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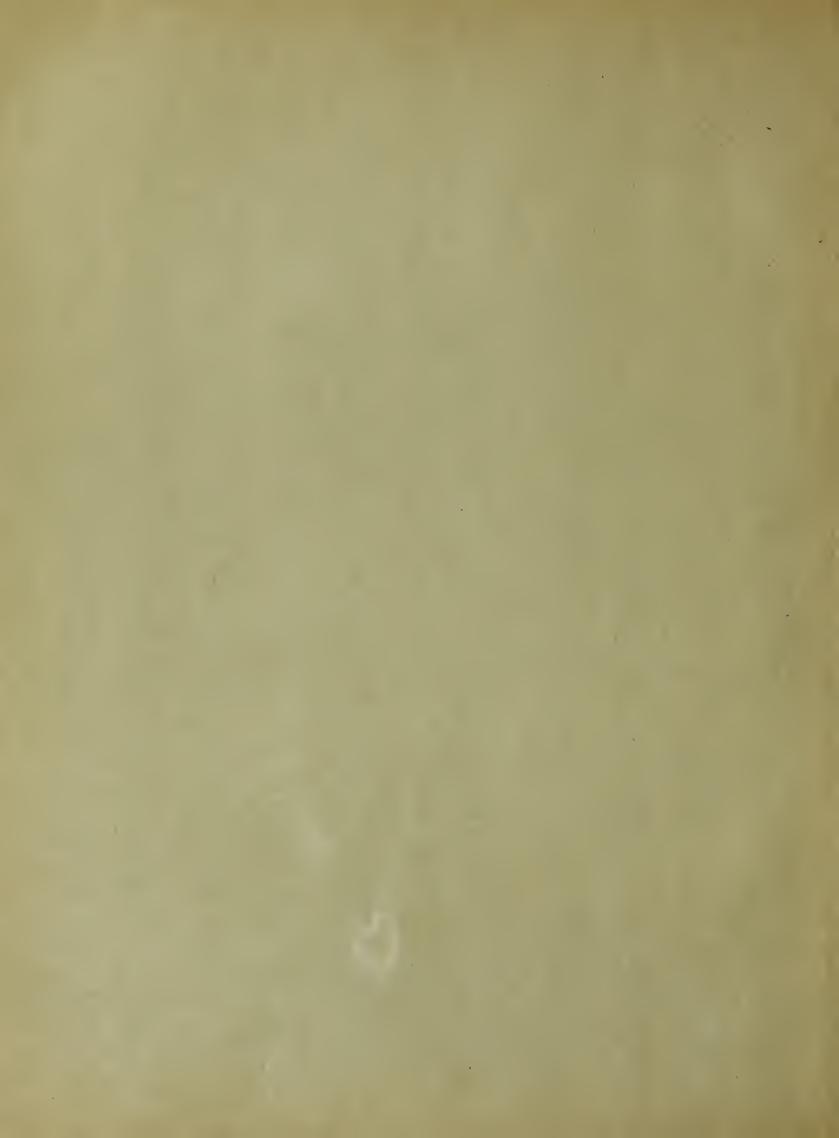
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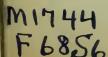
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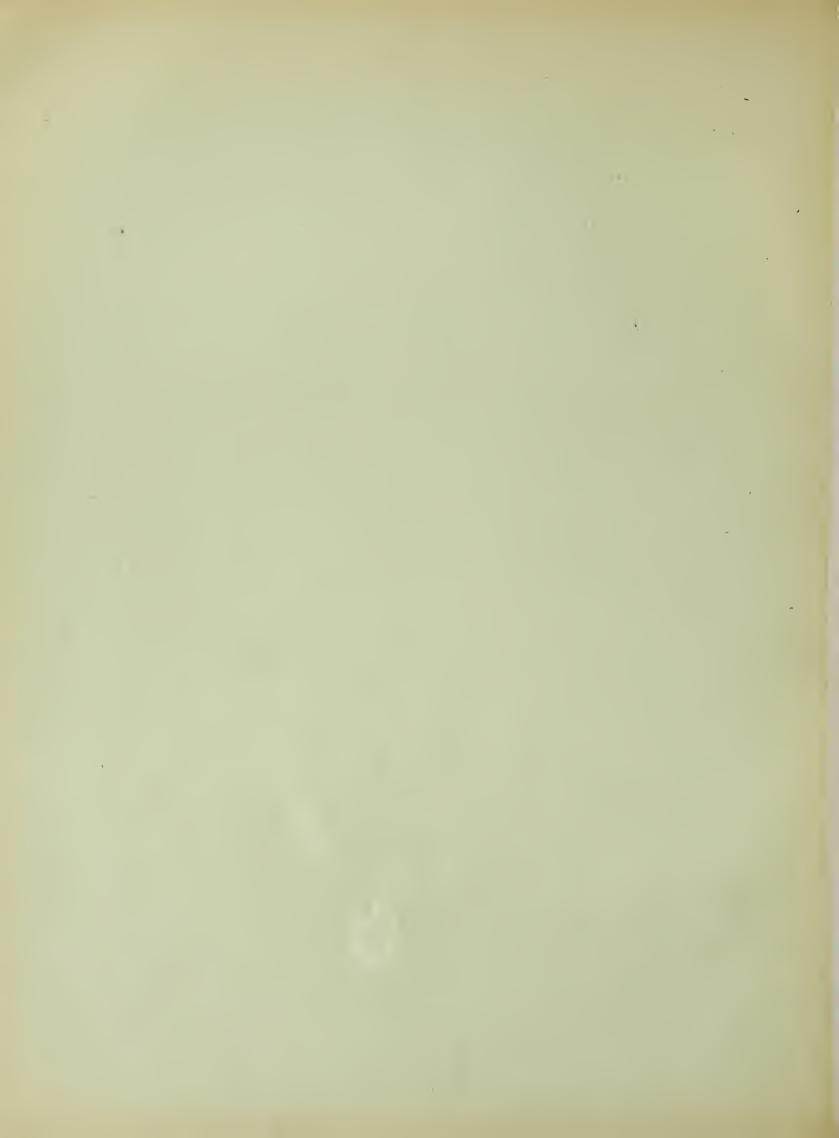












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M1744 F 6886

Songs

OF THE

IRISH HARPERS

Collected and

Arranged for Harp or Piano

By

C. MILLIGAN FOX



BAYLEY & FERGUSON

LONDON: 2 GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET, W.

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Songs of the Irish Harpers



HEMPSON

Preface.

THIS volume is given the title of "Songs of the Irish Harpers" for two reasons—first, in recognition of the fact that the melodies to which they were written were preserved in their purity by the Wandering Minstrels of Ireland. Then it occurred to me that by arranging these airs for the Harp I might help in the revival of that delightful instrument. The Harp as an accompaniment to the voice is without a rival, and it is to be regretted that it is not more frequently heard and that it should be almost extinguished by the less sympathetic though ever useful pianoforte.

A Harp Festival was held in Belfast in the year 1792, when Edward Bunting noted down the melodies which were rendered by the Harpers who attended. The airs played there, with hundreds of others collected through the country, were published by him at different periods. His collection was largely drawn on by Moore for his Irish melodies. The note books and manuscripts of Edward Bunting came into my possession, and amongst them I discovered several beautiful melodies which he had not published. Five of these are included in this volume. Of the Harpers from whom Bunting gleaned his store, the name of Denis Hempson, who was ninety-seven at the date of the Belfast Harp Festival, deserves to be singled out. He was the exponent of the most ancient style of playing, and Na Cumun, or the "Parting of Friends," may be pointed to as an example of a melody preserved by him. Hempson and all the Harpers who played at Belfast were merely performers. The race of composers had then died out; in most cases the names of the makers of these exquisite melodies have faded from memory, but the Harpers preserved a few of them. Turlogh O Carolan, an eighteenth century Harper and composer, sometimes called "the Last of the Bards" is still known to fame. Old Hempson looked on him as a modernist, who had corrupted the old style of Irish music. Amongst the harp composers of the ancient school I will give only one representative name, that of Rory Dall O Cahan, who, born in Queen Elizabeth's reign, survived through the reigns of her two

successors. The last song in this volume is attributed to him. Hempson and Rory Dall were as well-known in Scotland as in Ireland when they lived. Rory appeared before James VI., who reigned as first in England, and could not forbear the boast that he deemed O Neill of Ulster a greater man. Hempson had the honour of harping in the presence of Prince Charlie in Holyrood.

There is therefore no unfitness in the fact that these songs of the Irish Harpers are now to be published in Scotland. The people of that kindred land will rejoice to know that a movement is now a-foot to set the Harp once more in her rightful place, and to teach the children of Ireland to recognise her as the national symbol of a Bardic Minstrelsy, unique for the utterance of a stream of priceless melody.

C. MILLIGAN FOX.



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I.

My Thousand Times Beloved.

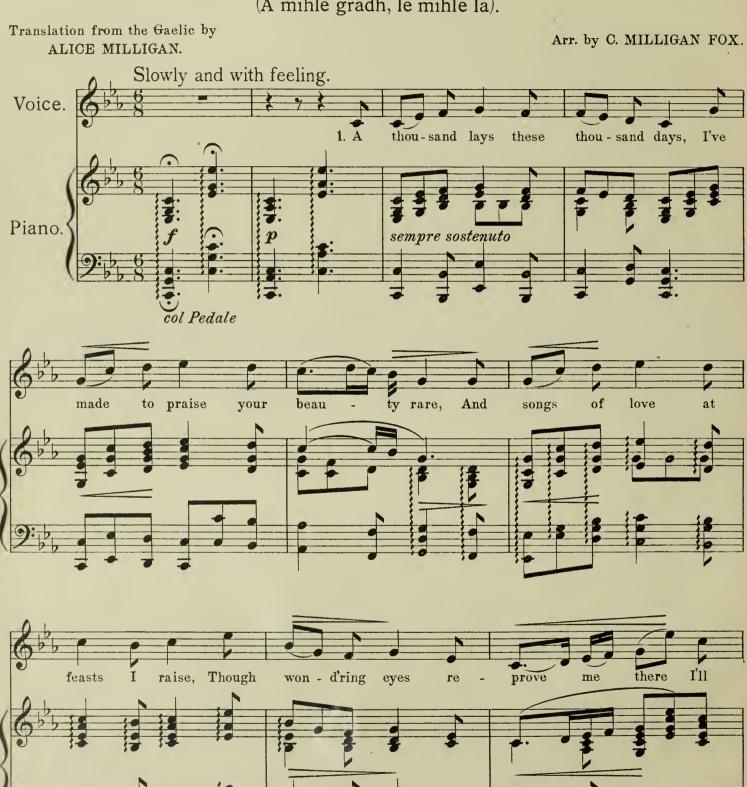
(A mhile gradh, le mhile lá.)

This air, with the Gaelic words, was found in the pocket book of Edward Bunting. He collected it from the singing of a Mrs. O'Connor, in Galway, in 1798. In the English version Miss Alice Milligan makes of it a Harper's love song.

Sung by Miss Fielding Roselle, Miss May Coleman and Mr H. Alexander.

My thousand times beloved.

(A mihle gradh, le mihle la).



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My Thousand Times Beloved.

(A mhile gradh, le mhile lá.)

A THOUSAND lays these thousand days
I've made to praise your beauty rare,
And songs of love at feasts I raise,
Though wond'ring eyes reprove me there
I'll praise always your beauty rare.

Oh! fairer far than morning's star,
Your blue eyes are my soul's delight,
So let their beams where'er you are
Shine on my dreams to-night, to-night,
Shine on my dreams to-night, to-night.

