

Adventures of Larry Mc. Flinn, IN THE ARMY.

In the year eighteen hundred and sweet forty three,
I first took a notion a soldier to be,
I listed in Dublin with one Serjeant Speers,
For to serve Her Majesty twenty one years.

(Spoken.)—By my soul, Serjeant, that's a long time to serve an apprenticeship to one person; but, here—tell me what I am to get at the expiration of my time! Why, Larry, says he, you will receive a shilling a day for life, and one shilling and a penny if you should lose your head, besides you have nothing to do but walk about with your hands in your pocket like a gentleman; Faith, Serjeant honey, says I like well to be a gentleman, and I hope you will stick to your bargain.

Then before a Justice of Peace they me took,
And into my hands they put a large book,
Come Larry says he, swear to be true to the Queen,
O yes sir, says Larry, I'll swear anything.

(Spoken.)—Larry says he, I suppose you don't understand me, you must swear to be true to Her Majesty, O yes sir says Larry, I'll swear anything at all you bid me, ah! Larry says he, you must say after me, say on sir says I, and I'll swear after you, for I value an oath no more than a dog does his father.

It's easy next morning to Barrack we went,
And into a room to a comrade was sent,
Five shillings of bounty the Serjeant gave me,
To help for to rise us a bit of a spree.

(Spoken.)—Well sir next morning I was dress'd up with a red coat, polished shoes and frilled shirt, thinks I to myself I'm going to be a gentleman now any how, but faith I was sorely mistaken, when in walks a little bit of a thing called a lance-corporal, shouting turn out the recruits for drill! Larry, says he you must come to drill, arrab be aisay sir says I with your nonsense, don't you know I listed to be a gentleman, but Larry says he, you must learn to be a gentleman first, for if you do so by orders you'll go to the black-hole, take him away says a fellow with a head on him like a bushel of potatoes, and a nose like a jackass. Well gentlemen says I, I swore to obey one master, now I see you want to make me break my oath, for you seem to be all masters here, but says I to myself I had as good go for this time, but faith I soon give them leg-bail for my honesty.

Six hours in the day they kept me to drill,
Confined in a Barracks against my own will,
One very dark night I scaled the Barrack wall,
Says I to myself now a fig for you all.

(Spoken.)—Well sir, in about six weeks afterwards I went to see Donnybrook Fair along with my own sweetheart Kitty Flanagan, shure myself shouldered her into a tent to get a drop of the creature, when who the devil should walk in but Serjeant Speers and six of his party, and seized myself like a murderer, arrab be aisay, says I, till we have a little drop together, and while we were drinking I made Kitty slip out to one of the shows and get me a bear's skin; then they took and handcuffed

myself, marched me up to the barracks and crammed into the black-hole, where I lay the whole night shivering and shaking like a dog in a wet sack.

As soon as the black-hole I did enter in,
It's under my shirt I put the bear skin,
I knew very well by what I heard them say,
It's by a court martial I'll be tried the next day.

(Spoken.)—Well sir, next morning the serjeant came to the black-hole, and says to myself, Larry Mc. Flinn get ready for a court martial, faith sir says I, you need not tell me for I am preparing myself all night for it. After some time I was led out to the place of trial, and the first thing myself spies was the Isle of Man coat of arms, called the triangle, my court martial being read, strip sir says the Colonel, forgive me sir, says I, as this is the first crime, come strip sir says he, you shall receive two hundred lashes on the bare skin, why sir says I, that's the very thing I want, and hope that you will not allow them to flog me any where but on the bear skin, why strip you rascal says the Colonel, I pledge my honour it shall be on the bear skin you shall receive it, and no place else, since you have pledged your honour sir, I will strip, in taking off my clothes he says to the Drum Major I hope you will make your men do their duty, so when myself took off my shirt, well, says the Colonel, what the devil is this he has got on his back, why don't you see it's the bear skin, then the officers and the rest of the men fell a laughing, well Larry says he, you have come paddy over me for the first time, I forgive you for the first time, but the next time you come here the bear skin won't save you.

I learned to march with the rest of the boys,
And then I was put to the gun exercise;
To go through their manoeuvres myself was not fit,
So to drive away sorrow I drank out my kit.

(Spoken.)—Well sir, when the 24th came on, we were all ordered out for inspection, but the devil a kit poor Larry had, I had neither shirt, shoes or stockings, so I took and filled my knapsack full of straw out of one of the beds, then I stole a young cat and put her into my knapsack amongst the straw very comfortable, so when we went out to parade, they all layed down their knapsacks for inspection, but I took good care to keep mine upon my back, and the devil a word the poor thing spoke the whole time, so when the Captain came to myself, well Larry says he, where's your kit, faith sir, says I, I have it here on my back, why don't you lay it down till I see what you have got in it, faith sir says I, if I lay it down it will run-a-way, why Larry says he, it's impossible for your kit to run-a-way, faith an' it would sir says I, well lay it down and if it runs away I'll buy you another one, very well says I, I take you at your word

I opened my knapsack, which made them all stare,
The cat she jump'd out, and run through the Barrack square,

The Captain from laughing he could not refrain,
He says I will buy you a new kit again,
The Captain he made me his servant next day,
And then I had but one master to obey,
I now serve the Captain instead of the Queen,
And that is the humours of Larry Mc. Flinn

