In Cumberland city, two lovers did bear
A beautiful damsel ⁱ both handsome and fair.

Her name was Diana, scarce sixteen years old,
Her portion Ten thousand pounds all in bright gold.

Besides an estate when her father did die,
Which caused many a suitor to on her cast an eye.

Among the whole number Sir William was one
Who thought for to make this fair lady his own.

As William and Diana walked the grove hand in hand
Said William to Diana "Your love I command."

She hung down her head, said "I must do my part".
With blushes she said "You have conquered my heart."

A day or two after, her father did say
"Diana go dress yourself gallant and gay ⁱⁱ,"

"For there's a rich knight worth ten thousand a year
He says he will make you his bride and his heir."

"Oh father! dear father! do not me confine!
And for to get married, 'tis ⁱⁱⁱ not my design."

"Besides I'm too young, and I pray you therefore,
Oh let me live single, one year or two more!"

"Oh stubborn daughter, what do you mean!
You must either wed with him, or no more be seen."

" 'Tis only to consider the gold you're to have."
She says, "I'd much rather you'd choose me a grave."

Diana walked out with the tears in her eyes,
She walked the grove round where she choose for to lie.

Down on the cold ground this fair lady did lay,
With a dose of strong poison her life to betray.

She had not lain one hour on the ground,
Until Sir William walked the grove round and round.

He spied his true love and the letter her by,
And there it was wrote how Diana did die.

Ten thousand times over, he kissed her cold lips
Saying "Now I've got rid of my joy and my bliss."

"I wish her much joy, although she is gone.
She was a virtuous lady, both handsome and young."

He fell on his sword like a lover so brave,
So William and Diana both lie in one grave.

Come all ye ⁱᵛ parents now and behold,
The cause of your wronging your children for gold.
The hearts of your innocent children to break
The vows which true lovers do solemnly make.

Finis

Notes

i. **damsel**: archaic term for a young unmarried woman *a young unmarried woman*.
ii. **gay**: meaning brightly coloured *brightly coloured*.
iii. **'tis**: archaic contraction of it is *it is*.
iv. **ye**: archaic term for the *the*.