'Tis rumoured wide I've won my bride,
For 'tis my pride, when harpers tune
For court or King, one song to sing—
Love, to my side, come soon, come soon,
Love, to my side, come soon, come soon.

MHILE ghradh le mile lá

Na buail ar sheoid ni fhoghnann sé

Tá sé crón-breac, is e baoth gan chéill

Is béidhmid ag gol linn féin, linn fein,

Is ag imtheacht le barr an tsaoghail.

Is binne liom i na ceileabhar na n-eun
Nó ceolta sidhe 'o oidhche go lá
Gach focal beag sámh a thig ó do bheol
Is do chomhradh liom féin san oidhche san oidhche
'S do chomhradh liom féin san oidhche.

Tá se faoi an bpobal go bhfuil mé 's tu in gradh 'S go rachainn gan spás tar an sáile nonn Fág'aidh mé an baile seo sul thig cionn ráithe

A rúin 'sa ghradh bi liom, bi liom

S a rúin 'sa ghradh bi liom.

II.

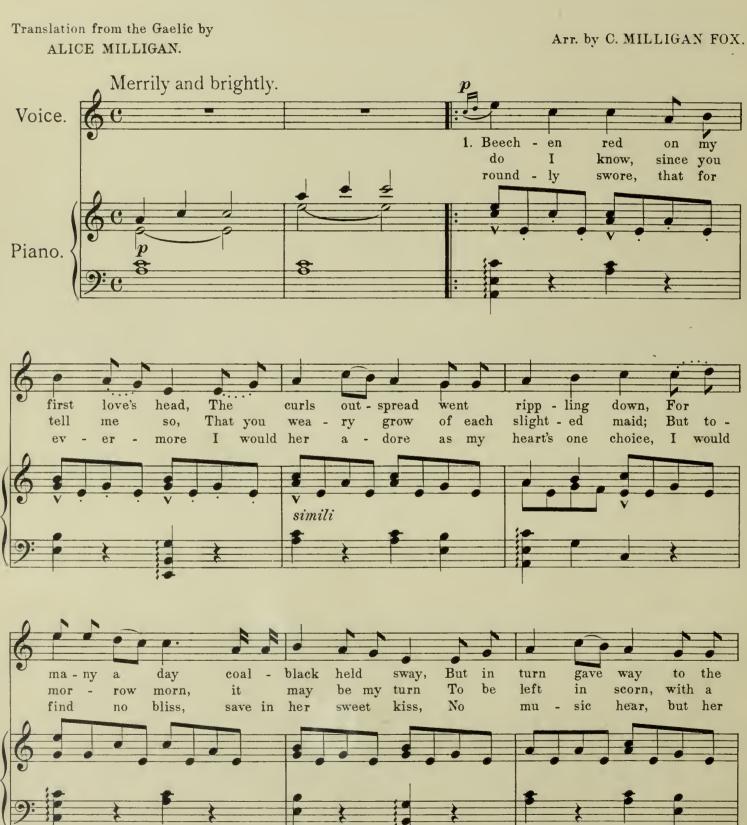
Golden Locks are my Delight.

(Cúl na Subh.)

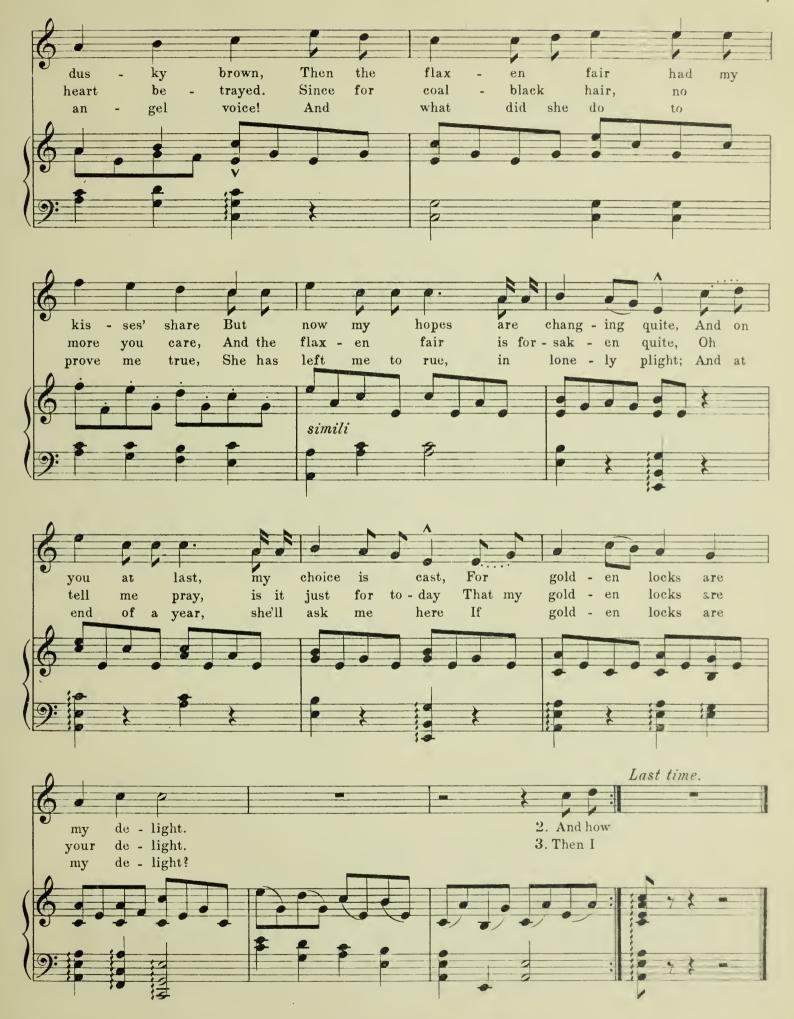
This air, which was never published by Edward Bunting, was discovered in his Note Book. He records there that he obtained it from Mrs. Connor of Castlebar. The Gaelic words are among his MSS. The song in English by Miss Alice Milligan takes its subject from the Gaelic, but does not achieve translation. The air has a sort of 18th century daintiness.

Golden Locks are my Delight.

(Cúl na Subh.)



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Golden Locks are my Delight.

(Cúl na Subh.)

BEECHEN red on my first love's head
The curls outspread went rippling down,
For many a day coal-black held sway,
But in turn gave way to the dusky brown,
Then the flaxen fair had my kisses' share
But now—my hopes are changing quite,
And on you at last, my choice is cast
For golden locks are my delight.

And how do I know, since you tell me so,
That you weary grow of each slighted maid;
But to-morrow morn it may be my turn
To be left in scorn, with a heart betrayed.
Since for coal-black hair no more you care,
And the flaxen fair is forsaken quite.
Oh tell me, pray, is it just for to-day
That my golden locks are your delight?

Then I roundly swore that for evermore
I would her adore as my heart's one choice—
I would find no bliss save in her sweet kiss,
No music hear but her angel voice
And what did she do?—To prove me true,
She has left me to rue in lonely plight,
At the end of a year she'll ask me here
If golden locks are my delight.

A CHUIL na subh ta dualach dubh,
Nach truagh leat me bheith gol' do dhiaidh
Má's truagh leat sin tabhair fuasgailt damh
Amharc orm le do dhá shúil claoin.

Biom ar bhruid gach lá dá dtig Is ceolta cruit ni binn liom iad Fá mo chailin dubh fa a bhfuair me guth Mo ghruaidh a silt gach lá na diaidh Chuir mé dúil ann do chúl 'S dar mo chubhais ba mhairseach é Is an do bhéul ta ar dhath na gcaor Nach dearna bréag 's nar pheacaigh riamh.

A chúil na subh ta dualach dubh Nach truagh leat me bheith gol' do dhiaidh Má 's truagh leat sin tabhair fuasgailt damh Amharc orm le do dhá shúil claoin.

III.

The Parting of Friends.

(Air-Na Cumun.)

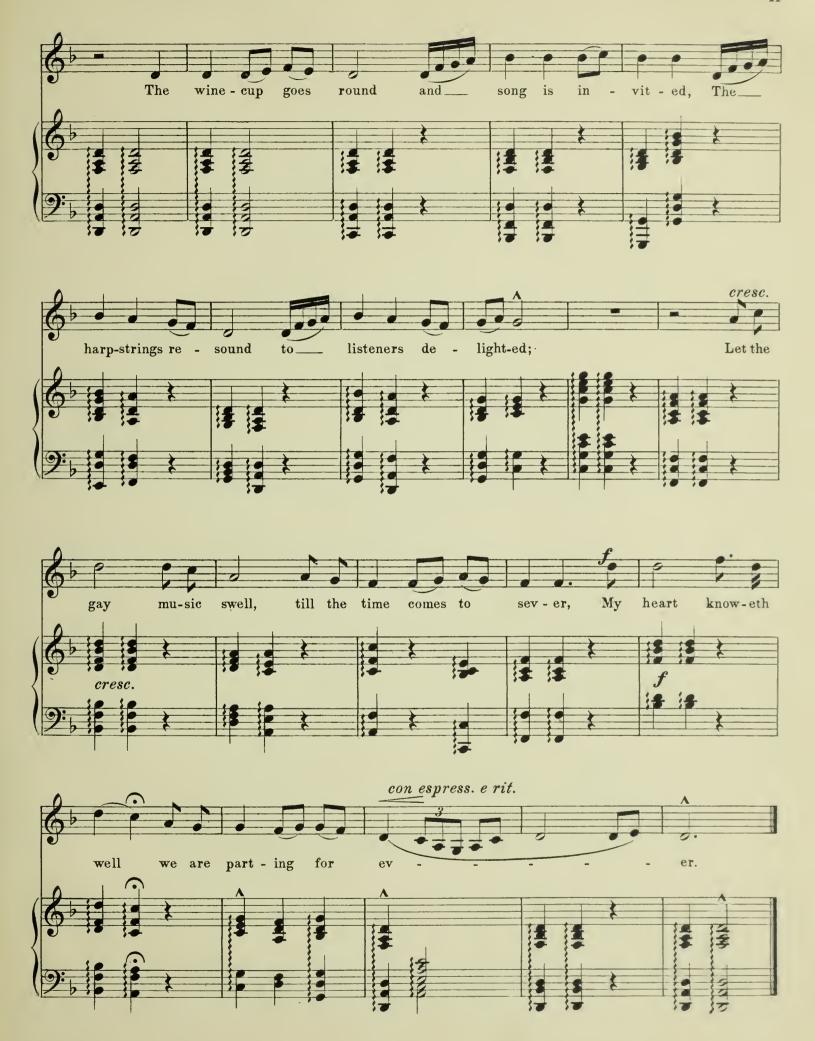
This beautiful and melancholy air was not published in any of Bunting's collections, but is taken down in one of his note books, with the title of "Na Cumun," or "Scarroon na Gompanagh" (we give his own phonetic spelling). This means "The Bond; or, The Scattering of the Company." There is added this note, "remarkable old, sings to M'Cabe's verses on Caralan." In another note we are told of an air called "The Scattering of the Company; or, Parting of Friends," which harpers were acccustomed to play at the end of a banquet or festival, and in his first volume Bunting gives us a quite different tune, a brisk and graceful one with this name. It may have been that the sadder air was used on occasions when death had taken place, or a prolonged parting was in prospect. Taking our choice of the different Irish words for this old air, we give the lament written by Cahal M'Cabe, a northern poet on the death of his friend, Turlogh O Carolan, Harper and Bard, which from Bunting's note we take to be the best for singing to it. The English version translates and expands a single verse of "The Parting of Friends," which is all that is given of that poem in Bunting's Manuscripts.

