

The Dilly Song

Collected by Cecil Sharp 31-March-1912

Sung by John Bradley at Coates, Glos

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

13 11 the 11_ ben-cher-ships and ten, the ten com mand-ments; 9 the 9 bright shi -ners,

19 8 are the gib-ble ran- gers, 7 the 7 stars in the sky and 6 the 6 proud wal kers;

25 5 are the sym-bols in my bo-som 4 the gos-pel preach ers; Three, three the

31 ri ders; 2 and 2 the li-ly white boys cloth-ed 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 one-O; what is the one-O?

When one is left alone it ever more shall be so (use tune ending (a))

I will sing the two-O; what is the two-O?

Two and two the lily white boys clothed all in green-O;

When one is left alone it ever more shall be so (use tune ending (a))

Etc. until

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 for singing, Source: Cecil Sharp, manuscript copy ref FT2578 transposed down to G

Notes: This singing copy assumes the usual 'Lily White Boys' sequences starting at one, then two, etc.

Audit Transcription prepared by VL Oct 2012/HT Oct 2012/GD Oct 2012. Update Jan 2014 'at Coates, not 'of'