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Mrs. A.B. Stuart.
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THE

WORKS

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ROBERT BURNS

CONTAINING HIS LIFE;

BY

JOHN LOCKHART, ESQ.

THE POETRY AND CORRESPONDENCE

OF DR. CURRIE'S EDITION;

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE POET.

BY HIMSELF GILBERT BURNS, PROFESSOR STEWART, AND OTHERS;

ESSAY ON SCOTTISH POETRY

INCLUDING

THE POETRY OF BURNS, BY DR. CURRIE;

BURNS'S SONGS,

FROM JOHNSON'S "MUSICAL MUSEUM," AND "THOMPSON'S SELECT MELODIES.

SELECT SCOTTISH SONGS OF THE OTHER POETS

FROM THE BEST COLLECTIONS,

WITH BURNS'S REMARKS.

RAMING, IN ONE WORK, THE TRUEST EXRIBITION OF THE MAN AND THE POET, AND THE FULLEST EDITION OF HIS POETRY AND PROSE WRITINGS HITHERTO PUBLISHED.

NEW YORK:
LEAVITT & ALLEN BROS.,
No. 8 HOWARD STREET.



PREFACE 10 THE FIRST EDITION.

The following trifles are not the production of the poet, who, with all the advantages of learned art, and, perhaps, amid the elegancies and idleness 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 rustic compeers around him, in his and their native language.-Though a rhymer from his earliest years, at least from the earliest impulse 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 any thing of his worth showing; and none of the following works were 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 u 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 elegier do honour to our language, our nation, and our species, that "Hamility has depressed many a genius to a hermit, but never raised one to fame!" If any critic catches at the word genus, 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 manœuvre below the worst character, which, he hopes, his worst enemy will ever give him. But to the genius of a Ramsay, or the glorious dawnings of the Door, unfortunate Fergusson, 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 owes to benevolence and friendship for gratifying him, if he deserves it, in that dearest wish of every poetic bosom—

be distinguished. He begs his readers, particularly the learned and the lite, who may honour him with a perusal, that they will make every altowance for education and circumstances of life; but if, after a fair, candid, and impartial criticism, he shall stand convicted of dullness and nonsense, let him he done by as he would in that case do by others—let him be condemned, without mercy, to contempt and oblivion.

In the Dedication of the Life of Burns by Dr. Currie to his friend Captain Graham Moore, the learned Doctor thus expresses himself as to his Editorial office:—" The task was beset with considerable difficulties, and men of established reputation naturally declined an undertaking, to the performance of which it was scarcely to be hoped that general approparition could be obtained by any exertion of judgment or temper. To such an office my place of residence, my accustomed studies, and my occupations, were certainly little suited. But the partiality of Mr. Syme thought me, in other respects, not unqualified; and his solicitations, joined to those of our excellent friend and relation, Mrs. Dunlop, and of the friends of the family of the poet, I have not been able to resist."

These sentences contain singular avowals. They are somehow apt to suggest, what we have all heard before, that some are born to honour, while others have honours thrust upon them. The Doctor's squeamishness in favour of persons of established reputation, who might be chary of a ticklish and impracticable, if not an odious task, is in ludicrous contrast with the facts as they have since fallen out. Have we not seen the master-spirits of the age, Scott, Byron, Campbell, honouring in Burns a kindred, if not a superier genius, and, like passionate devotees, doing him homage? They have all voluntarily written of him; and their recorded opinions evince no feelings of shyness, but the reverse: they not only honour, but write as if honoured by their theme. But let us leave the subject, by merely pointing attention to the Doctor's mode of treating it, as a decisive test of the evil days and evil tongues amidst which the poet had fallen, and of the existence of that deplorable party-spirit, during which the facts involving his character as a man, and his reputation as a poet, could neither be correctly stated, nor fairly estimated.

It is true, Dr. Currie's Life contained invaluable materials. The poet's auto-biographical letter to Dr. Moore,—indeed the whole of his letters,—the letters of his brother Gilbert,—of Professor Dugald Stewart,—of Mr. Murdoch and of Mr. Syme, and the other contributors, are invaluable materials. They form truly the very back-hone of the poet's life, as edited by

Dr Currie. They must ever be regarded as precious relics; and however largely they may be used as a part of a biographical work, they ought also to be presented in the separate form, entire; for, taken in connection with the general correspondence, they will be found to be curiously illustrative of the then state of society in Scotland, and moreover to contain manifold and undoubted proofs of the diffusion and actual existence, amongst Scotsmen of all degrees, of that literary talent, which had only been inferred, by other tealing, from the nature of her elementary institutions.

We have no wish to detract from the high reputation of Dr. Currie. It will however be remarked, that the biographical part of his labours, as stated by himself, involve little beyond the office of reducteur .- He was not upon the spot, but living in England, and he was engaged with professional avocations. If truth lies at the bottom of the well, he had nerther the time nor the means to fish it up. Accordingly, it is not pretended that he proceeded upon his own views, formed, on any single occasion, after a painful or pains-taking scrutiny; or that, in giving a picture of the map and the poet, he did more than present to the public what had come to him entirely at second-hand, and upon the authority of others; however tainted or perverted the matter might have been, from the then generally diseased state of the public mind. The Life of the poet, compiled under such circumstances, was necessarily defective,—nay it did him positive in justice in various respects, particularly as to his personal habits and mora' character. These were represented with exaggerated and hideous features unwarranted by truth, and having their chief origin in the malignant viru lence of party strife.

The want of a Life of Burns, more correctly drawn, was long felt. This is evident from the nature of the notices bestowed, in the periodicals of the time, upon the successive works of Walker and Irving, who each of them attempted the task of his biographer; and upon the publications of Cromek, who in his "Reliques," and "Select Scottish Songs," brought to light much interesting and original matter. But these attempts only whetted and kept alive the general feeling, which was not gratified in its full extent until nearly thirty years after the publication of Dr. Currie's work. It was not until 1827 that a historian, worthy of the poet, appeared in the person of Mr. John Lockhart, the son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, and (rather a discordant title), Editor of the London Quarterly Review. He in that year published a Life of Burns, both in the separate form, and as a part of that excellent repertory known by the title of Constable's Miscellang.

It is only necessary to read Mr. Lockhart's Life of Burns, to be satisfied of his qualifications for the task, and that he has succeeded in putting them, after an upright and conscientious manner, to the proper use. It certainly appears odd, that a high Tory functionary should stand out the champion of the Bard who sung,

" A man's a man for a' that:"

and who, because of his democratic tendencies, not only missed of public patrenage, but moreover had long to sustain every humiliation and indirect persecution the local satellites of intolerance could fling upor him. But the lapse of time, and the spread of intelligence, have done much to remove prejudices and soften asperities; to say nothing of that independence of mind which always adheres to true genius, and which the circumstances in the poet's history naturally roused and excited in a kindred spirit. Mr

Lockhart, it will farther be observed, besides having compiled his work veder circumstances of a general nature much more favourable to accurate delineation, likewise set about the task in a more philosophical manner than the preceding biographers. He judged for himself; he took neither facts nor opinions at second-hand; but inquired, studied, compared, and where doubtful, extricated the facts in the most judicious and careful manner. It may be said, that that portion of the poet's mantle which invested his sturdiness of temper, has fallen upon the biographer, who, as the poet did, always thinks and speaks for himself.

These being our sentiments of Mr. Lockhart's Life of Burns, we have preferred it, as by far the most suitable biographical accompaniment of the present edition of his works. It has been our study to insert, in this edition, every thing hitherto published, and fit to be published, of which Burns was the author. The reader will find here all that is contained in Dr. Currie's edition of 1800, with the pieces brought to light by all the respectable authors who have since written or published of Burns.—The following general heads will show the nature and extent of the present

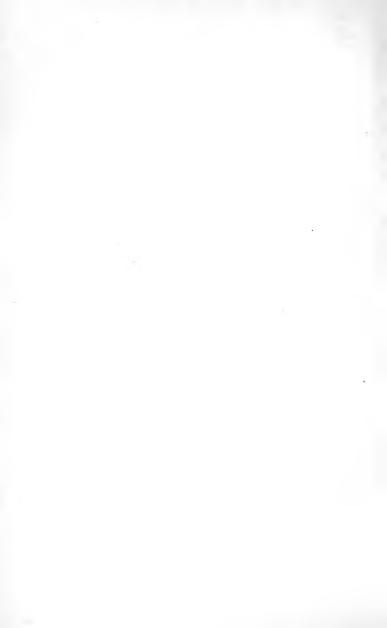
work.

The Life by Lockhart.

- 2. The Poems, as published in the Kilmarnock and first Edinburgh edition, with the poet's own prefaces to these editions, and also as published in Dr. Currie's edition of 1800; having superadded the pieces since brought forward by Walker, Irving, Morison, Paul, and Cromek.
- 3. Essay (by Dr. Currie), on Scottish Poetry, including the Poetry of Burns.
- Select Scottish Songs not Burns's, upwards of 200 in number, and many of them having his Annotations, Historical and Critical, prefixed.
- Burns's Songs, collected from Johnson's Musical Museum, the larger work of Thomson, and from the publications of Cromek, Cunningham, and Chalmers, nearly 200 in number.
- The Correspondence, including all the Letters published by Dr. Currie, besides a number subsequently recovered, published by Cromek and others.

The whole forming the best picture of the man and the poet, and the only complete edition of his writings, in *one* work, hitherto offered to the public. Besides a portrait of the poet, executed by an able artist, long familiar with the original picture by Nasmyth, there is also here presented, (an entire novelty), a fac-simile of the poet's handwriting. It was at one time matter of surprise that the Ploughman should have been a man of genius and a poet. If any such curious persons still exist, they will of course be likewise surprised to find that he was so good a penman.

New York, Sept. 11, 1832.



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LIFE

OF

ROBERT BURNS.

CHAPTER I.

CONTENTS.—The Poet's Birth, 1759—Circumstances and peculiar Character of his Futher and Mother—Hardships of his Early Years—Sources, such as they were, of his Menta. Improvement—Commenceth Love and Poetry at 16.

"My father was a farmer upon the Carrick Border,
And soberly he brought me up in decency and orders"

ROBERT BURNS was born on the 25th of January 1759, in a clay-built cottage, about two miles to the south of the town of Ayr, and in the immediate vicinity of the Kirk of Alloway, and the "Auld Brig o' Doon." About a week afterwards, part of the frail dwelling, which his father had constructed with his own hands, gave way at midnight; and the infant poet and his mother were carried through the storm, to the shelter of a neighbouring hovel. The father, William Burnes or Burness, (for so he spelt his name), was the son of a farmer in Kincardineshire, whence he removed at 19 years of age, in consequence of domestic embarrassments. The farm on which the family lived, formed part of the estate forfeited, in consequence of the rebellion of 1715, by the noble house of Keith Marischall; and the poet took pleasure in saying, that his humble ancestors shared the principles and the fall of their chiefs. Indeed, after William Burnes settled in the west of Scotland, there prevailed a vague notion that he himself had been out in the insurrection of 1745-6; but though Robert would fain have interpreted his father's silence in favour of a tale which flattered his imagination, his brother Gilbert always treated it as a mere fiction, and such it was. Gilbert found among his father's papers a certificate of the minister of his native parish, testifying that " the bearer, William Burnes, had no hand in the late wicked rebellion." It is easy to suppose that when any obscure northern stranger fixed himself in those days in the Low Country, such rumours were likely enough to be circuted concerning him

William Burnes laboured for some years in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh as a gardener, and then found his way into Ayrshire. At the time when Robert was born, he was gardener and overseer to a gentleman of small estate, Mr. Ferguson of Doonholm; but resided on a few acres of land, which he had on lease from another proprietor, and where he has originally intended to establish himself as a nurseryman. He married Agnes Brown in December 1757, and the poet was their first-born. William Burnes seems to have been, in his humble station, a man eminently entitled to respect. He had received the ordinary learning of a Scottish parish school, and profited largely both by that and by his own experience in the world. "I have met with few," (said the poet, after he had himself seen a good deal of mankind), " who understood men, their manners, and their ways, equal to my father." He was a strictly religious man. There exists in his handwriting a little manual of theology, in the forrof a dialogue, which he drew up for the use of his children, and from which it appears that he had adopted more of the Arminian than of the Calvinistic doctrine; a circumstance not to be wondered at, when we consider that he had been educated in a district which was never numbered among the strongholds of the Presbyterian church. The affectionate reverence with which his children ever regarded him, is attested by all who have described him as he appeared in his domestic circle: but there needs no evidence beside that of the poet himself, who has painted, in colours that will never fade, "the saint, the father, and the husband," of The Cottar's Saturday Night.

Agnes Brown, the wife of this good man, is described as "a very sagacious woman, without any appearance of forwardness, or awkwardness of manner;" and it seems that, in features, and, as he grew up, in general address, the poet resembled her more than his father. She had an inexhaustible store of ballads and to actionary tales, and appears to have nourished his infant imagination by tais means, while her husband paid more attention to "the weightier matters of the law." These worthy people laboured hard for the support of an increasing family. William was occupied with Mr. Ferguson's service, and Agnes contrived to manage a small dairy as well as her children. But though their honesty and diligence merited better things, their condition continued to be very uncomfortable; and our poet, (in his letter to Dr. Moore), accounts distinctly for his being born and bred "a very poor man's son," by the remark, that "stubborn unguinly integrity, and headlong ungovernable irascibility, are disqualifying circumstances."

These defects of temper did not, however, obscure the sterling worth of William Burnes in the eyes of Mr. Ferguson; who, when his gardener expressed a wish to try his for tuneon a farm of his, then vacant, and confessed at the same time his inability to meet the charges of stocking it, at once advanced £100 towards the removal of the difficulty. Furnes accordingly removed to this farm (that of Mount Oliphant, in the parish of Ayr) at Whitsuntide 1766, when his eldest son was between six and seven years of age. But the soil proved to be of the most ungrateful description; and Mr. Ferguson dying, and his affairs falling into the hands of a harsh factor. (who afterwards sat for his picture in the Twa Dogs), Burnes was glad to give up his bargain at the end of six years. He then removed for Tarbolton. But here, after a short interval of prosperity, some unfortunate misunderstanding took place as to the conditions of the leese; the

dispute was referred to arbitration; and, after three years of suspense, the result involved Burnes in ruin. The worthy man lived to know of this decision; but death saved him from witnessing its necessary consequences. He died of consumption on the 12th February 1781. Severe labour, and hopes only renewed to be baffled, had at last exhausted a robust but irri-

table structure and temperament of body and of mind. In the midst of the harassing struggles which found this termination, William Burnes appears to have used his utmost exertions for promoting the mental improvement of his children—a duty rarely neglected by Scottish parents, however humble their station, and scanty their means may be. Robert was sent, in his sixth year, to a small school at Alloway Miln, about a mile from the house in which he was born; but Campbell, the teacher, being in the course of a few months removed to another situation. Burnes and four or five of his neighbours engaged Mr. John Murdoch to supply his place, lodging him by turns in their own houses, and ensuring to him a small payment of money quarterly. Robert Burns, and Gilbert his next brother, were the aptest and the favourite pupils of this worthy man, who survived till very lately, and who has, in a letter published at length by Currie, detailed, with honest pride, the part which he had in the early education of our poet. He became the frequent inmate and confidential friend of the family, and speaks with enthusiasm of the virtues of William Burnes, and of the peaceful and happy life of his humble abode.

"He was (says Murdoch) a tender and affectionate father; he took pleasure in leading his children in the path of virtue; not in driving them, as some parents do, to the performance of duties to which they themselves are averse. He took care to find fault but very seldom; and therefore, when he did rebuke, he was listened to with a kind of reverential awe. A look of disapprobation was felt; a reproof was severely so: and a stripe with the tocz, even on the skirt of the coat, gave heart-felt pain, produced a loud lamentation, and brought forth a flood of tears.

"He had the art of gaining the esteem and good-will of those that were labourers under him. I think I never saw him angry but twice: the ene time it was with the foreman of the band, for not reaping the field as he was desired; and the other time, it was with an old man, for using smutty inuendos and double entendres."——"In this mean cottage, of which I myself was at times an inhabitant, I really believe there dwelt a larger portion of content than in any palace in Europe. The Cottor's Naturdoy Night will give some idea of the temper and manners that prevailed there."

The boys, under the joint tuition of Murdoch and their father, made rapid progress in reading, spelling, and writing; they committed psalms and hynms to memory with extraordinary case—the teacher taking care (as he tells us) that they should understand the exact meaning of each word in the sentence ere they tried to get it by heart. "As soon," says he, "as they were capable of it, I taught them to turn verse into its natural prose order; sometimes to substitute synonymous expressions for poetical words; and to supply all the clipses. Robert and Gilbert were generally at the upper end of the class, even when ranged with boys by far their seniors, The books most commonly used in the school were the Spelling Book, the New Testament, the Bible, Mason's Colection of Prose and Verse, and Fisher's English Grammar."—" Gilbert alw vs appeard to me to possess a more hely imagination, and to be more o the wit, than Robert. I at-

tempted to teach them a little church-music. Here they were left far be hind by all the rest of the school. Robert's ear, in particular, was remarkably dull, and his voice untunable. It was long before I could get them to distinguish one tune from another. Robert's countenance was generally grave and expressive of a serious, contemplative, and thoughtful mind. Gilbert's face said, Mirth, with thee I mean to live; and certainly, if any person who knew the two boys, had been asked which of them was the most likely to court the Muses, he would never have guessed that Robert

had a propensity of that kind."

" At those years," says the poet himself, in 1787, "I was by no means a favourite with anybody. I was a good deal noted for a retentive memory, a stubborn sturdy something in my disposition, and an enthusiastic idiot piety. I say idiot piety, because I was then but a child. Though it cost the schoolmaster some thrashings, I made an excellent English scholar; and by the time I was ten or eleven years of age, I was a critic in substantives, verbs, and particles. 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, cantraips, giants, enchanted towers, dragons, and other 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 nohody 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 ear-

> " For though on dreadful whirls we hung High on the broken wave..."

I met with these pieces in Muson's English Collection, one of my school-books. The two first books I ever read in private, and which gave me more pleasure than any two books I ever read since, were, The Life of Hannibal, and The History of Sir William Wullace. Hannibal gave my young ideas such a turn, that I used to strut in raptures up and down after the recruiting drum and bagpipe, and wish myself tall enough to be a soldier; while the story of Wallace poured a tide of Scottish prejudice into my reins, which will boil along there till the flood-gates of life shut in eternal rest."

Murdoch continued his instructions until the family had been about two years at Mount Oliphant—when he left for a time that part of the country. "There being no school near us," says Gilbert Eurns, " and our little services being already useful on the farm, my father undertook to teach us arithmetic in the winter evenings by candle light—and in this way my two elder sisters received all the education they ever received "Gilbert tells an anecodote which must not be or utted here, since it furnishes an early instance of the liveliness of his bre ber's imagination. Murdoch, being on a visit to the family, read aloud or evening part of the tragedy of Titus Andronicus—the circle listened w h the deepest interest until he came to Act 2, sc. 5, where Lavinia is troduced 'with her Lands cut off, and her

tongue cut out." At this the children entreated, with one voice, in an agony of distress, that their friend would read no more. " If ye will not hear the play out," said William Burnes, "it need not be left with you." -" If it be left," cries Robert, " I will burn it." His father was about to chide him for this return to Murdoch's kindness-but the good young man interfered, saying he liked to see so much sensibility, and left The School for Love in place of his truculent tragedy. At this time Robert was nine years of age. "Nothing," continues Gilbert Burns, "could be more retired than our general manner of living at Mount Oliphant; we raiely saw any body but the members of our own family. There were no boys of our own age, or near it, in the neighbourhood. Indeed the greatest part of the land in the vicinity was at that time possessed by shopkeepers and people of that stamp, who had retired from business, or who kept their farm in the country, at the same time that they followed business in town. My father was for some time almost the only companion we had. He conversed familiarly on all subjects with us, as if we had been men; and was at great pains, while we accompanied him in the labours of the farm, to lead the conversation to such subjects as might tend to increase our knowledge, or confirm us in virtuous habits. He borrowed Salmon's Geographical Grammar for us, and endeavoured to make us acquainted with the situation and history of the different countries in the world; while, from a book-society in Ayr, he procured for us the reading of Derham's Physica and Astro Theology, and Roy's Wisdom of God in the Creation, to give us some idea of astronomy and natural history. Robert read all these books with an avidity and industry scarcely to be equalled. My father had beer. a subscriber to Stackhouse's History of the Bible. From this Robert collected a competent knowledge of ancient history; for no book was so veluminous as to slacken his industry, or so antiquated as to damp his researches." A collection of letters by eminent English authors, is mentioned as having fallen into Burns's hands much about the same time, and greatly delighted

When Eurns was about thirteen or fourteen years old, his father sent him and Gilbert "week about, during a summer quarter," to the parish school of Dalrymple, two or three miles distant from Mount Oliphant, for the improvement of their penmanship. The good man could not pay two fees: or his two boys could not be spared at the same time from the labour of the farm! "We lived very poorly," says the poet. "I was a dexterous ploughman for my age; and the next eldest to me was a brother, (Gilbert), who could drive the plough very well, and help me to thrash the corn. A novel writer might perhaps have viewed these scenes with some satisfaction, but so did not I My indignation yet boils at the recollection of the scoundrel factor's insolent letters, which used to set us all in tears." Gilbert Burns gives his brother's situation at this period in greater detail -" To the buffetings of misfortune," says he, "we could only oppose hard labour and the most rigid economy We lived very sparingly. several years butcher's meat was a stranger in the house, while all the members of the family exerted themselves to the utmost of their strength and rather beyond it, in the labours of the farm. My brother, at the age of thirteen, assisted in thrashing the crop of corn, and at fifteen was the principal labourer on the farm, for we had no hired servant, male or female. The anguish of mind we felt at our tender years, under these straits and difficulties, was very great. To think of our father growing old (for he was

now above fifty), broken down with the long-continued fatigues of his life with a wife and five other children, and in a declining state of circumstances, these reflections produced in my brother's mind and mine sensations of the deepest distress. I doubt not but the hard labour and sorrow of this period of his life, was in a great measure the cause of that depression of spirits with which Robert was so often afflicted through his whole life afterwards. At this time he was almost constantly afflicted in the evenings with a dull headach, which, at a future period of his life, was exchanged for a palpitation of the heart, and a threatening of fainting and suffocation in his bed, in

the night-time." The year after this, Burns was able to gain three weeks of respite, one before, and two after the harvest, from the labours which were thus straining his youthful strength. His tutor Murdoch was now established in the town of Ayr, and the boy spent one of these weeks in revising the English grammar with him; the other two were given to French. He laboured enthusiastically in the new pursuit, and came home at the end of a fortnight with a dictionary and a Telemague, of which he made such use at his cisure hours, by himself, that in a short time (if we may believe Gilbert) he was able to understand any ordinary book of French prose. His progress, whatever it really amounted to, was looked on as something of a prodigy; and a writing-master in Ayr, a friend of Murdoch, insisted that Robert Burns must next attempt the rudiments of the Latin tongue. He did so, but with little perseverance, we may be sure, since the results were of no sort of value. Burns's Latin consisted of a few scraps of hackneyed quotations, such as many that never looked into Ruddiman's Rudiments can apply, on occasion, quite as skilfully as he ever appears to have done. The matter is one of no importance; we might perhaps safely dismiss it with parodying what Ben Jonson said of Shakspeare; he had little French, and no Latin. He had read, however, and read well, ere his sixteenth year elapsed, no contemptible amount of the literature of his own country. In addition to the books which have already been mentioned, he tells us that, ere the family quitted Mount Oliphant, he had read "the Spectator, some plays of Shakspeare, Pope, (the Homer included), Tull and Dickson on Agriculture, Locke on the Human Understanding, Justice's British Gardener's Directory, Boyle's Lectures, Taylor's Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin. A Select Collection of English Songs, Hervey's Meditations," (a book which has ever been very popular among the Scottish peasantry), "and the Works of Allan Ramsay;" and Gilbert adds to this list Pamela, (the first novel either of the brothers read), two stray volumes of Peregrine Pickle, two of Count Fathon, and a single volume of " some English historian," containing the reigns of James I., and his son. The "Collection of Songs," says Burns, was my vade mecum. I pored over them, driving my cart, or walking to labour, song by song, verse by verse; carefully noticing the true, tender, or sublime, from affectation or fustian; and I am convinced I owe to this practice much of my critic-craft, such as it is."

