

The Transport

A Botany Bay Broadside

from an early English broadside published circa 1828 and here set to The Black Horse.



Come all you men of learning, and a warning take by me,
I would have you quit night walking, and shun bad company.
I would have you quit night walking, or else you'll rue the day.
You'll rue your transportation, when you're bound for Botany Bay.

Come all you men of learning, and a warning take by me,
I would have you quit night walking, and shun bad company:
I would have you quit night walking, or else you'll rue the day.
You'll rue your transportation, my lads, when you are bound for Botany Bay.

I was brought up in London town, in a place I know full well;
Brought up by honest parents, for the truth to you I'll tell;
Brought up by honest parents, and rear'd most tenderly,
Till I became a roving blade, at the age of twenty-three.

My character soon taken was, and I was sent to jail,
My friends they tried to clear me, but nothing could prevail;
At the Old Bailey sessions the judge to me did say
"The jury's found you guilty. my lad, so you must go to Botany Bay."

To see my aged father dear, as he stood at the bar,
Likewise my tender mother, her old grey locks to tear;
In tearing of her old grey locks, these words to me did say
"O son! O son! what have you done, that you're going to Botany Bay?"

It was on the twenty-eighth of May from England we did steer,
And all things being safe on board, we sail'd down the river, clear;
And every ship that we pass'd by, we heard the sailors say
"There goes a ship of clever lads, and they are bound for Botany Bay."

O there is a girl in Manchester, a girl I know full well,
And if ever I get my liberty, along with her I'll dwell;
O then I mean to marry her, and no more to go astray;
I'll shun all evil company, bid adieu to Botany Bay.