

The Devil and Bailiff McGlynn

June Tabor

One fine sunny evening last summer I was straying along by the sea
When a pair of quare playboys a-
roving before me I happened to see.
Now to learn what these boys were up to, a trifle I hastened me
walk,
For I thought I could learn their professions when I got within
range of their talk.

Now, one of these boys was the devil and the other was Bailiff
McGlynn,
And the one was as black as the other and both were as ugly as
sin.
Says the old boy, says he, "I'm the devil and you are a bailiff
, I see."
"Ah! 'tis the devil himself," says the bailiff, "Now that beats
the devil," says he.

Now, a gossoon ran out from a cottage and took him up over the
fields.
"May the devil take you," said his mother as she rattled a stone
at his heels.
"Ah now, why don't you take the young rascal, your highness?" the
bailiff he cried.
"Ah, it was not from her heart that she said it," the devil he
smiling replied.

Now, close by a small patch of potatoes a banbh was striving to
dig,
When the owner come out and she cried, "May the devil take you
for a pig!".
Said the bailiff, "Now that's a fine offer, why not take the banbh?"
says he.
"Ah, it was but with her lips that she said it And that's not sufficient
for me."

As they jogged on, the gossoon espied them and into his mother
he sped,
Crying, "Mother!" says he, "There's a bailiff!" She clasped her
two hands and she said,
"May the devil take that ugly bailiff!" Said the old boy, "Beda
d! That'll do!
It was straight from her heart that she said it, so Bailiff McGlynn,
I'll take you."