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THE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
ROBERT BURNS



G. W. Hinmüller

THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

ROBERT BURNS.

EDITED BY

THE REV. ROBERT ARIS WILLMOTT.

NEW EDITION,

WITH NUMEROUS ADDITIONS.

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Dedication of the Second Edition of Poems.

TO THE
NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE
CALEDONIAN HUNT.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

A Scottish Bard, proud of the name, and whose highest ambition is to sing in his Country's service—where shall he so properly look for patronage as to the illustrious names of his native Land,—those who bear the honours and inherit the virtues of their Ancestors? The Poetic Genius of my Country found me, as the prophetic bard Elijah did Elisha—at the plough; and threw her inspiring mantle over me. She bade me sing the loves, the joys, the rural scenes and rural pleasures of my native soil, in my native tongue; I tuned my wild, artless notes, as she inspired.—She whispered me to come to this ancient Metropolis of Caledonia, and lay my Song under your honoured protection: I now obey her dictates.

Though much indebted to your goodness, I do not approach you, my Lords and Gentlemen, in the usual style of dedication, to thank you for past favours; that path is so hackneyed by prostituted learning, that honest rusticity is ashamed of it. Nor do I present this Address with the venal soul of a servile Author, looking for a continuation of those favours: I was bred to the Plough, and am independent. I come to claim the common Scottish name with you, my illustrious Countrymen; and to tell the world that I glory in the title. I come to congratulate my Country, that the blood of her ancient heroes still runs uncontaminated; and that from your courage, knowledge, and public spirit, she may expect protection, wealth, and liberty. In the last place, I come to proffer my warmest wishes to the Great Fountain of Honour, the Monarch of the Universe, for your welfare and happiness.

DEDICATION.

When you go forth to awaken the Echoes, in the ancient and favourite amusement of your forefathers, may Pleasure ever be of your party; and may Social Joy await your return. When harassed in courts or camps with the jostlings of bad men and bad measures, may the honest consciousness of injured worth attend your return to your native Seats; and may Domestic Happiness, with a smiling welcome, meet you at your gates! May corruption shrink at your kindling indignant glance, and may tyranny in the Ruler, and licentiousness in the People equally find you an inexorable foe!

I have the honour to be,
With the sincerest gratitude, and highest respect,
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your most devoted humble servant,

ROBERT BURNS.

Edinburgh, April 4, 1787.

P R E F A C E .



THE POEMS of BURNS have been edited, and his Life has been written by eminent countrymen, with a copiousness of illustration and a minuteness of inquiry altogether beyond my abilities and my limits. Perhaps an English reader sometimes thinks the work slightly overdone, and even feels a very languid curiosity about the character of "Poosie Nansie," or the politics of Dumfries. I have not, however, intentionally underrated the interest of my subject. The Text has been carefully examined, and the notes convey the information which was incidentally furnished by the Poet and his Brother, and generally in their own language. With a hope of rendering the Scottish Poems less difficult to the inexperienced eye, the harder words are explained at the foot of the page, and, I trust, with sufficient accuracy.

* * Since the lamented death of Mr. Willmott, another edition has been called for; and the Publishers have taken the opportunity of inserting various Poems and Songs of great merit, which had been omitted in previous editions. Many of them are accompanied by editorial annotations, which will be found useful in giving the dates, and explaining the circumstances under which they were originally written.

To facilitate immediate and ready reference to any of the numerous Poems, Songs, Epigrams, &c., scattered throughout the volume, the Editor has prefixed a comprehensive list of CONTENTS, and also appended at the close of the volume (in addition to the GLOSSARY) two copious INDEXES, alphabetically arranged. In this respect, nearly all the previous editions of the Works of Burns are extremely defective.

P. A N

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LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF

ROBERT BURNS.



1759-1796

UPON a winter day of 1786-7, the boy Jeffrey stopped in the High-street of Edinburgh to stare at a man whose appearance greatly struck him. A shop-keeper, standing at his door and observing the boy's look of wonder, tapped him on the shoulder, saying, "Aye, laddie, ye may weel look at that man—he is Robert Burns." Since that day, admiration has shown itself in every shape, the most touching and the most grotesque, from the panegyric of Wordsworth to the phrensy of Wilson, rolling himself on the spot where "Tam O'Shanter" was composed.

Robert Burns was born January 25th, 1759, the eldest child of William and Agnes Burns, or Burness, as they were accustomed to spell the name. His father, bailiff and gardener of a country gentleman, Mr. Ferguson, rented a few acres of land, on which he had built a small hovel of clay and straw. It stood by the roadside, a Scotch mile and a half from the town of Ayr, and near the famous Alloway Kirk. Robert was sent to school before his sixth year, and soon found a zealous instructor in John Murdoch, who was chosen, a few months afterwards, to replace the former teacher. We are told by Gilbert Burns, that his brother greatly benefited by the lessons in grammar, and became "remarkable for the fluency and correctness of his expressions." He read the few books that came in his way with much pleasure and improvement. Murdoch's library was not rich, but it contained a "Life of Hannibal," which gave to the ideas of Burns such a military turn that he used to strut up and down after the recruiting drum and bagpipe, and wish himself tall enough to be a soldier. The warlike ardour was heightened, when, later in youth, he borrowed the story of Wallace from the blacksmith, and walked half-a-dozen miles, on a summer day, "to pay his respects

to Leglen Wood, with as much devout enthusiasm as ever pilgrim did to *Loretto*." In truth, we might say of him, in poet's words,—

"He had small need of books; for many a tale,
 Traditionary, round the mountains hung,
 And many a legend, peopling the dark woods,
 Nourished Imagination in her growth,
 And gave the mind that apprehensive power,
 By which she is made quick to recognize
 The moral properties and scope of things."

Burns tells us, in his delightful "Confessions"—"In my infant and boyish days, too, I owed much to an old woman who resided in the family, remarkable for her ignorance, credulity, and superstition. She had, I suppose, the largest collection in the country of tales and songs concerning devils, ghosts, fairies, brownies, witches, warlocks, spunkies, kelpies, elf-candles, dead-lights, wraiths, apparitions, contraips, giants, enchanted towers, dragons, and other trumpery. This cultivated the latent seeds of poetry; but had so strong an effect on my imagination, that to this hour, in my nocturnal rambles, I sometimes keep a sharp look-out in suspicious places; and though nobody can be more sceptical than I am in such matters, yet it often takes an effort of philosophy to shake off these idle terrors. The earliest composition that I recollect taking pleasure in, was 'The Vision of Mirza,' and a hymn of Addison's, beginning, 'How are thy servants blest, O Lord!' I particularly remember one half-stanza which was music to my boyish ears:—

'For though on dreadful whirls we hung
 High on the broken wave—'

His memory was strong, and, when he was in Edinburgh, he repeated to Mr. Stewart some long ballads in the Scottish dialect which, in childhood, he had learned from his mother. And thus, though he "cost the schoolmaster some thrashings," he grew up an excellent English scholar, and by the time that he was ten or eleven years old, he had obtained a critical acquaintance with substantives, verbs, and participles; nor was he without robust training, for in the first season that he held the plough, "he made a shift" to unravel "Euclid" by his father's hearth.

When the period drew nigh that the boy, in his own strong words, must have marched off to be one of the little underlings about a farm-house, William Burns ventured upon a speculation, which, he hoped, might enable him to keep his children at home longer. His employer had a farm, Mount Oliphant comprising eighty or ninety English acres, and he accepted William Burns as the tenant, at a rent for the first six years, of forty pounds; moreover, he assisted him with more

to provide the necessary stock. The family went to their new abode, Whitsuntide, 1765. William Burns was a well-informed and thoughtful man, and turned the lonely life of his children to good account. In the winter evenings he taught arithmetic and geography to the boys, and procured from a book society in Ayr, the works of Derham and Ray upon the Wisdom and Power of God. Better books he could scarcely have found; and Gilbert assures us that his brother read them with eagerness. Stackhouse's "History of the Bible" was also a treasure, for its information is large and curious. A fortunate accident increased his wealth: a relation wanting to purchase a "Complete Letter Writer," the shopman, by mistake, as Gilbert tells us, produced "A small Collection of Letters, by the most eminent Writers, with a few sensible Directions for attaining an easy Epistolary Style." He adds—"This book was to Robert of the greatest consequence."

Between his thirteenth and fourteenth years, the poet's handwriting was much improved by a few lessons in the parish school of Dalrymple; and about the same time "a bookish acquaintance" of their father obtained for the brothers "a reading of two volumes of Richardson's 'Pamela;'" and Murdoch, then the teacher of English in Ayr, sent the works of Pope. Gilbert writes:—"The summer after we had been at Dalrymple school, my father sent Robert to Ayr to revise his English grammar with his former teacher. He had been there only one week, when he was obliged to return, to assist at the harvest. When the harvest was over he went back to school, where he remained two weeks; and this completes the account of his school education, except one grammar quarter some time afterwards, that he attended the parish school of Kirk Oswald (where he lived with a brother of my mother) to learn surveying." Murdock happened to be learning French, and he generously imparted his knowledge to his pupil, who entered on the study with such zeal, that in the second week he assaulted "Telemachus." "But now," in the swelling language of the pedagogue, "the plains of Mount Oliphant began to whiten, and Robert was summoned to relinquish the pleasing scenes that surrounded the grotto of Calypso." He took back with him a French grammar, and the beautiful tale of Fénelon; and, in a little time, by the help of these books, he was able to read and understand any French authors who fell in his way. An attack upon Latin was not equally successful; his perseverance seldom outlasting a week, and the study being regarded as a sort of penance, or refuge in ill-humour. He used it for a cold-bath. This, writes the Ettrick Shepherd with pleasant confidence, is exceedingly good, and rates the Latin much as I have always estimated it. English literature, however, retained its full charm, and the love was nurtured by the kindness of a widow lady, Mrs. Paterson, who lent Pope's translation of Homer, and the "Spectator," to the youthful student.

Mount Oliphant wanted every gleam to cheer it. The parish contained no farm so intractable; the soil being almost the poorest to be found under the plough

On the part of the family, no effort was wanting. Every member of it taxed his strength to the utmost. Robert was the principal labourer, Gilbert driving the plough, and helping him to thrash the corn. The food of the hermit was indoors as well as the gloom, butcher's meat being quite unknown.

In this dreary weather Burns reached his sixteenth year, toiling and sad-hearted, until in the harvest-field Love found him. He relates his first passion:—"You know our country custom of coupling a man and woman together as partners in the labours of harvest. In my fifteenth autumn my partner was a bewitching creature, a year younger than myself. My scarcity of English denies me the power of doing her justice in that language; but you know the Scottish idiom—she was a *bonnie, sweet, sonsie lass*. In short, she altogether, unwittingly to herself, initiated me in that delicious passion, which, in spite of acid disappointment, gin-horse prudence, and book-worm philosophy, I hold to be the first of human joys, our dearest blessing here below! How she caught the contagion I cannot tell: you medical people talk much of infection from breathing the same air, the touch, &c.; but I never expressly said I loved her. Indeed, I did not know myself why I liked so much to loiter behind with her, when returning in the evening from our labours; why the tones of her voice made my heart-strings thrill like an Æolian harp; and particularly why my pulse beat such a furious rattan when I looked and fingered over her little hand, to pick out the cruel nettlestings and thistles. Among her other love-inspiring qualities, she sung sweetly; and it was her favourite reel to which I attempted giving an embodied vehicle in rhyme. I was not so presumptuous as to imagine that I could make verses like printed ones composed by men who had Greek and Latin; but my girl sung a song, which was said to be composed by a small country laird's son, on one of his father's maids, with whom he was in love! and I saw no reason why I might not rhyme as well as he; for, excepting that he could smear sheep, and cast peats, his father living in the moor-lands, he had no more scholar-craft than myself."

And here I am reminded of that sweet passage in Virgil, which Mr. Rogers thought so true to nature, that he must have drawn it from early recollections:—"You were little when I first saw you. You were with your mother, gathering fruit in our orchard, and I was your guide. I was entering my thirteenth year, and just able to reach the boughs from the ground."

At the end of six years, William Burns endeavoured to find a farm of happier promise, but he sought it in vain, and, continuing his anxious toils through five years, he removed, Whitsuntide, 1777, to the larger farm of Lochlea, in the parish of Tarbolton. There the first four years passed in comfort, until the want of a written agreement involved the landlord and the tenant in legal disputes; and during the long period of three years, William Burns was "tossing and whirling in the vortex."

The little chapter of Lochlea includes some important passages in the story of Burns: for there his good and bad blossoms began to set with large promise of fruit. Although he confesses himself to have been the most ungainly lad in the parish, his mind was growing into shape. He was familiar with the "Spectator," and he carried a collection of songs in all his field-work, poring over them as he drove his cart. Slowly, too, the outward man improved, and a spreading rumour of his "book-knowledge" made him a welcome guest. But his chief fame was of another kind. Tarbolton was not less amorous than other country places in Scotland, and Robert became the confidant of the parish. He informs us that his curiosity, zeal, and dexterous boldness recommended him for a comrade in every love adventure; and that the secrets of Tarbolton hearts were as gratifying to him as the intrigues of Europe are to the statesman.

In an evil hour Burns turned flaxdresser, in the small town of Irvine, where he rented a room at a shilling a week. His health and his spirits seem to have been much disordered at this time. He speaks of his sleep as a little sounder, although the weakness of his nerves troubled his whole body at the least anxiety and alarm. He despairs of making a figure in the world; "being neither formed for the bustle of the busy, nor the flutter of the gay;" and when he "glimmered" a little into the future, the only prospect was poverty and contempt. In the midst of these doubts and fears, the flax business was brought to a sudden close; for while he was giving a welcome carousal to the new year, the shop took fire, and Burns found himself among the ashes, and, like a true poet, without a sixpence. His moral loss at Ayr had, probably, been larger than his commercial; for in a young man, whom an American privateer had lately stripped and set ashore, he met a companion and a tempter whose practice appears to have kept up with his theory. Meanwhile, blacker shadows gathered round the homestead of Lochlea. For two years the strength of the old man had been going, and just as the horrors of a jail were full in view, a consumption "kindly stepped in" and carried him away, February 13, 1784. Robert and Gilbert had made some preparation for the support of the family, when their father's affairs drew near a crisis, by taking a neighbouring farm, Mossiel, which was held in tack, of the Earl of Loudon, by that Mr. Gavin Hamilton whose name is lastingly united to the poet's. The farm contained one hundred and eighteen acres, and the rent was fixed at ninety pounds. We learn the particulars from Gilbert:—

"It was stocked by the property and individual savings of the whole family, and was a joint concern among us. Every member of the family was allowed ordinary wages for the labour he performed on the farm. My brother's allowance and mine was seven pounds per annum each. And during the whole time this family concern lasted, which was four years, as well as during the preceding period at Lochlea, his expenses never in any one year exceeded his slender income. His

temperance and frugality were everything that could be wished." But darker scenes were coming.

There lived in Mauchline a master stone-mason, James Armour, who had a black-eyed daughter, Jean, ranking high among the six *belles* of the village. It fell out on a certain day, that the poet's dog ran over the clothes which Jean Armour was spreading on the grass, and she flung a stone at the trespasser. The old proverb rose to the tongue of Burns, and the love-story began. It fills a melancholy page in the lives of the man and the woman. They sinned, and they suffered. A meeting of the lovers ended in a gift by Burns to Jean of a written promise, which Scottish law accepts as legal evidence of an "irregular" union. The marriage was not to be disclosed until the last moment, and when it came, the stone-mason showed himself less indulgent than the law. His indignation was great; and overpowered by the anger and the grief of her father, Jean destroyed the document, or permitted him to burn it. Under circumstances so afflicting, she became the mother of twins, for the charge of whose maintenance security was demanded of Burns. James Armour proved to be violent and relentless, with a view, it is conjectured, of driving Burns from the country, and setting his daughter free. If he had the design, it was almost fulfilled. Several Scotchmen were at that time engaged as assistant overseers in the West India Plantations. The salary was small, and the disagreeable nature of the occupation may be imagined. But it offered shelter to Burns, and he obtained an appointment in Jamaica, engaging himself to Dr. Douglas, of Port Antonio, for three years, at a salary of thirty pounds. To pay for his passage, he resolved to publish his "Poems." They had grown up, silently and sweetly, like the wild-flowers in the fields. The Daisy under the Plough—the Mouse driven from her nest—the Winter-dirge—the Cotter's Saturday Night—The Vision—and other pieces, seemed to steal upon his fancy, in its warm spring weather, with the bloom and freshness of opening life. The Muse had walked by his plough, and cheered and illuminated him. Even the coal-cart was sometimes hallowed by song. Lochlea is rich in these poetic remembrances, but Mossgiel excels it. Lately, perhaps now, you might see the "ingle," and the "spence," with its boarded-floor, and the recess-bed so common in Scotland, where he composed some of his most pathetic and humorous pieces. A small deal table was also pointed out. At the beginning of April, 1786, Burns sent his "Proposals" to the press of John Wilson, in Kilmarnock. In the mean time, he underwent a less agreeable form of publication in the parish kirk, by the tongue of Mr. Auld. A certificate of Bachelordom was the reward of the exposure. On June 12th, he communicated to a Glasgow acquaintance the news of his literary progress:—"You will have heard that I am going to commence poet in print; to-morrow my works go to the press. I expect it will be a volume of about two hundred pages. It is just the last foolish action I intend

to do, and then turn a wise man as fast as possible." His story of the enterprise is extremely interesting :—

"I weighed my productions as impartially as was in my power : I thought they had merit ; and it was a delicious idea that I should be called a clever fellow, even though it should never reach my ears—a poor negro driver, or perhaps a victim to that inhospitable clime, and gone to the world of spirits ! I can truly say, that *pauvre inconnu* as I then was, I had pretty nearly as high an idea of myself and of my works as I have at this moment, when the public has decided in their favour. It ever was my opinion, that the mistakes and blunders, both in a rational and religious point of view, of which we see thousands daily guilty, are owing to their ignorance of themselves.—To know myself, had been all along my constant study. I weighed myself alone ; I balanced myself with others ; I watched every means of information, to see how much ground I occupied as a man and a poet ; I studied assiduously Nature's design in my formation—where the lights and shades in my character were intended. I was pretty confident my poems would meet with some applause ; but, at the worst, the roar of the Atlantic would deafen the voice of censure, and the novelty of West Indian scenes make me forget neglect. I threw off six hundred copies, of which I had got subscriptions for about three hundred and fifty. My vanity was highly gratified by the reception I met with from the public ; and besides, I pocketed, all expenses deducted, nearly twenty pounds. This sum came very seasonably, as I was thinking of indenting myself, for want of money to procure my passage. As soon as I was master of nine guineas, the price of wafting me to the torrid zone, I took a steerage passage in the first ship that was to sail from the Clyde ; for

' Hungry ruin had me in the wind.'

"I had been for some days skulking from covert to covert, under all the terrors of a jail ; as some ill-advised people had uncoupled the merciless pack of the law at my heels. I had taken the last farewell of my few friends ; my chest was on the road to Greenock ; I had composed the last song I should ever measure in Caledonia, 'The gloomy Night is gathering fast,' when a letter from Dr. Blacklock, to a friend of mine, overthrew all my schemes, by opening new prospects to my poetic ambition. The doctor belonged to a set of critics, for whose applause I had not dared to hope. His opinion that I would meet with encouragement in Edinburgh for a second edition, fired me so much, that away I posted for that city, without a single acquaintance, or a single letter of introduction. The baneful star, that had so long shed its blasting influence in my zenith, for once made a revolution to the nadir ; and a kind Providence placed me under the patronage of one of the noblest of men, the Earl of Glencairn."

The "Poems" appeared in July, 1786, at the price of three shillings; a dignified preface opened the volume:—

"The following trifles are not the production of the poet who, with all the advantages of learned art, and, perhaps, amid the elegancies and idlenesses of upper life, looks down for a rural theme, with an eye to Theocritus or Virgil. To the author of this, these and other celebrated names their countrymen are, at least in their original language, *a fountain shut up, and a book sealed*. Unacquainted with the necessary requisites for commencing poet by rule, he sings the sentiments and manners he felt and saw in himself and his rustic compeers around him, in his and their native language. Though a rhymers from his earliest years, at least from the earliest impulses of the softer passions, it was not till very lately that the applause, perhaps the partiality, of friendship, wakened his vanity so far as to make him think anything of his worth showing; and none of the following works were ever composed with a view to the press. To amuse himself with the little creations of his own fancy, amid the toil and fatigues of a laborious life; to transcribe the various feelings, the loves, the griefs, the hopes, the fears, in his own breast; to find some kind of counterpoise to the struggles of a world, always an alien scene, a task uncouth to the poetical mind;—these were his motives for courting the Muses, and in these he found Poetry to be its own reward.

"Now that he appears in the public character of an author, he does it with fear and trembling. So dear is fame to the rhyming tribe, that even he, an obscure, nameless Bard, shrinks aghast at the thought of being branded as 'an impertinent blockhead, obtruding his nonsense on the world; and, because he can make a shift to jingle a few doggerel Scotch rhymes together, looking upon himself as a poet of no small consequence forsooth!'

"It is an observation of that celebrated poet, Shenstone, whose divine elegies do honour to our language, our nation, and our species, that 'HUMILITY has depressed many a genius to a hermit, but never raised one to fame!' If any critic catches at the word GENIUS, the Author tells him, once for all, that he certainly looks upon himself as possessed of some poetic abilities, otherwise his publishing in the manner he has done would be a manoeuvre below the worst character which, he hopes, his worst enemy will ever give him. But to the genius of a Ramsay, or the glorious dawns of the poor unfortunate Ferguson, he, with equal unaffected sincerity, declares, that even in his highest pulse of vanity, he has not the most distant pretensions. These two justly admired Scotch poets he has often had in his eye in the following pieces; but rather with a view to kindle at their flame, than for servile imitation.

"To his subscribers the Author returns his most sincere thanks; not the mercenary bow over a counter, but the heart-throbbing gratitude of the Bard, conscious

how much he is indebted to benevolence and friendship, for gratifying him, if he deserves it, in that dearest wish of every poetic bosom—to be distinguished. He begs his readers, particularly the learned and the polite, who may honour him with a perusal, that they will make every allowance for education and circumstances of life; but if, after a fair, candid, and impartial criticism, he shall stand convicted of dulness and nonsense, let him be done by as he would in that case do by others—let him be condemned, without mercy, to contempt and oblivion.”

“The Cotter’s Saturday Night” was the gem of the collection, and did for the writer what the “Elegy” had done for Gray—it made him famous. When Gilpin, in 1789, published his “Observations on the Highlands,” he described the pleasing simplicity of country life, the small Erse Bible which was the Highlander’s usual companion, the mother spinning or knitting, and the children standing round her reading God’s Book, or repeating the “Catechism;” and by way of illustrating his description, he quoted the poem of Burns—“a Bard, as he calls himself, from the plough,”—and pronounced “the whole to be equal to any praise.” Gilbert gives a touching anecdote of the composition:—

“Robert had frequently remarked to me that he thought there was something peculiarly venerable in the phrase, ‘Let us worship God,’ used by a decent sober head of a family introducing family worship. To this sentiment of the Author the world is indebted for the ‘Cotter’s Saturday Night.’ The hint of the plan, and title of the poem, were taken from Ferguson’s ‘Farmer’s Ingle.’ When Robert had not some pleasure in view in which I was not thought fit to participate, we used frequently to walk together when the weather was favourable on the Sunday afternoons (those precious breathing-times to the labouring part of the community), and enjoyed such Sundays as would make one regret to see their number abridged. It was in one of these walks that I first had the pleasure of hearing the author repeat the ‘Cotter’s Saturday Night.’ I do not recollect to have read or heard anything by which I was more highly *electrified*. The fifth and sixth stanzas, and the eighteenth, thrilled with peculiar ecstasy through my soul. I mention this to you, that you may see what hit the taste of unlettered criticism.”

The edition of the “Poems” was exhausted in a month by the subscribers and the public. Wherever the book came, it was admired. Farm-servants spent their wages to get it; and educated readers turned an eye of interest upon the writer. Among these were Dugald Stewart and Mrs. Dunlop, who continued to the end of his life to be true and generous friends. A new issue of his “Poems” was now suggested to him, as likely to increase the comforts of his voyage; but the Kilmarnock printer required the cost of the paper to be advanced, and Burns had no money for the purpose, though friends were not unwilling to provide it.

To this period belongs a romantic incident in the poet's life: his parting with Mary Campbell, the dairymaid of Colonel Montgomery, and the Highland Mary of Poetry. All tradition describes her as a gentle-hearted, loving creature, willing to trust her happiness to an eloquent and daring admirer. I apprehend that, in some particulars, the biographers of Burns have been warmed by his raptures. His own narrative is sufficient for my purpose:—"After a pretty long trial of the most ardent, reciprocal affection, we met, by appointment, on the second Sunday of May, in a sequestered spot on the banks of the Ayr, where we spent a day in taking a farewell before she should embark for the West Highlands, to arrange matters among her friends for our projected change of life. At the close of the autumn following, she crossed the sea to meet me at Greenock, where she had scarce landed when she was seized with a malignant fever, which hurried my dear girl to her grave in a few days, before I could even learn of her illness." The Bible over which the lovers uttered their vows, and a tress of Mary's long, shining hair, are still preserved. Let me not be deemed unkind to Burns, if I remember that while he was thus pledging himself with such solemnity of circumstance to a Mary, a Jean was rueing the day that she met him in the house of her sorrowful parents.

A circumstance, which his letter has already told, rendered pecuniary help unnecessary. Burns was acquainted with Dr. Laurie, minister of Loudoun, and that gentleman sent a copy of the "Poems" to Dr. Blacklock, with a slight outline of the Poet's life. The amiable scholar was delighted by the pathos, the grace, and the humour of the volume, and strongly urged the immediate preparation of an enlarged impression. The pleasure of the Poet was equal to his critic's; and he exchanged the voyage to Jamaica for the road to Edinburgh. He arrived in that city November 28, 1786. Dugald Stewart had already awakened some interest in his behalf by reading his poems, and speaking of his struggles, to several friends, and to Henry Mackenzie among the number. We have the Professor's sketch of the Ayrshire Ploughman, as he appeared in the Scottish metropolis. His dress was plain, but neat. Walter Scott, recalling the vision of his sixteenth year, said that he should have taken the poet for a very sagacious country farmer of the old school—"the douce gudeman who held his own plough!"

Very surprising must have been the change from the playground of Nature to the school of Art. A more striking group of scholars and men of taste might not be found. There was the good and blind son of the bricklayer, whom Johnson hailed at Sir William Forbes's breakfast-table with the tender welcome, "Dear Dr. Blacklock, I am glad to see you." There was Blair, the beau, the novel-reader, the popular preacher, and the vainest man of his time. There was Robertson, neither brilliant nor fruitful in talk, but pleased to be praising the generous claret. There was Adam Ferguson, the sage and

rigorous, into his ninety-third year. There was Mackenzie, the gayest of the gay, collecting his rhymes on the edge of the grave, and turning out for a coursing-match with a white hat, green spectacles, and a dog-whistle round his neck. There was Alison, the elegant and the refined. There was Monboddó, enunciating his great axiom that everything was possible, and contemplating the birth of a conversable ourang-outang. But especially eminent and beloved above all the band was "the plain, honest, worthy man, the Professor," Dugald Stewart, exhibiting to the admiration of his rustic friend the blended virtues of "Socrates, Nathanael, and Shakspeare." One distinguished member of Edinburgh society was absent. Adam Smith had just gone to London, when Burns received an introductory letter. We may imagine the delight with which the painter of "The Holy Fair" would have watched the Doctor hovering round the sugar-basin, and continually carrying off a fresh lump from the bewildered spinster who presided. In this brave company of philosophers and critics, the peasant held up his head. He fought them with weapons sharper than their own, and supplied his want of science, or learning, by a various fancy and a glow of language which amazed the scholars, and lifted the beautiful Duchess of Gordon off her feet. Nor was Edinburgh less attractive than its inhabitants. Burns surveyed it with a poet's eye. Arthur's Seat was a favourite haunt, and the cottage smoke, going up into the clear blue sky of morning, awoke in him home-thoughts more tender than poetry. But the great city is not always a safe home for the moralist—never for a poet. We are assured by one, who was darkly stained by its vices, that Burns did not escape the corruption of evil companionship. His Edinburgh life took a downward turn from the period when he exchanged his share of a garret in Baxter's-close and the society of John Richmond, a lawyer's clerk, for the more luxurious dwelling of William Nicol, a teacher in the High School—a clever and noisy admirer, who was at the same time a scoffer and a drunkard. We cannot read this chapter in the story of Burns without remembering the intemperance and the swagger of Savage.

At the beginning of April, 1787, the second edition of his poems issued from the shop of Creech. Lord Glencairn and the Dean of the Faculty had taken him under their wing, and the Caledonian Hunt subscribed in a body. To his learned acquaintances he had recently added Dr. John Moore, formerly a surgeon in Glasgow, afterwards the travelling companion of the Duke of Hamilton, and then settled in London as a physician. The story of "Zeluco" had won a name, and Burns regarded the author with a sort of mysterious reverence. In a letter to Moore, April 23, 1787, he gives his view of a town life on its learned side:—"I leave Edinburgh in the course of ten days or a fortnight. I shall return to my rural shades, in all likelihood never more to quit them. I have formed many

intimacies and friendships here ; but I am afraid they are all of too tender a construction to bear carriage a hundred and fifty miles."

He had long cherished the desire of making leisurely pilgrimages to the battle fields, the romantic rivers, and the ruined castles of his country ; and his longing was at last in some measure to be gratified in the season most dear to his fancy—

“When rosy May comes in wi’ flowers.”

On the 6th of that month, having one companion, Mr. Robert Ainslie, he made a hasty excursion into the southern districts, in which Beattie discovered the Arcadia of Scotland, being distinguished by green hills, clear flowing streams, scattered or clustering trees, and especially by its songs, “sweetly expressive of love and tenderness, and the other emotions suited to the tranquillity of pastoral life.”

In three weeks, Burns visited the most interesting scenes. At Jedburgh, where orchards and gardens were mingled with the ruins of a stately cathedral, he received the freedom of the borough ; the glorious Melrose and the old abbey of Dryburgh affected him greatly, and he carried away in his memory the sound and the colour of

“Ettrick banks now roaring red.”

From Arcadia, he passed into Northumberland, and visited the noble castle of the duke, and the hermitage of Warkworth.

Burns returned to Mossiel in June (8th), 1787, and his biographers have noticed the affecting circumstances under which he revisited his home. Several months were gone since he quitted it, a poor and desperate man ; he came back enriched and honoured ; and, in the affectionate welcome of his kindred, he might discover a recompense for the glare and the flattery which he had left. He did not, however, long continue under the old roof, but made a fresh expedition into the Highlands, and rejoined his family in July. August found him again in Edinburgh, arranging a third tour with Mr. Adair, of Harrowgate, to whom we owe a slight sketch of the journey :—

“Burns and I left Edinburgh together in August, 1787. We rode by Linlithgow and Carron, to Stirling. We visited the iron-works at Carron, with which the poet was forcibly struck. The resemblance between that place, and its inhabitants, to the cave of Cyclops, which must have occurred to every classical visitor, presented itself to Burns. At Stirling the prospects from the castle strongly interested him ; in a former visit to which, his national feelings had been powerfully excited by the ruinous and roofless state of the hall in which the Scottish Parliaments had frequently been held. His indignation had vented itself in some imprudent

but not unpoetical lines, which had given much offence, and which he took this opportunity of erasing, by breaking the pane of the window at the inn on which they were written.

“At Stirling we met with a company of travellers from Edinburgh, among whom was a character in many respects congenial with that of Burns. This was Nicol, one of the teachers of the High Grammar School at Edinburgh: the same wit and power of conversation; the same fondness for convivial society, and thoughtlessness of to-morrow, characterized both. Jacobitical principles in politics were common to both of them; and these have been suspected, since the Revolution of France, to have given place in each to opinions apparently opposite. I regret that I have preserved no *memorabilia* of their conversation, either on this or on other occasions, when I happened to meet them together. Many songs were sung, which I mention for the sake of observing, that when Burns was called on in his turn, he was accustomed, instead of singing, to recite one or other of his shorter poems, with a tone and emphasis which, though not correct or harmonious, were impressive and pathetic. This he did on the present occasion.

“From Stirling we went next morning through the romantic and fertile vale of Devon to Harvieston, in Clackmannanshire, then inhabited by Mrs. Hamilton, with the younger part of whose family Burns had been previously acquainted. He introduced me to the family, and there was formed my first acquaintance with Mrs. Hamilton’s eldest daughter, to whom I have been married for nine years. Thus was I indebted to Burns for a connection from which I have derived, and expect further to derive, much happiness.

“During a residence of about ten days at Harvieston, we made excursions to visit various parts of the surrounding scenery, inferior to none in Scotland, in beauty, sublimity, and romantic interest; particularly Castle Campbell, the ancient seat of the family of Argyle; and the famous cataract of the Devon, called the ‘Cauldron Linn;’ and the ‘‘Rumbling Bridge,’’ a single broad arch, thrown by the Devil, if tradition is to be believed, across the river, at about the height of a hundred feet above its bed. I am surprised that none of these scenes should have called forth an exertion of Burns’s muse. But I doubt if he had much taste for the picturesque. I well remember, that the ladies at Harvieston, who accompanied us on this jaunt, expressed their disappointment at his not expressing, in more glowing and fervid language, his impressions of the ‘‘Cauldron Linn’’ scene, certainly highly sublime, and somewhat horrible.

“A visit to Mrs. Bruce of Clackmannan, a lady above ninety, the lineal descendant of that race which gave the Scottish throne its brightest ornament, interested his feelings more powerfully. This venerable dame, with characteristical dignity, informed me, on my observing that I believed she was descended from the family of Robert Bruce that Robert Bruce was sprung from her family. Though

almost deprived of speech by a paralytic affection, she preserved her hospitality and urbanity. She was in possession of the hero's helmet and two-handed sword, with which she conferred on Burns and myself the honour of knighthood, remarking, that she had a better right to confer that title than *some people*. . . . You will of course conclude that the old lady's political tenets were as Jacobitical as the poet's,—a conformity which contributed not a little to the cordiality of our reception and entertainment. She gave as her first toast after dinner, *Awa, Uncos*, or, *Away with the Strangers*.—Who those strangers were you will readily understand. Mrs. A. corrects me by saying it should be *Hooi*, or *Hoohi uncoss*, a sound used by shepherds to direct their dogs to drive away the sheep.

“We returned to Edinburgh by Kinross (on the shore of Lochleven) and Queensferry. I am inclined to think Burns knew nothing of poor Michael Bruce, who was then alive at Kinross, or had died there a short while before. A meeting between the bards, or a visit to the deserted cottage and early grave of poor Bruce, would have been highly interesting.

“At Dunfermline we visited the ruined abbey, and the abbey church, new consecrated to Presbyterian worship. Here I mounted the *cutty stool*, or stool of repentance, while Burns from the pulpit addressed to me a ludicrous reproof and exhortation, parodied from that which had been delivered to himself in Ayrshire, where he had, as he assured me, once been one of seven who mounted the *seat of shame* together.

“In the churchyard, two broad flagstones marked the grave of Robert Bruce, for whose memory Burns had more than common veneration. He knelt and kissed the stone with sacred fervour, and heartily (*suis ut mos erat*) execrated the worse than Gothic neglect of the first of Scottish heroes.”

He had no sooner ended his third pilgrimage, than he began another, and a more extensive, in the company of his friend Mr. Nicol. The travellers, leaving Edinburgh, August 25, 1787, pursued their way into the heart of the Highlands, and, stretching northward, about ten miles beyond Inverness, took an easterly course over the island, and returned by the shore of the German Sea to Edinburgh. Burns anticipated and found much entertainment in the original humour of his companion. But the ill qualities of Nicol tarnished the good. His manners were coarser than his person, and the “strong in-kneed sort of a soul,” which his friend attributed to him, seems to have gained its vigour by the loss of gentleness, or his temper was fierce and ungoverned.

But to Burns the tour brought pleasant fruit. Athole House was a cherished remembrance. The gloom of evening hung over the landscape, when Mr. Walker whom he had known at Edinburgh, conducted him through the grounds, and witnessed the tender enthusiasm with which he gazed on the scenery. “We rested,”

ne sister of Wordsworth writes, "upon the heather seat which Burns was so loth to quit that moonlight evening when he first went to Blair Castle; and I had a pleasure in thinking that he had been under the same shelter, and viewed the little waterfall opposite with some of the happy and pure feelings of his better mind."

Within-doors, the "fine family piece" was not less charming. To Gilbert he sent a letter from Edinburgh, September 16, 1787.

"I arrived here safe yesterday evening, after a tour of twenty-two days, and travelling near six hundred miles, windings included. My farthest stretch was about ten miles beyond Inverness. I went through the heart of the Highlands, by Crieff, Taymouth, the famous seat of Lord Breadalbane, down the Tay, among cascades and druidical circles of stones, to Dunkeld, a seat of the Duke of Athole; thence cross Tay, and up one of his tributary streams to Blair of Athole, another of the Duke's seats, where I had the honour of spending nearly two days with his Grace and family; thence many miles through a wild country, among cliffs grey with eternal snows, and gloomy savage glens, till I crossed Spey and went down the stream through Strathspey, so famous in Scottish music, Badenoch, &c., till I reached Grant Castle, where I spent half a day with Sir James Grant and family; and then crossed the country for Fort George, but called by the way at Cawdor, the ancient seat of Macbeth; there I saw the identical bed in which, tradition says, King Duncan was murdered: lastly, from Fort George to Inverness.

"I returned by the coast, through Nairn, Forres, and so on, to Aberdeen; thence to Stonehive, where James Burns, from Montrose, met me by appointment. I spent two days among our relations, and found our aunts, Jean and Isabel, still alive, and hale old women. John Caird, though born the same year with our father, walks as vigorously as I can; they have had several letters from his son in New York. William Brand is likewise a stout old fellow; but further particulars I delay till I see you, which will be in two or three weeks. The rest of my stages are not worth rehearsing: warm as I was from Ossian's country, where I had seen his very grave, what cared I for fishing towns or fertile carses? I slept at the famous Brodie of Brodie's one night, and dined at Gordon Castle next day with the Duke, Duchess, and family. I am thinking to cause my old mare to meet me, by means of John Ronald, at Glasgow; but you shall hear further from me before I leave Edinburgh. My duty, and many compliments from the north, to my mother, and my brotherly compliments to the rest. I have been trying for a berth for William, but am not likely to be successful.—Farewell."

Burns was again in Edinburgh during the winter of 1787. He is then supposed to have begun his acquaintance with the lady whom he celebrated under the title of *Cicinda*. Her real name was M'Lehose, the wife of a gentleman in the West

Indies, and then residing with her children in Edinburgh. The letters which Burns addressed to her, in the pastoral character of Sylvander, are sufficiently amorous and absurd; but a devotee, like Clarinda, required no common homage. She declared that the admiration of fourscore years would not pay her debt of gratitude. Time dealt generously with her in old age; she lived near the Calton Hill, where Mr. Howitt and his wife visited her, and witnessed a most amusing scene. Clarinda invited her guests to drink out of the glasses which Sylvander had presented, and took them from the cupboard, and rang for the servant to bring wine. An aged woman answered the call, and hearing that the strangers "were to drink out of the glasses which stood ready on the table, she gave a look as if sacrilege were going to be committed, took up the glasses without a word, replaced them in the cupboard, locking them up, and brought in three ordinary glasses. It was in vain for Mrs. M'Lehose to remonstrate; the old and self-willed servant went away without deigning a reply, with the key in her pocket."

The settlement of his accounts with Creech, February, 1788, placed more than five hundred pounds in the hands of Burns. He made a noble use of part of the money

His own account to Dr. Moore—January 4, 1789—is simple and pleasing: "I have a younger brother, who supports my aged mother; another still younger brother, and three sisters, in a farm. On my last return from Edinburgh, it cost me about £180 to save them from ruin. Not that I have lost so much—I only interposed between my brother and his impending fate by the loan of so much. I give myself no airs on this, for it was mere selfishness on my part. I was conscious that the wrong scale of the balance was pretty heavily charged, and I thought that throwing a little filial and fraternal affection into the scale in my favour, might help to smooth matters at *the grand reckoning*." With the balance of his profits he entered upon a farm, belonging to Mr Miller, of Dalswinton. Ellisland was pleasantly situated on the banks of the Nith, six miles from Dumfries. The vale of the Nith sweeps just below the house, and from the windows the river is seen flowing with its swift, dark current, broad as the Thames at Hampton Court. Burns began his new life at Whitsuntide, 1788, having previously gone through the ceremony of a justice-of-peace marriage with Jean Armour, in the office of his friend Gavin Hamilton. He considered the head of a wife to be immaterial, in comparison of her heart. He spoke from experience. His Jean had a handsome figure, a sweet temper, and reckoned her husband the finest genius in the world. Her acquaintance with prose and verse was limited to the Bible and the Psalms; but she had studied a certain collection of Scottish songs, and warbled many with a delicious wood-note. In later life, the Etrick Shepherd frequently saw Mrs. Burns, in the old church of Dumfries, and spoke of her as a brunette, with fine eyes.

A modern poet has said finely,—

“ And there were many strange and sudden lights
Beckoned him towards them ; they were wrecking lights :
But he shunned these, and righted when she rose,
Moon of his life, that ebbcd and flowcd with her ! ”

Alas ! that we cannot apply the words to Burns. His wedded life met with difficulties at the beginning. The house of Ellisland was a miserable hovel, open to wind and rain, and giving to the occupant the choice of being drenched or suffocated. Jean could not come under such a roof, and she remained with the poet's family. But forty miles make a wide gap between husband and wife. Burns set himself with all speed to build a better dwelling, and the summer found him busy in the field. His resolutions were excellent. “ I have all along, hitherto in the warfare of life, been bred to arms among the light horse—the piquet guards of fancy, a kind of hussars and highlanders of the brain ; but I am firmly resolved to sell out of these giddy battalions, who have no ideas of a battle, but fighting the foe, or of a siege, but storming the town. Cost what it will, I am determined to buy in among the grave squadrons of heavy-armed thought, or the artillery corps of plauding contrivance.” In neither of these regiments did he ever get a commission. He brought Jean home in November, and for the first time in his life had the opportunity of realizing his own picture :—

“ To make a happy fire-side clime,
To weans and wife—
That's the true pathos, and sublime
Of human life.”

But low spirits dulled his joys. He calls himself such a coward in the world, and so tired of the service, that the desire of his heart was “ to lie down in his mother's lap and be at peace.” We hear him groaning under the miseries of a diseased nervous system, and of headaches three weeks in duration.

It may be feared that the mirth of the Edinburgh tables often rung in his ears. Dr. Moore had mentioned the friendliness of husbandry to fancy, while he wished for him the prosperous union of the farmer and the poet. But Burns had neither Mæcenas for a landlord, nor Horace for a neighbour. He gives a characteristic sketch of his life at “ the very elbow ” of existence. “ The only things,” he told Mr. Bengo, the engraver, “ that are to be found in this country in any degree of perfection are stupidity and canting.” Prose, he said, they only knew in graces and sermons, which they valued, like plaiding webs, by the ell ; while a poet and a rhinoceros suggested ideas equally distinct and agreeable. It was not always dark in Ellisland. His first winter glided happily by, and golden days of the

heart and ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~own~~ ^{own} often shone, when the father rejoiced in the crown of the poet. In this farm, by the river-side, he composed his noblest lyric, "To Mary in Heaven;" and there, too, the fat and festive Grose came to visit him, and heard of the wonderful jump of Cutty Sark and the magnificent terrors of Tam.

Burns had made a bad choice of a farm; but a momentary sunlight broke over it, and the crops rewarded his industry and care. An agricultural friend once warned him that however situation, soil, and custom might vary, Farmer Attention would be prosperous everywhere. And it is conceivable that even from Ellisland he might have come in joy, bringing sheaves. But Farmer Attention was a stranger under that roof—more familiar to the wedding feast and the harvest dance. The appointment of Burns to the Excise came, to complete the ruin of the husbandman. He owed it to the kindness of a surgeon (Mr. Wood), who got his name placed on the list of candidates. His satisfaction is abundantly shown in his letters. "I thought," he wrote to Mrs. Dunlop, "five-and-thirty pounds a year was no bad *dernier ressort* for a poor poet, if fortune, in her jade tricks, should kick him down from the little eminence to which she had lately helped him up." To Miss Chalmers he placed his new office in the same prudential light. "I do not find my farm that pennyworth I was taught to expect; but I believe in time it may be a saving bargain. To save me from that horrid situation of at any time going down in a losing bargain of a farm to misery, I have taken my Excise instructions, and have my commission in my pocket for any emergency of fortune." And to another lady he remarked—"The question is not at what door of Fortune's palace shall we enter in? but, What doors does she open to us?" To his friend Ainslie he talked in high spirits:—"I do not know if I have informed you that I am now appointed to an excise division, in the middle of which my house and farm lie. In this I was extremely lucky, without ever having been an expectant, as they call their journeyman exciseman, I was directly planted down, to all intents and purposes, an officer of excise. Fifty pounds a year for life, and a provision for widows and orphans, you will allow, is no bad settlement for a poet."

Before the close of 1791, Burns relinquished his farm, and being placed, with a salary of seventy pounds, in the Dumfries department of Excise he removed his family to that town. The situation was not promising. The house stood in a narrow street, swarming with tramps; and the worthy sister of a great poet describes its look in the autumn of 1803:—"It has a mean appearance, whitewashed, dirty about the doors, as all Scotch houses are; the parlour walls were washed with blue wash; on one side of the fire was a mahogany desk, opposite the window a clock, and over the desk a print from the "Cotter's Saturday Night." The house was cleanly and neat in the inside; the stairs of stone scoured white, the kitchen on the right hand of the passage, the parlour on the left."

As his biographers of Burns concur in putting his Dumfries life into shadow. "I am just risen," are his own sad words—"from a two hours' bout after supper, with silly, or sordid souls, who could relish nothing in common with me but the port." Among companions like these he had long been in the habit—to adopt his striking phrase—of dividing large slices of his constitution; but the biggest slices were given at Dumfries. Many families from the south of Scotland chose that town for their winter residence; and we are told that it abounded in "stately Toryism," which only served to embitter and aggravate the hostility of the Poet. The freedom of his manners was, at least, equalled by that of his tongue, and his epigrams fell thick and fast. One critic is sharp upon the "gentry," because they "cut" Burns. This "cutting" is certain. A friend informed Mr. Lockhart, that upon a fine summer evening he saw the poet walking alone on the shady side of the principal street, while the opposite part was gay with successive groups of gentlemen and ladies, all drawn together for the festivities of the night, not one of whom appeared willing to recognize him. Assuredly he gave ample opportunity to evil-speakers. A single instance will be sufficient. The coasts of Galloway and Ayrshire were the haunts of smugglers, whom it was the especial duty of the revenue officers to watch and intercept. In the February of 1792, an armed brig appearing in the Solway Frith, and getting into shallow water, a party of dragoons was brought down, and, led by Burns, dashed up to the brig and captured her. At the public sale of the vessel, he bought four guns, which he sent with a flattering assurance of his esteem to the French Convention. The gift was stopped at Dover, but the folly of the exciseman reached the ears of the Board, by whom he was naturally regarded as a person disaffected and dangerous. Scared of a sudden by the vision of a helpless wife, and children turned adrift in to the world, Burns opened his grief to Mr. Graham, and found the protection which he asked. The displeasure of the Board passed away in a mild and merited censure. Nor is there any reason to suppose that his prospects of promotion were blighted by the imprudence and wilfulness of his conduct. If he became more circumspect in his political walk, the watchfulness did not reach his morals. His most zealous apologists only venture to plead that his errors were occasional; and witnesses are called to speak of his early rising, his punctuality, and his lessons to his children. What is such testimony worth? That life must be utterly reprobate, of which sin is the narrative, not the episode. In general, the phrensy of vice has lucid intervals. Kit Smart was not wheeled home in the barrow on every night. There is enough of the wild beast in sin to make it drowsy when it is fed.

It is the fashion to rebuke any censure of Burns by a reference to passages in which he confesses his guilt, and implores the pity of his brethren. Let the appeal be welcomed. He has left outpourings of a smitten heart, never to be read

without sympathy, nor to be remembered except with prayer. But of what avail is sorrow which bears no fruit? Crabbe is believed to have painted Burns in the portrait of Edward Shore:—

“Griev’d, but not contrite, was his heart; oppress’d,
Not broken; not converted, but distress’d;
He wanted will to bend the stubborn knee;
He wanted light the cause of ill to see;
To learn how frail is man, how humble then should be.”

The picture is a likeness. I do not doubt that in the festival of his riot, or his guilt, the great soul of this wonderful man was shaken by gusts of penitence and fear. A hand on the wall terrified him with the balance; and dreadfully the scales went down before his accusing eyes. Very awful is his confession to a friend:—“Even in the hour of social mirth, my gaiety is the madness of an intoxicated criminal under the hands of the executioner.” In such seasons the united Presbytery had no preacher so eloquent, no prayers so pathetic. The Ettrick Shepherd frequently heard one Master Saunders Proudfoot relate a story. There had been a merrymaking at Thornhill Fair, and wine and punch disappeared with more than ordinary swiftness. “By degrees the hale o’ the chaps slippit away ane after another. But what I fear was his warst fault—he couldna leave the bowl, and I was determined not to leave him; sae we sat on, an’ sat on, till after midnight and then were shown into a bedroom, an’ our bowl an’ glasses wi’ us. I saw before this time that Burns had gotten rather mair than enough, an’ in order to gar nim gi’ over, I pretended to be drunk, an’ lay down on ane o’ the beds with my claes on. Burns seemed very ill pleased when I left him, an’ looked round and round him as rather disappointed; but he couldna drink by himself, and if he took ae glass after I left him that was a’. I watched him weel, an’ he grew exceedingly impatient, an’ then throwing himself on his knees, with his face leaning on his arms, which were across the chair, he began to pray, and by degrees he got into such a fervent supplication for mercy and forgiveness for all his transgressions, that it was awfu’, it was dreadfu’ to hear him. It made sic an impression on me, that I crept quietly owre the bed, out o’ his kennin, and kneeled down beside him. He confessed himself to be the chief o’ sinners, with tears of agony; and siccan fervour o’ eloquence I never heard frae the lips o’ man. It was awesome to hear him. I was even greetin’ mysel’, although it’s no little that gars auld Sandy cry.”

I rejoice in believing the heart of Burns to have been always true. A tender father he surely was. He revered Virtue when he outraged her. The little hands of his children were familiar to his neck in all their “flichterin’ noise an’ glee;”

and no husband, in his calmer hours, ever felt more deeply the dear associations of life

“—————Wee bit ingle, blinkin bonnily,
His clean hearth-stane, his thrifty wife’s smile.”

The wife of Burns had much to forgive, and she forgave it, in life and in death. Very touching is the anecdote which Hogg tells of Jean Burns the widow. “Na na, poor fellow, his complaints were a’ of himsel’. He never complained either o the bairns or me, he never said a misbehadden word to me a’ the days of his life. We have evidence, in the poetry which Burns wrote at Dumfries, that the bright life within him was continually throwing sunshine into the outward cloud. And a fortunate circumstance cherished the flame. Mr. George Thomson, of Edinburgh, had formed a plan of collecting original Scotch airs for the voice, accompanied by words. He was a man of cultivated taste, fond of painting, and able to bear his part in a violin quartette of Pleyel. The musical assistance he had secured, but he wanted the poetical. His hopes turned to the author of “The Cotter’s Saturday Night,” and in September, 1792, he stated his wishes to Burns, who on the 16th of the same month answered the application with a frank and cordial enthusiasm. Still further to brighten the prospect, Beattie promised an Essay on the National Music. Burns kept his word, and found his pleasure in his work. He assured Thomson, in the April of the next year, that the business of composing had added to his enjoyments, and that ballad-making was becoming as completely his “hobby-horse as ever fortification was Uncle Toby’s.” His anticipations of success, too, were largely fulfilled; for in this race he took the right side of the winning-post. By the general verdict of readers, the sixty songs, which he wrote for the collection of Thomson, are pronounced to be the most beautiful and refined of his works. The “Bannockburn” was a blast upon a trumpet which he blew too seldom. But the evening lights begin to melt around us.

The glimpses which the poet gives of himself are in the highest degree mournful: Regret—Remorse—Shame, dog his steps and bay at his heels; he apologizes to a lady for some festive ill-behaviour, by writing a letter “from the dead” his helpless little folks drive sleep from his pillow; his old friends would not know him. With every month the nervous misery increases; and his feelings, at times, are only to be envied by “a reprobate spirit listening to the sentence that dooms it to perdition.” Except in the letters of Cowper, I remember no self-upbraidings more dreadful or pathetic. The storm deepened. He had hardly buried his sweet little girl, when a rheumatic fever of the severest kind bound him to his bed. All these things were against him. To James Johnson he wrote:—“This attracting, slow, consuming illness which hangs over me will, I doubt much

arrest my sun before he has well reached his middle career, and will turn over the poet to far more important concerns than studying the brilliancy of wit or the pathos of sentiment. However, hope is the cordial of the human heart, and I endeavour to cherish it as well as I can." The new year found him making feeble efforts to crawl across his room. But no suffering could teach prudence to Burns. The firstfruits of his strength were given to a tavern dinner, prolonged into the late morning. Returning home, he sunk on the snow and slept. The old enemy came in his sleep, and he awoke with the torments of rheumatism, renewed and sharpened. Pale, emaciated, and wanting a hand to help him from his chair, he complained of "spirits fled—fled!" One faint hope remained—it was the shadow of a shade: sea-bathing might restore him. In order to obtain it, he was removed to Brow, a village on the Solway Frith; and there his pains were slightly relieved. But the fire was still burning. He returned to Dumfries on the 18th of July, 1796, wasted in body and face, and hardly able to stand. Dr. Maxwell, who attended him, communicated the particulars of his closing hours to Currie:—A tremor pervaded his frame; his tongue was parched, and his mind sunk into delirium when not roused by conversation. On the second and third day the fever increased, and his strength diminished. Upon the fourth day the cord was loosed and the spirit took its flight.

So died Robert Burns, the most remarkable person of that age; alike gifted and wretched; the glory and the shame of literature. Can the tale be more fittingly ended, or moralized, than by the last words of a Scottish minstrel of wide renown, and who did not die in a noisy street, but in the splendid home which his genius had erected. The September afternoon was calm and sunny, and the Tweed, rippling over its pebbles, sounded through the open window, when the expiring poet whispered to a friend by his bed, "I may have but a minute to speak to you,—My dear, be a good man—be virtuous, be religious. Nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to lie here."

Men forgive much to the dead, and round the grave of Burns nothing was remembered but the light that had been quenched. It went down in stormy splendour among clouds and darkness, but the survivors thought only of the full and glowing orb, and the beauty which it had left for ever to illuminate the streams and fields of Scotland. He was buried, July 26th, with military honours, as belonging to the Dumfries Volunteers, and a great multitude followed him. The sun shone brightly all the day, and while the earth "was heaped up, and the green sod was laid over him, the crowd stood gazing for some minutes' space, and then melted silently away."

Few faces are more familiar to poetical readers than the broad, massive, earnest countenance of Burns. A plain-spoken and rough acquaintance said that he was a good-looking, fine fellow, "rather black an' ill-coloured;" and Professor Walker

recognized the weather-beaten features of a master of a trading vessel. His black hair, slightly sprinkled with grey, was spread over his forehead, and suited the large dark eye, which really glowed under the impulse of pleasure or anger. "I have seen," wrote Scott, "the most distinguished men of my time; and I never saw such another eye in a human head." His figure was tall—nearly five feet ten inches,—but an ungraceful stoop diminished his height to the observer. Like many poets, he was not captivated by science, or skill, in music. An old strathspey awoke exquisite pleasure, and 'Rothemurche's Rant' put him in raptures. In this feeling he resembled Scott, who was melted by the simplest tune while a complicated harmony seemed to be a babble of sounds. But no ear was wakefuller than that of Burns to every tone of nature: her sigh, her murmur, her breath of love; the rustle of the copse, the wind in the branches, the whistle of the curlew, the cadence of plovers, the moan of the river sedge,—each sound passed over his mind like a cunning finger upon a harp, and left him soothed, inflamed, enamoured, or devout.

His literary taste was instinctively pure and refined. Virgil charmed him by rural pictures and exquisite grace, filling his mind "with a thousand fancies of emulation," and, at the same time, reminding him of a Shetland pony by the side of a racer starting for the plate. His judgment of English poetry was chaste and true. Pope, Dryden, Collins, Gray, Thomson, and Beattie were especially dear. I think that he never read much of Spenser, but Milton he revered. He hailed "the glorious poem, 'The Task,'" and admired the water-colour drawings of Hurdis. In prose he did not show so exact a judgment; for while he loved the sweet serious morals of Addison, he suffered himself to be dazzled and beguiled by the rant of Ossian, and the pantomime of Sterne. Nor may I forget the "Meditations" of Hervey, which have long been among the popular reading of Scotland.

Of his personal character, the key was pride, often manifesting itself in arrogance and injustice. He dines with Lord Glencairn, who has one other guest, a man of rank, to whom he shows becoming attention. The blood of the poet boils against the "blockhead," and he is on the point of "throwing down his gage of contemptuous defiance," for "Dunderpate" to take up. The incident recalls the pleasant story of Selden:—"We measure the excellency of other men by some excellency which we conceive to be in ourselves. Nash, a poet (poor enough, as poets used to be), seeing an alderman with the gold chain upon his great horse, said to one of his companions, "Do you see yon fellow, how goodly, how big he looks? Why, that fellow cannot make a blank verse." "Dunderpate" was probably a usefuller member of society than Burns. Such passages suggest a comparison with the American Cooper, shaking the dust off his feet, because an infirm nobleman entered a drawing-room before him. The temper of Burns occasionally broke into open rudeness and insult. A lady asked him if he had nothing to say

of a fine scene before them. "Nothing, madam," was his reply, while his eye glanced to the leader of the party, "for an ass is braying over it."

The politics of Burns took the part of his fancy, his friendship, or his pique. Scott, enclosing a few letters to Mr. Lockhart, remarked—"In one of them (to the singular old curmudgeon, Lady Winifred Constable) he plays high Jacobite, and on that account it is curious; though I imagine his Jacobitism, like my own, belonged to the fancy rather than to the reason." There is no need of conjecture. Burns acknowledges that his "Jacobitism was merely by way of *vive la bagatelle*."

Of his religious opinions, a letter to Mrs. Dunlop (June 21, 1789) gives a full and interesting account:—

"I have just heard — give a sermon. He is a man famous for his benevolence, and I revere him; but from such ideas of my Creator, good Lord, deliver me! Religion, my honoured friend, is surely a simple business, as it equally concerns the ignorant and the learned, the poor and the rich. That there is an incomprehensibly great Being, to whom I owe my existence, and that he must be intimately acquainted with the operations and progress of the internal machinery, and consequent outward department of this creature which he has made,—these are, I think, self-evident propositions. That there is a real and eternal distinction between virtue and vice, and consequently that I am an accountable creature—that from the seeming nature of the human mind, as well as from the evident imperfection, nay, positive injustice, in the administration of affairs, both in the natural and moral worlds, there must be a retributive scene of existence beyond the grave,—must, I think, be allowed by every one who will give himself a moment's reflection. I will go farther, and affirm, that from the sublimity, excellence, and purity of his doctrine and precepts, unparalleled by all the aggregated wisdom and learning of many preceding ages, though, *to appearance*, he himself was the obscurist and most illiterate of our species, therefore, Jesus Christ was from God.

* * * * *

"Whatever mitigates to woes or increases the happiness of others, this is my criterion of goodness; and whatever injures society at large, or any individual in it, this is my measure of iniquity."

"I hate," he said, upon another occasion, "the very idea of a controversial divinity; I despise the superstition of a fanatic: but I love the religion of a man." His lines had not fallen in pleasant places. Controversy was rampant; and the truth, if truth it were, was often told with the tongue of a viper. The religion of the heart he seldom found. Born and brought up a Presbyterian, the Gospel came to him in the roar of black Russell and the invectives of Father Auld. In

so dress could the creed look fair or engaging. A man of taste, in a kirk, has a feeling of being snowed up in an unfurnished house, without a fire. A chill strikes him from the cold building and the colder worship. In one of the poet's journals, we hear him pouring out his intense disgust:—"What a poor, pimping business is a Presbyterian place of worship: dirty, narrow, squalid, stuck in a corner of old Popish grandeur, such as Linlithgow, and much more, Melrose." His greatest countrymen have shared his dislike: Byron remembered the fiery Calvinism of his boyhood with a sense of personal injury; the heart of Scott yearned for that nobler and purer ritual which has breathed into its prayers the devotion and the language of the Apostles; and the sentiments of Jeffrey are known to have been of the same kind.

Presbyterianism in Burns's time was coarser and fiercer than in ours. Vulgar in attire, wrathful in look, menacing in speech,—it combined in its visage the most repulsive features of the faith. Nor had it always inward virtue to atone for the outward offence. The Elders frequently showed the curiosity of the Inquisition; and in some of the Ministers might be seen the tyranny of the cowl, without the romance.

Wordsworth expressed his regret that, instead of writing poems like "The Holy Fair," in which the religious services of his country are treated with levity and scorn, Burns did not employ his genius in exhibiting religion under the serious and affecting aspect which it so frequently takes. And Jeffrey paints a delightful sketch of a Highland Sacrament, with its Gaelic sermon preached out of tents to picturesque crowds in the open air, grouped on rocks by the glittering sea, in the mountain bays of a long-withdrawing loch. But the vulgar and rabid fanaticism, by which the poet was surrounded, had taken out of Religion the beauty and the love. Her clothing was not "of wrought gold," and she never appeared in raiment of needle-work, nor in the company of beautiful attendants.

Perhaps in no man of his age would the religious life, fitly planted and nurtured, have found a fruitfuller home. The soil was rich and deep. He wrote—"My great constituent elements are pride and passion. The first I have endeavoured to humanize into integrity and honour; the last makes me a devotee, to the warmest degree of enthusiasm, in love, religion, or friendship,—either of them, or all together, as I happen to be inspired." The organ was there, and the anthem slept. How majestic are the thoughts into which his devotional feelings are occasionally breathed;—scattered, but solemn notes of a mind seldom tuned or played upon, but wonderful in its various and swelling music! Read this confession:—"I have been, this morning, taking a peep through, as Young finely says, 'The dark postern of time long elapsed.' 'Twas a rueful prospect! What a tissue of thoughtlessness, weakness, and folly! My life reminded me of a rained temple. What strength, what proportion in some parts! What unsightly gaps, what proe-

trate ruins in others! I kneeled down before the Father of Mercies, and said 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.' I rose, eased and strengthened."

He approved of "set times and seasons of more than ordinary acts of devotion;" and he had certain Saints'-days in his poetical calendar. These were New Year's Day; the first Sunday of May; "a breezy, blue-skied noon, some time about the beginning, and a hoary morning and a calm sunny day, about the end of autumn." With these holidays of the mind he associated particular sounds and flowers; and especially in spring, he delighted to look upon "the mountain caisy, the harebell, the foxglove, the wild-brier rose, the budding birch, and the hoary hawthorn." He said—"I have various sources of pleasure and enjoyment, which are, in a manner, *peculiar* to myself, or some here or there such other out-of-the-way person. Such is the peculiar pleasure I take in the season of winter, more than the rest of the year. This, I believe, may be partly owing to my misfortunes giving my mind a melancholy cast; but there is something even in

'The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste
Abrupt and deep, stretch'd o'er the buried earth,'

which raises the mind to a serious sublimity, favourable to everything great and noble. There is scarcely any earthly object gives me more—I do not know if I should call it pleasure—but something which exalts me, something which enraptures me,—than to walk in the sheltered side of a wood, or high plantation, in a cloudy winter day, and hear the stormy wind howling among the trees, and raving over the plain. It is my best season for devotion; my mind is wrapped up in a kind of enthusiasm to Him who, in the pompous language of the Hebrew bard, 'walks on the wings of the wind.'

A poet seldom keeps his fame with his tongue; but the conversation of Burns was marked by the strong features of his genius: brilliant, sarcastic, tender, and fluent, the roar and the tears of the table were obedient to his summons. An inhabitant of Dumfries gave a lively impression of his manner by saying, that he seemed to be desperately in earnest. He did not always pick his subjects or his words. The schoolmaster of Dumfries, indeed, put in a claim on his behalf for unblemished language and thought; and declared that he had seen Burns dazzling and delighting a party during a long evening by the brightness and rapidity of his flashes, "without even an allusion" that could offend the most delicate hearer. I am unable to reconcile the panegyric with the confession of a biographer, who found the poet's festive sayings quite unrepresentable; but he knew his company and had jests for Nicol, ballads for Stewart, and ribaldry for the bowl.

The accounts of his voice are contradictory. I have seen it called untunable and harsh. Mr. Allan Cunningham once heard Burns read Tam O'Shanter with

harmony and skill, following all the undulations of the sense, and expressing the humour and the awfulness of the story. Although he never advanced into England beyond Carlisle and Newcastle, we are told by Currie that he had less of the Scottish dialect than Hume, who was polished by the fashion and literature of London and Paris; or Robertson, whose purity and elegance of composition are his chief characteristics.

Burns came before the world as the "Ayrshire Ploughman;" but a mere farm-servant he never was; and in no sense of the word could he be styled an uneducated poet. We must go to Suffolk, or Northamptonshire, to seek real ploughboys bursting into song. Bloomfield has told his tale; and the painful struggles of Clare are freshly remembered. He paid for such teaching as he got, by extra work in the field or the barn. The toil of eight weeks provided schooling for four. A kind neighbour taught him to write. He was ignorant of grammar, and he had no books; but the appetite was strong.

In his fourteenth year, a boy showed to him the "Seasons;" and Clare, having saved up a shilling, set off to Stamford, in the dawn of a spring morning, to purchase a copy, and reached the town before a shop was open.

Now look at Burns,—over-worked, yet rejoicing in the pleasant scholarship of home; by the time that he was ten or eleven years old, quite a critic in substantives and verbs; improving his handwriting, or giving his manners a brush in the dancing-school; within-doors finding a teacher in his father, a poetic nurse in his mother;—one strengthening his judgment with good books and arithmetic, and the other charming his young fancy with legends and ballads of the country-side. He was probably a better English scholar than most boys of his age who were then at Eton; and his skill and power of composition might hardly be equalled by the lads who had passed into King's.

In the history of every poet we read a new version of the "Faery Queen" found by Cowley in the parlour-window. Ramsay was the Spenser of Burns—"Green be the pillow," Scott said, "of honest Allan, at whose lamp Burns lighted his brilliant torch." Fergusson shared the honour of kindling it, and the later minstrel borrowed from the elder the plan and the measure of several poems; but he justly claimed the name of a disciple, not a copyist, for he repaid his debts with lavish interest. The one flower-seed sprang up a cluster of bloom.

His earliest compositions were satirical; and the first of his poetic offspring, as he informs us, that saw the light, was the ludicrous portraiture of two ministers as "Twa Herds;" "Holy Willie's Prayer" followed it, with "The Ordination," and "The Kirk's Alarm." Probably the "Epistle to Davie" preceded them. Burns was weeding in the kail-yard when he repeated some of the lines to his brother, who thought it equal to Ramsay, and worthy of being printed. Robert was then twenty-five. "Death and Dr. Hornbook" he also recited to Gilbert

holding the plough, while the poet was letting the water off the field beside him.

A sweeter tune mingled with these strains: and when turning up the furrow, he composed the verses to the "Mouse," the "Mountain Daisy," and other rural pieces. His poetical growth was quick, and he had only the nightingale's April before the May. Burns has left examples of nearly every shorter form of rhyme; the description, the satire, the epistle, the elegy, the love-song, the war-lay, and the epigram. He considered "Tam O'Shanter" to be his standard performance, and public opinion confirms his own. I must, however, confess that, in my judgment, the story runs down too fast, and the blaze of imagination seems to be unexpectedly and suddenly quenched in a mean catastrophe, which is the mere stick of the rocket. At the same time it is proper to mention the contrary view of those critics—Miss Seward in the number—who regard the jocose moral as admirably in keeping with the general plan, and applaud the poet for laughing at his objectors and retaining the sportive admonition. The story of "The Twa Dogs" is not less admirable in another style.

The Scottish poems of Burns can be thoroughly relished by his countrymen only. Cowper remarked, "Poor Burns loses much of his deserved praise in this country through our ignorance of his language. I despair of meeting with any Englishman, who will take the pains that I have taken to understand him. His candle is bright, but shut up in a dark lantern. I lent him to a very sensible neighbour of mine; but his uncouth dialect spoiled all, and before he had read him through, he was quite *ramfeezled*." Dr. Moore seems to have anticipated this danger, when he warned the poet that all the fine satire and humour of "The Holy Fair" would be lost on the English, and urged him to abandon the Scottish stanza and dialect, and adopt the measure and language of modern English verse. The difficulty of comprehension is specially felt in the poems of humour and common life; where a phrase, or a proverb, to the familiar ear brings with it a train of home recollections and pleasures. In such cases, the dialect is the family accent. Frequently, however, the hindrance is scarcely perceived. In "The Cotter's Saturday Night," nearly every stanza has a different tone. Sometimes he writes pure and simple English; another passage requires a glossary; and occasionally he combines the two languages, and blends, with admirable effect, pathos, sublimity, beauty, and homeliness. Dryden said pleasantly of Theocritus, that even his Doric dialect has an incomparable sweetness in his clownishness—like a fair shepherdess in her country russet, talking in a Yorkshire tone. The Scottish songs of Burns suggest the same agreeable comparison; and a freshness sparkles in every word, like dew on the heather-bell. The "latitudinarianism" of the dialect is very accommodating to the poet, who is able by this Scottish privilege to marry the most opposite and discordant rhymes. Spenser had set

the bold example of new spelling a word whenever the exigencies of sound required it; and Burns treated his syllables with the same freedom.

The full harmony of his genius flowed into his songs, of which the remark of Mr. Pitt was pre-eminently true, that he could think of no verse, since Shakspeare, which had so much the appearance of coming sweetly from Nature. Under the fragrant birch trees, in the heathery glens, or among the moonlit sheaves, the gushes of music flowed warm from his heart. 'The range of it is not large, and one mellow, plaintive, delicious love-note always returns upon the ear in beauty. But the song of Burns was no mere outpouring of rich sounds. He bestowed time and patience. "All my poetry," he said, "is the effect of easy composition, but of laborious correction." Here is the interesting story, from his own pen:—"My way is—I consider the poetic sentiment correspondent to my idea of the musical expression; then choose my theme—begin one stanza: when that is composed, which is generally the most difficult part of the business, I walk out, sit down now and then, look out for objects in nature round me that are in unison or harmony with the cogitations of my fancy and workings of my bosom; humming every now and then the air with the verse I have framed. When I feel my muse beginning to jade, I retire to the solitary fireside of my study, and there commit my effusions to paper; swinging at intervals on the lund legs of my elbow-chair, by way of calling forth my own critical strictures as my pen goes on. Seriously, this, at home, is almost invariably my way." The love-poetry of Burns is, for the most part, desire set to music. The unselfishness, the reverence, and the chivalry of affection he did not appreciate, or felt himself unable to portray. Crabbe's tale, in the second letter of "The Borough," has a sublimity of tenderness and a truthful purity which the Ayrshire Bard never equalled.

Johnson, running down Hammond, denies the reality of all attachment where there is fiction, and despises a lover who courts his mistress with Roman imagery. Burns, too, sweeps away darts, flames, and graces, "as just a Mauchline rabble." I know not why pastoral courtship should be truer than classical, for imagery is only the reflection of feeling. We compare those whom we admire to things which we prize. A woman is not more like a rose on a castle wall, than she is like Diana with her quiver. The rose and the goddess are emblems of beauty, and the poet chooses the one or the other, as the flower or the figure may be most familiar and pleasing to his memory. Taste moulds the lover. Nor is exaggeration incompatible with naturalness. Every poet magnifies a circumstance, and illuminates a heroine; and by so doing, he vanquishes the painter, and wins gratitude for the pen. To Waller, and not to Vandyck, we owe the ideal charms of Saccharisa.

The amatory compositions of Burns are not so pure in spirit as the utterance is melodious. One of his correspondents wished to see the loose sentiments threshed out of a particular song. There is ample room for the flail, and with

longer life, and in more thoughtful hours, the author would have handled it himself, with what advantage to the finer wheat and to his own enduring fame, I need not say, for

“Sweet this man could sing, as morning lark,
And teach the noblest morals of the heart.”

The language of Burns is worthy of the poetry: animated and flexible, it combines symmetry with muscle, and harmony with strength. In the choice of the illustration, the happy daring of the phrase, the delicate turn of the expression, and the tunefulness of the numbers, he is seldom surpassed by the most cultivated of his brethren. Even Pope is not a finer study for distinctness and precision.

Wordsworth expressed surprise that Burns—passing the fruitful season of his poetical life within sight of splendid sea-prospects, bounded by the peaks of Arran—should be quite silent respecting them; and he explains the peculiarity by the act, that, in the poetry of Burns, natural appearances seldom take the lead. He affects us as a man, rather than as a poet, by common feelings uttered in the poet's voice. Rivers, hills, and woods are blended in his mind with remembrances of place, time, and sentiment. And I am induced to copy here the very elegant observations of a true and a sympathizing critic, a master and a judge of the lyre:¹—“It is evident, from almost all his pieces, that it was his delight—indeed it was his *forte*—to *localize* the personages of his poetry: whether the offspring of his brain like Coila, supernatural beings—like the dancers in Kirk Alloway, or national heroes—like Wallace and Bruce, with the very woods, and hills, and streams which he frequented in his boyhood. And in his mind, this assimilation was so lively and abiding, that there are few of his descriptions—descriptions in number, diversity, and picturesque features seldom equalled—on which he has not cast such sunshine of reality, that we cannot doubt that they had their prototypes in nature, and not in nature only, but in his native district. It is probable that the mind of every one of us lays the scenes of Scripture-narrative, of history, of romance, of epic poetry, in fact, of all that we hear or read of,—in the places where we spent our childhood and youth: as, for example, the Garden of Eden in our father's orchard, where there were many fruit trees; the battle of Cannæ on the wide Common, intersected with trenches; the enchanted castle of some stupendous giant, upon the hill where the ruins of a Saxon tower rise out of a thick wood. It is of some advantage, then, to the poet, that the features of the landscapes, amidst which he first dwelt, but more especially those of the neighbourhood where he went to school, should afford rich and plastic materials, which imagination can diversify a million-fold, and so accommodate as to make them the perpetual theatre

¹ James Montgomery's "Lectures on Poetry," 1833, pp. 253-5.

of all that he has been taught to remember concerning those who have lived before him, and all that he invents to increase the pleasures of memory to those that shall come after him. For it is not from the real and visible presence of things that the poet copies and displays; wherever he is, his 'heart' is still 'untravelling;' and it is from the cherished recollections of what early affected him, and could never afterwards be forgotten (having grown up into ideal beauty, grandeur, and excellence in his own mind), that he sings, and paints, and sculpts out imperishable forms of fancy, thought, and feeling. In this respect, all the compositions of Burns are homogeneous. He is in every style, in every theme, not only the patriot, the Scotchman, but the Scotchman the patriot of *Ayrshire*; so dear and indissoluble are the ties of locality to minds the most aspiring and independent.

"Burns, according to his own account, was distinguished in childhood by a very retentive memory. In the stores of that memory we discover the hidden treasures of his muse, which enabled her, with a prodigality like that of nature, to pour forth images and objects of every form, and colour, and kind, while, with an economy, like that of the most practised art, she selected and combined the endless characteristics of pleasing or magnificent scenery, with such simplicity and effect, under every aspect of sky or season, that the bard himself seems rather to be a companion pointing out to the eye the loveliness or horror of a prospect within our own horizon, than the enchanter creating a fairy scene visible only to imagination. He appears to invent nothing, while, in truth, he exercises a much higher faculty than what is frequently called invention. The genius of Burns, like his native stream, confined to his native district, reflects the scenery on the 'Banks of Ayr' with as much more truth and transparency than factitious landscapes are painted in the opaque pages of more ostentatious poets, as the reflections of trees, cottages, and animals, are more vivid and diversified in water than the shadows of the same objects are on land."

A word is due to the prose of Burns. The letters of poets include delightful specimens of our language; and the art of Pope, the pictures of Gray, the sunshine of Goldsmith, the heart-scenery of Cowper, and the nature of Scott, afford to some readers a livelier pleasure than their verses. The admirers of Burns add his name to the list. He could and did write noble English, throbbing with life, fashioned in beauty, and moving in grace. But the examples are few. His heart was seldom in the work:—"Except," he assured Mrs. Dunlop, "when prompted by friendship or gratitude, or (which happens extremely rarely) inspired by the Muse that presides over epistolary writing, I sit down, when necessitated to write, as I sit down to beat hemp."

The aversion and the effort are sufficiently conspicuous, and the way to escape them is easily learned. "Just sit down as I do," was the admonition of Goldsmith to a scanty correspondent, "and write forward till you have filled all your

paper; it requires no thought; my head has no share in all I write; my heart dictates the whole." In the same temper, Southey assures his wife, after he had seen the young "Roscius,"—"I could tell you how the actor pleased and disappointed me; but the story would take time and thought; and in letter-writing I love to do nothing more than just say what is uppermost." Burns never failed when he let the affections guide his pen, and wrote the uppermost thought as it rose. But Goldsmith was not his model. In youth he had been ensnared by the "wits," and Pope became the object of his imitation. With such an artist who might contend? Burns possessed silver and gold; but only skill the most accomplished, and practice untiring, could raise the rare chasing on the metal. These endowments he wanted, and his celebrated letters are themes. They have a worse fault: his adulation is immense; and no scribbler, bribing Harley for a meal, ever outshamed the reply of Burns to the "Card" of Lord Buchan.

But I will not linger on his faults, of which some did really lean to the side of virtue. And even flattery is occasionally the heart's voice speaking loud. Burns had in him the seeds of a noble character, and the ground was good; but while he slept "his enemy came and sowed tares with the wheat," and the fruit and the weeds grew together. Jeffrey speculated on the healthful influence of pure examples and wise lessons put gently before him. The effort would have been hazardous, for his pride was full of eyes, always wakeful. He boasted of it as a necessity of life, and wished to be stretched to his full length, in the grave, that he might occupy every inch of the ground to which he was entitled. His employment sharpened his tone. A moderate independence, literary leisure, and cultivated friends might have cherished a sweeter temper of charity and meekness in the poet-gauger, weary of a weekly gallop of two hundred miles, and the inspection of yeasty barrels. And what reader of Burns will refuse to echo the voice of Wordsworth, in his sympathy and his prayer?—

"Enough of sorrow, wreck, and blight—
 Think rather of those moments bright
 When to the consciousness of right
 His course was true,—
 When Wisdom prospered in his sight,
 And Virtue grew.

Yes, freely let our hearts expand,
 Freely as in youth's season bland,
 When side by side, his Book in hand,
 We wont to stray,
 Our pleasure varying at command
 Of each sweet Lay.

Through busiest street and loneliest glen
Are felt the flashes of his pen ;
He rules 'mid winter snows, and when
 Bees fill their hives ;
Deep in the general heart of men
 His power survives.

Sweet Mercy ! to the gates of Heaven
This Minstrel lead, his sins forgiven ;
The rueful conflict, the heart riven
 With vain endeavour,
And memory of Earth's bitter leaven
 Effaced for ever.

But why to him confine the prayer,
When kindred thoughts and yearnings bear
On the frail heart the purest share
 With all that live ?—
The best of what we do and are,
 JUST GOD FORGIVE !"

WORKS

OF

ROBERT BURNS.

POEMS.

THE TWA DOGS.¹

A TALE.

Twas in that place o' Scotland's isle,
That bears the name o' Auld King
Coil,²

Upon a bonnie day in June,
When wearing thro' the afternoon,
Twa dogs, that were na thrang³ at
hame,
Forgather'd ance upon a time.

The first I'll name, they ca'd him
Cæsar,

Was keepit for his Honor's pleasure:
His hair, his size, his mouth, his lugs,⁴
Shew'd he was nane o' Scotland's dogs;

¹ "The Tale of Twa Dogs" was composed after the resolution of publishing was nearly taken. Robert had a dog, which he called *Luath*, that was a great favourite. The dog had been killed by the wanton cruelty of some person the night before my father's death. Robert said to me that he should like to confer such immortality as he could bestow on his old friend *Luath*, and that he had a great mind to introduce something into the book under the title of "Stanzas to the Memory of a quadruped Friend;" but this plan was given up for the Tale as it now stands. Cæsar was merely the creature of the poet's imagination, created for the purpose of holding chat with his favourite *Luath*.—G. B.

² A Pictish king, said to have given
name to Kyle. ³ Busy. ⁴ Ears.

But whalpit⁵ some place far abroad,
Whare sailors gang to fish for Cod.
His locked, letter'd, brow² brass
collar,

Shew'd him the gentleman and scholar;
But though he was o' high degree,
The fient³ a pride, na pride had he;
But wad hae spent an hour caressin,
Ev'n wi' a tinkler-gipseys' messin.⁴
At kirk or market, mill or smiddie,⁵
Nae tawted tyke,⁶ tho' e'er sae duddie,
But he wad stan't, as glad to see him,
And stroan't on stanes and hillocks wi'
him.

The tither was a ploughman's collie,⁷
A rhyming, ranting, raving billie,⁸
Wha for his friend and comrade had
him,

And in his freaks had Luath ca'd him,
After some dog in Highland sang,⁹
Was made lang syne,—Lord knows how
lang.

He was a gash¹⁰ an' faithfu' tyke,
As ever lap o' sheugh¹¹ or dike.
His honest, sonsie, baws'nt¹² face,
Ay gat him friends in ilka place;
His breast was white, his towzie¹³ back
Weel clad wi' coat o' glossy black;
His gawcie¹⁴ tail, wi' upward curl,

¹ Whelped. ² Handsome. ³ Fiend.

⁴ A small dog. ⁵ A smithy.

⁶ Dog with matted hair.

⁷ A country cur. ⁸ A brother.

⁹ Cuchullin's dog in "Ossian's Fingal."
—R. B. ¹⁰ Wise.

¹¹ A ditch. ¹² White-striped

¹³ Rough. ¹⁴ Large.

Hung owre his hurdies¹ wi' a swirl.
 Nae doubt but they were fain o' ither,
 An' unco pack an' thick thegither;
 Wi' social nose whyles snuff'd and
 snowkit;²
 Whyles micc and moudieworts they
 howkit;³
 Whyles scour'd awa in lang excursion,
 An' worry'd ither in diversion;
 Until wi' daffin weary grown,
 Upon a knowe they sat them down,
 An' there began a lang digression
 About the lords o' the creation.

CÆSAR.

I've aften wonder'd, honest Luath,
 What sort o' life poor dogs like you
 have;
 An' when the gentry's life I saw,
 What way poor bodies liv'd ava.⁴
 Our Laird gets in his racked rents,
 His coals, his kain, an' a' his stents:⁵
 He rises when he likes himsel;
 His flunkies answer at the bell;
 He ca's his coach; he ca's his horse;
 He draws a bonnie, silken purse
 As lang's my tail, whare thro' the
 steeks,⁶

The yellow letter'd Geordie keeks.⁷
 Frae morn to e'en it's nought but toil-
 ing,
 At bak'ng, roasting, frying, boiling;
 An' tho' the gentry first are stechin,⁸
 Yet ev'n the ha' folk fill their pechan⁹
 Wi' sauce, ragouts, and such like trash-
 trie,
 That's little short o' downright wastrie.
 Our Whipper-in, wee blastit wonner,¹⁰
 Poor worthless elf, it eats a dinner,
 Better than ony tenant man
 His Honor has in a' the lan;
 An' what poor cot-folk pit their painch¹¹
 in,

LUATH.

Trowth, Cæsar, whyles they're fash't
 enough.

¹ Loins. ² Scented.
³ Digg'd. ⁴ At all.
⁵ Dues of any kind. ⁶ Stitches.
⁷ Peeps. ⁸ Cramming. ⁹ Stomach.
¹⁰ Wonder. ¹¹ Paunch.

A cotter howkin¹ in a sheugh,
 Wi' dirty stanes biggin² a dyke,
 Baring a quarry, and siclike,
 Himsel, a wife, he thus sustains,
 A smytrie³ o' wee duddie⁴ weans,⁵
 An' nought but his han' darg,⁶ to keek,
 Them right an' tight in thack an' rape⁷
 An' when they meet wi' sair disas-
 ters,
 Like loss o' health, or want o' masters,
 Ye maist wad think, a wee touch lan-
 ger,
 An' they maun starve o' cauld and
 hunger;
 But, how it comes, I never kend yet,
 They're maistly wonderfu' contented;
 An' buirdly⁸ chiels, an' clever hizzies,
 Are bred in sic a way as this is.

CÆSAR.

But then to see how ye're negleckt,
 How huff'd, an' cuff'd, an' disrespectit
 Lord, man, our gentry care as little
 For delvers, ditchers, an' sic cattle,
 They gang as saucy by poor folk,
 As I wad by a stinking brock.⁹
 I've notic'd on our Laird's court-day,
 An' mony a time my heart's been wae
 Poor tenant bodies, scant o' cash,
 How they maun thole¹⁰ a factor's
 snash:¹¹
 He'll stamp an' threaten, curse and
 swear,¹²
 He'll apprehend them, poind¹³ their
 gear;
 While they maun stan', wi' aspect
 humble,
 An' hear it a', an' fear and tremble!
 I see how folk live that hae riches:
 But surely poor folk maun be wretches.

¹ Digging. ² Building.
³ A numerous collection. ⁴ Ragged.
⁵ Children. ⁶ Labour.
⁷ Clothing necessities.
⁸ Stout-grown. ⁹ Badger.
¹⁰ Endure. ¹¹ Abuse.
¹² "My indignation yet boils at the
 recollection of the scoundrel factor's
 insolent threatening letters, which used
 to set us all in tears."—R. B.
¹³ Seize their goods.

LUATH.

They're no sae wretched's ane wad think,

Tho' constantly on poortith's¹ brink :
They're sae accustom'd wi' the sight,
The view o't gies them little fright.

Then chance an' fortune are sae guided,
They're ay in less or mair provided ;
An' tho' fatigu'd wi' close employment,
A blink o' rest's a sweet enjoyment.

The dearest comfort o' their lives,
Their grushie² weans an' faithfu' wives :
The prattling things are just their pride,
That sweetens a' their fire-side.

An' whyles twalpennie worth o' nappy
Can mak the bodies unco happy ;
They lay aside their private cares,
To mind the Kirk and State affairs :
They'll talk o' patronage and priests,
Wi' kindling fury i' their breasts,
Or tell what new taxation's comin,
And ferlie³ at the folk in Lon'on.

As bleak-fac'd Hallowmass⁴ returns,
They get the jovial, ranting Kirns,⁵
When rural life, o' ev'ry station,
Unite in common recreation ;
Love blinks, Wit slaps, an' social Mirth
Forgets there's Care upo' the earth.

That merry day the year begins,
They bar the door on frosty wins ;
The nappy⁶ reeks wi' mantling ream,⁷
An' sheds a heart-inspiring steam ;
The luntin⁸ pipe, an sneeshin mill,⁹
Are handed round wi' right guid will ;
The cantie¹⁰ auld folks crackin crouse,¹¹
The young anes ranting thro' the house,—

My heart has been sae fain to see them,

That I for joy hae barkit wi' them.

Still it's owre true that ye hae said,
Sic game is now owre aften play'd.
There's monie a creditable stock
O' decent, honest fawsont¹² folk,
Are riven out baith root an' branch,
Some rascal's pridefu' greed to quench,
Wha thinks to knit himsel the faster

In favour wi' some gentle Master,
Wha, aiblins,¹ thrang a parliament
For Britain's guid his saul indentin—

CÆSAR.

Haith,² lad, ye little ken about it ;
For Britain's guid ! guid faith ! I doubt it.
Say, rather, gaun as Premiers lead him,
An' saying aye or no's they bid him :
At operas an plays parading,
Mortgaging, gambling, masqueradig :
Or maybe, in a frolic daft,³
To Hague or Calais taks a waft,
To make a tour, an' tak a whirl,
To learn *bon ton* an' see the worl'.

There, at Vienna or Versailles,
He rives his father's auld entails ;
Or by Madrid he taks the rout,
To thrum guitars, an' fecht wi' nowt ;⁴
Or down Italian vista startles,
W—e-hunting amang groves o' myrtles :
Then bouses drumly⁵ German water,
To mak himsel look fair and fatter,
An' clear the consequential sorrows,
Love-gifts of Carnival Signoras.
For Britain's guid ! for her destruction !
Wi' dissipation, feud, an' faction !

LUATH.

Hech,⁶ man ! dear sirs ! is that the gate
They waste sae mony a brow estate !
Are we sae foughten an' harass'd
For gear to gang that gate at last ?

O would they stay aback frae courts,
An' please themsels wi' countra sports,
It wad for ev'ry ane be better,
The Laird, the Tenant, an' the Cotter !
For thae frank, rantin, ramblin billies,
Fient haet⁷ o' them's ill-hearted fellows ;
Except for breakin o' their timmer,⁸
Or speakin lightly o' their Limmer,⁹
Or shootin o' a hare or moor-cock,
The ne'er-a-bit they're ill to poor folk.

But will ye tell me, Master Cæsar,
Sure great folk's life's a life o' pleasure !
Nae cauld nor hunger e'er can steer¹⁰
them,
The vera thought o't need na fear them.

¹ Poverty. ² Thriving. ³ Wonder.

⁴ 31st October. ⁵ Harvest-suppers.

⁶ Ale. ⁷ Cream. ⁸ Smoking.

⁹ Snuff-box. ¹⁰ Cheerful.

¹¹ Conve. sing merrily. ¹² Seemly.

¹ Perhaps.

² A petty oath.

³ Giddy. ⁴ Fight with black cattle.

⁵ Muddy. ⁶ Oh—strange.

⁷ A petty oath of negation. ⁸ Timber

⁹ A woman of ill character. ¹⁰ Molest

CÆSAR.

Lord, man, were ye but whyles whare
I am,
The gentles ye wad ne'er envy 'em.
It's true, they need na starve or sweat,
Thro' winter's cauld, or simmer's heat;
They've nae sair wark to craze their
banes,

An' fill auld age wi' grips an' granes :¹
But human bodies are sic fools,
For a' their colleges and schools,
That when nae real ills perplex them,
They mak enow themselves to vex them ;
An' ay the less they hae to sturt² them,
In like proportion, less will hurt them.

A country fellow at the pleugh,
His acres till'd, he's right enough ;
A country girl at her wheel,
Her dizzens³ done, she's unco weel :
But Gentlemen, an' Ladies warst,
Wi' ev'n down want o' wark are curst.
They loiter, lounging, lank, an' lazy ;
Tho' deil haet ails them, yet uneasy ;
Their days insipid, dull, an' restless ;
Their nights unquiet, lang, an' tasteless ;
An' ev'n their sports, their balls an' races,
Their galloping thro' public places,
There's sic parade, sic pomp, an' art,
The joy can scarcely reach the heart.

The men cast out in party matches,
Then sowther⁴ a' in deep debauches.
Ae night, they're mad wi' drink an'
w—ring,

Neist day their life is past enduring.
The Ladies arm-in-arm in clusters,
As great an' gracious a' as sisters ;
But hear their absent thoughts o' ither,
They're a run deils an' jads thegither.⁵
Whyles, owre the wee bit cup an' platie,
They sip the scandal potion pretty ;
Or lee-lang nights, wi' crabbit leuks,
Pore owre the devil's pictur'd beuks ;
Stake on a chance a farmer's stackyard,
An' cheat like ony unhang'd black-
guard.

There's some exception, man an' w-
man ;

But this is Gentry's life in common.

By this, the sun was out of sight,
An' darke gloaming brought the night ;

¹ Means. ² Trouble. ³ Dozens.
⁴ Cement. ⁵ Together.

The bann-clock humm'd wi' lazy d. over.
The byes¹ stood rowtin² i' the loan ;
When up they gat, an' shook their lug,
Rejoic'd they were na men, but dogs ;
An' each took aff his several way,
Resolv'd to meet some ither day.

SCOTCH DRINK.

Give him strong drink, until he wink,
That's sinking in despair ;
An' liquor guid to fire his bluid,
That's prest wi' grief an' care ;
There let him bouse, an' deep carous³
Wi' bumpers flowin' o'er,
Till he forgets his loves or debts,
An' minds his griefs no more.

Solomon's Proverbs, xxxi. 6, 7.

LET other Poets raise a fracas
'Bout vines, an' wines, an' drunkens
Bacchus,
An' crabbit names an' stories wrack us,
An' grate our lug,³
I sing the juice Scots bear can mak us,
In glass or jug.

O thou, my Muse ! guid auld Scotch
Drink,
Whether thro' wimpling worms thou
jink,
Or, richly brown, ream⁴ owre the brink,
In glorious faem,
Inspire me, till I lisp an' wink,
To sing thy name !

Let husky Wheat the haught⁵ adorn,
An' Aits⁶ set up their awnie⁷ horn,
An' Fease an' Beans at een or morn,
Perfume the plain,
Leeze me on thee,⁸ John Barleycorn,
Thou King o' grain !

On thee aft Scotland chows her cood,⁹
In souple¹⁰ scones,¹¹ the wale¹² o' food !
Or tumbling in the boiling flood
Wi' kail an' beef ;

¹ Cows. ² Lowing. ³ Ear.
⁴ Froth. ⁵ Valleys. ⁶ Oats
⁷ Bearded. ⁸ An endearing
phrase—I am happy in thee.
⁹ Chews her cud. ¹⁰ Flexible
¹¹ A kind of bread. ¹² The show.

But when thou pours thy strong heart's
blood,
There thou shines chief.

Food fills the wame,¹ an' keeps up
livin :

Tho' life's a gift no worth receivin,
When heavy-dragg'd wi' pine an' griev-
in ;

But oil'd by thee,
The wheels o' life gae down-hill,
scrievin,²
Wi' rattlin glee.

Thou clears the head o' doited³ Lear :
Thou cheers the heart o' drooping Care ;
Thou strings the nerves o' Labor sair,
At's weary toil :
Thou even brightens dark Despair
Wi' gloomy smile.

Aft, clad in massy siller weed,
Wi' Gentles thou erects thy head ;
Yet humbly kind, in time o' need,
The poor man's wine,
His wee drap parritch, or his bread,
Thou kitchens fine.

Thou art the life o' public haunts ;
But thee, what were our fairs and rants ?
Ev'n godly meetings o' the saunts,
By thee inspir'd,
When gaping they besiege the tents,
Are doubly fir'd.

That merry night we get the corn in,
O sweetly, then, thou reams the horn
in !

Or reekin on a New-year mornin
In cog⁴ or bicker,
An' just a wee drap sp'itual burn in,
An' gusty⁵ sucker !

When Vulcan gies his bellows breath,
An' ploughmen gather wi' their graith,⁶
O rare ! to see thee fizz an' freath
I' th' lugget caup !⁷

Then Burnewin⁸ comes on like Death
At ev'ry chaup.⁹

¹ Belly. ² Swiftly. ³ Stupified.

⁴ A wooden dish. ⁵ Tasteful.

⁶ Gear.

⁷ A wooden cup with handle.

⁸ Burnewin — Burn-the-wind — the
Flacksnuth.

⁹ Blow.

Nae mercy, then, for ain¹ or steel ;
The brawnie, bainie, ploughman chiel,
Brings hard owrechip,² wi' sturdy wheel,
The strong forehamm^{er},
Till block an' studdie³ ring an' reel
Wi' dinsome clamour.

When skirlin⁴ weanies see the light,
Thou maks the gossips clatter bright,
How fumbling cuifs⁵ their dearies slich
Wac worth the name
Nae Howdie⁶ gets a social night,
Or plack⁷ frae them.

When neebors anger at a plea,
An' just as wud⁸ as wud can be,
How easy can the barley-bree⁹
Cement the quarrel !
It's aye the cheapest Lawyer's fee,
To taste the barrel.

Alake ! that e'er my Muse has reason
To wyte¹⁰ her countrymen wi' treason !
But monie daily weet their weason¹¹
Wi' liquors nice,
An' hardly, in a winter's season,
E'er spier¹² her price.

Wae worth that brandy, burning trash !
Fell source o' monie a pain an' brash !
Twins monie a poor, doylt, drucken
hash,¹³

O' half his days ;
An' sends, beside, auld Scotland's cash
To her worst faes.¹⁴

Ye Scots, wha wish auld Scotland well,
Ye chief, to you my tale I tell,
Poor plackless devils like mysel,
It sets you ill,
Wi' bitter, dearthfu' wines to mell,
Or foreign gill.

May gravels round his blather wrench,
An' gouts torment him, inch by inch,
Wha twists his gruntle wi' a glunch
O' sour disdain,
Out owre a glass o' Whisky punch
Wi' honest men !

¹ Iron.

² A way of striking with their hammer
on the arm. ³ Anvil. ⁴ Crying

⁵ Blockheads. ⁶ A midwife.

⁷ The third part of a Scotch penny.

⁸ Mad. ⁹ Juice. ¹⁰ Blame.

¹¹ Wesand. ¹² Ask.

¹³ A stupid fellow. ¹⁴ Enemies.

O Whisky! soul o' plays an' pranks!
Accept a Bardie's gratefu' thanks!
'When wanting thee, what tuneless
cranks

Are my poor verses!
Thou comes—they rattle! their ranks
At ither's a—s!

Thee, Ferintosh!¹ O sadly lost!
Scotland, lament fra coast to coast!
Now colic-grips, an' barkin' hoast,
May kill us a';
For loyal Forbes' charter'd boast
Is ta'en awa!

'Thae curst horse-leeches o' th' Excise,
'Wha mak the Whisky stells² their prize:
Haud up thy han', Deil! ance, twice,
thrice!

There, seize the blinkers!
An' bake them up in brunstane pies
For poor d—d drinkers.

Fortune! if thou'll but gie me still
Hale breeks,³ a scone, an' Whisky gill,
An' rowth o' rhyme to rave at will,
Tak' a' the rest,
An' deal't about as thy blind skill
Directs the best.

THE AUTHOR'S EARNEST CRY AND PRAYER⁴

TO THE SCOTCH REPRESENTATIVES IN
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Dearest of Distillation! last and best—
—How art thou lost!—
Parody on Milton.

YE Irish Lords, ye Knights an' Squires,
Wha represent our brughs an' shires,

¹ From Ferintosh, in Cromartyshire, where the Forbes family long had the privilege of distilling whisky, duty free.

² Stills. ³ Breeches.

⁴ This was written before the Act anent the Scotch Distilleries, of Session 1786; for which Scotland and the Author return their most grateful thanks.
—R. B.

An' doucely manage our affairs
In Parliament,
To you a simple Bardie's prayers
Are humbly sent.

Alas! my roupet¹ Muse is hearse!
Your Honor's heart wi' grief 'twad
pierce,
To see her sitten on her a—
Low i' the dust,
An' scriechen out prosaic verse,
An' like to brust!

Tell them whae hae the chief direction,
Scotland an' me's in great affliction,
E'er sin' they laid that curst restriction
On Aquavitæ;
An' rouse them up to strong conviction,
An' move their pity.

Stand forth, an' tell yon Premier Youth.
The honest, open, naked truth:
Tell him o' mine an' Scotland's drouth,
His servants humble:
The muckle devil blaw ye south,
If ye dissemble!

Does ony great man glunch and gloom!
Speak out, an' never fash your thoom:
Let posts an' pensions sink or soom
Wi' them wha grant 'em:
If honestly they canna come,
Far better want 'em.

In gath'rin votes you were na slack;
Now stand as tightly by your tack;
Ne'er claw your lug, an' fidge your
back,
An' hum an' haw;
But raise your arm, an' tell your crack²
Before them a'.

Paint Scotland greetin owre her
thistle;³
Her mutchkin stoup as toom's a
whistle;⁴
An' d—d Excisemen in a bussle,⁵
Seizin a Stell,
Triumphant crushin't like a mussel,
Or lampit⁶ shell.

¹ Hoarse.

² Story.

³ Thistle.

⁴ Whistle.

⁵ Bustle.

⁶ A kind of shell-fish.

Then on the tither hand present her,
 A blackguard Smuggler, right behint
 her,
 An' cheek-for-clow,¹ a chuffie² Vintner,
 Colleaguin join,
 Picking her pouch as bare as Winter
 Of a' kind coin.

Is there, that bears the name o' Scot,
 But feels his heart's bluid rising hot,
 To see his poor auld Mither's pot
 Thus dung in staves,
 An' plunder'd o' her hindmost groat
 By gallows knaves?

Alas! I'm but a nameless wight
 'Trod' i' the mire out o' sight!
 But could I like Montgomeries fight,
 Or gab like Boswell,
 There's some sark-necks I wad draw
 tight,
 An' tie some hose well.

God bless your Honors, can ye see't,
 The kind, auld, canty Carlins greet,
 An' no get warmly to your feet,
 An' gar them hear it!
 An' tell them, wi' a patriot-heat,
 Ye wina bear it!

Some o' you nicely ken the laws,
 To round the period an' pause,
 An' with rhetoric clause on clause
 To mak harangues;
 Then echo thro' Saint Stephen's wa's
 Auld Scotland's wrangs.

Demp'ter³ a true blue Scot I'se warran;
 Thee w^h-de'esting, chaste Kilker-
 r⁴ a⁵
 An' t'at glib-gabbet⁶ Highland Baron,
 The Laird o' Graham;⁷
 An' ane, a chap that's d—d auldfarran,⁸
 Dundas his name.

Erskine, a spunkie⁹ Norland billie;
 True Campbells, Frederick au' Ilay;

An' Livingstone, the bauld Sir Willie;
 An' monie ither,
 Whom auld Demosthenes, or Tully,
 Might own for brithers.

Arouse, my boys! exert your mettle,
 To get auld Scotland back her kettle;
 Or faith! I'll wad my new pleugh-
 pettle,¹

Ye'll see't or lang,
 She'll teach you, wi' a reekin whittle,
 Anither sang.

This while she's been in crankous²
 mood,
 Her lost Militia fir'd her bluid;
 (Deil na they never mair do guid,
 Play'd her that pliskie!)³
 An' now she's like to rin red-wud⁴
 About her Whisky.

An' Lord, if ance they pit her till't,⁵
 Her tartan petticoat she'll kilt,
 An' durk an' pistol at her belt,
 She'll tak the streets,
 An' rin her whittle to the hilt,
 I' th' first she meets!

For God's sake, Sirs! then speak her
 fair,
 An' straik⁶ her cannie wi' the hair,
 An' to the muckie house repair,
 Wi' instant speed,
 An' strive, wi' a' your wit and lear,⁷
 To get remead.

Yon ill-tongu'd tinkler, Charlie Fox,
 May taunt you wi' his jeers an' mocks;
 But gie him't het,⁸ my hearty cocks!
 E'en cove the cadie!⁹
 An' send him to his dicing-box,
 An' sportin lady.

Tell you guid bluid o' auld Boconnock's
 I'll be his debt twa mashlum bonnocks,¹⁰
 An' drink his health in auld Nanse Tin-
 nock's!¹¹

Nine times a-week,

¹ Plough-staff.

² Fretful.

³ Trick.

⁴ Distracted.

⁵ To it.

⁶ Stroke. ⁷ Learning.

⁸ Hot.

⁹ Terrify the young fellow.

¹⁰ Thick cakes of mixed corn.

¹¹ A worthy old hostess of the Author's in Mauchline, where he sometimes studies politics over a glass of guid auld Scotch Drink.—R. B.

¹ Side by side. ² Fat-faced.

³ George Dempster, Esq., of Dunning, in Forfarshire. ⁴ Oath.

⁵ Sir Adam Ferguson.—R. B.

⁶ Quick and smooth-speaking.

⁷ The Duke of Montrose.—R. B.

⁸ Sagacious.

⁹ Fiery.

If ie some scheme, like tea an' win-
nocks,¹

Wad kindly seek.

Could he some commutation broach,
I'll pledge my aith in guid braid Scotch,
He need na fear their foul reproach

Nor erudition,
Yon mixtie-maxtie² queer hotch-potch,
The Coalition.

Auld Scotland has a raucle³ tongue;
She's just a devil wi' a rung;⁴
An' if she promise auld or young

To tak their part,
Tho' by the neck she should be strung,
She'll no desert.

An' now, ye chosen Five-and-Forty,
May still your Mither's heart support
ye;

Then, though a Minister grow dorty,⁵
An' kick your place,
Ye'll snap your fingers, poor an' hearty,
Before his face.

God bless your Honors a' your days,
Wi' sowps o' kail an' brats o' claise,⁶
In spite o' a' the thievish kacs⁷

That haunt St Jamie's!
Your humble Poet sings an' prays
While Rab his name is.

POSTSCRIPT.

LET half-starv'd slaves, in warmer skies
See future vines, rich-clust'ring, rise;
Their lot auld Scotland ne'er envies,

But blyth an' frisky,
She eyes her freeborn, martial boys,
Tak aff their Whisky.

What tho' their Phœbus kinder warms,
While fragrance blooms an' beauty
charms!

When wretches range, in famish'd
swarms,

The scented groves,
Or, hounded forth, dishonour arms
In hungry droves.

Their gun's a burden on their shouter;
They downa bide the stink o' powther;

Their bauldest thought's a hank'ring
swither¹

To stan' or rin,
Till skelp—a shot—they're aff, a' throw
ther,²

To save their skin.
But bring a Scotsman frae his hill,
Clap in his cheek a Highland gill,
Say, such is royal George's wil,

An' there's the foe,
He has nae thought but how to kill
Twa at a blow.

Nae cauld, faint-hearted doubtings
tease him:
Death comes, wi' fearless eye he sees
him;

Wi' bluidy han' a welcome gies him;
An' when he fa's,
His latest draught o' breathin lea'es him
In faint huzzas.

Sages their solemn een may steek,³
An' raise a philosophic reek,⁴
An' physically causes seek,

In clime an' season;
But tell me Whisky's name in Greek,
I'll tell the reason.

Scotland, my auld, respected Mither!
Tho' whyles ye moistify your leather,
Till whare ye sit, on craps o' heather,
Ye tine⁵ your dam;

Freedom and Whisky gang thegither
Tak aff your dram!

THE LASSES OF TARBOLTON.

WRITTEN IN 1781, IN THE POET'S
23RD YEAR.

IN Tarbolton, ye ken, there are proper
young men,
And proper young lasses, and a',
man;

But ken ye the Ronalds that live in
the Bennals,

They carry the gree⁶ frae them a',
man.

Their father's a laird, and weel he car
spare't,

Braid money to tocher⁷ them a', man,

¹ Windows. ² Confusedly mixed.

³ Fearless. ⁴ Cudgel.

⁵ See cy. ⁶ Clothes. ⁷ Daws.

¹ Hesitation. ² Pell-mell.

³ Shut. ⁴ Smoke. ⁵ Lose.

⁶ Palm. ⁷ Portion.

To proper young men, he'll clink in the
hand

Guid guineas a hunder or twa, man.

There's ane they ca' Jean, I'll warrant
ye've seen

As bonny a lass or as braw, man ;
But for sense and guid taste she'll vie
wi' the best,

And a conduct that beautifies a',
man.

The charms o' the min', the langer they
shine,

The mair admiration they draw, man ;
While peaches and cherries, and roses
and lilies,

They fade and they wither awa, man.

If ye be for Miss Jean, tak this frae a
friend,

A hint o' a rival or twa, man,
The Laird o' Blackbyre wad gang
through the fire,

If that wad entice her awa, man.

The Laird o' Braehead has been on his
speed,

For mair than a towmond or twa,
man ;

The Laird o' the Ford will straught on
a board,

If he canna get her at a', man.

Then Anna comes in, the pride o' her
kin,

The boast of our bachelors a', man ;
Sae sonsy and sweet, sae fully com-
plete,

She steals our affections awa, man.

If I should detail the pick and the wale
O' lasses that live here awa, man,
The fault wad be mine, if they didna
shine,

The sweetest and best o' them a',
man.

I lo'e her mysel, but darena weel tell,
My poverty keeps me in awe, man,
For making o' rhymes, and working at
times,

Does little or naething at a', man.

Yet I wadna choose to let her refuse,
Nor hae 't in her power to say na,
man ;

For though I be poor, unnoticed, ob-
scure,

My stomach's as proud as them a',
man.

Though I canna ride in weel-booted
pride,

And flee o'er the hills like a crow,
man,

I can haud up my head with the best
o' the breed,

Though fluttering ever so braw, man.

My coat and my vest, they are Scotch
o' the best,

O' pairs o' guid breeks I hae twa, man,
And stockings and pumps to put on my
stumps,

And ne'er a wrang steek in them a',
man.

My sarks they are few, but five o'
them new,

Twal' hundred, as white as the snaw,
man,

A ten-shilling hat, a Holland cravat ;
There are no mony poets sae braw,
man.

I never had frien's weel stockit in
means,

To leave me a hundred or twa, man ;
Nae weel-tocher'd aunts, to wait on
their drants,

And wish them in hell for it a', man.

I never was cannie for hoarding o'
money,

Or claughlin't¹ together at a', man ;
I've little to spend, and naething to
lend,

But deevil a shilling I awe, man.

THE HOLY FAIR.²

A robe of seeming truth and trust
Hid crafty Observation ;
And secret hung, with poison'd crust,
The dirk of Defamation :

¹ Gathering.

² Holy Fair is a common phrase in the
West of Scotland for a sacramental oc-
casion.—R. B.

Fergusson, in his "Hallow Fair" of

A mask that like the gorget show'd,
Dye-varying on the pigeon;
And for a nantle large and broad,
He wrapt him in Religion.

Hypocrisy à-la-mode.

