

Moreton Bay I

A composite version by John Manifold, Warren Bowden and Bill Scott and set to the Irish tune Youghal Harbour

capo 2



One Sun - day morn - - ing, as I went walk - - ing,

By Bris - bane wa - - - ters I chanced to stray;

I heard a con - - - vict his fate be - - wail - - ing,

As on the sun - - ny ri - - ver bank he lay:

"I am a nat - - ive of Er - - in's is - - land,

But ban - ished now from my nat - - ive shore,

They tore me from my _____ ag - - ed par - - ents,

And from the maid - en whom I do a - - dore.

"I've been a prisoner at Port Macquarie,
At Norfolk Island and Emu Plains,
At Castle Hill and at cursed Toongabbie,
At all these settlements I've worked in chains;
But of all places of condemnation
And penal stations in New South Wales,
To Moreton Bay I have found no equal,
Excessive tyranny each day prevails.

"For three long years I was beastly treated,
And heavy irons on my legs I wore,
My back with flogging was lacerated,
And oft-times painted with ray crimson gore.
And many a man from down-right starvation
Lies mouldering now underneath the clay;
And Captain Logan he had us mangled
All on the triangles of Moreton Bay.

"Like the Egyptians and ancient Hebrews,
We were oppressed under Logan's yoke,
Till a native black lying there in ambush
Did deal this tyrant his mortal stroke.
My fellow-prisoners be exhilarated
That all such monsters like death may find,
And when from bondage we are liberated
Our former sufferings will fade from mind."