

The LITTLE BEGGARMAN

**I AM A LITTLE BEGGARMAN AND BEGGING I HAVE BEEN,
FOR THREE SCORE YEARS IN THIS LITTLE ISLE OF GREEN.
I'M KNOWN ALONG THE LIFFEY FROM THE BASIN TO THE ZOO,
AND EV'RY BODY CALLS ME BY THE NAME OF JOHNNY DHU.
OF ALL TRADES A-GOING, SURE THE BEGGING IS THE BEST,
FOR WHEN A MAN IS TIRED HE CAN SIT HIM DOWN AND REST.
HE CAN BEG FOR HIS DINNER, HE HAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
BUT TO SLIP AROUND THE CORNER WITH HIS OULD RIGADOO.**

**I SLEPT IN A BARN ONE NIGHT IN CURRABAWN,
A SHOCKING WET NIGHT IT WAS BUT I SLEPT UNTIL THE DAWN;
THERE WAS HOLES IN THE ROOF AND THE RAIN DROPS COMING THROUGH,
AND THE RATS AND THE CATS WERE ALL PLAYING PEEK-A-BOO.
WHO DID I WAKEN BUT THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE,
WITH HER WHITE SPOTTED APRON AND HER FINE GINGHAM BLOUSE;
SHE BEGAN TO GET EXCITED AND ALL I SAID WAS "BOO!,"
SURE DON'T BE AFRAID AT ALL, 'TIS ONLY JOHNNY DHU."**

**I MET A LITTLE GIRL WHEN A-WALKING OUT ONE DAY.
"GOOD MORROW, LITTLE FLAXEN-HAIRED GIRL," I DID SAY:
"GOOD MORROW, LITTLE BEGGARMAN, AND HOW DO YOU DO,
WITH YOUR RAGS AND YOUR TAGS AND YOUR OULD RIGADOO."
I'LL BUY A PAIR OF LEGGINGS AND A COLLAR AND A TIE,
AND A NICE YOUNG LADY I'LL GO COURTING BY AND BY;
I'LL BUY A PAIR OF GOGGLES AND I'LL COLOUR THEM WITH BLUE
AND AN OLD-FASHIONED LADY I WILL MAKE HER TOO.**

**SO ALL ALONG THE HIGHROAD WITH MY BAG UPON MY BACK
OVER THE FIELDS WITH MY BULGING HEAVY SACK;
WITH HOLES IN MY SHOES AND MY TOES A-PEEPING THROUGH
SINGING SKIN-A-MA-LINK-A-DOODLE WITH MY OLD RIGADOO,
OH, I MUST BE GOING TO BED, FOR IT'S GETTING LATE AT NIGHT
THE FIRE IS ALL RAKED AND AND NOW 'TIS OUT THE LIGHT:
FOR NOW YOU'VE HEARD THE STORY OF MY OULD RIGADOO
SO GOODBYE AND GOD BE WITH YOU, FROM OLD JOHNNY DHU!**