

1. Come all you true-born shantyboys wherever you may be;
Come fill up your flowing bowls when in good company.
Don't use the least resistance, or fortune may prove shy;
Bring wine to your assistance like a roving shantyboy.
2. When I was two-and-twenty my liberty I took.
'Twas then that I resolved to go and try my luck.
A guinea in my pocket, and a coat to keep me dry,
In this country I'm no stranger; I'm a roving shantyboy.
3. And when I meet a pretty fair maid when in good company,
I've just enough of impert'nence to take her on my knee.
I'd talk of love and rapture till I would make her sigh;
I'd say, "My dove, why can't you love this roving shantyboy?"
4. And she'd become more comical, and eagerlie I'd press,
And something more than modesty, to that I must confess.
I courted her those winter's nights; with me she did comply;
Then I was away by the first of May like a roving shantyboy.
5. So now he's gone and left me; his vows they are all broke.
My parents oftimes told me they thought he was a rake.
He courted me on winter's nights; with him I did comply;
Then he was away by the first of May like a roving shantyboy.
6. So now he's gone and left me; I care not for to break;
The corner of my hand-ker-chief contains my whole estate.
And now for satisfaction I may sit down and sigh,
And whisper in my baby's ear, "Your daddy's a shantyboy."
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And whisper in my baby's ear, "Your daddy's a shantyboy."