

**Synopsis**

Satirical description of a mis-hap that occurred during the construction of the railway.

**Themes:** Railway building

**Text**

There was a man from Malton came, / To move three engines far away  
He said that he would all men shame, / To put them on a truck or dray

He took the Carlisle off from Hull, / At Hedon it got bound  
Before it reached Kelsey hill, / It stuck fast in the ground

And sore amazed the parties stood, / The engine man had nought to say  
The drivers wished there would come a flood, / And wash them all away

A young man bounced and puff'd about, / Old Punch swore all were tools (sic)  
A man from Burstwick seemed quite huffed, / And d----d them all for fools

Also a man from Sheffield came, / and he seemed very fire-ish  
And said at once if he'd been there, / He'd have had a lot of Irish

A Welchman met in Hull at night, / And said it was too late  
Otherwise he would have proved, / A true and faithful mate

A great contractor on the line, / With pony stout and grey  
Observed them at a distance, / Then rode off another way

At last the draughtsman on the line, / With level box and chain  
He swore he'd have the engine there, / Or never try again

This engine has in Holderness, / Of jokes been quite the cream  
But now being safely on the rails, / Will soon get up the steam

Composed by messers J & S

**Glossary:**

The Carlisle	Probably the name of the locomotive.
dray	Wagon without side rails used for carry heavy loads.
truck	In this context, a (horse drawn) strong flat open trolley for carrying blocks of stone or the like (OED) rather than a railway wagon.
Hedon, Burstwick	Stations on the line

**Source of Text:** Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads;

**Music.** No tune given

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**Printer:** Unknown

**Where Printed:** probably near Hull

**Author :** Messers J & S

**Date:** 1853

### **Notes on the Song and Its Historical Background**

The Hull and Holderness Railway connected Kingston upon Hull to the North Sea coast at Withernsea

The line of about 18 miles (29 km) was opened on 24 June 1854. Construction of the line in the flat and open Holderness plain was rapid ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hull\\_and\\_Holderness\\_Railway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hull_and_Holderness_Railway)) although this song suggests that it was not without incident.