

HOW 'YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM?

Words by Sam M Lewis and Joe Young; Music by Walter Donaldson. 1919

VERSE 1

“Reuben, Reuben, I’ve been thinking” said his wifey dear
“Now that all is peaceful and calm, The boys will soon be back on the farm”
Mister Reuben, started winking, and slowly rubbed his chin
He pulled his chair up close to mother and he asked her with a grin:

CHORUS:

“How’ya gonna keep ‘em down on the farm after they’ve seen Paree?
How’ya gonna keep ‘em a-way from Broadway
Jazzin’ aroun’ and painting the town?
How’ya gonna keep ‘em a-way from harm? That’s a mys-ter—y

1st time:

/They’ll never want to see a rake or plow
/And who the deuce can parley-vous a
cow—ow-ow, How...

2nd time:

/ Imagine Reuben when he meets his pa /
He’ll kiss his cheek and holler “oo-la-la!”

How’ya gonna keep ‘em down on the farm after they’ve seen Paree?

VERSE 2

“Reuben, Reuben, you’re mistaken” said his wifey dear
“Once a farmer always a jay, and farmers always stick to the hay”
Mother Reuben, I’m not fakin’ Though you may think it strange
But wine and women play the mischief with a boy who’s loose with change”

CHORUS with 2nd-time words