

Steam's Up

From the Sydney Songster (~1865) composed for and sung by JS Brice by George Loyau to Stephen Foster's 'Ring de Banjo'. The original words were in a 'niggerese' used in the music halls, here stripped to reveal the song underneath by David Johnson.

Verse

Capo 2

Oh, list - en to me one and all, I've come to sing this song,
The sub - ject is - n't ver - y short, and is - n't ver - y long;
It's of a rath - er cur - ious thing, and cur - ious it may seem,
That all the world is go - ing round by means of gas and steam.

Chorus

Steam's up, fel - las! _____ steam's up, I say?
Coach - es won't be an - y use, when steam trains come this way.

No longer will you need a dray to take a heavy load,
For you will find an empty train at every muddy road;
From Queensland to Victoria, however strange it seems,
We shall be able to depart in things that go by steam.

The lawyers will all close there shops, for want of certain fees,
The parsons at no college then will need to take degrees;
The doctors who have always got from patients quite the cream,
Will cut off legs and broken arms in future all by steam.

The bush will be a bush no more where kangaroos abound,
But in its place a terminus or railway will be found;
And when you want your breakfast, you can all have cream,
In future they will milk the cows by things that work by steam.