

# 1. MY OLD WIFE.

1

With well marked accent. ♩ = 114.

PIANO. *f*

*mf*

Key G. ♯

1. My old wife is a good old cratur, Nev - er was a kind - er born;

Repeat for CHORUS. *f*

Neer did aught to make me hate her, Since the wed - ding ring she's worn.

- CHORUS. And every morning for my breakfast,  
She gives me good toast and roll.  
My old wife is a good old cratur,  
My old wife is a good old soul.
2. Some folks say she aint a beauty,  
But none can match her for her smile;  
She acts upright and does her duty,  
She's fond of me and that's my style. — *Chorus.*
  3. We've lived many years together,  
We've seen ups and downs in life,  
But through fine and stormy weather,  
She's always proved a faithful wife. — *Chorus.*
  4. And at night, when work is over,  
She brings my 'bacca and my beer;  
So you see I live in clover,  
Aint my wife a good old dear? — *Chorus.*
  5. And when matters run three-cornered,  
She sidles up so droll and kind,  
Gives me a buss and gently whispers,  
"Did um vex it, never mind." — *Chorus.*

Over thirty years ago, I learnt this song in Liverpool from a rustic singer, and often afterwards sang it in Lancashire (though its use is not confined to that county) at church entertainments and social gatherings, omitting the fourth verse when it was a temperance meeting. The claim that the words and music are of Saxon origin is probably Chattertonian, but they are certainly old. Edwin Waugh refers to "My owd wife" as a quaint, old country song, and quotes the words in dialect thus: "My owd wife, hoo's a good owd cratur." George Simpson published an edition of the song in 1854, with the same air, and more verses.