

'Tis now occasion calls on us to do all we can do."

So I went to work, and worked as I never did before,  
 I toiled unto my utmost strength, perhaps a little more,  
 Nor unobserved my earnest aim, it heartened me to see,  
 In many a gracious sunny smile the good man flung on me;  
 And rarely came the resting hour but I was kindly told,  
 "Whatever might be wanting I had only to make bold;"  
 But having laid some special plans for time to bring about,  
 I drew for nothing on the store that care ~~would~~ do without,  
 Which wrought a balance, bit by bit, I fondly hoped would buy  
 A footing on a little farm that we were living nigh.  
 Nor anxious less were both, believe, t' increase our *stock* on hand,  
 That something might be ours to show when going on the land,  
 For Jane and I had nothing then to boast of as our own,  
 Save some few sheep, and one small cow, that kept the road grass down.

So time ran on, the kindly man and I from day to day  
 Exchanging help, till he, in turn, some pounds had got to pay,  
 When Janey more than gave a hint she thought it time to settle—  
 Perhaps I thought as Janey did, but hadn't got the mettle.  
 I couldn't bear to press the man 't had been so good and kind,  
 As even he I heard at times a little was behind;  
 But still a something whispering that Janey was aright,  
 I mustered all my courage up, as folks do when they fight,  
 And somewhat, to the counting house, less cowardly, I stole:  
 "A little, sir, will do me now—I don't, sir, want the whole?"  
 "The whole, my friend!—you strangely err—the whole's the other way:  
 I'm sadly out if you have not a pound or two to pay."  
 'Twas all in sorrow, not ~~in~~ shame, I gave a sudden start  
 When first I saw the kindly man was hollow in his heart.  
 "A pound or two to pay, sir! that never can be true;  
 If figures, sir, mean anything, the pay must lie with *you*."