

Sleepytoon

compound time

anacrusis *repetition of first phrase*

It hap - pened at last Whit - sun - day, I ti - red o ma place And

6 *chorus*

I gaed o - wer tae Inch to fee, My for - tune for tae chase. And sing

10 *groupings in compound time*

air - rie er - ri - tie a - die, And sing air - rie er - ri - tie an.

- 2 I met in wi Adam Mitchell
An tae fee we did presume
He's a fairmer ower in Kinnethmont
And he bides at Sleepytoon.
And sing etc., (chorus)
- 3 If you and I'll agree he says
You'll have the fairest play
For I never bid my servant's work
Abune ten hours a day...
- 4 Noo if a' be true ye tell to me
I think the place will suit
Gude-faith an' I'll gang along wi' you
But ye're an ugly brute...
- 5 Noo 'twas on a Monday mornin'
I gaed hame tae Sleepytoon
And he ranked us in guid order
For tae lay his turnips doon...
- 6 The orders wis tae bed at nine
And never leave the toon
And for every time we left it
We'd be fined a hauf a croon...

- 7 Noo Knowles was fined aye mony's a time
But never lost the hairt;
And I mysel was fined a pound
For turnin ower a cairt...
- 8 Noo we never heeded Adam
But it's aye we took the pass
Sometimes to buy tobacco
Sometimes to see a lass...
- 9 But noo the term's come at last
The wages sairly won
And we'll awa ower to Rhynie muir
And there we'll hae some fun...
- 10 When we are ower in Alford
We'll gar the gless gae roun'
And we'll tell about the bad usage
That we got in Sleepytoon...
- 11 No maybes I'll see old Adam yet
Jist sittin' at his brose
An I'll gie him a len' o ma hankie
For tae dicht his snotty nose...

Sleepytoon is a typical bothy ballad, telling of the experience of a farm worker who went to fee for Adam Mitchell, farmer at Sleepytoon. Like many of these songs, it makes fun of the farmer who works his crew hard and gives them few "perks".

Bothy Ballads are usually associated with the north-east of Scotland, and especially Aberdeenshire (the dialect used in this song), but similar songs about working life can be found throughout the country. Bothy ballads were being made and sung most widely during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The tunes are often sung rhythmically, by a male voice, with others joining in the chorus. Often the same tune would be re-used many times for different sets of words. The tune of Sleepytoon has a jig-type rhythm, and is built on two notes a tone apart (the "double tonic").

Whitsunday - Sunday in mid-May
to fee - to get a job
bides - lives
abune - above
took the pass - took the way out

gar the gless - pass the drinks
usage - treatment
brose - oatmeal with milk/water
len' - loan
dicht - wipe