

Across the Western Ocean



1. Oh, the times are hard and the wages are low
Amelia, where you bound for?
The Rocky Mountains is my home
Across the Western Ocean
2. Beware these packet ships I say
They'll steal your stores and clothes away
3. There's Liverpool Pat with his tarpaulin hat
And Yankee John the packet rat
4. Father and Mother, say goodbye
Brother and sister, don't you cry
5. That land of promise there you'll see,
I'm bound across that Western Sea,
6. To Liverpool I'll take my way,
To Liverpool, that Yankee school,
7. There's Liverpool Pat with his tarpaulin hat,
And Yankee John, the packet rat,
8. Beware these packet ships, I pray,
They steal your stores and clothes away,

This is a capstan chanty, possibly tied to the Irish diaspora following the potato famine between 1846 and 1850. It shares the same melody as the sea shanty "Leave Her, Johnny, Leave Her". Which song came first is not definitively known. This has been recorded by Roberts & Barand, Irish Rovers and others.