He derived, during this period, considerable advantages from the vicinity of Mount Oliphant to the town of Ayr—a place then, and still, distinguished by the residence of many respectable gentlemen's families, and a consequent elegance of society and manners, not common in remote provincial situations. To his friend. Mr. Murdoch, he no doubt owed, in the first instance, whatever attentions he received there from people older as well

as higher than himself: some such persons appear to have taken a pleasure in lending him books, and surely no kindness could have been more useful to him than this. As for his coevals, he himself says, very justly, " It is not commonly at that green age that our young gentry have a just sense of the distance between them and their ragged playfellows. My young superiors," he proceeds, "never insulted the clouterly appearance of my blough-boy carcass, the two extremes of which were often exposed to all the inclemencies of all the seasons. They would give me stray volumes of books: among them, even then, I could pick up some observation; and one, whose heart I am sure not even the Munny Begum scenes have tainted, helped me to a little French. Parting with these, my young friends and benefactors, as they occasionally went off for the East or West Indies, was often to me a sore affliction, but I was soon called to more serious evils."-(Letter to Moore). The condition of the family during the last two years of their residence at Mount Oliphant, when the struggle which ended in their removal was rapidly approaching its crisis, has been already described; nor need we dwell again on the untimely burden of sorrow, as well as toil, which fell to the share of the youthful poet, and which would have broken altogether any mind wherein feelings like his had existed, without strength like his to control them. The removal of the family to Lochlea, in the parish of Tarbolton, took place when Burns was in his sixteenth year He had some time before this made his first attempt in verse, and the occasion is thus described by himself in his letter to Moore. "This kind of lifethe cheerless gloom of a hermit, with the unceasing moil of a galley-slave, brought me to my sixteenth year; a little before which period I first committed the sin of Rhyme. 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 heartstrings thrill like an Æolian harp; and particularly why my pulse beat such a furious ratan, when I looked and fingered over her little hand, to pick cut the cruel nettle-stings 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 moorlands, he had no more scholar-craft than myself.

"Thus with me began love and poetry; which at times have been my

The earliest of the poet's productions is the little ballad,

" O once I loved a bonny lass.

Burns himself characterises it as "a very puerile and silly performance," yet it contains here and there lines of which he need hardly have been ashamed at any period of his life:—

"She dresses aye sae clean and neat,
Baith decent and genteel,
And then there's something in her g
Gars ony dress look weel."

"Silly and puerile as it is," said the poet, long afterwards, "I am arways pleased with this song, as it recalls to my mind those happy days when my heart was yet honest, and my tongue sincerc...I composed it in a wild enthusiasm of passion, and to this hour I never recollect it but my heart melts, my blood sallies, at the remembrance." (MS. Memorandum book, August 1783.)

In his first epistle to Lapraik (1785) he says-

"Amaist as soon as I could spell,
I to the crambo-jingle fell,
Tho' rude and rough;
Yet crooning to a body's sell
Does weel eneugh."

And in some nobler verses, entitled "On my Early Days," we have the following passage:—

"I mind it weel in early date,
When I was beardless, young and blate,
And first could thrash the barn,
Or haud a yokin' o' the pleugh,
An' tho' for foughten sair eneugh,
Yet unco proud to learn—
When first amang the yellow corn
A man I reckoned was,
An' wi' the lave ilk merry morn
Could rank my rig and lass—
Still shearing and elearing
The tither stookit raw,
Wi' claivers and haivers
Wearing the day awa—
E'en 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 useful plan or book could make,
O'r sing a sang, at least:
The rough burt-thistle spreading wide
Amang the bearded bear,
I turn'd the weeder-clips aside,
And spread the symbol d'ear."

He is bardly to be envied who can contemplate without emotion, this exquisite picture of young nature and young genius. It was amidst such scenes that this extraordinary being felt those first indefinite stirrings of immortal ambition, which he has himself shadowed out under the magnificent image of "the blind gropings of Homer's Cyclops, around the walls of his cave."

CHAPTER II.

NHTENTS.—Prom 17 to 24—Robert and Gilbert Bunn work to their Father, as Labourers, at stated Wages—At Rural Wirth the Poet feared no Competitor—This period not marked by much Mental Improvement—At Dancing-School—Progress in Love and Petry—A School at Kirkoswald's—Bad Company—At Irvine—Flaxdressing—Becomes there Member of a Batchelor's Club.

"O enviable early days,
When dancing thoughtless pleasure's maze,
To care and guilt unknown!
How ill excharged for riper times,
To feel the follies or the crimes
Of others—or my own!"

As has been already mentioned, William Burnes now quitted Mount Oliphant for Lochlea, in the parish of Tarbolton, where, for some little space, fortune appeared to smile on his industry and frugality. Robert and Gilbert were employed by their father as regular labourers—he allowing them £7 of wages each per annum; from which sum, however, the value of any home made clothes received by the youths was exactly deducted. Robert Burns's person, inured to daily toil, and continually exposed to every variety of weather, presented, before the usual time, every characteristic of robust and vigorous manhood. He says himself, that he never feared a competitor in any species of rural exertion; and Gilbert Burns, a man of uncommon bodily strength, adds, that neither he, nor any labourer he ever saw at work, was equal to the youthful poet, either in the corn field, or the severer tasks of the thrashing-floor. Gilbert says, that Robert's literary zeal slackened considerably after their removal to Tarbolton. He was separated from his acquaintances of the town of Ayr, and probably missed not only the stimulus of their conversation, but the kindness that had furnished him with his supply, such as it was, of books. But the main source of his change of habits about this period was, it is confessed on all hands, the precocious fervour of one of his own turbulent passions.

"In my seventeenth year," says Burns, "to give my manners a brush, I went to a country dancing-school.—My father had an unaccountable antipathy against these meetings; and my going was, what to this moment I repent, in opposition to his wishes. My father was subject to strong passions from that instance of disobedience in me, he took a sort of dislike to me, which I believe was one cause of the dissipation which marked my succeeding years. I say dissipation, comparatively with the strictness, and sobriety, and regularity of Presbyterian country life; for though the Will o' Wisp meteors of thoughtless whim were almost the sole lights of my path, yet early ingrained piety and virtue kept me for several years afterwards within the line of innocence. The great misfortune of my life was to want an aim. I saw my father's situation entailed or me perpetual labour. The only two openings by ich I could enter the temple of lor-

tune, were the gate of nigardly economy, or the path of little chicaning bargain-making. The first is so contracted an aperture, I could never squeeze myself into it;—the last I always hated—there was contamination in the very entrance! Thus abandoned of aim or view in life, with a strong appetite for sociability, as well from native hilarity, as from a pride of observation and remark; a constitutional melancholy or hypochondria cism that made me fly solitude; add to these incentives to social life, my reputation for bookish knowledge, a certain wild logical talent, and a strength of thought, something like the rudiments of good sense: and it will not seem surprising that I was generally a welcome guest where I visited, or any great wonder that, always where two or three met together, there was I among them. But far beyond all other impulses of my heart, was un penchant pour l'adorable moitié du genre humain. My heart was comeletely tinder, and was eternally lighted up by some goddess or other; and as in every other warfare in this world my fortune was various, sometimes I was received with favour, and sometimes I was mortified with a repulse. At the plough, seythe, or reap-hook, I feared no competitor and thus I set absolute want at defiance; and as I never cared farther for my labours than while I was in actual exercise, I spent the evenings in the way after my own heart. A country lad seldom carries on a love adventure without an assisting confidant. I possessed a curiosity, zeal, and intrepid dexterity, that recommended me as a proper second on these occasions, and I dare say, I felt as much pleasure in being in the secret of half the loves of the parish of Tarbolton, as ever did statesman in knowing the intrigues of half the courts of Europe."

In regard to the same critical period of Burns's life, his excellent brother writes as follows :- " I wonder how Robert could attribute to our father that lasting resentment of his going to a dancing-school against his will, of which he was incapable. I believe the truth was, that about this time he began to see the dangerous impetuosity of my brother's passions, as well as his not being amenable to counsel, which often irritated my father, and which he would naturally think a dancing school was not likely to correct. But he was proud of Robert's genius, which he bestowed more expense on cultivating than on the rest of the family-and he was equally delighted with his warmth of heart, and conversational powers. He had indeed that dislike of dancing-schools which Robert mentions; but so far overcame it during Robert's first month of attendance, that he permitted the rest of the family that were fit for it, to accompany him during the second month. Robert excelled in dancing, and was for some time distractedly fond of it. And thus the seven years we lived in Tarbolton parish (extending from the seventeenth to the twenty-fourth of my brother's age) were not marked by much literary improvement; but, during this time, the foundation was laid of certain habits in my brother's character, which afterwards became but too prominent, and which malice and envy have taken delight to enlarge Though, when young, he was bashful and awkward in his intercourse with women, yet when he approached manhood, his attachment to their society became very strong, and he was constantly the victim of some fair enslaver. The symptoms of his passion were often such as nearly to equal those of the celebrated Sappho. I never indeed knew that he fainted, sunk, and died away; but the agitations of his mind and body exceeded any thing of the kind I ever knew in real life. He had always a particular jealousy of people who were richer than himself, or who had

or conseq ence in life. His love, therefore, rarely settled on persons of this description. When he selected any one out of the sovereignty of his good pleasure to whom he should pay his particular attention, she was instantly invested with a sufficient stock of charms, out of the plentiful stores of his own imagination; and there was often a great dissimilitude between his fair captivator, as she appeared to others, and as she seemed when invested with the attributes he gave her. One generally reigned paramount in his affections; but as Yorick's affections flowed out toward Madame de L.—— at the remise door, while the eternal vows of Eliza were upon him, so Robert was frequently encountering other attractions, which formed so many under-plots in the drama of his love."

Thus occupied with labour, love, and dancing, the youth "without an aim" found leisure occasionally to clothe the sufficiently various moods of his mind in rhymes. It was as early as seventeen, (he tells us), that he

wrote some stanzas which begin beautifully:

"I dream'd I hay where flowers were springing Gaily in the sunny beam;
Listening to the wild birds singing
By a fallen crystal stream,
Straight the sky grew black and daring,
Thro' the woods the whit winds rave,
Trees with aged arms were warring,
O'er the swelling drumlic wave.
Such was life's dee citful morning."

On comparing these verses with those on "Handsome Nell," the advance achieved by the young bard in the course of two short years, must be regarded with admiration; nor should a minor circumstance be entirely overlooked, that in the piece which we have just been quoting, there occurs but one Scotch word. It was about this time, also, that he wrote a ballad of much less ambitious vein, which, years after, he says, he used to con over with delight, because of the faithfulness with which it recalled to him the circumstances and feelings of his opening manhood.

-- My father was a farmer upon the Carrick Border, And carefully he brought me up in decency and order. And bade me act a manly part, the I had ne'er a farthing; For without an honest manly heart, no man was worth regarding.

Then out into the world my course I did determine;
Tho' to be rich was not my wish, yet to be great was charming;
My talents they were not the worst, nor yet my education;
Resolved was I at least to try to mend my situation.

No help, nor hope, nor view had I, nor person to befriend me; so I must toil, and sweat, and broil, and labour to sustain me. To plough and sow, to reap and mow, my father bred me early; For one, he said, to labour bred, was a match for fortune fairly.

Thus all obscure, unknown and poor, thro' life I'm doomed to wander; Till down my weary bones I lay, in everlasting slumber. No view, nor care, but shun whate'er might breed me pain or sorrow; I live to-day, as well's I may, regardless of to-morrow,' &c.

These are the only two of his very early productions in which we have nothing expressly about love. The rest were composed to celebrate the charms of those rural beauties who followed each other in the dominion of

his fancy—or shared the capricious throne between them; and we may easily believe, that one who possessed, with his other qualifications, such powers of flattering, feared competitors as little in the diversions of his

evenings as in the toils of his day.

The rural lover, in those districts, pursues his tender vocation in a style the especial fascination of which town-bred swains may find it somevliat difficult to comprehend. After the labours of the day are over, nay, very often after he is supposed by the inmates of his own fireside to be in his bed, the happy youth thinks little of walking many long Scotch miles to the residence of his mistress, who, upon the signal of a tap at her window, comes forth to spend a soft hour or two beneath the harvest moon, or, if the weather be severe, (a circumstance which never prevents the journey from being accomplished), amidst the sheaves of her father's barn. This "chappin' out," as they call it, is a custom of which parents commonly wink at, if they do not openly approve, the observance; and the consequences are far, very far, more frequently quite harmless, than persons not familiar with the peculiar manners and feelings of our peasantry may find it easy to believe. Excursions of this class form the theme of almost all the songs which Burns is known to have produced about this period,—and such of these juvenile performances as have been preserved, are, without exception, beautiful. They show how powerfully his boyish fancy had been affected by the old rural minstrelsy of his own country, and how easily his native taste caught the secret of its charm. The truth and simplicity of nature breathe in every line-the images are always just, of en originally happy-and the growing refinement of his ear and judgment, may be traced in the terser language and more mellow flow of each successive ballad.

The best of the songs written at this time is that beginning,—

"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 bailey."

We may let the poet carry on his own story. "A circumstance," says he, "which made some alteration on my mind and manners, was, that I spent my nineteenth summer on a smuggling coast, a good distance from home, at a noted school (Kirkoswald's) to learn mensuration, surveying, dialling, &c., in which I made a good progress. But I made a greater progress in the knowledge of mankind. The contraband trade was at that time very successful, and it sometimes happened to me to fall in with those who carried it on Seenes of swaggering riot and roaring dissipation were till this time new to me; but I was no enemy to social life. Here, though I learnt to fill my glass, and to mix without fear in a drunken squabble, yet I went on with a high hand with my geometry, till the sun entered Virgo. a morth which is always a carnival in my bosom, when a charming filette, who lived next door to the school, overset my trigonometry, and set me off at a tangent from the sphere of my studies. I, however, struggled on with my sines and co-sines for a few days more; but stepping into the garden one charming noon to take the sun's altitude, there I met my angel, love: --

"Proserpine, gathering flowers,"

" It was in vain to think of doing any more good at school. The remain ing week I staid, I did nothing but craze the faculties of my soul about her, or steal out to meet her; and the two last nights of my stay in the country, had sleep been a mortal sin, the image of this modest and innocent girl had kept me guiltless. I returned home very considerably improved. My reading was enlarged with the very important addition of Thomson's and Shenstone's Works; I had seen human nature in a new phasis; and I engaged several of my school-fellows to keep up a literary correspondence with me. This improved me in composition. I had met with a collection of letters by the wits of Queen Anne's reign, and I pored over them most devoutly; I kept copies of any of my own letters that pleased me; and a comparison between them and the composition of most of my correspondents flattered my vanity. I carried this whim so far, that though I had not three farthings worth of business in the world, yet almost every post brought me as many letters as if I had been a broad plodding son of daybook and ledger. My life flowed on much in the same course till my twenty-third year. Vire l'amour, et vive la bagatelle, were my sole principles of action. The addition of two more authors to my library gave me great pleasure; Sterne and Mackenzie-Tristram Shandy and The Man of Feeling—were my bosom favourites. Poesy was still a darling walk for my mind; but it was only indulged in according to the humour of the hour. I had usually half a dozen or more pieces on hand; I took up one or other, as it suited the momentary tone of the mind, and dismissed the work as it bordered on fatigue. My passions, once lighted up, raged like so many devils, till they found vent in rhyme; and then the conning over my verses, like a spell, soothed all into quiet."

Of the rhymes of those days, few, when he wrote his letter to Moore, had appeared in print. Winter, a dirge, an admirably versified piece, is of their number; The Death of Poor Mailie, Mailie's Elegy, and John Barleycorn; and one charming song, inspired by the Nymph of Kirkoswald's, whese at-

tractions put an end to his trigonometry.

Now westlin winds, and slaughterm and Bring Autumn's pleasant weather; The moorcock springs, on whirring wings, Amang the blooming heather. - Peggy dear, the evening'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," &c.

John Barleycorn is a clever old ballad, very cleverly new-modelled and extended; but the Death and Elegy of Poor Mailie deserve more attention. The expiring animal's admonitions touching the education of the "poor toop lamb, her son and heir," and the "yowie, silly thing," her daughter, are from the same peculiar vein of sly homely wit, embedded upon fancy, which he afterwards dug with a bolder hand in the Twa Dogs, and perhaps to its utmost depth, in his Death and Doctor Hornbook. It need scarcely be added, that Poor Mailie was a real personage, though she did not actually die until some time after her last words were written. She had been purchased by Burns in a frolic, and became exceedingly attached to his person

"Thro' all the town 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 came nigh him,
Than Maille dead."

These little pieces are in a much broader dialect than any of their predecessors. His merriment and satire were, from the beginning, Scotch. Notwithstanding the luxurious tone of some of Burns spieces produced in those times, we are assured by himself (and his brother unhesitatingly confirms the statement) that no positive vice mingled in any of his loves, until after he had reached his twenty-third year. He has already told us, that his short residence "away from home" at Kirkoswald's, where he mixed in the society of seafaring men and smugglers, produced an unfavourable alteration on some of his habits; but in 1781–2 he spent six months at Irvine; and it is from this period that his brother dates a serious change.

" As his numerous connexions," says Gilbert, " were governed by the strictest rules of virtue and modesty, (from which he never deviated till his twenty-third year), he became anxious to be in a situation to marry This was not likely to be the case while he remained a farmer, as the stocking of a farm required a sum of money he saw no probability of being master of for a great while. He and I had for several years taken land of our futher, for the purpose of raising flax on our own account; and in the course of selling it, Robert began to think of turning flax-dresser, both as being suitable to his grand view of settling in life, and as subservient to the flux-raising." Burns, accordingly, went to a half-brother of his mo ther s, by name Peacock, a flax-dresser in Irvine, with the view of learning this new trade, and for some time he applied himself diligently; but missortune after misfertune attended him. The shop accidentally saught fire during the carousal of a new-year's-day's morning, and Robert " was left, like a true poet, not worth a sixpence."-" I was obliged," says he, " to give up this scheme; the clouds of misfortune were gathering thick round my father's head; and what was worst of all, he was visibly far gone in a consumption; and, to crown my distresses, a belle fille whom I adored, and who had pledged her soul to meet me in the field of matrimony, jilted me, with peculiar circumstances of mortification. The finishing evil that brought up the rear of this infernal file, was, my constitutional melancholy being increased to such a degree, that for three months I was in a state of mind scarcely to be envied by the hopeless wretches who have got their mittimus—Depart from me, ye cursed." The following letter, addressed by Burns to his father, three days before the unfortunate fire took place, will show abundantly that the gloom of his spirits had little need of that aggravation. When we consider by whom, to whom, and under what circumstances, it was written, the letter is every way a remarkable one :-

[&]quot;Honoured Sir,

[&]quot;I have purposely delayed writing, in he hope that I should have the pleasure of seeing you on New-year's day; but work comes so hard upon us, first I do not the second on that account, as well as for some other attle reasons, which I shall tell you at meeting. My health is nearly the same as when you were here, only my sleep is a little sounder; and, on the whole, I are the better than otherwise, though I mend by very slow degrees. The weakness of my acryes has so debilitated my

mini, that I dare neither review past wants, nor look forward into futurity for the least anxiety or perturbation in my breast produces most unhappy effects on my whole frame. Sometimes, indeed, when for an hour or two my spirits are alightened, I glimmer a little into futurity; but my principal and indeed my only pleasurable employment, is looking backwards and forwards in a moral and religious way. I am quite transported at the thought, that ere long, perhaps very soon, I shall bid an eternal adieu to all the pains and uneasiness, and disquietudes of this weary life; for I assure you I am heartily tired of it; and, if I do not very much deceive myself, I could contentedly and gladly resign it.

> ' The soul, uneasy, and confined at home, Rests and expatiates in a life to come.'

"It is for this reason I am more pleased with the 15th, 16th, and 17th verses of the 7th chapter of Revelations, than with any ten times as many verses in the whole Bible, and would not exchange the noble enthusiasm with which they inspire me for all that this world has to offer. As for this world, I despair of ever making a figure in it. I am not formed for the bustle of the busy, nor the flutter of the gay. I shall never again be capable of entering into such scenes. Indeed, I am altogether unconcerned at the thoughts of this life. I foresee that poverty and obscurity probably await me, and I am in some measure prepared, and daily preparing, to meet them. I have but just time and paper to return you my grateful thanks for the lessons of virtue and piety you have given me, which were too much neglected at the time of giving them, but which I hope have been remembered ere it is yet too late. Present my dutiful respects to my mother, and my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Muir; and, with wishing you a merry New-year's-day, I shall conclude.

"I am, honoured Sir, your dutiful son,

" ROBERT BURNS,"

" P. S.—My meal is nearly out; but I am going to borrow, till I get more."

The verses of Scripture here alluded to, are as follows:—

"15. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitted on the throne shall dwell among them.

"16. They shall hunger no mere, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

"17. For the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them

unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

"This letter," says Dr. Currie, "written several years before the publication of his Poems, when his name was as obscure as his condition was humble, displays the philosophic melancholy which so generally forms the poetical temperament, and that buoyant and ambitious spirit which indicates a mind conscious of its strength. At Irvine, Burns at this time possessed a single room for his lodgings, rented, perhaps, at the rate of a shilling a-week. He passed his days in constant labour as a flax-dresser, and his food consisted chiefly of oat-meal, sent to him from his father's family. The store of this humble, though wholesome nutriment, it appears, was nearly exhausted, and he was about to borrow till he should obtain a supply. Yet even in this situation, his active imagination had formed to itself pictures of eminence and distinction. His despair of making a figure in

the world, shows how ardently he wished for honourable fame; and his contempt of life, founded on this despair, is the genuine expression of youthful and generous mind. In such a state of reflection, and of suffering, the imagination of Burns naturally passed the dark boundaries of our earthly horizon, and rested on those beautiful representations of a better world, where there is neither thirst, nor hunger, nor sorrow, and where happiness shall be in proportion to the capacity of happiness."—Life, p. 102.

