

# IF I LOSE, I DON'T CARE

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Journal of American Folklore- 1911; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers-1927; J. E. Mainer's Mountaineers-1938; Stanley Brothers-1960; New Lost City Ramblers; Kirk Sutphin; Norman Blake; **OTHER NAMES:** "If I Lose, Let Me Lose;" "Let Me Lose;" **NOTES:** "If I Lose (Let Me Lose)" was first recorded by Eden, North Carolina native Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers in 1927. The melody is similar to the songs: "Bloody Wars," "Battleship of Maine" and "Whitehouse Blues." According to Kinney Rorrer, the song is of vaudeville origin. This is similar to Charlie Poole's version, which is different from standard bluegrass versions.

Flos-sie, oh, Flos-sie, now what is the mat-ter? Walked all the way from old Cin-cin-  
 nat-ta. One mor-nin' just be-fore day. If I lose, let me  
 lose, I don't care how much I lose, if I lose a hun-dred  
 dol-lars while I'm try-in' to win a dime, for my ba-by she needs mo-ney all the time.

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**C** **C7** **F** **C**  
 I can't walk, neither can I talk, Just gettin' back from the state of old New York

**G7** **C**  
 One morning just before day.

**C** **G7** **C**  
**Chorus:** If I lose, let me lose, I don't care how much I lose

**F**  
 If I lose a hundred dollars while I'm tryin' to win a dime

**G7** **C**  
 For my baby, she needs money all the time.

Flossie, oh Flossie, now what is the matter? Walked all the way from old Cincinatta  
 One morning just before day *Chorus*

The blood was a-runnin', and I was runnin' too give my feet some exercise, I had nothing else to do  
 One morning just before day *Chorus*

See them girls sittin' at the tanks, Ready to catch a freight train they call old Nancy Hanks  
 One morning just before day *Chorus*