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#### FOLK-SONGS OF ENGLAND EDITED BY CECIL J. SHARP

BOOK I.

# FOLK-SONGS

#### FROM

## DORSET

COLLECTED BY

### H. E. D. HAMMOND.

WITH PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT BY CECIL J. SHARP.

#### CONTENTS:

- 1. THE SHEEPSTEALER.
- 2. ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD.
- 3. THE JOLLY PLOUGHBOY.
- 4. AS I WALKED OUT ONE MAY MORNING.
- 5. THE SPRIG OF THYME.
- 6. HIGH GERMANY.
- 7. BETTY AND HER DUCKS.
- 8. POOR SALLY SITS A-WEEPING.

NTS:
9. NANCY OF LONDON.
10. IT'S OF A SAILOR BOLD.
11. THE CUCKOO.
12. THE RAMBLING COMBER.
13. FAIR SUSAN.
14. FAIR MARGARET AND SWEET WILLIAM.
15. THE TURTLE-DOVE.
16. LADY MAISRY.

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#### BOOK II.

# FOLK-SONGS

FROM THE

# EASTERN COUNTIES

COLLECTED, AND SET WITH AN ACCOMPANIMENT, BY

## R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS.

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- 2. TARRY TROWSERS.
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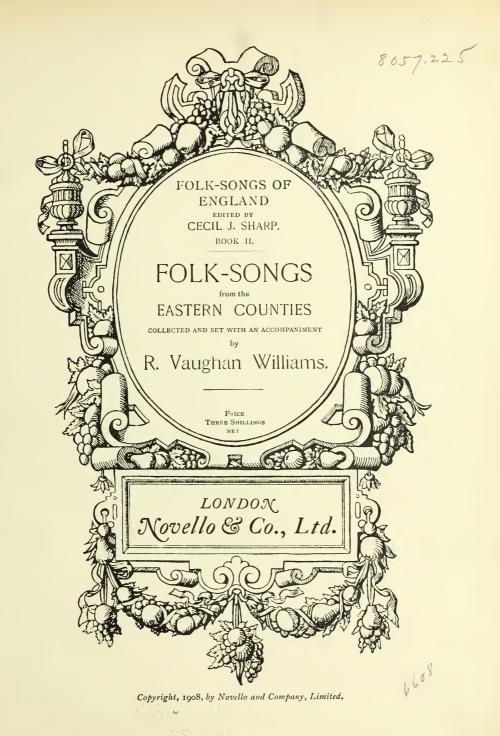
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SONGS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE. | 15. HARRY, THE TAILOR.

14. GEORDIE.

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## GENERAL PREFACE TO THE FOLK-SONG SERIES.

A LARGE number of traditional songs have recently been recovered in England. Moreover, we believe them to be veritable folk-songs, *i.e.*, songs which have been created or evolved by the common people. Taken in this sense, the folk-song must be definitely distinguished from the composition of the cultivated musician. It is the invention not of the individual, but of the community. Living only in the memories and on the lips of the singers, its existence has always been conditioned by its popularity, and by the accuracy with which it has reflected the ideals and taste of the common people. Consequently, the folk-song is stamped with the hall-mark of corporate approbation, and is the faithful expression in musical idiom of the qualities and characteristics of the nation to which it owes its origin.

In its folk-music every nation possesses a musical heritage of priceless worth, which for many reasons it should cherish and preserve. The educational uses to which the folk-song may advantageously be put are many and obvious. It should be remembered, too, that folk-music is the germ of art-music. Style in all the arts—music, literature, poetry, painting, or sculpture—ultimately becomes national; indeed, it would be difficult to cite a single instance of a distinctive school of music in Europe which has not been founded upon a basis of folk-song. In the recovery, therefore, and dissemination of our own country's folk-music, the solution of the problem of a characteristic and national school of English music may possibly be found.

In past centuries the collectors of English folk-songs were accustomed to edit and alter their folk-tunes before publishing them. In thus attempting to transmute folk-music into art-music they committed what most musicians would now agree was a fatal blunder. It is, therefore, scarcely necessary to state that the tunes contained in the present volume have not been editorially "improved" in any way, and that no melody will find a place in this scries except in the precise form in which it was noted down by a competent musician from the lips of some folk-singer.

The words, which form an integral part of the folk-song, should, strictly speaking, be treated with the same respect and be presented as accurately as the melody. Unfortunately, this is not always practicable. Owing to various causes—e.g., the dissemination among the country singers of corrupt and doggerel broadside-versions of their songs; lapses of memory on the part of the folk-singers themselves; the varying lengths of the corresponding lines of different verses of the same song; and the somewhat free and unconventional treatment of the themes of many of the ballads—the words of folk-songs can now rarely be printed without some emendation.

If, however, English folk-song is to be made popular, the words must be published in a singable form. Our guiding principle has been, therefore, to alter those phrases only to which objection might reasonably be made. No vocalist would sing words that are pointless, or ungrammatical. Nor could he, even if he would, sing accurately in dialect. Happily, however, dialect is not an essential of the folk-song. Every folk-singer uses his own native language, and consequently the words of the folk-song will be sung in as many different dialects as the districts in which each individual song is found.

The words, therefore, of many of the songs in this collection have been altered. Gaps have been filled up, verses omitted or softened, rhymes reconciled, redundant syllables pruned, bad grammar and dialect translated into King's English. On the other hand, archaic words and expressions have, of course, been retained.