Unhappily for himself and for the world, it was not always in the recollections of his virtuous home and the study of his Bible, that Burns sought for consolation amidst the heavy distresses which "his youth was heir to." Irvine is a small sea-port; and here, as at Kirkoswald's, the adventurous spirits of a smuggling coast, with all their jovial habits, were to be met with in abundance. "He contracted some acquaintance," says Gilbert, " of a freer manner of thinking and living than he had been used to, whose society prepared aum for overleaping the bounds of rigid virtue, which had

hitherto restrained him."

One of the most intimate companions of Burns, while he remained at Irvine, seems to have been David Sillar, to whom the Epistle to Davie, a Brother Poet, was subsequently addressed. Sillar was at this time a poor schoolmaster in Irvine, enjoying considerable reputation as a writer of local verses: and, according to all accounts, extremely joyial in his life and conversation.

Burns himself thus sums up the results of his residence at Irvine: " From this adventure I learned something of a town life; but the principal thing which gave my mind a turn, was a friendship I formed with a young fellow, a very noble character, but a hapless son of misfortune vas the son of a simple mechanie; but a great man in the neighbourhood, taking him under his patronage, gave him a genteel education, with a view of bettering his situation in life. The patron dying just as he was ready to launch out into the world, the poor fellow in despair went to sea; where, after a variety of good and ill fortune, a little before I was acquainted with him, he had been set ashore by an American privateer, on the wild coast of Connaught, stripped of every thing. His mind was fraught with independence, magnanimity, and every manly virtue. I loved and admired him to a degree of enthusiasm, and of course strove to imitate him. In some measure I succeeded; I had pride before, but he taught it to flow in proper channels. His knowledge of the world was vastly superior to mine . and I was all attention to learn. He was the only man I ever saw who was a greater fool than myself, where women was the presiding star; but he spoke of illicit love with the levity of a sailor-which bitherto I had regarded with horror. Here his friendship did me a mischief." Professor Walker, when preparing to write his Sketch of the Poet's life, was informed by an aged inhabitant of Irvine, that Burns's chief delight while there was in discussing religious topics, particularly in those circles which usually gather in a Scotch churchyard after service. The senior added, that Burns commonly took the high Calvinistic side in such debates; and concluded with a boast, that "the lad" was indebted to himself in a great measure for the gradual adoption of "more liberal opinions." It was during the same period, that the poet was first initiated in the mysteries of free masonry, "which was," says his bro her, "his first introduction to the life of a boon companion." He was introduced to St. Mary's Lodge of Tarbolton by

John Ranken, a very dissipated man of considerable talents, to whom he afterwards indited a poetical epistle, which will be noticed in its place.

"Rhyme," Burns says, "I had given up;" (on going to Irvine) "but meeting with Ferguson's Scottish Poems, I strung anew my wildly sounding lyre with emulating vigour." Neither flax-dressing nor the tavern could keep him long from his proper vocation. But it was probably this accidental meeting with Ferguson, that in a great measure finally determined the Scottish character of Burns's potry; and indeed, but for the lasting sense of this obligation, and some natural sympathy with the personal misfortunes of Ferguson's life, it would be difficult to account for the very

high terms in which Burns always mentions his productions.

Shortly before Burns went to Irvine, he, his brother Gilbert, and some seven or eight young men besides, all of the parish of Tarbolton, had formed themselves into a society, which they called the Bachelor's Club; and which met one evening in every month for the purposes of mutual entertainment and improvement. That their cups were but modestly filled is evident; for the rules of the club did not permit any member to spend more than threepence at a sitting. A question was announced for discussion at the close of each meeting; and at the next they came prepared to deliver their sentiments upon the subject-matter thas proposed. Burns drew up the regulations, and evidently was the principal person. He introduced his friend Sillar during his stay at Irvine, and the meetings appear to have continued as long as the family remained in Tarbolton. Of the sort of questions discussed, we may form some notion from the minute of one evening, still extant in Burns's hand-writing. - Question for HAL-Loween, (Nov. 11), 1780. - "Suppose a young man, bred a farmer, but without any fortune, has it in his power to marry either of two women, the one a girl of large fortune, but neither handsome in person, nor agreeable in conversation, but who can manage the household affairs of a farm well enough: the other of them a girl every way agreeable in person, conversation, and behavi. our, but without any fortune : which of them shall he choose?" may be guessed, took the imprudent side in this discussion.

"On one solitary occasion," says he, "we resolved to meet at Tarbolton in July, on the race-night, and have a dance in honour of our society. Accordingly, we did meet, each one with a partner, and spent the evening in such innocence and merriment, such cheerfulness and good humour, that every brother will long remember it with delight." There can be no doubt that Burns would not have patronized this sober association so long, unless he had experienced at its assemblies the pleasure of a s'imulated mind: and as little, that to the habit of arranging his thoughts, and expressing them in somewhat of a formal shape, thus early cultivated, we ought to attribute much of that conversational skill which, when he first mingled with the upper world, was generally considered as the most remarkable of all his personal accomplishments.—Burns's associates of the Bachelor's Club. must have been young men possessed of talents and acquirements, other. wise such minds as his and Gilbert's could not have persisted in measuring themselves against theirs; and we may believe that the periodical display of the poet s own vigour and resources, at these club-meetings, and (more frequently than his brother approved) at the Free Mason Lodges of Irvine and Tarbolton, extended his rural reputation; and, by degrees, prepared persons not immediately included in his own circle, for the extraordinary impression which his poetical efforts were cre long to czecte all over " the Carrick border."

David Sillar gives an account of the beginning of his own acquaintance with Burns, and introduction into this Bachelor's Club, which will always be read with much interest.-" Mr. Robert Burns was some time in the parish of Tarbolton prior to my acquaintance with him. His social disposition easily procured him acquaintance; but a certain satirical seasoning with which he and all poetical geniuses are in some degree influenced, while it set the rustic circle in a roar, was not unaccompanied with its kindred attendant, suspicious fear. I recollect hearing his neighbours observe, he had a great deal to say for himself, and that they suspected his principles. He wore the only tied hair in the parish; and in the church, his plaid, which was of a particular colour, I think fillemot, he wrapped in a particular manner round his shoulders. These surmises, and his exterior, had such a magnetical influence on my curiosity, as made me particularly solicitous of his acquaintance. Whether my acquaintance with Gilbert was casual or premeditated, I am not now certain. By him I was introduced, not only to his brother, but to the whole of that family, where, in a short time, I became a frequent, and I believe, not unwelcome visitant. After the commencement of my acquaintance with the bard, we frequently met upon Sundays at church, when, between sermons, instead of going with our friends or lasses to the inn, we often took a walk in the fields. In these walks, I have frequently been struck with his facility in addressing the fair sex; and many times, when I have been bashfully anxious how to express myself, he would have entered into conversation with them with the greatest ease and freedom; and it was generally a death-blow to our conversation, however agreeable, to meet a female acquaintance. Some of the few opportunities of a noontide walk that a country life allows her laborious sons, he spent on the banks of the river, or in the woods, in the neighbourhood of Stair, a situation peculiarly adapted to the genius of a rural Some book (generally one of those mentioned in his letter to Mr. Murdoch) he always carried and read, when not otherwise employed. It was likewise his custom to read at table. In one of my visits to Lochlea, in time of a sowen supper, he was so intent on reading, I think Tristram Shandy, that his spoon falling out of his hand, made him exclaim, in a tone scarcely imitable, 'Alas, poor Yorick!' Such was Burns, and such were his associates, when, in May 1781, I was admitted a member of the Bachelor's Club.

The misfortunes of William Burnes thickened apace, as has already been seen, and were approaching their crisis at the time when Robert came home from his flax-dressing experiment at Irvine. The good old man died soon, after; and among other evils which he thus escaped, was an affliction that would, in his eyes, have been severe. The poet had not, as he confesses, come unscathed out of the society of those persons of " liberal opinions" with whom he consorted in Irvine; and he expressly attributes to their lessons, the scrape into which he fell soon after "he put his hand to plough again." He was compelled, according to the then all but universal custom of rural parishes in Scotland, to do penance in church, before the congregation, in consequence of the birth of an illegitimate child; and whatever may be thought of the propriety of such exhibitions, there can be no difference of opi ion as to the culpable levity with which he describes the nature of his offence, and the still more reprehensible bitterness with which, in his Epistle to Ranken, he inveighs against the clergyman, who, in rebuking him, only performed what was then σ regular part of the clerical duty, and a part of it that could rever have been at all agreeable to the worthy man whom he satirizes under the appellation of "Daddie Auld." The Poet's Welcome to an Illegitimate Child was composed on the same occasion—a piece in which some very manly feelings are expressed, along with others which can give no one pleasure to contemplate. There is a song in honour of the same occasion, or a similar one about the same period, The rantin' Dog the Daddie o't,—which exhibits the poet as glorying, and only glorying in his shame.

When I consider his tender affection for the surviving members of his own family, and the reverence with which he ever regarded the memory of the father whom he had so recently buried, I cannot believe that Burns has thought fit to record in verse all the feelings which this exposure excited in his bosom. "To wave (in his own language) the quantum of the sin," he who, two years afterwards, wrote The Cottar's Saturday Night, had not, we may be sure, hardened his heart to the thought of bringing additional sorrow and unexpected shame to the fireside of a widowed mother. But his false pride recoiled from letting his jovial associates guess how little he was able to drown the whispers of the still small voice; and the fermenting bitterness of a mind ill at ease within itself, escaped (as may be too often traced in the history of satirists) in the shape of angry sarcasms against others, who, whatever their private errors might be, had at least done him no wrong.

It is impossible not to smile at one item of consolation which Burns proposes to himself on this occasion:—

" ____ Tne mair they talk, I'm kend the better; E'en let them clash!"

This is indeed a singular manifestation of "the last infirmity of noble minds."

CHAPTER III.

Contents.—The Brothers, Robert and Gilbert, become tenants of Moss-viel.—Their incessant labour and moderate habits.—The farm cold and unfertile.—Not prosperous.—The Muse anti-cal-vinistical.—The poet thence involved deeply in local polemics, and charged with heresy.—Curious account of these disputes.—Early poems prompted by then.—Origin of and remurks upon the poet's principal pieces.—Love leads him far astray.—A crisis.—The jail or the West Indies.—The alternative

"The star that rules my luckless lot
Has fated me the russet coat,
And damn'd my fortune to the groat;
But in requit,
Has bless'd me wi' a random shot
O' country wit."

Three months before the death of William Burnes, Robert and Gilbert took the farm of Mossgiel, in the neighbouring parish of Mauchline, with the view of providing a shelter for their parents, in the storm which they had seen gradually thickening, and knew must soon burst; and to this place the whole family removed on William's death. The farm consisted of 119 acres, and the rent was £90. "It was stocked by the property and individual savings of the whole family, (says Gilbert), 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 £7 per annum each; and during the whole time this family concern fasted, which was four years, as well as during the preceding period at Lochlea, Robert's expenses never, in any one year, exceeded his slender inconne."

"I entered on this farm," says the poet, "with a full resolution, come, go, I will be wise. I read farming books, I calculated crops, I attended markets; and, in short, in spite of the devil, and the world, and the flesh, I believe I should have been a wise man; but the first year, from unfortunately buying bad seed, the second, from a late harvest, we lost half our crops. This overset all my wisdom, and I returned, like the dog to his vomit, and the sove that was washed to her vallowing in the mire."

"At the time that our poet took the resolution of becoming wise, he procured," says Gilbert, "a little book of blank paper, with the purpose, expressed on the first page, of making farming memorandums. These farming memorandums are curious enough," Gilbert slyly adds, "and a spo imen may gratify the reader."—Specimens accordingly he gives; as

"O why the deuce should I repine, And be an ill foreboder? I'm twenty-three, and five foot nine,— I'll go and be a sodger," &c. O leave novells, ye Mauchline belles, Ye're safer at your spinning wheel; Such witching books are baited hooks For rakish rooks—like Rob Mossgiel. Your fine T m Jones and Grandisons, They male your youthful fancies reel, They heat your veins, and fire your brains, And then ye're prey for Rob Mossgiel," &c. &c.

The four years during which Burns resided on this cold and ungrateful farm of Mossgiel, were the most important of his life. It was then that his genius developed its highest energies; on the works produced in these years his fame was first established, and must ever continue mainly to rest: it was then also that his personal character came out in all its brightest lights, and in all but its darkest shadows; and indeed from the commencement of this period, the history of the man may be traced, step by step, in his own immortal writings. Burns now began to know that nature had meant him for a poet; and diligently, though as yet in secret, he laboured in what he felt to be his destined vocation. Gilbert continued for some time to be his chief, often indeed his only confidant; and any thing more interesting and delightful than this excellent man's account of the manner in which the poems included in the first of his brother's publications were composed, is certainly not to be found in the annals of literary history.

The reader has already seen, that long before the earliest of them was known beyond the domestic circle, the strength of Burns's understanding, and the keenness of his wit, as displayed in his ordinary conversation, and more particularly at masonic meetings and debating clubs, (of which he formed one in Mauchline, on the Tarbolton model, immediately on his removal to Mossgiel), had made his name known to some considerable extent in the country about Tarbolton, Mauchline, and Irvine; and this prepared the way for his poetry. Professor Walker gives an anecdote on this head, which must not be omitted. Burns already numbered several elergymen among his acquaintances. One of these gentlemen told the Professor, that after entering on the clerical profession, he had repeatedly met Burns in company, "where," said he, "the acuteness and originality displayed by him, the depth of his discernment, the force of his expressions, and the authoritative energy of his understanding, had created a sense of his power of the extent of which I was unconscious, till it was revealed to me by accident. On the occasion of my second appearance in the pulpit, I came with an assured and tranquil mind, and though a few persons of education were present, advanced some length in the service with my confidence and self-possession unimpaired; but when I saw Burns, who was of a different parish, unexpectedly enter the church, I was affected with a tremor and embarrassment, which suddenly apprised me of the impression which my mind, unknown to itself, had previously received." The Professor adds, that the person who had thus unconsciously been measuring the stature of the intellectual giant, was not only a man of good talents and education, but " remarkable for a more than ordinary portion of con stitutional firmness."

Every Scotch peasant who makes any pretension to understanding, is a theological critic—and Burns, no doubt, had long ere this time distinguished himself considerably among those hard-headed groups that may usually be seen gathered together in the church-yard after the sermon is over. It may be guessed that from the time of his residence at Irvine, his stric-

tures were too often delivered in no reverend vein. "Polemical divinity, says he to Dr. Moore, in 1787, "about this time, was putting the country half mad, and I, ambitious of shining in conversation-parties on Sundays, at funerals, &c., used to puzzle Calvinism with so much heat and indiscretion, that I raised a hue-and-cry of heresy against me, which has not ceased to this hour."

To understand Burns's situation at this time, at once patronized by a number of clergymen, and attended with "a hue-and-cry of heresy," we must remember his own words, "that polemical divinity was putting the country half mad." Of both the two parties which, ever since the revolution of 1688, have pretty equally divided the Church of Scotland, it so happened that some of the most zealous and conspicuous leaders and partizans were thus opposed to each other, in constant warfare, in this particular district; and their feuds being of course taken up among their congregations, and spleen and prejudice at work, even more furiously in the cottage than in the manse, he who, to the annoyance of the one set of belli gerents, could talk like Burns, might count pretty surely, with whateve alloy his wit happened to be mingled, on the applause and countenance of the enemy. And it is needless to add, they were the less scrupulous sect of the two that enjoyed the co-operation, such as it was then, and far more important, as in the sequel it came to be, of our poet.

William Burnes, as we have already seen, though a most exemplary and devout man, entertained opinions very different from those which commonly obtained among the rigid Calvanists of his district. The worthy and pious old man himself, therefore, had not improbably infused into his son's mind its first prejudice against these persons. The jovial spirits with whom Burns associated at Irvine, and afterwards, were of course habitual deriders

of the manners, as well as the tenets of the

"Orthodox, orthodox, wha believe in John Knox."

We have already observed the effect of the young poet's own first collision with the ruling powers of presbyterian discipline; but it was in the very act of settling at Mossgiel that Burns formed the connexion, which, more than any circumstance besides, influenced him as to the matter now in question. The farm belonged to the estate of the Earl of Loudoun, but the brothers held it on a sub-lease from Mr. Gavin Hamilton, writer (i. e. attorney) in Mauchline, a man, by every account, of engaging manners, open, kind, generous, and high-spirited, between whom and Robert Burns. a close and intimate friendship was ere long formed. Just about this time it happened that Hamilton was at open feud with Mr. Auld, the minister of Mauchline, (the same who had already rebuked the poet), and the ruling elders of the parish, in consequence of certain irregularities in his personal conduct and deportment, which, according to the usual strict notions of kirk discipline, were considered as fairly demanding the vigorous interfer ence of these authorities. The notice of this person, his own landlord, and, as it would seem, one of the principal inhabitants of the village of Mauchline at the time, must, of course, have been very flattering to our polemical young farmer. He espoused Gavin Hamilton's quarrel warmly. Hamilton was naturally enough disposed to mix up his personal affair with the stand ing controversies whereon Auld was at variance with a large and powerful body of his brother elergymen; and by degrees Mr Hamilton's ardent protege came to be as vehemently interested in the church politics of Ayrshire,

as he could have been in politics of another order, had he happened to be a freeman of some open borough, and his patron a candidate for the honour of representing it in St. Stephen's. Mr. Cromek has been severely criticised for some details of Mr. Gavin Hamilton's dissensions with his parisl. minister; but perhaps it might have been well to limit the censure to the tone and spirit of the narrative, since there is no doubt that these petty squabbles had a large share in directing the early energies of Burns's po-Even in the west of Scotland, such matters would hardly excite much notice now-a-days, but they were quite enough to produce a world of vexation and controversy forty years ago; and the English reader to whom all such details are denied, will certainly never be able to comprehend either the merits or the demerits of many of Burns's most remarkable productions. Since I have touched on this matter at all, I may as well add, that Hamilton's family, though professedly adhering to the Presbyterian Establishment, had always lain under a strong suspicion of Episcopalianism. Gavin's grandfather had been curate of Kirkoswald in the troubled times that preceded the Revolution, and incurred great and lasting popular hatred, in consequence of being supposed to have had a principal hand in bringing a thousand of the Highland host into that region in 1677-8. The district was commonly said not to have entirely recovered the effects of that savage visitation in less than a hundred years; and the descendants and representatives of the Covenanters, whom the curate of Kirkoswald had the reputation at least of persecuting, were commonly supposed to regard with any thing rather than ready good-will, his grandson, the witty writer of Mauchline. A well-nursed prejudice of this kind was likely enough to be met by counter-spleen, and such seems to have been the truth of the case. The lapse of another generation has sufficed to wipe out every trace of feuds, that were still abundantly discernible, in the days when Ayrshire first began to ring with the equally zealous applause and vituperation of,-

" Poet Burns, And his priest-skelping turns"

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. Proud and haughty spirits were unfortunately opposed to each other; and in the superabundant display of zeal as to doctrinal points, neither party seems to have mingled much of the charity of the Christian temper. The whole exhibition was unlovely—the spectacle of such indecent violence among the leading Ecclesiastics of the district, acted most unfavourably on many men's minds—and no one can doubt that in the unsettled state of Robert Burns's principles, the effect must have been powerful as to him.

Macgill and Dalrymple, the two ministers of the town of Ayr, had long been suspected of entertaining heterodox opinions on several points, particularly the doctrine of original sin, and even of the Trinity; and the for-

mer at length published an Essay,

the notice of the Church-courts. More than a year was spent in the discussions which arose out of this; and at last Dr. Maegill was fain to acknowledge his errors, and promise that he would take an early opportunity of apologizing for them to his own congregation from the pulpit—which oremise, however, he never performed. The gentry of the country took

for the most part, the side of Macgill, who was a man of cold unpopular manners, but of unreproached moral character, and possessed of some accomplishments, though certainly not of distinguished talents. The bulk of the lower orders espoused, with far more fervid zeal, the cause of those who conducted the prosecution against this erring doctor. Gavin Hamil ton, and all persons of his stamp, were of course on the side of Macgill --Auld, and the Mauchline elders, were his enemies. Mr. Robert Aiken, a writer in Ayr, a man of remarkable talents, particularly in public speaking. had the principal management of Macgill's cause before the Presbytery, and, I believe, also before the Synod. He was an intimate friend of Hamilton, and through him had about this time formed an acquaintance, which soon ripened into a warm friendship, with Burns. Burns, therefore, was from the beginning a zealous, as in the end he was perhaps the most effective partizan, of the side on which Aiken had staked so much of his reputation. Maegill, Dalrymple, and their brethren, suspected, with more or less justice, of leaning to heterodox opinions, are the New Light pastors of his earliest satires. The prominent antagonists of these men, and chosen champions of the Auld Light, in Ayrshire, it must now be admitted on all hands, presented, in many particulars of personal conduct and demeanour, as broad a mark as ever tempted the shafts of a satirist. These men prided themselves on being the legitimate and undegenerate descendants and representatives of the haughty Puritans, who chiefly conducted the overthrow of Popery in Scotland, and who ruled for a time, and would fain have continued to rule, over both king and people, with a more tyrannical dominion than ever the Catholic priesthood itself had been able to exercise amidst that high-spirited nation. With the horrors of the Papal system for ever in their mouths, these men were in fact as bigoted monks, and almost as relentless inquisitors in their hearts, as ever wore cowl and cord-austere and ungracious of aspect, coarse and repulsive of address and mannersvery Pharisees as to the lesser matters of the law, and many of them, to all outward appearance at least, overflowing with pharisaical self-conceit, as well as monastic bile. That admirable qualities lay concealed under this ungainly exterior, and mingled with and checked the worst of these gloomy passions, no candid man will permit himself to doubt or suspect for a moment; and that Burns has grossly overcharged his portraits of them, deepening shadows that were of themselves 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. Their bitterest enemies dared not at least to bring against them, even when the feud was at its height of fervour, charges of that heinous sort, which they fearlessly, and I fear justly, preferred against their antagonists. No one ever accused them of signing the Articles, administering the sacraments, and eating the bread of a Church, whose fundamental doctrines they disbelieved, and, by insinuation at least, disavowed.

The law of Church-patronage was another subject on which controversy ran high and furious in the district at the same period; the actual condition of things on this read being upheld by all the men of the New Light, and condemned as equally at variance with the precepts of the gospel, and the rights of freemen, by not a few of the other party, and, in particular, by certain conspicuous zealots in the immediate neighbourhood of Burne. While this warfare raged, there broke out an inter tine discord within the

camp of the faction which he loved not. Two of the foremost leaders of the Auld Light party quarrelled about a question of parish boundaries the matter was taken up in the Presbytery of Kilmarnock, and there, in the epen court, to which the announcement of the discussion had drawn a multitude of the country people, and Burns among the rest, the reverend divines. hitherto sworn friends and associates, lost all command of temper, and abused each other corum populo, with a fiery virulence of personal invective, such as has long been banished from all popular assemblies, wherein the laws of courtesy are enforced by those of a certain unwritten code.

