

# The Rock Remains

*For Francis and Ellie*

They came and went, this trysting couple  
Seeking shelter from both wind and rain  
And from the prying eyes of the prurient;  
As they held hands with long lingering looks.  
I did not feel put upon or burdened by them  
They disturbed not my rest nor calm repose;  
I was rather glad of their occasional company  
For we all came from the same good earth.  
I was saddened by their sudden leaving of me  
Her to a new beau, him to fight far from here  
Such is the inconstancy of love and life;  
Whilst I stayed, same as ever, silent and true.  
I grieved for their passing, one after the other  
In time unseemly, for those long-lived as I;  
If I had water in my veins, then I would've wept  
Until my tears cleft my whole self in two pieces.  
Still I remain, wearing their precious memories  
On my hard skin, amongst the bloom of lichen;  
He, of the earth, a poet of land, flora and fauna  
She, of the night sky, shining as a brilliant star.

In the garden of Francis Ledwidge's family cottage, there lies a great stone brought down from the Hill of Slane; it was known to figure heavily as a backdrop to the wooing of his first love, Ellie Vaughey, by Francis.

*John Llewellyn James*