It should perhaps be stated that the publishers intend to include in the present series the folk-songs of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, as well as those of England.

CECIL J. SHARP.

### INTRODUCTION TO BOOK II.

THE Fifteen Melodies which are arranged in this volume are part of a much larger collection made in the Eastern Counties. It is not to be supposed that they are the exclusive property of the counties to which they are credited; all that is claimed for them is that they certainly are sung in these counties, and that most of the melodies have not as yet been discovered elsewhere. It will be noticed that, while six songs from Essex and seven from Norfolk are given, there are only two from Cambridgeshire and none from Suffolk. This means, not that these two counties are less rich in folk-song than the others, but simply that time and opportunity have not yet been found to explore them. Nor do the songs collected from Essex and Norfolk represent an exhaustive search; all the Norfolk tunes come from Kings Lynn and the neighbourhood, and the Essex songs from a small area near the town of Brentwood. It is to be hoped that an acquaintance with the melodies here given will incite others to explore those parts of East Anglia which are still unsearched.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful thanks to the singers of these melodies, and to all those who helped in the work of collection.

R. V. W.

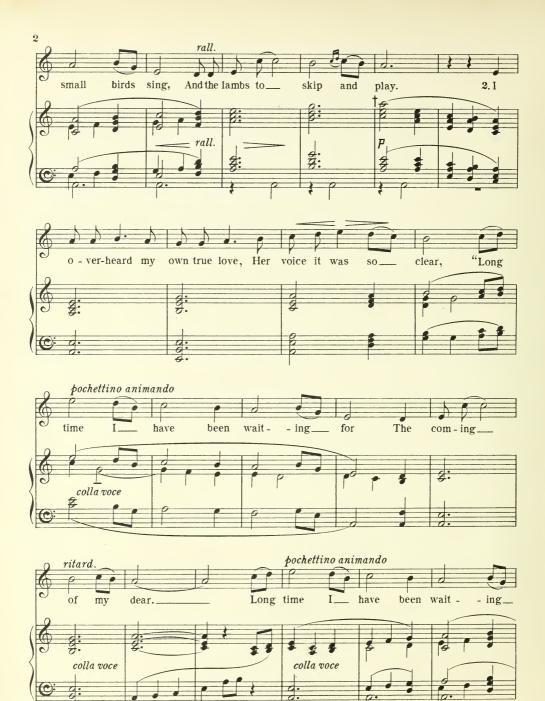
These arrangements of Folk-tunes are gratefully dedicated to those who first sang them to me.

R. V. W.

BUSHES AND BRIARS.



\* The first verse may, with great advantage, be sung unaccompanied, the accompaniment coming in at the bar marked † B Copyright, 1908, by Novello & Company, Limited.



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### BUSHES AND BRIARS.

- Through bushes and through briars, I lately took my way; All for to hear the small birds sing, And the lambs to skip and play.
- 2. I overheard my own true love, Her voice it was so clear,
  "Long time I have been waiting for The coming of my dear.
- Sometimes I am uneasy And troubled in my mind, Sometimes I think I'll go to my love And tell to him my mind.
- And if I should go to my love, My love he will say nay, If I show to him my boldness He'll ne'er love me again."

## TARRY TROWSERS.









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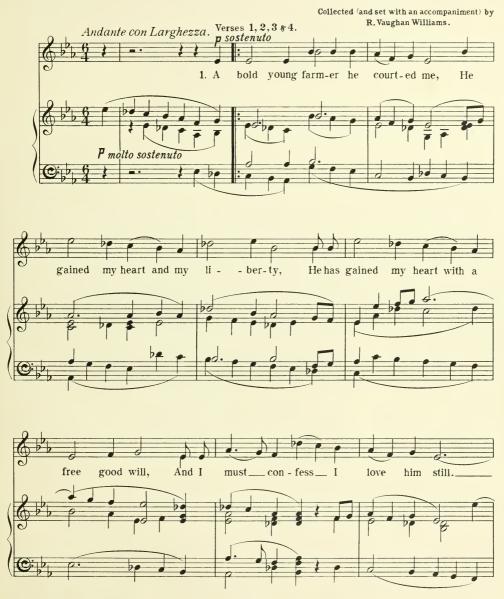




### TARRY TROWSERS.

- As I walked out one fine summer's morning, The morning being both fine and clear, There I heard a tender mother Talking to her daughter dear.
- "Daughter, daughter, I'd have you to marry, Live no longer a single life;" But she says "Mother, I'd rather tarry, I'd rather wait for my sailor bold."
- 3. "Sailors they are given to roving, Into foreign parts they do go, Then they will leave you broken-hearted, And they'll prove your overthrow."
- 4. "My mother wants me to wed with a tailor, And not give me my heart's delight, But give me the man with the tarry trowsers, That shine to me like diamonds bright."

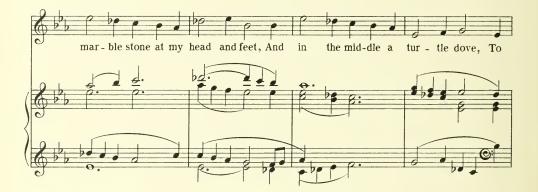
### A BOLD YOUNG FARMER. (ESSEX.)



