Sir William Gower Brown Robyn's Confession



A gay young sailor both stout and strong To a goodly vessel I do belong, Well carved and anchored so fine and rare And gallant sailors are loaded there.

Our captain's name was Sir William Gower And his crew amounted to just four score, All seamen brave to cross the sea Bound for New York in Amerikee.

Our captain in his cabin lay When a dreadful voice to him did say: Prepare thyself and thy ship's company For tomorrow night in the deep might lay.

Our captain woke in a dreadful fright Being in the third watch of the night And to the bosun aloud did call Between the secret enclosed them all.

Saying, Bosun, Bosun, let no one know What we poor sailors do undergo, But keep the secret but in thy breast And pray to God to give you rest.

I killed my merchant a neighbour there, 'Twas all for the sake of his lady fair, I killed my wife and children three 'Twas all for the sake of jealousy.

The gay young sailor he beared the blame, He was hung and quatered for the same. It is his ghost, I am afraid, This very night my heart betrayed. The sea run over us both fore and aft Till a very few men a-deck was left, And then our boatsman did declare Our captain was a murderer.

The sea enraged all our ship's crew And overboard our captain threw; And the wind did cease and calm the sea And we sailed safe to Amerikee.