

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Donegan's Daughter

Donegan's Daughter  
(Percy French)

When Donegan came from the States  
Himself and his daughter were seen  
Parading the principal streets  
Of beautiful Ballyporeen  
Her cheeks were as red as a rose,  
Her hair was a beautiful brown  
And the lads I suppose  
Were as thick now as crows  
All tied to the heel of her gown

There were short men and long men  
And weak men and strong men  
And right men and wrong men  
Were all to be seen  
But Donegan's daughter from over the water  
She gave them no quarter in Ballyporeen

She sang the most beautiful songs  
Of the words we have never a hint  
For her fingers went hammer and tongs  
In a running accompaniment  
Like a dog running after a rat  
such scrimmaging never was heard  
Then down went her claws, like a murdering cat  
When it leaps on the back of a bird

At every party, she sang them all forte  
From Ah, Che la Morte  
To the wearing of green  
Oh Donegan's daughter from over the water  
'Twas little they taught her in Ballyporeen

The Geraghtys gave a grand ball  
The girls were all ribbon and tape  
But Miss Donegan bested them all  
With her perfectly wonderful shape  
And when she was taking the floor  
With a high-stepping bachelor boy  
The rest of us scowled in the doorway and growled  
That 'twas him we would surely destroy

There was kissing and squeezing  
And coaxing and teasing  
And sure there's no reason  
Such things should be seen  
But Donegan's daughter from over the water  
'Twas she made the slaughter  
In Ballyporeen

Coming home we were crossing a stream  
I thought to beleaguer the belle;  
A struggle, a kiss and a scream  
And into the water we fell  
To me that can swim like a trout  
'Twas only a trifling reverse  
But when she came out,  
Faith there wasn't much doubt  
She was changed very much for the worse

For her roses had wilted  
Her wig it was tilted  
The figure she'd built, it  
Was washed away clean  
Oh! Donegan's daughter  
From under the water  
Two pins would have bought her  
In Ballyporeen

JC