

A Sailor and Beautiful Wife

(a)

1. A _____ sail - or from the North _____ Coun - - tree, He had a most

(b)

beau - - ti - - ful wife, Good hu - moured mild and meek, And her

tem - per was so sweet, _____ And the sai - - lor he loved her as his life.

Variations:

(a)

(b)

2. One day as they were walking alone,
They met a noble captain on the way,
Her obeisance to her he made,
But he smiled and nothing said,
For his heart it was caught in a snare.
3. As soon as the captain reached home,
He sent for the sailor with speed,
Our news do run so,
To the West Indies you must go,
In the morning when daylight do appear.
4. "Very well, my dearest captain," he replied,
"I'm willing to venture my life,
But there is one thing more,
That does grieve my heart full sore,
That's to go and leave my sweet wife."
5. As soon as the sailor reached home,
Bad news he'd to tell to his dear,
"Bad news I have to tell,
I must bid my love farewell,
In the morning when daylight does appear."
6. As soon as the sailor was gone,
The captain went home to his dear,
Saying, "Your sailor has gone to sea,
And my mistress you shall be,
All my silver and my gold likewise."

7. "If you was king of all the countree,
And me of the lowest degree,
If I should rather change,
My sweet life I'd rather lose,
Than be mistress of your silver and your gold."

Source: Mrs Elizabeth Smithers (61) at Tewkesbury, 10 January 1908. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp.

Notes: Cecil Sharp Manuscript Collection (at Clare College, Cambridge, CJS2/10/1572).

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