

PATRICK REILLY

Performed by: Mrs Emma Doyle

My name is Patrick Reilly and the truth I will make known,
For I was born in Clodis¹ near the county of Tryo.²
My parents raised me tenderly having no child but me,
Tis with them I lived contented to the age of twenty-three.

At last I took a notion for to cross the raging sea,
In search of some promotion unto Amerikay.
To seek employment in that land my fortune to obtain,
And when I'll have security I'll return straight home again.

At last I had a sweetheart, McCormick was her name,
When she found I was for parting straightway to me she came,
Saying, 'Pat, can this be possible? You're going to prove unkind,
And leave me broken-hearted in sorrow here behind.'

'Myrann,' I say, 'Don't be afraid, it's you I do adore,
My daily thought shall be on you whilst on Columba's³ shore.
And if ever I do return again, if God spares me my life,
Here is my hand in promise I will make you my wife.'

This maid she seemed quite reconciled and home straightway she went,
'Twas early next morning to the Captain Pilot went.
She swore that I belayed her and robbed her of five pound,
And thought to force her to a pool where she would soon be drowned.

The judge then charged the jury by the words that were severe,
Saying, 'This maid she must be rightified for all that she do swear.'
The jury gave the verdict and loud the judge did cry:
'Your cruelty unto this maid, young Reilly, you must die.'

And when I heard my sentence passed my tears began to flow,
Thinking on my mother dear in sorrow, grief, and woe;
She being far advanced in years having no child but me,
How will she stand to see her son hung on the gallows tree?

As I'm going to face my God all on this very day,
I never injured that false maid that swore my life away;
May the Lord have mercy on my soul, good Christians for me pray.

¹ *Editor's note: This is likely a reference to 'Clones,' a town in western Co Monaghan near the border with Fermanagh.*

² *Editor's note: This is likely a reference to 'Tyrone,' the county on the northern border of Fermanagh.*

³ *Editor's note: Likely a mispronunciation of 'Columbus's' shore—that is, a reference to North America.*