

GALWAY BAY

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'Tis far away I am today from scenes I roamed a boy  
And long ago the hour I know I first saw Illinois  
Not time nor tide nor water wide can wean my heart away  
Forever true it flies to you my own dear Galway Bay

My chosen bride is by my side, her red hair silvery grey  
And daughter Rose as like her grows as April dawn to day  
Her eldest son her chosen one, his father's pride and stay  
With gifts like these I'd live at ease beside you, Galway Bay

Oh grey and bleak, by shore and creek, the rugged rocks abound  
But sweeter green that grows between than grows on Irish ground  
So friendship fond, all else beyond, and love that lives always  
Bless each dear home beside your foam, my own dear Galway Bay

Had I youth's blood, and hopeful mood, and heart of fire once more  
For all the gold that earth might hold, I'd never quit your shore  
I'd live content, whate'er God sent, with neighbors old and grey  
And lay my bones 'neath churchyard stones beside you, Galway Bay

The blessing of a poor old man be with you night and day  
The blessing of a lonely man whose heart will soon be clay  
'Tis all the Heaven I ask of God, upon my dying day  
My soul to soar for ever more above you, Galway Bay

- Francis Fahy