

The Limerick Rake

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Em, G, D, D7, Em, G, D, Em, D, A, D, Em, D7, Em, G, D, Em.

1. I am a young fellow that's easy and bold,
In Castletown Conners I'm very well known.
In Newcastle West I spent many a note,
With Kitty and Judy and Mary.
My father rebuked me for being such a rake,
And spending my time in such frolicsome ways,
But I ne'er could forget the good nature of Jane,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
2. My parents had reared me to shake and to mow,
To plough and to harrow, to reap and to sow.
But my heart being airy to drop it so low,
I set out on high speculation.
On paper and parchment they taught me to write,
In Euclid and Grammar they opened my eyes,
And in Multiplication in truth I was bright,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
3. f I chance for to go to the town of Rathkeale,
The girls all round me do flock on the square.
Some give me a bottle and others sweet cakes,
To treat me unknown to their parents,
There is one from Askeaton and one from the Pike,
Another from Arda, my heart was beguiled,
Tho' being from the mountains her stockings are
white,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
4. To quarrel for riches I ne'er was inclined,
For the greatest of misers must leave them behind.
I'll purchase a cow that will never run dry,
And I'll milk her by twisting her horn.
John Damer of Shronel had plenty of gold,
And Devonshire's treasure is twenty times more,
But he's laid on his back among nettles and stones,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
5. This cow can be milked without clover or grass,
For she's pampered with corn, good barley and hops.
She's warm and stout, and she's free in her paps,
And she'll milk without spencil or halter.
The man that will drink it will cock his caubeen,
And if anyone coughs there'll be wigs on the green,
And the feeble old hag will get supple and free,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
6. If I chance for to go to the market at Croom,
With a cock in my hand and my pipes in full tune,
I am welcome at once and brought up to a room,
Where Bacchus is sporting with Venus.
There's Peggy and Jane from the town of Bruree,
And Biddy from Bruff and we all on the spraoí,
Such a combing of locks as there was about me,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.

7. There's some say I'm foolish and more say I'm wise,
But being fond of the women I think is no crime,
For the son of King David had ten hundred wives,
And his wisdom was highly recorded.
I'll take a good garden and live at my ease,
And each woman and child can partake of the same,
If there's war in the cabin, themselves they may blame,
Agus fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé.
8. And now for the future I mean to be wise,
And I'll send for the women that acted so king,
And I'll marry them all on the morrow by and by,
If the clergy agree to the bargain.
And when I'm on my back and my soul is at peace,
These women will crowd for to cry at my wake,
And their sons and their daughters will offer their
prayer,
To the Lord for the soul of their father.

"The Limerick Rake", in Gaelic "*Fágaimíd siúd mar atá sé*" is an Irish waltz (or double jig) in Dorian mode. The Gaelic title, which finishes each verse translates to "and we left it how it was". The tune is also known as "Darby O'Leary" and "Juice Of The Barley".

The lyrics come from an 18th century broadside poem describing the amorous adventures of a young man in Limerick.

It was recorded by Mick Moloney and Eugene O'Donnell on **Mick Moloney With Eugene O'Donnell**, The Pogues and numerous others.

I learned it from the recording of Mick Moloney & Eugene O'Donnell.