The Parting of Friends.

(Na Cumun.)



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The Parting of Friends.

(Air-Na Cumun.)

ERE long through this town my way I had wended,

By hundreds, 'twas shown, I was truly befriended;

We are now gathered here, yet my spirit is grieving,

The hour draweth near, when my friends I'll be leaving.

The wine-cup goes round and song is invited,

The harp-strings resound to listeners delighted;

Let the gay music swell, till the time comes to sever,

My heart knoweth well we are parting for ever.

(Marbhna Chearbhallain.)

OBHRON! mo mhilleadh! mo thinneas's mo bhuaidhreamh trath Do chéol-chruit mhilis, gan bhinneas, gan suairceas dán. Cia dhéanfasaiteas do'n ghasraidh ná ceól go buan, Os fíor, a charaid, gur leagadh thu a g-cómhra chruadh?

Trath éirghídhim air maidin, a's dhearcaim an tir faói chiach Agus shúidhim air na cnocaibh, go bh-feicim an dubh a n-iar, A Aen-mhic Mhuire! furtaigh do 'm chás a's riar! 'S go n-dearnadh loch fola, de amharc mo shúl a'd dhiaidh!

IV.

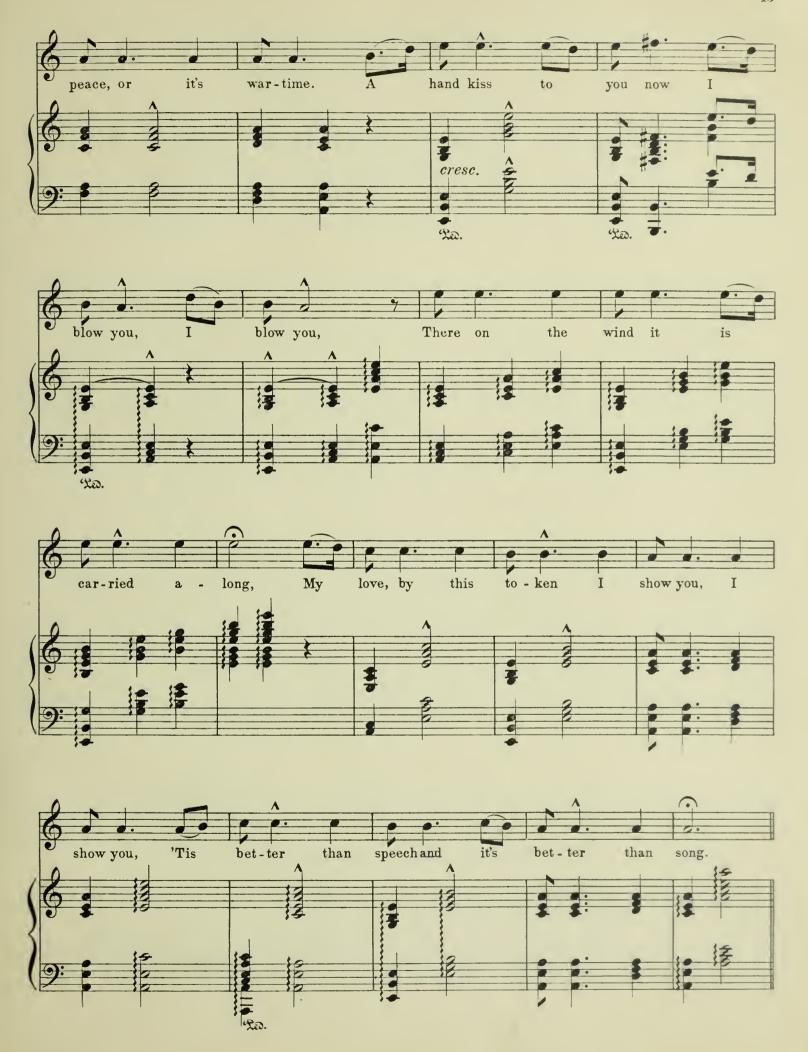
Men of Connaught.

(Domhnall Meirgeach.)

This would seem to be the lament of an unfortunate Connaughtman, banished from his native province because of a dispute with his family; or was it that he had left home with gold and abundance, but without permission of his parents, and having spent all feared to return? It is interesting to note that he counted amongst his afflictions the difference in the Gaelic speech as spoken by Munstermen. The variations of accent and idiom between West and South have been the subject of controversy among Irish scholars of our own day. The air was published by Bunting. The Gaelic words are from his MSS. Translation by Mrs. Alice Chambers Bunten. Note the Spanish dance measure of the music.

Men of Connaught.









Men of Connaught.

(Domhnall Meirgeach.)

EN of Connaught so famous for love, games and sporting, Good comrades I bid you farewell for a long time. Strange deeds and adventures in strange lands I'm courting To carve out my way if it's peace or it's wartime.

A hand kiss to you now I blow you, I blow you There on the wind it is carried along.

My love by this token I show you, I show you, 'Tis better than speech and it's better than song.

Men of Connaught, if you would but join me in roving, What times we would have, in our search for some treasure. We'd work for the girls left behind, we are loving, To save for our dear ones is always a pleasure.

All anger at parting should vanish, should vanish,
Father and Mother are vexed with their son.
But though their wild boy they can banish, can banish,
He'll show them till death, that he loves everyone.

Men of Connaught, your friendship no comfort has brought me, Since Munster men only I see at my side; Their Gaelic is strange, from the tongue that ye taught me, But little that matters if here I could bide.

So off to the seaboard I'm starting, I'm starting, Never look'd Ireland so fair to the view.

When her sons for strange lands are departing, departing, They all have one cry, "We will come back to you."

An imirt is an ól do dheanamh

Sin chugaibh mo phog ar leigeaint annsa ród
Ag imtheachtain le seol gaoithe.

Is minic annsa' ló meisg orm ró-mhor
Le n-a gcluinim anndo ghleo Muimhneach

Is té budh glice dá bpór nach dtuigfeadh mar bu choir.
Ach siolla do mo ghlór direach.

Ni'l ach ráithe agus seachtmhain ó dfágaibh mé an baile Lán d'ór 'sdo gach shórt d'éadaigh,

Mo chrádh má bhi liom beannacht mathar nó athara, Gidh náireach an cleas le n-a dheanamh.

Mo cháirde uile go léir an méid acu nár éag Go dtugadar go léir fuath dhom

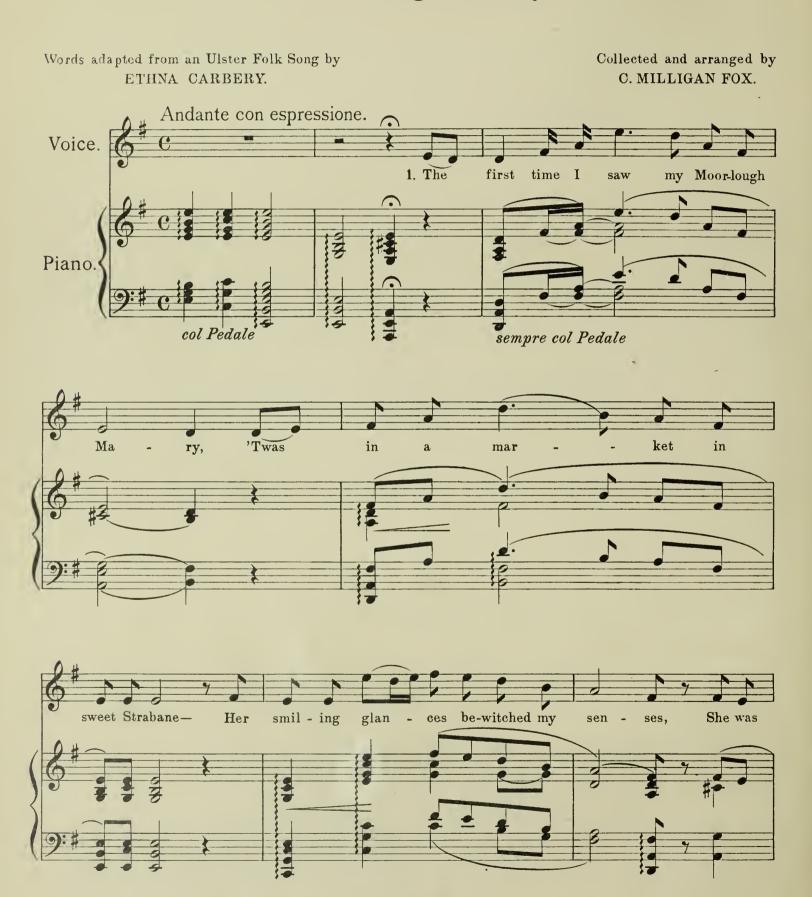
Gan aon thocalann a mbéal ath do mhill thu fein Agus fulaing do réir do thualach.

V.

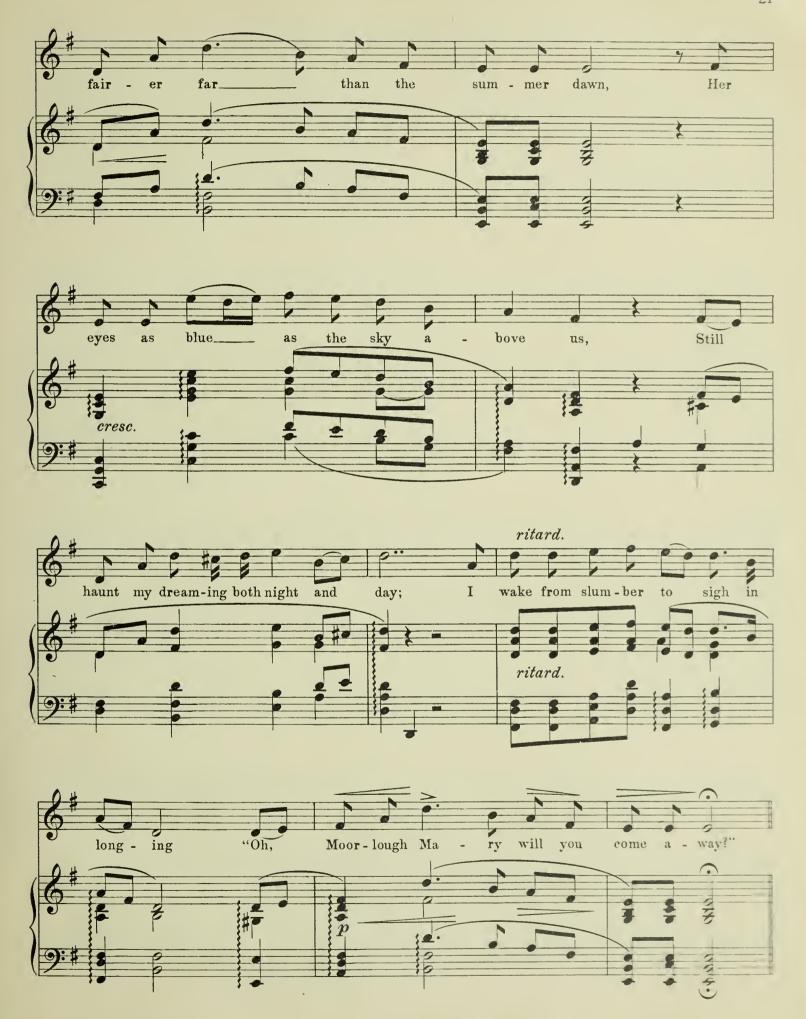
Moorlough Mary.

