

Maids of Australia

William Prosser

Collected by James Madison Carpenter, Royal Alfred, Belvedere, 1928

James Madison Carpenter MSS Collection (JMC/1/5/4/A, JMC/1/1/4/D)

Roud 1872



1. One day I strayed by those Hawksbury banks,
Where the maids of Australia they played their wild pranks;
Neath bushes I sat myself down
And all my delight was in gazing around,
On those forests of happy Australia,
On those forests of happy Australia,
Where the maidens are handsome and gay.
2. Long time did I gaze at that beautiful scene.
Where the valleys all wave and the trees ever green,
When a pretty young damsel to me did appear,
On the banks of the river she quickly drew near,
In the forests of happy Australia,
In the forests of happy Australia,
Where the maidens are handsome and gay.

3. She stepped up to me and she smilingly said.

Kind sir, would you injure an innocent maid,
While caught by those Hawksbury banks for to swim?
Her features looked charming; her eyes they did shine;
She's a daughter of happy Australia,
She's a daughter of happy Australia,
Where the maidens are handsome and gay.

4. She plunged in the water without fear or dread,
And then her delicate limbs oh so neatly she spread
Turned round on her back, said "Young man, you can see,
This is the dress that sweet nature gave me,
On the day I was born in Australia,
On the day I was born in Australia,
Where the maidens are handsome and gay.

5. Now it's quickly by swimming she came to the bank,
Assistance, she cried, "I'm afraid I shall sink!"
Like lightning I flew and caught hold of her hand,
Then she suddenly turned and sprang out on the sand,
And she entered the bush of Australia,
Then I entered the bush of Australia,
Where the maidens are handsome and gay.