

The Green Mossy Banks of the Lea

1. When first to this coun - try a stran - ger Cu - ri - - o - - si - - ty
 caused me to roam Ov - er Eur - ope was all to be ran - ger When I
 left Phil - a - - del - phia my home. I _____ quick - ly sailed o - - ver to
 Eng - land Per - - formed a _____ great beau - ty to shine And at length then I e -
 spied a fair dam - sel And I wished in my heart she were mine.

Alternative

(a)

2. I stepped up and I wished her good morning
 When her fair cheeks did blush like the rose
 Saying: The green meadows they are charming,
 And your guardian I'll be if you choose.
 She said: Kind sir, I ne'er want a guardian
 And, young man, you're a stranger to me,
 And yonder my father he's a-coming
 Over the green mossy banks of the Lea.

3. I waited till up came her father
 To pluck up my spirits once more.
 Saying: Kind sir, if this be your daughter
 That beautiful girl I'll adore.
 Ten thousand a year is my portion
 And the lady your daughter shall be.
 She shall ride in her chariot and horses
 Over the green mossy bank of the Lea.

4. They welcomed him home to their cottage,
Soon after in wedlock did join
Where the gentleman did recommend a castle
With grandeur and beauty for to shine.
So it's now a young American stranger
All pastime and pleasure shall live to see
Like this of young gentle Mathilda
On the green mossy banks of the Lea.

Source: Collected by Cecil Sharp from Mrs Kathleen Williams, Wigpool Common (Mitcheldean),
September 6, 1921

Notes: Sharp's note "Mrs Williams is a gypsy - about 60 or more - living in a van which stood on the edge of a hill covered with bracken and gorse by the roadside, living with her married son and his three children Henry, Dolly and Rosie."

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