

Bile 'Em Cabbage Down

⁶⁶ **B**ile 'Em Cabbage Down" is a minstrel tune from the 1850s that is a great tune to start with. For those of you who don't speak "Southern," the word "bile" in the title means "boil." The verses float from song to song and can be found in such songs as "Shady Grove," "Whoa Mule," and "Lynchburg Town," among others. The "hoe cakes" mentioned in the song were a favorite in the antebellum South. Slaves often cooked corn meal hoe cakes on their hoes over an open fire. Confederate soldiers reportedly roasted them on bayonets.

You'll notice chords above each of the lines of the tablature. When you're first starting off, you can ignore those chords. After you get to where you can play the tune using the warm licks, you can add the chords (see page 62).

Chorus

G 1	C 2	G 3	D7 4
1			
2	1	0	
3			2
4			
5			
Bile 'em cabbage down, boys turn the hoe cakes brown, the			
G 5	C 6	G 7	D7
			G 8
1			
2	1	0	
3			2
4			
5			
Only song that I can sing is bile 'em cabbage down.			

Went up on the mountain,
Give my horn a blow.
Thought I heard my true love say,
Yonder stands my beau. (Chorus)

Went to see my gal last night,
I done it kind a-sneakin'.
Kissed her mouth and hit her nose,
And the doggone thing was leakin'. (Chorus)

Jaybird died with the whooping cough,
Sparrow died with the colic.
Along come the frog with a fiddle on his back,
Inquirin' his way to the frolic. (Chorus)

Took my gal to the blacksmith shop,
To have her mouth made small.
She turned around a time or two,
And swallowed the shop and all. (Chorus)