UPON a simmer Sunday morn,
When Nature's face is fair,
I walked forth to view the corn,
An' snuff the caller¹ air.
The risin sun, owre Galston² muirs,
Wi' glorious light was glintin;
The hares were hirplin³ down the furs,
The lav'rocks⁴ they were chantin
Fu' sweet that day.

As lightsomely I glow'd abroad,
To see a scene sae gay,
Three Hizzies, early at the road,
Cam skelpin⁵ up the way.
Twa had manteeles o' dolefu' black,
But ane wi' lyart⁶ linin;
The third, that gaed a wee a-back,
Was in the fashion shinin,
Fu' gay that day.

The twa appear'd like sisters twin,
In feature, form, an' claes;
Their visage wither'd, lang, an' thin,
An' sour as ony slaes:⁷
The third cam up, hap-step-an'-lowp,
As light as ony lambie,⁸
An' wi' a curchie low did stoop,
As soon as e'er she saw me,
Fu' kind that day.

Wi' bonnet aff, quoth I, "Sweet lass,
I think ye seem to ken me;
I'm sure I've seen that bonnie face,
But yet I canna nanie ye."
Quo' she, an' laughing as she spak,
An' taks me by the hands,

Edinburgh, I believe, furnished a hint and title of the plan of the "Holy Fair." The farcical scene the poet there describes was often a favourite field of his observation, and the most of the incidents he mentions had actually passed before his eyes.—G. B.

¹ Fresh.

² The adjoining parish to Mauchline.

³ Creeping.

⁴ Larks.

⁵ Tripping.

⁶ Gray.

⁷ Sides.

⁸ Lamb.

'Ye, for my sake, hae gi'en the feck
Of a' the ten commands

A screed¹ some day

"My name is Fun—your cronie dear
The nearest friend ye hae;
An' this is Superstition here,
An' that's Hypocrisy.
I'm gaun to Mauchline Holy Fair,
To spend an hour in daffin:²
Gin ye'll go there, yon runki'd³ pair,
We will get famous laughin
At them this day."

Quoth I, "With a' my heart, I'll do't
I'll get my Sunday sark⁴ on,
An meet you on the holy spot;
Faith, we'se hae fine remarkin!"
Then I gaed hame at crowdie-time,⁵
An' soon I made me ready;
For roads were clad, frae side to side,
Wi' monie a wearie bodie,
In droves that day.

Here farmers gash,⁶ in ridin graith
Gaed hoddin⁷ by their cotters;
There, swankies⁸ young, in braw braid-
clait,
Are springin owre the gutters.
The lasses, skelpin barefit, thrang,
In silks an' scarlets glitter;
Wi' sweet-milk cheese, in monie a
whang,⁹
An' farls,¹⁰ bak'd wi' butter,
Fu' crump that day.

When by the plate we set our nose,
Weel heaped up wi' ha'pence,
A greedy glowr Black Bonnet¹¹ throws,
An' we maun draw our tippence.
Then in we go to see the show,
On ev'ry side they're gath'rin,
Some carryin dales, some chairs an
stools,
An' some are busy bleth'rin¹²
Right loud that day.

¹ A rent.

² Merriment.

³ Wrinkled.

⁴ Shirt.

⁵ Breakfast-time.

⁶ Wise.

⁷ The motion of a countryman riding on a cart-horse.

⁸ Strapping young fellows.

⁹ String.

¹⁰ Cakes of bread.

¹¹ The Elder who holds the alms
dish.

¹² Talking idly.

Here stands a ~~street~~ to fend the show'rs,
 An' screen our countra gentry,
 There, racer Jess, an' twa-three w——s,
 Are blinkin at the entry.
 Here sits a raw o' tittlin jades,¹
 Wi' heaving breast an' bare neck,
 An' there a batch o' wabster² lads,
 Blackguarding fra Kilmarnock
 For fun this day.

Here, some are thinkin on their sins,
 An' some upo' their claes;
 Aue curses feet that fyl'd³ his shins,
 Another sighs an' prays:
 On this hand sits a chosen swatch,⁴
 Wi' screw'd up, grace-proud faces;
 On that a set o' chaps, at watch,
 Thrang winkin on the lasses
 To chairs that day.

1) happy is that man an' blest!
 Nae wonder that it pride him!
 Wha's ain dear lass, that he likes best,
 Comes clinkin down beside him!
 Wi' arm repos'd on the chair back,
 He sweetly does compose him;
 Which, by degrees, slips round her neck
 An's loof⁵ upon her bosom
 Unkend that day.

Now a' the congregation o'er
 Is silent expectation;
 For Moodie⁶ speels⁷ the holy door,
 Wi' tidings o' damnation.
 Shou'd Hornie, as in ancient days,
 'Mang sons o' God present him,
 The vera sight o' Moodie's face,
 To's ain het hame had sent him
 Wi' fright that day.

Hear how he clears the points o' faith
 Wi' rattlin an' thumpin!
 Now meekly calm, now wild in wrath,
 He's stampin an' he's jumpin!
 Wis lengthen'd chin, his turn'd-up snout,
 His eldritch⁸ squeel an' gestures,
 O how they fire the heart devout,
 Like cantharidian plasters,
 On sic a day!

But, hark! the tent has chang'd its voice;
 There's peace and rest nae langer:
 For a' the real judges rise,
 They canna sit for anger.
 Smith¹ opens out his cauld harangues,
 On practice and on morals;
 An' aff the godly pour in thrangs,
 To gie the jars an' barrels
 A lift that day.

What signifies his barren shine
 Of moral pow'rs an' reason?
 His English style, an' gesture fine,
 Are a' clean out o' season.
 Like Socrates or Antonine,
 Or some auld pagan Heathen,
 The moral man he does define,
 But ne'er a word o' faith in
 That's right that day

In guid time comes an antidote
 Against sic poison'd nostrum;
 For Peebles,² frae the Water-fit,
 Ascends the holy rostrum:
 See, up he's got the word o' God,
 An' meek an' mim³ has view'd it,
 While Common Sense has ta'en the
 road,
 An' aff, an' up the Cowgate,⁴
 Fast, fast, that day.

Wee Miller,⁵ neist, the Guard relieves,
 An' Orthodoxy raibles,⁶
 Tho' in his heart he weel believes,
 An' thinks it auld wives' fables:
 But, faith! the birkie⁷ wants a Manse,
 So cannilie he hums them;
 Altho' his carnal wit an' sense
 Like hafflins-ways o'ercomes him
 At times that day.

Now, butt an' ben,⁸ the Change-house
 fills,
 Wi' yill-caup⁹ Commentators:
 Here's crying out for bakes¹⁰ an' gills,
 An' there the pint-stowp clatters;

¹ Minister of Galston.

² Minister of Newtown-upon-Ayr, of which the Water-fit was another name.

³ Prim. ⁴ A street so called, which faces the tent in [Mauchline.]—R. B.

⁵ Assistant-preacher at Auchenleck.

⁶ Rattles nonsense. ⁷ Clever fellow

⁸ Kitchen and parlour.

⁹ Ale-cup. ¹⁰ Biscuits.

Whispering.

² Weaver.

¹ Soiled.

⁴ Sample.

¹ Palm of the hand.

Minister of Riccarton.

⁷ Climbs.

Unearthly.

While thick an' thung, an' loud an'
lang,

W¹ logic, an' wi' Scripture,
They raise a din, that, in the end,
Is like to breed a rupture
O' wrath that day.

Leeze me on Drink ! it gie's us mair
Than either School or College :
It kindles Wit, it waukens Lair,
It pangs¹ us fou o' Knowledge.
Be't whisky gill, or penny wheep,
Or ony stronger potion,
It never fails, on drinking deep,
To kittle² up our notion
By night or day.

The lads an' lasses, blythely bent
To mind baith saul an' body,
Sit round the table, weel content,
An' steer³ about the toddy.
On this ane's dress, an' that ane's leuk,
They're makin observations ;
While some are cozie i' the neuk,
An' formin assignments
To meet some day.

But now the Lord's ain trumpet touts,
Till a' the hills are rairin,
An' echoes back return the shouts ;
Black Russel⁴ is na spairin :
His piercing words, like Highlan
swords,
Divide the joints an' marrow ;
His talk o' Hell, whare devils dwell,
Our vera " sauls does harrow"⁵
Wi' fright that day.

A vast, unbottom'd, boundless pit,
Fill'd fou o' lowin⁶ brunstane,
Wha's raging flame, an' scorching heat,
Wad melt the hardest whun-stane !⁷
The half asleep start up wi' fear,
An' think they hear it roarin,
When presently it does appear,
'Twas but some neebor snorin
Asleep that day.

'Twad be owre lang a tale, to tell
How monie stories past,
An' how they crowded to the r¹,
When they were a' dismist :
How drink gaed round, in cogs an
caups,
Among the furms and benches ;
An' cheese an' bread, frae women's laps,
Was dealt about in lunches
An' dawds that day.

In comes a gaucie,¹ gash Guidwife,
An' sits down by the fire,
Syne draws her kebbuck² an' her knife,
The lasses they are shyer.
The auld Guidmen, about the grace,
Frae side to side they bother,
Till some ane by his bonnet lays,
An' gi'es them' t' like a tether,
Fu' lang that day.

Waesucks !³ for him that gets nae lass
Or lasses that hae naething !
Sma' need has he to say a grace,
Or melvie⁴ his braw claithing !
O Wives be mindfu', ance yoursel
How bonnie lads ye wanted,
An' dinna, for a kebbuck-heel,
Let lasses be affronted
On sic a day !

Now Clinkumbell, wi' rattling tow,
Begins to jow⁵ an' croon ;
Some swagger hame, the best they
dow,⁶
Some wait the afternoon.
At slaps⁷ the billies halt a blink,
Till lasses strip their shoon :
Wi' faith an' hope, an' love an' drink,
They're a' in famous tune
For crack that day.

How monie hearts this day converts
O' sinners and o' lasses !
Their hearts o' stane, gin night, aie
gane
As saft as ony flesh is.
There's some are fou o' love divine,
There's some are fou o' brandy ;

¹ Crams. ² Tickle. ³ Stir.
⁴ Minister of Kilmarnock, and de-
scribed as equally awful in look and
language.

⁵ Shakspeare's Hamlet.—R. B.

⁶ Flaming. ⁷ Whinstone.

¹ Jolly. ² Cheese. ³ Waes me
⁴ Soil. ⁵ To peal or roar.
⁶ Tney can. ⁷ Gates.

An' monie jobs that day begin,
 May end in Houghmagandie¹
 Some ither day.²

STANZAS ON THE DEATH OF A
 FAVOURITE DAUGHTER.³

WRITTEN IN 1792.

Oh! sweet be thy sleep in the land of
 the grave,
 My dear little angel, for ever ;
 For ever !—oh no ! let not man be a
 slave
 His hopes from existence to sever.
 Tho' cold be the clay where thou pil-
 low'st thy head
 In the dark mansions of sorrow,
 The spring shall return to thy low nar-
 row bed,
 Like the beam of the day-star to-
 morrow.
 The flower-stem shall bloom like thy
 sweet seraph form
 Ere the spoiler had nipt thee in blos-
 som ;
 When thou shrunk from the scowl of
 the loud winter storm,
 And nestled thee close to that bosom.
 Oh, still I behold thee all lovely in
 death,
 Reclined on the lap of thy mother,
 When the tear trickled bright, when the
 short, stifled breath,
 Told how dear you were aye to each
 other.
 My child, thou art gone to the home of
 thy rest,
 Where suffering no longer can harm
 ye,
 Where the songs of the good, where the
 hymns of the blest,
 Thro' an endless existence shall
 charm thee :

¹ Fornication.

² Sharp diseases require sharp reme-
 dies; and Burns' ridicule is said to
 have been of considerable use.

³ The death of his beloved child took
 place during his temporary absence
 from home, on which occasion the above
 heart-speaking lines were written.

While he, thy fond parent, must sigh-
 ing sojourn
 Thro' the dire desert regions of sor-
 row,
 O'er the hope and misfortune of being
 to mourn,
 And sigh for life's latest morrow.

DEATH AND DOCTOR HORN-
 BOOK.¹

A TRUE STORY.

SOME books are lies frae end to end,
 And some great lies were never penn'd:
 Ev'n Ministers, they hae been kenn'd,
 In holy rapture,
 A rousing whid,² at times to vend,
 Wi' faith an' hope, an' love an' drink,
 And nail't wi' Scripture.

But this that I am going to tell,
 Which lately on a night befell,
 Is just as true's the Deil's in hell
 Or Dublin city :

That e'er he nearer comes oursel'
 'S a muckle pity.

The Clachan yill had made me canty,
 I wasna fou, but just had plenty :
 Istacher'd³ whyles, but yet took tent ay
 To free the ditches ;
 An' hillocks, stanes, an' bushes, kenn'd
 ay
 Frae' ghaists an' witches.

The rising moon began to glow'r
 The distant Cumnock hills out-owre ,
 To count her horns, wi' a' my pow'r,
 I set mysel ;
 But whether she had three or four,
 I cou'd na tell.

I was come round about the hill,
 And todlin down on Willie's mill,
 Setting my staff, wi' a' my skill,
 To keep me sicker ;⁴
 Tho' leeward whyles, against my will,
 I took a bicker.⁵

¹ John Wilson, schoolmaster of Tar-
 bolton, who excited the anger of Burns
 by talking of his medical skill. Wilson
 sold medicine and gave advice gratis.

² Fib.

³ Staggered.

⁴ Steady.

⁵ A short course.

[there wi' Something did forgather,¹
That put me in an eerie swither;²
An awfu' scythe, out-owre ae shouther,
Clear-dangling, hang:
A three-taed leister³ on the ither
Lay, large an' lang.

Its stature seem'd lang Scotch ells twa,
The queerest shape that e'er I saw,
For fient a wame⁴ it had ava,
And then its shanks,
They were as thin, as sharp an' sma'
As cheeks o' branks.⁵

"Guid-een," quo' I; "Friend! hae ye
been mawin,
When ither folk are busy sawin?"⁶
It seem'd to mak a kind o' stan',
But naething spak;
At length, says I, "Friend, whare ye
gaun,
Will ye go back?"

It spak right howe⁷—"My name is
Death,
But be na fley'd."—Quoth I, "Guid
faith,
Ye're maybe come to stap my breath;
But tent⁸ me, billie;
A red ye weel, tak care o' skaith,⁹
See, there's a gully!"¹⁰

'Gudeman," quo' he, "put up your
whittle,
I'm no design'd to try its mettle;
But if I did, I wad be kittle¹¹
To be mislear'd,¹²
I wad na mind it, no that spittle
Out-owre my beard."

"Weel, weel!" says I, "a bargain be't;
Come, gies your hand, an' sae we're
gree't;
We'll ease our shanks an' tak a seat,
Come, gies your news,

This while¹ ye hae been mony a gate
At mony a house."

"Ay, ay!" qu' he, an' shook his head,
"It's e'en a lang, lang time, indeed,
Sin' I began to nick the thread,
An' choke the breath:
Folk maun do something for their bread,
An' sae maun Death.

"Sax thousand years are near hand
fled,
Sin' I was to the butch'ing bred,
An' mony a scheme in vain's been laid
To stap or scour me;
Till ane Hornbook's² ta'en up the trade,
An' faith, he'll waur³ me.

"Ye ken Jock Hornbook i' the Cla-
chan,⁴
Deil mak his king's-hood in a spleu-
chan!⁵
He's grown sae well acquaint wi'
Buchan⁶
An' ither chaps,
The weans haud out their fingers
laughin
And pouk my hips.

"See, here's a scythe, and there's a
dart,
They hae pierc'd mony a gallant heart;
But Doctor Hornbook, wi' his art
And curs'd skill,
Has made them baith no worth a —
D—d haet they'll kill.

"'Twas but yestreen, nae farther gaen,
I threw a noble throw at ane;
Wi' less, I'm sure, I've hundreds slain:
But deil-ma-care,
It just play'd dirl⁷ on the bane,
But did nae mair.

¹ An epidemical fever was then rag-
ing in that country.—R. B.

² This gentleman, Dr. Hornbook, is,
professionally, a brother of the Sove-
reign Order of the Ferula; but, by in-
tention and inspiration, is at once an
apothecary, surgeon, and physician.—
R. B.

³ Worse.

⁴ Small village.

⁵ Tobacco-pouch.

⁶ "Buchan's Domestic Medicine."—
R. B.

⁷ A slight stroke

¹ Meet.

² Frighted wavering.

³ Three-pronged dart.

⁴ Belly.

⁵ A kind of wooden curb,

⁶ This rencounter happened in seed-
time, 1785.—R. B.

⁷ Hollow.

⁸ Be careful.

⁹ Damage.

¹⁰ A large knife.

¹¹ Difficult.

¹² "Put out of my art."—*Chambers*.

Hornbook was by, wi' ready art,
 And had sae fortify'd the part,
 That when I looked to my dart,
 It was sae blunt,
 Fient haet o't wad hae pierc'd the
 heart
 Of a kail-runt.¹

' I drew my scythe in sic a fury,
 I rear-hand cowpit² wi' my hurry,
 'ut yet the bauld Apothecary
 Withstood the shock ;
 I might as weel hae try'd a quarry
 O' hard whin rock.

And then, a' doctor's saws and whit-
 tles,
 O' a' dimensions, shapes, an' mettles,
 A' kinds o' boxes, mugs, an' bottles,
 He's sue to hae ;
 Their Latin names as fast he rat'les
 As A B C.

' Caices o' fossils, earths, and trees ;
 True Sal-marinum o' the seas ;
 The Farina of beans and pease,
 He has't in plenty ;
 Aqua-fontis, what you please,
 He can content ye.

" Forbye some aew, uncommon wea-
 pons,
 Urinus Spiritus of capons ;
 Or Mite-horn shavings, filings, scrap-
 ings,
 Distill'd *per se* ;
 Sal-alkali o' Midge-tail clippings,
 And mony mae."

" Waes me for Johnny Ged's Hole³
 now,"
 Quo' I, " if that thae news be true !
 His braw calf-ward whare gowans⁴
 grew,

 Sae white and bonnie,
 Nae doubt they'll rive it wi' the plow ;
 They'll ruin Johnnie !"

The creature grain'd an' eldritch laugh,
 And says, " Ye needna yoke the pleugh,
 Kirk-yards will soon be till'd enugh,
 Tak ye nae fear :

¹ A cabbage-root. ² Tumbled.
³ The grave-digger — R. B.
 Daisies.

They'll a' be trench'd wi' mony a
 sheugh¹
 In twa-three year.

" Whare I kill'd ane a fair strae-death,²
 By loss o' blood or want o' breath,
 This night I'm free to tak my aith,
 That Hornbook's skill
 Has clad a score i' their last clait,
 By drap and pill.

" An honest Wabster³ to his trade,
 Whase wife's twa nieves were scarce
 weel-bred,
 Gat tippence-worth to mend her head,
 When it was sair ;
 The wife slade⁴ cannie to her bed,
 But ne'er spak mair.

" A countra Laird had ta'en the batts,⁵
 Or some curmurring⁶ in his guts,
 His only son for Hornbook sets,
 An' pays him well.
 The lad, for twa guid gimmer-pets,⁷
 Was Laird himsel.

" A bonnie lass, ye kend her name,
 Some ill-brewn drink had hov'd⁸ her
 wame :
 She trusts hersel, to hide the shame
 In Hornbook's care :
 Horn sent her aff to her lang hame,
 To hide it there.

" That's just a swatch⁹ o' Hornbook's
 way ;
 Thus goes he on from day to day,
 Thus does he poison, kill, an' slay,
 An's weel pay'd for't ;
 Yet stops me o' my lawfu' prey,
 Wi' his d—d dirt.

" But, hark ! I'll tell you of a plot,
 Tho' dinna ye be speaking o't ;
 I'll nail the self-conccited Sot
 As dead's a herrin ;
 Niest time we meet, I'll wad¹⁰ a great
 He gets his fairin !"

But just as he began to tell,
 The aulk kirk-hammer strak the bell

¹ Ditch. ² A death in bed
³ Weaver. ⁴ Did slide.
⁵ Pots. ⁶ A tumbling.
⁷ Two-year old sheep. ⁸ Swelled
⁹ Sample. ¹⁰ Bet.

Some wee short hour ayont the twal,
Which rais'd us baith :
I took the way that pleas'd mysel,
And sae did Death.

THE BRIGS OF AYR.

A POEM.

INSCRIBED TO JOHN BALLANTYNE, ESQ.,
OF AYR.

THE simple Bard, rough at the rustic
plough,
Learning his tuneful trade from ev'ry
bough ;
The chanting linnet, or the mellow
thrush ;
Hailing the setting sun, sweet, in the
green thorn bush ;
The soaring lark, the perching red-
breast shrill,
Or deep-ton'd plovers, grey, wild-whist-
ling o'er the hill ;
Shall he, nurst in the Peasant's lowly
shed,
For nardy independence bravely bred,
By early poverty to hardship steel'd,
And train'd to arms in stern Misfor-
tune's field ;
Shall he be guilty of their hireling
crimes,
The servile, mercenary Swiss of
rhymes ?
Or labour hard the panegyric close,
With all the venal soul of dedicating
Prose ?
No ! though his artless strains he rudely
sings,
And throws his hand uncouthly o'er the
strings,
He glows with all the spirit of the Bard,
Fame, honest fame, his great, his dear
reward.
Still, if some Patron's gen'rous care he
trace,
Skill'd in the secret, to bestow with
grace ;
When Ballantyne befriends his humble
name,
And hands the rustic Stranger up to
fame,

With heartfelt throes his grateful bosom
swells,
The godlike bliss, to give, alone excels.

'Twas when the stacks get on their
winter-hap,
And thack¹ and rape secure the toil-
won crap ;
Potatoe-bings² are snugged up frae
skaith³
O' coming Winter's biting, frosty breath,
The bees, rejoicing o'er their summer
toils,
Unnumber'd buds an' flow'rs' delicious
spoils,
Seal'd up with frugal care in massive
waxen piles,
Are doom'd by man, that tyrant o'er
the weak,
The death o' devils, smoor'd⁴ wi' brim-
stone reek ;
The thund'ring guns are heard on ev'ry
side,
The wounded coveys, reeling, scatter
wide ;
The feather'd field-inates, bound by
Nature's tie,
Sires, mothers, children, in one car-
nage lie :
(What warm, poetic heart, but inly
bleeds,
And execrates man's savage, ruthless
deeds !)
Nae mair the flow'r in field or meadow
springs ;
Nae mair the grove with airy concert
rings,
Except perhaps the Robin's whistling
glee,
Proud o' the height o' some bit half-
lang tree :
The hoary morns precede the sunny
days,
Mild, calm, serene, wide spreads the
noontide blaze,
While thick the gossamour waves wan-
ton in the rays.

'Twas in that season, when a simple
Bard,

¹ Thatch.

³ Injury.

² Potato heaps.

⁴ Smothered.

And poor, simplicity's reward,
 The night, within the ancient brugh of
 Ayr,
 Whim inspir'd, or haply prest wi'
 care
 He left his bed and took his wayward
 rout
 And down by Simpson's¹ wheel'd the
 left about:
 (Whether impell'd by all-directing Fate,
 Or witness what I after shall narrate;
 Or whether, rapt in meditation high,
 He wander'd out he knew not where
 nor why:)
 The drowsy Dungeon clock² had num-
 ber'd two,
 And Wallace Tow'r³ had sworn the
 fact was true;
 The tide-swoln Firth, wi' sullen-sound-
 ing roar,
 Through the still night dash'd hoarse
 along the shore:
 All else was hush'd as Nature's closed
 e'e;
 The silent moon shone high o'er tow'r
 and tree:
 The chilly frost, beneath the silver
 beam.
 Crept, gently-crusting, owre the glit-
 tering stream.—
 When, lo! on either hand the list-
 'ning Bard,
 The clanging sugh⁴ of whistling wings
 is heard;
 Two dusky forms dart thro' the mid-
 night air,
 Swift as the gos⁵ drives on the wheel-
 ing hare;
 Ane on th' Auld Brig his airy shape
 uppears,
 The ither flutters o'er the rising piers:
 Our warlock Rhymer instantly descry'd
 The Sprites that owre the Brigs of Ayr
 preside.
 (That Bards are second-sighted is nae
 joke,

And ken the lingo of the sp'ritual folk;
 Fays, Spunkies, Kelpies, a', they can
 explain them,
 And even the vera deils they brawly
 ken them.)
 Auld Brig appear'd o' ancient Pictish
 race,
 The vera wrinkles Gothic in his face:
 He seem'd as he wi' Time had warstl'd
 lang,
 Yet, teughly¹ doure, he bade an unco
 bang.
 New Brig was buskit,² in a braw new
 coat,
 That he, at Lon'on, frae ane Adams got;
 In's hand five taper staves as smooth's
 a bead,
 Wi' virls an' whirlygigums³ at the
 head.
 The Goth was stalking round with
 anxious search,
 Spying the time-worn flaws in ev'ry
 arch;
 It chanc'd his new-come neebor took
 his e'e,
 And e'en a vex'd and angry heart had
 he!
 Wi' thieveless sneer to see his modish
 mien,
 He down the water, gies him this guid-
 een:⁴—

AULD BRIG.

I doubt na, Frien', ye'll think ye're nae
 sheep-shank,
 Ance ye were streekit owre frae bank
 to bank!
 But gin ye be a brig as auld as me,
 Tho' faith! that date, I doubt, ye'll
 never see;
 There'll be, if that day come, I'll wad a
 bodle,⁵
 Some fewer whigmeleeries⁶ in your
 noddle.

NEW BRIG.

Auld Vandal, ye but show your little
 mense,⁷
 Just much about it wi' your scanty
 sense;

¹ A noted tavern at the Auld Brig End.—R. B.

² In the old prison of Ayr.

³ Which formerly stood in the High-street.

⁴ A rushing sound of wind.

⁵ The gos-hawk, or falcon.—R. B.

¹ Toughly stout.

² Dressed.

³ Useless ornaments.

⁴ Good evening. ⁵ A small gold coin

⁶ Fancies. ⁷ Good manners.

Will your poor, narrow foot-path of a
street,
Where twa wheel-barrows tremble
when they meet,
Your ruin'd, formless bulk o' stane and
lime,
Compare wi' bonnie Brigs o' modern
time?
There's men of taste wou'd tak the
Ducat stream,¹
Tho' they shuld cast the vera sark and
swim,
Ere they wold grate their feelings wi'
the view
O sic an ugly, Gothic hulk as you.

AULD BRIG.

Conceited gowk!² puff'd up wi'
windy pride!
This mony a year I've stood the flood
an' tide;
And tho' wi' crazy eild I'm sair for-
fairn,³
I'll be a Brig, when ye're a shapeless
cairn!
As yet ye little ken about the matter,
But twa-three winters will inform ye
better
When heavy, dark, continued, a'-day
rains,
Wi' deepening deluges o'erflow the
plains:
When from the hills where springs the
brawling Coil,
Or stately Lugar's mossy fountains boil,
Or where the Greenock winds his
moorland course,
Or haunted Garpal⁴ draws his feeble
source,
Arous'd by blust'ring winds an' spotting
thowes,⁵

¹ A noted ford, just above the Auld
Brig.—R. B.

² A term of contempt; fool.

³ Distressed.

⁴ The banks of Garpal Water is one
of the few places in the West of Scot-
land where those fancy-scaring beings,
known by the name of ghaists, still con-
tinue pertinaciously to inhabit.—R. B.

⁵ Thaws.

In mony a torrent down hi; snaw broo'
rowes;
While crashing ice, borne on the roar-
ing speat,²
Sweeps dams, an' mills, an' brigs, a' to
the gate;
And from Glenbuck,³ down to the
Ratton-key,⁴
Auld Ayr is just one lengthen'd, umb-
ling sea;
Then down ye'lli hurl, deil nor ye never
rise!
And dash the gumlie⁵ jaups⁶ up to
the pouring skies.
A lesson sadly teaching, to your cost,
That Architecture's noble art is lost!

NEW BRIG.

Fine Architecture, trowth, I needs
must say't o't!
The Lord be thankit that we've tint
the gate o't!⁷
Gaunt, ghaistly, ghaist-alluring edifices,
Hanging with threat'ning jut, like pre-
cipices:
O'er-arching, mouldy, gloom-inspiring
-coves,
Supporting roofs fantastic, sto..y
groves:
Windows and doors in nameless sculp-
tures drest,
With order, symmetry, or taste un-
blest;
Forms like some bedlam Statuary's
dream,
The craz'd creations of misguided
whim;
Forms might be worshi'p'd on the
bended knee,
And still the second dread command
be free,
Their likeness is not found on earth,
in air, or sea.
Mansions that would disgrace the build-
ing taste
Of any mason reptile, bird, or beast;

¹ Snow-water.

² Torrent.

³ The source of the River Ayr.—
R. B.

⁴ A small landing-place above the
large key.—R. B.

⁵ Muddy. ⁶ Jerks of water.

⁷ Lost the way of it.

Fi. only for a doited monkish race,
 Or frosty maids forsworn the dear embrace;
 Or cuifs¹ of later times, wha held the notion
 That sullen gloom was sterling, true devotion;
 Fancies that our guid Brugh² denies protection,
 And soon may they expire, unblest with resurrection!

AULD BRIG.

O ye, my dear-remember'd, ancient yearlings,³
 Were ye but here to share my wounded feelings!
 Ye worthy Proveses, an' mony a Bailie,
 Wha in the paths o' righteousness did toil ay;
 Ye dainty Deacons, an' ye douce Conveeners,
 To whom our moderns are but causey-cleaners!
 Y' godly Councils wha hae blest this town;
 Ye godly Brethren o' the sacred gown,
 Wha meekly gie your hurdies to the smiters;
 And (what would now be strange) ye godly Writers:⁴
 A' ye douce folk I've borne aboon the broo,⁵
 Were ye but here, what would ye say or do!
 How would your spirits groan in deep vexation,
 To see each melancholy alteration;
 And agonizing, curse the time and place,
 When ye begat the base, degen'rate race!
 Nae langer Rev'rend Men, their country's glory,
 In plain, braid Scots hold forth a plain, braid story;
 Nae langer thrifty Citizens, an' douce,
 Meet owre a pint, or in the Council-house;
 But stauurel,⁶ corky-headed, graceless Gentry,

The herryment¹ and ruin of the country,
 Men, three-parts made by Tailors and by Barbers,
 Wha waste your weel-hain'd² gear on d—d new Brigs and Harbours!

NEW BRIG.

Now haud you there! for faith ye've said enough,
 And muckle mair than ye can mak to through;³
 As for your Priesthood, I shall say but little,
 Corbies⁴ and Clergy are a shot right kittle:
 But, under favour o' your langer beard,
 Abuse o' Magistrates might weel be spar'd:
 To liken them to your auld-waird squad,
 I must needs say, comparisons are odd.
 In Ayr, Wag-wits nae mair can have a handle
 To mouth "a Citizen," a term o' scandal:
 Nae mair the Council waddles down the street,
 In all the pomp of ignorant conceit;
 Men wha grew wise priggins⁵ ower hops an' raisins,
 Or gather'd lib'ral views in Bonds and Seisins.
 If haply Knowledge, on a random tramp,
 Had shor'd⁶ them wi' a glimmer of his lamp,
 And would to Common-sense for once betray'd them,
 Plain, dull Stupidity stept kindly in to aid them.

What farther clishmaclaver⁷ might been said,
 What bloody wars, if Sprites had blood to shed,
 No man can tell; but all before their sight
 A fairy train appear'd in order bright:
 Adown the glittering stream they featly⁸ danc'd;

¹ Blockheads. ² Burgh.
³ Coevals. ⁴ Law yers. ⁵ Water.
⁶ Half-witted.

¹ Devastation. ² Well-saved
³ Make out. ⁴ Crows.
⁵ Cheapening. ⁶ Threatenel.
⁷ Idle conversation. ⁸ Sprucely

Bright to the moon their various dresses
glanc'd :

They footed o'er the wat'ry glass so
neat,

The infant ice scarce bent beneath
their feet :

While arts of Minstrelsy among them
rung,

And soul-ennobling Bards heroic ditties
sung.

O had M'Lauchlan,¹ thairm² inspir-
ing sage,

Been there to hear this heavenly band
engage,

When thro' his dear strathspeys they
bore with Highland rage,

Or when they struck old Scotia's melt-
ing airs,

The lover's raptured joys, or bleeding
cares ;

How would his Highland lug³ been
nobly fir'd,

And ev'n his matchless hand with finer
touch inspir'd!

No guess could tell what instrument
appear'd,

But all the soul of Music's self was
heard ;

Harmonious concert rung in every part,
While simple melody pour'd moving on
the heart.

The Genius of the Stream in front
appears,

A venerable chief, advanc'd in years ;
His hoary head with water-lilies
crown'd,

His manly leg with garter-tangle⁴
bound.

Next came the loveliest pair in all the
ring,

Sweet Female Beauty hand in hand
with Spring ;

Then, crown'd with flow'ry hay, came
Rural Joy,

And Summer, with his fervid-beaming
eye :

All-cheering Plenty, with her flowing
horn,

Led yellow Autumn wreath'd with nod-
ding corn ;

Then Winter's time-bleach'd locks die
hoary show,

By Hospitality with cloudless brow.
Next followed Courage with his martial
stride,

From where the Feal¹ wild-woody
coverts hide ;

Benevolence, with mild, benignant air,
A Female form, came from the tow'rs of
Stair :²

Learning and Worl. in equal measures
trode

From simple Catrine,³ their long-lov'd
abode :

Last, white-rob'd Peace, crown'd with
a hazel wreath,

The rustic Agriculture did bequeath
The broken, iron instruments of death :

At sight of whom our Sprites forgot
their kindling wrath.

THE ORDINATION.⁴

For sense, they little owe to frugal
Heav'n—

To please the mob, they hide the
little giv'n.

KILMARNOCK Weavers,⁵ fidge and
claw,

An' pour your creeshie⁶ nations ;

¹ Feal is a small stream that runs
near Coilsfield.

² The allusion is to Mrs. Stewart,
of Stair.

³ On the banks of Ayr, where Pro-
fessor Stewart resided, when not occu-
pied by his work at Edinboro'.

⁴ The "Ordination" grew out of a
Kirk squabble, in Kilmarnock, between
the "high-flying" and the "moderate"
party, who were vanquished in the fray ;
a high-flying minister having obtained
the appointment. Burns endeavoured
to console the defeated "moderate"
with a vision of the expected ceremony.

"Maggie Lauder," as we are informed
by Burns, was the maiden name of the
Rev. Mr. Lindsay's wife.

⁵ Weavers.

⁶ Greasy.

¹ A well-known performer of Scottish
music on the violin.—R. B.

² Fiddle-string.

³ Ear.

⁴ Sea-weed.

An' ye wha leather rax¹ an' draw,
 Of a' denominations,
 Swith² to the Laigh Kirk, ane an' a',
 An' there tak up your stations ;
 Then aff to Begbie's in a raw,³
 An' pour divine libations,
 For joy this day.

Curst Common-sense, that imp o' hell,
 Cam in wi' Maggie Lauder ;
 But Oliphant aft made her yell,
 An' Russel sair misca'd her ;
 This day M'Kinlay taks the flail,
 An' he's the boy will blaud⁴ her !
 He'll clap a shangan⁵ on her tail,
 An' set the bairns to daud⁶ her
 Wi' dirt this day.

Mak haste an' turn king David owre,
 An' lilt⁷ wi' holy clangor :
 O' double verse come gie us four,
 An' skirl⁸ up the Bangor :
 This day the Kirk kicks up a stoure,⁹
 Nae mair the knaves shall wrang her,
 For Heresy is in her pow'r,
 And gloriously she'll whang her
 Wi' pith this day.

Come let a proper text be read,
 An' touch it off wi' vigour,
 How graceless Ham¹⁰ leugh¹¹ at his
 Dad,
 Which made Canaan a niger :¹²
 O! Plineas¹³ drove the murdering blade
 Wi' w—e-abhorring rigour ;
 Or Zipporah,¹⁴ the scauldin' jade,
 Was like a bluidy tiger
 I' th' Inn that day.

There, try his mettle on the creed,
 And bind him down wi' caution,
 That Stipend is a carnal weed
 He taks but for the fashion ;

An' gie him o'er the flock, to feed,
 And punish each transgression,
 Especial, rams that cross the breed,
 Gie them sufficient threshin',
 Spare them nae day.

Now auld Kilmarnock, cock thy tail,
 An' toss thy horns fu' canty ;
 Nae mair thou'lt rowte¹ out-owre th
 dale,
 Because thy pasture's scanty ;
 For lapfu's large o' gospel kail
 Shall fill thy crib in plenty,
 An' runts o' grace the pick an' wale,²
 No gie'n by way o' dainty,
 But ilka day.

Nae mair by Babel streams we'll weep
 To think upon our Zion ;
 And hing our fiddles up to sleep,
 Like baby-clouts a-dryin :
 Come, screw the pegs wi' tune fu' cheep,³
 And o'er the thairms⁴ be tryin ;
 Oh rare ! to see our elbucks wheep,⁵
 And a' like lamb-tails flyin
 Fu' fast this day !

Lang, Patronage, wi' rod o' airn,⁶
 Has shor'd the Kirk's undoin,
 As lately Fenwick, sair forfairn,
 Has proven to its ruin :
 Our Patron, honest man ' Glencairn,
 He saw mischief was brewin ;
 And like a godly, elect bairn,
 He's wal'd⁷ us out a true ane,
 And sound this day

Now, Robinson, harangue nae mair,
 But steck⁸ your gab for ever :
 Or try the wicked town of Ayr,
 For there they'll think you clever ;
 Or, nae reflection on your lear,
 Ye may commence a Shaver ;
 Or to the Netherton⁹ repair,
 And turn a Carpet-weaver
 Aff-hand this day.

Mutrie and you were just a match,
 We never had sic twa drones :
 Auld Hornie did the Laigh Kirk watch
 Just like a winkin baudrone.¹⁰

¹ Stretch.² Get away.³ Row.⁴ Slap.⁵ A stick cleft at one end.⁶ Pelt.⁷ Sing.⁸ Shriek.⁹ Dust.¹⁰ Genesis ix. 22.—R. B.¹¹ Did laugh.¹² A negro.¹³ Numbers xxv. 8.—R. B.¹⁴ Exodus iv. 25.—R. B.¹ Bellow.² Choice.³ Chirp⁴ Strings.⁵ Elbows jerk.⁶ Iron⁷ Chosen.⁸ Shut.⁹ A district of Kilmarnock.¹⁰ Cat

And ay he catch'd the tither wretch,
 To fry them in his cauldrons ;
 But now his Honor maun detach,
 Wi' a' his brimstone squadrons,
 Fast, fast this day.

See, see auld Orthodoxy's faes
 She's swingein thro' the city :
 Hark, how the nine-tail'd cat she plays!
 I vow it's uncc pretty !
 There Learning, with his Greekish face,
 Grunts out some Latin ditty ;
 And Common Sense is gaun, she says,
 To mak to Jamie Beattie
 Her plaint this day.

But there's Morality himsel,
 Embracing all opinions ;
 Hear, how he gies the tither yell,
 Between his twa companions ;
 See, how she peels the skin an' fell,
 As ane were peelin onions !
 Now there,—they're packed aff to hell,
 And banish'd our dominions,
 Henceforth this day.

O happy day ! rejoice, rejoice !
 Co'ne bouse about the porter !
 Morality's demure decoys
 Shall here nae mair find quarter :
 M'Kinlay, Russel are the boys
 That Heresy can torture ;
 They'll gie her on a rape a hoise¹
 And cowe² her measure shorter
 By th' head some day.

Come, bring the tither mutchkin³ in,
 And here's, for a conclusion,
 To every New Light⁴ mother's son,
 From this time forth, Confusion :
 If inair they deave⁵ us with their din,
 Or Patronage intrusion,
 We'll light a spunk,⁶ and, ev'ry skin,
 We'll rin them aff in fusion
 Like oil, some day.

¹ A pull upwards.

² Lop.

³ An English pint.

⁴ New Light is a cant phrase, in the West of Scotland, for those religious opinions which Dr Taylor, of Norwich, has so strenuously defended.—R. B.

⁵ Deafen.

⁶ A match.

TO THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES
 JAMES FOX.

(A POLITICAL SKETCH, WRITTEN IN
 1789.)

How wisdom and folly meet, mix, and
 unite ;
 How virtue and vice blend their black
 and their white ;
 How genius, the illustrious father of
 fiction,
 Confounds rule and law, reconciles
 contradiction—
 I sing: if these mortals, the critics,
 should bustle,
 I care not, not I—let the critics go
 whistle !

But now for a patron, whose name
 and whose glory
 At once may illustrate and honour my
 story.

Thou first of our orators, first of our
 wits ;
 Yet whose parts and acquirements
 seem mere lucky hits ;
 With knowledge so vast, and with
 judgment so strong,
 No man with the half of 'em e'er went
 far wrong ;
 With passions so potent, and fancies so
 bright,
 No man with the half of 'em e'er went
 quite right ;—
 A sorry, poor misbegot son of the
 Muses,
 For using thy name offers fifty excuses
 Good Lord, what is man ? for as simple
 he looks,
 Do but try to develop his hooks and his
 crooks ;
 With his depths and his shallows, his
 good and his evil ;
 All in all he's a problem must puzzle the
 devil.
 On his one ruling passion Sir Pope
 hugely labours,
 That, like the old Hebrew walking
 switch, eats up its neighbours,
 Mankind are his show-box—a friend
 would you know him ?

Pull the string, ruling passion the picture will show him.

What pi.y, in rearing so beauteous a system,

One trifling particular truth should have miss'd him ;

For, spite of his fine theoretic positions, Mankind is a science defies definitions.

Some sort all our qualities each to its tribe,

And think human nature they truly describe ;

Have you found this, or t'other ? there's more in the wind,

As by one drunken fellow his comrades you'll find.

But such is the flaw, or the depth of the plan,

In the make of that wonderful creature call'd man,

No two virtues, whatever relation they claim,

Nor even two different shades of the same,

Though like as was ever twin brother to brother,

Possessing the one shall imply you've the other.

But truce with abstraction, and truce with a Muse,

Whose rhymes you'll perhaps, sir, ne'er deign to peruse :

Will you leave your justings, your jars, and your quarrels,

Contending with Billy for proud-nodding laurels ?

My much-honour'd patron, believe your poor poet,

Your courage much more than your prudence you show it ;

In vain with Squire Billy for laurels you struggle,

He'll have them by fair trade, if not, he will smuggle ;

Not cabinets even of kings would conceal 'em,

He'd up the back-stairs, and by God he would steal 'em.

Then feats like Squire Billy's you ne'er can achieve 'em,

It is not, outdo him, the task is out-thieve him.

THE CALF.¹

TO THE REV. MR. JAMES STEVEN, ON HIS TEXT, MALACHI, CH. IV. VER. 2.

“And they shall go forth, and grow up, like CALVES of the stall.”

RIGHT, Sir ! your text I'll prove it true, Tho' Heretics may laugh ;

For instance ; there's yoursell just now God knows, an unco Calf !

And should some Patron be so kind, As bless you wi' a kirk,

I doubt na, sir, but then we'll find Ye're still as great a Stirk.²

But, if the Lover's raptur'd hour Shall ever be your lot,

Forbid it, ev'ry heavenly Power, You e'er should be a Stot !³

Tho', when some kind, connubial Dear, Your But-and-ben⁴ adorns,

The like has been that you may wear A noble head of horns.

And, in your lug, most reverend James To hear you roar and rowte,⁵

Few men o' sense will doubt you claims

To rank amang the Nowte.⁶

And when ye're number'd wi' the dead, Below a grassy hillock,

Wi' justice they may mark your head— “Here lies a famous Bullock !”

STANZAS TO CLARINDA.⁷

CLARINDA, mistress of my soul,⁸

The measured time is run !

¹ The Poem was nearly an extemporaneous production on a wager that I would not produce a poem on the subject in a given time.—R. B.

² Bullock of a year old. ³ An ox.

⁴ Kitchen and parlour. ⁵ Bellow.

⁶ Black cattle.

⁷ Written about 1788. Clarinda was the wife of Mr. M'Lehose, from whom she had been separated, but she appears to have had an ardent affection for Burns. Her maiden name was Agnes Craig.

⁸ These stanzas appeared in the second volume of the *Musical Museum*.

The wretch beneath the dreary pole
So marks his latest sun.

To what dark cave of frozen night
Shall poor Sylvander hie ?
Deprived of thee, his life and light,
The sun of all his joy !

We part—but, by these precious drops
That fill thy lovely eyes !
No other light shall guide my steps
Till thy bright beams arise.

She, the fair sun of all her sex,
Has blest my glorious day ;
And shall a glimmering planet fix
My worship to its ray ?

TO CLARINDA.

WITH A PRESENT OF A PAIR OF DRINK-
ING GLASSES.

FAIR empress of the poet's soul,
And queen of poetesses ;
Clarinda, take this little boon,
This humble pair of glasses.

And fill them high with generous juice,
As generous as your mind ;
And pledge me in the generous toast—
“ The whole of humankind ! ”

“ To those who love us ! ”—second fill ;
But not to those whom we love ;
Lest we love those who love not us !
A third—“ To thee and me, love ! ”

Long may we live ! long may we love !
And long may we be happy !
And may we never want a glass
Well charged with generous nappy !

ADDRESS TO THE DEIL.¹

Oh Prince ! Oh Chief of many throned
pow'rs,
That led th' embattled Seraphim to
war— *Milton.*

O THOU ! whatever title suit thee,
Auld Hornie, Satan, Nick, or Clootie,

¹ It was, I think, in the winter, as we were going together with carts for coal to the family fire (and I could yet point out the particular spot), that the

Wha in yon cavern grim an' sootie,
Closed under haiches,
Spairges¹ about the brunstane cootie,²
To scaud poor wretches.

Hear me, auld Hangie, for a wee,
An' let poor damned bodies be,
I'm sure sma' pleasure it can gie,
Ev'n to a deil.

To skelp³ an' scaud poor dogs like me,
An' hear us squeel !

Great is thy pow'r, an' great thy fame ;⁴
Far kend an' noted is thy name ;
An', tho' yon lowin heugh's⁵ thy hame,
Thou travels far ;
An', faith ! thou's neither lag nor lame,
Nor blate nor scaur.⁶

Whyles, ranging like a roarin lion,
For prey a' holes an' corners tryin ;
Whyles on the strong-wing'd tempest
flyin,

Tirlin⁷ the kirks ;
Whyles in the human bosom pryin,
Unseen thou lurks.

I've heard my reverend Graunie say,
In lanely glens ye like to stray ;
Or where auld ruin'd castles, gray,
Nod to the moon,
Ye fright the nightly wand'rer's way,
Wi' eldritch croon.⁸

author first repeated to me the “ Address to the Deil.” The curious idea of such an address was suggested to him by running over in his mind the many ludicrous accounts and representations we have from various quarters of this august personage.—G. B.

¹ Dashest. ² Wooden dish. ³ Strike.

⁴ The third stanza was originally

Lang syne in Eden's happy scene,
When strappin' Adam's days were
green,

And Eve was like my bonnie Jean,
My dearest part,
A dancin', sweet, young, handsome
quean

Wi' guileless heart.

⁵ Flaming pit.

⁶ Neither bashful nor apt to be scared.

⁷ Uncovering.

⁸ Frightful croon.

Wae, twilight did my Graunie sum-
mon,
To say her pray'rs, douce, honest wo-
man!
Aft yont the dyke she's heard you
bummin',¹

Or, rustlin, thro' the boortrics² comin,
Wi' eerie drone ;
Wi' heavy groan.

Ae dreary, windy, winter night,
The stars shot down wi' sklentint³ light,
Wi' you, mysel, I gat a fright,
Ayont the lough ;
Ye, like a rash-bush,⁴ stood in sight,
Wi' waving sug.

The cudgel in my nieve⁵ did shake,
Each bristl'd hair stood like a stake,
When wi' an eldritch stoor,⁶ quack,
quack,
Amang the springs,
Awa ye squatter'd,⁷ like a drake,
On whistling wings.

Let warlocks⁸ grim, an' wither'd hags,
Tell how wi' you on ragweed⁹ nags,
They skim the muirs, an' dizzy crags,
Wi' wicked speed ;
And in kirk-yards renew their leagues,
Owre howkit¹⁰ dead.

Thence, countra wives, wi' toil an' pain,
May plunge an' plunge the kirn¹¹ in
vain ;
For, Oh ! the yellow treasure's taen
By witching skill ;
An' dawtit,¹² twal-pint¹³ Hawkie's
gaen
As yell's¹⁴ the bill.¹⁵

Thence, mystic knots mak great abuse,
On young Guidmen, fond, keen, an'
crouse ;¹⁶

When the best wark-lume¹ i' the
house,
By cantraip² wit,
Is instant made no worth a —,
Just at the bit.

When thowes³ dissolve the snawy
hoord,⁴
An' float the jinglin' icy-boord,
Then Water-kelpies haunt the foord,
By your direction,
An' nighted Trav'lers are all ir'd
To their destruction.

An' aft your moss-traversing Spunkies⁵
Decoy the wight that late an' drunk is :
The bleezin, curst, mischievous monkies⁶
Delude his eyes,
Till in some miry slough he sunk is,
Ne'er mair to rise.

When Masons' mystic word an' grip,
In storms an' tempests raise you up,
Some cock or cat your rage maun stop,
Or, strange to tell !
The youngest Brother ye wad whip
Aff straught to hell.

Lang syne, in Eden's bonnie yard,
When youthfu' lovers first were pair'd,
An' all the soul of love they shar'd,
The raptur'd hour,
Sweet on the fragrant, flow'ry swaird,
In shady bow'r :

Then you, ye auld, snec-drawing⁶ dog
Ye came to Paradise incog,
An' play'd on man a cursed brogue,⁷
(Black be you fa !)
An' gied the infant waird a shog,⁸
'Maist ruin'd a'.

D'ye mind that day, when in a bizz,⁹
Wi' reekit duds,¹⁰ an' reestit gizz,¹¹
Ye did present your smoutie phiz
'Mang better folk,
An' sklentent¹² on the man of Uzz
Your spitefu' joke ?

An' how ye gat him i' your thrall,
An' brak him out o' house an' hal',

¹ Humming.
² The shrub elder, common in the
hedges of barn-yards.

³ Slanting. ⁴ A bush of rushes.
⁵ Fist. ⁶ Hoarse. ⁷ Fluttered.

⁸ Wizards. ⁹ Ragwort.
¹⁰ Digged up. ¹¹ Churn.

¹² Fondled. ¹³ Twelve-pint.
¹⁴ Barren. ¹⁵ Bull. ¹⁶ Courageous.

¹ Working tool. ² Magical.

³ Thaws. ⁴ Hoard.
⁵ Will-o'-whisp. ⁶ Trick-contriving.

⁷ Trick. ⁸ Shock. ⁹ Bustle

¹⁰ Smoky clothes. ¹¹ Stunted periwig
¹² Piated.

While scabs an' l'orches did him gall,
 Wi' bitter claw,
 An' lows'd¹ his ill-tongu'd, wicked
 Scawl,²

Wast warst ava?³

But a' your doings to rehearse,
 Your wily snares an' fechtin⁴ fierce,
 Sin' that day Michael⁵ did you pierce,
 Down to this time,
 Wad ding⁶ a' Lallan tongue, or Erse,
 In prose or rhyme.

An' now, auld Cloots, I ken ye're
 thinkin,

A certain Bardie's rantin, drinkin,
 Some luckless hour will send him linkin⁷
 To your black pit;

But, faith! he'll turn a corner jinkin,⁸
 An' cheat you yet.

But, fare you weel, auld Nickie-ben!
 O wad ye tak a thought an' men'!
 Ye aiblins⁹ might—I dinna ken—

Still hae a stake—

I'm wae to think upo' yon den,
 Ev'n for your sake!

THE POET'S REPLY TO A GENTLEMAN WHO HAD SENT HIM A NEWSPAPER.¹⁰

KIND sir, I've read your paper through,
 And, faith, to me, 'twas really new!
 How guess'd ye, sir, what maist I
 wanted?

This mony a day I've gran'd and
 gaunted
 To ken what French mischief was
 brewin',

Or what the drumlie Dutch were doin';
 That vile doup-skelper, Emperor Jo-
 seph,

If Venus yet had got his nose off;
 Or how the collieshangie works

Atween the Russians and the Turks,
 Or if the Swede, before he halt,
 Would play anither Charles the Twalt;
 If Denmark, anybody spak o't;
 Or Poland, wha had now the tack o't;
 How cut-throat Prussian blades were
 hingin'!

How libbet Italy was singin';
 If Spaniards, Portuguese, or Swiss
 Were sayin' or takin' aught amiss:
 Or how our merry lads at hame,
 In Britain's court, kept up the game:
 How royal George, the Lord leuk o'er
 him!

Was managing St Stephen's quorum;
 If sleekit Chatham Wil was livin',
 Or glaikit Charlie got his nieve in;
 How Daddie Burke the plea was cook
 in';

If Warren Hastings' neck was yeukin'
 How cesses, stents, and fees were rax'd
 Or if bare a—s yet were tax'd;
 The news o' princes, dukes, and earls,
 Pimps, sharpers, bawds, and opera
 girls;

If that daft buckie, Geordie Wales,
 Was threshin' still at hizzies' tails;
 Or if he was grown oughtlins douse.
 And no a perfect kintra cooser.
 A' this and mair I never heard of;
 And but for you I might despair'd of.
 So gratefu', back your news I send you,
 And pray, a' guid things may attend
 you!

THE FIRST KISS OF AFFEC- TION.

HUMID seal of soft affections,
 Tenderest pledge of future bliss,
 Dearest tie of young connections,
 Love's first snow-drop, virgin kiss!

Speaking silence, dumb confession,
 Passion's birth and infant play,
 Dove-like fondness, chaste concession,
 Glowing dawn of brighter day.

Sorrowing joy, adieu's last action,
 When ling'ring lips no more may
 join,

What words can ever speak affection
 So thrilling and sincere as thine!

¹ Loosed. ² Scold. ³ Of all.

⁴ Fighting.

⁵ Vide Milton, Book vi.—R. B.

⁶ Worst.

⁷ Tripping.

⁸ Dodging.

⁹ Perhaps.

¹⁰ Written at Ellisland, in 1790, in the
 22nd year of his age.

THE DEATH AND DYING
WORDS OF POOR MAILIE,¹ THE
AUTHOR'S ONLY PET YOWE.

AN UNCO MOURNFU' TALE.

As Mailie an' her lambs thegither
Were ae day nibbling on the tether,
Upon her cloot² she coost³ a hitch,⁴
An' owre she wars'd⁵ in the ditch:
There groaning, dying, she did lie,
When Hughoc⁶ he cam doytin by.

Wi' glowrin een, an' lifted han's,
Poor Hughoc like a statue stan's;
He saw her days were near-hand ended,
But, waes my heart! he could na
mend it.

He gaped wide, but naething spak.
At length poor Mailie silence brak.

"O thou, whase lamentable face
Appears to mourn my woefu' case!
My dying words attentive hear,
An' bear them to my Master dear.

"Tell him, if e'er again he keep
As muckle gear as buy a sheep,
O, bid him never tie them mair
Wi' wicked strings o' hemp or hair!

¹ The circumstances of the poor sheep were pretty much as he has described them; he had, partly by way of frolic, bought a ewe and two lambs from a neighbour, and she was tethered in a field adjoining the house at Lochlie. He and I were going out with our teams, and our two younger brothers to drive for us, at mid-day; when Hugh Wilson, a curious-looking, awkward boy, clad in plaiding, came to us, with much anxiety in his face, with the information that the ewe had entangled herself in the tether and was lying in the ditch. Robert was much tickled with Huoc's appearance and postures on the occasion. Poor Mailie was set to rights, and when we returned from the plough in the evening he repeated to me her "Death and Dying Words," pretty much in the way they now stand.—G. B.

² Hoof. ³ Cast. ⁴ Loop.

⁵ Wrestled.

⁶ A neibor herd-callan.—R. B.

But ca' them out to park or hill,
An' let them wander at their will;
So may his flocks increase, an' grow
To scores o' lambs, an' packs o' woa'⁷
"Tell him, he was a Master kin',
An' ay was guid to me an' mine;
An' now my dying charge I gie him,
My helpless lambs, I trust them wi' him.

"O, bid him save their harmless lives,
Frae dogs, an' tods, an' butchers' knives!
But gie them guid cow-milk their fill,
Till they be fit to fend² themsel:
An' tent them duly, e'en an' morn,
Wi' teats³ o' hay, an' rippis⁴ o' corn.

"An' may they never learn the gaets⁵
Of ither vile, wanrestfu'⁶ pets!
To slink thro' slaps,⁷ an' reave⁸ an'
steal,

At stacks o' pease, or stocks o' kail.
So may they, like their great Forbears,⁹
For monie a year come thro' the shears;
So wives will gie them bits o' bread,
An' bairns greet¹⁰ for them when they're
dead.

"My poor toop-lamb,¹¹ my son an'
heir,

O, bid him breed him up wi' care!
An' if he live to be a beast,
To pit some havins¹² in his breast!
An' warn him, what I winna name;
To stay content wi' yowes at hame;
An' not to rin an' wear his cloots,
Like ither menseless, graceless brutes.

"An' niest my yowie,¹³ silly thing,
Gude keep thee frae a tether string!
O, may thou ne'er forgather up
Wi' ony blastit, moorland toop;
But ay keep mind to moop¹⁴ an' mell,¹⁵
Wi' sheep o' credit like thysel!

"And now, my bairns, wi' my last
breath,

I lea'e my blessin wi' you baith:
An' when you think upo' your Mither,
Mind to be kind to ane anither.

"Now, honest Hughoc, dinna fail,

¹ Wool. ² Live comfortably.
³ Small quantities. ⁴ Handfuls.
⁵ Ways. ⁶ Restless.
⁷ Gates, or breaks in fences.
⁸ Rove. ⁹ Forefathers. ¹⁰ Wreep.
¹¹ Ram. ¹² Good manners.
¹³ Ewe. ¹⁴ Nibble. ¹⁵ Meddle

To tell my Misser a' my tale ;
An' bid lam burn this curs'd tether,
An', for thy pains, thou'se get my
blather."¹

This said, poor Mailie turn'd her head,
An' clo'd her een among the dead !

POOR MAILIE'S ELEGY.

LAMENT in rhyme, lament in prose,
Wi' saut tears trickling down your nose ;
Our Bardie's fate is at a close,

Past a' remead ;
The last, sad cape-stane² of his woes ;
Poor Mailie's dead !

It's no the loss o' warl's gear,
That could sae bitter draw the tear,
Or mak our Bardie, dowie,³ wear
The mourning weed :
He's lost a friend and neebor dear,
In Mailie dead.

Thro' a' the toun she trotted by him ;
A lang half-mile she could descry him ;
Wi' kindly bleat, when she did spy him,
She ran wi' speed :
A friend mair faithfu' ne'er cam nigh him
Than Mailie dead.

I wat she was a sheep o' sense,
An' could behave hersel wi' mense ;
I'll say't, she never brak a fence,
Thro' thievish greed.
Our Bardie, lanely, keeps the Spence⁴
Sin' Mailie's dead.

Or, if he wanders up the howe,⁶
Her living image, in her yowe,
Comes bleating to him owre the knowe,⁷
For bits o' bread ;
An' down the briny pearls rowe
For Mailie dead.

She was nae get o' moorland tips,⁸
Wi' tawted⁶ ket, an' hairy hips ;
For her forbears were brought in ships,
Frae yont the Tweed ;
A bonnier fleesh ne'er cross'd the clips⁹
Than Mailie dead.

Wae woth the man wha first did shay⁴
That vile, wanchancie¹ thing—a rape !
It maks guid fellows girn² an' gape,
Wi' chokin dread ;
An' Robin's bonnet wave wi' crape,
For Mailie dead.

O, a' ye Bards on bonnie Doon !
An' wha on Ayr your chanter's³ tune
Come, join the melancholious croon⁴
O' Robin's reed !
His heart will never get aboon
His Mailie dead !

TO JAMES SMITH.⁵

Friendship ! mysterious cement of the
soul !
Sweet'ner of Life, and solder of So-
ciety !
I owe thee much.— *Bluir.*

DEAR Smith, the sleest, paukie⁶ thief,
That e'er attempted stealth or rief,
Ye surely hae some warlock-breef⁷
Owre human hearts ;
For ne'er a bosom yet was prief⁸
Against your arts.

For me, I swear by sun and moon,
And ev'ry star that blinks aboon,
Ye've cost me twenty pair o' shoon
Just gaun to see you ;
And ev'ry ither pair that's done,
Mair ta'en I'm wi' you.
That auld, capricious carlin,⁹ Nature,
To mak amends for scrimpit¹⁰ stature,
She's turn'd you aff, a human creature
On her first plan,
And in her freaks, on ev'ry feature,
She's wrote, "The Man."

Just now I've taen the fit o' rhyn.e,
My barmie noddle's working prime,
My fancie yerkit¹¹ up sublime
Wi' hasty summon :
Hae ye a leisure moment's time
To hear what's comin ?

¹ Bladder.

² Copestone.

³ Worn with grief.

⁴ Parlour.

⁵ Dell. ⁶ Hillock.

⁷ Rams.

⁸ Matted wool.

⁹ Sheers.

¹ Unlucky.

² Grin.

³ Parts of bagpipes.

⁴ Moan

⁵ Smith kept a shop in Mauchline.

⁶ Cunning. ⁷ Wizard spell. ⁸ Proof

⁹ Old woman. ¹⁰ Scanty. ¹¹ Lashed

Some rhyme a neebor's name to lash ;
Some rhyme (vain thought !) for needfu'
cash ;

Some rhyme to court the contra clash,
An' raise a din ;
For me, an aim I never fash ;¹
I rhyme for fun.

The star that rules my luckless lot,
Has fated me the russet coat,
An' d—d my fortune to the groat ;
But, in requit,
Has blest me wi' a random shot
O' countra wit.

This while my notion's taen a sklent,
To try my fate in guid, black prent ;
But still the mair I'm that way bent,
Something cries, "Hoolie !"²
I red³ you, honest man, tak tent !
Ye'll shaw your folly.

"There's ither poets, much your bet-
ters,
Far seen in Greek, deep men o' letters,
Hae thought they had ensur'd their
debtors,
A' future ages ;
Now moths deform in shapeless tatters,
Their unknown pages."

Then fareweel hopes o' laurel-boughs,
To garland my poetic brows !
Henceforth I'll rove where busy
ploughs
Are whistling thrang,
An' teach the lanely heights an' howes
My rustic sang.

I'll wander on, wi' tentless⁴ heed
How never-halting moments speed,
Till fate shall snap the brittle thread :
Then, all unknown,
I'll lay me with th' inglorious dead,
Forgot and gone !

But why o' Death begin a tale ?
Just now we're living, sound an' hale ;
Then top and maintop crowd the sail,
Heave Care o'er side !
And large, before Enjoyment's gale,
Let's tak the tide.

¹ Care for.¹ I warn you-² Gently.⁴ Heedless.

This life, sae far's I understand,¹
Is a' enchanted fairy-land,
Where pleasure is the magic wand,
That, wielded right,
Maks hours like minutes, hand in hand
Dance by fu' light.

The magic-wand then let us wield ;
For, ance that five-an'-forty's speel'd,²
See, crazy, weary, joyless Eild,
Wi' wrinkl'd face,
Comes hostin,³ hirplin⁴ owre the field,
Wi' creepin pace.

When ance life's day draws near the
gloamin,
Then fareweel vacant careless roamin ;
An' fareweel chearfu' tankards foamin,
An' social noise ;
An' fareweel dear deluding woman,
The joy of joys !

O Life ! how pleasant in thy morning,
Young Fancy's rays the hills adorning !
Cold-pausing Caution's lesson scorning,
We frisk away,
Like school-boys, at th' expected
warning,
To joy and play.

We wander there, we wander here,
We eye the rose upon the brier,
Unmindful that the thorn is near,
Among the leaves ;
And tho' the puny wound appear,
Short while it grieves.

Some, lucky, find a flow'ry spot,
For which they never toil'd nor swat ;
They drink the sweet and eat the fat,
But care or pain ;
And, haply, eye the barren hut
With high disdain.

¹ In your epistle to J. S., the stanzas, from that beginning with this line, "This life," &c. to that which ends with, "Short while it grieves," are easy, flowing, gaily philosophical, and of Horatian elegance. The language is English, with a few Scottish words, and some of those so harmonious as to add to the beauty ; for what poet would not prefer *gloaming* to *twilight* ?—DR. MOORE, June 10, 1789.

² Climbed. ³ Coughing. ⁴ Limping

With steady aim, some Fortune chase.
Keen Hope does ev'ry sinew brace;
Thro' fair, thro' foul, they urge the race,
And seize the prey:
Then cannie, in some cozie place,
They close the day.

And others, like your humble servan',
Poor wights! nae rules nor roads observin';

To right or left, eternal swervin',
They zig-zag on;
Till curst with age, obscure an' starvin',
They aften groan.

Alas! what bitter toil an' staining—
But truce wi' peevish, poor complain-
ing!

Is Fortune's fickle Luna waning?
E'en let her gang!
Beneath what light she has remainin'
Let's sing our sang.

My pen I here fling to the door,
And kneel, "Ye Pow'rs!" and warm
implore,

"Tho' I should wander Terra o'er,
In all her climes,
Grant me but this, I ask no more,
Ay rowth¹ o' rhymes.

"Gie dreeping² roasts to countra
Lairds,

Till icicles hing frae their beards;
Gie fine braw claes to fine Life-guards
And Maids of Honour;
And yill³ and whisky gie to Cairds⁴
Until they sconner.⁵

"A Title, Dempster⁶ merits it;
A Garter gie to Willie Pitt;
Gie Wealth to some be-ledger'd Cit,
In cent per cent;
But gie me real, sterling Wit,
And I'm content.

"While Ye are pleas'd to keep me hale,
I'll sit down o'er my scanty meal,
Be't water-brose, or muslin-kail,⁷
Wi' cheerfu' face,

As lang's the Muses dinna faul
To say the grace."
An anxious e'e I never throws
Behint my lug, or by my nose;
I jouk¹ beneath Misfortune's blows
As weel's I may;
Sworn foe to Sorrow, Care, and Prose,
I rhyme away.

O ye douce folk, that live by rule,
Grave, tireless-blooded, calm and cool
Compar'd wi' you—O fool! fool! fool!
How much unlike!
Your hearts are just a standing pool,
Your lives, a dyke!

Nae hair-brain'd sentimental traces
In your unletter'd, nameless faces!
In arioso trills and graces
Ye never stray,
But gravissimo, solemn basses
Ye hum away.

Ye are sae grave, nae doubt ye're wise
Nae ferly² tho' ye do despise
The hairum-scaurum, ram-stam³ boy.,
The rattling squad:

I see you upward cast your eyes—
Ye ken the road.—

Whilst I—but I shall haud me there—
Wi' you I'll scarce gang ony where—
Then, Jamie, I shall say nae mair,
But quat⁴ my sang,
Con'ent with You to mak a pair,
Whare'er I gang.

THE POET'S DREAM.⁵

GUID-MORNIN to your Majesty!
May heaven augment your blisses,

¹ Stoop.

² An expression of contempt.

³ Thoughtless.

⁴ Quit.

⁵ Written in 1786, in the 28th year of his age. At this period the Rev Thomas Wartor filled the office of Poet Laureate. Burns informs us that on reading in the public papers the Laureate's "Ode," with the other parade of June 4, 1786, he dropt asleep, and then imagined himself transported

¹ Plenty. ² Dropping. ³ Ale.

⁴ Tinkers. ⁵ Loathe.

⁶ An active Member of Parliament, who died in 1818.

⁷ Broth made of water, shelled barley, and greens.

On ev'ry 22: v birth-day ye see,
 A numble Poet wishes !
 My Bardship here, at your Levee,
 On sic a day as this is,
 Is sure an uncouth sight to see,
 Among thae Birth-day dresses
 Sae fine this day.
 I see ye're complimented thrang,
 By many a lord an' lady ;
 " God save the King ! " 's a cuckoo sang
 That's unco easy said ay ;
 The Poets, too, a venal gang,
 Wi' rhymes weel turn'd and ready,
 Wad gar¹ you trow ye ne'er do wrang,
 But ay unerring steady,
 On sic a day.

For me ! before a Monarch's face,
 Ev'n there I wiinna flatter ;
 For neither pension, post, nor place,
 An I your humble debtor :
 So, nae reflection on Your Grace,
 Your Kingship to bespatter ;
 There's monie waur been o' the Race,
 And aiblins² ane been better
 Than You this day.

'Tis very true, my sovereign King,
 My skill may weel be doubted ;
 But Facts are cheels³ that winna ding,⁴
 An' downa⁵ be disputed :
 Your Royal nest, beneath Your wing,
 Is e'en right reft an' clouted,⁶
 And now the third part of the string,
 An' less, will gang about it
 Than did ae day.

Far be't frae me that I aspire
 To blame your legislation,
 Or say, ye wisdom want, or fire,
 To rule this mighty nation !
 But faith ! I muckle doubt, my Sire,
 Ye've trusted Ministration
 To chaps, wha, in a barn or byre,⁷
 Wad better filled their station
 Than courts yon day.

to the Birth-day Levee ; and in his
 dreaming fancy, made the following
 ADDRESS. ¹ Make.

² Perhaps. ³ Young fellows.

⁴ Will not be beaten. ⁵ Cannot.

⁶ Torn and patched ; the allusion is
 to the separation of America.

⁷ Cow stable.

And now ye've gien auld Britain peace,
 Her broken shins to plaister ;
 Your sair taxation does her fleece,
 Till she has scarce a tester :
 For me, thank God, my life's a lease,
 Nae bargain wearing faster,
 Or, faith ! I fear, that wi' the geese,
 I shortly boost¹ to pasture
 I' the craft² some day.

I'm no mistrusting Willie Pitt,
 When taxes he enlarges,
 (An' Will's a true guid fallow's get,³
 A name not envy spairges,) ⁴
 That he intends to pay your del't
 An' lessen a' your charges ;
 But, God's sake ! let nae saving-fit
 Abridge your bonnie barges
 An' boats this day.

Adieu, my Liege ! may freedom geck⁵
 Beneath your high protection ;
 An' may Ye rax⁶ Corruption's neck,
 And gie her for dissection !
 But since I'm here, I'll no neglect,
 In loyal, true affection,
 To pay your Queen, with due respect,
 My fealty an' subjection
 This great Birth-day.

Hail, Majesty most Excellent !
 While nobles strive to please Ye,
 Will Ye accept a compliment
 A simple Poet gies Ye ?
 Thae bonny bairntime, Heav'n has sent,
 Still higher may they heeze⁷ Ye
 In bliss, till Fate some day is sent,
 For ever to release Ye
 Frae care that day.

For you, young Potentate o' Wales,
 I tell your Highness fairly,
 Down Pleasure's stream, wi' swelling
 sails,
 I'm tauld ye're driving rarely ;
 But some day ye may gnaw your nails
 An' curse your folly sairly,
 That e'er ye brak Diana's pales,
 Or rattl'd dice wi' Charlie⁸
 By night or day.

¹ Must needs.

² Field.

³ Child.

⁴ Bemires.

⁵ Exult.

⁶ St etch.

⁷ Raise.

⁸ Mr Fox

Yet a faggot cowter's¹ been known
To mak' a noble aiver;²
Sae, ye may doucely fill a Throne,
For a' their clish-ma-claver;³
There, Him⁴ at Agincourt wha shone,
Few better were or braver;
And yet, wi' funny, queer Sir John,⁵
He was an unco shaver⁶

For monie a day.

For you, right rev'rend Osnaburg,⁷
Nane sets the lawn-sleeves sweeter,
Altho' a ribbon at your lug
Wad been a dress completer:

As ye disown yon paughty⁸ dog
That bears the Keys of Peter,
Then, swith!⁹ an' get a wife to hug,
Or, trouth! ye'll stain the Mitre
Some luckless day.

Young, royal Tarry Breeks,¹⁰ I learn,
Ye've lately come athwart her;
A glorious galley,¹¹ stem and stern,
Weel rigg'd for Venus' barter;
But first hang out, that she'll discern
Your hymeneal charter.

Then heave aboard your grapple airn,¹²
An', large upon her quarter,
Come full that day.

Ye, lastly, bonnie blossoms a',
Ye royal Lasses dainty,
Heav'n mak you guid as weel as braw,
An' gie you lads a plenty:
But sneer na British boys awa',
For Kings are unco scant ay;
An' German Gentles are but sma',
They're better just than want ay
On onie day.

God bless you a'! consider now
Ye're unco muckle dautet;¹³
But, ere the course o' life be through,
It may be bitter sautet:

¹ Colt. ² Cart-horse. ³ Idle talk.

⁴ King Henry V.—R. B.

⁵ Sir John Falstaff: *vide* Shakspeare.
R. B. ⁶ Wag.

⁷ Osnaburg gave the title of Bishop
to the second son of George III.

⁸ Proud. ⁹ Get away.

¹⁰ The Royal "Breeks" was the
Duke of Clarence.

¹¹ Alluding to the newspaper account
of a certain Roy's sailor's amour.—R. B.

¹² Iron. ¹³ Caressed.

An' I hae seen their coggie¹ fou
That yet hae tarrow't² at it;
But or the day was done, I trow,
The laggen³ they hae clautet⁴
Fu' clean that day.

LINES TO A PAINTER,

WHOM BURNS FOUND AT WORK ON A
PICTURE OF JACOB'S DREAM.

DEAR —, I'll gie ye some advice,
You'll tak it no uncivil;
You shouldna' paint at angels mair,⁵
But try and paint the devil.

To paint an angel's kittle wark,⁶
Wi' auld Nick there's less danger;
You'll easy draw a weel-kent face,
But no sae weel a stranger.

VERSES ON A WAG IN MAUCHLINE.⁷

LAMENT him, Mauchline husbands a',
He often did assist ye;
For had ye staid whole years awa',
Your wives they ne'er had miss'd ya.

Ye Mauchline bairns,⁸ as on ye pass
To school in bands tgether,
Oh tread ye lightly on his grass—
Perhaps he was your father.

THE VISION.

DUAN FIRST.⁹

THE sun had closed the winter day,
The Curlers¹⁰ quat their roarin play,
And hunger'd Maulkin¹¹ taen her way
To kail-yards green,

¹ Little wooden dish. ² Murmured.
³ The angle between the side and
bottom of the dish. ⁴ Scraped.

⁵ More. ⁶ Ticklish work.
⁷ James Smith. ⁸ Children.

⁹ Duan, a term of Ossian's for the
different divisions of a digressive poem
See his "Cath-Loda," vol. ii. of
M'Pherson's translation.—R. B.

¹⁰ Players at a game on the ice, called
curling. ¹¹ Hare.

While faithful snaws ilk step betray
Where she has been.

The thresher's weary flingin-tree
The lee-lang day had tired me ;
And when the day had clos'd his e'e,
Far i' the west,
Ben i' the Spence,¹ right pensivelie,
I gaed to rest.

There, lanely, by the ingle-cheek,
I sat and ey'd the spewing reek,
That fill'd, wi' hoast-provoking smeeke,
The auld, clay biggin ;²
An' heard the restless rattons³ squeak
About the riggin.

All in this mottie, misty clime,
I backward mus'd on wasted time,
How I had spent my youthfu' prime,
An' done nae-thing,
But stringin blethers up in rhyme,
For fools to sing.

Had I to guid advice but harkit,
I might, by this, hae led a market
Or strutted in a bank, and clarkit
My cash-account :
While here, half-mad, half-fed, half-
sarkit⁴

Is a' th' amount.

I started, mutt'ring, blockhead ! coof !⁵
And heav'd on high my waukit loof,⁶
To swear by a' yon starry roof,
Or some rash aith,
That I, henceforth, would be rhyme-
proof

Till my last breath—

When, click ! the string the snick⁷ did
draw ;

And, jee ! the door gaed to the wa' ;
And by my ingle-lowe⁸ I saw,
Now bleezin bright,
A tight, outlandish Hizzie, braw,
Come full in sight.

Ye need na doubt, I held my whist ;⁹
The infant aith, half-form'd, was crusht ;

I glowr'd as eerie's I'd been dusht
In some wild glen ;
When sweet, like modest worth, she
blusht,
And stepped ben.²

Green, slender, leaf-clad holly-boughs
Were twisted, gracefu', round her brow ;
I took her for some Scottish Muse,
By that same token ;
And come to stop those reckless vows,
Would soon been broken.

A "hair-brain'd, sentimental trace,"
Was strongly marked in her face ;
A wildly-witty, rustic grace
Shone full upon her ;
Her eye, ev'n turn'd on empty space,
Beam'd keen with Honour.

Down flow'd her robe, a tartan sheen ;
Till half a leg was scrimply³ seen ;
And such a leg ! my bonnie Jean
Could only peer it ;
Sae straught, sae taper, tight, and clean,
Nane else came near it.

Her mantle large, of greenish hue,
My gazing wonder chiefly drew ;
Deep lights and shades, bold-mingling,
threw

A lustre grand ;
And seem'd, to my astonish'd view,
A well-known land.

Here, rivers in the sea were lost ;
There, mountains to the skies were tost ;
Here, tumbling billows mark'd the
coast,

With surging foam ;
There, distant shone Art's lofty boast,
The lordly domc.

Here, Doon pour'd down his far-fetch'd
floods ;

There, well-fed Irwine stately thuds ;⁴
Auld hermit Ayr staw⁵ thro' his woods,
On to the shore ;
And many a lesser torrent scuds,
With seeming roar.

Low, in a sandy valley spread,
An ancient Borough rear'd her head ;
Still, as in Scottish story rear'd,
She boasts a race,

¹ The parlour. ² House.
³ Rats. ⁴ Half-provided with shirts.
⁵ Ninky.
⁶ Thickened or stained palm. ⁷ Latch.
⁸ Hearth-flame. ⁹ Silence.

¹ Struck down. ² Inward.
³ Partly. ⁴ Sounds. ⁵ Did steal

To ev' y noble virtue bred,
And polish'd grace.

By stately tow'r or palace fair,
Or ruins pendent in the air,
Bold stems of Heroes, here and there,
I could discern ;
Some seem'd to muse, some seem'd to
dare,
With features stern.

My heart did glowing transport feel,
'To see a Race¹ heroic wheel,
And brandish round the deep-dy'd steel
In sturdy blows :
While back-recoiling seem'd to reel
Their Suthron foes.

His COUNTRY'S SAVIOUR,² mark him
well '
Bold Richardton's³ heroic swell ;
The Chief on Sark⁴ who glorious fell,
In high command ;
And he whom ruthless fates expel
His native land.

There, where a sceptr'd Pictish shade⁵
Stalk'd round his ashes lowly laid,
I mark'd a martial Race, portray'd
In colours strong ;
Bold, soldier-featur'd, undismay'd
They strode along.

¹ The Wallaces.—R. B.

² William Wallace.—R. B.

³ Adam Wallace, of Richarton, cousin of the immortal preserver of Scottish independence.—R. B.

⁴ Wallace, Laird of Craigie, who was second in command, under Douglas Earl of Ormond, at the famous battle on the banks of Sark, fought anno 1448. That glorious victory was principally owing to the judicious conduct and intrepid valour of the gallant Laird of Craigie, who died of his wounds after the action.—R. B.

⁵ Coilus, King of the Picts, from whom the district of Kyle is said to take its name, lies buried, as tradition says, near the family-seat of the Montgomeries of Coilsfield, where his burial-place is still shown.—R. B.

Thro' many a wild, romantic grove,
Near many a hermit-fancy'd cove,
(Fit haunts for Friendship or for Love
In musing mood),
An aged Judge, I saw him rove,
Dispensing good.

With deep-struck reverential awe
The learned Sire and Son I saw,²
To Nature's God and Nature's law
They gave their lore,
This, all its source and end to draw
That, to adore.

Brydone's brave Ward³ I well could
spy,
Beneath old Scotia's smiling eye ;
Who call'd on Fame, low standing by,
To hand him on,
Where many a Patriot name on high,
And Hero shone.

DUAN SECOND.

WITH musing-deep, astonish'd stare,
I view'd the heav'nly-seeming Fair ;
A whisp'ring throb did witness bear,
Of kindred sweet,
When with an elder Sister's air
She did me greet.

" All hail ! my own inspired Bard !
In me thy native Muse regard !
Nor longer mourn thy fate is hard,
Thus poorly low !
I come to give thee such reward
As we bestow.

" Know, the great Genius of this Land
Has many a light, aerial band,
Who, all beneath his high command,
Harmoniously,
As Arts or Arms they understand,
Their labours ply.

" They Scotia's Race among them
share ;
Some fire the Soldier on to dare :
Some rouse the Patriot up to bare
Corruption's heart :
Some teach the Bard, a darling care,
The tuneful art.

¹ Barskimming, the seat of the late Lord Justice Clerk (Miller).—R. B.

² Catriue, the seat of the late Doctor and prof. of Professor Stewart.

³ Colc. of Fullarton.—R. B.

'Mong swelling floods of reeking
gore,
They, ardent, kindling spirits pour ;
Or, 'mid the vernal Senate's roar,
They, sightless, stand,
To mend the honest Patriot-lore,
And grace the hand.

" And when the Bard, or hoary Sage,
Charm or instruct the future age,
They bind the wild, Poetic rage
In energy,
Or point the inconclusive page
Full on the eye.

" Hence, Fullarton, the brave and
young ;
Hence, Dempster's zeal-inspired
tongue ;
Hence, sweet harmonious Beattie sung
His ' Minstrel lays,'
Or tore, with noble ardour stung,
The Sceptic's bays.

" To lower orders are assign'd
The humbler ranks of human-kind,
The rustic Bard, the lab'ring Hind,
The Artisan :
All chuse, as various they're inclin'd,
The various man.

" When yellow waves the heavy grain,
The threat'ning storm some, strongly,
rein ;
Some teach to meliorate the plain
With tillage-skill ;
And some instruct the Shepherd-train,
Blythe o'er the hill.

" Some hint the Lover's harmless wile ;
Some grace the Maiden's artless smile ;
Some soothe the Lab'rer's weary toil,
For humble gains,
And make his cottage-scenes beguile
His cares and pains.

" Some, bounded to a district-space,
Explore at large Man's infant race,
To mark the embryotic trace
Of rustic Bard ;
And careful note each op'ning grace,
A guide and guard.

" Of these am I—Coila my name ;
And this district as mine I claim,
Where once the Campbells, chiefs of
fame,
Held ruling pow'r :

I mark'd thy embryo-tuneful flame,
Thy natal hour.

" With future hope, I oft would gaze,
Fond, on thy little early ways,
Thy rudely-caroll'd, chiming phrase,
In uncouth rhymes,
Fir'd at the simple, artless lays
Of other times.

" I saw thee seek the sounding shore,
Delighted with the dashing roar ;
Or when the North his fleecy store
Drove thro' the sky,
I saw grim Nature's visage hoar
Struck thy young eye.

" Or when the deep green-mantl'd
Earth
Warm-cherish'd ev'ry flow'ret's birth,
And joy and music pouring forth
In ev'ry grove,
I saw thee eye the gen'ral mirth
With boundless love.

" When ripen'd fields, and azure skies,
Call'd forth the Reaper's rustling noise,
I saw thee leave their ev'ning joys,
And lonely stalk,
To vent thy bosom's swelling rise
In pensive walk.

" When youthful Love, warm-blushing
strong,
Keen-shivering shot thy nerves along,
Those accents, grateful to thy tongue,
Th' adored Name,
I taught thee how to pour in song,
To soothe thy flame.

" I saw thy pulse's maddening play,
Wild send thee Pleasure's devious way,
Misled by Fancy's meteor ray,
By Passion driven ;
But yet the light that led astray
Was light from Heaven.

" I taught thy manners-painting strain.
The loves, the ways of simple swains,
Till now, o'er all my wide domains
Thy fame extends ;
And some, the pride of Coila's plains,
Become thy friends.

" Thou canst not learn, nor can I show,
To paint with Thomson's landscape
glow ;
Or wake the bosom-melting thro',
With Shestou's art

Or pear, with Gray, the moving flow
Warm on the heart.

“ Yet, all beneath th’ unrivall’d rose,
The lowly daisy sweetly blows ;
Tho’ large the forest’s monarch throws
His army shade,
Yet green the juicy hawthorn grows,
Adown the glade.

“ Then never murmur nor repine ;
Strive in thy humble sphere to shine ;
And trust me, not Potosi’s mine,
Nor Kings’ regard,
Can give a bliss o’ermatching thine,
A rustic Bard.

“ To give my counsels all in one,—
Thy tuneful flame still careful fan ;
Preserve the digrity of Man,
With Soul erect ;
And trust, the Universal Plan
Will all protect.

“ And wear thou this” — she solemn
said,
And bound the Holly round my head :
The polish’d leaves, and berries red,
Did rustling play ;
And, like a passing thought, she fled
In light away.

LINES WRITTEN IN FRIARS-
CARSE HERMITAGE.¹

THOU whom chance may hither lead,
Be thou clad in russet weed,
Be thou deckt in silken stole,
Græve these counsels on thy soul :—

Life is but a day at most,
Sprung from night, in darkness lost ;
Hope not sunshine every hour,
Fear not clouds will always lour.

¹ The beautiful residence of Captain Riddell, near Ellisland, who was a kind friend of the poet. These lines, which appeared in 1788, were an amended version of one written in 1785.

As Youth and Love, with sprightly
dance,
Beneath thy morning-star advance,
Pleasure, with her siren air,
May delude the thoughtless pair ;
Let Prudence bless Enjoyment’s cup,
Then raptur’d sip, and sip it up.

As thy day grows warm and high,
Life’s meridian flaming nigh,
Dost thou spurn the humble vale ?
Life’s proud summits wouldst thou
scale ?

Check thy climbing step, elate,
Evils lurk in felon wait :
Dangers, eagle-pinion’d, bold,
Soar around each cliffy hold,
While cheerful Peace, with linnet song,
Chants the lowly delis among.

As the shades of evening close,
Beckoning thee to long repose ;
As life itself becomes disease,
Seek the chimney-neuk of ease,
There ruminatè with sober thought
On all thou’st seen, and heard, and
wrought :

And teach the sportive younkers round,
Saws of experience sage and sound :
Say, man’s true, genuine estimate,
The grand criterion of his fate,
Is not—Art thou high or low ?
Did thy fortune ebb or flow ?
Wast thou cottager or king ?
Peer or peasant ?—no such thing !
Did many talents gild thy span ?
Or frugal Nature grudge thee one ?
Tell them, and press it on their mind,
As thou thyself must shortly find,
The smile or frown of awful Heaven
To Virtue or to Vice is given.
Say, “ To be just, and kind, and wise,
There solid Self-enjoyment lies ;
That foolish, selfish, faithless ways
Lead to the wretched, vile, and base.”

Thus resign’d and quiet, creep
To the bed of lasting sleep ;
Sleep, whence thou shalt ne’er awake
Night, where dawn shall never break,
Till future life—future no more—
To light and joy the good restore,
To light and joy unknown before !

Stranger, go ! Heaven be thy guide !
Quoth the beadsman of Nithside.

ADDRESS TO THE UNCO GUID,
OR THE RIGIDLY RIGHTEOUS.

My son, these maxims make a rule,
And lump them aye thegither ;
The RIGID RIGHTEOUS is a fool,
The RIGID WISE anither :
The cleanest corn that e'er was dight
May hae some pyles o' caff in ;
So ne'er a fellow-creature slight
For random fits o' daffin.

Solomon.—Eccles. vii. 16.

O YE wha are sae guid yoursel,
Sae pious and sae holy,
Ye've nought to do but mark and tell
Your Neebour's fauts and folly !
Whase life is like a weel-gaun mill,
Supply'd wi' store o' water,
The heapet happer's ebbing still,
And still the clap plays clatter.

Hear me, ye venerable Core,¹
As counsel for poor mortals,
That frequent pass douce Wisdom's
door,

For glaikit² Folly's portals ;
I, for their thoughtless, careless sakes,
Would here propone defences,
Their donsie³ tricks, their black mis-
takes,

Their failings and mischances.

Ye see your state wi' theirs compar'd
And shudder at the niffer,⁴

But cast a moment's fair regard,
Whac maks the mighty differ ?
Discount what scant occasion gave
That purity ye pride in,
And (what's aft mair than a' the lave)
Your better art o' hidin'.

Think, when your castigatid pulse
Gies now and then a wallop,
What raging must his veins convulse,
That still eternal gallop :

Wi' wind and tide fair i' your tail,
Right on ye scud your sea-way :
But in the teeth o' baith to sail,
It maks an unco leeway.

See Social life and Glee sit down,
All joyous and unthinking,

Ti', quite transmugific'd, they're
grown

Debauchery and Drinking :
O would they stay to calculate
Th' eternal consequences ;
Or your more dreaded hell to stat,
Damnation of expenses !

Ye high, exalted, virtuous Dames,
Ty'd up in godly laces,
Before ye gie poor Frailty names,
Suppose a change o' cases ,
A dear lov'd lad, convenience snug
A treacherous inclination—
But let me whisper i' your lug,
Ye're aiblins² nae temptation.

Then gently scan your brother Man,
Still gentler sister Woman ;
Tho' they may gang a kennie³ wi'ang,
To step aside is human :
One point must still be greatly dark,
The moving *Why* they do it ;
And just as lamely can ye mark
How far perhaps they rue it.

Who made the heart, 'tis He alone
Decidedly can try us,
He knows each chord—its various tone
Each spring—its various bias :
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it ;
What's *done* we partly may compute,
But know not what's *resisted*.

TAM SAMSON'S ELEGY.⁴

An honest man's the noblest work
of God.—*Pope*.

HAS auld Kilmarnock seen the Deil ?
Or great M'Kinlay⁵ thravn his heel ?

¹ Transformed.

² May be.

³ Small matter.

⁴ When this worthy old sportsman went out last muir-fowl season, he supposed it was to be, in Ossian's phrase, "the last of his fields ;" and expressed an ardent wish to die and be buried in the muirs. On this hint the author composed his Elegy and Epitaph.—R. B.

⁵ A certain preacher, a great favourite

¹ Corps.

² Careless.

³ Unlucky.

⁴ Exchange.

Or Robinson³ again grown weel,
 To preach an' read?
 "Na, waur than a'!" cries ilka chiel,
 "Tam Samson's dead!"

Kilmarnock lang may grunt an' grane,
 An' sigh, an' sab, an' greet her lane,²
 An' cleed³ her bairns, man, wife, an'
 wean,

In mourning weed;
 To Death she's dearly paid the kane,⁴
 Tam Samson's dead!

The Brethren o' the mystic level
 May hing their head in woefu' bevel,
 While by their nose the tears will revel,
 Like ony bead;

Death's gien the Lodge an' unco devel,
 Tam Samson's dead!

When Winter muffles up his cloak,
 And binds the mire like a rock;
 When to the loughs the Curlers flock

Wi' gleesome speed,
 Wha will they station at the cock?
 Tam Samson's dead!

He was the king o' a' the Core,
 To guard, or draw, or wick a bore,
 Or up the rink like Jehu roar

In time o' need;
 But now he lags on Death's hog-score,⁵
 Tam Samson's dead!

Now safe the stately Sawmont⁶ sail,
 And Trouts bedropp'd wi' crimson hail,
 And Eels weel ken'd for souple tail,
 And Geds for greed,

Since dark in Death's fish-creel we wail
 Tam Samson's dead!

Rejoice, ye birring Patricks⁷ a';
 Ye cootie Moorcocks, crouselly craw;⁸
 Ye Maukins,⁹ cock your fud¹⁰ fu' braw,
 Withouten dread;

Your mortal Fae is now awa,—
 Tam Samson's dead!

That woefu' morn be ever mourn'd
 Saw him in shootin graith¹ adorn'd,
 While pointers round impatient burn'd,
 Frae couples freed;

But, Och! he gaed and ne'er return'd
 Tam Samson's dead!

In vain auld age his body batters;
 In vain the gout his ancles fetters;
 In vain the burns cam' down like waters
 An acre braid!

Now ev'ry auld wife, greetin, clatters,
 "Tam Samson's dead!"

Owre mony a weary hag he limpit,
 An' aye the tither shot he thumpit,
 Till coward Death behind him junipit
 Wi' deadly feide;²

Now he proclaims, wi' tout o' trumpet,
 Tam Samson's dead!

When at his heart he felt the dagger,
 He reel'd his wonted bottle-swagger,
 But yet he drew the mortal trigger

Wi' weel-aim'd heed;
 "Lord, five!" he cry'd, an' owre did
 stagger.

Tam Samson's dead!
 Ilk hoary hunter mourn'd a brither;
 Ilk sportsman youth bemoan'd a father;
 Yon auld gray stane, amang the heather,
 Marks out his head,

Whare Burns has wrote, in rhyming
 blether,
 Tam Samson's dead!

There, low he lies, in lasting rest;
 Perhaps upon his mould'ring breast
 Some spitefu' muirfowl bigs her nest;
 To hatch and breed;

Alas! nae mair he'll them molest!
 Tam Samson's dead!

When August winds the heather way;
 And sportsmen wander by yon grave,
 Three volleys let his mem'ry crave
 O' pouter an' lead,
 Till Echo answer frae her cave,
 Tam Samson's dead!

Heav'n rest his saul, whare'er he be!
 Is th' wish o' mony mae than me!

with the million.—Vide The Ordination,
 stanza ii.—R. B.

¹ Another preacher, an equal favourite
 with the few, who was at that time
 ailing. For him, see also The Ordina-
 tion, stanza ix.—R. B.

² Herself alone. ³ Clothe. ⁴ Rent.
⁵ A distance line in curling, drawn
 across the rink. ⁶ Salmon.

⁷ Partridges. ⁸ Cheerfully crow.
⁹ Hares. ¹⁰ Tail.

¹ Dress

² Feud.

He had twa faults, or maybe three,
 Yet what remead?
 A social, honest man want we:
 Tam Samson's dead!

THE EPITAPH.

TAM SAMSON'S weel-worn clay here lies,
 Re canting zealots, spare him!
 If honest worth in heaven rise,
 Ye'll mend or ye win near him.

PER CONTRA.¹

O, Fame, and canter like a filly
 Thro' a' the streets an' neuks o' Killie,²
 Tell ev'ry social, honest billie
 To cease his grievin,
 For yet, unskait'h'd by Death's gleg
 gullie,³
 Tam Samson's livin!

THE TREE OF LIBERTY.⁴

HEARD ye o' the tree o' France,
 I watna what's the name o't;
 Around it a' the patriots dance,
 Weel Europe kens the fame o't.
 It stands where ance the Bastile stood,
 A prison built by kings, man,
 When Superstition's hellish brood
 Kept France in leading-strings, man.
 Upon this tree there grows sic fruit,
 Its virtues a' can tell, man;
 It raises man aboon the brute,
 It maks him ken himsel, man.
 Gif ance the peasant taste a bit,
 He's greater than a lord, man,
 And wi' the beggar shares a mite
 Of a' he can afford, man.

¹ The "Per Contra" was a peace-offering to the old sportsman, angry at his poetical dissolution. Burns retired to the window in Tam's apartment for a few minutes, and returned with this stanza on his lips.

² Killie is a phrase the country-folks sometimes use for the name of a certain town in the west [Kilmarnock].—R. B.

³ Sharp knife.

⁴ Written in 1794, and first printed in Chambers's edition of Burns' works, in 1838.

This fruit is worth a' Afric's wealth,
 To comfort us 'twas sent, man;
 To gie the sweetest blush o' health,
 And mak us a' content, man.
 It clears the een, it cheers the heart,
 Maks high and low guid friends, man
 And he wha acts the traitor's part
 It to perdition sends, man.

My blessings aye attend the chiel
 Wha pitied Gallia's slaves, man,
 And staw¹ a branch, spite o' the deil,
 Frae yont the western waves, man.
 Fair Virtue water'd it wi' care,
 And now she sees wi' pride, man,
 How weel it buds and blossoms there,
 Its branches spreading wide, man.

But vicious folk aye hate to see
 The works o' Virtue thrive, man;
 The courtly vermin's bann'd the tree,
 And grat² to see it thrive, man;
 King Louis thought to cut it down
 When it was unco sma', man;
 For this the watchman crack'd his
 crown,
 Cut aff his head and a', man.

A wicked crew syne,³ on a time,
 Did tak a solemn aith, man,
 It ne'er should flourish to its prime,
 I wat they pledged their faith, man;
 Awa' they gaed, wi' mock parade,
 Like beagles hunting game, man,
 But soon grew weary o' the trade,
 And wish'd they'd been at hame, man.

For Freedom, standing by the tree,
 Her sons did loudly ca', man;
 She sang a sang o' liberty,
 Which pleased them aye and a', man.
 By her inspired, the new-born race
 Soon drew the avenging steel, man;
 The hirelings ran—her foes gied chase,
 And bang'd the despot weel, man,

Let Britain boast her hardy oak,
 Her poplar and her pine, man,
 Auld Britain ance could crack her joke
 And o'er her neighbours shine, man
 But seek the forest round and round,
 And soon 'twill be agreed, man,
 That sic a tree cannot be found
 'Twixt London and the Tweed, man.

¹ Stole.

² Wept.

³ Then.

Without this tree, alake, this life
 Is but a vale o' woe, man ;
 A scene o' sorrow mix'd wi' strife,
 Nae real joys we know, man.
 We labour soon, we labour late,
 To feed the titled knave, man ;
 And a' the comfort we're to get
 Is that ayont the grave, man.
 Wi' plenty o' sic trees, I trow,
 The world would live in peace, man ;
 The sword would help to mak a plough,
 The din o' war wad cease, man.
 Like brethren in a common cause,
 We'd on each other smile, man ;
 And equal rights and equal laws
 Wad gladden every isle, man.
 Wae worth the loon wha wadna eat
 Sic halesome dainty cheer, man ;
 I'd gie my shoon frae aff my feet,
 To taste sic fruit, I swear, man.
 Syne let us pray, auld England may
 Sure plant this far-famed tree, man ;
 And blithe we'll sing, and hail the day
 That gives us liberty, man.

HALLOWEEN.¹

The following Poem will, by many readers, be well enough understood ; but for the sake of those who are unacquainted with the manners and traditions of the country where the scene is cast, notes are added, to give some account of the principal charms and spells of that night, so big with prophecy to the peasantry in the west of Scotland. The passion of prying into futurity makes a striking part of the history of human nature, in its rude state, in all ages and nations ; and it may be some entertainment to a philosophic mind, if any such should hon-

¹ Halloween is thought to be a night when witches, devils, and other mischief-making beings are all abroad on their baneful, midnight errands ; particularly those aërial people, the fairies, are said on that night to hold a grand anniversary.—R. B.

our the Author with a perusal, to see the remains of it, among the more unenlightened in our own.—R. B.

Yes ! let the rich deride, the proud
 disdain,
 The simple pleasures of the lowly train ;
 To me more dear, congenial to my
 heart,
 One native charm, than all the glories
 of art.—*Goldsmith.*

UPON that night, when Fairies light
 On Cassilis Downans¹ dance,
 Or owre the lays,² in splendid blaze,
 On sprightly coursers prance ;
 Or for Colean the route is ta'en,
 Beneath the moon's pale beams ;
 There, up the Cove³ to stray an' rove,
 Among the rocks and streams
 To sport that night.

Among the bonnie, winding banks,
 Where Doon rins, wimplin,⁴ clear,
 Where Bruce⁵ ance rul'd the martial
 ranks,
 An' shook his Carrick spear,
 Some merry, friendly, contra folks,
 Together did convene,
 To burn their nits,⁶ an' pou their
 stocks,⁷
 An' haud their Halloween
 Fu' blythe that night.

The lasses feat,⁸ an' cleanly neat,
 Mair braw than when they're fine ;
 Their faces blythe, fu' sweetly kythe,⁹
 Hearts leal, an' warm, an' kin :

¹ Certain little, romantic, rocky, green hills, in the neighbourhood of the ancient seat of the Earls of Cassilis.—R. B.

² Fields.

³ A noted cavern near Colean-house, called the Cove of Colean ; which, as well as Cassilis Downans, is famed in country story for being a favourite haunt of fairies.—R. B.

⁴ Meandering.

⁵ The famous family of that name, the ancestors of Robert, the great deliverer of his country, were Earls of Carrick.—R. B.

⁶ Nuts.

⁷ Plants of kail.

⁸ Spruce.

⁹ Shewn.

The lads sae trig,¹ wi' wooer-babs,²
 Weel knotted on their garten,
 Some unco blate, an' some wi' gabs,
 Gar lasses' hearts gang startin
 Whyles fast at night.

Then, first, an' foremost, thro' the kail,
 Their stocks³ maun a' be sought
 ance :

They steek their een an' grape⁴ an'
 wale,⁵

For muckle anes, an' straught anes.

Poor hav'rel⁶ Will fell aff the drift,
 An' wander'd thro' the bow-kail,⁷

An' pow't⁸ for want o' better shift,
 A runt⁹ was like a sow-tail,
 Sae bow't¹⁰ that night.

Then, straught or crooked, yird¹¹ or
 nane,

They roar an' cry a' throu'ther ;¹²

The vera wee things, toddlin, rin,
 Wi' stocks out-owre their shouther ;

An' gif the custocs¹³ sweet or sour,
 Wi' joctelegs¹⁴ they taste them ;

Syne coziely,¹ aboon the door,
 Wi' cannie care, they've plac'd them
 To lie that night.

The lasses staw² frae' mang them a'
 To pou their stalks o' corn ;³

But Rab slips out, an' jinks⁴ about,
 Behint the muckle thorn :

He grippet Nelly hard an' fast ;

Loud skirled a' the lasses ;

But her tap-pickle maist was lost,
 When kiutlin⁵ in the fause-house⁶
 Wi' him that night.

The auld guidwife's weel-hoordet⁷
 nits⁸

Are round an' round divided,
 An' monie lads' and lasses' fates

Are there that night decided :
 Some kindle, couthie,⁹ side by side,

An' burn thegither trimly ;

Some start awa, wi' saucy pride,
 An' jump out-owre the chimlie
 Fu' high that night.

Jean slips in twa wi' tentie¹⁰ e'e ;
 Wha 'twas, she wadna tell ;

¹ Smart.

² Garters knotted with loops.

³ The first ceremony of Halloween is, pulling each a stock, or plant of kail. They must go out, hand in hand, with eyes shut, and pull the first they meet with. Its being big or little, straight or crooked, is prophetic of the size and shape of the grand object of all their spells—the husband or wife. If any yird, or earth, stick to the root, that is tocher, or fortune ; and the taste of the custoc, that is, the heart of the stem, is indicative of the natural temper and disposition. Lastly, the stems, or, to give them their ordinary appellation, the runts, are placed somewhere above the head of the door ; and the Christian names of the people whom chance brings into the house, are, according to the priority of placing the runts, the names in question.—R. B.

⁴ Grope. ⁵ Choose. ⁶ Half-witted.

⁷ Cabbage. ⁸ Pulled.

⁹ A cabbage stem. ¹⁰ Crooked.

¹¹ Earth. ¹² In confusion.

¹³ Hearts of stems. ¹⁴ Knives.

¹ Snugly.

² Steal.

³ They go to the barn-yard, and pull each, at three several times, a stalk of oats. If the third stalk wants the top-pickle, that is, the grain at the top of the stalk, the party in question will come to the marriage-bed anything but a maid.—R. B.

⁴ Dodges.

⁵ Cuddling.

⁶ When the corn is in a doubtful state, by being too green, or wet, the stack-builder, by means of old timber, &c., makes a large apartment in his stack, with an opening in the side which is fairest exposed to the wind : this he calls a fause-house.—R. B.

⁷ Well-hoarded.

⁸ Burning the nuts is a famous charm. They name the lad and the lass to each particular nut, as they lay them in the fire ; and accordingly as they burn quietly together, or start from beside one another, the course and issue of the courtship will be.—R. B.

⁹ Loving.

¹⁰ Cautious.

But this is Jock, and this is me,
 She says in to hersel :
 He bleez'd owre her, an' she owre him,
 As they wad never mair part ;
 Till, fuff ! he started up the lum,¹
 An' Jean had e'en a sair heart
 To see't that night.

Poor Willie, wi' his bow-kail runt,
 Was brunt wi' primsie² Mallie,
 An' Mary, nae doubt, took the drunt,³
 To be compared to Willie :
 Mall's nit lap out, wi' pridefu' fling,
 An' her ain fit it brunt it ;
 While Willie lap, an' swoor⁴ by jing,
 'Twas just the way he wanted
 To be that night.

Nell had the fause-house in her min',⁵
 She pits hersel an' Rob in ;
 In loving bleeze they sweetly join,
 Till white in ase⁶ they're sobbin :
 Nell's heart was dancin at the view ;
 She whisper'd Rob to leuk for't :
 Rob, stownlins,⁷ prie'd⁸ her bonnie mou,
 Fu' cozie in the neuk for't,
 Unseen that night.

But Merran sat behint their backs,
 Her thoughts on Andrew Bell ;
 She lea'es⁹ them gashin at their cracks,
 An' slips out by hersel :
 She thro' the yard the nearest taks,
 An' to the kiln she goes then,
 An' darklins grapit for the bauks,¹⁰
 And in the blue-clue¹¹ throws then,
 Right fear't that night.

¹ The chimney. ² Demure.

³ Pet. ⁴ Swore. ⁵ Mind.

⁶ Ashes. ⁷ By stealth.

⁸ Tasted. ⁹ Leaves.

¹⁰ Cross-beams.

¹¹ Whoever would with success try this spell, must strictly observe these directions:—Steal out, all alone, to the kiln, and, darkling, throw into the pot a clue of blue yarn ; wind it in a new clue off the old one ; and, towards the latter end, something will hold the thread ; demand, Wha hauds ? *i. e.* who holds ? an answer will be returned from the kiln-pot, by naming the Christian and surname of your future spouse.—R. B.

An' aye she win't, an' ay she swat,
 I wat she inade nae jaukin ;¹
 Till something held within the pat,
 Guid Lord ! but she was quaukin !²
 But whether 'twas the Deil himsel
 Or whether 'twas a bauk-en',
 Or whether it was Andrew Bell,
 She did na wait on talkin
 To spier³ that night.

Wee Jennie to her Graunie says,
 " Will ye go wi' me, Graunie ?
 I'll eat the apple⁴ at the glass,
 I gat frae uncle Johnie :"
 She fuff't⁵ her pipe wi' sic a lunt,⁶
 In wrath she was sae vap'rin,
 She notic't na, an aizle⁷ brunt
 Her brow new worset⁸ apron
 Out thro' that night.

" Ye little skelpie⁹-limmer's face !
 I daur you try sic sportin,
 As seek the foul Thief onie place,
 For him to spae¹⁰ your fortune ;
 Nae doubt but ye may get a sight !
 Great cause ye hae to fear it ;
 For monie a ane has gotten fright,
 An' liv'd an' di'd deleerit,¹¹
 On sic a night.

" Ae Hairst¹² afore the Sherra-moor, '1
 I mind't as weel's yestreen,
 I was a gilpey¹⁴ then, I'm sure
 I was na past fyfteen :
 The simmer had been cauld ai' wa'.
 An' stuff was unco green ;
 An' ay a rantin kirm we gat,
 An' just on Halloween
 It fell that night.

¹ Dallying. ² Quaking. ³ Inquire.

⁴ Take a candle, and go alone to a looking-glass ; eat an apple before it, and some traditions say, you should comb your hair all the time ; the face of your conjugal companion, to be, will be seen in the glass, as if peeping over your shoulder.—R. B.

⁵ Did blow. ⁶ Column of smoke.

⁷ Hot cinder. ⁸ Worsted.

⁹ A word of scolding. ¹⁰ Prophecy.

¹¹ Delirious. ¹² Harvest.

¹³ Sheriff-moor, the battle fought in the Rebellion, 1715.

¹⁴ A romping girl.

"Our stibble-rig¹ was Rab M'Graen,
 A clever, sturdy fallow ;
 His sin gat Eppie Sim wi' wean,
 That liv'd in Auchmacalla ;
 He gat hemp-seed,² I niid it weel,
 An' he made unco light o't ;
 But monie a day was by himsel,
 He was sae sairly frightened
 That vera night."

Then up gat fechtin Jamie Fleck,
 An' he swoor by his conscience,
 That he could saw hemp-seed a peck ;
 For it was a' but nonsense :
 The auld guidman raught down the
 pock,
 An' out a handfu' gied him ;
 Syne bad him slip frae 'mang the folk,
 Sometime when nae ane see'd him,
 An' try't that night.

He marches thro' amang the stacks,
 Tho' he was something sturtin :³
 The graip⁴ he for a harrow taks,
 An' hauls⁵ at his curpin :⁶
 An' ev'ry now an' then, he says,
 "Hemp-seed, I saw thee,
 An' her that is to be my lass,
 Come after me, an' draw thee
 As fast this night."

He whist'd up Lord Lenox' march,
 To keep his courage cheary ;
 Altho' his hair began to arch,
 He was sae fey'd⁷ an' eerie :

¹ Head reaper.

² Steal out unperceived, and sow a handful of hemp-seed ; harrowing it with any thing you can conveniently draw after you. Repeat now and then, "Hemp-seed, I saw thee, hemp-seed, I saw thee ; and him (or her) that is to be my true-love, come after me and pou thee." Look over your left shoulder, and you will see the appearance of the person invoked, in the attitude of pulling hemp. Some traditions say, "Come after me, and shaw thee," that is, show thyself : in which case it simply appears. Others omit the harrowing, and say, "Come after me, and harrow thee."—R. B.

³ Frightened.

⁴ Stable fork.

⁵ Drags. ⁶ Cruppets ⁷ Scared.

Till presently he hears a squeak,
 An' then a grane an' gruntle,
 He, by his shouther gae a keek,¹
 An' tumbld wi' a wintle²
 Out-owre that night.

He roar'd a horrid murder-shout,
 In dreadful desperation !
 An' young an' auld came rinnin out,
 An' hear the sad narration :
 He swoor 'twas hilchin³ Jean M'Craw
 Or crouchie⁴ Merran Humphie,
 Till stop ! she trotted thro' them a' :
 An' wha was it but Grumphie
 Asteer⁵ that night !

