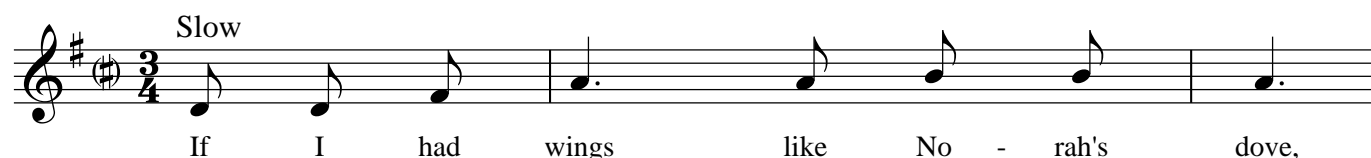


Fare Thee Well, O Honey

Informant/Performer:
Dink
Brazos River, Texas, 1904

Source:
John A. and Alan Lomax
Folk Song U.S.A.
New York: Meredith Press, 1968

Slow

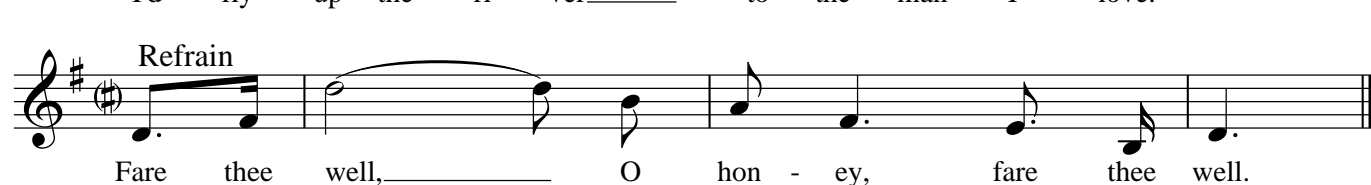


If I had wings like No - rah's dove,



I'd fly up the ri - ver_____ to the man I love.

Refrain



Fare thee well,_____ O hon - ey, fare thee well.

2. I've got a man and he's long and tall,
Moves his body like a cannon ball.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
3. One of these days, and it won't be long,
Call my name and I'll be gone.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
4. Remember one night, a-drizzlin' rain,
Round my heart I felt a pain.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
5. When I wore my apron low,
Couldn't keep you from my door.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
6. Now I wear my apron high,
Scarcely ever see you passin' by.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
7. Now my apron's up to my chin,
You pass my door and you won't come in.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.
8. If I had listened to what my mama said,
I'd be at home in my mama's bed.
Fare thee well, O honey, fare thee well.

Background Information

This song was collected by John Lomax from a work site on the Brazos River where the contractor had trouble with fighting in his all male work gang, and therefore went down to Memphis and got a boat load of women sent up who paired off rapidly to cook, wash and comfort the men. The sorrowful result for a woman is the story of this song.