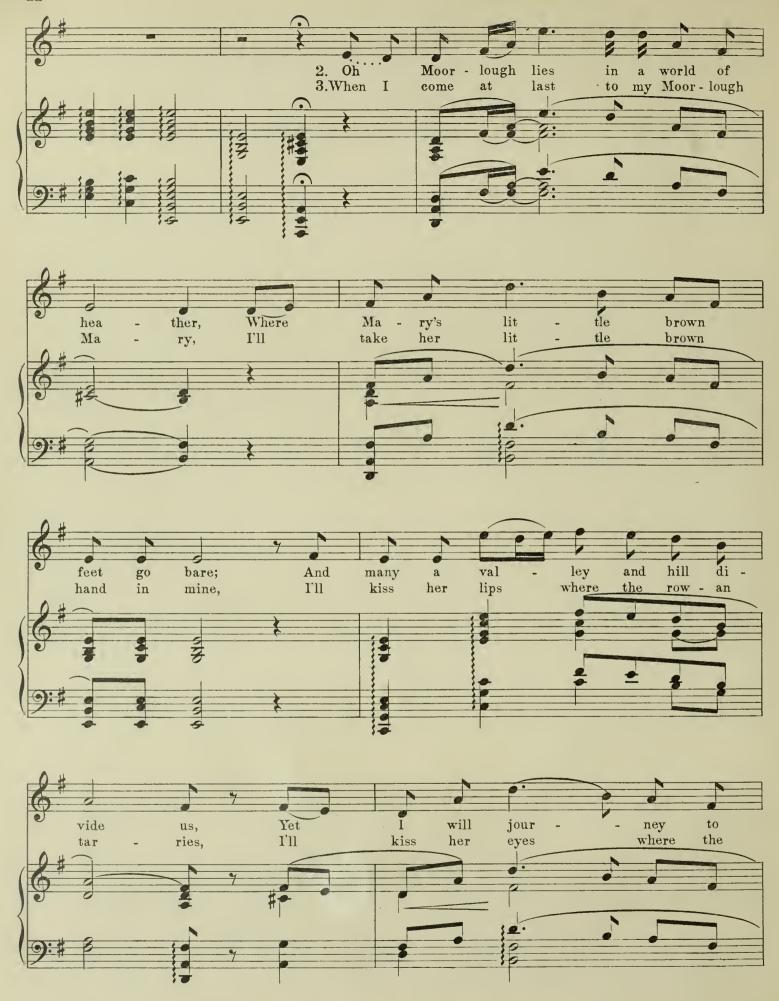
This beautiful air survives without any known Gaelic words, and it is associated with a quaint street ballad in English, which is given as well as a poem specially written for it. The air has all the characteristics of the ancient style, and must have been composed by one of the old bardic Harpers.

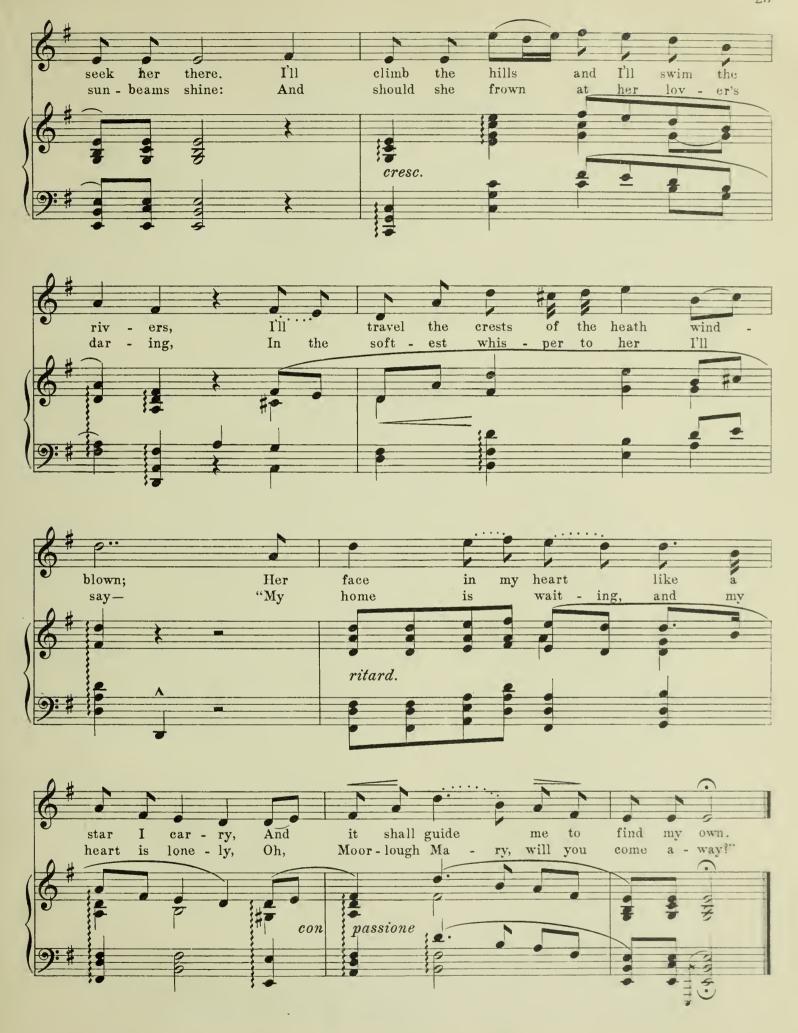
Moorlough Mary.



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Moorlough Mary.

THE first time I saw my Moorlough Mary,
'Twas in a market in sweet Strabane;
Her smiling glances bewitched my senses,
She was fairer far than the summer dawn.
Her eyes as blue as the sky above us
Still haunt my dreaming both night and day;
I wake from slumber to sigh in longing,
"Oh, Moorlough Mary, will you come away?"

Oh, Moorlough lies in a world of heather,
Where Mary's little brown feet go bare;
And many a valley and hill divide us,
Yet I will journey to seek her there.
I'll climb the hills and I'll swim the rivers,
I'll travel the crests of the heath wind-blown;
Her face in my heart like a star I carry,
And it shall guide me to find my own.

When I come at last to my Moorlough Mary,
I'll take her little brown hand in mine,
I'll kiss her lips where the rowan tarries,
I'll kiss her eyes where the sunbeams shine;
And should she frown at her lover's daring,
In the softest whisper to her I'll say—
"My home is waiting, and my heart is lonely,
Oh, Moorlough Mary, will you come away?"

Street Ballad Version of Moorlough Mary.

The first time I saw young Moorlough Mary
"Twas in a market of sweet Strabane;
Her smiling countenance was so engaging,
All other fair ones she did trepan.
Her killing glances bereave my senses;
No rest can I find either night or day;
In my silent slumber I start with wonder,
Saying "Moorlough Mary, will you come away?"

From Moorlough banks I will never wander,
Where heifers graze on yon pleasant soil;
Where lambkins sporting, fair maids resorting,
The timorous hare and blue heather bell.
I'll press my cheese, and my wool I'll tease,
And my ewes I'll milk by the eve of day;
The hurling moor-cock and lark alarms me;
From bonnie Moorlough I'll never stray.

I'll go down to yon woodland to my situation,
Where recreation is all in view,
On the river Mourne where salmons sporting,
And sounding echoes bring something new.
The thrush and blackbird will join in chorus
With notes melodious on Liskea brae,
And the sweet lough stream I would restore you,
Saying, "Moorlough Mary, will you come away?"

Were I man of great education,
And Erin's isle all at my command,
I'd lean my head on her snowy bosom,
In wedlock's band, love, give me your hand.
I'd entertain her both eve and morning;
With robes I'd dress her both rich and gay;
With kisses sweet I would embrace her,
Saying, "Moorlough Mary, will you come away?"

VI

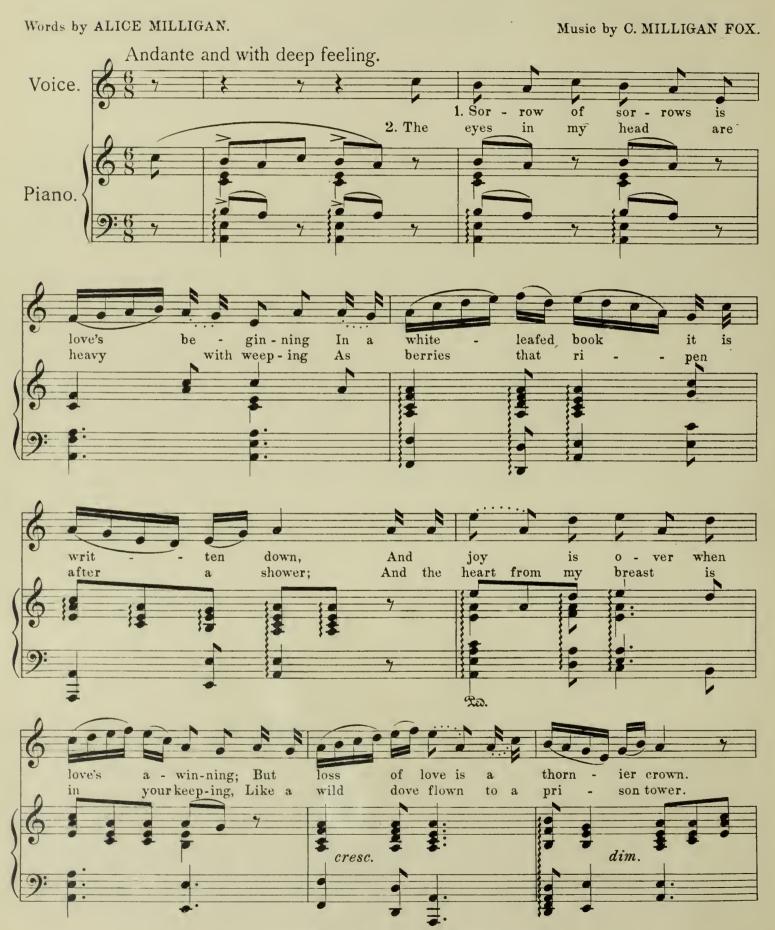
Sorrow of Sorrows.

(A Connaught Love Song.)

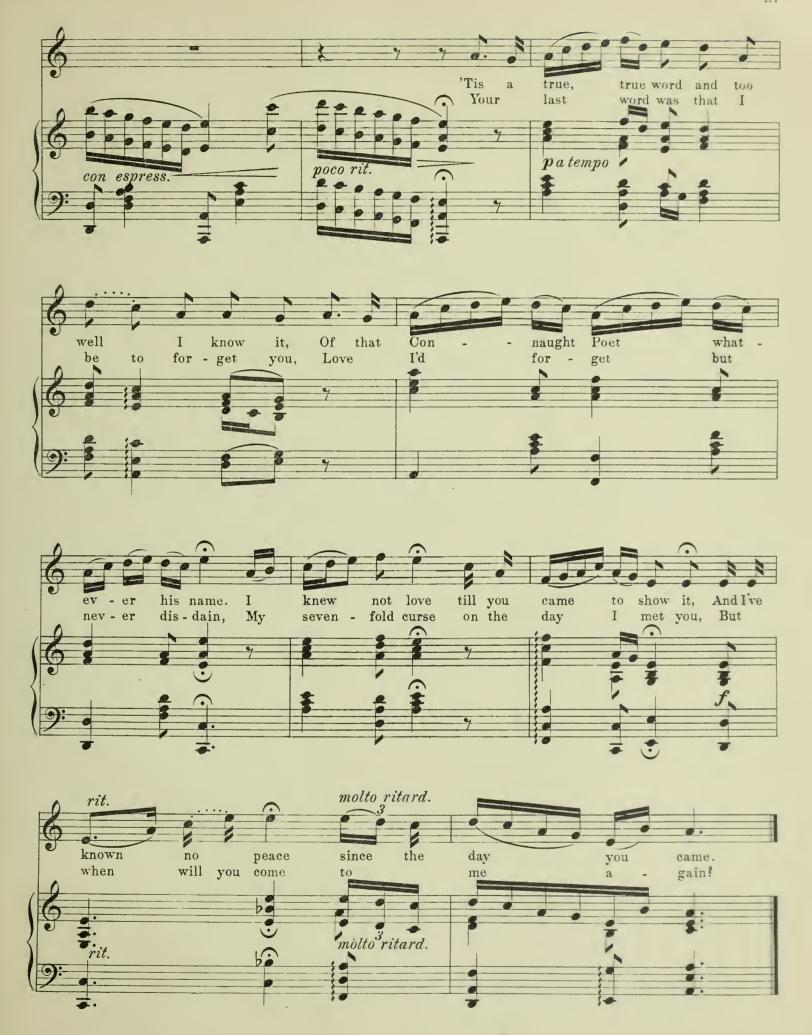
This song was composed by the Editor in imitation of the old Irish School, after a long and prolonged study of the method of Irish composition and the formation of the Irish Scale.