Meg fain wad to the barn hae gaen
 To winn three wechts o' naething ;
 But for to meet the Deil her lane,
 She put but little faith in :
 She gies the herd a pickle nits,
 And twa red-cheekit apples,
 To watch, while for the barn she sets,
 In hopes to see Tam Kipples
 That vera night.

She turns the key, wi' cannie thraw,
 An' owre the threshold ventures :
 But first on Sawnie gies a ca',
 Syne bauldly in she enters ;
 A ratton⁷ ratt'd up the wa',
 An' she cry'd, Lord preserve her !

¹ A peep. ² Stagger. ³ Halting.

⁴ Crook-backed. ⁵ Abroad.

⁶ This charm must likewise be performed unperceived, and alone. You go to the barn, and open both doors, taking them off the hinges, if possible ; for there is danger, that the *being*, about to appear, may shut the doors, and do you some mischief. Then take that instrument used in winnowing the corn, which, in our country dialect, we call a wecht ; and go through all the attitudes of letting down corn against the wind. Repeat it three times ; and the third time an apparition will pass through the barn, in at the windy door, and out at the other, having both the figure in question, and the appearance or retinue, marking the employment of station in life.—R. B.

⁷ Rat.

An' ran thro' midden-hole¹ an' a',
An' pray'd wi' zeal an' fervour,
Fu' fast that night.

They hoy't² out Will, wi' sair advice ;
They hecht³ him some fine braw ane ;
It chanc'd the stack he faddom't⁴ thrice⁵
Was timmer⁶-propt from thrawin :
He taks a swirlie,⁷ auld moss-oak,
For some black grousome Carlin ;
An' loot a winze,⁸ an' drew a stroke,
Till skin in blypes⁹ cam haulrin
Aff's nieves¹⁰ that night.

A wanton widow Leezie was,
As cantie¹¹ as a kittlen ;
But, Och ! that night, among the
shaws,¹²
She got a fearfu' settlin !
She thro' the wins, an' by the cairn,
An' owre the hill gaed scrievin,
Whare three lairds' lands met at a
burn,¹³
To dip her left sark-sleeve in,
Was bent that night.

Whyles owre a linn the burnie plays,
As thro' the glen it whimpl't :
Whyles round a rocky scar it strays ;
Whyles in a wiel¹⁴ it dimpl't ;

Whyles glitter'd to the nightly rays,
Wi' bickering, dancing dazzle ;
Whyles cookit¹ underneath the braes
Below the spreading haze,
Unseen that night.

Among the brachens,² on the brae,
Between her an' the moon,
The Deil, or else an outler Quey,
Gat up an' gae a croon :³
Poor Leezie's heart maist lap the hool.⁴
Near lav'rock-height she jumpit,
But mist a fit, an' in the pool
Out-owre the lugs⁵ she plumpit,
Wi' a plunge that night.

In order, on the clean hearth-stane,
The luggies⁶ three⁷ are ranged ;
And ev'ry time great care is ta'en,
To see them duly changed :
Auld Uncle John, wha wedlock's joys
Sin' Mar's-year did desire,
Because he gat the toom⁸ dish thrice,
He heaved them on the fire
In wrath that night.

Wi' merry sangs, an' friendly cracks,
I wat they did na weary ;
And unco tales, an' funnie jokes,
Their sports were cheap an' cheary.
Till butter'd So'ns,⁹ wi' fragrant lunt,¹⁰
Set a' their gabs¹¹ a steerin ;¹²

¹ Gutter at the bottom of a dung-hill.

² Urged. ³ Foretold. ⁴ Fathomed.

⁵ Take an opportunity of going, un-noticed, to a bean-stack, and fathom it three times round. The last fathom of the last time you will catch in your arms the appearance of your future conjugal yoke-fellow.—R. B.

⁶ Timber. ⁷ Knotty. ⁸ Oath.

⁹ Shreds. ¹⁰ Fists. ¹¹ Merry.

¹² Woods.

¹³ You go out, one or more, (for this is a social spell,) to a south running spring or rivulet, where "three lairds' lands meet," and dip your left shirt sleeve. Go to bed in sight of a fire and hang your wet sleeve before it to dry. Lie awake ; and some time near midnight, an apparition, having the exact figure of the grand object in question, will come and turn the sleeve, as if to dry the other side of it.—R. B.

¹⁴ Small whirlpool, or eddy

¹ Appeared and vanished.

² Fern. ³ A deep moan.

⁴ Leaped out of the case. ⁵ Ears.

⁶ Small wooden dishes with handles.

⁷ Take three dishes ; put clean water in one, foul water in another, leave the third empty ; blindfold a person, and lead him to the hearth where the dishes are ranged ; he (or she) dips the left hand : if by chance in the clean water, the future husband or wife will come to the bar of matrimony, a maid : if in the foul, a widow : if in the empty dish, it foretells, with equal certainty, no marriage at all. It is repeated three times ; and every time the arrangement of the dishes is altered.—R. B. ⁸ Empty.

⁹ Sowens, with butter instead of milk to them, is always the Halloween Supper.—R. B. Sowens is a kind of oat meal pudding.

¹⁰ Smoke.

¹¹ Mouths. ¹² A-stirring.

Wine, wi' a social glass c' strunt,¹
 They parted aff careerin'²
 Fu' blythie that night.

THE JOLLY BEGGARS.³

A CANTATA.

RECITATIVO.

WHEN lyart⁴ leaves bestrew the yird,
 Or, wavering like the bauckie⁵ bird,
 Bedim cauld Boreas' blast :
 When hailstones drive wi' bitter skyte,
 And infant frosts begin to bite,
 In hoary cranreuch⁶ drest ;

¹ Spirituous liquor of any kind.

² Cheerfully.

³ Sir Walter Scott was unable to conceive any good reason why Dr. Currie did not introduce this Cantata into his collection. For humorous description and nice discrimination of character, he thought it inferior to no poem of the same length in the whole range of English verse ; and the mirth of the songs, combined with the vividness of the pictures, he considered to be unequalled. This is very exaggerated praise ; and few readers, I should suppose, will admit the truth of Scott's remark, that " even in describing the movements of such a group, the native taste of the poet has never suffered his pen to slide into anything coarse or disgusting." See Scott's " Prose Works," xvii. 244. Mr. Lockhart is yet more profuse of admiration, and doubts if Shakspeare, out of such materials, could have constructed a piece, " in which the sympathy-awakening power could have been displayed more triumphantly." And Allan Cunningham outstrips his predecessors, by affirming that " nothing in the language, in life and character, approaches this song." The " Beggar's Opera " being a " burial, compared to it." Surely this is the burlesque of criticism, and only brings it into contempt.

⁴ Discoloured.

⁵ Bat.

⁶ Hoar-frost.

Ae night, at e'en, a merry core
 O' randie, gangrel¹ bodies,
 In Poesie-Nansie's held the splore,²
 To drink their orra duddies :
 Wi' quaffing and laughing,
 They ranted and they sang ;
 Wi' jumping and thumping,
 The vera girdle³ rang.

First, neist the fire, in auld red rags,
 Ane sat, weel brac'd wi' mealy bags,
 And knapsack a' in order ;
 His doxy lay within his arm,
 Wi' usquebae and blankets warm :
 She blinket on her sodger ;
 An' aye he gies the tozie⁴ drab
 The tither skelpin⁵ kiss,
 While she held up her greedy gab,⁶
 Just like an aumous dish ;⁷
 Ilk smack still, did crack still,
 Just like a cadger's whup,
 Then staggering, and swaggering,
 He roar'd this ditty up—

AIR.

TUNE—" SOLDIER'S JOY."

I AM a son of Mars, who have been in
 many wars,
 And show my cuts and scars wherever
 I come ;
 This here was for a wench, and that
 other in a trench,
 When welcoming the French at the
 sound of the drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

My 'prenticeship I past where my leader
 breath'd his last,
 When the bloody die was cast on the
 heights of Abram ;⁸
 I serv'd out my trade when the gallant
 game was play'd,
 And the Moro⁹ low was laid at the
 sound of the drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

¹ Vagrant.

² Frolic.

³ The iron plate for baking cakes.

⁴ Tipsy. ⁵ Slapping. ⁶ Mouth

⁷ The beggar's alms-dish.

⁸ Quebec, where Wolfe fell.

⁹ A Spanish castle taken by the English army, in 1762.

I lastly was with Curtis, among the
floating patt'rics,
And there I left for witnesses an arm
and a limb :
Yet let my country need me, with
Elliot to head me,
I'd clatter on my stumps at the sound
of the drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

And now, though I must beg, with a
wooden arm and leg,
And many a tatter'd rag hanging over
my bum,
I'm as happy with my wallet, my bot-
tle, and my callet,
As when I us'd in scarlet to follow the
drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

What tho' with hoary locks, I must
stand the winter shocks,
Beneath the woods and rocks, often-
times for a home ;
When the tother bag I sell, and the
totther bottle tell,
I could meet a troop of h— at the sound
of the drum.

RECITATIVO.

He ended ; and the kebars¹ sheuk
Aboon the chorus roar ;
While frighted rattons² backward leuk,
And seek the benmost³ bore :

A fairy fiddler frae the neuk,
He skirled out encore !
But up arose the martial chuck,
And laid the loud uproar.

AIR.

TUNE—"SOLDIER LADDIE."

I ONCE was a maid, tho' I cannot tell
when,
And still my delight is in proper young
men :
Some one of a troop of dragoons was
my daddie,
No wonder I'm fond of a sodger laddie.
Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

The first of my loves was a swaggering
blade,
To rattle the thundering drum was his
trade ;
His leg was so tight, and his cheek
was so ruddy,
Transported I was with my sodger
laddie.

Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

But the goodly old chaplain left him iz
the lurch,
So the sword I forsook for the sake of
the church ;
He ventured the soul, and I risked the
body,
'Twas then I proved false to my sodger
laddie.

Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

Full soon I grew sick of the sanctified
sot,
The regiment at large for a husband I
got ;
From the gilded spontoon to the fife I
was ready,
I asked no more but a sodger laddie.
Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

But the peace it reduced me to beg in
despair,
Till I met my old boy at Cunningham
fair ;
His rags regimental they fluttered so
gaudy,
My heart it rejoic'd at my sodger
laddie.

Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

And now I have liv'd—I know not how
long,
And still I can join in a cup or a song
But whilst with both hands I can hold
the glass steady,
Here's to thee, my hero, my sodger
laddie.

Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

RECITATIVO.

Poor Merry Andrew, in the neuk,
Sat guzzling wi' a tinkler hizzie ;
They mind't na wha the chorus tock,
Between themselves they were
bizzy ;

¹ Rafters. ² Rats. ³ Innermost.

At length, wi' drink and courting dizzy,
He stottered¹ up an' made a face;
Then turn'd, an' laid a smack on Grizzy,
Syne tun'd his pipes wi' grave grimace.

AIR.

TUNE—"AULD SIR SIMON."

SIR Wisdom's a fool when he's fou,
Sir Knave is a fool in a session;
He's there but a 'prentice I trow,
But I am a fool by profession.

My grannie she bought me a beuk,
And I held awa to the school;
I fear I my talent misteuk,
But what will ye hae of a fool?

For drink I would venture my neck;
A hizzie's the half o' my craft;
But what could ye other expect,
Of ane that's avowedly daft?

I ance was ty'd up like a stirk,²
For civilly swearing and quaffing;
I ance was aoused i' the kirk,
For touzling a lass i' my daffin.³

Poor Andrew that tumbles for sport,
Let naeboddy name wi' a jeer;
'There's ev'n, I'm tauld, i' the Court,
A tumbler ca'd the Premier.

Observ'd ye, yon reverend lad
Maks faces to tickle the mob;
He rails at our mountebank squad,
It's rivalship just i' the job.

And now my conclusion I'll tell,
For faith I'm confoundedly dry;
The chiel that's a fool for himsel',
Gude Lord, is far dafter than I.

RECITATIVO.

Then neist outspak a raucle carlin,⁴
Wha kent fu' weel to cleek the sterling,
For monie a pursie she had hooked,
And had in monie a well been ducked;
Her dove had been a Highland laddie,
But weary fa the waefu' woodie!⁵
Wi' sighs and sabs, she thus began
To wail her braw John Highlandman:

¹ Staggered.² Bullock. ³ Merriment.⁴ Stout old woman. ⁵ Rope.

AIR

TUNE—"O, AN' YE WERE DEAD, GUID-MAN."

A HIGHLAND lad my love was born,
The Lawlan' laws he held in scorn:
But he still was faithful to his clan,
My gallant braw John Highlandman.

CHORUS.

Sing, hey, my braw John Highlandman!
Sing, ho, my braw John Highlandman!
There's no a lad in a' the lan'
Was match for my John Highlandman.

With his philibeg an' tartan plaid,
And gude claymore down by his side,
The ladies' hearts he did trepan,
My gallant braw John Highlandman.
Sing, hey, &c.

We ranged a' from Tweed to Spey,
And liv'd like lords and ladies gay;
For a Lawlan' face he feared nane,
My gallant braw John Highlandman.
Sing, hey, &c.

They banish'd him beyond the sea,
But ere the bud was on the tree,
Adown my cheeks the pearls ran,
Embracing my John Highlandman.
Sing, hey, &c.

But, oh! they catch'd him at the last,
And bound him in a dungeon fast;
My curse upon them every ane,
'They've hang'd my braw John Highlandman.
Sing, hey, &c.

And now a widow, I must mourn
The pleasures that will ne'er return;
No comfort but a hearty can,
When I think on John Highlandman.
Sing, hey, &c.

RECITATIVO.

A pigmy Scrapper wi' his fiddle,
Wha us'd at trysts and fairs to driddle,¹

¹ Play.

Her strappin limb and gaircy¹ middle
 (He reach'd nae higher),
 Had holed his heartie like a riddle,
 And blawn't on fire.

Wi' hand on haunch, and upward e'e,
 He croon'd his gamut, ane, twa, three,
 Then, in an Arioso key,
 The wee Apollo
 Set aff, wi' Allegretto glee,
 His giga solo.

AIR.

TUNE—"WHISTLE O'ER THE LAVE
 O'T."

LET me ryke² up to dight³ that tear,
 And go wi' me and be my dear,
 And then your every care and fear
 May whistle owre the lave o't.

CHORUS.

I am a fiddler to my trade,
 And a' the tunes that e'er I play'd,
 The sweetest still to wife or maid,
 Was whistle o'er the lave o't.

At kirns and weddings we'se be there,
 And oh! sae nicely's we will fare;
 We'll bouse about, till Daddie Care
 Sings Whistle owre the lave o't.

I am, &c.

Sae merrily's the banes we'll pyke,⁴
 And sun oursels about the dyke,
 And at our leisure, when ye like,
 We'll whistle owre the lave o't.

I am, &c.

But bless me wi' your heav'n o' charms,
 And while I kittle⁵ hair on thairms,
 Hunger, cauld, and a' sic harms,
 May whistle owre the lave o't.

I am, &c.

RECITATIVO.

Her charms had struck a sturdy caird,⁶
 As well as poor gut-scraper;
 He taks the fiddler by the beard,
 And draws a rusty rapier—

He swear, by a' was swearing worth,
 To speet him like a pliver,
 Unless he wad from that time forth
 Relinquish her for ever.

Wi' ghastly ee, poor Tweedle-dee
 Upon his hunkers bended,
 And pray'd for grace, wi' ruefu' face,
 And sae the quarrel ended.

But tho' his little heart did grieve
 When round the tinkler prest her,
 He feign'd to snirtle¹ in his sleeve,
 When thus the Caird address'd her.

AIR.

TUNE—"CLOUT THE CAUDRON."

My bonnie lass, I work in brass,
 A tinkler is my station;
 I've travell'd round all Christian ground
 In this my occupation;
 I've ta'en the gold, I've been enroll'd
 In many a noble squadron;
 But vain they search'd, when off I
 march'd
 To go and clout the caudron.
 I've ta'en the gold, &c.

Despise that shrimp, that wither'd imp,
 Wi' a' his noise and caprin,
 And tak a share wi' those that bear
 The budget and the apron;
 And by that stoup, my faith and hope,
 And by that dear Kilbagie,²
 If e'er ye want, or meet wi' scant,
 May I ne'er weet my craigie.³
 And by that stoup, &c.

RECITATIVO.

The Caird prevail'd—th' ur blushing fair
 In his embraces sunk,
 Partly wi' love o'ercome sae sair,
 And partly she was drunk.
 Sir Violino, with an air
 That show'd a man o' spunk,
 Wish'd unison between the pair,
 And made the bottle clunk,
 To their health that night

¹ Jolly.³ Wipe.⁵ While I apply hair to catgut.—
Chambers.² Reach.⁴ Pick.⁶ Gipsy.¹ Laugh. ² A peculiar sort of whisky
³ Throat.

But hurchin Cupid shot a shaft,
That play'd a dame a shavie,²
The fiddler rak'd her fore and aft,
Ahint the chicken cavie.
Her lord, a wight o' Homer's craft,
Tho' limping wi' the spavie,
He hirpl'd² up, and lap like daft,
And shor'd³ them Dainty Davie
O' boot that night.

He was a care-defying blade
As ever Bacchus listed,
Tho' Fortune sair upon him laid,
His heart she ever miss'd it.
He had nae wish, but—to be glad,
Nor want but—when he thirsted ;
He hated nought but—to be sad,
And thus the Muse suggested
His sang that night.

AIR.

TUNE—"FOR A' THAT, AND A' THAT."

I AM a bard of no regard
Wi' gentefolks, an' a' that ;
But Homer-like, the glowrin byke,⁴
Frae town to town I draw that.

CHORUS.

For a' that, and a' that,
And twice as meikle's a' that ;
I've lost but ane, I've twa behin',
I've wife enough for a' that.

I never drank the Muses' stank,⁵
Castalia's burn, an' a' that ;
But there it streams, and richly reams,
My Helicon I ca' that.
For a' that, &c.

Great love I bear to a' the fair,
Their humble slave, an' a' that ;
But lordly will, I hold it still
A mortal sin to thraw that.
For a' that, &c.

In raptures sweet, this hour we meet,
Wi' mutual love, an' a' that ;
But for how lang the flie may stang,
Let inclination law that.
For a' that, &c.

Their tricks and craft hae put me daft,
They've ta'en me in, and a' that ;
But clear your decks, and "Here's
the Sex !"

I like the jads for a' that.

For a' that, and a' that,
And twice as meikle's a' that,
My dearest bluid, to do them guid,
They're welcome till't, for a' that.

RECITATIVO.

So sung the bard—and Nansie's¹ wa's
Shook with a thunder of applause,
Re-echo'd from each mouth ;
They toom'd² their pocks, an' pawn'd
their duds,³
They scarcely left to co'er their fuds⁴
To quench their lowan⁵ drouth.

Then owre again, the jovial thrang
The poet did request,
To loose his pack, an' wale⁶ a sang,
A ballad o' the best ;
He, rising, rejoicing,
Between his twa Deborahs,
Looks round him, an' found them
Impatient for the chorus.

AIR.

TUNE—"JOLLY MORTALS, FILL YOUR GLASSES."

SER ! the smoking bowl before us,
Mark our jovial ragged ring ;
Round and round take up the chorus,
And in raptures let us sing :

¹ Poosie Nansie, otherwise Agnes Gibson, kept a sort of cadger's house, nearly opposite to the church-yard gate in Mauchline. We are told by the biographers of Burns, that passing by the house, one night, in the company of James Smith, he was allured by the mirthful uproar to go in and join the crew. The Cantata gives the poetical experience of the night.

² Emptied. ³ Rags. ⁴ Tails.
⁵ Flaming. ⁶ Choose.

¹ Trick. ² Crept. ³ Threatened.
⁴ Staring crowd. ⁵ Pool.

CHORUS.

A fig for those by law protected !
 Liberty's a glorious feast !
 Courts for cowards were erected,
 Churches built to please the priest.

What is title? what is treasure?
 What is reputation's care?
 If we lead a life of pleasure,
 'Tis no matter how or where!
 A fig, &c.

With the ready trick and fable,
 Round we wander all the day;
 And at night, in barn or stable,
 Hug our doxies on the hay.
 A fig, &c.

Does the train-attended carriage
 Thro' the country lighter rove?
 Does the sober bed of marriage
 Witness brighter scenes of love?
 A fig, &c.

Life is all a variorum,
 We regard not how it goes;
 Let them cant about decorum
 Who have characters to lose.
 A fig, &c.

Here's to budgets, bags, and wallets!
 Here's to all the wandering train!
 Here's our ragged brats and callets!
 One and all cry out, Amen!
 A fig, &c.

IMPROMPTU

ADDRESSED TO A YOUNG LADY IN A
 CHURCH WHO WAS ENGAGED IN
 SEARCHING FOR A TEXT GIVEN OUT
 BY THE MINISTER, WHICH CONTAIN-
 ED A SEVERE DENUNCIATION ON
 OBSTINATE SINNERS.

FAIR maid, you need not take the hint,
 Nor idle texts pursue;
 'Twas *guilty sinners* that he meant,
 Not *angels* such as you!

CASTLE GORDON.¹

STREAMS that glide in orient plains,
 Never bound by winter's chains!
 Glowing here on golden sands,
 There commix'd with foulest stains
 From tyranny's empurpled hands:
 These, their richly-gleaming waves,
 I leave to tyrants and their slaves;
 Give me the stream that sweetly lav^s
 The banks by Castle Gordon.

Spicy forests, ever gay,
 Shading from the burning ray
 Hapless wretches sold to toil,
 Or the ruthless native's way,
 Bent on slaughter, blood, and spoil;
 Woods that ever verdant wave,
 I leave the tyrant and the slave;
 Give me the groves that lofty brave
 The storms by Castle Gordon.

Wildly here, without control,
 Nature reigns and rules the whole;
 In that sober pensive mood,
 Dearest to the feeling soul,
 She plants the forest, pours the flood
 Life's poor day I'll musin rave,
 And find at night a shelt'ring cave,
 Where waters flow and wild woods
 wave,
 By bonnie Castle Gordon.

THE AULD FARMER'S NEW-
 YEAR MORNING SALUTA-
 TION TO HIS AULD MARE
 MAGGIE, ON GIVING HER
 THE ACCUSTOMED RIPP OF
 CORN TO HANSEL IN THE
 NEW YEAR.

A GUID New-Year I wish thee, Mag-
 gie!
 Hae, there's a ripp² to thy auld bag-
 gie:

¹ Written after a brief visit, in 1787,
 to Gordon Castle, the seat of the Duke
 of Gordon.

² Handful.

Tho' thou's howe-backit¹ now, an'
knaggie,²

I've seen the day,
Thou could hae gane like onie staggie
Out-owre the lay.

Tho' now thou's dowie,³ stiff, an' crazy,
An' thy auld hide's as white's a daisie,
I've seen thee dappl't, sleek, an' glaizie,
A bonnie gray :

He should been tight that daur't to
raize thee,
Ance in a day.

Thou ance was i' the foremost rank,
A filly buirdly,⁴ steeve,⁵ an' swank,⁶
An' set weel down a shapely shank,
As e'er tread yird ;
An' could hae flown out-owre a stank,⁷
Like onie bird.

It's now some nine-an'-twenty year,
Sin' thou was my guid-father's meere ·
He gied me thee, o' tocher⁸ clear,
An' fifty mark ;
Tho' it was sma', 'twas weel won gear,
An' thou was stark.⁹

When first I gaed to woo my Jenny,
Ye then was trottin wi' your minnie :
Tho' ye was trickie, slee, an' funnie,
Ye ne'er was donsie,¹⁰
But hamely, tawie, quiet, cannie,
An' unco sonsie.¹¹

That day, ye pranc'd wi' muckle pride,
When ye bure¹² hame my bonnie bride ;
An' sweet an' gracefu' she did ride,
Wi' maiden air !
Kyle Stewart I could bragged wide,
For sic a pair.

Tho' now ye'dow¹³ but hoyte and
hobble,
An' wintle like a saumont-coble,¹⁴
That day ye was a jinker noble,
For heels an' win' !
An' ran them till they a' did wauble,¹⁵
Far, far behin'.

¹ Sunk in the back. ² Sharp-pointed.

³ Worn out. ⁴ Stout-made.

⁵ Strong-set. ⁶ Stately. ⁷ Morass.

⁸ Marriage portion. ⁹ Stout.

¹⁰ Unlucky. ¹¹ Easily handled.

¹² Did bear. ¹³ Can.

¹⁴ Salmon fishing boat. ¹⁵ Reel.

When thou an' I were young and
skeigh,¹
An' stable-meals at fairs were dreigh,²
How thou wad prance, an' snore, an
skreigh

An' tak the road !
Town's bodies ran, and stood abeigh,³
An' ca't thee mad.

When thou was corn't, an' I was mel-
low,
We took the road ay like a swallow :
At Brooses⁴ thou had ne'er a fellow,
For pith an' speed ;
But ev'ry tail thou pay't them hollow,
Whare'er thou gaed.

The sma', droop-rumpl't,⁵ hunter cattle,
Might aiblins⁶ waur't thee for a brat-
tle ;⁷
But sax Scotch miles thou try't them
mettle,
An' gart them whaizle :
Nae whip nor spur, but just a wattle
O' saugh or hazel.

Thou was a noble fittie-lan',⁸
As e'er in tug⁹ or tow¹⁰ was drawn !
Aft thee an' I, in aught hours gaun,
On guid March-weather,
Hae turn'd sax rood beside our han',
For days thegither.

Thou never braindg't,¹¹ an' fecht,¹² an
flskit,¹³
But thy auld tail thou wad hae whiskit,
An' spread abreed thy weel-fill'd
brisket,
Wi' pith an' pow'r,
Till spritty knowes¹⁴ wad rair't and
riskit,
An' slypet¹⁵ owre.

¹ High-mettled. ² Tedious.

³ At a safe distance.

⁴ A broose is a race at a wedding.

⁵ That droops at the crupper.

⁶ Perhaps. ⁷ Short race.

⁸ The near horse of the hindmost pair
in the plough.

⁹ Traces of hide. ¹⁰ Rope.

¹¹ Plunged forward. ¹² Pulled by fits

¹³ Fretted. ¹⁴ Rushy hillocks.

¹⁵ Fell over.

When frosts lay lang, an' snaws were
 deep,
 An' threaten'd labour back to keep,
 I gied thy cog¹ a wee-bit heap
 Aboon the timmer ;
 I k.n'd my Maggie wadna sleep
 For that, or simmer ,

In cart or car thou never reestit ;
 The steyst² brae thou wad hae face't
 it ;
 Thou never lap,³ an' sten't,⁴ and
 breastit,
 Then stood to blaw ;
 But just thy step a wee thing hastit,
 Thou snoov't⁵ awa.

My pleugh is now thy bairn-time a' :
 Four gallant brutes as e'er did draw ;
 Forbye sax mae, I've sell't awa,
 That thou has hurst ;
 They drew me thretteen⁶ pund an' twa,
 The vera warst.

Monie a sair daurk⁷ we twa hae
 wrought,
 An' wi' the weary warl' fought !
 An' monie an anxious day, I thought
 We wad be beat !
 Yet here to crazy age we're brought,
 Wi' something yet.

And think na, my auld, trusty servan',
 That now perhaps thou's less deservin,
 An' thy auld days may end in starvin,
 For my last fou,
 A heapit stimpart,⁸ I'll reserve ane
 Laid by for you.

We've worn to crazy years thegither ;
 We'll toyte⁹ about wi' ane anither ;
 Wi' tentie care I'll flit thy tether
 To some hain'd¹⁰ rig.
 Whare ye may nobly rax¹¹ your leather,
 Wi' sma' fatigue.

TO A MOUSE, ON TURNING
 HER UP IN HER NEST, WITH
 THE PLOUGH, NOVEMBER,
 1785.¹

WEE, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie,
 O, what a panic's in thy breastie !
 Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
 Wi' bickering brattle !²
 I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
 Wi' murd'ring pattle !³

I'm truly sorry man's dominion
 Has broken Nature's social union,
 An' justifies that ill opinion,
 Which makes thee startle
 At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,
 An' fellow-mortal !

I doubt na, whyles, but thou may
 thieve ;
 What then? poor beastie, thou maun
 live !

A daimen-icker⁴ in a thrave
 'S a sma' request :
 I'll get a blessin wi' the lave,
 And never miss't !

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin !
 Its silly wa's the win's are strewin !
 An' naething, now, to big⁵ a new one,
 O' foggage green !

An' bleak December's winds ensuin,
 Baith snell⁶ an' keen !

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,
 An' weary winter comin fast,
 An' cozie here, beneath the blast,
 Thou thought to dwell,
 Till, crash ! the cruel coulter past
 Out thro' thy cell.

¹ A farm-servant, lately living, was driving the plough, which Burns held, when a mouse ran across the field. The man's first impulse was to rush after and kill it ; but the poet stopped him, and soon turning thoughtful, the verses were conceived and born.

² Hurry.

³ Instrument for clearing the plough.

⁴ An ear of corn now and then a thrave is twenty-four sheaves.

⁵ Build.

⁶ Bitter.

¹ Manger.

² Steepest.

³ Leaped.

⁴ Reared.

⁵ Went at an even pace.

⁶ Thirteen.

⁷ Day's labour.

⁸ Eighth part of a bushel. ⁹ Totter.

¹⁰ Spared.

¹¹ Stretch.

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble
 Has cost thee mony a weary nibble !
 Now thou's turn'd out, for a' thy trouble,

But house or hald,¹
 To thole² the winter's sleety dribble,
 An' cranreuch³ cauld !

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,⁴
 In proving foresight may be vain :
 The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men,
 Gang aft a-gley,⁵
 An' lea'e us nought but grief and pain,
 For promis'd joy.

Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me !
 The present only toucheth thee :
 But, Och ! I backward cast my e'e
 On prospects drear !

An' forward, tho' I canna see,
 I guess an' fear !

A WINTER NIGHT.

Four naked wretches, wheresoe'er you
 are,
 That bide the pelting of this pitiless
 storm !
 How shall your houseless heads, and
 unfed sides,
 Your loop'd and window'd raggedness,
 defend you,
 From seasons such as these ?—

Shakspeare.

When biting Boreas, fell and doure,⁶
 Sharp shivers thro' the leafless bow'r ;
 When Phœbus gies a short-liv'd glow'r,
 Far south the lift,⁷
 Dim dark'ning thro' the flaky show'r,
 Or whirling drift :

As night the storm the steeple's rocked,
 Poor labour sweet in sleep was locked,
 While burns, wi' snawy wreaths⁸ up-
 ch'ked

Wild-eddying swirl,

Or thro' the mining outlet bocked,¹
 Down headlong hurl.

List'ning the doors an' winuocks²
 rattle,

I thought me on the ourie³ cattle,
 Or silly sheep, wha bide this brattle
 O' winter war,

And thro' the drift, deep-lairing,⁴
 sprattle,⁵

Beneath a scar.

Ilk happing⁶ bird, wee, helpless thing !
 That, in the merry months o' spring,
 Delighted me to hear thee sing,

What comes o' thee ?

Whare wilt thou cow'r thy chittering⁷
 wing,

An' close thy e'e ?

Ev'n you on murd'ring errands toil'd,
 Lone from your savage homes exil'd,
 The blood-stain'd roost, and sheep-cote
 spoil'd,

My heart forgets,

While pityless the tempest wild
 Sore on you beats.

Now Phœbe, in her midnight reign,
 Dark muff'd, view'd the dreary plain :
 Still crowding thoughts, a pensive train,

Rose in my soul,

When on my ear this plaintive strain,
 Slow, solemn, stole—

“ Blow, blow, ye winds, with heavier
 gust !

And freeze, thou bitter-biting frost !
 Descend, ye chilly, smothering
 snows !

Not all your rage, as now united,
 shows

More hard unkindness, unrelenting,
 Vengeful malice, unrepenting,
 Than heav'n-illumin'd man can brother
 man bestows !

See stern Oppression's iron grip,
 Or mad Ambition's gory hand,
 Sending, like blood-hounds from the
 slip,

Woe, want, and murder o'er a land !

¹ Without abiding-place.

² Endure. ³ Hoar-frost.

⁴ Thyself alone. ⁵ Wrong.

⁶ Sullen. ⁷ The sky.

⁸ Drifted heaps of snow.

¹ Flung out.

³ Shivering.

⁵ Scramble.

⁷ Shivering.

² Windows.

⁴ Deep wading.

⁶ Hopping.

Ev'n in the peaceful rural vale,
 Truth, weeping, tells the mournful
 tale,
 How pamper'd Luxury, Flatt'ry by
 her side,
 The parasite empoisoning her ear,
 With all the servile wretches in the
 rear,
 Looks o'er proud property, extended
 wide ;
 And eyes the simple rustic hind,
 Whose toil upholds the giitt'ring
 show,
 A creature of another kind,
 Some coarser substance, unrefin'd,
 Plac'd for her lordly use thus far, thus
 vile, below !
 Where, where is Love's fond, tender
 throe,
 With lordly Honour's lofty brow,
 The pow'rs you proudly own ?
 Is there, beneath Love's noble name,
 Can harbour, dark, the selfish aim,
 To bless himself alone !
 Mark maiden-innocence a prey
 To love-pretending snares,
 This boasted Honour turns away,
 Stanning soft Pity's rising sway,
 Regardless of the tears, and unavailing
 pray'rs !
 Perhaps, this hour, in mis'ry's squalid
 nest
 She strains your infant to her joyless
 breast,
 And with a mother's fears shrinks at
 the rocking blast !
 Oh ye ! who, sunk in beds of down,
 Feel not a want but what yourselves
 create,
 Think, for a moment, on his wretched
 fate,
 Whom friends and fortune quite
 disown !
 Ill-satisfied keen nature's clam'rous
 call,
 Stretch'd on his straw he lays him-
 self to sleep,
 While thro' the ragged roof and chinky
 wall,
 Chill o'er his slumbers, piles the
 drift' heap !
 Think on the dungeon's grim confine,
 Where Guilt and poor Misfortune
 pine !

Guilt, erring man, relenting view !
 But shall thy legal rage pursue
 The wretch, already crushed low
 By cruel Fortune's undeserved blow !
 Affliction's sons are brothers in distress ;
 A brother to relieve, how exquisite the
 bliss !¹

I heard nae mair, for Chanticleer
 Shook off the pouthery snaw,
 And hail'd the morning with a cheer,
 A cottage-rousing crow.¹

But deep this truth impress'd my mind—
 Thro' all His works abroad,
 The heart benevolent and kind
 The most resembles God.

THE TARBOLTON LASSES.²

If ye gae up to yon hill-tap,
 Ye'll there see bonny Peggy ;
 She kens her father is a laird,
 And she forsooth's a leddy.

There Sophy tight, a lassie bright,
 Besides a handsome fortune :
 Wha canna win her in a night,
 Has little art in courting.

Gae down by Faile, and taste the ale
 And tak a look o' Mysie ;
 She's dour³ and din, a deil within,
 But aiblins⁴ she may please ye.

If she be shy, her sister try,
 Ye'll maybe fancy Jenny,
 If ye'll dispense wi' want o' sense—
 She kens hersel she's bonny.

As ye gae up by yon hill-side,
 Speer in for bonny Bessy ;
 She'll gie ye a beck, and bid ye licht,
 And handsomely address ye.

There's few sae bonnie, nane sae guid
 In a' King George's dominic ;
 If ye should doubt the truth o' this—
 It's Bessy's ain opinion.

¹ Crow.

² See p. 8.

³ Obstinate.

⁴ Perhaps.

VERSES TO AN OLD SWEET-
HEART AFTER HER MAR-
RIAGE.¹

(WRITTEN IN 1786.)

ONCE fondly loved, and still remem-
ber'd dear,
Sweet early object of my youthful
vows!
Accept this mark of friendship, warm,
sincere—
Friendship!—'tis all cold duty now
allows.
And when you read the simple, artless
rhymes,
One friendly sigh for him,—he asks
no more,
Who distant burns in flaming torrid
climes,
Or haply lies beneath the Atlantic's
roar.

EPISTLE TO DAVIE,² A BRO-
THER POET.

January, 1784.

WHILE winds frae aff Ben-Lomond
blaw,
And bar the doors wi' driving snaw,
And hing us owre the ingle,³
I set me down, to pass the time,
And spin a verse or twa o' rhyme,
In hamely, westlin jingle.

¹ Written on the fly-leaf of a copy of his poems presented to the lady, whose name is not mentioned. It is supposed that the poet was contemplating emigration.

² Davie was David Sillar, the author of a book of Scottish verses. Gilbert Burns writes respecting his brother:—It was, I think, in summer, 1784, when, in the interval of harder labour, he and I were weeding in the garden (kail-yard), that he repeated to me the principal part of this Epistle. I believe the first idea of Robert's becoming author was started on this occasion.

³ Fire-place.

While frosty winds blaw in the drift,
Ben to the chimla-lug,¹
I grudge a wee the great folks' gift,
That live sae bien² an' snug:
I tent³ less, and want less
Their roomy fire-side;
But hanker and canker,
To see their cursed pride.

It's hardly in a body's pow'r,
To keep, at times, frae being sour,
To see how things are shar'd;
How best o' chieils are whiles in want,
While coofs on countless thousands
rant,
And ken na how to wair't;⁴
But, Davie, lad, ne'er fash⁵ your head,
Tho' we hae little gear,
We're fit to win our daily bread,
As lang's we're hale and fier:⁶
“Mair spier na, nor fear na,”⁷
Auld age ne'er mind a feg,⁸
The last o't, the warst o't,
Is only for to beg.

To lie in kilns and barns at e'en,
When banes are craz'd, and bluid is
thin,
Is, doubtless, great distress!
Yet then content could mak us blest;
Ev'n then, sometimes, we'd snatch a
taste

Of truest happiness.
The honest heart that's free frae a'
Intended fraud or guile,
However fortune kick the ba',⁹
Has aye some cause to smile:
And mind still, you'll find still,
A comfort this nae sma';
Nae mair then, we'll care then,
Nae farther can we fa'.

What tho', like commoners of air,
We wander out, we know not where,
But either house or hal'?
Yet nature's charms, the hills and
woods,
The sweeping vales, and foaming
floods,
Are free alike to all.

¹ To the parlour hearth.

² Plentiful. ³ Heed.

⁴ Spend it. ⁵ Trouble. ⁶ Sound

⁷ Ramsay.—R. B. ⁸ Fig. ⁹ Ball

In days when daisies deck the ground,
 And blackbirds whistle clear,
 With honest joy our hearts will bound
 To see the coming year :
 On braes when we please, then,
 We'll sit and sowth¹ a tune ;
 Syne² rhyme till't,³ we'll time till't,
 And sing't when we hae done.

It's no in titles nor in rank ;
 It's no in wealth like Lon'on bank,
 To purchase peace and rest :
 It's no in making muckle mair ;
 It's no in books ; it's no in lear,⁴
 To make us truly blest :
 If happiness hae not her seat
 And centre in the breast,
 We may be wise, or rich, or great,
 But never can be blest :
 Nae treasures, nor pleasures,
 Could make us happy lang ;
 The heart aye's the part aye,
 That maks us right or wrang.

Think ye, that sic as you and I,
 Wha drudge and drive thro' wet an'
 dry,
 Wi' never-ceasing toil ;
 Think ye, are we less blest than they,
 Wha scarcely tent⁵ us in their way,
 As hardly worth their while ?
 Alas ! how aft in haughty mood,
 God's creatures they oppress !
 Or else, neglecting a' that's guid,
 They riot in excess !
 Baith careless, and fearless,
 Of either heav'n or hell !
 Esteeming and deeming
 It's a' an idle tale !

Then let us cheerfu' acquiesce ;
 Nor make our scanty pleasures less,
 By pining at our state ;
 And, even should misfortunes come,
 I, here wha sit, hae met wi' some,
 An's thanft' for them yet.
 They gie the wit of age to youth ;
 They let us ken oursel ;
 They make us see the naked truth,
 The real guid and ill.

Tho' losses, and crosses,
 Be lessons right severe,
 There's wit there, ye'll get there,
 Ye'll find nae other where.

But tent me, Davie, ace o' hearts !
 (To say aught less wad wrang the
 cartes,¹

And flatt'ry I detest)
 This life has joys for you and I ;
 And joys that riches ne'er could buy ;
 And joys the very best.
 There's a' the pleasures o' the heart,
 The lover an' the frien' ;
 Ye hae your Meg,² your dearest part,
 And I my darling Jean !
 It warms me, it charms me,
 To mention but her name :
 It heats me, it beets me,³
 And sets me a' on flame !

O all ye pow'rs who rule above !
 O Thou, whose very self art love !
 Thou know'st my words sincere !
 The life-blood streaming thro' my heart,
 Or my more dear immortal part,
 Is not more fondly dear !
 When heart-corroding care and grief
 Deprive my soul of rest,
 Her dear idea brings relief
 And solace to my breast
 Thou Being, All-seeing,
 O hear my fervent pray'r ;
 Still take her, and make her
 Thy most peculiar care !

All hail, ye tender feelings dear !
 The smile of love, the friendly tear,
 The sympathetic glow !
 Long since, this world's thorny ways
 Had number'd out my weary days,
 Had it not been for you !
 Fate still has blest me with a friend,
 In every care and ill ;
 And oft a more endearing band,
 A tie more tender still.
 It lightens, it brightens
 The tenebrific scene,
 To meet with, and greet with
 My Davie, or my Jean.

¹ Cards.

² "Meg" was Margaret Orr, the
 nursery-maid of Mrs. Stewart of Stair
 —A. C.

³ Adds fael.

¹ Whistle over. ² Then. ³ To it-
⁴ Learning. ⁵ Heed.

O, how that name inspires my style !
 The words come skelpin,¹ rank and file,
 Amaist before I ken !
 The ready measure rins as fine,
 As Phœbus and the famous Nine
 Were glowrin owre my pen.
 My spaviet² Pegasus will limp,
 Till ance he's fairly het :
 And then he'll hilch,³ and stilt, and
 jimp,
 An' rin an unco fit :
 But lest then, the beast then,
 Should rue this hasty ride,
 I'll light now, and dight⁴ now
 His sweaty, wizen'd⁵ hide.

THE LAMENT.⁶

OCCASIONED BY THE UNFORTUNATE
 ISSUE OF A FRIEND'S AMOUR.

Alas ! how oft does Goodness wound
 itself,
 And Sweet AFFECTION prove the
 spring of woe ! *Home.*

O THOU pale Orb, that silent shines,
 While care-untroubled mortals sleep !
 Thou seest a wretch that inly pines,
 And wanders here to wail and weep !
 With woe I nightly vigils keep,
 Beneath thy wan unwarming beam ;
 And mourn, in lamentation deep,
 How life and love are all a dream.

1 joyless view thy rays adorn
 The faintly-marked, distant hill :
 1 joyless view thy trembling horn,
 Reflected in the gurgling rill :

¹ Marching lightly.

² Spavined.

³ Hobble.

⁴ Wipe.

⁵ Shrunk.

⁶ It is scarcely necessary to mention, that "The Lament" was composed on that unfortunate passage in his matrimonial history, which I have mentioned in my letter to Mrs. Dunlop, after the first distraction of his feelings had a little subsided.—G. B.

My fondly-fluttering heart, be still !
 Thou busy pow'r, Remembrance,
 cease !

Ah ! must the agonizing thrill
 For ever bar returning peace !

No idly-feign'd poetic pains,
 My sad, love-lorn lamentings claim ;
 No shepherd's pipe—Arcadian strains ;
 No fabled tortures, quaint and tame ;
 The plighted faith ; the mutual flame ;
 The oft-attested pow'rs above ;
 The promis'd father's tender name :
 These were the pledges of my love !

Encircled in her clasping arms,
 How have the raptur'd moments
 flown !

How have I wish'd for fortune's charms,
 For her dear sake, and hers alone !
 And must I think it ! is she gone,
 My secret heart's exulting boast ?
 And does she heedless hear my groan !
 And is she ever, ever lost ?

Oh ! can she bear so base a heart,
 So lost to honour, lost to truth,
 As from the fondest lover part,
 The plighted husband of her youth !
 Alas ! life's path may be unsmooth !
 Her way may lie thro' rough distress !
 Then, who her pangs and pains will
 soothe,
 Her sorrows share, and make them
 less ?

Ye winged hours that o'er us past,
 Enraptur'd more, the more enjoy'd,
 Your dear remembrance in my breast,
 My fondly-treasur'd thoughts employ'd.
 That breast, how dreary now, and void,
 For her too scanty once of room !
 Ev'n ev'ry ray of hope destroy'd,
 And not a wish to gild the gloom !

The morn that warns th' approaching
 day,

Awakes me up to toil and woe :
 I see the hours in long array,
 That I must suffer, lingering, slow.
 Full many a pang, and many a throe,
 Keen recollection's direful train,
 Must wring my soul, ere Phœbus, low
 Shall kiss the distant, western main

And when my nightly couch I try,
Sore harass'd out with care and grief,
My toil-beat nerves, and tear-worn eye,
Keep watchings with the nightly thief;
Or if I slumber, fancy, chief,
Reigns, haggard-wild, in sore afflict;
Ev'n day, all-bitter, brings relief,
From such a horror-breathing night.

O! thou bright Queen, who o'er the
expanse
Now highest reign'st, with boundless
sway!

Oft has thy silent-marking glance
Observ'd us, fondly-wand'ring, stray!
The time, unheeded, sped away,
While love's luxurious pulse beat high,
Beneath thy silver-gleaming ray,
To mark the mutual-kindling eye.

Oh! scenes in strong remembrance set!
Scenes, never, never to return!
Scenes, if in stupor I forget,
Again I feel, again I burn!
From ev'ry joy and pleasure torn,
Life's weary vale I wander thro';
And hopeless, comfortless, I'll mourn
A faithless man's broken vow.

DESPONDENCY.

A. ODE.

OPPRESS'D with grief, oppress'd with
care,
A burden more than I can bear,
Laid me down and sigh:
O life! thou art a galling load,
—long a rough, a weary road,
To wretches such as I!
Dim backward as I cast my view,
What sick'ning scenes appear!
What sorrows yet may pierce me thro',
Too justly I may fear!
Still caring, despairing,
Must be my bitter doom;
My woes here shall close ne'er,
But with the closing tomb!

Happy, ye sons of busy life,
Who, equal to the bustling strife,
No other view regard!
Ev'n when the wished end's deny'd,
Yet while the busy means are ply'd,
They bring their own reward:
Whilst I, a hope-abandon'd wight,
Unfitted with an aim,
Meet ev'ry sad returning night,
And joyless morn the same;
You, bustling, and justling,
Forget each grief and pain;
I, listless, yet restless,
Find every prospect vain.

How blest the Solitary's lot,
Who, all-forgetting, all-forgot,
Within his humble cell,
The cavern wild with tangling roots,
Sits o'er his newly-gather'd fruits,
Beside his crystal well!
Or, haply, to his ev'ning thought,
By unfrequented stream,
The ways of men are distant brought,
A faint-collected dream:
While praising, and raising
His thoughts to Heav'n on high
As wand'ring, meand'ring,
He views the solemn sky.

Than I, no lonely hermit plac'd
Where never human footstep trac'd,
Less fit to play the part;
The lucky moment to improve,
And just to stop, and just to move,
With self-respecting art:
But, ah! those pleasures, loves, and
joys
Which I too keenly taste,
The Solitary can despise,
Can want, and yet be blest!
He needs not, he heeds not,
Or human love or hate,
Whilst I here must cry here,
At perfidy ingrate!

Oh! enviable, early days,
When dancing thoughtless pleasure's
maze,
To care, to guilt unknown!
How ill exchange'd for riper times,
To feel the follies, or the crimes,
Of others, or my own!
Ye tiny elves that guiltless sport,
Like linnets in the bush,

Ye little know the ills ye court,
 When manhood is your wish !
 The losses, the crosses,
 That active man engage !
 The fears all, the tears all,
 Of dinn-declining age !

LINES TO MY BED.

THOU bed, in which I first began
 To be that varied creature—*Man!*
 And when again the fates decree,
 The place where I must cease to be ;
 When sickness comes, to whom I fly
 To soothe my pain or close mine eye ;
 When cares surround me, where I weep,
 Or lose them all in balmy sleep ;
 When sore with labour, whom I court,
 And to thy downy breast resort ;
 Where too ecstatic joys I find,
 When deigns my Delia to be kind ;
 And full of love, in all her charms,
 Thou giv'st the fair one to my arms :
 The centre thou, where grief and pain,
 Disease and rest, alternate reign.
 Oh, since within thy little space
 So many various scenes take place,
 Lessons as useful shalt thou teach,
 As sages dictate—churchmen preach ;
 And man, convinced by thee alone,
 This great important truth shall own,
 That thin partitions do divide
 The bounds where good and ill reside ;
 That naught is perfect here below,
 But *bliss* still bordering upon *woe!*

WINTER.

A DIRGE.

THE wintry west extends his blast,
 And hail and rain does blow ;
 Or the stormy north sends driving forth
 The blinding sleet and snow :
 While, tumbling brown, the burn comes
 down,
 And roars frae bank to brae ;
 And bird and beast in covert rest,
 And pass the heartless day.

“The sweeping blast, the sky o'er-
 cast,”¹
 The joyless winter-day,
 Let others fear, to me more dear
 Than all the pride of May :
 The tempest's howl, it soothes my soul,
 My griefs it seems to join :
 The leafless trees my fancy please,
 Their fate resembles mine !

Thou Pow'r Supreme, whose mighty
 scheme
 These woes of mine fulfil,
 Here, firm, I rest, they must be best,
 Because they are Thy will !
 Then all I want (Oh ! do thou grant
 This one request of mine !)
 Since to enjoy thou dost deny,
 Assist me to resign.

THE COTTER'S SATURDAY
 NIGHT.

INSCRIBED TO ROBERT AIKEN, ESQ.,²
 OF AYR.

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
 Their homely joys, and destiny ob-
 scure ;
 Nor Grandeur hear, with a disdainful
 smile,
 The short but simple annals of the
 Poor.—*Gray.*

My lov'd, my honour'd, much respected
 friend !
 No mercenary bard his homage
 pays ;
 With honest pride, I scorn each selfish
 end :
 My dearest meed, a friend's esteem
 and praise :

¹ Dr. Young.—R. B.

² Mr. Aiken was a “writer” in Ayr ;
 Gilbert Burns affectionately notices him
 in a letter to Currie, as a man of worth
 and taste, and warm affections, and
 who eagerly spread among his friends
 the merits of the new Poet.

To you I sing, in simple Scottish lays,
The lowly train in life's sequester'd
scene ;

The native feelings strong, the guile-
less ways ;

What Aiken in a cottage would have
been ;

Ah ! though his worth unknown, far
happier there I ween.

November chill blows loud wi' angry
sugh ;¹

The short'ning winter-day is near a
close ;

The miry beasts retreating frae the
plough ;

The black'ning trains o' craws to
their repose ;

The toil-worn Cotter frae his labour
goes,

This night his weekly moil is at an
end,

Collects his spades, his mattocks, and
his hoes,

Hoping the morn in ease and rest to
spend,

And weary, o'er the moor, his course
does hameward bend.

At length his lonely cot appears in
view,

Beneath the shelter of an aged tree ;

Th' expectant wee-things, toddlin,
stacher² thro',

To meet their Dad, wi' flichterin³
noise an' glee.

His wee bit ingle, blinkin bonnily,
His clane hearth-stane, his thriftie
wife's smile,

The lispin infant prattling on his knee,
Does a' his weary carking cares be-
guile,

An' makes him quite forget his labour
an' his toil.

Belyve,⁴ the elder bairns come drap-
ping in,

At service out, among the farmers
roun';⁵

Some ca' the pleugh, some herd, some
tentie¹ rin

A cannie errand to a neebor town :

Their eldest hope, their Jenry, woman
grown,

In youthfu' bloom, love sparkling in
her e'e,

Comes hame, perhaps, to show a braw
new gown,

Or deposite her sair-won penny-fee,

To help her parents dear, if they in
hardship be.

Wi' joy unfeign'd brothers and sisters
meet,

An' each for other's welfare kindly
spiers :

The social hours, swift-wing'd, unno-
ticed fleet ;

Each tells the uncoss² that he sees or
hears ;

The parents, partial, eye their hopeful
years,

Anticipation forward points the view.

The mother, wi' her needle an' her
shears,

Gars³ auld claes look amaist as weel's
the new ;

The father mixes a' wi' admonition due.

Their master's an' their mistress's com-
mand,

The younkens a' are warned to
obey ;

An' mind their labours wi' an eydent⁴
hand,

An' ne'er, tho' out o' sight, to jauk
or play :

father in his manners, his family devo-
tions, and exhortations, yet the other
parts of the description do not apply to
our family. None of us ever were
"At service out among the neebors
roun'." Instead of our depositing our
"sair-won penny-fee" with our parents,
my father laboured hard, and lived with
the most rigid economy, that he might
be able to keep his children at home
—*Gilbert Burns to Dr. Currie. Oct.*
24, 1800.

¹ Cautious.

² News.

³ Makes.

⁴ Diligent.

¹ Rushing sound.

² Stagger.

³ Flattering.

⁴ By and by.

⁵ Although the "Cotter," in the
Saturday Night, is an exact copy of my

" An', oh ! he sure to fear the Lord al-
way,
An' mind your duty, duly, morn an'
night !

Lest in temptation's path ye gang astray,
Implore His counsel and assisting
might :

They never sought in vain that sought
the Lord aright !"

But, hark ! a rap comes gently to the
door ;

Jenny, wha kens the meaning o' the
same,

Tells how a neebor lad cam o'er the
moor,

To do some errands, and convoy her
hame.

The wily mother sees the conscious
flame

Sparkle in Jenny's e'e, and flush her
cheek ;

Wi' heart-struck anxious care, inquires
his name,

While Jenny haffins¹ is afraid to
speak ;

Weel pleas'd the mother hears, it's nae
wild worthless rake.

Wi' kindly welcome Jenny brings him
ben ;

A strappan youth ; he takes the
mother's eye ;

Blythe Jenny sees the visit's no ill
ta'en ;

The father cracks² of horses, pleughs,
and kye.

The youngster's artless heart o'erflows
wi' joy,

But, blate³ and laithfu',⁴ scarce can
weel behave ;

The woman, wi' a woman's wiles, can
spy

What makes the youth sae bashfu'
an' sae grave ;

Weel pleas'd to think her bairn's re-
spected like the lave.⁵

O happy love ! where love like this is
found !

O heart-felt raptures ! bliss beyond
compare !

I've paced much this weary, mortal
round,
And sage experience bids me this
declare—

" If Heav'n a draught of heav'nly plea-
sure spare,

One cordial in this melancholy vale,
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest

pair,
In other's arms breathe out the tend-
er tale,

Beneath the milk-white thorn that
scents the ev'ning gale !"

Is there, in human form, that bears a
heart—

A wretch ! a villain ! lost to love and
truth !

That can, with studied, sly, ensnaring
art,

Betray sweet Jenny's unsuspecting
youth ?

Curse on his perjur'd arts ! dissembling
smooth !

Are honour, virtue, conscience, all
exil'd ?

Is there no pity, no relenting ruth,
Points to the parents fondling o'er

their child ?

Then paints the ruin'd maid, and their
distraction wild !

But now the supper crowns their simple
board,

The halesome parritch, chief o'
Scotia's food :

The soupe their only hawkie¹ does
afford,

That 'yont the hallan² snugly chows
her cood ;

The dame brings forth in complimental
mood,

To grace the lad, her weel-hain'd,³
kebbuck,⁴ fell,

An' aft he's prest, an' aft he ca's it guid ;
The frugal wife, garrulous, will tell

How 'twas a towmond⁵ auld, sin' lint
was i' the bell.⁶

¹ Cow.

² Partition wall.

³ Well-saved.

⁴ Cheese.

⁵ A twelvemonth.

⁶ Since the flax was in flower.

Half. ² Talks. ³ Bashful.

⁴ Sheepish. ⁵ The rest.

The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious
face,
They, round the ingle, form a circle
wide ;
The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal
grace,
The big ha'-Bible, ance his father's
pride :
His bonnet rev'rently is laid aside,
His lyart haffets¹ wearing thin an'
bare ;
Those strains that once did sweet in
Zion glide,
He wales² a portion with judicious
care ;
And " Let us worship God ! " he says,
with solemn air.

They chant their artless notes in simple
guise ;
They tune their hearts, by far the
noblest aim :
Perhaps " Dundee's " wild warbling
measures rise,
Or plaintive " Martyrs, " worthy of
the name ;
Or noble " Elgin " beets the heav'nward
flame,
The sweetest far of Scotia's holy
lays :
Compar'd with these, Italian trills are
tame ;
The tickl'd ears no heart-felt raptures
raise ;
Nae unison hae they with our Creator's
praise.

The priest-like father reads the sacred
page,
How Abram was the friend of God
on high ;
Or Moses bade eternal warfare wage
With Amalek's ungracious progeny ;
Or how the royal Bard did groaning lie
Beneath the stroke of Heaven's
avenging ire ;
Or Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing
cry ;
Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphic fire ;
Or other holy seers that tune the sacred
lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is th
theme,
How guiltless blood for guilty man
was shed ;
How He, who bore in Heav'n the se-
cond name,
Had not on earth whereon to lay His
head :
How His first followers and servants
sped ;
The precepts sage they wrote to
many a land :
How he, who lone in Patmos banished,
Saw in the sun a mighty angel
stand ;
And heard great Bab'lon's doom pro-
nounced by Heav'n's command.

Then kneeling down, to Heaven's
Eternal King,
The saint, the father, and the husband
prays :
Hope " springs exulting on triumphant
wing, " ¹
That thus they all shall meet in fu-
ture days :
There ever bask in uncreated rays,
No more to sigh, or shed the bitter
tear,
Together hymning their Creator's
praise,
In such society, yet still more dear ;
While circling time moves round in an
eternal sphere.

Compar'd with this, how poor Re-
ligion's pride,
In all the pomp of method, and of art,
When men display to congregations
wide
Devotion's ev'ry grace, except the
heart !
The Pow'r, incens'd, the pageant will
desert,
The pompous strain, the sacerdotal
stole ;
But haply, in some cottage far apart,
May hear, well pleas'd, the language
of the soul ;
And in His book of life the inmates
poor enrol.

¹ Grey locks.² Chooses.¹ Pope's " Windsor Forest. "—R. B.

Then home ward all take off their sev'ral
way ;

The youngling cottagers retire to rest:
The parent-pair their secret homage
pay,

And proffer up to Heav'n the warm
request,

That He, who stills the raven's clam'rous
nest,

And decks the lily fair in flow'ry pride,
Would, in the way His wisdom sees the
best,

For them, and for their little ones
provide ;

But chiefly, in their hearts with grace
divine preside.

From scenes like these old Scotia's
grandeur springs,

That makes her lov'd at home, rever'd
abroad :

Princes and lords are but the breath of
kings ;

"An honest man's the noblest work
of God :"

And certes, in fair virtue's heav'nly road,
The cottage leaves the palace far be-
hind ;

What is a lordling's pomp ? a cumbrous
load,

Disguising oft the wretch of human
kind,

Studied in arts of hell, in wickedness
refin'd !

O Scotia ! my dear, my native soil !
For whom my warmest wish to Hea-
ven is sent !

Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
Be blest with health, and peace, and
sweet content !

And, oh, may Heaven their simple lives
prevent

From luxury's contagion, weak and
vile !

Then, how'er crowns and coronets be
rent,

A virtuous populace may rise the
while,

And stand a wall of fire around their
much-lov'd Isle.

Thou ! who pour'd the patriotic tide
That stream'd thro' Wallace's un-
daunted heart ;

Who dar'd to nobly stem tyrannic pride,
Or nobly die, the second glorious part,
(The patriot's God, peculiariy Thou art,
His friend, inspirer, guardian, and re-
ward !)

O never, never Scotia's realm desert ;
But still the patriot, and the patriot-
bard,

In bright succession raise, her orna-
ment and guard !

MAN WAS MADE TO MOURN.¹

A DIRGE.

WHEN chill November's surly blast
Made fields and forests bare,
One ev'ning, as I wander'd forth
Along the banks of Ayr,
I spy'd a man, whose aged step
Seem'd weary, worn with care ;
His face was furrow'd o'er with years,
And hoary was his hair.

Young stranger, whither wand'rst thou ?
Began the rev'rend sage ;
Does thirst of wealth thy step constrain,
Or youthful pleasure's rage ?
Or, haply, prest with cares and woes,
Too soon thou hast began
To wander forth, with me, to mourn
The miseries of Man.

The sun that overhangs yon moors,
Outspreading far and wide,
Where hundreds labour to support
A haughty lordling's pride ;
I've seen yon weary winter-sun
Twice forty times return ;
And ev'ry time has added proofs
That Man was made to mourn.

¹ Several of the poems were produced for the purpose of bringing forward some favourite sentiment of the author. He used to remark to me, that he could not well conceive a more mortifying picture of human life than a man seeking work. In casting about in his mind how this sentiment might be brought forward, the elegy, "Man was made to mourn," was composed — G. B.

O man ! while in thy early years,
 How prodigal of time !
 Mis-spending all thy precious hours,
 Thy glorious youthful prime !
 Alternate follies take the sway ;
 Licentious passions burn ;
 Which tenfold force give nature's law,
 That Man was made to mourn.

Look not alone on youthful prime,
 Or manhood's active might ;
 Man then is useful to his kind,
 Supported is his right.
 But see him on the edge of life,
 With cares and sorrows worn ;
 Then age and want, oh ! ill-match'd
 pair !
 Show Man was made to mourn.

A few seem favourites of fate,
 In pleasure's lap carest ;
 Yet, think not all the rich and great
 Are likewise truly blest.
 But, oh ! what crowds in ev'ry land
 Are wretched and forlorn.
 Thro' weary life this lesson learn,
 That Man was made to mourn.

Many and sharp the num'rous ills
 Inwoven with our frame !
 More pointed still we make ourselves,
 Regret, remorse, and shame !
 And man, whose heav'n-erected face
 The smiles of love adorn,
 Man's inhumanity to man
 Makes countless thousands mourn !

See yonder poor, o'erlabour'd wight,
 So abject, mean, and vile,
 Who begs a brother of the earth
 To give him leave to toil ;
 And see his lordly fellow-worm
 The poor petition spurn,
 Unmindful, tho' a weeping wife
 And helpless offspring mourn.

If I'm design'd yon lordling's slave—
 By Nature's law design'd,—
 Why was an independent wish
 E'er planted in my mind ?
 If not, why am I subject to
 His cruelty or scorn ?
 Or why has man the will and pow'r
 To make his fellow mourn ?

Yet, let not this too much, my son,
 Disturb thy youthful breast :

This partial view of human kind
 Is surely not the last !
 The poor, oppressed, honest man
 Had never, sure, been born,
 Had there not been some recompence
 To comfort those that mourn !

O death ! the poor man's dearest friend
 The kindest and the best !
 Welcome the hour my aged limbs
 Are laid with thee at rest !
 The great, the wealthy, fear thy blow
 From pomp and pleasure torn ;
 But, oh ! a blest relief to those
 That weary-laden mourn !¹

ON THE ILLNESS OF A BE- LOVED CHILD.

Now health forsakes that angel face
 Nae mair my deary smiles ;
 Pale sickness withers ilka grace,
 And a' my hopes beguiles.

The cruel Powers reject the prayer
 I hourly mak for thee !
 Ye heavens, how great is my despair,
 How can I see him die !

A PRAYER IN THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.²

O THOU unknown, Almighty Cause
 Of all my hope and fear !
 In whose dread presence, ere an hour,
 Perhaps I must appear !

¹ Whatever might be the casual idea that set the poet to work, it is but too evident that he wrote from the habitual feelings of his own bosom. The indignation with which he contemplated the inequality of human condition, and particularly the contrast between his own worldly circumstances and intellectual rank, was never more bitterly nor more loftily expressed, than in some of these stanzas.—*Lockhart.*

² Burns has entitled his verses, "A prayer, when fainting fits, and other

If I have wander'd in those paths
Of life I ought to shun ;
As something, loudly in my breast,
Remonstrates I have done ;

Thou know'st that thou hast formed me,
With passions wild and strong ;
And list'ning to their witching voice
Has often led me wrong.

Where human weakness has come short,
Or frailty stept aside,
Do thou, All-Good ! for such Thou art,
In shades of darkness hide.

Where with intention I have err'd,
No other plea I have,
But Thou art good ; and Goodness still
Delighteth to forgive.

STANZAS ON THE SAME
OCCASION.¹

WHY am I loth to leave this earthly
scene !

Have I so found it full of pleasing
charms ?

Some drops of joy with draughts of ill
between :

Some gleams of sunshine 'mid re-
newing storms ;

Is it departing pangs my soul alarms ?
Or death's unlovely, dreary, dark
abode ?

For guilt, for guilt, my terrors are in
arms :

I tremble to approach an angry God,
And justly smart beneath his sin-aveng-
ing rod.

Fain would I say, " Forgive my foul
offence ! "

Fain promise never more to disobey ;

alarming symptoms of pleurisy, or
some other dangerous disorder, which
indeed still threatens me, first put
nature on the alarm."

¹ August, [1784.] Misgivings in the
hour of Despondency and Prospect of
Death.

But, should my Author health again
dispense,
Again I might desert fair virtue's
way ;

Again in folly's path might go astray ;
Again exalt the brute, and sink the
man ;

Then how should I for Heav'nly mercy
pray,

Who act so counter Heav'nly mercy's
plan ?

Who sin so oft have mourn'd, yet to
temptation ran ?

O Thou, great Governor of all below !
If I may dare a lifted eye to Thee,
Thy nod can make the tempest cease
to blow,

And still the tumult of the raging sea ;
With that controlling pow'r assist
ev'n me,

Those headlong furious passions to
confine,

For all unfit I feel my powers to be,
To rule their torrent in th' allowed
line ;

O, aid me with thy help, Omnipotence
Divine !

LYING AT A REVEREND FRIEND'S HOUSE
ONE NIGHT, THE AUTHOR LEFT THE
FOLLOWING

VERSES

IN THE ROOM WHERE HE SLEPT.¹

O THOU dread Pow'r, who reign'st
above !

I know Thou wilt me hear ;

¹ The first time Robert heard the
spinnet played upon was at the house
of Dr. Lawrie, then minister of the
parish of Loudon, now in Glasgow,
having given up the parish in favour
of his son. Dr. Lawrie has several
daughters ; one of them played ; the
father and mother led down the dance ;
the rest of the sisters, the brother, the
poet, and the other guests, mixed in

When for this scene of peace and love
I make my pray'r sincere.

The hoary sire—the mortal stroke,
Long, long, be pleas'd to spare :
To bless his little filial flock,
And show what good men are.

She, who her lovely offspring eyes
With tender hopes and fears,
Oh, bless her with a mother's joys,
But spare a mother's tears !

Their hope, their stay, their darling
youth,
In manhood's dawning blush ;
Bless him, thou God of love and truth,
Up to a parent's wish.

The beauteous, seraph sister-band,
With earnest tears I pray,
Thou know'st the snares on ev'ry hand,
Guide Thou their steps alway.

When soon or late they reach that coast,
O'er life's rough ocean driv'n,
May they rejoice, no wand'rer lost,
A family in Heav'n !

THE FIRST PSALM.

THE man, in life wherever plac'd,
Hath happiness in store,
Who walks not in the wicked's way,
Nor learns their guilty lore !

Nor from the seat of scornful pride
Casts forth his eyes abroad,
But with humility and awe
Still walks before his God.

That man shall flourish like the trees
Which by the streamlets grow ;
The fruitful top is spread on high,
And firm the root below.

But he, whose blossom buds in guilt,
Shall to the ground be cast,
And like the rootless stubble tost,
Before the sweeping blast.

it. It was a delightful family scene for our poet, then lately introduced to the world. His mind was roused to a poetic enthusiasm, and the Stanzas were left in the room where he slept.
--G. B.

For why? that God the good adore
Hath giv'n them peace and rest,
But hath decreed that wicked men
Shall ne'er be truly blest.

A PRAYER, UNDER THE PRES- SURE OF VIOLENT ANGUISH.¹

O THOU Great Being! what Thou art
Surpasses me to know :
Yet sure I am, that known to Thee
Are all Thy works below.

Thy creature here before Thee stands,
All wretched and distrest ;
Yet sure those ills that wring my soul
Obey Thy high behest.

Sure, Thou, Almighty, canst not act
From cruelty or wrath !
O, free my weary eyes from tears,
Or close them fast in death !

But if I must afflicted be,
To suit some wise design ;
Then man my soul with firm resolu-
tion
To bear and not repine !

STANZAS WRITTEN WHILE UNDER EXCESSIVE GRIEF.²

ACCEPT the gift of a friend sincere
Wad on thy worth be pressin' ;

March, 1784.

¹ There was a certain period of my life that my spirit was broke by repeated losses and disasters, which threatened, and indeed effected, the utter ruin of my fortune. My body too was attacked by that most dreadful disorder, a hypochondria, or confirmed melancholy. In this wretched state, the recollection of which makes me yet shudder, I hung my harp on the willow trees, except in some lucid intervals, in one of which I composed the following.—R. B.

² Written in 1786, and first printed in the *Sun* newspaper of April 1823.

Remembrance oft may start a tear,
But oh that tenderness forbear,
Tho' 'twad my sorrows lessen.

My morning rose sae clear and fair,
I thought sair storms wad never
Bedew the scene; but grief and care
In wildest fury hae made bare
My peace, my hope, for ever!

You think I'm glad; oh, I pay weel
For a' the joy I borrow,
In solitude—then, then I feel
I canna to myself conceal
My deeply ranklin' sorrow.

Farewell! within thy bosom free
A sigh may whiles awaken;
A tear may wet thy laughin' ee,
For Scotia's son—once gay like thee—
Now hopeless, comfortless, forsaken!

THE FIRST SIX VERSES OF THE NINETIETH PSALM.

O THOU, the first, the greatest friend
Of all the human race!
Whose strong right hand has ever been
Their stay and dwelling place!

Before the mountains heav'd their
heads
Beneath Thy forming hand,
Before this pond'rous globe itself
Arose at Thy command;

That pow'r, which rais'd and still up-
holds
This universal frame,
From countless, unbeginning time
Was ever still the same.

Those mighty periods of years,
Which seem to us so vast,
Appear no more before Thy sight
Than yesterday that's past.

Thou giv'st the word; Thy creature,
man,
Is to existence brought;
Again Thou say'st, "Ye sons of men,
Return ye into nought!"

Thou layest them, with all their cares,
In everlasting sleep;

As with a flood thou tak'st them off
With overwhelming sweep.

They flourish like the morning flow'r,
In beauty's pride array'd;
But long ere night cut down, it lies
All wither'd and decay'd.

TO A MOUNTAIN DAISY,

ON TURNING ONE DOWN WITH THE
PLOUGH, IN APRIL, 1786.¹

WEE, modest, crimson-tipped flow'r,
Thou's met me in an evil hour;
For I maun crush among the stoure
Thy slender stem:
To spare thee now is past my pow'r,
Thou bonnie gem.

Alas! it's no thy neebor sweet,
The bonnie Lark,² companion meet!
Bending thee 'mang the dewy weel!
Wi' spreckl'd breast,
When upward-springing, blythe, to
greet
The purpling east.

Cauld blew the bitter-biting north
Upon thy early, humble birth;
Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth
Amid thy storm,
Scarce rear'd above the parent-earth
Thy tender form.

The flaunting flow'rs our gardens yield
High sheltering woods and wa's maux
shield,

¹ The Daisy grew in the field next to that in which the plough had turned up the mouse's nest.

² I have seldom met with an image more truly pastoral than that of the lark in the second stanza. Such strokes as these mark the pencil of the poet, which delineates Nature with the precision of intimacy, yet with the delicate colouring of beauty and taste.—H. MACKENZIE, in "The Lounger" No. 97.

But thou beneath the random field¹
 O' clod, or stane,
 Adorns the histie² stibble-field,
 Unseen, alane.

There, in thy scanty mantle clad,
 Thy snawy bosom sunward spread,
 Thou lifts thy unassuming head
 In humble guise;
 But now the share uptears thy bed,
 And low thou lies!

Such is the fate of artless Maid,
 Sweet flow'ret of the rural shade!
 By love's simplicity betray'd,
 And guileless trust,
 Till she, like thee, all soil'd, is laid
 Low i' the dust.

Such is the fate of simple Bard,
 On life's rough ocean luckless starr'd!
 Unskilful he to note the card
 Of prudent lore,
 Till billows rage, and gales blow hard,
 And overwhelm him o'er!

Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n,
 Who long with wants and woes has striv'n,
 By human pride or cunning driv'n
 To misery's brink,
 Till, wretch'd of ev'ry stay but Heav'n,
 He, ruin'd, sink!

Ev'n thou who mourn'st the Daisy's
 fate,
 That fate is thine—no distant date;
 Stern Ruin's ploughshare drives, elate,
 Full on thy bloom,
 Till crush'd beneath the furrow's weight
 Shall be thy doom!

TO RUIN.³

ALI. hail! inexorable lord!
 At whose destruction-breathing word

¹ Shelter.

² Dry.

³ I have here enclosed a small piece, the very latest of my productions. I am a good deal pleas'd with some sentiments myself, as they are just the native querulous feelings of a heart

The mightiest empires fall!
 Thy cruel, woe-delighted train,
 The ministers of grief and pain,
 A sullen welcome, all!
 With stern-resolv'd, despairing eyes,
 I see each aimed dart;
 For one has cut my dearest tie,
 And quivers in my heart.
 Then low'ring, and pouring,
 The storm no more I dread:
 Tho' thick'ning and black'ning
 Round my devoted head.

And thou grim pow'r, by life abortiv'
 While life a pleasure can afford,
 Oh! hear a wretch's pray'r!
 No more I shrink appall'd, afraid;
 I court, I beg thy friendly aid,
 To close this scene of care!
 When shall my soul, in silent peace,
 Resign life's joyless day;
 My weary heart its throbbing cease,
 Cold mould'ring in the clay?
 No fear more, no tear more,
 To stain my lifeless face,
 Enclasped, and grasped
 Within thy cold embrace!

STANZAS ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WOODS NEAR DRUMLANRIG.¹

(WRITTEN IN 1796.)

As on the banks o' wand'ring Nith
 Ae smiling summer morn I stray'd,

which, as the elegantly melting Gray says, "Melancholy has marked for her own."—To Mr. Kennedy, April 20, 1786.

¹ According to Mr. Chambers, the Duke of Queensberry, who was no great favourite with Burns, "had stripped his domains of Drumlanrig, in Dumfriesshire, and Neldpath, in Peeblesshire, of all the wood fit for being cut, in order to enrich the Countess of Yarmouth, whom he supposed to be his daughter."

And traced its bonny howes and haughs¹
Where linties sang and lambkins
play'd,

I sat me down upon a craig,
And drank my fill o' fancy's dream,
When, from the eddying deep below,
Uprose the genius of the stream.

Dark, like the frowning rock, his brow,
And troubled like his wintry wave,
And deep, as sighs² the boding wind
Among his eaves, the sigh he gave—
"And came ye here, my son," he cried,
"To wander in my birken shade?
To muse some favourite Scottish theme,
Orsing some favourite Scottish maid!

"There was a time, it's nae lang syne,
Ye might hae seen me in my pride,
When a' my banks sae bravely saw
Their woody pictures in my tide;
When hanging beech and spreading elm
Shaded my stream sae clear and cool;
And stately oaks their twisted arms
Threw broad and dark across the
pool;

"When glinting through the trees ap-
pear'd

The wee white cot aboon the mill,
And peacefu' rose its ingle reek,³
That slowly curled up the hill.
But now the cot is bare and cauld,
Its branchy shelter's lost and gane,
And scarce a stinted birk is left
To shiver in the blast its lane."

"Alas!" said I, "what ruelu' chance
Has twin'd ye o' your stately trees?
Has laid your rocky bosom bare?

Has stripp'd the cleeding o' your
braes?

Was it the bitter eastern blast,
That scatters blight in early spring?
Or was't the wil'-fire scorch'd their
boughs,
Or canker-worm wi' secret sting?"

"Nae eastlin blast," the sprite replied;
"It blew na here sae fierce and fell;
And on my dry and halesome banks
Nae canker-worms get leave to dwell:

Man! cruel man!" the genius sigh'd—
As through the cliffs he sank him
down—

"The worm that gnaw'd my bonny
trees,
That reptile wears a ducal crown!"

TO MISS LOGAN, WITH BEAT- TIE'S POEMS,

AS A NEW YEAR'S GIFT, JANUARY 1,
1787.

AGAIN the silent wheels of time
Their annual round have driv'n,
And you, tho' scarce in maiden prime,
Are so much nearer Heav'n.

No gifts have I from Indian coasts
The infant year to hail;
I send you more than India boasts,
In Edwin's simple tale.

Our sex with guile and faithless love
Is charg'd, perhaps, too true;
But may, dear Maid, each lover prove
An Edwin still to you!

EPISTLE TO A YOUNG FRIEND.¹

MAY, 1786.

I LANG hae thought, my youthfu' friend,
A something to have sent you,
Tho' it should serve nae ither end
Than just a kind memento;
But how the subject-theme may gang
Let time and chance determine;
Perhaps, it may turn out a sang,
Perhaps turn out a sermon.

Ye'll try the world soon, my lad,
And Andrew dear, believe me,
Ye'll find mankind an uncø squad,
And muckle they may grieve ye:

¹ Andrew Aiken, of Ayr, son of the
friend to whom Burns inscribed "The
Cotter's Saturday Night."

¹ Valleys. ² Moans. ³ Smoke.

For care and trouble set your thought,
 Ev'n when your end's attained ;
 And a' your views may come to nought,
 Where ev'ry nerve is strained.

I'll no say, men are villains a' ;
 The real, harden'd wicked,
 Wha hae nae check but human law,
 Are to a few restricted ;
 But, Och ! mankind are unco weak,
 An' little to be trusted ;
 If self the wavering balance shake,
 It's rarely right adjusted !

Yet they wha ¹ fa'² in fortune's strife,
 Their fate we should na censure,
 For still th' important end of life
 They equally may answer ;
 A man may hae an honest heart,
 Tho' poortith ³ hourly stare him ;
 A man may tak a neebor's part,
 Yet hae nae cash to spare him.

Aye free, aff-han'⁴ your story tell,
 When wi' a bosom crony ;
 But still keep something to yoursel
 Ye scarcely tell to ony.
 Conceal yoursel as weel's ye can
 Frae critical dissection ;
 But keek ⁵ thro' ev'ry other man,
 Wi' sharpen'd, sly inspection.

The sacred lowe ⁶ o' weel-plac'd love,
 Luxuriantly indulge it ;
 But never tempt th' illicit rove,
 Tho' naething should divulge it ;
 I wae the quantum o' the sin,
 The hazard o' concealing ;
 But, Och ! it hardens a' within,
 And petrifies the feeling !

To catch dame Fortune's golden smile,
 Assiduous wait upon her ;
 And gather gear by ev'ry wile
 That's justify'd by honour ;
 Not for to hide it in a hedge,
 Nor for a train attendant ;
 But for th' glorious privilege
 Of being independent.

The fear o' hell's a hangman's whip,
 To haud the wretch in order ;
 But where ye feel your honour grip,
 Let that aye be your border ;

Its slightest touches, instant pause -
 Debar a' side pretences ;
 And resolutely keep its laws,
 Uncaring consequences.

The great Creator to revere,
 Must sure become the creature ;
 But still the preaching cant forbear,
 And ev'n the rigid feature ;
 Yet ne'er with wits profane to range,
 Be complaisance extended ;
 An Atheist-laugh's a poor exchange
 For Deity offended !

When ranting round in pleasure's ring,
 Religion may be blinded ;
 Or, if she gie a random sting,
 It may be little minded ;
 But when on life we're tempest-driv'n,
 A conscience but a canker—
 A correspondence fix'd wi' Heav'n
 Is sure a noble anchor !

Adieu, dear, amiable Youth !
 Your heart can ne'er be wanting !
 May prudence, fortitude, and truth,
 Erect your brow undaunting !
 In ploughman phrase, " God send you
 speed,"
 Still daily to grow wiser ;
 And may you better reck the rede,¹
 Than ever did th' Adviser !

ON A SCOTCH BARD, GONE TO THE WEST INDIES.

A' ye wha live by sowps² o' drink,
 A' ye wha live by crambo-clink,³
 A' ye wha live an' never think,
 Come mourn wi' me !
 Our billie's⁴ gien us a' a jink,⁵
 An' owre the sea.

Lament him a' ye rantin core,⁶
 Wha dearly like a random-splore,⁷
 Nae mair he'll join the merry roar,
 In social key ;
 For now he's taen anither shore,
 An' ower the sea !

¹ Who. ² Fall. ³ Poverty.
 Off-hand. ⁵ Peep. ⁶ Flame.

¹ Heed the counsel. ² Sponsoful
³ Rhymes. ⁴ Our brother. ⁵ Dodge.
⁶ Corps. ⁷ Riot.

The bonnie lasses weel may wiss him,
 And in their dear petitions place him ;
 The widows, wives, an' a' may bless him
 Wi' tearfu' e'e ;
 For weel I wad they'll sairly miss him,
 That's owre the sea !

O Fortune, they hae room to grumble !
 Hadst thou ta'en aff some drowsy
 bummle,¹
 Wha can do nought but fyke² an'
 fumble,

'Twad been nae plea ;
 But he was gleg³ as ony wumble,⁴
 That's owre the sea !

Auld, cantie Kyle⁵ may weepers wear,
 An' stain them wi' the saut, saut tear,
 'Twill mak her poor auld heart, I fear,
 In flinders⁶ flee ;
 He was her Laureat monie a year,
 That's owre the sea !

He saw misfortune's cauld Nor-west
 Lang mustering up a bitter blast ;
 A jiliet⁷ brak his heart at last,
 Ill may she be !
 So, took a berth afore the mast,
 An' owre the sea.

To tremble under Fortune's cummock,⁸
 On scarce a bellyfu' o' drummock,⁹
 Wi' his proud, independent stomach,
 Could ill agree ;
 So, row't¹⁰ his hurdies in a hammock,
 An' owre the sea.

He ne'er was gi'en to great misguiding,
 Yet coin his pouches wad nae bide in ;
 Wi' him it ne'er was under hiding,
 He dealt it free :
 The Muse was a' that he took pride in,
 That's owre the sea.

Jamaica bodies, use him weel,
 An' hap¹¹ him in a cozie biel ;¹²
 Ye'll find him ay' a dainty chiel,
 And fu' o' glee ;
 He wad nae wrang'd the vera deil,
 That's owre the sea.

Fareweel, my rhyme-composing bilie !
 Your native soil was right ill-willie ;
 But may ye flourish like a lily,
 Now bonnilie !
 I'll toast ye in my hindmost gillie,¹
 Tho' owre the sea !

TO A HAGGIS.*

FAIR fa' your honest, sonsie face,
 Great chieftain o' the pudding-race !
 Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
 Painch, tripe,³ or thairm :
 Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
 As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
 Your hurdies like a distant hill,
 Your pin wad help to mend a mill
 In time o' need,
 While thro' your pores the dew's distil
 Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,⁴
 An' cut you up wi' ready slight,
 Trenching your gushing entrails bright
 Like onie ditch ;
 And then, O what a glorious sight,
 Warm-reekin, rich !

Then, horn for horn they stretch an'
 strive,
 Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
 Till a' their weel-swallow'd⁵ kytes⁶ belyve
 Are bent like drums ;
 Then auld guidman, maist like to rive,⁷
 "Bethankit" hums.

Is there that o'er his French ragout,
 Or olio that wad staw⁸ a sow,
 Or fricassee wad mak her spew
 Wi' perfect sconner,⁹

¹ Diminutive of gill.

² A dish which is ony known or relished in Scotland. It is said to be composed of minced mutton, oatmeal, and suet ; but a Southron reader will not desire a particular receipt.

³ Small entrails. ⁴ Wipe.

⁵ Swelled. ⁶ Stomachs. ⁷ Burst.

⁸ Surfeit. ⁹ Loathing.

¹ Blunderer. ² Fuss. ³ Sharp.

⁴ A wimble. ⁵ Kilmarnock.

⁶ Shreds. ⁷ Jilt. ⁸ Staff.

⁹ Meal and water. ¹⁰ Wrapped.

¹¹ Cover. ¹² Shelter.

Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner!

Poor devil! se: him owre his trash,
As feckless¹ as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,

His nieve² a nit;³
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his walie⁴ nieve a blade,

He'll mak it whistle;
An' legs, an' arms, an' heads will sned,⁵
Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;⁶

But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis.

A DEDICATION TO GAVIN HAMILTON, ESQ.

EXPECT na, Sir, in this narration
A fleechin,⁷ fleth'rin⁸ Dedication,
To roose you up, an' ca' you guid,
An' sprung o' great an' noble bluid,
Because ye're surnam'd like His Grace,
Perhaps related to the race;
Then when I'm tir'd—and sae are ye,
Wi' mony a fulsome, sinfu' lie,
Set up a face, how I stop short
For fear your modesty be hurt.

This may do—maun do, Sir, wi' them
wha
Maun please the great folk for a wame-
fou;⁹

For me! sae laigh I needna bow,
For, Lord be thankit, I can plough;
And when I downa yoke a naig,¹⁰
Then, Lord be thankit, I can beg;
Sae I shall say, an' that's nae flatt'rin,
It's just sic Poet, an' sic Patron.

¹ Weak. ² Fist. ³ Nut. ⁴ Large.

⁵ Lop. ⁶ Splashes in wooden dishes.

⁷ Supplicating. ⁸ Flattering.

⁹ Bellyful. ¹⁰ Horse.

The Poet, some guid angel help him,
Or else, I fear some ill ane skelp¹ him!
He may do weel for a' he's done yet,
But only he's no just begun yet.

The Patron (Sir, ye maun forgie me,
I winna lie, come what will o' me),
On ev'ry hand it will allow'd be,
He's just—nae better than he should be.

I readily and freely grant,
He downa see a poor man want;
What's no his ain he winna tak it,
What ance he says he winna break it;
Aught he can lend he'll no refus't,
Till aft his guidness is abus'd;
And rascals whyles that do him wrang,
Ev'n that, he does na mind it lang:
As master, landlord, husband, father,
He does na fail his part in either.

But then, nae thanks to him for a'
that;

Nae godly symptom ye can ca' that;
It's naething but a milder feature
Of our poor, sinfu', corrupt nature:
Ye'll get the best o' moral works,
'Mang black Gentoos and pagan Turks,
Or hunters wild on Ponotaxi,
Wha never heard of orthodoxy.
That's he's the poor man's friend w'
need,

The gentleman in word and deed,
It's no thro' terror of damnation;
It's just a carnal inclination.

Morality, thou deadly bane,
Thy tens o' thousands thou hast slain!
Vain is his hope, whose stay and trust is
In moral mercy, truth, and justice!

No—stretch a point to catch a plack;²
Abuse a brother to his back;
Steal thro' a winnock³ frae a —
But point the rake that taks the door;
Be to the poor like onie whunstone,⁴
And haud their noses to the grunstone,
Ply ev'ry art o' legal thieving;
Nae matter, stick to sound believing.

Learn three-mile pray'rs, and half-
mile graces,
Wi' weel-spread looves,⁵ an' lang, wry
faces;

¹ Strike. ² An old Scotch coin

³ Window. ⁴ Whinstone. ⁵ Hands

Grunt up a solemn, lengthen'd groan,
And damn a' parties but your own ;
I'll warrant then ye're nae deceiver,
A steady, sturdy, staunch believer.

O ye wha leave the springs of Calvin,
For gumlie¹ dubs² of your ain delvin !
Ye sons of heresy and error,
Ye'll some day squeel in quaking terror !
When Vengeance draws the sword in
wrath,

And in the fire throws the sheath ;
When Ruin, with his sweeping besom,
Just frets till Heav'n commission gies
him :

While o'er the harp pale Mis'ry moans,
And strikes the ever-deep'ning tones,
Still louder shrieks, and heavier groans !

Your pardon, Sir, for this digression,
I maist forgot my Dedication ;
But when divinity comes cross me,
My readers still are sure to lose me.

So, Sir, ye see 'twas nae daft vapour,
But I maturely thought it proper,
When a' my works I did review,
To Jedicat them, Sir, to you :
Because (you need na tak it ill)
I thought them something like yoursel.

Then patronize them wi' your favour,
And your petitioner shall ever—
I nad amaist said, ever pray :
But that's a word I need na say :
For prayin I hae nttle skill o't ;
I'm baith dead-sweer,³ an' wretched ill
o't ;⁴

But I'se repeat each poor man's pray'r,
That kens or hears about you, Sir,—

“ May ne'er misfortune's gowling
bark
Howl thro' the dwelling o' the Clerk !
May ne'er his gen'rous, honest heart,
For that same gen'rous spirit smart !
May Kennedy's far honoured name
Lang beet⁵ his hymeneal flame ;
Till Hamiltons, at least a dizen,
Are frae their nuptial labours risen :
Five bonnie lasses round their table,
And seven braw fellows, stout and able,

To serve their King and COUNTRY weel,
By word, or pen, or pointed steel !
May health and peace, with mutual
rays,

Shine on the evening o' his days ;
Till his wee, curlie John's ier-oe,¹
When ebbing life nae mair shall flow,
The last sad mournful rites bestow !”

I will not wind a lang conclusion,
Wi' complimentary effusion :
But whilst your wishes and endeavours
Are blest with Fortune's smiles and
favours,

I am, dear Sir, with zeal most fervent,
Your much indebted, humble servant.

But if (which Pow'r's above prevent)
That iron-hearted carl, Want,
Attended in his grim advances,
By sad mistakes, and black mischances,
While hopes, and joys, and pleasures
fly him,

Make you as poor a dog as I am,
Your humble servant then no more ;
For who would humbly serve the poor ?
But, by a poor man's hopes in Heav'n !
While recollection's pow'r is given,
If, in the vale of humble life,
The victim sad of fortune's strife,
I, thro' the tender gushing tear,
Should recognise my Master dear,
If friendless, low, we meet together,
Then, Sir, your hand—my Friend and
Brother !

TO A —, ON SEEING ONE
ON A LADY'S BONNET AT
CHURCH.

HA ! whare ye gaun, ye crowlin fer-
lie !²
Your impudence protects you sairly :
I canna say but ye strunt³ rarely,
Owre gauze and lace ;
Tho', faith, I fear ye dine but sparely
On sic a place.

¹ Muddy.

² Pow'rs.

³ Extremely averse.

⁴ Of it.

⁵ Add fuel to.

¹ Great grandchild.

² Wonder.

³ Strut.

Ye ugly, creepin, blastit wonner,
 Detested, shunn'd by saunt an' sinner,
 How dare ye set your fit¹ upon her,
 Sae fine a lady!

Gae somewhere else, and seek your
 dinner

 On some poor body.

Swith,² in some beggar's haffet³ squat
 tle;

There ye may creep, and sprawl, and
 sprattle⁴

Wi' ither kindred, jumping cattle,
 In shoals and nations:

Whare horn nor bane ne'er dare un-
 settle

 Your thick plantations.

Now haud ye there, ye're out o' sight,
 Below the fatt'rils,⁵ snug an' tight;

Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right
 Till ye've got on it,

The vera tapmost, tow'ring height
 O' Miss's bonnet.

My sooth! right bauld ye set your nose
 out,

As plump and gray as onie grozet:⁶
 O for some rank, mercurial rozet,

 Or fell, red smeddum,⁷

I'd gie you sic a hearty doze o't,
 Wad dress your droddum!⁸

I wad na been surpris'd to spy
 You on an auld wife's flainen toy;⁹

Or aiblins some bit duddie boy,
 On 's wyliccoat:¹⁰

But Miss's fine Lunardi!¹¹ fie,
 How daur ye do't?

O Jenny, dinna toss your head,
 An' set your beauties a' abroad!

Ye little ken what cursed speed
 The blastie's¹² makin!

Thae winks and finger-ends, I dread,
 Are notice takin!

¹ Foot. ² Get away. ³ Temple.

⁴ Scramble. ⁵ Ribbon-ends.

⁶ Gooseberry. ⁷ Powder. ⁸ Breech.

⁹ An old-fashioned head-dress.

¹⁰ Flannel vest.

¹¹ A bonnet, named after Lunardi,
 whose balloon made him notorious in
 Scotland about 1785.

¹² The shrivelled dwarf.

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
 To see oursels as others see us!

It wad frae monie a blunder free us
 And foolish notion:

What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
 And ev'n Devotion!

LINES WRITTEN AT KEN- MORE, TAYMOUTH.¹

ADMIRING Nature in her wildest grace,
 These northern scenes with weary feet
 I trace;

O'er many a winding dale and painfu
 steep,

The abodes of covey'd grouse and
 timid sheep,

My savage journey, curious, I pur-
 sue,

Till fam'd Breadalbane opens to my
 view,—

The meeting cliffs each deep-sunk glen
 divides,

The woods, wild scatter'd, clothe their
 ample sides;

Th' outstretching lake, embosom'd
 'mong the hills,

The eye with wonder and amazement
 fills.

The Tay, meand'ring sweet in infant
 pride,

The palace, rising on its verdant side;
 The lawns, wood-fring'd in Nature's

native taste,
 The hillocks, dropt in Nature's care-
 less haste;

¹ Professor Walker informs us that
 "Burns passed two or three days with
 the Duke of Athole, and was highly
 delighted by the attention he received,
 and the company to whom he was in-
 troduced. By the Duke's advice he
 visited the falls of Bruar, and in a few
 days I received a letter from Inverness,
 with the above verses inclosed." These
 lines were first written over the chim-
 ney-piece in the parlour of the inn at
 Kenmore.

The arches, striding o'er the new born
stream,
The village, glittering in the noon-tide
beam.

* * * * *

Here Poesy might wake her heaven-
taught lyre,
And look through Nature with creative
fire ;

Here, to the wrongs of Fate half recon-
ciled,

Misfortune's lighten'd steps might wan-
der wild ;

And Disappointment, in these lonely
bounds,

Find balm to soothe her bitter, rankling
wounds ;

Here heart-struck Grief might heaven-
ward stretch her scan,

And injured Worth forget and pardon
man.

ADDRESS TO EDINBURGH.

EDINA ! Scotia's darling seat !

All hail thy palaces and tow'rs,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat Legislation's sov'reign pow'rs !
From marking wildly-scatter'd flow'rs,
As on the banks of Ayr I stray'd,
And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,
I shelter in thy honour'd shade.

Here wealth still swells the golden tide,

As busy Trade his labours plies ;
There Architecture's noble pride
Bids elegance and splendour rise ;
Here Justice, from her native skies,
High wields her balance and her rod ;
There Learning, with his eagle eyes,
Seeks Science in her coy abode.

Thy sons, Edina, social, kind,
With open arms the stranger hail ;
Their views enlarg'd, their lib'ral mind,
Above the narrow, rural vale ;
Attentive still to sorrow's wail,
Or modest merit's silent claim :
And never may their sources fail !
And never envy blot their name !

Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn,
Gay as the gilded summer sky,
Sweet as the dewy milk-white thorn,
Dear as the raptur'd thrill of joy !
Fair Burnet¹ strikes th' adoring eye,
Heav'n's beauties on my fancy shine ;
I see the Sire of Love on high,
And own his work indeed divine !

There watching high the least alarms,
Thy rough rude fortress gleams afar :
Like some bold vet'ran, gray in arms,
And mark'd with many a seamy scar :
The pond'rous wall and massy bar,
Grim-rising o'er the rugged rock,
Have oft withstood assailing war,
And oft repell'd th' invader's shock.

With awe-struck thought, and pitying
tears,

I view that noble, stately dome,
Where Scotia's kings of other years,
Fam'd heroes, had their royal home :
Alas, how chang'd the times to come !
Their royal name low in the dust !
Their hapless race wild-wand'ring roam !
Tho' rigid law cries out, 'twas just !

Wild beats my heart, to trace your step,
Whose ancestors, in days of yore,
Thro' hostile ranks and ruin'd gaps
Old Scotia's bloody lion bore :
Ev'n I who sing in rustic lore,
Haply my sires have left their shed,
And fac'd grim danger's loudest roar,
Bold-following where your fathers
led !

Edina ! Scotia's darling seat !

All hail thy palaces and tow'rs,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat Legislation's sovereign pow'rs !
From marking wildly-scatter'd flow'rs,
As on the banks of Ayr I stray'd,
And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,
I shelter in thy honour'd shade.

¹ Daughter of Lord Monboddoo.
Burns said there had not been anything
like her, in beauty, grace, and goodness,
since Eve on the first day of her exist-
ence.

EP,ISTLE TO JOHN LAPRAIK,
AN OLD SCOTTISH BARD.¹

April 1st, 1785.

WHILE briers an' woodbines budding
green,
An' pairtricks² sraichin loud at e'en,
An' morning poussie³ whiddin⁴ seen,
Inspire my Muse,
This freedom in an unknown frien'
I pray excuse.

On Fasten-een we had a rockin,
To ca' the crack and weave our stockin:
And there was muckle fun and jokin,
Ye need na doubt;
At length we had a hearty yokin⁵
At sang about.

¹ The "Epistle to John Lapraik" was produced exactly on the occasion described by the author. He says in that poem, "On fasten-e'en we had a rockin." I believe he has omitted the word *rocking* in the glossary. It is a term derived from those primitive times, when the country-women employed their spare hours in spinning on the rock, or distaff. This simple implement is a very portable one, and well fitted to the social inclination of meeting in a neighbour's house; hence the phrase of *going a-rocking*, or *with the rock*. As the connexion the phrase had with the implement was forgotten when the rock gave place to the spinning-wheel, the phrase came to be used by both sexes on social occasions, and men talk of going with their rocks as well as women. It was at one of these *rockings* at our house, when we had twelve or fifteen young people with their *rocks*, that Lapraik's song, beginning, "When I upon thy bosom lean," was sung, and we were informed who was the author. Upon this Robert wrote his first Epistle to Lapraik; and his second in reply to his answer.—G. B.

² Partridges.

³ Hare.

⁴ Running.

⁵ A bout.

There was ae sang, among the rest,
Aboon them a' it pleas'd me best,
That some kind husband had address
To some sweet wife:
It thirl'd¹ the heart-strings thro' the
breast,
A' to the life.

I've scarce heard aught describes sae
weel,
What gen'rous, manly bosoms feel:
Thought I, "Can this be Pope, or
Steele,
Or Beattie's wark?"
They tauld me 'twas an odd kind chiel
About Muirkirk.

It pat me fidgin-fain² to hear't,
And sae about him there I spier't,
Then a' that ken'd him round declar'd
He had ingine,³
That nane excell'd it, few cam near't
It was sae fine;

That, set him to a pint of ale,
An' either douce or merry tale,
Or rhymes an' sangs he'd made himsel,
Or witty catches,
'Tween Inverness and Tiviotdale
He had few matches.

Then up I gat, an' swoor an aith,
Tho' I should pawn my plough and
graith,⁴
Or die a cadger pownie's⁵ death,
At some dyke-back,
A pint an' gill I'd gie them baith
To hear your crack.

But, first an' foremost, I should tell,
Amaist as soon as I could spell,
I to the crambo-jingle fell,
Tho' rude an' rough,
Yet crooning⁶ to a body's sel
Does weel enough.

I am nae Poet, in a sense,
But just a Rhymer like, by chance,
An' hae to learning nae pretence,
Yet, what the matter?
Whene'er my Muse does on me glance,
I jingle at her.

¹ Thrilled.

² Very anxious

³ Genius.

⁴ And gear.

⁵ Carrier pony.

⁶ Humming

This hour on e'enin's¹ edge I take,
To own I'm debtor
To honest-hearted, auld Lapraik,
For his kind letter.

Forjesket² sair, with weary legs,
Rattlin the corn out-owre the rigs,
Or dealing thro' among the naigs
Their ten-hours' bite,
Myawkwart Muse sair pleads and begs,
I would na write.

The tapetless,³ ramfeez'd⁴ hizzie,
She's saft at best, and something lazy,
Quo' she, "Ye ken, we've been sae
busy,

This month an' mair,
That trowth my head is grown right
dizzie,

An' something sair."

Her dowff⁵ excuses pat me mad ;
"Conscience," says I, "ye thowless⁶
jad !

I'll write, an' that a hearty blaud,
This vera night ;

So dinna ye affront your trade,
But rhyme it right.

"Shall bauld Lapraik, the king o'
hearts,

Tho' mankind were a pack o' cartes,⁷
Roose you sae weel for your deserts,

In terms sae friendly,
Yet ye'll neglect to shaw your parts,
An' thank him kindly !"

Sae I gat paper in a blink,
An' down gaed stumple in the ink :

Quoth I, "Before I sleep a wink,
I vow I'll close it ;

An' if ye winna mak it clink,
By Jove, I'll prose it !"

Sae I've begun to scrawl, but whether
In rhyme, or prose, or baith thegither,
Or some hotch-potch that's rightly
neither,

Let time mak proof ;
But I shall scribble down some blether⁸
Jus clean aff-loof.⁹

My worthy friend, ne'er grudge an
carp,

Tho' fortune use you hard an' sharp ;
Come, kittle¹ up your moorland harp

Wi' glesome touch !
Ne'er mind how fortune waft an' warp
She's but a b—h.

She's gien me monie a jirt an' fleg,²
Sin' I could striddle owre a rig ;

But, by the Lord, tho' I should beg
Wi' lyart pow,
I'll laugh, and sing, an' shake my leg,
As lang's I dow !³

Now comes the sax an' twentieth sim-
mer,

I've seen the bud upo' the timmer,
Still persecuted by the limmer

Frae year to year ;
But yet, despite the kittle kimmer,⁴
I, Rob, am here.

Do ye envy the city Gent,
Behint a kist⁵ to lie and sklent,⁶

Or purse-proud, big wi' cent per cent,
An' muckle wame,⁷

In some bit Brugh to represent
A Bailie's name ?

Or is't the paughty,⁸ feudal Thane,
Wi' ruffled sark an' glancing cane,
Wha thinks himsel nae sheep-shank
bane,

But lordly stalks,
While caps and bonnets aff are ta'en,
As by he walks ?

"O Thou wha gies us each guid gift !
Gie me o' wit an' sense a lift,

Then turn me, if Thou please, adrift,
Thro' Scotland wide ;

Wi' cits nor lairds I wadna shift,
In a' their pride !"

Were this the charter of our state,
"On pain o' hell be rich an' great,"

Damnation then would be our fate,
Beyond remead ;

But, thanks to Heav'n ! that's no the
gate

We learn our creed.

¹ Evening's.

² Jaded.

³ Foolish.

⁴ Tired.

⁵ Silly.

⁶ Lazy.

⁷ Cards.

⁸ Nonsense.

⁹ Unpremeditated.

¹ Tickle.

² Kick

³ Can

⁴ Skittish girl.

⁵ Counter.

⁶ Deceive.

⁷ Belly.

⁸ Haughty

For thus the royal mandate ran,
 When first the human race began,
 "The social, friendly, honest man,
 Whate'er he be,
 'Tis he fulfils great Nature's plan,
 And none but he!"

O mandate glorious and divine!
 The ragged followers of the Nine,
 Poor, thoughtless devils! yet may shine,
 In glorious light,
 While sordid sons of Mammon's line
 Are dark as night.

Tho' here they scrape, an' squeeze, an'
 growl,
 Their worthless nievefu'¹ of a soul
 May in some future carcase howl,
 The forest's fright;
 Or in some day-detesting owl
 May shun the light.
 Then may Lapraik and Burns arise,
 To reach their native, kindred skies,
 And sing their pleasures, hopes, an' joys,
 In some mild sphere,
 Still closer knit in friendship's ties
 Each passing year!

THE TWO LAWYERS,

IN THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE AT
 EDINBURGH.²

LORD ADVOCATE.

HE clenched his pamphlets in his fist,
 He quoted and he hinted,
 Till in a declamation mist
 His argument he tint o't,³
 He gaped for't, he gaped⁴ for't,
 He found it was awa', man;
 But what his common sense cam short
 He eked out wi' law, man.

DEAN OF FACULTY.

Collected Harry stood a wee,
 Then open'd out his arm, man;

His lordship sat, wi' ruefu' e'e,
 And eyed the gath'ring storm, man.
 Like wind-driven hail, it did assail,
 Or torrents ow're a linn, man;
 The Bench, sae wise, lift up their eyes,
 Half-waken'd wi' the din, man.

TO WILLIAM SIMPSON,¹

OCHILTREE.

May, 1785.

I GAT your letter, winsome Willie;
 Wi' gratefu' heart I thank you brawlie;
 Tho' I maun say't, I wad be silly,
 An' unco vain,
 Should I believe, my coaxin billie,²
 Your flatterin strain.

But I se believe ye kindly meant it,
 I sud be laith to think ye hinted
 Ironic satire, sidelins sklentid³
 On my poor Musie;
 Tho' in sic phraisin terms ye've penn'd it,
 I scarce excuse ye.

My senses wad be in a creel,⁴
 Should I but dare a hope to speel,⁵
 Wi' Allan, or wi' Gilbertfiel',⁶
 The braes o' fame;
 Or Fergusson, the writer-chief,
 A deathless name.

(O Fergusson! thy glorious parts
 Ill suited law's dry, musty arts!
 My curse upon your whunstane hearts,
 Ye Enbrugh Gentry!
 The tythe o' what ye waste at cartes
 Wad stow'd his pantry!)

Yet when a tale comes i' my head,
 Or lasses gie my heart a screed,⁷
 As whiles they're like to be my deed,
 (O sad disease!)
 I kittle up my rustic reed;
 It gies me ease.

¹ Handful.

² Mr. Hay Campbell, the Lord Advocate (afterwards Lord President), and Harry Erskine, the Dean of Faculty.

³ Lost.

⁴ Groped.

¹ Schoolmaster of Ochiltree.

² Brother ³ Sidelung flung.

⁴ Be crazed. ⁵ Climb.

⁶ Allan Ramsay and Hamilton of Gilbertfield. ⁷ Rent.

Auld Coila, now, may fidge¹ fu' fain,
 She's gotten Poets o' her ain,
 Chiels wha their chanters winna hain,²
 But tune their lays,
 Till echoes a' resound again
 Her weel-sung praise.

Nae Poet thought her worth his while,
 To set her name in measur'd style ;
 She lay like some unken'd of isle,
 Beside New Holland,
 Or whare wild-meeting oceans boil
 Besouth Magellan.

Ramsay an' famous Fergusson
 Gied Forth an Tay a lift aboon ;
 Yarrow an' Tweed, to monie a tune,
 Ower Scotland rings,
 While Irwin, Lugar, Ayr, an' Doon,
 Nae body sings.

Th' Illissus, Tiber, Thames, an' Seine,
 Glide sweet in monie a tunefu' line !
 But, Willie, set your fit to mine,
 An' cock your crest,
 We'll gar our streams an' burnies shine
 Up wi' the best.

We'll sing auld Coila's plains an' fells,
 Her moors red-brown wi' heather bells,
 Her banks an' braes, her dens an' dells,
 Whare Glorious Wallace
 Aft bure³ the gree, as story tells,
 Frae southron billies.

At Wallace' name, what Scottish blood
 But boils up in a spring-tide flood !
 Oft have our fearless fathers strode
 By Wallace' side,
 Still pressing onward, red-wat-shod,⁴
 Or glorious dy'd.

O, sweet are Coila's haughs⁵ an' woods,
 When lintwhites⁶ chant amang the
 buds,
 And jinkin⁷ hares, in amorous whids,
 Their loves enjoy,
 While thro' the braes the cushat croods⁸
 Wi' wailfu' cry !

¹ Be right glad.

² Will not spare their bagpipes.

³ Did bark.

⁴ Walking in blor 1 over the shoe-tops.

⁵ Valleys. ⁶ Linnets.

⁷ Dodging. ⁸ Croo

Ev'n winter bleak has charms to me,
 When winds rave thro' the naked tree ;
 O! frosts on hills of Ochiltree
 Are hoary gray ;
 Or blinding drifts wild-furious flee,
 Dark'ning the day !

O Nature ! a' thy shews an' forms
 To feeling, pensive hearts hae charms !
 Whether the summer kindly warms,
 Wi' life an' light,
 Or winter howls, in gusty storms,
 The lang, dark night !

The Muse, nae Poet ever fand¹ her,
 Till by himsel he learn'd to wander,
 Adown some trotting burn's meander,
 An' no think lang ;
 O sweet, to stray an' pensive ponder
 A heart-felt sang !

The war'ly race may drudge an' drive,
 Hog-shoother,² jundie,³ stretch, an'
 strive,—
 Let me fair Nature's face describe,
 And I, wi' pleasure,
 Shall let the busy, grumbling hive
 Bum⁴ owre their treasure.

Fareweel, " my rhyme-composing
 brither !"
 We've been owre lang unkenn'd to
 ither :
 Now let us lay our heads thegither,
 In love fraternal :
 May Envy wallop in a tether,
 Black fiend, infernal !

While highlandmen hate tolls an' taxes ;
 While moorlan' herds⁵ like guid, fat
 braxies ;⁶

While terra firma, on her axis
 Diurnal turns,
 Count on a friend, in faith an' prac ice
 In Robert Burns.

POSTSCRIPT.

My memory's no worth a preen ;
 I had amaist forgotten clean,

¹ Found. ² Push with the shoulder

³ Jostle. ⁴ Hum. ⁵ Shepherds

⁶ Diseased sheep. ⁷ Pin.

Ye badr. me write you what they mean
By this New-Light,
'Bout which our herds sae aft hae been
Maist like to fight.

In days when mankind were but callans¹
At grammar, logic, an' sic talents,
They took nae pains their speech to
balance,
Or rules to gie,
But spak their thoughts in plain, braid
Lallans,²
Like you or me.

In thae auld times, they thought the
moon,
Just like a sark, or pair o' shoon,
Wore by degrees, till her last roon,³
Gaed past their viewing,
An' shortly after she was done,
They gat a new one.

