

High Barbaree

Words & Music:
Traditional English
arr. American Variation

The original English tune is called "The George Aloe And The Sweepstake", which dates to at least January 14, 1595, when "Soldier's Joy" was noted in the Stationers' Register to be sung to the tune. Other sources date the tune to 1590. The American words refer to the notorious pirates of the Barbary Coast , who plagued American merchant ships.]

Em B7 Em
Look ahead, look astern, look the weather in the lee.

Em D C B7
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.

B7 Em D C B7
There's a lofty ship to starboard and she's sailing fast and free,

B7 Em D Em
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

"Oh, are you a pirate or a man-o-war?" cried we.
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.

"Oh, no! I'm not a pirate but a man-o-war," cried he.
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

"Then back up your topsails and heave your vessel to."
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.

"For we have got some letters to be carried home by you."
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

"We'll back up our topsails and heave our vessel to."
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.

"For we have got some letters to be carried home by you."
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

For broadside, for broadside they fought all on the main;
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.
Until at last the frigate shot the pirate's mast away.
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

"For quarter! For quarter!" the saucy pirates cried.
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.
The quarter that we showed them was to sink them in the tide.
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

With cutlass and gun, oh, we fought for hours three;
Blow high! Blow low! And so sailed we.
The ship it was their coffin and their grave it was the sea.
Sailing down along the coasts of High Barbaree.

