

7. THE SONG OF THE SOUL-CAKERS.

(CHESHIRE TRADITIONAL SONG.)

Collected by JOHN P. ARMSTRONG, Hartford

In a jovial manner. ♩ = 120.

VOICE.

Key F. :d .,m | s :s :s ,s ,l }
1. Here we come, three jol-ly good

{s .,m :d :d .,m | l :s :m | r :- :d .,m | s :s :s .l | s :m :d }
heart - y lads, And we're all in one mind, This night we come a - soul - ing good

{l :s :m | r :f :m .,r | d :s, :d | r :s, :m .,f | s :f :r | d :- :- ||
na - ture to find, And we hope you'll re - mem - ber, That it's soul - cak - ing time.

REFRAIN.

{d .,m s :d | d .,m :s :d | s .,l :s :f :m | r :d :- :- ||
Fal - di - day, Fal - di - day, Fal - da - did - dle - di - do - day.

{:d .,r | m :m :m | r :r :m }
2. And the first to come in is Lord
3. And the next to come in is Lord

|| d :d :r d :-:d .,m s :s :l s :m :d l :s :m r :-:d .,m s :s :l }
 Nel-son you see With a bunch of blue rib-bontied on to his knee; And a star on his
 Coll - ing - wood He that sailed with Lord Nel - son all thro' the last war; He comes o - ver the

|| s :m :d | l :s :m | r :f :m .,r d :s, :d | r :s, :m .,f | s :f :r | d :-: - ||
 breast that like sil - ver doth shine, So we hope you'll re - member, That it's soul-cak - ing time.
 o - cean old Eng-land to view, And he comes now soul - cak - ing, With our jo - vi - al crew.

REFRAIN.

|| d .,m :s :d | d .,m :s :d | s .,l :s .f :m | r :d :-: ||
 Fal - di - day, Fal - di - day, Fal - da - did - de - di - do - day.

This song is heard in the district lying within a radius of five miles from the ancient abbey of Vale Royal. (founded 1277) now the residence of Lord Delamere. During a period of about one week in October and November but more particularly on the eve of All Souls' Day, parties of youths, locally known as "Soul Cakers," visit the houses in the neighbourhood in the evening, and after singing this song receive refreshments, chiefly "Parkin" (gingerbread) or small sums of money. The singers are usually disguised in long black cloaks. It is considered that the present practice is a survival of a pre-reformation custom of the monks of Vale Royal, who, on the eve of All Souls' Day called at the houses of the faithful in the vicinity of the abbey exhorting them to pray for the souls of the departed. Probably the gift of "parkin" symbolises the refreshments which the householders offered to their monastic guests. J. P. A.

The song, as heard by Mr. Armstrong, was obviously incomplete, as it ended with the introduction of Lord Nelson on the scene. I have added the third verse from another song of the period on peace or peace-egging, the numerous verses of which conclude as follows:

And at last comes old miser with all her brown rags
 For fear of her money she wears her old rags,
 So mind what you're doing and see that all's right
 If you give nought, we'll take nought, so farewell and good-night. J. G.