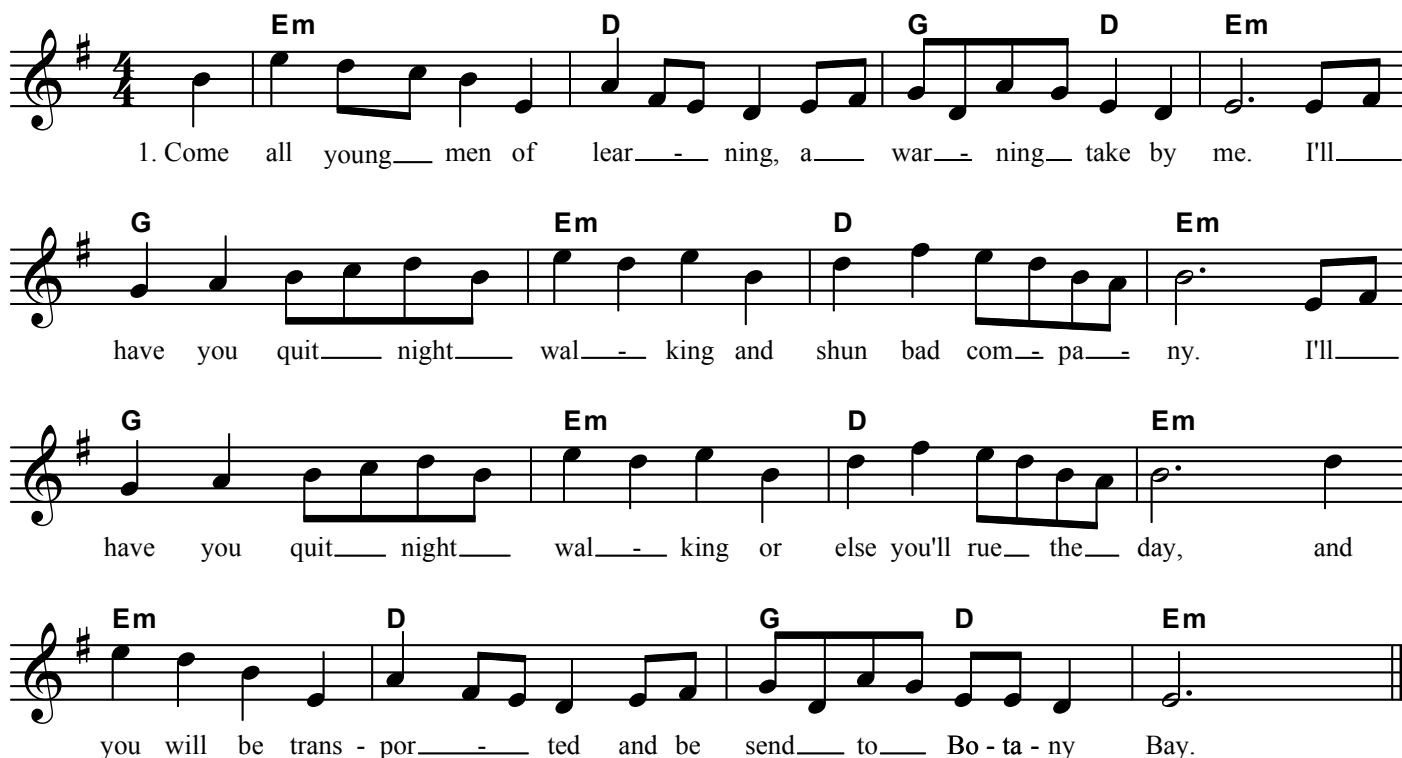


Botany Bay

England

earliest date: 1885 (Ballad Index)

adaptation, arrangement and typesetting by Klaus Stezenbach ©2006 www.kstez.de



1. Come all young men of learning, a warning take by me. I'll
have you quit night walking and shun bad company. I'll
have you quit night walking or else you'll rue the day, and
you will be transported and be sent to Botany Bay.

2. I was brought up in London town and a place I know full well,
brought up by honest parents, for the truth to you I'll tell.
Brought up by honest parents, and reared most tenderly,
till I became a roving blade, which proved my destiny.
3. My character soon taken was, and I was sent to jail,
my friends they tried to clear me, but nothing could prevail.
At the Old Bailey Sessions, the judge to me did say,
"The jury's found you guilty, lad, so you must go to Botany Bay."
4. To see my aged father dear, as he stood near the bar,
likewise my tender mother, her old grey locks to tear.
In tearing of her old grey locks these words to me did say,
"Oh, son, oh, son! What have you done that you're going to Botany Bay?"
5. It was on the twenty eighth of May, from England we did steer,
and, all things being safe on board, we sailed down the river, clear.
And every ship that we passed by, we heard the sailors say,
"There goes a ship of clever hands, and they're bound for Botany Bay."
6. There is a girl in Manchester, a girl I know full well,
and if I ever get my liberty, along with her I'll dwell.
Oh, then I mean to marry her, and no more to go astray;
I'll shun all evil company, bid adieu to Botany Bay.