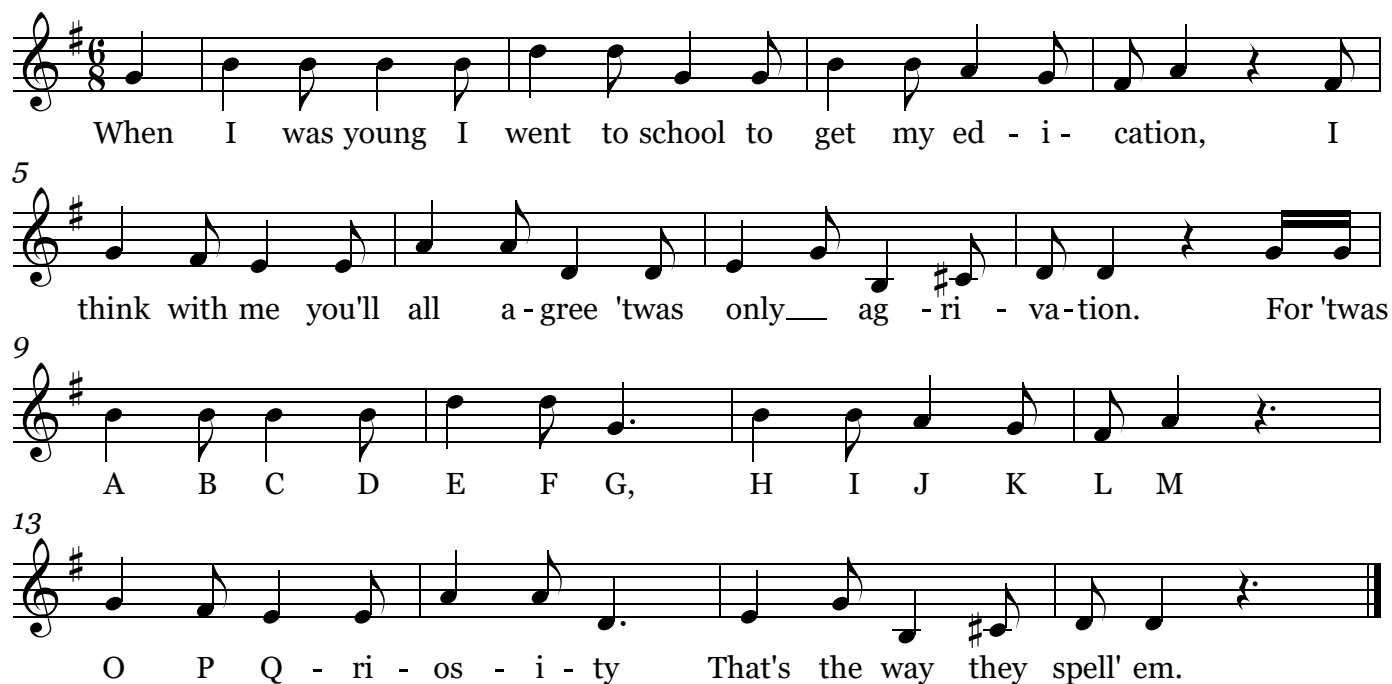


# Alphabet Song

*Trad Cornish*



When I was young I went to school to get my ed - i - cation, I  
5 think with me you'll all a - gree 'twas only\_\_ ag - ri - va - tion. For 'twas  
9 A B C D E F G, H I J K L M  
13 O P Q - ri - os - i - ty That's the way they spell' em.

2. The boy jump'd on the burning deck,  
His baggage booked to Troy;  
The ship went down, he lost his hat--  
His name was Pat Maloy.  
For 'twas A B C, Pte.

3. How doth the little busy bee  
Delight to bark and bite?  
She gathers honey all the day,  
And eats it in the night.  
For 'twas A B C, etc.

4. Mary had a little lamb,  
His feathers bright and yellow;  
He'd slender legs, upon my word  
He was a pretty fellow.  
For 'twas A B C, etc.

5. Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water;  
And what do you think they had for drink?  
Why, only bread and butter!  
For 'twas A B C, etc.

6. Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,  
Eating his curds and whey;  
Down dropp'd a big bear and swallow'd his chair  
That frightened Jack away!  
For 'twas A B C, etc.

7. Little Bo Peep she lost her sheep,  
And where do you think she found 'em?  
In a butcher's shop eating mutton chops,  
With daisies all around 'em.  
For 'twas A B C, etc.

## Notes

Cornish version of an Alphabet Song recorded from the singing of Jim Thomas of Camborne by Ralph Dunstan in 1931. Alphabet songs were a popular Music Hall format and George Formby recorded one, with his usual innuendo in 1938. Peter Kennedy also recorded an Alphabet Song in Cadgwith, in 1956 but this is a sea shanty and quite different.

Merv Davey November 2011

## Reference

Dunstan, R, *Cornish Dialect and Folk Songs*, Ascheberg, Hopwood & Crew Lt, London 1932 p18: