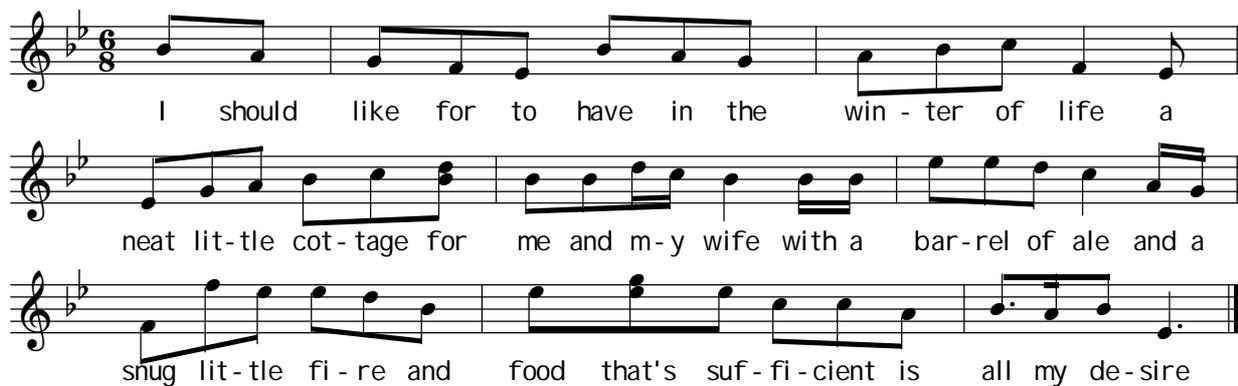


In the Winter of Life



The image shows three staves of musical notation in 6/8 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The lyrics are: "I should like for to have in the win - ter of life a neat lit-tle cot-tage for me and m-y wife with a bar-rel of ale and a snug lit-tle fi-re and food that's suf-fi-cient is all my de-sire".

I should like for to have in the winter of life
A neat little cottage for me and my wife *(March 20th 1896 - 'free from discord and strife')*
With a barrel of ale and a snug little fire
And food that's sufficient is all my desire
 For I'm growing old and my locks they are grey
 No more shall I dance with the young and the gay
 For time hath determined the truth to unfold
 I've a mark on my forehead to show I am old

And some wounded old soldier I'll have with me dwell
With his cook and to hear the strange stories he'll tell
How he conquered his fears and the victory was gain'd
And how he returned and how he got lamed
 For I'm growing old

If the friend comes to visit me and my little cot
I bid him partake of the luck of my pot
No ale shall be wanting while with me he doth stay
But the bailiff I always send empty away
 For I'm growing old

The very next moment I'm panting for breath
Then close by my elbow see grasping old Death
I'll ask not the time for one moment to stay
He's the great king of terrors and we must obey
 For I'm growing old

The tune was taken down from Charles Arscott of South Zeal on August 9th 1894. 'He absolutely refused to allow the words to be taken down, but did not object to the melody being noted. Words got from him March 20th, 1896'.

SBG has added a pencilled note suggesting this song is related to 'In the Downhills of Life' which he says was written by Collins, circa 1790. Although the theme of settling down in a cottage contentedly is common, this is a much more robust picture.