

SKIBBEREEN

"OH FATHER DEAR, I OFTEN HEAR
YOU SPEAK OF ERIN'S ISLE
HER LOFTY SCENES, HER VALLEYS GREEN,
HER MOUNTAINS RUDE AND WILD
THEY SAY IT IS A LOVELY LAND
WHEREIN A PRINCE MIGHT DWELL
THE WHY DID YOU ABANDON IT? -
THE REASON TO ME TELL!"

"OH SON, I LOVED OUR NATIVE LAND
WITH ENERGY AND PRIDE
BUT A BLIGHT CAME OVER ALL OUR CROPS -
OUR SHEEP AND CATTLE DIED
THE RENT AND TAXES WERE TO PAY
AND I COULD NOT THEM REDEEM
AND THAT'S THE CRUEL REASON
THAT I LEFT OLD SKIBBEREEN!

"IT'S WELL THAT I REMEMBER
THAT BLEAK DECEMBER DAY
THE LANDLORD AND HIS BAILIFFS CAME
TO DRIVE US ALL AWAY.
THEY SET MY ROOF ON FILE
WITH THEIR CURSED ENGLISH SPLEEN
AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON
WHY I LEFT OLD SKIBBEREEN!

"YOUR MOTHER TOO - GOD REST HER SOUL -
LAY ON THE SNOWY GROUND,
SHE FAINTED IN HER ANGUISH
SEEING THE DESOLATION ROUND
SHE NEVER SPOKE BUT PASSED AWAY
FROM LIFE TO IMMORTAL DREAM
AND NOW SHE LIES IN THE COLD COLD GROUND
NEAR THE ABBEY OF SKIBBEREEN!

"IT'S WELL THAT I REMEMBER TOO
THE YEAR OF FORTY-EIGHT
WHEN I AROSE WITH ENGLAND'S FOES
TO FIGHT AGAINST OUR FATE
THEY HUNTED US TO THE MOUNTAINS THEN
AS TRAITORS TO THE QUEEN
AND THAT'S ANOTHER REASON
WHY I LEFT OLD SKIBBEREEN!"

continued . . . /

SKIBBEREEN

**"OH FATHER DEAR - THE DAY WILL COME
WHEN IN ANSWER TO THE CALL
EACH IRISHMAN BOTH YOUNG AND OLD
WILL RALLY, ONE AND ALL
I'LL BE THE MAN TO LEAD THE VAN
BENEATH OUR FLAG OF GREEN
AND LOUD AND HIGH WE'LL RAISE THE CRY -
REVENGE FOR SKIBBEREEN!"**