

# Princess Royal

The fourteenth day of February we sailed from the bay in the  
bold Princess Royal bound for New found land with her  
for - ty bold sea men for her ships compan -  
-y- so bold - ly from the east ward to the  
west ward sailed we

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and follows the lyrics. There are some handwritten annotations: a slur under 'for - ty' and '-y-', a slur under 'bold - ly', and a small 'a' above 'land'.

THE BOLD PRINCESS ROYAL

The text of this song is the one given in the manuscript and differs dramatically after verse four from the version printed in the Folksong Journal Vol 1 p.62 that was quoted by Vaughan Williams in Vol 8 as a comparison. At the end of this song Vaughan Williams has made the following note. 'Mr Pottipher originally picked it up from some sailors at Brentwood Fair.'

The fourteenth day of February we sailed from the bay  
In the bold Princess Royal bound for Newfound land  
With her forty bold seamen for her ship's company  
So boldly from the eastward to the westward sailed we

We had not been sailing past two days or three  
When a man from our masthead a sail he did see  
She bore down upon us, to see what we were  
While under her mizzen black colours she flew

Good lord says our captain what shall we do now  
Here comes a bold pirate to rob us I know  
Oh no cries our chief mate that ne'er shall be so  
We'll hoist up our reef sail and from them will go

Now when this bold pirate she heaved alongside  
With a long speaking trumpet whence came you she cried  
Our captain being aft boys he answered them so  
We came from fair London we're bound for Cairo

Come haul down your topsail your staysail also  
For I have a letter I'll send home by you  
I'll not haul down my topsail nor heave my ship to  
But shall be in some harbour not alongside of you

I'll not haul down my topsail nor heave my ship to  
But my top gallant sail and royal boys and from them  
will go

They fired shot after us but they could not prevail  
When the bold Princess Royal soon showed them her tail

They drove us to wind boys for all that long day  
They drove us to wind boys but they couldn't make  
us stay

They drove us to wind my boys but they couldn't make  
us stay

We hoisted our mainsail and then hove away

Thank God cried our captain the pirate is gone  
Come you down to your grog boys come you down every one  
Come down to your grog boys and be of good cheer  
For while we have sea room brave boys never fear