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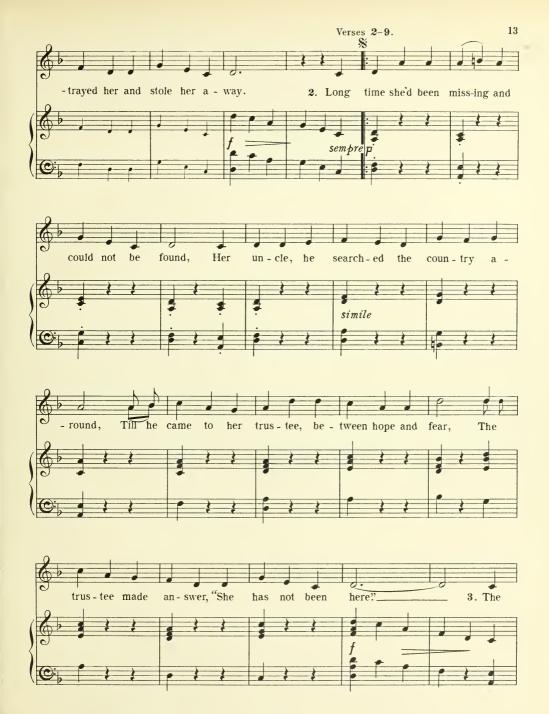
### A BOLD YOUNG FARMER.

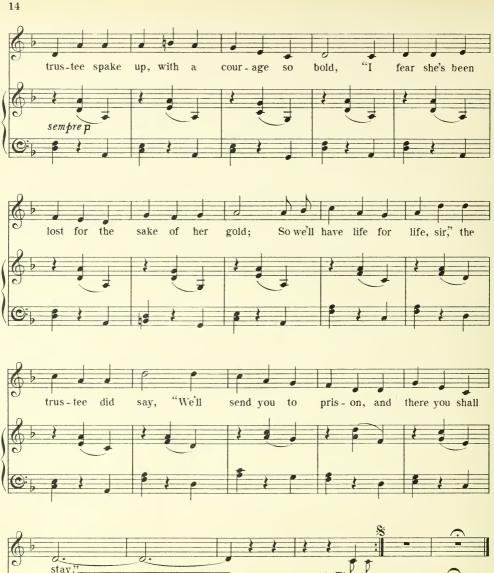
- A bold young farmer he courted me, He gained my heart and my liberty, He has gained my heart with a free good will, And I must confess I love him still.
- There is an inn, in this same town, Where my love goes and sits him down, And takes another girl on his knee, He tells her what he doesn't tell me.
- It's grief to me, I'll tell you for why, Because she has more gold than I, But in needy time her gold shall fly, And she shall be as poor as I.
- 4. There is a bird on yonder tree, They say it's blind and cannot see; I wish it had been the same with me, Before I joined his company.
- Go dig my grave both long, wide and deep, Place a marble stone at my head and feet, And in the middle a turtle dove, To show the wide world I died for love.

THE LOST LADY FOUND.



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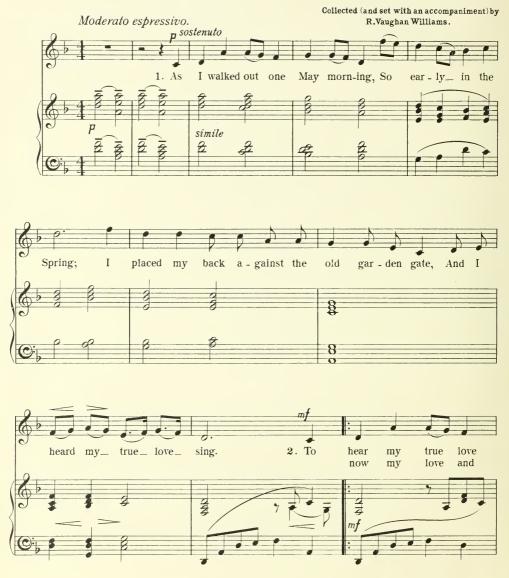


### THE LOST LADY FOUND.

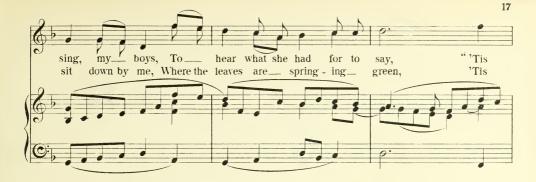
- 'Twas down in a valley a young damsel did dwell, She lived with her uncle as all knew full well, 'Twas down in the valleys where violets are gay, Three gypsies betrayed her and stole her away.
- Long time she'd been missing and could not be found, Her uncle, he searchéd the country around, Till he came to her trustee, between hope and fear, The trustee made answer, "She has not been here."
- 3. The trustee spake up, with courage so bold,
  "I fear she's been lost for the sake of her gold; So we'll have life for life, sir," the trustee did say,
  "We'll send you to prison, and there you shall stay."
- 4. There was a young squire that loved her so, Oft times to the schoolhouse together they'd go; "I'm afraid she is murdered; so great is my fear, If I'd wings like a dove I would fly to my dear."
- He travelled through England, through France and through Spain, He ventured his life on the watery main; Till he came to a house where he lodged for a night, And in that same house was his own heart's delight.
- 6. When she saw him, she knew him and flew to his arms;She told him her grief while he gazed on her charms."How came you to Dublin, my dearest?" said he,"Three gypsies betrayed me and stole me away."
- "Your uncle's in England, in prison doth lie, And for your sweet sake is condemned for to die." "Carry me to old England, my dearest," she cried; "One thousand I'll give you, and will be your bride.
- 8. When she came to old England, her uncle to see, The cart it was under the high gallows-tree.
  "Oh, pardon! oh, pardon! oh, pardon! I crave! Don't you see I'm alive, your dear life for to save?"
- 9. Then straight from the gallows they led him away, The bells they did ring and the music did play; Ev'ry house in the valley with mirth did resound, As soon as they heard the "Lost Lady" was found.

