

## Go To Sea No More

1. When I first landed in Liverpool  
I went upon a spree;  
MY money alas, I spent it fast,  
got drunk as drunk could be.  
And when me money was all gone  
'twas then I wanted more.  
A man must be blind to make up his mind  
to go to sea once more.

**Once more, boys, once more,  
Got to sea once more,  
A man must be blind to make up his mind  
to go to sea once more.**

2. I spent the night with Angeline, too drunk  
to roll in bed.  
Me watch was new, me money too,  
in the morning with them she'd fled,  
And as I walked the streets about the whores  
they all did roar:  
"There goes Jack Spratt the poor sailor lad,  
he must go to sea once more".

**Once more, boys, once more,  
Go to sea once more.  
There goes Jack Spratt the poor sailor  
lad he must go to sea once more.**

3. And as I walked the streets about,  
I met with Rapper Brown.  
I asked him if he'd take me in, he looked at  
me with a frown,  
He said, "Last time you was paid off  
with me you chalked no score,  
But I'll give you a chance, and I'll take your  
advance and I'll send you to sea once more".

□  
**Once more, boys, once more.  
I'll give you a chance and I'll take your  
advance  
and I'll send you to sea once more".**

4. He shipped me on board a whaling ship  
bound for the Arctic seas  
Where the cold winds blow and the frost and  
snow and Jamaica rum would freeze.  
But worse to bear I've no hard weather gear,  
for I'd spent all me money ashore,  
'Twas then that I wished that I was dead  
and could go to sea no more.

**No more, no more,  
No more, boys, no more.**

**'Twas then that I wished that I was  
dead  
and could go to sea no more.**

5. So come all you bold seafaring men  
and listen to me song.  
When you come off them long, long trips  
I have you not go wrong!  
Take my advice, drink no strong drink  
don't go sleeping with no whores -  
Get married instead, spend all night in bed,  
and go to sea no more.

**No more, boys, no more,  
Go to sea no more □  
Get married instead,  
spend all night in bed  
And go to sea no more.**

This version sung by **The Dubliners** at  
<https://youtu.be/Y3Af7VxzrqE>



***Retail traders not affected by the shop tax, 1787***  
Attributed to William Dent, from [US Library of Congress](#)

### Notes:

A popular deepwater song (not a shanty)

**Other Names:** Go to sea *no* more, Go to sea *once* more, *Off* to sea once more, Jackie Brown, Shanghai Brown

**Doerflinger**, William Main, 1951, *Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman*, revised 1990:

"In San Francisco, before the earthquake, most of the boarding masters were notorious Shanghaiers. Their well-armed runners, in small boats, met incoming sailing vessels down the bay. Forcing their way on board, they used either persuasion or violence to make sailormen go with them to their respective houses. Arriving there, the men were quickly knocked out with liquor, usually doped, and put aboard outward-bounders, often before having been ashore more than a few hours. The crimps [boarding masters], of course, took not only the advance, but also "blood money", ranging from \$30 to \$50 or more, for each hand they supplied.

### "Shanghai" Brown (Rapper Brown)

"Prominent among the Frisco crimps was Shanghai Brown, whose boarding house is said to have been running full blast in the seventies. [This] popular deepwater song has the ruthless Brown taking revenge on a sailor who has offended him by his independent ways – the man actually chalked no score with Brown on first leaving his ship but insolently let his money be stolen by woman.

Shanghai takes the offender in but teaches him a lesson by shipping him out in one of the port's many Bering Sea Whalers. This meant spending two or three years in the Arctic, and what was worse, perhaps being paid off with a

dollar by wily captain when the ship finally did get back to Frisco. Despite the apparent humour of the song, it was meant as a serious warning that few sailors ever took to heart."

See also my notes on how boarding masters operate, given for the [Dead Horse Shanty](#).

### Notes on the words:

**ran up no score / chalked no score** - did not get into debt - so "Shanghai" Brown did not get his usual money.



Pratt, Mara L., **Impressment of American Sailors**, from *American History Stories Vol 3, The War of 1812*.  
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