

# 'Singlish Folk' Broadsheet Number 3

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### Blood Red Roses

My clothes are all in pawn  
*Go down you blood red roses, go down*  
And it's mighty draughty around Cape Horn  
*Go down you blood red roses, go down*  
*Oh, you pinks and posies*  
*Go down you blood red roses, go down*

It's round Cape Horn we've got to go  
Chasing whales through ice and snow

Oh my old mother she wrote to me  
My darling son come home from sea

Oh it's one more pull and that will do  
For we're the bullies to kick her through

### Blow the man down

1. She went over the bar on the thirteenth of May  
**Refrain:** To my way hay blow the man down  
The galloper jumped and the gale came away  
**Refrain:** Oh give me some time to blow the man  
down

#### **Chorus:**

Blow the man down bullies blow the man down  
To my way hay blow the man down  
Blow him right back into Liverpool town  
Oh give me some time to blow the man down

2. As I was a walkin down Paradise Street  
A flash lookin' packet I chanced for to meet
3. I says to her Polly now how do you do?  
She says none the better for the seein' of you
4. Now I'll blow the man up and I'll blow the man down  
I'll blow him away into Liverpool town

### Blood on the saddle

#### **Chorus:**

Oh there's blood on the saddle  
And blood all around  
And a great big puddle  
of blood on the ground

1. The cowboy lay in it  
All covered in gore  
And he never will ride  
On his bronco no more
2. Oh pity the cowboy  
All bloody and red  
His bronco fell on him  
And smashed in his head

### Blue-Tail Fly

When I was young I used to wait  
On master and serve him his plate,  
And pass the bottle when he got dry,  
And brush away the blue-tail fly.

#### Chorus:

Jimmy crack corn and I don't care.  
Jimmy crack corn and I don't care.  
Jimmy crack corn and I don't care,  
My master's gone away.

And when he'd ride in the afternoon  
I'd follow with a hickory broom,  
The pony being rather shy  
When bitten by the blue-tail fly.

One day he rode around the farm  
The flies so numerous they did swarm,  
One chanced to bite him on the thigh  
The devil take a blue-tail fly.

The pony jump, he toss, he pitch  
He threw my master in the ditch,  
He died and the jury wondered why  
The verdict was the blue-tail fly.

He lies beneath a 'simmon tree  
His epitaph is there to see,  
Beneath this stone I'm forced to lie  
The victim of a blue-tail fly.

### Ae Fond Kiss

Ae fond kiss and then we sever  
Ae farewell alas forever  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee  
Warring sighs and moans I'll wage thee

Who shall say that fortune grieves him  
While the star of hope she leaves him  
Me nae cheerful twinkle lights me  
Dark despair around benights me

I'll no' blame my partial fancy  
Naething could deceive ma Nancy  
For tae see her was tae love her  
Love but her and love for ever

Had we ever loved sae kindly  
Had we ever loved sae blindly  
Never met or never parted  
We would ne'er been broken hearted

Fare thee well by first and fairest  
Fare thee well my best and dearest  
Thine be ilka joy and treasure  
Peace, enjoyment, love and pleasure

### Come all ye fair and tender girls

1. Come all ye fair and tender girls  
Who flourish in your prime, prime  
Beware, beware keep your gardens fair  
Let no man steal your thyme, thyme  
Let no man steal your thyme
2. And when your thyme is past and gone  
He'll care no more for you, you  
And every place where your thyme was waste  
Will all spread all way through, through  
Will all spread all way through
3. A gardener's son was passing by  
Three flowers he gave to me, me  
The pink the blue and the violet true  
And the red, red rosy tree, tree  
And the red, red rosy tree, tree
4. But I refused the red rose bush  
And gained the willow tree, tree  
So all the world could plainly see  
How my love slighted me, me  
How my love slighted me

### Cindy

You ought to see my Cindy,  
She lives way down south;  
She's so sweet the honey bees  
Swarm around her mouth.

Chorus:

Get along home, Cindy, Cindy, (3x)  
I'll marry you some day.

The first I seen my Cindy  
She was standing in the door,  
Her shoes and stockings in her hand,  
Her feet all over the floor.

She took me to her parlor,  
She cooled me with her fan;  
She said I was the prettiest thing  
In the shape of mortal man.

She kissed me and she hugged me,  
She called me sugar plum;  
She threw her arms around me,  
I thought my time had come.

Oh, Cindy is a pretty girl,  
Cindy is a peach.  
She threw her arms around my neck,  
And hung on like a leech,

And if I was a sugar tree  
Standing in the town,  
Every time my Cindy passed  
I'd shake some sugar down.

And if I had a thread and needle  
Fine as I could sew,  
I'd sew that gal to my coat tails  
And down the road I'd go.

I wish I was an apple  
A-hanging on a tree,  
Every time that Cindy passed,  
She'd take a bite of me.

