

**CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC**

Not for mother's mercy and not for lover's kiss  
I've seen my share of Tennessee, and now I'm headed West  
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way  
I give my word to Caroline, I won't be long away

**CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC**

Many a train I've ridden, many a day I've cursed  
I've not forgot the vow I made, the many sweet lines rehearsed  
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way  
I'll fly back home to Caroline, make her my wife that day

**GCFC | AmAmGC | CCFC | AmGFC**

**You're the first thing on my mind, the last breath that I take  
And in my darkest hour you're the light that breaks the day  
But I always had my reason and you're my reason why  
I would walk a thousand miles just to have you by my side**

**CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC**

Hard work and honest living make fast a rich man poor  
The pleasures I've known, my hand have made, but God, I pray for yours  
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way  
I gave my word to Caroline, but I've grown old and grey

**GCFC | AmCGC | CCGC | AmGFC**

**You're the first thing on my mind, the last breath that I take  
And in my darkest hour you're the light that breaks the day  
But I always had my reason and you're my reason why  
I'm riding on through all the tears of you dancing in my mind**

**CFFC | CAmFG | CFFC | CAmGC**

I've learned to love the morning, the mist and sunny dew  
My dreams have come full circle now, I'm coming home for you  
If 'er good fate and fortune should come and pass my way  
I'd fly back home to Caroline, but she waits in a lonesome grave

**CFFC | CAmGC**

For now good fate and fortune have long since passed me by  
Lay me down with the woman I love, and leave no tear behind