

## THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

Folk Song

1. The dames of France are fond and free, And Flem - ish lips are will - ing,  
 2. For she's as fair as Shan - non's side, And pur - er than its wa - ter,  
 3. She says, "My own dear love, come home, My friends are rich and man - y,  
 4. For nev - er shall my true love brave A life of war and toil - ing,

And soft the maids of It - a - ly, And Span - ish eyes are thrill - ing;  
 But she re - fused to be my bride, Though man - y a year I sought her;  
 Or else, a - broad with you I'll roam, A sol - dier stout as an - y;  
 And nev - er as a skulk - ing slave I'll tread my na - tive soil on;

Still, though I bask be - neath their smile, Their charms fail to bind me,  
 Yet, since to France I sailed a - way, Her let - ters oft re - mind me,  
 If you'll not come nor let me go, I'll think you have re - signed me."  
 But, were it free or to be freed, The bat - tle's close would find me

And my heart falls back to E - rin's Isle To the girl I left be - hind me.  
 That I prom - ised nev - er to gain - say The girl I left be - hind me.  
 My heart nigh broke when I an - swered, "No," To the girl I left be - hind me.  
 To Ire - land bound, nor mes - sage need From the girl I left be - hind me.