

## Catalpa

The Wolfe Tones

Now come all ye gallant Irishmen and a story I'll  
relate  
I'll tell to you of the Fenian men who from the foe  
escaped  
Though bound with Saxon chains in a dark Australian  
jail  
They struck a blow for freedom and for New York town  
set sail  
On the 17th of April in the year of '831  
The gallant bark Catalpa from Freemantle town did flee  
She showed the green above the red as she calmly made  
her way  
Prepared to take those Fenian men to safety o'er the  
sea  
Here's to the ship Catalpa and the boys of Uncle Sam  
And to all the Irishmen afloat and the Fenians to a man  
Here's to Captain Anthony, bold Breslin<sup>2</sup> and his crew  
When challenged by the empire's might, the Stars and  
Stripes he flew!  
Then Breslin and brave Desmond<sup>2</sup> had Catalpa taut and  
trim  
When fast approaching them they saw a vision dark and  
dim  
It was the gunboat Georgette and 'long her deck there  
stood  
One hundred hired assassins to shed the patriots' blood  
"My ship is sailing peacefully beneath the flag of  
stars  
She's manned by Irish hearts of oak and manly Yankee  
tars  
And that dear emblem to the fore so plain for to be  
seen  
Is the banner to protect and mind - old Ireland's flag  
of green!"  
One hundred years have passed and gone since the day in  
New York Bay  
All sorts of floats and ships and boats were there -  
hip hip hooray!  
They say that eighty thousand men about the rescue new  
Not a word was spoke and it was some joke on John  
Bull's navy too  
And here's to Captain Anthony who well these men did  
free  
He dared the English navy men to fight him on the sea  
To John Devoy, his name held high, and all friends to  
be seen  
The flag for which our heroes fought was Ireland's flag  
of green!