

Row On

Tune: Tim Laycock; Text: written in the log book of The Three Brothers, a whaling ship from Nantucket working in the North Atlantic in 1846 (found by Gail Huntington and printed in 'Songs the Whalemens Sang', 1964)

Dark clouds are on the summer sky,
There's thunder in the wind.
Row on, row on and homeward hie,
Nor take one look behind.

**Row on row on, another day
May shine with brighter light.
Ply, ply the oars and pull away,
There's dawn beyond the night.**

Oh, like yon river would I glide
To where my heart would be,
My barque should soon outsail the tide
That hurries to the sea.

**Row on row on, another day
May shine with brighter light.
Ply, ply the oars and pull away,
There's dawn beyond the night.**

But yet a star shines constant still
Through yonder cloudy sky,
And hope as bright my bosom fills
with love that cannot die.

**Row on row on, another day
May shine with brighter light.
Ply, ply the oars and pull away,
There's dawn beyond the night.**

Row on, row on, and speed the way,
Thou must not linger here -
Storms hang about the close of day,
Tomorrow may be clear.

[Note - here is an extra verse that some folk sing, often as the second verse, if you want to include it]

Bear where thou goest the words of love,
Say all that words can say.
Changeless affection, strength to prove,
And speed upon the way.