### AS I WALKED OUT.

### (ESSEX)



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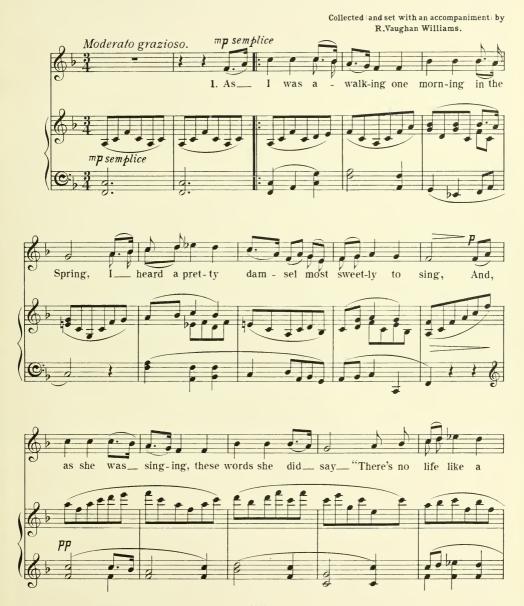
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### AS I WALKED OUT.

- As I walked out one May morning, So early in the Spring; I placed my back against the old garden gate, And I heard my true love sing.
- 2. To hear my true love sing, my boys, To hear what she had for to say, "'Tis now very near three quarters of a year Since you and I together did stay."
- 3. "Come now my love and sit down by me, Where the leaves are springing green, 'Tis now very near three quarters of a year Since you and I together have been?"
- 4. "I will not come and sit down by you, Nor yet no other young man, Since you have been courting some other young girl, Your heart is no longer mine."

THE LARK IN THE MORNING. (ESSEX.)



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### THE LARK IN THE MORNING.

- As I was a-walking one morning in the Spring, I heard a pretty damsel most sweetly to sing; And, as she was singing, these words she did say— "There's no life like a ploughboy's all in the month of May.
- The Lark in the morning doth rise from her nest, She mounts in the air with the dew round her breast. It's all the day long she will whistle and sing, And at night she will return to her own nest again.
- \* 3. And when the pretty ploughboy his day's work is done, He trips down to the meadows where the grass is all cut down, And there with his sweetheart he'll dance and he'll sing, And at night he will return with his lass home again."

\* May be omitted.

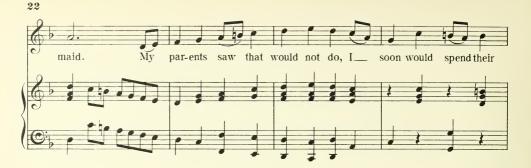
*Note*. The singer of the above tune remembered only fragments of the words. The complete words exist on a broadside, but in that form they were not suitable for this publication. In compiling the above text some of the broadside verses have been omitted and some of the lines transposed from one verse to another; nothing, however, has been added.

# ON BOARD A NINETY-EIGHT. (NORFOLK.)



Note. The first verse may, with advantage, be sung unaccompanied, the accompaniment entering at  $\dagger$ . The whole song may, with the exception of the last verse, be sung to the accompaniment of verse 1.

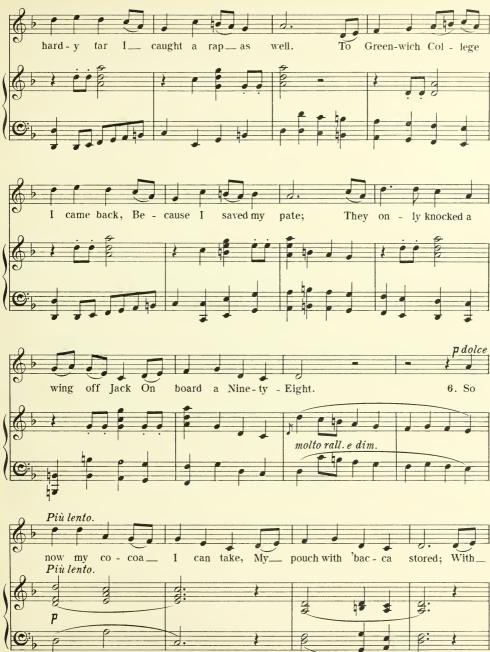
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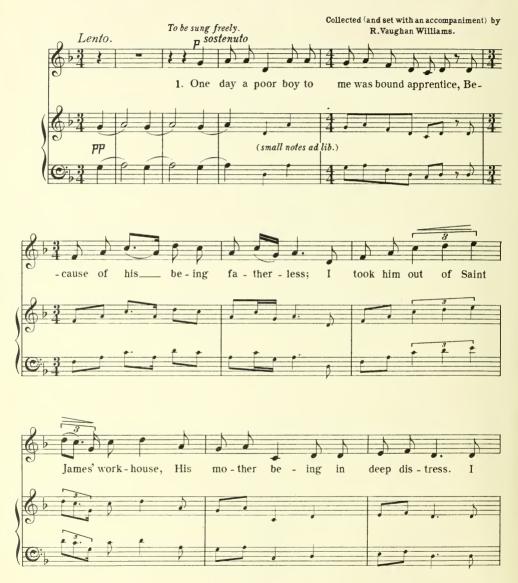




