Swaggie Passing Through

Written by M'G and first published in the Bulletin in 1894. This setting to the 'Jolly Beggar Man' as learnt from Maitland folkie Bob Campbell



I have a picture in my mind though many years have passed The green of trees, the sky so blue, the river swirling past. The laughing children still I see though faded from their view For simply they regarded me as swaggie passing through.

I am a jolly swaggie I've been on the road for years I've heard a lot of laughing and I've seen a couple of tears If you'll be honest to me face I'll be the same to you And here I stand before you I am a swaggie passing through.

'Tis all the same when life we quit we have our pain and fun We laugh, we loaf, we love a bit and then our tally's done And all the world of hate and war or love and friendship true It little cares we're nothing more than swaggies passing through.