

Never sail no more

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the song 'Never sail no more'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with the lyrics 'In London lived a hire - son(?) un-to a gen - tle -'. The second staff continues with '-man and all the fathers care it was to wed her to a man This'. The third staff continues with 'farmers son being handsome gained this [young] ladys heart, he was so close en-'. The fourth staff concludes with '-gag- ed no reason could them part'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, likely for a school or community choir. There are some handwritten corrections and annotations, such as the word 'young' in brackets and the hyphenated words 'gag-ed'.

In London lived a hire - son(?) un-to a gen - tle -
-man and all the fathers care it was to wed her to a man This
farmers son being handsome gained this [young] ladys heart, he was so close en-
-gag- ed no reason could them part

NEVER SAIL NO MORE

In London lived a handsome ? (person) unto a
gentleman
And all the fathers care it was to wed her to a man
This farmer's son being handsome gained this young
lady's heart
He was so close engaged no reason could them part

And when her father came to know his daughter's
foolish mind
He says unto his daughter be other ways inclined
The springtime is coming and the press gangs coming
And all the father's care it was to press the farmer's
son

And when his daughter came to know her father's cruelty
She says unto her own dear self I'll soon and follow thee
I'll dress myself in man's attire soon after him I'll go
I'll boldly plough the ocean where the stormy winds
do blow

'Twas on the first of August the battle then begun
In the front rank of battle they placed the farmer's son
Where he received a dreadful wound in the hollow of the
thigh
In the _____ was wounded dreadfully

Soon as the sargent (he did) see they had this lad
conveyed
There was (?) no one to the weight of him but the sargent's
arm and mine
She dressed his wounds so tenderly so bitterly they did
smart
Says he one like she was once the mistress of my heart

Are you that very young man called feman will along (??)
Here's fifty guineas in bright gold for you and your
discharge
She went before the captain and fell upon her knees
She brought her love safe back again over the radiant seas

When she got to her father's gate she kneeled there awhile
Her father says unto himself I can see my own dear child
My child as I've been waiting for these seven long years
and more
Yes the lad I've been in charge for is the lad that you
sent o'er

Now that I have found him he's on this fateful shore
We'll live at home in peace and never sail no more

There are a number of question marks and odd-sounding lines in this song. I think this may have been due to either bad memory on Mr Bloomfield's part or misapprehension on Vaughan Williams' part. The first line has a missing word that could possibly be heiress.

See Folksongs in the North East Gavin Greig