

The Keenly Lode

C G C G F G C

5 C G C G F G C C Am G

10 C G Am G F G C G C Am G

15 F G C C C D C

20 G Em Am C F G C

Old Unc - le Pen-ger - ric a cap - tain_ was and a dow - ser_ shrewd was he, He
feath ered his nest from the keen - ly lode that ruined_ you and me. Thecaptain was tra - vers - ing
Brand - y Moor with haz - el twig in hand, the haz - el twist - ed and turned ar - ound and
brought un to a stand. Oh the keen - ly lode the keen - ly lode of bals the best me
boys, old UnclPen-ger - ric ver - y well know'd how to fea - ther his nest me boys.

Old Uncle Pengerric so brave did brag,
Of ore in Brandy bal;
'Come fork out your money, my Christian friends,
Your fortunes treble all'.
Now Uncle was reckoned a preacher stout
A burning shining light;
The people all said, 'What he has in head
Will surely turn out right.'

The company floated, the shares paid up,
The gold came rolling in;
They set up a swhim, and began for to sink,
To that keenly lode of tin;
They had not burrowed but five foot six,
When they come to a buried hoss;
Said Uncle Pengerric 'No fault of mine
Th't turn to someone's loss.'

Chorus

Oh the keenly lode, the keenly lode,
Of bals the best me boys;
Old Uncle Pengerric very well know'd
How to feather his nest me boys.

Chorus

The shaft descended, but nee'er a grain
Of ore was brought to ground;
And presently Uncle Pengerric too,
Was not in Cornwall found;
But wherever he goes, and whenever he speaks,
He says 'the rod told true,
It brought me luck, but it turn'd and struck
At nought but an old Horseshoe.'

1 I ie mine captain - expression used in Cornwall for the mine manager.

2 Keenly lode - Cornish dialect for a good ore bearing lode.

3 Brave - in Cornish dialect usually means big.

4 Bal - Cornish for mine.

5 Whim - a windlass type of device for bringing up ore.

Sabine Baring Gould's Personal Copy Manuscripts contain lyrics for this song as sent to him by S. Varcoe, Inn Keeper of the Luggar Inn, Polperro (*Baring Gould Heritage Project/Wren Trust, Personal Copy Manuscript Page 228 song 531.*). These clearly originate from William Forfar's the Dialect Song "The Bal" composed circa 1860 (*William Bentinck Forfar, —The Bal - Tis a Bra' Keenly Lode!, London, J Williams, 1860*). In the notes of "Songs of the West" (*Baring Gould, Ed C Sharp, Songs of the West: London, Methuen, 1905, Song no46, Notes p 14*). Baring Gould says that he collected the words from an old miner whilst staying at the Luggar Inn in 1894 and arranged them to the tune of "The Crocodile" for publication. Baring Gould's words differ significantly but he keeps the theme of the story. The "Keenly Lode" was included in Henry Jenner's contribution of Cornish songs to the 'National Songs of the Celtic Countries' published by the Celtic Congress (*Alfred Percival Graves The Celtic Song Book: Being representative of the 6 Celtic Nations. (London, Ernest Benn, 1928)*).