The words have also been inspired by the Study of Gaelic Poetry and written by Miss Alice Milligan.

Sorrow of Sorrows.



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Sorrow of Sorrows.

(A Connaught Love Song.)

Sorrows is love beginning,
In a white-leafed book it is written down,
And joy is over when love's a winning;
But loss of love is a thornier crown.

'Tis a true true word and too well I know it,

Of that Connaught poet, whatever his name.

I knew not love till you came to show it,

And I've known no peace since the day you came.

The eyes in my head are heavy with weeping,
As berries that ripen after a shower.

And the heart from my breast is in your keeping,
Like a wild dove flown to a prison tower.

Your last word was that I be to forget you,

Love I'd forget but never disdain,

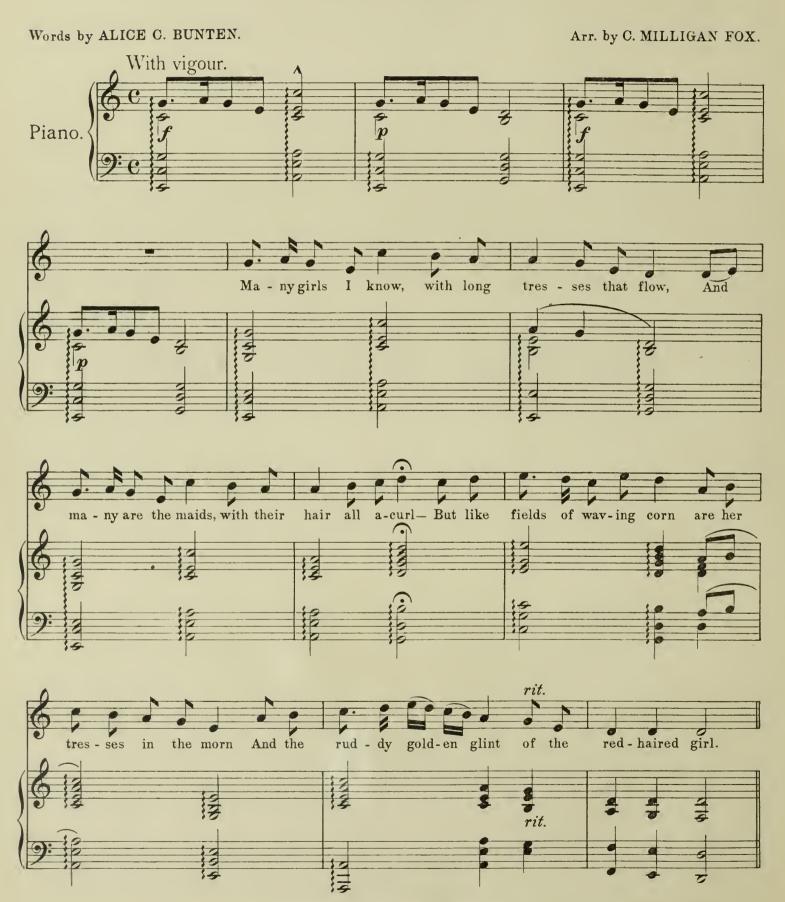
My sevenfold curse on the day I met you,

But when will you come to me again?

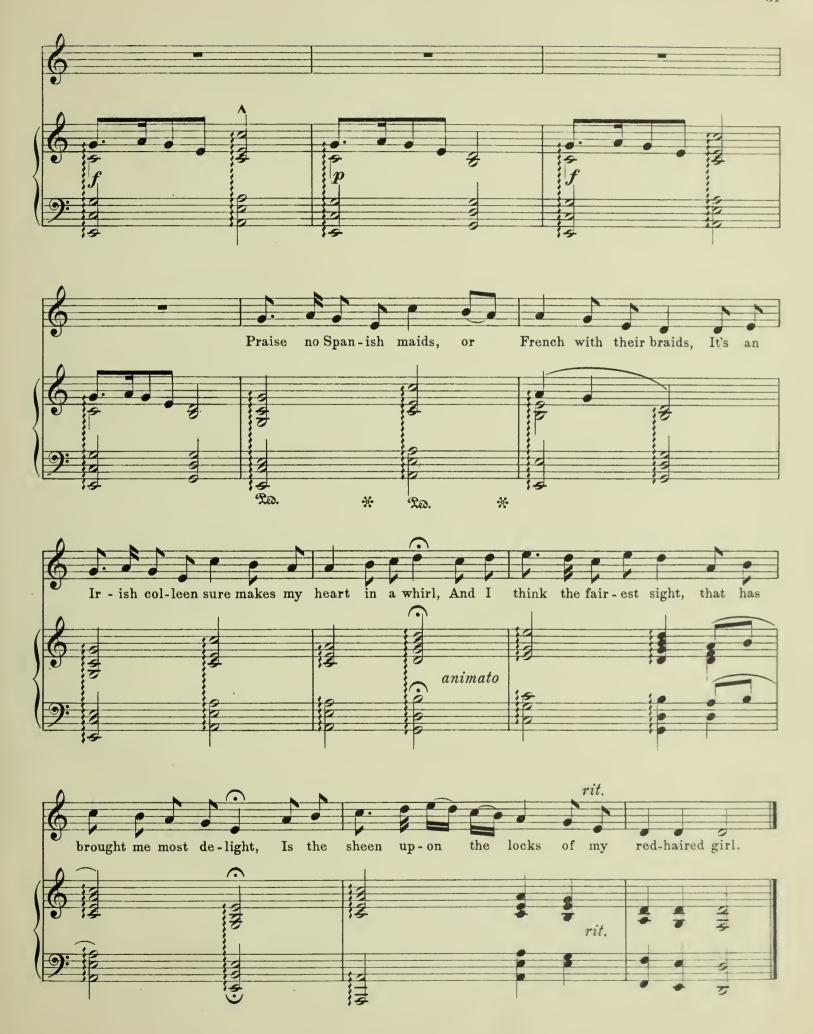
VII.

The Red Haired Girl.

The Red Haired Girl.



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The Red Haired Girl.

ANY girls I know, with long tresses that flow,
And many are the maids, with their hair all a-curl,
But like fields of waving corn, are her tresses in the morn,
And the ruddy golden glint of the red haired girl.

Praise no Spanish maids, or French with their braids,

It's an Irish Colleen sure makes my heart in a whirl,

And I think the fairest sight, that has brought me most delight,

Is the sheen upon the locks of my red haired girl.

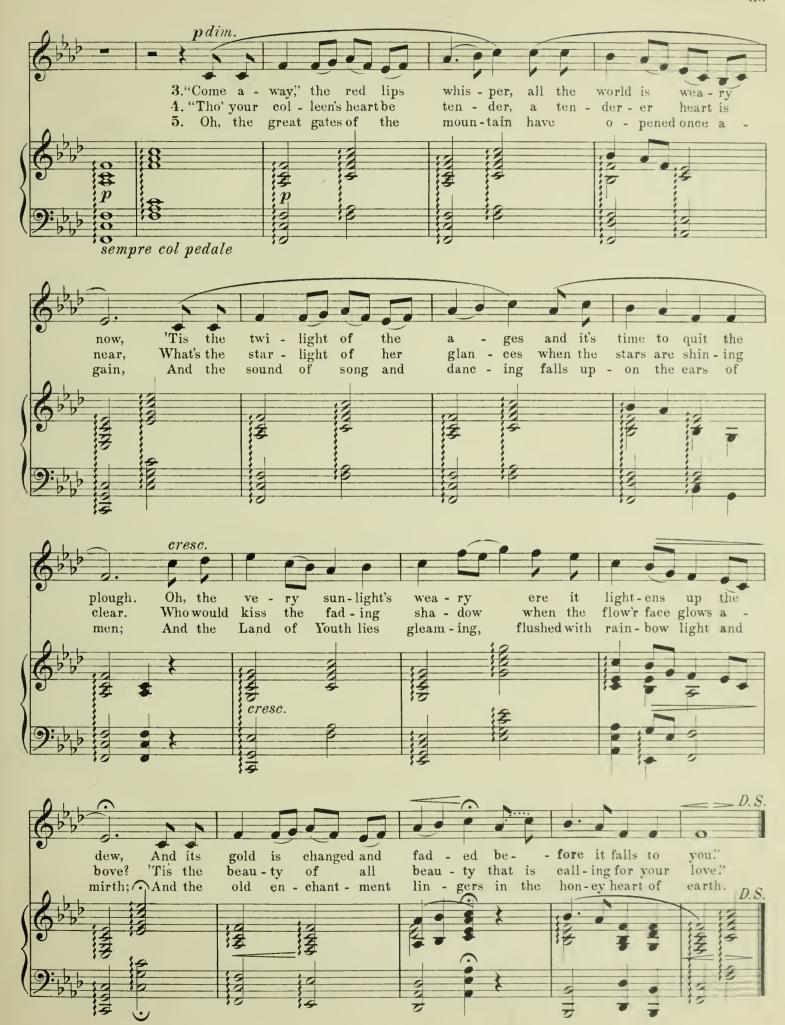
VIII.

The Gates of Dreamland.

This Air was taken from the Petrie Collection and set to words by A. E. The song appeared originally in a Christmas Number of the "Irish Homestead," and is now included in "The Divine Vision" (Macmillan & Co., Ltd.). It is printed here by permission of the Author and the Publishers.

The Gates of Dreamland.





The Gates of Dreamland.

T'S a lonely road through bogland
To the lake at Carrowmore,
And a sleeper there lies dreaming
Where the water laps the shore,
Though the moth wings of the twilight in their purples are unfurled,
Yet his sleep is filled with music by the masters of the world.

There's a hand as white as silver

That is fondling with his hair,

There are glimmering feet of sunshine

That are dancing by him there;

And half open lips of faery that were dyed to richest red

In their revels where the Hazel Tree its holy clusters shed.

"Come away," the red lips whisper,

"All the world is weary now,

"Tis the twilight of the ages

And it's time to quit the plough.

Oh, the very sunlight's weary ere it lightens up the dew,
And its gold is changed and faded before it falls to you.

"Though your colleen's heart be tender,

A tenderer heart is near,

What's the starlight of her glances

When the stars are shining clear,

Who would kiss the fading shadow when the flower face glows above?

Tis the beauty of all beauty that is calling for your love."