This past for certain, undisputed ;
It ne'er cam i' their heads to doubt it,
Till chiels gat up an' wad confute it,
An' ca'd it wrang ;
An' muckle din there was about it,
Baith loud an' lang.

Some herds, weel learn'd upo' the beuk,⁴
Wad threap⁵ auld folk the thing mis-
teuk ;
For 'twas the auld moon turn'd a neuk,
An' out o' sight,
An' backlins⁶ comin, to the leuk
She grew mair bright.

This was deny'd, it was affirm'd ;
The herds an' hirsels⁷ were alarm'd ;
The rev'rend gray-beards rav'd an'
storm'd,
That beardless laddies
Should think they better were inform'd
Than their auld daddies.

Frae less to mair it gaed to sticks ;
Frae words an' aiths to clours⁸ an'
nicks ;
An' monie a fallow gat his licks,
Wi' hearty crunt ;⁹

An' some, to learn them for their ticks,
Were hang'd an' brunt.¹

This game was play'd in monie lands,
An' Auld-light caddies bure sic hands,
That, faith, the youngsters took the
sands

Wi' nimble shanks,
The lairds farbade, by strict commands,
Sic bluidy pranks.

But New-light herds gat sic a cove,
Folk thought them ruined stick-an-
stowe,²

Till now amaist on ev'ry knowe³
Ye'll find ane plac'd ;
An' some their New-light fair avow,
Just quite barefac'd.

Nae doubt the Auld-light flocks are
bleatin ;
Their zealous herds are vex'd an'
sweatin ;
Mysel, I've even seen them greetin
Wi' girnin⁴ spite,
To hear the moon sae sadly lien on
By word an' write.

But shortly they will cove the louns !⁵
Some Auld-light herds in neebor towns
Are mind't, in things they ca' balloons,
To tak a flight,
An' stay ae month among the moons,
An' see them right.

Guid observation they will gie them :
An' when the auld moon's gaun to lea'e
them,
The hindmost shaird,⁶ they'll fetch it
wi' them,
Just i' their pouch,
An' when the New-light billies see
them,
I think they'll crouch !

Sae, ye observe that a' this clatter
Is naething but a "moonshine matter ;"
But tho' dull-prose folk Latin splatter
In logic tulzie,⁷
I hope we Bardies ken some better
Than mind sic bruzie.⁸

Boys. ² Lowland speech.
Shred. ⁴ Book. ⁵ Maintain.
Returning. ⁷ Flocks.
Pumps. ⁹ Blow.

¹ Burnt. ² Totally.
³ Hillock. ⁴ Grinning. ⁵ Fellows
⁶ Shred. ⁷ Quarrel. ⁸ A bit ill

EPISTLE TO JOHN RANKINE,
ENCLOSING SOME POEMS.

O ROUGH, rude, ready-witted Rankine,
The wale² o' cocks for fun an' drinkin'!
There's monie godly folks are thinkin',
Your dreams an' tricks
Will send you, Korah-like, a-sinkin',
Straught to auld Nick's.

Ye hae sae monie cracks an' cants,
And in your wicked, drucken rants,
Ye mak a devil o' the saunts,
An' fill them fou:
And then their failings, flaws, an' wants,
Are a' seen thro'.

Hypocrisy, in mercy spare it!
That holy robe, O dinna tear it!
Spare 't for their sakes wha aften
wear it,

The lads in black!
But your curst wit, when it comes
near it,
Rives 't aff their back.

Think, wicked sinner, wha ye're skaith-
ing,³

It's just the blue-gown badge an' claith-
ing

O' saunts; tak that, ye lea'e them
naithing

To ken them by,
Frae ony unregenerate heathen
Like you or I.

I've sent you here some rhyming ware,
A' that I bargain'd for an' mair;
Sae, when ye hae an hour to spare,
I will expect,

Yon sang,⁴ ye'll sen 't⁵ wi' cannie care,
And no neglect.

Tho', faith, sma' heart hae I to sing!
My Muse dow scarcely spread her
wing!

I've play'd mysel a bonnie spring,
An' danc'd my fill!

¹ According to Allan Cunningham, "an out-spoken, ready-witted man, and a little of a scoffer."

² Choice. ³ Damaging.

⁴ A song he had promised the author.—R. B. ⁵ Send it.

I'd better gaen an' sair't¹ the king
At Bunker's Hill.

'Twas ae night lately, in my fun,
I gaed a roving wi' the gun,
An' brought a pairrick to the grun,²
A bonnie hen;
And, as the twilight was begun,
Thought nane wad ken.

The poor wee thing was little hurt;
I straikit³ it a wee for sport,
Ne'er thinkin they wad fash me for't
But, Deil-ma-care!
Somebody tells the poacher-court
The hale⁴ affair.

Some auld us'd hands had ta'en a note
That sic a hen had got a shot;
I was suspected for the plot;
I scorn'd to lie;
So gat the whistle o' my goat,
An' pay't the fee.

But, by my gun, o' guns the wale,
An' by my pouther an' my hail,
An' by my hen, an' by her tail,
I vow an' swear!
The game shall pay, o'er moor an' dale
For this, niest year.

As soon's the clockin-time⁵ is by,
An' the wee pouts⁶ begun to cry,
L—d, I'se hae sportin by an' by,
For my gowd guinea;
Tho' I should herd the Buckskin⁷ ~~xy7~~
For't, in Virginia.

Trowth, they had muckle for to blame!
'Twas neither broken wing nor limb,
But twa-three draps about the wams,⁸
Scarce thro' the feathers;
An' baith a yellow George to claim,
An' thole their blethers!⁹

It pits¹⁰ me aye as mad's a hare;
So I can rhyme nor write nae mair;

¹ Served. ² Partridge to the ground.

³ Stroked. ⁴ Whole.

⁵ Hatching time. ⁶ Chicks.

⁷ Buckskin, an inhabitant of Virginia.

⁸ Belly.

⁹ And endure their foolish talk.

¹⁰ Puts.

But pe-ny worths again is fair,
 When time's expedient :
 Manwhile I am, respected Sir,
 Your most obedient.

ELEGY ON CAPTAIN
 MAITHEW HENDERSON;¹

* GENTLEMAN WHO HELD THE PATENT
 FOR HIS HONOURS IMMEDIATELY
 FROM ALMIGHTY GOD.

But now his radiant course is run,
 For Matthew's course was bright :
 His soul was like the glorious sun,
 A matchless, Heav'nly Light.

O DEATH! thou tyrant fell and bloody!
 The meikle devil wi' a woodie²
 Haurl thee hame to his black smiddie,³
 O'er hurcheon⁴ hides,
 And like stock-fish come o'er his studdie⁵
 Wi' thy auld sides !

He's gane, he's gane ! he's frae us torn,
 The ae best fellow e'er was born !
 Thee, Matthew, Nature's sel⁶ shall
 mourn

By wood and wild,
 Where, haply, Pity strays forlorn,
 Frae man exil'd.

Ye hills, near neebors o' the starns,
 That proudly cock your cresting cairns!⁷
 Ye cliffs, the haunts of sailing years,⁸
 Where echo slumbers !

¹ The Elegy on Captain Henderson is a tribute to the memory of a man I loved much. Poets have in this the same advantage as Roman Catholics ; they can be of service to their friends after they have passed that bourne where all other kindness ceases to be of any avail.—*To Dr. Moore*, (Feb. 28, 1791,) who remarked, in reply, that the chief merit of the Elegy lies in its lively pictures of country scenes and things, which none but a Scottish poet, and a close observer of Nature, could have so described.

² Rope. ³ Smuthy. ⁴ Hedgehog.
⁵ Anvil. ⁶ Self.
⁷ Heaps of stones. ⁸ Eagles.

Come join, ye Nature's sturdiest bairns,
 My wailing numbers !

Mourn, ilka grove the cushat¹ kens !
 Ye haz'lly shaws and briery dens !
 Ye burnies, wimplin² down your glens,
 Wi' toddlin din,
 Or foaming strang, wi' hasty stens,³
 Frae lin to lin.⁴

Mourn, little harebells o'er the lea ;
 Ye stately foxgloves fair to see ;
 Ye woodbines hanging bonnilie,
 In scented bow'rs ;
 Ye roses on your thorny tree,
 The first o' flow'rs.

At dawn, when ev'ry grassy blade
 Droops with a diamond at his head,
 At ev'n, when beans their fragrance
 shed,

I' th' rustling gale,
 Ye maukins⁵ whiddin⁶ thro' the glade,
 Come join my wail.

Mourn, ye wee songsters o' the wood ;
 Ye grouse that crap the heather-bud ;
 Ye curlews calling thro' a clud ;⁷

Ye whistling plover ;
 And mourn, ye whirling patrick brood.
 He's gane for ever !

Mourn, sooty coots, and speckled teal,
 Ye fisher herons, watching eels ;
 Ye duck and drake, wi' airy wheels
 Circling the lake ;

Ye bitterns, till the quagmire reels,
 Rair⁸ for his sake.

Mourn, clam'ring craiks at close o' lay,
 'Mang fields o' flow'ring claver gay ;
 And when ye wing your annual way
 Frae our cauld shore,
 Tell thae far warlds, wha lies in clay,
 Wham we deplore.

Ye houlets,⁹ frae your ivy bow'r,
 In some auld tree, or eldritch¹⁰ tow'r,
 What time the moon, wi' silent glow'r,
 Sets up her horn,

¹ Wood-pigeon.

³ P'unges.

⁵ Hares.

⁷ Cloud.

⁹ Owls.

² Meandering.

⁴ Pool to pool.

⁶ Running.

⁸ Boom.

¹⁰ Dismal.

Wail thro' the dreary midnight hour
T'ill waukrife¹ morn !

O rivers, forests, hills, and plains !
Oit have ye heard my canty² strains :
But now, what else for me remains
But tales of woe ;

And frae my een the drapping rains
Maun ever flow.

Mourn, Spring, thou darling of the
year !

I'k cowslip cup shall kep a tear :
Thou, Simmer, while each corny spear
Shoots up its head,
Thy gay, green, flow'ry tresses shear
For him that's dead !

Thou, Autumn, wi' thy yellow hair,
In grief thy sallow mantle tear !
Thou, Winter, hurling thro' the air
The roaring blast,
Wide o'er the naked world declare
The worth we've lost !

Mourn him, thou Sun, great source of
light !

Mourn, Empress of the silent night !
And you, ye twinkling starnies bright,
My Matthew mourn !
For through your orbs he's ta'en his
flight,
Ne'er to return.

O Henderson ! the man ! the brother !
And art thou gone, and gone for ever !
And hast thou crost that unknown river,
Life's dreary bound !
Like thee, where shall I find another,
The world around ?

Go to your sculptur'd tombs, ye Great,
In a' the tinsel trash o' state !
But by thy honest turf I'll wait,
Thou man of worth !
And weep the ae³ best fellow's fate
E'er lay in earth.

THE EPITAPH.

STOP, passenger ! my story's brief,
And truth I shall relate, man ;

I tell nae common tale o' grief,—
For Matthew was a great man.

If thou uncommon merit hast,
Yet spurn'd at fortune's door, man,
A look of pity hither cast,—
For Matthew was a poor man.

If thou a noble sodger art,
That passeth by this grave, man,
There moulders here a gallant heart,—
For Matthew was a brave man.

If thou on men, their works and ways,
Canst throw uncommon light, man ;
Here lies wha weel had won thy
praise,—
For Matthew was a bright man.

If thou at friendship's sacred ca'
Wad life itself resign, man ;
Thy sympathetic tear maun fa',—
For Matthew was a kind man.

If thou art staunch without a stain,
Like the unchanging blue, man ;
This was a kinsman o' thy ain,—
For Matthew was a true man.

If thou hast wit, and fun, and fire,
And ne'er gude wine did fear, man ;
This was thy billie, dam, and sire,—
For Matthew was a queer man.

If ony whiggish whingin¹ sot
To blame poor Matthew dare, man ;
May dool² and sorrow be his lot,—
For Matthew was a rare man.

LAMENT OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, ON THE APPROACH OF SPRING.³

Now Nature hangs her mantle green
On every blooming tree,

¹ Complaining. ² Mourning.

³ Whether it is that the story of our Mary, Queen of Scots, has a peculiar effect on the feelings of a poet, or whether I have, in the enclosed ballad, succeeded beyond my usual poetic success, I know not; but it has pleased me beyond any effort of my muse for a good while past.—R. B.

And spreads her sheets o' daisies white
 Out owre the grassy lea :
 Now Phœbus cheers the crystal
 streams,

And glads the azure skies ;
 But nought can glad the weary wight
 That fast in durance lies.

Now lav'rocks¹ wake the mairy morn,
 Aloft on dewy wing ;

The merle, in his noontide bow'r,
 Makes woodland echoes ring ;
 The mavis² mild, wi' many a note,
 Sings drowsy day to rest :

In love and freedom they rejoice,
 Wi' care nor thrall opprest.

Now blooms the lily by the bank,
 The primrose down the brae ;
 The hawthorn's budding in the glen,
 And milk-white is the slae :

The meanest hind in fair Scotland
 May rove their sweets amang ;
 But I, the Queen of a' Scotland,
 Maun lie in prison strang.

I was the Queen o' bonnie France,
 Where happy I hae been,
 Fu' lightly rase I in the morn,
 As blythe lay down at e'en :
 And I'm the sov'reign of Scotland,
 And mony a traitor there ;
 Yet here I lie in foreign bands,
 And never-ending care.

But as for thee, thou false woman,
 My sister and my fae,
 Grim vengeance, yet, shall whet a
 sword

That thro' thy soul shall gae :
 The weeping blood in woman's breast
 Was never known to thee ;
 Nor th' balm that draps on wounds of
 woe

Frae woman's pitying e'e.

My son ! my son ! may kinder stars
 Upon thy fortune shine ;
 And may those pleasures gild tny reign,
 That ne'er wad blink on mine !
 God keep thee frae thy mother's faes,
 Or turn their hearts to thee ;
 And where thou meet'st thy mother's
 friend,
 Remember him for me !

Oh ! soon, to me, may summer suns
 Nae mair light up the morn !
 Nae mair, to me, the autumn winds
 Wave o'er the yellow corn !
 And in the narrow house o' death
 Let winter round me rave ;
 And the next flow'rs, that deck the
 spring,
 Bloom on my peaceful grave !

ODE,¹ SACRED TO THE
 MEMORY OF MRS. OSWALD.

DWELLER in yon dungeon dark,
 Hangman of creation ! mark

¹ Ellisland, March 23, 1789.

The enclosed Ode is a compliment to the memory of the late Mrs. Oswald, of Auchencruive. You probably knew her personally, an honour which I cannot boast ; but I spent my early years in her neighbourhood, and among her servants and tenants. I know that she was detested with the most heartfelt cordiality. However, in the particular part of her conduct which roused my poetic wrath, she was much less blameable. In January last, on my road to Ayrshire, I had put up at Bailie Wigham's, in Sanquhar, the only tolerable inn in the place. The frost was keen, and the grim evening and howling wind were ushering in a night of snow and drift. My horse and I were both much fatigued with the labours of the day, and just as my friend the Bailie and I were bidding defiance to the storm, over a smoking bowl, in wheels the funeral pageantry of the late great Mrs. —, and poor I am forced to brave all the horrors of the tempestuous night, and jade my horse, my young favourite horse, whom I had just christened Pegasus, twelve miles farther on, through the wildest muirs and hills of Ayrshire, to New Cumnock the next inn. The powers of poesy and prose sink under me, when I would describe what I felt. Suffice it to say, that when

¹ Larks.

² Thrush.

Who in widow-weeds appears,
Laden with unhonour'd years,
Noosing with care a bursting purse,
Baited with many a deadly curse!

STROPHE.

View the wither'd beldam's face—
Can thy keen inspection trace
Aught of humanity's sweet melting
grace?

Note that eye, 'tis rheum o'erflows,
Pity's flood there never rose.
See those hands, ne'er stretch'd to
save,

Hands that took—but never gave.
Keeper of Mammon's iron chest,
Lo, there she goes, unpitied and un-
blest—

She goes, but not to realms of everlast-
ing rest!

ANTISTROPHE.

Plunderer of armies, lift thine eyes
(A while forbear, ye tort'ring fiends),
Seest thou whose step, unwilling, hither
bends?

No fallen angel, hurl'd from upper
skies;

'Tis thy trusty quondam mate,
Doom'd to share thy fiery fate,
She, tardy, hell-ward plies.

EPODE.

And are they of no more avail,
Ten thousand glitt'ring pounds a
year?

In other worlds can Mammon fail,
Omnipotent as he is here?

Oh, bitter mock'ry of the pompous bier,
While down the wretched vital part is
driv'n!

The cave-lodg'd beggar, with a con-
science clear,
Expires in rags, unknown, and goes to
Heav'n.

a good fire at New Cumnock had so far recovered my frozen sinews, I sat down and wrote the enclosed Ode.—
BURNS to Dr. Moore, March 23, 1789.

EPISTLE TO R. GRAHAM, ESQ.¹

WHEN Nature her great master-piece
design'd,

And fram'd her last, best work, the
human mind,

Her eye intent on all the mazy plan,
She form'd of various parts the various
man.

Then first she calls the useful many
forth;

Plain plodding industry, and sober
worth:

Thence peasants, farmers, native sons
of earth,

And merchandise' whole genus take
their birth:

Each prudent cit a warm existence
finds,

And all mechanics' many-apron'd kinds.
Some other rarer sorts are wanted yet,
The lead and buoy are needful to the
net:

The caput mortuum of gross desires
Makes a material for mere knights and
squires;

The martial phosphorus is taught to
flow,

She kneads the lumpish philosophic
dough,

Then marks th' unyielding mass with
grave designs,

Law, physic, politics, and deep divines:
Last, she sublimes th' Aurora of the
poles,

The flashing elements of female souls.
The order'd system fair before her
stood,

Nature, well-pleas'd, pronounc'd it very
good;

But ere she gave creating labour o'er,
Half-jest, she try'd one curious labour
more.

Some puny, fiery, *ignis fatuus* matter,
Such as the slightest breath of air might
scatter;

With arch alacrity and conscious glee
(Nature may have her whim as well as
we,

¹ Robert Graham, of Fintry, Esq
one of the Commissioners of Excise.

Her Hogarth-art perhaps she meant to
 show it)
 She forms the thing, and christens it—
 a Poet,
 Creature, tho' oft the prey of care and
 sorrow,
 When blest to-day, unmindful of to-
 morrow.
 A being form'd t' amuse his graver
 friends,
 Admir'd and prais'd—and there the
 homage ends:
 A mortal quite unfit for Fortune's strife,
 Yet oft the sport of all the ills of life;
 Prone to enjoy each pleasure riches
 give,
 Yet haply wanting wherewithal to live:
 Longing to wipe each tear, to heal
 each groan,
 Yet frequent all unheeded in his own.
 But honest Nature is not quite a
 Turk,
 She laugh'd at first, then felt for her
 poor work.
 Pitying the propless climber of man-
 kind,
 She cast about a standard tree to find;
 And, to support his helpless woodbine-
 state,
 Attach'd him to the generous truly
 great,
 A title, and the only one I claim,
 To lay strong hold for help on bount'ous
 Graham.
 Pity the tuneless muses' hapless train,
 Weak, timid landsmen on life's stormy
 main!
 Their hearts no selfish stern absorbent
 stuff,
 That never gives—tho' humbly takes
 enough;
 The little fate allows, they share as
 soon,
 Unlike sage, proverb'd, wisdom's hard-
 wrung boon.
 The world were blest did bliss on them
 depend,
 Ah, that "the friendly e'er should want
 a friend!"
 Let prudence number o'er each sturdy
 son,
 Who life and wisdom at one race begun,
 Who feel by reason, and who give by
 rule,

(Instinct's a brute, and sentiment a
 fool!)
 Who make poor "will do" wait upon
 "I should"—
 We own they're prudent, but who feels
 they're good?
 Ye wise ones, hence! ye hurt the so-
 cial eye!
 God's image rudely etch'd on base
 alloy!
 But come ye, who the godlike pleasure
 know,
 Heaven's attribute distinguish'd — to
 bestow!
 Whose arms of love would grasp the
 human race:
 Come thou who giv'st with all a court-
 ier's grace;
 Friend of my life, true patron of my
 rhymes!
 Prop of my dearest hopes for future
 times.
 Why shrinks my soul half blushing,
 half afraid,
 Backward, abash'd to ask thy friendly
 aid?
 I know my need, I know thy giving
 hand,
 I crave thy friendship at thy kind com-
 mand;
 But there are such who court the tune-
 ful Nine—
 Heavens! should the branded character
 be mine!
 Whose verse in manhood's pride sub-
 limely flows,
 Yet vilest reptiles in their begging
 prose.
 Mark, how their lofty independent
 spirit
 Soars on the spurning wing of injur'd
 merit!
 Seek not the proofs in private life to
 find;
 Pity the best of words should be but
 wind!
 So, to heaven's gates the lark's shrill
 song ascends,
 But grovelling on the earth the carol
 ends.
 In all the clam'rous cry of starving
 want,
 They dun benevolence with shameless
 front;

Oblige them, patronise their tinsel lays,
 They persecute you all your future
 days!
 Ere my poor soul such deep damnation
 stain,
 My horny fist assume the plough again;
 The piebald jacket let me patch once
 more;
 On eighteen-pence a week I've liv'd
 before.
 Tho', thanks to Heaven, I dare e'en
 that last shift!
 I trust, meantime, my boon is in thy
 gift;
 That, plac'd by thee upon the wish'd-
 for height,
 Where, man and nature fairer in her
 sight,
 My muse may imp her wing for some
 sublimer flight.

TO ROBERT GRAHAM, OF
 FINTRY, ESQ.

LATE cripp'd of an arm, and now a
 leg,
 About to beg a pass for leave to beg;
 Dull, listless, teas'd, dejected, and de-
 pressed
 (Nature is adverse to a cripple's rest):
 Will generous Graham list to his Poet's
 wail?
 (It soothes poor Misery, heark'ning to
 her tale),
 And hear him curse the light he first
 survey'd,
 And doubly curse the luckless rhyming
 trade?
 Thou, Nature, partial Nature, I ar-
 raign;
 Of thy caprice maternal I complain.
 The lion and the bull thy care have
 found,
 One shakes the forests, and one spurns
 the ground:
 Thou giv'st the ass his hide, the snail
 his shell,
 Th' envenom'd wasp, victorious, guards
 his cell.—
 Thy minions, kings defend, controul,
 devour.

In all th' omnipotence of rule and
 power.
 Foxes and statesmen, subtle wiles en-
 sure;
 The cit and polecat stink, and are
 secure.
 Toads with their poison, doctors with
 their drug,
 The priest and hedgehog in their robes
 are snug.
 Ev'n silly woman has her warlike arts,
 Her tongue and eyes, her dreaded
 spear and darts.
 But oh! thou bitter step-mother and
 hard,
 To thy poor, fenceless, naked child—
 the Bard!
 A thing unteachable in world's skill,
 And half an idiot too, more helpless
 still.
 No heels to bear him from the op'ning
 dun;
 No claws to dig, his hated sight to
 shun;
 No horns, but those by luckless Hy-
 men worn,
 And those, alas! not Amalthea's horn:
 No nerves olfact'ry, Mammon's trusty
 cur,
 Clad in rich Dulness' comfortable
 fur;
 In naked feeling, and in aching pride,
 He bears th' unbroken blast from ev'ry
 side:
 Vampyre booksellers drain him to the
 heart,
 And scorpion critics cureless venom
 dart.
 Critics—appall'd I venture on the
 name,
 Those cut-throat bandits in the paths of
 fame:
 Bloody dissectors, worse than ten Mon-
 roes;—
 He hacks to teach, they mangle to
 expose.
 His heart by causeless, wanton ma-
 lice wrung,
 By blockheads' daring into madness
 stung;
 His well-won bays, than life-itself more
 dear,
 By miscreants torn, who ne'er one spring
 must wear.

Foul'd, bleeding, tortur'd in th' unequal
 strife,
 The hapless Poet flounders on thro' life.
 Till fled each hope that once his bosom
 fir'd,
 And fled each Muse that glorious once
 inspir'd,
 Low sunk in squalid, unprotected age,
 Dead, even resentment for his injur'd
 page,
 He heeds or feels no more the ruthless
 critic's rage?
 So, by some hedge, the generous
 steed deceas'd,
 For half-starv'd snarling curs a dainty
 feast,
 By toil and famine wore to skin and
 bone,
 Lies, senseless of each tugging bitch's
 son.
 O Dulness! portion of the truly
 blest!
 Calm shelter'd haven of eternal rest!
 Thy sons ne'er madden in the fierce
 extremes
 Of Fortune's polar frost, or torrid
 beams.
 If mantling high she fills the golden
 cup,
 With sober selfish ease they sip it up;
 Conscious the bounteous meed they
 well deserve,
 They only wonder "some folks" do
 not starve.
 The grave sage hern thus easy picks
 his frog,
 And thinks the mallard a sad worthless
 dog.
 When disappointment snaps the clue
 of hope,
 And thro' disastrous night they dark-
 ling grope,
 With deaf endurance sluggishly they
 bear,
 And just conclude that "fools are For-
 tune's care."
 So, heavy, passive to the tempest's
 shocks,
 Strong on the sign-post stands the stu-
 pid ox.
 Not so the idle Muses' mad-cap train,
 Not such the workings of their moon-
 struck brain:
 In equanimity they ever dwell,

By turns in soaring heav'n, or vaulted
 hell.
 I dread thee, Fate, relentless and se-
 vere,
 With all a poet's, husband's, father's
 fear!
 Already one stronghold of hope is lost,
 Glencairn, the truly noble, lies in dust;
 (Fled, like the sun eclips'd as noon
 appears,
 And left us dawning in a world of
 tears:)
 Oh! hear my ardent, grateful, selfish
 pray'r!
 Fintry, my other stay, long bless and
 spare!
 Thro' a long life his hopes and wishes
 crown,
 And bright in cloudless skies his sun
 go down!
 May bliss domestic smooth his private
 path;
 Give energy to life; and soothe his
 latest breath,
 With many a filial tear circling the bed
 of death!

LAMENT FOR JAMES, EARL OF GLENCAIRN.¹

THE wind blew hollow frae the hills,
 By fits the sun's departing beam

¹ "Had the wing of my fancy been equal to the ardour of my heart, the enclosed had been much more worthy your perusal: as it is, I beg leave to lay it at your ladyship's feet. As all the world knows my obligations to the late Earl of Glencairn, I would wish to show as openly that my heart glows, and shall ever glow, with the most grateful sense and remembrance of his lordship's goodness. The sables I did myself the honour to wear to his lordship's memory were not the 'mockery of woe.' Nor shall my gratitude perish with me:—If, among my children, I shall have a son that has a heart, he shall hand it down to his child as I

Look'd on the fading yellow woods
That wav'd o'er Lugar's winding
stream :

Beneath a craigy steep, a Bard,
Laden with years and meikle pain,
In loud lament bewail'd his lord,
Whom death had all untimely ta'en.

He lean'd him to an ancient aik,¹
Whose trunk was mould'ring down
with years ;

His locks were bleached white with
time,

His hoary cheek was wet wi' tears ;
And as he touch'd his trembling harp,
And as he tun'd his doleful sang,
The winds, lamenting thro' their caves,
To echo bore the notes along.

"Ye scatter'd birds that faintly sing,
The reliques of the vernal quire !

Ye woods that shed on a' the winds
The honours of the aged year !

A few short months, and glad and gay,
Again ye'll charm the ear and e'e ;

But nocht² in all revolving time
Can gladness bring again to me.

"I am a bending aged tree,
That long has stood the wind and
rain ;

But now has come a cruel blast,
And my last hold of earth is gane :

Nae leaf o' mine shall greet the spring,
Nae simmer sun exalt my bloom ;

But I maun lie before the storm,
And ithers³ plant them in my room.

"I've seen sae mony changefu' years,
On earth I am a stranger grown ;

I wander in the ways of men,
Alike unknowing and unknown ;

family honour and a family debt, that my dearest existance I owe to the noble house of Glencairn ! I was about to say, my lady, that if you think the poem may venture to see the light, I would, in some way or other, give it to the world."—Lord Glencairn died January 30, 1791, and Burns sent the "Lament" to the Earl's sister, Lady Elizabeth Cunningham, with a letter, of which the above passage is an extract.

¹ Oak. ² Nought. ³ Others.

Unheard, unpitied, unreliev'd,
I bear alane my lade o' care,
For silent, low, on beds of dust,
Lie a' that would my sorrows share.

"And last (the sum of a' my griefs !)
My noble master lies in clay ;
The flow'r amang our barons bold,
His country's pride, his country's
stay :

In weary being now I pine,
For a' the life of life is dead,
And hope has left my aged ken,
On forward wing for ever fled.

"Awake thy last sad voice, my harp !
The voice of woe and wild despair !

Awake, resound thy latest lay,
Then sleep in silence evermair !
And thou, my last, best, only friend,
That fillest an untimely tomb,
Accept this tribute from the Bard
Thou brought from fortune's mirkest⁴
gloom.

"In Poverty's low barren vale
Thick mists, obscure, involv'd me
round ;

Though oft I turn'd the wistful eye,
No ray of fame was to be found :
Thou found'st me, like the morning sun
That melts the fogs in limpid air,
The friendless Bard, and rustic song,
Became alike thy fostering care.

"Oh ! why has worth so short a date ?
While villains ripen grey with time

Must thou, the noble, gen'rous, great,
Fall in bold manhood's hardy prime ?

Why did I live to see that day—
A day to me so full of woe ?

O ! had I met the mortal shaft
Which laid my benefactor low !

"The bridegroom may forget the bride
Was made his wedded wife yestreen

The monarch may forget the crown
That on his head an hour has been ;

The mother may forget the child
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee

But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,
And a' that thou hast done for me !"

⁴ Darkest.

LINES, SENT TO SIR JOHN
WHITEFORD, OF WHITEFORD,
BART.,¹ WITH THE FOREGO-
ING POEM.

THOU, who thy honour as thy God
rever'st,
Who, save thy mind's reproach, nought
earthly fear'st,
To thee this votive off'ring I impart,
The tearful tribute of a broken heart.
The Friend thou valued'st, I the Patron
lov'd ;
His worth, his honour, all the world
approv'd.
We'll mourn till we too go as he has
gone,
And tread the dreary path to that dark
world unknown.

TAM O' SHANTER.²

A TALE.

Brown'is and of Bogilis full is this
Buke.—*Gawin Douglas.*

WHEN chapman billies leave the street,
And drouthy neebors, neebors meet,
As market-days are wearing late,
An' folk begin to tak the gate ;

¹ An early friend of Burns', who gratefully acknowledged his interest in his fate as a man, and his fame as a poet.

² This poem was written to illustrate a drawing of Alloway Kirk, by Captain Grose, in whose "Antiquities of Scotland" it was published. The poet versified the chief circumstances of the historical story. Gilbert Burns specifies those of "a man riding home very late from Ayr in a stormy night, his seeing a light in Alloway Kirk, his having the curiosity to look in, his seeing a dance of witches with the Devil playing on the bagpipe to them, the warty covering of one of the witches, which made him so far forget himself

While we sit bousing at the nappy,⁴
An' getting fou and unco happy,
We thinkna on the lang Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps, and sriles,
That lie between us and our hame,
Whare sits our sulky sullen dame,
Gath'ring her brows like gath'ring
storm,
Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.

This truth fand honest Tam O'
Shanter,
As he frae Ayr ae night did canter
(Auld Ayr, wham ne'er a town sur-
passes,
For honest men and bonnie lasses)

O Tam ! hadst thou but been sae wise,
As ta'en thy ain wife Kate's advice !
She tauld thee weel thou wast a
skellum,²

A blethering, blustering, drunken blel-
lum ;³

That frae November till October,
Ae market-day thou was nae sober ;
That ilka melder,⁴ wi' the miller,
Thou sat as lang as thou had siller ;
That ev'ry naig was ca'd a shoe on,
The smith and thee gat roaring fou on ;
That at the Lord's house, ev'n on
Sunday,
Thou drank wi' Kirkton⁵ Jean till
Monday.

She prophesy'd that, late or soon,
Thou would be found deep drown'd in
Doon ;

Or catch'd wi' warlocks⁶ i' the mirk,⁷
By Alloway's auld haunted kirk.

Ah, gentle dames ! it gars me greet,⁸
To think how many counsels sweet,
How many lengthen'd, sage advices,
The husband frae the wife despises !

as to cry—"Weel loup'en, short sark !
with the melancholy catastrophe of
the piece." The poet has given a fuller
and racier description of the original
scene in a letter to Grose.

¹ Ale. ² Worthless fellow.

³ Idle talker.

⁴ Every time that corn was sent to
be ground.

⁵ Kirkton is the distinctive name of a
village in which the parish kirk stands.

⁶ Wizards.

⁷ Park.

⁸ Makes me weep.

Bu. to our tale : Ae market night,
 I am had got planted unco right ;
 Fast by an ingle, bleezing finely,
 Wi' reaming swats,¹ that drank di-
 vinely ;

And at his elbow, Souter Johnny,
 His ancient, trusty, drouthy crony ;
 Tam lo'ed him like a vera brither ;
 They had been fou for weeks thegither.
 The night drave on wi' sangs and clatter ;
 And ay the ale was growing better :
 The landlady and Tam grew gracious,
 Wi' favours, secret, sweet, and precious :
 The souter² tauld his queerest stories ;
 The landlord's laugh was ready chorus ;
 The storm without might rair and rustle,
 Tam did na mind the storm a whistle.

Care, mad to see a man sae happy,
 E'en drown'd himself amang the nappy !
 As bees flee hame wi' lades o' treasure,
 The minutes wing'd their way wi'
 pleasure :

Kings may be blest, but Tam was
 glorious,

O'er a' the ills o' life victorious !

But pleasures are like poppies spread,
 You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed ;
 Or like the snow falls in the river,
 A moment white—then melts for ever ;
 Or like the borealis race,
 That flit ere you can point their place :
 Or like the rainbow's lovely form
 Evanishing amid the storm.

Nae man can tether time or tide ;—
 The hour approaches Tam maun ride ;
 That hour, o' night's black arch the
 key-stane,

That dreary hour he mounts his beast in ;
 And sic a night he taks the road in,
 As ne'er poor sinner was abroad in.

The wind blew as 'twad blawn its
 last ;

The rattling show'rs rose on the blast ;
 The speedy gleams the darkness swal-
 low'd ;

Loud, deep, and lang, the thunder bel-
 low'd :

That night, a child might understand,
 The Deil had business on his hand.

Weel mounted on his grey mare, Meg,
 A better never lifted leg,

Tam skelpit¹ on thro' dub and mire,
 Despising wind, and rain, and fire ;
 Whiles holding fast his gude blue bon-
 net ;

Whiles crooning o'er some auld Scot-
 sonnet ;

Whiles glow'ring round wi' prudent
 cares,

Lest bogles catch him unawares ;
 Kirk Alloway was drawing nigh,
 Where ghaists and houlets nightly cry.

By this time he was cross the ford,
 Where in the snaw the chapman
 smoor'd ;²

And past the birks³ and meikle⁴ stane,
 Where drunken Charlie brak's neck-
 bane ;

And thro' the whins, and by the cairn,
 Where hunters fand the murder'd
 bairn ;

And near the thorn, aboon the well,
 Where Mungo's mither hang'd hersel.
 Before him Doon pours all his floods ;
 The doubling storm roars thro' the
 woods ;

The lightnings flash from pole to pole ;
 Near and more near the thunders roll ;
 When, glimmering thro' the groaning
 trees,

Kirk Alloway seem'd in a bleeze ;
 Thro' ilka bore⁵ the beams were glanc-
 ing ;

And loud resounded mirth and dancing.
 Inspiring bold John Barleycorn !
 What dangers thou canst make us
 scorn !

Wi' tippenny, we fear nae evil ;
 Wi' usquebae, we'll face the Devil !
 The swats sae ream'd in Tammie's
 noddle,

Fair play, he car'd na deils a boudle.
 But Maggie stood right sair astonish'd,
 Till, by the heel and hand admonish'd,
 She ventur'd forward on the light ;

And, wow ! Tam saw an unco sight !
 Warlocks and witches in a dance ;
 Nae cotillion brent new frae France,
 But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and
 reels,

Put life and mettle in their heels.

¹ Frothing ale.

² Shoemaker.

¹ Went at a smart pace. ² Smothered
³ Birches. ⁴ Big. ⁵ Hole in the wall

At wunock-bunker¹ in the east,
There sat auld Nick, in shape o' beast;
A towzie² tyke, black, grim, and large,
I'o gie them music was his charge:
He screw'd the pipes and gart³ them
skirl,⁴

Till roof and rafters a' did dirl.—
Coffins stood round, like open presses,
That shaw'd the dead in their last
dresses;

And by some devilish cantrip⁵ slight
Each in its cauld hand held a light,—
By which heroic Tam was able
To note upon the haly table,
A murderer's banes in gibbet airns;⁶
Twa span-lang, wee, unchristen'd
bairns;

A thief, new-cuttet frae a rape,
Wi' his last gasp his gab did gape;
Five tomahawks, wi' blude red rusted;
Five scymitars, wi' murder crusted;
A garter, which a babe had strangled;
A knife, a father's throat had mangled,
Whom his ain son o' life bereft,
The grey hairs yet stack to the heft;
Wi' mair o' horrible and awfu',
Which ev'n to name wad be unlawfu'.

As Tammie glow'r'd, amaz'd and
curious,
The mirth and fun grew fast and furious:
The piper loud and louder blew;
The dancers quick and quicker flew;
They reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they
cleekit,

Till ilka carlin swat and reekit,
And coost her duddies⁷ to the wark,
And linket⁸ at it in her sark!

Now Tam, O Tam! had thae been
queans

A' plump and strapping in their teens;
Their sarks, instead o' creeshie⁹ flannen,
Been snaw-white seventeen-hunder
linnen!¹⁰

Thir¹¹ breaks o' mine, my only pair,
That ance were plush, o' gude blue hair,

I wad hae gi'en them off my hurdies,¹
For ae blink o' the bonnie burdies!

But wither'd beldams, auld and droll,
Rigwoodie hags, wad spean a foal,
Lowing and flinging on a crummock,²
I wonder didna turn thy stomach.

But Tam kend what was what fu'
brawlie,
"There was ae winsome wench and
walie,"

That night enlisted in the core,
(Lang after kend on Carrick shore;
For mony a beast to dead she shot,
And perish'd mony a bonnie boat,
And shook baith meikle corn and bear,³
And kept the country-side in fear,)
Her cutty⁴ sark, o' Paisley harn,⁵
That, while a lassie, she had worn,
In longitude tho' sorely scanty,
It was her best, and she was vauntie.—
Ah! little kend thy reverend grannie,
That sark she coft⁶ for her wee Nannie,
Wi' twa pund Scots, ('twas a' her
riches,)

Wad ever grac'd a dance of witches!
But here my muse her wing maun
cour;

Sic flights are far beyond her pow'r;
To sing how Nannie lap and flang
(A souple jade she was, and strang),
And how Tam stood, like ane bewitch'd,
And thought his very e'en enrich'd;
Even Satan glow'r'd, and fidg'd fu' fain,
And hotch'd and blew wi' might and
main:

Till first ae caper, syne⁷ anither,
Tam tint⁸ his reason a' thegither,
And roars out, "Weel done, Cutty-
sark!"

And in an instant all was dark;
And scarcely had he Maggie rallied,
When out the hellish legion sallied.

As bees bizz out wi' angry fyke,⁹
When plundering herds assail their
byke;¹⁰

As open pussie's mortal foes,
When, pop! she starts before their nose;
As eager runs the market-crowd,

¹ Window-seat.

² Shaggy.

³ Forced.

⁴ Scream.

⁵ Magic.

⁶ Irons.

⁷ Clothes.

⁸ Tripped along.

⁹ Greasy.

¹⁰ The manufacturing term for a fine
inen, woven in a reed of 1700 divisions.

—Cromel.

¹¹ These.

¹ Loins.

² Short staff.

³ Barley.

⁴ Short.

⁵ Very coarse linen.

⁶ Bought

⁷ Then. ⁸ Lost. ⁹ Bustle. ¹⁰ Hive

When, "Catch the thief!" resounds
aloud;

So Maggie runs, the witches follow,
Wi' moniean eldritch skreech and hol-
low.

Ah, Tam! ah, Tam! thou'll get thy
fairin!

In hell they'll roast thee like a herrin!
In vain thy Kate awaits thy comin!
Kate soon will be a woefu' woman!
Now, do thy speedy utmost, Meg,
And win the key-stane¹ of the brig;
I here at them thou thy tail may toss,
A running stream they dare na cross,
But ere the key-stane she could make,
The fiend a tail she had to shake!
For Nannie, far before the rest,
Hard upon noble Maggie prest,
And flew at Tam wi' furious ettle;²
But little wist she Maggie's mettle—
Ae spring brought off her master hale,
But left behind her ain gray tail:
The carlin clauight her by the rump,
And left poor Maggie scarce a stump.

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,
Ilk man and mother's son, tak heed;
Whene'er to drink you are inclin'd,
Or cutty-sarks run in your mind,
Think, ye may buy the joys o'er dear,
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.

STANZAS

INTENDED TO BE WRITTEN BELOW
THE PICTURE OF A NOBLE EARL.³

(WRITTEN IN 1787.)

WHOSE is that noble, dauntless brow?
And whose that eye of fire?

¹ It is a well-known fact, that witches, or any evil spirits, have no power to follow a poor wight any farther than the middle of the next running stream. It may be proper likewise to mention to the benighted traveller, that when he falls in with bogles, whatever danger may be in his going forward, there is much more hazard in turning back.—
R. B.

² Effort.

³ The Earl of Glencairn, a kind patron

And whose that generous princely mien,
Ev'n rooted foes admire?

Stranger, to justly show that brow,
And mark that eye of fire,
Would take *his* hand, whose vernal
tints

His other works inspire.

Bright as a cloudless summer sun,
With stately port he moves;
His guardian seraph eyes with awe
The noble ward he loves.

Among th' illustrious Scottish sons
That chief thou mayst discern;
Mark Scotia's fond returning eye—
It dwells upon Glencairn.

ON THE LATE CAPTAIN GROSE'S PEREGRINATIONS THROUGH SCOTLAND, COL- LECTING THE ANTIQUITIES OF THAT KINGDOM.

HEAR, Land o' Cakes, and brither
Scots,

Frae Maidenkirke to Johnny Groat's;—
If there's a hole in a' your coats,

I rede you tent it:¹

A chield's amang you, taking notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it.

If in your bounds ye chance to light
Upon a fine, fat, fodge² wight,

O' stature short, but genius bright,
That's he, mark weel—

And wow! he has an unco slight
O' cauk and keel.³

By some auld, houlet-haunted biggin,⁴
Or kirk deserted by its riggin,

It's ten to ane ye'll find him snug in
Some eldritch part,

of Burns. See the poet's "Lament,"
p. 89.

¹ I advise you to look to it.

² Plump. ³ Chalk and red clay.

⁴ Building.—Vide his "Antiquities
of Scotland"—R. B.

Wi' deils, they say, Lord safe's! col-
leaguin

At some black art.—

Ilk ghaist that haunts auld ha' or
chamer,

Ye gipsy-gang that deal in glamor,
And you deep read in hell's black
grammar,

Warlocks and witches;

Ye'll quake at his conjuring hammer,
Ye midnight bitches.

It's tauld he was a sodger bred,
And anc wad rather fa'n than fled;

But now he's quat¹ the spurtle-blade,
And dog-skin wallet,

And ta'en the—Antiquarian trade,
I think they call it.

He has a fouth² o' auld nick-nackets;
Rusty aim caps and jinglin jackets,³
Wad haud the Lothians three in tack-
ets,⁴

A towmont⁵ gude,

And parritch-pats, and auld saut-back-
ets,

Before the Flood.

Of Eve's first fire he has a cinder;
Auld 'I ubalcain's fire-shool and fender;
That which distinguished the gender

O' Balaam's ass;

A broom-stick o' the witch of Endor,
Weel shod wi' brass.

Forbye, he'll shape you aff, fu' gleg,
The cut of Adam's philibeg;

The knife that nicket Abel's craig
He'll prove you fully,

It was a faulding joctelg,⁶

Or lang-kail gullie.⁷—

But wad ye see him in his glee—
For meikle glee and fun has he,—
Then set him down, and twa or three

Gude fellows wi' him;

And port, O port! shine thou a wee,
And then ye'll see him!

Now, by the Pow'r's o' verse and prose!
Thou art a dainty chiel, O Grose!—

Whae'er o' thee shall ill suppose,

They sair misca' thee;

I'd take the rascal by the nose,

Wad say, Shame fa' thee!

ON SEEING A WOUNDED HARE
LIMP BY ME, WHICH A FEL-
LOW HAD JUST SHOT AT.¹

April, 1789.

INHUMAN man! curse on thy barb'rous
art,

And blasted be thy murder-aiming
eye;

May never pity soothe thee with a
sigh,

Nor ever pleasure glad thy cruel heart!

Go, live, poor wanderer of the wood
and field,

The bitter little that of life remains;
No more the thickening brakes and
verdant plains

To thee shall home, or food, or pas-
time yield.

Seek, mangled wretch, some place of
wonted rest,

No more of rest, but now thy dying
bed!

The sheltering rushes whistling o'er
thy head,

The cold earth with thy bloody bosom
prest.

Of't as by winding nith, I, musing, wait
The sober eve, or hail the cheerful
dawn,

¹ I have just put the last hand to a little poem, which I think will be something to your taste. One morning lately as I was out pretty early in the fields sowing some grass seeds, I heard the burst of a shot from a neighbouring plantation, and presently a poor little wounded hare came crippling by me.—R. B.

¹ Has quitted. ² Plenty.

³ Vide his "Treatise on Ancient Armour and Weapons."—R. B.

⁴ Na'ts. ⁵ A twelvemonth.

⁶ Clasp-knife. ⁷ Large knife.

I'll miss thee sporting o'er the dewy lawn,
And curse the ruffian's aim, and mourn
thy hapless fate.

ADDRESS TO THE SHADE OF
THOMSON, ON CROWNING
HIS BUST AT EDNAM, ROXBURGHSHIRE, WITH BAYS.

WHILE virgin Spring, by Eden's flood,
Unfolds her tender mantle green,
Or pranks the sod in frolic mood,
Or tunes Æolian strains between :

While Summer, with a matron grace,
Retreats to Dryburgh's cooling shade,
Yet oft, delighted, stops to trace
The progress of the spiky blade :

While Autumn, benefactor kind,
By Tweed erects his aged head,
And sees, with self-approving mind,
Each creature on his bounty fed :

While maniac Winter rages o'er
The hills whence classic Yarrow
flows,

Rousing the turbid torrent's roar,
Or sweeping, wild, a waste of
snows :—

So long, sweet Poet of the year,
Shall bloom that wreath thou well
hast won ;

While Scotia, with exulting tear,
Proclaims that Thomson was her son.

TO MISS CRUIKSHANK, A
VERY YOUNG LADY; WRIT-
TEN ON THE BLANK LEAF
OF A BOOK PRESENTED TO
HER BY THE AUTHOR.

BEAUTEOUS rose-bud, young and gay,
Blooming in thy early May,¹

¹ The "dear little Jeanie" of one of his letters; her father was a Master in the High School at Edinburgh.

Never may'st thou, lovely Flow'r,
Chilly shrink in sleety show'r !
Never Boreas' hoary path,
Never Eurus' pois'nous breath,
Never baleful stellar lights,
Taint thee with untimely blights !
Never, never reptile thief
Riot on thy virgin leaf !
Nor even Sol too fiercely view
Thy bosom blushing still with dew !
May'st thou long, sweet crimson
gem,

Richly deck thy native stem ;
Till some ev'ning, sober, calm,
Dropping dews, and breathing balm,
While all around the woodland rings,
And ev'ry bird thy requiem sings,
Thou, amid the dirgeful sound,
Shed thy dying honours round,
And resign to parent earth
The loveliest form she e'er gave birth.

ON READING, IN A NEWSPA-
PER, THE DEATH OF JOHN
M'LEOD, ESQ., BROTHER TO
A YOUNG LADY, A PARTI-
CULAR FRIEND OF THE AU-
THOR.

SAD thy tale, thou idle page,
And rueful thy alarms :
Death tears the brother of her love
From Isabella's arms.

Sweetly deckt with pearly dew,
The morning rose may blow ;
But cold successive noontide blasts
May lay its beauties low.

Fair on Isabella's morn
The sun propitious smil'd ;
But, long ere noon, succeeding clouds
Succeeding hopes beguil'd.

Fate oft tears the bosom chords,
That Nature finest strung ;
So Isabella's heart was form'd,
And so that heart was wrung.

Dread Omnipotence, alone,
Can heal the wound He gave ;

Can point the brimful grief-worn eyes
 To scenes beyond the grave.
 Virtue's blossoms there shall blow,
 And fear no withering blast ;
 There Isabella's spotless worth
 Shall happy be at last.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF
 BRUAR WATER¹ TO THE
 NOBLE DUKE OF ATHOLE.

My Lord, I know your noble ear
 Woe ne'er assails in vain ;
 Embolden'd thus, I beg you'll hear
 Your humble slave complain,
 How saucy Phœbus' scorching beams,
 In flaming summer-pride,
 Dry-withering waste my foamy streams
 And drink my crystal tide.

The lightly-jumping glowrin trouts,
 That thro' my waters play,
 If, in their random, wanton spouts,
 They near the margin stray ;
 If, hapless chance ! they linger lang,
 I'm scorching up so shallow,
 They're left thewhitening stanes amang,
 In gasping death to wallow.

Last day I grat² wi' spite and teen,
 As Poet Burns came by,
 That to a Bard I should be seen
 Wi' half my channel dry :
 A panegyric rhyme, I ween,
 Even as I was he shor'd³ me ;
 But had I in my glory been,
 He, kneeling, wad ador'd me.

Here, foaming down the shelvy rocks,
 In twisting strength I rin ;
 There, high my boiling torrent smokes,
 Wild-roarin o'er a linn :
 Enjoying large each spring and well
 As Nature gave them me,
 I am, altho' I say't mysel,
 Worth gaun⁴ a mile to see.

¹ Bruar Falls, in Athole, are exceedingly picturesque and beautiful ; but their effect is much impaired by the want of trees and shrubs.—R. B.

² Wept. ³ Offered. ⁴ Going.

Would then my noble master please
 To grant my highest wishes,
 He'll shade my banks wi' tow'ring
 trees,
 And bonnie spreading bushes.
 Delighted doubly then, my Lord,
 You'll wander on my banks,
 And listen mony a grateful bird
 Return you tuneful thanks.

The sober laverock, warbling wild,
 Shall to the skies aspire ;
 The gowdspink, Music's gayest child,
 Shall sweetly join the choir :
 The blackbird strong, the lintwhite
 clear,

The mavis mild and mellow ;
 The robin pensive Autumn cheer,
 In all her locks of yellow :

This, too, a covert shall ensure,
 To shield them from the storm ;
 And coward maukin¹ sleep secure,
 Low in her grassy form :

Here shall the shepherd make his seat,
 To weave his crown of flow'rs ;
 Or find a sheltering safe retreat,
 From prone-descending show'rs.

And here, by sweet endearing stealth,
 Shall meet the loving pair,
 Despising worlds with all their wealth
 As empty, idle care :
 The flow'rs shall vie in all their charms
 The hour of heav'n to grace,
 And birks extend their fragrant arms,
 To screen the dear embrace.

Here haply too, at vernal dawn,
 Some musing bard may stray,
 And eye the smoking, dewy lawn,
 And misty mountain, grey ;
 Or, by the reaper's nightly beam,
 Mild-chequering thro' the trees,
 Rave to my darkly dashing stream,
 Hoarse-swelling on the breeze.

Let lofty firs, and ashes cool,
 My lowly banks o'erspread,
 And view, deep-bending in the pool,
 Their shadows' wat'ry bed !
 Let fragrant birks in woodbines dress
 My craggy cliffs adorn ;
 And, for the little songster's nest,
 The close embow'ring thorn.

¹ Hare.

So may Old Scotia's darling hope,
 Your little angel band,
 Spring, like their fathers, up to prop
 Their honour'd native land !
 So may thro' Albion's farthest ken,
 To social-flowing glasses,
 The grace be—"Athole's honest men,
 And Athole's bonny lasses !"

LAMENT ON FERGUSSON.¹

(WRITTEN IN 1792.—INSCRIBED BY
 THE POET ON A COPY OF THE
 PERIODICAL CALLED "THE WORLD.")

ILL-FATED genius! Heav'n-taught
 Fergusson!

What heart that feels, and will not
 yield a tear,
 To think life's sun did set, ere well begun
 To shed its influence on thy bright
 career.

Oh, why should truest worth and genius
 pine
 Beneath the iron grasp of Want and
 Woe,

¹ This was Robert Fergusson, the lyric poet, who was born at Edinburgh about 1750, and died in 1774. He was buried in Canongate churchyard, Edinburgh, where his friend Burns erected a monument to his memory. His poems, written in the Scottish dialect, and originally published in Ruddiman's "Weekly Magazine," possess considerable merit. His talents and conversational powers rendered his company extremely attractive; and the excesses into which he was led impaired his constitution, and eventually rendered him the inmate of a lunatic asylum, where he died at the early age of twenty-four. That Burns held him in great esteem is evident from what he says in the preface to the first edition of his works:—"To the genius of a Ramsay or the glorious dawns of the poor unfortunate Fergusson, he, with equal unaffected sincerity, declares that, even in his highest pulse of vanity, he has not the most distant pretension."

While titled knaves and idiot greatness
 shine
 In all the splendour Fortune can
 bestow!

WHEN GUILFORD GOOD OUR PILOT STOOD.

A FRAGMENT.

TUNE—"GIL-LICRANKIE."

WHEN Guilford good our Pilot stood,
 An' did our hellim thraw, man,
 Ae night, at tea, began a plea,
 Within America, man:
 Then up they gat the maskin-pat,¹
 And in the sea did jaw,² man;
 An' did nae less, in full Congress,
 Than quite refuse our law, man.

Then thro' the lakes Montgomery take,
 I wat he was na slaw, man;
 Down Lowrie's burn he took a turn,
 And Carleton did ca', man:
 But yet, what-reck, he, at Quebec,
 Montgomery like did fa', man,
 Wi' sword in hand, before his band,
 Among his en'mies a', man.

Poor Tammy Gage, within a cage
 Was kept at Boston ha', man;
 Till Willie Howe took o'er the knowe
 For Philadelphia, man:
 Wi' sword an' gun he thought a sin
 Guid Christian bluid to draw, man;
 But at New York, wi' knife an' fork,
 Sir-loin he hacked sma', man.

Burgoyne gaed up, like spur an' whip
 Till Fraser brave did fa', man;
 Then lost his way, ae misty day,
 In Saratoga shaw, man.

¹ Tea-pot.

² Jerk. The English Parliament having imposed an excise duty upon tea imported into North America, the East India Company sent several ships laden with that article to Boston, and the natives went on board by force of arms and emptied the cargo into the sea.

Cornwall¹ fought as lang's he dought,¹
 An' did the buckskins claw, man ;
 But Clinton's glaive frae rust to save,
 He hung it to the wa', man.

Then Montague, an' Guilford too,
 Began to fear a fa', man ;
 And Sackville doure, wha stood the
 stoure,

The German Chief to thraw, man :
 For Paddy Burke, like ony Turk,
 Nae mercy had at a', man ;
 An' Charlie Fox threw by the box,
 An' lows'd his tinkler² jaw, man.

Then Rockingham took up the game ;
 Till death did on him ca', man :
 When Shelburne meek held up his cheek,
 Conform to Gospel law, man ;
 Saint Stephen's boys, wi' jarring noise,
 They did his measures thraw, man ;
 For North an' Fox united stocks,
 An' bore him to the wa', man

Then Clubs an' Hearts were Charlie's
 cartes,

He swept the stakes awa', man,
 Till the Diamond's Ace, of Indian race,
 Led him a sair faux pas, man :
 The Saxon lads, wi' loud placads,
 On Chatham's boy did ca', man ;
 An' Scotland drew her pipe, an' blew,
 "Up, Willie, waur them a', man !"

Behind the throne then Grenville's gone,
 A secret word or twa, man ;
 While sleet Dundas arous'd the class
 Be-north the Roman wa', man :
 An' Chatham's wraith, in heavenly
 graith

(Inspired Bardies saw, man),
 Wi' kindling eyes cry'd, "Willie, rise !
 Would I hae fear'd them a', man ?"

But, word an' blow, North, Fox, and Co.,
 Gowff'd³ Willie like a ba', man,
 Till Suthrons raise, an' coost their
 claise

Behind him in a raw, man ;
 An' Caledon threw by the drone,
 An' did her whittle draw, man ;
 An' swoor fu' rude, thro' dirt an' bluid,
 To make it guid in law, man.

* * * * *

MY TOCHER'S THE JEWEL.

O MEIKLE thinks my luvè o' my beauty,
 And meikle thinks my luvè o' my kin ;
 But little thinks my luvè I ken brawlie
 My Tocher's the jewel has charms
 for him.

It's a' for the apple he'll nourish the tree ;
 It's a' for the hiney he'll cherish the
 bee ;

My laddie's sae meikle in luvè wi' the
 siller,
 He canna hae luvè to spare for me.

Your proffer o' luvè's an air-penny,
 My Tocher's the bargain you wad
 buy ;

But an ye be crafty, I am cunnin',
 Sae ye wi' anither your fortune maun
 try.

Ye're like to the timmer o' yon rotten
 wood,

Ye're like to the bark o' yon rotten
 tree,

Ye'll slip frae me like a knotless thread,
 And ye'll crack your credit wi' mae
 nor me.

ADDRESS TO THE TOOTH- ACHE; WRITTEN WHEN THE AUTHOR WAS GRIEVOUSLY TORMENTED BY THAT DIS- ORDER.

My curse upon thy venom'd stang,
 That shoots my tortur'd gums along ;
 And thro' my lugs¹ gies monie a twang,
 Wi' gnawing vengeance ;

Tearing my nerves wi' bitter pang,
 Like racking engines !

When fevers burn, or ague freezes,
 Rheumatics gnaw, or cholick squeezes ;
 Our neighbour's sympathy may ease us
 Wi' pitying moan ;

But thee—thou hell o' a' diseases,
 Aye mocks our groan !

¹ Ears.

¹ He was able. ² Tinker. ³ Struck.

Adown my beard the slavers trickle !
 I kick the wee stools o'er the mickle,
 As round the fire the giglets¹ keckle
 To see me loup ;
 While, raving mad, I wish a heckle
 Were in their doup.

O' a' the num'rous human dools,²
 Ill har'sts, daft bargains, cutty-stools,
 Or worthy friends rak'd i' the mools,³
 Sad sight to see !
 The tricks o' knaves, or fash⁴ o' fools,
 Thou bear'st the gree.⁵

Where'er that place be priests ca' hell,
 Whence a' the tones o' mis'ry yell,
 And ranked plagues their numbers tell,
 In dreadfu' raw,⁶
 Thou, Tooth-ache, surely bear'st the bell
 Among them a' !

O thou grim mischief-making chiel,
 That gars the notes of discord squeel,
 Till daft mankind aft dance a reel
 In gore a shoe-thick ;—
 Gie a' the faes o' Scotland's weal
 A towmond's Tooth-ache !

ON THE BIRTH OF A POST-
 HUMOUS CHILD, BORN IN
 PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES
 OF FAMILY DISTRESS.⁷

SWEET flow'ret, pledge o' meikle love,
 And ward o' mony a prayer,

¹ Young girls. ² Griefs. ³ Clods.

⁴ Care. ⁵ The palm. ⁶ Row.

⁷ "As cold waters to a thirsty soul,
 so is good news from a far country."
 Fate has long owed me a letter of good
 news from you, in return for the many
 tidings of sorrow which I have received.
 In this instance I most cordially obey
 the Apostle—"Rejoice with them that
 do rejoice"—for me to *sing* for joy is
 no new thing ; but to *preach* for joy,
 as I have done in the commencement
 of this epistle, is a pitch of extravagant
 rapture to which I never rose before.
 I read your letter—I literally jumped
 for joy—how could such a mercurial

What heart o' stane wad thou na move
 Sae helpless, sweet, and fair.

November hirlples¹ o'er the lea,
 Chill on thy lovely form ;
 And gane, alas ! the shelt'ring tree
 Should shield thee frae the storm.

May He, who gives the rain to pour,
 And wings the blast to blow,
 Protect thee frae the driving show'r,
 The bitter frost and snaw.

May He, the friend of woe and want,
 Who heals life's various stounds,²
 Protect and guard the mother plant,
 And heal her cruel wounds.

But late she flourish'd, rooted fast,
 Fair on the summer morn :
 Now, feebly bends she in the blast,
 Unshelter'd and forlorn.

Blest be thy bloom, thou lovely gem
 Unscath'd by ruffian hand !
 And from thee many a parent stem
 Arise to deck our land.

WRITTEN WITH A PENCIL,
 STANDING BY THE FALL OF
 FYERS, NEAR LOCH-NESS.

AMONG the heathy hills and ragged
 woods
 The roaring Fyers pours his mossy
 floods,

creature as a poet lumpishly keep his
 seat on the receipt of the best news
 from his best friend ? I seized my gilt-
 headed wangee rod, an instrument in-
 dispensably necessary, in my left hand
 in the moment of inspiration and rap-
 ture ; and stride, stride—quick and
 quicker—out skipped I among the
 broomy banks of Nith, to muse over
 my joy by retail. To keep within the
 bounds of prose was impossible. Mrs
 Little's is a more elegant, but not a
 more sincere compliment to the sweet
 little fellow than I, *extempore* almost,
 poured out to him, in the following
 verses."—BURNS to Mrs. Dunlop, Nov
 1790. ¹ Creeps. ² Heart-pangs

Fill full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
Where, thro' a shapeless breach, his
stream resounds.

As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
As deep recoiling surges foam below,
Prone down the rock the whitening
sheet descends,
And viewless Echo's ear, astonish'd,
rends.

Dim-seen, thro' rising mists, and cease-
less show'rs,

The hoary cavern, wide-surrounding,
low'rs.

Still, thro' the gap the struggling river
toils,

And still, below, the horrid cauldron
boils—

* * * * *

SECOND EPISTLE TO DAVIE, A BROTHER POET.

AULD NEIBOR,

I'm three times, doubly, o'er your debtor,
For your auld-farrant,¹ frien'ly letter;
Tho' I maun say't, I doubt ye flatter,

Ye speak sae fair,
For my puir, silly, rhymin clatter
Some less maun sair.²

Hale be your heart, hale be your
fiddle;

Lang may your elbuck³ jink and did-
dle,

Tae cheer you thro' the weary widdle
O' war'ly cares,

Til' bairns' bairns kindly cuddle
Your auld, gray hairs.

But Davie, lad, I'm red ye'er glaikit;⁴
I'm tauld the Muse ye hae negleckit;
An' gif it's sae, ye sud be licket

Until ye fyke;
Sic hauns as you sud ne'er be faiket,⁵
Be hain't⁶ wha like.

For me, I'm on Parnassus' brink,
Kivin' the words tae gar them clink;

¹ Sagacious. ² Serve. ³ Elbow.
⁴ Inattentive. ⁵ Unknown. ⁶ Spared.

Whyles daez't wi' love, whyles u-ez't
wi' drink,

Wi' jads or masons;
An' whyles, but aye owre late, I think
Braw sober lessons.

Of a' the thoughtless sons o' man,
Commen' me to the Bardie clan;
Except it be some idle plan

O' rhymin clink,
The devil-haet, that I sud ban,¹
They ever thirk.

Nae thought, nae view, nae schem
o' livin',

Nae cares tae gie us joy or grievin';
But just the pouchie put the nieve in,

An' while ought's there,
Then hiltie, skiltie, we gae scrievin',
An' fash nae mair.

Leeze me on rhyme!² it's aye a trea-
sure,

My chief, amaist my only pleasure,
At home, a-fiel', at wark, or leisure,

The Muse, poor hizzie!
Tho' rough an' raploch³ be her measure,
She's seldom lazy.

Haud to the Muse, my dainty Davie:
The warl' may play you monie a
shavie;

But for the Muse, she'll never leave ye,
Tho' e'er sae puir,

Na, even tho' limpin' wi' the spavie
Frae door ta door.

THE INVENTORY.

IN ANSWER TO THE USUAL MANDATE
SENT BY A SURVEYOR OF THE TAXES,
REQUIRING A RETURN OF THE NUM-
BER OF HORSES, SERVANTS, CAR-
RIAGES, ETC., KEPT.

SIR, as your mandate did request,
I send you here a faithfu' list,

¹ Swear.

² A phrase of endearment.

³ Coarse.

My horses, servants, carts, and graith,
To which I'm free to tak my aith.

Imprimis, then, for carriage cattle,
I ha'e four brutes o' gallant mettle,
As ever drew afore a pettle;¹
My hand-afore,² a gude auld *has-been*,
An' wight an' wilfu' a' his days been;
My hand-ahin,³ a weel gaun fillie,
That aft has borne me hame frae
Killie,⁴

An' your auld borough mony a time,
In days when riding was nae crime—
But ance, whan in my wooing pride,
I, like a blockhead, boost to ride,
The wilfu' creature sae I pat to,
(Lord, pardon a' my sins, an' that too!)
I played my fillie sic a shavie,
She's a' bedevil'd wi' the spavie.
My fur-ahin⁵'s a gude, grey beast,
As e'er in tug or tow was trac'd,—
The fourth, a Highland Donald hastie,
A d—d red-wud, Kilburnie blastie;
Foreby a Cowte, o' Cowtes the wale,
As ever ran afore a tail;
If he be spar'd to be a beast,
He'll draw me fifteen pund at least.—

Wheel carriages I ha'e but few,
Three carts, an' twa are feckly new;
Ae auld wheelbarrow, mair for token,
Ae leg an' baith the trams are broken;
I made a poker o' the spindle,
An' my auld mither brunt the trindle.
For men, I've three mischievous boys,
Run-de'ils for rantin' an' for noise;
A gaudsman⁶ ane, a thrasher t' other,
Wee Davoc hauds the nowte in fother.⁷
I rule them, as I ought, discreetly,
An' aften labour them completely.
An' ay on Sundays duly, nightly,
I on the questions targe them tightly;
Till faith, wee Davoc's turn'd sae gleg,
Tho' scarcely langer than your leg,

¹ Plough-staff.

² The fore-horse on the left-hand in the plough.—R. B.

³ The hindmost on the left-hand in the plough.—R. B.

⁴ Kilmarnock.—R. B.

⁵ The hindmost horse on the right-hand in the plough.—R. B.

⁶ Plough-driver.

⁷ Black cattle in fodder.

He'll screed you aff Effectual Calling,
As fast as ony in the dwelling.—

I've nane in female servan' station,
(Lord keep me ay frae a' temptation!)
I ha'e nae wife; and that my bliss is,
An' ye ha'e laid nae tax on misses,
An' then if kirk folks dinna clutch me,
I ken the devils darena touch me.
Wi' weans I'm mair than weel contented,

Hev'n sent me ane mae than I wanted.
My sonsie, smirking, dear-bought *Bess*,
She stares the daddy in her face,
Enough of ought ye like but grace.
But her, my bonny sweet wee lady,
I've paid enough for her already,
An' gin ye tax her or her mither,
B' the L—d! ye'se get them a' thegither.

And now, remember, Mr. Aiken,
Nae kind of license out I'm takin';
Frae this time forth, I do declare,
I'se ne'er ride horse nor hizzie mair;
Thro' dirt and dub for life I'll paidle,
Ere I sae dear pay for a saddle;
My travel a' on foot I'll shank it,
I've sturdy bearers, Gude be thank!—
The Kirk an' you may tak' you that,
It puts but little in your pat;¹
Sae dinna put me in your buke,
Nor for my ten white shillings luke.

This list wi' my ain han' I wrote it,
Day an' date as under notit:
Then know all ye whom it concerns,
Subscripsi huic,

ROBERT BURNS.

Mossgiel, February 22nd, 1786.

THE WHISTLE.²

A BALLAD.

I SING of a Whistle, a Whistle of worth,
I sing of a Whistle, the pride of the
North,

¹ Pot.

² "The highest gentry of the county," writes Mr. J. G. Lockhart, "when-
ever they had especial merriment in

Was brought to the court of our good
Scottish king,
And long with this Whistle all Scot-
land shall ring.

view, called in the wit and eloquence of Burns to enliven their carousals. The famous song of 'The Whistle of Worth' commemorates a scene of this kind, more picturesque in some of its circumstances than every day occurred, yet strictly in character with the usual tenor of life among this jovial *squirearchy*. These gentlemen, of ancient descent, had met to determine, by a solemn drinking match, who should possess the Whistle, which a common ancestor of them all had earned ages before in a Bacchanalian contest of the same sort with a noble toper from Denmark; and the poet was summoned to watch over and celebrate the issue of the debate." The following is Burns' description of the prize and the struggle. He seems, however, to have fallen into some error as to the date:—"As the authentic prose history of the Whistle is curious, I shall here give it.—In the train of Anne of Denmark, when she came to Scotland with our James the Sixth, there came over also a Danish gentleman of gigantic stature and great prowess, and a matchless champion of Bacchus. He had a little ebony Whistle, which at the commencement of the orgies he laid on the table, and whoever was last able to blow it, everybody else being disabled by the potency of the bottle, was to carry off the Whistle as a trophy of victory. The Dane produced credentials of his victories, without a single defeat, at the courts of Copenhagen, Stockholm, Moscow, Warsaw, and several of the petty courts in Germany; and challenged the Scots Bacchanalians to the alternative of trying his prowess, or else of acknowledging their inferiority.—After many overthrows on the part of the Scots, the Dane was encountered by Sir Robert Lowrie of Maxwellton, ancestor of the present worthy Baronet of that name, who, after three days and

Old Loda,¹ still rueing the arm of
Fingal,
The god of the bottle sends down from
his hall—
"This Whistle's your challenge, in
Scotland get o'er,
And drink them to hell, Sir, or ne'er
see me more!"

Old poets have sung, and old chronicles
tell,
What champions ventur'd, what cham-
pions fell;
The son of great Loda was conqueror
still,
And'blew on the Whistle his requiem
shrill.

Till Robert, the lord of the Cairn and
the Scaur,
Unmatch'd at the bottle; unconquer'd
in war,
He drank his poor god-ship as deep as
the sea,
No tide of the Baltic e'er drunker than
he.

Thus Robert, victorious, the trophy has
gain'd,
Which now in his house has for ages
remain'd;

three nights' hard contest, left the
Scandinavian under the table,

'And blew on the Whistle his re-
quiem shrill.'

"Sir Walter, son to Sir Robert, be-
fore mentioned, afterwards lost the
Whistle to Walter Riddel of Glenriddel,
who had married a sister of Sir Walter.
On Friday, the 16th October, 1790, at
Friars-Carse, the Whistle was once
more contended for, as related in the
ballad, by the present Sir Robert
Lowrie of Maxwellton; Robert Riddel,
Esq., of Glenriddel, lineal descendant
and representative of Walter Riddel,
who won the Whistle, and in whose
family it had continued; and Alexander
Ferguson, Esq., of Craigdarroch, like
wise descended of the great Sir Robert,
which last gentleman carried off the
hard-won honours of the field."

¹ See Ossian's "Caric-thura."—R. B.

I'll three noble chieftains, and all of
 his blood,
 The jovial contest again have renew'd.
 Three joyous good fellows, with hearts
 clear of flaw ;
 Craig larroch, so famous for wit, worth,
 and law ;
 And trusty Glenriddel, so skill'd in old
 coins ;
 And gallant Sir Robert, deep-read in
 old wines.

Craigdarroch began with a tongue
 smooth as oil,
 Desiring Glenriddel to yield up the
 spoil ;
 Or else he would muster the heads of
 the clan,
 And once more, in claret, try which
 was the man.

"By the gods of the ancients!" Glen-
 riddel replies,
 "Before I surrender so glorious a
 prize,
 I'll conjure the ghost of the great Ro-
 rie More,
 And bumper his horn with him twenty
 times o'er."

Sir Robert, a soldier, no speech would
 pretend,
 But he ne'er turn'd his back on his foe—
 or his friend,
 Said, toss down the Whistle, the prize
 of the field,
 And, knee-deep in claret, he'd die ere
 he'd yield.

To the board of Glenriddel our heroes
 repair,
 So noted for drowning of sorrow and
 care ;
 But for wine and for welcome not more
 known to fame,
 Than the sense, wit, and taste of a
 sweet lovely dame.

A bard was selected to witness the fray,
 And tell future ages the feats of the
 day ;

¹ See Johnson's "Tour to the He-
 brides."—R. B.

A bard who detested all sadness and
 spleen,
 And wish'd that Parnassus a vineyard
 had been.

The dinner being over, the claret they
 ply,
 And ev'ry new cork is a new spring of
 joy,
 In the bands of old friendship and
 kindred so set,
 And the bands grew the tighter the
 more they were wet.

Gay Pleasure ran riot as bumpers ran
 o'er ;
 Bright Phœbus ne'er witness'd so joy-
 ous a core,
 And vow'd that to leave them he was
 quite forlorn,
 Till Cynthia hinted he'd see them next
 morn.

Six bottles a-piece had well wore out
 the night,
 When gallant Sir Robert, to finish the
 fight,
 Turn'd o'er in one bumper a bottle of
 red,
 And swore 'twas the way that their
 ancestors did.

Then worthy Glenriddel, so cautious
 and sage,
 No longer the warfare, ungodly, would
 wage ;
 A high-ruling elder to wallow in wine !
 He left the foul business to folks less
 divine.

The gallant Sir Robert fought hard to
 the end
 But who can with Fate and quart
 bumpers contend ?
 Though Fate said a hero should perish
 in light ;
 So uprose bright Phœbus—and down
 fell the knight.

Next uprose our bard like a prophet
 in drink :—
 "Craigdarroch, thou'lt soar when cre-
 ation shall sink !
 But if thou would flourish immortal in
 rhyme,
 Come—one bottle more—and leave us
 the sublime !

'Thy line, that have struggled for
Freedom with Bruce,
Shall heroes and patriots ever produce :
So thine be the laurel, and mine be the
bay ;
The field thou hast won, by yon bright
god of day !"

TO DR. BLACKLOCK.

Ellisland, 21st Oct. 1789.

Wow,¹ but your letter made me vaun-
tie !

And are ye hale, and weel, and cantie ?
I kenn'd it still your wee bit jauntie

Wad bring ye to :

Lord send you aye as weel's I want ye,
And then ye'll do.

The ill-thief blaw the Heron² south !
And never drink be near his drouth !

He tald mysel by word o' mouth,
He'd tak my letter ;

I lippen'd to the chiel in trouth,
And bade nae better.

But aiblins honest Master Heron
Had at the time some dainty fair one,
To ware his theologic care on,

And holy study ;

And tir'd o' sauls to waste his lear³ on,
E'en tried the body.

But what d'ye think, my trusty fier,⁴
I'm turn'd a ganger—Peace be here !

Parnassian queans, I fear, I fear
Ye'll now disdain me !

And then my fifty pounds a year
Will little gain me.

Ye glaikit, glesome, dainty damies,
Wha, by Castalia's wimplin' streamies,
Lowp, sing, and lave your pretty
limbies,

Ye ken, ye ken,

That strang necessity supreme is
'Mang sons o' men.

I hae a wife and twa wee laddies,
They maun hae brose and brats o'
duddies ;¹

Ye ken yoursels my heart right proud
is—

I need na vaunt

But I'll sned² besoms—thraw saugh
woodies,³

Before they want.

Lord, help me thro' this world o' care !
I'm weary sick o't late and air !

Not but I hae a richer share

Than monie ithers ;

But why should ae man better fare,
And a' men brithers ?

Come, firm Resolve, take thou the van—
Thou stalk o' carl-hemp⁴ in man !

And let us mind, faint heart ne'er wan
A lady fair ;

Wha does the utmost that he can,
Will whyles the mair.

But to conclude my silly rhyme
(I'm scant o' verse, and scant o' time),
To make a happy fire-side clime

To weans and wife,

That's the true pathos and sublime
Of human life.

My compliments to sister Beckie ;
And eke the same to honest Lucky,

I wat she is a dainty chuckie,
As e'er tread clay !

And gratefully, my guid auld cockie,
I'm yours for ay,

ROBERT BURNS.

PROLOGUE, SPOKEN AT THE
THEATRE, ELLISLAND.⁵

No song nor dance I bring from yon
great city

That queens it o'er our taste—the more's
the pity ;

¹ Rags of clothes.

² Lop.

³ Twist willow ropes.

⁴ The male, or stronger stalk of hemp.

¹ An exclamation of pleasure.
² Robert Heron, who wrote a His-
tory of Scotland, and a Life of Burns.

⁵ We have gotten a set of very decent
players here just now. I have seen
them an evening or two. David

³ Learning ⁴ Brother.

Tho', by-the-by abroad why will you
 roam?

Good sense and taste are natives here
 at home:

But not for panegyric I appear,
 I come to wish you all a good new-
 year!

Old Father Time deutes me here be-
 fore ye,

Not for to preach, but tell his simple
 story:

The sage grave ancient cough'd, and
 bade me say,

"You're one year older this important
 day."

If wiser too—he hinted some sugges-
 tion,

But 'twould be rude, you know, to ask
 the question;

And with a would-be roguish leer and
 wink,

He bade me on you press this one word
 —"think!"

Ye sprightly youths, quite flush'd
 with hope and spirit,

Who think to storm the world by dint
 of merit,

To you the dotard has a deal to say,
 In his sly, dry, sententious, proverb
 way;

He bids you mind, amid your thought-
 less rattle,

That the first blow is ever half the
 battle;

That tho' some by the skirt may try to
 snatch him,

Yet by the forelock is the hold to catch
 him;

That whether doing, suffering, or for-
 bearing,

You may do miracles by persevering.

Last, tho' not least in love, ye youth-
 ful fair,

Angelic forms, high Heaven's peculiar
 care!

Campbell, in Ayr, wrote to me by the
 nanager of the company, a Mr.
 Southerland, who is a man of apparent
 worth. On New-year-day evening I
 gave him the following Prologue, which
 he spoated to his audience with ap-
 plause.—R. B.

To you old Bald-pate smooths his
 wrinkled brow,

And humbly begs you'll mind the im-
 portant *now!*

To crown your happiness he asks your
 leave,

And offers bliss to give and to receive.
 For our sincere, tho' haply weak, en-
 deavours,

With grateful pride we own your many
 favours;

And howsoe'er our tongues may ill
 reveal it,

Believe our glowing bosoms truly feel it.

ELEGY ON THE LATE MISS BURNET, OF MONBODDO.

LIFE ne'er exulted in so rich a prize
 As Burnet, lovely from her native skies;

Nor envious death so triumph'd in a
 blow,

As that which laid th' accomplish'd
 Burnet low.

Thy form and mind, sweet maid, can I
 forget?

In richest ore the brightest jewel set!
 In thee, high Heaven above was truest
 shown,

As by his noblest work the Godhead
 best is known.

In vain, ye flaunt in summer's pride, ye
 groves;

Thou crystal streamlet with thy
 flowery shore,

Ye woodland choir that chant your idle
 loves,

Ye cease to charm—Eliza is no more!

Ye heathy wastes, immix'd with reedy
 fens;

Ye mossy streams, with sedge and
 rushes stor'd;

Ye rugged cliffs o'erhanging dreary
 glens,

To you I fly, ye with my soul accord.

Princes, whose cumbrous pride was all
 their worth,

Shall venal lays their pompous *exit*
 hail?

And thou, sweet excellence ! forsake
our earth,
And not a Muse in honest grief be-
wail ?

We saw thee shine in youth and beauty's
pride,
And virtue's light, that beams beyond
the spheres ;
But, like the sun eclips'd at morning
tide,
Thou left'st us darkling in a world of
tears.

The parent's heart that nestled fond in
thee,
That heart how sunk, a prey to grief
and care ;
So deckt the woodbine sweet yon aged
tree ;
So, from it ravish'd, leaves it bleak
and bare.

LINES
TO A MEDICAL FRIEND,¹

INVITING HIM TO ATTEND AN ANNUAL
MASONIC MEETING.²

FRIDAY first's the day appointed,
By our right worshipful anointed,
To hold our grand procession ;
To get a blade o' Johnny's morals,
And taste a swatch³ o' Manson's⁴
barrels,
I' the way of our profession.

Our Master and the Brotherhood
Wad a' be glad to see you ;
For me, I would be mair than proud
To share the mercies wi' you.
If death, then, wi' skaith, then,
Some mortal heart is hetchin,⁵
Inform him, and storm him,
That Saturday ye'll fecht⁶ him.
ROBERT BURNS.

¹ Mr. Mackenzie.

² The Saint James's Masonic Lodge
at Matchline.

³ Sample.

⁴ The name of a landlord, at whose
house the Masonic Lodge assembled.

⁵ Threatening.

⁶ Fight.

LINES ON AN INTERVIEW
WITH LORD DAER.¹

THIS wot ye all whom it concerns,
I, Rhymer Robin, alias Burns,
October twenty-third,
A ne'er to be forgotten day !
Sae far I sprackled² up the brae,
I dinner'd wi' a Lord.

I've been at drucken writers' feasts,
Nay, been bitch-fou' mang godly priests
(Wi' rev'rence be it spoken) ;
I've even join'd the honour'd jorum,
When mighty Squireships of the quorum,
Their hydra drouth did sloken

But wi' a Lord—stand out my shin,
A Lord—a Peer—an Earl's son,
Up higher yet, my bonnet !
And sic a Lord—lang Scotch ells twa,
Our Peerage he o'erlooks them a',
As I look o'er my sonnet.

But, oh ! for Hogarth's magic pow'r !
To show Sir Bardie's willyart glow'r,³
And how he star'd and stammer'd,
When goavan,⁴ as if led wi' branks,⁵
An' stumpan on his ploughman shanks,
He in the parlour hammer'd.

I sidling shelter'd in a nook,
An' at his Lordship steal't a look,
Like some portentous omen ;
Except good sense and social gla'e,
An' (what surprised me) modesty,
I marked nought uncommon.

I watch'd the symptoms o' the great,
The gentle pride, the lordly state,
The arrogant assuming ;
The fient a pride, nae pride had he,
Nor sauce, nor state that I could see,
Mair than an honest ploughman.

Then from his lordship I shall learn,
Henceforth to meet with unconcern
One rank as weel's another ;

¹ Son of the Earl of Selkirk. Burns
was introduced to him by Dugald
Stewart.

² Clambered. ³ Frightened stare

⁴ Walking with stupid wonder.

⁵ A curb bridle.

Nae honest worthy man need care
 To meet with noble, youthful Daer.
 For he but meets a brother.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN.

PROLOGUE SPOKEN BY MISS FONTENELLE
 ON HER BENEFIT NIGHT.

WHILE Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty
 things,
 The fate of Empires and the fall of
 Kings;
 While quacks of State must each pro-
 duce his plan,
 And even children lisp The Rights of
 Man;
 Amid the mighty fuss, just let me men-
 tion,
 The Rights of Woman merit some
 attention.

First, in the Sexes' intermixed con-
 nexion,
 One sacred Right of Woman is, Pro-
 tection.—
 The tender flower that lifts its head,
 elate,
 Helpless, must fall before the blasts of
 Fate,
 Sunk on the earth, defac'd its lovely
 form,
 Unless your shelter ward th' impend-
 ing storm.

Our second Right—but needless here
 is caution,
 To keep that Right inviolate's the
 fashion,
 Each man of sense has it so full before
 him,
 He'd die before he'd wrong it—'tis De-
 corum.
 There was, indeed, in far less polish'd
 days,
 A time, when rough rude man had
 naughty ways;
 Would swagger, swear, get drunk, kick
 up a riot,
 Nay, even thus invade a Lady's quiet!—
 Now, thank our stars! those Gothic
 times are fled;

Now, well-bred men—and you are all
 well-bred!

Most justly think (and we are much the
 gainers)

Such conduct, neither spirit, wit, nor
 manners.

For Right the third, our last, our
 best, our dearest,

That Right to fluttering female hearts
 the nearest,

Which ev'n the Rights of Kings in low
 prostration

Most humbly own—'tis dear, dear Ad-
 miration!

In that blest sphere alone we live and
 move;

There taste that life of life—immortal
 Love.—

Sighs, tears, smiles, glances, fits, flirta-
 tions, airs,

'Gainst such an host what flinty savage
 dares—

When awful Beauty joins with all her
 charms,

Who is so rash as rise in rebel arms?

Then truce with kings, and truce with
 constitutions,

With bloody armaments and revolu-
 tions!

Let Majesty your first attention sum-
 mon,

Ah! Ça ira! THE MAJESTY OF WOMAN!

ADDRESS,

SPOKEN BY MISS FONTENELLE, ON
 HER BENEFIT-NIGHT, DECEMBER
 4, 1795, AT THE THEATRE,
 DUMFRIES.

STILL anxious to secure your partial
 favour,

And not less anxious, sure, this night,
 than ever,

A Prologue, Epilogue, or some such
 matter,

'Twould vamp my bill, said I, if nothing
 better;

So sought a poet, roosted near the skies,
 Told him I came to feast my curious
 eyes;

Said, nothing like his works was ever
 printed ;
 And last, my Prologue-business slyly
 hinted.
 "Ma'am, let me tell you," quoth my
 man of rhymes,
 "I know your bent—these are no
 laughing times ;
 Can you—but, Miss, I own I have my
 fears—
 Dissolve in pause,—and sentimental
 tears,
 With laden sighs, and solemn-rounded
 sentence,
 Rouse from his sluggish slumbers fell
 Repentance ;
 Paint Vengeance, as he takes his horrid
 stand,
 Waving on high the desolating brand,
 Calling the storms to bear him o'er a
 guilty land?"
 I could no more—askance the crea-
 ture eyeing,
 D'ye think, said I, this face was made
 for crying ?
 I'll laugh, that's poz—nay, more, the
 world shall know it ;
 And so, your servant ! gloomy Master
 Poet !
 Firm as my creed, Sirs, 'tis my fix'd
 belief,
 That Misery's another word for
 Grief ;
 I also think—so may I be a bride '
 That so much laughter, so much rife
 enjoy'd.
 Thou man of crazy care and ceaseless
 sigh,
 Still under bleak Misfortune's blasting
 eye ;
 Doom'd to that sorest task of man
 alive—
 To make three guineas do the work of
 five :
 Laugh in misfortune's face—the beldam
 witch !
 Say, you'll be merry, tho' you can't be
 rich.
 Thou other man of care, the wretch in
 love,
 Who long with jiltish hearts and airs
 hast strove ;
 Who, as the boughs all temptingly pro-
 selyct,

Measur'st in desperate thought—a rope
 —thy neck—
 Or, where the beetling cliff o'erhangs
 the deep,
 Peerest to meditate the healing leap :
 Would'st thou be cur'd, thou silly,
 moping elf ?
 Laugh at her follies—laugh e'en at
 thyself :
 Learn to despise those frowns now so
 terrific,
 And love a kinder—that's your grand
 specific.
 To sum up all, be merry, I advise ;
 And as we're merry, may we still be
 wise.

STANZAS

ADDRESSED TO MISS FERRIER,¹ IN-
 CLOSING AN ELEGY ON SIR JAMES
 HUNTER BLAIR.²

(WRITTEN IN 1787.)

NAE heathen name shall I prefix
 Frae Pindus or Parnassus ;
 Auld Reekie dings them a' to sticks,
 For rhyme-inspiring lasses.
 Jove's tunefu' dochters three times
 three
 Made Homer deep their debtor ;
 But, gien the body half an ee,
 Nine Ferriers wad done better !
 Last day my mind was in a bog,
 Down George's Street I stoit,³
 A creeping, cauld, prosaic fog
 My very senses doited.⁴
 Do what I dought to set her free,
 My saul lay in the mire ;
 Ye turned a neuk⁵—I saw your ee—
 She took the wing like fire !

¹ The accomplished novelist, and daughter of Mr. J. Ferrier, one of Burns' warmest patrons.

² A great friend and patron of the poet.

³ Tottered. ⁴ Stupefied ⁵ Corner.

The mournfu' sang I here inclose,
 In gratitude I send you ;
 And wish and pray in rhyme sincere,
 A' guid things may attend you.

VERSES TO A YOUNG LADY,¹

WITH A PRESENT OF SONGS.

HERE, where the Scottish Muse immortal lives,

In sacred strains and tuneful numbers join'd,
 Accept the gift ; tho' humble he who gives,
 Rich is the tribute of the grateful mind.

So may no ruffian feeling in thy breast
 Discordant jar thy bosom-chords among !

But Peace attune thy gentle soul to rest,
 Or Love, ecstatic, wake his seraph song ;

Or Pity's notes, in luxury of tears,
 As modest Want the tale of woe reveals ;

While conscious Virtue all the strain endears,
 And heaven-born Piety her sanction seals !

POEM

ON PASTORAL POETRY.²

HAIL, Poesie ! thou Nymph reserv'd !³
 In chase o' thee, what crowds hae swerv'd

Frae common sense, or sunk enerv'd
 'Mang heaps o' clavers ;
 And och ! owre aft thy joes hae starv'd,
 'Mid a' thy favours !

¹ Daughter of Mr. Graham, of Fintry.
² Gilbert Burns doubted the authenticity of these verses, but surely without reason.
³ Collins.

Say, Lassie, why thy train amang,
 While loud the trump's heroic clang,
 And sock or buskin skelp along
 To death or marriage ;
 Scarce ane has tried the shepherd-sang
 But wi' miscarriage ?

In Homer's craft Jock Milton thrives ;
 Eschylus' pen Will Shakespeare drives ;
 Wee Pope, the knurlin,¹ till him rives
 Horatian fame ;
 In thy sweet sang, Barbauld, survives
 Ev'n Sappho's flame.

But thee, Theocritus, wha matches ?
 They're no herd's ballats, Maro's catches ;
 Squire Pope but busks² his skinklin³
 patches

O' heathen tatters :
 I pass by hunders, nameless wretches,
 That ape their betters.

In this braw age o' wit and lear,
 Will nane the Shepherd's whistle mair
 Blaw sweetly in its native air
 And rural grace ;
 And wi' the far-fam'd Grecian share
 A rival place ?

Yes ! there is ane ; a Scottish callan—
 There's ane ; come forrit, honest Allan !
 Thou need na jouk⁴ behind the hallan,
 A chiel sae clever ;
 The teeth o' Time may gnaw Tantal-
 lan,⁵

But thou's for ever !

Thou paints auld Nature to the nines,
 In thy sweet Caledonian lines ;
 Nae gowden stream thro' myrtles
 twines,

Where Philomel,
 While nightly breezes sweep the vines,
 Her griefs will tell !

In gowany glens⁶ thy burnie strays,
 Where bonnie lasses bleach their claes
 Or trots by hazelly shaws and braes,
 Wi' hawthorns grey,

¹ Dwarf.

² Dresses.

³ Small.

⁴ Stoop.

⁵ The name of a castle.

⁶ Daisied dales.

Where blackbirds join the shepherd's
lays

At close o' day.

Thy rural loves are nature's sel' ;
Næe bombast spates¹ o' nonsense swell ;
Næe snap conceits, but that sweet spell
O' witchin' love ;

That charm that can the strongest
quell,

The sternest move.

WRITTEN ON THE BLANK LEAF OF
THE
LAST EDITION OF HIS POEMS,

PRESENTED TO THE LADY WHOM
HE HAD OFTEN CELEBRATED UNDER
THE NAME OF CHLORIS.²

'Tis Friendship's pledge, my young
fair friend,

Nor thou the gift refuse,
Nor with unwilling ear attend
The moralizing muse.

Since thou, in all thy youth and
charms,

Must bid the world adieu,
(A world 'gainst peace in constant arms)
To join the friendly few.

Since, thy gay morn of life o'er cast,
Chill came the tempest's lower,
(And ne'er misfortune's eastern blast
Did nip a fairer flower.)

Since life's gay scenes must charm no
more,

Still much is left behind ;
Still nobler wealth hast thou in store—
The comforts of the mind !

Thine is the self-approving glow,
On conscious honour's part ;
And, dearest gift of Heaven below,
Thine friendship's truest heart.

The joys refin'd of sense and taste,
With ev'ry muse to rove :

And doubly were the poet blest,
These joys could he improve.

POETICAL ADDRESS

TO MR. WILLIAM TYTLER,

WITH THE PRESENT OF THE BARD'S
PICTURE.

REVERED defender of beauteous Stuart,
Of Stuart, a name once respected,
A name, which to love was the mark
of a true heart,
But now 'tis despis'd and neglected !

Tho' something like moisture conglobes
in my eye,

Let no one misdeem me disloyal ;
A poor friendless wand'rer may well
claim a sigh,
Still more, if that wand'rer were
royal.

My fathers that name have rever'd on
a throne ;

My fathers have fallen to right it ;
Those fathers would spurn their de-
generate son ;
That name should he scoffingly
slight it.

Still in prayers for King George I most
heartily join,

The Queen, and the rest of the
gentry ;
Be they wise, be they foolish, is no-
thing of mine ;
Their title's avow'd by my country.

But why of this epocha make such a
fuss,

That gave us the Hanover stem ?
If bringing them over was lucky for us,
I'm sure 'twas as lucky for them.

But, loyalty, truce ! we're on dangerous
ground,

Who knows how the fashions may
alter ?
The doctrine, to-day, that is loyalty
sound,

To-morrow may bring us a halter.

I send you a trifle, a head of a bard,
A trifle scarce worthy your care ;
But accept it, good Sir, as a mark of
regard,

Sincere as a saint's dying prayer

¹ Torrents.

² Jean Lorimer.

Now life's chilly evening dim shades
 in your eye,
 And ushers the long dreary night ;
 But you like the star that athwart gilds
 the sky,
 Your course to the latest is bright.

SKETCH.—NEW-YEAR DAY.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

THIS day Time winds th' exhausted
 chain,

To run the twelvemonth's length again :
 I see the old, bald-pated fellow,
 With ardent eyes, complexion fallow,
 Adjust the unimpair'd machine
 To wheel the equal, dull routine.

The absent lover, minor heir,
 In vain assail them with their prayer,
 Deaf, as my friend, he sees them press,
 Nor makes the hour one moment less.
 Will you (the Major's¹ with the hounds,
 The happy tenants share his rounds ;
 Coila's fair Rachel's² care to-day,
 And blooming Keith's³ engaged with
 Gray)

From housewife cares a minute bor-
 row—

—That grandchild's cap will make to-
 morrow—

And join with me a-moralizing ;
 This day's propitious to be wise in.

First, what did yesternight deliver ?
 "Another year is gone for ever."
 And what is this day's strong sugges-
 tion ?

"The passing moment's all we rest on !"
 Rest on—for what ? what do we here ?
 Or why regard the passing year ?
 Will Time, amus'd with proverb'd lore,
 Add to our date one minute more ?
 A few days may, a few years must,
 Repose us in the silent dust ;

¹ Major, afterwards General Andrew Dunlop, second son of Mrs. Dunlop.

² Miss Rachel Dunlop.

³ Miss Keith Dunlop, the youngest daughter.

Then is it wise to damp our bliss ?
 Yes—all such reasonings are amiss !
 The voice of Nature loudly cries,
 And many a message from the skies
 That something in us never dies ;
 That on this frail, uncertain state
 Hang matters of eternal weight ;
 That future life in worlds unknown
 Must take its hue from this alone ;
 Whether as Heavenly glory bright,
 Or dark as Misery's woful night.—
 Since then, my honour'd, first ³¹
 friends,

On this poor being all depends ;
 Let us th' important Now employ,
 And live as those that never die.

Tho' you, with days and honours
 crown'd,

Witness that filial circle round,
 (A sight life's sorrows to repulse ;
 A sight pale Envy to convulse ;)
 Others now claim your chief regard ;
 Yourself, you wait your bright reward,

EXTEMPORE,

ON MR. WILLIAM SMELLIE,

AUTHOR OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF
 NATURAL HISTORY, AND MEMBER OF
 THE ANTIQUARIAN AND ROYAL
 SOCIETIES OF EDINBURGH.

SHREWD Willie Smellie to Crochallan¹
 came,

The old cock'd hat, the gray surtout
 the same ;

His bristling beard just rising in its
 might ;

'Twas four long nights and days to
 shaving night ;

His uncomb'd grizzly locks, wild star-
 ing, thatch'd

A head, for thought profound and
 clear, unmatch'd :

¹ There was a club in Edinburgh—the Crochallan Fencibles—of which Burns and Smellie were members.

Yet tho' his caustic wit was biting, rude,
His heart was warm, benevolent, and
good.

INSCRIPTION FOR AN
ALTAR TO INDEPENDENCE,
AT KERROUGHTRY, SEAT
OF MR. HERON;

WRITTEN IN SUMMER, 1795.

THOU of an independent mind,
With soul resolv'd, with soul resign'd;
Prepar'd Power's proudest frown to
brave,
Who wilt not be nor have a slave;
Virtue alone who dost revere,
Thy own reproach alone dost fear,
Approach this shrine, and worship here.

MONODY ON A LADY FAMED
FOR HER CAPRICE.¹

How cold is that bosom which folly
once fir'd;
How pale is that cheek where the
rouge lately glisten'd!
How silent that tongue which the
echoes oft tir'd;
How dull is that ear which to flattery
so listen'd!

If sorrow and anguish their exit await,
From friendship and dearest affec-
tion remov'd;
How doubly severer, Eliza, thy fate!
Thou diedst unwept, as thou livedst
unlov'd.

Loves, Graces, and Virtues, I call not
on you;
So shy, grave, and distant, ye shed
not a tear:

¹ The lady was the Mrs. Riddel, whose
name so often occurs in the Poet's
history.

But come, all ye offspring of Folly so
true,
And flowers let us cull for Eliza's
cold bier.

We'll search thro' the garden for each
silly flower,
We'll roam thro' the forest for each
idle weed;
But chiefly the nettle, so typical, shower.
For none e'er approach'd her but rue'd
the rash deed.

We'll sculpture the marble, we'll mea-
sure the lay;
Here Vanity strums on her idiot lyre;
There keen Indignation shall dart on
her prey,
Which spurning Contempt shall re-
deem from his ire.

THE EPITAPH.

HERE lies, now a prey to insulting neg-
lect,
What once was a butterfly, gay in
life's beam:
Want only of wisdom denied her re-
spect!
Want only of goodness denied her
esteem.

SONNET, ON THE DEATH OF
ROBERT RIDDEL, ESQ., OF
GLENRIDDEL;

APRIL, 1794.

No more, ye warblers of the wood—no
more!
Nor pour your descant, grating, on
my soul;
Thou young-eyed Spring, gay in thy
verdant stole,
More welcome were to me grim Win-
ter's wildest roar.

How can ye charm, ye flow'rs, with all
your dyes?
Ye blow upon the sod that wraps my
friend:
How can I to the tuneful strain at-
tend?
The strain flows round th' untimely
tomb where Riddel lies.

Yes, pour, ye warblers, pour the notes
of woe!

And soothe the Virtues weeping on
this bier:

The Man of Worth, who has not
left his peer,

Is in his "narrow house" for ever
darkly low.

Thee Spring, again with joy shall
others greet;

Me, mem'ry of my loss will only meet.

IMPROMPTU, ON
MRS. RIDDEL'S BIRTH-DAY;

NOVEMBER 4, 1793.

OLD Winter, with his frosty beard,
Thus once to Jove his prayer preferr'd—

What have I done, of all the year,
To bear this hated doom severe?

My cheerless suns no pleasure know;
Night's horrid car drags, dreary, slow;

My dismal months no joys are crown-
ing,

But spleeny English, hanging, drown-
ing.

Now, Jove, for once be mighty civil,
To counterbalance all this evil;

Give me, and I've no more to say,
Give me Maria's natal day!

That brilliant gift will so enrich me,
Spring, Summer, Autumn, cannot
match me.

'Tis done! says Jove; scends my story,
And Winter once rejoic'd in glory.

TO MISS JESSY LEWARS,
DUMFRIES,

WITH BOOKS WHICH THE BARD
PRESENTED HER.

THINE be the volumes, Jessy fair,
And with them take the Poet's prayer—

That Fate may in her fairest page,
With every kindest, best presage

Of future bliss, enrol thy name;
With native worth, and spotless fame,

And wakeful caution still aware
Of ill—but chief, man's felon snare;
All blameless joys on earth we find,
And all the treasures of the mind—
These be thy guardian and reward;
So prays thy faithful friend, the Bard.

EXTEMPORE TO MR. SYME,

ON REFUSING TO DINE WITH HIM,
AFTER HAVING BEEN PROMISED THE
FIRST OF COMPANY AND THE
FIRST OF COOKERY.

DECEMBER 17TH, 1795.

No more of your guests, be they titled
or not,

And cook'ry the first in the nation;
Who is proof to thy personal converse
and wit,

Is proof to all other temptation.

TO MR. SYME,

WITH A PRESENT OF A DOZEN OF
PORTER.

O, HAD the malt thy strength of mind,
Or hops the flavour of thy wit,

'Twere drink for first of human kind,
A gift that e'en for Syme were fit.

Jerusalem Tavern, Dumfries.

SONNET,

ON HEARING A THRUSH SING
IN A MORNING WALK;

WRITTEN JANUARY 25TH, 1793, THE
BIRTH-DAY OF THE AUTHOR, R. B.,
AGED 34.

SING on, sweet Thrush, upon the leaf-
less bough;

Sing on, sweet bird, I listen to thy
strain:

See aged Winter, 'mid his surly reign,
At thy blithe carol clears his furrow'd
brow.

So in lone Poverty's dominion drear
Sits meek Content with light unanxious heart,

Welcomes the rapid moments, bids them part,
Nor asks if they bring aught to hope or fear.

I thank thee, Author of this opening day!

Thou whose bright sun now gilds the orient skies!

Riches denied, thy boon was purer joys,
What wealth could never give, nor take away!

Vet come, thou child of poverty and care;

The mite high Heav'n bestow'd, that mite with thee I'll share.

POEM, ADDRESSED TO MR. MITCHELL,

COLLECTOR OF EXCISE, DUMFRIES, 1796.

FRIEND of the Poet, tried and leal,
Wha, wanting thee, might beg or steal;
Alake, alake, the meikle Deil
Wi' a' his witches
Are at it, skelpin! jig and reel,
In my poor pouches.

I modestly fu' fain wad hint it,
That one pound one, I sairly want it:
If wi' the hizzie down ye sent it,
It would be kind;
And while my heart wi' life-blood dunted,¹
I'd bear't in mind.

So may the auld year gang out moaning
To see the new come laden, groaning,
Wi' double plenty o'er the loanin
To thee and thine;
Domestic peace and comforts crowning
The hale design.

¹ Beat.

POSTSCRIPT.

Ye've heard this while how I've been
licket,
And by fell Death was nearly nicket:
Grim loun! he gat me by the fecket,¹
And sair me sheuk;
But by guid luck I lap a wicket,
And turn'd a neuk.

But by that health, I've got a share o't,
And by that life, I'm promis'd mair c't,
My heal and weal I'll take a care o't
A tentier² way:
Then fareweel folly, hide and hair o't,
For ance and aye.

SENT TO A GENTLEMAN
WHOM HE HAD OFFENDED.

THE friend whom wild from wisdom's
way
The fumes of wine infuriate send;
(Not moony madness more astray);
Who but deplores that hapless
friend?

Mine was th' insensate frenzied part,
Ah why should I such scenes outlive!
Scenes so abhorrent to my heart!
'Tis thine to pity and forgive.

POEM ON LIFE, ADDRESSED
TO COLONEL DE PEYSTER;³
DUMFRIES, 1796.

My honour'd Colonel, deep I feel
Your interest in the Poet's weal;
Ab! how sma' heart hae I to speel⁴
The steep Parnassus,
Surrounded thus by bolus pill,
And potion glasses

¹ Waistcoat.

² Wiser.

³ Colonel of the Dumfries Volunteers.

⁴ Clinb.

O what a canty warld were it,
Would pain, and care, and sickness
spare it ;

And fortune favour worth and merit,
As they deserve :
(And aye a rowth,¹ roast beef and claret ;
Syne, wha wad starve ?)

Dame Life, though fiction out may trick
her,
And in paste gems and fripp'ry deck her ;
Oh ! flick'ring, feeble, and unsicker²

I've found her still,
Aye wav'ring like the willow wicker,
'Tween good and ill.

Then that curst carmagnole, auld Satan,
Watches, like baudrons³ by a rattan,⁴
Our sinfu' saul to get a claut⁵ on
Wi' felon ire ;

Syne, whip ! his tail ye'll ne'er cast
saut on,—
He's aff like fire.

Ah Nick ! ah Nick ! it is na fair,
First showing us the tempting ware,
Bright wines and bonnie lasses rare,
To put us daft ;

Syne⁶ weave, unseen, thy spider snare
O' hell's d—d waft.⁷

Poor man, the flie, aft bizzes by,
And aft, as chance he comes thee nigh,
Thy auld d—d elbow yeuks with joy,
And hellish pleasure ;

Already, in thy fancy's eye,
Thy sicker⁸ treasure.

Soon, heels-o'er-gowdy !⁹ in he gangs,
And like a sheep-head on a tangs,
Thy girning¹⁰ laugh enjoys his pangs,
And murd'ring wrestle

As, dangling in the wind, he hangs
A gibbet's tassel.

But lest you think I am uncivil,
To plague you with this draunting
drivel,

Abjuring a' intentions evil,
I quat my pen :
The Lord preserve us frae the Devil !
Amen ! amen !

¹ Plenty. ² Unsteady. ³ Cat.

⁴ Rat. ⁵ A scrape.

⁶ Thea. ⁷ Woof. ⁸ Sure.

⁹ Topsy-turvy. ¹⁰ Grinning.

TO ROBERT GRAHAM, ESQ.
OF FINTRY, ON RECEIVING
A FAVOUR.

I CALL no Goddess to inspire my strains,
A fabled Muse may suit a Bard that
feigns ;

Friend of my life ! my ardent spirit
burns,

And all the tribute of my heart returns,
For boons recorded, goodness ever new,
The gift still dearer, as the giver you.

Thou orb of day ! thou other paler
light !

And all ye many sparkling stars of
night ;

If aught that giver from my mind ef-
face ;

If I that giver's bounty e'er disgrace ;
Then roll to me, along your wand'ring
spheres,

Only to number out a villain's years !

EPITAPH ON A FRIEND.

AN honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with his image blest ;
The friend of man, the friend of truth ;
The friend of age, and guide of youth :
Few hearts like his, with virtue
warm'd,

Few heads with knowledge so in-
form'd :

If there's another world, he lives in bliss ;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

EPISTLE

TO WILLIAM CREECH.¹

AULD chuckie Reekie's² sair distrest,
Down drops her ance weel burnisht
crest,

¹ The inclosed I have just wrote,
nearly extempore, in a solitary inn in
Selkirk, after a miserable wet day's
riding.—R. B.

² Edinburgh.

Nae joy hea bonnie buskit¹ nest
Can yield ava,
Her darling bird that she lo'es best,
Willie's awa !

O Willie was a witty wight,
And had o' things an unco slight ;
Auld Reekie ay he keepit tight,
An' trig² an' braw.
But now they'll busk her like a fright,
Willie's awa !

The stiffest o' them a' he bow'd ;
The bauldest o' them a' he cow'd ;
They durst nae mair than he allow'd,
That was a law ;
We've lost a birkie³ weel worth gowd,
Willie's awa !

Now gawkies, tawpics,⁴ gowks, and
fools,
Frae colleges and boarding-schools,
May sprout like simmer puddock-stools
In glen or shaw ;⁵
He wha could brush them down to
mools,
Willie's awa !

The brethren o' the Commerce-Chau-
mer⁶
May mourn their loss wi' doolfu' cla-
mour ;
He was a dictionar and grammar
Amang them a' ;
I fear they'll now mak mony a stammer,
Willie's awa !

Nae mair we see his levee door
Philosophers and Poets pour,
And toothy critics by the score,
In bloody raw ;
The adjutant o' a' the core,
Willie's awa !

Now worthy Gregory's Latin face,
Tytler's and Greenfield's modest grace :
M'Kenzie, Stewart—such a brace
As Rome ne'er saw ;
They a' maun meet some ither place,
Willie's awa !

Poor Burns e'en Scotch drink canna
quicken,
He cheeps¹ like some bewildered
chicken

Scar'd frae its minnie and the cleckin
By hoodie-craw ;²
Grief's gien his heart an unco kickin',
Willie's awa !

Now ev'ry sour-mou'd girmin' blellum,
And Calvin's fock, are fit to fell him ;
And self-conceited critic skellum⁴
His quill may draw ;
He wha could brawlie ward their bel-
lum,
Willie's awa !

Up whimpling stately Tweed I've sped,
And Eden scenes on crystal Jed,
And Ettrick banks now roaring red,
While tempests blaw ;
But every joy and pleasure's fled,
Willie's awa !

May I be slander's common speech ;
A text for infamy to preach ;
And lastly, streekit out to bleach
In winter snaw ;
When I forget thee, WILLIE CREECH,
Tho' far awa !

May never wicked fortune touzle him !
May never wicked men bamboozle him !
Until a pow⁶ as auld's Methusalem
He canty claw !⁷
Then to the blessed New Jerusalem,
Fleet wing awa !

A GRACE BEFORE DINNER.

O THOU, who kindly dost provide
For every creature's want !
We bless thee, God of Nature wide,
For all thy goodness lent :
And, if it please thee, Heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent ;

¹ Ornamented.

² Neat.

³ Clever fellow.

⁴ Silly girls.

⁵ Wood in a hollow.

⁶ The Chamber of Commerce in
Edinburgh.

¹ Chirps.

² Blood-crow.

³ Talking fellow.

⁴ Scamp.

⁵ Creech was the chief publisher in
Edinburgh.

⁶ Head.

⁷ Cheerful scratch.

