

The Penny Wedding

*Inspired by Sir David Wilkie's painting and
William Greatbach's etching of the same name*

we have no wine, no meat to eat
no rich man's fare to down
we'll have what little we can buy
with our paupers purse in town

all I have is this wooden plate
my broken spoon of bone
you'll find no silver nor porcelain
in this poor poet's home

oh the master he has silver
the master he has gold
but tonight I am a rich man
and my true love I will hold

now fiddler play our wedding waltz
tonight we sit above the salts*
friend and family bring a penny
there's broth and dancing for the many

love and friendship are the measure
life is sweeter for these treasures
bring a penny if you're able
and come and sit here at our table

oh the master he has silver
the master he has gold
but tonight I am a rich man
and my true love I will hold



THE PENNY WEDDING.

THE PICTURE IN THE ROYAL COLLECTION

*Sitting 'below the salts' was a symbol of lower social standing