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palaeography

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Document 39: Admiralty: Mutiny at the Nore, 1797

(Catalogue reference: ADM 1/727/C370a)

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About this document

This document is a ballad recording the mutiny at the Nore, dating from 1797. (Catalogue reference: ADM 1/727/C370a)

The ballad was found on the ship HMS Repulse after the end of the mutiny of the Fleet at the Nore, which began in spring 1797 because of low pay and poor conditions in the Navy. The Nore, a sandbank in the Thames estuary near the entrance to the River Medway, was an important naval anchorage and assembly point. After the ships involved in the mutiny submitted, Admiral Lord Keith removed any documents that had not been destroyed by the mutineers from the ships and sent them to the Admiralty.

Please note:

- The document is written in a mixed cursive hand.
- The title *Song* is in an italic hand.
- 'Tar', in **line 23**, was slang for sailor, a word thought to derive from the word 'tarpaulin'.
- 'impessing' in **line 48** for 'impressing'. Men were often 'press-ganged' into the Navy.

2

My dear Sir

Willst Parson's number No. 100 to 13
and boat the river of Steamer
The New the London Southwark
to be through the engine Steamer
drag'd by the iron bridge
from every day connections
might ^{perhaps} be the same
The new New York
I wish them to be
The provisions must be

in. Repetition, for our love
see throes all your heart.
The but near Delusion

2

It hardly be ours a day they are not all protected
Why is the hand of our from there
Growth down this Twelve
As this your proof of British rights
As this regarding Property
As chance to doat your laws & habits
Then down those that to have
Blush them all

When first returned from Noxovious wher
He binthos saying Decaid
To Land the Sun burnt steerman fter
Impelled by strong imitations
This much said state his children Decad
around him Kings Delighted
But saw the mope fering their Appen
and every day is Noxovious
At the
Thus from each ^{soth} m. steerman
Robert the steerman sang with
This wife and children left the land

The Army of the Mother Country.
Night of those times when you are strong
their ships from want of powder.
My troops and all their arms at length
are in a work house in the
S. White Rd
And the the Dominion of a Court.
Who have at the same time
Whom they will be in a work house
and in the same manner
A time will come when things of the year
near battles of the nation
The more will make them kind to you
The work of the nation - White Rd

Transcript

1. Song
2. 1
3. Whilst Landmen wander tho' control'd
4. And boast the rites of Freeman
5. In View the Tenders loathsome hole
6. Where droops Your Injured Seamen
7. drag'd by Oppressions Savage Graspes
8. From every dear Connection
9. Midst putrid Air oh see them Gasp
10. Oh mark their Deep dejection
11. Blush then Oh Blush
12. Ye Pension hast who wallow
13. in Profusion, for our foul
14. Cell proves all you boast
15. to be but mean Delusion
16. 2[n]d
17. If Liberty be ours O say why are not all protected
18. Why is the hand of Ruffian sway
19. 'Gainst Seamen thus Directed
20. Is this Your proof of British rites
21. Is this rewarding Bravery
22. Oh shame to boast Your Tars Exploits
23. then Doom those Tars to Slavery
24. Blush then etc
25. 3[r]d
26. When just returnd from Noxcious skies
27. Ill Winters raging Ocean
28. To Land the Sun burnt seaman flies
29. Impell'd by strong immotion
30. His much lov'd Kate his Children Dear
31. around him Cling Delighted
32. But low the impressing Fiends appear
33. and every day is Blighted
34. 4th
35. Thus from each soft indearment torn
36. Behold the Seaman Languish
37. His Wife and Children left Forlorn
38. The prey of Bitter Anguish
39. Reeft of those Arms whose Vigorous strength
40. Their shield from want defended
41. they Droop and all their woes at length
42. are in a work house Ended
43. Blush etc
44. 5
45. Hark[?] then Ye Minions of a Court
46. Who prate at Freedoms Blessing
47. Whom Every hell born war support

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48. and Vindicate impressing
49. A time will come, when things like you
50. near Baubles of Creation
51. No More will make man kind persue
52. the Work of Devastation
53. Blush then etc