### ON BOARD A NINETY-EIGHT.

- When I was young and scarce eighteen, 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 resolv'd that I should go On board a Man-of-War.
- A bold pressgang surrounded me, Their warrant they did show, And swore that I should go to sea, And face the daring foe. So off they lugged me to the boat, O how I cursed my fate, 'Twas then I found that I must float On board a Ninety-Eight.
- 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.
- Now 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, Till I got boatswain's mate, And damme, soon got boatswain too On board a Ninety-Eight.
- 5. So years rolled by, at Trafalgar Brave 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 a wing off Jack On board a Ninety-Eight.
- 6. So now my cocoa I can take, My pouch with 'bacca stored; With my blue clothes and three-cocked hat I'm happy as a lord. I've done my duty, served my king, And now I bless my fate, But damme, I'm too old to sing, I'm nearly ninety -eight.

# THE CAPTAIN'S APPRENTICE.



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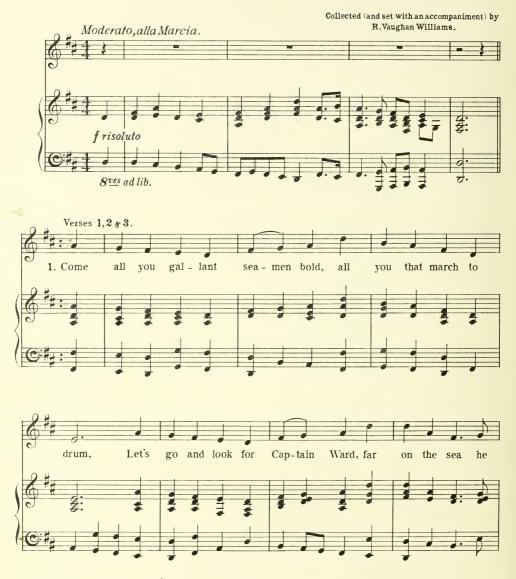




### THE CAPTAIN'S APPRENTICE.

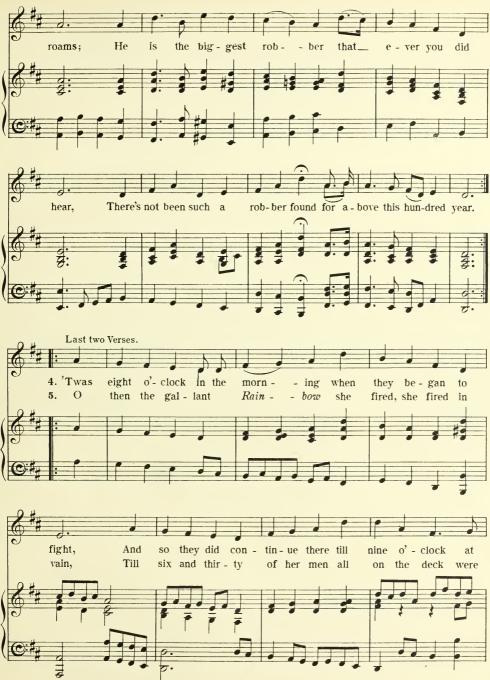
- One day a poor boy to me was bound apprentice, Because of his being fatherless; I took him out of S<sup>t</sup> James' workhouse, His mother being in deep distress.
- One day this poor boy unto me offended, But nothing to him I did say, Up to the mainmast shroud I sent him, And there I kept him all that long day.
- All with my gasket I misused him, So shamefully I can't deny, And by my barbarous cruel entreatment, The very next day this poor boy died.
- 4. You captains all throughout the nation, Hear a voice and a warning take by me; Take special care of your apprentice While you are on the raging sea.

### WARD, THE PIRATE. (NORFOLK.)



Note. The accompaniment to the l<sup>st</sup> verse may be used throughout. The last two lines of each verse may be repeated in Chorus if such be available.

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#### WARD, THE PIRATE.

- Come all you gallant seamen bold, all you that march to drum, Let's go and look for Captain Ward, far on the sea he roams; He is the biggest robber that ever you did hear, There's not been such a robber found for above this hundred year.
- A ship was sailing from the east and going to the west, Loaded with silks and satins and velvets of the best, But meeting there with Captain Ward, it was a bad meeting; He robbéd them of all their wealth and bid them tell their King.
- O then the King provided a ship of noble fame, She's called the *Royal Rainbow*, if you would know her name; She was as well provided for as any ship can be, Full thirteen hundred men on board, to bear her company.
- 4. 'Twas eight o'clock in the morning when they began to fight, And so they did continue there till nine o'clock at night: "Fight on, fight on," says Captain Ward, "this sport well pleases me, For if you fight this month or more, your master I will be."
- 5. O then the gallant *Rainbow* she fired, she fired in vain,
  Till six and thirty of her men all on the deck were slain.
  "Go home, go home," says Captain Ward, "and tell your King from me,
  If he reigns King on all the land, Ward will reign King on sea."

Note. The above words have been completed partly from a Sussex version (sung to another tune) and partly from a printed copy.

