

The Gentleman Thief

8

10

1. Em

2. Em

"The Gentleman Thief" is a tune used for a traditional ballad known as "The Crafty Farmer" in which a high-born thief attempts to rob a farmer of the price he had just got for selling a horse but is outwitted by the clever peasant.

The tune is found in Bronson's **The Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads, Volume 4**.

This is another tune that Williamson describes as "a wild Northumbrian jig". He plays it together with "The Whistling Thief" in the Songs section. It is a little unusual in that the second part is in 9/8 time.

It was printed in Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976).

I learned it from Williamson's book.