Key: G

J = 85

Rose of Alabama
(original song)

Tune apparently by A.F. Winnemore (and his Band of Seranaders); original lyrics (modified here) by S.S. Steele; copyright © 1851.
Re-arranged by Pete Showman July 2016

Not a song about lost love, but rather about a lost banjo.

Verse:

1. Away from Mississippi's vale, with my old hat for a sail, I
2. I landed on the sandy bank, I sat upon a hollow plank, And

crossed upon a cotton bale, to Rose of Alabama.

there I made the banjo twang, for Rose of Alabama.

Chorus:

3. And as I sat there, by and bye, the moon rose, white as Rosey's eye,
   Then like a raccoon, out so sly, stole Rose of Alabama.
4. I asked her to sit where she pleased, so across my legs she took her ease.
   "It's good to sit upon your knees," said Rose of Alabama.
5. The river rolls, the crickets sing, the lightning bug he flashed his wing,
   And like a rope, my arms I fling, 'round Rose of Alabama.
6. I hugged so long I cannot tell, for Rosey seemed to like it well;
   My banjo in the river fell; Oh, Rose of Alabama!
7. Like an alligator after prey I plunged in, but it floated away,
   But all the time it seemed to say "Oh, Rose of Alabama."
8. And every night, in moon or shower, to hunt that banjo for an hour;
   I meet my sweet tobacco flower, my Rose of Alabama.