

Shannon Side - Mr William Debbage ('Barlow')



It was in the month of Ap - ril, one morn - ng by the - dawn, when



vi - o - lets and cow - slips were - strewed - up - on the lawn, and



Flo - ra's flow - 'ry man - tle be - decked the fields with - pride, I



met a come - ly dam - sel down by - the Shan - non side.

1
It was in the month of April, one morning by the dawn,
when violets and cowslips were strewed upon the lawn,
and Flora's flowery mantle bedecked the fields with pride,
I met a comely damsel down by the Shannon side.

2
'Good morning to you, Sweetheart,' I unto her did say,
'why are you up so early, where go you this way ?'
With cheeks like blooming roses the damsel she replied,
'I go to seek my father's sheep down by the Shannon side.'

3
I said, 'My pretty fair maid, I'll bear thee company,
If you have no objection that I should go with thee.'
She said, 'Kind sir, 'excuse me, my parents will me chide,
If I am seen with any man down by the Shannon side.'

4
In transport I beheld her and gave to her a kiss.
She said, 'Kind sir be civil, what do you mean by this ?'
The ground was mossy where we stood; her feet from
her did slide;
we both fell down together upon the Shannon side.

5
Three times I kiss'd her ruby lips as she lay on the grass,
and coming to herself again, O then she cried, 'Alas!
Now you have got your will of me, make me your lawful
bride,
and do not leave me here to mourn upon the Shannon side.'

6
I said, 'My pretty fair maid, from mourning now refrain.
and we will talk of marriage when I return again,
but do not let your spirits fail, whatever you betide,
until I see your face again down by the Shannon side.'

7
We kissed, shook hands and parted, and from her I did steer;
I did not pass that way again for more than half a year.
In crossing o'er that flow'ry path, My love by chance I spied,
she was scarcely able to walk down by the Shannon side.

8
I seemed to take no notice, but steered on my way,
my love she turned her head aside, desiring me to stay.
The tears like crystal fountains down her cheeks did glide,
'O don't forget the fall you gave down by the Shannon side.

9
For me it was a woeful fall, for I'm with child by thee,
and if you'll be satisfied, kind sir, to marry me,
here's fifty guineas in bright gold my father will provide,
and sixty acres of good land down by the Shannon side.'

10
I said, 'My pretty fair maid, I like your offer well,
but I'm engaged already, the truth to you I tell,
unto another fair maid, who is to be my bride;
a wealthy grazier's daughter down by the Shannon side.

11
'Now since you will not marry me, pray tell me your name,
that when my babe is born, I may call it the same.'
'My name is Captain Thunderbolt, the same I'll not deny,
I have got men to guard you on yonder mountain high.'

12
We kissed, shook hands and parted, and from her I did stray,
turning her head aside, these words I heard her say,
'I hope 'twill be a warning to all young maids beside;
never trust a young man down by the Shannon side.'