

The Coast of High Barbary

Until 1801 America and England paid yearly tribute to the four Barbary states of North Africa for free passage of merchant ships. This song celebrating the fight of the *Prince of Wales* with one of the Barbary pirates was written by **Charles Dibdin**, writer of songs for the British Navy.

There were two lofty ships that from Old England came,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we.
One was the Prince of Luther and the other Prince of Wales,
Cruisin' down along the coast of High Barbary.

"Aloft there, aloft," our jolly boatswain cried...
"Look ahead and look astern, a'weather and a lee."...

"There's naught upon the stern and there's naught upon the lee...
But there's a lofty ship to windward and she's sailing fast and
free."...

"Oh hail her, oh hail her," our gallant captain cried...
"Are you a man of war, or privateer?" said he...

"I am not a man of war nor privateer," said he...
"But I'm a salt sea pirate a-lookin' for my fee."...

T'was broadside, for broadside as hour on hour we lay...
Until the Prince of Luther shot the pirate's mast away...

For quarter, for quarter those pirates then did cry...
But the answer that we gave them, we sunk them in their sea...

And oh it was a cruel sight and grieved us full sore....
To see them all a'drownin as they tried to swim ashore.