

## **Paddy The Bricklayer**

Dear Boss, I write this note to you to tell you of me' plight,  
And at the time of writing I am not a pretty sight.  
Me' body is all black and blue, me' face an ashen gray,  
An' I hope you'll understand why Paddy's not at work today.  
While working on the fourteenth floor some bricks I had to clear.  
And throwin' 'em down from such a height was not a good idea.  
The foreman he was none too pleased, him bein' such a sod,  
And he said I had to carry them down the ladder in my hod.  
But clearin' all those bricks by hand, it seemed so awful slow.  
So I hoisted up a barrel and secured the rope below.  
But in me haste to do the job I was too blind to see  
That a barrel full of building bricks was heavier than me!  
So I went down and cut the rope, and the barrel fell like lead.  
And clinging tightly to the rope I started up instead.  
I shot up like a rocket, and to my surprise I found  
That halfway up I met the bloody barrel comin' down.  
The barrel struck me shoulder hard as to the ground it sped.  
And when I reached the top I hit the pulley with me head.  
I still hung on though numbed and shocked from this almighty blow  
When the barrel dumped out half its bricks some fourteen floors below.  
When these bricks had fallen from the barrel to the floor  
I then outweighed the barrel and I started down once more.  
Still clingin' tightly to the rope I headed for the ground,  
And I fell upon the building bricks that were all scattered 'round.  
I lay there moaning on the floor. I thought I'd seen the worst,  
When the barrel hit the pulley, and then the bottom burst.  
A rain of bricks fell down on me, I hadn't got a hope,  
And as I became unconscious I let go of the bloody rope.  
The barrel then the heavier, it started down once more  
And it landed right across me as I lay there on the floor.  
It broke some ribs and my left arm, and I can only say  
That I hope you'll understand why Paddy's not at work today.

(Notes on accent: Drop the initial "h" in words like "hand", "hope", "had", "hoisted", and so forth. Drop the trailing "t" in words such as "not", "shot", "bottom", "height," etc. Let "idea(r)" rhyme with "clear".)