

The CROPPY BOY

(Dubliners version)

'T WAS EARLY EARLY ALL IN THE SPRING
WHEN THE BIRDS DID WHISTLE AND SWEETLY SING
CHANGING THEIR NOTES ALL FROM TREE TO TREE
AND THE SONG THEY SANG WAS "OLD IRELAND FREE"

BUT AS I WENT WALKING UP WEXFORD STREET
MY OWN FIRST COUSIN I DID CHANCE TO MEET
MY OWN FIRST COUSIN DID MY LIFE BETRAY
AND FOR ONE BARE GUINEA SOLD MY LIFE AWAY

'T WAS EARLY EARLY ALL IN THE NIGHT
THE YEOMAN CAVALRY GAVE ME A FRIGHT
THE YEOMAN CAVALRY WERE MY DOWNFALL
AND TAKEN WAS I BY LORD CORNWALL

AS I WENT WALKING UP WEXFORD HILL
NOW WHO COULD BLAME ME TO CRY MY FILL?
I LOOKED BEHIND AND I LOOKED BEFORE
AND MY AGED MOTHER I'LL SEE NO MORE

AND WHEN I STOOD ON THE SCAFFOLD HIGH
MY OWN DEAR FATHER WAS STANDING BY
WELL MY OWN DEAR FATHER DID ME DENY
AND THE NAME HE GAVE ME WAS "THE CROPPY BOY"

IN DUNGANNON TOWN THIS YOUNG MAN DIED
THERE IN DUNGANNON DOES HIS BODY LIE
SO ALL YOU STRANGERS THAT DO PASS BY
STOP AND SHED A TEAR FOR THE CROPPY BOY!