

The Bold Fenian Men

Em B7 Em

'Twas down by the glen - side, I met an old

B7 Em B7 Em

wo - man A pluck - ing young net - tles, she ne'er saw me

B7 Em

comin - I list - ened a while to the song she was

B7 Em B7 Em B7

hum - ming, Glo - ry O, Glo - ry O, to the bold Fen - ian

Em

men.

- 'Twas down by the glenside, I met an old woman
A-plucking young nettles, she ne'er saw me coming
I listened a while to the song she was humming,
Glory O, Glory O, to the bold Fenian men.
- 'Tis fifty long years since I saw the moon beaming
On strong manly forms, on eyes with hope gleaming.
I see them again, sure, in all my sad dreaming,
Glory O, Glory O, to the bold Fenian men.
- When I was a young girl, their marching and drilling,
Awoke in the glenside sounds awesome and thrilling.
They loved dear old Ireland, to die they were willing,
Glory O, Glory O, to the bold Fenian men.
- Some died by the glenside, some died near a stranger
And wise men have told us their cause was a failure
But they fought for old Ireland and never feared danger,
Glory O, Glory O, to the bold Fenian men.
- I passed on my way, God be praised that I met her.
Be life long or short, sure I'll never forget her.
We may have brave men, but we'll never have better,
Glory O, Glory O, to the bold Fenian men.

"The Bold Fenian Men", also known as "Down by the Glenside" is an Irish rebel song written by Peadar Kearney, an Irish Republican and composer of numerous rebel songs, including "The Soldier's Song" ("*Amhrán na bhFiann*"), now the Irish National Anthem.

Kearney was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, popularly known as the Fenians. He wrote this song about the time of the 1916 Rising. It evokes the memory of the freedom-fighters of the previous generation, as recalled by an old woman down by the glenside. It is effectively a call to arms for a generation of Irishmen accustomed to political nationalism.

This tune is similar to "Sally, My Dear" in the Other Songs section.

It was recorded by Richard Dyer-Bennet on his first self-produced LP **Richard Dyer-Bennet 1**, (1955), The Clancy Brothers, The Dubliners, Cherish the Ladies, The Wolfe Tones and others.