



Lamentation on Stephen M'Keown for the

FORKHILL MURDER

Young men and maidens attention give while I these lines unfold
To hear this cruel outrage will make your blood run cold,
Near Forkhill a young woman was murdered there of late,
Mary M'Shane the victim, met an untimely fate.

The late Mary M'Shane was a native of Longfield,
She little thought that evening she her life would have to yield,
But as she was returning home as plainly you may see,
The villain lay in ambush to prove her destiny.

It being on Sunday evening and that you all well know,
This maid she left her dwelling and to Forkhill did go,
To purchase things she wanted but returning home from town,
The murderer lay concealed and in anger brought her down.

When this bloody deed he'd done detection on him gazed,
And in affright he looked around in terror and amaze,
Then from the place he did decamp, and in speed he went away,
But he was taken prisoner without much more delay.

The rest of that unhappy day what passed he never cared,
'Tis true he slew young Mary M'Shane and public vengeance dared
But a woman soon against him swore, the same he now must own,
She saw him near the murdered girl when he threw away the stone

The morning of the trial the gaoler came and unto him did say,
Prepare yourself M'Keown you must appear to day,
And it's every ones opinion you are the guilty man,
For the murder of young Mary before the judge you'll stand.

The judge put on his black cap, and solemnly did say,
Stephen M'Keown you are found guilty, but use your time to pray,
For the murder of this beautiful girl I sentence you to die,
On the 21st. of August upon the gallows high.

When he received his sentence it grieved him full sore,
To see his parents standing by it vexed him the more,
So let this be a warning to all that's low and high,
He's found guilty of the murder and sentenced for to die.

I hope you will take warning all you that hear my song,
First ask the Lord's protection, and then you can't do wrong,
And now he's doomed and sentenced to end his life in shame,
The neighbours think no other man did murder Miss M'Shane.