

## John come tell us as we haul away

1. From Liverpool town we sailed away  
**John come tell us as we haul away**  
Outward bound at the break of day.

**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**  
**Aye, aye, haul, aye**  
**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

2. Was you ever down in Mobile Bay?  
**John come tell us as we haul away**  
Screwing cotton all the day.

**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

3. Of yes I've been down Mobile Bay,  
**John come tell us as we haul away**  
Screwing cotton all the day.

**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

4. And what did you see down in  
Mobile Bay?

**John come tell us as we haul away**  
Where the gals are free and gay  
**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

5. This I saw in Mobile Bay  
**John come tell us as we haul away**  
A spanking gal in a hammock lay

**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

6. And what did you do down in Mobile  
Bay?

**John come tell us as we haul away**  
Did you give that flash tart all your  
pay?  
**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

7. I spent it all on Saucy May  
**John come tell us as we haul away**

She was tall and fine and had lots to  
say

**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

**Aye, aye, haul, aye**  
**John come tell us as we haul  
away!**

This is mostly **Hugill's** version as sung by the  
**Foo Foo Band** at  
[https://youtu.be/EJzVUvhD\\_40](https://youtu.be/EJzVUvhD_40)

### Notes:

Used at **halyards** (haul away), **capstan** (heave  
away), **pumps** (pump away), possibly also for  
**stamp 'n' go / walkaway** .

**Alternative Titles:** John come tell us as we haul  
away, Mobile Bay

Probably started as a cotton hoosier's song,  
from a negro source. ... Like many shanties this  
has several non-drawing-room verses [**Hugill**].

### Notes on the words:

**Mobile Bay** - normally pronounced Mobeel Bay  
- is in Alabama. down to the gulf of Mexico.  
There is plenty of historical information at  
[www.worldatlas.com/bays/mobile-bay.html](http://www.worldatlas.com/bays/mobile-bay.html)



View of the Middle Bay Lighthouse in Mobile  
Bay, Alabama, 2008, taken from on board the  
MS Holiday by [Altairisfar](#)  
from [wikimedia.org](http://wikimedia.org). See  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle\\_Bay\\_Light](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Bay_Light)