High Barbaree

1. There were two lofty ships from old England came
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
One was the Prince of Luther, the other Prince of Wales,
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

2. "Aloft there, aloft" our jolly boatswain cries
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
"Look ahead, look astern, look a-weather and a-lee,"
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

3. "There's nought upon our stern, there's nought upon our lee,"
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we
"There's a lofty ship to windward and she's sailing fast and free."
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

4. "O hail her, O hail her," our gallant captain cried,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
"Are you a man-o'-war or a privateer?" said he
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

5. " O, I am not a man o' war nor privateer" said he,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
"But we are salt-sea pirates a-looking for our fee."
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

6. O, broadside to broadside, a long time we lay,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
Until the Prince of Luther shot the pirate's masts away.
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

7. With cutlass and gun, they fought for hours three,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
But their ship it was their coffin, and their grave it was the sea.
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

8. "O quarter, O quarter!" those vanquished pirates cried,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
But the quarter that we gave them - we sank them in the tide,
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree.

Notes:

A **capstan** shanty and a **Forebitter** (sea song)

Alternative Titles: Coast of High Barbaree, High Barabree, High Barbary, Salcombe Seaman

This version: CD: *Stand to yer Ground*, The Shanty Crew

Hugill, Stan, 1994, ***Shanties from the Seven Seas***:

This shanty takes us to the once savage Rif coast of North Africa, lair of the corsairs, with the romantic name of High Barbaree. Apart from myself, Sampson alone gives it as a shanty. Whall gives it but only as a forebitter. It had several tunes. The liveliest one was used for the shanty, the solos [are] related to those of the first version given [by Hugill] of Lowlands Low and was sung solely at the capstan.

Notes on the words

High Barbaree - romantic name of the Rif Coast of North Africa. It was the home of the Barbary pirates or Barbary corsairs who preyed on European shipping to capture Christian slaves from the 16th century up to 1830.

Pirate Flag, by wesd440, via **Openclipart.org**