

On Board a '98

Mr Wanstall

Collected by Francis Collinson, Aldington, 1942

Francis Collinson Manuscript Collection COL/4/22

Roud 1461

When_ I was young and scarce eight- een I drove a_ roar- ing trade And_
man- y a sly trick I_ played with man- y a pret- ty maid My
par- ents found that would not do, I soon should spend their store, Re-
solved they was that I should go on board of a man of war, With my
fol- de- rat- tle hee hi ho Fol- de- rid- dle hee hi fol- de- rid- dle hee hi
fol- de- rid- dle hee hi ho

1. When I was young and scarce eighteen

I drove a roaring trade

And many a sly trick I played

With many a pretty maid

My parents found that would not do,

I soon should spend their store,

Resolved they was that I should go

On board of a man of war,

Chorus:

With my fol-de-rattle hee hi ho

Fol-de-riddle hee hi fol-de-rid-dle hee hi,

Fol-de-riddle hee hi ho.

2. The bold press gang surrounded me

Their warrants they did show

They swore that I should go to sea

And face the daring foe

Then off they lugged me to their boat

Oh how I cursed my fate

When I found that I must float

On board of the Ninety-eight

[Chorus]

3. When first I set my foot on board,

How I began to stare

Our Admiral he gave the word

There is no time to spare

The anchor weighed, set out the sail

And off they bore me straight

To watch the foe through storm and gale

On board of the Ninety-eight

[Chorus]

4. Before we reached America

They gave me many a drill

They soon learnt me a nimble way

To handle an iron pill,

And very soon the fight began

And bold Jack Tar lay straight,

What would I give if I could run

Away from the ninety-eight!

[Chorus]

5. But as time flew, I bolder grew
And hardened unto war
I run aloft with my ship's crew
And value not a scar.
And well I done my duty
Until I got bosun's mate,
And very soon was bosun too
On board of the Ninety-eight
[Chorus]

6. Trafalgar was the place
Where Nelson fought and fell.
And in that very battle too
I caught a rap as well
To Greenwich college I was sent
Because I saved my pate
And now I am too old to sing
For I am nearly ninety-eight.
[Chorus]