

As I went out one morning early  
To breathe the sweet and pleasant air  
Who should I spy but a fair young maiden;  
She seemed to me like a lily fair

I stepped to her and kindly asked her  
"Would you like to be a bold sailor's wife?"  
"Oh no kind sir," she quickly answered  
"I choose to lead a sweet single life."

"What makes you different from other women?  
What makes you different from other kind?  
For you are young, sweet, beautiful and handsome  
And for to marry you, I might incline."

"It's now kind sir that I must tell you  
I might have been married three years ago  
To one John Riley who left this country  
He's been the cause of my overthrow."

"He courted me both late and early  
He courted me both night and day  
And when he had once my affections gained

He left me here and he went away."

"Oh never mind for this Johnny Riley  
Oh come with me to the distant shore  
Why, we'll sail o'er to Pennsylvania  
And bid adieu to Riley forever more."

"I shan't go with you to Pennsylvania  
Or go with you to the distant shore  
My heart is with Riley, my long lost lover  
Although I'll never see him no more."

Oh, when he saw that her love was loyal  
He gave her kisses one, two, and three  
Saying, "I'm the man you once called Johnny Riley  
Saying "I'm the cause of your misery."

"I've sailed the ocean, gained great promotion  
I've laid my money on the English shore  
And now we'll marry, no longer tarry  
And I shall never deceive you any more."