

G o l d f o r m y L a d y

G C G D

singing gold for my lady silver for the maid copper for the copper-smith who's cunning at his trade

G C G D6 G

but says the iron miner pickin' up his fall a big churn of brush ore is better than them all

G C G

v14 Dow_n in__ the brown rock way__ beneath the turf, you'll find { } the iron miners
 v2 Think on one poor { } miner lanky Jubut Kear { } so worn were__ his old bones they
 v3 Many an old { } miner knew { } El i jah Brain so skilled was he in each hand he

D6 G C

v14 hacking__ at the earth, { } chipping for a living { } their hand drills beating proud_ { }
 v2 creaked for all to hear { } as he walked to work they say you'd hear his joints go crack { }
 v3 used 'em { } both the same without he'd miss a beat he'd { } { } lean the other way catch

G D6 G

v14 ringing out the rhythm of this song they're singing loud singing
 v2 swinging his old weary frame clear down the Clearwell track singing
 v3 hammer in his drill hand and swap like that all day singing

rest
 one bar

Words & Music
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guit
 acc
 D6 =

Imagine a dank day in the Forest of Dean, where would you go? Clearwell Iron Mines seem like a good idea. Those beginnings of inspiration are tickled by the carved bedrock and drawings of miners gripping wooden candle holders in their teeth. The museum personnel are pestered for more information or at least a source book. Finally when Cresby hints at some lyrical purpose, they reveal true stories of 2 men who worked there and an old poem. As an after-thought they admitted, almost apologetically, it was not a poem, the men used to chant it to time their hammer blows. The effect of this revelation must be similar to those S. Baring-Gould & C. Sharp felt when they saw a crown of gleaming gold in what the rural labourer treated like a sweaty, moth-eaten felt hat.

The chant became a chorus and the stories shuffled themselves into place. The tune? Well it just seems to fit, two hammer blows per bar. In true antique trade tradition, one might be able to claim it as traditional because more than 50% of the material is 100 years old. But we won't! Mr Kipling might disapprove.

The hand drills referred to are 4/5 ft. iron chisels with a leather ferrule near the handhold to divert the water away from the hand. The drill technique was blow & rotate, blow & rotate using water to soften and remove limestone debris. The deep holes were then charged with explosives and detonated. A churn is a cavern or chamber. Brush ore looks like rounded hollow rocks the size of large potatoes or rugby balls which when cracked open revealed crystals of black iron oxide. The crystals grow from the limestone shell straight inwards looking just like a hair brush.