

Greenland

Greig-Duncan 10

In the 19th Century, Whaling was a major industry of North East Scotland and a number of fine songs came from it – some using floating verses. Tom modified a Greig-Duncan tune to come up with this version.

Once more for Greenland we are bound
Tae leave you aa behind
Wi timbers firm and hairts sae warm
We sail afore the wind brave boys
Aye we sail afore the wind

We dinna go tae face the foe
Upon the ragin main
We only sail tae catch the whale
And we'll return again brave boys
Aye we'll return again

We leave behind us on the shore
Aa them we love maist dear
Oor wives and sweethearts, and oor bairns
Aa weeping on the pier brave boys
Aa weepin on the pier

And when at last we reach the ice
We'll quickly clew oor sails
Each boat well manned, wi six good hands
We will pursue the whale brave boys
Aye we will pursue the whale

When half a year is come and gone
Then we'll come rollin home
Wi plenty brass, and a bonny lass
We'll maak yon taverns roar brave boys
Aye well mak yon taverns roar

Tae Greenland's frost we'll drink a toast
And them we love maist dear
And across the main, tae hunt again
We'll taak a trip next year brave boys
Aye we'll taak a trip next year

aa = all

afore = before

bairns = children

clew = raise the lower corners of a square sail

dinna = do not

hairts = hearts

maak = make

maist = most

sae = so

taak = take

tae = to

wi = with