

# The Banks Of The Bann

Ireland / USA / Canada

earliest date: before 1862 (Ballad Index)

adaption, arrangement and typesetting by Klaus Stezenbach ©2006 www.kstez.de

1. When first to this coun - try as a stran - ger I came, I  
placed my af - fec - tion on a come - ly young dame. She  
be - ing fair and ten - der, her waist small and slen - der, kind  
na - ture had formed her for my o - ver-throw.

2. On the banks of Bann water, where I first beheld her,  
she appeared like fair Juno or a Grecian queen.  
Her eyes shone like diamonds, her hair softly twining,  
her cheeks were like roses, or like blood drops in snow.
3. It was her cruel parents that first caused our variance,  
all because I was poor and of a low degree.  
But I'll do my endeavour to earn my love's favour,  
although she is come of a rich family.
4. My name is Delaney, it's a name that won't shame me,  
and if I had saved money, I'd have plenty in store.  
But drinking and courting, night rambling and sporting  
were the cause of my ruin and absence from home.
5. Had I all the money that's in the West Indies  
or had I the gold of the African shore,  
I would spend it on pearls, and on you my brown girl,  
for there's no other love in this world I adore.
6. And now that I've found her I'm contented forever,  
I'll put rings on her fingers and gold in her hair.  
And we'll live on the banks of the lovely Bann river,  
and in all sorts of splendour I will style her my dear.