

The Catalpa

Collected by Russel Ward from Victor Courtney. The setting is 'Rosin the Bow'. Prior to the American War of Independence the British assumed the right to 'rule the waves' and board any ship, after they did not dare attack a ship with the 'star spangled banner'

Verse

capo 2 G A C D G A Em F#m

A nob-le whale ship and com - man - der, called the Cat - al - pa they say,

G A C D G A D7 E7 G A

She sailed out to West-ern Aust - ral - ia And took six brave Fen - ians a - way.

Chorus G A C D G A

So come all you screw ward - ers and gaol - ers, re - mem - ber

Em F#m G A

Perth Reg - at - ta Day, Take care of the rest of your Fen - i -

C D G A D7 E7 G A

ans, or the Yank - ees will steal them a - - way.

For seven long years they had served here, and seven long more had to stay,
For defending their country, old Ireland, for that they were banished away.

All the Perth boats were a-racing and making short tack for the spot,
But the Yankee tacked into Fremantle, and took the best prize of the lot.

The Georgette, armed with bold warriors, went out the Yanks to arrest,
But she hoisted her star-spangled banner, saying: "You will not board me, I guess.

Now they've landed safe in America, there they'll be able to cry,
"Hoist up the green flag and the shamrock, hurrah for old Ireland we'd die."