## THE SAUCY BOLD ROBBER. (NORFOLK.)



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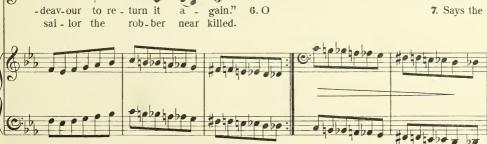


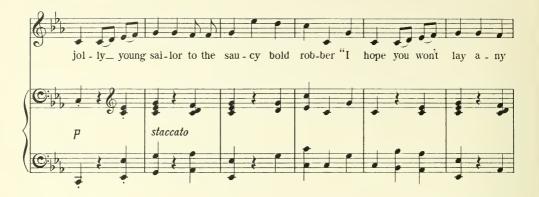
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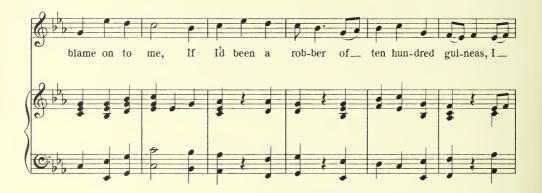














#### THE SAUCY BOLD ROBBER.

- O come you good people that go out a-tripping, I pray give attention and list'n to my song; I'll sing you a ditty of a jolly bold robber, Stood seven foot high,in proportion quite strong.
- He robbèd a lord and he robbèd a lady, Five hundred bright guineas from each one of them, Till, as he was a-walking, he met a young sallor, And bold as a lion he steppèd up to him.
- 3. "Deliver your money, my jolly young sailor, You've plenty of bulk in your pocket I see."
  "Aye, aye," says the sailor, I've plenty of money, But while I have life I have got none for thee.
- 4. I've just left my shipping and taken my money, I'm bound for old England my friends for to see.
  I've ninety bright guineas my friends to make merry, So I pray jolly robber, don't you take them from me."
- 5. Then the saucy bold robber struck the jolly young sailor Such a blow on the head which brought him to the ground. "Aye, aye" says the sailor, "you have struck me quite heavy, But I must endeavour to return it again."
- O then they both stripped, like lambkins they skipped, They went, life for life like to soldiers in field; And the ninety eighth meeting it was a completement, And this jolly young sailor the robber near killed.
- 7. Says the jolly young sailor to the saucy bold robber "I hope you won't lay any blame on to me, If I'd been a robber of ten hundred guineas, I ne'er would have stopped a poor sailor like me."

THE BOLD PRINCESS ROYAL.



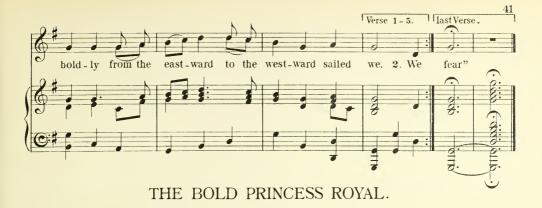






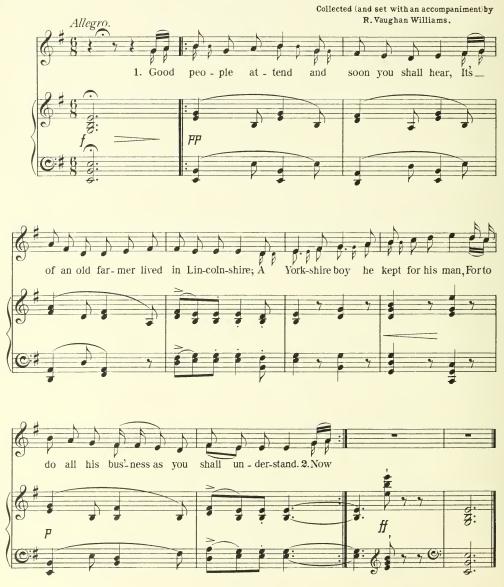
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- On the fourteenth of February we sailed from the land, In the bold *Princess Royal* bound for Newfoundland, We had forty brave seamen for our ship's company, And boldly from the eastward to the westward sailed we.
- We had not been sailing past days two or three, When a man from our foremast a sail he did see, She hove down upon us to see what we were, And under her foremast black colours she wore.
- 3. Now when this bold pirate she hove alongside,
  With a large speaking trumpet "whence come you" they cried.
  Our captain being aft,boys,he answered him so; –
  "We come from fair London and we're bound for Cairo."
- 4. "Come haul down your topsails, your sternsails also, For I have a letter to send home by you."
  "I'll not haul down my topsail nor heave my sails to, But shall be in some harbour, not alongside of you."
- 5. They fired shot after us but could not prevail, When the bold *Princess Royal* soon shewed them her tail, They drove us to windward, but couldn't make us stay, We hoisted our mainsail and then bore away.
- 6. "Thank God," cries our captain,"the pirate is gone. Come down to your grog boys, come down everyone, Come down to your grog boys and be of good cheer, For while we have sea-room,brave boys, never fear."

THE LINCOLNSHIRE FARMER. (NORFOLK.)



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#### THE LINCOLNSHIRE FARMER.