"The first of my poetic offspring that saw the light," says Burns, " was a burlesque lamentation on a quarrel between two reverend Calvinists, both of them dramatis personæ in my Holy Fair. I had a notion myself, that the piece had some merit; but to prevent the worst, I gave a copy of it to a friend who was very fond of such things, and told him that I could not guess who was the author of it, but that I thought it pretty clever. With a certain description of the elergy, as well as laity, it met with a roar of applause." This was The Holy Tuilzie, or Twa Herds. The two herds, or pastors, were Mr. Moodie, minister of Riccartoun, and that favourite victim of Burns's, John Russell, then minister of Kilmarnock, and afterwards of Stirling.—" From this time," Burns says, "I began to be known in the country as a maker of rhymes. Holy Willie's Prayer next made its appearance, and alarmed the kirk-session so much, that they held several meetings to look over their spiritual artillery, and see if any of it might be pointed against profane rhymers.—Burns's reverend editor, Mr. Paul, presents Holy Willie's Prayer at full length, although not inserted in Dr. Currie's edition, and calls on the friends of religion to bless the memory of the poet who took such a judicious method of " leading the liberal mind to a rational view of the nature of prayer."—" This," says that bold commentator, "was not only the prayer of Holy Willie, but it is merely the metrical version of every prayer that is offered up by those who call themselves the pure reformed church of Scotland. In the course of his reading and polemical warfare, Burns embraced and defended the opinions of Taylor of Norwich, Macgill, and that school of Divines. He could not reconcile his mind to that picture of the Being, whose very essence is love, which is drawn by the high Calvinists or the representatives of the Covenanters—namely, that he is disposed to grant salvation to none but a few of their sect; that the whole Pagan world, the disciples of Mahomet, the Roman Catholics, the Lutherans, and even the Calvinists who differ from them in certain tenets, must, like Korah, Dathan and Abiram, descend to the pit of perdition, man, woman, and child, without the possihility of escape; but such are the identical doctrines of the Cameronians of the present day, and such was Holy Willie's style of prayer. The hypocrisy and dishonesty of the man, who was at the time a reputed Saint, were perceived by the discerning penetration of Burns, and to expose them he considered his duty. The terrible view of the Deity exhibited in that able production is precisely the same view which is given of him, in different words, by many devout preachers at present. They inculcate, that the greatest sinner is the greatest favourite of heaven-that a reformed bawd is more acceptable to the Almighty than a pure virgin, who has hardly ever transgressed even in thought—that the lost sheep alone will be saved, and that the ninety-and-nine out of the hundred will be left in the wilderness, to perish without mercy-that the Saviour of the world loves

the elect, not from any lovely qualities which they possess, for they are hateful in his sight, but "he loves them because he loves them." Such are the sentiments which are breathed by those who are denominated High Calvinists, and from which the soul of a poet who loves mankind, and who has not studied the system in all its bearings, recoils with horror. . . . The gloomy forbidding representation which they give of the Supreme Being has a tendency to produce insanity, and lead to suicide." *

This Reverend author may be considered as expressing in the above, and in other passages of a similar tendency, the sentiments with which even the most audacious of Burns's anti-calvinistic satires were received among the Ayrshire divines of the New Light; that performances so blasphemous should have been, not only pardoned, but applauded by ministers of religion, is a singular circumstance, which may go far to make the reader comprehend the exaggerated state of party feeling in Burns's native county, at the period when he first appealed to the public ear : nor is it fair to pronounce sentence upon the young and reckless satirist, without taking into consideration the undeniable fact-that in his worst offences of this kind, he was encouraged and abetted by those, who, to say nothing more about their professional character and authority, were almost the only persons of liberal education whose society he had any opportunity of approaching at the period in question. Had Burns received, at this time, from his clerical friends and patrons, such advice as was tendered, when *ather too late, by a layman who was as far from bigotry on religious subjects as any man in the world, this great genius might have made his first approaches to the public notice in a very different character.-" Let your bright talents,"-(thus wrote the excellent John Ramsay of Ochtertyre, in October 1787),-" Let those bright talents which the Almighty has bestowed on you, be henceforth employed to the noble purpose of supporting the cause of truth and virtue. An imagination so varied and forcible as yours, may do this in many different modes; nor is it necessary to be always serious, which you have been to good purpose; good morals may be recommended in a comedy, or even in a song. Great allowances are due to the heat and inexperience of youth; - and few poets can boast, like Thomson, of never having written a line, which, dying, they would wish to blot. In particular, I wish you to keep clear of the thorny walks of satire, which makes a man an hundred enemies for one friend, and is doubly dangerous when one is supposed to extend the slips and weaknesses of individuals to their sect or party. About modes of faith, serious and excellent men have always differed; and there are certain curious questions, which may afford scope to men of metaphysical heads, but seldom mend the heart or temper. Whilst these points are beyond human ken, it is sufficient that all our sects concur in their views of morals. You will forgive me for these hints."

It is arrusing to observe how soon even really *Bucolic* bards learn the tricks of their trade: Burns knew already what lustre a compliment gains from being act in sarcasm, when he made Willie call for special notice of

"Gaun Hamilton's deserts,
He drinks, and swears, and plays at carts;
Yet has sae mony taken' arts
Wi'g reat and sma'
Frae God's ain priests the people's hearts
He steals awa," &c.

The Rev. Hamilton Paul's Life of Burns, pp. 40, 41

Nor is his other patron, Aiken, introduced with inferior skill, as having merited Willie's most fervent execration by his "glib-tongued" defence of the heterodox doctor of Ayr:

"Lord! visit them who did employ him, And for thy people's sake destroy 'em."

Burns owed a compliment to this gentleman for a well-timed exercise of his elocutionary talents. "I never knew there was any merit in my poems,"

said he. "until Mr. Aitken read them into repute."

Encouraged by the "roar of applause" which greeted these pieces, thus orally promulgated and recommended, he produced in succession various satires wherein the same set of persons were lashed; as The Ordination; The Kirk's Alarm, &c. &c.; and last, and best undoubtedly, The Holy Fair, in which, unlike the others that have been mentioned, satire keeps its own place, and is subservient to the poetry of Burns. This was, indeed, an extraordinary performance; no partizan of any sect could whisper that malice had formed its principal inspiration, or that its chief attraction lay in the boldness with which individuals, entitled and accustomed to respect, were held up to ridicule: it was acknowledged amidst the sternest mutterings of wrath, that national manners were once more in the hands of a national poet. The Holy Fair, however, created admiration, not surprise, among the circle of domestic friends who had been admitted to watch the steps of his progress in an art of which, beyond that eircle, little or nothing was heard until the youthful poet produced at length a satirical master-piece. It is not possible to reconcile the statements of Gilbert and others, as to some of the minutiæ of the chronological history of Burns's previous performances; but there can be no doubt, that although from choice or accident, his first provincial fame was that of a satirist, he had, some time before any of his philippies on the Auld Light Divines made their appearance, exhibited to those who enjoyed his personal confidence, a range of imaginative power hardly inferior to what the Holy Fair itself displays; and, at least, such a rapidly improving skill in poetical language and versification, as must have prepared them for witnessing, without wonder, even the most perfect specimens of his art. Gilbert says, that "among the earliest of his poems," was the Epistle to Darie, (i. e. Mr David Sillar), and Mr. Walker believes that this was written very soon after the death of William Burnes. This piece is in the very intricate and difficult measure of the Cherry and the Slae; and, on the whole, the poet moves with ease and grace in his very unnecessary trammels; but young poets are careless beforehand of difficulties which would startle the experienced; and great poets may overcome any difficulties if they once grapple with them; so that I should rather ground my distrust of Gilbert's statement, if it must be literally taken, on the celebration of Jean, with which the epistle terminates: and, after all, she is celebrated in the concluding stanzas, which may have been added some time after the first draught. The gloomy circumstances of the poet's personal condition, as described in this piece, were common, it cannot be doubted, to all the years of his youthful history; so that no particular date is to be founded upon these; and if this was the first, certainly it was not the last occasion, on which Burns exercised his fancy in the colouring of the very worst issue that could attend a life of unsuccessful toil. But Gilbert's recollections, however on trivial points inaccurate, will always be more interesting than any thing that could

be put in their place. "Robert," says he, "often composed without any regular plan. When any thing made a strong impression on his mind, se as to rouse it to poetic exertion, he would give way to the impulse, and embody the thought in rhyme. If he hit on two or three stanzas to please him, he would then think of proper introductory, connecting, and concluding stanzas; hence the middle of a poem was often first produced. It was, I think, in summer 1784, when in the interval of harder labour, he and I were weeging in the garden (kail-yard), that he repeated to me the principal part of his epistle (to Davie). I believe the first idea of Robert's becoming an author was started on this occasion. I was much pleased with the epistle, and said to him I was of opinion it would bear being printed, and that it would be well received by people of taste; that I thought it at least equal, if not superior, to many of Allan Ramsay's epistles, and that the merit of these, and much other Scotch poetry, scemed to consist principally in the knack of the expression-but here, there was a strain of interesting sentiment, and the Scotticism of the language scarcely seemed affected, but appeared to be the natural language of the poet; that, besides, there was certainly some novelty in a poet pointing out the consolations that were in store for him when he should go a-begging. Robert seemed very well pleased with my criticism, and he talked of sending it to some magazine; but as this plan afforded no opportunity of knowing how it would take, the idea was dropped. It was, I think, in the winter following, as we were going together with carts for coal to the family, (and I could yet point out the particular spot), that the 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 person-Death and Doctor Hornbook, though not published in the Kilmarnock edition, was produced early in the year 1785. The schoolmaster of Tarbolton parish, to eke up the scanty subssitence allowed to that useful class of men, had set up a shop of grocery goods. Having accidentally fallen in with some medical books, and become most hobby-horsically attached to 'he study of medicine, he had added the sale of a few medicines to his little trade. He had got a shop-bill printed, at the bottom of which, overlooking his own incapacity, he had advertised, that " Advice would be given in common disorders at the shop gratis." Robert was at a mason-meeting in Tarbolton, when the Dominie unfortunately made too ostentations a display of his medical skill. As he parted in the evening from this mixture of pedantry and physic, at the place where he describes his meeting with Death, one of those floating ideas of apparitions, he mentions in his letter to Dr. Moore, crossed his mind; this set him to work for the rest of the way home. These circumstances he related when he repeated the verses to me next afternoon, as I was holding the plough, and he was letting the water off the field beside me. 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 Upon this Robert wrote his first epistle to Lapraik; and his second in reply to his answer. The verses to the Mouse and Mountain Daisy were composed on the occasions mentioned, and while the author was holding the plough; I could point out the particular spot where each was composed. Holding the plough was a favourite situation with Robert for poetic compositions, and some of his best verses were produced while he was at that exercise. Several of the poems were produced for the purpose of bringing fe ward 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. 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 Cottar'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 after noons, (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 Cottar's Saturday Night. I do not recollect to have read or heard any thing by which I was more highly electrified. The fifth and six stanzas, and the eighteenth, thrilled with peculiar ecstacy through my soul."

The poems mentioned by Gilbert Burns in the above extract, are among the most popular of his brother's performances; and there may be a time for recurring to some of their neculiar merits as works of art. It may be mentioned here, that John Wilson, alias Dr. Hornbook, was not merely compelled to shut up shop as an apothecary, or druggist rather, by the satire which bears his name; but so irresistible was the tide of ridicule, that his pupils, one by one, deserted him, and he abandoned his schoolcraft also. Removing to Glasgow, and turning himself successfully to commercial pursuits, Dr. Hornbook survived the local storm which he could not effectually withstand, and was often heard in his latter days, when waxing cheerful and communicative over a bowl of punch, "in the Saltmarket," to bless the lucky hour in which the dominie of Tarbolton provoked the castigation of Robert Eurns. In those days the Scotch universities did not turn out dectors of physic by the hundred; Mr. Wilson's was probably the only medicine-chest from which salts and senna were distributed for the benefit of a considerable circuit of parishes; and his advice, to say the least of the matter, was perhaps as good as could be had, for love or money, among the wise women who were the only rivals of his practice. The poem which drove him from Ayrshire was not, we may believe, either expected or designed to produce any such serious effect. Poor Hornbook and the poet were old acquaintances, and in some sort rival wits at the time in the ma

son lodge.

In Man was made to Mourn, 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 through life 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 those stanzas:—

"See yonder poor o'erlacour'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 pectition spurn,
Unmindful, tho'a weeping wife
And helpless offspring mourn.
If I'm design'd yon lordling's slave—
By Nature's laws design'd.—
Why was an independent wish
E'er planted in my mind?
If not, why am I subject to
His cruelty and scorn,
Or why has man the will and power
To make his fellow mourn?"

"I had an old grand-uncle," says the poet, in one of his letters to Mrs. Dunlop, "with whom my mother lived in her girlish years; the good old man, for such be was, was blind long ere he died; during which time his highest enjoyment was to sit down and cry, while my mother would sing the simple old song of The Life and Age of Man."

In Man was made to Mourn, Burns appears to have taken many hints

from this ancient ballad, which begins thus:

"Upon the sixteen hundred year of God, and fifty-three,
Frae Christ was born, that bought us dear, as writings testifie;
On January, the sixteenth day, as I did lie alone,
With many a sigh and sob did say —Ah! man is made to moan!"

The Cottar's Saturday Night is, perhaps, of all Burns's pieces, the one whose exclusion from the collection, were such things possible now-a-days, would be the most injurious, if not to the genius, at least to the character, of the man. In spite of many feeble lines, and some heavy stanzas, it appears to me, that even his genius would suffer more in estimation, by being contemplated in the absence of this poem, than of any other single performance he has left us. Lofter flights he certainly has made, but in these he remained but a short while on the wing, and effort is too often perceptible; here the motion is easy, gentle, placidly undulating. There is more of the conscious security of power, than in any other of his serious pieces of considerable length; the whole has the appearance of coming in a full stream from the fountain of the heart—a stream that soothes the ear, and has no glare on the surface.

It is delightful to turn from any of the pieces which present so great a genius as writhing under an inevitable burden, to this, where his buoyant energy seems not even to feel the pressure. The miseries of toil and penury, who shall affect to treat as unreal? Yet they shrunk to small dimensions in the presence of a spirit thus exalted at once, and softened, by the

pietics of virgin love, filial reverence, and domestic devotion.

. Cromek's Scottish Songs.

The Cottar's Saturday Night and the Holy Fair have been put in con trast, and much marvel made that they should have sprung from the same source. "The annual celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the rural parishes of Scotland, has much in it," says the unfort water Heron, " of those old popish festivals, in which superstition, traffic, and amusement, used to be strangely intermingled. Burns saw and seized in it one of the happiest of all subjects to afford scope for the display of that strong and piercing sagacity, by which he could almost intuitively distinguish the reasonable from the absurd, and the becoming from the ridiculous; of that picturesque power of fancy which enabled him to represent scenes, and persons, and groups, and looks, and attitudes, and gestures, in a manner almost as lively and impressive, even in words, as if all the artifices and energies of the pencil had been employed; of that knowledge which he had necessarily acquired of the manners, passions, and prejudices of the rustics around him-of whatever was ridiculous, no less than whatever was affectingly beautiful in rural life." This is very good, but who ever disputed the exquisite graphic truth of the poem to which the critic refers? The question remains as it stood; is there then nothing besides a strange mixture of superstition, traffic, and amusement, in the scene which such an annual celebration in a rural parish of Scotland presents? Does nothing of what is "affectingly beautiful in rural life," make a part in the original which was before the poet's eyes? Were "Superstition," "Hypocrisy," and "Fun," the only influences which he might justly have impersonated 'It would be hard, I think, to speak so even of the old popish festivals to which Mr. Heron alludes; it would be hard, surely, to say it of any festival m which, mingled as they may be with sanctimonious pretenders, and surrounded with giddy groups of onlookers, a mighty multitude of devout men are assembled for the worship of God, beneath the open heaven, and above the tombs of their fathers.

Let us beware, however, of pushing our censure of a young poet, mad with the inspiration of the moment, from whatever source derived, too far It can hardly be doubted that the author of The Cottar's Saturday Night had felt, in his time, all that any man can feel in the contemplation of the most sublime of the religious observances of his country; and as little, that had he taken up the subject of this rural sacrament in a solemn mood, he might have produced a piece as gravely beautiful, as his Holy Fair is quaint, graphic, and picturesque. A scene of family worship, on the other hand, I can easily imagine to have come from his hand as pregnant with the ludicrous as that Holy Fair itself. The family prayers of the Saturday's night, and the rural celebration of the Eucharist, are parts of the same system-the system which has made the people of Scotland what they areand what, it is to be hoped, they will continue to be. And when men ask of themselves what this great national poet really thought of a system in which minds immeasurably inferior to his can see so much to venerate, it is surely just that they should pay most attention to what he has delivered under the gravest sanction.

The Reverend Hamilton Paul does not desert his post on occasion of *The Holy Fair*; he defends that piece as manfully as *Holy Willie*; and indeed, expressly applauds Burns for having endeavoured to explode 'abuses discountenanced by the General Assembly." *Hallowe'en*, a descriptive poem, perhaps even more exquisitely wrought than the *Holy Fair* and containing nothing that could offend the feelings of anybor y, was pro-

duced about the same period. Burns's art had now reached its climax but it is time that we should revert more particularly to the personal his-

tory of the poet.

He seems to have very soon perceived, that the farm of Mossgiel could at the best furnish no more than the bare means of existence to so large a family; and wearied with "the prospects drear," from which he only escaped in occasional intervals of social merriment, or when gay flashes or solitary fancy, for they were no more, threw sunshine on every thing, he very naturally took up the notion of quitting Scotland for a time, and trying his fortune in the West Indies, where, as is well known, the managers of the plantations are, in the great majority of cases, Scotchmen of Burns's own rank and condition. His letters show, that on two or three different occasions, long before his poetry had excited any attention, he had applied for, and nearly obtained appointments of this sort, through the intervention of his acquaintances in the sea-port of Irvine. Petty accidents, not worth describing, interfered to disappoint him from time to time; but at last a new burst of misfortune rendered him doubly anxious to escape from his native land; and but for an accident, his arrangements would certainly have been completed. But we must not come quite so rapidly to the last of his Ayrshire love-stories. How many lesser romances of this order were evolved and completed during his residence at Mossgiel, it is needless to inquire; that they were many, his songs prove, for in those days he wrote no love-songs on imaginary Heroines. Mary Morison-Behind you hills where Stinchar flows-On Cessnoch bank there lives a lass-belong to this period; and there are three or four inspired by Mary Campbell-the obect of by far the deepest passion that ever Burns knew, and which he has accordingly immortalized in the noblest of his elegiacs. In introducing to Mr. Thomson's notice the song,—

> "Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, And leave auld Scotia's shore?— Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, Across the Atlantic's roar?"

Burns says, "In my early years, when I was thinking of going to the West Indies, I took this farewell of a dear girl;" afterwards, in a note on—

"Ye banks, and braes, and streams around The Castel o' Montgomerie; Green be your woods, and fair your flowers, Your waters never drumlie."

he adds,—" 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 by the banks of Ayr, where we spent a day in taking a farwell 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 hear of her illness;" and Mr. Cromek, speaking of the same "day of parting love." gives some further particulars. "This adieu," says that zealous inquirer into the details of Burns's story, "was performed with all those simple and striking ceremonials, which rustic sentiment has devised to prolong tender emotions,

and to impose awe. The lovers stood on each side of a small purling brook -they laved their hands in the limpid stream-and, holding a Bible between them, pronounced their vows to be faithful to each other. They parted -never to meet again." It is proper to add, that Mr. Cromek's story has recently been confirmed very strongly by the accidental discovery of a Bible presented by Burns to Mary Campbell, in the possession of her still surviving sister at Ardrossan. Upon the boards of the first volume is inscribed, in Burns's hand-writing, -" And ye shall not swear by my name falsely-I am the Lord."-Levit. chap. xix. v. 12. On the second volume, -" Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oath."-St. Matth. chap. v., v. 33. And, on a blank leaf of either,-" Robert Burns, Mossgiel." How lasting was the poet's remembrance of this pure love, and its tragic termination, will be seen hereafter. Highland Mary seems to have died ere her lover had made any of his more serious attempts in poetry. In the Epistle to Mr. Sillar, (as we have already hinted), the very earliest, according to Gilbert, of these attempts, the poet celebrates "his Davie and his Jean." This was Jean Armour, a young woman, a step, if any thing, above Burns's own rank in life, the daughter of a respectable man, a master-mason, in the village of Mauchline, where she was at the time the reigning toast, and who still survives, as the respected widew of our poet. There are numberless allusions to her maiden charms in the best pieces which he produced at Mossgiel; amongst others is the six Belles of Mauchline, at the head of whom she is placed.

"In Mauchline there dwells six proper young belles,
The pride of the place and its neighbourhood a;
Their carriage and dress, a stranger would guess,
In Lon'on or Paris they'd gotten it a':

" Miss Millar is fine, Miss Markland's divine, Miss Smith she has wit, and Miss Betty is braw; There's beauty and fortune to get wi' Miss Morton, But Armour's the jewel for me o' them a'."

The time is not yet come, in which all the details of this story can be ex-

pected. Jean Armour found herself pregnant.

Burns's worldly circumstances were in a most miserable state when he was informed of Miss Armour's condition; and the first announcement of it staggered him like a blow. He saw nothing for it but to fly the country at once; and, in a note to James Smith of Mauchline, the confident of his amour, he thus wrote :-- " Against two things I am fixed as fate-staying at home, and owning her conjugally. The first, by Heaven, I will not do! -the last, by hell, I will never do !- A good God bless you, and make you happy, up to the warmest weeping wish of parting friendship. If you see Jean, tell her I will meet her, so help me God, in my hour of need." The lovers met accordingly, and the result of the meeting was what was to be anticipated from the tenderness and the manliness of Burns's feelings. All dread of personal inconvenience yielded at once to the tears of the woman he loved, and, ere they parted, he gave into her keeping a written acknowledgment of marriage. This, under the circumstances, and produced by a person in Miss Armour's condition, according to the Scots law, was to be accepted as legal evidence of an irregular marriage having really taken place; it being of course understood that the marriage was to be formally avowed as soon as the consequences of their imprudence could no longer be concealed from her family. The disclosure was deferred to

the last moment, and it was received by the father of Miss Armour with equal surprise and anger. Burns, confessing himself to be unequal to the maintenance of a family, proposed to go immediately to Jamaica, where he hoped to find better fortunes. He offered, if this were rejected, to abandon his farm, which was by this time a hopeless concern, and earn bread, at least for his wife and children, by his labour at home; but nothing could appease the indignation of Armour. By what arguments he prevailed on his daughter to take so strange and so painful a step we know not; but the fact is certain, that, at his urgent entreaty, she destroyed the document.

It was under such extraordinary circumstances that Miss Armour became the mother of twins .- Eurns's love and pride, the two most powerful feelings of his mind, had been equally wounded. His anger and grief together drove him, according to every account, to the verge of absolute insanity; and some of his letters on this occasion, both published and unpublished, have certainly all the appearance of having been written in as deep a concentration of despair as ever preceded the most awful of human calamities. His first thought had been, as we have seen, to fly at once from the scene of his disgrace and misery; and this course seemed now to be absolutely necessary. He was summoned to find security for the maintenance of the children whom he was prevented from legitimating; but the man who had in his desk the immortal poems to which we have been referring above, either disdained to ask, or tried in vain to find, pecuniary assistance in his hour of need; and the only alternative that presented it self to his view was America or a iail

CHAPTER IV.

