

The OLD ORANGE FLUTE

IN THE COUNTY TYRONE, NEAR THE TOWN OF DUNGANNON
'T WAS MANY THE RUCTION MESELF HAD A HAND IN
BOB WILLIAMSON LIVED THERE, A WEAVER BY TRADE
AND ALL OF US THOUGHT HIM A STOUT ORANGE BLADE
ON THE TWELFTH OF JULY AS IT YEARLY DID COME
BOB WOULD MARCH WITH HIS FLUTE TO THE SOUND OF THE DRUM
YOU MAY TALK OF YOUR HARP, YOUR PIANO OR LUTE
BUT NOTHING COMPARES WITH THE OLD ORANGE FLUTE!

TOOR-A-LOO, TOOR-A-LEE
SURE IT'S SIX MILES FROM BANGOR TO DONAGHADEE!

BUT BOB THE DECEIVER, HE TOOK US ALL IN
AND MARRIED A PAPIST NAMED BRIGIT MCGINN
TURNED PAPISH HIMSELF, AND FORSOOK THE OLD CAUSE
THAT GAVE US OUR FREEDOM, RELIGION, AND LAWS
NOW THE BOYS IN THE TOWNLAND MADE SOME COMMENT ON IT
AND BOB HAD TO FLY TO THE PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT
HE FLED WITH HIS WIFE AND HIS FIXIN'S TO BOOT
AND ALONG WITH THE LATTER, THE OLD ORANGE FLUTE

NOW AT CHAPEL ON SUNDAY TO ATONE FOR PAST DEEDS
BOB SAID PATERS AND AVES AND COUNTED HIS BEADS
TILL AFTER A WHILE AT THE PRIESTS' OWN DESIRE
BOB CAME WITH HIS FLUTE FOR TO PLAY IN THE CHOIR
HE CAME WITH THE OLD FLUTE TO PLAY AT THE MASS
AND THE INSTRUMENT SHIVERED AND SIGHED, OH ALAS
AND TRY THOUGH HE WOULD, THOUGH IT MADE A GREAT NOISE
THAT FLUTE WOULD PLAY ONLY "THE PROTESTANT BOYS"

NOW BOB STARTED AND JUMPED AND GOT IN A GREAT FLUTTER
AND HE THREW THE OLD FLUTE IN THE BLEST HOLY WATER
HE THOUGHT THAT THAT CHARM WOULD MAKE SOME OTHER SOUND
BUT WHEN HE TRIED IT AGAIN, IT PLAYED "CROPPIES LIE DOWN"!
NOW FOR ALL HE COULD WHISTLE AND FINGER AND BLOW
TO PLAY PAPISH MUSIC HE FOUND IT "NO GO"
"KICK THE POPE" AND "BOYNE WATER" IT FREELY WOULD SOUND
BUT ONE PAPISH SQUEAK IN IT COULDN'T BE FOUND

AT A COUNCIL OF PRIESTS THAT WAS HELD THE NEXT DAY
THEY DECIDED TO BANISH THE OLD FLUTE AWAY
THEY COULDN'T GET HERESY OUT OF ITS HEAD
SO THEY BOUGHT BOB A NEW ONE TO PLAY IN ITS STEAD
WELL, THE OLD FLUTE WAS DOOMED, AND ITS FATE WAS PATHETIC:
IT WAS TRIED AND WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE AS HERETIC
BUT AS THE FLAMES LEAPED AROUND IT, YOU COULD HEAR A GREAT NOISE
'T WAS THE OLD FLUTE STILL PLAYING "THE PROTESTANT BOYS"!