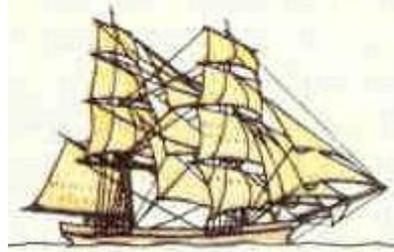
### Crazy Man Michael

Within the forest and out upon the sea,  
Crazy Man Michael was walking.  
He met with a raven with eyes black as coals,  
And presently they were a-talking  
``Your future, your future, I will tell to you.  
Your future, you often have asked me.  
Your true love will die by your own right hand.  
And Crazy Man Michael will cursed be."''

Michael he ranted and Michael he raved,  
And beat at the four winds with his fists-o.  
He laughed and he cried, he shouted and he swore,  
For his mad mind had trapped him with a kiss-o.  
``You speak with an evil, you speak with a hate,  
You speak for the devil that haunts me  
For is she not the fairest in all these broad lands,  
Your sorcerer's words are to taunt me."''

He took out his dagger of fire and of steel,  
And struck down the raven through the heart-o.  
The bird fluttered long and the sky it did spin,  
And the cold earth did wonder and start-o.  
``Oh, where is the raven that I struck down dead,  
That here did lie on the ground-o?  
I see but my true love with a wound so red,  
Where her lover's heart it did pound-o."''

Crazy Man Michael, he wanders alone,  
And he talks to the night and the day-o.  
But his eyes they are sane and his voice it is clear  
And he longs to be far away-o.  
Michael he whistles the simplest of tunes,  
And begs of the wild wolves their pardon.  
For his love is flown and to every flower grown,  
And Michael must be keeper of the garden.



### Bonny Ship Diamond

1. The Diamond is a ship my lads to the Greenland straits is bound  
The quay it is all garnished with bonnie lassies round  
Captain Thompson gives the orders to sail the ocean wide  
Where there's suns that never set my lads and darkness fills the skies

Chorus:

So let's cheer up me lads, Let your heart never fail  
For the bonny ship the Diamond goes fishin' for the whale

2. Along the quay at Peterhead the lassies stand around  
Their shawls all pulled about them and the salt tears running down  
Oh don't ye fret my bonny lass though you be left behind  
The green will grow on Greenlands Isle before we change our minds
3. Here's a health to the resolution boys right by here lies the swan  
A health to the battler Romantoes and the Diamond ship of fame  
With trousers of the white my lads and jackets of the blue  
When we return to Peterhead we'll have sweet hearts anew

## Charlie

### **Chorus:**

Charlie he's a fine young man,  
Charlie he's a dandy  
Loves to hug and kiss the girls  
And feed 'em on sweet candy

1. Step her to your weevily wheat  
Step her to your barley  
Step her to your weevily wheat  
And beg a cake for Charlie

2. My pretty little pink who would think  
That you and I would marry  
Now I've lost all hope of you  
And I've no time to tarry

3. My pretty little pink who would think  
I care but little about you  
Let you know before I go  
I cannot do without you

## Leaving of Liverpool

Farewell to Prince's Landing Stage  
River Mersey fare thee well  
I'm bound for California  
And I know I'll return some day

Chorus: So fare thee well my own true love  
And when I return united we will be  
It's not the leaving of Liverpool that grieves me  
But my darling when I think of thee

I've shipped on a Yankee sailing ship  
Davey Crockett is her name  
And Burgess is the captain of her  
And they say she's a floating shell

I've sailed with Burgess twice before  
And I think he knows him right well  
If a man is a seaman then he'll be alright  
But if he's not then he's sure in hell

The lights are on the harbour love  
And I wish I could remain  
But I know it will be some long, long time  
Before I see you again.

## 0, my love is like a red, red rose

0, my love is like a red, red rose,  
that's newly sprung in June.  
0, my love is like a melody,  
that's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair thou art, my bonnie lass,  
so deep in love am I,  
And I will love thee still, my dear,  
till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
and the rocks melt wi' the sun!  
And I will love thee still, my dear,  
while the sands of life shall run.

And fare the weel, my only love!  
And fare the well awhile!  
And I will come again, my love.  
Tho' it were ten thousand mile!

