

17 THE BRIERY BUSH

Collected and arranged by
CECIL J. SHARP

Allegretto semplice ♩

VOICE

1. O— hang - man, stay thy hand, — And stay it for a
 fa - ther, have you my gold? — And can you set me
 I've not brought thee gold, — And I can't set thee

PIANO

while, — For I fan - cy I see my fa - ther A - com - ing a - cross the yon - der
 free? — Or are you come to see me hung — All on the gal - lows -
 free; — But I have come to see thee hung — All on the gal - lows -

stile. — 2. O — 4. O the bri - e - ry bush, — That
 tree? — 3. No,
 tree. —

pricks my heart so sore;— If I once get out of the bri-e-ry bush, I'll

cresc. *dim.*

nev-er get in an-y more. 5. O more. Last time

D.S. ad lib. *D.S.* *p*

The above verses are repeated ad libitum, with the substitution of other relatives, e. g. "mother," "brother," "sister," etc. for "father." The arrival of the "true-love" brings the song to a close as follows:—

5.

O hangman, stay thy hand,
And stay it for a while,
For I fancy I see my true-love a-coming
Across the yonder stile.

6.

O true-love, have you my gold?
And can you set me free?
Or are you come to see me hung
All on the gallows tree?

7.

O yes, I've brought thee gold,
And I can set thee free;
And I've not come to see thee hung
All on the gallows tree.

8.

O the briery bush,
That pricks my heart so sore;
Now I've got out of the briery bush,
I'll never get in any more.