

# The Mermaid

*Cornish Variant of popular Shanty*

Traditional

Noted by J.C. Trevarthen and Ralph Dunstan 1929

3 One Fri - day mor - ing we set sail, And

5 when not far from land, We

7 all esp - ied a fair mer - ry maid, With a

9 comb and a glass in her hand, her hand, her hand, With

*CHORUS*

11 comb and a glas in her hand. While the

13 rag - ing seas did roar, And the

15 storm - y winds did blow, And

17 we jol - ly sail - or boys were sit - ting up a loft, And

19 the land - lubbers ly - ing down be - low, be - low, be - low. And the

land lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

One Friday morning we set sail,  
And when not far from land,  
We all espied a fair merrymaid\*,  
With a comb and a glass in her hand, her hand her hand,  
And a comb and glass in her hand.

*While the raging seas did roar,  
And the stormy winds did blow,  
And we jolly sailor boys were sitting up aloft  
And the landlubbers lying down below, below, below,  
And the landlubbers lying down below.*

The up starts the mate of our gallant ship,  
And a bold young man was he,  
Oh I have a wife in fair Padstow town,  
But I fear a widow she will be, will be, will be,  
But I fear a widow she will be.

And up starts the cook of our gallant ship,  
And a young man was he,  
I have a sweetheart in fair Lanson\*\* Town,  
But I fear she will be a weeping for me, for me, for me,  
But I fear she will be a weeping for me.

And up spoke the little cabin boy,  
An a pretty little boy was he,  
Oh, I am more sorry for my daddy and my mammy,  
Who will both be a-weeping for me, for, me for me,  
Who will both be a-weeping for me.

Then three times around went our gallant ship,  
And three times around went she,  
For the ant of a long boat we all went down,  
And she sank to the bottom of the sea, the sea, the sea  
And Sank to the bottom of the sea.

\* Merrymaid – Cornish Dialect for mermaid

\*\* i.e.Launceston