## Whip Jamboree

1. And now Cape Fail it is in sight  
We'll be on Holyhead by tomorrow night  
With Liverpool and the Rock Current light  
Oh Jenny get your old capes done

### **Chorus:**

Whip Jamboree, Whip Jamboree  
With your pig tailed sails oh hangin' down behind  
Whip Jamboree, Whip Jamboree  
Oh Jenny get your old capes done

2. And now my boys were at Holyhead  
No more salt beef or green laid bread  
We're manning the chains for to heave the lead  
Oh Jenny get your old capes done

3. And now my boys we're at Fort Perch Rock  
Our hammocks lashed and our chests all locked  
We'll heave her into Waterloo Dock  
Oh Jenny get your old capes done

4. And now my boys we're all in dock  
We'll be up to Dan Mommery's on the spot  
And there we'll drink a full pint pot  
Oh Jenny get your old capes done

## Chilly Winds

### **Chorus:**

I'm going where those chilly winds don't blow, darlin' baby  
*I'm going where those chilly winds don't blow*  
I'm goin' to my long lonesome home

1. Way down in jail on my knees, darlin' baby  
Way down in jail on my knees  
Where they feed me on corn bread and beans

2. Make me a pallet on you floor, darlin' baby  
Make me a pallet on you floor  
For I'm goin' to my long lonesome home

## Mary Had A Baby

Mary had a baby Yes Lord  
Mary had a baby Yes my Lord  
Mary had a baby Yes Lord  
The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

What did she name Him Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

She named Him Jesus Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

Where was He born Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

Born in a stable Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

And where did she lay Him Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

She laid Him in a manger Yes Lord  
People keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

### Over the Hills and Far Away

Hark now the drums beat up again  
For all true soldier gentlemen  
So let us list and march I say  
And go over the hills and far away

Chorus:

Over the hills, and o'er the main  
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain  
King George commands and we obey  
And go over the hills and far away

Come gentlemen that have a mind  
To serve a queen that's good and kind  
Come list and enter in to pay  
And go over the hills and far away

Here's forty shillings on the drum  
For those that volunteer to come  
With shirts and clothes and present pay  
When over the hills and far away

Hear that brave boys, and let us go  
Or else we shall be prest you know  
Then list and enter in to pay  
And go over the hills and far away

The constables they search about  
To find such brisk young fellows out  
Then let's be volunteers I say  
Over the hills and far away

Since now the French so low are brought  
And wealth and honour's to be got  
Who then behind would sneaking stay?  
When over the hills and far away

No more from sound of drum retreat  
When Marlborough and Galway beat  
The French and Spaniards every day  
Over the hills and far away

He that is forced to go and fight  
Will never get true honour by't  
Whilst volunteers shall win the day  
When over the hills and far away

What tho' our friends our absence mourn  
We all with honours shall return  
And then we'll sing both night and day  
Over the hills and far away

Prentice Tom may well refuse  
To wipe his angry master's shoes  
For now he's free to sing and play  
Over the hills and far away

Over rivers, bogs and springs  
We all shall live as great as kings  
And plunder get both night and day  
Over the hills and far away

And we shall live more happy lives  
Free of squalling brats and wives  
Who nag and vex us every day  
So it's over the hills and far away

Come on then Boys and you shall see  
We every one shall Captains be  
To Whore and rant as well as they  
When o'er the Hills and far away

For if we go 'tis one to Ten  
But we return all Gentlemen  
All Gentlemen as well as they  
When o'er the Hills and far away

Annotations:

<sup>1</sup> Noel St John Williams 'Redcoats & Courtesans'

<sup>2</sup> John Childs 'Army of Charles II'

<sup>3</sup> It is said that this is the reason that glass bottoms became popular in tankards was to overcome this practice

<sup>4</sup> From a popular soldier's song of the War of the Spanish Succession

<sup>5</sup> Beer mixed with water.

### Tommy's Gone to Hilo

Tommy's gone, what shall I do?

*Hey-yay to Hilo!*

Tom is gone, and I'll go to,

*Tommy's gone to Hilo.*

Oh, way round to Callao

*Hey-yay to Hilo!*

The Spanish gels he'll see, I know,

*Tommy's gone to Hilo.*

Oh, I love Tom and he loves me,

*Hey-yay to Hilo!*

He thinks of me, when out at sea,

*Tommy's gone to Hilo.*

Oh, Tommy's gone for evermore,

*Hey-yay to Hilo!*

I'll never see my Tom no more,

*Tommy's gone to Hilo*

### Cumberland Gap

I've got a gal, Cumberland Gap

An' I've got a kid that calls me pap

**Refrain:** Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap

*Oh-ho hold on down Cumberland Gap*

Cumberland gap's a loaded place

Three pints of water wash your face

**Refrain:** Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap

*Oh-ho hold on down Cumberland Gap*

Way down boys take a little nap

Fourteen miles off the Cumberland Gap

**Refrain:** Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap

*Oh-ho hold on down Cumberland Gap*

Goin' down town and you don't care

Leave me a jug a sittin' right there

If it ain't there when I get back

I'll raise hell with the Cumberland Gap

**Refrain:** Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap

*Oh-ho hold on down Cumberland Gap*

I've got a gal, Cumberland Gap

An' I've got a kid that calls me pap

**Refrain:** Cumberland Gap, Cumberland Gap

*Oh-ho hold on down Cumberland Gap*