

The Golden Vanity

The musical score is written on five staves in a 6/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "I had a lit - - tle ship in the north coun - - ter - - y She sails by the name of the Gol - - den Van - - i - - ty And they feared she would be tak - - en by the Tur - - kish e - - ne - - my That _____ sails up - on the Low - - lands low _____ Low _____ lands _____ low ² _____ that sails up-on the Low - lands low _____".

2. Then up there came a little cabin boy
And he said to the skipper "What will you give
If I swim alongside of the Turkish enemy
And sink them in the Lowlands low, Lowlands low,
And sink them in the Lowlands low."
3. "Oh I will give thee gold and I will give thee store
And my only daughter your bride to be
If you'll swim alongside of the Turkish enemy
And sink her in the Lowlands low, Lowlands low,
And sink her in the Lowlands low?"
4. Then the boy made ready and overboard sprang he.
And he swam alongside of the Turkish enemy.
With his sharp auger in her side he bored holes three
And he sank her in the Lowland low, Lowland low
He sank her in the Lowland sea.
5. Then the boy turned round and back again swam he.
And he cried out to the skipper of the Golden Vanity.
But the skipper would not heed, for his promise he did need,
And he left him in the Lowland low, Lowland low
And he left him in the Lowland sea.

6. Then the boy swam round and came to the port side.
And he looked up at his messmates, and bitterly he cried
"O messmates, take me up, for I'm drifting with the tide
And I'm sinking in the Lowland low, Lowland low
And I'm sinking in the Lowland sea."

7. Then his messmates took him up but on the deck he died.
And they sewed him in his hammock, that was so large and wide
And they lowered him overboard, but he drifted with the tide,
And he sank beneath the Lowland low, Lowland low
And he sank beneath the Lowland sea.

Source: Jim Strange, in his 80s, Quenington, collected by Brian Ballinger 16 November 1957.

Notes: The words given by Mr Stange were very incomplete and so words have been provided from a version sung by David Sawyer of Swindon.

© Gloucestershire Traditions