But whether granted or denied,
 Lord, bless us with content !
 Amen !

INSCRIPTION ON THE TOMB
 STONE ERECTED BY BURNS
 TO THE MEMORY OF
 FERGUSSON.¹

"Here lies Robert Fergusson, Poet,
 born September 5th, 1751—Died,
 16th October, 1774."

No sculptur'd marble here, nor pom-
 pous lay,

"No storied urn, nor animated bust ;"
 This simple stone directs pale Scotia's
 way

To pour her sorrows o'er her Poet's
 dust.

A VERSE COMPOSED AND RE-
 PEATED BY BURNS, TO THE
 MASTER OF THE HOUSE, ON
 TAKING LEAVE AT A PLACE
 IN THE HIGHLANDS, WHERE
 HE HAD BEEN HOSPITABLY
 ENTERTAINED.

WHEN death's dark stream I ferry o'er,
 A time that surely shall come ;
 In Heaven itself I'll ask no more,
 Than just a Highland welcome.

LIBERTY—A FRAGMENT.²

THEE, Caledonia, thy wild heaths
 among,
 Thee, famed for martial deed and
 sacred song,

¹ Burns had asked permission of the
 Bailies of Canongate, to "lay a simple
 stone over the revered ashes" of
 Fergusson.

² The Fragment was the amusement

To thee I turn with swimming eyes ;
 Where is that soul of Freedom fled ?
 Immingled with the mighty dead !

Beneath the hallow'd turf where
 Wallace lies !

Hear it not, Wallace, in thy bed of
 death !

Ye babbling winds, in silence sweep ;
 Disturb not ye the hero's sleep,
 Nor give the coward secret breath.

Is this the power in Freedom's war,
 That wont to bid the battle rage ?

Behold that eye which shot immortal
 hate,

Crushing the despot's proudest bear-
 ing,

That arm which, nerved with thunder-
 ing fate,

Brav'd usurpation's boldest daring !
 One quench'd in darkness, like the
 sinking star,

And one the palsied arm of tottering,
 powerless age.

ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF
 ROBERT RUISSEAU.¹

Now Robin lies in his last lair,
 He'll gabble rhyme, nor sing nae mair,
 Cauld poverty, wi' hungry stare,

Nae mair shall fear him ;
 Nor anxious fear, nor canker care
 E'er mair come near him

To tell the truth, they seldom fasht him,
 Except the moment that they crusht
 him ;

For sune as chance, or fate, had husht
 'em,

Tho' e'er sae short,
 Then wi' a rhyme, or sang, he lasht 'em,
 And thought it sport.

Tho' he was bred to kintra wark,
 And counted was baith wight and stark,²
 Yet that was never Robin's mark

To mak a man ;

of a lonely hour at a village inn, in the
 summer of 1794.

¹ In *Ruisseau*, Burns plays on his
 own name.

² Sto'it and enduring.

But tell him, he was learn'd and cark,
Ye roos'd him than !

ANSWER

TO VERSES ADDRESSED TO THE
POET BY THE GUIDWIFE OF
WAUCHOPE-HOUSE.¹

GUIDWIFE,

I MIND it weel, in early date,
When I was beardless, young, and blate,
An' first could thrash the barn,
Or haud a yokin at the pleugh.
An' tho' forfoughten² sair enough,
Yet unco' proud to learn :
When first amang the yellow corn
A man I reckon'd was,
And wi' the lave ilk merry morn
Could rank my rig and lass,
Still shearing and clearing
The tither stooked raw,³
Wi' claivers, an' haivers,⁴
Wearing the day awa :

Ev'n then a wish (I mind its power),
A wish that, to my latest hour,
Shall strongly heave my breast ;
That I for poor auld Scotland's sake,
Some usefu' plan, or beuk could make,
Or sing a sang at least.
The rough bur-thistle, spreading wide
Amang the bearded bear,⁵
I turn'd the weeding-hook aside,
An' spar'd the symbol dear :
No nation, no station,
My envy e'er could raise ;
A Scot still, but blot still,
I knew nae higher praise.

But still the elements o' sang
In formless jumble, right an' wrang,
Wild floated in my brain ;
I'll on that har'st I said before,
My partner in the merry core,
She rous'd the forming strain :
I see her yet, the sonsie quean,
That lighted up my jingle,

Her witching smile, her pauky een,
That gart my heart-strings tingle :
I fired, inspired,
At ev'ry kindling keek,¹
But bashing, and dashing,
I feared aye to speak.

Health to the sex ! ilk guid chiel says,
Wi' merry dance in winter days,
An' we to share in common :
The gust o' joy, the balm of woe,
The saul o' life, the heav'n below,
Is rapture-giving woman.
Ye surly sumphs, who hate the name,
Be mindfu' o' your mither :
She, honest woman, may think shame
That ye're connected with her.
Ye're wae men, ye're nae men,
That slight the lovely dears :
To shame ye, disclaim ye,
Ilk honest birkie swears.

For you, no bred to barn and byre,²
Wha sweetly tune the Scottish lyre,
Thanks to you for your line :
The marled plaid ye kindly spare,
By me should gratefully be ware ;
'Twad please me to the Nine.
I'd be mair vauntie o' my hap,³
Douce hingin' owre my purple,
Than ony ermine ever lap,
Or proud imperial purple.
Fareweel then, lang heal then,
An' plenty be your fa' :
May losses and crosses
Ne'er at your hallan ca' !
March, 1787.

LINES ON VIEWING STIRLING
CASTLE.⁴

HERE Stuarts once in glory reign'd,
And laws for Scotland's weal ordain'd,

¹ Look. ² Stable, or sheep-pen.

³ Mantle.

⁴ Scratched with a diamond on a pane of glass at the inn where Burns was staying. As the lines were afterwards quoted to his prejudice, he smashed the pane of glass on his next visit to Stirling.

¹ Mrs. Scott, who had some skill in rhyming and painting.

² Tired. ³ The other row of shocks.

⁴ Nonsense. ⁵ Barley.

But now unroof'd their palace stands,
 Their sceptre sway'd by other hands.
 The injur'd Stuart line is gone,—
 A race outlandish fills their throne;—
 An idiot race, to honour lost;
 Who know them best despise them
 most.

TO J. LAPRAIK.

Sept. 13th, 1785.

GUID speed an' furder to you, Johnny,
 Guid health, hale hans, and weather
 bonny;

Now when ye're nickan down fu' canny

The staff, o' bread,

May ye ne'er want a stoup o' bran'y
 To clear your head.

May Boreas never thresh your rigs,
 Nor kick your rickles aff their legs,
 Sendin' the stuff o'er muirs an' hags
 Like drivin' wrack;

But may the tapmast grain that wags
 Come to the sack.

I'm bizzie too, an' skelpin' at it,
 But bitter, daudin showers hae wat it,
 Sae my auld stumple pen I gat it

Wi' muckle wark,

An' took my jocteleg¹ an' what it,
 Like only clark.

It's now twa month that I'm your
 debtor,

For your braw, nameless, dateless
 letter,

Abusin' me for harsh ill-nature
 On holy men,

While Deil a hair yoursel ye're better,
 But mair profane.

But let the kirk-folk ring their bells,
 Let's sing about our noble sels;
 We'll cry nae jads frae heathen hills

To help, or roose us,

But browster wives² an' whiskie stills,
 They are the Muses.

Your friendship, Sir, I winna quat it,
 An' if ye mak objections at it,

Then han' in nae ve some day we'll
 knot it,

An' witness take,

An' when wi' Usquebae we've wat it
 It winna break.

But if the beast and branks be spar'd
 Till kye be gaun without the herd,
 An' a' the vittil in the yard,

An' theekit right,

I mean your ingle-side to guard
 Ae winter night.

The muse-inspirin' aqua-vitæ
 Shall make us baith sae blithe an' witty
 Till ye forget ye're auld an' gatty,

An' be as canty

As ye were nine years less than thretty,
 Sweet ane an' twenty!

But stooks are cowpet¹ wi' the blast,
 An' now the sinn keeks² in the west,
 Then I maun rin among the rest

An' quit my chanter;

Sae I subscribe mysel in haste
 Yours, Rab the Ranter.³

TO THE REV. JOHN M'MATH.

ENCLOSING A COPY OF HOLY WILLIE'S
 PRAYER, WHICH HE HAD REQUESTED.

Sept. 17th, 1785.

WHILE at the stook the shearers cow'r
 To shun the bitter blaudin'⁴ show'r,
 Or in gulravage rinnin scour,⁵

To pass the time,

To you I dedicate the hour
 In idle rhyme.

My music, tir'd wi' monie a sonnet
 On gown, an' ban', an' douse black bon-
 net,

¹ Tumbled over. ² Sun peeps.

³ It is very probable that the Poet
 thus named himself after the *Borde-
 Piper*, so spiritedly introduced in the
 popular song of "Maggie Lauder."—
Cromek.

⁴ Driving.

⁵ Running in confusion, like boys
 leaving school.

¹ Clasp-knife. ² Alehouse wives.

Is grown right eerie ¹ now she's done it,
Lest they shou'd blame her,
An' rouse their holy thunder on it,
And anathem her.

I own 'twas rash, and rather hardy,
That I, a simple countra bardie,
Shou'd meddle wi' a pack so sturdy,
Wha, if they ken me,
Can easy, wi' a single wordie,
Loose hell upon me.

But I gae mad at their grimaces,
Their sighin', cantin', grace-proud faces,
Their three-mile prayers, and hauf-mile
graces,

Their raxin' ² conscience,
Whase greed, revenge, an' pride dis-
graces

Waur nor their nonsense.

There's Gawn, ³ miska't waur than a
beast,

Wha has mair honour in his breast
Than monie scores as guid 's the priest
Wha sae abus'd him ;
An' may a bard no crack his jest
What way they've us'd him?

See him, the poor man's friend in need,
The gentleman in word an' deed,
An' shall his fame an' honour bleed
By worthless skullums,
An' no a muse erect her head
To cowe the blellums?

O Pope, had I thy satire's darts
To gie the rascals their deserts,
I'd rip their rotten, hollow hearts,
An' tell aloud
Their jugglin' hocus-pocus arts
To cheat the crowd.

God knows, I'm no the thing I shou'd
be,
Nor an' I even the thing I cou'd be,
But, twenty times, I rather wou'd be
An atheist clean,
Than un'er Gospel colours hid be,
Just for a screen.

An honest man may like a glass,
An honest man may like a lass,

But mean revenge, an' malice fause,
He'll still disdain,
An' then cry zeal for Gospel laws,
Like some we ken.

They tak religion in their mouth ;
They talk o' mercy, grace, an' truth,
For what? to gie their malice skouth ³
On some puir wight,
An' hunt him down, o'er right an' ruth,
To ruin straight.

All hail, Religion ! maid divine !
Pardon a muse sae mean as mine,
Who in her rough imperfect line
Thus daurs to name thee ;
To stigmatise false friends of thine
Can n'er defame thee.

Tho' blotch't an' foul wi' monie a stain,
An' far unworthy of thy train,
Wi' trembling voice I tune my strain,
To join wi' those,
Who boldly daur thy cause maintain
In spite o' foes ;

In spite o' crowds, in spite o' mobs,
In spite o' undermining jobs,
In spite o' dark banditti stabs
At worth an' merit,
By scoundrels, ev'n wi' holy robes,
But hellish spirit.

O Ayr ! my dear, my native ground !
Within thy presbyterial bound,
A candid lib'ral band is found
Of public teachers,
As men, as Christians too, renown'd,
An' manly preachers.

Sir, in that circle you are nam'd ;
Sir, in that circle you are fam'd ;
An' some, by whom your doctrine's
blam'd,

(Which gies you honour,)
Ev'n, Sir, by them your heart's es-
teem'd,
An' winning manner.

Pardon this freedom I have ta'en,
An' if impertinent I've been,
Impute it not, good Sir, in ane
Whase heart ne'er wraug'd ye,
But to his utmost would befriend
Ought that belang'd t' ye.

¹ Frighted.

² Stretching.

³ Gavin Hamilton.

¹ Vent.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, ESQ.,
MAUCHLINE.

RECOMMENDING A BOY.

Mosgaville, May 3, 1786.

I HOLD it, Sir, my bounden duty,
To warn you how that Master Tootie,
Alias, Laird M'Gaur,¹

Was here to lure the lad away
'Bout whom ye spak the tither day,
An' wad hae don 't aff han':²
But lest he learn the callan tricks,
As, faith, I muckle doubt him,
Like scrapin' out auld Crummie's nicks,
An' tellin' lies about them;
As lieve then, I'd have then,
Your clerkship he should sair,
If sae be, ye may be
Not fitted othewhere.

Altho' I say't, he's gleg³ enough,
An' 'bout a house that's rude an' rough,
The boy might learn to swear;
But then wi' you, he'll be sae taught,
An' get sic fair example straught,
I hae na ony fear.

Ye'll catechise him every quirk,
An' shore⁴ him weel wi' hell;
An' gar⁵ him follow to the kirk—
—Aye when ye gang yoursel.
If ye then, maun be then
Frae hame this comin' Friday,
Then please, Sir, to lea'e, Sir,
The orders wi' your lady.

My word of honour I hae gi'en,
In Paisley John's, that night at e'en,
To meet the world's worm:
To try to get the twa to gree,
An' name the airles⁶ an' the fee,
In legal mode an' form:

¹ Master Tootie then lived in Mauchline; a dealer in cows. It was his common practice to cut the nicks or markings from the horns of cattle, to disguise their age. He was an artful trick-contriving character; hence he is called a snick-drawer. Burns styles the Devil, in his address to that personage, an auld, *snick-drawing* dog.⁷

⁷—Cromek.

² Off hand. ³ Sharp. ⁴ Threaten.

⁵ Make. ⁶ Earnest money.

I ken he weel a snick can draw,¹
When simple bodies let him;
An' if a Devil be at a',
In faith he's sure to get him.
To phrase you, an' praise you,
Ye ken your Laureat scorns:
The pray'r still, your share still,
Of grateful Minstrel—BURNS.

EPISTLE'

TO MR. M'ADAM OF CRAIGEN-
GILLAN,

IN ANSWER TO AN OBLIGING LETTER
HE SENT IN THE COMMENCEMENT
OF MY POETIC CAREER.

SIR, o'er a gill I gat your card,
I trow it made me proud;
"See wha taks notice o' the Bard!"
I lap and cry fu' loud.

"Now deil-ma-care about their jaw,
The senseless, gawky million;
I'll cock my nose aboon them a',
I'm roos'd by Craigen-Gillan!"

'Twas noble, Sir; 'twas like yoursel,
To grant your high protection:
A great man's smile, ye ken fu' weel,
Is aye a blest infection.

Tho', by his² banes wha in a tub
Match'd Macedonian Sandy!
On my ain legs, thro' dirt and dub,
I independent stand aye.—

And when those legs to gude, warm kail,
Wi' welcome canna bear me;
A lee dyke-side, a sybow-tail,
And barley scone shall cheer me.

Heaven'spare you lang to kiss the breath
O' mony flow'ry simmers!
And bless your bonnie lasses baith,
I'm tald they're loosome kimmers!³

And God bless young Dunaskin's laird,
The blossom of our gentry!
And may he wear an auld man's beard⁴
A credit to his country.

¹ Contrive a trick.

² Diogenes.

³ Girls.

TO CAPTAIN RIDDEL,
GLENRIDDEL.

EXTEMPORE LINES ON RETURNING A
NEWSPAPER.

Ellisland, Monday Evening.

YOUR News and Review, Sir, I've read
through and through, Sir,

With little admiring or blaming :

The papers are barren of home-news or
foreign,

No murders or rapes worth the nam-
ing.

Our friends the Reviewers, those
chippers and hewers,

Are judges of mortar and stone, Sir;

But of meet, or unmeet, in a fabrick
complete,

I'll boldly pronounce they are none,
Sir.

My goose-quill too rude is, to tell all
your goodness

Bestow'd on your servant, the Poet ;

Would to God I had one like a beam
of the sun,

And then all the world, Sir, should
know it !

TO JOHN MAXWELL,¹ OF TER-
RAUGHTY, ON HIS BIRTH-
DAY.

(WRITTEN IN 1791.)

HEALTH to the Maxwells' vet'ran Chief!
Health, aye unsour'd by care or grief:
Inspir'd, I turn'd Fate's sibyl leaf

This natal morn ;

I see thy life is stuff o' prief,²
Scarce quite half worn.

This day thou metes threescore eleven,
And I can tell that bounteous Heaven
(The second-sight, ye ken, is given
To ilka Poet)

¹ An able but eccentric man, who
had a great admiration for the poet's
social qualities and conversational
powers.

² Proof.

On thee a tack o' seven times seven
Will yet bestow it.

If envious buckies view wi' sorrow
Thy lengthen'd days on this blest mor-
row,

May Desolation's lang-teeth'd harrow,
Nine miles an hour,
Rake them, like Sodom and Gomorrah,
In brunstane stoure !¹

But for thy friends, and they are monie
Baith honest men and lasses bonnie,
May couthie² fortune, kind and cannie,
In social glee,
Wi' mornings blythe and e'enings funny
Bless them and thee !

Fareweel, auld birkie !³ Lord be near
ye,
And then the Deil he daur na steer⁴
ye :

Your friends aye love, your faes aye
fear ye ;

For me, shame fa' me !

If neist my heart I dinna wear ye
While BURNS they ca' me.

THE VOWELS.

A TALE.

'Twas where the birch and sounding
thong are ply'd,
The noisy domicile of pedant pride ;
Where ignorance her darkening vapour
throws,

And cruelty directs the thickening
blows ;

Upon a time, Sir Abece the great,
In all his pedagogic powers elate,
His awful chair of state resolves to
mount,

And call the trembling Vowels to ac-
count.

First enter'd A, a grave, broad, so-
lemn wight,

But ah ! deform'd, dishonest to the
sight !

His twisted head look'd backward on
his way,

¹ Dust.

³ A clever fellow.

² Loving.

⁴ Molest.

And flagrant from the scourge, he
grunted, *ai!*

Reluctant, E stalk'd in; with piteous
race

The jostling tears ran down his honest
face!

That name, that well-worn name, and
all his own,

Pale he surrenders at the tyrant's
throne!

The pedant stifles keen the Roman
sound

Not all his mongrel diphthongs can com-
pound;

And, next, the title following close be-
hind,

He to the nameless, ghastly wretch
assign'd.

The cobweb'd gothic dome resound-
ed, Y!

In sullen vengeance, I disdain'd reply:
The pedant swung his felon cudgel

round,
And knock'd the groaning vowel to the
ground!

In rueful apprehension enter'd O,
The wailing minstrel of despairing woe;

Th' Inquisitor of Spain, the most ex-
pert,

Might there have learnt new mysteries
of his art:

So grim, deform'd, with horrors enter-
ing, U

His dearest friend and brother scarcely
knew!

As trembling U stood staring all
aghast,

The pedant in his left hand clutch'd
him fast,

In helpless infants' tears he dipp'd his
right,

Baptis'd him *eu*, and kick'd him from
his sight.

PROLOGUE

FOR MR. SUTHERLAND'S
BENEFIT-NIGHT, DUMFRIES.

WHAT needs this din about the town
o' Lon'on,
How this new play, an' that new sang,
is comin'?

Why is outlandish stuff sae meikle
courted?

Does nonsense mend like whisky when
imported?

Is there nae poet, burning keen for
fame,

Will try to gie us sangs and plays at
hame?

For comedy abroad he need na toil,
A fool and knave are plants of every

soil:
Nor need he hunt as far as Rome and

Greece,
To gather matter for a serious piece;

There's themes enow in Caledonian
story,

Would show the tragic muse in a' her
glory.

Is there no daring Bard will rise and
tell

How glorious Wallace stood, how hap-
less fell?

Where are the Muses fled that could
produce

A drama worthy o' the name o' Bruce;
How here, even here, he first un-

sheath'd the sword
'Gainst mighty England and her guilty

lord;
And after monie a bloody, deathless

doin',
Wrench'd his dear country from the

jaws of ruin?
O for a Shakespeare, or an Otway

scene,
To draw the lovely, hapless Scottish

Queen!
Vain all the omnipotence of female

charms
'Gainst headlong, ruthless, mad Rebel-

lion's arms,
She fell, but fell with spirit truly

Roman,
To glut the vengeance of a rival wo-

man:
A woman, tho' the phrase may seem

uncivil,
As able and as cruel as the Devil!

One Douglas lives in Home's immortal
page,

But Douglases were heroes every age;
And tho' your fathers, prodigal of life,

A Douglas follow'd to the martial
strife,

Perhaps, if owls row right, and right
succeeds,
Ye yet may follow where a Douglas
leads!
As ye hae generous done, if a' the
land
Would tak the Muses' servants by the
hand;
Nøt only hear, but patronize, befriend
them,
And where ye justly can commend,
commend them;
And aiblins when they winna stand the
test,
Wink hard and say, the folks hae done
their best!
Would a' the land do this, then I'll be
caution
Ye'll soon hae Poets, o' the Scottish
nation,
Will gar fame blaw until her trumpet
crack,
And warse¹ time an' lay him on his
back!
For us and for our stage should onie
spier,
"Whase aught thae chiels maks a' this
bustle here?"
My best leg foremost, I'll set up my
brow,
We hae the honour to belong to you!
We're your ain bairns, e'en guide us as
ye like,
But, like good mithers, shore before ye
strike—
And gratefu' still I hope ye'll ever find
us,
For a' the patronage and meikle kind-
ness
We've got frae a' professions, sets, and
ranks:
God help us! we're but poor—ye'se get
but thanks.

ELEGY ON THE YEAR 1788.

SKETCH.

FOR Lords or Kings I dinna mourn,
E'en let them die—for that they're born:

¹ Wrestle.

But oh! prodigious to reflec'!
A Towmont,¹ Sirs, is gane to wreck!
O Eighty-eight, in thy sma' space
What dire events hae taken place!
Of what enjoyments thou hast left us
In what a pickle thou hast left us!
The Spanish empire's tint² a head,
And my auld toothless Bawtie's dead
The tulzie's³ sair between Pitt an' Fox,
And 'tween our Maggie's twa wee cocks;
The tane is game, a bludie devil,
But to the hen-birds unco civil;
The tither's something dour o' treadin',
But better stuff ne'er claw'd a midden.⁴
Ye ministers, come mount the poupit⁵
An' cry till ye be haerse⁶ an' roupet,
For Eighty-eight he wish'd you weel,
And gied you a' baith gear an' meal;
E'en monie a plack, and monie a peck,
Ye ken yoursels, for little feck.

Ye bonnie lasses, dight your een,⁷
For some o' you hae tint a frien;
In Eighty-eight, ye ken, was ta'en
What ye'll ne'er hae to gie again.
Observe the vera nowtwe⁸ an' sheep,
How dowf⁹ and daviely they creep:
Nay, even the yirth itsel does cry,
For E'mbrugh wells are gruten dry.
O Eighty-nine, thou's but a bairn,
An' no owre auld, I hope, to learn!
Thou beardless boy, I pray tak care,
Thou now has got thy daddy's chair,
Nae hand-cuff'd, mizzl'd, hap-shackl'd
Regent,
But, like himsel, a full free agent.
Be sure ye follow out the plan
Nae waur than he did, honest man:
As muckle better as you can.

January 1, 1789.

DELIA.¹⁰

AN ODE.

FAIR the face of orient day,
Fair the tints of op'ning rose;

¹ Twelvemonth.

² Lost.

³ Quarrel.

¹ Dunghill.

⁵ Pulpit.

⁶ Hoarse.

⁷ Wipe your eyes.

⁸ Cattle.

⁹ Languid.

¹⁰ Said to have been written at the

But fairer still my Delia dawns,
More lovely far her beauty blows.

Sweet the lark's wild-warbled lay,
Sweet the tinkling rill to hear ;
But, Delia, more delightful still
Steal thine accents on mine ear.

The flower-enamour'd busy bee
The rosy banquet loves to sip ;
Sweet the streamlet's limpid lapse
To the sun-brown'd Arab's lip ;

But, Delia, on thy balmy lips
Let me, no vagrant insect, rove !
O let me steal one liquid kiss !
For, oh ! my soul is parch'd with love !

SKETCH.¹

A LITTLE, upright, pert, tart, tripping
wight,
And still his precious self his dear de-
light ;

inn of Brownhill, in the parish of Close-
burn, "a favourite resting-place of
Burns."

¹The piece inscribed, "R. G., Esq.,"
is a copy of verses I sent Mr. Gra-
ham, of Fintry, accompanying a re-
quest for his assistance in a matter
to me of very great moment. This
poem is a species of composition new
to me, but I do not intend it shall be
my last essay of the kind, as you will
see by the "Poet's Progress." These
fragments, if my design succeed, are
but a small part of the intended whole.
I propose it shall be the work of my
utmost exertions, ripened by years.
The fragment beginning, "A little,
upright, pert, tart," &c., forms the
postulate, the axioms, the definition of
a character, which, if it appear at all,
shall be placed in a variety of lights.
This particular part I send you merely
as a sample of my hand at portrait-
sketching.—*To Professor D. Stewart,*
Jan. 20, 1789.

Who loves his own smart shadow in
the streets

Better than e'er the fairest she he meets ;
A man of fashion too, he made his tour,
Learn'd vive la bagatelle, et vive l'a-
mour ;

So travell'd monkeys their grimace im-
prove,
Polish their grin, nay, sigh for ladies'
love.

Much specious lore, but little under-
stood ;

Veneering oft outshines the solid wood :
His solid sense—by inches you must
tell,

But mete his cunning by the old Scots
ell ;

His meddling vanity, a busy fiend,
Still making work his selfish craft must
mend.

VERSES

WRITTEN UNDER THE PORTRAIT OF
FERGUSON, THE POET, IN A COPY
OF THAT AUTHOR'S WORKS, PRE-
SENTED TO A YOUNG LADY IN
EDINBURGH, MARCH 19TH, 1787.

CURSE on ungrateful man, that can be
pleas'd,
And yet can starve the author of the
pleasure !

O thou, my elder brother in misfortune,
By far my elder brother in the Muses,
With tears I pity thy unhappy fate !
Why is the Bard unpitied by the world,
Yet has so keen a relish of its pleasures !

LAMENT,

WRITTEN AT A TIME WHEN THE
POET WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE
SCOTLAND.¹

O'ER the mist-shrouded cliffs of the lone
mountain straying,
Where the wild winds of winter in-
cessantly rave,

¹ Originally published in the *Dum*

What woes wring my heart while in-
tently surveying
The storm's gloomy path on the
breast of the wave.

Ye foam-crested billows, allow me to
wail,

Ere ye toss me afar from my lov'd
native shore;

Where the flower which bloom'd sweet-
est in Coila's green vale,

The pride of my bosom, my Mary's
no more.

No more by the banks of the streamlet
we'll wander,

And smile at the moon's rippled face
in the wave;

No more shall my arms cling with
fondness around her,

For the dew-drops of morning fall
cold on her gage.

No more shall the soft thrill of love
warm my breast,

I haste with the storm to a far dis-
tant shore;

Where unknown, unlamented, my ashes
shall rest,

And joy shall revisit my bosom no
more.

ON THE DEATH OF SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR.¹

THE lamp of day, with ill-presaging
glare,

Dim, cloudy, sunk beneath the west-
ern wave;

Th' inconstant blast howl'd thro' the
dark'ning air,

And hollow whistl'd in the rocky cave.

Lone as I wander'd by each cliff and dell,
O'er the lov'd haunts of Scotia's

royal train ;²

fries Journal, July 5th, 1815, but doubt-
fully ascribed to Burns.

¹ Sir James Blair died July 1, 1787 :
he was a partner in Forbes' Bank, at
Edinburgh.

² The King's Park, at Holyrood
House.—R. B.

Or mus'd where limpid streams, once
hallow'd, well,¹
Or mould'ring ruins mark the sacred
fane.²

Th' increasing blast roar'd round the
beetling rocks,

The clouds swift-wing'd flew o'er the
starry sky,

The groaning trees untimely shed their
locks,

And shooting meteors caught the
startled eye.

The paly moon rose in the livid east,
And 'mong the cliffs disclos'd a
stately form,

In weeds of woe that frantic beat her
breast,

And mix'd her wailings with the
raving storm.

Wild to my heart the filial pulses glow,
'Twas Caledonia's trophied shie'd I
view'd :

Her form majestic droop'd in pensive
woe,

The lightning of her eye in tears im-
bued.

Revers'd that spear, redoubtable in war,
Reclin'd that banner, erst in fields
unfur'd,

That like a deathful meteor gleam'd
afar,

And brav'd the mighty monarchs of
the world.—

“My patriot son fills an untimely
grave !”

With accents wild and lifted arms
she cried ;

“Low lies the hand that oft was stretch'd
to save,

Low lies the heart that swell'd with
honest pride.

“A weeping country joins a widow's
tear,

The helpless poor mix with the or-
phan's cry ;

The drooping Arts surround their pa-
tron's bier,

And grateful Science heaves the
heartfelt sigh.—

¹ St. Anthony's Well.—R. B.

² St. Anthony's Chapel.—R. B.

"I saw my sons resume their ancient
fire ;
I saw fair Freedom's blossoms richly
blow ;
But, ah ! how hope is born but to ex-
pire !

Relentless fate has laid their guardian
low.—

"My patriot falls, but shall he lie un-
sung,

While empty greatness saves a worth-
less name?

No ; every Muse shall join her tuneful
tongue,

And future ages hear his growing
fame.

"And I will join a mother's tender
cares,

Thro' future times to make his vir-
tues last,

That distant years may boast of other
Blairs,"—

She said, and vanish'd with the
sweeping blast.

THE POET'S WELCOME TO HIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.¹

THOU'S welcome, wean ! mischanter²
fa' me,

If ought of thee, or of thy mammy,
Shall ever danton me, or awe me,

My sweet wee lady,
Or if I blush when thou shalt ca' me
Tit-ta, or daddy.

Wee image of my bonnie Betty,
I, fatherly, will kiss and daut³ thee,
As dear an' near my heart I set thee
Wi' as gude will,

As a' the priests had seen me get thee
That's out o' h—ll.

What tho' they ca' me fornicator,
An' tease my name in kintra clatter :

¹ The mother was Elizabeth Paton, of Largside, and her daughter died in 1817, the wife of the everseer at Polk-
emmet.

² Accidet t.

³ Fondle.

The mair they talk I'm kent the better,
E'en let them clash ;
An auld wife's tongue's a feckless
matter

To gie ane fash.

Sweet fruit o' monie a merry dint,
My funny toil is now a' tint,
Sin' thou came to the warld asklent,¹

Which fools may scoff at
In my last plack thy part's be in't—
The better half o't.

An' if thou be what I wad hae thee,
An' tak the counsel I shall gie thee,
A lovin' father I'll be to thee,

If thou be spar'd ;
Thro' a' thy childish years I'll e'e thee,
An' think 't weel war'd.

Gude grant that thou may aye inherit
Thy mither's person, grace, an' merit
An' thy poor worthless daddy's spirit,

Without his failins,
"Twill please me mair to hear an' see't
Than stockit mailins.²

LETTER TO JOHN GOUDIE, KILMARNOCK, ON THE PUB- LICATION OF HIS ESSAYS.

O GOUDIE ! terror o' the Whigs,
Dread o' black coats and rev'rend wigs,
Sour Bigotry, on her last legs,

Girnin'³ looks back,
Wishin' the ten Egyptian plagues
Wad seize you quick.

Poor gapin', glowrin' Superstition,
Waes me ! she's in a sad conidion ;
Fy, bring Black-Jock, her state physi-
cian,

To see her water ;
Alas ! there's ground o' great suspicion
She'll ne'er get better.

Auld Orthodoxy lang did grapple,
But now she's got an unco ripple ;⁴

¹ Asquint.

³ Grinning.

² Farms.

⁴ Death-pain.

Haste, gie her name up i' the chapel,
 Nigh unto death ;
 See how she fetches at the thrapple,¹
 An' gasps for breath.

Enthusiasm's past redemption,
 Gaen in a galloping consumption,
 Not a' the quacks, wi' a' their gump-
 tion,
 Will ever mend her ;
 Her feeble pulse gies strong presump-
 tion,
 Death soon will end her.

'Tis you and Taylor² are the chief,
 Wha are to blame for this mischief ;
 But gin the Lord's ain focks gat leave,
 A toom³ tar-barrel
 An' twa red peats wad send relief,
 An' end the quarrel.

LETTER TO JAMES TAIT,
 GLENCONNER.⁴

AULD comrade dear, and brither sinner,
 How's a' the folk about Glenconner ;
 How do you this blae eastlin win',
 That's like to blaw a body blin' ?
 For me, my faculties are frozen,
 My dearest member nearly dozen'.
 I've sent you here by Johnnie Simson,
 Twa sage philosophers to glimpse on ;
 Smith, wi' his sympathetic feeling,
 An' Reid, to common sense appealing,
 Philosophers have fought an' wrangled,
 An' meikle Greek an' Latin mangled,
 Till wi' their logic-jargon tir'd,
 An' in the depth of Science mir'd,
 To common sense they now appeal,
 What wives an' wabsters⁵ see an' feel.
 But, hark ye, friend, I charge you
 strictly,
 Peruse them, an' return them quickly,
 For now I'm grown sae cursed douse,
 I pray an' ponder but the house,

My shins, my lane,¹ I there sit roastin',
 Perusing Bunyan, Brown, an' Boston ;
 Till by an' by, if I haud on,
 I'll grunt a real Gospel-groan :
 Already I begin to try it,
 To cast my een up like a pyet,²
 When by the gun she tumbles o'er :
 Flutt'ring an' gaspin' in her gore :
 Sae shortly you shall see me brig't,
 A burning an' a shining light.

My heart-warm love to guid auld
 Glen,
 The ace an' wale³ of honest men :
 When bending down wi' auld grey
 hairs,
 Beneath the load of years and cares,
 May he who made him still support him,
 An' views beyond the grave comfort
 him.
 His worthy fam'ly far and near,
 God bless them a' wi' grace and gear !

My auld school-fellow, Preacher
 Willie,
 The manly tar,⁴ my mason Billie,
 An' Auchenbay, I wish him joy ;
 If he's a parent, lass or boy,
 May he be dad, and Meg the mither,
 Just five-and-forty years thegither !
 An' no forgetting wabster Charlie,
 I'm tauld he offers very fairly.
 An' Lord remember singing Sannock,
 Wi' hale-breeks, saxpence, an' a ban-
 nock.
 An' next, my auld acquaintance, Nancy,
 Since she is fitted to her fancy ;
 An' her kind stars hae airted till her
 A good chiel wi' a pickle⁵ siller.
 My kindest, best respects I sen' it,
 To cousin Kate an' sister Janet ;
 Tell them frae me, wi' chiels be cau-
 tious,
 For, faith, they'll aiblins fin' them
 fashious :
 To grant a heart is fairly civil.—
 An' lastly, Jamie, for yoursell,
 May guardian angels tak a spell

¹ Throat. ² Dr. Taylor, of Norwich.
³ Empty.
⁴ According to Burns, "the most
 intelligent farmer in the country."
⁵ Weavers.

¹ Myself alone.
² Magpie. ³ Choice.
⁴ The "manly tar" was probably
 Richard Brown.—CUNNINGHAM.
⁵ Small quantity.

An' steer you seven miles south o' hell :
 But first, before ye see heav'n's glory,
 May ye get monie a merry story,
 Monie a laugh, and monie a drink,
 An' aye enugh o' needfu' clink.

Now fare ye weel, an' joy be wi' you,
 For my sake this I beg it o' you,
 Assist poor Simson a' ye can,
 Ye'll fin' him just an honest man ;
 Sae I conclude and quat my chanter,
 Yeurs, saint or sinner,

ROB THE RANTER.

EPISTLE FROM ESOPUS¹ TO
 MARIA.

FROM those drear solitudes and frowzy
 cells,
 Where infamy with sad repentance
 dwells ;
 Where turnkeys make the jealous port-
 tal fast,
 And deal from iron hands the spare re-
 past ;
 Where truant 'prentices, yet young in
 sin,
 Blush at the curious stranger peeping
 in ;
 Where strumpets, relics of the drunken
 roar,
 Resolve to drink, nay half to w—e, no
 more ;
 Where tiny thieves, not destin'd yet to
 swing,
 Beat hemp for others, riper for the
 string :
 From these dire scenes my wretched
 lines I date,
 To tell Maria her Esopus' fate.

“ Alas ! I feel I am no actor here ! ”
 'Tis real hangmen, real scourges bear !
 Prepare, Maria, for a horrid tale
 Will turn thy very rouge to deadly
 pale ;

¹ The *Esopus* of this strange epistle was Williamson the actor, and the *Maria* to whom it is addressed was Mrs Riddel.—ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

Will make thy hair, tho' erst from
 gipsy poll'd,
 By barber woven, and by barber sold,
 Though twisted smooth with Harry's
 nicest care,
 Like hoary bristles to erect and stare.
 The hero of the mim'c scene, no more
 I start in Hamlet, in Othello roar ;
 Or haughty Chieftain, 'mid the din of
 arms,
 In Highland bonnet woo Malvina's
 charms :
 While sans culottes stoop up the moun-
 tain high,
 And steal from me Maria's prying eye.
 Bless'd Highland bonnet ! Once my
 proudest dress,
 Now prouder still, Maria's temples
 press.
 I see her wave thy towering plumes afar,
 And call each coxcomb to the wordy
 war.
 I see her face the first of Ireland's sons,
 And even out-Irish his Hibernian
 bronze ;
 The crafty colonel leaves the tartan'd
 lines,
 For other wars, where he a hero
 shines :
 The hopeful youth, in Scottish senate
 bred,
 Who owns a Bushby's heart without
 the head,
 Comes, 'mid a string of coxcombs to
 display
 That *veni, vidi, vici*, is his way ;
 The shrinking bard adown an alley
 skulks,
 And dreads a meeting worse than
 Woolwich hulks ;
 Though there his heresies in church
 and state
 Might well award him Muir and Pal-
 mer's fate :
 Still she undaunted reels and rattles on,
 And dares the public like a noontide sun.
 (What scandal called Maria's janty
 stagger
 The ricket reeling of a crooked swagger !
 Whose spleen, e'en worse than Burns's
 venom—when
 He dips in gall unmix'd his eager pen,
 And pours his vengeance in the burning
 line,—

Who christen'd thus Maria's lyre di-
vine;

The idiot strum of vanity bemused,
And even th' abuse of poesy abused!
Who call'd her verse, a parish workhouse
made

For motley, founding fancies, stolen
or stray'd?)

A workhouse! ah, that sound awakes
my woes,

And pillows on the thorn my rack'd
repose!

In durance vile here must I wake and
weep,

And all my frowzy couch in sorrow
steep;

That straw where many a rogue has
lain of yore,

And vermin'd gipsies litter'd heretofore.

Why, Lonsdale, thus thy wrath on
vagrants pour,

Must earth no rascal, save thyself, en-
dure?

Must thou alone in guilt immortal swell,
And make a vast monopoly of hell?

Thou know'st the virtues cannot hate
thee worse;

The vices also, must they club their
curse?

Or must no tiny sin to others fall,
Because thy guilt's supreme enough for
all?

Maria, send me too thy griefs and
cares;

In all of thee sure thy Esopus shares.
As thou at all mankind the flag unfurls,

Who on my fair-one satire's vengeance
hurls?

Who calls thee pert, affected, vain
coquette,

A wit in folly, and a fool in wit?

Who says that fool alone is not thy due,
And quotes thy treacheries to prove it
true?

Our force united on thy foes we'll turn,
And dare the war with all of woman
born:

For who can write and speak as thou
and I?

My periods that decyphering defy,
And thy still matchless tongue that
conquers all reply.

ON A SUICIDE.¹

EARTH'D up here lies an imp o' hell,
Planted by Satan's dibble—
Poor silly wretch, he's d—d himself
To save the Lord the trouble.

A FAREWELL.²

FAREWELL, dear Friend! may guid
luck hit you,
And, 'mang her favourites admit you!
If e'er Detraction shore to smit you,
May nane believe him!
And ony Deil that thinks to get you,
Good Lord, deceive him

THE FAREWELL.

FAREWELL old Scotia's bleak domains,
Far dearer than the torrid plains
Where rich ananas blow!
Farewell, a mother's blessing dear!
A brother's sigh! a sister's tear!
My Jean's heart-rending throe!
Farewell, my Bess! tho' thou'rt bereft
Of my parental care;
A faithful brother I have left,
My part in him thou'lt share!

¹ A melancholy person of the name of Glendinning, having taken away his own life, was interred at a place called "The Old Chapel," close beside Dumfries. My friend Dr. Copland Hutchinson happened to be walking out that way: he saw Burns with his foot on the grave, his hat on his knee, and paper laid on his hat, on which he was writing. He then took the paper, thrust it with his finger into the red mould of the grave, and went away. This was the above epigram, and such was the Poet's mode of publishing it—A. CUNNINGHAM.

² The friend was Mr. John Kennedy

Adieu too, to you too,
 My Smith, my bosom frien' ;
 When kindly you mind me,
 O then befriend my Jean !

When bursting anguish tears my heart !
 From thee, my Jeannie, must I part !

Thou weeping answe'rest, " No !"
 Alas ! misfortune stares my face,
 And points to ruin and disgrace,
 I, for thy sake, must go !
 Thee Hamilton, and Aiken dear,
 A grateful, warm adieu !
 I, with a much-indebted tear,
 Shall still remember you !
 All-hail then, the gale then,
 Wafts me from thee, dear shore !
 It rustles, and whistles—
 I'll never see thee more !

EPISTLE TO ROBERT GRAHAM, ESQ., OF FINTRY; ON THE CLOSE OF THE DISPUTED ELECTION BETWEEN SIR JAMES JOHNSTONE AND CAPTAIN MILLER, FOR THE DUMFRIES DISTRICT OF BOROUGHES.

ZINTEY, my stay in worldly strife,
 Friend o' my Muse, friend o' my life,
 Are ye as idle's I am ?
 Come then, wi' uncouth, kintra fleg,¹
 O'er Pegasus I'll fling my leg,
 And ye shall see me try him.

I'll sing the zeal Drumlanrig bears
 Who left the all-important cares
 Of princes and their darlings ;
 And, bent on winning borough towns,
 Came shaking hands wi' wabster lowns,
 And kissing barefit carlins.²

Combustion thro' our boroughs rode
 Whistling his roaring pack abroad
 Of mad unmuzzled lions ;

As Queensberry buff and blue unfur'd,
 And Westerha' and Hopeton hurl'd
 To every Whig defiance.

But cautious Queensberry left the war
 Th' unmanner'd dust might soil his
 star ;

Besides, he hated bleeding ;
 But left behind him heroes bright,
 Heroes in Cæsarean fight,
 Or Ciceronian pleading.

O ! for a throat like huge Mons-meg,
 To muster o'er each ardent Whig
 Beneath Drumlanrig's banner ;
 Heroes and heroines commix,
 All in the field of politics,
 To win immortal honour.

M'Murdo and his lovely spouse,
 (Th' enamour'd laurels kiss her brows !)
 Led on the loves and graces :
 She won each gaping burgess' heart,
 While, he, all-conquering, play'd his
 part
 Among their wives and lasses.

Craigdarroch led a light-arm'd corps,
 Tropes, metaphors, and figures pour,
 Like Hecla streaming thunder :
 Glenridel, skill'd in rusty coils,
 Blew up each Tory's dark designs,
 And bared the treason under.

In either wing two champions fought,
 Redoubted Staig, who set at nought
 The wildest savage Tory :
 And Welsh, who ne'er yet flinch'd his
 ground,
 High-waved his magnum-bonum round
 With Cyclopeian fury.

Miller brought up th' artillery ranks,
 The many-pounders of the Banks,
 Resistless desolation !
 While Maxwellton, that baron bold,
 'Mid Lawson's port entrench'd his hold,
 And threaten'd worse damnation.

To these what Tory hosts oppos'd,
 With these what Tory warriors clos'd,
 Surpasses my describing :
 Squadrons, extended long and large,
 With furious speed rush to the charge
 Like raging devils driving.

¹ Kick.

² Old women.

What verse car sing, what prose nar-
rate,

The butcher deeds of bloody fate
Amid this mighty tulzie!

Grim Horror gird—pale Terror roar'd,
As Murder at his thrapple¹ shor'd,
And Hell mix'd in the bruizie.²

As highland crags by thunder cleft,
When lightnings fire the stormy lift,
Hurl down with crashing rattle:
As flames among a hundred woods;
As headlong foam a hundred floods;
Such is the rage of battle!

The stubborn Tories dare to die;
As soon the rooted oaks would fly
Before th' approaching fellers:
The Whigs come on like Ocean's roar,
When all his wintry billows pour
Against the Buchan Bullers.³

Lo, from the shades of Death's deep
night,

Departed Whigs enjoy the fight,
And think on former daring:
The muffled murderer of Charles
The Magna Charta flag unfurls,
All deadly gules its bearing.

Nor wanting ghosts of Tory fame,
Bold Scrimgeour follows gallant Gra-
ham,

Auld Covenanters shiver.
(Forgive, forgive, much-wrong'd Mont-
rose!

Now death and hell engulf thy foes,
Thou liv'st on high for ever!)

Still o'er the field the combat burns,
The Tories, Whigs, give way by turns;

But Fate the word has spoken.
For woman's wit and strength o' man,
Alas! can do but what they can!
The Tory ranks are broken.

O that my een were flowing burns!
My voice a lioness that mourns
Her darling cubs' undoing!
That I might greet, that I might cry,
While Tories fall, while Tories fly,
And furious Whigs pursuing!

¹ Throat.

² The broil.

³ A rocky opening on the coast of
Aberdeenshire.

What Whig but melts for good Sir
James?

Dear to his country by the names
Friend, patron, benefactor!

Not Pulteney's wealth can Pulteney
save!

And Hopeton falls, the generous brave!
And Stewart, bold as Hector.

Thou, Pitt, shalt rue this overthrow;
And Thurlow growl a curse of woe;

And Melville melt in wailing!
How Fox and Sheridan rejoice!
And Burke shall sing, O Prince, arise,
Thy power is all-prevailing!

For your poor friend, the Bard, afar
He only hears and sees the war,

A cool spectator purely!
So, when the storm the forest rends,
The robin in the hedge descends,
And sober chirps securely.

Now for my friends' and brethren's
sakes,

And for my dear-loved Land o' Cakes,
I pray with holy fire:

Lord, send a rough-shod troop o' hell,
O'er a' wad Scotland buy or sell,
To grind them in the mire!

EPISTLE TO MAJOR LOGAN.

[Major Logan was a skilful player of the violin, and a man after Burns' own heart. He was a retired military officer, and well known to the celebrated Neil Gow. He resided at Park House, near Ayr, and lived with his sister and mother. This sister was the Miss Logan to whom the poet addressed some verses, with a present of Beattie's Poems (see p. 69). The Major was a jovial friend and a great favourite of the poet's, and, besides being a first-rate violinist, was a capital companion. He abounded in anecdote and humorous sallies of good-humoured wit. This Epistle shows the high esteem in which he was held, and especially by Burns.]

HAIL, thairm¹-inspirin', rattlin' Wil-
lie!
Though Fortune's road be rough an'
hilly
To every fiddling, rhymin' billie,
We never heed,
But tak it like the unback'd filly,
Proud o' her speed.

When idly goavan² whyles we saun-
ter,
Yirr³ fancy barks, awa' we canter
Uphill, down brae, till some mis-
chanter,⁴
Some black bog-hole,
Arrests us, then the scathe⁵ an' ban-
ter
We're forced to thole.⁶

Hale be your heart! Hale be your
fiddle!
Lang may your elbuck jink and did-
dle,
To cheer you through the weary wid-
dle
O' this wild warl',
Until you on a crummock driddle?
A grey-hair'd carl.

Come wealth, come poortith, late or
soon,
Heaven send your heart-strings aye in
tune,
And screw your temper-pins aboon,
A fifth or mair,
The melancholious, lazy croon
O' cankrie care.

May still your life from day to day
Nae "lente largo" in the play,
But "allegretto forte" gay
Harmonious flow:

¹ Fiddle-string.

² Walking without an object.

³ Lively.

⁴ Accident.

⁵ Injury.

⁶ To bear.

⁷ Hobble on a stick.

A sweeping, kindling, bauld strath-
spey—
Encore! Bravo!

A blessing on the cheery gang
Wha dearly like a jig or sang,
An' never think o' right an' wrang
By square an' rule,
But as the clegs¹ o' feeling stang²
Are wise or fool.

My hand-waled curse keep hard in
chase
The harpy, hoodock,³ purse-proud race,
Wha count on poortith as disgrace—
Their tuneless hearts!
May fire-side discords jar a base
To a' their parts!

But come, your hand, my careless bri-
ther,
I th' ither warl'—if there's anither,
An' that there is I've little swither⁴
About the matter,—
We cheek for chow shall jog thegither,
I'se ne'er bid better.

We've faults and failings—granted
clearly,
We're frail backsliding mortals merely,
Eve's bonny squad priests wyte⁵ them
sheerly
For our grand fa';
But still, but still, I like them dearly—
God bless them a'!

Ochon for poor Castalian drinkers,
When they fa' foul o' earthly jinkers,
The witching curs'd delicious blinkers
Hae put me hyte,⁶
And gart me weet my waukrife wink-
ers,⁷

Wi' girnin spite.

But by yon moon!—and that's high
swearin'²—
An' every star within my hearin'!
An' by her een wha was a dear ane!
I'll ne'er forget;
I hope to gie the jads⁸ a clearin'
In fair play yet.

¹ Gadflies.

³ Miserly.

⁵ Blame.

⁷ Wet my sleepless eyes.

² Sting.

⁴ Doubt.

⁶ Frantic.

⁸ Jades.

My loss I mourn, but not repent it,
 I'll seek my pursie where I tint¹ it,
 Ance to the Indies I were wanted,
 Some cantraip² hour,
 By some sweet elf I'll yet be dinted,
 Then, *vive l'amour!*

Faites mes baissemains respectueuses,
 To sentimental sister Susie,
 An' honest Lucky; no to roose ye,
 Ye may be proud,
 That sic a couple fate allows ye
 To grace your blood.

Nae mair at present can I measure,
 An' trowth my rhymin' ware's nae
 treasure;
 But when in Ayr, some half-hour's
 leisure,

Be't light, be't dark,
 Sir Bard will do himsel' the pleasure
 To call at Park.

ROBERT BURNS.

Mossiel, 30th October, 1786.

EPITAPH ON THE POET'S DAUGHTER.³

HERE lies a rose, a budding rose,
 Blasted before its bloom;

Whose innocence did sweets disclose
 Beyond that flower's perfume,
 To those who for her loss are grieved,
 This consolation's given—
 She's from a world of woe relieved,
 And blooms a rose in Heaven.

EPITAPH ON GABRIEL RICHARDSON.¹

HERE Brewer Gabriel's fire's extinct,
 And empty all his barrels:
 He's bleat—if, as he brew'd, he drink
 In upright honest morals.

EPISTLE TO HUGH PARKER.²

IN this strange land, this uncouth clime,
 A land unknown to prose or rhyme;
 Where words ne'er crost the Muse's
 heckles,³
 Nor limpet in poetic shackles;
 A land that prose did never view it,
 Except when drunk he stachert through
 it;

to recover from that shock when I became myself the victim of a most severe rheumatic fever, and long the die spun doubtful; until, after many weeks of sick bed, it seems to have turned up life, and I am beginning to crawl across my room, and once indeed have been before my own door in the street.

“When pleasure fascinates the mental sight,
 Affliction purifies the visual ray,
 Religion hails the drear, the untried night,
 That shuts, for ever shuts, life's doubtful day.”

¹ A brewer in Dumfries.

² A merchant of Kilmarnock, and a generous patron of Burns at the beginning of his poetical career.

³ Instrument for dressing flax.

¹ Lost.

² Charmed.

³ These lines are said to have been written by Burns on the loss of his daughter, who died in the autumn of 1795, and of whom he thus speaks in his letter to Mrs. Dunlop, from Dumfries, January 31, 1796: “These many months you have been two packets in my debt—what sin of ignorance I have committed against so highly valued a friend I am utterly at a loss to guess. Alas! madam, ill can I afford, at this time, to be deprived of any of the small remnant of my pleasures. I have lately drunk deep of the cup of affliction. The autumn robbed me of my only daughter and darling child, and that at a distance too, and so rapidly, as to put it out of my power to pay the last duties to her. I had scarcely begun

Here, ambush'd by the chimla¹ cheek,
 Hid in an atmosphere of reek,
 I hear a wheel thrum i' the neuk,
 I hear it—for in vain I leuk.—
 The red peat gleams, a fiery kernel,
 Enhusked by a fog infernal:
 Here, for my wonted rhyming raptures,
 I sit and count my sins by chapters;
 For life and spunk, like ither Christians,
 I m' dwindled down to mere existence,
 Wi' nae converse but Gallowa' bodies,
 Wi' nae kend face but Jenny Geddes.
 Jenny, my Pegasean pride!
 Dowie² she saunters down Nithside,
 And aye a westlin leuk she throws,
 While tears hap o'er her auld brown
 nose!
 Was it for this, wi' canny care,
 Thou bure the Bard through many a
 shire?
 At howes or hillocks never stumbled,
 And late or early never grumbled?
 Oh, had I power like inclination,
 I'd heeze³ thee up a constellation,
 To canter with the Sagitarre,
 Or loup the ecliptic like a bar,
 Or turn the pole like any arrow:
 Or, when auld Phœbus bids good-mor-
 row,
 Down the zodiac urge the race,
 And cast dirt on his godship's face:
 For I could lay my bread and kail,
 He'd ne'er cast saut upo' thy tail.—
 Wi' a' this care and a' this grief,
 And sma', sma' prospect of relief,
 And nought but peat reek i' my head,
 How can I write what ye can read?—
 Tarbolton, twenty-fourth o' June,
 Ye'll find me in a better tune;
 But till we meet and weet our whistle,
 Tak this excuse for nae epistle.

ROBERT BURNS.

ADDRESS OF BEELZEBUB TO
 THE PRESIDENT⁴ OF THE
 HIGHLAND SOCIETY.

LONG life, my Lord, an' health be yours,
 Unskait'h'd by hunger'd Highland
 boors;

Lord grant nae Judo¹'s desperate
 beggar,
 Wi' dirk, claymore, or rusty trigger,
 May twin² auld Sco'tlan! o' a life
 She likes—as lambkins like a knife.
 Faith you and A——s were right
 To keep the Highland hounds in sight;
 I doubt na'! they wad bid nae better
 Than let them ance out owre the water.
 Then up amang thae lakes and seas
 They'll mak what rules and laws they
 please;
 Some daring Hancock, or a Franklin,
 May set their Highland bluid a ranklin';
 Some Washington again may head
 them,
 Or some Montgomery fearless lead
 them,
 Till God knows what may be effectet
 When by such heads and hearts di-
 rected—
 Poor dunghill sons of dirt and mire
 May to Patrician rights a'vire
 Nae sage North, now, nor sager Sack-
 ville,
 To watch and premier e'er the pack-
 vile;
 An' whare will ye get Howes and
 Clintons
 To bring them to a right repentance,
 To cove the rebel generation,
 An' save the honour o' the nation?
 They an' be——! what right hae they
 To meat or sleep, or light o' day?
 Far less to riches, pow'r, or freedom,
 But what your Lordship likes to gie
 them?

But hear, my Lord! Glengarry, hear!
 Your hand's owre light on them, I
 fear;
 Your factors, grieves, trustees, and
 bailies,
 I canna' say but they do gaylies;³
 They lay aside a' tender mercies,
 An' tirl the hallions to the birses;
 Yet while they're only poind't and
 herriet,⁴
 They'll keep their stubborn Highland
 spirit;

¹ Fire-place. ² Weary. ³ Raise.
⁴ The Earl of Breadalbane.

¹ Ragged. ² Deprive. ³ Pretty well
⁴ Seized and plundered.

But smash them! crash them a' to spails!¹

An' rot the dyvors² i' the jails!

The young dogs, swinge³ them to the labour;

Let wark and hunger mak them sober!

The hizzies, if they're aughtlins faw-sont,⁴

Let them in Drury-lane be lesson'd!

An' if the wives an' dirty brats

E'en thigger⁵ at your doors an' yetts⁶

Flaffan wi' duds⁷ an' grey wi' beas',

Frightin' awa your deucks an' geese,

Get out a horsewhip, or a jowler,

The langest thong, the fiercest growler,

An' gar the tatter'd gypsies pack

Wi' a' their bastarts on their back!

Go on, my Lord! I lang to meet you,

An' in my house at hame to greet you;

Wi' common lords ye shanna mingle,

The benmost neuk beside the ingle,

At my right han' assign'd your seat

'Tween Herod's hip and Polycrate,—

Or if you on your station tarrow,⁸

Between Almagro and Pizarro,

A seat, I'm sure ye're weel deservin' t';

An' till ye come—Your humble servant,

BEELZEBUB.

June 1, Anno Mundi, 5790.

TO MR. JOHN KENNEDY.

Now, Kennedy, if foot or horse
E'er bring you in by Mauchline Corse,
Lord, man, there's lasses there wad
force

A hermit's fancy,

A'nd down the gate, in faith, they're
worse,

An' mair unchancy.

But, as I'm sayin', please step to Dow's,
And taste sic gear as Johnnie brews,
Till some bit callan bring me news

That you are there,

And if we dinna haud a bouze,
I'se ne'er drink mair.

¹ Chips.

² Bankrupts.

³ Whip.

⁴ Decent.

⁵ Crowd.

⁶ Farm-yard gates.

Fluttering with rags.

⁸ Murmur.

It's no I like to sit an' swallow,
Then like a swine to puke an' wallow.
But gie me just a true good fallow

Wi' right ingine,¹

And spunkie ance to make us mellow,
And then we'll shine.

Now, if ye're ane o' warl's folk,
Wha rate the wearer by the cloak,
An' sklent on poverty their joke,

Wi' bitter sneer,

Wi' you no friendship will I troke,
Nor cheap nor dear.

But if, as I'm informed weel,
Ye hate, as il's the vera Deil,
The flinty heart that canna feel—

Come, Sir, here's tae you;

Hae, there's my haun', I wiss² you
weel,

And guid be wi' you. *

ON THE DEATH OF ROBERT
DUNDAS, ESQ., OF ARNISTON,
LATE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF
SESSION.

LONE on the bleaky hills the straying
flocks

Shun the fierce storms among the shel-
tering rocks:

Down from the rivulets, red with dash-
ing rains,

The gathering floods burst o'er the
distant plains;

Beneath the blasts the leafless forests
groan;

The hollow caves return a sullen moan.

Ye hills, ye plains, ye forests, and ye
caves,

Ye howling winds, and wintry swelling
waves!

Unheard, unseen, by human ear or
eye,

Sad to your sympathetic scenes I fly;
Where to the whistling blast and

waters' roar,

Pale Scotia's recent wound I may de-
plore.

¹ Genius, or disposition.

² Wish

D heavy loss, thy country ill could
 bear!
 A loss these evil days can ne'er re-
 pair!
 Justice, the high vicegerent of her
 God,
 Her doubtful balance eyed, and sway'd
 her rod;
 Hearing the tidings of the fatal blow
 She sunk, abandon'd to the wildest
 woe.

Wrongs, injuries from many a dark-
 some den,
 Now gay in hope explore the paths of
 men:
 See from his cavern grim Oppression
 rise,
 And throw on Poverty his cruel eyes;
 Keen on the helpless victim see him
 fly,
 And stifle, dark, the feebly-bursting
 cry:

Mark ruffian Violence, distain'd with
 crimes,
 Rousing elate in these degenerate
 times;
 View unsuspecting Innocence a prey,
 As guileful Fraud points out the erring
 way:
 While subtle Litigation's pliant tongue
 The life-blood equal sucks of Right and
 Wrong:
 Hark, injured Want recounts th' un-
 listen'd tale,
 And much-wrong'd Mis'ry pours th'
 unpitied wail!

Ye dark waste hills, and brown un-
 sightly plains,
 To you I sing my grief-inspired strains:
 Ye tempests, rage! ye turbid torrents,
 roll!
 Ye suit the joyless tenor of my soul.
 Life's social haunts and pleasures I
 resign,
 Be nameless wilds and lonely wander-
 ings mine,
 To mourn the woes my country must
 endure,
 That wound degenerate ages cannot
 cure.

TO JOHN M'MURDO, ESQ.

O, COULD I give thee India's wealth,
 As I this trifle send!
 Because thy joy in both would be
 To share them with a friend.

But golden sands did never grace
 The Heliconian stream;
 Then take what gold could never buy—
 An honest Bard's esteem.

ON THE DEATH OF
 A LAP-DOG, NAMED ECHO.

IN wood and wild, ye warbling throng,
 Your heavy loss deplore;
 Now half-extinct your powers of song,
 Sweet Echo is no more.

Ye jarring, screeching things around,
 Scream your discordant joys;
 Now half your din of tuneless sound
 With Echo silent lies.

THE KIRK'S ALARM.²

A SATIRE.

ORTHODOX, orthodox,
 Wha believe in John Knox,

¹ Steward to the Duke of Queensberry.

² It is impossible to look back now to the civil war which then raged among the churchmen of the west of Scotland, without confessing that on either side there was much to regret, and not a little to blame; and no one can doubt that, in the, at best, unsettled state of Robert Burns' principles, the unhappy effect must have been powerful indeed, as to him. M'Gill and Dalrymple, the two ministers of the town of Ayr, had long been suspected of entertaining heterodox opinions. The gentry of the country took, for the most part, the side of M'Gill; the bulk of the lower orders espoused the cause of those who conducted the prosecution against this erring Doctor

Let me sound an alarm to your conscience—
 There's a heretic blast,
 Has been blawn i' the wast,
 That what is not sense must be non-
 sense.

Doctor Mac, Doctor Mac,
 Ye should stretch on a rack,
 To strike evil-doers wi' terror;
 To join faith and sense,
 Upon any pretence,
 Is heretic, damnable error.

Town of Ayr, town of Ayr,
 It was mad, I declare,
 To meddle wi' mischief a-brewing;
 Provost John is still deaf
 To the Church's relief,
 And orator Bob¹ is its ruin.

D'rymple mild, D'rymple mild,
 Tho' your heart's like a child,
 And your life like the new-driven snaw,
 Yet that winna save ye,
 Old Satan must have ye,
 For preaching that three's ane an' twa.

Calvin's sons, Calvin's sons,
 Seize your spiritual guns,
 Ammunition ye never can need;
 Your hearts are the stuff,
 Will be powder enough,
 And your skulls are storehouses of lead.

Rumble John, Rumble John,²
 Mount the steps wi' a groan,

Gavin Hamilton, and all persons of his stamp, were, of course, on the side of M'Gill; Auld, and the Mauchline Elders, with his enemies. Mr. Robert Aiken, a writer in Ayr, had the principal management of M'Gill's cause. He was an intimate friend of Hamilton, and through him had formed an acquaintance which now ripened into a warm friendship with Burns. M'Gill, Dalrymple, and their brethren, were the New-Light Pastors of his earliest "Satires."—*Lockhart's Life of Burns*, p. 50.

¹ Robert Aiken, agent, or, as we should say, attorney for Dr. M'Gill.

² Joan Russell, with the loud voice.

Cry, the book is with heresy cramm'd,
 Then lug out your ladle,
 Deal brimstone like adle,¹
 And roar every note o' the damn'd.

Simper James, Simper James,²
 Leave the fair Killie dames,
 There's a holier chase in your view;
 I'll lay on your head,
 That the pack ye'll soon lead,
 For puppies like you there's but few.

Singet Sawnie, Singet Sawnie,³
 Are ye herding the penny,
 Unconscious what danger awaits?
 With a jump, yell, and howl,
 Alarm every soul,
 For Hannibal's just at your gates.

Andrew Gowk, Andrew Gowk,⁴
 Ye may slander the book,
 And the book nought the waur—let me
 tell you;
 Tho' ye're rich and look big,
 Yet lay by hat and wig,
 And ye'll hae a calf's-head o' sma' value.

Barr Steenie, Barr Steenie,⁵
 What mean ye? what mean ye?
 If ye'll meddle nae mair wi' the matter,
 Ye may hae some pretence
 To havins and sense
 Wi' people wha ken ye nae better.

Jamie Goose, Jamie Goose,⁶
 Ye hae made but toom roose,
 In hunting the wicked Lieutenant;
 But the Doctor's your mark,—
 For the Lord's haly ark,
 He has cooper'd and ca'd a wrang pin
 in 't.

Davie Bluster, Davie Bluster,⁷
 For a saunt if ye muster,
 It's a sign they're no nice o' recruits,
 Yet to worth let's be just,
 Royal blood ye might boast,
 If the ass was the king o' the brutes.

Muirland Jock, Muirland Jock,⁸
 When the L— makes a rock,

¹ Stagnant water. ² James M'Kinla

³ Alexander Moodie. ⁴ Dr. Mitchell

⁵ Stephen Young, Barr.

⁶ Mr. Young. ⁷ Mr. Grant.

⁸ Mr. John Sheppard.

Lo crush Common Sense for her sins ;
 If ill manners were wit,
 There's no mortal so fit,
 To confound the poor Doctor at ance.

Cessnockside, Cessnockside,¹
 Wi' your turkey-cock pride,
 O' manhood but sma' is your share ;
 Ye've the figure, it's true,
 Ev'n our faes maun allow,
 And your friends daurna say ye hae
 mair.

Daddie Auld, Daddie Auld,²
 There's a tod³ i' the fauld,
 A tod meikle waur than the clerk ;⁴
 Tho' ye downa do skaith,
 Ye'll be in at the death,
 And if ye canna bite, ye can bark.

Poet Burns, Poet Burns,
 Wi' your priest-skelping turns,
 Why desert ye your auld native shire ?
 Tho' your Muse is a gipsy,
 Yet were she ev'n tippy,
 She could ca' us nae waur than we are.⁵

DAINTIE DAVIE.

Now rosy May comes in wi' flowers,
 To deck her gay, green-spreading
 bowers ;
 And now come in my happy hours,
 To wander wi' my Davie.

¹ Mr. G. Smith. ² Of Mauchline.

³ Fox. ⁴ Gavin Hamilton.

⁵ The chosen champions of the *Auld Light*, in Ayrshire, presented, in many particulars of personal conduct and demeanour, as broad a mark as ever tempted the shafts of a satirist. That Burns has grossly overcharged the portraits of them, deepening the shadows that were sufficiently dark, and excluding altogether those brighter, and perhaps softer, traits of character which redeemed the originals within the sympathies of many of the worthiest and best of men, seems equally clear.—*Lackhart*, p. 62.

CHORUS.

Meet me on the warlock-knowe,¹
 Daintie Davie, daintie Davie,
 There I'll spend the day wi' you,
 My ain dear daintie Davie.

The crystal waters round us fa',
 The merry birds are lovers a',
 The scented breezes round us blaw,
 A wandering wi' my Davie.
 Meet me, &c.

When purple morning starts the hare
 To steal upon her early fare,
 Then through the dews I will repair,
 To meet my faithfu' Davie.
 Meet me, &c.

When day, expiring in the west,
 The curtain draws o' Nature's rest,
 I flee to his arms I lo'e best,
 And that's my ain dear Davie.
 Meet me, &c.

THE SELKIRK GRACE.²

SOME hae meat, and canna eat,
 And some wad eat that want it ;
 But we hae meat and we can eat,
 And sae the Lord be thankit.

ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF PEG NICHOLSON.

PEG NICHOLSON was a gude bay mare,
 As ever trode on airn ;
 But now she's floating down the Nith,
 An' past the mouth o' Cairn.

Peg Nicholson was a gude bay mare,
 An' rode thro' thick an' thin ;
 But now she's floating down the Nith,
 An' wanting ev'n the skin.

Peg Nicholson was a gude bay mare,
 An' ance she bare a priest ;

¹ A knoll where wizards have held
 tryste.

² Said by Burns, at the request of
 the Earl of Selkirk.

But now she's floating down the Nile,
 For Solway fish a feast.
 Peg Nicholson was a rude bay mare,
 An' the priest he rode her sair;
 An' meikle oppress'd an' bruise'd she
 was,
 As priest-rid cattle are.

ON
 SEEING MISS FONTENELLE
 IN A FAVOURITE CHARACTER.

SWEET naïveté of feature,
 Simple, wild, enchanting air,
 Not to thee, but thanks to Nature,
 Thou art acting but thyself.
 Wert thou awkward, stiff, affected,
 Spurning nature, torturing art;
 Loves and graces all reject'd,
 Then indeed thou'd'st act a part.

THE
 LEAGUE AND COVENANT.¹

THE Solemn League and Covenant
 Cost Scotland blood—cost Scotland
 tears:
 But it seal'd Freedom's sacred cause—
 If thou'rt a slave, indulge thy
 sneers.

ON MISS JESSY LEWARS.

TALK not to me of savages,
 From Afric's burning sun,
 No savage e'er could rend my heart,
 As, Jessy, thou hast done.
 But Jessy's lovely hand in mine,
 A mutual faith to plight,
 Not ev'n to view the Heavenly choir,
 Would be so blest a sight.

¹ In reply to a gentleman who un-
 dervalued the sufferings of Scotland
 'for conscience' sake.'

EPITAPH
 ON MISS JESSY LEWARS.¹

SAY, Sages, what's the charm on earth
 Can turn Death's dart aside?
 It is not purity and worth,
 Else Jessy had not died.

THE RECOVERY OF JESSY
 LEWARS.

BUT rarely seen since Nature's birth,
 The natives of the sky,
 Yet still one Seraph's left on earth,
 For Jessy did not die.

THE TOAST.

FILL me with the rosy wine,
 Call a toast, a toast divine;
 Give the Poet's darling flame,
 Lovely Jessy be the name;
 Then thou mayest freely boast,
 Thou hast given a peerless toast.

THE KIRK OF LAMINGTON.

As could a wind as ever blew,
 A caulder kirk, and in't but few;
 As could a minister's e'er spak,
 Ye'se a' be het² ere I come back.

INSCRIPTION ON A GOBLET.

THERE'S death in the cup—sae beware!
 Nay, more—there is danger in touch-
 ing;
 But wha can avoid the fell snare?
 The man and his wine sae bewitch-
 ing!

¹ Playfully written, when she was
 indisposed.

² Hot.

TO MISS C.—WRITTEN ON A
BLANK LEAF OF ONE OF
MISS HANNAH MORE'S
WORKS.

THOU flattering mark of friendship
kind,

Still may thy pages call to mind
The dear, the beauteous donor :
Though sweetly female every part,
Yet such a head, and more the heart,
Does both the sexes honour.
She show'd her taste refined and just
When she selected thee,
Yet deviating, own I must,
For so approving me.

But kind still, I'll mind still
The giver in the gift ;
I'll bless her and wiss her
A Friend above the Lift.¹

THE BOOK-WORMS.²

THROUGH and through the inspired
leaves,
Ye maggots, make your windings ;
But, oh ! respect his Lordship's taste,
And spare his golden bindings.

WILLIE CHALMERS.³

Wi' brow new branks in mickle pride,
And eke a brow new brechan,⁴
My Pegasus I'm got astride,
And up Parnassus pechin ;⁵

¹ Sky.

² Suggested by a splendidly bound,
but worm-eaten copy of Shakspeare.

³ Mr. Chalmers, a gentleman in Ayr-
shire, a particular friend of mine, asked
me to write a poetic epistle to a young
lady, his Dulcinea. I had seen her,
but was scarcely acquainted with her,
and wrote as follows.—R. B.

⁴ With new bridle and collar

⁵ Panting.

Whiles owre a bush wi' dowlwee
crush,
Tha' doited beastie stammers ;
Then up he gets, and off he sets,
For sake o' Willie Chalmers.

I doubt na, lass, that weel-kenn'd name
May cost a pair o' blushes ;
I am nae stranger to your fame,
Nor his warm-urged wishes.
Your bonnie face sae mild and sweet,
His honest heart enamours,
And, faith, ye'll no be lost a whit,
Tho' waired on Willie Chalmers.

Auld Truth hersel' might swear ye're
fair,
And Honour safely back her,
And Modesty assume your air,
And ne'er a ane mistak her :
And sic twa love-inspiring een
Might fire ev'n holy Palmers ;
Nae wonder then they've fatal been
To honest Willie Chalmers.

I doubt nae fortune may you shore
Some mim-mou'd¹ pouthered priestie ;
Fu' lifted up wi' Hebrew lore,
And band upon his breastie :
But, oh ! what signifies to you,
His lexicons and grammars ;
The feeling heart's the royal blue,
And that's wi' Willie Chalmers.

Some gapin' glowrin' countra laird
May warsle for your favour ;
May claw his lug, and straik his beard,
And hoast up some palaver ;
My bonny maid, before ye wed
Sic clumsy-witted hammers,
Seek Heaven for help, and barefit skel,
Awa' wi' Willie Chalmers.

Forgive the Bard ! my fond regard,
For ane that shares my bosom,
Inspires my Muse to gie 'm his dues,
For d'sil a hair I roose² him.
May powers aboon unite you soon,
And fructify your amours,—
And every year come in mair dear
To you and Willie Chalmers

¹ Gentle-mouthed.

² Praise.

ON ROBERT RIDDEL.

To Riddel, much-lamented man,
This ivied cot was dear;
Reader, dost value matchless worth?
The ivied cot revere.

TO JOHN TAYLOR.¹

With Pegasus upon a day,
Apollo, weary flying,—
Through frosty hills the journey lay,
On foot the way was plying.

Poor slipshod giddy Pegasus
Was but a sorry walker;
To Vulcan then Apollo goes,
To get a frosty calker.

Obliging Vulcan fell to work,
Threw by his coat and bonnet,
And did Sol's business in a crack;
Sol paid him with a sonnet.

Ye Vulcan's sons of Wanlockhead,
Pity my sad disaster;
My Pegasus is poor!; shod—
I'll pay you like my master.

LINES WRITTEN ON A BANK-NOTE.

The following verses, in the handwriting of Burns, were copied from a bank-note, in the possession of Mr. James F. Gracie, of Dumfries. The note is of the Bank of Scotland, and is dated on the 1st of March, 1780.

WAE worth thy power, thou cursed
leaf!

Fell source o' a' my woe and grief!
For lack o' thee I've lost my lass!
For lack o' thee I scrimp my glass.

¹ Burns, during one of his excise journeys, on a winter day, found it necessary to get his horse's shoes "roughed." The blacksmith was very busy; and the Poet sought Mr. Taylor's influence in obtaining his aid.

I see the childrer of affliction
Unaided, thro' thy curs'd restriction.
I've seen the oppressor's cruel smile,
Amid his hapless victim's spoil,
And for thy potence vainly wish'd,
To crush the villain in the dust.
For lack o' thee I leave this much-lov'd
shore,
Never, perhaps, to greet old Scotland
more.

BURNS—EXTEMPORE.

YE true 'Loyal Natives,'¹ attend to
my song,
In uproar and riot rejoice the night
long;
From envy and hatred your corps is
exempt:
But where is your shield from the darts
of contempt?

REMORSE.²

OF all the numerous ills that hurt our
peace,
That press the soul, or wring the mind
with anguish,
Beyond comparison, the worst are those
That to our folly, or our guilt, we owe.

¹ The political fever ran high in 1794, and a member of a club at Dumfries, called the Loyal Natives, in a violent paroxysm, produced some verses to which Burns gave the extempore reply.

² I entirely agree with that judicious philosopher, Mr. Smith, in his excellent "Theory of Moral Sentiments," that remorse is the most painful sentiment that can embitter the human bosom. Any ordinary pitch of fortitude may bear up tolerably well under those calamities in the procurement of which we ourselves have had no hand; but when our own follies or crimes have made us miserable and wretched, to bear up with manly firmness, and at the same time have a proper penitential sense of our misconduct, is a glorious effort of self-command.—R. B.

In every other circumstance, the mind
Has this to say—"It was no deed of
mine ;"

But when to all the evil of misfortune
This sting is added—"Blame thy
foolish self !"

Or worse far, the pangs of keen Re-
morse ;

The torturing, gnawing consciousness
of guilt—

Of guilt, perhaps, where we've involved
others ;

The young, the innocent, who fondly
lov'd us ;

Nay, more, that very love their cause
of ruin !

! burning hell ! in all thy store of
torments,

There's not a keener lash !

Lives there a man so firm, who, while
his heart

Feels all the bitter horrors of his crime,
Can reason down its agonizing throbs ;

And, after proper purpose of amend-
ment,

Can firmly force his jarring thoughts to
peace ?

O, happy ! happy ! enviable man !

O glorious magnanimity of soul !

TO _____.

Mossgiel, —, 1786.

SIR,

YOURS this moment I unseal,

And faith I'm gay and hearty !

To tell the truth an' shame the Deil,

I an as fu' as Bartie :¹

But fooraday, Sir, my promise leal

Expect me o' your party,

If on a beastie I can speel,²

Or hurl in a cartie.

R. B.

IN VAIN WOULD PRUDENCE.

IN vain would Prudence, with decorous
sneer,

Point out a cens'ring world, and bid
me fear ;

A proverb for a drinker. ² Climb.

Above that world on wings of love I rise,
I know its worst—and do that worst
despise.

"Wrong'd, injur'd, shunn'd, unpitied,
unredrest,—

The mock'd quotation of the scorner's
jest,"

Let Prudence' direst bodements on me
fall,

Clarinda, rich reward ! o'erpays them
all !

THOUGH FICKLE FORTUNE.¹

THOUGH fickle Fortune has deceiv'd me,
She promis'd fair and perform'd but
ill ;

Of mistress, friends, and wealth be-
reav'd me,

Yet I bear a heart shall support me
still.—

I'll act with prudence as far's I'm able,
But if success I must never find,

Then come, Misfortune, I bid thee wel-
come,

I'll meet thee with an undaunted
mind.

¹ The above was an extempore, under the pressure of a heavy train of misfortunes, which, indeed, threatened to undo me altogether. It was just at the close of that dreadful period before mentioned (March, 1784); and though the weather has brightened up a little with me since, yet there has always been a tempest brewing round me in the grim sky of futurity, which I pretty plainly see will some time or other, perhaps ere long, overwhelm me, and drive me into some doleful dell, to pine in "solitary, squalid wretchedness." However, as I hope my poor country Muse, who, all rustic, awkward, and unpolished as she is, has more charms for me than any other of the pleasures of life beside—as I hope she will not then desert me, I may even then learn to be, if not happy, at least easy, and *sooth a sang* to sooth my misery.—R. B.

I BURN, I BURN.¹

'I BURN, I burn, as when thro' ripen'd
corn,
By driving winds the crackling flames
are blown,"
Now maddening, wild, I curse that
fatal night ;
Now bless the hour which charm'd my
guilty sight.
In vain the laws their feeble force op-
pose :
Chain'd at his feet they groan, Love's
vanquish' l foes ;
In vain Religion meets my sinking eye ;
I dare not combat—but I turn and fly ;
Conscience in vain upbraids th' unhal-
lowed fire ;
I ove grasps his scorpions—stifled they
expire !
Reason drops headlong from his sacred
throne,
Your dear idea reigns and reigns alone :
Each thought intoxicated homage
yields,
And riots wanton in forbidden fields !

By all on high adoring mortals know !
By all the conscious villain fears below !
By your dear self !—the last great oath
I swear ;
Nor life nor soul were ever half so
dear !

TAM THE CHAPMAN.²

As Tam, the Chapman, on a day
Wi' Death forgather'd by the way,
Weel pleas'd, he greets a wight sae
famous,
And Death was nae less pleased wi'
Thomas,
Wha cheerfully lays down the pack,
And there blows up a hearty crack ;

¹ To Clarinda.

² Mr. Kennedy, who is styled "Chap-
man," in allusion to his connexion with
a mercantile house, as agent.

His social, friendly, honest heart,
Sae tickled Death they could na part :
Sae after viewing knives and garters,
Death takes him hame to gie him quar-
ters.

TO DR. MAXWELL, ON MISS
JESSY STAIG'S RECOVERY.¹

MAXWELL, if merit here you crave,
That merit I deny :
You save fair Jessy from the grave !
An Angel could not die.

THE PARVENU,

WRITTEN IN REPLY TO THE BOASTINGS
OF AN ILL-EDUCATED COXCOMB, WHG
WAS BORING THE COMPANY WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF THE MANY GREAT PEOP-
LE HE HAD BEEN VISITING.

No more of your titled acquaintances
boast,
And in what lordly circles you've
been ;
An insect is still but an insect at most,
Tho' it crawl on the head of a queen

TO THE OWL.

BY JOHN M'CREDDIE.²

SAD Bird of Night, what sorrow calls
thee forth,
To vent thy plaints thus in the mid-
night hour ;
Is it some blast that gathers in the north,
Threat'ning to nip the verdure of thy
bow'r ?
Is it, sad Owl, that Autumn strips the
shade,
And leaves thee here, unshelter'd
and forlorn ?

¹ Dr. Maxwell," says Burns in a
letter to Thomson, "was the physician
who seemingly saved her from the
grave ;" and accordingly the poet wrote
the above epigram.

² Mr M'Creddie is supposed to be a
mythical personage, the verses havin'
been found in the hand-writing of Burns

Or fear that Winter will thy nest invade?
 Or friendly Melancholy bids thee mourn?
 Shut out, lone Bird, from all the feather'd train,
 To tell thy sorrows to th' unheeding gloom;
 No friend to pity when thou dost complain,
 Grief all thy thought, and solitude thy home.
 Sing on, sad mourner! I will bless thy strain,
 And pleased in sorrow listen to thy song;
 Sing on, sad mourner! to the night complain,
 While the lone echo wafts thy notes along.
 Is beauty less, when down the glowing cheek
 Sad piteous tears in native sorrows fall?
 Less kind the heart, when Sorrow bids it break?
 Less happy he who lists to Pity's call?
 Ah no, sad Owl! nor is thy voice less sweet,
 That Sadness tunes it, and that Grief is there;
 That Spring's gay notes, unskill'd, thou canst repeat;
 And Sorrow bids thee to the gloom repair.
 Nor that the treble songsters of the day,
 Are quite estranged, sad Bird of night! from thee;
 Nor that the thrush deserts the evening spray,
 When darkness calls thee from thy reverie.
 From some old tower, thy melancholy dome,
 While the grey walls and desert solitudes
 Return each note, responsive, to the gloom
 Of ivied coverts and surrounding woods;

There hooting, I will list more pleased
 to thee,
 Than ever lover to the nightingale;
 Or drooping wretch, oppress'd with misery,
 Lending his ear to some condoling tale.

WAS E'ER PUIR POET.¹

"WAS e'er puir Poet sae befitted,
 The maister drunk—the horse committed:
 Puir harmless beast! tak thee nae care,
 Thou'lt be a horse, when he's nae mair
 (mayor)."

THERE'S NAETHING LIKE THE HONEST NAPPY.

THERE'S naething like the honest
 nappy!
 Whaur'll ye e'er see men sae happy,
 Or women sounsie, soft, an' sappy,
 "Tween morn and morn,
 As them wha like to taste the drappie
 In glass or horn.
 I've seen me daez't upon a time;
 I scarce could wink or see a styme;²
 Just ae hauf muchkin³ does me prime,
 Ought less is little;
 Then back I rattle on the rhyme
 As gleg's a whittle!

TO THE RUINS OF LINCOLN DEN ABBEY.⁴

YE holy walls, that still sublime
 Resist the crumbling touch of time,

¹ Burns once visited Carlisle; and while he was in the condition which his verses describe, the Mayor put his horse, which had trespassed on a corporation meadow, into the "pound."

² Glimmer.

³ Half-a-pint.

⁴ On the banks of the river Cluden, near Dumfries. The verses were

How strongly still your form displays
 The piety of ancient days.
 As through your ruins, hoar and grey—
 Ruins, yet beauteous in decay—
 The silvery moonbeams trembling fly,
 The forms of ages long gone by
 Crowd thick on Fancy's wond'ring eye,
 And wake the soul to musings high.
 Ev'n now, as lost in thought profound,
 I view the solemn scene around,
 And pensive gaze with wist'ful eyes,
 The past returns, the present flies ;
 Again the dome, in pristine pride,
 Lifts high its roof, and arches wide,
 That, knit with curious tracery
 Each Gothic ornament display ;
 The high-arched windows, painted fair,
 Show many a saint and martyr there ;
 As on their slender forms I gaze,
 Methinks they brighten to a blaze ;
 With noiseless step and taper bright,
 What are yon forms that meet my sight ?
 Slowly they move, while every eye
 Is heavenward raised in ecstasy :—
 'Tis the fair, spotless, vestal train,
 That seeks in prayer the midnight fane.
 And hark ! what more than mortal sound
 Of music breathes the pile around ?
 'Tis the soft-chaunted choral song,
 Whose tones the echoing aisles prolong :
 Till thence return'd they softly stray
 O'er Cluden's wave with fond delay ;
 Now on the rising gale swell high,
 And now in fainting murmurs die :
 The boatmen on Nith's gentle stream,
 That glistens in the pale moon's beam,
 Suspend their dashing oars to hear
 The holy anthem, loud and clear ;
 Each worldly thought awhile forbear,
 And mutter forth a half-formed prayer.
 But as I gaze, the vision fails,
 Like frost-work touch'd by southern
 gales ;
 The altar sinks, the tapers fade,
 And all the splendid scene's decay'd.
 In window fair the painted pane
 No longer glows with holy stain,
 But, through the broken glass, the gale
 Blows chillily from the misty vale.

Ascribed to Burns by an anonymous
 writer, and are included in later editions
 of his works.

The bird of eve flits sullen by,
 Her home, these aisles and arches high
 The choral hymn, that erst so clear
 Broke softly sweet on Fancy's ear,
 Is drown'd amid the mournful scream
 That breaks the magic of my dream :
 Roused by the sound, I start and see
 The ruin'd, sad reality.

 PROLOGUE,¹

SPOKEN BY MR. WOODS,
 ON HIS BENEFIT NIGHT

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1787.

WHEN by a generous Public's kind
 acclaim,
 That dearest meed is granted—honest
 fame :
 When here your favour is the actor's
 lot,
 Nor ev'n the man in private life forgot ;
 What breast, so dead to heav'nly virtue's
 glow,
 But heaves impassion'd with the grate-
 ful throe ?
 Poor is the task to please a barb'rous
 throng,
 It needs no Siddons' power in South-
 ern's song :
 But here an ancient nation, fam'd afar
 For genius, learning high, as great in
 war—
 Hail, Caledonia ! name for ever dear !
 Before whose sons I'm honour'd to ap-
 pear !
 Where every science, every nobler
 art—
 That can inform the mind, or mend
 the heart,
 Is known ; as grateful nations oft have
 found,
 Far as the rude barbarian marks the
 bound.
 Philosophy, no idle, pedant dream,
 Here holds her search, by heaven-taught
 Reason's beam ;

¹ Ascribed to Burns on very slight
 evidence.

Here History paints, with elegance
and force,
The tide of Empire's fluctuating course ;
Here Douglas forms wild Shakespeare
into plan,
And Harley rouses all the God in man.
When well-form'd taste and sparkling
wit unite,
With manly lore, or female beauty
bright
(Beauty, where faultless symmetry and
grace,
Can only charm us in the second place),
Witness my heart, how oft with pant-
ing fear,
As on this night, I've met these judges
here !
But still the hope Experience taught to
live,
Equal to judge—you're candid to for-
give.
No hundred-headed Riot here we meet,
With decency and law beneath his feet,
Nor Insolence assumes fair Freedom's
name ;
Like Caledonians, you applaud or
blame.
O Thou, dread Power ! whose em-
pire-giving hand
Has oft been stretch'd to shield the
honour'd land !
Strong may she glow with all her an-
cient fire ;
May every son be worthy of his sire ;
Firm may she rise with generous dis-
dain
At Tyranny's, or direr Pleasure's,
chain ;
Still self-dependent in her native shore,
Bold may she brave grim Danger's
loudest roar
Till Fate the curtain drop on worlds to
be no more !

TRAGIC FRAGMENT.¹

" ALL devil as I am, a damned wretch,
A harden'd, stubborn, unrepenting
villain,

¹ In my early years nothing less would
serve me than courting the Tragic

Still my heart melts at human wretch-
edness ;
And with sincere, tho' unavailing, sighs
I view the helpless children of distress.
With tears indignant I behold the op-
pressor
Rejoicing in the honest man's destruc-
tion,
Whose unsubmitting heart was all his
crime.
Ev'n you, ye helpless crew, I pity you ;
Ye, whom the seeming good think sin
to pity ;
Ye poor, despis'd, abandon'd vagabonds,
Whom Vice, as usual, has turn'd o'er
to Ruin.
O but for kind, tho' ill-requited friends,
I had been driven forth like you, for-
lorn,
The most detested, worthless wretch
among you !
O injur'd God ! thy goodness has en-
dow'd me
With talents passing most of my com-
peers,
Which I in just proportion have abus'd
As far surpassing other common vil-
lains,
As Thou in natural parts hadst given
me more."

O CAN YE LABOUR LEA.

O CAN ye labour lea, young man,
An' can ye labour lea ;
Gae back the gate ye cam' again,
Ye'se never scorn me.

Muse. I was, I think, about eighteen
or nineteen when I sketched the out-
lines of a tragedy, forsooth : but the
bursting of a cloud of family misfor-
tunes, which had for some time threat-
ened us, prevented my further pro-
gress. In those days I never wrote
down anything ; so, except a speech
or two, the whole has escaped my
memory. The following, which I most
distinctly remember, was an exclama-
tion from a great character—great in
occasional instances of generosity, and
daring at times in villainies.—R. B.

I feed a man at Martinmas,
 Wi' airt¹-pennies three ;
 An' a' the faut I fan' wi' him,
 He couldna labour lea.

The stibble rig is easy plough'd,
 The fallow land is free ;
 But wha wad keep the handless coof,
 That couldna labour lea ?

O THOU, in whom we live and move,
 Who mad'st the sea and shore ;
 Thy goodness constantly we prove,
 And grateful would adore.

And if it please thee, Pow'r above !
 Still grant us with such store,
 The friend we trust, the fair we love,
 And we desire no more

¹ Silver penny given as hiring money.

SONGS.

THE LASS O' BALLOCHMYLE.¹

TUNE—"MISS FORBES'S FAREWELL TO BANFF."

TWAS even—the dewy fields were
green,

On every blade the pearls hang,
The Zephyrs wanton'd round the bean,
And bore its fragrant sweets along :
In every glen the Mavis sang,
All nature listening seem'd the while,
Except where green-wood echoes rang,
Among the braes o' Ballochmyle.

With careless step I onward stray'd,
My heart rejoic'd in nature's joy,
When musing in a lonely glade,
A maiden fair I chanc'd to spy ;
Her look was like the morning's eye,
Her air like nature's vernal smile,

¹ "The Lass of Ballochmyle" was Miss Alexander, whose brother had recently come to reside in Ballochmyle House, of which the pleasure grounds extend along the north bank of the Ayr. The farm of Burns, Mossgiel, was in the immediate neighbourhood.—He inclosed a copy of the song to Miss Alexander, and was extremely indignant at the lady's silence respecting his letter. Of the verses his own opinion was justly high :—"I think myself," he told Mrs. Stewart of Stair, "it has some merit, both as a tolerable description of one of Nature's scenes—a July evening, and one of the finest pieces of Nature's workmanship,—the finest indeed we know anything of—an amiable, beautiful young woman."

Perfection whisper'd, passing by,
"Behold the Lass o' Ballochmyle !"

Fair is the morn in flowery May,
And sweet is night in Autumn mild,
When roving thro' the garden gay,
Or wandering in a lonely wild :
But Woman, Nature's darling child !
There all her charms she does com-
pile ;
Ev'n there her other works are foil'd
By the bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle.

O, had she been a country maid,
And I the happy country swain,
Tho' shelter'd in the lowest shed
That ever rose in Scotland's plain :
Thro' weary Winter's wind and rain,
With joy, with rapture, I would toil ;
And nightly to my bosom strain
The bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle.

Then pride might climb the slipp'ry
steep,
Where fame and honours lofty shine ;
And thirst of gold might tempt the
deep,
Or downward seek the Indian mine :
Give me the cot below the pine,
To tend the flocks, or till the soil,
And every day have joys divine
With the bonnie Lass o' Balloch-
myle.¹

¹ Under the above song is written
"Miss Willie Alexander."

SONG OF DEATH.¹

A GAELIC AIR.

Scene—A field of battle. Time of the day—Evening. The wounded and dying of the victorious army are supposed to join in the song.

FAREWELL, thou fair day, thou green earth, and ye skies,
 Now gay with the broad setting sun!
 Farewell, loves and friendships, ye dear, tender ties,
 Our race of existence is run!
 Thou grim King of Terrors, thou life's gloomy foe!
 Go, frighten the coward and slave!
 Go, teach them to tremble, fell tyrant!
 but know,
 No terrors hast thou for the brave!
 Thou strik'st the dull peasant — he sinks in the dark,
 Nor saves e'en the wreck of a name;
 Thou strik'st the young hero—a glorious mark!
 He falls in the blaze of his fame!
 In the field of proud honour — our swords in our hands,
 Our King and our Country to save—
 While victory shines on life's last ebbing sands,
 O! who would not die with the brave!

MY AIN KIND DEARIE! O.

WHEN o'er the hill the eastern star
 Tells bughtin-time² is near, my jo;

¹ When the pressing nature of public affairs called, in 1795, for a general arming of the people, Burns appeared in the ranks of the "Dumfries Volunteers," employed his poetical talents in stimulating their patriotism; and at this season of alarm he brought forward the following hymn.—(CURRIE.) The song was written in 1791.

² Time of collecting the sheep.

And owsen¹ frae the furrow'd field
 Return sae dowf and wearie, O;
 Down by the burn, where scented birks
 Wi' dew are hanging clear, my jo,
 I'll meet thee on the lea-rig,
 My ain kind dearie! O.
 In mirkest glen, at midnight hour,
 I'd rove, and ne'er be eerie, O.
 If thro' that glen I gaed to thee,
 My ain kind dearie, O.
 Altho' the night were ne'er sae wild,
 And I were ne'er sae wearie, O,
 I'd meet thee on the lea-rig,
 My ain kind dearie! O.
 The hunter lo'es the morning sun,
 To rouse the mountain deer, my jo;
 At noon the fisher seeks the glen,
 Along the burn to steer, my jo;
 Gie me the hour o' gloamin' grey,
 It maks my heart sae cheery, O,
 To meet thee on the lea-rig,
 My ain kind dearie! O.

AULD ROB MORRIS.

THERE'S auld Rob Morris that wons²
 in yon glen,
 He's the king o' guid fellows and wale
 of auld men;
 He has gowd in his coffers, he has
 owsen and kine,
 And ae bonnie lassie, his darling and
 mine.
 She's fresh as the morning, the fairest
 in May;
 She's sweet as the evening among the
 new hay;
 As blythe and as artless as lamb on
 the lea,
 And dear to my heart, as the light to
 my e'e.
 But oh! she's an heiress, auld Robin's
 a laird,
 And my daddie has nought but a cot-
 house and yard;
 A wooer like me maunna hope to come
 speed;
 The wound I must hâve that will soon
 be my dead.

¹ Oxen.

² Dwells.

The day comes to me, but delight
brings me nane ;
The night comes to me, but my rest it
is gane ;
I wander my lane, like a night-troubled
ghaist,
And I sigh as my heart it wad burst
in my breast.

O had she but been of a lower degree,
I then might hae hop'd she wad smil'd
upon me ;

O how past describing had then been
my bliss,
As now my distraction no words can
express !

NAEBODY.

I HAE a wife o' my ain,
I'll partake wi' naebody ;
I'll tak cuckold frae nane,
I'll gie cuckold to naebody.

I hae a penny to spend,
There—thanks to naebody ;

I hae naething to lend,
I'll borrow frae naebody.

I am naebody's lord,
I'll be slave to naebody ;

I hae a guid braid sword,
I'll tak dunts¹ frae naebody.

I'll be merry and free,
I'll be sad for naebody ;

If naebody care for me,
I'll care for naebody.

MY WIFE'S A WINSOME WEE THING.²

SHE is a winsome wee thing,
She is a handsome wee thing,

¹ Knocks.

² There is a peculiar rhythmus in many of our airs, and a necessity of adapting syllables to the emphasis, or what I would call the *feature-notes* of the tune, that cramp the poet, and

She is a bonnie wee thing,
This sweet wee wife o' mine.

I never saw a fairer,
I never lo'ed a dearer,
And neist¹ my heart I'll wear hea,
For fear my jewel tine.

She is a winsome wee thing,
She is a handsome wee thing,
She is a bonnie wee thing,
This sweet wee wife o' mine.

The world's wrack we share o't,
The warstle and the care o't ;
Wi' her I'll blythely bear it,
And think my lot divine.

DUNCAN GRAY.²

DUNCAN GRAY came here to woo,
Ha, ha, the wooing o't,
On blythe yule³ night when we were
fou,

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.
Maggie coost⁴ her head fu' high,
Look'd asklent and unco skeigh,⁵
Gart poor Duncan stand abeigh ;⁶
Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

lay him under almost insuperable difficulties. For instance, in the air, "My Wife's a wanton wee Thing," if a few lines, smooth and pretty, can be adapted to it, it is all you can expect. The following were made extempore to it : and though, on further study, I might give you something more profound, yet it might not suit the light-horse gallop of the air so well as this random clink.—BURNS to Thomson.

¹ Next.

² The foregoing I submit to your better judgment ; acquit them or condemn them as seemeth good in your sight. "Duncan Gray" is that kind of light-horse gallop of an air which precludes sentiment. The ludicrous is its ruling feature.—BURNS to Thomson.

³ Christmas. ⁴ Tossed. ⁵ Proud

⁶ At a shy distance.

Duncan fleech'd,¹ and Duncan pray'd ;

Ha, ha, &c.

Meg was deaf as Ailsa Craig,

Ha, ha, &c.

Duncan sigh'd baith out and in,

Grat his een baith bleer't and blin',²

Spak o' lowpin o'er a linn ;³

Ha, ha, &c.

Time and chance are but a tide,

Ha, ha, &c.

Shghted love is sair to bide,

Ha, ha, &c.

Shall I, like a fool, quoth he,

For a haughty hizzie die ?

She may gae to—France for me !

Ha, ha, &c.

How it comes let doctors tell,

Ha, ha, &c.

Meg grew sick—as he grew well,

Ha, ha, &c.

Something in her bosom wrings,

For relief a sigh she brings ;

And O, her een, they spak sic things !

Ha, ha, &c.

Duncan was a lad o' grace,

Ha, ha, &c.

Maggie's was a piteous case,

Ha, ha, &c.

Duncan couldna be her death,

Swelling pity smoor'd⁴ his wrath ;

Now they're crouse and cantie⁵ baith,

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

O POORTITH.

TUNE—"I HAD A HORSE."

O POORTITH cauld, and restless love,

Ye wreck my peace between ye ;

Yet poortith a' I could forgive,

An' 'twere na for my Jeanie.

O why should fate sic pleasure have,

Life's dearest bands untwining ?

O why sae sweet a flower as love

Depend on Fortune's shining ?

This warld's wealth w^her a' think on,

Its pride, and a' the lave o't ;

Fie, fie on silly coward man,

That he should be the slave o't.

O why, &c.

Her e'en sae bonnie blue betray

How she repays my passion ;

But prudence is her o'erword aye,

She talks of rank and fashion.

O why, &c.

O wha can prudence think upon,

And sic a lassie by him ?

O wha can prudence think upon,

And sae in love as I am ?

O why, &c.

How blest the humble cotter's fate !

He woos his simple dearie ;

The sillie bogles,¹ wealth and state,

Can never make them eerie.

O why should fate sic pleasure have,

Life's dearest bands untwining !

Or why sae sweet a flower as love

Depend on Fortune's shining ?

GALLA WATER.

THERE'S braw, braw lads on Yarrow

braes,

That wander thro' the blooming

heather ;

But Yarrow braes, nor Ettric shaws,

Can match the lads o' Galla Water.

But there is ane, a secret ane,

Aboon them a' I lo'e him better ;

And I'll be his, and he'll be mine,

The bonnie lad o' Galla Water.

Altho' his daddie was nae laird,

And tho' I hae nae mickle tocher ;²

Yet rich in kindest, truest love,

We'll tent our flocks by Galla Water.

It ne'er was wealth, it ne'er was wealth,

That coft³ contentment, peace, o'

pleasure ;

The bands and bliss o' mutual love,

O that's the chiefest warld's treasure

¹ Besought. ² Bleared and blind.

³ Precipice. ⁴ Snothered.

⁵ Cheerful and merry.

¹ Hobgoblins. ² Marriage portion

³ Bought.

LORD GREGORY.¹

D Mirk, mirk is this midnight hour,
 And loud the tempest's roar;
 A waefu' wanderer seeks thy tow'r,
 Lord Gregory,—ope thy door.

An exile frae her father's ha',
 And a' for loving thee;
 At least some pity on me shaw,
 If love it mayna be.

Lord Gregory, mind'st thou not the
 grove,
 By bonnie Irwiae side,
 Where first I own'd that virgin-love,
 I lang, lang had denied?

How often didst thou pledge and vow,
 Thou wad for aye be mine!
 And my fond heart, itsel sae true,
 It ne'er mistrusted thine.

Hard is thy heart, Lord Gregory,
 And flinty is thy breast:
 Thou dart of heaven that flashest by,
 O wilt thou give me rest!

Ye mustering thunders from above,
 Your willing victim see!
 But spare, and pardon my fause love,
 His wrangs to heaven and me!

OPEN THE DOOR TO ME, OH!

WITH ALTERATIONS.

OH, open the door, some pity to shew,
 Oh, open the door to me, oh!
 Tho' thou hast been false, I'll ever prove
 true,
 Oh, open the door to me, oh!

Cauld is the blast upon my pale cheek,
 But cauldher thy love for me, oh!

¹ A friend of Burns writes—"We had the song of 'Lord Gregory,' which I asked for to have an opportunity of calling on Burns to recite his ballad to that tune. He did recite it, and such was the effect that a dead silence ensued."

The frost, that freezes the life at my
 heart,
 Is nought to my pains frae thee, oh!

The wan moon is setting behind the
 white wave,
 And time is setting with me, oh!
 False friends, false love, farewell! for
 mair
 I'll ne'er trouble them, nor thee, oh!

She has open'd the door, she has open'd
 it wide;
 She sees his pale corse on the plain
 oh!

My true love! she cried, and sank down
 by his side,
 Never to rise again, oh!

MEG O' THE MILL.

AIR—"HEY, BONNIE LASS, WILL YOU
 LIE IN A BARRACK."

O KEN ye what Meg o' the Mill has
 gotten?
 An' ken ye what Meg o' the Mill has
 gotten?
 She has gotten a coof¹ wi' a claut² o'
 siller,
 And broken the heart o' the barley
 Miller.

The Miller was strappin, the Miller was
 ruddy;
 A heart like a lord, and a hue like a
 lady;
 The Laird was a widdiefu', bleerit³
 knurl;
 She's left the guid fellow and ta'en the
 churl.

The Miller he hecht her a heart leal
 and loving;
 The Laird did address her wi' matter
 mair moving,
 A fine pacing horse wi' a clear chained
 bridle,
 A whip by her side, and a bonnie side-
 saddle.

¹ Blockhead.² A scraping.³ Crooked, bleared.

D wae on the siller, it is sae prevailing ;
And wae on the love that is fixed on a
mailen !¹

A tocher's nae word in a true lover's
parle,²
But, gie me my love, and a fig for the
warl !

JESSIE.

TUNE—"BONNIE DUNDEE."

TRUE hearted was he, the sad swain o'
the Yarrow,

And fair are the maids on the banks
o' the Ayr,

But by the sweet side o' the Nith's
winding river,

Are lovers as faithful, and maidens
as fair :

To equal young Jessie seek Scotland
all over ;

To equal young Jessie you seek it in
vain ;

Grace, beauty, and elegance fetter her
lover,

And maidenly modesty fixes the
chain.

O, fresh is the rose in the gay, dewy
morning,

And sweet is the lily at evening close ;
But in the fair presence o' lovely young

Jessie,

Unseen is the lily, unheeded the rose.
Love sits in her smile, a wizard ensnar-
ing ;

Enthron'd in her een he delivers his la'.
And still to her charms she alone is a
stranger,—

Her modest demeanour's the jewel
of a'.

WANDERING WILLIE.

HERE awa, there awa, wandering
Willie ;

Now tired with wandering, haud awa
hame ;

¹ Fa'm.

² Speech.

Come to my bosom, my ain only dearie,
Tell me thou bring'st me my Willie
the same.

Winter winds blew loud and cauld at
our parting,

Fears for my Willie brought the tear
in my e'e ;

Now welcome the simmer, and welcome
my Willie,

The simmer to nature, my Willie to
me !

Rest, ye wild storms, in the cave o'
your slumbers ;

How your dread howling a lover
alarms !

Wauken, ye breezes, row gently, ye
billows,

And waft my dear laddie ance mair
to my arms.

But oh, if he's faithless, and minds na
his Nannie,

O still flow between us, thou wide-
roaring main ;

May I never see it, may I never trow it,
But, dying, believe that my Willie's
my ain.

LOGAN BRAES.

TUNE—"LOGAN WATER."

O LOGAN, sweetly didst thou glide
That day I was my Willie's bride ;
And years sinsyne hae o'er us run,
Like Logan to the simmer sun ;
But now thy flow'ry banks appear
Like drumlie winter, dark and drear,
While my dear lad maun face his faes,
Far, far frae me and Logan Braes.

Again the merry month o' May
Has made our hills and valleys gay ;
The birds rejoice in leafy bowers,
The bees hum round the breathing
flowers ;

¹ The song was the fruit of "three-quarters of an hour's meditation" by the poet in his elbow-chair, on the wickedness of ambition.

Blithe morning lifts his rosy eye,
And evening's tears are tears of joy:
My soul, delightless, a' surveys,
While Willie's far frae Logan Braes.

Within yon milk-white hawthorn bush,
Amang her nestlings, sits the thrush:
Her faithfu' mate will share her toil,
Or wi' his song her cares beguile:
But I wi' my sweet nurslings here,
Nae mate to help, nae mate to cheer,
Pass widow'd nights and joyless days,
While Willie's far frae Logan Braes.

O wae upon you, men o' state,
That brethren rouse to deadly hate!
As ye mak monie a fond heart mourn,
Sae may it on your heads return!
How can your flinty hearts enjoy
The widow's tears, the orphan's cry?
But soon may peace bring happy days,
And Willie hame to Logan Braes!

THERE WAS A LASS.¹

TUNE—"BONNIE JEAN."

THERE was a lass, and she was fair,
At kirk and market to be seen;
When a' the fairest maids were met,
The fairest maid was bonnie Jean.

And aye she wrought her mammie's
wark,

And aye she sang sae merrily;
The blithest bird upon the bush
Had ne'er a lighter heart than she.

But hawks will rob the tender joys
That bless the little lintwhite's nest;
And frost will blight the fairest flowers;
And love will break the soundest rest.

Young Robie was the bravest lad,
The flower and pride of a' the glen;
And he had owsen, sheep, and kye,
And wanton naigies nine or ten.

He gaed wi' Jeanie to the tryste,
He danc'd wi' Jeanie on the down;
And lang ere witless Jeanie wist,
Her heart was tint, her peace was
stoun.

Miss Jean M'Murdo, of Drumlanrig.

As in the bosom o' the stream
The moon-beam dwells at dewy e'en
So trembling, pure, was tender love
Within the breast o' bonnie Jean.

And now she works her mammie's wark,
And aye she sighs wi' care and pain.
Yet wistna what her ail might be,
Or what wad mak her weel again.

But didna Jeanie's heart loup light,
And didna joy blink in her e'e,
As Robie tauld a tale o' love,
Ae e'enin on the lily lea?

The sun was sinking in the west,
The birds sang sweet in ilka grove:
His cheek to hers he fondly prest,
And whisper'd thus his tale o' love:

"O Jeanie fair, I lo'e thee dear;
O canst thou think to fancy me?
Or wilt thou leave thy mammie's cot,
And learn to tent the farms wi' me

"At barn or byre thou shaltna drud,
Or naething else to trouble thee;
But stray amang the heather-bellis,
And tent the waving corn wi' me.

Now what could artless Jeanie do?
She had na will to say him na:
At length she blush'd a sweet conse
And love was aye between them t

PHILLIS THE FAIR.¹

TUNE—"ROBIN ADAIR."

WHILE larks with little wing
Fann'd the pure air,
Tasting the breathing spring,
Forth I did fare:
Gay the sun's golden eye
Peep'd o'er the mountains high;
Such thy morn! did I cry,
Phillis the fair.

In each bird's careless song
Glad did I share;
While yon wild flowers amang,
Chance led me there:
Sweet to the opening day,
Rosebuds bent the dewy spray;

¹ Said to be the sister of Jean M. M. M.

Such thy bloom ! did I say,
Phillis the fair.

Down in a shady walk,
Doves cooing were,
I mark'd the cruel hawk
Caught in a snare :
So kind may Fortune be,
Such make his destiny,
He who would injure thee
Phillis the fair.

BY ALLAN STREAM.¹

TUNE—"ALLAN WATER."

By Allan stream I chanc'd to rove
While Phœbus sank beyond Ben-
leddi ;²
The winds were whispering thro' the
grove,
The yellow corn was waving ready :
I listen'd to a lover's sang,
And thought on youthfu' pleasures
manie !

¹ I walked out yesterday evening, with a volume of the "Museum" in my hand ; when turning up "Allan Water," "What numbers shall the Muse repeat," &c., as the words appeared to me rather unworthy of so fine an air, and recollecting that it is on your list, I sat, and raved, under the shade of an old thorn, till I wrote out one to suit the measure. I may be wrong, but I think it not in my worst style. You must know, that in Ramsay's "Teatable," where the modern song first appeared, the ancient name of the tune, Allan says, is "Allan Water," or "My love Annie's very bonnie." This last has certainly been a line of the original song ; so I took up the idea, and, as you will see, have introduced the line in its place, which I presume it formerly occupied ; though I likewise give you a *choosing line*, if it should not hit the cut of your fancy. "Bravo," say I : "it is a good song."—BURNS to *Thomson*.

