

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Slip Jig and Reel

Slip Jig and Reel  
(Steve Tilson)

He was barely a man, in his grandfather's coat  
And sewn in the lining was a ten shilling note  
Goodbye to the family, goodbye to the shore  
Until I taste a fortune, I will see you no more  
Then a boat on the ocean tossed about like a cork  
Until one fine morning they sighted New York  
And he stood on the gangplank and he breathed in the air  
Hello Land of Plenty - I have come for my share

Cho: And he did like the ladies and rise and the fall  
Of their ankles and their dresses down in the dancehall  
And a-rolling the dice, and a-spinning the wheel  
But he took most delight in the slip jigs and reels

Now there's talk of a pistol and maybe a knife  
But all are agreed there was somebody's wife  
Some kind of commotion, a terrible fight  
And he left one man dead and ran into the night  
Next a train to St. Louis, just one jump ahead  
He slept one eye open, with a gun 'neath his head  
But he dreamed of the green fields and the mountains of home  
While crossing the plains where the buffaloes roam

So they called him the Kid and by twenty one  
All he had learned was the power of the gun  
And by twenty three he had shot five men down  
Who had got in his way as he rambled around  
But a bad reputation is a hard thing to bear  
For mothers pour scorn and young children do stare  
But he found consolation in flash company  
And life ain't so bad with a girl on your knee

There are bones on the desert there are buzzards that fly  
In high lazy circles just hoping you'll die  
But in matters of cruelty it must be said  
That a landlord will skin your bones long ere you're dead  
It was wild Mesqualeros I have heard people say  
In the deadliest ambush near old Santa Fe  
A young buck was taken, togged up in a coat  
And sewn in the lining was a ten shilling note

Written by Steve Tilson, based on an old photograph.

Recorded by Barry Gleeson.

MR

apr97