

EDINBURGH TOWN

This popular song among villagers can be found on broadsides and was also collected by Greig and Hammond.⁽¹⁾ Mr Broomfield's text is rather shorter than the others mentioned and Vaughan Williams has a number of question marks in his manuscript. He also noted that it was sung to the same tune as Banks of Sweet Dundee.

Young Henry being a highland lad courting to me came
Courting pretty Carry as you shall hear the same
He says put on your other gown and with me run away
I've gone up to London a short time to stay

I had not been in London more than half a year
Before young Henry proved me away?
He says I'm going to sea and friends so on you frown?
So back away without delay to Edinburgh Town

To her great grief she had to leave this damsel she did go
Into a wood to eat some food which on the bushes grow
Some they did pity her and some did on her frown
Some say what made you stray from Edinburgh Town

Underneath the lofty spreading oak the girl sat down to cry
She was watching of the gallant ships as they was passing by
She gave three shrieks for Henry and plunged her body down
And there went young Caroline of Edinburgh Town

Like wise she left a bonnet upon this native shore?
Like wise in this bonnet a note I am no more
I was left to weep now I'm in the deep the fish awatching
round

Why went young Caroline of Edinburgh Town

(1) Foggy Dew F Purslow