
Synopsis

Hero engages in an amorous encounter initiated by a woman who turns out to be the 'wife' of a navigator who beats and robs him.

Text

If you listen to my song I will not detain you long
But to sing it it will make me melancholy
I was going up the _____ Street and a girl I chanced to meet
With a basket and she said her name was Polly

Chorus:

Oh she had lovely wavy hair
Really thought my bride I would make her
'Till I found out her abode she lived off the _____ Road
With a dashing smashing Irish navigator

She tip't me the wink and she asked me for a drink
And she say young man I think you are a baker
We went in the market snug and I paid for her a jug
But I didn't think she had a navigator

We had glasses two or three, I was getting on the spree
When she said she hoped I never would forsake her
When a chap outside the bar said touch her if you dare
You'll be slaughtered by the Irish Navigator

I began to get afraid when slowly spoke the jade
Take no notice of that dirty old shoemaker
If its nothing but for spite you shall stop with me tonight
But I little thought she had a navigator

I made myself content and home with her I went
And I said that my wife I'd like to make her
I took her on my knee and began to make too free
When in bounced a smashing navigator

He looked at me with surprise saying I'll knock out both your eyes
My wife from me you want to take her
He gave me such a box, like a kick from any ox
Saying don't forget the Irish Navigator

I was thrown out on my head when my watch and cash had fled
If I get my hand upon her wont I shake her
For the future I'll beware of the girl with wavy hair
She might have another Irish navigator

Glossary:

Spree A lively or boisterous frolic; an occasion or spell of somewhat disorderly or noisy enjoyment frequently accompanied by drinking.

(OED)

Snug The bar-parlour of an inn or public-house. (OED)

Source of Text: Bodleian Library, *allegro* Catalogue of Ballads; Firth b.34(311)

Music. No tune given

Source of Music: No tune given

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Variant Set: 004 – The Dashing Navigator. Set members Bar 078 and 182

Date: See Notes on the Song and Its Historical Background

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See notes to Variant Set 004 – The Dashing Navigator