**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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Carlisle</td>
<td>Probably the name of the locomotive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>dray</td>
<td>Wagon without side rails used for carry heavy loads.</td>
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<tr>
<td>truck</td>
<td>In this context, a (horse drawn) strong flat open trolley for carrying blocks of stone or the like (OED) rather than a railway wagon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hedon, Burstwick</td>
<td>Stations on the line</td>
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</table>
Sons From the Age of Steam

Hull and Holderness Railway, 20th. October, 1853

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

Music: No tune given

Source of Music: No tune given

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.