

Song Study - 'The Undutiful Daughter'

General Notes:

- Does not appear in 'Plymouth Notebook 1'
- Is included in 'Killerton Notebook 1'. Version collected from John Masters appears on page 163 with the number 133. No tune and with some alterations to the text suggesting revision rather than correction.
- Is in 'Killerton Notebook A' - two collected versions: Masters and Smith. Note refers to Child, iii. 47 (Bonnie Annie) and the 'black bullets' verse which he says he has inserted into the Masters version (and indicates how he has done so.). What he has done is to write a verse based on the idea in the Motherwell/Kinloch version quoted by Child in 'English and Scottish ballads.'
- Also in 'Killerton Notebook B'. Combines Masters and Smith versions. Gives a portion of the ballad collected from Roger Hannaford
- There is a note in 'Notebook B' 'Sent to Child'. Baring-Gould sent the 'combined Masters/Smith version to Child as well as the Hannaford version and a third part version collected in Holne from an unidentified singer
- The version in the 'Personal Copy' manuscript is, again, the combined version but with the 'black bullets verse' incorporated and shown in square brackets. He has another fragmentary version here, this time from Sam Fone with a tune. There is also a tune from Richard Gregory
- The 'Fair Copy' Ms is also the combined version with added bullets [in brackets] with texts from Masters/Smith, Hannaford and Fone and with tunes from Masters, Gregory, and Fone but not, interestingly, from Smith. He also includes a transcription of Kinloch's text of 'Bonnie Annie' as well as referring to Child and Motherwell. He also gives a tune from 'The Baby's Opera'.

The Undutiful Daughter - John Masters (Killerton Notebook 1)

There came a sea captain unto the sea side, O
He courted a damsel and made her his bride, O (*note: brider*)
Her father refused, her mother was weeping
The maid stole away whilst her parents were sleeping (*note: brider*)

O take of your father his gold and his treasure
And take of your mother her fee without measure
I've ta'en of my father his gold and his treasure
I've ta'en of my mother her fee without measure

Now when they had sailed today and tomorrow
Her hands she was wringing, was wasting in sorrow
My father my mother despoiled I am leaving
And now when too late, for my **** I am grieving (*alteration makes both original and revised words unreadable*)

O take a white napkin, about my head bind it
O take a white napkin about my feet wind it
Oh cast me when dead overboard in the water
And there let me lie an undutiful daughter (*changed from 'a sad heart broken daughter'*)

I will take a white napkin, &c

The moon it was shining, the tide it was flowing
O what in the wake of the ship cometh rowing?
Why swim in the moonlight, upon the tide swaying?
O what art thou seeking? For what are you praying?

O take of my father the gold and the treasure
O take of my mother her fee without measure
O make me a coffin of gold that is yellow
And bury me under the green weeping willow

I will make thee a coffin of gold that is yellow
I will bury thee under the green weeping willow
Since thou cans't not sink in briny salt water
For sea will give up the undutiful daughter

The Undutiful Daughter - John Masters (Killerton Notebook A)

There came a sea captain unto the sea side O
He courted a damsel and made her his bride O
O take of your father his gold and his treasure
And take of your mother her fee without measure

I've ta'en of my father his gold and his treasure
I've ta'en of my mother her fee without measure
She has come with the captain unto the sea-side O
We'll sail for the lands¹ all upon the blue tide O

Now when they had sailed today and tomorrow
Her breast she did beat and her hands wrung in sorrow
Now when they had sailed, the days were not many
The sails were outspread, but of miles made not any

[They cast the black bullets, as they sailed on the water
The black bullet fell on the undutiful daughter
Now who in the ship must go over the side, O!
Oh none save the maiden, the fair Captain's bride, O!]²

O take a white napkin, about my head bind it
O take a white napkin about my feet wind it
Alack! that I must in the deep sullen water
Alack for the fate of the undutiful daughter

I will take a white napkin, about thy head bind it
I will take a white napkin, about thy feet wind it
Alas and Alack, thou must into the water
The ship will not sail with the undutiful daughter

The moon it was shining, the tide it was flowing
O what in the wake of the ship cometh rowing?
Why swim in the moonlight, upon the tide swaying?
O what art thou seeking? For what art thou praying?

