Green mossy banks of the Lea.



A strange curiosity caused me to roam Over Europe resolved for to ramble When I left Philadelphia my home Until I came to old England Where forms of great beauty do shine There I beheld a fair damsel And I wished in my heart she was mine. One morning I careless did ramble Where the pure wind soft breezes did blow, It was down by a pure crystal river Where the sweet pearly waters did flow. It was there I espied this fair creature, Some goddess appearing to be As she rose from the reeds by the water On the green mossy banks of the Lea.

I stepped up to this fair creature Her fair cheeks did blush like a rose, Says I "The green meadows are charming Your guardian I'll be if you choose." She said "Sir, I do not want no guardian, Young man, you're a stranger to me. And yonder my father is coming O'er the green mossy banks of the Lea.

I waited till up came her father, I plucked up my spirits once more. Saying "Kind sir, if this be your daughter, She is the beautiful girl I adore. Five thousand a year is my portion And your daughter a lady shall be, She shall ride in her chariot and horses On the green mossy banks of the Lea."

Then they welcomed me home to their cottage, Soon after in wedlock we joined. And there I entered a castle, With grandeur and splendour did shine. So now the American stranger All pleasure and pastime doth see, With adorable gentle Matilda, On the green mossy banks of the Lea.