

**Synopsis**

A celebration of the new railway and the people who went to see it.

**Text:**

O come and listen to my song / And I will not detain you long,  
About the folks, they all did throng / To the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

chorus:            Ri-fan, Ti-fan, mirth and fun, / Don't you wonder how it's done?  
                         Carriages without horses run / On the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

And to go along the line / Mother, father, son and daughter,  
Going along at one o'clock / By fire, by steam and water.

And from the villages and the towns / Ladies and gents all gathered round  
And music through the air did sound / Along the Oxford Railway.

There's butchers, bakers, nailers too, / And lots of gents all dressed in blue,  
And they've all come to take a view / At the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway.

Now there's a girl in Worcester town / I think her name is Nancy,  
She said a ride along the line / Would really please her fancy.

She'll go by steam, she'll come by steam, / By steam she'll unbehurried,  
And if she do a husband find / By steam they will be married.

Now an old girl looking up the line / Said, "I don't give a farthing,  
For they've pulled down me cottage fine / And taken away me garden.

Where I for many years did dwell / Growing cabbages and potatoes,  
But worse than that my daughter now / Run off with a navigator."

When line is finished at both ends / Then you can send your cocks and hens  
And go and visit all your friends / Along the Oxford Railway.

You can send your butter and cheese / At any time whenever you please.  
You can send your hens and eggs / And them can ride as has no legs  
On the Oxford and 'Ampton Railway

**Glossary:**

Hampton	the name by which people living around Birmingham, Wolverhampton and the Black Country would have referred to Wolverhampton
Nailer	Nail maker
Navigator	Navvy

**Source of Text:**    Victoria's Inferno, Raven Jon, ISBN 0 950 3722 3 4

Raven says that the text and melody were taken from the singing of an un-named boatman in a public house at the Wolverhampton canal basin in 1962 and was collected by David Balgrove.

### Music.

O Come and lis-ten to my song, And I will not de - tain you long, A - bout the folks, they  
all did throng A - long the Ox-ford Rail-way. Ri-fan, Ti-fan, mirth and fun Don't you won-der how it's done?  
Car-ria-ges with-out hor-ses run on the Ox-ford and 'Amp-ton Rail-way. You can send your  
but-ter and cheese at a - ny time when e-ver you please You can send your hens and eggs, and them can ride as  
has no legs on the Ox - ford and 'Amp - ton Rail - way.\_\_\_\_

**Source of Music:** Victoria's Inferno, Raven Jon, ISBN 0 950 3722 3 4

**Printer:** Collected from the Oral tradition

**Where Printed:** Not applicable

**Author :** Anonymous

**Date:** 1852

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

#### **Related Songs:**

This song is a member of Variant Set 003 – Oxford Railway. See the notes on that variant set for more information.