

Coolgreany

A corner of the sun –
balanced by wires and a row of pruned apple trees
on a southward leaning hill –

A road fall-out that roofs five hundred souls –
three-roomed cottages with attic – a handball alley “1927” –
drinking fountains –

Beauty queens courting late
in cars that won't go in a week –
a ninety year old cobbler still at his last –

A blackhatted crone who remembers hiding under the bridge
when the redcoats drummed in to evict –
bailiffs, tea, and battering rams –

Maude Gonne riding out on a white horse from Arklow –
Tolstoy standing on the road –
the battering ram's marks on the wall

of Brian Bourke's mother's cottage –
now nothing more eventful than not being on the
main road hangs over this cliff of earth –

The sun piling on forgetful grass –
village doors opening –
the door of O'Rafferty's pub open –

Old neighbours drink in Sunday best – moths
they drown in airy warm waves –
a Japanese cherry and a copper beech back from the street –

The Dispensary House –
Virginia creeper – the doctor's beautiful wife drinking
inside – the doctor's son kissing someone –