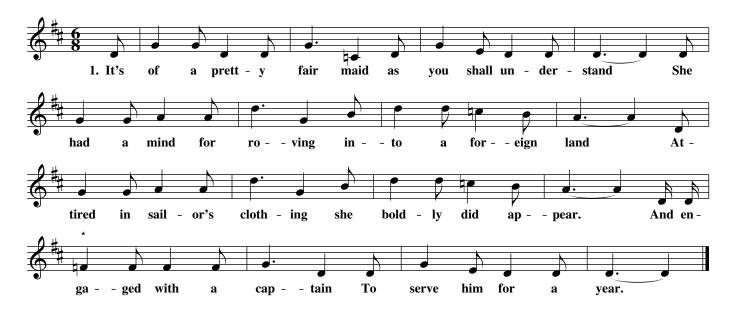
The Female Cabin Boy



- 2. The captain's wife she being on board, she seem-ed in great joy To see her husband had engaged such a handsome cabin boy And now and then she'd slip in a kiss, and she would have liked to toy But the captain found out the secret of the female cabin boy.
- 3. Her cheeks they were like roses and her hair all in a curl The sailors often smiled and said "He looks just like a girl." But eating of the Captain's biscuit. her colour did destroy And the waist did swell of pretty Nell, the female cabin boy.
- 4. It was in the Bay of Biscay our gallant ship did plough One night among the sailors was a fearful scurrying row. They tumbled from their hammocks for their sleep it did destroy And they cursed about the groaning of the female cabin boy.
- 5. "Oh doctor dear, oh doctor," the cabin boy did cry.
 "My time has come, I am undone, and I will surely die."
 The doctor came out smiling and laughed at all the fun
 To think a sailor lad should have a daughter or a son.
- 6. The sailors when they heard the news, they all did stand and star The child belonged to none of them, they solemnly did swear. The captain's wife she says to him, "My dear I wish you joy For it's either you or I betrayed the female cabin boy."
- 7. Then each man took his tot of rum, and drunk success to trade And likewise to the cabin boy, who was neither man nor maid Here's hoping the wars won't rise again, our sailors to destroy And here's hoping for a jolly lot more like the female cabin boy.

Source: Sung by Mrs. Mary Anne Clayton (64) at Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp Jan 13th 1909. Notes: Tune and 1st verse collected from Mary Ann Clayton. Remainder from another version.

©Gloucestershire Traditions