

## COUNTY LIMERICK IN THE SUMMER TIME

Sweetly came the end of May,  
Short the night and long the day,  
And there is an ache in this heart of mine  
To see County Limerick in the Summer Time.

Cows ambling home at eve to be milked  
With udders shimmering like woven silk,  
Dusk falling in colours sublime  
Limerick in the Summer time.

Oh to stand on Barnagh hill  
With the glorious panorama my sight to fill  
The country stretched like a tapestry fine,  
Sweet Limerick in the Summer time.

To watch a jack snipe in staccato flight  
Or a salmon leap like a whirl of light,  
In a wayside chapel, holy thought to coin,  
Inspired by Limerick in the Summer Time.

To see buttercups all crowned with gold,  
Limpid streams, sparkling cold,  
Butterflies in pantomime,  
Reflections of Limerick in the Summer Time.

To go strolling along O'Connell Street;  
In its cooling aura good friends to meet,  
In the 'Weekly Echo' office to submit my rhymes  
Dreams of Limerick in the Summer time.

To roam again down memories lane  
And thrill to the pulse of the 'Golden Vein'  
The shouts of hurlers at day's decline,  
Savouring Limerick in the Summer time.

If its Bruff or Newcastle West  
Their separate memories I have oft caressed,  
The fluting thrush or the grasshopper's whine  
Syncopating Limerick in the Summer time.

Milk churns standing amidst pastures green,  
Their mouths awash with luscious cream,  
A skylark hurtling to heights sublime,  
All in Limerick in the Summer time.

The Shannon transluced with pale moonlight,  
Foynes Harbour all fresh and bright,  
Hedgerows pearled with morning rime,  
Reflecting Limerick in the Summer time.

To watch 'PINTS' upending in a dim saloon,  
To be spellbound by the 'man from Croom'  
To live in a land outside space and time,  
That's Limerick in the Summer time.

Like a lighthouse set in an emerald sea  
There's a beacon ever calling me,  
My home at Thomastown where I spent my prime,  
Making hay in Limerick in the Summer Time.

## WHAT A SMILE CAN DO

*Just a little smile on YOUR lips*

Cheers your heart  
Keeps you in good humour  
Preserves peace in your soul  
Promotes your health  
Beautifies your face  
Induces kindly thoughts  
Inspires kindly deeds

*So Smile to yourself -*

until you notice that your constant  
seriousness or even severity has vanished;  
until you have warmed your own heart with the  
sunshine of your cheery countenance. Then -

*Go out - and radiate your Smile because that Smile  
has work to do - Work to do for God -*

Smile on the *LONELY* faces  
Smile on the *TIMID* faces  
Smile on the *SORROWFUL* faces  
Smile on the *FRESH* young faces  
Smile on the *WRINKLED* old faces  
Smile on the *Familiar* faces of your family  
and friends - let ALL enjoy the Beauty and  
Inspiring Cheer of your smiling face.


*Count, if you will -*

the number of smiles your smile has drawn  
from others in one day; that number will  
represent how many times you have promoted  
contentment, joy, satisfaction, encouragement  
or confidence in the heart of others.  
The influence of your smile is spreading  
though you do not always see the wonders it is working.

*Smile too at God -*

Smile at God in loving acceptance of whatever  
He sends into your life and you will merit to have  
the radiant Smiling Face of Christ gaze on  
YOU with special love throughout eternity.

(Anon)

 *From the poems of the late Brother Stephen Russell.*