Oh, the great gates of the mountain

Have opened once again,

And the sound of song and dancing

Falls upon the ears of men;

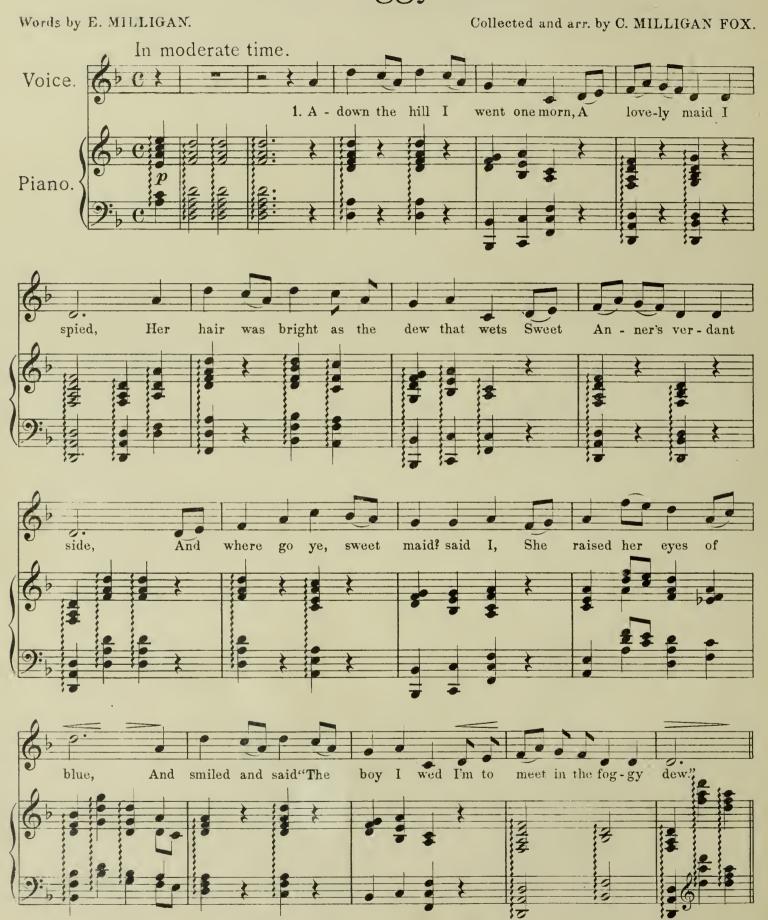
And the Land of Youth lies gleaming flushed with rainbow light and mirth,

And the old enchantment lingers in the honey heart of earth.

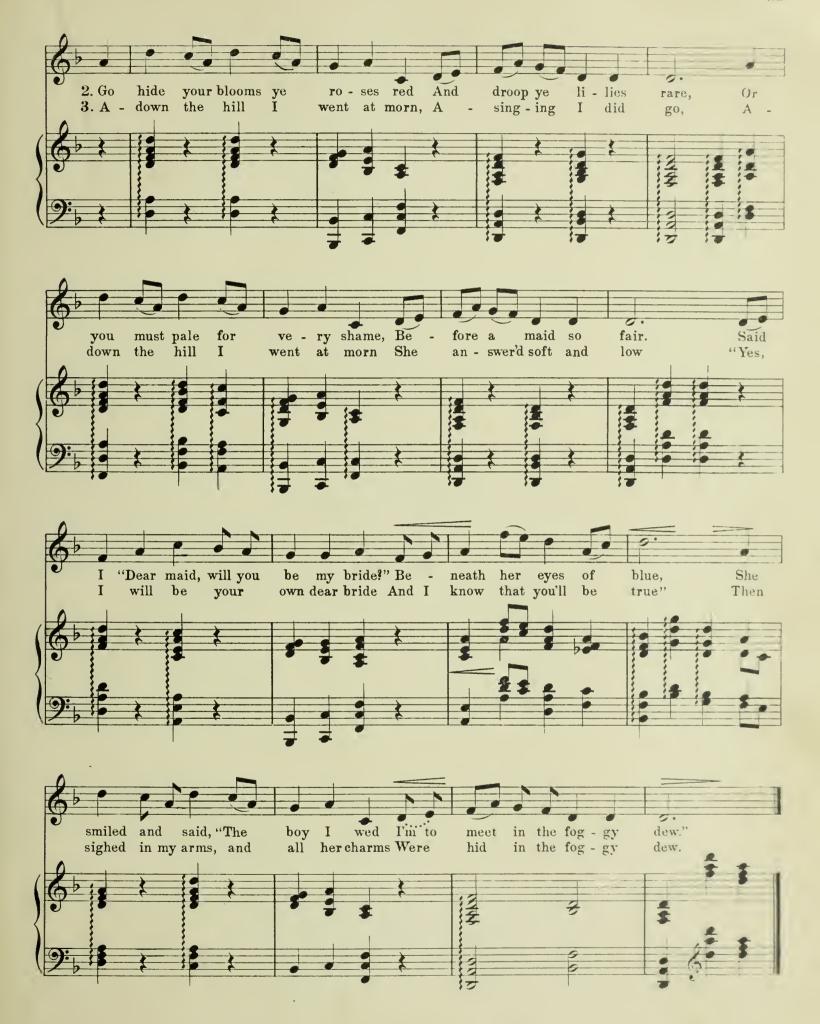
IX.

The Foggy Dew.

The Foggy Dew.



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The Foggy Dew.

A lovely maid I spied,

Her hair was bright as the dew that wets

Sweet Anner's verdant side.

"And where go ye, sweet maid?" said I,

She raised her eyes of blue,

And smiled and said, "The boy I wed

I'm to meet in the foggy dew."

Go hide your blooms, ye roses red,
And droop, ye lilies rare,
Or you must pale for very shame,
Before a maid so fair.
Said I, "Dear maid, will you be my bride?"
Beneath her eyes of blue,
She smiled and said, "The boy I wed
I'm to meet in the foggy dew."

Adown the hill I went at morn,
A-singing I did go,
Adown the hill I went at morn,
She answered soft and low,
"Yes! I will be your own dear bride
And I know that you'll be true,"
Then sighed in my arms, and all her charms
Were hid in the foggy dew.

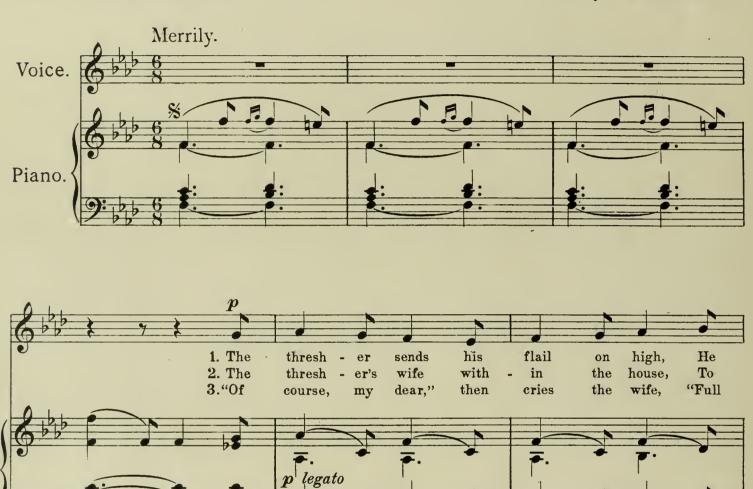
Χ.

The Thresher.

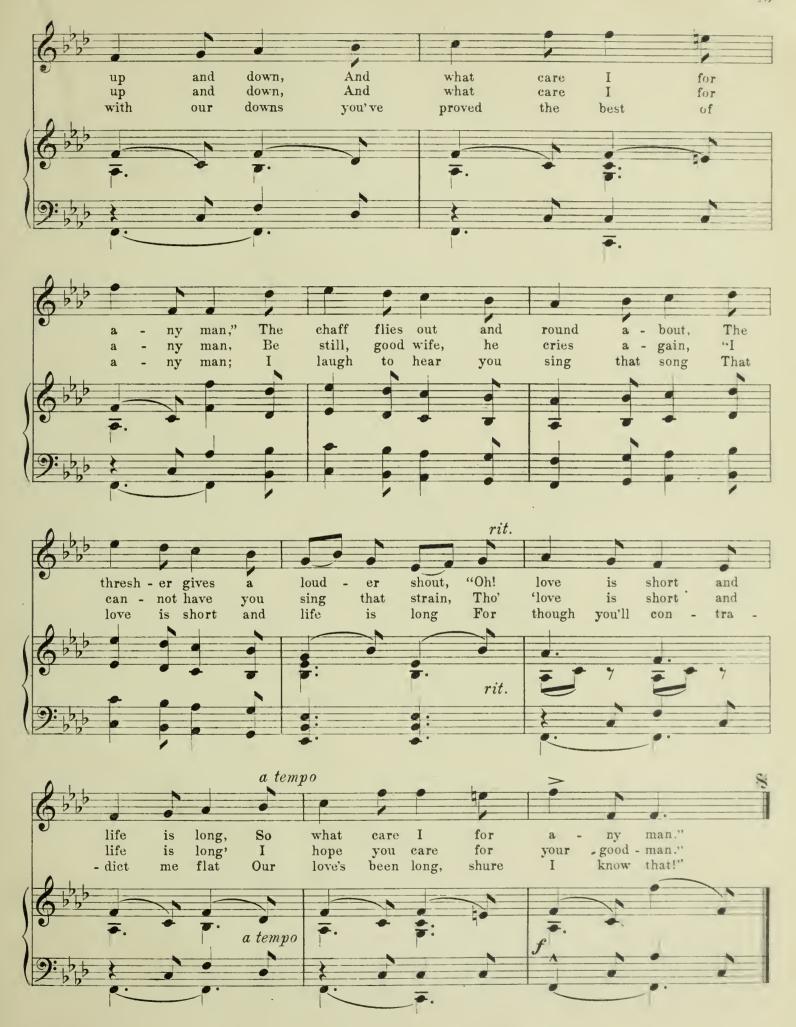
The Thresher.

Words by ALICE C. BUNTEN.

Arr. by C. MILLIGAN FOX.







The Thresher.

THE Thresher sends his flail on high,

He works all day and sings right merrily,

"Up and down and up and down,

And what care I for any man?"

The Chaff flies out and round about,

The Thresher gives a louder shout,

"Oh love is short and life is long,

So what care I for any man?"

The Thresher's wife within the house,
To tease her man, she sings right merrily,
"Up and down and up and down,
And what care I for any man?"
"Be still, good wife," he cries again,
"I cannot have you sing that strain,
Though love is short and life is long,
I hope you care for your goodman."

"Of course, my dear," then cries the wife,
"Full well you know I care most heartily,
With our ups and with our downs,
You've proved the best of any man;
I laugh to hear you sing that song,
That love is short and life is long,
For though you'll contradict me flat,
Our love's been long, shure I know that."

XI.