O take of my father the gold and the treasure
O take of my mother her fee without measure
O make me a coffin of gold that is yellow
And bury me under the banks of green willow

I will make thee a coffin of gold that is yellow
I will bury thee under the banks of green willow
Since thou cans't not sink in the briny salt water
For the sea will give up the undutiful daughter

The sails they were spread and the west wind was blowing
The sea was so blue and the tide it was flowing
They made for the land, and they reached the shore, O!
But the corpse of the maiden had reached there before, O!

J^{as} Masters, Bradstone, Words and music. I have added the verse within brackets to complete the story from Motherwell and Kinloch.³

Killerton Notebook 'A', Number 82⁴

¹ Here SB-G has inserted the word 'foreign and deleted his original 'all'

² Note 'The Scotch version'. Square bracket indicate an insertion to the original

³ SB-G has referred here to 'J^{as} Masters' - it is, in fact, John.

⁴ This is a provisional title for this notebook. It does not, at present, have page numbers

The Undutiful Daughter - Henry Smith (Killerton Notebook A)

Twas of a sea captain, came oe'r the salt billow
He courted a maiden, down by the green willow
O take of thy mother her ring and her treasure
O take of thy father his fee without measure

I'll take of my mother her ring and her treasure
I'll take of my father his fee without measure
She took of her mother her ring and her treasure
She took of her father his fee without measure

And when she had sailed today and tomorrow
She was wringing her hands, she was crying in sorrow
And when they had sailed, not many a mile
The maid was delivered of a beautiful child

(Verse missing)

O Captain, O Captain here's fifty gold crown
If thou wilt but bear me and turn the ship round
O Captain, O Captain, here's fifty gold pound
If thou wilt set me once again on the ground

O never, O never the wind it blows stronger
O never, O never the time it grows longer
And better it were that thy baby and thou
Should die than the crew of this vessel I vow

O get me a boat that is narrow and thin
And set me & my little baby therein
O no! for 'twere better thy baby and thou
Should die than the crew of this vessel I vow

Then get me a napkin about my head bind it
And get me a napkin, about my feet wind it
And cast me then overboard baby and me
And together we'll sink in cruel salt sea

They got her a napkin about her head bound it
They got her a napkin about her feet bound it
They cast her then overboard baby and she
And together they sank in the cruel salt sea

O see, boys, O see! how they ride on the water
The pretty baby and the undutiful daughter
O see, boys, O see! how she floats on the water
For the sea will give up the undutiful daughter

(Verse missing)

O get me a coffin of the deepest stole (sic) yellow
And bury me under the banks of green willow

The sails they were spread and the wind it blowing
The waves they did roar & the tide it was flowing
They steered for the land and they reached the shore
But the mother and baby had got there before

H Smith, Two Bridges, words and melody

Killerton Notebook 'A', Number 82

The Undutiful Daughter - combined version (Killerton Notebook B)

Twas of a sea captain, came oe'r the salt billow
He courted a maiden, down by the green willow
O take of thy mother her ring and her treasure
O take of thy father his fee without measure

Smith v1

I'll take of my mother her ring and her treasure
I'll take of my father his fee without measure
She took of her mother her ring and her treasure
She took of her father his fee without measure

Smith v2

And when she had sailed today and tomorrow
She was wringing her hands, she was crying in sorrow
And when they had sailed, not many a mile
The maid was delivered of a beautiful child

Smith v3

And when she had sailed today and tomorrow
She was wringing her hands, she was crying in sorrow⁵
And when she had sailed, the days were not many
The sails were outspread, but of miles made not any

Smith v3 repeated, line 4 from Masters v3

(Verse missing)

As Smith (would be v4)

O take a white napkin, about my head bind it
O take a white napkin about my feet wind it
Alack! that I must in the deep sullen water
Alack I must sink – both me and my baby⁷

