tonight
Compare it, for this is my plan
The roof is aristocracy, so are the walls
Foundation's the hard-working man
Go tear off the roof, the walls will remain
Look at the foundation 'tis strong
Tear away the foundation the workingman's laid
And the structure will fall to the ground

Chorus:
Then hold up your head, this world never dread
Care not for a sneer nor a frown
Stare fate in it's face, if your heart's in it's place
For you can't keep a shantyboy down

A shantyboy works, his money he spends
With his comrades so happy and gay
And scarcely the week, has come to an end
When his wages are all passed away
Where if he'd laid by a dollar or two
And placed it in some bank in town
He could now wink his eye at his boss on the sly
For you can't keep a shantyboy down

Chorus:
Then hold up your head, this world never dread
Care not for a sneer nor a frown
Stare fate in it's face, if your heart's in it's place
For you can't keep a shantyboy down

The melody of this may be based on the temperance song "Father Dear Father, Come Home"