² A mountain west of Strathallan, 1000 feet high.—R. B

And aye the wild-wood echoes rang—
O dearly do I love thee, Annie !¹
O, happy be the woodbine bower,
Nae nightly bogle mak it eerie,
Nor ever sorrow stain the hour,
The place and time I met my dearie !
Her head upon my throbbing breast,
She, sinking, said "I am thine for
ever !"
While monie a kiss the seal imprest,
The sacred vow, we ne'er should
sever.

The haunt o' spring's the primrose
brae ;
The simmer joys the flocks to follow ;
How cheery, thro' her shortening day,
Is autumn, in her weeds o' yellow !
But can they melt the glowing heart,
Or chain the soul in speechless plea-
sure,
Or, thro' each nerve the rapture dart,
Like meeting her, our bosom's trea-
sure !

WHISTLE, AND I'LL COME TO
YOU, MY LAD.

O WHISTLE, and I'll come to you,
my lad ;
O whistle, and I'll come to you, my
lad :
Tho' father and mither and a' should
gae mad,
O whistle, and I'll come to you, my
lad.
But warily tent, when ye come to court
me,
And comena unless the back-yett be
a-jee ;
Syne up the back-stile, and let naeboddy
see,
And come as ye werena coming to me.
And come, &c.
At Kirk, or at market, whene'er ye meet
me,
Gang by me as tho' that ye car'dna a
fiè :

¹ Or, "O my love Annie's very bonnie."—R. B.

But steal me a blink o' your bonnie black
e'e,
Yet look as ye werena lookin at me.
Yet look, &c.

O whistle, &c.

Aye vow and protest that ye carena
for me,
And whiles ye may lightly my beauty
a wee ;
But courtna anither, tho' jokin ye be,
For fear that she wyle your fancy
frae me.
For fear, &c.

O whistle, and I'll come to you, my
lad ;

O whistle, and I'll come to you, my
lad :

Tho' father and mither and a' should
gae mad,

O whistle, and I'll come to you, my
lad.

HUSBAND, HUSBAND, CEASE YOUR STRIFE.

TUNE—"JO JANET."

"HUSBAND, husband, cease your strife,
Nor longer idly rave, sir ;
Tho' I am your wedded wife,
Yet I am not your slave, sir."

"One of two must still obey,
Nancy, Nancy ;
Is it man, or woman, say,
My spouse, Nancy?"

"If 'tis still the lordly word,
Service and obedience ;
I'll desert my sov'reign lord,
And so, good-bye, allegiance !"

"Sad will I be, so bereft,
Nancy, Nancy !
Yet I'll try to make a shift,
My spouse, Nancy."

"My poor heart then break it must,
My last hour I'm near it :
When you lay me in the dust,
Think, think how you will bear it."

I will hope and trust in Heaven,
Nancy, Nancy ;

Strength to bear it will be given,
My spouse, Nancy."

"Well, sir, from the silent dead
Still I'll try to daunt you ;
Ever round your midnight bed
Horrid sprites shall haunt you."

"I'll wed another, like my dear
Nancy, Nancy ;
Then all hell will fly for fear,
My spouse, Nancy."

HAD I A CAVE.

TUNE—"ROBIN ADAIR."

HAD I a cave on some wild, distant
shore,
Where the winds howl to the waves
dashing roar ;
There would I weep my woes,
There seek my lost repose,
Till grief my eyes should close,
Ne'er to wake more.

Falsest of womankind, canst thou de-
clare
All thy fond plighted vows—fleeing
as air ?
To thy new lover hie,
Laugh o'er thy perjury,
Then in thy bosom try,
What peace is there !

DELUDED SWAIN.

TUNE—"THE COLLIER'S DOCHTER."

DELUDED swain, the pleasure,
The fickle Fair can give thee,
Is but a fairy treasure,
Thy hopes will soon deceive thee
The billows on the ocean,
The breezes idly roamin',
The clouds' uncertain motion,—
They are but types of woman.
O ! art thou not ashamed
To doat upon a feature ?
If man thou wouldst be nam'd,
Despise the silly creature.

Go, find an honest fellow ;
 Good claret set before thee :
 Hold on till thou art mallow,
 And then to bed in glory.

SONG.

TUNE—"THE QUAKER'S WIFE."

I HINE am I, my faithful fair,
 Thine, my lovely Nancy ;
 Ev'ry pulse along my veins,
 Ev'ry roving fancy.

To thy bosom lay my heart,
 There to throb and languish :
 Tho' despair had wrung its core,
 That would heal its anguish.

Take away these rosy lips,
 Rich with balmy treasure !
 Turn away thine eyes of love,
 Lest I die with pleasure !

What is life when wanting love ?
 Night without a morning !
 Love's the cloudless summer sun,
 Nature gay adorning.

WILT THOU BE MY DEARIE ?¹

A NEW SCOTS SONG.

TUNE—"THE SUTOR'S DOCHTER."

WILT thou be my dearie ?
 When sorrow wings thy gentle heart,
 Wilt thou let me cheer thee ?
 By the treasure of my soul,
 That's the love I bear thee !
 I swear and vow that only thou
 Shalt ever be my dearie—
 Only thou, I swear and vow,
 Shalt ever be my dearie.

Lassie, say thou lo'es me ;
 Or if thou wilt na be my ain,
 Say na thou'lt refuse me :
 If it winna, canna be,
 Thou for thine may choose me,

¹ Burns considered this to be one of his best songs.

Let me, lassie, quickly die,
 Trusting that thou lo'es me—
 Lassie, let me quickly die,
 Trusting that thou lo'es me.

HERE IS THE GLEN.¹

TUNE—"BANKS OF CREE."

HERE is the glen, and here the bowers
 All underneath the birchen shade ;
 The village bell has toll'd the hour,
 O what can stay my lovely maid ?

'Tis not Maria's whispering call ;
 'Tis but the balmy breathing gale,
 Mixt with some warbler's dying fall,
 The dewy star of eve to hail.

It is Maria's voice I hear !
 So calls the woodlark in the grove
 His little faithful mate to cheer,
 At once 'tis music—and 'tis love.

And art thou come ? and art thou true ?
 O welcome, dear to love and me !
 And let us all our vows renew,
 Along the flow'ry banks of Cree.

ON THE SEAS AND FAR AWAY.²

TUNE—"O'ER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY."

How can my poor heart be glad,
 When absent from my Sailor lad ?
 How can I the thought forego,
 He's on the seas to meet the foe ?

¹ I got an air, pretty enough, composed by Lady Elizabeth Heron, of Heron, which she calls "The Banks of the Cree." Cree is a beautiful romantic stream ; and as her ladyship is a particular friend of mine, I have written this song to it.—R. B.

² Burns was at first pleased with these verses, but he afterwards thought them unequal and "flimsy." And his second thoughts were the best.

Let me wander, let me rove,
Still my heart is with my love;
Nightly dreams and thoughts by day
Are with him that's far away.

On the seas and far away,
On stormy seas and far away;
Nightly dreams and thoughts by day
Are aye with him that's far away.

When in summer's noon I faint,
As weary flocks around me pant,
Haply in this scorching sun
My Sailor's thund'ring at his gun:
Bullets, spare my only joy!
Bullets, spare my darling boy!
Fate, do with me what you may,
Spare but him that's far away!

At the starless midnight hour,
When winter rules with boundless
power;

As the storms the forest tear,
And thunders rend the howling air,
Listening to the doubling roar,
Surging on the rocky shore,
All I can—I weep and pray,
For his weal that's far away.

Peace, thy olive wand extend,
And bid wild War his ravage end,
Man with brother man to meet,
And as a brother kindly greet:
Then may Heaven with prosp'rous gales
Fill my Sailor's welcome sails,
To my arms their charge convey,
My dear lad that's far away.

On the seas and far away
On stormy seas and far away;
Nightly dreams and thoughts by day
Are aye with him that's far away.

HARK! THE MAVIS.

TUNE—"CA' THE YOWES TO THE
KNOWES."

CHORUS.

Ca' the yowes to the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,¹
My bonnie dearie.

¹ Rolls.

Hark! the mavis' evening sang
Sounding Clouden's woods amang!
Then a faulding let us gang,
My bonnie dearie.
Ca' the, &c.

We'll gae down by Clouden side,
Thro' the hazels spreading wide,
O'er the waves that sweetly glide
To the moon sae clearly.
Ca' the, &c.

Yonder Clouden's silent towers,
Where at moonshine midnight hours,
O'er the dewy-bending flowers,
Fairies dance sae cheery.
Ca' the, &c.

Ghaist nor bogle shalt thou fear;
Thou'rt to love and Heaven sae dear,
Nocht of ill may come thee near,
My bonnie dearie.
Ca' the, &c.

Fair and lovely as thou art,
Thou hast stown¹ my very heart;
I can die—but canna part,
My bonnie dearie.

Ca' the yowes to the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rows,
My bonnie dearie.

SHE SAYS SHE LO'ES ME BEST OF A'.²

TUNE—"ONAGH'S WATER-FALL."

SAE flaxen were her ringlets,
Her eyebrows of a darker hue,
Bewitchingly o'erarching
Twa laughing een o' bonnie blue.
Her smiling, sae wyling,
Wad make a wretch forget his we
What pleasure, what treasure,
Unto these rosy lips to grow!

¹ Stolen.

² The lady in whose honour Burns composed this song was Miss Lorimer, of Craigieburn.

Such was my Chloris' bonnie face,
When first her bonnie face I saw,
And aye my Chloris' dearest charm,
She says she lo'es me best of a'.

Like harmony her motion ;
Her pretty ancle is a spy
Betraying fair proportion,
Wad make a saint forget the sky ;
Sae warming, sae charming,
Her faultless form and gracefu' air ;
Ilk feature—auld Nature
Declar'd that she could do nae mair :
Hers are the willing chains o' love,
By conquering Beauty's sovereign
law ;
And aye my Chloris' dearest charm,
She says she lo'es me best of a'.

Let others love the city,
And gaudy show at sunny noon ;
Gie me the lonely valley,
The dewy eve, and rising moon
Fair beaming, and streaming,
Her silver light the boughs amang ;
While falling, recalling,
The amorous thrush concludes his
sang ;
There, dearest Chloris, wilt thou rove
By wimpling burn and leafy shaw,
And hear my vows o' truth and love,
And say thou lo'es me best of a' ?

MY HANDSOME NELL.¹

TUNE—"I AM A MAN UNMARRIED."

OH, once I lov'd a bonny lass,
Ay, and I love her still ;

¹ This was Nelly Fitzpatrick, the daughter of the village blacksmith. "This song," says Burns, "was the first of my performances, and done at an early period of my life, when my heart glowed with honest, warm simplicity—unacquainted and uncorrupted with the ways of a wicked world. It has many faults; but I remember I composed it in a wild enthusiasm of passion; and to this hour I never recollect it but my heart melts—my blood boils at the remembrance."

And while that virtue warms my breast
I'll love my handsome Nell.
Fal, lal de ral, &c.

As bonny lasses I hae seen,
And mony full as braw;¹
But for a modest, gracefu' mien
The like I never saw.

A bonny lass, I will confess,
Is pleasant to the e'e,
But without some better qualities
She's no a lass for me.

But Nelly's looks are blithe and sweet ;
And, what is best of a',
Her reputation is complete,
And fair without a flaw.

She dresses aye sae clean and neat,
Baith decent and genteel ;
And then there's something in her gait
Gars² ony dress look weel.

A gaudy dress and gentle air
May slightly touch the heart ;
But it's innocence and modesty
That polishes the dart.

'Tis this in Nelly pleases me,
'Tis this enchants my soul !
For absolutely in my breast
She reigns without control.

HOW LANG AND DREARY.

TUNE—"CAULD KAIL IN ABERDEEN."

How lang and dreary is the night,
When I am frae my dearie ;
I restless lie frae e'en to morn,
'Tho' I were ne'er sae weary.

CHORUS.

For oh ! her lanely nights are lang ;
And oh ! her dreams are eerie ;
And oh ! her widow'd heart is sair,
That's absent frae her dearie.
When I think on the lightsome days
I spent wi' thee, my dearie ?
And now that seas between us roar,—
How can I be but eerie ?
For oh, &c.

¹ Well-dressed.

² Makes.

How slow ye move, ye heavy hours ;
 The joyless day how drearie !
 It wasna sae ye glinted by,
 When I was wi' my dearie.
 For oh, &c.

LASSIE WI' THE LINT-WHITE
 LOCKS.

TUNE—"ROTHIEMURCHIE'S RANT."

CHORUS.

Lassie wi' the lint-white locks
 Bonnie lassie, artless lassie,
 Wilt thou wi' me tent the flocks ?
 Wilt thou be my dearie, O ?

Now nature cleeds the flowery lea,
 And a' is young and sweet like thee,
 O wilt thou share its joys wi' me,
 And say thou'lt be my dearie, O ?
 Lassie wi', &c.

And when the welcome simmer-shower
 Has cheer'd ilk drooping little flower,
 We'll to the breathing woodbine bower
 At sultry noon, my dearie, O.
 Lassie wi', &c.

When Cynthia lights, wi' silver ray,
 The weary shearer's hameward way,
 Thro' yellow waving fields we'll stray,
 And talk o' love, my dearie, O.
 Lassie wi', &c.

And when the howling wintry blast
 Disturbs my lassie's midnight rest ;
 Enclasped to my faithfu' breast,
 I'll comfort thee, my dearie, O.
 Lassie wi' the lint-white locks,
 Bonnie lassie, artless lassie,
 Wilt thou wi' me tent the flocks ?
 Wilt thou be my dearie, O ?¹

¹ This piece has at least the merit of being a regular pastoral: the vernal moon, the summer noon, the autumnal evening, and the winter night, are regularly rounded.—R. B.

THE AULD MAN.

TUNE—"GIL MORICE."

BUT lately seen in gladsome green,
 The woods rejoic'd the day,
 Thro' gentle showers the laughing
 flowers

In double pride were gay :
 But now our joys are fled,
 On winter blasts awa !
 Yet maiden May, in rich array
 Again shall bring them a'.

But my white pow, nae kindly thowe¹
 Shall melt the snaws of age ;
 My trunk of eild, but buss or bield,²
 Sinks in time's wintry rage.
 Oh, age has weary days,
 And nights o' sleepless pain !
 Thou golden time o' youthfu' prime,
 Why com'st thou not again ?

THE LOVER'S MORNING SA-
 LUTE TO HIS MISTRESS.³

TUNE—"DEIL TAK THE WARS."

SLEEP'ST thou, or wak'st thou, fairest
 creature ?

Rosy morn now lifts his eye,
 Numbering ilka bud which Nature
 Waters wi' the tears o' joy :
 Now thro' the leafy woods,
 And by the reeking floods
 Wild Nature's tenants freely, gladly
 stray ;

The lint white in his bower
 Chants o'er the breathing flower ;
 The lav'rock to the sky
 Ascends wi' sangs o' joy,
 While the sun and thou arise to bless
 the day.

Phœbus, gilding the brow o' morning,
 Banishes ilk darksome shade,
 Nature gladdening and adorning ;
 Such to me my lovely maid.

¹ Thaw.

² Without shelter.

³ Miss Lorimer is reported to have inspired these verses.

When absent frae my fair,
The murky shades o' care
W^{it}h starless gloom o'ercastr my sullen
sky :

But when in beauty's light,
She meets my ravish'd sight,
When thro' my very heart
Her beaming glories dart,
'Tis then I wake to life, to light, and joy.

CONTENTED W^I LITTLE.

TUNE—"LUMPS O' PUDDING."

CONTENTED wⁱ little, and cantie ¹ wⁱ
mair,
Whene'er I forgather wⁱ sorrow and
care,
I gie them a skelp ² as they're creepin'
alang,
Wⁱ' a cog o' guid swats, ³ and an auld
Scottish sang.

I whyles claw the elbow o' troublesome
thought ;
But man is a sodger, and life is a faught : ⁴
My mirth and guid humour are coin in
my pouch,
And my Freedom's my lairdship nae
monarch dare touch.

A towmond o' trouble, should that be
my fa',
A night o' guid fellowship sowthers ⁵
it a ;
When at the blythe end of our journey
at last,
Wha the deil ever thinks o' the road he
has past ?

Blind Chance, let her snapper and
stoyte ⁶ on her way,
Be't to me, be't frae me, e'en let the
jad gae :
Come ease, or come travail ; come
pleasure or pain ;
My warst word is—"Welcome, and
welcome again !"

¹ Cheerful.

² Slap.

³ Jug of good ale.

⁴ Fight.

⁵ Solders. ⁶ Mistake and stumble.

FAREWELL, THOU STREAM.

TUNE—"NANCY'S TO THE GREENWOOD
GANE."

FAREWELL, thou stream that winding
flows
Around Eliza's dwelling !
O Mem'ry ! spare the cruel throes
Within my bosom swelling :
Condemn'd to drag a hopeless chain,
And yet in secret languish,
To feel a fire in ev'ry vein,
Nor dare disclose my anguish.

Love's veriest wretch, unseen, un-
known,
I fain my griefs would cover :
The bursting sigh, th' unweeting groan,
Betray the hapless lover.
I know thou doom'st me to despair,
Nor wilt, nor canst, relieve me ;
But oh, Eliza, hear one prayer,
For pity's sake forgive me !

The music of thy voice I heard,
Nor wist while it enslav'd me ;
I saw thine eyes, yet nothing fear'd,
Till fears no more had sav'd me :
Th' unwary sailor thus aghast,
The wheeling torrent viewing,
'Mid circling horrors sinks at last
In overwhelming ruin.

MY NANNIE'S AWA.

TUNE—"THERE'LL NEVER BE PEACE
TILL JAMIE COMES HAME."

Now in her green mantle blythe Na-
ture arrays,
And listens the lambkins that bleat o'er
the braes,
While birds warble welcome in ilka
green shaw ;
But to me it's delightless—my Nannie's
awa.

The snaw-drap and primrose our wood-
lands adorn,
And violets bathe in the weat o' the
morn :

They pain my sad bosom, sae sweetly
they blaw,
They mind me o' Nannie—my Nan-
nie's awa.

Thou lav'rock that springs frae the
dews o' the lawn,
The shepherd to warn o' the grey-
breaking dawn,
And thou mellow mavis that hails the
night-fa',
Gie over for pity—my Nannie's awa.

Come Autumn sae pensive, in yellow
and gray,
And soothe me wi' tidings o' nature's
decay;
The dark, dreary Winter, and wild-
driving snaw,
Alane can delight me—now Nannie's
awa.

—————

SWEET FA'S THE EVE.¹

TUNE—"CRAIGIEBURN-WOOD."

SWEET fa's the eve on Craigieburn,
And blythè awakes the morrow,
but a' the pride o' spring's return
Can yield me nocht but sorrow.

I see the flowers and spreading trees,
I hear the wild birds singing;
But what a weary wight can please,
And care his bosom wringing?

Fain, fain would I my griefs impart,
Yet dare na for your anger;
But secret love will break my heart,
If I conceal it langer.

If thou refuse to pity me,
If thou shalt love anither,
When yon green leaves fa' frae the tree,
Around my grave they'll wither.

¹ Burns again celebrates Miss Loring. Craigieburn-wood is situate on the banks of the river Moffat. The woods of Craigieburn and of Duncrief were, at one time favourite haunts of our poet. (CURRIE.)

O LASSIE, ART, THOU SLEEP-
ING YET?

TUNE—"LET ME IN THIS AE NIGHT."²

O LASSIE, art thou sleeping yet?
Or art thou wakin', I would wit?
For love has bound me, hand and foot,
And I would fain be in, jo.

CHORUS.

O let me in this ae night
This ae, ae, ae night;
For pity's sake this ae night,
O rise and let me in, jo.

Thou hear'st the winter wind and weat,
Nae star blinks thro' the driving sleet;
Tak pity on my weary feet,
And shield me frae the rain, jo.
O let me in, &c.

The bitter blast that round me blaws,
Unheeded howls, unheeded fa's:
The cauldness o' thy heart's the cause
Of a' my grief and pain, jo.
O let me in, &c.

HER ANSWER.

O TELL na me o' wind and rain,
Upbraid na me wi' cauld disdain!
Gae back the gait ye cam again,
I winna let you in, jo.

CHORUS.

I tell you now this ae night,
This ae, ae, ae night,
And ance for a' this ae night,
I winna let you in, jo.

The snellest¹ blast, at mirkest² hours,
That round the pathless wand'rer pours,
Is nocht to what poor she endures,
That's trusted faithless man, jo.
I tell you now, &c.

The sweetest flower that deck'd the
mead,
Now trodden like the vilest weed;
Let simple maid the lesson read,
The weird³ may be her ain, jo.
I tell you now, &c.

¹ Bitterest.

² Darkest.

³ Fair.

The bird that charm'd his summer-day,
Is now the cruel fowler's prey :
Let witless, trusting woman say
How aft her fate's the same, jo.
I tell yu now, &c.

TWAS NA HER BONNIE BLUE
E'E.

TUNE—"LADDIE, LIE NEAR ME."

'Twas na her bonnie blue e'e was my
ruin ;
Fair tho' she be, that was ne'er my
undoin' ;
'Twas the dear smile when naeboddy
did mind us,
'Twas the bewitching, sweet, stown¹
glance o' kindness.

Sair do I fear that to hope is denied me,
Sair do I fear that despair maun abide
me ;
But tho' fell fortune should fate us to
sever,
Queen shall she be in my bosom for
ever.²

Chloris, I'm thine wi' a passion sin-
cerest,
And thou hast plighted me love o' the
dearest !
And thou'rt the angel that never can
alter,
Sooner the sun in his motion would
falter.

SONG.

TUNE—"HUMOURS OF GLEN."

THEIR groves o' sweet myrtles let fo-
reign lands reckon,
Where bright-beaming summers exalt
their perfume ;
Far dearer to me yon lone glen o' green
breckan,²
Wi' the burn stealing under the lang
yellow broom.

Far dearer to me are yon humble broom
bowers,
Where the blue-bell and gowan lurk
lowly unseen ;
For there lightly tripping among the
wild flowers,
A listening the linnet, aft wanders
my Jean.

Tho' rich is the breeze in their gay
sunny valleys,
And cauld Caledonia's blast on the
wave ;
Their sweet-scented woodlands that
skirt the proud palace,
What are they? The haunt of the
tyrant and slave !

The slave's spicy forests, and gold-
bubbling fountains,
The brave Caledonian views wi' dis-
dain ;
He wanders as free as the winds of his
mountains,
Save love's willing fetters, the chains
o' his Jean.

ADDRESS TO THE WOODLARK.

TUNE—"WHERE'LL BONNIE ANN LIE."

O STAY, sweet warbling wood-lark,
stay,
Nor quit for me the trembling spray ;
A hapless lover courts thy lay,
Thy soothing fond complaining.

Again, again that tender part,
That I may catch thy melting art ;
For surely that wad touch her heart,
Wha kills me wi' disdainin.

Say, was thy little mate unkind,
And heard thee as the careless wind ?
Oh, nocht but love and sorrow join'd
Sic notes o' wae could wauken.

Thou tells o' never-ending care ;
O' speechless grief, and dark despair ;
For pity's sake, sweet bird, nae mair !
Or my poor heart is broken !

¹ Stolen.

² Fern.

HOW CRUEL ARE THE PARENTS.

TUNE—"JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO."

How cruel are the parents
Who riches only prize,
And to the wealthy booby
Poor woman sacrifice.
Meanwhile the hapless daughter
Has but a choice of strife;
To shun a tyrant father's hate,
Becomes a wretched wife.

The ravening hawk pursuing,
The trembling dove thus flies,
To shun impelling ruin
Awhile her pinion tries;
Till of escape despairing,
No shelter or retreat,
She trusts the ruthless falconer,
And drops beneath his feet.

MARK YONDER POMP.

TUNE—"DEIL TAK THE WARS."

MARK yonder pomp of costly fashion,
Round the wealthy, titled bride;
But when compar'd with real passion,
Poor is all that princely pride.
What are the showy treasures?
What are the noisy pleasures?
The gay, gaudy glare of vanity and art:
The polish'd jewel's blaze
May draw the wond'ring gaze,
And courtly grandeur bright
The fancy may delight,
But never, never can come near the
heart.
But did you see my dearest Chloris,
In simplicity's array;
Lovely as yonder sweet opening
flower is,
Shrinking from the gaze of day!
O then, the heart alarming,
And all resistless charming,
In Love's delightful fetters she chains
the willing soul!
Ambition would disown
The world's imperial crown;

Even Avarice would deny
His worshipp'd deity,
And feel thro' every vein Love's rag-
tures roll.

I SEE A FORM, I SEE A FACE.

TUNE—"THIS IS NO MY AIN HOUSE."

O THIS is no my ain lassie,
Fair tho' the lassie be;
O weel ken I my ain lassie,
Kind love is in her e'e.

I see a form, I see a face,
Ye weel may wi' the fairest place:
It wants, to me, the witching grace,
The kind love that's in her e'e.
O this is no, &c.

She's bonnie, blooming, straight, and
tall,
And lang has had my heart in thrall;
And aye it charms my very saul,
The kind love that's in her e'e.
O this is no, &c.

A thief sae pawkie is my Jean,
To steal a blink, by a' unseen;
But gleg¹ as light are lovers' een,
When kind love is in the e'e.
O this is no, &c.

It may escape the courtly sparks,
It may escape the learned clerks;
But weel the watching lover marks
The kind love that's in her e'e.
O this is no, &c.

O BONNIE WAS YON ROSY BRIER.

TUNE—"I WISH MY LOVE WAS IN A
MIRE."

O BONNIE was yon rosy brier,
That blooms sae far frae hawt² o'
man;
And bonnie she, and ah, how dear
It shaded frae the e'enin² sun.

¹ Quick.

² Evening.

Yon rosebuds in the morning dew,
How pure among the leaves sae
green—

But pure was the lovers' vow
They witness'd in their shade yes-
green.

All in its rude and prickly bower,
That crimson rose, how sweet and
fair!

But love is far a sweeter flower
Amid life's thorny path o' care.

The pathless wild and wimpling burn,
Wi' Chloris in my arms, be mine;
Aad I the world nor wish, nor scorn,
Its joys and griefs alike resign.

FORLORN, MY LOVE.

TUNE—"LET ME IN THIS AE NIGHT."

FORLORN, my love, no comfort near,
Far, far from thee, I wander here;
Far, far from thee, the fate severe
At which I most repine, love.

CHORUS.

O wert thou, love, but near me,
But near, near, near me;
How kindly thou wouldst cheer me,
And mingle sighs with mine, love.

Around me scowls a wintry sky,
That blasts each bud of hope and
joy;
And shelter, shade, nor home have I,
Save in those arms of thine, love.
O wert, &c.

Cold, alter'd friendship's cruel part,
To poison fortune's ruthless dart—
Let me not break thy faithful heart,
And say that fate is mine, love.
O wert, &c.

But dreary tho' the moments fleet,
O let me think we yet shall meet!
That only ray of solace sweet
Can on thy Chloris shine, love.
O wert, &c.

LAST MAY A BRAW WOOPER.

TUNE—"THE LOTHIAN LASSIE."

LAST May a braw wooer cam down
the lang glen,
And sair wi' his love he did deave
me;

I said there was naething I hated like
men,
The deuce gae wi'm to believe me,
believe me,
The deuce gae wi'm to believe me.

He spak o' the darts in my bonnie black
een,
And vow'd for my love he was dying;
I said he might die when he liked for
Jean:
The Lord forgie me for lying, for
lying,
The Lord forgie me for lying!

A weel-stocked mailen, himsel for the
laird,
And marriage aff-hand, were his
proffers:

I never loot on that I kenn'd it, or
car'd;
But thought I might hae waur offers,
waur offers,
But thought I might hae waur offers.

But what wad ye think? in a fortnight
or less,
The deil tak his taste to gae near her!
He up the lang loan to my black cousin
Bess,

Guess ye how, the jad! I could bear
her, could bear her,
Guess ye how, the jad! I could bear
her.

But a' the niest week as I fretted wi'
care,
I gaed to the tryste o' Dalgarnock,¹
And wha but my fine fickle lover was
there!

I glowr'd as I'd seen a warlock, a
warlock,
I glowr'd as I'd seen a warlock.

¹ Dalgarnock is the name of a romantic spot near the Nith, where are still a ruined church and a burial-ground.—R. B.

But owre my left shouther I gae him a
 blink,
 Lest neebors might say I was saucy ;
 My wooer he caper'd as he'd been in
 drink,
 And vow'd I was his dear lassie, dear
 lassie,
 And vow'd I was his dear lassie.

I spier'd for my cousin fu' couthy and
 sweet,
 Gin she had recover'd her hearin,
 And how her new shoon fit her auld
 shachl't¹ feet—

But Heavens ! how he fell a swearin,
 a swearin,
 But Heavens ! how he fell a swearin.

He begged, for Gudesake, I wad be his
 wife,

Or else I wad kill him wi' sorrow :
 So e'en to preserve the poor body in life,
 I think I maun wed him to-morrow,
 to-morrow ;

I think I maun wed him to-morrow.

HEY FOR A LASS WI' A TOCHER.

TUNE—"BALINAMONA ORA."

AWA wi' your witchcraft o' beauty's
 alarms,
 The slender bit beauty you grasp in
 your arms :
 O, gie me the lass that has acres o'
 charms,
 O, gie me the lass wi' the weel-stockit
 farms.

CHORUS.

Then hey, for a lass wi' a tocher, then
 hey, for a lass wi' a tocher,
 Then hey, for a lass wi' a tocher ; the
 nice yellow guineas for me.

Your beauty's a flower in the morning
 that blows,
 And withers the faster, the faster it
 grows ;

¹ Twisted.

But the rapturous charm o' the bonnie
 green knowes,
 Ilk spring they're new deckit wi' bonnie
 white yowes.
 Then hey, &c.

And e'en when this beauty your bosom
 has blest,
 The brightest o' beauty may cloy, when
 possesset :

But the sweet yellow darlings wi'
 Geordie imprest,
 The langer ye hae them—the maist
 they're carest.
 Then hey, &c.

ALTHO' THOU MAUN NEVER BE MINE.

TUNE—"HERE'S A HEALTH TO THEM
 THAT'S AWA."

CHORUS.

Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear,
 Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear ;
 Thou art as sweet as the smile when
 fond lovers meet,
 And soft as their parting tear—Jessy!¹

ALTHO' thou maun never be mine,
 Altho' even hope is denied ;
 'Tis sweeter for thee despairing,
 Than aught in the world beside—
 Jessy !
 Here's a health, &c.

I mourn thro' the gay, gaudy day,
 As, hopeless, I muse on thy charms
 But welcome the dream o' sweet slum
 ber,
 For then I am lockt in thy arms—
 Jessy !
 Here's a health, &c.

I guess by the dear angel smiie,
 I guess by the love-rolling e'e ;
 But why urge the tender confession
 'Gainst fortune's fell cruel decree—
 Jessy !
 Here's a health, &c.

¹ Miss Jessy Lewars.

THE BIRKS¹ OF ABERFELDY.

Bonnie lassie, will ye go,
Bonnie lassie, will ye go,
To the Birks of Aberfeldy?

Now summer blinks on flowery braes,
And e'er the crystal streamlet plays,
Come let us spend the lightsome days
In the Birks of Aberfeldy.

While o'er their heads the hazels hing,
The little birdies blithely sing,
Or lightly flit on wanton wing
In the Birks of Aberfeldy.

The braes ascend like lofty wa's,
The foaming stream deep roaring fa's,
O'er-hung wi' fragrant spreading shaws,
The Birks of Aberfeldy.

The hoary cliffs are crown'd wi' flowers,
White o'er the linn the burnie pours,
And, rising, weets wi' misty showers
The Birks of Aberfeldy.

Let fortune's gifts at random flee,
They ne'er shall draw a wish frae me,
Supremely blest wi' love and thee,
In the Birks of Aberfeldy.

Bonnie lassie, will ye go,
Bonnie lassie, will ye go,
To the Birks of Aberfeldy?

THE YOUNG HIGHLAND ROVER.

TUNE—"MORAG."

LOUD blow the frosty breezes,
The snaws the mountains cover;
Like winter on me seizes,
Since my young Highland Rover
Far wanders nations over.
Where'er he go, where'er he stray,
May heaven be his warden;
Return him safe to fair Strathspey,
And bonnie Castle-Gordon!

The trees now naked groaning,
Shall soon wi' leaves be hingin';

¹ Near Moness, in Perthshire. The
birth-trees were there very abundant.

The birdies dowie moaning,
Shall a' be blithely singing,
And every flower be springing.
Sae I'll rejoice the lee-lang day,
When by his mighty warden
My youth's return'd to fair Strathspey
And bonnie Castle-Gordon.

STAY, MY CHARMER.

TUNE—"ANGILLE DUBH CIARDHUBH."

STAY, my charmer, can you leave me?
Cruel, cruel to deceive me!
Well you know how much you grieve
me;
Cruel charmer, can you go?
Cruel charmer, can you go?

By my love so ill requited;
By the faith you fondly plighted;
By the pangs of lovers slighted;
Do not, do not leave me so!
Do not, do not leave me so!

FULL WELL THOU KNOW'ST.¹

TUNE—"ROTHIEMURCHE'S RANT."

CHORUS.

Fairest maid on Devon banks,
Crystal Devon, winding Devon,
Wilt thou lay that frown aside,
And smile as thou were wont to do!

FULL well thou know'st I love thee dear;
Couldst thou to malice lend an ear?
O, did not Love exclaim, "Forbear,
Nor use a faithful lover so?"
Fairest maid, &c.

Then come, thou fairest of the fair,
Those wonted smiles, O, let me share;
And by thy beauteous self I swear,
No love but thine my heart shall know.
Fairest maid, &c.

¹ This is supposed to be the last song
written by Burns. "I tried my hand
on 'Rothiemurche' this morning. The
measure is so difficult, that it is impos-
sible to infuse much genius into the
lines."—R. B.

STRATHALLAN'S LAMENT.¹

HICKEST night, o'erhang my dwelling !
Howling tempests, o'er me rave !
Turbid torrents, wintry swelling,
Still surround my lonely cave !

Crystal streamlets gently flowing,
Busy haunts of base mankind,
Western breezes softly blowing,
Suit not my distracted mind.

In the cause of right engaged,
Wrongs injurious to redress,
Honour's war we strongly waged,
But the Heavens denied success.

Ruin's wheel has driven o'er us,
Not a hope that dare attend ;
The wide world is all before us—
But a world without a friend !

RAVING WINDS AROUND HER
BLOWING.²

TUNE—"M'GREGOR OF RUARA'S ;
LAMENT."

RAVING winds around her blowing,
Yellow leaves the woodlands strowing,
By a river hoarsely roaring,
Isabella stray'd deploring :
"Farewell, hours, that late did reasure

Sunshine days of joy and pleasure ;
Hail, thou gloomy night of sorrow,
Cheerless night that knows no morrow

"O'er the past too fondly wandering,
On the hopeless future pondering ;
Chilly grief my life-blood freezes,
Fell despair my fancy seizes.
Life, thou soul of every blessing,
Lead to misery most distressing,
O, how gladly I'd resign thee,
And to dark oblivion join thee !"

¹ Lord Strathallan, bewailing his forlorn state after the defeat of Culloden.

² Miss Isabella M'Leod, who had lost a sister and a brother-in-law.

MUSING ON THE ROARING
OCEAN.

TUNE—"DRUIMION DUBH."

MUSING on the roaring ocean
Which divides my love and me ;
Wearying Heaven in warm devotion,
For his weal where'er he be.

Hope and fear's alternate billow
Yielding late to nature's law,
Whisp'ring spirits round my pillow
Talk of him that's far awa.

Ye whom sorrow never wounded,
Ye who never shed a tear,
Care-untroubld, joy-surrounded,
Gaudy day to you is dear.

Gentle night, do thou befriend me ;
Downy sleep, the curtain draw ;
Spirits kind, again attend me,
Talk of him that's far awa !

BLITHE WAS SHE.

TUNE—"ANDREW AND HIS CUTTY
GUN."

CHORUS.

Blithe, blithe and merry was she,
Blithe was she but and ben :
Blithe by the banks of Ern,
And blithe in Glenturit glen.

By Ochtertyre grows the aik,
On Yarrow banks the birken shaw ;
But Phemie¹ was a bonnier lass
Than braes o' Yarrow ever saw.
Blithe, &c.

Her looks were like a flower in May,
Her smile was like a simmer morn ;
She tripped by the banks of Ern,
As light 's a bird upon a thorn.
Blithe, &c.

Her bonnie face it was as meek
As onie lamb's upon a lea ;
The evening sun was ne'er sae sweet
As was the blink o' Phemie's e'e.
Blithe, &c.

¹ Miss Euphenia Murray.

The Highland hills I've wander'd wide,
 And o'er the Lowlands I hae been ;
 But Phemie was the blithest lass
 That ever trod the dewy green.
 Blithe, &c.

PEGGY'S CHARMS.¹

TUNE—"NEIL GOW'S LAMENTATION
 FOR ABERCAIRNY."

WHERE, braving angry winter's storms,
 The lofty Ochils rise,
 Far in their shade my Peggy's charms
 First blest my wondering eyes.
 As one who, by some savage stream,
 A lonely gem surveys,
 Astonish'd, doubly marks its beam
 With art's most polish'd blaze.

Blest be the wild sequester'd shade,
 And blest the day and hour,
 Where Peggy's charms I first survey'd,
 When first I felt their pow'r !
 The tyrant Death with grim control
 May seize my fleeting breath ;
 But tearing Peggy from my soul
 Must be a stronger death.

THE LAZY MIST.

IRISH AIR—"COOLUN."

THE lazy mist hangs from the brow of
 the hill,
 Concealing the course of the dark-
 winding rill ;
 How languid the scenes, late so spright-
 ly, appear,
 As Autumn to Winter resigns the pale
 year !
 The forests are leafless, the meadows
 are brown,
 And all the gay foppery of Summer is
 flown :
 Apart let me wander, apart let me
 muse,
 How quick Time is flying, how keen
 Fate pursues ;

How long I have lived, but how much
 lived in vain :
 How little of life's scanty span may
 remain :
 What aspects old Time, in his pro-
 gress, has worn ;
 What ties cruel Fate in my bosom has
 torn.
 How foolish, or worse, till our summit
 is gain'd !
 And downward, how weaken'd, how
 darken'd, how pain'd !
 This life's not worth having with all it
 can give,
 For something beyond it poor man sure
 must live.

A ROSE-BUD BY MY EARLY WALK.

TUNE—"THE SHEPHERD'S WIFE."

A ROSE-BUD by my early walk,
 Adown a corn-enclosed baw,¹
 Sae gently bent its thorny stalk,
 All on a dewy morning.

Ere twice the shades o' dawn are fled,
 In a' its crimson glory spread,
 And drooping rich the dewy head,
 It scents the early morning.

Within the bush, her covert nest
 A little linnet fondly prest,
 The dew sat chilly on her breast
 Sae early in the morning.

She soon shall see her tender brood,
 The pride, the pleasure o' the wood,
 Among the fresh green leaves bedew'd,
 Awake the early morning.

So thou, dear bird, young Jeany² fair,
 On trembling string, or vocal air,
 Shall sweetly pay the tender care
 That tents thy early morning.

So thou, sweet rose-bud, young and gay
 Shalt beauteous blaze upon the day,
 And bless the parent's evening ray
 That watch'd thy early morning.

¹ Miss Margaret Chalmers.

² Miss Jenny Cruikshanks.

TIBBIE I HAE SEEN THE DAY.¹

TUNE—"INVERCAULD'S REEL."

CHORUS.

O Tibbie, I hae seen the day,
Ye would na been sae shy;
For laik o' gear ye lightly² me,
But trowth, I care na by.

YESTREEN I met you on the moor,
Ye spak na, but gaed by like stoure:
Ye geck at me because I'm poor,
But fient a hair care I.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

I doubt na, lass, but ye may think,
Because ye hae the name o' clink,
That ye can please me at a wink,
Whene'er ye like to try.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

But sorrow tak him that's sae mean,
Altho' his pouch o' coin were clean,
Wha follows onie saucy quean
That looks sae proud and high.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

Altho' a lad were e'er sae smart,
If that he want the yellow dirt,
Ye'll cast your head anither airt,
And answer him fu' dry.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

But if he hae the name o' gear,
Ye'll fasten to him like a brier,
Tho' hardly he for sense or lear
Be better than the kye.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

But, Tibbie, lass, tak my advice,
Your daddy's gear maks you sae nice;
The deil a ane wad spier your price
Were ye as poor as I.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

'Here lives a lass in yonder park,
I would na gie her in her sark,
For thee wi' a' thy thousand mark;
Ye need na look sae high.
O Tibbie, I hae, &c.

¹ Burns was about seventeen years old when he composed these rhymes.

² Despise.

I LOVE MY JEAN.¹

TUNE—"MISS ADMIRAL GORDON'S STRATHSPEY."

Of a' the airts² the wind can blaw,
I dearly like the west,
For there the bonnie lassie lives,
The lassie I lo'e best;
There wild woods grow, and rivers r^u
And monie a hill between;
By day and night my fancy's flight
Is ever wi' my Jean.

I see her in the dewy flowers,
I see her sweet and fair;
I hear her in the tunefu' birds,
I hear her charm the air:
There's not a bonnie flower that springs
By fountain, shaw, or green;
There's not a bonnie bird that sings,
But minds me o' my Jean.

O, WERE I ON PARNASSUS'
HILL.

TUNE—"MY LOVE IS LOST TO ME."

O, WERE I on Parnassus' hill,
Or had of Helicon my fill,
That I might catch poetic skill,
To sing how dear I love thee!
But Nith maun be my Muse's well,
My Muse maun be thy bonnie sel;
On Corsincon³ I'll glow'r and spell,
And write how dear I love thee.

Then come, sweet Muse, inspire my lay
For a' the lee-lang simmer's day,
I coud na sing, I coud na say,
How much, how dear I love thee.
I see thee dancing o'er the green,
Thy waist sae jimp,⁴ thy limbs sae clean,
Thy tempting looks, thy roguish een—
By Heaven and earth I love thee!

¹ Written "out of compliment to Mrs. Burns."

² Points of the compass.

³ A hill near Ellisland. ⁴ Slender.

By night, by day, a-field, at hame,
The thoughts o' thee my breast inflame;
And aye I muse and sing thy name,
I only live to love thee.

Tho' I were doom'd to wander on
Beyond the sea, beyond the sun,
Till my last weary sand was run;
Till then—and then I'd love thee.

THE BLISSFUL DAY.¹

TUNE—"SEVENTH OF NOVEMBER."

THE day returns, my bosom burns,
The blissful day we twa did meet,
Tho' winter wild in tempest toil'd,
Ne'er summer-sun was half sae sweet.
Than a' the pride that loads the tide,
And crosses o'er the sultry line;
Than kingly robes, than crowns and
globes;—
Heaven gave me more, it made thee
mine.

While day and night can bring delight,
Or nature aught of pleasure give;
While joys above my mind can move,—
For thee, and thee alone, I live!
When that grim foe of life below
Comes in between to make us part;
The iron hand that breaks our band,
It breaks my bliss—it breaks my
heart.

THE BRAES O' BALLOCHMYLE.

TUNE—"MISS FORBES'S FAREWELL TO
BANFF."

THE Catrine woods were yellow seen,
The flowers decay'd on Catrine lea,
Nae lav'rock sang on hillock green,
But nature sicken'd on the e'e.

¹ The Poet declared Robert Riddell and his wife to be "one of the happiest and worthiest married couples in the world." These stanzas were composed for the anniversary of their wedding-day.

Thro' faded groves Maria sang,
Hersel in beauty's bloom the while,
And aye the wild wood echoes rang,
Fareweel the braes o' Ballochmyle.

Low in your wintry beds, ye flowers,
Again ye'll flourish fresh and fair;
Ye birdies dumb, in with'ring bowers,
Again ye'll charm the vocal air.
But here, alas! for me nae mair
Shall birdie charm, or flow'ret smile;
Fareweel the bonnie banks of Ayr,
Fareweel, fareweel! sweet Balloch-
myle.

THE HAPPY TRIO.¹

TUNE—"WILLIE BREW'D A PECK O'
MAUT."

O, WILLIE brew'd a peck o' maut,
And Rob and Allan came to see;
Three blither hearts, that lee-lang'²
night,
Ye wad na find in Christendie.

CHORUS.

We are na fou, we're no that fou,
But just a drappie in our e'e;
The cock may craw, the day may daw,
And aye we'll taste the barley bree.

Here are we met, three merry boys,
Three merry boys, I trow, are we;
And monie a night we've merry been,
And monie mae we hope to be!
We are na fou, &c.

It is the moon, I ken her horn,
That's blinkin in the lift sae hie:

¹ This air is Masterson's; the song mine. The occasion of it was this. Mr. William Nicol, of the High School of Edinburgh, during the Autumn vacation, being at Moffat, honest Allan, who was at that time on a visit to Dalswinton, and I, went to pay Nicol a visit. We had such a joyous meeting, that Mr. Masterson and I agreed, each in our own way, that we should celebrate the business—R. B.

² Live-long.

She shines sae bright to wyle us hame,
But, by my sooth, she'll wait a wee !
We are na fou, &c.

Wha first shall rise to gang awa,
A cuckold, coward loun is he !
Wha last beside his chair shall fa',
He is the king amang us three !
We are na fou, &c.

THE BLUE-EYED LASSIE.¹

I GAED a' waefu' gate yestreen,
A gate, I fear, I'll dearly rue ;
I gat my death frae twa sweet een,
Twa lovely een o' bonnie blue.

'Twas not her golden ringlets bright,
Her lips like roses wet wi' dew,
Her heaving bosom, lily-white ;—
It was her een sae bonnie blue.

She talk'd, she smil'd, my heart she
wyl'd,
She charm'd my soul I wist na how ;
And aye the stound,² the deadly wound,
Cam frae her een sae bonnie blue.

But spare to speak, and spare to speed ;
She'll aiblins listen to my vow :
Should she refuse, I'll lay my dead
To her twa een sae bonnie blue.

JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO.

JOHN ANDERSON, my jo, John,
When we were first acquent,
Your locks were like the raven,
Your bonnie brow was brent ;³
But now your brow is beld, John,
Your locks are like the snaw ;
But blessings on your frosty pow,
John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither ;

And monie a canty day, John,
We've had wi' ane anither :
Now we maun totter down, John,
But hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my jo.

TAM GLEN.

TUNE—"THE MUCKING O' GEORDIE'S
BYRE."

My heart is a breaking, dear Tittie,
Some counsel unto me come len',
To anger them a' is a pity ;
But what will I do wi' Tam Glen ?

I'm thinking, wi' sic a braw fellow,
In poortith¹ I might mak a fen'² ;
What care I in riches to wallow,
If I maunna marry Tam Glen ?

There's Lowrie the laird o' Dumeller,
"Guid-day to you, brute !" he comes
ben :

He brags and he blaws o' his siller ;
But when will he dance like Tam
Glen ?

My minnie does constantly deave³ me,
And bids me beware o' young men ;
They flatter, she says, to deceive me ;
But wha can think sae o' Tam Glen ?

My daddie says, gin I'll forsake him,
He'll gie me guid hunder marks ten :
But, if it s ordain d I maun take him,
O wha will I get but Tam Glen ?

Yestreen at the Valentines' dealing,
My heart to my mou gied a sten :⁴
For thrice I drew ane without failing,
And thrice it was writtèn, Tam Glen

The last Halloween I was waukin⁵
My droukit⁶ sark-sleeve, as ye ken
His likeness cam up the house staukin—
And the very grey breeks o' Tam
Glen !

¹ Jean Jeffry, daughter of the minister of Lochmaben.

² Pang. ³ High and smooth.

¹ Poverty. ² Make a shift. ³ Deafen
⁴ Leap. ⁵ Watching. ⁶ Wet.

Come counsel, dea Tittie, don't tarry;
I'll gie ycu my bonnie black hen,
Gif you will advise me to marry
The lad I lo'e dearly Tam Glen.

GANE IS THE DAY.

TUNE—"GUIDWIFE COUNT THE
LAWIN."

GANE is the day, and mirk's the night,
But we'll ne'er stray for faute¹ o' light,
For ale and brandy's stars and moon,
And bluid-red wine's the risin sun.

CHORUS.

Then guidwife count the lawin,² the
lawin, the lawin,
Then guidwife count the lawin, and
bring a coggie mair.

There's wealth and ease for gentlemen,
And semple-folk maun fecht and fen',
But here we're a' in ae accord,
For ilka man that's drunk's a lord.
Then guidwife count, &c.

My coggie is a haly pool,³
That heals the wounds o' care and dool;
And pleasure is a wanton trout,
An' ye drink it a' ye'll find him out.
Then guidwife count, &c.

WHAT CAN A YOUNG LASSIE
DO WI' AN AULD MAN?

TUNE—"WHAT CAN A LASSIE DO."

WHAT can a young lassie, what shall a
young lassie,
What can a young lassie do wi' an
auld man?
Bad luck on the penny that tempted
my minnie
To sell her poor Jenny fa' siller an'
lan'!
Bad luck on the penny, &c.

He's always compleenin frae mornin ta
e'enin,
He hosts and he hirples¹ the weary
day lang;
He's doylt² and he's dozin, his bluid it
is frozen,
O, dreary's the night wi' a crazy
auld man!

He hums and he hankers, he frets and
he cankers,
I never can please him do a' that I
can;
He's peevisish, and jealous of a' the
young fellows:
O, dool³ on the day I met wi' an auld
man!

My auld auntie Katie upon me takes
pity,
I'll do my endeavour to follow her
plan;
I'll cross him, and rack him, until I
heart-break him,
And then his auld brass will buy me
a new pan.

O, FOR ANE-AND-TWENTY,
TAM!

TUNE—"THE MOUDIIEWORT."

CHORUS.

An' O for ane-and-twenty, Tam!
An' hey, sweet ane-and-twenty,
Tam!
I'll learn my kin a rattlin sang,
An' I saw ane-and-twenty, Tam.

THEY snool⁴ me sair, and haud me
down,
And gar me look like bluntie,⁵ Tam!
But three short years will soon whael
roun',
And then comes ane-and-twenty,
Tam.
And O for ane, &c.

¹ Coughs and hobbles. ² Stupid

³ Sorrow.

⁴ Oppress.

⁵ Snivelling.

¹ Fault. ² Reckoning. ³ Holy well.

A gleib o' lan',¹ a claut o' gear,
 Was left me by my auntie, Tam;
 At kith or kin I need na spier,
 An' I saw ane-and-twenty, Tam.
 An' O for ane, &c.

They'll hae me wed a wealthy coof,²
 Tho' I mysel' hae plenty, Tam;
 But hear'st thou, laddie, there's my
 loof,³—
 I'm thine at ane-and-twenty, Tam!
 An' O for ane, &c.

THE BONNIE WEE THING.

TUNE—"THE LADS OF SALTCOATS."

BONNIE wee thing, cannie wee thing,
 Lovely wee thing, wast thou mine,
 I wad wear thee in my bosom,
 Lest my jewel I should tine.

Wistfully I look and languish
 In that bonnie face of thine;
 And my heart it stounds⁴ wi' anguish,
 Lest my wee thing be na mine.

Wit, and grace, and love, and beauty,
 In ae constellation shine;
 To adore thee is my duty,
 Goddess o' this soul o' mine!
 Bonnie wee, &c.

THE BANKS OF NITH.

TUNE—"ROBIE DONNA GORACH."

THE Thames flows proudly to the sea,
 Where royal cities stately stand;
 But sweeter flows the Nith to me,
 Where Cummins ance had high com-
 mand:
 When shall I see that honour'd land,
 That winding stream I loved so dear?
 Must wayward fortune's adverse hand
 For ever, ever keep me here?

A portion of ground. ² Blockhead.
³ Hand. ⁴ Throbs.

How lovely, Nith, thy fruitful vale,
 Where spreading hawthorns gaily
 bloom;
 How sweetly wind thy sloping dales,
 Where lambkins wanton thro' the
 broom!
 Tho' wandering, now, must be my
 doom,
 Far from thy bonnie banks and braes,
 May there my latest hour consume,
 Among the friends of early days!

BESSY AND HER SPINNIN WHEEL.

O LEEZE¹ me on my spinnin wheel,
 O leeze me on my rock and reel;
 Frae tap to tae that cleeds me bien,²
 And haps³ me fiel⁴ and warm at e'en!
 I'll set me down and sing and spin,
 While laigh⁵ descends the simmer sun,
 Blest wi' content, and milk, and meal—
 O leeze me on my spinnin wheel.

On ilka hand the burnies trot,
 And meet below my theekit⁶ cot;
 The scented birk and hawthorn white
 Across the pool their arms unite,
 Alike to screen the birdie's nest,
 And little fishes caller⁷ rest:
 The sun blinks kindly in the biel',⁸
 Where blithe I turn my spinnin wheel.

On lofty aiks⁹ the cushats wail,
 And echo cons the doolfu' tale;
 The lintwhites in the hazel braes,
 Delighted, rival ither's lays:
 The craik¹⁰ among the claver hay,
 The patrick¹¹ whirrin o'er the ley,
 The swallow jinkin¹² round my shiel',¹³
 Amuse me at my spinnin wheel.

¹ A phrase of endearment: "I am proud of thee."

² That abundantly clothes me.

³ Wraps. ⁴ Soft. ⁵ Low.

⁶ Thatched. ⁷ Sound. ⁸ Nock.

⁹ Oaks. ¹⁰ The corn-rail.

¹¹ Partridge. ¹² Dodging. ¹³ Shed

Wi' sma' to sell, and less to buy,
 Aboon distress, below envy,
 O wha wad leave this humble state,
 For a' the pride of a' the great?
 Amid their flarin', idle toys,
 Amid their cumbrous, dinsome joys,
 Can they the peace and pleasure feel
 Of Bessy at her spinnin' wheel?

COUNTRY LASSIE.

TUNE—"JOHN, COME KISS ME NOW."

IN simmer, when the hay was mawn,
 And corn wad' green in ilka field,
 While claver blooms white o'er the lea,
 And roses blaw in ilka bield;¹
 Blithe Bessie in the milking shiel,
 Says, "I'll be wed, come o't what
 will;"

Out spak a dame in wrinkled eild,—
 "O' guid advisement comes nae ill:

"It's ye hae woers monie ane,
 And, lassie, ye're but young, ye ken;
 Then wait a wee, and cannie wale²
 A routhie but, a routhie ben:³
 There's Johnie o' the Buskie-glen,
 Fu' is his barn, fu' is his byre;⁴
 Tak this frae me, my bonnie hen,
 It's plenty beets the lover's fire."⁵

"For Johnie o' the Buskie-glen
 I dinna care a single flie;
 He lo'es sae weel his craps and kye,⁶
 He has nae luvè to spare for me;
 But blithe's the blink o' Robie's e'e,
 And weel I wat he lo'es me dear:
 Ae blink o' him I wad nae gie
 For Buskie-glen and a' his gear."

"O thoughtless lassie, life's a faught;⁷
 The canniest gate, the strife is sair;
 But aye fu' han't is fechtin'⁸ best,
 An hungry care's an unco care:

¹ Sunny nook of a wood.

² Choose.

³ A plentiful kitchen and parlour.

⁴ Sheep-pen. ⁵ Adds fuel to fire.

⁶ Crops and cows.

⁷ Fight. ⁸ Fighting.

But some will spend, and some will
 spare,
 An' wilfu' folk maun hae their will,
 Synè as ye brew, my maiden fair,
 Keep mind that ye maun drink the
 yill."¹

"O, gear will buy me rigs o' land,
 And gear will buy me sheep and
 kye;

But the tender heart o' leesome² luvè
 The gowd and siller canna buy:
 We may be poor—Robie and I,—
 Light is the burden luvè lays on;
 Content and luvè brings peace and joy,
 What mair hae queens upon a
 throne?"

FAIR ELIZA.

TUNE—"THE BONNIE BRUCKET
 LASSIE."

TURN again, thou fair Eliza,
 Ae kind blink before we part,
 Rew³ on thy despairing lover!
 Canst thou break his faithfu' heart!
 Turn again, thou fair Eliza,
 If to love thy heart denies,
 For pity hide the cruel sentence
 Under friendship's kind disguise!

Thee, dear maid, hae I offended⁹
 The offence is loving thee;
 Canst thou wreck his peace for ever,
 Wha for thine wad gladly die?
 While the life beats in my bosom,
 Thou shalt mix in ilka throe:
 Turn again, thou lovely maiden,
 Ae sweet smile on me bestow.

Not the bee upon the blossom,
 In the pride o' sunny noon;
 Not the little sporting fairy,
 All beneath the simmer moon;
 Not the poet in the moment
 Fancy lightens in his e'e,
 Kens the pleasure, feels the rapture,
 That thy presence gies to me.

¹ Ale.

² Gladsome.

³ Look tenderly.

SHE'S FAIR AND FAUSE.

SHE'S fair and fause that causes my
smart,

I lo'ed her n eikle and lang :
She's broken hei vow, she's broken my
heart,

And I may e'en gae hang.
A coof came in wi' rowth o' gear,¹
And I hae tint² my dearest dear,
But woman is but warld's gear,
Sae let the bonnie lass gang.

Whae'er ye be that woman love,
To this be never blind,
Nae ferlie³ 'tis tho' fickle she prove,
A woman has't by kind :
O Woman lovely, Woman fau !
An Angel form's fa'n to thy share,
'Twad been o'er meikle to've gien thee
mair,
I mean an Angel mind.

THE POSIE.

O LUVE will venture in, where it daur
na weel be seen,

O luvè will venture in, where wisdom
ance has been ;

But I will down yon river rove, among
the wood sae green,—

And a' to pu' a Posie to my ain dear
May.

The primrose I will pu', the firstling o'
the year,

And I will pu' the pink, the emblem o'
my dear,

For she's the pink o' womankind, and
blooms without a peer ;—

And a' to be a Posie to my ain dear
May.

I'll pu' the budding rose, when Phœbus
peeps in view,

For it's like a baumy kiss o her sweet
bonnie mou ;

¹ A blockhead came with plenty of
wealth.

² Lost.

³ No wonder.

The hyacinth's for constancy, wi' its
unchanging blue,
And a' to be a Posie to my ain dear
May.

The lily it is pure, and the lily it is fair
And in her lovely bosom I'll place the
lily there ;

The daisy's for simplicity and un-
affected air,

And a' to be a Posie to my ain dear
May.

The hawthorn I will pu', wi' its locks o'
siller gray,

Where, like an aged man, it stands at
break o' day,

But the songster's nest within the bush
I winna tak away ;—

And a' to be a Posie to my ain dear
May.

The woodbine I will pu' when the e'en-
ing star is near,

And the diamond drops o' dew shall be
her een sae clear :

The violet's for modesty which weel she
fa's to wear,—

And a' to be a Posie to my ain dear
May.

I'll tie the Posie round wi' the silken
band o' luvè,

And I'll place it in her breast, and I'll
swear by a' above,

That to my latest draught o' life, the
band shall ne'er remuve,—

And this will be a Posie to my ain
dear May.

THE BANKS O' DOON.¹

TUNE—"THE CALEDONIAN HUNT"²
DELIGHT."

YE banks and braes o' bonnie Doon,
How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair.

¹ We have this song in an earlier and
simpler form, as the writer sent it to
Mr. Ballantine : Mr. Cunningham, on
the authority of an Ayrshire legend,
discovers the heroine of the song in

How can ye chaunt ye little birds,
An' I sae weary, fu' o' care!

Thou'lt break my heart, thou warbling
bird,

That wantons thro' the flowering
thorn:

Thou minds me o' departed joys,
Departed—never to return.

Thou'lt break my heart, thou bonnie
bird,

That sings beside thy mate;

For sae I sat, and sae I sang,
And wist na o' my fate.

Aft hae I rov'd by bonnie Doon,
To see the rose and woodbine twine;
And ilka bird sang o' its luvie,
And fondly sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose,
Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree;
And my fause luvier stole my rose,
But ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

Miss Kennedy, of Dalgarrock, who
broke her heart for one M'Dougall, of
Logan:

Ye flowery banks o' bonnie Doon,
How can ye blume sae fair!

How can ye chant, ye little birds,
And I sae fu' o' care.

Thou'll break my heart, thou bonnie
bird,

That sings upon the bough;
Thou minds me o' the happy days,
When my fause luvie was true.

Thou'll break my heart, thou bonnie
bird,

That sings beside thy mate;
For sae I sat, and sae I sang,
And wist na o' my fate.

Aft hae I rov'd by bonnie Doon,
To see the woodbine twine,
And ilka bird sang o' its love,
And sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose
Frae off its thorny tree;
And my fause luvier staw the rose,
But left the thorn wi' me.

GLOOMY DECEMBER.¹

TUNE—"WANDERING WILLIE."

ANCE mair I hail thee, thou gloomy
December!

ANCE mair I hail thee wi' sorrow and
care;

SAD was the parting thou makes me
remember,

Parting wi' Nancy, oh! ne'er to meet
mair.

FOND lovers' parting is sweet painful
pleasure,

Hope beaming mild on the soft part-
ing hour;

BUT the dire feeling, O farewell for ever!
Is agony unmingl'd and agony pure.

WILD as the winter now tearing the
forest,

Till the last leaf o' the summer is
flown,

SUCH is the tempest has taken my
bosom,

Since my last hope and comfort is
gone.

STILL as I hail thee, thou gloomy De-
cember,

Still shall I hail thee wi' sorrow and
care.

FOR sad was the parting thou makes me
remember,

Parting wi' Nancy, oh! ne'er to meet
mair.

BEHOLD THE HOUR.

TUNE—"ORAN-GAOIL."

BEHOLD the hour, the boat arrive!

Thou go'st, thou darling of my heart;
Sever'd from thee can I survive?

But fate has will'd, and we must part!
I'll often greet this surging swell;

Yon distant isle will often hail:
"E'en here I took the last farewell;

There latest mark'd her vanish'd sail."
Along the solitary shore,

While flitting sea-fowls round me cry,

¹ On parting from Clarinda.

Across the rolling, dashing roar,
 I'll westward turn my wistful eye:
 "Happy, thou Indian grove," I'll say,
 "Where now my Nancy's path may
 be!
 While thro' thy sweets she loves to
 stray,
 O, tel' me, does she muse on me?"

WILLIE'S WIFE.¹

TUNE—"TIBBIE FOWLER IN THE
 GLEN."

WILLIE WASTLE dwalt on Tweed,
 The spot they ca'd it Linkum-doddie,
 Willie was a wabster² guid,
 Cou'd stown a clue wi' onie bodie;
 He had a wife was dour and din,³
 Oh, Tinkler Madgie was her mither;
 Sic a wife as Willie had,
 I wad na gie a button for her.

She has an e'e, she has but ane,
 The cat has twa the very colour;
 Five rusty teeth, forbye a stump,
 A clapper tongue wad deave⁴ a miller;
 A whiskin beard about her mou,
 Her nose and chin they threaten ither;
 Sic a wife as Willie had,
 I wad na gie a button for her.

She's bow-hough'd,⁵ she's hein-shinn'd,
 Ae limpin leg, a hand-breed⁶ shorter;
 She's twisted right, she's twisted left,
 To balance fair in ilka quarter;
 She has a hump upon her breast,
 The twin o' that upon her shouther;
 Sic a wife as Willie had,
 I wad na gie a button for her.

Auld baudrons⁷ by the ingle sits,
 An' wi' her loof her face a-washin;
 But Willie's wife is nae sae trig,⁸
 She dights⁹ her grunzie¹⁰ wi' a
 hushion;¹¹

¹ Willie's wife is said to have been
 the wife of a farmer near Ellisland.

² Weaver. ³ Sullen and sallow.

⁴ Deafen.

⁵ Out-kneed. ⁶ Hand's-breadth.

⁷ Cat. ⁸ Neat. ⁹ Wipes.

¹⁰ Mouth. ¹¹ Cushion.

Her walie nieves¹ like mid ien-creels
 Her face wad fyle² the Logan-wata
 Sic a wife as Willie had,
 I wad na gie a button for her

AFTON WATER.⁴

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy
 green braes,
 Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in
 thy praise;
 My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring
 stream,
 Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not
 her dream.

Thou stock-dove whose echo resounds
 thro' the glen,
 Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon
 thorny den,
 Thou green-crested lapwing, thy
 screaming forbear,
 I charge you disturb not my slumber-
 ing fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbour-
 ing hills,
 Far mark'd with the courses of clear,
 winding rills,
 There daily I wander as noon rises
 high,
 My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in
 my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green
 valleys below,
 Where wild in the woodlands the prim-
 roses blow;
 There oft as mild ev'ning weeps over
 the lea,
 The sweet-scented birk shades my
 Mary and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely
 it glides,
 And winds by the cot where my Mary
 resides;
 How wanton thy waters her snowy feet
 lave,
 As gathering sweet flow'rets she stems
 thy clear wave.

¹ Big fists. ² Dung-baskets. ³ Soil

⁴ Afton, a stream in Ayrshire.

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy
green braes,
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of
my lays;
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring
stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not
her dream.

LOUIS, WHAT RECK I BY
THEE.

TUNE—"MY MOTHER'S AYE GLOWR-
ING O'ER ME."

LOUIS, what reck I by thee,
Or Geordie on his ocean?
Dyvor, beggar loons to me,
I reig in Jeanie's¹ bosom.

Let her crown my love her law,
And in her breast enthrone me:
Kings and nations, swith awa!²
Reif randies,³ I disown ye!

BONNIE BELL.

THE smiling Spring comes in rejoicing,
And surly Winter grimly flies:
Now crystal clear are the falling waters,
And bonnie blue are the sunny skies;
Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth
the morning,

The ev'ning gilds the ocean's swell;
All creatures joy in the sun's returning,
And I rejoice in my bonnie Bell.

The flowery Spring leads sunny Sum-
mer,

And yellow Autumn presses near,
Then in his turn comes gloomy Winter,
Till smiling Spring again appear.

Thus seasons dancing, life advancing,
Old Time and Nature their changes
tell;

But never ranging, still unchanging,
I adore my bonnie Bell.

FOR THE SAKE OF SOME-
BODY.

TUNE—"THE HIGHLAND WATCH'S
FAREWELL."

My heart is sair, I dare na tell,
My heart is sair for somebody;
I could wake a winter night,
For the sake o' somebody.
Oh-hon! for somebody!
Oh-hey! for somebody!
I could range the world around,
For the sake o' somebody.

Ye powers that smile on virtuous love,
O sweetly smile on somebody!
Frae ilka danger keep him free,
And send me safe my somebody!
Oh-hon! for somebody!
Oh-hey! for somebody!
I wad do—what wad I not?
For the sake o' somebody!

O MAY, THY MORN.

O MAY, thy morn was ne'er sae sweet
As the mirk night o' December,
For sparkling was the rosy wine,
And private was the chamber:
And dear was she I dare na name,
But I will aye remember.
And dear, &c.

And here's to them that, like oursel,
Can push about the jorum;
And here's to them that wish us weel;—
May a' that's guid watch o'er them;
And here's to them we dare na tell,
The dearest o' the quorum.
And here's to, &c.

THE LOVELY LASS OF
INVERNESS.

THE lovely lass o' Inverness,
Nae joy nor pleasure can she see;
For e'en and morn she cries, alas!
And aye the saut tear blins her e'e:

¹ Mrs. Burns. ² Get away.
³ Sturdy beggars.

Drumossie Moor, Drumossie day,¹
 A waefu' day it was to me ;
 For there I lost my father dear,
 My father dear, and brethren three.
 Their winding-sheet the bluidy clay,
 Their graves are growing green to
 see ;
 And by them lies the dearest lad
 That ever blest a woman's e'e !
 Now wae to thee, thou cruel lord,
 A bluidy man I trow thou be ;
 For monie a heart thou hast made sair,
 That ne'er did wrang to thine or thee.

A RED, RED ROSE.

TUNE—"WISHAW'S FAVOURITE."

O, my luv'e's like a red, red rose
 That's newly sprung in June :
 O, my luv'e's like the melodie
 That's sweetly play'd in tune.
 As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
 So deep in luv'e am I :
 And I will luv'e thee still, my dear,
 Till a' the seas gang dry.
 Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
 And the rocks melt wi' the sun :
 I will luv'e thee still, my dear,
 While the sands o' life shall run.
 And fare thee weel, my only luv'e !
 And fare thee weel aw'hile !
 And I will come again, my luv'e,
 Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

O, WAT YE WHA'S IN YON TOWN ?

TUNE—"THE BONNIE LASS IN YON TOWN."

O, WAT ye wha's in yon town,
 Ye see the e'enin sun upon ?

¹ The battle of Culloden, on Drumossie Moor.

The fairest dame's¹ in yon town,
 That e'enin sun is shining on.
 Now haply down yon gay green
 shaw,
 She wanders by yon spreading tree ;
 How blest, ye flow'rs that round her
 blaw,
 Ye catch the glances o' her e'e !
 How blest, ye birds that round her
 sing,
 And welcome in the blooming year ;
 And doubly welcome be the spring,
 The season to my Lucy dear !

The sun blinks blithe on yon town,
 And on yon bonnie braes of Ayr ;
 But my delight in yon town,
 And dearest bliss, is Lucy fair.

Without my love, not a' the charms
 O' Paradise could yield me joy ;
 But gie me Lucy in my arms,
 And welcome Lapland's dreary sky

My cave wad be a lover's bower,
 Tho' raging winter rent the air ;
 And she a lovely little flower,
 That I wad tent and shelter there.

O, sweet is she in yon town,
 Yon sinkin sun's gane down upon ;
 A fairer than's in yon town,
 His setting beam ne'er shone upon.

If angry fate is sworn my foe,
 And suffering I am doom'd to bear ;
 I careless quit aught else below,
 But spare me, spare me, Lucy dear.

For while life's dearest blood is warm,
 Ae thought frae her shall ne'er de-
 part,
 And she—as fairest is her form,—
 She has the truest, kindest heart.²

¹ Mrs. Oswald, of Auchincruive, whose beauty and accomplishments so dazzled Burns, that he resolved to "say nothing at all" about her, "in despair of saying anything adequate."

² These lines are in the form of an address from the husband to his wife.

A VISION.

TUNE—"CUMNOCK PSALMS."

As I stood by yon roofless tower,¹
 Where the wa'-flower scents the
 dewy air,
 Where the howlet mourns in her ivy
 bower,
 And tells the midnight moon her
 care ;

The winds were laid, the air was still,
 The stars they shot along the sky ;
 The fox was howling on the hill,
 And the distant-echoing glens reply.

The stream, adown its haz'ly path,
 Was rushing by the ruin'd wa',
 Hasting to join the sweeping Nith,
 Whase distant roarings swell and fa'.

The cauld blue north was streaming
 forth
 Her lights, wi' hissing, eerie din ;
 Athort the lift they start and shift,
 Like fortune's favours, tint as win.

By heedless chance I turn'd mine eyes,
 And, by the moonbeam, shook to see
 A stern and stalwart ghaist arise,
 Attir'd as minstrels wont to be.

Had I a statue been o' stane,
 His darin look had daunted me ;
 And on his bonnet grav'd was plain
 The sacred posy—Libertie !

And frae his harp sic strains did flow,
 Might rouse the slumbering dead to
 hear ;
 But oh, it was a tale of woe,
 As ever met a Briton's ear !

He sang wi' joy his former day,
 He weeping wail'd his latter times ;
 But what he said it was nae play ;
 I winna venture 't in my rhymes.

¹ The tower belonged to the ruins of Lincluden Abbey, near Dumfries, a most poetical scene, and often visited by Burns.

O WERT THOU IN THE CAULD
BLAST.

TUNE—"THE LASS OF LIVINGSTONE."

O, WERT thou in the cauld blast,
 On yonder lea, on yonder lea ;
 My plaidie to the angry airt,¹
 I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee.
 Or did misfortune's bitter storms
 Around thee blaw, around thee blaw,
 Thy bield should be my bosom,
 To share it a', to share it a'.

Or were I in the wildest waste,
 Of earth and air, of earth and air,
 The desert were a paradise,
 If thou wert there, if thou wert there.
 Or were I monarch o' the globe,
 Wi' thee to reign, wi' thee to reign,
 The only jewel in my crown,
 Wad be my queen, wad be my queen.

THE HIGHLAND LASSIE.²TUNE—"THE DEUKS DANG O'ER MY
DADDY."

NAE gentle dames, tho' e'er sae fair,
 Shall ever be my Muse's care ;
 Their titles a' are empty show ;
 Gie me my Highland lassie, O.

CHORUS.

Within the glen sae bushy, O,
 Aboon the plain sae rushy, O,
 I set me down wi' right good will,
 To sing my Highland lassie, O.

Oh, were yon hills and valleys mine,
 Yon palace and yon gardens fine !
 The world then the love should know
 I bear my Highland lassie, O.
 Within the glen, &c.

¹ Quarter of the sky.

² Mary Campbell, my Highland lassie, was a warm-hearted, charming young creature as ever blessed a man with generous love.—R. B.

But fickle fortune frowns on me,
 And I maun cross the raging sea ;
 But while my crimson currents flow
 I'll love my Highland lassie, O.
 Within the glen, &c.

Altho' thro' foreign climes I range,
 I know her heart will never change,
 For her bosom burns with honour's
 glow,
 My faithful Highland lassie, O.
 Within the glen, &c.

For her I'll dare the billow's roar,
 For her I'll dare the distant shore,
 That Indian wealth may lustre throw
 Around my Highland lassie, O.
 Within thy glen, &c.

She has my heart, she has my hand,
 By sacred truth and honour's band !
 Till the mortal stroke shall lay me low,
 I'm thine, my Highland lassie, O.

Fareweel the glen sae bushy, O !
 Fareweel the plain sae rushy, O !
 To other lands I now must go,
 To sing my Highland lassie, O !

JOCKEY'S TA'EN THE PART- ING KISS.

Jockey's ta'en the parting kiss,
 O'er the mountains he is gane ;
 And with him is a' my bliss,
 Nought but griefs with me remain.

Spare my luvie, ye winds that blaw,
 Plashy slets and beating rain !
 Spare my luvie, thou feathery snaw,
 Drifting o'er the frozen plain !

When the shades of evening creep
 O'er the day's fair, gladsome e'e,
 Sound and safely may he sleep,
 Sweetly blithe his waukening be !

He will think on her he loves,
 Fondly he'll repeat her name ;
 For where'er he distant roves,
 Jockey's heart is still at hame.

PEGGY'S CHARMS.¹

My Peggy's face, my Peggy's form,
 The frost of hermit age might warm ;
 My Peggy's worth, my Peggy's mind,
 Might charm the first of human kind.
 I love my Peggy's angel air,
 Her face so truly heavenly fair,
 Her native grace so void of art ;
 But I adore my Peggy's heart.
 The lily's hue, the rose's dye,
 The kindling lustre of an eye ;
 Who but owns their magic sway,
 Who but knows they all decay !
 The tender thrill, the pitying tear,
 The generous purpose, nobly dear,
 The gentle look that rage disarms,—
 These are all immortal charms.

UP IN THE MORNING EARLY.

CHORUS.

Up in the morning's no for me,
 Up in the morning early ;
 When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,
 I'm sure it's winter fairly.

CAULD blaws the wind frae east to
 west,
 The drift is driving sairly ;
 Sae loud and shrill I hear the blast,
 I'm sure it's winter fairly.

The birds sit chattering² in the thorn,
 A' day they fare but sparely ;
 And lang's the night frae e'en to un-n,
 I'm sure it's winter fairly.
 Up in the morning, &c.

THO' CRUEL FATE.

Tho' cruel fate should bid us part,
 As far's the pole and line ;
 Her dear idea round my heart
 Should tenderly entwine.

¹ Peggy was Miss Margaret Chalmers.

² Shivering.

Tho' mountains frown and deserts howl,
And oceans roar between ;
Yet, dearer than my deathless soul,
I still would love my Jean.

* * * * *

I DREAM'D I LAY WHERE FLOWERS WERE SPRINGING.¹

I DREAM'D I lay where fl-wers were
springing
Gaily in the sunny beam ;
List'ning to the wild birds singing,
By a falling, crystal stream :
Straight the sky grew black and daring :
Thro' the woods the whirlwinds rave ;
Trees with aged arms were warring,
O'er the swelling, drumlie² wave.
Such was my life's deceitful morning,
Such the pleasures I enjoy'd ;
But lang or noon, loud tempests, storm-
ing,
A' my flowery bliss destroy'd.
Tho' fickle fortune has deceived me,
She promis'd fair, and perform'd but
ill,
Of monie a joy and hope bereav'd me,
I bear a heart shall support me still.

BONNIE ANN.³

YE gallants bright, I rede⁴ you right,
Beware o' bonnie Ann ;
Her comely face sae fu' o' grace,
Your heart she will trepan.
Her een sae bright, like stars by night,
Her skin is like the swan ;
Sae jimply⁵ lac'd her genty⁶ waist,
That sweetly ye might span.
Youth, grace, and love, attendant move,
And pleasure leads the van ;

¹ Written in the poet's eighteenth year.

² Muddy.

³ Ann Masterton, the daughter of a friend of Burns.

⁴ Counsel.

⁵ Slenderly.

⁶ Elegant.

In a' their charms, and conquering arms,
They wait on bonnie Ann.
The captive bands may chain the hands,
But love enslaves the man :
Ye gallants braw, I rede you a',
Beware o' bonnie Ann.

MY BONNIE MARY.

Go fetch to me a pint o' wine,
An' fill it in a silver tassie ;¹
That I may drink, before I go,
A service to my bonnie lassie.
The boat rocks at the pier o' Leith ;
Fu' loud the wind blows frae the
ferry ;
The ship rides by the Berwick-law,
And I maun leave my bonnie Mary.
The trumpets sound, the banners fly,
The glittering spears are ranked
ready ;
The shouts o' war are heard afar,
The battle closes thick and bloody ;
But it's no the roar o' sea or shore
Wad mak me langer wish to tarry ;
Nor shout o' war that's heard afar,—
It's leaving thee, my bonnie Mary.

MY HEART'S IN THE HIGH- LANDS.²

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart
is not here ;
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing
the deer ;
Chasing the wild deer, and following
the roe,—
My heart's in the Highlands wherever I
go.
Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to
the North,
The birth-place of valour, the country
of worth ;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I
love.

¹ Measure.

² The first half stanza of this song is old, the rest is mine.—R. B.

Farewell to the mountains high cover'd
with snow ;
Farewell to the straths and green
valleys below ;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hang-
ing woods ;
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pour-
ing floods.
My heart's in the Highlands, my heart
is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing
the deer ;
Chasing the wild deer, and following
the roe,—
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever
I go.

THERE'S A YOUTH IN THIS CITY.

TUNE—"NEIL GOW'S LAMENT."

THERE'S a youth in this city, it were a
great pity,
That he from our lasses should wan-
der awa ;
For he's bonnie and braw, weel-favour'd
witha',
And his hair has a natural buckle
and a'.
His coat is the hue of his bonnet sae
blue ;
His fecket¹ is white as the new-
driven snaw ;
His hose they are blae, and his shoon
like the slae,
And his clear siller buckles they
dazzle us a'.
His coat is the hue, &c.
For beauty and fortune the laddie's
been courtin ;
Weel-featur'd, weel-tocher'd, weel-
mounted and braw ;
But chiefly the siller, that gars him
gang till her,
The pennie's the jewel that beautifies
a'.

¹ An under waistcoat having sleeves.

There's Meg wi' the mailin, that fais
wad a haen him,
And Susy whase daddy was Laird o'
the ha' ;
There's lang-tocher'd Nancy maist
fettlers his fancy,
—But the laddie's dear sel he lo'es
dearest of a'.

THE RANTIN DOG THE DADDIE O'T.¹

TUNE—"EAST NOOK O' FIFE."

O WHA my babie-clouts will buy ?
Wha will tent me when I cry ?
Wha will kiss me whare I lie ?
The rantin dog the daddie o't.
Wha will own he did the faut ?
Wha will buy my groanin maut ?
Wha will tell me how to ca't ?
The rantin dog the daddie o't.
When I mount the creepie-chair,
Wha will sit beside me there ?
Gie me Rob, I seek nae mair,
The rantin dog the daddie o't.
Wha will crack to me my lane ?
Wha will mak me fidgin fain ?²
Wha will kiss me o'er again ?
The rantin dog the daddie o't.

I DO CONFESS THOU ART SAE FAIR.

I DO confess thou art sae fair,
I wad been o'er the hugs³ in luv ;
Had I not found the slightest prayer,
That lips could speak, thy heart could
muve.

¹ I composed this song pretty early in life, and sent it to a young girl, a very particular acquaintance of mine, who was at the time under a cloud.—R. B. The "young girl" was Elizabeth Paton.

² Tickled with pleasure.

³ Ears.

I do confess thee sweet, but find
Thou art sae thrifless o' thy sweets,
Thy favours are the silly wind
That kisses ilka thing it meets.

See yonder rose-bud rich in dew,
Amang its native briers sae coy,
How soon it tines its scent and hue,
When pu'd and worn a common toy!

Sic fate ere lang shall thee betide;
Though thou may gaily bloom awhile,
Yet soon thou shalt be thrown aside,
Like ony common weed and vile.

YON WILD MOSSY MOUNTAINS.

YON wild mossy mountains, sae lofty
and wide,
That nurse in their bosom the youth o'
the Clyde,

Where the grouse lead their coveys
thro' the heather to feed,
And the shepherd tents his flock, as he
pipes on his reed:
Where the grouse, &c.

Not Gowrie's rich valley, nor Forth's
sunny shores,
To me hae the charms o' yon wild
mossy moors;
For there, by a lanely, sequester'd,
clear stream,
Resides a sweet lassie, my thought and
my dream.

Amang the wild mountains shall still
be my path,
Ilk stream foaming down its ain green
narrow strath;
For there, wi' my lassie, the day lang
I rove,
While o'er us, unheeded, fly the swift
hours o' love.

She is not the fairest, altho' she is
fair;
O' nice education but sma' is her
share;
Her parentage humble as humble can
be;
But I lo'e the dear lassie, because she
lo'es me.

To beauty what man but maun yield
him a prize,
In her armour of glances, and blushes,
and sighs?

And when wit and refinement hae pol-
ish'd her darts,
They dazzle our een, as they fly to our
hearts.

But kindness, sweet kindness, in the
fond sparkling e'e,
Has lustre out-shining the diamond to
me;

And the heart beating love, as I'm
clasp'd in her arms,—
O, these are my lassie's all-conquering
charms!

WHA IS THAT AT MY BOWER DOOR?

WHA is that at my bower door?
O wha is it but Findlay;
Then gae your gate, ye'se nae be here!
Indeed maun I, quo' Findlay.

What mak ye sae like a thief?
O come and see, quo' Findlay;
Before the morn ye'll work mischief;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay.

Gif I rise and let you in;
Let me in, quo' Findlay;
Ye'll keep me waukin' wi' your din;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay.

In my bower if ye should stay;
Let me stay, quo' Findlay;
I fear ye'll bide till break o' day;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay.

Here this night if ye remain;
I'll remain, quo' Findlay;
I dread ye'll learn the gate again;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay.

What may pass within this bower—
Let it pass, quo' Findlay;
Ye maun conceal till your last hour;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay.

THE BONNIE BLINK O' MARY'S E'E.

Now bank an' brae are claiht'd in green,
An' scatter'd cowslips sweetly spring

By Girvan's fairy-naunted stream
 The birdies flit on wanton wing.
 To Cassillis' banks when e'ning fa's,
 There wi' my Mary let me flee,
 There catch her ilka glance o' love,
 The bonnie blink o' Mary's e'e!

The chield wha boasts o' world's wealth,
 Is often laird o' meikle care;
 But Mary she is a' my ain,—
 Ah, fortune canna gie me mair!
 Then let me range by Cassillis' banks
 Wi' her the lassie dear to me,
 And catch her ilka glance o' love,
 The bonnie blink o' Mary's e'e!

FAREWELL TO NANCY.¹

Æ fond kiss, and then we sever!
 Æ fareweel, alas, for ever!
 Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge
 thee!

Warring sighs and groans I'll wage
 thee.

Who shall say that fortune grieves him,
 While the star of hope she leaves him?
 Me, nae cheerfu' twinkle lights me;
 Dark despair around benights me.

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy,
 Naething could resist my Nancy;
 But to see her, was to love her;
 Love but her, and love for ever.
 Had we never lov'd sae kindly,
 Had we never lov'd sae blindly,
 Never met—or never parted,
 We had ne'er been broken-hearted!

Fare thee weel, thou first and fairest!
 Fare thee weel, thou best and dearest!
 Thine be ilka joy and treasure,
 Peace, enjoyment, love, and pleasure.
 Æ fond kiss, and then we sever;
 Æ fareweel, alas, for ever!
 Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge
 thee,
 Warring sighs and groans I'll wage
 thee.

¹ Supposed to have been addressed
 to Clarinda.

THE BONNIE LAD THAT'S FAR AWA.

TUNE—"OWRE THE HILLS AND FAR
 AWA."

O how can I be blithe and glad,
 Or how can I gang brisk and braw,
 When the bonnie lad that I lo'e best
 Is o'er the hills and far awa?

It's no the frosty winter wind,
 It's no the driving drift and snaw;
 But ay the tear comes in my e'e,
 To think on him that's far awa.

My father pat me frae his door,
 My friends they hae disown'd me a';
 But I hae ane will take my part,
 The bonnie lad that's far awa.

A pair o' gloves he gae to me,
 And silken snoods¹ he gae me twa;
 And I will wear them for his sake,
 The bonnie lad that's far awa.

The weary winter soon will pass,
 And spring will clead² the birken-
 shaw;
 And my sweet babie will be born,
 And he'll come hame that's far awa.

THE GOWDEN LOCKS OF ANNA.

TUNE—"BANKS OF BANNA."

YESTREEN I had a pint o' wine,
 A place where body saw na';
 Yestreen lay on this breast o' mine
 The gowden locks of Anna.
 The hungry Jew in wilderness,
 Rejoicing o'er his manna,
 Was naething to my hinny bliss
 Upon the lips of Anna.

Ye monarchs, tak the east and west,
 Frae Indus to Savannah!
 Gie me within my straining grasp
 The melting form of Anna.

¹ Ribands for binding the hair.
² Clothe.

There I'll despise imperial charms,
 An Empress, or Sultana,
 While dying raptures in her arms,
 I give and take with Anna!

Awa, thou flaunting god o' day!
 Awa, thou pale Diana!
 Ilk star gae hide thy twinkling ray,
 When I'm to meet my Anna.
 Come, in thy raven plumage, night,
 Sun, moon, and stars withdrawn a';
 And bring an angel pen to write
 My transports wi' my Anna!

POSTSCRIPT.

Anna of the gowden locks was a maiden of Dumfries; and Burns thought so much of this piece that he recommended it to Thomson for publication; but irritated, perhaps, at his refusal, "wrote this additional postscript," says Cunningham, "in defiance of his cold-blooded critic."

THE kirk and state may join, and tell
 To do such things I maunna;
 The kirk and state may gae to hell,
 And I'll gae to my Anna.
 She is the sunshine o' my ee,—
 To live bot her I canna;
 Had I on earth but wishes three,
 The first should be my Anna.

OUT OVER THE FORTH.

OUT over the Forth I look to the north,
 But what is the north and its High-lands to me?
 The south nor the east gie ease to my breast,
 The far foreign land, or the wild rolling sea.
 But look to the west when I gae to rest,
 That happy my dreams and my slumbers may be;
 For far in the west, lives he I lo'e best,
 The lad that is dear to my babie and me.

BANKS OF DEVON.¹

How pleasant the banks of the clear-winding Devon,
 With green-spreading bushes, and flowers blooming fair!
 But the bonniest flower on the banks of the Devon,
 Was once a sweet bud on the braes of the Ayr.
 Mild be the sun on this sweet blushing flower,
 In the gay rosy morn as it bathes in the dew!
 And gentle the fall of the soft vernal shower,
 That steals on the evening each leaf to renew.
 O, spare the dear blossom, ye orient breezes,
 With chill hoary wing as ye usher the dawn!
 And far be thou distant, thou reptile that seizes
 The verdure and pride of the garden and lawn!
 Let Bourbon exult in his gay gilded lilies,
 And England triumphant display her proud rose;
 A fairer than either adorns the green valleys
 Where Devon, sweet Devon, meandering flows.

ADOWN WINDING NITH.

TUNE—"THE MUCKIN' O' GEORDIE'S BYRE."

ADOWN winding Nith I did wander,
 To mark the sweet flowers as they spring;
 Adown winding Nith I did wander,
 Of Phillis² to muse and to sing.

¹ Composed on Charlotte, a sister of the poet's friend Gavin Hamilton.

² Miss Phillis M'Murdo.

CHORUS.

Awa wi' your belles and your beauties,
 They never wi' her can compare ;
 Whae'er has met wi' my Phillis,
 Has met wi' the queen o' the fair.

The daisy amus'd my fond fancy,
 So artless, so simple, so wild ;
 Thou emblem, said I, o' my Phillis,
 For she is simplicity's child.
 Awa, &c.

The rosebud's the blush o' my charmer,
 Her sweet balmy lip when 'tis prest :
 How fair and how pure is the lily,
 But fairer and purer her breast.
 Awa, &c.

Yon knot of gay flowers in the arbour,
 They ne'er wi' my Phillis can vie :
 Her breath is the breath o' the wood-
 bine,
 Its dew-drop o' diamond, her eye.
 Awa, &c.

Her voice is the song of the morning
 That wakes through the green-
 spreading grove,
 When Phœbus peeps over the moun-
 tains,
 On music, and pleasure, and love.
 Awa, &c.

But beauty how frail and how fleeting,
 The bloom of a fine summer's day !
 While worth in the mind o' my Phillis
 Will flourish without a decay.
 Awa, &c.

THE DEIL'S AWA WI' THE
 EXCISEMAN.¹

THE Deil cam fiddling thro' the town,
 And danc'd awa wi' the Exciseman ;
 And ilka wife cry'd, "Auld Mahoun,
 We wish you luck o' your prize, man.

¹ At a meeting of his brother Excise-
 men in Dumfries, Burns, being called
 upon for a song, handed these verses
 to the president, written on the back
 of a letter.—*Cromek.*

"We'll mak our maut, and brew our
 drink,
 We'll dance, and sing, and rejoice.
 man ;
 And monie thanks to the muckle
 black Deil

That danc'd awa wi' the Excise-
 man.

"There's threesome reels, and four-
 some reels,
 There's hornpipes and strathspeys,
 man ;
 But the ae best dance e'er cam to our
 lan',
 Was—The Deil's awa wi' the Ex-
 ciseman.
 We'll mak our maut," &c.

BLITHE HAE I BEEN ON YON
 HILL.

TUNE—"LIGGERAM COSH."

BLITHE hae I been on yon hill,
 As the lambs before me ;
 Careless ilka thought and free,
 As the breeze flew o'er me :
 Now nae langer sport and play,
 Mirth or sang can please me ?
 Leslie is sae fair and coy,
 Care and anguish seize me.

Heavy, heavy is the task,
 Hopeless love declaring :
 Trembling, I do nocht but glowr,
 Sighing, dumb, despairing !
 If she winna ease the thraws
 In my bosom swelling ;
 Underneath the green-green sod
 Soon maun be my dwelling.

O WERE MY LOVE YON LILAC
 FAIR.

TUNE—"HUGHIE GRAHAM."

O WERE my love yon lilac fair,
 Wi' purple blossoms to the spring ;
 And I a bird to shelter there,
 When wearied on my little wing :

How I wad mourn, when it was torn
By autumn wild, and winter rude!
But I wad sing on wanton wing,
When youthfu' May its bloom re-
new'd.

O gin my love were yon red rose
That grows upon the castle wa',
And I mysel' a drap o' dew,
Into her bonnie breast to fa'!

Oh! there beyond expression blest,
I'd feast on beauty a' the night;
Seal'd on her silk-saft faults to rest,
Till fley'd awa' by Phœbus' light.¹

COME, LET ME TAKE THEE.

TUNE—"CAULD KAIL."

COME, let me take thee to my breast,
And pledge we ne'er shall sunder:
And I shall spurn as vilest dust
The world's wealth and grandeur:
And do I hear my Jeanie own
That equal transports move her?
I ask for dearest life alone
That I may live to love her.

Thus in my arms, wi' all thy charms,
I clasp my countless treasure;
I'll seek nae mair o' heaven to share,
Than sic a moment's pleasure:
And by thy een, sae bonnie blue,
I swear I'm thine for ever!
And on thy lips I seal my vow,
And break it shall I never.

WHERE ARE THE JOYS.

TUNE—"SAW YE MY FATHER?"

WHERE are the joys I have met in the
morning,
That danc'd to the lark's early song?
Where is the peace that awaited my
wand'ring,
At evening the wil'd woods among?

¹ The third and fourth verses are copied from Witherspoon's "Collection of Scotch Songs."

No more a-winding the course of yon
river,
And marking sweet flow'rets so fair:
No more I trace the light footsteps of
pleasure,
But sorrow and sad sighing care.

Is it that summer's forsaken our valleys,
And grim, surly winter is near?
No, no! the bees humming round the
gay roses
Proclaim it the pride of the year.

Fain would I hide what I fear to dis-
cover,
Yet long, long too well have I known:
All that has caus'd this wreck in my
bosom,
Is Jenny, fair Jenny alone.

Time cannot aid me, my griefs are
immortal,
Not hope dare a comfort bestow:
Come, then, enamour'd and fond of my
anguish,
Enjoyment I'll seek in my woe.

O SAW YE MY DEAR

TUNE—"WHEN SHE CAM BEN SHE
BOBBIT."

O SAW ye my dear, my Phely?
O saw ye my dear, my Phely?
She's down i' the grove, she's wi' a
new love,
She winna come hame to her Willy.

What says she, my dearest, my Phely?
What says she, my dearest, my Phely?
She lets thee to wit that she has thee
forgot,
And for ever disowns thee, her Willy

O had I ne'er seen thee, my Phely!
O had I ne'er seen thee, my Phely!
As light as the air, and fause as thou'st
fair,
Thou'st broken the heart o' thy
Willy.

THOU HAST LEFT ME EVER,
JAMIE.¹

TUNE—"FEE HIM, FATHER."

THOU hast left me ever, Jamie,
Thou hast left me ever;
Thou hast left me ever, Jamie,
Thou hast left me ever.
Aften hast thou vow'd that death
Only should us sever;
Now thou'st left thy lass for aye—
I maun see thee never, Jamie,
I'll see thee never!

Thou hast me forsaken, Jamie,
Thou hast me forsaken;
Thou hast me forsaken, Jamie,
Thou hast me forsaken.
Thou canst love anither jo,
While my heart is breaking;
Soon my weary een I'll close—
Never mair to waken, Jamie,
Ne'er mair to waken!

MY CHLORIS.

TUNE—"MY LODGING IS ON THE
COLD GROUND."

MY Chloris, mark how green the
groves,²

The primrose banks how fair:
The balmy gales awake the flowers,
And wave thy flaxen hair.

The lav'rock shuns the palace gay,
And o'er the cottage sings:

For nature smiles as sweet, I ween,
To shepherds, as to kings.

¹ This song was written, as the author tells us, "by the lee-side of a bowl of punch," which had already conquered every other guest.

² On my visit the other day to my fair Chloris (that is the poetic name of the lovely goddess of my inspiration) she suggested an idea, which I, on my return from the visit, wrought into the following song. — *To Mr. Thomson*, Nov. 1794.

Let minstrels sweep the skilfu' string
In lordly lighted ha';
The shepherd stops his simple reed,
Blithe in the birken shaw.

The princely revel may survey
Our rustic dance wi' scorn;
But are their hearts as light as ours
Beneath the milk-white thorn?

The shepherd, in the flowery glen,
In shepherd's phrase will woo:
The courtier tells a finer tale;—
But is his heart as true?

These wild-wood flowers I've pu'd, to
deck
That spotless breast of thine:
The courtiers' gems may witness love—
But 'tis na love like mine.

CHARMING MONTH OF MAY.¹

TUNE—"DAINTY DAVIE."

It was the charming month of May,
When all the flowers were fresh and
gay,

One morning, by the break of day,
The youthful, charming Chloe;

From peaceful slumber she arose,
Girt on her mantle and her hose,
And o'er the flowery mead she goes,
The youthful, charming Chloe.

CHORUS.

Lovely was she by the dawn,
Youthful Chloe, charming Chloe,
Tripping o'er the pearly lawn,
The youthful, charming Chloe.

The feather'd people you might see
Perch'd all around on every tree,
In notes of sweetest melody
They hail the channing Chloe:

¹ "Cut down," to adopt the phrase of Burns, from a song in Ramsay's "Tea-Table Miscellany."

Till, painting gay the eastern skies,
The glorious sun began to rise,
Out-rivall'd by the radiant eyes
Of youthful, charming Chloe.
Lovely was she, &c.

LET NOT WOMAN E'ER COM-
PLAIN.

TUNE—"DUNCAN GRAY."

LET not woman e'er complain
Of inconstancy in love ;
Let not woman e'er complain,
Fickle man is apt to rove :
Look abroa l through Nature's range,
Nature's mighty law is change ;
Ladies, would it not be strange,
Man should then a monster prove ?
Mark the winds, and mark the skies ;
Ocean's ebb, and ocean's flow :
Sun and moon but set to rise ;
Round and round the seasons go.
Why then ask of silly man,
To oppose great Nature's plan ?
We'll be constant while we can—
You can be no more, you know.

O PHILLY.¹

TUNE—"THE SOW'S TAIL."

HE.

O PHILLY, happy be that day
When, roving through the gather'd hay,
My youthfu' heart was stown away,
And by thy charms, my Philly.

SHE.

O Willy, aye I bless the grove
Where first I own'd my maiden love,
Whilst thou didst pledge the Powers
above
To be my ain dear Willy.

¹ These verses were composed in a
morning walk, "through a keen-blow-
ing frost."

HE.

As songsters of the early year
Are ilka day mair sweet to hear,
So ilka day to me mair dear
And charming is my Philly.

SHE.

As on the brier the budding rose
Still richer breathes and fairer blooms,
So in my tender bosom grows
The love I bear my Willy.

HE.

The milder sun and bluer sky,
That crown my harvest cares wi' joy
Were ne'er sae welcome to my eye
As is a sight o' Philly.

SHE.

The little swallow's wanton wing,
Tho' wafting o'er the flowery spring
Did ne'er to me sic tidings bring
As meeting o' my Willy.

HE.

The bee that thro' the sunny hour
Sips nectar in the opening flower,
Compar'd wi' my delight is poor,
Upon the lips o' Philly.

SHE.

The woodbine in the dewy weat,
When evening shades in silence meet,
Is nocht sae fragrant or sae sweet
As is a kiss o' Willy.

HE.

Let fortune's wheel at random rin,
And fools may tyne, and knaves may
win ;
My thoughts are a' bound up in aine,
And that's my ain dear Philly.

SHE.

What's a' the joys that gowd can gi.
I care na wealth a single flie ;
The lad I love's the lad for me,
And that's my ain dear Willy.

JOHN BARLEYCORN.

A BALLAD.

THERE were three Kings into the east
Three Kings both great and high ;

An' they hae sworn a solemn oath
 John Barleycorn should die.
 They took a plough and plough'd him
 down,
 Put clods upon his head ;
 An' they hae sworn a solemn oath
 John Barleycorn was dead.
 But the cheerful Spring came kindly on,
 And showers began to fall ;
 John Barleycorn got up again,
 And sore surpris'd them all.
 The sultry suns of Summer came,
 And he grew thick and strong,
 His head weel arm'd wi' pointed spears,
 That no one should him wrong.
 The sober Autumn enter'd mild,
 When he grew wan and pale ;
 His bending joints and drooping head
 Show'd he began to fail.
 His colour sicken'd more and more,
 He faded into age ;
 And then his enemies began
 To show their deadly rage.
 They've ta'en a weapon, long and
 sharp,
 And cut him by the knee ;
 Then tied him fast upon a cart,
 Like a rogue for forgerie.
 They laid him down upon his back,
 And cudgel'd him full sore ;
 They hung him up before the storm,
 And turn'd him o'er and o'er.
 They filled up a darksome pit
 With water to the brim,
 They heaved in John Barleycorn,
 There let him sink or swim.
 They laid him out upon the floor,
 To work him farther woe ;
 And still, as signs of life appear'd,
 They toss'd him to and fro.
 They wasted, o'er a scorching flame,
 The marrow of his bones ;
 But a miller us'd him worst of all,
 For he crush'd him 'tween two
 stones.
 And they hae ta'en his very heart's
 blood,
 And drank it round and round ;
 And still the more and more they drank,
 Their joy did more abound.

John Barleycorn was a hero bold,
 Of noble enterprise ;
 For if you do but taste his blood,
 'Twill make your courage rise ;
 'Twill make a man forget his woe ;
 'Twill heighten all his joy :
 'Twill make the widow's heart to sing,
 Tho' the tear were in her eye.
 Then let us toast John Barleycorn,
 Each man a glass in hand ;
 And may his great posterity
 Ne'er fail in old Scotland !

CANST THOU LEAVE ME
 THUS.

TUNE—"ROY'S WIFE."

CHORUS.

Canst thou leave me thus, my Katy !
 Canst thou leave me thus, my Katy !
 Well thou know'st my aching heart,—
 And canst thou leave me thus for pity !
 Is this thy plighted, fond regard,
 Thus cruelly to part, my Katy ?
 Is this thy faithful swain's reward—
 An aching, broken heart, my Katy ?
 Canst thou, &c.
 Farewell ! and ne'er such sorrows tear
 That fickle heart of thine, my Katy !
 Thou may'st find those will love thee
 dear—
 But not a love like mine, my Katy.
 Canst thou, &c.

ON CHLORIS FEING ILL.

TUNE—"AY WAUKIN O."

CHORUS.

Long, long the night,
 Heavy comes the morrow,
 While my soul's delight
 Is on her bed of sorrow.
 CAN I cease to care ?
 Can I cease to languish,
 While my darling fair
 Is on the couch of anguish ?
 Long, &c.

Every hope is fled,
 Every fear is terror;
 Slumber even I dread,
 Every dream is horror.
 Long, &c.

Hear me, Pow'rs divine!
 Oh! in pity hear me!
 Take aught else of mine,
 But my Chloris spare me!
 Long, &c.

THE RIGS O' BARLEY.

TUNE—"CORN RIGS ARE BONNIE."

IT was upon a Lammas night,
 When corn rigs are bonnie,
 Beneath the moon's unclouded light,
 I held awa to Annie:
 The time flew by, wi' tentless heed,
 'Till 'tween the late and early,
 Wi' sma' persuasion she agreed
 To see me thro' the barley.

The sky was blue, the wind was still,
 The moon was shining clearly;
 I set her down, wi' right good will,
 Among the rigs o' barley:
 I ken't her heart was a' my ain;
 I lov'd her most sincerely;
 I kiss'd her owre and owre again
 Among the rigs o' barley.

I lock'd her in my fond embrace;
 Her heart was beating rarely;
 My blessing on that happy place,
 Among the rigs o' barley!
 But by the moon and stars so bright,
 That shone that hour so clearly!
 She aye shall bless that happy night
 Among the rigs o' barley.

I hae been blythe wi' comrades dear;
 I hae been merry drinkin';
 I hae been joyfu' gath'rin gear;
 I hae been happy thinking:
 But a' the pleasures e'er I saw,
 Tho' three times doubl'd fairly,
 That happy light was worth them a',
 Among the rigs o' barley.

CHORUS.

Corn rigs, an' barley rigs,
 An' corn rigs are bonnie;
 I'll ne'er forget that happy night
 Among the rigs wi' Ann.e.

FAREWELL TO ELIZA.¹

TUNE—"GILDEROV."

FROM thee, Eliza, I must go
 And from my native shore;
 The cruel fates between us throw
 A boundless ocean's roar;
 But boundless oceans, roaring wide,
 Between my Love and me,
 They never, never can divide
 My heart and soul from thee.

Farewell, farewell, Eliza dear,
 The maid that I adore!
 A boding voice is in mine ear,
 We part to meet no more!
 But the last throb that leaves my heart
 While death stands victor by,
 That throb, Eliza, is thy part,
 And thine that latest sigh!

MY NANNIE, O.

BEHIND von hills where Lugar flows,
 'Mang moors an' mosses many, O,
 The wintry sun the day has clos'd,
 And I'll awa to Nannie, O.

The westlin wind blows loud an' shrill:
 The night's baith mirk and rainy, O!
 But I'll get my plaid, an' out I'll steal,
 An' owre the hill to Nannie, O.

My Nannie's charming, sweet, an'
 young;
 Nae artfu' wiles to win ye, O:
 May ill befa' the flattering tongue
 That wad beguile my Nannie, O.

¹ The editors of Burns have discovered two Elizas—and perhaps a future inquirer may enlarge the number.

Her face is fair, her heart is true,
As spotless as she's bonnie, O ;
The op'ning gowan, wat wi' dew,
Nae purer is than Nannie, O.

A country lad is my degree,
An' few there be that ken me, O ;
But what care I how few they be ?
I'm welcome aye to Nannie, O.

My riches a's my penny-fee,
An' I maun guide it cannie, O ;
But warl's gear ne'er troubles me,
My thoughts are a', my Nannie, O.

Our auld Guidman delights to view
His sheep an' kye thrive bonnie, O ;
But I'm as blythe that hauds his pleugh,
An' has nae care but Nannie, O.

Come weal, come woe, I care na by,
I'll tak what Heaven will sen' me, O ;
Nae ither care in life have I,
But live, an' love my Nannie, O.

GREEN GROW THE RASHES.¹

A FRAGMENT.

CHORUS.

Green grow the rashes, O ;
Green grow the rashes, O ;
The sweetest hours that e'er I spent,
Were spent among the lasses, O !

THERE'S nought but care on ev'ry han',
In ev'ry hour that passes, O ;
What signifies the life o' man,
An' 'twere na for the lasses, O.
Green grow, &c.

¹ On this song Burns indites the following note:—"I do not see that the turn of mind and pursuits of such a one as the above verses describe—one who spends the hours and thoughts which the vocations of the day can spare — with Ossian, Shakespeare, Thomson, Shenstone, Sterne, &c., are in the least more inimical to the sacred interests of piety and virtue, than the even lawful, bustling and straining after the world's riches and honours."

The warly race may riches chase,
An' riches still may fly them, O .
An' tho' at last they catch them fast,
Their hearts can ne'er enjoy them, O
Green grow, &c.

But gie me a canny hour at e'en,
My arms about my dearie, O ;
An' warly cares, an' warly men,
May a' gae tapsalteerie, O !
Green grow, &c.

For you sae douse, ye sneer at this,
Ye're nought but senseless asses, O .
The wisest man the warl' e'er saw,
He dearly lov'd the lasses, O.
Green grow, &c.

Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears
Her noblest work she classes, O ;
Her 'prentice han' she tried on man,
An' then she made the lasses, O.
Green grow, &c.

NOW WESTLIN WINDS.

TUNE—"I HAD A HORSE, I HAD NAE MAIR."

Now westlin winds and slaught'ring
guns
Bring autumn's pleasant weather ;
The moorcock springs, on whirring
wings,
Among the blooming heather :
Now waving grain, wide o'er the plain,
Delights the weary farmer ;
And the moon shines bright, when I
rove at night
To muse upon my charmer.

The partridge loves the fruitful fells ;
The plover loves the mountains ;
The woodcock haunts the lonely dells :
The soaring hern the fountains :
Thro' lofty groves the cushat roves,
The path of man to shun it ;
The hazel bush o'erhangs the thrush,
The spreading thorn the linnet.

Thus ev'ry kind their pleasure find,
The savage and the tender ;
Some social join, and leagues combine
Some solitary wander ;

Avaunt, away ! the cruel sway,
 Tyrannic man's dominion ;
 The sportsman's joy, the murd'ring cry,
 The flutt'ring gory pinion !

But, Peggy dear, the ev'ning's clear,
 Thick flies the skimming swallow ;
 The sky is blue, the fields in view,
 All fading-green and yellow :
 Come, let us stray our gladsome way,
 And view the charms of nature ;
 The rustling corn, the fruited thorn,
 And ev'ry happy creature.

We'll gently walk, and sweetly talk,
 Till the silent moon shine clearly ;
 I'll grasp thy waist, and, fondly prest,
 Swear how I love thee dearly :
 Not vernal show'rs to budding flow'rs,
 Not autumn to the farmer,
 So dear can be, as thou to me,
 My fair, my lovely charmer !

THE BIG-BELLIED BOTTLE.

TUNE—"PREPARE, MY DEAR BRE-
 THREN, TO THE TAVERN LET'S FLY."

No churchman am I for to rail and to
 write,
 No statesman nor soldier to plot or to
 fight,
 No sly man of business contriving a
 snare,
 For a big-bellied bottle's the whole of
 my care.

The peer I don't envy, I give him his
 bow ;
 I scorn not the peasant, tho' ever so
 low ;
 But a club of good fellows, like those
 that are here,
 And a bottle like this, are my glory
 and care.

Here passes the squire on his brother
 —his horse ;
 There centum per centum, the cit with
 his purse ;
 But see you the Crown how it waves in
 the air ?
 There a big-bellied bottle still eases my
 care.

The wife of my bosom, alas ! she did
 die ;
 For sweet consolation to church I did
 fly ;

I found that old Solomon proved it fair,
 That the big-bellied bottle's a cure for
 all care.

I once was persuaded a venture to
 make ;
 A letter inform'd me that all was to
 wreck ;
 But the pury old landlord just wad-
 dled up-stairs
 With a glorious bottle that ended my
 cares.

"Life's cares they are comforts,"¹ a
 maxim laid down
 By the bard, what d'ye call him, that
 wore the black gown ;
 And, faith, I agree with th' old prig to
 a hair,
 For a big-bellied bottle's a heav'n of
 care.