Masters v5, last line changed⁶

O Captain, O Captain here's fifty gold crown, O
I pray you to bear⁸ me and turn the ship round, O
O Captain, O Captain, here's fifty gold pound, O
If thou wilt set me once again on the ground, O

Smith v 5 with minor changes

O never, O never the wind it blows stronger
O never, O never the time it grows longer
And better it were that thy baby and thou, O
Should die than the crew of this vessel I vow, O

Smith v 6 with minor changes

O get me a boat that is narrow and thin, O
And set me & my little baby therein, O
O no! it were better thy baby and thou, O
Should die than the crew of this vessel I vow, O

Smith v 7 with minor changes

They got a white napkin about her head bound it
They got a white napkin about her feet bound it
They cast her then overboard baby and she
Together to sink in the cruel salt sea

Smith v 9 with minor changes

The moon it was shining, the tide it was running
O what in the wake of the ship was swimming?
O see, boys, O see! how she floats on the water
O see, boys O see the undutiful daughter

Masters v7

Smith v 10

⁵ SB-G has tested using 'beating' instead of wringing' in this line

⁶ He has added '... O!' in several places

⁷ Note beside line “? use Undutiful Daughter”

⁸ Note beside 'bear' “? spare”

Why swim in the moonlight, upon the tide swaying?
O what art thou seeking? For what art thou praying?
O Captain, O Captain I float on the water
For the sea giveth up the undutiful daughter

Based on Masters v7

O take of my father the gold and the treasure
O take of my mother her fee without measure
O make me a coffin of gold that is yellow
And bury me under the banks of green willow

Masters v8

I will make thee a coffin of gold that is yellow
I will bury thee under the banks of green willow
Since thou cans't not sink in the briny salt water
For the sea will give up the undutiful daughter

Masters v9

The sails they were spread and the west wind was blowing
The sea was so blue and the tide it was flowing
They made for the land, and they reached the shore, O!
But the corpse of the maiden had reached there before, O!

Masters v10

Taken down in 1888 from J Masters, Bradstone and in 1889 from H Smith, Two Bridges. Baring-Gould sent this version to Child as well as the next one and a third part of a version collected in Holne from an unidentified singer

Killerton Notebook 'B', Number 9

The Undutiful Daughter - Roger Hannaford (Killerton Notebook B)

Tis of a sea captain down by the green willow
He courted a damsel and brought her to trouble
When gone her mother's goodwill and all her father's money
She fled across the wide sea along with her Johnny

They had not been sailing, the miles they were many
Before she was delivered of a beautiful baby
O tie up my head O and tie it up easy
And throw me overboard, both me and my baby

She floated on the waves and she floated so easy
That they took her onboard again, both she and her baby

(rest forgotten)

Roger Hannaford, Widdecombe, sang a portion of the same

Killerton Notebook B, Number 9

The Undutiful Daughter - Sam Fone (Killerton Notebook B)

'Tis of a sea captain down by the sea side O
He courted a maiden and got her with child O

.....

O get a white kerchief about my head bind it
O get a white kerchief about my feet wind it

.....

O sea boy! O sea boy! and she has to totter
With the babe at her breast all in the salt water
Now push off the long boat, now push it off easy
And bring back the lady, both her and her baby
They pushed out the long boat, so brave and fair hearted
They brought her back safely both she and her baby
On the deck

.....

A coffin shall be made of the shining gold yellow
And she shall be buried under the banks of green willow

Fragment as recalled by Sam Fone, Feb 17 1893

Personal Copy Vol 2 Page 24

The Undutiful Daughter (Harvard Manuscript)

A.

'Twas of a sea-captain came o'er the salt billow
He courted a maiden down by the green willow.
"O take of your father his gold & his treasure
O take of your mother her fee without measure."

I'll take of my father his gold & his treasure,
I've take of my mother her fee without measure.
"She has come with the Captain unto the sea-side, O,
We'll sail to lands foreign upon the blue tide, O!"

And when she had sailéd today & tomorrow,
She was beating her hands, she was crying in sorrow.
And when she had sailed, the days were not many
The sails were outspread, but of miles made not any

And when she had sailéd today & tomorrow
She was beating her hands, she was crying in sorrow.
And when she had sailéd not many a mile O
The maid was delivered of a beautiful child O!

