

# "BIG STEAMERS," by RUDYARD KIPLING

SPECIALLY SET TO MUSIC FOR THIS OCCASION

## By SIR EDWARD ELGAR, O.M.

In a letter to Lord Rhondda, Sir Edward Elgar says: "The occasion seemed to call for something exceptionally simple and direct, and I have endeavoured to bring the little piece within the comprehension of very small people indeed."

*Moderato. UNISON.*  
KEY G:is | s :n f | s :n | r r :n | d :s, :s, | d r :n | s :n d | r r :f | n :n n |

VOICES.

"Oh, where are you going to, all you Big Steam - ers, With England's own coal, up and down the salt seas?" "We are

PIANO.

go - ing to fetch you your bread and your but - ter, Your beef, pork and mut - ton, eggs, ap - ples and cheese."

"Oh, where are you going to, all you Big Steamers,  
With England's own coal, up and down the salt seas?"  
"We are going to fetch you your bread and your butter,  
Your beef, pork, and mutton, eggs, apples, and cheese."

"And where will you fetch it from, all you Big Steamers,  
And where shall I write to you when you are away?"  
"We fetch it from Melbourne, Quebec, and Vancouver,  
Address us at Hobart, Hongkong, and Bombay."

"But if anything happened to all you Big Steamers,  
And suppose you were wrecked, up and down the salt sea?"  
"Why, you'd have no coffee or bacon for breakfast,  
And you'd have no muffins or toast for your tea."

"Then I'll pray for fine weather for all you Big Steamers,  
For little billows and breezes so soft."  
"Oh, billows and breezes don't bother Big Steamers,  
For we've iron below and steel rigging aloft."

"Then I'll build a new lighthouse for all you Big Steamers,  
With plenty wise pilots to pilot you through."  
"Oh, the Channel's as bright as a ball-room already,  
And pilots are thicker than pilchards at Looe."

"Then what can I do for all you Big Steamers,  
Oh, what can I do for your comfort and good?"  
"Send out your big warships to watch your big waters,  
That no one may stop us from bringing your food."

"For the bread that you eat and the biscuits you nibble,  
The sweets that you suck and the joints that you carve,  
They are brought to you daily by all us Big Steamers,  
And if anyone hinders our coming, you'll starve."

"Big Steamers," reprinted, with Mr. Kipling's permission, from "A School History of England" (published at the Clarendon Press).

# "BIG STEAMERS"—Continued.

## Verse 2.


  
 "And where will you fetch it from, all you Big Steam-ers, And where shall I write to you when you are a-way?" "We



  
 fetch it from Mel-bourne, Que-bee and Van-cou-ver, Ad-dress us at Ho-bart, Hong-kong and Bom-bay."

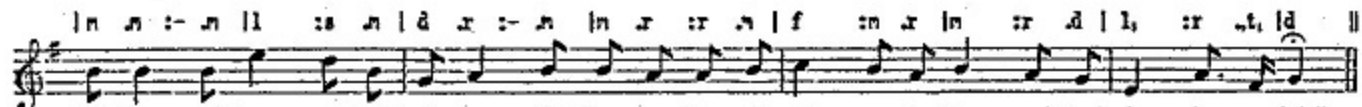
## Verse 3.


  
 "But if an-y-thing hap-pened to all you Big Steam-ers, And sup-pose you were wrecked up and down the salt sea?" "Why,



  
 you'd have no cof-fee or ba-con for break-fast, And you'd have no muf-fins or toast for your tea."


## Verse 4.


  
 "Then, I'll pray for fine wea-ther for all you Big Steam-ers, For lit-tle blue bil-lows and breez-es so soft." "Oh,

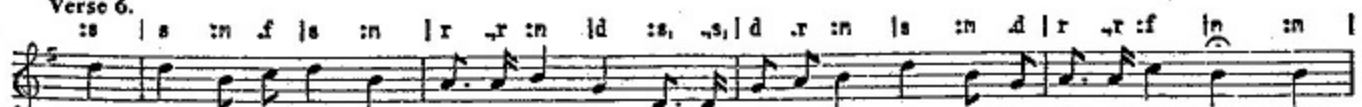

  
 bil-lows and breez-es don't both-er Big Steam-ers, For we've i-ron be-low and steel rig-ging a-loft."


## Verse 5.


  
 "Then I'll build a new light-house for all you Big Steam-ers, With plen-ty wise pi-lots to pi-lot you through." "Oh, the

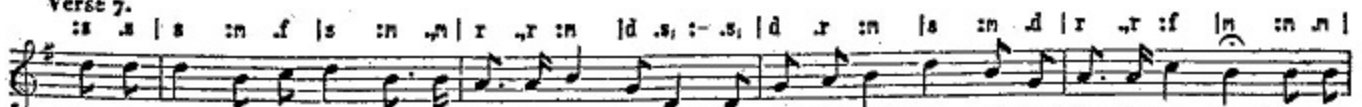

  
 Chan-nel's as bright as a ball-room al-ready, And pi-lots are thick-er than pil-chards at Looc."


## Verse 6.


  
 "Then what can I do for all you Big Steam-ers, Oh, what can I do for your com-fort and good?" "Send


  
 out your big war-ships to watch your big wa-ters, That no one may stop us from bring-ing your food."

## Verse 7.


  
 "For the bread that you eat and the bis-cuits you nib-ble, The sweets that you suck and the joints that you carve, They are


  
 brought to you dai-ly by all us Big Steam-ers, And if an-y-one hin-ders our com-ing, you'll starve."