

Roll the Cotton Down

Arr. O'Beirne 2013

Lively

Voice

Piano

5

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.

8

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.

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 Southern 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.