

# Roll the Cotton Down

Arr. O'Beirne 2013

**Lively**

Voice

Piano

Vo.

Oh! was you e-ver in  
Oh, a dol - lar a day is  
Oh! rock them blocks and  
Oh! Stretch your backs and  
I wish I had a  
I'll sing ye a song if ye'll  
Oh! I wish John Salt would

Pno.

Vo.

Mo - bile Bay? Oh. Roll th' cot - ton down! Where they  
hoo - siers pay. T' roll th' cot - ton down! An' \_\_\_\_\_  
make them cry. We'll roll th' cot - ton down! Th' \_\_\_\_\_  
haul a - way. Roll th' cot - ton down! An' \_\_\_\_\_  
tot o' rum. And roll th' cot - ton down! I'll \_\_\_\_\_  
give me gin. An' roll th' cot - ton down! And \_\_\_\_\_  
keep his luff. An' roll th' cot - ton down! The \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

11

Vo.

loads the cot - ton  
 ship for more is  
 bloo dy top mast  
 make your port and  
 sing ye a song if you  
 bowse that block right  
 beg gar thinks we've

Pno.

1. - 6

12

Vo.

all the day, Oh, roll th' cot - ton down!  
 what they say. Oh,  
 sheave is dry. Oh,  
 take yer pay. Oh,  
 give me one. Oh,  
 down't the pin. Oh,  
 hauled e - nough. Oh.

Pno.

7

15

Vo.

hauled e - nough, Oh, roll th' cot - ton down!

Pno.

That the Negro seamen, "famous singers all," influenced many chanteys is undeniable. This distinctive song probably originated with the stevedores loading ships in Sotuhern ports. Mobile (Alabama) was one of the great cotton-shipping ports. The term "hoosier" refers to a White or a Negro employed in loading ships in the ports of Southern states.