

"What Irish Boys Can Do"

Answer to

"No Irish Need Apply."

Words by William Sutherland, author of "Columbia's Glorious Banner."

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They insult an Irishman and think nought of what they say,
They'll call him green, an Irish bull, it happens every day;
Now to these folks I'll say a word- to sing a song I'll try-
And to answer to those dirty words, "No Irish need apply."
So, if you give attention, I'll sing my song to you,
And the subject of my song shall be, "What Irish boys can do"

If you'd come to Ireland they'd treat you well, I'm sure;
Pat would share his last potato with the destitute and poor;
If you were sick and weary, and had no place to rest,
The bed you'd get, though poor perhaps, would be Pat's very best.
He'd nurse you, too, he would that, and give you whiskey, too,
And you cannot find a nobler act than Irishmen can do.

Did you ever know an Irishman from any danger flinch?
In fighting, too, he'd rather die than give his foe an inch.
Among the bravest in the world are the sons of Erin's green Isle,
Sure the Iron Duke of Wellington was a native of the soil.
And didn't he badly whip the French on the plains of Waterloo,
Which plainly showed to the whole world what Irishmen can do.

Did you ne'er hear tell of Sheridan, or of lamented Catharine Hays?
Did you ne'er see fun in Irish songs, or laugh at Irish plays?
Old Ireland's had her statesmen-their fame the wide world rings!
She's likewise had musicians, to tune her old harp strings!
Not all Irish girls are beautiful, but then they're always true,
And for faith and generosity the Irish girls will do.

And then, too, in the present war between the North and South,
Let no dirty slur on Irish ever escape your mouth.
Sure did you ne'er hear tell of the 69th, who bravely fought at Bull Run,
And Meher of the seven days' fight, that was in front of Richmond?
With General Shields, who fought so brave for the flag red, white and blue
And anything like a bayonet charge the Irish boys can do.

Then why slur upon the Irish? Why are they treated so?
What is it you have against them is what I want to know?
Sure, they work for all they get, and that you can't deny!
Then why insult them with the words, "No Irish Need Apply."
If you want to find their principles, go search the wide world through,
And you'll find all things that's noble, the Irish folks can do.