.....
.....
.....
.....

"O take a white napkin, about my head bind it
O take a white napkin, about my feet wind it
Alack! I must sink - both me and my baby (?)
Alack! I must sink in the deep salten water.

"O Captain! O Captain! here's fifty gold crown, O!
I pray thee to bear (spare) me, & turn the ship round,
O!
O Captain, O Captain! here's fifty gold pound, O!
If thou wilt but set me upon the green ground, O."

"O never, O never, the wind it blows stronger.
O never, O never, the time it grows longer.
And better it were that thy baby & thou O
Should drown than the crew of the vessel, I vow, O!"

Taken down from an old man of over 80 yrs at Bradstone, Sth Devon. Another version from a young man on Dartmoor.

B.

There was a sea-captain came to the sea side O.
He courted a damsel, & got her in trouble.
&c.

O make me a coffin of the deepest stole yellow
And bury me, &c.

They steered for the land, & they reached the shore, O
But the mother and baby had got there before O.

C.

From an old man at Holne.

All singers agree as to melody.

"O get me a boat that is narrow & thin, O!
And set me and my little baby therein, O!"
"O no it were better thy baby & thou O
Should drown than the crew of the vesse, I I vow, O!"

They got a white napkin, about her head bound it
They got a white napkin, about her feet wound it.
They cast her then overboard baby & she O.
Together to sink in the cruel salt sea O.

The moon it was shining, the tide it was running
O what in the wake of the vessel was swimming.
O see boys! O see! how she floats on the water.
O see boys! O see! the undutiful daughter.

"Why swim in the moonlight upon the sea swaying?
Oh what art thou seeking? for what art thou praying?"
"O Captain! O Captain! I float on the water
For the sea giveth up the undutiful daughter.

"O take of my father the gold and the treasure,
O take of my mother her fee without measure.
O make me a coffin of gold that is yellow
And bury me under the banks of green willow.

"I will make thee a coffin of gold that is yellow,
I'll bury thee under the banks of green willow.
I'll bury thee there as becometh a lady,
I'll bury thee there, both thee and thy baby."

The sails they were spread, & the wind it was blowing
The sea was so salt, & the tide it was flowing.
They steered for the land, & they reachéd the shore, O
But the corpse of the maiden had reach'd there before,
O!

There was a sea-captain down by the green willow
He courted a damsel, & brought her in trouble.
When gone her mother's goodwill & all her father's money
She fled across the wide sea, along with young Johnny.

They had not been sailing, the miles they were many
Before she was delivered of a beautiful baby.
O tie up my head, O & tie it up easy,
And throw me overboard, both me & my baby.

She floated in the waves and she floated so easy
That they took her on board again, both she and her baby
(rest forgotten.)

In "The Rambler's Garland" an early 18th Cent. chap book is "The Distressed Ship Carpenter" which seems to have some relation to the above.

Well met, well met, my own true love
 Long time I've been seeking thee.
I'm lately come from the salt sea
 And all for the sake, love, of thee.

I might have had a king's daughter,
 And fain she would have married me.
But I've forsaken all her Crowns of Gold
 And all for the sake, love, of thee.

If you might have had a king's daughter
 I think you are much to blame.
I would not for five hundred pounds
 That my husband should hear the
same.

For my husband is a Carpenter
 A young ship-carpenter is he.
And by him I have a little son,
 Or else, love, I'd go with thee.

But if I should leave my husband dear,
 Likewise my little son also
What have you to maintain me withal,
 If I along with you go?

I have seven ships upon the seas,
 And one of them brought me to land
And seventeen mariners to wait on thee,
 For to be, love, at thy command.

A pair of slippers thou shalt have
 They shall be made of beaten gold.
Nay & be a lined with velvet soft

To keep thy feet from the cold.

A gilded boat there thou also have
 The oars shall be gilded also.
And mariners (seven) to row thee along
 For to keep thee from overthrow.

They had not been long upon the sea,
 Before she began to weep.
What weep you for my gold he said
 Or for my fee do weep?