A STANZA ADDED IN A MASON LODGE.
 Then fill up a bumper, and make it
 o'erflow,
 And honours masonic prepare for to
 throw ;
 May ev'ry true brother of the compass
 and square
 Have a big-bellied bottle when harass'd
 with care.

THE AUTHOR'S FAREWELL TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY.²

TUNE—"ROSLIN CASTLE."

THE gloomy night is gath'ring fast,
 Loud roars the wild inconstant blast,

¹ Young's "Night Thoughts."

² Burns had been visiting the minister of Loudon, and his homeward path led him over solitary moors in a dark and windy evening of autumn. For some days, in his own words, he had been "skulking from covert to covert under all the terrors of a jail;" and expecting almost immediately to em-

Yon murky cloud is foul with rain,
I see it driving o'er the plain ;
The hunter now has left the moor,
The scatter'd coveys meet secure,
While here I wander, prest with care,
Along the lonely banks of Ayr.

The Autumn mourns her rip'ning corn
By early Winter's ravage torn :
Across her placid, azure sky,
She sees the scowling tempest fly :
Chill runs my blood to hear it rave,
I think upon the stormy wave,
Where many a danger I must dare,
Far from the bonnie banks of Ayr.

'Tis not the surging billow's roar,
'Tis not that fatal, deadly shore ;
Tho' death in ev'ry shape appear,
The wretched have no more to fear :
But round my heart the ties are bound,
That heart transpierc'd with many a
wound ;

These bleed afresh, those ties I tear,
To leave the bonnie banks of Ayr.

Farewell, old Coila's hills and dales,
Her heathy moors and winding vales ;
The scenes where wretched fancy roves,
Pursuing past, unhappy loves !
Farewell, my friends ! Farewell, my
foes !

My peace with these, my love with
those—

The bursting tears my heart declare ;
Farewell, the bonnie banks of Ayr !

THE FAREWELL.

TO THE BRETHERN OF ST. JAMES'S
LODGE, TARBOLTON.

TUNE—"GUID NIGHT, AND JOY BE
WI' YOU A'!"

ADIEU ! a heart-warm, fond adieu !
Dear brothers of the mystic tie !
Ye favour'd, ye enlighten'd few,
Companions of my social joy !
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing Fortune's slid'ry ba',

bark for Jamaica, he designed these lines as a "farewell d'irge to his native land."

With melting heart, and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, tho' far awa'.

Oft have I met your social band,
And spent the cheerful, festive night
Oft, honour'd with supreme command,
Presided o'er the sons of light :
And by that hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but craftsmen ever saw'
Strong mem'ry on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes when far awa' !

May freedom, harmony, and love,
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath the Omniscient eye above,
The glorious Architect Divine !
That you may keep th' unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet's law,
Till Order bright completely shine,
Shall be my pray'r when far awa'.

And You,¹ farewell ! whose merits
claim,

Justly, that highest badge to wear !
Heav'n bless your honour'd, noble
name,

To Masonry and Scotia dear !
A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round—I ask it with a tear,
To him, the Bard that's far awa'.

AND MAUN I STILL ON
MENIE² DOAT.

TUNE—"JOCKEY'S GREY BREEKS."

AGAIN rejoicing Nature sees
Her robe assume its vernal hues,
Her leafy locks wave in the breeze,
All freshly steep'd in morning dews.

CHORUS.³

And maun I still on Menie doat,
And bear the scorn that's in her
e'e ?

¹ Sir John Whiteford, the Grand Master.

² Menie is the common abbreviation of Marianne.—R. B.

³ This chorus is part of a song composed by a gentleman in Edinburgh, a particular friend of the author.—R. B.

For its jet, jet black, an' its like a
hawk,
An' it winna let a body be !

In vain to me the cowslips blaw,
In vain to me the v'lets spring ;
In vain to me, in glen or shaw,
The mavis and the lintwhite sing.
And maun I still, &c.

The merry ploughboy cheers his team,
Wi' joy the tentie seedsman stalks,
At life to me's a weary dream,
A dream of ane that never wauks.
— And maun I still, &c.

The wanton coot¹ the water skims,
Among the reeds the ducklings cry,
The stately swan majestic swims,
And everything is blest but I.
And maun I still, &c.

The sheep-herd steeks his fauldin
slap,²
And owre the moorland whistles
shrill ;
Wi' wild, unequal, wand'ring step
I meet him on the dewy hill.
And maun I still, &c.

And when the lark, 'tween light and
dark,
Blythe waukens by the daisy's side,
And mounts and sings on fluttering³
wings,
A woe-worn ghaist I hameward glide.
And maun I still, &c.

Come Winter, with thine angry howl,
And raging bend the naked tree ;
Thy gloom will soothe my cheerless
soul,
When Nature all is sad like me !

And maun I still on Menie doat,
And bear the scorn that's in her
e'e ?
For its jet, jet black, an' it's like a
hawk,
An' it winna let a body be.

HIGHLAND MARY.¹

TUNE—"KATHARINE OGIE."

YE banks, and braes, and streams
around
The castle o' Montgomery,
Green be your woods, and fair your
flowers,

Your waters never drumlie !²
There simmer first unfald her robes,
And there the longest tarry ;
For there I took the last fareweel
O' my sweet Highland Mary.

How sweetly bloom'd the gay green
birk,
How rich the hawthorn's blossom,
As underneath their fragrant shade,
I clasp'd her to my bosom !
The golden hours, on angel wings,
Flew o'er me and my dearie ;
For dear to me, as light and life,
Was my sweet Highland Mary.

Wi' monie a vow, and lock'd embrace,
Our parting was fu' tender ;
And, pledging aft to meet again,
We tore oursel's asunder ;
But oh ! fell death's untimely frost,
That nipt my flower sae early !
Now green's the sod, and cauld's the
clay,
That wraps my Highland Mary !

O pale, pale now, those rosy lips,
I aft hae kiss'd sae fondly !
And closed for aye the sparkling glance,
That dwelt on me sae kindly !

¹ The foregoing song pleases myself ; I think it is in my happiest manner. You will see at first glance that it suits the air. The subject of the song is one of the most interesting passages of my youthful days ; and I own that I should be much flattered to see the verses set to an air which would ensure celebrity. Perhaps, after all, 'tis the still growing prejudice of my heart that throws a borrowed lustre over the merits of the composition.—R. B.

² Muddy.

¹ Water-fowl.

² Shuts the gate of the fold.

³ Trembling.

And mould'ring now in silent dust,
That heart that lo'ed me dearly !
But still within my bosom's core
Shall live my Highland Mary.

AULD LANG SYNE.¹

SHOULD auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to min' ?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' lang syne ?

CHORUS.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pu'd the gowans fine ;
But we've wander'd mony a weary foot
Sin auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

We twa hae paidl't i' the burn,
From mornin sun till dine ;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

And here's a hand, my trusty fiere,²
And gie's a hand o' thine ;
And we'll tak a right guid willie-
waught,³
For auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine ;
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.⁴

¹ An old song into which Burns threw some of his own fire.
Friend.

³ Draught.

⁴ Your meeting, which you so well describe, with your old schoolfellow and friend, was truly interesting. Out upon the ways of the world ! They spoil these "social offsprings of the heart." Two veterans of the "men of the world" would have met with little more heart-workings than two old

BANNOCKBURN.

ROBERT BRUCE'S ADDRESS TO HIS
ARMY.

TUNE—"HEY TUTTIE, TAITIE."

SCOTS, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led ;
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to glorious victorie.

Now's the day, and now's the hour
See the front o' battle lour :
See approach proud Edward's pow'r—
Edward ! chains and slaverie !

hacks worn out on the road. Apropos, is not the Scotch phrase, "Auld lang syne," exceedingly expressive? There is an old song and tune which has often thrilled through my soul; I shall give you the verses in the other sheet. Light be the turf on the breast of the heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment!—*To Mrs. Dunlop, Dec. 17, 1788*; and to *Mr. Thomson, September, 1793*:—The air is but *mediocre*; but the following song, the old song of the olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing, is enough to recommend any air.

¹ A friend had got a "grey Highland shely" for Burns, and he made a little excursion on it into Galloway. He was particularly struck with the scenery round Kenmore. From that place he and his companion took the Moor-road to Gatehouse, the dreary country being lighted up by frequent gleams of a thunderstorm, which soon poured down a flood of rain. Burns spoke not a word. "What do you think he was about?" asked his fellow-traveller, relating the adventure. "He was charging the English army alone with Bruce at Bannockburn. He was engaged in the same manner on our ride home from St. Mary's Isle. I did not disturb him. Next day he produced the following address of Bruce to his troops."—*Mr. SYME, quoted by Currie, i. 211.*

Wha will be a traitor knave?
 Wha can fill a coward's grave?
 Wha sae base as be a slave?
 Traitor! coward! turn and flee?
 Wha for Scotland's King and law
 Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
 Free-man stand, or free-man fa'?
 Caledonian! on wi' me!

By Oppression's woes and pains!
 By your sons in servile chains,
 We will drain our dearest veins,
 But they shall—they shall be free!
 Lay the proud usurpers low!
 Tyrants fall in every foe!
 Liberty's in every blow!
 Forward! let us do, or die!¹

THE GALLANT WEAVER.

TUNE—"THE AULD WIFE AYONT THE
 FIRE."

WHERE Cart rins rowin² to the sea,
 By monie a flow'r and spreading tree,
 There lives a lad, the lad for me,
 He is a gallant weaver.
 Oh, I had woers aught or nine,
 They gied me rings and ribbons fine;
 And I was fear'd my heart would tine,
 And I gied it to the weaver.
 My daddie sign'd my tocher-band,³
 To gie the lad that has the land,
 But to my heart I'll add my hand,
 And gie it to the weaver.

¹ Independent of my enthusiasm as a Scotchman, I have rarely met with anything in history which interests my feelings as a man equal with the story of Bannockburn. On the one hand, a cruel but able usurper leading on the finest army in Europe to extinguish the last spark of freedom among a greatly-daring and greatly-injured people; on the other hand, the desperate relics of a gallant nation, devoting themselves to rescue their bleeding country, or to perish with her.—BURNS
 10 *Earl of Buchan*, Jan. 12, 1794.

² Rolling. ³ Marriage bond.

While birds rejoice in leafy bowers.
 While bees rejoice in opening flowers;
 While corn grows green in simmer
 showers,
 I'll love my gallant weaver.

SONG.

ANNA, thy charms my bosom fire,
 And waste my soul with care;
 But ah! how bootless to admire,
 When fated to despair!

Yet in thy presence, lovely fair,
 To hope may be forgiven;
 For, sure, 'twere impious to despair
 So much in sight of heaven.

FOR A' THAT AND A' THAT.

Is there, for honest poverty,
 That hangs his head, and a' that?
 The coward-slave, we pass him by,
 We dare be poor for a' that!
 For a' that, and a' that,
 Our toils obscure, and a' that;
 The rank is but the guinea stamp;
 The man's the gowd for a' that.

What tho' on hamely fare we dine,
 Wear hodden-grey,¹ and a' that;
 Gie fools their silks, and knaves their
 wine,
 A man's a man, for a' that.
 For a' that, and a' that,
 Their tinsel show, and a' that:
 The honest man, tho' e'er sae poor,
 Is King o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie,² ca'd a lord,
 Wha struts, and stares, and a' that;
 Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
 He's but a coof³ for a' that:
 For a' that, and a' that,
 His riband, star, and a' that,
 The man of independent mind,
 He looks and laughs at a' that.

¹ Coarse wooller cloth.

² Conceited fellow. ³ Blockhead.

A prince can mak a belted knight,
 A marquis, duke, and a' that ;
 But an honest man's aboon his might,
 Guid faith, he mauna fa'¹ that !
 For a' that, and a' that,
 Their dignities, and a' that,
 The pith o' sense, and pride o'
 worth,
 Are higher ranks than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
 As come it will for a' that ;
 That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
 May bear the gree,² and a' that ;
 For a' that, and a' that,
 It's coming yet, for a' that ;
 That man to man, the warld o'er,
 Shall brothers be for a' that.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

TUNE—"THE HOPELESS LOVER."

Now spring has clad the groves in
 green,
 And strew'd the lea wi' flowers ;
 The furrow'd, waving corn is seen
 Rejoice in fostering showers ;
 While ilka thing in nature join
 Their sorrows to forego,
 O why thus all alone are mine
 The weary steps of woe !

The trout within yon wimpling burn
 Glides swift, a silver dart,
 And safe beneath the shady thorn
 Defies the angler's art :
 My life was once that careless stream
 That wanton trout was I ;
 But love, wi' unrelenting beam,
 Has scorch'd my fountain dry.

The little flow'ret's peaceful lot,
 In yonder cliff that grows,
 Which, save the linnet's flight, I wot,
 Nae ruder visit knows,
 Was mine : till love has o'er me past,
 And blighted a' my bloom,
 And now beneath the withering blast,
 My youth and joy consume.

The waken'd lav'rock warbling springs,
 And climbs the early sky,

¹ Try.

² May be conquerors.

Winnowing blithe her dewy wings
 In morning's rosy eye ;
 As little reckt I sorrow's power,
 Until the flowery snare
 O' witching love, in luckless hour,
 Made me the thrall o' care.

O had my fate been Greenland snows,
 Or Afric's burning zone,
 Wi' man and nature leagu'd my foes,
 So Peggy ne'er I'd known !
 The wretch whose doom is, "Hope
 nae mair !"
 What tongue his woes can tell ?
 Within whose bosom, save despair,
 Nae kinder spirits dwell.

WHY, WHY TELL THY LOVER.

TUNE—"THE CALEDONIAN HUNT'S
 DELIGHT."

Why, why tell thy lover,
 Bliss he never must enjoy ?
 Why, why undeceive him,
 And give all his hopes the lie ?

O why, while fancy, raptur'd, slumbers,
 Chloris, Chloris, all the theme !
 Why, why wouldst thou, cruel,
 Wake thy lover from his dream ?

CALEDONIA.

TUNE—"THE CALEDONIAN HUNT'S
 DELIGHT."

THERE was once a day, but old Time
 then was young,
 That brave Caledonia, the chief of
 her line,
 From some of your northern deities
 sprung :
 (Who knows not that brave Caledo-
 nia's divine ?)
 From Tweed to the Orcades was her
 domain,
 To hunt, or to pasture, or do what
 she would :
 Her heavenly relations there fixed her
 reign,
 And pledg'd her their godheads to
 warrant it good.

A lambkin in peace, but a lion in war,
 'The pride of her kindred the heroine
 grew ;
 Her grandsire, old Odin, triumphantly
 swore,
 " Whoe'er shall provoke thee, th'
 encounter shall rue !"
 With tillage, or pasture, at times she
 would sport,
 To feed her fair flocks by her green
 rustling corn ;
 But chiefly the woods were her fav'rite
 resort,
 Her darling amusement, the hounds
 and the horn.

Long quiet she reign'd ; till thither-
 ward steers
 A flight of bold eagles from Adria's¹
 strand ;
 Repeated, successive, for many long
 years,
 They darken'd the air, and they
 plunder'd the land ;
 Their pounces were murder, and terror
 their cry,
 They'd conquer'd and ruin'd a world
 beside ;
 She took to her hills, and her arrows let
 fly—
 The daring invaders they fled or they
 died.

The fell Harpy-raven took wing from
 the north,
 The scourge of the seas and the dread
 of the shore ;
 The wild Scandinavian boar issu'd
 forth
 To wanton in carnage and wallow in
 gore ;²
 O'er countries and kingdoms their fury
 prevail'd,
 No arts could appease them, no arms
 could repel ;
 'Till brave Caledonia in vain they as-
 sail'd,
 As Largs well can witness, and Lon-
 cartie tell.³

The Cameleon-savage disturb'd her re-
 pose,
 With tumult, disquiet, rebellion, and
 strife ;
 Provok'd beyond bearing, at last she
 arose,
 And robb'd him at once of his hopes
 and his life :
 The Anglian lion, the terror of France,
 Oft prowling, ensanguin'd the Tweed's
 silver flood ;
 But, taught by the bright Caledonian
 lance,
 He learned to fear in his own native
 wood.

Thus bold, independent, unconquer'd,
 and free,
 Her bright course of glory for ever
 shall run :
 For brave Caledonia immortal must
 be ;
 I'll prove it from Euclid as clear as
 the sun :
 Rectangle-triangle, the figure we'll
 choose,
 The upright is Chance, and old Time
 is the base ;
 But brave Caledonia's the hypotenuse ;
 Then, ergo, she'll match them, and
 match them always.¹

ON THE BATTLE OF SHERIFF-
 MUIR, BETWEEN THE DUKE
 OF ARGYLE AND THE EARL
 OF MAR.²

TUNE—"THE CAMERONIAN RANT."

"O CAM ye here the fight to shun ?
 Or herd the sheep wi' me, man ?"

Danes or Norwegians were defeated.—
Currie.

¹ This singular figure of poetry refers
 to the 47th proposition of Euclid. In
 a right-angled triangle, the square of
 the hypotenuse is always equal to
 the square of the two other sides.—
Currie.

² This poem, I am pretty well con-

¹ The Romans.

² The Saxons and Danes.

³ Two famous battles in which the

Or were you at the Sherra-muir,
 And did the battle see, man?¹
 I saw the battle sair and tough,
 And reeking-red ran monie a sheugh,¹
 My heart, for fear, gae sough for sough,
 To hear the thuds,² and see the cluds,³
 O' clans frae woods, in tartan duds,⁴
 Wha glaum'd⁵ at Kingdoms three,
 man.

The red-coat lads, wi' black cockades,
 To meet them were na slaw, man;
 They rush'd and push'd, and blude out-
 gush'd,

And monie a bouk⁶ did fa', man;
 The great Argyle led on his files,
 I wat they glanced twenty miles:
 They hack'd and hash'd, while broad-
 swords clash'd,
 And thro' they dash'd, and hew'd and
 smash'd,
 Till fey⁷ men died awa, man.

But had you seen the philibegs,
 And skyrin tartan trews,⁸ man,
 When in the teeth they dar'd our
 Whigs,

And covenant true blues, man;
 In lines extended lang and large,
 When bayonets oppose the targe,
 And thousands hasten'd to the charge,
 Wi' Highland wrath they frae the
 sheath,
 Drew blades o' death, till, out o' breath,
 They fled like frighted doos,⁹ man.

"O how deil, Tam, can that be true?
 The chase gaed frae the north, man:
 I saw mysel, they did pursue
 The horsemen back to Forth, man;
 And at Dumblane, in my ain sight,
 They took the brig¹⁰ wi' a' their might,
 And straught to Stirling wing'd their
 flight;
 But, curs'd lot! the gates were shut,
 And monie a huntit, poor red-coat,
 For fear amaist did swarf,¹¹ man."

vinced, is not my brother's, but more
 ancient than his birth.—G. B.

¹ Ditch. ² Noises. ³ Clouds.

⁴ Clothes. ⁵ Snatched at. ⁶ Body.

⁷ Marked for death.

⁸ Trousers.

¹⁰ Bridge.

⁹ Doves

¹¹ Swoon.

My sister Kate cam up the gate
 Wi' crowdie unto me, man;
 She swore she saw some rebels run
 Frae Perth unto Dundee, man:
 Their left-hand general had nae skill,
 The Angus lads had nae guid-will
 That day their neebors' blood to spill,
 For fear, by foes, that they should
 lose
 Their cogs o' brose, they scar'd at
 blows,
 And so it goes, you see, man.

They've lost some gallant gentlemen
 Among the Highland clans, man;
 I fear my Lord Panmure is slain,
 Or fallen in en'mies hands, man:
 Now wad ye sing this double fight,
 Some fell for wrang, and some for
 right;
 But monie bade the world guid-night,
 Then ye, may tell, how pell and mell,
 By red claymores, and muskets' knell.
 Wi' dying yell, the Tories fell,
 And Whigs to hell did flee, man.

THE

DUMFRIES VOLUNTEERS.

TUNE—"PUSH ABOUT THE JORUM."

April, 1795

Does haughty Gaul invasion threat?
 Then let the louns beware, Sir.
 There's wooden walls upon our seas,
 And volunteers on shore, Sir.
 The Nith shall run to Corsincon,¹
 And Criffel² sink to Solway,
 Ere we permit a foreign foe
 On British ground to rally!
 Fal de ral, &c.

O let us not like snarling tykes³
 In wrangling be divided;
 Till slap come in an unco loon⁴
 And with a rung⁵ decide it.

¹ A high hill at the source of the Nith
² A mountain at the mouth of the
 same river.

³ Dogs. ⁴ Ragamuffin. ⁵ Cudgel

Be Britain still to Britain true,
 Amang oursel's united ;
 For never but by British hands
 Maun British wrangs be righted !
 Fal de ral, &c.

The kettle o' the kirk and state,
 Perhaps a claut may fail in't ;
 But deil a foreign tinkler loon
 Shall ever ca^r a nail in't ;
 Our fathers' bluid the kettle bought,
 And wha wad dare to spoil it ;—
 By heaven, the sacrilegious dog
 Shall fuel be to boil it.
 Fal de ral, &c.

The wretch that wad a tyrant own,
 And the wretch, his true-born brother,
 Who would set the mob aboon the
 throne,
 May they be d—d together !
 Who will not sing, "God save the
 King,"
 Shall hang as high's the steeple ;
 But while we sing, "God save the
 King,"
 We'll ne'er forget the People.

O, WHA IS SHE THAT LO'ES
 ME.

TUNE—"MORAG."

O WHA is she that lo'es me,
 And has my heart a-keeping ?
 O sweet is she that lo'es me,
 As dew's o' simmer weeping,
 In tears the rose-buds steeping.

CHORUS.

O that's the lassie o' my heart,
 My lassie, ever dearer ;
 O that's the queen o' womankind,
 And ne'er a ane to peer her.

If thou shalt meet a lassie,
 In grace and beauty charming,
 That e'en thy chosen lassie,
 Erewhile thy breast sae warming,
 Had ne'er sic powers alarming ;
 O that's, &c.

¹ Drive.

If thou hadst heard her talking,
 And thy attentions plighted,
 That ilka body talking,
 But her, by thee is slighted,
 And thou art all delighted ;
 O that's, &c.

If thou hast met this fair one ;
 When frae her thou hast parted,
 If every other fair one,
 But her, thou hast deserted,
 And thou art broken-hearted ;
 O that's the lassie o' my heart,
 My lassie ever dearer ;
 O that's the queen o' womankind,
 And ne'er a ane to peer her.

CAPTAIN GROSE.

TUNE—"SIR JOHN MALCOLM."

KEN ye ought o' Captain Grose ?
 Igo and ago,
 If he's amang his friends or foes ?
 Iram, coram, dago.

Is he South, or is he North ?
 Igo and ago,
 Or drowned in the river Forth ?
 Iram, coram, dago.

Is he slain by Highland bodies ?
 Igo and ago,
 And eaten like a wether-haggis ?
 Iram, coram, dago.

Is he to Abram's bosom gane ?
 Igo and ago,
 Or haudin Sarah by the wame ?
 Iram, coram, dago.

Where'er he be, the Lord be near him !
 Igo and ago ;
 As for the deil, he daur na steer¹ him.
 Iram, coram, dago.

But please transmit th' enclosed letter
 Igo and ago,
 Which will oblige your humble debtor
 Iram, coram, dago.

So may ye hae auld stanes in store,
 Igo and ago,

¹ Mobs

The very stanes that Adam bore,
Iram, coram, dago.

So may ye get in glad possession,
Igo and ago,

The coins o' Satan's coronation !
Iram, coram, dago.

WHISTLE OWRE THE LAVE O'T.

FIRST when Maggy was my care,
Heaven, I thought, was in her air ;
Now we're married—spier nae mair¹—
Whistle owre the lave o't.

Meg was meek, and Meg was mild,
Bonnie Mag was nature's child—
Wiser men than me's beguil'd ;—
Whistle owre the lave o't.²

How we live, my Meg and me,
How we love and how we 'gree,
I care na by how few may see—
Whistle owre the lave o't.
Wha I wish were maggots' meat,
Dish'd up in her winding-sheet,
I could write—but Meg maun see't—
Whistle owre the lave o't.

YOUNG JOCKEY.

YOUNG Jockey was the blithest lad
In a' our town or here awa ;
Fu' blithe he whistled at the gaud,³
Fu' lightly danc'd he in the ha' !
He roos'd⁴ my een sae bonnie blue,
He roos'd my waist sae genty sma' ;
An' aye my heart came to my mou,
When ne'er a body heard or saw.

My Jockey toils upon the plain,
Thro' wind and weet, thro' frost and
snaw ;
And o'er the lea I look fu' fain
When Jockey's owsen⁵ hameward
ca'.

¹ Inquire no more.

² The rest of it.

⁴ Praised.

³ The plough.

⁵ Oxen.

An' aye the night comes round again,
When in his arms he taks me a' ;
An' aye he vows he'll be my ain
As lang's he has a breath to draw,

M'PHERSON'S¹ FAREWELL.

FAREWELL, ye dungeons dark
strong,
The wretch's destinie !
M'Pherson's time will not be long
On yonder gallows tree.

CHORUS.

Sae rantingly, sae wantonly,
Sae dauntingly gaed he ;
He play'd a spring and danc'd it
round,
Below the gallows tree.

Oh, what is death but parting breath?—
On monie a bloody plain
I've dar'd his face, and in this place
I scorn him yet again !
Sae rantingly, &c.

Untie these bands from off my hands,
And bring to me my sword !
And there's no a man in all Scot'land,
But I'll brave him at a word.
Sae rantingly, &c.

I've liv'd a life of sturt² and strife ;
I die by treachery ;
It burns my heart I must depart
And not avenged be.
Sae rantingly, &c.

Now farewell, light, thou sunshine
bright,
And all beneath the sky !
May coward shame distain his name,
The wretch that dares not die !
Sae rantingly, &c.

¹ A noted Highland robber, whose daring is portrayed in the verses. He broke his violin at the foot of the gallows.

² Trouble.

THE DEAN OF FACULTY.

A NEW BALLAD.

TUNE—"THE DRAGON OF WANTLEY."

DIRE was the hate at old Harlaw
That Scot to Sco: did carry ;
And dire the discord Langside saw
For beauteous, hapless Mary :
But Scot with Scot ne'er met so hot,
Or were more in fury seen, Sir,
Than 'twixt Hal and Bob¹ for the
famous job—
Who should be Faculty's Dean, Sir.

This Hal, for genius, wit, and lore,
Among the first was number'd ;
But pious Bob, 'mid learning's store,
Commandment tenth remember'd.
Yet simple Bob the victory got,
And won his heart's desire ;
Which shows that heaven can boil the
pot,
Though the devil—in the fire.

Squire Hal, besides, had, in this case,
Pretensions rather brassy,
For talents to deserve a place
Are qualifications saucy ;
So their worship of the Faculty,
Quite sick of merit's rudeness,
Chose one who should owe it all, d'ye
see,
To their gratis grace and goodness.

As once on Pisgah purg'd was the sight
Of a son of Circumcision,
So may be, on this Pisgah height,
Bob's purblind, mental vision ;
Nay, Bobby's mouth may be open'd yet,
Till for eloquence you hail him,
And swear he has the Angel met
That met the ass of Balaam.

In your heretic sins may ye live and die,
Ye heretic eight and thirty !
But accept, ye sublime Majority,
My congratulations hearty.

¹ Henry Erskine and Robert Dundas.

With your Honours and a certain King,
In your servants this is striking—
The more incapacity they bring,
The more they're to your liking.

P'LL AYE CA' IN BY YON TOWN.

I'LL aye ca' in by yon town,
And by yon garden green again ;
I'll aye ca' in by yon town,
And see my bonnie Jean again.
There's nane sall ken, there's nane sall
guess,
What brings me back the gate again,
But she, my fairest faithfu' lass,
And stownlins¹ we sall meet again.
She'll wander by the aiken tree,
When trystin-time draws near again ;
And when her lovely form I see,
O haith, she's doubly dear again !

A BOTTLE AND FRIEND.

There's nane that's blest of human kind,
But the cheerful and the gay, man,
Fal, la!, &c.

HERE'S a bottle and an honest friend !
What wad ye wish for mair, man ?
Wha kens, before his life may end,
What his share may be o' care, man !
Then catch the moments as they fly,
And use them as ye ought, man :—
Believe me, happiness is shy,
And comes not aye when soug^{ht}, man.

P'LL KISS THEE YET.

TUNE—"THE BRAES O' BALQUIDDER."

CHORUS.

I'll kiss thee yet, yet,
And I'll kiss thee o'er again,
An' I'll kiss thee yet, yet,
My bonnie Peggy Alison !

¹ By stealth.

ILK care and fear, when thou art near,
I ever mair defy them, O ;
Young Kings upon their hansel¹ throne
Are no sae blest as I am, O !
I'll kiss thee, &c.

When in my arms, wi' a' thy charms,
I clasp my countless treasure, O ;
I seek nae mair o' Heaven to share,
Than sic a moment's pleasure, O !
I'll kiss thee, &c.

And by thy een sae bonnie blue,
I swear I'm thine for ever, O ;—
And on thy lips I seal my vow,
And break it shall I never, O !
I'll kiss thee, &c.

ON CESSNOCK BANKS.²

TUNE—"IF HE BE A BUTCHER NEAT
AND TRIM."

ON Cessnock banks a lassie³ dwells ;
Could I describe her shape and mien ;
Our lasses a' she far excels,
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
She's sweeter than the morning dawn,
When rising Phœbus first is seen,
And dew-drops twinkle o'er the lawn ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
She's stately like yon youthful ash
That grows the cowslip braes be-
tween,
And drinks the stream with vigour
fresh ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
She's spotless like the flow'ring thorn,
With flow'rs so white, and leaves so
green,
When purest in the dewy morn ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.

¹ Throne first occupied.

² This song was an early production. It was recovered by the editor from the oral communication of a lady residing at Glasgow, whom the bard in early life affectionately admired.—*Cromek*.

³ The "lassie" was Ellison Begbie, a farmer's daughter, but then the servant of a family living about two miles from Burns.

Her looks are like the vernal May,
When ev'ning Phœbus shines serene
While birds rejoice on every spray ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her hair is like the curling mist
That climbs the mountain-sides at
e'en,
When flow'r-reviving rains are past ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her forehead's like the show'ry bow,
When gleaming sunbeams intervene,
And gild the distant mountain's brow ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her cheeks are like yon crimson gean,
The pride of all the flowery scene,
Just opening on its thorny stem ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her teeth are like the nightly snow
When pale the morning rises keen,
While hid the murmuring streamlets
flow ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her lips are like yon cherries ripe,
That sunny walls from Boreas screen
They tempt the taste and charm the
sight ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her breath is like the fragrant breeze,
That gently stirs the blossom'd bean,
When Phœbus sinks behind the seas ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
Her voice is like the ev'ning thrush
That sings on Cessnock banks unseen,
While his mate sits nestling in the bush ;
An' she's twa sparkling, roguish een.
But it's not her air, her form, her face,
Tho' matching beauty's fabled queen,
'Tis the mind that shines in ev'ry grace,
An' chiefly in her roguish een.

PRAYER FOR MARY.¹

TUNE—"BLUE BONNETS."

POWERS celestial, whose protection
Ever guards the virtuous fair,

¹ Probably written on Highland

W^here distant chimes I wander,
 Let my Mary be your care :
 Let her form sae fair and faultless,
 Fair and faultless as your own,—
 Let my Mary's kindred spirit
 Draw your choicest influence down.

Make the gales you waft around her
 Soft and peaceful as her breast ;
 Breathing in the breeze that fans her,
 Soothe her bosom into rest ;
 Guardian angels, O protect her,
 When in distant lands I roam ;
 To realms unknown while fate exiles
 me,
 Make her bosom still my home.

YOUNG PEGGY.¹

TUNE—"LAST TIME I CAM O'ER THE
 MUIR."

YOUNG Peggy blooms our bonniest lass,
 Her blush is like the morning,
 The rosy dawn, the springing grass,
 With early gems adorning :
 Her eyes outshine the radiant beams
 That gild the passing shower,
 And glitter o'er the crystal streams,
 And cheer each fresh'ning flower.

Her lips more than the cherries bright,
 A richer dye has grac'd them,
 Thy charm th' admiring gazer's sight,
 And sweetly tempt to taste them :
 Her smile is as the ev'ning mild,
 When feather'd pairs are courting,
 And little lambkins wanton wild,
 In playful bands disporting.

Were Fortune lovely Peggy's foe,
 Such sweetness would relent her,
 As blooming Spring unbends the brow
 Of surly savage Winter.
 Detraction's eye no aim can gain
 Her winning powers to lessen ;

Mary, on the eve of the Poet's departure to the West Indies.—*Cromek.*
¹ This was one of the poet's earliest
 compositions.—*Cromek.*

And fretful envy grins in vain,
 The poison'd tooth to fasten.

Ye Pow'rs of Honour, Love, and Truth,
 From ev'ry ill defend her :
 Inspire the highly favour'd youth
 The destinies intend her :
 Still fan the sweet connubial flame
 Responsive in each bosom ;
 And bless the dear parental name
 With many a filial blossom.

THERE'LL NEVER BE PEACE TILL JAMIE COMES HAME.

A SONG.

By yon castle wa' at the close of the
 day,
 I heard a man sing, tho' his head it
 was grey ?
 And as he was singing, the tears fast
 down came—
 There'll never be peace till Jamie comes
 hame.

The church is in ruins, the state is in
 jars,
 Delusions, oppressions, and murderous
 wars ;
 We dare na weel say't, but we ken
 wha's to blame—
 There'll never be peace till Jamie comes
 hame.

My seven braw sons for Jamie drew
 sword,
 And now I greet round their green
 beds in the yerd ;
 It brak the sweet heart o' my faithfu'
 auld dame—
 There'll never be peace till Jamie
 comes hame.

Now life is a burden that bows me
 down,
 Sin' I tint my bairns, and he tint his
 crown ;
 But till my last moment my words are
 the same—
 There'll never be peace till Jamie comes
 hame.

THERE WAS A LAD.

TUNE—"DAINTIE DAVIE."

THERE was a lad was born at Kyle,¹
 Bu' what'n a day o' what'n a style
 I doubt it's hardly worth the while
 To be sae nice wi' Robin.

Robin was a rovin' Boy,
 Rantin' rovin', rantin' rovin';
 Robin was a rovin' Boy,
 Rantin' rovin' Robin.

Our monarch's hind-nost year but ane
 Was five-and-twenty years begun,
 'Twas then a blast o' Janwar win'
 Blew hansel in on Robin.

The gossip keekit in his loof,
 Quo' she, wha lives will see the proof,
 This waly boy will be nae coof,—
 I think we'll ca' him Robin.

He'll hae misfortunes great and sma',
 But aye a heart aboon them a',
 He'll be a credit till us a',
 We'll a' be proud o' Robin.

But, sure as three times three mak nine,
 I see, by ilka score and line,
 This chap will dearly like our kin',
 So leeze me on thee, Robin.

Guid faith, quo' she, I doubt ye, gar,
 Ye gar the lasses lie aspar,
 But twenty fauts ye may hae waur,
 So blessins on thee, Robin!

Robin was a rovin' Boy,
 Rantin' rovin', rantin' rovin';
 Robin was a rovin' Boy,
 Rantin' rovin' Robin.

TO MARY.²

TUNE—"EWE-BUGHTS, MARION."

WILL ye go to the Indies, my Mary,
 And leave auld Scotia's shore?

¹ Kyle, a district of Ayrshire.
 Mary Campbell. In my very early

Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary,
 Across the Atlantic's roar?

O sweet grows the lime and the orange,
 And the apple on the pine:
 But a' the charms o' the Indies
 Can never equal thine.

I hae sworn by the Heavens to my
 Mary,
 I hae sworn by the Heavens to be
 true;
 And sae may the Heavens forget me,
 When I forget my vow!

O plight me your faith, my Mary,
 And plight me your lily-white hand;
 O plight me your faith, my Mary,
 Before I leave Scotia's strand.

We hae plighted our troth, my Mary,
 In mutual affection to join,
 And curst be the cause that shall part
 us!
 The hour and the moment o' time.

MARY MORISON.

TUNE—"BIDE YE YET."

O MARY, at thy window be,
 It is the wish'd, the trysted hour!
 Those smiles and glances let me see,
 That make the miser's treasure poor,
 How blithely wad I bide the stoure,¹
 A weary slave frae sun to sun;
 Could I the rich reward secure,
 The lovely Mary Morison.

Yestreen, when to the trembling string
 The dance gaed thro' the lighted ha'
 To thee my fancy took its wing,
 I sat, but neither heard nor saw:
 Tho' this was fair, and that was braw
 And yon the toast of a' the town
 I sigh'd, and said among them a,
 "Ye are na Mary Morison."

years, when I was thinking of going
 to the West Indies, I took the follow-
 ing farewell of a dear girl.—P. B.
¹ Dust.

O Mary, canst thou wreck his peace,
 Wha for thy sake wad gladly die?
 Or canst thou break that heart of his,
 Whase only faut is loving thee?
 If love for love thou wilt na gie,
 At least be pity to me shown!
 A thought ungentle canna be
 The thought o' Mary Morison.

THE SODGER'S RETURN.¹

AIR—"THE MILL, MILL, O."

WHEN wild war's deadly blast was
 blawn,
 And gentle peace returning,
 Wi' mony a sweet babe fatherless,
 And mony a widow mourning:
 I left the lines and tented field,
 Where lang I'd been a lodger,
 My humble knapsack a' my wealth,
 A poor and honest sodger.

A leal, light heart was in my breast,
 My hand unstain'd wi' plunder;
 And for fair Scotia, hame again,
 I cheery on did wander.
 I thought upon the banks o' Coil,
 I thought upon my Nancy,
 I thought upon the witching smile
 That caught my youthful fancy.

At length I reach'd the bonnie glen,
 Where early life I sported;
 I pass'd the mill, and trysting thorn,
 Where Nancy aft I courted:
 Wha spied I but my ain dear maid,
 Down by her mother's dwelling!
 And turn'd me round to hide the flood
 That in my een was swelling.

Wi' alter'd voice, quoth I, "Sweet lass,
 Sweet as yon hawthorn blossom,
 O! happy, happy may he be,
 That's dearest to thy bosom!"

My purse is light, I've far to gang,
 And fain wad be thy lodger;
 I've serv'd my King and Country
 lang—
 Take pity on a sodger!"

Sae wistfully she gaz'd on me,
 And lovelier was than ever:
 Quo' she, "A sodger ance I lo'ed,
 Forget him shall I never:
 Our humble cot, and hamely fare,
 Ye freely shall partake it,
 That gallant badge, the dear cockade.
 Ye're welcome for the sake o't."

She gaz'd—she redded like a rose—
 Syne² pale like onie lily;
 She sank within my arms and cried,
 "Art thou my ain dear Willie?"
 "By Him who made yon sun and sky,
 By whom true love's regarded,
 I am the man; and thus may still
 True lovers be rewarded!"

"The wars are o'er, and I'm come
 hame
 And find thee still true-hearted;
 Tho' poor in gear, we're rich in love,
 And mair we'se ne'er be parted."
 Quo' she, "My grandsire left me gowd.
 A mailen² plenish'd fairly;
 And come, my faithful sodger lad,
 Thou'rt welcome to it dearly!"

For gold the merchant ploughs the
 main,
 The farmer ploughs the manor;
 But glory is the sodger's prize;
 The sodger's wealth is honour:
 The brave poor sodger ne'er despise,
 Nor count him as a stranger,
 Remember he's his country's stay
 In day and hour o' danger.

A MOTHER'S LAMENT FOR THE DEATH OF HER SON.

TUNE—"FINLAYSTON HOUSE."

FATE gave the word, the arrow sped,
 And pierc'd my darling's heart;

¹ A soldier, passing by the window of an inn, suggested these touching lines. The Poet called him in, and asked him to relate his adventures.

² Then.

² Farm.

And with him all the joys are fled
Life can to me impart !

By cruel hands the sapling drops,
In dust dishonour'd laid :

So fell the pride of all my hopes,
My age's future shade.

The mother-linnet in the brake
Bewails her ravish'd young ;

So I, for my lost darling's sake,
Lament the live-day long.

Death, oft I've fear'd thy fatal blow,
Now, fond, I bare my breast ;

O, do thou kindly lay me low
With him I love, at rest !

MY FATHER WAS A FARMER.¹

TUNE—"THE WEAVER AND HIS
SHUTTLE, O."

My Father was a Farmer, upon the
Carrick border, O,

And carefully he bred me in decency
and order, O ;

He bade me act a manly part, though
I had ne'er a farthing, O—

For without an honest manly heart, no
man was worth regarding, O.

Then out into the world my course I
did determine, O ;

Tho' to be rich was not my wish, yet
to be great was charming, O :

My talents they were not the worst ;
nor yet my education, O ;

Resolv'd was I at least to try to mend
my situation, O.

In many a way, and vain essay, I
courted Fortune's favour, O ;

Some cause unseen still stept between,
to frustrate each endeavour, O :

¹ The following song is a wild rhapsody, miserably deficient in versification; but as the sentiments are the genuine feelings of my heart, for that reason I have a particular pleasure in conning it over.—R. B. Mr. Cunningham found traces of the Poet's early history in these lines.

Sometimes by foes I was o'erpow'rd :
sometimes by friends forsaken, O
And when my hope was at the top, I
still was worst mistaken, O.

Then, sore harass'd, and tir'd at last,
with Fortune's vain delusion, O ;

I dropt my schemes, like idle dreams,
and came to this conclusior, O :

The past was bad, and the future hid ;
its good or ill untried, O ;

But the present hour was in my pow'r,
and so I would enjoy it, O.

No help, nor hope, nor view had I ;
nor person to befriender me, O ;

So I must toil, and sweat and broil, and
labour to sustain me, O.

To plough and sow, to reap and now,
my father bred me early, O ;

For one, he said, to labour bred, was a
match for Fortune fairly, O.

Thus all obscure, unknown, and poor,
thro' life I'm doom'd to wander, O ;

Till down my weary bones I lay in
everlasting slumber, O ;

No view nor care, but shun whate'er
might breed me pain or sorrow, O ;

I live to-day as well's I may, regardless
of to-morrow, O.

But cheerful still, I am as well as a
monarch in a palace, O ;

Tho' Fortune's frown still hunts me
down, with all her wonted malice, O.

I make indeed my daily bread, but
ne'er can make it further, O ;

But, as daily bread is all I need, I do
not much regard her, O.

When sometimes by my labour, I earn
a little money, O,

Some unforeseen misfortune comes gen'
rally upon me, O ;

Mischance, mistake, or by neglect, or
my good-natur'd folly, O ;

But come what will, I've sworn it, still,
I'll ne'er be melancholy, O.

All you who follow wealth and power,
with unremitting ardour, O,

The more in this you look for bliss, you
leave your view the farther, O :

Had you the wealth Potosi boasts, or
nations to adore you, O

A cheerful honest-hearted I will
prefer before you, O.

BONNIE LESLEY.¹TUNE—"THE COLLIER'S BONNIE
DOCHTER."

I SAW ye bonnie Lesley,
 As she gae'd o'er the border?
 She's gane, like Alexander,
 To spread her conquests farther.
 To see her is to love her,
 And love but her for ever;
 For Nature made her what she is,
 And ne'er made sic anither!
 Thou art a queen, Fair Lesley,
 Thy subjects we, before thee:
 Thou art divine, Fair Lesley,
 The hearts o' men adore thee.
 The Deil he could na scaith thee,
 Or aught that wad belang thee;
 He'd look into thy bonnie face,
 And say, "I canna wrang thee."
 The Powers aboon will tent thee:
 Misfortune sha'na steer² thee;
 Thou'rt like themselves, sae lovely,
 That ill they'll ne'er let near thee.
 Return again, Fair Lesley,
 Return to Caledonie!
 That we may brag, we hae a lass
 There's nane again sae bonnie.

AMANG THE TREES.

TUNE—"THE KING OF FRANCE, HE
HAD A RACE."

AMANG the trees, where humming bees
 At buds and flowers were hingin', O,
 Auld Caledon drew out her drone,
 And to her pipe was singin', O:
 Twas Pibroch,³ Sang, Strathspey, or
 Reels,
 She dirl'd them aff fu' clearly, O,

¹ Miss Lesley Baillie. The ballad was composed by Burns after spending a day with the lady's family, then on their way to England.

² Hurt.

³ A Highland war-song adapted to the bagpipe.

When there cam a yell o' foreign
squeels,

That dang her tapsalteerie, O.—
 Their capon craws and queer ha, ha's,
 They made our lugs grow eerie, O;
 The hungry birk did scrape and pike
 Till we were woe and weary, O:
 But a royal ghaist wha ance was cas'd
 A prisoner aughteen year awa,
 He fir'd a fiddler in the north
 That dang them tapsalteerie, O.

* * * * *

WHEN FIRST I CAME TO
STEWART KYLE.TUNE—"I HAD A HORSE AND I HAD
NAE MAIR."

WHEN first I came to Stewart Kyle,
 My mind it was na steady,
 Where'er I gaed, where'er I rade,
 A mistress still I had aye:
 But when I came roun' by Mauchline
 town,
 Not readin' onie body,
 My heart was caught before I thought
 And by a Mauchline lady.

* * * * *

ON SENSIBILITY.

TO MY DEAR AND MUCH-HONOURED
FRIEND, MRS. DUNLOP, OF DUNLOP.

AIR—"SENSIBILITY."

SENSIBILITY, how charming,
 Thou, my friend, canst truly tell;
 But distress, with horrors arming,
 Thou hast also known too well.
 Fairest flower, behold the lily,
 Blooming in the sunny ray:
 Let the blast sweep o'er the valley,
 See it prostrate on the clay.
 Hear the wood-lark charm the forest,
 Telling o'er his little joys;
 Hapless bird! a prey the surest
 To each pirate of the skies.

Dearly bought, the hidden treasure
Finer feelings can bestow ;
Chords, that vibrate sweetest pleasure,
Thrill the deepest notes of woe.

MONTGOMERIE'S PEGGY.¹

TUNE—"GALLA WATER."

ALTHO' my bed were in yon muir,
Amang the heather, in my plaidie,
Yet happy, happy would I be,
Had I my dear Montgomerie's Peggy.

When o'er the hill beat surly storms,
And winter nights were dark and
rainy ;
I'd seek some dell, and in my arms
I'd shelter dear Montgomerie's
Peggy.

Were I a Baron proud and high,
And horse and servants waiting
ready,
Then a 'twad gie o' joy to me,
The sharin' wi' Montgomerie's
Peggy.

* * * * *

ON A BANK OF FLOWERS.

ON a bank of flowers, in a summer day,
For summer lightly drest,
The youthful blooming Nelly lay,
With love and sleep opprest ;

When Willie, wand'ring thro' the wood,
Who for her favour oft had sued,
He gaz'd, he wish'd, he fear'd, he
blush'd,
And trembled where he stood.

¹ My Montgomerie's Peggy was my deity for six or eight months. I have tried to imitate, in this extempore thing, that irregularity in the rhyme which, when judiciously done, has such a fine effect on the ear.—R. B.

Her closed eyes, like weapon sheath'd
Were seal'd in soft repose ;
Her lips, still as she fragrant breath'd,
It richer dy'd the rose.

The springing lilies sweetly prest,
Wild, wanton kiss'd her rival breast ;
He gaz'd, he wish'd, he fear'd, he
blush'd,
His bosom ill at rest.

Her robes, light waving in the breeze,
Her tender limbs embrace !
Her lovely form, her native ease,
All harmony and grace !

Tumultuous tides his pulses roll,
A faltering ardent kiss he stole ;
He gaz'd, he wish'd, he fear'd, he
blush'd,
And sigh'd his very soul.

As flies the partridge from the brake,
On fear-inspired wings ;
So Nelly, starting, half awake,
Away affrighted springs :

But Willie follow'd—as he should,
He overtook her in the wood :
He vow'd, he pray'd, he found the maid
Forgiving all, and good.

O RAGING FORTUNE'S
WITHERING BLAST.

O RAGING Fortune's withering blast
Has laid my leaf full low, O !

O raging Fortune's withering blast
Has laid my leaf full low, O !

My stem was fair, my bud was green,
My blossom sweet did blow, O !
The dew fell fresh, the sun rose mild,
And made my branches grow, O.

But luckless Fortune's northern storm
Laid a' my blossoms low, O !
But luckless Fortune's northern storm
Laid a' my blossoms low, O !

EVAN LANKS.

TUNE—"SARVANA DEI ISH."

SLOW spreads the gloom my soul de
sires,
The sun from India's shore retires

To Evan Banks with temp'rate ray.
Home of my youth, he leads the day.

Oh! Banks to me for ever dear!
Oh! stream, whose murmurs still I hear!
All, all my hopes of bliss reside
Where Evan mingles with the Clyde.

And she, in simple beauty drest,
Whose image lives within thy breast;
Who trembling heard my parting sigh,
And long pursued me with her eye:

Does she, with heart unchang'd as mine,
Oft in the vocal bowers recline?
Or, where yon grot o'erhangs the tide,
Muse while the Evan seeks the Clyde?

Ye lofty banks that Evan bound,
Ye lavish woods that wave around,
And o'er the stream your shadows
throw,
Which sweetly winds so far below;

What secret charm to mem'ry brings,
All that on Evan's border springs!
Sweet Banks! ye bloom by Mary's
side:
Blest stream! she views thee haste to
Clyde.

Can all the wealth of India's coast
Atone for years in absence lost!
Return, ye moments of delight,
With richer treasures bless my sight!

Swift from this desert let me part,
And fly to meet a kindred heart!
Nor more may aught my steps divide
From that dear stream which flows to
Clyde!

WOMEN'S MINDS.

TUNE—"FOR A' THAT."

Tho' women's minds, like winter winds,
May shift and turn, and a' that,
The noblest breast adores them maist,
A consequence I draw that.

For a' that, and a' that,
And twice as meikle's a' that,
The bonnie lass that I lo'e best
She'll be my ain for a' that.

But there is ane aloon the lave,
Has wit, and sense, and a' that;
A bonnie lass, I like her best,
And wha a crime dare ca' that?
For a' that, &c.

TO MARY IN HEAVEN.¹

TUNE—"MISS FORBES' FAREWELL TO
BANFF."

Thou ling'ring star, with less'ning ray,
That lov'st to greet the early morn,
Again thou usher'st in the day
My Mary from my soul was torn.
O Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
Seest thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hear'st thou the groans that rend
his breast?

That sacred hour can I forget?
Can I forget the hallow'd grove,
Where by the winding Ayr we met,
To live one day of parting love?
Eternity will not efface
Those records dear of transports past;
Thy image at our last embrace;
Ah! little thought we 'twas our last!

Ayr gurgling kiss'd his pebbled shore,
O'erhung with wild woods, thick'n-
ing green;
The fragrant birch, and hawthorn hoar,
Twin'd am'rous round the raptur'd
scene.

The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on ev'ry spray,—
Till too, too soon, the glowing west
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day.

Still o'er these scenes my mem'ry
wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care!
Time but th' impression deeper makes,
As streams their channels deeper
wear.

¹ The Mary Campbell already men-
tioned. The stanzas were composed
while Burns lay on some sheaves in the
harvest-field, with his eyes fixed on a
star of exceeding brightness.

My Mary, dear departed shade !
 Where is thy blissful place of rest ?
 Seest thou thy lover lowly laid ?
 Hear'st thou the groans that rend
 his breast ?

TO MARY.

COULD aught of song declare my pains,
 Could artful numbers move thee,
 The Muse should tell, in labour'd
 strains,

O Mary, how I love thee !

They who but feign a wounded heart
 May teach the lyre to languish ;
 But what avails the pride of art,
 When wastes the soul with anguish ?

Then let the sudden bursting sigh
 The heart-felt pang discover ;
 And in the keen, yet tender eye,
 O read the imploring lover.

For well I know thy gentle mind
 Disdains art's gay disguising ;
 Beyond what fancy e'er refin'd,
 The voice of nature prizing.

O LEAVE NOVELS.

O LEAVE novels, ye Mauchline belles,
 Ye're safer at your spinning-wheel ;
 Such witching books are baited hooks
 For rakish rooks, like Rob Mossgiel.

Your fine Tom Jones and Grandisons,
 They make your youthful fancies
 reel,
 They heat your brains, and fire your
 veins,
 And then you're prey for Rob Moss-
 giel.

Beware a tongue that's smoothly hung ;
 A heart that warmly seems to feel ;
 That feeling heart but acts a part,—
 'Tis rakish art in Rob Mossgiel.

The frank address, the soft caress,
 Are worse than poison'd darts of
 steel ;

The frank address, and politesse,
 Are all finesse in Rob Mossgiel.

ADDRESS
 TO GENERAL DUMOURIER.

A PARODY ON ROBIN ADAIR.¹

YOU'RE welcome to despots, Dumourier
 You're welcome to despots, Dumourier
 How does Dampiere do ?
 Aye, and Bournonville too ?
 Why did they not come along with you,
 Dumourier ?

I will fight France with you, Dumourier ;
 I will fight France with you, Dumourier ;
 I will fight France with you ;
 I will take my chance with you ;
 By my soul I'll dance a dance with you,
 Dumourier.

Then let us fight about, Dumourier ;
 Then let us fight about, Dumourier ;
 Then let us fight about,
 Till freedom's spark is out,
 Then we'll be d—d, no doubt, Du-
 mourier.

SWEETEST MAY.

SWEETEST May, let love inspire thee,
 Take a heart which he designs thee ;
 As thy constant slave regard it ;
 For its faith and truth reward it.
 Proof o' shot to birth or money,
 Not the wealthy, but the bonnie ;
 Not high-born, but noble-minded,
 In love's silken band can bind it !

ONE NIGHT AS I DID
 WANDER.

TUNE—"JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO."

ONE night as I did wander,
 When corn begins to shoot,
 I sat me down to ponder,
 Upon an auld tree-root :

¹ "Robin Adair" begins, "You're welcome to Paxton, Robin Adair."

Auld Ayre ran by before me,
And bicker'd to the seas;
A cushat crowded o'er me,
That echoed thro' the braes.

THE WINTER IT IS PAST.¹

A FRAGMENT.

THE winter it is past, and the simmer's
come at last,
And the little birds sing on every
tree;
Now everything is glad, while I am
very sad,
Since my true love is parted from me.
The rose upon the brier, by the waters
running clear,
May have charms for the linnet or
the bee;
Their little loves are blest, and their
little hearts at rest,
But my true love is parted from me.

FRAGMENT.

HER flowing locks, the raven's wing,
Adown her neck and bosom hing;
How sweet unto that breast to cling,
And round that neck entwine her !
Her lips are roses wet wi' dew !
O, what a feast her bonnie mou !
Her cheeks a mair celestial hue,
A crimson still diviner !

THE CHEVALIER'S LAMENT.²

TUNE—"CAPTAIN O'KEAN."

THE small birds rejoice in the green
leaves returning,
The murmuring streamlet winds clear
thro' the vale ;

¹ Gilbert Burns denied his brother's
authorship of this fragment, which, in
early boyhood, he had heard their
mother sing.

² These admirable stanzas are sup-

The hawthorn trees blow in the dews
of the morning,
And wild scatter'd cowslips bedeck
the green dale :

But what can give pleasure, or what
can seem fair,
While the lingering moments are
number'd by care ?
No flowers gaily springing, nor birds
sweetly singing,
Can soothe the sad bosom of joyless
despair.

The deed that I dar'd could it merit
their malice,
A King, or a Father, to place on his
throne ?
His right are these hills, and his right
are these valleys,
Where the wild beasts find shelter,
but I can find none.

But 'tis not my sufferings thus wretched,
forlorn ;
My brave gallant friends, 'tis your
ruin I mourn :
Your deeds prov'd so loyal in hot bloody
trial,
Alas ! can I make you no sweeter
return ?

THE BELLES OF MAUCHLINE.

TUNE—"BONNIE DUNDEE."

IN Mauchline there dwells six proper
young Belles,
The pride of the place and its neigh-
bourhood a',
Their carriage and dress, a stranger
would guess,
In Lon'on or Paris they'd gotten
it a' :
Miss Miller is fine, Miss Markland's
divine,
Miss Smith she has wit, and Miss
Betty is brow :

posed to be spoken by the young Prince
Charles Edward, when wandering in
the Highlands of Scotland, after his
fatal defeat at Culloden.—*Thomson*

There's beauty and fortune to get wi'
Miss Morton,
But Armour's the jewel for me o'
them a'.

YE HAE LIEN A' WRANG,
LASSIE.

CHORUS.

Ye hae lien a' wrang, lassie,
Ye've lien a' wrang,
Ye've lien in an unco¹ bed,
And wi' a fremit² man.

YOUR rosy cheeks are turn'd sae wan,
Ye're greener than the grass, lassie;
Your coatie's shorter by a span,
Yet ne'er an inch the less, lassie.

O lassie, ye hae play'd the fool,
And ye will feel the scorn, lassie;
For aye the brose ye sup at e'en,
Ye bock³ them ere the morn, lassie.

Oh, ance ye danc'd upon the knowes,⁴
And through the wood ye sang, lassie;
But in the herrying o' a bee byke,⁵
I fear ye've gat a stang, lassie.

HERE'S A HEALTH TO THEM
THAT'S AWA.

HERE'S a health to them that's awa,
Here's a health to them that's awa;
And wha winna wish guid luck to our
cause,

May never guid luck be their fa'!
It's guid to be merry and wise,
It's guid to be honest and true,
It's guid to support Caledonia's cause,
And bide by the buff and the blue.

Here's a health to them that's awa,
Here's a health to them that's awa;
Here's a health to Charlie⁶ the chief
o' the clan,
Altho' that his band be sma'.

May liberty meet wi' success!
May prudence protect her frae evil!
May tyrants and tyranny tine in the
mist,
And wander their way to the Devil!

Here's a health to them that's awa,
Here's a health to them that's awa;
Here's health to 'Tammie,¹ the Nor-
land laddie,
That lives at the lug o' the law!
Here's freedom to him that wad read,
Here's freedom to him that wad write!
There's nane ever fear'd that the truth
should be heard
But they wham the truth wad indite.
Here's a health to them that's awa,
Here's a health to them that's awa;
Here's Chieftain M'Leod,² a chieftain
worth gowd,
Tho' bred amang mountains o' snaw!

DAMON AND SYLVIA.

TUNE—"THE TITHER MORN, AS I
FORLORN."

YON wand'ring rill, that marks the hill,
And glances o'er the brae, Sir,
Slides by a bower where monie a flower
Sheds fragrance on the day, Sir.

There Damon lay, with Sylvia gay:
To love they thought nae crime, Sir;
But the wild-birds sang, the echoes rang,
While Damon's heart beat time, Sir.

MY LADY'S GOWN THERE'S
GAIRS UPON'T.

CHORUS.

My lady's gown there's gairs upon't,
And gowden flowers sae rare upon't;
But Jenny's jimps and jirkinet,
My lord thinks muckle mair upon't.

¹ Strange. ² Stranger. ³ Vomit.

⁴ Hills. ⁵ Bee-hive. ⁶ Charles Fox.

¹ Thomas Erskine.

² M'Leod, chief of that clan.

My lord a-hunting he is gane,
But hounds or hawks wi' him are nane,
By Colin's cottage lies his game,
If Colin's Jenny be at hame.

My lady's gown, &c.

My lady's white, my lady's red,
And kith and kin o' Cassillis' blude,
But her ten-pund lands o' tocher guid
Were a' the charms his lordship lo'ed.

My lady's gown, &c.

Out o'er yon muir, out o'er yon moss,
Whare gor-cocks thro' the heather pass,
There wons auld Colin's bonnie lass,
A lily in the wilderness.

My lady's gown, &c.

Sae sweetly move her genty limbs,
Like music notes o' lover's hymns:
The diamond dew in her een sae blue,
Where laughing love sae wanton swims.

My lady's gown, &c.

My lady's dink,¹ my lady's drest,
The flower and fancy o' the west;
But the lassie that a man lo'es best,
O that's the lass to make him blest.

My lady's gown, &c.

O AYE MY WIFE SHE DANG ME.

CHORUS.

O aye my wife she dang-me,
An' aft my wife she bang'd me;
If ye gie a woman a' her will,
Guid faith, she'll soon o'ergang ye.

On peace and rest my mind was bent,
And fool I was I marry'd;
But never honest man's intent
As cursedly miscarry'd.

Some sairie² comfort still at last,
When a' their days are done, man,
My pains o' hell on earth is past,
I'm sure o' bliss aboon, man,
O aye my wife, &c.

THE BANKS OF NITH.

A BALLAD.

To thee, lov'd Nith, thy gladsome
plains,

Where late wi' careless thought I
rang'd,

Though prest wi' care and sunk in woe,
To thee I bring a heart unchang'd.

I love thee, Nith, thy banks and braes,
Tho' mem'ry there my bosom tear;

For there he rov'd that brake my heart,
Yet to that heart, ah, still how dear!

BONNIE PEG.

As I came in by our gate end,
As day was waxin' weary,
O wha came tripping down the street,
But bonnie Peg, my dearie!

Her air sae sweet, and shape complete,
Wi' nae proportion wanting,
The Queen of Love did never move
Wi' motion mair enchanting.

Wi' linked hands, we took the sands
A-down yon winding river;
And, oh! that hour and broomy bower,
Can I forget it ever?

O LAY THY LOOF IN MINE, LASS.

CHORUS.

O lay thy loof¹ in mine, lass,
In mine, lass, in mine, lass;
And swear in thy white hand, lass,
That thou wilt be my ain.

A SLAVE to Love's unbounded sway,
He aft has wrought me meikle wae;
But now he is my deadly fae,
Unless thou be my ain.
O lav thy loof, &c.

There's monie a lass has broke my rest,
That for a blink I hae lo'ed best;

¹ Neat.

² Sorrowful.

¹ Palm of the hand.

But thou art Queen within my breast,
For ever to remain.
O lay thy loof, &c.

O GUID ALE COMES.

CHORUS.

O guid ale comes, and guid ale goes,
Guid ale gars me sell my hose—
Sell my hose, and pawn my shoon,
Guid ale keeps my heart aboon.

I HAD sax owsen in a plough,
They drew a' weel eneugh,
I sell'd them a' just ane by ane;
Guid ale keeps my heart aboon.

Guid ale hauds me bare and busy,
Gars me moop wi' the servant hizzie,
Stand i' the stool when I hae done,
Guid ale keeps my heart aboon.
O guid ale comes, &c.

O WHY THE DEUCE.

EXTEMPORE. APRIL, 1782.

O WHY the deuce should I repine,
And be ~~an~~ ill foreboder?
I'm twenty-three, and five feet nine—
I'll go and be a sodger.
I gat some gear wi' meikle care,
I held it weel thegither;
But now it's gane and something mair,
I'll go and be a sodger.

POLLY STEWART.

TUNE—"YE'RE WELCOME, CHARLIE
STEWART."

CHORUS.

O lovely Polly Stewart,
O charming Polly Stewart,
There's ne'er a flower that blooms in
May,
That's half so fair as thou art.

THE flower it blaws, it fades, it fa
And art can ne'er renew it;
But worth and truth eternal youth
Will gie to Polly Stewart.

May he, whase arms shall fauld thy
charms,
Possess a leal and true heart;
To him be given to ken the b'ave
He grasps in Polly Stewart!
O lovely, &c.

ROBIN SHURE IN HAIRST'

CHORUS.

Robin shure in hairst,
I shure wi' him,
Fient a heuk had I,
Yet I stack by him.

I GAED up to Dunse,
To warp a wab o' plaiden,
At his daddie's yett,
Wha met me but Robin.

Was na Robin bauld,
Tho' I was a cotter,
Play'd me sic a trick,
And me the ells's dochter?
Robin shure, &c.

Robin promis'd me
A' my winter vittle;
Fient haet he had but three
Goose feathers and a whittle.
Robin shure, &c.

THE FIVE CARLINS.¹—AN ELECTION BALLAD.

TUNE—"CHEVY CHASE."

THERE were five Carlins in the south,
They fell upon a scheme,
To send a lad to Lun'on town
To bring us tidings hame.

¹ The five boroughs of Dumfriesshire
and Kirkcudbright.

Not only bring us tidings hame,
But do our errands there,
And aiblins gowd and honour baith
Might be that laddie's share.

There was Maggie¹ by the banks o'
Nith,

A dame wi' pride enough ;
And Marjorie² o' the monie Lochs,
A Carlin auld an' tough.

And blinkin Bess³ o' Annandale,
That dwalls near Solway side,
And whisky Jean⁴ that took her gill
In Galloway so wide.

And auld black Joan⁵ fra Creighton
peel,

O' gipsy kith an' kin,
Five weightier Carlins were na found
The south countrie within.

To send a lad to Lon'on town⁶
They met upon a day,
And monie a knight, and monie a Laird,
That errand fain would gae.

O! monie a Knight, and monie a Laird,
This errand fain would gae ;
But nae ane could their fancy please,
O! ne'er a ane but twae.

The first ane was a belted Knight,⁷
Bred o' a border clan ;
An' he wad gae to Lon'on town,
Might nae man him withstan' ;

And he wad doe their errands weel,
And meikle he wad say,
And ilka ane at Lon'on court
Wad bid to him guid day.

Then neist came in a sodger youth,⁸
And spak wi' modest grace,
An' he wad gae to Lon'on town,
If sae their pleasure was.

He wad nae hecht⁹ them courtly gift,
Nor meikle speech pretend ;
But he wad hecht an honest heart
Wad ne'er desert his friend.

¹ Dumfries.

² Lochmaben.

³ Annan.

⁴ Kirkcudbright.

⁵ Sanquhar.

⁶ The five boroughs returned ore
ember.

⁷ Sir James Johnstone

⁸ Captain Miller.

⁹ Offer.

Now, whom to choose, and whom re-
fuse,

To strife thae Carlins fell ;
For some had gentle folk to please,
And some wad please themsel.

Then out spak mim-mou'd Meg o' Nith,
An' she spak out wi' pride,
An' she wad send the sodger youth
Whatever might betide.

For the auld guidman o' Lon'on court
She dinna care a pin,
But she wad send the sodger youth
To greet his eldest son.

Then up sprang Bess o' Annandale :
A deadly aith she's ta'en,
That she wad vote the border Knight,
Tho' she should vote her lane.

For far-aff fowls hae feathers fair,
An' fools o' change are fain :
But I hae tried this border Knight,
An' I'll trie him yet again.

Says auld black Joan frae Creighton
peel,
A Carlin stout and grim,
The auld guidman, or young guidman,
For me may sink or swim !

For fools may prate o' right and wrang,
While knaves laugh them to scorn :
But the sodger's friends hae blawn the
best,
Sae he shall bear the horn.

Then whiskey Jeanspak owre her drink,
"Ye weel ken, kimmers a',
The auld guidman o' Lon'on court,
His back's been at the wa'.

An' monie a friend that kiss'd his caup,
Is now a fremit wight ;
But it's ne'er sae wi' whiskey Jean,—
We'll send the border Knight."

Then slow raise Marjorie o' the Lochs,
And wrinkled was her brow ;
Her ancient weed was russet gray,
Her auld Scots heart was true.

"There's some great folks set light by
me,

I set as light by them ;
But I will send to Lon'on town,
Wha I lo'e best at hame."

So how this mighty plea will end,
 Nae mortal wight can tell ;
 God grant the King, and ilka man,
 May look weel to himsel' !¹

THE DEUKS DANG O'ER MY DADDIE.

THE bairns gat out wi' an unco shout,
 The deuks dang o'er my daddie, O !
 The fient ma care, quo' the feirie auld
 wife,

He was but a paidlin body, O !
 He paidles out, and he paidles in,
 An' he paidles late and early, O ;
 Thae seven lang years I hae lien by
 his side,

An' he is but a fusionless carlie, O.

O haud your tongue, my feirie auld
 wife,

O haud your tongue now, Nansie, O :
 I've seen the day, and sae hae ye,
 Ye wadna been sae donsie, O :

I've seen the day ye butter'd my brose,
 And cuddl'd me late and earlie, O ;
 But downa do's come o'er me now,
 And, oh, I feel it sairly, O !

THE LASS THAT MADE THE BED TO ME.

WHEN Januar' wind was blawing cauld,
 As to the north I took my way,
 The mirksome night did me enfauld,
 I knew na where to lodge till day.

By my good luck a maid I met,
 Just in the middle o' my care ;
 And kindly she did me invite
 To walk into a chamber fair.

I bow'd fu' low unto this maid,
 And thank'd her for her courtesie ;
 I bow'd fu' low unto this maid,
 And bade her mak a bed to me.

She made the bed baith large and wide,
 Wi' twa white hands she spread it
 down ;

She put the cup to her rosy lips,
 And drank, " Young man, now sleep
 ye soun."

She snatch'd the candle in her hand,
 And frae my chamber went wi' speed ;
 But I call'd her quickly back again
 To lay some mair below my head.

A cod¹ she laid below my head,
 And served me wi' due respect ;
 And to salute her wi' a kiss,
 I put my arms about her neck.

" Haud aff your hands, young man,"
 she says,
 " And dinna sae uncivil be ;
 If ye hae onie love for me,
 O wrang na my virginite !"

Her hair was like the links o' gowd,
 Her teeth were like the ivory ;
 Her cheeks like lilies dipt in wine,
 The lass that made the bed to me.

Her bosom was the driven snaw,
 Twa drifted heaps sae fair to see ;
 Her limbs the polish'd marble stane,
 The lass that made the bed to me.

I kissed her owre and owre again,
 And aye she wist na what to say ;
 I laid her 'ween me and the wa',
 The lassie thought na lang till day.

Upon the morrow when we rose,
 I thank'd her for her courtesie ;
 But aye she blu'sh'd, and aye she sigh'd,
 And said, " Alas ! ye've ruin'd me."

I clasp'd her waist, and kiss'd her syne,
 While the tear stood twinklin in her
 e'e ;

I said, " My lassie, dinna cry,
 For ye aye shall mak the bed to me."

She took her mither's Holland sheets,
 And made them a' in sarks to me :
 Blythe and merry may she be,
 The lass that made the bed to me.

The bonnie lass made the bed to me,
 The brow lass made the bed to me
 I'll ne'er forget till the day I die,
 The lass that made the bed to me !

¹ Miller was elected.

¹ A pillow.

THE UNION.

TUNE—"SUCH A PARCEL OF ROGUES
IN A NATION."

FAREWHEEL to a' Scottish fame,
Fareweel our ancient glory!
Fareweel even to the Scottish name,
Sae fam'd in martial story!
Now Sark rins o'er the Solway sands,
And Tweed rins to the ocean;
To mark where England's province
stands;
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

What guile or force could not subdue,
Through many warlike ages,
Is wrought now by a coward few,
For hireling traitors' wages.
The English steel we could disdain,
Secure in valour's station,
But English gold has been our bane;—
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

O would, or had I seen the day
That treason thus could sell us,
My auld grey head had lien in clay,
Wi' Bruce and loyal Wallace!
But pith and power, till my last hour
I'll mak this declaration,
We're bought and sold for English
gold:—
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!

THERE WAS A BONNIE LASS.

HERE was a bonnie lass, and a bonnie,
bonnie lass,
And she lo'ed her bonnie laddie,
dear;
Till war's loud alarms tore her laddie
frae her arms,
Wi' monie a sigh and tear.

Dver sea, over shore, where the cannons
loudly roar,
He still was a stranger to fear:
And nocht could him quell, or his
bosom assail,
But the bonnie lass he lo'ed sae dear.

MY HARRY WAS A GALLANT
GAY.

TUNE—"HIGHLANDER'S LAMENT."

My Harry was a gallant gay,
Fu' stately strode he on the plain!
But now he's banish'd far away,
I'll never see him back again.

CHORUS.

O for him back again,
O for him back again,
I wad gie a' Knockhaspie's land,
For Highland Harry back again.

When a' the lave gae to their bed,
I wander dowie up the glen;
I sit me down and greet my fill,
And aye I wish him back again.
O for him, &c.

O were some villains hangit high,
And ilka body had their ain,
Then I might see the joyfu' sight,
My Highland Harry back again!
O for him, &c.

THE HERMIT.¹

WHOE'ER thou art, these lines now
reading,
Think not, though from the world re-
ceding,
I joy my lonely days to read in
This desert drear,—
That fell remorse, a conscience bleed-
ing,
Hath led me here.

No thought of guilt my bosom sours—
Free-will'd I fled from courtly bow'rs;
For well I saw in halls and tow'rs,
That lust and pride,
The arch-fiend's dearest, darkest pow'rs,
In state preside.

¹ Written on a marble sideboard, in the Hermitage belonging to the Duke of Athole, in the wood of Aberfeldy.

I saw mankind with vice encrusted ;
 I saw that honour's sword was rusted ;
 That few for aught but folly lusted ;
 That he was still deceiv'd, who trusted
 To love, or friend ;—
 And hither came, with men disgusted,
 My life to end.

In this lone cave, in garments lowly,
 Alike a foe to noisy folly,
 And brow-brent gloomy melancholy,
 I wear away
 My life, and in my office holy
 Consume the day.

This rock my shield, when storms are
 blowing,
 The limpid streamlet yonder flowing,
 Supplying drink, the earth bestowing
 My simple food ;
 But few enjoy the calm I know in
 This desert wood.

Content and comfort bless me more in
 This grot, than e'er I felt before in
 A palace,—and with thoughts still soaring
 To God on high,
 Each night and morn with voice imploring,
 This wish I sigh :—

Let me, O Lord, from life retire,
 Unknown each guilty, worldly fire,
 Remorse's throb, or loose desire ;—
 And when I die,
 Let me in this belief expire—
 To God I fly !

Stranger ! if full of youth and riot,
 And yet no grief has marr'd thy quiet,
 Thou haply throw'st a scornful eye at
 The Hermit's prayer ;
 But if thou hast good cause to sigh at
 Thy fault or care,—

If thou hast known false love's vexation,
 Or hast been exiled from thy nation,
 Or guilt affrights thy contemplation,
 And makes thee pine—
 Oh ! how must thou lament thy station,
 And envy mine !

TIBBIE DUNBAR.

TUNE—"JOHNNY M'GILL."

O WILT thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie
 Dunbar ?
 O wilt thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie
 Dunbar ?
 Wilt thou ride on a horse, or be drawn
 in a car,
 Or walk by my side, O sweet Tibbie
 Dunbar ?
 I care na thy daddie, his lands and his
 money,
 I care na thy kin, sae high and sae
 lordly ;
 But say thou wilt hae me for better,
 for waur,
 And come in thy coatie, sweet Tibbie
 Dunbar ?

WEE WILLIE.

WEE Willie Gray, and his leather
 wallet ;
 Peel a willow-wand to be him boots
 and jacket :
 The rose upon the brier will be him
 trowse and doublet,
 The rose upon the brier will be him
 trowse and doublet !
 Wee Willie Gray, and his leather
 wallet ;
 Twice a lily flower will be him sark
 and cravat ;
 Feathers of a flee wad feather up his
 bonnet,
 Feathers of a flee wad feather up his
 bonnet.

CRAIGIE-BURN WOOD.

Beyond thee, dearie, beyond thee,
 dearie,
 And O to be lying beyond thee ;
 O sweetly, soundly, weel may he
 sleep,
 That's laid in the bed beyond thee

BWYET closes the evening on Craigie-
burn Wood,

And blithely awakens the morrow ;
But the pride of the spring in the
Craigie-burn Wood
Can yield to me nothing but sorrow.
Beyond thee, &c.

I see the spreading leaves and flowers,
I hear the wild birds singing ;
But pleasure they hae nane for me,
While care my heart is wringing.
Beyond thee, &c.

I canna tell, I maun na tell,
I dare na for your anger ;
But secret love will break my heart,
If I conceal it langer.
Beyond thee, &c.

I see thee gracefu', straight and tall,
I see thee sweet and bonnie,
But oh, what will my torments be,
If thou refuse my Johnnie !
Beyond thee, &c.

To see thee in anither's arms,
In love to lie and languish,
'Twad be my dead, that will be seen,
My heart wad burst wi' anguish.
Beyond thee, &c.

But, Jeanie, say thou wilt be mine—
Say, thou lo'es nane before me ;
An' a' my days o' life to come,
I'll gratefully adore thee.
Beyond thee, &c.

HERE'S HIS HEALTH IN WATER.

TUNE—"THE JOB OF JOURNEY-
WORK."

ALTHO' my back be at the wa',
And tho' he be the fautor ;
Altho' my back be at the wa',
Yet, here's his health in water !
O ! wae gae by his wanton sides,
Sae brawlie he could flatter ;
Till for his sake I'm slighted sair,
And dree the kintra clatter.
But tho' my back be at the wa',
And tho' he be the fautor ;
But tho' my back be at the wa',
Yet, here's his health in water !

AS DOWN THE BURN THEY TOOK THEIR WAY.

As down the burn they took their way
And thro' the flowery dale ;
His cheek to hers he aft did lay,
And love was aye the tale.

With "Mary, when shall we return,
Sic pleasure to renew ?"
Quoth Mary, "Love, I like the burn,
And aye shall follow you."

LADY ONLIE.

TUNE—"RUFFIAN'S RANT."

A' THE lads o' Thornie-bank,
When they gae to the shore o' Bucky,
They'll step in an' tak' a pint
Wi' Lady Onlie, honest Lucky !
Lady Onlie, honest Lucky,
Brews guid ale at shore o' Bucky ;
I wish her sale for her guid ale,
The best on a' the shore o' Bucky.

Her house sae bien, her curch sae clean,
I wat she is a dainty chucky ;
And cheerlie blinks the ingle-gleed
Of Lady Onlie, honest Lucky !
Lady Onlie, honest Lucky,
Brews guid ale at shore o' Bucky ;
I wish her sale for her guid ale,
The best on a' the shore o' Bucky.

AS I WAS A WANDERING.

TUNE—"RINN MEUDIAL MO MHEAL-
LADH."

AS I was a wand'ring ae midsummes
e'enin',
The pipers and youngsters were ma-
kin' their game ;
Amang them I spied my faithless fause
lover,
Whic' bled a' the wounds o' my
doulour again.

Weel, since he has left me, my pleasure
gae wi' him ;

I may be distress'd, but I winna
complain ;

I flatter my fancy I may get anither,
My heart it shall never be broken
for ane.

I could na get sleeping till dawin for
greetin',¹

The tears trickled down like the hail
and the rain :

Had I na got greetin', my heart wad a
broken,

For, oh ! love forsaken's a torment-
ing pain.

Although he has left me for greed o'
the siller,

I dinna envy him the gains he can
win ;

I rather wad bear a' the lade o' my
sorrow

Than ever hae acted sae faithless to
him.

Weel, since he has left me, may plea-
sure gae wi' him,

I may be distress'd, but I winna
complain ;

I flatter my fancy I may get anither,
My heart it shall never be broken
for ane.

BANNOCKS O' BARLEY.

TUNE—"THE KILLOGIE."

BANNOCKS o' bear² meal,
Bannocks o' barley ;
Here's to the Highlandman's
Bannocks o' barley.

Wha in a brulzie
Will first cry a parley ?
Never the lads wi'
The bannocks o' barley.

Bannocks o' bear meal,
Bannocks o' barley ;
Here's to the lads wi'
The bannocks o' barley.

Wha in his wae-days
Were loyal to Charlie ?
Wha' but the lads wi'
The bannocks o' barley.

OUR THRISSELS¹ FLOURISHED FRESH AND FAIR.

TUNE—"AWA, WHIGS, AWA."

CHORUS.

Awa, Whigs, awa !
Awa, Whigs, awa !
Ye're but a pack o' traitor lounes,
Ye'll do nae good at a'.

OUR thistles flourish'd fresh and fair
And bonnie bloom'd our roses ;
But Whigs came in like frost in June,
And wither'd a' our posies.

Our ancient crown's fa'en in the dust—
Deil blin' them wi' the stoure o't ;
And write their names in his black beuk,
Wha gae the Whigs the power o't.

Our sad decay in Church and State
Surpasses my desiring ;
The Whigs came o'er us for a curse,
And we hae done wi' thriving.

Grim vengeance lang has ta'en a nap,
But we may see him wauken ;
Gude help the day when royal heads
Are hunted like a maukin.

Awa, Whigs, awa !
Awa, Whigs, awa !
Ye're but a pack o' traitor lounes,
Ye'll do nae gude at a'.

PEG-A-RAMSEY.

TUNE—"CAULD IS THE E'ENIN
BLAST."

CAULD is the e'enin' blast
O' Boreas o'er the pool,
And dawin' it is dreary,
When birks are bare at Yule.

¹ Till dawn for weeping. ² Barley.

¹ Thistles.

O bitter blaws the e'enin' blast
 When bitter bites the frost,
 And in the mirk and dreary drift
 The hills and glens are lost.
 Ne'er sae murky blew the night
 That drifted o'er the hill,
 But a bonnie Peg-a-Ramsey
 Gat grist to her mill.

COME BOAT ME O'ER TO
 CHARLIE.¹

TUNE—"O'ER THE WATER TO
 CHARLIE."

COME boat me o'er, come row me o'er,
 Come boat me o'er to Charlie;
 I'll gie John Ross another bawbee,
 To boat me o'er to Charlie.

We'll o'er the water and o'er the sea,
 We'll o'er the water to Charlie;
 Come weal, come woe, we'll gather
 and go,
 And live or die wi' Charlie.

I lo'e weel my Charlie's name,
 Tho' some there be abhor him:
 But O, to see auld Nick gaun hame,
 And Charlie's faes before him!

I swear and vow by moon and stars,
 And sun that shines so early,
 If I had twenty thousand lives,
 I'd die as aft for Charlie.

We'll o'er the water and o'er the sea,
 We'll o'er the water to Charlie;
 Come weal, come woe, we'll gather
 and go!
 And live or die wi' Charlie!

BRAW LADS OF GALLA WATER.

TUNE—"GALLA WATER."

CHORUS.

Braw, braw lads of Galla Water;
 O braw lads of Galla Water:
 I'll kilt my coats aboon my knee,
 And I'll follow my love through the

WATER.

SAE fair her hair, sae brent¹ her brow,
 Sae bonny blue her een, my dearie;
 Sae white her teeth, sae sweet her mou',
 The mair I kiss she's aye my dearie.

O'er yon bank and o'er yon brae,
 O'er yon moss amang the heather;
 I'll kilt my coats aboon my knee,
 And follow my love through the water.

Down amang the broom, the broom,
 Down amang the broom, my dearie,
 The lassie lost a silken snood,
 That cost her mony a blirt and bleary.²
 Braw, braw lads of Galla Water;
 O braw lads of Galla Water:
 I'll kilt my coats aboon my knee,
 And follow my love through the
 water.

COMING THROUGH THE RYE. 

TUNE—"COMING THROUGH THE
 RYE."

COMING through the rye, poor body,
 Coming through the rye,
 She draiglet a' her petticoatie,
 Coming through the rye.
 Jenny's a' wat, poor body,
 Jenny's seldom dry;
 She draiglet a' her petticoatie,
 Coming through the rye.

Gin a body meet a body
 Coming through the rye;
 Gin a body kiss a body—
 Need a body cry?
 Gin a body meet a body
 Coming through the glen,
 Gin a body kiss a body—
 Need the world ken?
 Jenny's a' wat, poor body;
 Jenny's seldom dry;
 She draiglet a' her petticoatie,
 Coming through the rye.

¹ High and smooth.

² Outburst of grief

¹ A J' song, restored by Burns.

THE LASS OF ECCLEFECHAN.

TUNE—"JACKY LATIN."

GAT ye me, O gat ye me,
 O gat ye me wi' naething?
 Rock and reel, and spinnin' wheel,
 A mickle quarter basin.
 Eye attour,¹ my gutcher² has
 A hich house and a laigh ane,
 A' forbye, my bonnie sel,³
 The toss³ of Ecclefechan.

O haud your tongue now, Luckie Laing,
 O haud your tongue and jauner;⁴
 I held the gate till you I met,
 Syne I began to wander:
 I tint my whistle and my sang,
 I tint my peace and pleasure;
 But your green graff, now, Luckie
 Laing,
 Wad airt me to my treasure.

HAD I THE WYTE.

TUNE—"HAD I THE WYTE SHE BADE ME."

HAD I the wyte,⁵ had I the wyte,
 Had I the wyte she bade me;
 She watch'd me by the hie-gate side,
 And up the loan⁶ she shaw'd me;
 And when I wadna venture in,
 A coward loon she ca'd me;
 Had kirk and state been in the gate,
 I lighted when she bade me.

Sae craftilie she took me ben,
 And bade me make nae clatter;
 "For our ramgunshoch, glum guidman
 Is out and ower the water:"
 Whae'er shall say I wanted grace,
 When I did kiss and dawte⁷ her,
 Let him be planted in my place,
 Syne say I was the fautor.

Could I for shame, could I for shame,
 Could I for shame refuse her?

¹ Moreover. ² Grandsire. ³ Toast.⁴ Talking. ⁵ Blame.⁶ Milking-place. ⁷ Fondle.

And wadna manhood been to name,
 Had I unkindly used her?
 He clawed her wi' the ripplin-kame,⁸
 And blue and bluidy bruised her;
 When sic a husband was frae hame,
 What wife but had excused her?

I dighted ay her een sae blue,
 And bann'd the cruel randy;
 And weel I wat her willing mou'
 Was e'en like sugar-candy.
 A gloamin-shot it was I trow,
 I lighted on the Monday;
 But I came through the Tysday's dew,
 To wanton Willie's brandy.

HEE BALOU.²

TUNE—"THE HIGHLAND BALOU."

HEE balou! my sweet wee Donald,
 Picture o' the great Clanronald;
 Brawlie kens our wanton chief
 Wha got my young Highland thief.
 Leeze me on thy bonnie craigie,³
 An' thou live, thou'll steal a naigie:⁴
 Travel the country thro' and thro',
 And bring hame a Carlisle cow.
 Thro' the Lawlands, o'er the border,
 Weel, my babie, may thou funder:⁵
 Herry⁶ the louns o' the laigh countree
 Syne⁷ to the Highlands hame to me.

HER DADDIE FORBAD.

TUNE—"JUMPIN' JOHN."

HER daddie forbad, her minnie forbad
 Forbidden she wadna be:
 She wadna trow't⁸ the browst she
 brew'd
 Wad taste sae bitterlie.
 The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' Job
 Beguiled the bonnie lassie;
 The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' Jo'
 Beguiled the bonnie lassie.

¹ Instrument for dressing flax.² A child's lullaby. ³ Neck.⁴ Horse. ⁵ Succeed. ⁶ Pursue.⁷ Then. ⁸ Believe.

A cow and a cauf, a yowe and a hauf,
 And thretty gude shillins and three;
 A vera gude tocher, a cotter-man's
 dochter,
 The lass with the bonnie black e'e.
 The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' John
 Beguiled the bonnie lassie;
 The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' John
 Beguiled the bonnie lassie.

HERE'S TO THY HEALTH, MY
 BONNIE LASS.

TUNE—"LAGGAN BURN."

HERE'S to thy health, my bonnie lass,
 Gude night, and joy be wi' thee;
 I'll come nae mair to thy bower door,
 To tell thee that I lo'e thee.
 O dinna think, my pretty pink,
 But I can live without thee:
 I vow and swear I dinna care
 How lang ye look about ye.

Thou'rt aye sae free informing me
 Thou hast nae mind to marry;
 I'll be as free informing thee
 Nae time hae I to tarry.
 I ken thy friends try ilka means,
 Frae wedlock to delay thee;
 Depending on some higher chance—
 But fortune may betray thee.

I ken they scorn my low estate,
 But that does never grieve me;
 But I'm as free as any he,
 Sma' siller will relieve me.
 I count my health my greatest wealth,
 Sae lang as I'll enjoy it:
 I'll fear nae scant, I'll bode nae want,
 As lang's I get employment.

But far-aff fowls hae feathers fair,
 And aye until ye try them:
 Tho' they seem fair, still have a care,
 They may prove waur than I am.
 But at twal at night, when the moon
 shines bright,
 My dear, I'll come and see thee;
 For the man that lo'es his mistress weel,
 Nae travel makes him weary.

HEY, THE DUST MILLER.

TUNE—"THE DUSTY MILLER."

HEY, the dusty miller,
 And his dusty coat;
 He will win a shilling,
 Or he spend a groat.
 Dusty was the coat,
 Dusty was the colour,
 Dusty was the kiss
 That I got frae the miller.

Hey, the dusty miller,
 And his dusty sack;
 Leeze me on the calling
 Fills the dusty peck.
 Fills the dusty peck,
 Brings the dusty siller;
 I wad gie my coatie
 For the dusty miller.

THE CARDIN' O' T.¹

TUNE—"SALT FISH AND DUMPLINGS."¹

I COFT a stane o' haslock woo',
 To make a wat² to Johnny o't;
 For Johnny is my only jo,
 I lo'e him best of ony yet.
 The cardin' o't, the spinnin' o't,
 The warpin' o't, the winnin' o't;
 When ilka ell cost me a groat,
 The tailor staw the lynin o't.

For though his locks be lyart gray,³
 And tho' his brow be beld aboon;
 Yet I hae seen him on a day,
 The pride of a' the parishen.

¹ 'The little of this song to which antiquity lays claim, is so trifling that the whole may be said to be the work of Burns. The tenderness of Johnnie's wife can only be fully felt by those who know that hause-lock wool is the softest and finest of the fleece, and is shorn from the throats of sheep in the summer heat.'—*A. Cunningham ham.*

² An outer garment.

³ Mingled with gray.

The cardin' o't, the spinnin' o't,
The warpin' o't, the winnin' o't;
When ilka ell cost me a groat,
The tailor staw the lynin o't.

THE JOYFUL WIDOWER.

TUNE—"MAGGY LAUDER."

I MARRIED with a scolding wife
The fourteenth of November;
She made me weary of my life,
By one unruly member.
Long did I bear the heavy yoke,
And many griefs attended;
But, to my comfort be it spoke,
Now, now her life is ended.

We lived full one-and-twenty years,
A man and wife together;
At length from me her course she steer'd,
And gone I know not whither;
Would I could guess, I do profess,
I speak, and do not flatter,
Of all the women in the world,
I never could come at her.

Her body is bestowed well,
A handsome grave does hide her;
But sure her soul is not in hell,
The deil would ne'er abide her.
I rather think she is aloft,
And imitating thunder;
For why,—methinks I hear her voice
Tearing the clouds asunder.

THENIEL MENZIE'S BONNIE MARY.

TUNE—"THE RUFFIAN'S RANT."

In coming by the brig¹ o' Dye,
At Darlet we a blink did tarry;
As day was dawin in the sky,
We drank a health to bonnie Mary.
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary,
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary;
Charlie Gregor tint his plaidie,
Kissin' Theniel's bonnie Mary.

¹ Bridge.

Her een sae bright, her brow sae white,
Her haffet¹ locks as brown's a berry
An' aye they dimpled wi' a smile
The rosy cheeks o' bonnie Mary.
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary,
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary;
Charlie Gregor tint his plaidie
Kissin' Theniel's bonnie Mary.

We lap an' danced the lee-lang day,
Till piper lads were wae an' weary
But Charlie gat the spring to pay
For kissin' Theniel's bonnie Mary.
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary,
Theniel Menzie's bonnie Mary,
Charlie Gregor tint his plaidie
Kissin' Theniel's bonnie Mary.

THE FAREWELL.

TUNE—"IT WAS A' FOR OUR RIGHTFU KING."

It was a' for our rightfu' King,
We left fair Scotland's strand;
It was a' for our rightfu' King,
We e'er saw Irish land,
My dear,—
We e'er saw Irish land.

Now a' is done that men can do,
And a' is done in vain;
My love and native land farewell,
For I maun cross the main,
My dear,—
For I maun cross the main.

He turn'd him right, and round about,
Upon the Irish shore:
And gae his bridle-reins a shake,
With adieu for evermore,
My dear,—
With adieu for evermore.

The sodger from the wars returns,
The sailor frae the main;
But I hae parted frae my love,
Never to meet again,
My dear,—
Never to meet again.

¹ By the side of the head.

When day is gane, and night is come,
 And a' folk bound to sleep;
 I think on him that's far awa,
 The lee-lang night, and weep,
 My dear,—
 The lee-lang night, and weep.

IT IS NA, JEAN, THY BONNIE
 FACE.

TUNE—"THE MAID'S COMPLAINT."

It is na, Jean, thy bonnie face
 Nor shape that I admire,
 Although thy beauty and thy grace
 Might weel awake desire.
 Something, in ilka part o' thee,
 To praise, to love, I find;
 But dear as is thy form to me,
 Still dearer is thy mind.

Nae mair ungen'rous wish I hae,
 Nor stronger in my breast,
 Than if I canna mak thee sae,
 At least to see thee blest.
 Content am I, if Heaven shall give
 But happiness to thee:
 And as wi' thee I'd wish to live,
 For thee I'd bear to die.

JAMIE, COME TRY ME.

TUNE—"JAMIE, COME TRY ME."

CHORUS.

Jamie, come try me;
 Jamie, come try me;
 If thou would win my love,
 Jamie, come try me.

If thou should ask my love,
 Could I deny thee?

If thou would win my love,
 Jamie, come try me.

If thou should kiss me, love,
 Wha could espy thee?

If thou wad be my love,
 Jamie, come try me.

Jamie, come try me,
 Jamie, come try me;
 If thou would win my love,
 Jamie, come try me.

LANDLADY, COUNT THE
 LAWIN.

TUNE—"HEY TUTTI, TAITI."

LANDLADY, count the lawin,¹
 The day is near the dawin;
 Ye're a' blind drunk, boys,
 And I'm but jolly fou.
 Hey tutti, taiti,
 How tutti, taiti—
 Wha's fou now?

Cog an' ye were aye fou,
 Cog an' ye were aye fou,
 I wad sit and sing to you,
 If ye were aye fou.

Weel may ye a' be!
 Ill may ye never see!
 God bless the King, boys,
 And the companie!
 Hey tutti, taiti,
 How tutti, taiti—
 Wha's fou now?

MY LOVE SHE'S BUT A
 LASSIE YET.²

TUNE—"LADY BADINGSBOTH'S
 REEL."

My love she's but a lassie yet;
 My love she's but a lassie yet;
 We'll let her stand a year or twa,
 She'll no be half sae saucy yet.
 I rue the day I sought her, O;
 I rue the day I sought her, O;
 Wha gets her needs na say she's woo'd,
 But he may say he's bought her, O

¹ Reckoning.

² This song and the following one were only partly written by Burns.

Come, draw a drap o' the best o't yet ;
 Come, draw a drap o' the best o't yet ;
 Gae seek for pleasure where ye will,
 But here I never miss'd it yet.
 We're a' dry wi' drinking o't ;
 We're a' dry wi' drinking o't ;
 The minister kiss'd the fiddler's wife,
 An' could na preach for thinkin' o't.

MY HEART WAS ANCE.

TUNE—"TO THE WEAVERS GIN
 YE GO."

My heart was ance as blythe and free
 As simmer days were lang,
 But a bonnie, westlin weaver lad
 Has gart¹ me change my sang.
 To the weavers gin ye go, fair
 maids,
 To the weavers gin ye go ;
 I rede you right, gang ne'er at night,
 To the weavers gin ye go.

My mither sent me to the town,
 To warp a plaiden wab ;
 But the weary, weary warpin' o't
 Has gart me sigh and sab.

A bonnie westlin weaver lad
 Sat working at his loom ;
 He took my heart as wi' a net,
 In every knot and thrum.²

I sat beside my warpin wheel,
 And aye I ca'd it roun' ;
 But ever shot and every knock,
 My heart it gae a stoun.

The moon was sinking in the west,
 Wi' visage pale and wan,
 As my bonnie westlin weaver lad
 Convoy'd me thro' the glen.

But what was said, or what was done,
 Shame fa' me gin I tell ;
 But, oh ! I fear the kintra soon
 Will ken as weel's mysel.

¹ Made.

² Thread remaining at the end of a
 web.

To the weavers gin ye go, fau
 maids,
 To the weavers gin ye go ;
 I rede¹ you right, gang ne'er at
 night,
 To the weavers gin ye go.

LOVELY DAVIES.²

TUNE—"MISS MUIR."

O how shall I, unskilfu', try
 The poet's occupation,
 The tunefu' powers, in happy hours,
 That whisper inspiration ?
 Even they maun dare an effort mair
 Than aught they ever gave us,
 Or they rehearse, in equal verse,
 The charms o' lovely Davies.
 Each eye it cheers, when she appears,
 Like Phoebus in the morning,
 When past the shower, and ev'ry flower
 The garden is adorning.
 As the wretch looks o'er Siberia's shore,
 When winter-bound the wave is ;
 Sae drops our heart when we maun part
 Frae charming, lovely Davies.

Her smile's a gift, frae 'boon the lift,
 That maks us mair than princes ;
 A sceptr'd hand, a King's command,
 Is in her darting glances :
 The man in arms, 'gainst female charms,
 Even he her willing slave is ;
 He hugs his chain, and owns the reign
 Of conquering, lovely Davies.
 My muse to dream of such a theme,
 Her feeble powers surrenders ;
 The eagle's gaze alone surveys
 The sun's meridian splendours :

¹ Advise.

² Deborah Davies, the youngest daughter of Dr. Davies, of Tenby, South Wales. She was the victim of an unrequited attachment for an officer who died abroad. In a letter to this lady, Burns calls woman "the blood-royal of life."

I wad in vain essay the strain,
The deed too daring brave is ;
I'll drap the lyre, and mute admire
The charms o' lovely Davies.

KENMURE'S ON AND AWA.

TUNE—"O, KENMURE'S ON AND AWA,
WILLIE."

O, KENMURE'S on and awa, Willie !
O, Kenmure's on and awa !
And Kenmure's lord's the bravest lord
That ever Galloway saw.

Success to Kenmure's band, Willie !
Success to Kenmure's band ;
There's no a heart that fears a Whig,
That rides by Kenmure's hand.

Here's Kenmure's health in wine,
Willie !

Here's Kenmure's health in wine ;
There ne'er was a coward o' Kenmure's
blude,
Nor yet o' Gordon's line.

O, Kenmure's lads are men, Willie !
O, Kenmure's lads are men ;
Their hearts and swords are metal
true—
And that their faes shall ken.

They'll live or die wi' fame, Willie !
They'll live or die wi' fame ;
But soon wi' sounding victorie,
May Kenmure's lord come hame.

Here's him that's far awa, Willie !
Here's him that's far awa ;
And here's the flower that I lo'e best—
The rose that's like the snaw.

THE CAPTAIN'S LADY.

TUNE—"O MOUNT AND GO."
CHORUS.

O, mount and go
Mount and make you ready ;
O, mount and go,
And 'be the Captain's Lady.

WHEN the drums do beat,
And the cannons rattle,
Thou shalt sit in state,
And see thy love in battle.

When the vanquish'd foe
Sues for peace and quiet,
To the shades we'll go,
And in love enjoy it.
O, mount and go,
Mount and make you ready ;
O, mount and go,
And be the Captain's Lady.

LADY MARY-ANN.

TUNE—"CRAIGTOWN'S GROWING."

O, LADY Mary-Ann
Looks o'er the castle wa',
She saw three bonnie boys
Playing at the ba' ;
The youngest he was
The flower among them a' ;
My bonnie laddie's young,
But he's growing yet.

O father ! O father !
An' ye think it fit,
We'll send him a year
To the college yet ;
We'll sew a green ribbon
Round about his hat,
And that will let them ken
He's to marry yet.

Lady Mary-Ann
Was a flower i' the dew,
Sweet was its smell,
And bonnie was its hue !
And the langer it blossom'd
The sweeter it grew ;
For the lily in the bud
Will be bonnier yet.

Young Charlie Cochran
Was the sprout of an aik ;
Bonnie and bloomin'
And straught was its make t
The sun took delight
To shine for its sake,
And it will be the brag
O' the forest yet.

The simmer is gane
 When the leaves they were green,
 And the days are awa
 That we hae seen;
 But far better days
 I trust will come again,
 For my bonnie laddie's young,
 But he's growin' yet.

THE HIGHLAND WIDOW'S LAMENT.¹

OH! I am come to the low countrie,
 Och-on, och-on, och-rie!
 Without a penny in my purse,
 To buy a meal to me.

It was na sae in the Highland hills,
 Och-on, och-on, och-rie!
 Nae woman in the country wide
 Sae happy was as me.

For then I had a score o' kye,
 Och-on, och-on, och-rie!
 Feeding on yon hills so high,
 And giving milk to me.

And there I had threescore o' yowes,
 Och-on, och-on, och-rie!
 Skipping on yon bonnie knowes,
 And casting woo' to me.

I was the happiest of a' the clan,
 Sair, sair may I repine;
 For Donald was the brawest lad,
 And Donald he was mine.

Till Charlie Stewart cam' at last,
 Sae far to set us free;
 My Donald's arm was wanted then,
 For Scotland and for me.

Their waefu' fate what need I tell?—
 Right to the wrang did yield:
 My Donald and his country fell
 Upon Culloden's field.

¹ I do not know on what authority Mr. Cunningham assigns this Jacobite song to Burns; for I have heard old ladies sing it who remember its existence anterior to the poet's time.—*Motherwell.*

Oh! I am come to the low countrie,
 Och-on, och-on, och-rie!
 Nae woman in the wairld wide
 Sae wretched now as me.

MERRY HAE I BEEN TEETHIN' A HECKLE.

TUNE— LORD BREADALBANE'S
 MARCH."

O MERRY hae I been teethin' a heckle,¹
 And merry hae I been shapin' a spoon;
 O merry hae I been cloutin'² a kettle,
 And kissin' my Katie when a' was
 done.

O a' the lang day I ca' at my hammer,
 An' a' the lang day I whistle and sing,
 An' a' the lang night I cuddle my kim-
 mer,³
 An' a' the lang night am as happy's
 a king.

Bitter in dool I lickit my winnins,
 O' marrying Bess, to gie her a slave:
 Blest be the hour she cool'd in her
 linnens,
 And blythe be the bird that sings on
 her grave.

Come to my arms, my Katie, my Katie;
 An' come to my arms, and kiss me
 again!

Drunken & sober, here's to thee, Katie!
 An' blest be the day I did it again.

RATTLIN' ROARIN' WILLIE.

TUNE—"RATTLIN', ROARIN' WILLIE.'

O RATTLIN', roarin' Willie,
 O, he held to the fair,
 An' for to sell his fiddle,
 An' buy some other ware;
 But parting wi' his fiddle,
 The saut tear blin't his e'e;
 And rattlin', roarin' Willie,
 Ye're welcome hame to me!

¹ A board with sharp steel prongs for dressing hemp.

² Repairing.

³ Young girl

O Willie, come sell your fiddle,
 O sell your fiddle sae fine ;
 O Willie, come sell your fiddle,
 And buy a pint o' wine !
 If I should sell my fiddle,
 The warl' would think I was mad,
 For mony a rantin' day
 My fiddle and I hae had.

As I cam by Crochalian,
 I cannily keekit ben—
 Rattlin', roarin' Willie
 Was sitting at yon board en' ;
 Sitting at yon board en',¹
 And amang guid companie ;
 Rattlin', roarin' Willie,
 Ye're welcome hame to me !

O MALLY'S MEEK, MALLY'S SWEET.

As I was walking up the street,
 A barefit maid I chanced to meet ;
 But O the road was very hard
 For that fair maiden's tender feet.
 O Mally's meek, Mally's sweet,
 Mally's modest and discreet,
 Mally's rare, Mally's fair,
 Mally's every way complete.

It were more meet that those fine feet
 Were weel laced up in silken shoon,
 And 'twere more fit that she should sit
 Within yon chariot gilt aboon.

Her yellow hair, beyond compare,
 Comes trinkling² down her swan-
 white neck,

And her two eyes, like stars in skies,
 Would keep a sinking ship frae wreck.
 O Mally's meek, Mally's sweet,
 Mally's modest and discreet,
 Mally's rare, Mally's fair,
 Mally's every way complete.

SAE FAR AWA.

TUNE—"DALKEITH MAIDEN BRIDGE."

O, SAD and heavy should I part,
 But for her sake sae far awa ;

Unknowing what my way may thwart,
 My native land sae far awa.
 Thou that of a' things Maker art,
 That form'd this Fair sae far awa,
 Gie body strength, then I'll ne'er start
 At this my way sae far awa.

How true is love to pure desert,
 So love to her, sae far awa :
 And nocht can heal my bosom's smart,
 While, oh ! she is sae far awa.
 Nane other love, nane other dart,
 I feel but hers, sae far awa ;
 But fairer never touch'd a heart
 Than hers, the Fair sae far awa.

O STEER HER UP.

TUNE—"O STEER HER UP, AND HAUD HER GAUN."

O, STEER¹ her up, and haud her gaun—
 Her mother's at the mill, jo ;
 And gin she winna take a man,
 E'en let her take her will, jo :
 First shore her wi' a kindly kiss,
 And ca' another gill, jo,
 And gin she take the thing amiss,
 E'en let ner flyte her fill, jo.

O steer her up, and be na blate,
 An' gin she take it ill, jo,
 Then lea'e the lassie till her fate,
 And time nae longer spill, jo :
 Ne'er break your heart for ae rebute,
 But think upon it still, jo ;
 Then gin the lassie winna do't,
 Ye'll fin' anither will, jo.

O, WHARE DID YE GET.

TUNE—"BONNIE DUNDEE."

O, WHARE did ye get that hauer-
 meal² bannock ?
 O silly blind body, O dinna ye see ?
 I gat it frae a brisk young sodger laddie,
 Between Saint Johnston and bonnie
 Dundee.

¹ End.

² Trinkling.

¹ Stir.

² Oatmeal.

O gin I saw the laddie that gae me't !
 Aft has he doodled me up on his knee;
 May Heaven protect my bonnie Scots
 laddie,
 And send him safe hame to his babie
 and me !

My blessin's upon thy sweet wee lippie,
 My blessin's upon thy bonnie e'e
 brie !

Thy smiles are sae like my blythe sodger
 laddie,

Thou's ay be dearer and dearer to
 me !

But I'll big a bower on yon bonnie
 banks,

Where Tay rins wimplin' by sae clear ;
 And I'll cleed² thee in the tartan sae
 fine,

And mak thee a man like thy daddie
 dear.

THE FÊTE CHAMPÊTRE.²

TUNE—"KILLIECRANKIE."

O WHA will to Saint Stephen's house,
 To do our errands there, man ?

O wha will to Saint Stephen's house,
 O' th' merry lads of Ayr, man ?

Or will we send a man-o'-law ?

Or will we send a sodger ?

Or him³ wha led o'er Scotland a'
 The meikle Ursa-Major ?

Come, will ye court a noble lord,
 Or buy a score o' lairds, man ?

For worth and honour pawn their word,
 Their vote shall be Glencaird's, man ?

And gies them coin, ane gies them wine,
 Anither gies them clatter ;

Anbank,⁴ wha guess'd the ladies' taste,
 He gies a Fête Champêtre.

When Love and Beauty heard the news
 The gay green-woods amang, man ;

¹ Clothe.

² Given by Mr. Cunningham, of En-
 terkin.

³ Boswell.

⁴ A place belonging to Mr. Cuning-
 ham, and which, after the Scottish cus-
 tom, bestows a name on the Laird.

Where gathering flowers and busking
 bowers,

They heard the blackbird's sang,
 man ;

A vow, they seal'd it with a kiss,
 Sir Politics to fetter

As theirs alone, the patent-bliss,
 To hold a Fête Champêtre.

Then mounted Mirth, on gleesome wing
 O'er hill and dale she flew, man ;

Ilk wimpling burn, ilk crystal spring,
 Ilk glen and shaw she knew, man :

She summon'd every social sprite,

That sports by wood or water,
 On th' bonny banks of Ayr to meet,

And keep this Fête Champêtre.

Cauld Boreas, wi' his boisterous crew,
 Were bound to stakes like kye, man ;

And Cynthia's car, o' silver fu',

Clamb up the starry sky, man :

Reflected beams dwell in the streams,
 Or down the current shatter ;

The western breeze steals through the
 trees,

To view this Fête Champêtre.

How many a robe sae gaily floats !

What sparkling jewels glance, man

To Harmony's enchanting notes,

As moves the mazy dance, man.

The echoing wood, the winding flood,

Like Paradise did glitter,

When angels met, at Adam's yett,¹

To hold their Fête Champêtre.

When Politics came there, to mix

And make his ether-stane,² man !

He circled round the magic ground,

But entrance found he nane, man :

He blush'd for shame, he quat³ his

name,

Forswore it, every letter,

Wi' humble prayer to join and share

This festive Fête Champêtre.

SIMMER'S A PLEASANT TIME

TUNE—"AY WAUKIN O."

SIMMER'S a pleasant time,

Flow'rs of ev'ry colour ;

¹ Gate.

² Adder-stone.

³ Quit

The water rins o'er the heugh,¹
 And I long for my true lover.
 Ay waukin O,
 Waukin still and wearie:
 Sleep I can get nane
 For thinking on my dearie.

When I sleep I dream,
 When I wauk I'm eerie;
 Sleep I can get nane
 For thinking on my dearie.

Lanely night comes on,
 A' the lave are sleeping;
 I think on my bonnie lad,
 And I bleer my een with greetin'.
 Ay waukin O,
 Waukin still and wearie;
 Sleep I can get nane
 For thinking on my dearie.

THE BLUDE-RED ROSE AT YULE MAY BLAW.

TUNE—"TO DAUNTON MP."

The blude red rose at Yule may blaw,
 The Simmer lilies bloom in snaw,
 The frost may freeze the deepest sea;
 But an auld man shall never daunton
 me.

To daunton me, and me sae young,
 Wi' his fause heart and flatt'ring
 tongue,
 That is the thing you ne'er shall see;
 For an auld man shall never daunton
 me.

For a' his meal and a' his maut,
 For a' his fresh beef and his saut,
 For a' his gold and white monie,
 An auld man shall never daunton me.

His gear may buy him kye and yowes,
 His gear may buy hi'a glens and
 knowes;
 But me he shall not buy nor fies,
 For an auld man shall never daunton
 me.

