The Ship That Never Returned

Henry Clay Work

C F
On a summer's day when the wave was rippled
C G7
By the softest, gentlest breeze,
C F
Did a ship set sail with a cargo laden
C G7 C
For a port beyond the seas;
C F
There were sweet farewells, there were loving signals,
C G7
While a form was yet discerned,
C F
Though they knew it not, 'twas a solemn parting
C G7 C
For the ship—she never returned.

Chorus:

C F
Did she ever return ? No, she never returned.
C G7
Her fate is still unlearned;
C F
Though for years and years there were fond ones watching,
C G7 C
Yet the ship, she never returned.

Said a feeble lad to his anxious mother,
"I must cross the wide, wide sea;
For they say, perchance, in a foreign climate,
There is health and strength for me."
'Twas a gleam of hope in a maze of danger,
And her heart for her youngest yearned;
Yet she sent him forth with a smile and blessing
On the ship that never returned.

"Only one more trip," said a gallant seaman,
As he kissed his weeping wife;
"Only one more bag of the golden treasure,
And 'twill last us all through life.
Then I'll spend my days in my cozy cottage,
And enjoy the rest I've earned";
But alas! poor man! for he sailed commander
Of the ship that never returned.