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## The Bold Northwestman.



COME all ye bold Northwestmen who plough the raging main,  
Come listen to my story, while I relate the same;  
'Twas of the Lady Washington, decoyed as she lay,  
At Queen Charlotte's Island, in North America. *(arrived on Coast 13 June)*

On the sixteenth day of June, boys, in the year Ninety-One,  
The natives in great numbers, on board our ship did come,  
Then for to buy their furs of them our captain did begin,  
But mark what they attempted before long time had been.

Abaft upon our quarter deck two arm chests did stand,  
And in them there was left the keys by the gunner's careless hand;  
When quickly they procuring of them did make a prize,  
Thinking we had no other arms for to defend our lives.

Our captain he then speaking unto them did say,  
If you'll return me back those keys I for the same will pay;  
No sooner had he spoke those words than they drew forth their knives,  
Saying, this vessel now is ours sir, and we will have your lives.

Our captain then perceiving the ship was in their power,  
He spoke unto his people, likewise his officers,  
Go down into the cabin and there some arms prepare,  
See that they are well loaded, be sure and don't miss fire.

Then down into the cabin straightway we did repair,  
And to our sad misfortune, few guns could we find there  
We only found six pistols, a gun and two small swords,  
And in short time we did agree "blow her up" was the word.

Our powder we got ready and gun room open lay,  
Our soul's we did commit to God prepar'd for a watery grave!  
We then informed our captain, saying ready now are we,  
He says a signal I will give, it shall be "follow me,"

All this time upon the quarter deck one poor man was forc'd to stand,  
With twelve of those curst savages with knives all in their hands;  
Till one of those blood-thirsty hounds he made a spring below,  
Our captain then said "follow me!" and felled him with a blow.

Then with what few fire arms we had, we rush'd on deck again,  
And by our being resolute, our quarter deck we gain'd;  
Soon as we gain'd our arm chest such slaughter then made we,  
That in less than ten minutes our ship of them was free.

Then we threw overboard the dead that on our deck there lay,  
And found we had nobody hurt, to work we went straightway;  
The number kill'd upon our deck that day was sixty good,  
And full as many wounded as soon we understood.

'Twas early the next morning at the hour of break of day,  
We sail'd along abreast the town which we came to straight way;  
We call'd all hands to quarters and at the town did play,  
We made them to return what things they'd stolen that day.

I'd have you all take warning and always ready be,  
For to suppress those savages of Northwest America;  
For they are so desirous some vessel to obtain,  
That they will never leave it off, until most of them are slain.

And now unto old China we're fastly rolling on *(sailed Dec 12 91)*  
Where we shall drink good punch for which we've suffered long;  
And when the sixteenth day of June around does yearly come,  
We'll drink in commemoration what on that day was done.

And now I shall conclude, and make an end unto my song,  
Success unto the commander of the Lady Washington!  
Success unto his voyages wherever he may go,  
O may death and destruction always attend his foe.

*See Bancroft  
Northwest Coast 1223*