
Synopsis

A description of Kendal hiring fair and the people attending

Themes: Impact on rural life

Text

Includes the lines

From Burnside and Stavely the people will come
From Ambleside and Windemere by railroad they will run

Glossary:

Source of Text: Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads; Harding B 11(1108)

Music. No tune given

Source of Music: No tune given

Printer:**Where Printed:**

Author : Anonymous

Date: 1850

Notes on the Song and Its Historical Background

The first verse includes the lines "*Now Kendal Fair is come again both young and old so thrifty / Will run with glee to have a spree in 1850*". The song is printed on a sheet together with a song called "*Exhibition of all nations!*" that looks forward to the Great Exhibition of 1851 and which refers to the "*Exhibition which will take place in 51*"

There was opposition to the proposals from those who were against what they saw as destruction of the Lake District landscape. Those opposing included the poet William Wordsworth. His letters to the editor of the *Morning Post* are reproduced in *The Illustrated Wordsworth's Guide to the Lakes*, P. Bicknell, Ed. (Congdon and Weed, New York, 1984), pp. 186-198. His reactions to the technological and "picturesque" incursions of man on his beloved, wild landscape most famously include the following sonnet:

*Is then no nook of English ground secure
From rash assault? Schemes of retirement sown
In youth, and 'mid the busy world kept pure
As when their earliest flowers of hope were blown,
Must perish;—how can they this blight endure?
And must he too the ruthless change bemoan
Who scorns a false utilitarian lure*

*'Mid his paternal fields at random thrown?
Baffle the threat, bright Scene, from Orresthead
Given to the pausing traveller's rapturous glance:
Plead for thy peace, thou beautiful romance
Of nature; and, if human hearts be dead,
Speak, passing winds; ye torrents, with your strong
And constant voice, protest against the wrong.*

Despite this opposition, the Kendal and Windermere Railway Act authorising construction received the royal assent on 30 June 1845, and when the L&CR opened southwards from Oxenholme on 22 September 1846, the route to Kendal was already built. By 20 April 1847, the through route to Windermere station was complete.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kendal_and_Windermere_Railway