O do you weep for some other one
 That you love more than me?
No I do weep for my little son
 That should have come along with
me.

She had not been upon the seas
 Passing days three and four
But the mariner & she were dying,
 And never were heard of more.

When the tidings to old England came
 The ship carpenter's wife was
drowned
He wrung his hands & tore his hair
 And grievously fell in a swoon.

O cursed be these mariners
 For they do lead a wicked life
They ruined me, a ship carpenter
 By deluding away my wife.

This strikes me as a fragment of an earlier ballad, recomposed with a new ending to it
There is another ballad "The Faithless Sea Captain or the Betrayed Virgin" in 3 parts, a chap book garland (LXXXII. Old Ballads collected by John Bell Newcastle circ. 1768, Press mark 11621.c.2) in the British Museum. The story is this:

The Sea captain induces a Virgin to elope with his from her father's & mother's house. She comes on board his ship, but falls overboard. The body floats after the ship. When the Captain sees this, he throws himself overboard to her. This also is, I think, a recomposition of the earlier material, the uncanny part omitted.

[see pp. 96-97, below. - G.L.K.]

The Undutiful Daughter - John Masters (Personal Copy 2.24(125).A.i)



Twas of a sea captain came o'er the salt billow
He courted a maiden down by the green willow
O take of your father his gold and his treasure
O take of your mother her fee without measure"

I've ta'en of my father his gold and his treasure
I've ta'en of my mother her fee without measure
She has come with the captain unto the seaside, O
We'll sail to lands foreign upon the blue tide, O

And when she had sailed today and tomorrow
She was wringing her hands, she was crying in sorrow
And when she had sailed not many a mile, O
The maid was delivered of a beautiful child, O

And when she had sailed today and tomorrow
She was wringing her hands, she was crying in sorrow
And when she had sailed the days were not many
The sails were outspread but of miles made not any

[They cast the black bullets as they sailed on the water
The black bullet fell on the undutiful daughter
Now who in this ship must go over the side, O?
O none save the maiden, the fair Captain's bride, O]

O Captain! O Captain! here's fifty gold crown, O
I pray thee to spare me and turn the ship round, O
O Captain! O Captain! here's fifty gold pound, O
If thou wilt but set me again on the ground, O

O never! O never! the wind it blows stronger
O never! O never! the time it grows longer
O better it were that thy baby and thou, O
Should die than the crew of the vessel I vow, O

O get me a boat that is narrow and thin, O
And set me and my sweet little baby therein, O
O no! it were better thy baby and thou, O
Should drown than the crew of the vessel I vow, O

O take a white napkin, about my head bind it
O take a white napkin, about my feet wind it
Alack! that I must in the deep salten water
Alack! I must sink, both me and my baby (sic)*

They got a white napkin, about her head bound it
They got a white napkin, about her feet wound it
They cast her then overboard, baby and she, O
Together to sink in the cruel salt sea, O

The moon it was shining, the tide it was running
O what in the wake of the vessel was swimming
O see boys, O see how she floats on the water
O see boys, O see the undutiful daughter

Why swim in the moonlight upon the sea swaying
Oh what art thou seeking, for what art thou playing
O Captain! O Captain! I float on the water
For the sea giveth up the undutiful daughter

O take of my father the gold and the treasure
O take of my mother the fee without measure
O make me a coffin of deepest stole (sic) yellow
And bury me under the banks of green willow

I will make thee a coffin of deepest stole yellow
I will bury thee under the banks of green willow
I will bury thee there, both thee and thy baby
I will bury thee there as becometh a lady

The sails they were spread and the wind it was blowing
The sea was so salt and the tide it was flowing
They steered for the land and they reached the shore, O
But the Mother and Baby had got there before, O

Taken down from J Masters, Bradstone in 1888, and in 1889 from H Smith, Two Bridges, same verses.
Tune taken down from J Masters (H Fl S)

The Undutiful Daughter - Harry Smith's Tune (Personal Copy 2.24(125).A.iv)

It's of a sea cap-tain came o'er the sa-lt bil-low he
cour - ted a maid - en down by the green wil - low

The Undutiful Daughter - Roger Hannaford (Personal Copy, 2.24(125).B.-)

'Tis of a sea captain down by the green willow
He courted a damsel and brought her in trouble
When gone her mother's goodwill and all her father's money
She fled across the wide sea along with young Johnny

They had not been a sailing the miles they were many
Before she was delivered of a beautiful baby

.....
.....

