CHORUS: Oh dear, what can the matter be?

G7    Dm    G7
Dear, dear, what can the matter be?
C
Oh dear, what can the matter be?

Dm         G7            C
Johnny's so long at the fair.

He promised to buy me a fairing* to please me,

G7         Dm        G7
And then for a kiss, oh, he vowed he would tease me,
C
He promised to buy me a bunch of blue ribbons

Dm         G7            C
To tie up my bonny brown hair.

He promised to buy me a pair of sleeve buttons,

G7         Dm        G7
A pair of new garters would cost him but tuppence,
C
A pair of red stockings to go with the ribbons

Dm         G7            C
That tie up my bonny brown hair.

He promised to buy me a bunch of red roses,

G7         Dm        G7
A garland of lilies, a basket of posies,
C
A little straw hat to set off the blue ribbons,

Dm         G7            C
That tie up my bonny brown hair.

* fairing – a small gift from a fair, a present
  tuppence – two cents (English coin)