- Good people attend and soon you shall hear, It's of an old farmer lived in Lincolnshire; A Yorkshire boy he kept for his man, For to do all his business, as you shall understand.
- 2. Now early one morning he called for his man, For to go to the fair, as you shall understand, Saying "Boy, th'old cow you shall take to the fair, For she is in good order and her I can spare?"
- Away the boy went with the cow in a band, To go to the fair, as you shall understand, As he was going he met with three men, And he sold his old cow for six pound ten.
- 4. Away then they went to an ale-house to drink And there the three men paid the boy down his clink, There sat an old highwayman drinking of wine, Said he to himself "all that money is mine."
- \* 5. The boy then unto the landlady did say,
  "What am I to do with my money I pray,"
  "I'll sew it within your coat-lining," said she
  "For fear on the highway you robbèd should be."
  - 6. The boy took his leave and home he did go,
    The highwayman he followed after also,
    And soon o'ertook him upon the highway;
    "O well overtaken young man" he did say.
  - 7. "Will you get up behind me" the highwayman said,
    "How far are you going? the poor boy replied
    "Four miles, and further, for ought that I know,"
    So it's "jump up behind" and away they did go.

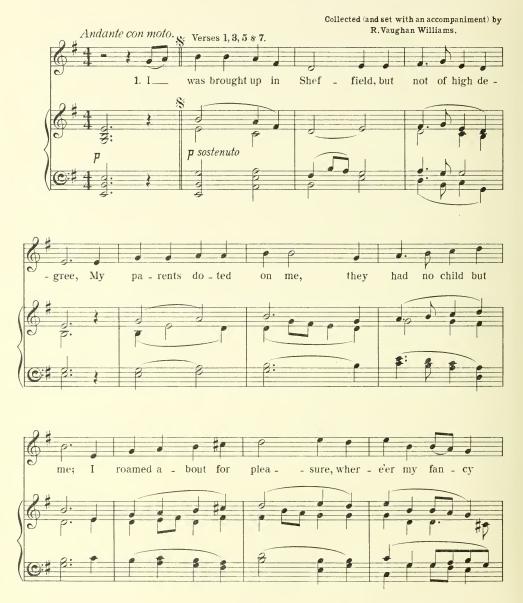
- They rode till they came to a green shaded lane \_\_\_\_\_. "O now my young man I must tell it you plain, Deliver your money, without any strife, Or else I will soon make an end of your life."
- 9. When he found that he had no time to dispute, He quickly alighted without fear or doubt. He tore his coat-lining, the money pulled out, And all in the long grass he strewed it about.
- 10. The highwayman he jumped off from his horse, But little he thought that it was to his loss, For while he was gath'ring the money from the grass, To make him amends he rode off with his horse.
- He holloed and shouted and bid him to stand; The boy would not hear him but still galloped on Unto his own master, and to him did bring A saddle and bridle and many a fine thing.
- 12. Now as the boy John he was riding home, The servant was standing all in the front room, She runs to her master, says she "here's a loss" Says she "the old cow has turned into a hoss."
- 13. The saddlebag was opened, within was a hole, They took sixty pounds out in silver and gold, Says the boy to his master "I hope you'll allow That master, dear master, I've well sold your cow."
- 14. The boy with his valour and courage so rare, Three parts of the money he got for his share, So now the highwayman he's lost a great store, And he may go robbing until he gets more.

Note. A few lines have had to be supplied from a printed version and elsewhere.

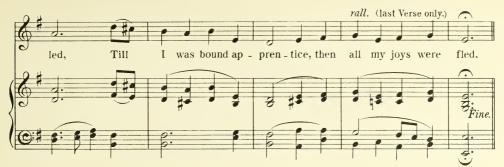
\* Verses 5, 11 and 14 may be omitted.

THE SHEFFIELD APPRENTICE.

(NORFOLK.)



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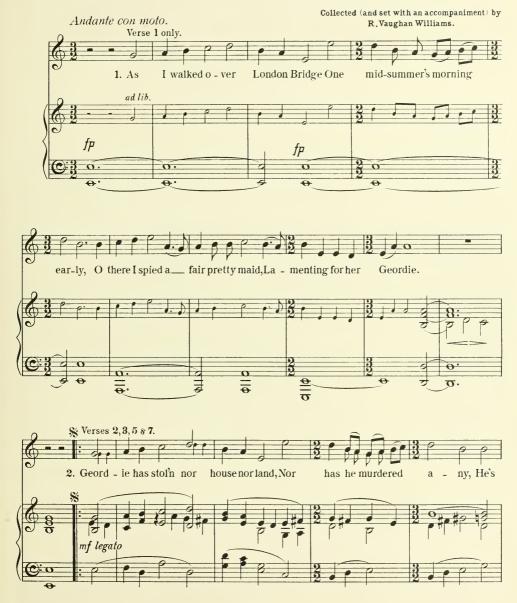


#### THE SHEFFIELD APPRENTICE.

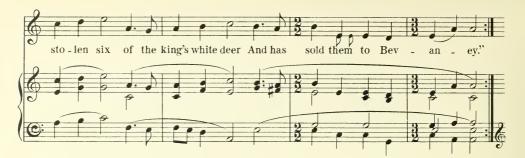
- I was brought up in Sheffield, but not of high degree; My parents doted on me, they had no child but me; I roamed about for pleasure, where'er my fancy led, Till I was bound apprentice, then all my joys were fled.
- I did not like my master, he did not use me well, I made a resolution not long with him to dwell. A wealthy rich young lady from London met me there, And offered me great wages to serve her for a year.
- 3. I had not been in London scarce one month, two or three, Before my honoured mistress grew very fond of me, She said "I've gold, I've silver, I've houses and I've land, If you will marry me they shall be at your command."
- 4. "O no, dear honoured mistress I cannot wed you now, For I have lately promised likewise a solemn vow, To wed with dearest Polly your handsome chambermaid, Excuse me honoured mistress, she has my heart betrayed."
- 5. She flew into a passion and turned away from me, Resolved within herself she would be revenged on me; Her gold ring from her finger, as she was passing by, She slipped it in my pocket, and for it I must die.
- 6. For that before the justice, the justice I was brought, And there before the justice I answered for my fault; Long time I pleaded innocent but that was all in vain, She swore so false against me that I was sent to gaol.
- 7. On the day of execution, all on that fatal day, I prayed the people round me "O pray come pity me. Don't laugh at my downfall, for I bid this world adieu; Farewell my dearest Polly, I died for love of you."

