

William Allingham (1824-89)

6 *St. Margaret's Eve*

I built my castle upon the sea-side,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
Half on the land and half in the tide,  
*Love me true!*

Within was silk, without was stone, 5  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
It lacks a queen, and that alone,  
*Love me true!*

The gray old harper sung to me,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,* 10  
Beware of the Damsel of the Sea!  
*Love me true!*

Saint Margaret's Eve it did befall,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
The tide came creeping up the wall, 15  
*Love me true!*

I open'd my gate; who there should stand —  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
But a fair lady, with a cup in her hand,  
*Love me true!* 20

The cup was gold, and full of wine,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
Drink, said the lady, and I will be thine,  
*Love me true!*

Enter my castle, lady fair, 25  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
You shall be queen of all that's there,  
*Love me true!*

A gray old harper sung to me,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,* 30  
Beware of the Damsel of the Sea!  
*Love me true!*

In hall he harpeth many a year,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
And we will sit his song to hear, 35  
*Love me true!*

I love thee deep, I love thee true,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
But ah! I know not how to woo,  
*Love me true!* 40

Down dash'd the cup, with a sudden shock,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
The wine like blood ran over the rock,  
*Love me true!*

She said no word, but shriek'd aloud, 45  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
And vanish'd away from where she stood,  
*Love me true!*

I lock'd and barr'd my castle door,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,* 50  
Three summer days I grieved sore,  
*Love me true!*

For myself a day and night,  
*The waves roll so gaily O,*  
And two to moan that lady bright, 55  
*Love me true!*

1877

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