

The Dilly Song (as collected)

Collected by Cecil Sharp 31-March-1912

Sung by John Bradley at Coates, Glos

I will sing the 12, O. What is the 12, O? 12 the 12 A - pos-tle - ships,

11 the 11_ ben-cher-ships and ten,the ten com mand - ments; 9 the 9 bright shi-ners,

8 are the gib-ble ran- gers, 7 the 7 stars in the sky and 6 the 6 proud wal- kers;

5 are the sym-bols in my bo-som 4 the gos-pel preachers; Three, three the

ri- ders; 2 and 2 the li-ly white boys cloth-cd all in green O_

(a) (a) alternate ending

When the one is left a-lone it ev-er more shall be so.

I will sing the twelve-O; what is the twelve-O?
 Twelve the twelve apostle ships,
 Eleven for the eleven bencherships and ten, the ten commandments;
 Nine the nine bright shiners, eight are the gibble rangers,
 Seven the seven stars in the sky and six the six proud walkers;
 Five are the symbols in my bosom, four the gospel preachers;
 Three, three, the riders;
 Two and two the lily white boys clothed all in green-O;
 When one is left alone it ever more shall be so

Song as collected by Cecil Sharp March 1912

Source: Sharp, manuscript copy ref FT2578

Notes:

1. Age of singer not provided
2. Similar songs usually start with One and build to Twelve. Sharp only noted the above, but the first verse will be similar to:-
 I will sing the one-O; what is the one-O?
 When one is left alone it ever more shall be so (See singing copy)
3. John Bradley is not in Coates census records. It is possible he was invited to Mrs Swanwick's house when Cecil Sharp visited, similar to when Charles Smith was recorded (see Joseph was a-walking)

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Oct 2012/HT Oct 2012/GD Oct 2012. Update Jan 2014 (note 3)