

Goodbye Fare Thee Well

Hugill says this was a popular homeward bound shanty, sung at windlass or capstan when raising the anchor. It was very common in the nitrate ports of the West Coast of South America and Hugill relates that other crews there would come on board to help with raising the anchor, and up to two hundred men might be heaving and singing this shanty.

The Mersey Bar was a series of dangerous sandbanks barring the approaches to Liverpool.

We're homeward bound I heard them say, {alt for Liverpool town}
Goodbye fare thee well, goodbye fare thee well,
We're homeward bound, we may get some pay!
Hurrah me boys we're homeward bound!

Our anchor we'll weigh, our sails we will set,
This land we are leaving we'll never forget

We're homeward bound for the girls of the town
So stamp up me hearties, and heave her around!

[And when we get to the old Mersey Bar,
Them girls will come flocking from near and from far.]

Oh, those girls there on Lime Street we soon hope to meet
Soon we'll be rollin' both sides of the street

Oh, we'll meet those flash girls and we'll ring the old bell,
With the girls that we meet there we'll raise bloody hell!

[And one to another you'll hear them all say,
Here comes Jack with his fourteen months pay.]

We're homeward bound I heard them say,
Goodbye fare thee well, goodbye fare thee well,
We're homeward bound, we'll spend all our pay!
Hurrah, me boys, we're homeward bound!
Hurrah, me boys, we're homeward bound!