"Factory Girl's Song"

Extracted on Apr-14-2020 12:43:56

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the “Smithsonian”) provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence (“SI Websites”) in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the following terms.

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of American History as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of American History website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of American History or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of American History. See this project and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.
THE
Factory Girl's Song.

Come all you weary Factory girls,
I'll have you understand,
I'm going to leave the Factory
And return to my native land.

No more I'll have these tolling bells,
To call me from my bed;
No more I'll hear those passing drums
As they roll o'er my head.

No more I'll put my bonnet on
And hasten to the mill,
While all the girls are working hard,
Here I'll be lying still.

No more I'll lay my bobins up,
No more I'll take them down:
No more I'll clean my dirty work,
For I'm going out of town.

No more I'll take my piece of soap,
No more I'll go to wash,
No more my Overseer shall say
"Your frames are stopped to doff."

No more my Overseer shall say,
"Your ends they are all down,
While you're in the middle of the room,
Acting out the clown!"

Come all you little doffers,
That work in the Spinning room;
Go wash your face and comb your hair.
Prepare to leave the room.

No more I'll oil my picker rods,
No more I'll brush my loom,
No more I'll scour my dirty floor
All in the Weaving-room.

No more I'll oil my picker rods,
No more I'll brush my reed,
No more I'll say to MARIA —
The Devil's in the speed!

No more I'll draw these threads
All through the harness eye;
No more I'll say to my Overseer,
Oh! dear me, I shall die.

No more I'll get my Overseer
To come and fix my loom,
No more I'll say to my Overseer,
Can't I stay out 'till noon?

Then since they've cut my wages down
To nine shillings per week,
If I cannot better wages make,
Some other place I'll seek.

No more he'll find me reading,
No more he'll see me sew,
No more he'll come to me and say:
"Such works I can't allow!"

I do not like my Overseer,
I do not mean to stay,
I mean to hire a Depot-boy
To carry me away.

The Dress-room girls, they need not think,
Because they higher go,
That they are better than the girls
That work in the rooms below.

The Overseers they need not think,
Because they higher stand;
That they are better than the girls
That work at their command.

And as for we poor Factory Girls,
'Tis plain we all do know,
How much we suffer in the winter-time,
A wandering through the snow.

'Tis a wonder how the men,
Can such machinery make,
A thousand wheels together roll
Without the least mistake.

Now soon you'll see my married
To a handsome little man,
'Tis then I'll say to you Factory Girls,
Come and see me when you can.

"Factory Girl's Song"
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-14-2020 12:43:56
The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!
The Transcription Center: https://transcription.si.edu
On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter
On Twitter: @TranscribeSI

Connect with the Smithsonian
Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu
On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Smi
On Twitter: @smithsonian