

## Arthur McBride

G Em  
Oh me and my cousin one Arthur McBride  
C G Am C  
As we went a-walking down by the seaside,  
G C G Em  
Now mark what followed and what did betide  
G D  
For it being on Christmas morning.  
G Em  
And for recreation we went on a tramp  
C G Am C  
And we met Sergeant Napper and Corporal Cramp.  
G C G Em  
And the little wee drummer intending to camp  
G D G  
For the day being pleasant and charming.

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"Good morning, good morning" the Sergeant did cry."  
"And the same to you gentlemen," we did reply  
Intending no harm as we meant to pass by  
For it being on Christmas morning.  
But says he "My fine fellows if you will enlist  
It's ten guineas in gold I will slip in your fists  
And a crown in the bargain for to kick up the dust  
And drink the King's health in the morning.

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For a soldier he leads a very fine life  
And he always is blessed with a charming young wife,  
And he pays all his debts without sorrow and strife  
And always lives pleasant and charming.  
And a soldier he always is decent and clean  
In the finest of clothing he's constantly seen  
While other poor fellows look dirty and mean  
And sup on thin gruel in the morning.

~~~~~  
What says Arthur, "I wouldn't be proud of your clothes  
For you've only the lend of them, as I suppose,  
And you dare not change them one night for you know  
If you do you'll be flogged in the morning.  
And although that we are single and free,  
We take great delight in our own company  
And we have no desire strange faces to see  
Although that your offers are charming.

~~~~~  
And we have no desire to take your advance,  
All hazards and dangers we barter on chance.  
For you would have no scruples for to send us to France  
Where we would get shot without warning."  
"Oh no," says the Sergeant, "I'll have no such chat  
And I neither will take it from spalpeen or brat  
For if you insult me with one other word  
I'll cut off your heads in the morning."

~~~~~  
And then Arthur and I we soon drew our odds  
And we scarce gave them time for to draw their own blades  
When a trusty shillelagh came over their heads  
And bade them take that as fair warning.  
And their old rusty rapiers that hung by their sides  
We flung them as far as we could in the tide  
"Now take them out, devils," cried Arthur McBride,  
"And temper their edge in the morning."

~~~~~  
And the little wee drummer we flattened his pouch  
And we made a football of his rowdy dow dow  
Threw it in the tide for to rock and to roll  
And bade it a tedious returning.  
And we having no money, paid them off in cracks  
And we paid no respect to their two bloody backs,  
But we lathered them there like a pair of wet sacks  
And left them for dead in the morning.

~~~~~  
And so to conclude and to finish disputes  
We obligingly asked if they wanted recruits,  
For we were the lads who would give them hard clouts  
And bid them look sharp in the morning.  
Oh me and my cousin one Arthur McBride  
As we went a-walking down by the seaside,  
Now mark what followed and what did betide  
For it being on Christmas morning.

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The lyrics to Arthur McBride tell the story of two cousins who fight off a recruiting sergeant after he tries to recruit them for the army. It's an old Irish anti-war song.

The lyrics are presented here as performed by Paul Brady, the singer who has become most closely associated with the song in recent years.

The chords are given in the key of G Major, the key used by Brady, who usually performs the song using an open G chord tuning.

Planxty play the song in F Major. Bob Dylan uses A Major. Use our key converter to play Arthur McBride in other keys. For more information about Arthur McBride and videos, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/arthur-mcbride>

### Chord Converter

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