

TO DESTROY THE COMMERCE OF THE NORTH

This hard-driving shanty tells the story of two Civil War Vessels, the Confederate Sloop of War Alabama and the U.S.S. Kearsarge. The Alabama was built in England in the shipyards at Birkenhead (the South had no significant shipbuilding industry at that time), while the Kearsarge came from Maine and was named after Mount Kearsarge in New Hampshire. You can hear a great version of this song, including the line from *Oh Susanna* by a group called **Schooner Fare** at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVQjJwJ7Zqw>.

ROLL ALABAMA ROLL

G **D** **G** **D**
When the *Alabama*'s keel was laid **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
G **C** **G** **D** **G**
It was laid in the yard of Jonathan Laird **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**

D **G** **D**
Down the Mersey way she rolled then **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
G **C** **G** **D** **G**
Liverpool fitted her with guns and men **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
C **G** **D** **G** **A7** **D**
Oh, Susanna, oh don't you cry for me – For I sail the *Alabama* with a banjo on my knee.

From the Western Isle she sailed forth **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
To destroy the commerce of the North **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**

And many a sailor met his doom **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
When the Kearsarge hove into view **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
Oh, Susanna, oh don't you cry for me – I still sail the *Alabama* with a banjo on my knee.

A ball from the forward pivot that day **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
Shot the Alabama's stern away **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**

Off the three mile limit in sixty-four **ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
The Alabama was seen no more **OH, ROLL ALABAMA, ROLL**
Oh, Susanna, oh don't you cry for me – I still sail the *Alabama* with a banjo on my knee.