

# THE STAR OF DONEGAL Traditional (Ireland)

One evening fair to take the air alone I chanced to stray  
Down by a limpid silv'ry stream that flows beside the way,  
I heard two lovers talking by an ancient ruined hall  
And the fair one's name was Mary Jane, the Star of Donegal.

My lovely maid, the youth he said, I'm going across the foam  
Unto the land of stars and stripes where peace and plenty flows  
I want your faithful promise that you'll wed with none at all  
Until I do return to you and the lands of Donegal.

She blushed and sighed and then replied, it grieves my heart full sore  
To think you are compelled to go and leave the Shamrock shore,  
Here is my faithful promise that I'll wed with none at all,  
But stay at home and do not roam from the lands of Donegal.

My sweet fair maid, the youth then said, at home I cannot stay  
To California's gold fields I'm bound to cross the sea,  
To accumulate a fortune great, to build a splendid hall  
To decorate and cultivate the lands of Donegal.

She raised her lily-white hands and said Yon castle in its day  
With all its plains and large demesnes from Lifford to the sea  
Belonged to our ancestors with many a splendid hall  
And if my father had his rights, I'd be heir of Donegal.

My darling maid, the youth then said, the day is drawing near,  
When Irishmen will return again from all their long career  
Our holy land by God's command the fairest land of all.  
And Heaven will see old Ireland free, Bright Star of Donegal.

She blushed and sighed and then replied, Heaven grant that we may  
see  
St. Patrick's isle of Saints to shine great glorious and free.  
If that be so there's none will go to New York or Montreal,  
But will stay at home and will not roam from the lands of Donegal.

He clasped her in his arms and said, My darling well you know  
I love you very dearly and loth I am to go,  
Let us get wed without fear or dread, that puts an end to all,  
And then I will have my darling girl, the Star of Donegal.

She gave consent and off they went to meet with Father Hugh  
Who joined their hands in wedlock bands without any more ado  
From Derry quay they sailed away and bade farewell to all  
And now they're in America far away from Donegal.