

GALWAY BAY

(Francis Fahy)

'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
OUR DAUGHTER ROSE AS LIKE HER GROWS
AS APRIL DAWN TO DAY
OUR ELDEST SON OUR 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 THE GRASS 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!

