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BY [WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS](#)



What need you, being come to sense,
 But fumble in a greasy till
 And add the halfpence to the pence
 And prayer to shivering prayer, until
 You have dried the marrow from the bone;
 For men were born to pray and save:
 Romantic Ireland's dead and gone,
 It's with O'Leary in the grave.

Yet they were of a different kind,
 The names that stilled your childish play,
 They have gone about the world like wind,
 But little time had they to pray
 For whom the hangman's rope was spun,
 And what, God help us, could they save?
 Romantic Ireland's dead and gone,
 It's with O'Leary in the grave.

Was it for this the wild geese spread
 The grey wing upon every tide;
 For this that all that blood was shed,
 For this Edward Fitzgerald died,
 And Robert Emmet and Wolfe Tone,
 All that delirium of the brave?
 Romantic Ireland's dead and gone,
 It's with O'Leary in the grave.

Yet could we turn the years again,
 And call those exiles as they were
 In all their loneliness and pain,
 You'd cry, 'Some woman's yellow hair
 Has maddened every mother's son':
 They weighed so lightly what they gave.
 But let them be, they're dead and gone,
 They're with O'Leary in the grave.

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