

The Golden Vanity

English traditional ballad
(Child 286)

1. There once was a cap-tain he was boast-ing by the quay, "I have a ship and a

gal-lant ship is she, ___ of all the ships I know, she's the best for me, and she's sail-ing in the Low - lands

Chorus

low." ___ In the Low - lands, the Low - lands, she's sail-ing in the Low - lands low. ___

1. There once was a captain, he was boasting by the quay,
"I have a ship and a gallant ship is she,
Of all the ships I know, she's the best for me,
And she's sailing in the Lowlands low."
*In the Lowlands, the Lowlands,
She's sailing in the Lowlands low.*
2. "First I had her built in the North Country,
Then I had her christened *The Golden Vanity*,
I armed her and I manned her and I sailed her out to sea
And she's sailing in the Lowlands low."
In the Lowlands, etc.
3. Well then up stepped a sailor, just returned from sea:
"I was aboard of *The Golden Vanity*,
When we was given chase by the Spanish piratee
As we sailed upon the Lowlands low.
4. "We had on board of us a little cabin boy,
he said 'what will you give me if the pirate I destroy?'
You can have my fairest daughter,
she's my only pride and joy,
If you sink them in the Lowlands low."
5. The boy bared his breast and he plunged into the tide,
He swam until he came unto that rascal pirate's side,
He climbed on board, he went below, by none was he espied,
And he sank them in the Lowlands low.
6. Now some was playin' cards, and some was playin' dice,
Some was in their hammocks, a-sportin' with their knives,
But when he let the water in he took out all their fires,
And he sank them in the Lowlands low.
7. The boy swam back unto the larboard side,
He said "Captain take me up, for I'm drifting with the tide!"
"I'll shoot you and I'll kill you if you claim my child as bride!
And I'll leave you in the Lowlands low."
8. The boy swam around unto the starboard side,
He said "Messmates take me up, for I'm drifting with the tide!"
They took him up so quickly, but on the deck he died.
And they left him in the Lowlands low.
9. They took him up so quickly, but on the deck he died.
They laid him in his hammock, which was so fine and wide.
They said a short prayer over him, and dropped him in the tide,
And they left him in the Lowlands low.
10. Here's a curse upon that Captain, where'er he may be,
For taking that poor cabin boy so far away to sea,
For taking that poor cabin boy so far away to sea,
And to leave him in the Lowlands low.