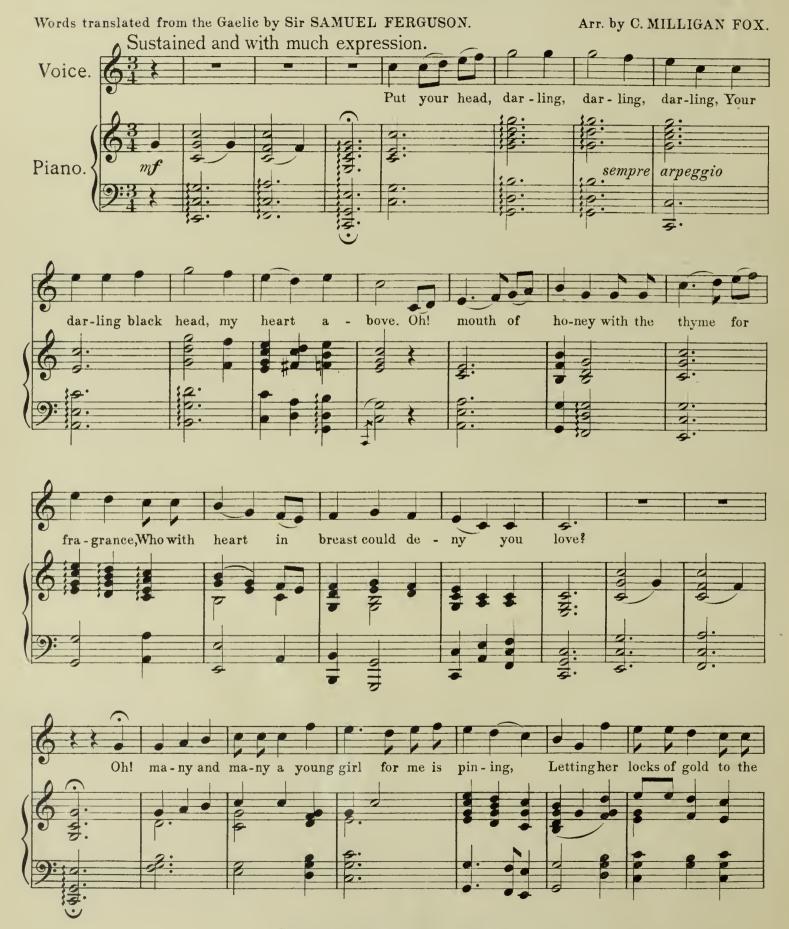
Dear Dark Head.

(Cean Dubh Deelish.)

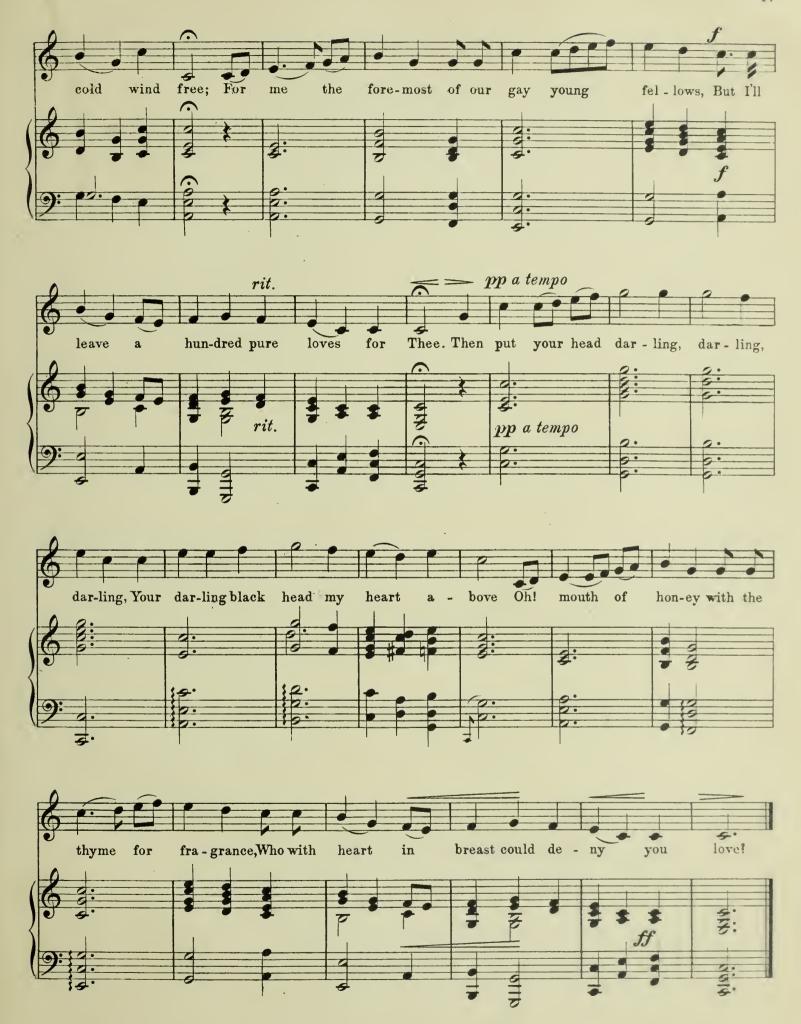
The air of Cean Dubh Deelish was collected by Edward Bunting, and entitled Black Headed Dearie. He took the air down from Miss Mary M'Cracken, of Belfast. Sir Samuel Ferguson wrote the metrical translation of the Irish from Hardiman's Minstrelsy.

Dear Dark Head.

(Cean Dubh Deelish.)



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Dear Dark Head.

(Gean Dubh Deelish.)

PUT your head, darling, darling, darling,
Your darling black head, my heart above;
Oh! mouth of honey with the thyme for fragrance,
Who with heart in breast could deny you love?

Oh! many and many a young girl for me is pining,

Letting her locks of gold to the cold wind free;

For me, the foremost of our gay young fellows,

But I'll leave a hundred pure loves for thee.

Then put your head, darling, darling, darling,
Your darling black head, my heart above;
Oh! mouth of honey with the thyme for fragrance,
Who with heart in breast could deny you love?

A CHEINN dhiubh dhílis, dhílis, dhílis,

Cuir do lámh mhín-géal thorm a náll!

A bhéilín mheala, bh-fuil boladh na time air,

Is duine gan chróidhe nách d-tiubhrádh duit grádh,

Iá cáilineadha air an m-baile-so air builleadh 's air buaidhreadh.

Ag tarraing a n-gruaige 's dá léigeánn le gaóith

Air mo shon-sa an scafaire is fèarr ann san tuaithe,

Acht do thréigfinn an méid sin air run Dhil mo chróidhe,

A's cuir do cheann díleas, díleas, díleas,

Cuir do cheann díleas tharm anall

A bhéilín mheala, a bh-fuil boladh na tíme air,

Is duine gan chróidhe nach d-tiubhradh duit grádh.

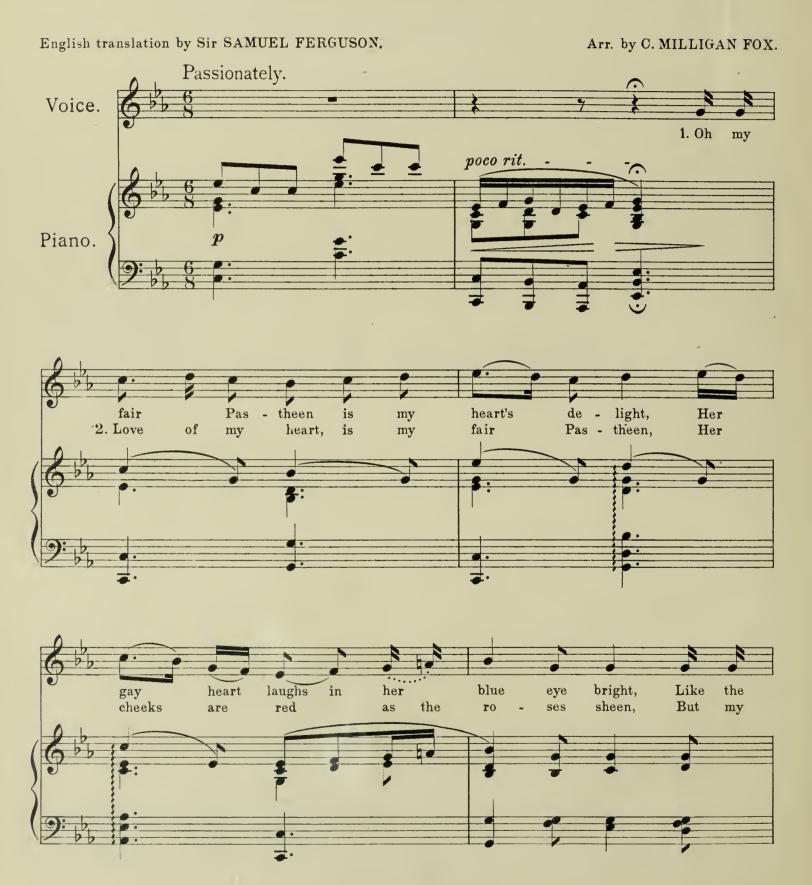
XII.

Pastheen Fionn.

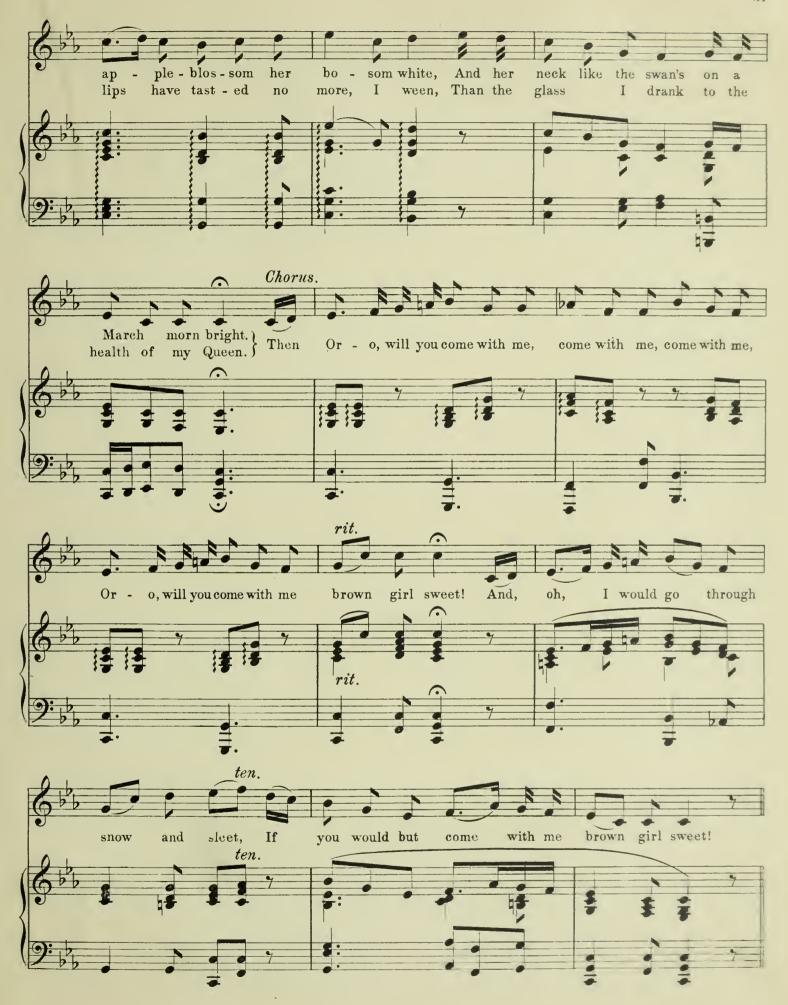
Pastheen Fionn is an ancient and popular Connaught Song. I give the Gaelic from Hardiman's Irish Minstrelsy and Samuel Ferguson's translation. The chorus has been frequently used by our bards. Carolan used it in his "George Brabazon," and it may be found in other places. The air has been inserted in many of our standard Irish Collections.

