

Youth is the time to form your plan,
 If you become a business man,
 Trusty and faithful you must be
 To all that is required of thee.

Search the Scriptures—there you will find
 God's laws laid down for us to mind ;
 When all is dark before our eyes,
 His word gives light to make us wise.

When I was a boy, you well know,
 To school I never loved to go ;
 My books I did not want to see,
 Nor know what their contents might be.

And far from home, my own dear home,
 I from my parents went to roam ;
 My money and my time have spent,
 And to my follies gave full vent.

'Tis only a few days ago
 My uncle died, Thomas, you know ;
 And as I stood by his bedside,
 He looked at me and deeply sighed.

John, my poor friend, he sadly said,
 Toil hard you must for daily bread ;
 Foolish you've been, and idle too,
 My store I could not leave for you.

While you were strolling here and there,
 I made choice of another heir ;
 One who has faithful been to me,
 And filled the place designed for thee.

I advised you to form a plan
 To make yourself a business man ;
 But folly you would still pursue,
 Now see what it has brought you to.

But steady now I hope you'll be—
 Think how friends have counselled thee.
 John, my last words I beg you'll mind—
 Seek that you may forgiveness find.

A merchant now I might have been,
 And thrifty one as might be seen ;
 I look upon that splendid stand—
 See what I have lost and what I am.