

## A Liverpool Packet

1. By the Liverpool docks at the break of  
the day  
I saw a flash packet bound West'rd away.  
She was bound to the West'rd where the  
wild waters flow,  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

2. O the time of her sailing is now drawing  
nigh.  
Stand by all ye lubbers we'll wish you  
goodbye.  
A pair of clean heels to you now we will  
show.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

3. And now we are leaving the sweet  
Salthouse Dock,  
All the boys and the gals on the pierhead  
do flock;  
All the boys and the gals are all shouting  
hurro!  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

4. And now we are waiting in the Mersey so  
free,  
Awaiting the tugboat to tow us to sea;  
And we'll round the Rock Light where the  
salt tides do flow.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

5. She'd foam your big tops'ls all aft your  
jibsheet,  
She'd foam fore and aft boys, you'll get no  
damn sleep

Come out you damn buckos, come out,  
make a show.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

6. And now we are howling down the wild  
Irish Sea,  
Our passengers are merry, their hearts full  
of glee;  
Our sailors like tigers as they walk to and  
fro.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away ...**

7. And now we are sailing ocean so wide,  
And the hands are now ordered to scrub the  
ship's side  
Now then holystone boyo's the bosun do  
blow.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away ...**

8. And now we are off the banks of  
Newf'n'land,  
Where the bottom's all fishes and fine yeller  
sand;  
And the fishes they sing as they swim to  
and fro.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away ...**

7. And now we're arriving in old New York  
town,  
We'll make way for the Bowery and let  
sorrow drown;  
With our gals and our beer, boys, oh, let  
the song flow.  
**She's a Liverpool packet, oh lord,  
let her go!**  
**Bound away! Bound away!**  
**Through the ice, sleet and snow.**  
**She's a Liverpool packet,**  
**O Lord, let her go!**

Compare the lyrics for "[The Dreadnought](#)"

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**Notes:**

**A Capstan** shanty

**Alternative Titles:** A Liverpool packet, Bound Away!, The Dreadnought (confusingly),

**This version:** CD: *From Salthouse Dock*, Bob Webb., 2008. Other versions can be found in Stan Hugill's 1994 *Shanties from the Seven Seas*

**Notes on the words**

**Liverpool packet** - can be either:

a) a packet ship hailing from Liverpool, and hence English.

or

b) a packet ship trading with Liverpool, and hence a

Yankee ship.

This Liverpool packet is a **Blackball liner** out of Liverpool.

**Lets her go** - it's all about speed.

**Salthouse Dock**, Liverpool, owned by the Blackball Line

**The Rock Light** - Perch Rock Lighthouse since 1683, replaced by the New Brighton Lighthouse in 1827. Off Rock Point at the entrance to the Mersey Irish Sea (see image below)

**The ocean** - the Western Ocean (North Atlantic

**Banks of Newfoundland** - fishing banks.



**Bartlett, WH**, Hand-coloured steel engraving entitled *New Brighton*, c. 1840 showing the New Brighton lighthouse.

via *Wikipedia Commons*