Centents.—The Poet gives up Mossgiet to his Brother Gilbert—Intends for Jamaica—Subscription Edition of his Poems suggested to supply means of outfit—One of 600 copies printed at Kilmarnock, 1786—It brings him extended reputation, and £20—Also many very kind friends, but no patron—In these circumstances, Guaging first hinted to him by his early friends, Hamilton and Alken—Supings and doings in the first year of his fame—Jamaica again in view—Plan desisted from because of encouragement by Dr. B'acklock to unblish at Edinburgh, wherein the Poet sejourns.

"He saw misfortune's cauld nor'-west,
Lang mustering up a bitter blast;
A jillet brak his heart at last,
HI may she be!
So, took a birth afore the mast,
An' owre the sea."

Jamaica was now his mark, for at that time the United States were not looked to as the place of refuge they have since become. After some little time, and not a little trouble, the situation of assistant-overseer on the estate of Dr. Douglas in that colony, was procured for him by one of his friends in the town of Irvine. Money to pay for his passage, however, he had not; and it at last occurred to him that the few pounds requisite for this purpose, might be raised by the publication of some of the finest

poems that ever delighted mankind.

His landlord, Gavin Hamilton, Mr. Aiken, and other friends, encouraged him warmly; and after some hesitation, he at length resolved to hazard ar experiment which might perhaps better his circumstances; and, if any tole rable number of subscribers could be procured, could not make them worse than they were already. His rural patrons exerted themselves with success in the matter; and so many copies were soon subscribed for, that Burns entered into terms with a printer in Kilmarnock, and began to copy out his performances for the press. He carried his MSS. piecenical to the printer; and encouraged by the ray of light which unexpected patronage had begun to throw on his affairs, composed, while the printing was in progress, some of the best poems of the collection. The tale of the Twa Dogs, for instance, with which the volume commenced, is known to have been written in the short interval between the publication being determined on and the printing begun. His own account of the business to Dr. Moore is as follows:—

"I gave up my part of the farm to my brother: in truth, it was only nominally mine; and made what little preparation was in my power for Jamaica. But before leaving my native land, I resolved to publish my Poems. 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 negrodriver—or, perhaps, a victim to that inhospitable clime, and gone to the

world of spirits. I can truly say that, pauvre incomm 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 as a poet: I studied assiduously Nature's design in my formation where the lights and shades in 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, for which I 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 nearly \$20. 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 Calcdonia, The gloomy night is gathering fust, when a letter from Dr. Blacklock to a friend of mine, overthrew all my schemes,

by opening new prospects to my poetic ambition."

To the above rapid narrative of the poet, we may annex a few details, gathered from his various biographers and from his own letters.-While the Kilmarnock edition was in the press, it appears that his friends Hamilton and Aiken revolved various schemes for procuring him the means of remaining in Scotland; and having studied some of the practical branches of mathematics, as we have seen, and in particular guaging, it occurred to himself that a situation in the Excise might be better suited to him than any other he was at all likely to obtain by the intervention of such patrons as he possessed. He appears to have lingered longer after the publication of the poems than one might suppose from his own narrative, in the hope that these gentlemen might at length succeed in their efforts in his behalf. The poems were received with favour, even with rapture, in the county of Ayr, and ere long over the adjoining counties. "Old and young," thus speaks Robert Heron, "high and low, grave and gay, learned or ignorant, were alike delighted, agitated, transported. I was at that time resident in Galloway, contiguous to Ayrshire, and I can well remember how even plough boys and maid-servants would have glady bestowed the wages they carned the most hardly, and which they wanted to purchase necessary clothing, if they might but procure the Works of Burns."-The poet soon found that his person also had become an object of general curiosity, and that a tively interest in his personal fortunes was excited among some of the gen-

Gilbert Burns mentions, that a single individual. Mr. William Parker-Kilmarnock, subscribed for 35 cooles.

try of the district, when the details of his story reached them, as it was pretty sure to do, along with his modest and manly preface. * others, the celebarted Professor Dugald Stewart of Edinburgh, and his accomplished lady, then resident at their beautiful seat of Catrine, began to notice him with much pol-te and friendly attention. Dr. Hugh Blair, who then held an eminent place in the literary society of Scotland, happened to be paying Mr. Stewart a visit, and on reading *The Holy Fair*, at once pronounced it the "work of a very great genius;" and Mrs. Stewart, her self a poetess, flattered him perhaps still more highly by her warm commendations. But above all, his little volume happened to attract the notice of Mrs. Dunlop of Dunlop, a lady of high birth and ample fortune, enthusiastically attached to her country, and interested in whatever appeared to concern the honour of Scotland. This excellent woman, while slowly recovering from the languor of an illness, laid her hand accidentally on the new production of the provincial press, and opened the volume at The Cottar's Saturday Night. " She read it over," says Gilbert, " with the greatest pleasure and surprise; the poet's description of the simple cottagers operated on her mind like the charm of a powerful exorcist, repelling the demon ennui, and restoring her to her wonted inward harmony and satisfaction." Mrs. Dunlop instantly sent an express to Mossgiel, distant sixteen miles from her residence, with a very kind letter to Burns, requesting him to supply her, if he could, with half a dozen copies of the book, and to call at Dunlop as soon as he could find it convenient. Burns was from home, but he acknowledged the favour conferred on him in this very interesting letter :---

" MADAM,

Ayrshire, 1786.

"I AM truly sorry I was not at home yesterday, when I was so much honoured with your order for my copies, and incomparably more by the handsome compliments you are pleased to pay my poetic abilities. I am fully persuaded that there is not any class of mankind so feelingly alive to the titillations of applause as the sons of Parnassus; nor is it easy to conceive how the heart of the poor bard dances with rapture, when those whose character in life gives them a right to be polite judges, honour him with their approbation. Had you been thoroughly acquainted with me, Madam, you could not have touched my darling heart-chord more sweetly than by noticing my attempts to celebrate your illustrious ancestor, the Saviour of his Country.

" Great patriot hero! ill requited chief!"

"The first book I met with in my early years, which I perused with pleasure, was The Life of Hannibul; the next was The History of Sir William Wallace: for several of my earlier years I had few other authors; and many a solitary hour have I stole out, after the laborious vocations of the day, to shed a tear over their glorious but unfortunate stories. In those boyish days I remember in particular heing struck with that part or Wallace's story where these lines occur—

[&]quot;Syne to the Leglan wood, when it was late, To make a silent and a safe retreat."

See Prose Compositions.

"I chose a fine summer Sunday, the only day my one of life allowed, and walked half a dozen of miles to pay my respects to the Leglan wood, with as much devout enthsiasm as ever pilgrim did to Loretto; and as I explored every den and dell where I could suppose my heroic countryman to have lodged, I recollect (for even then I was a rhymer), that my heart glowed with a wish to be able to make a song on him in some measure equal to his merits."

Shortly afterwards commenced a personal acquaintance with this amiable and intelligent lady, who seems to have filled in some degree the place of Sage Mentor to the poet, and who never afterwards ceased to befriend him to the utmost of her power. His letters to Mrs. Dunlop form a very large proportion of all his subsequent correspondence, and, addressed as they were to a person, whose sex, age, rank, and benevolence, inspired at once profound respect and a graceful confidence, will ever remain the most pleasing of all the materials of our poet's biography.

At the residences of these new acquaintances, Burns was introduced into society of a class which he had not before approached; and of the manner in which he stood the trial, Mr. Stewart thus writes to Dr. Currie:—

"His manners were then, as they continued ever afterwards, simple, manly, and independent; strongly expressive of conscious genius and worth; but without any thing that indicated forwardness, arrogance, or vanity. He took his share in conversation, but not more than belonged to him; and listened, with apparent attention and deference, on subjects where his want of education deprived him of the means of information. It there had been a little more of gentleness and accommodation in his temper, he would, I think, have been still more interesting; but he had been accustomed to give law in the circle of his ordinary acquaintance; and his dread of any thing approaching to meanness or servility, rendered his man ner somewhat decided and hard. Nothing, perhaps, was more remarkable among his various attainments than the fluency, and precision, and originality of his language, when he spoke in company, more particularly as he aimed at purity in his turn of expression, and avoided, more successfully than most Scotsmen, the peculiarities of Scottish phraseology. At this time, Burns's prospects in life were so extremely gloomy, that he had seriously formed a plan for going out to Jamaica in a very humble situation, not, however, without lamenting that his want of patronage should force him to think of a project so repugnant to his feelings, when his ambition aimed at no higher an object than the station of an exciseman or gauger in his own country."

The provincial applause of his publication, and the consequent notice of his superiors, however flattering such things must have been, were far from administering any essential relief to the urgent necessities of Burns's situation. Very shortly after his first visit to Catrine, where he met with the young and amiable Basil Lord Daer, whose condescension and kindness on the occasion he celebrates in some well-known verses, we find the poet writing to his friend, Mr. Aiken of Ayr, in the following sad strain:—"I have been feeling all the various rotations and movements within respecting the Excise. There are many things plead strongly against it; the uncertainty of getting soon into business, the consequences of my follies, which may perhaps make it impracticable for me to stay at home; and besides, I have for some time been pining under secret wretchedress, from causes

which you pretty well know—the pang of disappointment, the sting of pride, with some wandering stabs of remorse, which never fail to settle on my vitals, like vultures, when attention is not called away by society, or the vagaries of the muse. Even in the hour of social mirth, my gaiety is the madness of an intoxicated criminal under the hands of the executioner. All these reasons urge me to go abroad; and to all these reasons I have only one answer—the feelings of a father. This, in the present mood I am in, overbalances every thing that can be laid in the scale against it."

He proceeds to say, that he claims no right to complain. " The world has in general been kind to me, fully up to my deserts I was for some time past fast getting into the pining distrustful snarl of the misanthrope. I saw myself alone, unfit for the struggle of life, shrinking at every rising cloud in the chance-directed atmosphere of fortune, while, all defenceless, I looked about in vain for a cover. It never occurred to me, at least never with the force it deserved, that this world is a busy scene, and man a creature destined for a progressive struggle; and that, however I might possess a warm heart, and inoffensive manners, (which last, by the by, was rather more than I could well boast), still, more than these passive qualities, there was something to be done. When all my schoolfellows and youthful compeers were striking off, with eager hope and earnest intent, on some one or other of the many paths of busy life, I was " standing idle in the market-place," or only left the chase of the butterfly from flower to flower, to hunt fancy from whim to whim. You see, Sir, that if to know one's errors, were a probability of mending them, I stand a fair chance: but, according to the reverend Westminster divines, though conviction must precede conversion, it is very far from always implying it."

In the midst of all the distresses of this period of suspense, Burns found time, as he tells Mr. Aiken, for some "vagaries of the muse;" and one or two of these may deserve to be noticed here, as throwing light on his personal demeanour during this first summer of his fame. The poems appeared in July, and one of the first persons of superior condition (Gilbert, indeed, says the first) who courted his acquaintance in consequence of having read them, was Mrs. Stewart of Stair, a beautiful and accomplished lady Burns presented her on this occasion with some MSS, songs; and among the rset, with one in which her own charms were celebrated in that warm strain of compliment which our poet seems to have all along considered the most proper to be used whenever this fair lady was to be addressed in

rhyme.

"Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green bracs, 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. How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below, Where wild in the woodlands the primroses blow; There oft, as mild evening sweeps over the lea, The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me."

It was in the spring of the same year, that he happened, in the course of an evening ramble on the banks of the Ayr, to meet with a young and lovely unmarried lady, of the family of Alexander of Ballamyle, of whom, it was said, her personal charms corresponded with the character of her mind. The incident gave rise to a poem, of which an account will be found in the following letter to Miss Alexander, the object of his inspiration:—

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS.

" MADAM.

Mossgiel, 18th Nov. 1783.

"Poets are such outre beings, so much the children of wayward fancy and capricious whim, that I believe the world generally allows them a larger latitude in the laws of propriety, than the sober sons of judgment and prudence. I mention this as an apology for the liberties that a name less stranger has taken with you in the enclosed poem, which he begs leave to present you with. Whether it has poetical merit any way worthy of the theme, I am not the proper judge; but it is the best my abilities can produce; and what to a good heart will perhaps be a superior grace, it is

equally sincere as fervent.

"The scenery was nearly taken from real life, though I dare say, Ma dam, you do not recollect it, as I believe you scarcely noticed the poetic reveur as he wandered by you. I had roved out as chance directed in the favourite haunts of my muse, on the banks of the Ayr, to view nature in all the gaiety of the vernal year. The evening sun was flaming over the distant western hills; not a breath stirred the crimson opening blossom, or the verdant spreading leaf. It was a golden moment for a poetic heart. I listened to the feathered warblers, pouring their harmony on every han with a congenial kindred regard, and frequently turned out of my pa lest I should disturb their little songs, or frighten them to another stati Surely, said I to myself, he must be a wretch indeed, who, regardless of your harmonious endeavour to please him, can eye your elusive flights to discover your secret recesses, and to rob you of all the property nature gives you, your dearest comforts, your helpless nestlings. Even the hoary hawthorn-twig that shot across the way, what heart at such a time but must have been interested in its welfare, and wished it preserved from the rudely-browsing cattle, or the withering eastern blast? Such was the scene, and such the hour, when in a corner of my prospect, I spied one of the fairest pieces of Nature's workmanship that ever crowned a poetic landscape, or met a poet's eye, those visionary bards excepted who hold commerce with aerial beings! Had Calumny and Villany taken my walk, they had at that moment sworn eternal peace with such an object.

"What an hour of inspiration for a poet! It would have raised plain

dull, historic prose into metaphor and measure.

"The enclosed song was the work of my return home; and perhaps is but poorly answers what might be expected from such a scene.

" I have the honour to be," &c.

"Twas even—the dwey fields were green,
On every blade the pearls hang;*
The Zeplyr wanton'd round the beam,
And bore its fragrant sweets alang;
In every glen the mavis sang,
All nature listening seemed the while,
Except where green-wood echoes rang,
Amang the brase o' Ballochmyle.

With careless step I onward strayed, My heart rejoiced 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,

Hang, Scotticism for hung.

Perfection whispered passing by, Behold the lass o' Ballochmyle !

Fair is the morn in flowery May,
And sweet is night in autumn mild;
When roving through the garden gay,
Or wandering in the lonely wild:
But woman, nature's darling child!
There all her charms she does compile:
Even there her other works are foil'd
By the bouny lass o' Ballochmyle.

O had she been a country maid, And I the happy country swain, Though sheltered in the lowest shed That ever rose on Scotland's plain. Through weary winter's wind and rain, With joy, with rapture, I would toil, And nighly to my bosom strain The bonny lass o' Ballochnyle.

Then pride might climb the slippery 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 bonny lass o' Ballochmyle.

The autumn of this eventful year was now drawing to a close, and Burns, and had already lingered three months in the hope, which he now considered vain, of an excise appointment, perceived that another year must be ost altogether, unless he made up his mind, and secured his passage to the West Indies. The Kilmarnock edition of his poems was, however, nearly exhausted; and his friends encouraged him to produce another at the same piace, with the view of equipping himself the better for the necessities of his voyage. But the printer at Kilmarnock would not undertake the new impression unless Burns advanced the price of the paper required for it; and with this demand the poet had no means of complying. Mr. Ballantyne, the chief magistrate of Ayr, (the same gentleman to whom the poem on the Twa Brigs of Ayr was afterwards inscribed), offered to furnish the money; and probably this kind offer would have been accepted. But, ere this matter could be arranged, the prospects of the poewere, in a very unexpected manner, altered and improved.

Burns went to pay a parting visit to Dr. Laurie, minister of Loudoun, a gentleman from whom, and his accomplished family, he had previously received many kind attentions. After taking farewell of this benevolent circle, the poet proceeded, as the night was setting in, "to convey his chest," as he says, "so far on the road to Greenock, where he was to embark in a few days for America." And it was under these circumstances that he composed the song already referred to, which he meant as his tare-

well dinge to his native land, and which ends thus:-

"Farewell, old Coila's hills and dales, Her heathy moors and winding vales, The scenes where wretched fancy roves, Pursuing past unhappy loves.

 Variation. The lily's hue and rose's dye Bespoke the lass o' Ballochmyle.

Farewell, my friends! farewell, my foes! My peace with these—my love with those— The bursting tears my heart declare, Farewell, the bonny banks of Ayr."

Dr. Laurie had given Burns much good counsel, and what comfort he could, at parting; but prudently said nothing of an effort which he had previously made in his behalf. He had sent a copy of the poems, with a sketch of the author's history, to his friend Dr. Thomas Blacklock of Edinburgh, with a request that he would introduce both to the notice of those persons whose opinions were at the time most listened to in regard to literary productions in Scotland, in the hope that, by their intervention, Burns night yet be rescued from the necessity of expatriating himself. Dr. Blacklock's answer reached Dr. Laurie a day or two after Burns had made his visit, and composed his dirge; and it was not yet too late. Laurie forwarded it immediately to Mr. Gavin Hamilton, who carried it to Burns. It is as follows :---

" I ought to have acknowledged your favour long ago, not only as a tes imony of your kind remembrance, but as it gave me an opportunity of sharing one of the finest, and perhaps one of the most genuine entertainments of which the human mind is susceptible. A number of avocations retarded my progress in reading the poems; at last, however, I have finished that pleasing perusal. Many instances have I seen of Nature's force or beneficence exerted under numerous and formidable disadvantages; but none equal to that with which you have been kind enough to present me There is a pathos and delicacy in his serious poems, a vein of wit and humour in those of a more festive turn, which cannot be too much admired, nor too warmly approved; and I think I shall never open the book without feeling my astonishment renewed and increased. It was my wish to have expressed my approbation in verse; but whether from declining life, or a temporary depression of spirits, it is at present out of my power to accomplish that agreeable intention.

" Mr. Stewart, Professor of Morals in this University, had formerly read me three of the poems, and I had desired him to get my name inserted among the subscribers; but whether this was done or not, I never could learn. I have little intercourse with Dr. Blair, but will take care to have the poems communicated to him by the intervention of some mutual It has been told me by a gentleman, to whom I showed the per formances, and who sought a copy with diligence and ardour, that the whole impression is already exhausted. It were, therefore, much to be wished, for the sake of the young man, that a second edition, more numerous than the former, could immediately be printed; as it appears certain that its intrinsic merit, and the exertions of the author's friends, might give it a more universal circulation than any thing of the kind which has been

published in my memory."

We have already seen with what surprise and delight Burns read this generous letter. Although he had ere this conversed with more than one person of established literary reputation, and received from them attentions, for which he was ever after grateful,-the despondency of his spirit appears to have remained as dark as ever, up to the very hour when his landlord produced Dr. Blacklock's letter .- "There was never," Heron says, " perhaps, one among all mankind whom you might more truly have called an angel upon earth than Dr. Blacklock. He was guileless and innocent

as a child, yet endowed with manly sagacity and penetration. His heart was a perpetual spring of benignity. His feelings were all tremblingly alive to the sense of the sublime, the beautiful, the tender, the pious, the virtuous. Poetry was to him the dear solace of perpetual blindness." Thy was not the man to act as Walpole did to Chatterton: to discourage witt feeble praise, and in order to shift off the trouble of future patronage, to bid the poet relinquish poetry and mind his plough.—" Dr. Blacklock," says Burns himself, "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, 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 on my zenith, for once made a revolution to the nadir."

CHAPTER V.

Contents.— The Poet winters in Edinburgh, 1786-7.—By his advent, the condition of that city, Literary, Legal, Philosophical, Patrician, and Pedantic, is lighted up, as by a metea.

He is in the full tide of his fame there, and for a wintle caressed by the fushionable—What happens to him generally in that new world, and his behaviour under the varying and very trying circumstances—The tavern life then greatly fullowed—The Poet tempted beyond all former experience by backmands of every degree—His conversational talent universally admitted, as not the least of his talents—The Ladies like to be carried off their fect by it, while the philosophers hardly keep theirs—Edition of 1500 copies by Creech, which yields such money to the Poet—Resolves to wisit the classic scenes of his own country—Assailed with thick-coming visions of a reflux to bear him back to the region of poverty and sectusion.

Edina! Scotia's darling seat! All hail thy palaces and tow'rs, Where once beneath a monarch's feet Sat legislation's sovereign powers; From marking wildly-scatter'd flow; As on the banks of Avr I stray'd, And singing, lone, the lingering hours, I shelter in thy honour'd shade."

Burns found several of his old Ayrshire acquaintances established in Edinburgh, and, I suppose, felt himself constrained to give himself up for a brief space to their society. He printed, however, without delay, a prospectus of a second edition of his poems, and being introduced by Mr. Dalrymple of Orangefield to the Earl of Glencairn, that amiable nobleman easily persuaded Creech, then the chief bookseller in Edinburgh, to undertake the publication. The Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, the most agreeable of companions, and the most benignant of wits, took him also, as the poet expresses it, "under his The kind Blacklock received him with all the warmth of paternal affection, and introduced him to Dr. Blair, and other eminent literati; his subscription lists were soon filled; Lord Glencairn made interest with the Caledonian Hunt, (an association of the most distinguished members of the northern aristocracy), to accept the dedication of the forthcoming edition, and to subscribe individually for copies. Several noblemen, especially of the west of Scotland, came forward with subscription-moneys considerably beyond the usual rate. In so small a capital, where every body knows every body, that which becomes a favourite topic in one leading circle of society, soon excites an universal interest; and before Burns had been a fortnight in Edinburgh, we find him writing to his earliest patron, Gavin Hamilton, in these terms :- " For my own affairs, I am in a fair way of becoming as eminent as Thomas a Kempis or John Banvan; and you may expect henceforth to see my birth-day incribed among the wonderful events in the Poor Robin and Aberdeen Almanacks, along with the Black Monday, and the Battle of Bothwell Bridge."

It is but a melancholy business to trace among the records of literary history, the manner in which most great original geniuses have been greeted on their first appeals to the world, by the contemporary arbiters of taste; coldly and timidly indeed have the sympathies of professional criticism flowed on most such occasions in past times and in the present: But the reception of Burns was worthy of The Man of Feeling. Mr. Henry Mackenzie was a man of genius, and of a polished, as well as a liberal taste. After alluding to the provincial circulation and reputation of the first edition of the poems, Mr. Mackenzie thus wrote in the Lounger, an Edin burgh periodical of that period:—" I hope I shall not be thought to assume too much. if I endeavour to place him in a higher point of view, to call for a verdict of his country on the merits of his works, and to claim for him those honours which their excellence appears to deserve. In mentioning the circumstance of his humble station, I mean not to rest his pretensions solely on that title, or to urge the merits of his poetry, when considered in relation to the lowness of his birth, and the little opportunity of improvement which his education could afford. These particulars, indeed, must excite our wonder at his productions; but his poetry, considered abstractedly, and without the apologies arising from his situation, seems to me fully entitled to command our feelings, and to obtain our applause." After quoting various passages, in some of which his readers " must discover a high tone of feeling, and power and energy of expression, particularly and strongly characteristic of the mind and the voice of a poet," and others as shewing "the power of genius, not less admirable in tracing the manners, than in painting the passions, or in drawing the scenery of nature," and " with what uncommon penetration and sagacity this heaven-taught ploughman, from his humble and unlettered condition, had looked on men and manners," the critic concluded with an eloquent appeal in behalf of the poet personally: "To repair," said he, "the wrong or suffering or neglected merit; to call forth genius from the obscurity in which it had pined indignant, and place it where it may profit or delight the world—these are exertions which give to wealth an enviable superiori ty, to greatness and to patronage a laudable pride."*

The appeal thus made for such a candidate was not unattended to. Burns was only a very short time in Edinburgh when he thus wrote to one of his early friends:- "I was, when first honoured with your notice, too obscure; now I tremble lest I should be ruined by being dragged too suddenly into the glare of polite and learned observation;" and he concludes the same letter with an ominous prayer for "better health and more spirits."†—Two or three weeks later, we find him writing as follows :—" (Jamary 14, 1787). I went to a Mason Lodge yesternight, where the M.W. Grand Master Charteris, and all the Grand Lodge of Scotland visited. The meeting was numerous and elegant: all the different lodges about town were present in all their pomp. The Grand Master, who presided with great solemnity, among other general toasts gave, 'Caledonia and Caledonia's bard, Brother Burns,' which rung through the whole assembly with multiplied honours and repeated acclamations. As I had no idea such a thing would happen, I was downright thunderstruck; and trembling in every perve, made the best return in my power. Just as I had finished, one of the

The Lounger for Saturday, December 9, 1786.

