

## Fathom the Bowl

*From a collection of English songs by William Alexander Barrett published in 1891 but probably originating in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. 'Punch' comes from the Hindi word, panch (five), because of its five ingredients, spirit, water, lemon-juice, sugar and spices. Alfred Williams collected songs in the Upper Thames around 1910 and found Fathom the Bowl sung all the way from Malmesbury to Oxford. Earliest collection is Baring-Gould 1889. Roud 880.*

Come all you bold heroes, give an ear to my song  
And we'll sing in the praise of good brandy and rum  
Ere that clear crystal fountain o'er England shall roll  
*Give me the punch ladle, I'll fathom the bowl*

### Chorus

*I'll fathom the bowl, I'll fathom the bowl  
Give me the punch ladle, I'll fathom the bowl*

From France we do get brandy, from Jamaica comes rum  
Fine oranges and lemons from Portugal come  
But good beers and ciders are England's control  
*Give me the punch ladle, I'll fathom the bowl*

My Father he do lie at the bottom of the sea  
Cold rocks for his pillow but what do care he?  
Ere that clear crystal fountain o'er England shall roll  
*Give me the punch ladle, I'll fathom the bowl*

My wife she comes in as I sit at my ease  
She scolds and she grumbles but I does as I please  
She may scold and grumble 'til she's blacker than coal  
*Give me the punch ladle, I'll fathom the bowl*