

## Jack Williams

1. I am a boat-man by my trade, And a wa-ter-man al-

so, Through keeping of such com-pany, 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.

Notes: Cecil Sharp Manuscript Collection (at Clare College, Cambridge, CJS2/10/1641).

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