

Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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Time for Us to Go

Time for Us to Go

With sails let fall and sheeted home and clear of the ground were we.
We passed the bank, stood round the Light, and sailed away to sea.
The wind was fair. the coast was clear. The brig was noways slow,
For she was built in Baltimore, and 'twas time for us to go.

Chos: Time for us to go, time for us to go,
For she was built in Baltimore, and 'twas time for us to go.

A quick run to the west we had, and when we made the Bight [of Benin],
We kept the offing all day long, and crossed the bar at night.
Six hundred niggers in the hold and seventy we did stow,
And when we'd clapped the hatches on, 'twas time for us to go.

We hadn't been three days at sea before we saw a sail,
So we clapped on every stitch she'd stand, although' it blew a gale.
And we walked along full fourteen knots, for the barkie she did know,
As well as ever a soul on board, 'twas time for us to go.

We carried away the royal yards and the stuns'l boom was gone.
Says the skipper, "They may go or stand. I'm darned if I don't crook on.
So, the weather braces we'll round in, and the tr-s'l set also,
And we'll keep the brig three p'int's away, for 'tis time for us to go.

Oh, yard-arm under did she plunge, in the trough of the deep seas,
And her masts they thrashed about like whips, as she bowed before the breeze.
And every yard did buckle up, like to a bending bow,
But her spars were tough as whalebone, and 'twas time for us to go.

We dropped the cruiser in the night, and our cargo landed we,
And ashore we went, with our pockets full of dollars, on the spree.
And when the liquor it is out, and the locker it is low,
Then, to sea again, in the Ebony Trade, 'twill be time for us to go.

(Last chorus:) Time for us to go, time for us to go,
Then to sea again, in the Ebony Trade, 'twill be time for us to go.

Song said to be sung by slavers, picked up in Philadelphia
and published by C. G. Leland, 1879.

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