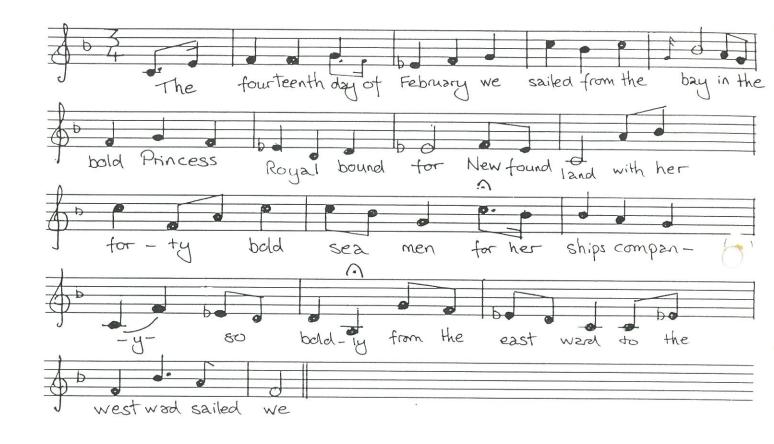
Princess Royal



THE BOLD PRINCESS ROYAL

The text of this song is the one given in the manuscript and differs dramatically after verse four from the version printed in the Folksong Journal Vol 1 p.62 that was quoted by Vaughan Williams in Vol 8 as a comparison. At the end of this song Vaughan Williams has made the following note. 'Mr Pottipher originally picked it up from some sailors at Brentwood Fair.'

The fourteenth day of February we sailed from the bay In the bold Princess Royal bound for Newfound land With her forty bold seamen for her ship's company So boldly from the eastward to the westward sailed we

We had not been sailing past two days or three When a man from our masthead a sail he did see She bore down upon us, to see what we were While under her mizzen black colours she flew

Good lord says our captain what shall we do now Here comes a bold pirate to rob us I know Oh no cries our chief mate that ne'er shall be so We'll hoist up our reef sail and from them will go

Now when this bold pirate she heaved alongside With a long speaking trumpet whence came you she cried Our captain being aft boys he answered them so We came from fair London we're bound for Cairo

Come haul down your topsail your staysail also For I have a letter I'll send home by you I'll not haul down my topsail nor heave my ship to But shall be in some harbour not alongside of you

I'll not haul down my topsail nor heave my ship to But my top gallant sail and royal boys and from them will go

They fired shot after us but they could not prevail When the bold Princess Royal soon showed them her tail

They drove us to wind boys for all that long day They drove us to wind boys but they couldn't make

They drove us to wind my boys but they couldn't make us stay

We hoisted our mainsail and then hove away

Thank God cried our captain the pirate is gone Come you down to your grog boys come you down every one Come down to your grog boys and be of good cheer For while we have sea room brave boys never fear