



O No, John!

There are a dizzying number of variations of this charming song. The version most frequently heard has suffered from bowdlerization by Cecil Sharp: "... the lines were coarse and needed considerable revision." It is believed to have stemmed from old English "singing games," and is a close relative of such songs as "The Keys to Canterbury." It is amusing to consider that there is a Salvation Army version entitled "Yes, Lord!" A fascinating discussion of the song may be found in James Reeves' *The Idiom of the People*.

Allegretto

On yon - der hill there stands a — crea - ture; Who she is I

do not know. I'll go and court her for her — beau - ty,

She must an - swer yes or no. O no, John! No, John! No, — John!