

## Good Ale

*The song was included in Volume 7 of Baring Gould (1895) Old English Songs from English Minstrelsie (xix-xx, 60-61). He commented: "This old tune has gone through many changes, and has been adapted on one side to a cock-fighting song, and on the other has become that still popular song, O Rare Turpin Hero, which is sung by our peasantry. Mr. Chappell points out that O Good Ale resembles in the outset the air "John, come kiss me now". The song is to be found on half-sheet music in the British Museum (G. 312)." Also on broadside in Bodleian library ca 1863. This version as sung by John Hancox. Roud 203.*

'Tis of good ale to you I'll sing  
And to good ale I'll always cling  
I like my mug filled to the brim  
And I'll drink all you'd like to bring

### Chorus

*Oh good ale, thou art my darling  
Thou art my joy both night and morning*

'Tis you that makes me have to work  
And from a task I'll never shirk  
If the landlord offers me one free  
Instead of one pint I'll have three

### Chorus

I love you in the early morn  
I love you in daylight, dark or dawn  
And when I'm weary, tired and spent  
I'll turn the tap and ease the vent

### Chorus

It's you that makes my friends my foes  
It's you that makes me wear old clothes  
But when you come so near my nose  
It's up you comes and down you goes

### Chorus

If all my friends from Adam's race  
Were gathered here all in this place  
I'd part from all without one tear  
Before I'd part from my good beer

Chorus

You've caused me debts I've often swore  
I'll never drink strong ale no more  
But you for all that, I forgive  
And drink strong ale, long as I live

Chorus

*Not acceptable now - though performed with relish by John  
Hancox*

{And if my wife did me despise  
How soon I'd give her two black eyes,  
But if she loved me like I love thee  
What a happy couple we should be}