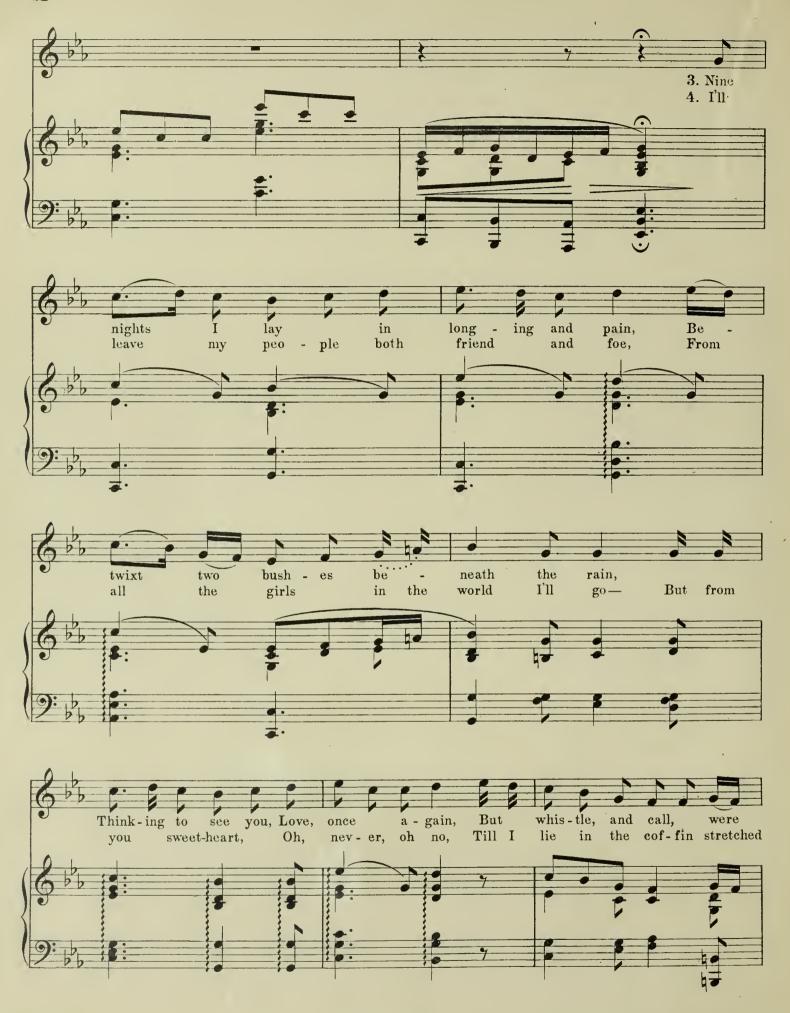
Sung by Mr Owen Colyer and Miss Fielding Roselle and Mr H. Alexander.

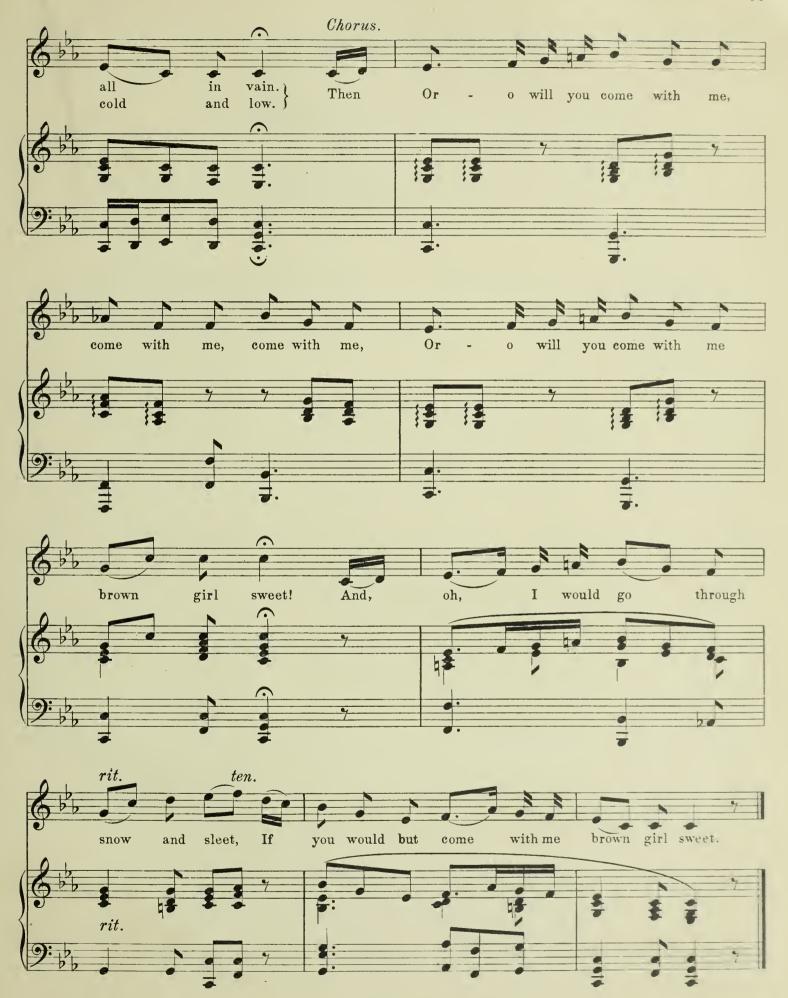
Pastheen Fionn.



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Pastheen Fionn.

H, my fair Pastheen is my heart's delight,
Her gay heart laughs in her blue eye bright;
Like the apple-blossom her bosom white,
And her neck, like the swan's on a March morn, bright.
Then Oro, will you come with me, come with me, come with me,
Oro, will you come with me, brown girl sweet!
And, oh, I would go through snow and sleet
If you would come with me, my brown girl sweet.

Love of my heart, is my fair Pastheen, Her cheeks are red as the rose's sheen, But my lips have tasted no more, I ween, Than the glass I drank to the health of my queen.

Then Oro, will you, etc.

Nine nights I lay in longing and pain, Betwixt two bushes, beneath the rain, Thinking to see you, love once again, But whistle, and call were all in vain.

Then Oro, will you, etc.

I'll leave my people, both friend and foe,
From all the girls in the world I'll go,
But from you, sweetheart, oh never, oh no,
Till I lie in the coffin stretched cold and low!
Then Oro, will you, etc.

RADH le m' anam mo Pháistín Fionn

A cróidhe 's a h-aigne ag gáireadh liom

A cíocha geala mar bhláth na n-úbhall
'S a píob mar eala lá Márta!

A's óró bog liom-sa 'bog liom-sa 'bog liom-sa!

A's óró bog liom-sa! A chailín dheas, dhonn!

A's óro bhoghfainn, dá m-bog fádh-sa liom,

A d-tús an phluide go sásta.

Cara mo chróidhe mo Pháistín Fionn Bh-fuil a dá ghruadh air lasadh mar bhláth na ccrann!

Ta me-si sáer air mo Pháistín Fionn, Acht amháin gur ólas a sláinte. A's óró bog liom-sa, etc. Bhídh me naói n-óidhche a'm lúidhe go bocht O bheith sínte raoí an dílinn idis dha thor; A chomainn mo chróidhe stigh! 's mé ag smuaineadh ort, 'S ná 'faghainn-si le fead 'na le glaodh thú. A's óró bog liom-sa, etc.

Tréigfead mo charaid 's mo cháirde gaóil, A's tréigfid mé a maireann de mhnáibh a t-sáoighil; Ní thréigfead le'm mharthainn tú, ghrádh mo chróidhe Go sínfeor a g-cómhra faoi chlár me. A's óró bog liom-sa, etc.

XIII.

Farewell, my Gentle Harp.

(The Lament of Rory Dall.)

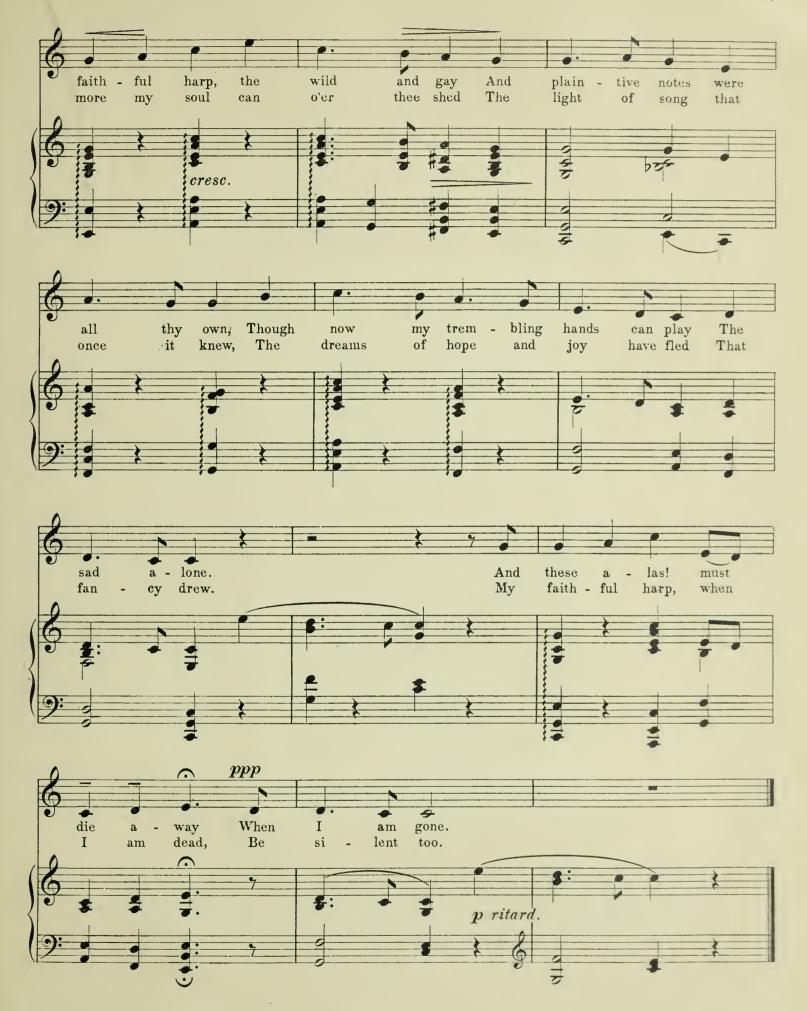
The air is attributed to one of the greatest of Ulster Harpers Rory Dall O'Cahan, who after the downfall of Hugh O'Neill, resided principally in Scotland. He played before James VI. of that Kingdom, l. of England. He died about 1650, at Castle Eglinton, in extreme old age.

Farewell my gentle Harp.

Arr. by C. MILLIGAN FOX.



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Farewell, my Gentle Harp.

FAREWELL, my gentle harp, farewell,
Thy master's toils are nearly o'er;
These chords that wont with joy to swell,
Shall thrill no more.

My faithful harp, the wild and gay
And plaintive notes were all thy own,
Though now my trembling hands can play
The sad alone,
And these, alas! must die away
When I am gone.

And oh! 'tis well that age and pain

May find a home where mercy dwells,

For here the wounded heart in vain

Its sorrow tells.

No more my soul can o'er thee shed

The light of song that once it knew,

The dreams of hope and joy have fled

That fancy drew,

My faithful harp, when I am dead,

Be silent too.



No Gaelic words survive in association with this air except the opening line of the lament, "Ta me dall, aosda, a's bacach," ("! am blind, old and beggared." The English words are by an anonymous author, who published the air in an extinct Dubtin Magazine in 1842, giving it as taken from a miscellaneous collection of MSS, with a learned disquisition on the surviving compositions of Rory Dall. These include Port Gordon, Port Lenox, Port Atholl, and the exquisile air to which Burns wrote, "Fare thee weel, thou first and fairest." O Cahan's harp key was for long in the possession of Lord MacDonald in Skye, and is alluded to in Dr. Johnson's Tour in the Hebrides.







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