

50 On Board a Ninety-Eight - Mr Leatherday

When I was young and - in my prime I - drove a roar - ing trade, and -

ma - ny a sly - trick I have played on - ma - ny a pret - ty maid. My -

pa - rents found - that - would not do; I - soon would spend - their store, so -

they re - solved that I - should - go on - board a Man of War.

1
When I was young and in my prime I drove a roaring trade,
and many a sly trick I have played on many a pretty maid.
My parents found that would not do; I soon would spend their
store,
so they resolved that I should go on board a Man of War.

2
A bold Press Gang surrounded me, their Warrant they did
show,
and swore that I should go to sea and face the daring foe.
And so they lugged me to the boat, oh how I cursed my fate;
'twas then I found that I must float on board a ninety-eight.

3
When first I put my foot on board, how I began to stare;
our Admiral he gave the word, 'There is no time to spare.'
They weighed their anchor, shook out sail, and off they bore
me straight
to watch the foe in storm and gale on board a ninety-eight.

4
Before we reached Americay they gave me many a drill;
they soon learnt me a nimble way to handle an iron pill.
In course of time a fight began when bold Jack Tars laid
straight.
What would I give if I could run from on board a ninety-eight.

5
But as time fled I bolder grew and hardened was to war;
I'd run aloft with my ship's crew and valued not a scar.
So well I did my duty do I soon made Bosun's Mate,
and damne soon got Bosun too, on board a ninety-eight.

6
So years rolled by; at Trafalgar bold Nelson fought and fell;
as they capsized that hardy tar I caught a rap as well.
To Greenwich College I came back because I saved my pate;
they only knocked one wing off Jack, on board a
ninety-eight.

7
So now my cocoa I can take; my pouch with baccy is stored;
with my blue clothes and three-cocked hat I'm as happy as a
Lord.
I've done my duty, served my King, and now I bless my fate;
but damne, I'm too old to sing; I'm nearly ninety-eight!