⁺ Letter to Mr. Ballantyne of Ayr, December 13, 1786; Reliques, p. 12.

Grand Officers said, so loud that I could hear, with a most comforting accent, 'very well indeed,' which set me something to rights again."—And a few weeks later still, he is thus addressed by one of his old associates who was meditating a visit to Edinburgh. "By all accounts, it will be a difficult matter to get a sight of you at all, unless your company is bespoke a week beforehand. There are great rumours here of your intimacy with the Duchess of Gordon, and other ladies of distinction. I am really told that—

" Cards to invite, fly by thousands each night;"

and if you had one, there would also, I suppose, be 'bribes for your old secretary.' I observe you are resolved to make hay while the sun shines and avoid, if possible, the fate of poor Ferguson. Quaerenda pecunia primum est — Virtus post nummos, is a good maxim to thrive by. You seemed to despise it while in this country; but, probably, some philosophers

in Edinburgh have taught you better sense."

In this proud career, however, the popular idol needed no slave to whisper whence he had risen, and whither he was to return in the ebb of the spring-tide of fortune. His "prophetic soul" carried always a sufficient memento. He bore all his honours in a manner worthy of himself; and of this the testimonies are so numerous, that the only difficulty is that of selection. "The attentions he received," says Mr. Dugald Stewart, "from all ranks and descriptions of persons, were such as would have turned any head but his own. I cannot say that I could perceive any unfavourable effect which they left on his mind. He retained the same simplicity of manners and appearance which had struck me so forcibly when I first saw him in the country; nor did he seem to feel any additional self-importance from the number and rank of his new acquaintance."-Professor Walker, who met him for the first time, early in the same season, at breakfast in Dr. Blacklock's house, has thus recorded his impressions :- "I was not much struck with his first appearance, as I had previously heard it described. His person, though strong and well knit, and much superior to what might be expected in a ploughman, was still rather coarse in its outline. His stature, from want of setting up, appeared to be only of the middle size, but was rather above His motions were firm and decided, and though without any pretensions to grace, were at the same time so free from clownish constraint, as to show that he had not always been confined to the society of his profes-His countenance was not of that elegant cast, which is most frequent among the upper ranks, but it was manly and intelligent, and marked by a thoughtful gravity which shaded at times into sternness. In his large dark eye the most striking index of his genius resided It was full of mind; and would have been singularly expressive, under the management of one who could employ it with more art, for the purpose of expression. was plainly, but properly dressed, in a style mid-way between the holiday costume of a farmer, and that of the company with which he now associ-His black hair, without powder, at a time when it was very generally worn, was tied behind, and spread upon his forehead. Upon the whole, from his person, physiognomy, and dress, had I met him near a seaport, and been required to guess his condition, I should have probably coniectured him to be the master of a merchant vessel of the most respectable In no part of his manner was there the slightest degree of affectation, nor could a stranger have suspected, from any thing in his behaviour

or conversation, that he had been for some months the favourite of all the ashionable circles of a metropolis. In conversation he was powerful. His conceptions and expression were of corresponding vigour, and on all subjects were as remote as possible from common places. Though somewhat authoritative, it was in a way which gave little offence, and was readily imputed to his inexperience in those modes of smoothing dissent and softening assertion, which are important characteristics of polished manners. After breakfast I requested him to communicate some of his unpublished pieces, and he recited his farewell song to the Banks of Ayr, introducing it with a description of the circumstances in which it was composed, more striking than the poem itself. I paid particular attention to his recitation, which was plain, slow, articulate, and forcible, but without any eloquence or art. He did not always lay the emphasis with propriety, nor did he humour the sentiment by the variations of his voice. He was standing, during the time. with his face towards the window, to which, and not to his auditors, be directed his eye-thus depriving himself of any additional effect which the language of his composition might have borrowed from the language of his countenance. In this he resembled the generality of singers in ordinary company, who, to shun any charge of affectation, withdraw all meaning from their features, and lose the advantage by which vocal performers on the stage augment the impression, and give energy to the sentiment of the song. The day after my first introduction to Burns, I supped in company with him at Dr. Blair's. The other guests were very few, and as each had been invited chiefly to have an opportunity of meeting with the poet, the Doctor endeavoured to draw him out, and to make him the central figure of the group. Though he therefore furnished the greatest proportion of the conversation, he did no more than what he saw evidently was expected." *

To these reminiscences I shall now add those of one to whom is always readily accorded the willing ear, Sir Walter Scott.-He thus writes :-" As for Burns, I may truly say, Virgilium vidi tantum. I was a lad of fifteen in 1786-7, when he came first to Edinburgh, but had sense and feeling enough to be much interested in his poetry, and would have given the world to know him; but I had very fittle acquaintance with any literary people, and still less with the gentry of the west country, the two sets that he most frequented. Mr. Thomas Grierson was at that time a clerk of my father's He knew Burns, and promised to ask him to his lodgings to dinner, but had no opportunity to keep his word; otherwise I might have seen more of this distinguished man. As it was, I saw him one day at the late venerable Professor Fergusson's, where there were several gentlemen of literary reputation, among whom I remember the celebrated Mr. Dugald Stewart. Of course we youngsters sat silent, looked, and listened. The only thing I remember which was remarkable in Burns's manner, was the effect produced upon him by a print of Bunbury's, representing a soldier lying dead on the snow, his dog sitting in misery on one side .- on the other, his widow, with a child in her arms. These lines

were written beneath,-

[&]quot;Cold on Canadian hills, or Minden's plain, Perhaps that parent wep her soluter slain— Bent o'er her babe, her eye dissolved in dew, The big drops, mingling with the milk he drew,

Morrison's Burns, vol. i. pp. lxxi, lxxii.

Gave the sad presage of his future years, The child of misery baptized in tears."

"Parns seemed much affected by the print, or rather the ideas which it suggested to his mind. He actually shed tears. He asked whose the occur in a half-forgotten poem of Langhorne's, called by the unpramising title of The Justice of Peace. I whispered my information to a friend present, who mentioned it to Burns, who rewarded me with a look and a word, which, though of mere civility, I then received, and still rescalect,

with very great pleasure.

" His person was strong and robust; his manners rustic, not clownish; a sort of dignified plainness and simplicity, which received part of its effeet, perhaps, from one's knowledge of his extraordinary talents. His features are represented in Mr. Nasmyth's picture, but to me it conveys the idea, that they are diminished as if seen in perspective. I think his countenance was more massive than it looks in any of the portraits. I would have taken the poet, had I not known what he was, for a very sagacious country farmer of the old Scotch school, i. e. none of your modern agriculturists, who keep labourers for their drudgery, but the douce gudeman who held his own plough. There was a strong expression of sense and shrewdness in all his lineaments; the eye alone, I think, indicated the poetical character and temperament. It was large, and of a dark east, which glowed (I say literally glowed) when he spoke with feeling or inte-I never saw such another eye in a human head, though I have seen the most distinguished men of my time. His conversation expressed perfect self-confidence, without the slightest presumption. Among the men who were the most learned of their time and country, he expressed himselt with perfect firmness, but without the least intrusive forwardness; and when he differed in opinion, he did not hesitate to express it firmly, yet at the same time with modesty. I do not remember any part of his conversation distinctly enough to be quoted, nor did I ever see him again, except in the street, where he did not recognise me, as I could not expect he should. He was much caressed in Edinburgh, but (considering what literary emoluments have been since his day) the efforts made for his reliet were extremely trifling. I remember on this occasion I mention, I thought Burns's acquaintance with English Poetry was rather limited, and also, that having twenty times the abilities of Allan Ramsay and of Perguson, he talked of them with too much humility as his models; there was, doubtless, national predilection in his estimate. This is all I can tell you about Eurns. I have only to add, that his dress corresponded with his manner. He was like a farmer dressed in his best to dine with the Laird. I do not speak in malam partem, when I say, I never saw a man in company with his superiors in station and information, more perfectly free from either the reality or the affectation of embarrassment. I was told, but did not observe it, that his address to females was extremely deferential, and always with a turn either to the pathetic or humorous, which engaged their attention particularly. I have heard the late Duchess of Gordon remark this.—I do not know any thing I can add to these recollections of forty vears since."-

There can be no doubt that Burns made his first appearance at a period highly favourable for his reception as a British, and especially as a Scottish poet. Nearly forty years had elapsed sin e the death of Thomson:—

Collins, Gray, Goldsmith, had successively disappeared: - Dr. Johnson nad belied the rich promise of his early appearance, and confined himself to prose; and Cowper had hardly begun to be recognized as having any considerable pretensions to fill the long-vacant throne in England. At home-without derogation from the merits either of Douglas or the Minstrel, be it said-men must have gone back at least three centuries to find a Scottish poet at all entitled to be considered as of that high order to which the generous criticism of Mackenzie at once admitted "the Ayrshire Ploughman." Of the form and garb of his composition, much, unquestionably and avowedly, was derived from his more immediate predecessors, Ramsay and Ferguson: but there was a bold mastery of hand in his picturesque descriptions, to produce any thing equal to which it was necessary to recall the days of Christ's Kirk on the Green, and Peebles to the Play; and in his more solemn pieces, a depth of inspiration, and a massive energy of language, to which the dialect of his country had been a stranger, at least since "Dunbar the Mackar." The Muses of Scotland had never indeed been silent; and the ancient minstrelsy of the land, of which a slender portion had as yet been committed to the safeguard of the press, was handed from generation to generation, and preserved, in many a fragment, faithful images of the peculiar tenderness, and peculiar humour, of the national fancy and character—precious representations, which Burns himself never surpassed in his happiest efforts. But these were fragments; and with a scanty handful of exceptions, the best of them, at least of the serious kind, were very ancient. Among the numberless effusions of the Jacobite Muse, valuable as we now consider them for the record of manners and events, it would be difficult to point out half-a-dozen strains worthy, for poetical excellence alone, of a place among the old chivalrous ballads of the Southern, or even of the Highland Border. Generations had passed away since any Scottish poet had appealed to the sympathies of his countrymen in a lofty Scottish strain.

The dialect itself had been hardly dealt with. "It is my opinion," said Dr. Geddes, "that those who, for almost a century past, have written in Scotch, Allan Ramsay not excepted, have not duly discriminated the genuine idiom from its vulgarisms. They seem to have acted a similar part to certain pretended imitators of Spenser and Milton, who fondly imagine that they are copying from these great models, when they only mimic their antique mode of spelling, their obsolete terms, and their irregular constructions." And although I cannot well guess what the doctor considered as the irregular constructions of Milton, there can be no doubt of the general justice of his observations. Ramsay and Ferguson were both men of humble condition, the latter of the meanest, the former of no very elegant habits; and the dialect which had once pleased the ears of kings, who themselves did not disdain to display its powers and elegances in verse did not come untarnished through their hands. Ferguson, who was entirely town-bred, smells more of the Cowgate than of the country; and pleasing as Ramsay's rustics are, he appears rather to have observed the surface of rural manners, in casual excursions to Pennycuik and the Hunter's Tryste, than to have expressed the results of intimate knowledge and sympathy. His dialect was a somewhat incongruous mixture of the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire and the Luckenbooths; and he could neither write English verses, nor engraft English phraseology on his Scotch, without betraying a lamen able want of skill in the use of his instruments. It was re-

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served for Burns to interpret the immost soul of the Soutish peasant in all its moods, and in verse exquisitely and intensely Scottish, without degrading either his sentiments or his language with one touch of vulgarity. Such is the delicacy of native taste, and the power of a truly masculine genius. This is the more remarkable, when we consider that the dialect of Burns's native district is, in all mouths but his own, a peculiarly offensive one. The Ew poets* whom the west of Scotland had produced in the old time, were all men of high condition; and who, of course, used the language, not of their own villages, but of Holyrood. Their productions, moreover, in of ar as they have been produced, had nothing to do with the peculiar character and feelings of the men of the west. As Burns himself has said,—
"It is somewhat singular, that in Lanark, Renfrew, Ayr, &c. there is scarcely an old song or tune, which, from the title, &c. can be guessed to

belong to, or be the production of, those counties."

The history of Scottish literature, from the union of the crowns to that of the kingdoms, has not yet been made the subject of any separate work at all worthy of its importance; nay, however much we are indebted to the learned labours of Pinkerton, Irving, and others, enough of the general obscurity of which Warton complained still continues, to the no small discredit of so accomplished a nation. But how miserably the literature of the country was affected by the loss of the court under whose immediate patronage it had, in almost all preceding times, found a measure of protection that will ever do honour to the memory of the unfortunate house of Stuart, appears to be indicated with sufficient plainness in the single fact, that no man can point out any Scottish author of the first rank in all the long period which intervened between Buchanan and Hume. moval of the chief nobility and gentry, consequent on the Legislative Union, appeared to destroy our last hopes as a separate nation, possessing a separate literature of our own; nay, for a time, to have all but extinguished the flame of intellectual exertion and ambition. Long torn and harassed by religious and political feuds, this people had at last heard, as many believed, the sentence of irremediable degradation pronounced by the lips of their own prince and parliament. The universal spirit of Scotland was humbled; the unhappy insurrections of 1715 and 1745 revealed the full extent of her internal disunion; and England took, in some respects, merciless advantage of the fallen.

Time, however, passed on; and Scotland, recovering at last from the blow which had stunned her energies, began to vindicate her pretensions, in the only departments which had been left open to her, with a zeal and a success which will ever distinguish one of the brightest pages of her history. Deprived of every national honour and distinction which it was possible to remove—all the high branches of external ambition lopped off,—sank at last, as men thought, effectually into a province, willing to take law with passive submission, in letters as well as polity, from her powerful sister—the old kingdom revived suddenly from her stupor, and once more asserted her name in reclamations which England was compelled not only to hear, but to applaud, and "wherewith all Europe rung from side to side," at the moment when a national poet came forward to profit by the reflux of a thousand half-forgotten sympathies—amidst the full joy of a na-

such as Kennedy, Shaw, Montgomery, and, more lately, Hamilton of Bilbertfield.

It will always reflect honour on the galaxy of eminent men of letters, who, in their various departments, shed lustre at that period on the name of Scotland, that they suffered no pedantic prejudices to interfere with their reception of Burns. Had he not appeared personally among them, it may be reasonably doubted whether this would have been so. They were men, generally speaking, of very social habits; living together in a small capital; nay, almost all of theu, ir a bout one street, maintaining Giendly intercourse continually; not a few of them considerably addicted to the pleasures which have been called, by way of excellence, I presume convivial. Burns's poetry might have procured him access to these circles; but it was the extraordinary resources he displayed in conversation, the strong vigorous sagacity of his observations on life and manners, the splendour of his wit, and the glowing energy of his eloquence when his feelings were stirred, that made him the object of serious admiration among these practised masters of the arts of talk. There were several of them who probably adopted in their hearts the opinion of Newton, that "poetry is ingenious nonsense." Adam Smith, for one, could have had no very ready respect at the service of such an unproductive labourer as a maker of Scottish ballads; but the stateliest of these philosophers had enough to do to maintain the attitude of equality, when brought into personal contact with Burns's gigantic understanding; and every one of them whose impressions on the subject have been recorded, agrees in pronouncing his conversation to have been the most remarkable thing about him. And yet it is amusing enough to trace the lingering reluctance of some of these polished scholars, about admitting, even to themselves, in his absence, what it is certain they all felt sufficiently when they were actually in his presence. It is difficult, for example, to read without a smile that letter of Mr. Dugald Stewart, in which he describes himself and Mr. Alison as being surprised to discover that Burns, after reading the latter author's elegant Essay on Taste, had really been able to form some shrewd enough notion of the general principles of the association of ideas.

Burns would probably have been more satisfied with himself in these learned societies, had he been less addicted to giving free utterance in conversation to the very feelings which formed the noblest inspirations of his poetry. His sensibility was as tremblingly exquisite, as his sense was masculine and solid; and he seems to have ere long suspected that the professional metaphysicians who applauded his rapturous bursts, surveyed them in reality with something of the same feeling which may be supposed to attend a skilful surgeon's inspection of a curious specimen of morbid anatomy. Why should be lay his inmost heart thus open to dissectors, who took special care to keep the knife from their own breasts? The sccret plush that overspread his haughty countenance when such suggestions occured to him in his solitary hours, may be traced in the opening lines of a diary which he began to keep ere he had been long in Edinburgh. "April 9, 1787.—As I have seen a good deal of human life in Edinburgh, a great many characters which are new to one bred up in the shades of life, as I have been, I am determined to take down my remarks on the spot. Gray observes, in a letter to Mr. Palgrave, that, ' half a word fixed, upon, or near the spot, is worth a cart-load of recollection.' I don't know how it is with the world in general, but with me, making my remarks is by no means a solitary pleasure. I want some one to laugh with me, some one to be grave with me, some one to please me and help my discrimination,

with his or her own remark, and at times, no doubt, to admire my acuteness and penetration. The world are so busied with selfish pursuits, ambition, vanity, interest, or pleasure, that very few think it worth their while to make any observation on what passes around them, except where that observation is a sucker, or branch, of the darling plant they are rearing in their fancy. Nor am I sure, notwithstanding all the sentimental flights of novel-writers, and the sage philosophy of moralists, whether we are capable of so intimate and cordial a coalition of friendship, as that one man may pour out his bosom, his every thought and floating fancy, his very inmost soul, with unreserved confidence, to another, without hazard of losing part of that respect which man deserves from man; or, from the unavoidable imperfections attending human nature, of one day repenting his confidence. For these reasons I am determined to make these pages my confidant. I will sketch every character that any way strikes me, to the best of my power, with unshrinking justice. I will insert anecdotes, and take down remarks, in the old law phrase, without feud or favour.—Where I hit on any thing clever, my own applause will, in some measure, feast my vanity. and, begging Patroclus' and Achates' pardon, I think a lock and key a security, at least equal to the bosom of any friend whatever." And the same lurking thorn of suspicion peeps out elsewhere in this complaint: "I know

not how it is; I find I can win liking-but not respect."

"Burns (says a great living poet, in commenting on the free style of Dr. Currie) was a man of extraordinary genius, whose birth, education, and cmployments had placed and kept him in a situation far below that in which the writers and readers of expensive volumes are usually found. Critics upon works of fiction have laid it down as a rule that remoteness of place, in fixing the choice of a subject, and in prescribing the mode of treating it, is equal in effect to distance of time ;-restraints may be thrown off accordingly. Judge then of the delusions which artificial distinctions impose, when to a man like Dr. Currie, writing with views so honourable, the social condition of the individual of whom he was treating, could seem to place him at such a distance from the exalted reader, that ceremony might be discarded with him, and his memory sacrificed, as it were, almost without compunction. This is indeed to be crushed beneath the furrow's weight." It would be idle to suppose that the feelings here ascribed, and justly, no question, to the amiable and benevolent Currie, did not often find their way into the bosoms of those persons of superior condition and attainments, with whom Burns associated at the period when he first emerged into the blaze of reputation; and what found its way into men's bosoms was not likely to avoid betraying itself to the perspicacious glance of the proud peasant. How perpetually he was alive to the dread of being looked down upon as a man, even by those who most zealously applauded the works of his genius, might perhaps be traced through the whole sequence of his letters. When writing to men of high station, at least, he preserves, in every instance, the attitude of self-defence. But it is only in his own secret tables that we have the fibres of his heart laid bare; and the cancer of this jealousy is seen distinctly at its painful work: habemus reum et confitentem. "There are few of the sore evils under the sun give me more uneasiness and chagrin than the comparison how a man of genius, nay, of avowed worth, is received everywhere, with the reception which a

[.] Mr. Wordsworth's letter to a friend of Burns, p. 12.

mere ordinary character, decorated with the trappings and futile distinctions of fortune, meets. I imagine a man of abilities, his breast glowing with honest pride, conscious that men are born equal, still giving honour to whom honour is due; he meets, at a great man's table, a Squire something, or a Sir somebody; he knows the noble landlord, at heart, gives the bard, or whatever he is, a share of his good wishes, beyond, perhaps, any one at table; yet how will it mortify him to see a fellow, whose abilities would scarcely have made an eightpenny tailor, and whose heart is not worth three farthings, meet with attention and notice, that are withheld from the son of genius and poverty? The noble Glencain has wounded me to the soul here, because I dearly esteem, respect, and love him. showed so much attention-engrossing attention, one day, to the only blockhead at table, (the whole company consisted of his lordship, dunderpate, and myself), that I was within half a point of throwing down my gage of contemptuous defiance; but he shook my hand, and looked so benevolently good at parting-God bless him! though I should never see him more. I shall love him until my dying day! I am pleased to think I am so capable of the throes of gratitude as I am miserably deficient in some other With Dr Blair I am more at my ease I never respect him with humble veneration; but when he kindly interests himself in my welfare, or still more, when he descends from his pinnacle, and meets me on equal ground in conversation, my heart overflows with what is called liking. When he neglects me for the mere carcass of greatness, or when his eye measures the difference of our points of elevation, I say to myself, with scarcely any emotion, what do I care for him, or his pomp either?" "It is not easy (says Burns) forming an exact judgment of any one; but, in my opinion, Dr. Blair is merely an astonishing proof of what industry and application can do. Natural parts like his are frequently to be met with; his vanity is proverbially known among his own acquaintances; but he is justly at the head of what may be called fine writing, and a critic of the first, the very first rank in prose; even in poetry a bard of nature's making can only take the pass of him. He has a heart, not of the very finest water, but far from being an ordinary one. In short, he is a truly worthy and most respectable character."

A nice speculator on the 'follies of the wise,' D'Israeli, * says—" Once we were nearly receiving from the hand of genius the most curious sketches of the temper, the irascible humours, the delicacy of soul, even to its shadowiness, from the warm shozzos of Burns, when he began a diary of his heart—a narrative of characters and events, and a chronology of his emotions. It was natural for such a creature of sensation and passion to project such a regular task, but quite impossible to get through it." This most curious document, it is to be observed, has not yet been printed entire. Another generation will, no doubt, see the whole of the confession; however, what has already been given, it may be surmised, indicates sufficiently the complexion of Burns's prevailing moods during his moments of retirement at this interesting period of his history. It was in such a mood (they recurred often enough) that he thus reproached "Nature, par-

tial nature :" -

[&]quot;Thou givest the ass his hide, the snail his shell;
The invenom'd wasp victorious guards his cell:

[.] D'Israeli on the Literary Character, vel. i. p. 136.

