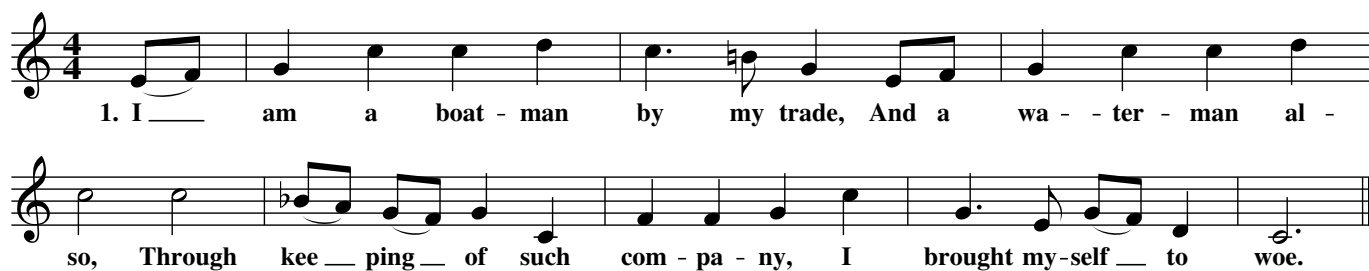


Jack Williams



1. I am a boat-man by my trade, And a wa-ter-man al-so,
Through kee-ping of such com-pa-ny, I brought my-self to woe.

2. I went a-robbing night and day,
To keep Ena fine and gay,
And what I got I valued not,
I took to her straightway.
3. Till at length to Newgate I got brought,
Bound down in iron strong,
With the rattling chains all round my legs,
She longed to hear them on.
4. I wrote a letter to my love,
Some comfort for to find,
But instead of proving a friend to me,
She proved to me unkind.
5. She in a scornful manner wrote,
"I'll shun their company,
So just as you've made your bed, young man,
Down on it you must lay."
6. I thought these words were very hard,
When I spent all my store,
To think she had no more regard,
When I was low and poor.
7. If ever I gain my liberty,
'Tis a solemn vow I'll make,
I'll shun all woman's company,
For my false lovers sake.
8. The 'sides being over,
And hanged I thought to be,
But I burst from the prison walls,
And gained my liberty.

Source: Mrs Elizabeth Smitherd (Smithers) (65) at Tewkesbury. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp on 11 April 1908.