The Mill Boy - song lyrics

American Old-time song lyrics from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

THE MILL BOY.

My parents raised me tenderly,
Provided for me well,
And in the town of Lexington
They placed me in a mill.

'Twas there I spied a pretty maid,
On whom I cast my eye,
I promised that I'd marry her,
But she believed a lie.

Not long ago, remembered well,
Oh, fatal was that day,
The devil put it in my head
To take her life away.

I went to her sister's house,
'Twas at the hour of nine,
But little did the innocent think
She never would be mine.

I asked her would she take a walk,
Among the flowers so gay,
That she and I might have a talk
And appoint the wedding day.

So hand in hand we walked along
'Till we reached a quiet place,
When from a fence I took a stake
And smote her in the face.

Upon her bended knees she fell,
And loud for mercy cried,
She said, oh, do not murder me
I am not prepared to die.

I paid no heed to all her cries,
But smote her more and more,
'Till finally I took the life
Which I could not restore.

I grasped her by her lily white liana,
And to conceal my sin
I dragged her to the river side
And there I plunged her in.

Returning to the mill again,
I met one by the way
Who asked, what makes you look so pale?
You seem quite gone astray.

Pray, what's occasioned so much blood
Upon your hands and clothes?
To which I quickly did reply,
'Twas bleeding from the nose.

I hurried on and went to bed,
I sought to get some rest,
But, oh, it seemed a burning hell,
Was raging in my breast.

Her body was searched for far and near,
But it could not be found;
At last a magistrate was called,
And I in prison bound.

Now all young people warning take,
And to your love prove true,
And then the devil will never get
The upper hand with you.

From the music archive at www.traditionalmusic.co.uk