

Poacher's Song

The image shows the first three lines of musical notation for the song. The first line is in common time (C) and contains the lyrics: "I work - ed for a gen - tle - man, I work - ed by the day". The second line is also in common time and contains: "Down in a lit - tle gar - - den, Close by _____ the high - - way". The third line starts with a common time signature, changes to 2/4 time for the first two measures, and then returns to common time. It contains the lyrics: "Fal de ral ri; fal de ral lal lal li day!".

I work-ed for a gentleman, I work-ed by the day
Down in a lit-tle garden, Close by the highway
Fal de ral ri; fal de ral lal lal li day!

I saw something dancing, I thought it was a hare -
Why don't you go and catch it and catch it in a snare?

I got up the next morning, a-seeking for my prey,
A keeper sat in an arbour-bush, close by the highway.

He hopped me off to prison, I suffered more and more,
For six long months, or better, my bed was made of straw.

I had a very large family at home, and all my neighbours say
They only had one half-peck loaf for eight long summer's day.