



Blow Ye Winds in the Morning

Verse G




'Tis ad - ver - tised in Bos - ton, New York, and Buff - a -

C G D7




lo: Five hund - red brave A - mer - i - cans a wha - lin' for to

Chorus G



go - Sing - ing Blow ye winds in - the mor - ning - , Blow ye winds heigh -

C G D7 G



ho! — Clear a - way your run - nin' gear, And blow, boys, blow!

1. 'Tis advertised in Boston,
New York, and Buffalo:
Five hundred brave Americans
a-whalin' for to go.
2. They send you to New Bedford,
That famous whaling port,
And give you to some land sharks
To board and fit you out.
3. They send you to a boardin' house,
There for a time to dwell;
The thieves there they are thicker
Than the other side of Hell.
4. They tell you of the clipper ships
A-runnin' in and out,
And say you'll take five hundred sperm
Before you're six months out.
5. And now we're out to sea, my boys,
The wind comes on to blow;
One-half the watch is sick on deck,
The other half below.
6. The skipper's on the quarterdeck
A-squintin' at the sails,
When up aloft the lookout spots
A mighty school of whales.
7. Then lower down the boats, my boys,
And after him we'll travel,
But if you get too near his tail,
He'll kick you to the Devil.
8. When we've caught a whale, my boys,
We'll bring 'im alongside,
Then over with our blubber-hooks
And rob him of his hide.
9. When we get home, our ship made fast,
When we get through our sailin',
A brimming glass around we'll pass,
And damn this blubber whalin'.

This is possibly the most well-known of the songs relating to the New England whaling trade. It was not a worksong or shanty, but was sung when the sailors were off duty in the forecabin, on deck or ashore in a pub. The song contains an interesting description of recruiting and working as a sailor on board a whaler. Like most fo'c'sle songs, there is no call and response structure, just a normal verse and chorus.

The tune is very easy to sing and was popular with a lot of folk song revival groups in the 1950s and 60s. It was recorded by Pete Seeger, Burl Ives, The Kingston Trio and many others. I think I first learned it from the Kingston Trio recording on their **At Large** album of 1959 (the same album that contained "Charley on the MTA").

It was printed in Hugel's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1994).