

The CROPPY BOY

=====

IT WAS EARLY, EARLY, ALL IN THE SPRING
THE WEE BIRDS WHISTLED AND BEGAN TO SING
THEY SANG SO SWEET AND SO JOYOUSLY
AND THE SONG THEY SANG WAS: OLD IRELAND FREE!

IT WAS EARLY, EARLY LAST THURSDAY NIGHT
THE YEOMAN CAVALRY GAVE ME A FRIGHT
THE YEOMAN CAVALRY PROVED MY DOWNFALL
I WAS PRISONER TAKEN BY LORD CORNWALL

IT WAS IN HIS GUARD-HOUSE WHERE I WAS LAID
AND IN HIS PARLOUR THAT I WAS TRIED
MY SENTENCED PASSED, AND MY SPIRITS LOW
TO GENEVA BARRACKS I WAS FORCED TO GO

AS I WAS MARCHING THROUGH WEXFORD STREET
THE DRUMS AND FIFES THEY DID PLAY SO SWEET
THE DRUMS AND FIFES DID SO SWEETLY PLAY
WHILE WE WERE MARCHING SO FAR AWAY!

WHEN I WAS TAKEN BY MY FATHER'S DOOR
MY BROTHER WILLIAM HE STOOD ON THE FLOOR
MY AGED FATHER DID GRIEVE FULL SORE
AND MY TENDER MOTHER, HER HAIR SHE TORE

WHEN MY SISTER MARY HEARD THE EXPRESS
SHE RAN DOWNSTAIRS IN HER MORNING DRESS
"FIVE HUNDRED GUINEAS I WOULD LAY DOWN
TO SET YOU FREE IN SWEET WEXFORD TOWN"

WHEN I WAS MARCHING OVER WEXFORD HILL
OH WHO COULD BLAME ME FOR TO CRY MY FILL
I LOOKED BEHIND AND I LOOKED BEFORE
BUT I TENDER MOTHER I COULD SEE NO MORE

WHEN I WAS MOUNTED ON THE GALLOWES HIGH
MY AGED FATHER, HE WAS STANDING BY
MY AGED FATHER, HE DID ME DENY
AND THE NAME HE GAVE ME WAS "THE CROPPY BOY"!