

Botany Bay

Joseph Jones

Recorded by Mike Yates, Orpington, October 1973

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Roud 261

Crotchet = 76
v.4

(a)

There stands my a- ged fa- ther, oh, a- stand-in' by the bar. Like-

3

wise my a- ged mo-ther dear, with her old grey locks she tore. Say-ing

"Son, O son, what have you done? which I'm sor- ry for to say; Which you've

(b)

done some crime or an- o- ther my boys, you're go- ing to Bot'- ny Bay. O

(c)

son, O son, what have you done, I am sor- ry for to say, Which the

judge 'ave found you guil- ty, so you're go- ing to Bot'- ny Bay.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(b)

(c)

(b)

(c)

“Note:- Verses 4 and 5 are very alike in tune. In verse 2 (contrary to 4 and 5) line 2 has a B flat and line 3 a B natural. Mr Jones always seems to alter verse 4 of this song. I have thus shown alternatives.”

1. Oh as I was a-going to Plymouth on the eleventh day of June,
To see those little merry birds, so sweet they was in tune.
We knocked them down by fours and fives and popped them in our sacks,
Back to Maidstone town, the gaol we're bound, so soon we got shipwrecked.
2. It was of five more and me to Squire Poppam's Park,
And the worst of our misfortunes that night it did prove dark.
We knocked them down by fours and fives and popped them in our sacks,
Back to Maidstone town, the gaol we're bound, so soon we got shipwrecked.
3. As we were a-walking all through the woods one night,
And watching our dogs, they were hunting their hearts delight.
We knocked them down by four and fives, we popped them in our sacks,
Back to Maidstone town, the gaol we're bound, so soon we got shipwrecked.
4. There stands my aged father a-standing by the bar.
Likewise my aged mother dear, and her old grey locks she tore.
"Oh son, oh son, what have you done? I'm sorry for to say
That the Judge has found you guilty so you're going to Botany Bay."
5. As we sailed down the river on the twenty-eight of May,
The next we saw was a large King's ship, I heard the sailors say:
"Here comes a ship of clever boys, we're sorry for to say
They've done one crime or another, boys, they're going to Botany Bay."