

Pennbucky to Llangenny

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I was brought up on my father's farm that his father farmed before,
That my brother, being older, would farm later:
So I went to earn my living far beyond the rocky shore
As a deckhand on a barque-rigged copper freighter.

*And I've seen so many wonders on the sea and on the land,
That even I, who saw them, can't believe in;
Now my sailing days are done, and I've come back home again,
From Pennbucky to Llangenny in the evening.*

I remember the first time I saw the ships that sail the seas,
With the morning mists about their sides a-curling;
Their masts stood by the riverbanks like groves of springtime trees
Awaiting for the leaves to start unfurling.

(Chorus)

I've seen fish that fly like birds, and birds that swim beneath the sea,
I've seen dolphins playing round our bow-wave breaking;
I've seen trees alive with parakeets, heard monkeys singing songs,
And seen sunsets that would leave your poor heart aching.

(Chorus)

Well, I made it up to Master of my own ship in due course,
But the days of wood and canvas were fast failing;
So I cashed my share and bought a cottage near my brother's farm
And I settled down to memories of sailing.

(Chorus)

But my brother's farm was bought out by the men from the estate,
Now my nephew drives a tractor there for wages;
So I'm grateful for my life at sea, although my brother says
That we've only lived our lives in different cages.

*Still I've seen so many wonders on the sea and on the land,
That even I, who saw them, can't believe in;
Now my sailing days are done, and I've come back home again,
From Pennbucky to Llangenny in the evening.*