But, on! thou bitter stepmother, and hard, To thy poor fenceless naked child, the bard. . In naked feeling and in aching pride, He bears the unbroken blast from every side.

No blast pierced this haughty soul so sharply as the contumely of condescension.

One of the poet's remarks, when he first came to Edinburgh, has been handed down to us by Cromek .- It was, "that between the men of rustic life and the polite world he obser ed little difference—that in the former, though unpolished by fashion and menlightened by science, he had found much observation, and much intelligence—but a refined and accomplished woman was a thing almost new to him, and of which he had formed but a very inadequate idea." To be pleased, is the old and the best receipt how to please; and there is abundant evidence that Burns's success, among the high born ladies of Edinburgh, was much greater than among the " stately patricians," as he calls them, of his own sex. The vivid expression of one of them has almost become proverbial-that she never met with a man, "whose conversation so completely carried her off her feet," as Burns's. The late Duchess of Gordon, who was remarkable for her own conversational talent, as well as for her beauty and address, is supposed to be here referred to. But even here, he was destined to feel ere long something of the fickleness of fashion. He confessed to one of his old friends, ere the season was over, that some who had caressed him the most zealously, no longer seemed to know him, when he bowed in passing their carriages, and many more acknowledged his salute but coldly.

It is but too true, that ere this season was over, Burns had formed connexions in Edinburgh which could not have been regarded with much approbation by the eminent literati, in whose society his debut had made so powerful an impression. But how much of the blame, if serious blame, indeed, there was in the matter, ought to attach to his own fastidious jealousy-how much to the mere caprice of human favour, we have scanty means of ascertaining: No doubt, both had their share; and it is also sufficiently apparent that there were many points in Burns's conversational habits which men, accustomed to the delicate observances of refined society, might be more willing to tolerate under the first excitement of personal curiesity, than from any very deliberate estimate of the claims of such a genius, under such circumstances developed. He by no means restricted his sarcastic observations on those whom he encountered in the world to the confidence of his note-book; but startled polite cars with the utterance of audacious epigrams, far too witty not to obtain general circulation in so small a society as that of the northern capital, far too bitter not to produce deep resentment, far too numerous not to spread fear almost as widely as admiration. Even when nothing was farther from his thoughts than to inflict pain, his ardour often carried him headlong into sad scrapes; witness, for example, the anecdote given by Professor Walker, of his entering into a long discussion of the merits of the popular preachers of the day, at the table of Dr. Blair, and enthusiastically avowing his low opinion of all the rest ir comparison with Dr. Blair's own colleague * and most formidable rival-a man, certainly, endowed with extraordinary graces of voice and manner, a generous and amiable strain of feeling, and a copious flow of language; but having no pretensions either to the general accomplishments for which Blair was honoured in a most accomplished society, or to the polished elegance which he first introduced into the eloquence of the Scottish pulpit. Mr. Walker well describes the unpleasing effects of such an excaptale; the conversation during the rest of the evening, "labouring under that compulsory effort which was unavoidable, while the thoughts of all were full of the only subject on which it was improper to speak." Burns showed his good sense by making no effort to repair this blunder; but years afterwards, he confessed that he could never recall it without exquisite pain. Mr. Walker properly says, it did honour to Dr. Blair that his kindness remained totally unaltered by this occurrence; but the Professor would have found nothing to admire in that circumstance, had he not been well aware of the rarity of such good-nature among the genus irritabile of authors, orators, and wits.

A specimen (which some will think worse, some better) is thus recorded by Cromek:-" At a private breakfast, in a literary circle of Edinburgh, the conversation turned on the poetical merit and pathos of Gray's Elegy a poem of which he was enthusiastically fond. A clergyman present, remarkable for his love of paradox and for his eccentric notions upon every subject, distinguished himself by an injudicious and ill-timed attack on this exquisite poem, which Burns, with generous warmth for the reputation of Gray, manfully defended. As the gentleman's remarks were rather general than specific, Burns urged him to bring forward the passages which he thought exceptionable. He made several attempts to quote the poem, but always in a blundering, inaccurate manner. Burns bore all this for a good while with his usual good-natured forbearance, till at length, goaded by the fastidious criticisms and wretched quibblings of his opponent, he roused himself, and with an eye flashing contempt and indignation, and with great vehemence of gesticulation, he thus addressed the cold critic:- 'Sir, I now perceive a man may be an excellent judge of poetry by square and rule, and after all be a d-d blockhead." - Another of the instances may be mentioned, which shew the poet's bluntness of manner, and how true the remark afterwards made by Mr. Ramsay is, that in the game of society he did not know when to play on or off. While the second edition of his Poems was passing through the press, Burns was favoured with many critical suggestions and amendments; to one of which only he attended. Blair, reading over with him, or hearing him recite (which he delighted at all times in doing) his Holy Fair, stopped him at the stanza-

> Now a' the congregation o'er Is silent expectation, For Russel speels the holy door Wi' tidings o' Salvation.—

Nay, said the Doctor, read damnation. Burns improved the wit of this verse, undoubtedly, by adopting the emendation; but he gave another strange specimen of want of tact, when he insisted that Dr. Blair, one of the most scrupulous observers of clerical propriety, should permit him to acknowledge the obligation in a note.

But to pass from these trifles, it needs no effort of imagination to conceive what the sensations of an isolated set of scholars (almost all either clergymen or professors must have been in the presence of this big boned, black-browed, brawny stranger, with his great flashing eyes, who, having forced his way among them from the plough-tail at a single stride, mani-

fested, in the whole strain of his bearing and conversation, a most thorough conviction, that, in the society of the most eminent men of his nation, he was exactly where he was entitled to be; hardly deigned to flatter them by exhibiting even an occasional symptom of being flattered by their notice; by turns calmly measured himself against the most cultivated understandings of his time in discussion; overpowered the bon mots of the most celebrated convivialists by broad floods of merriment, impregnated with all the burning life of genius; astounded bosoms habitually enveloped in the thrice-piled folds of social reserve, by compelling them to tremble-ray to tremble visibly—beneath the fearless touch of natural pathos; and all this without indicating the smallest willingness to be ranked among those professional ministers of excitement, who are content to be paid 'n money and smiles for doing what the spectators and auditors would be ashamed of doing in their own persons, even if they had the power of doing it; and,last and probably worst of all, - who was known to be in the habit of enlivening societies which they would have scorned to approach, still more frequently than their own, with eloquence no less magnificent; with wit in all likelihood still more daring; often enough, as the superiors whom he fronted without alarm might have guessed from the beginning, and had, ere long, no occasion to guess, with wit pointed at themselves.

The lawyers of Edinburgh, in whose wider circles Burns figured at his outset, with at least as much success as among the professional literati, were a very different race of men from these; they would neither, I take it, have pardoned rudeness, nor been alarmed by wit. But being, in those days, with searcely an exception, members of the landed aristocracy of the country, and forming by far the most influential body (as indeed they still do) in the society of Scotland, they were, perhaps, as proud a set of men as ever enjoyed the tranquil pleasures of unquestioned superiority. What their haughtiness, as a body, was, may be guessed, when we know that inferior birth was reckoned a fair and legitimate ground for excluding any man from the bar. In one remarkable instance, about this very time, a man of very extraordinary talents and accomplishments was chiefly opposed in a long and painful struggle for admission, and, in reality, for no reasons but those I have been alluding to. by gentlemen who in the sequel stood at the very head of the Whig party in Edinburgh; * and the same aristocratical prejudice has, within the memory of the present generation, kept more persons of eminent qualifications in the background, for a season, than any English reader would easily believe. To this body belonged nineteen out of twenty of those "patricians," whose stateliness Burns so long remembered and so bitterly resented. It might, perhaps, have been well for him had stateliness been the worst fault of their manners. Winebibbing appears to be in most regions a favourite indulgence with those whose brains and lungs are subjected to the severe exercises of legal study and forensic practice. To this day, more traces of these old habits linger about the inns of court than in any other section of London. In Dublin and Edinburgh, the barristers are even now eminently convival bodies of men; but among the Scotch lawyers of the time of Burns, the principle of jollity was indeed in its "high and palmy state." He partook largely in those tavern scenes of audacious hilarity, which then soothed, as a matter

Mr. John Wild, son of a Tobacconist in the High Street, Edinburgh. He came to be Professor of Civil law in that Un ersity; but, in the end, was also an instance of unhappy genius

of course, the arid labours of the northern noblesse de la robe. The taverntife is now-a-days nearly extinct every where; but it was then in full vigour in Edinburgh, and there can be no doubt that Burns rapidly famibiarized himself with it during his residence. He had, after all, tasted but rarely of such excesses while in Ayrshire. So little are we to consider his Scotch Drink, and other jovial strains of the early period, as conveying any thing like a fair notion of his actual course of life, that " Auld Nanse Tinnock," or " Poosie Nancie," the Mauchline landlady, is known to have expressed, amusingly enough, her surprise at the style in which she found her name celebrated in the Kilmarnock edition, saying, "that Robert Burns might be a very clever lad, but he certainly was regardless, as, to the best of her belief, he had never taken three half-mutchkins in her house in all his life." And in addition to Gilbert's testimony to the same purpose, we have on record that of Mr. Archibald Bruce, a gentleman of great worth and discernment, that he had observed Burns closely during that period of his life, and seen him "steadily resist such solicitations and allurements to excessive convivial enjoyment, as hardly any other person could have withstood."-The unfortunate Heron knew Burns wel., and himself mingled largely in some of the scenes to which he adverts in the following strong language: "The enticements of pleasure too often unman our virtuous resolution, even while we wear the air of rejecting them with a stern brow. We resist, and resist, and resist; but, at last, suddenly turn, and passionately embrace the enchantress. The bucks of Edinburgh accomplished in regard to Burns, that in which the boors of Ayrshire had failed. After residing some months in Edinburgh, he began to estrange himself, not altogether, but in some measure, from graver friends. Too many of his hours were now spent at the tables of persons who delighted to urge conviviality to drunkenness-in the tavern-and in the brothel." It would be idle now to attempt passing over these things in silence; but it could serve no good purpose to dwell on them. During this winter. Burns continued to lodge with John Richmond, indeed, to share his bed, and we have the authority of this, one of the earliest and kindest friends of the poet, for the statement, that while he did so, "he kept good hours." He removed afterwards to the house of Mr. William Nicoll, one of the teachers of the High School of Edinburgh. Nicoll was a man of quick parts and considerable learning-who had risen from a rank as humble as Burns's from the beginning an enthusiastic admirer, and, ere long, a constant associ ate of the poet, and a most dangerous associate; for, with a warm heart, the man united an irascible temper, a contempt of the religious institutions of his country, and an occasional propensity for the bottle. Of Nicoll's letters to Burns, and about him, I have seen many that have never been, and probably that never will be, printed—cumbrous and pedantic cilusions, exhibiting nothing that one can imagine to have been pleasing to the poet, except a rapturous admiration of his genius. This man, nevertheless, was, I suspect, very far from being an unfavourable specimen of the society to which Heron thus alludes:- "He (the poet) suffered himself to be surrounded by a race of miserable beings, who were proud to tell that they had been in company with BURNS, and had seen Burns as loose and as folish as themselves. He was not yet irrecoverably lost to temperance and moderation; but he was already almost too much captivated with their wanton revels, to be ever more won back to a faithful attachment to their more sober charms" Heron adds-" He now also began to contract something of new arrogance in conversation. Accustomed to be, among his favourite associates, what is vulgarly, but expressively called, the cock of the company, he could scarcely refrain from indulging in similar freedom and dictatorial decision of talk, even in the presence of persons who could less patiently endure his presumption; ** an account ex facie probable, and which sufficiently tallies with some hints in Mr. Dugald Stewart's description of the poet's manners, as he first observed him at Catrine, and with one or two anecdotes already cited from Walker and Cromek.

Of these failings, and indeed of all Burns's failings, it may be safely asserted, that there was more in his history to account and apologize for them, than can be alleged in regard to almost any other great man's imperfections. We have seen, how, even in his earliest days, the strong thirst of distinction glowed within him—how in his first and rudest rhymes he sung.

" ____ to be great is charming;"

and we have also seen, that the display of talent in conversation was the first means of distinction that occurred to him. It was by that talent that he first attracted notice among his fellow peasants, and after he mingled with the first Scotsmen of his time, this talent was still that which appeared the most astonishing of all he possessed. What wonder that he should delight in exerting it where he could exert it the most freely—where there was no check upon a tongue that had been accustomed to revel in the license of village-mastery? where every sally, however bold, was sure to be received with triumphant applause—where there were no claims to rival his—no proud brows to convey rebuke, above all, perhaps, no grave eyes to convey regret?

But these, assuredly, were not the only feelings that influenced Burns: In his own letters, written during his stay in Edinburgh, we have the best evidence to the contrary. He shrewdly suspected, from the very beginning, that the personal notice of the great and the illustrious was not to be as lasting as it was eager: he foresaw, that sooner or later he was destined to revert to societies less elevated above the pretensions of his birth; and, though his jealous pride might induce him to record his suspicions in language rather too strong than too weak, it is quite impossible to read what he wrote without believing that a sincere distrust lay rankling at the roots of his heart, all the while that he appeared to be surrounded with an atmosphere of joy and hope. On the 15th of January 1787, we find him thus addressing his kind patroness, Mrs. Dunlop :- "You are afraid I shall grow intoxicated with my prosperity as a poet. Alas! Madam, I know myself and the world too well. I do not mean any airs of affected modesty; I am willing to believe that my abilities deserved some notice; but in a most enlightened, informed age and nation, when poetry is and has been the study of men of the first natural genius, aided with all the powers of polite learning, polite books, and polite company-to be dragged forth to the full glare of learned and polite observation, with all my imperfections of awkward rusticity, and crude unpolished ideas, on my head,-I assure you, Madam, I do not dissemble, when I tell you I tremble for the consequences. The novelty of a poet in my obscure situation, without any of those advantages which are reckoned necessary for that character, at leas

by this time of day, has raised a partial tide of public notice, which has borne me to a height where I am absolutely, feelingly certain, my abilities are inadequate to support me; and too surely do I see that time, when the same tide will leave me, and recede perhaps as far below the mark of truth. . . . I mention this once for all, to disburden my mind, and I do not wish to hear or say any more about it. But- When proud fortune's ebbing tide recedes,' you will bear me witness, that when my bubble of fame was at the highest, I stood unintoxicated with the inebriating cup in my hand, looking forward with rueful resolve."-And about the same time, to Dr. Moore:—" The hope to be admired for ages is, in by far the greater part of those even who are authors of repute, an unsubstantial dream. For my part, my first ambition was, and still my strongest wish is, to please my compeers, the rustic inmates of the hamlet, while everchanging language and manners shall allow me to be relished and understood. I am very willing to admit that I have some poetical abilities; and as few, if any writers, either moral or poetical, are intimately acquainted with the classes of mankind among whom I have chiefly mingled, I may have seen men and manners in a different phasis from what is common, which may assist originality of thought. I scorn the affectation of seeming modesty to cover self-conceit. That I have some merit, I do not deny; but I see, with frequent wringings of heart, that the novelty of my character, and the honest national prejudice of my countrymen, have borne me to a height altogether untenable to my abilities."-And lastly, April the 23d, 1787, we have the following passage in a letter also to Dr. Moore :- " 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."

One word more on the subject which introduced these quotations:—Mr. Dugald Stewart, no doubt, hints at what was a common enough complaint among the elegant literati of Edinburgh, when he alludes, in his letter to Currie, to the "not very select society" in which Burns indulged himself. But two points still remain somewhat doubtful; namely, whether, show and marvel of the season as he was, the "Ayrshire ploughman" really had it in his power to live always in society which Mr. Stewart would have considered as "very select;" and secondly, whether, in so doing, he could have failed to chill the affection of those humble Ayrshire friends, who, having shared with him all that they possessed on his arst arrival in the metropolis, faithfully and fondly adhered to him, after the springtide of fashienable favour did, as he foresaw it would do, "recede;" and, moreover, perhaps to provoke, among the higher circles themselves, criticisms more distasteful to his proud stomach, than any probable consequences of the course of conduct which he actually pursued. The second edition of Burns's poems was published early in March, by Creech; there were no less than 1500 subscribers, many of whom paid more than the shop-price of the volume. Although, therefore, the final settlement with the bookseller did not take place till nearly a year after, Burns now found himself in possession of a considerable sum of ready money; and the first impulse of his mind was to visit some of the classic scenes of Scottish history and romance. He had as yet seen but a small part of his own country, and this by no means among the most interesting of her districts, until, indeed, his own poctry made it equal, on that score, to any other.—" The appellation of a Scottisk

bard is by far my highest pride; to continue to deserve it, is my most exalted ambition. Scottish scenes, and Scottish story, are the themes I could wish to sing. I have no dearer aim than to have it in my power unplagued with the routine of business, for which, Heaven knows, I am unfit enough, to make leisurely pilgrimages through Caledonia; to sit on the fields of her battles, to wander on the romantic banks of her rivers, and to make by the stately towers or venerable ruins, once the honoured

abodes of her heroes. But these are Utopian views." *

The magnificent scenery of the capital itself had filled him with extraorainary delight. In the spring mornings, he walked very often to the top of Arthur's Seat, and, lying prostrate on the turf, surveyed the rising of the sun out of the sea, in silent admiration; his chosen companion on such occasions being that ardent lover of nature, and learned artist, Mr. Alexander Nasmyth. It was to this gentleman, equally devoted to the fine arts, as to liberal opinions, that Burns sat for the portrait engraved to Creech's edition, and which is here repeated. Indeed, it has been so often repeated, and has become so familiar, that to omit it now would be felt as a blank equal almost to the leaving out of one of the principal poems. The poet's dress has also been chronicled, remarkably as he then appeared in the first heyday of his reputation,—blue coat and buff vest, with blue stripes, (the Whig-livery), very tight buckskin breeches, and tight jockey boots.

The Braid hills, to the south of Edinburgh, were also among his favourite morning walks; and it was in some of these that Mr. Dugald Stewart tells us, "he charmed him still more by his private conversation than he had ever done in company." "He was," adds the professor, "passionately fond of the beauties of nature, and I recollect once he told me, when I was admiring a distant prospect in one of our morning walks, that the sight of so many smoking cottages gave a pleasure to his mind which none could understand who had not witnessed, like himself, the happiness and the worth which they contained." Burns was far too busy with society and observation to find time for poetical composition, during his first residence in Edinburgh. Creech's edition included some pieces of great merit, which had not been previously printed; but, with the exception of the Address to Edinburgh, all of them appear to have been written before he left Ayrshire. Several of them, indeed, were very early productions: The most important additions were, Death and Doctor Hornbook, The Brigs of Ayr, The Ordination, and the Address to the unco Guid. In this edition also, When Guildford guid our pilot stood, made its first appearance.

The evening before Le quitted Edinburgh, the poet addressed a letter to Dr. Blair, in which, taking a most respectful farewell of him, and expressing, in lively terms, his sense of gratitude for the kindness he had shown him, he thus recurs to his own views of his own past and future condition: "I have often felt the embarrassment of my singular situation However the metor like novelty of my appearance in the world might attract notice, I knew very well, that my utmost merit was far unequal to the task of preserving that character when once the novelty was over. I have made up my mind, that abuse, or almost even neglect, will not sur-

prise me in my quarters."

It ought not to be omitted, that our poet bestowed some of the first fruits of Creech's edition in the erection of a decent tombstone over the hitherte

Letter to Mrs. Dunlop Edinburgh, 22d March 1787.

neglected remains of his unfortunate predecessor, Robert Ferguson, in the Canongate churchyard. It seems also due to him here to insert his Address to Edinburgh,—so graphic and comprehensive,—as the proper record of the feelings engendered in his susceptible and grateful mind by the kindness shown to him, in his long visit, and under which feelings he was now about to quit it for a time.

ADDRESS TO EDINBURGH.

EDIMA! Scotia's darling seat!
All hail thy palaces and towers,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat legislation's sovereign pow'rs!
From marking wildly-scatter'd flowers,
As on the banks of Apr I stray'd,
And singing, lone, the lingering hours,
I shelter in thy honour'd shade.

Here wealth still swells the golden tide, As busy trade his labours pliese; 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 enlarged, their liberal 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 glided summer's sky, Sweet as the dewy milk white thorn, Dear as the raptured thrill of joy! Fair Burnet strikes th' adoring eye, Heav'n's beauties on my fancy shine: I see the sire of love on high, Atd own his work indeed divine!

There, watching high the least alarms,
Thy rough rude fortress gleams afar;
Like some bold ver'ran grey in arms,
And mark'd with many a seamy sear;
The pon'drous 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, I view that noble, stately dome, I view that noble, stately dome, Famed heroes, had their royal home. Alas! how changed 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 steps, Whose ancestors in days of yore, Thro' hostile ranks and ruin'd gaps Old Scotia's bloody lion bore: E'en I who sing in rustic lore, Haply my sires have left their shed, And faced grim danger's londest roar, Bold following where your fathers led!

EDINA! Scotie'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 flowers,
As on the banks of Ayr I stray'd,
And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,
I shelter in thy honour'd shake.

CHAPTER VI.

Contents.—Makes three several pilgrimages in Caledonia—Lands from the first of them, after an absence of six months, amongst his friends in the "Auld Clay Biggin"—Finas konour in his own country—Falls in with many kind friends during those pilgrimages, and is familiar with the great, but never secures one effective patron—Ancedotes and Sketches—Lingers in Edinburgh amidst the fleshpets, winter 1787-8—Upset in a hackney coach, which produces a bruised limb, and mournful musings for six weeks—Is enrolled in the Excise—Another crisis, in which the Poet finds it necessary to implore even his friend Mrs. Dunlop not to desert him—Growls over his publisher, but after settling with him leares E-inburgh with £500—Steps towards a more regular life.

"Ramsay and famous Ferguson,
Gied Forth and Tay a lift aboon;
Yarrow and Tweed to monie a tune
Thro' Scotland rings,
While Irvine, Lagar, Ay, and Doon,
Naebody sings."

On the 6tz of May, Burns left Edinburgh, in company with Mr. Robert Ainslic, Writer to the Signet, the son of a proprietor in Berwickslire.—Among other changes "which fleeting time procureth," this amiable gentleman, whose youthful gaiety made him a chosen associate of Burns, is now chiefly known as the author of some Manuals of Devotion.—They had formed the design of perambulating the picturesque scenery of the southern border, and in particular of visiting the localities celebrated by the old minstrels, of whose works Burns was a passionate admirer.

This was long before the time when those fields of Scottish romance were to be made accessible to the curiosity of citizens by stage-coaches; and Burns and his friend performed their tour on horseback; the former being mounted on a favourite mare, whom he had named Jenny Geddes, in honour of the good woman who threw her stool at the Dean c' Edinburgh's head on the 23d of July 1637, when the attempt was made to introduce a Scottish Liturgy into the service of St. Giles's. The merits of the trusty animal have been set forth by the poet in very expressive and humorous terms, in a letter to his friend Nicoll while on the road, and which will be found entire in the Correspondence. He writes :- " My auld ga'd gleyde o' a meere has huchyalled up hill and down brae, as teuch and birnie as a vera tlevil, wi' me. It's true she's as puir's a sangmaker, and as hard's a kirk, and lipper-laipers when she takes the gate, like a lady's gentlewoman in a minuwae, or a hen on a het girdle; but she's a yauld poutherin girran for a' that. When ance her ringbanes and pavies, her cruiks and cramps, are fairly soupled, she beets to, beets to, and aye the hindmost hour the lightest," &c. &c.

