

The Girl I Left Behind

My par - ents reared me ten - der - ly. They had no child but me. But
I being fond of rov - ing with them did not a - gree. Then
I be - came a rov - er soon which grieved their hearts full sore. I
left my a - ged par - ents nev - er to see them more.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Girl I Left Behind'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'My par - ents reared me ten - der - ly. They had no child but me. But'. The second staff continues with 'I being fond of rov - ing with them did not a - gree. Then'. The third staff has 'I be - came a rov - er soon which grieved their hearts full sore. I'. The fourth staff concludes with 'left my a - ged par - ents nev - er to see them more.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

There was a wealthy gentleman resided in that part.
He had an only daughter and I had won her heart,
And she was noble-minded, too, tall, beautiful and fair,
Columbia's fairest daughter, few with her could compare.

I asked my love if she'd consent for me to cross the main,
And if she would prove constant till I returned again.
Great drops of tears stood in her eyes, her bosom heaved a sigh,
"Dear lad," said she, "fear not for me; my love can never die."

This maid she said, "I have heard or dreamed of what I can't believe
That absence breaks the link of love and leaves a maid to grieve."
I gently pressed on her cheek a kiss, saying, "Love, have no fear,"
And swore by Him above the skies that I would prove sincere.

According to agreement I went on board a ship
And to the town of Glasco first I made a pleasant trip.
I found that gold was plenty there and the maids were somewhat kind
And my love began for to cool a bit for the girl I left behind.

To Dolfus town I then set out to that hospitable land
Where little Jennie Ferguson first took me by the hand.
She says, "I've money plenty and in love with you I find."
And the thought of gold destroyed my love for the girl I left behind.

She said, "If you will marry me and say no more you'll rove
The gold I have shall all be yours, and I will constant prove,
But parents dear and other friends that you have left behind
It's never more, if you marry me, must ever bear in mind."

To this I then consented, and I own it to my shame,
For what man can be happy when he knows himself to blame?
'Tis true I've money plenty and my wife is somewhat kind,
But my pillow it is haunted by the friends I left behind.

My father in his winding sheet, my mother, too, doth appear,
And by their side the girl I love a-kissing off the tears.
Of broken hearts they all have died, and now too late I find
Since God has seen my cruelty to the friends I left behind.