

Be Handy Boys

William Gaul

Collected by James Madison Carpenter, Belvedere, 1928

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Roud 814



1. 'Twas from Liverpool docks we set sail,
With a sweet and a pleasant gale, boys;
Our ship she was called the Burton Head,
And very day they would weigh our bread,

Chorus:

Singing Tu-ru-ru! Come along now!

Be handy, boys! Be handy now!

2. Oh the bread was as hard as any tin,
And the pork was as salt as Lot's wife's chin;
And as sure as I am a living sinner,
Murpheys we had none for dinner.
3. Our skipper's name was Dicky Greene,
The dirtiest old pirate that ever you'd seen;

He'd walk the deck in his smoking cap,
And he'd think of himself no dirt in that.

4. After boxing us around all day,
He'll say "Aloft!" and we'd reef away;
And when we'd come down from aloft,
It's "Man the pumps now" he would scoff.