

Can't ye Dance the Polka

*Hugill gives multiple versions pp 279 - 286. Also known as 'New York Girls' and 'Away Susanna'.
'Lime -juice' sailor is an English sailor. 'hair cut short behind' - after the revolution American sailors
adopted short hair as a clear break from the English pigtail style.*

As I walked out on Broadway, one evening in July
I met a maid who asked my trade, "A Sailor John" said I

Chorus

*And away, you Santee, my dear Annie
Oh you New York girls, can't ya dance the polka?*

To Tiffany's I took her, I did not mind expense
I bought her two gold earrings, they cost me fifteen cents.

Sez she "You lime-juice sailor, Now take me home you may."
But when we reached her cottage door, she this to me did say:

"My flashman he's a Yankee, with his hair cut short behind
He wears a pair of long sea boots, he's a Bosun in the Black Ball
Line."

"He's homeward bound this evening, and with me he will stay.
And so be gone you sailor-boy, you'd best be on your way."

I kissed her hard and proper, afore her flashman came
Then "Fare you well you Bowery girl, I know your little game."

I wrapped my glad rags around me, and to the docks did steer
I'll never court another maid, I'll stick to me rum and beer.

I joined a Yankee blood-boat, and sailed away next morn
Don't ever trust no Bowery gals, yer safer round Cape Horn.