

Botany Bay

Come all young men of learning, And a warning take by me. I'll
 have you quickly walking, And shun bad company, I'll
 have you quickly walking, Or else you'll rue the day, On
 when you were transported, You went to Botany Bay.

2. I was brought up in London Town,
 A place I know full well,
 Brought up by honest parents,
 The truth to you I'll tell.
 Brought up by honest parents
 Which loved so tenderly,
 Till I became a roving blade
 To prove my destiny.

3. My character was taken
 And I was sent to gaol.
 My parents tried to clear me,
 But nothing could prevail.
 At [our?] Rutland sessions
 The Judge to me did say,
 "The Jury found you guilty,
 You must go to Botany Bay".

Source: Richard Toms of Fairford, at Cirencester Union. Collected by Cecil Sharp 2 November 1911.