

The Load of Kale Plants

Joe Holmes *Killyrammer, Co. Antrim*



Oh, sweet Ballymoney of fame and renown
I went to the fair being held in that town
On the first day of may in the year '45
A very fine day for the bees for to hive

Oh I being young my fortune to advance
I went to the fair with a load of kale plant
Aye and up the Main Street before Robinson's mart
I lowered me cart with a proud beating heart

Oh, the boys from Lough Gill and likewise Armoy
They all gathered 'round me my plants for to buy
I addressed them with words both proper and plain
When I said forever they all said amen

There was Pamphrey and Dutch aye and Curly so sweet
Aye and rousing Drumhead that grow up like leek
Cow kale, Paul Early, boys eat while you're able
And pickled for dressing a gentleman's table

Now my plants are all sold and I wish them long life
I have nothing to do but look out for a wife
The first that I view well I'll mark all her points
For I don't want a wife that is stiff at the joints

The first that I viewed well she wore a silk gown
With her long yellow hair and her locks hanging down
Says I to meself "Me girl, you're a swizer!"
And I stood her a drink with the give the big measure

And then I presumed for to kiss this fair dame
And then I resumed for to ask her name
Well indeed and kind sir my name is McCloy
I'm the peat codger's daughter for the town of Armoy



Advanced: Lively

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