One and a Few

Of all the slang phrases that passes the lay in the prisons

 throughout New York State,

I doubt if there’s any that make stay weigh like the one I’m about to

 relate.

In here you’re confined, you’ve got troubles on mind, with your two,

 three or five years to do.

And you long for the day when you’re able to say “I’ve only got

 One and a few.

Chorus:

So keep a stout heart, from joy don’t depart.

Manfully serve your time through, be it three, five or ten

 Or twice that again, it’ll come down to one and a few.

It’s often at night when I sit in my cell, after working quite hard through

 the day

My memory returns to that night that I fell and the time that I now

 have to stay.

And it’s often I’ll own as I sit all alone, I feel sad & desolate too

 And I long for the day that I’m able to say “Now I’ve only got one

 And a few.”

Chorus

There’s many a home that is cheerless tonight, there’s many a mother

 feels drear,

When she thinks of the boy who has gone from her side it causes her

 many a tear.

Though others may blame to her you’re the same, misfortune but

 Makes you more true.

She now may be sad but won’t she be glad, when you’ve only got one

 And a few.

So don’t be discouraged no matter how long in this prison you may have to stay.

 And don’t you worry or fret for that’s wrong, you had better keep

 dull care away.

Oh, your time is a boy, your time he’ll destroy.

 He jogs along constant and true until at the end you’ll find he’s the friend that has brought you to one & a few.

Chorus