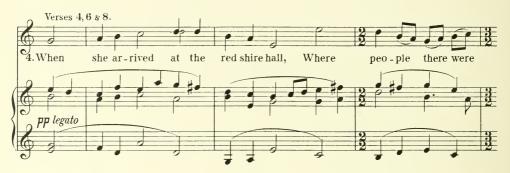
#### GEORDIE.

#### (CAMBRIDGESHIRE)



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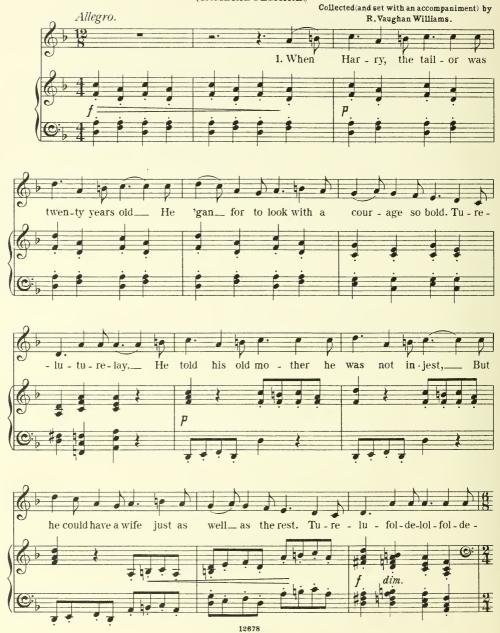
#### GEORDIE.

- As I walked over London Bridge One midsummer's morning early, O there I spied a fair pretty maid, Lamenting for her Geordie.
- "Geordie has stol'n nor house nor land, Nor has he murdered any, He's stolen six of the king's white deer And has sold them to Bevaney."
- 3. "Come bridle me my milk white steed, Come saddle me my pony, That I may ride to the good lord judge, There I'll beg for the life of Geordie?"
- 4. When she arrived at the red shire hall, Where people there were many, Down on her bended knees did fall, Crying "Spare me the life of Geordie".
- 5. The judge looked over his left shoulder, And he was very sorry; He said "Young woman, you are too late, For he is condemned already."
- 6. She turned her heavy eyes around And fixed them on poor Geordie;
  "It's your own confession, and die you must, May the Lord have mercy on ye!"
- 7. "Geordie shall be hung in chains of gold, Such chains as there never were any, For he is one of the royal blood, And he courted a royal lady."
- 8. "I wish I were on yonder hill, Where times I have been many, With a sword and pistol all by my side, There I'd fight for the life of Geordie"

#### HARRY, THE TAILOR.

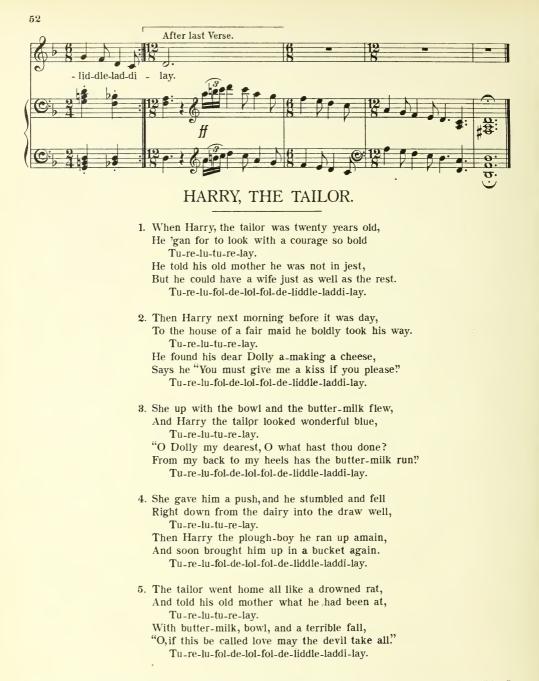
to the tune of "THE TAILOR"

(CAMBRIDGESHIRE.)



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Note. The words to which this tune was sung are unsuitable for this publication; other words, therefore, (also traditional) have been substituted; they are taken from Bells "Songs of the Peasantry." The burden proper to the tune has, however, been retained.



# THREE SONGS FOR SOLDIERS.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

No. 1.

"MIGHT I MARCH THROUGH LIFE AGAIN"

(E. FITZBALL).

No. 1, in F. No. 2, in G. No. 3, in B flat.

No. 2.

To Field-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE S. WHITE, V.C.

#### THE GORDO (B. MALCOLM RAMSEY).

No. 1, 11 D. No. 2, in E. No. 3, in G.

No. 3.

To FIELD-MARSHAL EARL ROBERTS, V.C.

#### "BAD LUCK TO THEIR MARCHING" (CHARLES LEVER).

No. 1, in D minor. No. 2, in E minor. No. 3, in G minor.

COMPOSED BY

ALICIA ADÉLAÏDE NEEDHAM.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS EACH.

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