

# The Lairds O' The Bush

Tune Trad. Words James Crichton

The Lairds o' the bush may be prood o' their lot We're as hap - py as kings in oor

long shingl-ed cot We plow oor ain field and chop oor ain tree and glide on through life in-de-pend-ent and free

We can mak' oor ain sugar and boil oor ain tea  
 Make oor ain maut, brew oor ale, and oor ain barley bree  
 But we're badly I'll off for a cargie o' wives  
 To mak' hairtsome oor hairts and enliven oor lives

It's hard when a Laird has tae bile his ain pot  
 Make his breed, mend his breeks or other what not  
 His dishes he scrapes ance or twice i' the week  
 He would fain hae the maid he's afraid for tae seek

Aye, we're badly I'll off for a cargie o' wives  
 To mak' hairtsome oor hairts and enliven oor lives  
 We want the sweet music o' by lally hush  
 That the mild mither sings tae her babe i' the bush

Noo let's drink a gude health tae the bachelor squad  
 And may they hae wives while there's wives tae be had  
 And may each Nichol Laird hae his baby tae hush  
 Though lords of creation, and lairds o' the bush

A song written by James Crichton in Nichol Township (in the the Fergus area) in the 1830s. it was collected at the turn of the the 20th century by Arthur Walker Wright from singer Sandy Munro. Although no tune was indicated the song is pretty clearly a parody of the Scottish song "The Laird O' Cockpen" - the air it is presented with here. James Crichton was a Scottish would-be settler, who wrote a number of songs and poems about life in Upper Canada but eventually returned home. From the book "Pioneer Days In Nichol", by Arthur Walker Wright, 1924.