Synopsis

A celebration of the new railway and the people who went to see it.

Text:

O come and listen to my song / And I will not detain you long, About the folks, they all did throng / To the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

chorus: Ri-fan, Ti-fan, mirth and fun, / Don't you wonder how it's done?

Carriages without horses run / On the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

And to go along the line / Mother, father, son and daughter, Going along at one o'clock / By fire, by steam and water.

And from the villages and the towns / Ladies and gents all gathered round And music through the air did sound / Along the Oxford Railway.

There's butchers, bakers, nailers too, / And lots of gents all dressed in blue, And they've all come to take a view / At the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

Now there's a girl in Worcester town / I think her name is Nancy, She said a ride along the line / Would really please her fancy.

She'll go by steam, she'll come by steam, / By steam she'll unbehurried, And if she do a husband find / By steam they will be married.

Now an old girl looking up the line / Said, "I don't give a farthing, For they've pulled down me cottage fine / And taken away me garden.

Where I for many years did dwell / Growing cabbages and potatoes, But worse than that my daughter now /Run off with a navigator."

When line is finished at both ends / Then you can send your cocks and hens And go and visit all your friends / Along the Oxford Railway.

You can send your butter and cheese /At any time whenever you please. You can send your hens and eggs / And them can ride as has no legs On the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway

Glossary:

Hampton the name by which people living around Birmingham, Wolverhampton and

the Black Country would have referred to Wolverhampton

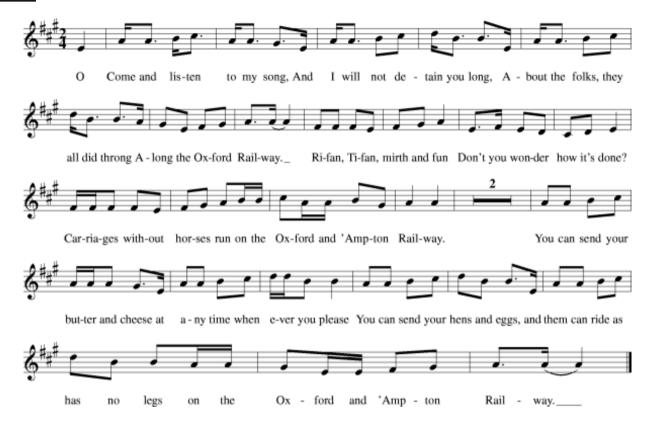
Nailer Nail maker

Navigator Navvy

Source of Text: Victoria's Inferno, Raven Jon, ISBN 0 950 3722 3 4

Raven says that the text and melody were taken from the singing of an un-named boatman in a public house at the Wolverhampton canal basin in 1962 and was collected by David Balgrove.

Music.



Source of Music: Victoria's Inferno, Raven Jon, ISBN 0 950 3722 3 4

Printer: Collected from the Oral tradition

Where Printed: Not applicable

<u>Author</u>: Anonymous

Date: 1852

Notes of the Song and Its Historical Background

Related Songs:

This song is a member of Variant Set 003 – Oxford Railway. See the notes on that variant set for more information.