Songs for Saplings

Botany Bay

g appeared in the musical drama Little Jack Sheppard in Melbourne in 1886, possibly based on an earlier song. (song)



Farewell to old England for ever, Farewell to my rumculls as well; Farewell to the well-known Old Bailey, Where I used for to cut such a swell.

Singing too-rall-li-ooral-li-addity, Singing too-rall-li-ooral-li-ay, Singing too-rall-li-ooral li-add ity, For we're bound for Botany Bay.

There's the Captain as is our commander, There's the bosun and all the ship's crew; There's the first and the second class passengers, Knows what we poor convicts goes through.

'Tain't leaving old England we cares about 'Tain't cause we mis-spells what we knows But because all we light-fingered gentery Hops around with a log on our toes.

For seven long years I'm transported, For seven long years and a day, For meeting a cove in an alleyway, And taking his ticket away.

Oh, had I the wings of a turtle dove, I'd soar on my pinions so high; Slap bang to the arms of my Polly love, And in her sweet presence I'd die.

Now, all my young dookies and duchesses, Take warning from what I've to say— Mind all is your own as you touchesses, Or you'll join us in Botany Bay,