O tie up my head, O tie it up easy
And throw me overboard both me and my baby

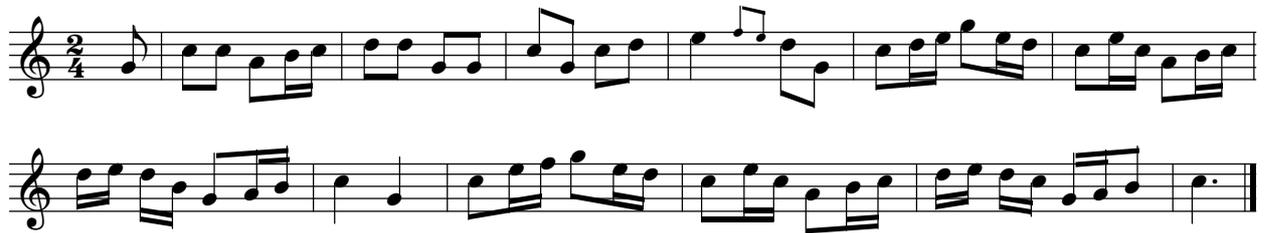
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.....

She floated in the waves and she floated so easy
That they took her on board again both she and her baby

A fragment as sung by Roger Hannaford, Widdecombe, 1890

K 2 pp 24 no 125

The Undutiful Daughter - Richard Gregory' Tune (Personal Copy, 2.24(125).-iii)



Taken down from R Gregory, Post Bridge, Jan 7th, 1890 (FWB)

K 2 p 24 no 125

The Undutiful Daughter - Sam Fone (Personal Copy, 2.24(125).E.ii)

Musical notation for the second piece, consisting of two staves of music in 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

'Tis of a sea cap-tain down b - y the s - ea side O he
court - ed a maid - en and got her with child O

'Tis of a sea captain down by the sea side O
He courted a maiden and got her with child O

O get a white kerchief about my head bind it
O get a white kerchief about my feet wind it

O sea boy! O sea boy! and she has to totter
With the babe at her breast all in the salt water
Now push off the long boat, now push it off easy
And bring back the lady, both her and her baby
They pushed out the long boat, so brave and fair hearted
They brought her back safely both she and her baby
On the deck

A coffin shall be made of the shining gold yellow
And she shall be buried under the banks of green willow

Fragment recalled by Sam Fone, Feb 17, 1893

K 2 p 24 no 125

Other Texts referred to in the Personal Copy MS:

P2.24(125).C._ - Refers to 'The Faithless Sea Captain, or the Betrayed Virgin's garland and quotes a few lines

P2.24(125).N._ - Note: "Scottish version 'Bonnie Annie' Child III, No 16"

Fair Copy Manuscript

The versions in the Fair Copy Manuscript (Page 312, Song No 125) are:

F312(125).A.i - Though attributed to John Masters this is, in fact, the combined version. Note reads: "Taken Down from J. Masters, Bradstone in 1888, & in 1889 some verses were sung by H. Smith, Two Bridges – but incomplete." Harry Smith's tune is not given.

F312(125).B._ - Roger Hannaford's version

F312(125).C.iii - Sam Fone's version

F312(125).D._ - Note on 'The Faithless Sea Captain, or the Betrayed Virgin's garland and quotes the same few lines as the Personal Copy.

F312(125).E._ - Quotes verses from Kinloch

F312(125).F._ - Refers to Child's 'Bonnie Annie', this time in *English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, No 24. In this note he also mentions another version in Motherwell's Ms, Child I p.246

F312(125)._.ii - Richard Gregory's tune

F312(125)._.iv - Tune : 'Frog & Crow' from 'The Baby's Opera'.