¹ *Crag.*

He hirples twa-fauld as he dow,
 Wi' his teethless gab and his auld beld
 pow,
 And the rain rains down frae his red
 bleer'd e'e—
 That auld man shall never daunton me.
 To daunton me, and me sae young,
 Wi' his fause heart and flatt'ring
 tongue,
 That is the thing you ne'er shall see;
 For an auld man shall never daunton
 me.

THE HIGHLAND LADDIE.

TUNE—"IF THOU'LT PLAY ME FAIR
 PLAY."

The bonniest lad that e'er I saw,
 Bonnie laddie, Highland laddie,
 Wore a plaid and was fu' braw,
 Bonnie Highland laddie.
 On his head a bonnet blue,
 Bonnie laddie, Highland laddie,
 His loyal heart was firm and true,
 Bonnie Highland laddie.

Trumpets sound and cannons roar,
 Bonnie lassie, Lawland lassie,
 And a' the hills wi' echoes roar,
 Bonnie Lawland lassie.
 Glory, Honour, now invite,
 Bonnie lassie, Lawland lassie,
 For freedom and my King to fight
 Bonnie Lawland lassie.

The sun a backward course shall take
 Bonnie laddie, Highland laddie,
 Ere aught thy manly courage shake;
 Bonnie Highland laddie.
 Go, for yoursel procure renown,
 Bonnie laddie, Highland laddie,
 And for your lawful King his crown;
 Bonnie Highland laddie!

THE COOPER O' CUDDIE.

TUNE—"BOB AT THE BOWSTER."

The cooper o' Cuddie cam' here awa,
 And ca'd the girrs out owre us a'—

And our gude-wife has gotten a ca'
That anger'd the silly guid-man, O.
We'll hide the cooper behind the door,
Behind the door, behind the door ;
We'll hide the cooper behind the door,
And cover him under a mawn,¹ O.

He sought them out, he sought them in,
Wi', Deil hae her ! and, Deil hae him !
But the body was sae doited and blin',²
He wist na where he was gaun, O.

They cooper'd at e'en, they cooper'd
at morn,
Till our guid-man has gotten the scorn ;
On ilka brow she's planted a horn,
And swears that they shall stan', O,
We'll hide the cooper behind the door,
Behind the door, behind the door,
We'll hide the cooper behind the door,
And cover him under a mawn, O.

THE TAILOR.

TUNE—"THE TAILOR FELL THRO'
THE BED, THIMBLES AN' A'."

THE Tailor fell thro' the bed, thimbles
an' a',
The Tailor fell thro' the bed, thimbles
an' a',
The blankets were thin, and the sheets
they were sma',
The Tailor fell thro' the bed, thimbles
an' a'.
The sleepy bit lassie, she dreaded
nae ill,
The sleepy bit lassie, she dreaded
nae ill ;
The weather was cauld, and the lassie
lay still,
She thought that a tailor wou'd do ner
nae ill.
Gie me the groat again, canny young
man ;
Gie me the groat again, canny young
man ;
The day it is short, and the night it is
lang,
The dearest siller that ever I wan !

¹ Basket. ² Stupified and blind.

There's somebody weary wi' lying her
lane ;
There's somebody weary wi' lying her
lane ;
There's some that are dowie,¹ I trow
wad be fain
To see the bit tailor come skippin'
again.

NITHSDALE'S WELCOME HAME.

THE noble Maxwells and their powers
Are coming o'er the border,
And they'll gae bigg² Terreagle's
towers,
An' set them a' in order.
And they declare Terreagle's fair,
For their abode they choose it ;
There's no a heart in a' the land,
But's lighter at the news o't.

Tho' stars in skies may disappear,
And angry tempests gather ;
The happy hour may soon be near
That brings us pleasant weather :
The weary night o' care and grief
May hae a joyful morrow ;
So dawning day has brought relief—
Fareweel our night o' sorrow !

THE TITHER MORN.

THE tither morn,
When I forlorn,
Aneath an aik sat moaning,
I did na trow,
I'd see my jo,
Beside me, 'gain the gloaming.
But he sae trig
Lap o'er the rig,
And dawtlingly did cheer me,
When I, what reck,
Did least expect'
To see my lad so near me.

His bonnet he,
A thought ajee,

¹ Worn with grief.

² Build.

Jock'd sprush when first he clasp'd me :

And I, I wat,
Wi' fainness grat,

While in his grips he press'd me.

Deil tak' the war !

I, late and air,

Hae wish'd since Jock departed ;

But now as glad

I'm wi' my lad,

As short syne broken-hearted.

Fu' aft at e'en

Wi' dancing keen,

When a' were blythe and merry,

I car'd na by,

Sae sad was I

In absence o' my dearie.

But, praise be blest,

My mind's at rest,

I'm happy wi' my Johnny :

At kirk and fair,

I'se ay be there,

And be as canty's ony.

THE CARLE OF KELLYBURN BRAES.

TUNE—"KELLYBURN BRAES."

THERE lived a carle on Kellyburn braes,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

And he had a wife was the plague o'
his days ;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

Ae day as the carle gaed up the lang
glen,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

He met wi' the Devil ; says, "How do
you fen?"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

"I've got a bad wife, sir ; that's a' my
complaint,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

For, saving your presence, to her ye're
a saint ;"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

"It's neither your stot¹ nor your staig²
I shall crave,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

But gie me your wife, man, for her I
must have ;"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

"O welcome, most kindly," the blythe
carle said,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

"But if ye can match her, ye're waur
nor ye're ca'd ;"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

The Devil has got the auld wife on his
back,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

And, like a poor pedler, he's carried
his pack ;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

He's carried her hame to his ain hall-an-
door,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

Syne bade her gae in, for a b— and a
w— ;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

Then straight he makes fifty, the pick
o' his band,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

Turn out on her guard in the clâp of a
hand ;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

The carlin gaed thro' them like ony
wud³ bear,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

Whae'er she gat hands on came near
her nae mair ;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

¹ Ox.

² Two-year old horse.

³ Wild.

A reekit¹ wee Devil looks over the wa',
(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

"O, help, master, help, or she'll ruin
us a';"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

The Devil he swore by the edge o' his
knife,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

He pitied the man that was tied to a
wife;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

The Devil he swore by the kirk and the
bell,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

He was not in wedlock, thank heav'n,
but in hell;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

Then Satan has travell'd again wi' his
pack,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

And to her auld husband he's carried
her back;

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

"I hae been a Devil the feck o' my
life,

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi'
thyme),

But ne'er was in hell, till I met wi' a
wife;"

And the thyme it is wither'd, and rue
is in prime.

THERE WAS A LASS.

TUNE—"DUNCAN DAVISON."

THERE was a lass, they ca'd her Meg,
And she held o'er the moors to spin;
There was a lad that follow'd her,
They ca'd him Duncan Davison.

¹ Smoking.

The moor was dreigh,¹ and Meg was
skeigh,²

Her favour Duncan could na win;
For wi' the roke she wad him knock,
And ay she shook the temper-pin.

As o'er the moor they lightly 'oor,

A burn was clear, a glen was green,
Upon the banks they eased their shanks,
And ay she set the wheel between:

But Duncan swore a haly aith,
That Meg should be a bride the morn;
Then Meg took up her spinnin' graith,³
And flung them a' out o'er the burn.

We'll big a house—a wee, wee house,
And we will live like King and Queen,

Sae blythe and merry we will be
When ye set by the wheel at e'en.

A man may drink and no be drunk;
A man may fight and no be slain;

A man may kiss a bonnie lass,
And ay be welcome back again.

THE PLOUGHMAN.

TUNE—"UP WI' THE PLOUGHMAN."

THE ploughman he's a bonnie lad,
His mind is ever true, jo,
His garters knit below his knee,
His bonnet it is blue, jo.

CHORUS.

Then up wi't a', my ploughman lad,
And hey, my merry ploughman;
Of a' the trades that I do ken,
Commend me to the ploughman.

My ploughman he comes hame at e'en
He's aften wat and weary;
Cast off the wat, put on the dry,
And gae to bed, my Dearie!
Up wi't a', &c.

I will wash my ploughman's hose,
And I will dress his o'erlay;⁴
I will mak my ploughman's bed,
And cheer him late and early.
Up wi't a', &c.

¹ Tedious.

³ Gear.

² Proud.

⁴ Cravat.

I hae been east, I hae been west,
I hae been at Saint Johnston,
The bonniest sight that e'er I saw
Was th' ploughman a laddie dancin'.
Up wi't a', &c.

Snaw-white stockings on his legs,
And siller buckles glancin';
A guid blue bannet on his head,
And O, but he was handsome!
Up wi't a', &c.

Commend me to the barn yard,
And the corn-mou, man;
I never gat my coggie fou
'Till I met wi' the ploughman.
Up wi't a', &c.

THE CARLES OF DYSART.

TUNE—"HEY CA' THRO'."

Up wi' the carles o' Dysart,
And the lads o' Buckhaven,
And the kimmers¹ o' Largo,
And the lasses o' Leven.
Hey, ca' thro', ca' thro',
For we hae mickle ado;
Hey, ca' thro', ca' thro',
For we hae mickle ado.

We hae tales to tell,
And we hae sangs to sing;
We hae pennies to spend,
And we hae pints to bring.
We'll live a' our days,
And them that come behin',
Let them do the like,
And spend the gear they win.
Hey, ca' thro', ca' thro',
For we hae mickle ado;
Hey, ca' thro', ca' thro',
For we hae mickle ado.

WEARY FA' YOU, DUNCAN GRAY.

TUNE—"DUNCAN GRAY."

WEARY fa' you, Duncan Gray—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!

¹ Gossips.

Wae gae by you, Duncan Gray—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!
When a' the lave gae to their play,
Then I maun sit the lee-lang day,
And jog the cradle wi' my tae,
And a' for the girdin o't.

Bonnie was the Lammas moon—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!
Glowrin' a' the hills aboon—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!
The girdin brak, the beast cam down,
I tint my curch,¹ and baith my shoon;
Ah! Duncan, ye're an unco loon—
Wae on the bad girdin o't!

But, Duncan, gin ye'll keep your aith—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!
Ise bless you wi' my hindmost breath—
Ha, ha, the girdin o't!
Duncan, gin ye'll keep your aith,
The beast again can bear us baith,
And auld Mess John will mend the
skaith,²
And clout the bad girdin o't.

MY HOGGIE.³

TUNE—"WHAT WILL I DO GIN MY HOGGIE DIE."

WHAT will I do gin my Hoggie die?
My joy, my pride, my Hoggie!
My only beast, I had nae mae,
And vow but I was vogie!⁴
The lee-lang night we watch'd the faul,
Me and my faithfu' doggie;
We heard nought but the roaring linn,
Among the braes sae scroggie;⁵
But the houlet cry'd frae the castle wa
The blitter frae the boggie,
The tod⁶ reply'd upon the hill,
I trembled for my Hoggie.

¹ Lost the covering for the head.

² Damage.

³ The *hoggie*, alias pet ewe, was Margaret Brodie, of Coxtton, in Banffshire. The song was taken down by Burns from the singing of an old woman in Liddesdale.—*Buchan*.

⁴ Vain.

⁵ Bushy.

⁶ Fox

When day did daw, and cocks did craw,
The morning it was foggie ;
An unco tyke¹ lap o'er the dyke,
And maist has kill'd my Hoggie.

WHERE HAE YE BEEN.

TUNE—"KILLIECRANKIE."

WHARE hae ye been sae braw, lad ?
Where hae ye been sae brankie,² O ?
O, whare hae ye been sae braw lad ?
Cam ye by Killiecrankie, O ?
An' ye had been whare I hae been,
Ye wad na been so cantie, O ;
An' ye had seen what I hae seen,
On the braes o' Killiecrankie, O.

I fought at land, I fought at sea :
At hame I fought my auntie, O ;
But I met the Devil an' Dundee,
On the braes o' Killiecrankie, O.
The bauld Pitcur fell in a furr,³
An' Clavers got a clankie, O ;
Or I had fed an Athole gled,⁴
On the braes o' Killiecrankie, O.

COCK UP YOUR BEAVER.

TUNE—"COCK UP YOUR BEAVER."

WHEN first my brave Johnnie lad
Came to this town,
He had a blue bonnet
That wanted the crown ;
But now he has gotten
A hat and a feather,—
Hey, brave Johnnie lad,
Cock up your beaver !

Cock up your beaver,
And cock it fu' sprush,
We'll over the border
And gie them a brush ;
There's somebody there
We'll teach better behaviour—
Hey, brave Johnnie lad,
Cock up your beaver !

¹ Dog.

³ Furrow.

² Gaudy.

⁴ Hawk.

THE HERON BALLADS.¹

FIRST BALLAD.

WHOM will you send to London town
To Parliament and a' that ?
Or wha in a' the country round
The best deserves to fa' that ?
For a' that, an' a' that,
Thro' Galloway and a' that,
Where is the laird, or belted knight
That best deserves to fa' that ?

Wha sees Kerroughtree's open yett,
And wha is't never saw that ?
Wha ever wi' Kerroughtree met,
And has a doubt of a' that ;
For a' that, an' a' that,
Thro' Heron yet for a' that ;
The independent patriot,
The honest man, an' a' that.

Tho' wit and worth in either sex,
St. Mary's Isle can shaw that ;
Wi' dukes an' lords let Selkirk mix,
And weel does Selkirk fa' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
Here's Heron yet for a' that !
The independent commoner
Shall be the man for a' that.

But why should we to nobles jouk ?
And it's against the law that ;
For why, a lord may be a gouk,
Wi' ribbon, star, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
Here's Heron yet for a' that !
A lord may be a lousy loun,
Wi' ribbon, star, an' a' that.

A beardless boy comes o'er the hills,
Wi' uncle's purse an' a' that ;
But we'll hae ane frae 'mang oursels,
A man we ken, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that !
Here's Heron yet for a' that !
For we're not to be bought an' sold
Like naigs, an' nowt, an' a' that.

¹ This is the first of several ballads which Burns wrote to serve Patrick Heron, of Kerroughtree, in two elections, in which he was opposed, first by Gordon, of Balmaghie, and secondly by the Hon. Montgomery Stewart.—*Allan Cunningham.*

Then let us drink the Stewartry,
Kerroughtree's laird, an' a' that,
Dur representative to be,
For weel he's worthy a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
Here's Heron yet for a' that !
A House of Commons such as he,
They would be blest that saw that.

THE ELECTION.

SECOND BALLAD.

Fy, let us a' to Kirkcudbright,
For there will be bickerin' there ;
For Murray's light-horse are to muster,
And O, how the heroes will swear !
An' there will be Murray commander,
And Gordon the battle to win ;
Like brothers they'll stand by each
other,
Sae knit in alliance an' kin.

An' there will be black-lippit Johnnie,
The tongue o' the trump to them a' ;
An' he get na hell for his haddin',
The Deil gets na justice ava' ;
An' there will be Kempleton's birkie,
A boy no sae black at the bane,
But, as for his fine nabob fortune,
We'll e'en let the subject alane.

An' there will be Wigton's new sheriff,
Dame Justice fu' brawlie has sped,
She's gotten the heart of a Bushby,
But, Lord, what's become o' the head ?
An' there will be Cardoness, Esquire,
Sae mighty in Cardoness' eyes ;
A wight that will weather damnation,—
For the Devil the prey will despise.

An' there will be Douglasses doughty,
New christ'ning towns far and near !
Abjuring their democrat doings,
By kissing the — o' a peer ;
An' there will be Kenmure sae gen'rous,
Whose honour is proof to the storm ;—
To save them from stark reprobation,
He lent them his name to the firm.

But we winna mention Redcastle,
The body, e'en let him escape !
He'd venture the gallows for siller,
An' twere na the cost o' the rape.

An' where is our King's lord-lieutenant,
Sae fam'd for his gratefu' return ?
The billie is gettin' his questions,
To say in St. Stephen's the morn.

An' there will be lads o' the gospel,
Muirhead, wha's as gude as he's true ;
An' there will be Buittie's apostle,
Wha's more o' the black than the blue ;
An' there will be folk from St. Mary's,
A house o' great merit and note,
The Deil ane but honours them highly,—
The Deil ane will gie them his vote !

An' there will be wealthy young Richard,
Dame Fortune should hing by the
neck ;
For prodigal, thriftless, bestowing,
His merit had won him respect :
An' there will be rich brother nabobs,
Though nabobs, yet men of the first,
An' there will be Collicton's whiskers,
An' Quintin, o' lads not the worst.

An' there will be stamp-office Johnnie,
Tak tent how ye purchase a dram ;
An' there will be gay Cassencarrie,
An' there will be gleg Colonel Tam ;
An' there will be trusty Kerroughtree,
Whose honour was ever his law ;
If the virtues were pack'd in a parcel,
His worth might be sample for a'.

An' can we forget the auld major,
Wha'll ne'er be forgot in the Greys ;
Our flatt'ry we'll keep for some other,
Him only 'tis justice to praise.
An' there will be maiden Kilkerran,
And also Barskimming's gude knight,
An' there will be roarin' Birtwhistle,
Wha, luckily, roars in the right.

An' there, frae the Niddesdale's border,
Will mingle the Maxwells in droves,
Tough Johnnie, staunch Geordie, an'
Walie,
That griens¹ for the fishes an' loaves,
An' there will be Logan Mac Douall,
Sculdudd'ry an' he will be there,
An' also the wild Scot o' Galloway,
Sodgerin', gunpowder Blair.

¹ Longs.

Then hey the chaste interest o' Broughton,
 An' hey for the blessings 'twill bring!
 It may send Balmaghie to the Commons,
 In Sodom 'twould make him a King;
 An' hey for the sanctified Murray,
 Our land who wi' chapels has stor'd;
 He founder'd his horse among harlots,
 But gied the auld naig to the Lord.

AN EXCELLENT NEW SONG.

THIRD BALLAD.

WHIA will buy my troggin,¹
 Fine election ware:
 Broken trade o' Broughton,
 A' in high repair?
 Buy braw troggin,
 Frae the banks o' Dee;
 Wha wants troggin
 Let him come to me.

There's a noble Earl's
 Fame and high renown;
 For an auld sang—
 It's thought the gudes were stown.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's the worth o' Broughton
 In a needle's e'e;
 Here's a reputation
 Tint by Balmaghie.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's an honest conscience
 Might a prince adorn;
 Frae the downs o' Tinwald—
 Sae was never worn.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's the stuff and lining,
 O' Cardoness' head;
 Fine for a sodger,
 A' the wale o' lead.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's a little wadset,
 Buittle's scrap o' truth,
 Pawn'd in a gin-shop,
 Quenching holy drouth.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's armorial bearings
 Frae the manse o' Urr;
 The crest, an auld crab-apple
 Rotten at the core.¹
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here is Satan's picture,
 Like a bizzard gled,²
 Pouncing poor Redcastle
 Sprawlin' as a taed.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here's the worth and wisdom
 Collieston can boast;
 By a thievish midge
 They had been nearly lost.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Here is Murray's fragments
 O' the ten commands;
 Gifted by black Jock
 To get them aff his hands.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

Saw ye e'er sic troggin?
 If to buy ye're slack,
 Hornie's turnin' chapman,—
 He'll buy a' the pack.
 Buy braw troggin, &c.

YE SONS OF OLD KILLIE.

TUNE—"SHAWNBOY."

YE sons of old Killie, assembled by
 Willie,
 To follow the noble vocation;
 Your thrifty old mother has scarce such
 another
 To sit in that honoured station.
 I've little to say, but only to pray,
 As praying's the ton of your fashion;
 A prayer from the Muse you may well
 excuse,
 'Tis seldom her favourite passion.

¹ *Troggin* is the merchandise of a travelling hawker.

¹ The allusion is to Dr. Muirhead
 Minister of Urr. ² Hawk

The powers who preside o'er the wind
and the tide,

Who marked each element's border ;
Who formed this frame with beneficent
aim,

Whose sovereign statute is order ;
Within this dear mansion may way-
ward contention

Or withered envy ne'er enter ;
May secrecy round be the mystical
bound,

And brotherly love be the centre !

YE JACOBITES BY NAME.¹

TUNE—"YE JACOBITES BY NAME."

Ye Jacobites by name, give an ear,
give an ear ;

Ye Jacobites by name, give an ear ;

Ye Jacobites by name,

Your fautes I will proclaim,
Your doctrines I maun blame—
You shall hear.

What is right and what is wrang, by
the law, by the law ?

What is right and what is wrang by
the law ?

What is right and what is wrang ?

A short sword and a lang,
A weak arm, and a strang
For to draw.

¹ Burns founded this song on some old verses, in which it was intimated that the extinction of the House of Stuart was sought for by other weapons than the sword. It cannot be denied that if the House of Hanover had the affection of the people and the law of the land on their side, the exiled princes had the best poetry. This may be accounted for. The romantic adventures and daring exploits and deep sufferings of Prince Charles enlisted sympathy on his side ; and the minstrels, regarding his fate and that of his brave companions as furnishing matter for poetry only, sung with a pathos and force which will likely be long remembered.

—A. C.

What makes heroic strife, fam'd afar,
fam'd afar ?

What makes heroic strife fam'd afar ?

What makes heroic strife ?

To whet th' assassin's knife,

Or hunt a parent's life

Wi' bluidie war.

Then let your schemes alone, in the
state, in the state ;

Then let your schemes alone in the
state ;

Then let your schemes alone,

Adore the rising sun,

And leave a man undone

To his fate.

SONG—AH, CHLORIS.

TUNE—"MAJOR GRAHAM."

AH, Chloris, since it may na be,

That thou of love wilt hear ;

If from the lover thou maun flee,

Yet let the friend be dear.

Altho' I love my Chloris mair

Than ever tongue could tell ;

My passion I will ne'er declare,

I'll say I'll wish thee well :

Tho' a' my daily care thou art,

And a' my nightly dream,

I'll hide the struggle in my heart,

And say it is esteem.

EXTEMPORE ANSWER TO AN INVITATION.

THE King's most humble servant I,

Can scarcely spare a minute ;

But I'll be wi' ye by an' bye ;

Or else the Deil's be in it.

My bottle is my holy pool,
That heals the wounds o' care an' dool ;
And pleasure is a wanton trout,
An' ye drink it, ye'll find him out.

KATHARINE JAFFRAY.

THERE liv'd a lass in yonder dale,
 And down in yonder glen, O,
 And Katharine Jaffray was her name,
 Weel known to many men, O.

Out came the Lord of Lauderdale,
 Out frae the south countrie, O,
 All for to court this pretty maid,
 Her bridegroom for to be, O.

He's tell'd her father and mother baith,
 As I hear sindry say, O,
 But he has na tell'd the lass hersel,
 Till on her wedding day, O.

Then cam the Laird o' Lochinton,
 Out frae the English border,
 All for to court this pretty maid,
 All mounted in good order.

THE COLLIER LADDIE.

O WHERE live ye, my bonnie lass,
 And tell me how they ca' ye?
 My name, she says, is Mistress Jean,
 And I follow my Collier laddie.

O see ye not yon hills and dales,
 The sun shines on sae brawlie:
 They a' are mine, and they shall be
 thine,
 Gin ye'll leave your Collier laddie.

And ye shall gang in rich attire,
 Weel buskit up fu' gaudy;
 And ane to wait at every hand,
 Gin ye'll leave your Collier laddie.

Tho' ye had a' the sun shines on,
 And the earth conceals sae lowly;
 I would turn my back on you and it a',
 And embrace my Collier laddie.

I can win my five pennies in a day,
 And spend it at night fu' brawlie;
 I can mak my bed in the Collier's neuk,
 And lie down wi' my Collier laddie.

Luve for luve is the bargain for me,
 Tho' the wee cot-house should haud
 me;
 And the world before me to win my
 bread,
 And fare fa' my Collier laddie.

WHEN I THINK ON THOSE
HAPPY DAYS.

WHEN I think on the happy days
 I spent wi' you, my dearie;
 And now what lands between us lie,
 How can I be but eerie!

How slow ye move, ye heavy hours,
 As ye were wae and weary!
 It was na sae ye glinted by,
 When I was wi' my dearie.

EPPIE M'NAB.

O SAW ye my dearie, my Eppie
 M'Nab?

O saw ye my dearie, my Eppie
 M'Nab?

She's down in the yard, she's kissin'
 the laird:

She winna come hame to her ain Jock
 Rab.

O come thy ways to me, my Eppie
 M'Nab!

O come thy ways to me, my Eppie
 M'Nab!

Whate'er thou has done, be it late, be
 it soon,

Thou's welcome again to thy ain Jock
 Rab.

What says she, my dearie, my Eppie
 M'Nab?

What says she, my dearie, my Eppie
 M'Nab?

She lets thee to wit, that she has thee
 forgot,

And for ever disowns thee, her ain Jock
 Rab.

O had I ne'er seen thee, my Eppie
 M'Nab!

O had I ne'er seen thee, my Eppie
 M'Nab!

As light as the air, and fause as thou's
 fair,

Thou's broken the heart o' thy ain Jock
 Rab.

TO CHLORIS.¹

BEHOLD, my love, how green the groves,
The primrose banks how fair;
The balmy gales awake the flow'rs,
And wave thy flaxen hair.
The lav'rock shuns the palace gay,
And o'er the cottage sings;
For Nature smiles as sweet, I ween,
To shepherds as to Kings.

Let minstrels sweep the skilfu' string,
In lordly lighted ha';
The shepherd stops his simple reed
Blythe in the birken shaw.
The princely revel may survey
Our rustic dance wi' scorn;
But are their hearts as light as ours,
Beneath the milk-white thorn?
The shepherd, in the flowery glen,
In shepherd's phrase will woo;
The courtier tells a finer tale,
But is his heart as true?
These wild wood flow'rs I've pu'd to
deck
That spotless breast o' thine;
The courtier's gems may witness love,
But 'tis na love like mine.

AN' O! MY EPPIE.

An' O! my Eppie,
My jewel, my Eppie!
Wha wadna be happy
Wi' Eppie Adair?
By love, and by beauty,
By law, and by duty,
I swear to be true to
My Eppie Adair!

An' O! my Eppie,
My jewel, my Eppie!
Wha wadna be happy
Wi' Eppie Adair?

¹ On my visit the other day to my fair Chloris, she suggested an idea, which I, on my return from my visit, wrought into the following song. How do you like the simplicity and tenderness of this pastoral?—R. B., *Nev.*,

A' pleasure exile me,
Dishonour defile me,
If e'er I beguile thee,
My Eppie Adair!

GUDEE'N TO YOU, KIMMER.

GUDEE'N to you, Kimmer,
And how d'ye do?
Hiccup, quo' Kimmer,
The better that I am fou.
We're a' noddin, nid, nid, noddin,
We're a' noddin at our house at
hame.

Kate sits i' the neuk,
Suppin hen broo;²
Deil tak Kate
An' she be na noddin too!
We're a' noddin, &c.

How's a' wi' you, Kimmer,
And how do ye fare?
A pint o' the best o't,
And twa pints mair.
We're a' noddin, &c.

How's a' wi' you, Kimmer,
And how do ye thrive;
How mony bairns hae ye?
Quo' Kimmer, I hae five.
We're a' noddin, &c.

Are they a' Johnny's?
Eh! atweel na:
Twa o' them were gotten
When Johnny was awa.
We're a' noddin, &c.

Cats like milk,
And dogs like broo;
Lads like lasses weel,
And lasses lads too.
We're a' noddin, &c.

O WAT YE WHA THAT LO'ES
ME.

TUNE—"MORAG."

O WAT ye wha that lo'es me,
And has my heart a-keeping?

² Broth.

O sweet is she that lo'es me,
 As dews o' summer weeping,
 In tears the rose-buds steeping:
 O that's the lassie o' my heart,
 My lassie, ever dearer;
 O that's the queen o' woman-kind,
 And ne'er a ane to peer her.

If thou shalt meet a lassie,
 In grace and beauty charming;
 That e'en thy chosen lassie,
 Erewhile thy breast sae warming,
 Had ne'er sic powers alarming:
 O that's the lassie, &c.

If thou hast heard her talking,
 And thy attention's plighted,
 That ilka body talking,
 But her, by thee is slighted,
 And thou art all delighted:
 O that's the lassie, &c.

If thou hast met this fair one,—
 When frae her thou hast parted,
 If every other fair one,
 But her, thou hast deserted,
 And thou art broken-hearted:
 O that's the lassie, &c.

THERE'S NEWS, LASSES.

THERE'S news, lasses, news,
 Gude news I have to tell,
 There's a boat fu' o' lads
 Come to our town to sell.
 The wean wants a cradle,
 And the cradle wants a cod,¹
 And I'll no gang to my bed
 Until I get a nod.

Father, quo' she, Mither, quo' she,
 Do what you can,
 I'll nae gang to my bed
 Till I get a man.
 The wean, &c.

I hae as gude a craft rig
 As made o' yird and stane;
 And waly fa' the ley-crap,
 For I maun till't again.
 The wean, &c.

¹ Pillow.

O THAT I HAD NE'ER BEEN MARRIED.

O THAT I had ne'er been married,
 I wad never had nae care;
 Now I've gotten wife and bairns,
 An' they cry crowdie¹ ever mair,
 Ance crowdie, twice crowdie,
 Three times crowdie in a day;
 Gin ye crowdie ony mair,
 Ye'll crowdie a' my meal away
 Waefu' want and hunger fley² me,
 Glowerin by the hallan en';
 Sair I fecht³ them at the door,
 But ay I'm eerie they come ben.
 Ance crowdie, &c.

FRAE THE FRIENDS AND LAND I LOVE.⁴

FRAE the friends and land I love,
 Driven by Fortune's felly⁵ spite,
 Frae my best belov'd I rove,
 Never mair to taste delight;
 Never mair maun hope to find
 Ease frae toil, relief frae care;
 When remembrance wracks the mind,
 Pleasures but unveil despair.
 Brightest climes shall mirk appear,
 Desert ilka blooming shore,
 Till the Fates, nae mair severe,
 Friendship, love, and peace restore;
 Till Revenge wi' laurel'd head
 Bring our banished hame again;
 And ilk loyal, bonnie lad
 Cross the seas and win his ain.

¹ Oatmeal, water, and butter.

² Scare. ³ Fought.

⁴ Burns, in his notes on the "Musical Museum," says of this song, "I added the last four lines by way of giving a turn to the theme of the poem such as it is." It has been suggested by his editors, that Burns mended his song as the Highlander mended his gun, by giving to it a new stock, a new lock, and a new barrel.

⁵ Relentless.

SCROGGAM.

THERE was a wife wonn'd in Cockpen,
 Scroggam ;
 She brew'd guid ale for gentlemen,
 Sing auld Cowl, lay you down by me,
 Scroggam, my dearie, ruffum.

The gudewife's dochter fell in a fever,
 Scroggam ;
 The priest o' the parish fell in anither ;
 Sing auld Cowl, lay you down by me.
 Scroggam, my dearie, ruffum.

They laid the twa i' the bed thegither,
 Scroggam ;
 That the heat o' the tane might cool
 the tither ;
 Sing auld Cowl, lay you down by me,
 Scroggam, my dearie, ruffum.

THE TEARS I SHED.¹

THE tears I shed must ever fall ;
 I mourn not for an absent swain,
 For thought may past delights recall,
 And parted lovers meet again.
 I weep not for the silent dead,
 Their toils are past, their sorrows o'er,
 And those they lov'd their steps shall
 tread,
 And death shall join to part no more.

Tho' boundless oceans roll'd between,
 If certain that his heart is near,
 A certain transport glads each scene,
 Soft is the sigh, and sweet the tear.
 E'en when by Death's cold hand re-
 mov'd,

We mourn the tenant of the tomb,
 To think that even in death he lov'd,
 Can gild the horrors of the gloom.

But bitter, bitter are the tears
 Of her who slighted love bewails ;
 No hope her dreary prospect cheers,
 No pleasing melancholy hails.

¹ The first four lines of the last stanza were added by Burns ; the song being the composition of Miss Cranstoun, afterwards the wife of Dugald Stewart.

Hers are the pangs of wounded pride,
 Of blasted hope, of wither'd joy :
 The prop, she lean'd on, pierc'd her
 side ;
 The flame, she fed, burns to destroy.

In vain does memory renew,
 The hours once ting'd in transport's
 dye ;
 The sad reverse soon starts to view,
 And turns the thought to agony.
 Even conscious virtue cannot cure
 The pangs to every feeling due :
 Ungenerous youth ! thy boast how poor,
 To steal a heart, and break it too !

No cold approach, no alter'd mien,
 Just what would make suspicion
 start ;
 No pause the dire extremes between,
 He made me blest—and broke my
 heart !

From hope, the wretched's anchor,
 torn,
 Neglected, and neglecting all,
 Friendless, forsaken, and forlorn,
 The tears I shed must ever fall.

THE TWA HERDS.¹

Blockheads with reason wicked wits
 abhor,
 But Fool with Fool is barbarous civil
 war.—POPE.

O A' ye pious godly flocks,
 Weel fed in pastures orthodox,
 Wha now will keep you frae the fox,
 Or worryin' tykes ?²

¹ The Twa "Herd" were the minister of Riccarton, and the assistant-minister of Kilmarnock, whose controversial animosity burst out in blows during a walk home after a "Sacrament" sermon. Burns recorded the feat of arms in a "burlesque lamentation," which, as he informs us, with a certain description of the clergy, as well as laity, met with a roar of applause. Burns gave a copy to a friend, and professed ignorance of the writer

² Dogs.

Or wha will tent the waifs and crocks,¹
About the dykes?

The twa best herds in a' the wast,
That e'er gae gospel horn a blast,
These five and twenty simmers past,
O, dool to tell!

Hae had a bitter black out-cast
Atween themsel.

O, Moodie, man, and wordy Russell,
How could you raise so vile a bustle,
Ye'll see how New-light herds will
whistle,

And think it fine!

The Lord's cause ne'er gat sic a twistle,
Sin' I ha'e min'.

O, Sirs! whae'er wad hae expeckit
Your duty ye wad sae negleckit,
Ye wha were ne'er by lairds respeckit,
To wear the plaid,
But by the brutes themselves eleckit
To be their guide.

What flock wi' Moodie's flock could
rank,

Sae hale and hearty every shank,
Nae poison'd sour Arminian stank
He let them taste;

Frae Calvin's well, aye clear, they
drank,—
O' sic a feast!

The thummart,² wil'-cat, brock, and
tod,³

Weel kend his voice thro' a' the wood,
He smell'd their ilka hole and road,
Baith out and in,
And weel he lik'd to shed their bluid,
And sell their skin.

What herd like Russell tell'd his tale,
His voice was heard thro' muir and
dale,

He kend the Lord's sheep, ilka tail.
O'er a' the height,
And saw gin they were sick or hale,
At the first sight.

He fine a mangy sheep could scrub,
Or nobly fling the gospel club,

And New-light herds could nicely
drib,

Or pay their skin;
Could shake them owre the burning
dub,¹

Or heave them in.

Sic twa—O! do I live to see't,
Sic famous twa should disagree't,
An' names, like "villain," "hypo-
crite,"

Ilk ither gi'en,
While New-light herds wi' laughiz-
spite,

Say "neither's lien"!

A' ye wha tent the gospel fauld,
There's Duncan deep, and Peebles
shaul,²

But chiefly thou, apostle Auld,
We trust in thee,

That thou wilt work them, het and
cauld,

Till they agree.

Consider, Sirs, how we're beset:
There's scarce a new herd that we get,
But comes frae 'mang that cursed set

I winna name;
I hope frae Heaven to see them yet
In fiery flame.

Dalrymple has been lang our fae,
M'Gill has wrought us meikle wae,
And that curs'd rascal ca'd M'Quhae,
And baith the Shaws,
That aft hae made us black and blae,
Wi' vengefu' paws.

Auld Wodrow lang has hatch'd mis-
chief,

We thought aye death wad bring relief,
But he has gotten, to our grief,

Ane to succeed him,
A chiel wha'll soundly buff our beef;³
I meikle dread him.

And monie a ane that I could tell,
Wha fain would openly rebel,
Forbye turn-coats amang oursel,
There's Smith for ane,
I doubt he's but a grey-nick quill,⁴
And that ye'll fin'.

¹ Stray sheep and old ewes.

² Pole-cat. ³ Badger and fox.

¹ Pond.

² Shallow.

³ Give us a severe beating.

⁴ Unfit for a pen.

O! a' ye flocks, owre a' the hills,
By msses, meadows, moors, and fells,
Come join your counsels and your
skills,

To cowe the lairds,
And get the brutes the power themselfs
To choose their herds.

Then Orthodoxy yet may prance,
And Learning in a woody dance,
And that fell cur ca'd Common Sense,
That bites sae sair,
Be banish'd owre the seas to France;
Let him bark there.

Then Shaw's and D'rymple's elo-
quence,
M'Gill's close nervous excellence,
M'Quhae's pathetic manly sense,
And guid M'Math,
Wi' Smith, wha thro' the heart can
glance,
May a' pack aff.

HOLY WILLIE'S PRAYER.¹

O THOU, wha in the Heavens dost
dwell,
Wha, as it pleases best thyself,
Sends ane to Heaven, and ten to Hell,
A' for thy glory,
And no for onie guid or ill
They've done afore thee!

¹ Sir Walter Scott regarded Holy Willie's Prayer as "a piece of satire more exquisitely severe than any which Burns afterwards wrote." The Poet assures us that it alarmed "the Kirk-Sessions so much, that they had several meetings to look over their spiritual artillery." The hero of the poem was a farmer, William Fisher, near Mauchline, said to be very pharisaic and hypocritical; one of that class of professors whom Sterne described as making every stride look like a check on their desires. Fisher was an elder in the kirk, and had offended Burns by his persecution of Mr. Hamilton, who thoughtlessly set a beggar to work in his garden on a Sunday morning, and was excommunicated in consequence.

I bless and praise thy matchless might
Whan thousands thou hast left in night
That I am here afore thy sight,
For gifts an' grace,
A burning an' a shining light,
To a' this place.

What was I, or my generation,
That I should get such exaltation?
I, wha deserve such just damnation,
For broken laws,
Five thousand years 'fore my creation,
Thro' Adam's cause.

When frae my mither's womb I fell,
Thou might hae plung'd me into Hell,
To gnash my gums, to weep and wail,
In burnin' lake,
Where damned Devils roar and yell,
Chain'd to a stake.

Yet I am here a chosen sample,
To show thy grace is great and ample;
I'm here a pillar in thy temple,
Strong as a rock,
A guide, a buckler, an example
To a' thy flock.

O L—d, thou kens what zeal I bear,
When drinkers drink, and swearers
swear,
And singin there, and dancing here,
Wi' great an' sma':
For I am keepit by thy fear,
Free frae them a'.

But yet, O L—d! confess I must,
At times I'm fash'd wi' fleshly lust,
An' sometimes, too, wi' worldly trust,—
Vile self gets in;
But thou remembers we are dust,
Defil'd in sin.

O L—d! yestreen, thou kens, wi' Meg—
Thy pardon I sincerely beg,
O! may 't ne'er be a livin' plague
To my dishonour,
An' I'll ne'er lift a lawless leg
Again upon her.

Besides I farther maun allow,
Wi' Lizzie's lass, three times I trow;
But, L—d, that Friday I was fou,
When I came near her,
Or else thou kens thy servant true
W'ad ne'er hae steer'd her

May be thou lets this fleshly thorn
Beset thy servant e'en and morn,
Lest he owre high and proud should
turn,
'Cause he's sae gifted ;
If sae, thy hand maun e'en be borne,
Until thou lift it.

L—d, bless thy chosen in this place,
For here thou hast a chosen race ;
But G—d confound their stubborn face,
And blast their name,
Wha bring thy elders to disgrace,
An' p ublic shame.

L—d, mind Gawn Hamilton's deserts,
He drinks, an' swears, an' plays at
cartes,
Yet has sae monie takin arts,
Wi' great an' sma',
Frae God's ain priests the people's
hearts
He steals awa'.

An' when we chasten'd him therefore,
Thou kens how he bred sic a splore,¹
As set the warld in a roar
O' laughin' at us ;—
Curse thou his basket and his store,
Kail and potatoes.

L—d, hear my earnest cry an' pray'r,
Against that presby'try o' Ayr ;
Thy strong right hand, L—d, make it
bare,

Upo' their heads ;
L—d, weigh it down, and dinna spare,
For their misdeeds.

O L—d my G—d, that glib-tongu'd
Aiken,

My very heart and saul are quakin,
To think how we stood sweatin, shakin,
An' swat wi' dread,
While he wi' hingin' lips gaed snakin,
And hid his head.

L—d, in the day of vengeance try him :
L—d, visit them wha did employ him,
And pass not in thy mercy by 'em,
Nor hear their pray'r :
But, for thy people's sake, destroy 'em,
And dinna spare.

But, L—d, remember me and mine
Wi' mercies temp'ral and divine,
That I for gear and grace may shine,
Excell'd by nane,
An' a' the glory shall be thine,
Amen, Amen.¹

EPITAPH ON HOLY WILLIE.

HERE Holy Willie's sair worn clay
Taks up its last abode ;
His saul has taen some other way,
I fear the left-hand road.

Stop ! there he is, as surr's a gun,
Poor silly body, see him ;
Nae wonder he's as black's the grun
Observe wha's standing wi' him.

Your brunstane devilship, I see,
Has got him there before ye ;
But haud your nine-tail cat a-wee,
Till ance you've heard my story.

Your pity I will not implore,
For pity ye hae nane ;
Justice, alas ! has gien him o'er,
And mercy's day is gane.

But hear me, Sir, deil as ye are,
Look something to your credit ;
A coof like him wad stain your name,
If it were kent ye did it.

¹ Against some passages it has been objected that they breathe a spirit of irreligion. But if we consider the ignorance and fanaticism of the lower class of people when these poems were written, a fanaticism of that pernicious sort which sets *faith* in opposition to *good works*, the fallacy and danger of which a mind so enlightened as our poet's could not but perceive, we shall not look upon his lighter Muse as the enemy of religion, though she has sometimes been a little unguarded in her ridicule of hypocrisy.—*H. Mackenzie*.—(The "Lounger," No. 97.)

LINES WRITTEN EXTEMPORE
IN A LADY'S POCKET-BOOK.

GRANT me, indulgent Heav'n, that I
may live,
To see the miscreants feel the pains
they give ;
Deal Freedom's sacred treasures free
as air,
Till slave and despot be but things
which were.

VERSES ADDRESSED TO
J. RANKINE.

I AM a keeper of the law
In some sma' points, although not a',
Some people tell me gin I fa',
Ae way or ither,
The breaking of ae point, tho' sma',
Breaks a' thegither.

I hae been us for't ance or twice,
And winna say owre far for thrice,
Yet never met with that surprise
That broke my rest,
But now a rumour's like to rise,
A whaup's i' the nest.

ON SCARING SOME WATER
FOWL IN LOCH-TURIT, A
WILD SCENE AMONG THE
HILLS OF OCHTERTYRE.

WHY, ye tenants of the lake,
For me your wat'ry haunt forsake?
Tell me, fellow-creatures, why
At my presence thus you fly?
Why disturb your social joys,
Parent, filial, kindred ties?—
Common friend to you and me,
Nature's gifts to all are free:
Peaceful keep your dimpling wave,
Busy feed, or wanton lave;
Or, beneath the sheltering rock,
Bide the surging billow's shock.

Conscious, blushing for our race,
Soon, too soon, your fears I trace;
Man, your proud, usurping foe,
Would be lord of all below;
Plumes himself in Freedom's pride,
Tyrant stern to all beside.

The eagle, from the cliffy brow,
Marking you his prey below,
In his breast no pity dwells,
Strong Necessity compels.
But Man, to whom alone is giv'n
A ray direct from pitying Heav'n,
Glories in his heart humane—
And creatures for his pleasure slain.

In these savage, liquid plains,
Only known to wandering swains,
Where the mossy riv'let strays,
Far from human haunts and ways,
All on Nature you depend,
And life's poor season peaceful spend

Or, if man's superior might
Dare invade your native right,
On the lofty ether borne,
Man with all his pow'rs you scorn;
Swiftly seek, on clanging wings,
Other lakes and other springs;
And the foe you cannot brave,
Scorn at least to be his slave.

A TOAST.¹

INSTEAD of a Song, boys, I'll give you
a Toast,—
Here's the memory of those on the
twelfth that we lost:
That we lost, did I say? nay, by
Heav'n, that we found;
For their fame it shall last while the
world goes round.
The next in succession, I'll give you
the King,
Whoe'er would betray him, on high
may he swing!
And here's the grand fabric, our free
Constitution,
As built on the base of the great Revo-
lution.

¹ Given on occasion of the celebra-
tion of the naval victory, April 12, 1782

And, longer with Politics not to be
 cramm'd,
 Be Anarchy curs'd, and be Tyranny
 d—'d ;
 And who would to Liberty e'er prove
 disloyal,
 May his son be a hangman, and he his
 first trial !

EPIGRAM.

ONE Queen Artemisia, as old stories
 tell,
 When depriv'd of her husband she loved
 so well,
 In respect for the love and affection
 he'd shown her,
 She reduc'd him to dust, and she drank
 up the powder.
 But Queen Netherplace, of a diff'rent
 complexion,
 When call'd on to order the fun'ral
 direction,
 Would have eat her dear lord, on a
 slender pretence,
 Not to show her respect, but—to save
 the expense.

ANOTHER.¹

WHOE'ER he be that sojourns here,
 I pity much his case,
 Unless he come to wait upon
 The Lord their God, his Grace.²
 There's naething here but Highland
 pride,
 And Highland scab and hunger ;
 If Providence has sent me here,
 'Twas surely in an anger.

CN SEEING THE BEAUTIFUL
 SEAT OF LORD GALLOWAY.

WHAT dost thou in that mansion fair ?
 Flit, Galloway, and find

¹ Written at Inverary.

² The Duke of Argyll.

Some narrow, dirty, dungeon cave,
 The picture of thy mind !

ON THE SAME.

No Stewart art thou, Galloway,
 The Stewarts all were brave ;
 Besides, the Stewarts were but fools,
 Not one of them a knave.

ON THE SAME.¹

BRIGHT ran thy line, O Galloway,
 Thro' many a far-fam'd sire !
 So ran the far-fam'd Roman way,
 So ended in a mire !

TO THE SAME,

ON THE AUTHOR BEING THREATENED
 WITH HIS RESENTMENT.

SPARE me thy vengeance, Galloway,
 In quiet let me live :
 I ask no kindness at thy hand,
 For thou hast none to give.

VERSES TO J. RANKINE.

AE day, as Death, that grusome carl,
 Was driving to the tither warl'
 A mixtie-maxtie² motley squad,
 And monie a guilt-bespotted lad ;
 Black gowns of each denomination,
 And thieves of every rank and station,
 From him that wears the star and garter.
 To him that wintles³ in a halter ;
 Asham'd himsel to see the wretches,
 He mutters, glowrin at the b—s,

¹ These were some of the satirical
 fruits of the Heron contest.

² Confusedly mixed. ³ Stagers.

"By G— I'll not be seen behint them,
 Nor 'mang the sp'ritual core present
 them,
 Without, at least, ae honest man,
 To grace this d—d infernal clan."
 By Adamhill a glance he threw,
 "L— G—!" quoth he, "I have it
 now,
 There's just the man I want, i' faith,"
 And quickly stoppit Rankine's breath.

EXTEMPORANEOUS EFFU-
 SION, ON BEING APPOINTED
 TO THE EXCISE.

SEARCHING auld wives' barrels,
 Och, hon! the day!
 That clartie¹ barm should stain my
 laurels;
 But—what'll ye say?
 These movin' things, ca'd wives and
 weans,
 Wad move the very hearts o' stanes!

ON HEARING THAT THERE
 WAS FALSEHOOD IN THE
 REV. DR. B—'S VERY LOOKS.

THAT there is falsehood in his looks
 I must and will deny:
 They say their master is a knave—
 And sure they do not lie.

POVERTY.

IN politics if thou wouldst mix,
 And mean thy fortunes be;
 Bear this in mind,—be deaf and
 blind,
 Let great folks hear and see.

¹ Dirty.

ON A SCHOOLMASTER IN
 CLEISH PARISH, FIFESHIRE.

HERE lie Willie Michie's banes;
 O Satan, when ye tak him,
 Gie him the schoolin' o' your weans,
 For clever Deils he'll mak them!

LINES

WRITTEN AND PRESENTED TO MRS.
 KEMBLE, ON SEEING HER IN THE
 CHARACTER OF YARICO.

Dumfries Theatre, 1794.

KEMBLE, thou cur'st my unbelief
 Of Moses and his rod;
 At Yarico's sweet notes of grief
 The rock with tears had flow'd.

I MURDER hate by field or flood,
 Tho' glory's name may screen us;
 In wars at hame I'll spend my blood,
 Life-giving war to Venus.

The deities that I adore
 Are social Peace and Plenty;
 I'm better pleased to make one more,
 Than be the death of twenty.

LINES

WRITTEN ON A WINDOW, AT
 THE KING'S ARMS TAVERN, DUMFRIES.

YE men of wit and wealth, why all this
 sneering
 'Gainst poor Excisemen? give the cause
 a hearing;
 What are your landlords' rent-rolls? tax-
 ing ledgers:
 What premiers, what? even Monarch's
 mighty gaugers:
 Nay, what are priests, those seeming
 godly wise men?
 What are they, pray, but spiritual Ex-
 cisemen?

LINES

WRITTEN ON THE WINDOW OF THE
GLOBE TAVERN, DUMFRIES.

THE greybeard, Old Wisdom, may
boast of his treasures,
Give me with gay Folly to live;
I grant him his calm-blooded, time-
settled pleasures,
But Folly has raptures to give.

LINES

WRITTEN UNDER THE PICTURE OF THE
CELEBRATED MISS BURNS.

CRASH, ye prudes, your envious railing,
Lovely Burns has charms—confess:
True it is, she had one failing,
Had a woman ever less?

EPIGRAM

ON ELPHINSTONE'S TRANSLATION OF
MARTIAL'S EPIGRAMS.

O THOU, whom Poetry abhors,
Whom Prose had turned out of doors,
Heard'st thou that groan?—proceed no
further,
'Twas laurel'd Martial roaring murder.

EPITAPH

ON A COUNTRY LAIRD, NOT QUITE SO
WISE AS SOLOMON.

BLESS the Redeemer, O Cardoness,
With grateful lifted eyes,
Who said that not the soul alone,
But body, too, must rise:

For had He said, "The soul alone
From death I will deliver,"
Alas! alas! O Cardoness,
Then thou hadst slept for ever!

EPITAPH

ON WEE JOHNNY.¹

Hic jacet wee Johnny.

WHOE'ER thou art, O reader, know
That death has murder'd Johnny!
An' here his body lies fu' low—
For saul he ne'er had ony.

EPITAPH

ON A CELEBRATED RULING ELDER.

HERE sowter² Hood in Death does
sleep;
To h—l, if he's gane thither,
Satan, gie him thy gear to keep,
He'll haud it weel thegither.

EPITAPH

FOR ROBERT AIKEN, ESQ.

KNOW thou, O stranger to the fame
Of this much lov'd, much honour'd
name!
(For none that knew him need be told)
A warmer heart death ne'er made cold.

EPITAPH

FOR GAVIN HAMILTON, ESQ.

THE poor man weeps—here Gavm
sleeps,
Whom canting wretches blam'd:
But with such as he, where'er he be,
May I be sav'd, or d—'d!

EPITAPH ON MY FATHER.

O YE, whose cheek the tear of pity
stains,
Draw near with pious rev'rence and
attend!

¹ John Wilson, who printed an edition
of Burns's Poems. ² Shoemaker.

Here lie the loving husband's dear re-
mains,
The tender father, and the gen'rous
friend ;

The pitying heart that felt for human
woe ;

The dauntless heart that fear'd no
human pride ;

The friend of man, to vice alone a foe,
"For ev'n his failings lean'd to vir-
tue's side."

EPITAPH

▷ JOHN DOVE, INNKEEPER, MAUCH-
LINE.

HERE lies Johnny Pidgeon ;
What was his religion ?
Wha e'er desires to ken,
'Go some other war !'
Maun follow the carl,
For here Johnny Pidgeon had nane !

Strong ale was ablution,
Small beer persecution,
A dram was memento mori ;
But a full flowing bowl
Was the saving his soul,
And port was celestial glory.

EPITAPH

ON JOHN BUSHBY,¹ WRITER, IN
DUMFRIES.

HERE lies John Bushby, honest man,
Cleat him, Devil, if you can.

¹ "Went to the churchyard where Burns is buried. A bookseller accom-
panied us. Went on to visit the grave.
'There,' said the bookseller to us,
pointing to a pompous monument a
few yards off, 'there lies Mr. John
Bushby, a remarkably clever man ; he
was an attorney, and hardly ever lost
a cause he undertook. Burns made
many a lampoon upon him, and there
they rest, as you see.'"—*Memoirs of
Wordsworth*, i. 214.

A BARD'S EPITAPH.

Is there a whim-inspired fool,
Owre fast for thought, owre hot for rule,
Owre blate¹ to seek, owre proud to
snool,²

Let him draw near ;
And owre this grassy heap sing dool,
And drap a tear.

Is there a Bard of rustic song,
Who, noteless, steals the crowds among,
That weekly this area throng,
O, pass not by !

But, with a frater-feeling strong,
Here, heave a sigh.

Is there a man whose judgment clear,³
Can others teach the course to steer,
Yet runs, himself, life's mad career
Wild as the wave ;
Here pause—and, thro' the starting tear
Survey this grave.

The poor Inhabitant below
Was quick to learn, and wise to know,
And keenly felt the friendly glow,
And softer name ;
But thoughtless follies laid him low,
And stain'd his name !

Reader, attend—whether thy soul
Soars fancy's flights beyond the pole,
Or darkling grubs this earthly hole,
In low pursuit ;
Know, prudent, cautious *self-control*
Is wisdom's root.

¹ Bashful.

² Submit tamely.

³ Burns might have remembered Goldsmith's picture of an author :—A *child* of the public he is in all respects ; for while he is so able to direct others, how incapable is he frequently found of guiding himself ! His simplicity exposes him to all the insidious approaches of cunning ; his sensibility to the slightest invasions of contempt. Though possessed of fortitude to stand unmoved the expected bursts of an earth quake, yet of feelings so exquisitely poignant, as to agonize under the slightest disappointment.—*The Present State of Polite Learning*, chapter X.

GLOSSARY.

THE *ch* and *gh* have always the guttural sound. The sound of the English diphthong *oo*, is commonly spelled *ou*. The French *u*, a sound which often occurs in the Scottish language, is marked *oo*, or *ui*. The *a* in genuine Scottish words, except when forming a diphthong, or followed by an *e* mute after a single consonant, sounds generally like the broad English *a* in *wall*. The Scottish diphthong *ae* always, and *ea* very often, sound like the French *e* masculine. The Scottish diphthong *ey* sounds like the Latin *ei*.

A' , All	Akwart, awkward
Aback, away, aloof	Amaist, almost
Abeigh, at a shy distance	Amang, among
Aboon, above, up	An', and ; if
Abroad, abroad, in sight	Ance, once
Abreed, in breadth	Ane, one ; and
Addle, putrid water, &c.	Anent, over against
Ae, one	Anither, another
Aff, off ; Aff loof, unpremeditated	Ase, ashes
Afore, before	Asklent, askint ; aslant
Aft, oft	Asteer, abroad ; stirring
Aften, often	Athart, athwart
Agley, off the right line ; wrong	Aught, possession ; as , In a' my aught, in all my possession
Aiblins, perhaps	Auld lang syne, olden time, days of other years
Ain, own	Auld, old
Airle-penny, Airles, earnest money	Auldfarran, or, auld farrant, sagacious cunning, prudent
Airn, iron	Ava, at all
Aith, an oath	Awa', away
Aits, oats	Awfu' awful
Aiver, an old horse	Awn, the beard of barley, oats, &c
Aizle, a hot cinder	
Alake, alas	
Alane, alone	

- Awnie, bearded
 Ayont, beyond
 BA', Ball
 Backets, ash boards
 Backlins, coming; coming back, re-
 turning
 Back, returning
 Bad, did bid
 Baide, endured, did stay
 Baggie, the belly
 Bainie, having large bones, stout
 Bairn, a child
 Pairntime, a family of children, a
 brood
 Baith, both
 Ban, to swear
 Bane, bone
 Bang, to beat; to strive
 Bardie, diminutive of bard
 Barefit, barefooted
 Barmie, of or like barm
 Batch, a crew, a gang
 Batts, bots
 Baudrons, a cat
 Bauld, bold
 Bawk, bank
 Baws'nt, having a white stripe down
 the face
 Be, to let be; to give over; to cease
 Bear, barley
 Beastie, diminutive of beast
 Beet, to add fuel to fire
 Beld, bald
 Belyve, by and by
 Ben, into the spence or parlour; a
 spence
 Benlmond, a noted mountain in Dum-
 bartonshire
 Bethankit, grace after meat
 Beuk, a book
 Bicker, a kind of wooden dish; a short
 race
 Bie, or Bield, shelter
 Bien, wealthy, plentiful
 Big, to build
 Biggin, building; a house
 Biggit, built
 Bill, a bull
 Billie, a brother; a young fellow
 Bing, a heap of grain, potatoes, &c.
 Birk, birch
 Birken-shaw, Birchen-wood-shaw, a
 small wood
 Birkie, a clever fellow
 Birring, the noise of partridges, &c.,
 when they spring
 Bit, crisis, nick of time
 Bizz, a bustle, to buzz
 Blastie, a shrivelled dwarf; a term of
 contempt
 Blastit, blasted
 Blate, bashful, sheepish
 Blather, bladder
 Bladd, a flat piece of anything; to slap
 Blaw, to blow, to boast
 Bleerit, bleared, sore with rheum
 Bleert and blin, bleared and blind
 Bleezing, blazing
 Blellum, an idle talking fellow
 Blether, to talk idly; nonsense
 Bleth'rin', talking idly
 Blink, a little while; a smiling look;
 to look kindly; to shine by fits
 Blinker, a term of contempt
 Blinkin, smirking
 Blue-gown, one of those beggars who
 get annually, on the King's birth-day
 a blue cloak or gown, with a badge
 Bluid, blood

- Bluntie, a sniveller, a stupid person
 Blype, a shred, a large piece
 Bock, to vomit, to gush intermittently
 Bocked, gushed, vomited
 Bodle, a small gold coin
 Bogles, spirits, hobgoblins
 Bonnie, or bonny, handsome, beautiful
 Bonnock, a kind of thick cake of bread,
 a small jannock, or loaf made of oat-
 meal
 Boord, a board
 Boortree, the shrub elder; planted
 much of old in hedges of barn-yards,
 &c.
 Boost, behaved, must needs
 Bore, a hole in the wall
 Botch, an angry tumour
 Bousing, drinking
 Bow-kail, cabbage
 Bowt, bended, crooked
 Brackens, fern
 Brae, a declivity; a precipice; the
 slope of a hill
 Braid, broad
 Brandg't, reeled forward
 Braik, a kind of harrow
 Brandge, to run rashly forward
 Brak, broke, made insolvent
 Branks, a kind of wooden curb for
 horses
 Brash, a sudden illness
 Brats, coarse clothes, rags, &c.
 Brattle, a short race; hurry; fury
 Braw, fine, handsome
 Brawly, or brawlie, very well; finely;
 heartily
 Braxie, a morbid sheep
 Breastie, diminutive of breast
 Breastit, did spring up or forward
 Breckan, fern
- Breef, an invulnerable or irresistible
 spell
 Breeks, breeches
 Brent, smooth
 Brewin', brewing
 Brie, juice, liquid
 Brig, a bridge
 Brisket, the breast, the bosom
 Brither, a brother
 Brock, a badger
 Brogue, a hum; a trick
 Broo, broth; a trick
 Broose, broth; a race at country wed-
 dings, who shall first reach the bride-
 groom's house on returning from
 church
 Browster-wives, ale-house wives
 Brugh, a burgh
 Bruilzie, a broil, a combustion
 Brunstane, brimstone
 Brunt, did burn, burnt
 Brust, to burst; burst
 Buchan-bullers, the boiling of the sea
 among the rocks of Buchan
 Buckskin, an inhabitant of Virginia
 Bught, a pen
 Bughtin-time, the time of collecting
 the sheep in the pens to be milked
 Buidly, stout made; broad made
 Bum-clock, a humming beetle that flies
 in the summer evenings
 Bumming, humming as bees
 Bummle, to blunder
 Bummler, a blunderer
 Bunker, a window-seat
 Burdies, diminutive of birds
 Bure, did bear
 Burn, water, a rivulet
 Burnewin, *i.e.*, burn the wind, a bla-
 smith

- Burnie, diminutive of burn
 Buskie, bushy
 Buskit, dressed
 Busks, dresses
 Buss, shelter
 Bussle, a bustle ; to bustle
 But, bot, with ; without
 But an' ben, the country kitchen and parlour
 By himsel, lunatic, distracted
 Byke, a bee-hive
 Byre, a cow-stable ; a sheep-pen

 CA', to call, to name ; to drive
 Ca't, or ca'd, called, driven ; calved
 Cadger, a carrier
 Cadie, or Caddie, a person ; a young fellow
 Caff, chaff
 Caird, a tinker
 Cairn, a loose heap of stones
 Calf-ward, a small enclosure for calves
 Callan, a boy
 Caller, fresh ; sound ; refreshing
 Canie, or cannie, gentle, mild ; dexterous
 Cannilie, dexterously ; gently
 Cantie, or canty, cheerful, merry
 Cantraip, a charm, a spell
 Cape-stane, cope-stone ; key-stone
 Careerin, cheerfully
 Carl, an old man
 Carlin, an old stout woman
 Cartes, cards
 Caudron, a cauldron
 Cauld, cold
 Caulk and keel, chalk and red clay
 Caup, a wooden drinking-vessel
 Cesses, taxes
 Chanter, a part of a bagpipe

 Chap, a person, a fellow ; a blow
 Chaup, a stroke, a blow
 Cheekit, checked
 Cheep, a chirp ; to chirp
 Chiel, or cheel, a young fellow
 Chimla, or chimlie, a fire-grate, a fire-place
 Chimla-lug, the fireside
 Chittering, shivering, trembling
 Chockin, choking
 Chow, to chew ; Cheek for chow, side by side
 Chuffie, fat-faced
 Clachan, a small village about a church ; a hamlet
 Claise, or claes, clothes
 Claith, cloth
 Claithing, clothing
 Claivers, nonsense ; not speaking sense
 Clap, clapper of a mill
 Clarkit, wrote
 Clash, an idle tale, the story of the day
 Clatter, to tell idle stories ; an idle story
 Claught, snatched at, laid hold of
 Claut, to clean ; to scrape
 Clauted, scraped
 Clavers, idle stories
 Claw, to scratch
 Cleed, to clothe
 Cleeds, clothes
 Cleekit, having caught
 Clinkin, jerking ; clinking
 Clinkumbell, he who rings the church-bell
 Clips, shears
 Clishmaclaver, idle conversation
 Clock, to hatch ; a beetle
 Clockin, hatching
 Cloot, the hoof of a cow, sheep, &c.

- Cloutie, an old name for the Devil
 Clour, a bump or swelling after a blow
 Cluds, clouds
 Coaxin, wheedling
 Coble, a fishing boat
 Cockernony, a lock of hair tied upon a girl's head ; a cap
 Coft, bought
 Cog, a wooden dish
 Coggie, diminutive of cog
 Coila, from Kyle, a district of Ayrshire ; so called, saith tradition, from Coil, or Coilus, a Pictish monarch
 Collie, a general and sometimes a particular name for country curs
 Collieshangie, quarrelling, an uproar
 Commaun, command
 Cood, the cud
 Coof, a blockhead, a ninny
 Cookit, appeared and disappeared by fits
 Coost, did cast
 Coot, the ancle or foot
 Cootie, a wooden kitchen dish :—also, those fowls whose legs are clad with feathers are said to be cootie
 Corbies, a species of the crow
 Core, corps ; party ; clan
 Corn't, fed with oats
 Cotter, the inhabitant of a cot-house, or cottager
 Couthie, kind, loving
 Cove, a cave
 Cowe, to terrify ; to keep under, to lop ; fright ; a branch of furze, broom, &c.
 Cowp, to barter ; to tumble over ; a gang
 Cowpit, tumbled
 Cowrin, cowering
 Cowt, a colt
 Cozie, snug
 Cozily, snugly
 Crabbit, crabbed, fretful
 Crack, conversation ; to converse
 Crackin, conversing
 Craft, or croft, a field near a house (in old husbandry)
 Craiks, cries or calls incessantly ; a bird
 Crambo-clink, or crambo-jingle, rhymes, doggrel verses
 Crank, the noise of an ungreased wheel
 Crankous, fretful, captious
 Cranreuch, the hoar frost
 Crap, a crop ; to crop
 Craw, a crow of a cock ; a rook
 Creel, a basket ; to have one's wits in a creel, to be crazed ; to be fascinated
 Creepie-stool, the same as cutty-stool
 Creeshie, greasy
 Crood, or croud, to coo as a dove
 Croon, a hollow and continued moan ; to make a noise like the continued roar of a bull ; to ham a tune
 Crooning, humming
 Crouchie, crook-backed
 Crouse, cheerful ; courageous
 Crouselly, cheerfully ; courageously
 Crowdie, a composition of oatmeal and boiled water, sometimes from the broth of beef, mutton, &c.
 Crowdie-time, breakfast-time
 Crowlin, crawling
 Crummock, a cow with crooked horns
 Crump, hard and brittle ; spoken of bread
 Crunt, a blow on the head with a cudgel

Cuif, a blockhead, a ninny
 Cummock, a short staff with a crooked head
 Curchie, a courtesy
 Curler, a player at a game on the ice, practised in Scotland, called curling
 Curlic, curled, whose hair falls naturally in ringlets
 Curling, a well-known game on the ice
 Curmurring, murmuring; a slight rumbling noise
 Curpin, the crupper
 Cushat, the dove, or wood-pigeon
 Cutty, short; a spoon broken in the middle
 Cutty-stool, the stool of repentance
 DADDIE, a father
 Daffin, merriment; foolishness
 Daft, merry, giddy; foolish
 Daimen, rare, now and then; daimen-icker, an ear of corn now and then
 Dainty, pleasant, good humoured, agreeable
 Daise, daez, to stupify
 Dales, plains, valleys
 Darklins, darkling
 Daud, to thrash, to abuse
 Daur, to dare
 Daurg, or daurk, a day's labour
 Daurt, dared
 Davoc, David
 Dawd, a large piece
 Dawtit, or dawtet, fondled, caressed
 Dearies, diminutive of dears
 Dearthfu', dear
 Deave, to deafen
 Deil-ma-care! no matter! for all that!
 Deleerit, delirious
 Describe, to describe

Dight, to wipe; to clean corn from chaff
 Dight, cleaned from chaff
 Ding, to worst, to push
 Dink, neat, tidy, trim
 Dinna, do not
 Dirl, a slight tremulous stroke or pain
 Dizen, or dizz'n, a dozen
 Doited, stupified, hebetated
 Dolt, stupified, crazed
 Donsie, unlucky
 Dool, sorrow; to sing dool, to lament, to mourn
 Doos, doves
 Dorty, saucy, nice
 Douce, or douse, sober, wise, prudent
 Doucely, soberly, prudently
 Dought, was or were able
 Doup, backside
 Doup-skelper, one that strikes the tail
 Dour and din, sullen and sallow
 Doure, stout, durable; sullen, stubborn
 Dow, am or are able, can
 Dowff, pithless, wanting force
 Dowie, worn with grief, fatigue, &c., half asleep
 Downa, am or are not able, cannot
 Doylt, stupid
 Dozent, stupified, impotent
 Drap, a drop; to drop
 Draigle, to soil by trailing, to draggle among wet, &c.
 Drapping, dropping
 Draunting, drawling; of a slow enunciation
 Dreep, to ooze, to drop
 Dreigh, tedious, long about it
 Dribble, drizzling; slaver
 Drift, a drove
 Droddum, the breech

- Drone, part of a bagpipe
 Droop-rumpl't, that drops at the crupper
 Droukit, wet
 Drounting, drawling
 Drouth, thirst, drought
 Drucken, drunken
 Drumly, muddy
 Drummock, meal and water mixed in a raw state
 Drunt, pet, sour humour
 Dub, a small pond
 Duds, rags, clothes
 Duddie, ragged
 Dung, worsted; pushed, driven
 Dunted, beaten, boxed
 Dush, to push as a ram, &c.
 Dusht, pushed by a ram, ox, &c.
- E'E, the eye
 Een, the eyes
 E'ening, evening
 Eerie, frightened, dreading spirits
 Eild, old age
 Elbuck, the elbow
 Eldritch, ghastly, frightful
 Eller, an elder, or church officer
 En', end
 Enbrugh, Edinburgh
 Eneugh, enough
 Especial, especially
 Ettle, to try, to attempt
 Eydent, diligent
- FA', fall; lot; to fall
 Fa's, does fall; water-falls
 Faddom't, fathomed
 Fac, a foe
 Faem, foam
 Faiket, unknown
 Fairin, a fairing; a present
- Fallow, fellow
 Fand, did find
 Farl, a cake of oaten bread, &c.
 Fash, trouble, care; to trouble, to care for
 Fasht, troubled
 Fasteren-e'en, Fasten's Even
 Fauld, a fold; to fold
 Faulding, folding
 Faut, fault
 Faute, want, lack
 Fawsont, decent, seemly
 Feal, a field; smooth
 Fearfu', frightful
 Feart, frightened
 Feat, neat, spruce
 Fecht, to fight
 Fectin, fighting
 Feck, many, plenty
 Fecket, an under waistcoat with sleeves
 Feckfu', large, brawny, stout
 Feckless, puny, weak, silly
 Feckly, weakly
 Feg, a fig
 Feide, feud, enmity
 Feirrie, stout, vigorous, healthy
 Fell, keen, biting; the flesh immediately under the skin; a field pretty level, on the side or top of a hill
 Fen, successful struggle; fight
 Fend, to live comfortably
 Ferlie, or ferley, to wonder; a wonder: a term of contempt
 Fetch, to pull by fits
 Fetch'd, pulled intermittently
 Fidge, to fidget
 Fiel, soft, smooth
 Fient, fiend, a petty oath
 Fier, sound, healthy; a brother; a friend

Bistle, to make a rustling noise; to fidget; a bustle
Bit, a foot
Bittie-lan', the nearer horse of the hind-most pair in the plough
Bizz, to make a hissing noise, like fermentation
Blainen, flannel
Bleech, to supplicate in a flattering manner
Bleech'd, supplicated
Bleechin, supplicating
Bleesh, a fleece
Bleg, a kick, a random stroke
Blether, to decoy by fair words
Bletherin, flattering
Bley, to scare, to frighten
Blichter, to flutter, as young nestlings when their dam approaches
Blinders, shreds, broken pieces, splinters
Blinging-tree, a piece of timber hung by way of partition between two horses in a stable; a flail
Blisk, to fret at the yoke
Blisket, fretted
Blitter, to vibrate like the wings of small birds
Blittering, fluttering, vibrating
Blunkie, a servant in livery
Bodgel, squat and plump
Boord, a ford
Borbears, forefathers
Borbye, besides
Borfairn, distressed; worn out, jaded
Borfoughten, fatigued
Borgather, to meet, to encounter with
Borgie, to forgive
Borjesket, jaded with fatigue
Bother, fodder

Fou, full; drunk
Foughten, troubled, harassed
Fouth, plenty, enough, or more than enough
Fow, a bushel, &c.; also a pitch-fork
Frae, from; off
Frammit, strange, estranged from, at enmity with
Fraeth, froth
Frien', friend
Fu', full
Fud, the scut, or tail of the hare, cony, &c.
Fuff, to blow intermittently
Fuff't, did blow
Funnie, full of merriment
Fur, a furrow
Furm, a form, bench
Fyke, trifling cares; to piddle, to be in a fuss about trifles
Fyle, to soil, dirty
Fyl't, soiled, dirtied
GAB, the mouth; to speak boldly, or pertly
Gaberlunzie, an old man
Gadsman, a ploughboy, the boy that drives the horses in the plough
Gae, to go; gaed, went; gaen, or gane, gone; gaun, going
Gaet, or gate, way, manner; road
Gairs, triangular pieces of cloth sewed on the bottom of a gown, &c.
Gang, to go, to walk
Gar, to make, to force to
Gar't, forced to
Garten, a garter
Gash, wise, sagacious; talkative; to converse
Gashin, conversing

- Gaucy, jolly, large
 Gaud, a plough
 Gear, riches; goods of any kind
 Geck, to toss the head in wantonness
 or scorn
 Ged, a pike
 Gentles, great folks, gentry
 Genty, elegantly formed, neat
 Geordie, a guinea
 Get, a child, a young one
 Ghaist, a ghost
 Gie, to give; gied, gave; gien, given
 Giftie, diminutive of gift
 Giglets, playful girls
 Gillie, diminutive of gill
 Gilpey, a half grown, half informed
 boy or girl, a romping lad, a hoiden
 Gimmer, a ewe from one to two years
 old
 Gin, if; against
 Gipsy, a young girl
 Girn, to grin, to twist the features in
 rage, agony, &c.
 Girning, grinning
 Gizz, a periwig
 Glaiket, inattentive, foolish
 Glaive, a sword
 Gawky, half-witted, foolish, romping
 Glaizie, glittering; smooth like glass
 Glaum, to snatch greedily
 Glaum'd, aimed, snatched
 Gleck, sharp, ready
 Gleg, sharp, ready
 Gleib, glebe
 Glen, a dale, a deep valley
 Gley, a squint; to squint; a-gley, off
 at side, wrong
 Glib-gabbet, smooth and ready in
 speech
 Glint, to peep
 Glinted, peeped
 Glintin, peeping
 Gloamin, the twilight
 Glowr, to stare, to look; a stare, a
 look
 Glowred, looked, stared
 Glunsh, a frown, a sour look
 Goavan, looking round with a strange
 inquiring gaze; staring stupidly
 Gowan, the flower of the wild daisy,
 hawkweed, &c.
 Gowany, daisied, abounding with dai-
 sies
 Gowd, gold
 Gowff, the game of golf; to strike as
 the bat does the ball at golf
 Gowff'd, struck
 Gowk, a cuckoo: a term of contempt
 Gowl, to howl
 Grane, or grain, a groan; to groan
 Grain'd and grunted, groaned and
 grunted
 Graining, groaning
 Graip, a pronged instrument for clean-
 ing stables
 Graith, accoutrements, furniture, dress,
 gear
 Grannie, grandmother
 Grape, to grope
 Graipit, groped
 Grat, wept, shed tears
 Great, intimate, familiar
 Gree, to agree; to bear the gree, to be
 decidedly victor
 Gree't, agreed
 Greet, to shed tears, to weep
 Greetin, crying, weeping
 Grippet, caught, seized
 Groat, to get the whistle of one's great
 to play a losing game

- G**rousome, loathsomely grim
Grozet, a gooseberry
Grumph, a grunt; to grunt
Grumphie, a sow
Grun', ground
Grunstane, a grindstone
Gruntle, the phiz; a grunting noise
Grunzie, mouth
Grushie, thick; of thriving growth
Gude, the Supreme Being; good
Guid, good
Guid morning, good morrow
Guid-e'en, good evening
Guidfather, guidmother, father-in-law
 and mother-in-law
Guidman and guidwife, the master and
 mistress of the house; young guid-
 man, a man newly married
Guid-willie, liberal; cordial
Gully, or gullie, a large knife
Gumlie, muddy
Gusty, tasteful

HA', hall
Ha'-Bible, the great Bible that lies in
 the hall
Hae, to have
Haen, had, the participle
Haet, fient haet, a petty oath of nega-
 tion; nothing
Haffet, the temple, the side of the
 head
Hafflins, nearly half, partly
Hag, a scar, or gulf in mosses and
 moors
Haggis, a kind of pudding boiled in
 the stomach of a cow or sheep
Hain, to spare, to save
Hain'd, spared
Hairst, harvest

Haith, a petty oath
Haivers, nonsense, speaking without
 thought
Hal', or hald, an abiding-place
Hale, whole, tight, healthy
Hallun, a particular partition-wall in
 a cottage, or more properly a seat of
 turf at the outside
Hallowmass, Hallow-eve, the 31st or
 October
Haly, holy
Hame, home
Hamely, homely, affable
Han', or haun', hand
Hap, an outer garment, mantle, plaid,
 &c., to wrap, to cover; to hop
Happer, a hopper
Happing, hopping
Hap step an' loup, hop skip and leap
Harkit, hearkened
Harn, very coarse linen
Hash, a fellow that neither knows how
 to dress nor act with propriety
Hastie, dry; chapped; barren
Hastit, hastened
Haud, to hold
Haughs, low lying, rich lands; valleys
Haurl, to drag, to peel
Haurlin, peeling
Haverel, a half-witted person; half-
 witted
Havins, good manners, decorum, good
 sense
Hawkie, a cow, properly one with a
 white face
Heaipit, heaped
Healsome, healthful, wholesome
Hearse, hoarse
Hear't, near it
Heather, heath

Hoob : oh ! strange !

Hecht, promised ; to foretell something that is to be got or given ; foretold ; the thing foretold ; offered

Heckle, a board in which are fixed a number of sharp pins, used in dressing hemp, flax, &c.

Heeze, to elevate, to raise

Helm, the rudder or helm

Herd, to tend flocks ; one who tends flocks

Herrin, a herring

Herry, to plunder ; most properly to plunder birds' nests

Herryment, plundering, devastation

Hersel, herself ; also a herd of cattle of any sort

Het, hot

Heugh, a craig, a coalpit

Hilch, a hobble ; to halt

Hilchin, halting

Himsel, himself

Hiney, honey

Hing, to hang

Hirple, to walk crazily, to creep

Hissel, so many cattle as one person can attend

Hitch, a loop, a knot

Hizzie, a hussy, a young girl

Hoddin, the motion of a sage countryman riding on a cart-horse ; humble

Hog-score, a kind of distance-line, in curling, drawn across the rink

Hog-shouter, a kind of horse-play, by justling with the shoulder ; to justle

Hool, outer skin or case, a nut-shell, a peascod

Hoolie, slowly, leisurely

Hoolie ! take leisure ! stop !

Hoord, a hoard ; to hoard

Hoordit, hoarded

Horn, a spoon made of horn

Hornie, one of the many names of the Devil

Host, or hoast, to cough ; a cough

Hostin, coughing

Hosts, coughs

Hotch'd, turned topsyturvy ; blended, mixed

Houghmagandie, fornication

Houlet, an owl

Housie, diminutive of a house

Hove, to heave, to swell

Hoved, heaved, swelled

Howdie, a midwife

Howe, hollow ; a hollow or dell

Howebackit, sunk in the back, spoken of a horse, &c.

Howff, a tippling house ; a house of resort

Howk, to dig

Howkin, digging

Howkit, digged

Howlet, an owl

Hoy, to urge

Hoy't, urged

Hoyse, to pull upwards

Hoyte, to amble crazily

Hughoc, diminutive of Hugh

Hurcheon, a hedgehog

Hurdies, the loins ; the crupper

Hushion, a cushion

I', in

Icker, an ear of corn

Ier-oe, a great grandchild

Ilk, or ilka, each, every

Ill-willie, ill-natured, malicious, malignantly

- Ingine, genius, ingenuity
 Ingle, fire; fire-place
 Ise, I shall or will
 Ither, other; one another
- JAD**, jade; also a familiar term among countryfolks for a giddy young girl
Jauk, to dally, to trifle
Jaukin, trifling, dallying
Jaup, a jerk of water; to jerk as agitated water
Jaw, coarse raillery; to pour out; to shut; to jerk as water
Jerkinet, a jerkin, or short gown
Jillet, a jilt, a giddy girl
Jimp, to jump; slender in the waist; handsome
Jimps, easy stays
Jink, to dodge, to turn a corner; a sudden turning; a corner
Jinker, that turns quickly; a gay sprightly girl; a wag
Jinkin, dodging
Jirk, a jerk
Jocteg, a kind of knife
Jouk, to stoop, to bow the head
Jow, to jow, a verb which includes both the swinging motion and pealing sound of a large bell
Jundie, to juggle
- KAE**, a daw
Kail, colewort; a kind of broth
Kail-runt, the stem of colewort
Kain, fowls, &c., paid as rent by a farmer
Kabbuck, a cheese
Keckle, to giggle; to titter
Keek, a peep; to peep
Kelpies, a sort of mischievous spirits, said to haunt fords and ferries at night, especially in storms
- Ken**, to know; kend or kenn'd, knew
Kennin, a small matter
Kenspeckle, well known, easily known
Ket, matted, hairy; a fleece of wool
Kilt, to truss up the clothes
Kimmer, a young girl, a gossip
Kin, kindred; kin', kind, *adj.*
King's-hood, a certain part of the entrails of an ox, &c.
Kintra, country
Kintra cooser, country stallion
Kirn, the harvest-supper; a churn
Kirsen, to christen, or baptize
Kist, a chest; a shop counter
Kitchen, anything that eats with bread; to serve for soup, gravy, &c.
Kith, kindred
Kittle, to tickle; ticklish; lively, apt
Kittlin, a young cat
Kiuttle, to ruddle
Kiuttlin, caudling
Knaggie, like knags, or points of rocks
Knap, to strike smartly; a smart blow
Knappin-hammer, a hammer for breaking stones
Knowe, a small round hillock
Knurl, a dwarf
Kye, cows
Kyle, a district in Ayrshire
Kyte, the belly
Kythe, to discover; to show one's self
- LADDIE**, diminutive of lad
Laggen, the angle between the side and bottom of a wooden dish
Laigh, low
Lairing, wading, and sinking in snow mud, &c.

- Laith, loath
 Laithfu', bashful, sheepish
 Lallans, the Scottish dialect of the English language
 Lambie, diminutive of lamb
 Lämpit, a kind of shell-fish, a limpet
 Lan', land; estate
 Lane, lone; my lane, thy lane, &c., myself alone, &c.
 Lanely, lonely
 Lang, long; to think lang, to long, to weary
 Lap, did leap
 Lave, the rest, the remainder, the others
 Laverock, the lark
 Lawin, shot, reckoning, bill
 Lawlan, lowland
 Lea'e, to leave
 Leal, loyal, true, faithful
 Lea-rig, grassy ridge
 Lear (pronounced lare), learning
 Lee-lang, live-long
 Leesome, pleasant
 Leeze-me, a phrase of congratulatory endearment; I am happy in thee, or proud of thee
 Leister, a three-pronged dart for striking fish
 Leugh, did laugh
 Leuk, a look; to look
 Libbet, gelded
 Lift, the sky
 Lightly, sneeringly; to sneer at
 Lilt, a ballad; a tune; to sing
 Limmer, a kept mistress, a strumpet
 Limp't, limped, hobbled
 Link, to trip along
 Linkin, tripping
 Linn, a waterfall; a precipice
 Lint, flax; Lint i' the bell, flax in flower
 Lintwhite, a linnet
 Loan, or loanin, the place of milking
 Loof, the palm of the hand
 Loot, did let
 Looves, plural of loof
 Loun, a fellow, a ragamuffin; a woman of easy virtue
 Loup, jump, leap
 Lowe, a flame
 Lowin, flaming
 Lowrie, abbreviation of Lawrence
 Lowse, to loose
 Lows'd, loosed
 Lug, the ear; a handle
 Lugget, having a handle
 Luggie, a small wooden dish with a handle
 Lum, the chimney
 Lunch, a large piece of cheese, flesh &c.
 Lunt, a column of smoke; to smoke
 Luntin, smoking
 Lyart, of a mixed colour, grey
 MAE, more
 Mair, more
 Maist, most, almost
 Maistly, mostly
 Mak, to make
 Makin, making
 Mailen, a farm
 Mallie, Molly
 Mang, among
 Manse, the parsonage-house, where the minister lives
 Manteelé, a mantle
 Mark, marks. (This and several other nouns which in English require an s to form the plural, are in Scotch

- like the words sheep, deer, the same in both numbers)
- Marled, variegated; spotted
- Mar's year, the year 1715
- Mashlum, meslin, mixed corn
- Mask, to mash, as malt, &c.
- Maskin-pat, a tea-pot
- Maud, maad, a plaid worn by shepherds, &c.
- Maukin, a hare
- Maun, must
- Mavis, the thrush
- Maw, to mow
- Mawin, mowing
- Meere, a mare
- Meikle, meickle, much
- Melancholious, mournful
- Melder, corn, or grain of any kind, sent to the mill to be ground
- Mell, to meddle. Also a mallet for pounding barley in a stone trough
- Melvie, to soil with meal
- Men', to mend
- Mense, good manners, decorum
- Menseless, ill-bred, rude, impudent
- Messin, a small dog
- Midden, a dunghill
- Midden-hole, a gutter at the bottom of a dunghill
- Mim, prim, affectedly meek
- Min', mind; resemblance
- Mind't, mind it; resolved, intending
- Minnie, mother, dam
- Mirk, mirkest, dark, darkest
- Misca', to abuse, to call names
- Misca'd, abused
- Mislear'd, mischievous, unmannerly
- Misteuk, mistook
- Mither, a mother
- Mixtie-maxtie, confusedly mixed
- Moistify, to moisten
- Mony, or monie, many
- Mools, dust, earth, the earth of the grave; to rake i' the mools, to lay in the dust
- Moop, to nibble as a sheep
- Moorlan', of or belonging to moors
- Morn, the next day, to-morrow
- Mou, the mouth
- Moudiwort, a mole
- Mousie, diminutive of mouse
- Muckle, or mickle, great, big, much
- Musie, diminutive of muse
- Muslin-kail, broth composed simply of water, shelled barley, and greens
- Mutchkin, an English pint
- Mysel, myself
- NA, no, not, nor
- Nae, no, not any
- Naething, or naithing, nothing
- Naig, a horse
- Nane, none
- Nappy, ale; to be tipsy
- Negleckit, neglected
- Neuk, a nook
- Niest, next
- Nieve, the fist
- Nievetu', handful
- Niffer, an exchange; to exchange, to barter
- Niger, a negro
- Nine-tailed-cat, a hangman's whip
- Nit, a nut
- Norland, of or belonging to the north
- Notic't, noticed
- Nowte, black cattle
- O', of
- Ochils, name of mountains

O haite, O faith, 31 orth
 Ony, or onie, any
 Or, is often used for ere, before
 Ora, or orra, supernumerary, that can
 be spared
 O't, of it
 Ourie, shivering; drooping
 Oursel, or oursels, ourselves
 Outlers, cattle not housed
 Owre, over; too
 Owre-hip, a way of fetching a blow
 with the hammer over the arm

PACK, intimate, familiar; twelve stone
 of wool
 Painch, paunch
 Paitrick, a partridge
 Pang, to cram
 Parle, speech
 Parritch, oatmeal pudding, a well-
 known Scotch dish
 Pat, did put; a pot
 Pattle, or pettle, a plough-staff
 Paughty, proud, haughty
 Pauky, or pawkie, cunning, sly
 Pay't, paid; beat
 Pech, to fetch the breath short, as in
 an asthma
 Pechan, the crop, the stomach
 Peelin, peeling, the rind of fruit
 Pet, a domesticated sheep, &c.
 Pettle, to cherish; a plough-staff
 Philabegs, short petticoats worn by the
 Highlandmen
 Phraise, fair speeches, flattery; to
 flatter
 Phraisin, flattery
 Pibroch, Highland war music adapted
 to the bagpipe
 Pickle, a small quantity

Pine, pain, uneasiness
 Pit, to put
 Placad, public proclamation
 Plack, an old Scotch coin, the third
 part of a Scotch penny, twelve of
 which make an English penny.
 Plackless, penniless, without money
 Platie, diminutive of plate
 Plew, or pleugh, a plough
 Pliskie, a trick
 Poind, to seize cattle or goods for rent
 as the laws of Scotland allow
 Poortith, poverty
 Pou, to pull
 Pouk, to pluck
 Poussie, a hare, or cat
 Pout, a poult, a chick
 Pou't, did pull
 Pow, the head, the skull
 Pownie, a little horse
 Powther, or pouter, powder
 Powthery, like powder
 Preen, a pin
 Prent, to print; print
 Prie, to taste
 Prie'd, tasted
 Prief, proof
 Prig, to cheapen; to dispute
 Priggin, cheapening
 Primsie, demure, precise
 Propone, to lay down, to propose
 Provoses, provosts
 Puddock-stool, a mushroom, fungus
 Pund, pound; pounds
 Pyle, a pyle o' chaff, a single grain of
 chaff

QUAT, to quit
 Quak, to quake
 Quey, a cow from one to two years old

RAGWEED, the *Urtica* sp. fort
 Raible, to rattle nonsense
 Rair, to roar
 Raize, to madden, to inflame
 Ram-feeze'd, fatigued; overspread
 Ram-stam, thoughtless, forward
 Raploch, properly a coarse cloth; but
 used as an adnoun for coarse
 Rarely, excellently, very well
 Rash, a rush; rash-buss, a bush of
 rushes
 Ratton, a rat
 Raucle, rash; stout; fearless
 Raught, reached
 Raw, a row
 Rax, to stretch
 Ream, cream; to cream
 Reaming, brimful, frothing
 Reave, rove
 Reck, to heed
 Rec'e, counsel; to counsel
 Red-wat-shod, walking in blood over
 the shoe-tops
 Red-wud, stark mad
 Ree, half drunk, fuddled
 Reek, smoke
 Reekin, smoking
 Reekit, smoked; smoky
 Remead, remedy
 Requite, requited
 Rest, to stand restive
 Restit, stood restive; stunted; wi-
 thered
 Restricked, restricted
 Rew, to repent, to compassionate
 Rief, reef, plenty
 Rief randies, sturdy beggars
 Rig, a ridge
 Rigwiddie, rigwoodie, the rope or chain
 that crosses the saddle of a horse to

support the spokes of a cart; spare,
 withered, sapless
 Rin, to run, to melt
 Rinnin, running
 Rink, the course of the stones, a term
 in curling on ice
 Rip, a handful of unthreshed corn
 Riskit, made a noise like the tearing
 of roots
 Rockin, spinning on the rock, or distaff
 Rood, stands likewise for the plural
 roods
 Roon, a shred, a border or selvage
 Roose, to praise, to commend
 Roosty, rusty
 Roun', round, in the circle of neigh-
 bourhood
 Roupet, hoarse, as with a cold
 Routhie, plentiful
 Row, to roll, to wrap
 Row't, rolled, wrapped
 Rowte, to low, to bellow
 Rowth, or routh, plenty
 Rowtin, lowing
 Rozet, rosin
 Rung, a cudgel
 Runkled, wrinkled
 Runt, the stem of colewort or cabbage
 Ruth, sorrow
 Ryke, to reach

 SAE, so
 Saft, soft
 Sair, to serve; a sore
 Sairly, or sailrie, sorely
 Sair't, served
 Sark, a shirt; a shift
 Sarkit, provided in shirt
 Saugh, the wi'low
 Sax, soul

- Saumont, salmon
 Saunt, a saint
 Saut, salt, *adj.* salt.
 Saw, to sow
 Sawin, sowing
 Sax, six
 Scaith, to damage, to injure; injury
 Scar, a cliff
 Scaud, to scald
 Scauld, to scold
 Scaur, apt to be scared
 Scawl, a scold; a termagant
 Scon, a cake of bread
 Sconner, a loathing; to loathe
 Scrauch, to scream as a hen, partridge,
 &c.
 Screed, to tear; a rent
 Scribe, to glide swiftly along
 Scievin, gleesomely; swiftly
 Scrimp, to scant
 Scrimpet, did scant; scanty
 See'd, did see
 Seizin, seizing
 Sel, self; a body's sel, one's self alone
 Sell't, did sell
 Sen', to send
 Sen't, I, &c., sent, or did send it;
 send it
 Servan', servant
 Settlin', settling; to get a settlin', to be
 frightened into quietness
 Sets, sets off, goes away
 Shachled, distorted; shapeless
 Shaird, a shred, a shard
 Shangan, a stick cleft at one end to put
 in the tail of a dog, &c., by way of
 mischief, or to frighten him away
 Shaver, a humorous wag; a barber
 Shaw, to show; a small wood in a
 hollow
 Sheep-shank; to think one's self nae
 sheep-shank, to be conceited
 Sherra-muir, Sheriff-moor, the battle
 fought in the rebellion, A. D. 1715
 Sheugh, a ditch, a trench, a sluice
 Shiel, a shed
 Shill, shrill
 Shog, a shock; a push off at one side
 Shool, shovel
 Shoon, shoes
 Shore, to offer, to threaten
 Shor'd, offered
 Shouter, the shoulder
 Shure, did shear, shore
 Sic, such
 Sicker, sure, steady
 Sidelins, sidelong, slanting
 Siller, silver; money
 Simmer, summer
 Sin, a son
 Sin', since
 Skaith. *See* Scaith
 Skellum, a worthless fellow
 Skelp, to strike, to slap; to walk with
 a smart tripping step; a smart stroke
 Skelpie-limmer, a reproachful term in
 female scolding
 Skelpin, stepping, walking
 Skiegh, or skeigh, proud, nice, high-
 mettled
 Skinklin, a small portion
 Skirl, to shriek, to cry shrilly
 Skirling, shrieking, crying
 Skirl't, shrieked
 Sklent, slant; to run aslant, to deviate
 from truth
 Sklented, ran, or hit, in an oblique di-
 rection
 Skouth, freedom to converse without
 restraint; range, scope

- Skriegh, a scream ; to scream
 Skyrin, shining ; making a great show
 Skyte, force, very forcible motion
 Slae, a sloe
 Slade, did slide
 Slap, a gate ; a breach in a fence
 Slaver, saliva ; to emit saliva
 Slaw, slow
 Slee, sly ; sleest, sliest
 Sleekit, sleek ; sly
 Slidderly, slippery
 Slype, to fall over, as a wet furrow
 from the plough
 Slypet, fell
 Sma', small
 Smeddum, dust, powder ; mettle,
 Smiddy, a smithy [sense
 Smoor, to smother
 Smoor'd, smothered
 Smoutie, smutty, obscene, ugly
 Smytrie, a numerous collection of small
 individuals
 Snapper, to stumble ; a stumble
 Snash, abuse, Billingsgate
 Snaw, snow ; to snow
 Snaw-broo, melted snow
 Snawie, snowy
 Sneck, snick, the latch of a door
 Sned, to lop, to cut off
 Sneeshin, snuff
 Sneeshin-mill, a snuff-box
 Snell, bitter, biting
 Snick-drawing, trick-contriving, craftv
 Snirtle, to laugh restrainedly
 Snood, a ribbon for binding the hair
 Snool, one whose spirit is broken with
 oppressive slavery ; to submit tame-
 ly, to sneak
 Snoove, to go smoothly and constantly ;
 to sneak
 Snowk, to scent or snuff, as a dog, &c.
 Snowkit, scented, snuffed
 Sonsie, having sweet, engaging looks ;
 lucky, jolly
 Soom, to swim
 Sooth, truth, a pretty oath
 Sough, a heavy sigh, a sound dytng
 on the ear
 Souple, flexible ; swift
 Souter, a shoemaker
 Sowens, a dish made of oatmeal: the
 seeds of oatmeal soured, &c., flum-
 mery
 Sowp, a spoonful, a small quantity of
 anything liquid
 Sowth, to try over a tune with a low
 whistle
 Sowther, solder ; to solder, to cement
 Spae, to prophesy, to divine
 Spaul, a limb
 Spairge, to dash, to soil, as with mire
 Spaviet, having the spavin
 Spean, spane, to wean
 Speat, or spate, a sweeping torrent
 after rain or thaw
 Speel, to climb
 Spence, the country parlour
 Spier, to ask, to inquire
 Spier't, inquired
 Splatter, a splutter, to splutter
 Spleughan, a tobacco-pouch
 Splore, a frolic ; a noise, riot
 Sprackle, sprachle, to clamber
 Sprattle, to scramble
 Spreckled, spotted, speckled
 Spring, a quick air in music ; a Scot-
 tish reel
 Sprit, a tough-rooted plant, something
 like rushes
 Sprittie, full of spirits

- Spunk, fire, mettle; wit
 Spunkie, mettlesome, fiery; will-o'-wisp, or ignis fatuus
 Spurtle, a stick, used in making oat-meal pudding or porridge
 Squad, a crew, a party
 Squatter, to flutter in water, as a wild duck
 Squattle, to sprawl
 Stacher, to stagger
 Stack, a rick of corn, hay, &c.
 Staggy, the diminutive of stag
 Stalwart, strong, stout
 Stan, to stand; stan't, did stand
 Stane, a stone
 Stang, an acute pain; a twinge; to sting
 Stank, did stink; a pool of standing
 Stap, stop [water
 Stark, stout
 Startle, to run as cattle stung by the gad-fly
 Staumrel, a blockhead; half-witted
 Staw, did steal; to surfeit
 Stech, to cram the belly
 Stechin, cramming
 Steek, to shut; a stitch
 Steer, to molest; to stir
 Steeve, firm, compacted
 Stell, a still
 Sten, to rear as a horse
 Sten't, reared
 Stents, tribute; dues of any kind
 Stey, steep; steyest, steepest
 Stibble, stubble; stibble-rig, the reaper in harvest who takes the lead
 Stick an' stow, totally, altogether
 Stile, a crutch; to halt, to limp
 Stimpert, the eighth part of a Winchester bushel
 Stirk, a cow or bullock a year old
 Stock, a plant or root of colewort, cabbage, &c.
 Stockin, a stocking: throwing the stocking; when the bride and bridegroom are put into bed, and the candle out, the former throws a stocking at random among the company, and the person whom it strikes is the next that will be married
 Stoiter, to stagger, to stammer
 Stoked, made up in shocks as corn
 Stoor, sounding hollow, strong, and hoarse
 Stot, an ox
 Stoup, or stowp, a kind of jug or dish with a handle
 Stoure, dust, more particularly dust in motion
 Stowlins, by stealth
 Stown, stolen
 Stoyte, to stumble
 Strack, did strike
 Strae, straw; to die a fair strae death to die in bed
 Straik, did strike
 Straikit, stroked
 Strappin, tall and handsome
 Straught, straight; to straighten
 Streck, stretched, tight; to stretch
 Striddle, to straddle
 Stroan, to spout, to piss
 Studdie, an anvil
 Stumpie, diminutive of stump
 Strunt, spirituous liquor of any kind to walk sturdily; huff, sullenness
 Stuff, corn or pulse of any kind
 Sturt, trouble; to molest
 Sturtin, frightened
 Sucker, sugar

Sud, should
 Sugh, the continued rushing noise of
 wind or water
 Southron, southern; an old name for
 the English nation
 Swaird, sword
 Swall'd, swelled
 Swank, stately, jolly
 Swankie, or swanker, a tight strapping
 young fellow or girl
 Swap, an exchange; to barter
 Swarf, to swoon; a swoon
 Swat, did sweat
 Swatch, a sample
 Swats, drink; good ale
 Sweaten, sweating
 Sweer, lazy, averse; dead-sweer, ex-
 tremely averse
 Swoor, swore, did swear
 Swinge, to beat; to whip
 Swirl, a curve; an eddying blast, or
 pool; a knot in wood
 Swirlie, knaggie, full of knots
 Swith, get away
 Swither, to hesitate in choice; an irre-
 solute wavering in choice
 Syne, since, ago; then

TACKETS, a kind of nails for driving
 into the heels of shoes
 Tae, a toe; three-tae'd, having three
 prongs
 Tairge, a target
 Tak, to take; takin, taking
 Tamtallan, the name of a mountain
 Tangle, a sea-weed
 Tap, the top
 Tapetless, heedless, foolish
 Tarrow, to murmur at one's allowance
 Tarrow't, murmured

Tarry-breaks, a sailor
 Tauld, or tald, told
 Taupie, a foolish, thoughtless young
 person
 'Tauted, or tautie, matted together;
 spoken of hair or wool
 Tawie, that allows itself quietly to be
 handled; spoken of a horse, cow, &c.
 Teat, a small quantity
 Tedding, spreading after the mower
 Teen, to provoke; provocation
 Ten-hours' bite, a slight feed to horses
 while in the yoke, in the forenoon
 Tent, a field-pulpit; heed, caution; to
 take heed; to tend or herd cattle
 Tentie, heedful, cautious
 Tentless, heedless
 Tough, tough
 Thack, thatch; thack an' rape, cloth-
 ing necessities
 Thae, these
 Thairms, small guts; fiddle-strings
 Thankit, thanked
 Theekit, thatched
 Thegither, together
 Themsel, themselves
 Thick, intimate, familiar
 Thieveless, cold, dry, spited: spoken
 of a person's demeanour
 Thir, these
 Thirl, thrill
 Thirled, thrilled, vibrated
 Thole, to suffer, to endure
 Thowe, a thaw; to thaw
 Thowless, slack, lazy
 Thrang, throng, a crowd
 Thrapple, throat, windpipe
 Thrave, twenty-four sheaves or two
 shocks of corn; a considerable num-
 ber

- Thraw, to sprain, to twist ; to contradict
 Thrawin, twisting, &c.
 Thrawn, sprained, twisted ; contradicted
 Threap, to maintain by dint of assertion
 Threshin, thrashing
 Threteen, thirteen
 Thistle, thistle
 Through, to go on with ; to make out
 Throuther, pell-mell, confusedly
 Thud, to make a loud intermittent noise
 Thumpit, thumped
 Thysel, thyself
 Till't, to it
 Timmer, timber
 Tine, to lose ; tint, lost
 Tinkler, a tinker
 Tini the gate, lost the way
 Tip, a ram
 Tippence, twopence
 Tirl, to make a slight noise ; to uncover
 Tirlin, uncovering
 Tither, the other
 Tittle, to whisper
 Tittlin, whispering
 Tocher, marriage portion
 Tod, a fox
 Toddle, to totter, like the walk of a child
 Toddlin, tottering
 Toom, empty ; to empty
 Toop, a ram
 Toun, a hamlet ; a farm-house
 Tout, the blast of a horn or trumpet ; to blow a horn, &c.
 Tow, a rope
 Lowmond, a twelvemonth
 Towzie, rough, shaggy
 Toy, a very old fashion of female head-dress
 Toyte, to totter like old age
 Transmugrified, transmigrated, metamorphosed
 Trashtrie, trash
 Trews, trowsers
 Trickie, full of tricks
 Trig, spruce, neat
 Trimly, excellently
 Trow, to believe
 Trowth, truth, a petty oath
 Tryste, an appointment ; a fair
 Trysted, appointed ; to tryste, to make an appointment
 Try't, tried
 Tug, raw hide, of which in old times plough-traces were frequently made
 Tulzie, a quarrel ; to quarrel, to fight
 Twa, two
 Twa-three, a few
 'Twad, it would
 Twal, twelve ; twal-pennie worth, a small quantity, a pennyworth. N.B. One penny English is 12d. Scotch.
 Twin, to part
 Tyke, a dog
 UNCO, strange, uncouth ; very, very great, prodigious
 Uncos, news
 Unkenn'd, unknown
 Unsicker, unsure, unsteady
 Unskaith'd, undamaged, unhurt
 Unweeting, unwittingly, unknowingly
 Upo', upon
 Urchin, a hedgehog
 VAP'RIN, vapouring

- Vera, very
 Virl, a ring round a colum &c
 Vittle, corn of all kinds, food
- WA', wall; wa's, walls
 Wabster, a weaver
 Wad, would; to bet; a bet, a p'edg
 Wadna, would not
 Wae, wo, sorrowful
 Waefu', woful, sorrowful, waiuing
 Waesucks! or waes me! alas! O the pity!
 Waft, the cross thread that goes from the shuttle through the web; woof
 Wair, to lay out, to expend
 Wale, choice; to choose
 Waled, chose, chosen
 Walie, ample, large, jolly; also an interjection of distress
 Wame, the belly
 Wamefu', a bellyful
 Wanchancie, unlucky
 Wanrestfu', restless
 Wark, work
 Wark-lume, a tool to work with
 Warl, or warld, world
 Warlock, a wizard
 Warly, worldly, eager on amassing wealth
 Warran, a warrant; to warrant
 Warst, worst
 Warst'd or wars'd, wrestled
 Wastrie, prodigality
 Wat, wet; I wat, I wot, I know
 Water-brose, brose made of meal and water simply, without the addition of milk, butter, &c.
 Wattle, a twig, a wand
 Wauble, to swing, to reel
 Waught, a draught
- Waukit, thickened as fullers do cloth
 Waukrife, not apt to sleep
 Waur, worse; to worst
 Waur't, worsted
 Wean, or weanie, a child
 Wearie, or weary; many a weary body, many a different person
 Weason, weasand
 Weaving the stocking. *See* Stockin, p. 276
 Wee, little; Wee things, little ones; Wee bit, a small matter
 Weel, well; Weelfare, welfare
 Weet, rain, wetness
 Weird, fate
 We'se, we shall
 Wha, who
 Whaizle, to wheeze
 Whalpit, whelped
 Whang, a leathern string; a piece of cheese, bread, &c.; to give the strappado
 Whare, where; Whare'er, wherever
 Whase, whose
 Whatreck, nevertheless
 Wheep, to fly nimbly, jerk; penny-wheep, small beer
 Whid, the motion of a hare running, but not frightened; a lie
 Whiddin, running as a hare or cony
 Whigmeleeries, whims, fancies
 Whingin, crying, complaining, fretting
 Whirligigums, useless ornaments, trifling appendages
 Whisht, silence; to hold one's whisht, to be silent
 Whisk, to sweep, to lash
 Whiskit, lashed
 Whistle, a whistle; to whistle
 Whitter, a hearty draught of liquor

- Whun-stane, a whin-stone
 Wholes, whiles, sometimes
 Wi with
 Wicht, wight, powerful, strong; inventive; of a superior genius
 Wick, to strike a stone in an oblique direction; a term in curling
 Wicker, willow (the smaller sort)
 Wiel, a small whirlpool
 Wife, a diminutive or endearing term for wife
 Wilyart, bashful and reserved; avoiding society or appearing awkward in it; wild, strange, timid
 Wimple, to meander
 Wimpl't, meandered
 Wimplin, waving, meandering
 Win, to win, to winnow
 Win't, winded as a bottom of yarn
 Win', wind; Win's, winds
 Winna, will not
 Winnock, a window
 Winsome, hearty, vaunted, gay
 Wintle, a staggering motion; to stagger, to reel
 Winze, an oath
 Wiss, to wish
 Withoutten, without
 Wizen'd, hide-bound, dried, shrunk
 Wonner, a wonder: a contemptuous appellation
 Wons, dwells
 Woo', wool
 Woo, to court, to make love to
 Woodie, a rope, more properly one made of withes or willows
 Wooer bab, the garter knotted below the knee with a coup'e of loops
 Wordy, worthy
- Worset, worsted
 Wow, an exclamation of pleasure or wonder
 Wrack, to tease, to vex
 Wraith, a spirit or ghost; an apparition exactly like a living person, whose appearance is said to forebode the person's approaching death
 Wrang, wrong; to wrong
 Wreeth, a drifted heap of snow
 Wud, mad, distracted
 Wumble, wimble
 Wyle, to beguile
 Wyliccoat, a flannel vest
 Wyte, blame; to blame
- YAD, an old mare; a worn-out horse
 Ye; this pronoun is frequently used for thou
 Year is used both for singular and plural, years
 Yearlings, born in the same year, so-evals
 Yearn, earn, an eagle, an ospray
 Yearns, longs much
 Yell, barren, that gives no milk
 Yerk, to lash, to jerk
 Yerkit, jerked, lashed
 Yestreen, yesternight
 Yett, a gate, such as is usually at the entrance into a farm-yard or field
 Yill, ale
 Yird, earth
 Yokin, yoking; a bout
 Yont, beyond
 Yoursel, yourself
 Yowe, an ewe
 Yowie, diminutive of yowe
 Yule, Christmas

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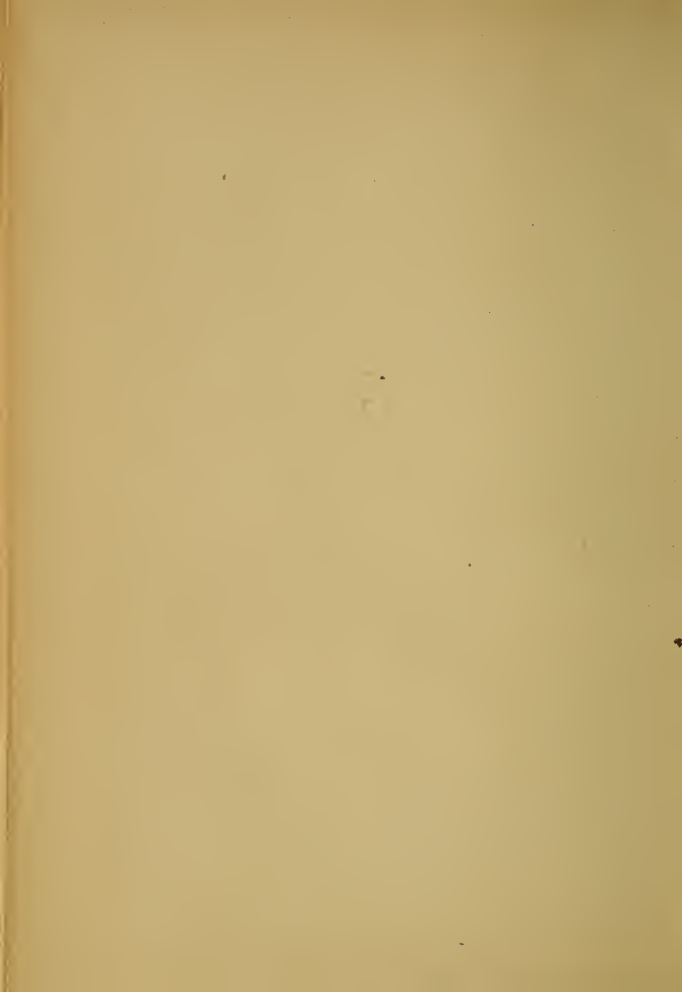
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