

A Shantyman's Song

Chorus:-

*I'll sing you a song of a Shanty man
I'll sing you a song of the sea,
I'll sing of the men that put word into verse
I'll sing you a song of me.*

Oh! How the men they did complain as they pushed that capstan round,
Said that they must be hauling ground .
It's just our bloody luck there's a whale fish on this hook,
And the bugger it must weigh a thousand pounds
So I picked up my fiddle and I put it to my chin, I sang of the places they had been ,
I sang of the girls with their long and lovely curls
I sang of a Polynesian Queen.
Oh! How that capstan went around
And the pawls they then did click
The anchor chain down the hawse did slip
We warped that ship around ,headed for the whaling ground
And away down the channel we did clip.

Chorus:-

*Oh! I'll sing you a song of a Shanty man
I'll sing you a song of the sea,
I'll sing of the men that put word into verse
I'll sing you a song of me.*

How the men they did wail , as they hauled upon that sail
Said it was fast on a nail.
Or a bucket of tar had stuck that bloody spar
And to haul it up that mast they new would fail
So I through back my head and I gave a mighty shout
Two, Three, four and haul
I sang about a horse, and about the sails of course
A drunken mate , the cook and the crew.
Oh! How those yards they did fly , up the mast toward the sky
The sails all set bye and bye
Up aloft they all did go , to a mighty stomp and go.
And the ship sailed along on a sigh.

Chorus:-

Did you hear a whinge as we sounded out the bilge
There was water two foot high
Oh! no one did jump, to work upon that pump
And it was bail buggers bail, the Mate did cry.
With my foot a gave a thump, to the rhythm of the pump
Told a tale of Noah and the Ark.
Bend your back and break your bones,
Were a thousand miles from home,
Post and Wire and a Southern Ireland drunk.
The water it did flow
Through the scuppers it did go
The level falling down below
Then we plugged up that leak with a bung made out of
teak.
And a gasket made of hempen string and tar.

Chorus:-

*Oh! I'll sing you a song of a Shanty man
I'll sing you a song of the sea,
I'll sing of the men that put word into verse
I'll sing you a song of me.
Yes, I'll sing you a song of me.*



Joe Grundy