Burns passed from Edinburgh to Berrywell, the residence of Mr. Ainslie's family, and visited successively Dunse, Coldstream, Kelso, Fleurs, and the ruins of Roxburgh Castle, near which a holly bush still marks the spet on

whice James II. of Scotlandwas killed by the bursting of a cannon. Jedburgh—where he admired the "charming romantic situation of the town, with gardens and orchards intermingled among the houses of a once magnificent cathedral (abbey);" and was struck, (as in the other towns of the same district), with the appearance of "old rude grandure," and the idleness of decay; Melrose, "that far-famed glorious ruin," Selkirk, Ettrick, and the braes of Yarrow. Having spent three weeks in this district, of which it has been justly said, "that every field has its battle, and every rivulet its ±cng," Burns passed the Border, and visited Alnwick, Warkworth, Morpeth, Newcastle, Hexham, Wardrue, and Carlisle. He then turned northwards, and rode by Annan and Dumfries to Dalswinton, where he examined Mr. Miller's property, and was so much pleased with the soil, and the terms on which the landlord was willing to grant him a lease, that he resolved to return again in the course of the summer.

The poet visited, in the course of his tour, Sir James Hall of Dunglas, author of the well known Essay on Gollie Architecture, &c.; Sir Alexander and Lady Harriet Don, (sister to his patron, Lord Glencairn), at Newton-Don; Mr. Brydone, the author of Travels in Sicily; the amiable and learned Dr. Somerville of Jedburgh, the historian of Queen Anne, &c.; and, as usual, recorded in his journal his impressions as to their manners and characters. His reception was everywhere most flattering. The sketch

of his tour is a very brief one. It runs thus:-

" Saturday, May 6. Left Edinburgh-Lammer-muir hills, miserably

dreary in general, but at times very picturesque.

"Lanson-edge, a glorious view of the Merse. Reach Berrywell. . . . The family-meeting with my compagnon de voyage, very charming; particularly the sister.

" Sunday. Went to church at Dunse. Heard Dr. Bowmaker.

"Monday. Coldstream—glorious river Tweed—clear and majestic—fine bridge—dine at Coldstream with Mr. Ainslie and Mr. Foreman. Beat Mr. Foreman in a dispute about Voltaire. Drink tea at Lennel-House with Mr. and Mrs. Brydone. . . . Reception extremely flattering. Sleep at Coldstream.

" Taesday. Breakfast at Kelso—charming situation of the town—fine bridge over the Tweed. Enchanting views and prospects on both sides of the river, especially on the Scotch side. . . . Visit Roxburgh Palace—fine situation of it. Ruins of Roxburgh Castle—a holly bush growing where James the Second was accidentally killed by the bursting of a cannon. A small old religious ruin and a fine old garden planted by the religious, rooted out and destroyed by a Hottentot, a maitre d hotel of the Duke's!—Climate and soil of Berwickshire, and even Roxburghshire, superior to Ayrshire—bad roads—turnip and sheep husbandry, their great improvements. . . . Low markets, consequently low lands—magnificence of farmers and farm-houses. Come up the Teviot, and up the Jed to Jedburgh, to lie, and so wish myself good night.

"Wednesday. Breakfast with Mr. Fair. . . . Charming romantic situation of Jedburgh, with gardens and orchards, intermingled among the houses and the ruins of a once magnificent cathedral. All the towns here have the appearance of old rude grandeur, but extremely idle.—Jed, a fine romantic little river. Dined with Capt. Rutherford, . . . return to Jedburgh. Walked up the Jed vith some ladies to be shown Love-lane, and Blackburn, two fairy scenes — Introduced to Mr. Potts, writer, and to

Mr. Somerville, the clergyman of the parish, a man, and a gentleman, but sadly addicted to punning.

"Jedburgh, Saturday. Was presented by the Magistrates with the freedom of the town. Took farewell of Jedburgh, with some melancholy sensations.

"Monday, May 14, Kelso. Dine with the farmer's club—ali gentlemen talking of high matters—each of them keeps a hunter from £30 to £50 value, and attends the fox-hunting club in the country. Go out with Mr. Ker, one of the club, and a friend of Mr. Ainslie's, to sleep. In his mind and manners, Mr. Ker is astonishingly like my dear old friend Robert Muir—Every thing in his house elegant. He offers to accompany me in my English tour.

"Tuesday. Dine with Sir Alexander Don; a very wet day. . . Sleep at Mr. Ker's again, and set out next day for Melrose—visit Dryburgh a fine old ruined abbey, by the way. Cross the Leader, and come up the Tweed to Melrose. Dine there, and visit that far-famed glorious ruin—Come to Selkirk up the banks of Ettrick. The whole country hereabouts,

both on Tweed and Ettrick, remarkably stony."

He wrote no verses, as far as is known, during this tour, except a humorous Epistle to his bookseller, Creech, dated Selkirk, 13th May. In this he makes complimentary allusions to some of the men of letters who were used to meet at breakfast in Creech's apartments in those days—whence the name of Creech's Levee; and touches, too, briefly on some of the scenery he had visited.

"Up wimpling stately Tweed I've sped,
And Eden scenes on crystal Jed,
And Ettrick banks now rearing red,
While tempests blaw."

Burns returned to Mauchline on the 8th of July. It is pleasing to imagine the delight with which he must have been received by the family after the absence of six months, in which his fortunes and prospects had undergone so wonderful a change. He left them comparatively unknown, his tenderest feelings torn and wounded by the behaviour of the Armours, and so miserably poor, that he had been for some weeks obliged to skulk from the Sheriff's officers, to avoid the payment of a paltry debt. He returned, his poetical fame established, the whole country ringing with his praises, from a capital in which he was known to have formed the wonder and delight of the polite and the learned; if not rich, yet with more money already than any of his kindred had ever hoped to see him possess, and with prospects of future patronage and permanent elevation in the scale of society, which might have dazzled steadier eyes than those of maternal and fraternal affection. The prophet had at last honour in his own country: but the haughty spirit that had preserved its balance in Edinburgh, was not likely to lose it at Mauchline; and we have him writing from the auld clay biggin on the 18th of June, in terms as strongly expressive as any that ever came from his pen, of that jealous pride which formed the groundwork of his character; that dark suspiciousness of fortune, which the subsequent course of his history too well justified; that nervous intolerance of condescension, and consummate scorn of meanness, which attended him through life, and made the study of his species, for which nature had giver. him such extraordinary qualifications, the source of more pain than was

ever counterbalanced by the exquisite capacity for enjoyment with which There are few of his letters in which more of the he was also endowed. dark traits of his spirit come to light than in the following extract:-" I never, my friend, thought mankind capable of any thing very generous; but the stateliness of the patricians of Edinburgh, and the servility of my plebeian brethren, (who, perhaps, formerly eyed me askance), since I returned home, have nearly put me out of conceit altogether with my spe-I have bought a pocket-Milton, which I carry perpetually about me, in order to study the sentiments, the dauntless magnanimity, the intrepid unyielding independence, the desperate daring, and noble defiance of hardship, in that great personage—Satan. . . . The many ties of acquaintance and friendship I have, or think I have, in life-I have felt along the lines, and, d-n them, they are almost all of them of such frail texture, that I am sure they would not stand the breath of the least adverse breeze of fortune."

Among those who now appeared sufficiently ready to court his society, were the family of Jean Armour. Burns's regard for this affectionate young woman had outlived his resentment of her father's disavowal of him in the preceding summer; and from the time of this reconciliation, it is probable he looked forward to a permanent union with the mother of his children.

Burns at least fancied himself to be busy with serious plans for his future establishment; and was very naturally disposed to avail himself, as far as he could, of the opportunities of travel and observation, which an interval of leisure might present. Moreover, in spite of his gloomy language, a specimen of which has just been quoted, we are not to doubt that he derived much pleasure from witnessing the extensive popularity of his writings, and from the flattering homage he was sure to receive in his own person in the various districts of his native country; nor can any one wonder that, after the state of high excitement in which he had spent the winter and spring, he, fond as he was of his family, and eager to make them partakers in all his good fortune, should have, just at this time, found himself incapable of sitting down contentedly for any considerable period together in so humble and quiet a circle as that of Mossgiel. His appetite for wan dering appears to have been only sharpened by his Border excursion. After remaining a few days at home, he returned to Edinburgh, and thence proceeded on another short tour, by way of Stirling, to Inverary, and so back again, by Dumbarton and Glasgow, to Mauchline. Of this second excursion, no journal has been discovered; nor do the extracts from his correspondence, printed by Dr. Currie, appear to be worthy of much notice. In one, he briefly describes the West Highlands as a country "where savage streams tumble over savage mountains, thinly overspread with savage flocks, which starvingly support as savage inhabitants:" and in another, he gives an account of Jenny Geddes running a race ofter dinner with a Highlander's pony-of his dancing and drinking till sunrise at a gentleman's house on Loch Lomond; and of other similar matters .- "I have as yet," says he, "fixed on nothing with respect to the serious business of life. I am, just as usual, a rhyming, mason-making, raking, aimless, idle fellow. However, I shall somewhere have a farm soon."

In the course of this tour, Burns visited the mother and sisters of his friend, Gavin Hamilton, then residing at Harvieston, in Clackmannanshire, in the immediate neighbourhood of the magnificent scenery of Castle Campbell, and the vale of Devon. Castle Campbell, called otherwise the Castle

of Gloom, is grandly situated in a gorge of the Ochills, commanding an extensive view of the plain of Stirling. This ancient possession of the Argyll family was, in some sort, a town-residence of those chieftains in the days when the court was usually held at Stirling, Linlithgow, or Falkland The castle was burnt by Montrose, and has never been repaired. The Cauldron Linn and Rumbling Brigg of the Devon lie near Castle Campbell, on the verge of the plain. He was especially delighted with one of the young ladies; and, according to his usual custom, celebrated her in a song, in which, in opposition to his general custom, there is nothing but the respectfulness of admiration.

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 bracs 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.

At Harviestonbank, also, the poet first became acquainted with Miss Chalmers, afterwards Mrs. Hay, to whom one of the most interesting series of his letters is addressed. Indeed, with the exception of his letters to Mrs. Dunlop, there is, perhaps, no part of his correspondence which may be quoted so uniformly to his honour. It was on this expedition that, having been visited with a high flow of Jacobite indignation while viewing the neglected palace at Stirling, he was imprudent enough to write some verses bitterly vituperative of the reigning family on the window of his inn. These verses were copied and talked of; and although the next time Burns passed through Stirling, he himself broke the pane of glass containing them, they were remembered years afterwards to his disadvantage, and even danger.—As these verses have never appeared in any edition of his works hither to published in Britain, we present them to our readers as a literary curiosity.

Here once in triumph Stuarts reign'd,
And laws for Scotia well ordain'd;
But now unroof'd their palace stands;
Their sceptre's sway'd by other hands.
The injured Stuart line is gone,
A race outlandish fills the throne;
An idiot race, to honour lost,
Who know them best, despise them most.

The young ladies of Harvieston were, according to Dr. Currie, surprised with the calm manner in which Burns contemplated their fine seenery on Devon water and the Doctor enters into a little dissertation on the subject, showing that a man of Burns's lively imagination might probably have formed anticipations which the realities of the prospect might rather disappoint

This is possible enough; but I suppose few will take it for granted that Burns surveyed any scenes either of beauty or of grandeur without emotion, merely because he did not choose to be ecstatic for the benefit of a company of young ladies. He was indeed very impatient of interruption on such occasions: riding one dark night near Carron, his companion teased him with noisy exclamations of delight and wonder, whenever an opening in the wood permitted them to see the magnificent glare of the furnaces; "Look, Burns! Good Heaven! look! hook! what a glorious sight!"

"Sir," said Burns, clapping spurs to Jenny Geddes, "I would not look! look! at your bidding, if it were the mouth of hell!"

Burns spent the month of July at Mossgiel; and Mr. Dugald Stewart, in a letter to Currie, gives some recollections of him as he then appeared:

" Notwithstanding the various reports I heard during the preceding winter of Burns's predilection for convivial, and not very select society, I should have concluded in favour of his habits of sobriety, from all of him that ever fell under my own observation. He told me indeed himself, that the weakness of his stomach was such as to deprive him entirely of any merit in his temperance. I was, however, somewhat alarmed about the effect of his now comparatively sedentary and luxurious life, when he confessed to me, the first night he spent in my house after his winter's campaign in town, that he had been much disturbed when in bed, by a palpitation at his heart, which, he said, was a complaint to which he had of late become subject. In the course of the same season I was led by curiosity to attend for an hour or two a Masonic Lodge in Mauchline, where Burns He had occasion to make some short unpremeditated compliments to different individuals from whom he had no reason to expect a visit, and every thing he said was happily conceived, and forcibly as well as fluently expressed. His manner of speaking in public had evidently the marks of some practice in extempore elocution."

In August, Burns revisited Stirlingshire, in company with Dr. Adair, of Harrowgate, and remained ten days at Harvieston. He was received with particular kindness at Ochtertyre, on the Teith, by Mr. Ramsay (a friend of Blacklock), whose beautiful retreat he enthusiastically admired. host was among the last of those old Scottish Latinists who began with Buchanan. Mr. Ramsay, among other eccentricities, had sprinkled the walls of his house with Latin inscriptions, some of them highly elegant; and these particularly interested Burns, who asked and obtained copies and translations of them. This amiable man (another Monkbarns) was deeply read in Scottish antiquities, and the author of some learned essays on the elder poetry of his country. His conversation must have delighted any man of talents; and Burns and he were mutually charmed with each other. Ramsay advised him strongly to turn his attention to the romantic drama, and proposed the Gentle Shepherd as a model: he also urged him to write Scottish Georgics, observing that Thomson had by no means exhausted that He appears to have relished both hints. "But," says Mr. R. "to have executed either plan, steadiness and abstraction from company were wanting."-Mr. Ramsay thus writes of Burns :- " I have been in the company of many men of genius, some of them poets; but I never witnessed such flashes of intellectual brightness as from him. the impulse of the moment, sparks of celestial fire. I never was more delighted, therefore, than with his company two days tête-a-tête. In a mixed company I should have made little of him; for, to use a gamester's phrase, he did not always know

when to play off and when to play on. When I asked him whether the Edinburgh literati had mended his poems by their criticisms—' Sir,' saia he. 'those gentlemen remind me of some spinsters in my country, who spin their thread so fine that it is neither fit for weft nor woof.'"

At Clackmannan Tower, the Poet's jacobitism procured him a hearty welcome from the ancient lady of the place, who gloried in considering herself a lineal descendant of Robert Bruce. She bestowed on Burns knighthood with the touch of the hero's sword; and delighted him by giving as her toast after dinner, Hooki uncos, away strangers!-a shepherd's cry when strange sheep mingle in the flock. At Dunfermline the poet betrayed deep emotion, Dr. Adair tells us, on seeing the grave of the Bruce; but, passing to another mood on entering the adjoining church, he mounted the pulpit, and addressed his companions, who had, at his desire, ascended the cuttystool, in a parody of the rebuke which he had himself undergone some time before at Mauchline. From Dunfermline the poet crossed the Frith of Forth to Edinburgh; and forthwith set out with his friend Nicoll on a more extensive tour than he had as yet undertaken, or was ever again to under-Some fragments of his journal have recently been discovered, and are now in my hands; so that I may hope to add some interesting particulars to the accout of Dr. Currie. The travellers hired a post-chaise for their expedition—the schoolmaster being, probably, no very skilful equestrian.

"Angust 25th, 1787.—This day," says Burns, "I leave Edinburgh for a tour, in company with my good friend, Mr. Nicoll, whose originality of humour promises me much entertainment.—Linlithgov.—A fertile improved country is West Lothian. The more elegance and luxury among the farmers, I always observe, in equal proportion, the rudeness and stupidity of the peasantry. This remark I have made all over the Lothians, Merse, Roxburgh, &c.; and for this, among other reasons, I think that a man of romantic taste, 'a man of feeling,' will be better pleased with the poverty, but intelligent minds of the peasantry of Ayrshire, (peasantry they are all, below the Justice of Peace), than the opulence of a club of Merse farmers, when he, at the same time, considers the Vandalism of their ploughfolks, &c. I carry this idea so far, that an uninclosed, unimproved country is to me actually more agreeable as a prospect, than a country cultivated like a garden."

It was hardly to be expected that Robert Burns should have estimated the wealth of nations on the principles of a political economist; or that with him the greatest possible produce,—no matter how derived,—was to be the paramount principle. But, where the greatness and happiness of a people are concerned, perhaps the inspirations of the poet may be as safely takes for a guide as the inductions of the political economist:—

From scenes like these old Scotial's grandeur springs, That makes her loved at home, revered abroad? Princes and lords are but the breath of kings, "An honest man's the noblest work of God 1" And certes, in fair virtue's heav'nly road, The cottage leaves the palace far behind; What is a lordling's pomp! a cumbrous load. Disguising oft the wretch of human kind, Studied in arts of hell, in wickedness refined; O Scotia! my dear, my native soil! For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent Long may thy hardy sons of rustic oil, Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content f

And, O! may Heav'n their simple lives prevent
From Luxury's contagion, weak and vile!
Then, howe'er cross and coronets be rent,
A virtuous populace may rise the while,
And stand a wall of fire around their much-loved Isle.

Of Linhthgow the poet says, "the town carries the appearance of rude, decayed, idle grandeur—charmingly rural retired situation—the old Roya. Palace a tolerably fine but melancholy ruin—sweetly situated by the brink of a loch. Shown the room where the beautiful injured Mary Queen ot Scots was born. A pretty good old Gothic church—the infamous stool of repentance, in the old Romish way, on a lofty situation. What a poor pimping business is a Presbyterian place of worship; dirty, narrow, and squalid, stuck in a corner of old Popish grandeur, such as Linlithgow, and much more Melrose! Ceremony and show, if judiciously thrown in, are absolutely necessary for the bulk of mankind, both in religious and civil matters—"

At Bannockburn he writes as follows:—" Here no Scot can pass uninterested. I fancy to myself that I see my gallant countrymen coming over the hill, and down upon the plunderers of their country, the murderers of their fathers, noble revenge and just hate glowing in every vein, striding more and more eagerly as they approach the oppressive, insulting, blood-thirsty foe. I see them meet in glorious triumphant congratulation on the victorious field, exulting in their heroic royal leader, and rescued liberty and independence."—Here we have the germ of Burns's famous ode on the battle of Bannockburn.

At Taymouth, the Journal merely has—" described in rhyme." This alludes to the "verses written with a pencil over the mantle-piece of the parlour in the inn at Kenmore;" some of which are among his best purely English heroics—

"Poetic ardours in my bosom swell,
Lone wandering by the hermit s mossy cell;
The sweeping theatre of hanging woods;
The incessant roar of headdong-tumbling floods...
Here Poesy might wake her heaven-raught lyre,
And look through nature with creative fire...
Here, to the wrongs of fate half reconciled,
Misfortune's lighten'd steps might wander wild;
And Disappointment, in these lonely bounds,
Find balm to soothe her bitter rankling wounds;
Here heart-struck Grief might heavenward stretch her scan,
And injured Worth forget and pardon man."

Of Glenlyon we have this memorandum:—" Druids' temple, three circles of stones the outermost sunk, the second has thirteen stones remaining, the innermost eight; two large detached ones like a gate to the southeast—say prayers on it."

His notes on Dunkeld and Blair of Athole are as follows:—" Dunneld—Breakfast with Dr. Stuart—Neil Gow plays: a short, stout-built, Highland figure, with his greyish hair shed on his honest social brow—an interesting face, marking strong sense, kind openheartedness mixed with unnistrusting simplicity—visit his house—Margaret Gow.—Friday—ride up Tummel river to Bair. Fascally, a beautiful romantic nest—wild grandeur of the pass of Killikrankie—visit the gallant Lord Dundee's stone.—Blair—sup with the Duchess—casy and happy from the manners of that family—confirmed in my good opinion of my friend Walker.—Saturday—visit the scenes round Blair—fine, but spoilt with bad taste."

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS

Mr. Walker, who, as we have seen, formed Burns's acquaintance in Edinburgh through Blacklock, was at this period tutor in the family of Athole, and from him the following particulars of Burns's reception at the seat of his noble patron are derived :- " On reaching Blair, he sent me notice of his arrival (as I had been previously acquainted with him), and I hastened to meet him at the inn. The Duke, to whom he brought a letter of introduction, was from home; but the Duchess, being informed of his ar rival, gave him an invitation to sup and sleep at Athole House. He accepted the invitation; but, as the hour of supper was at some distance, begged I would in the interval be his guide through the grounds. It was already growing dark; yet the softened, though faint and uncertain, view of their beauties, which the moonlight afforded us, seemed exactly suited to the state of his feelings at the time. I had often, like others, experienced the pleasures which arise from the subline or elegant landscape, but I never saw those feelings so intense as in Burns. When we reached a rustic hut on the river Tilt, where it is overhung by a woody precipice, from which there is a noble water-fall, he threw himself on the heathy seat, and gave himself up to a tender, abstracted, and voluptuous enthusiasm of imagination. It was with much difficulty I prevailed on him to quit this spot, and to be introduced in proper time to supper. My curiosity was great to see how he would conduct himself in company so different from what he had been accustomed to. His manner was unembarrassed, plain, and firm. He appeared to have complete reliance on his own native good sense for directing his behaviour. He seemed at once to perceive and to appreciate what was due to the company and to himself, and never to forget a proper respect for the separate species of dignity belonging to each. He did not arrogate conversation, but, when led into it, he spoke with ease, propriety, and manliness. He tried to exert his abilities, because he knew it was ability alone gave him a title to be there. The Duke's fine young family attracted much of his admiration; he drank their healths as honest men and bonnie lasses, an idea which was much applauded by the company, and with which he has very felicitously closed his poem. Next day I took a ride with him through some of the most romantic parts of that neighbourhood, and was highly gratified by his conversation. As a specimen of his happiness of conception and strength of expression. I will mention a emark which he made on his fellow-traveller, who was walking at the time a few paces before us. He was a man of a robust but clumsy person; and while Burns was expressing to me the value he entertained for him, on account of his vigorous talents, although they were clouded at times by coarseness of manners; "in short," he added, "his mind is like his body, he has a confounded strong in-knee'd sort of a soul."-Much attention was paid to Burns both before and after the Duke's return, of which he was perfectly sensible, without being vain; and at his departure I recommended to him as the most appropriate return he could make, to write some descriptive verses on any of the scenes with which he had been so much delighted. After leaving Blair, he, by the Duke's advice, visited the Falls of Bruar, and in a few days I received a letter from Inverness, with the verse enclosed." *

At Blair, Burns first met with Mr. Graham of Fintray, a gentleman to whose kindness he was afterwards indebted on more than one important

Extract of a letter from Mr. Walker to Mr. Cunningham, Cated Perth, 24th October 797

pecasion; and Mr. Walker expresses great regret that he did not remain p day or two more, in which case he must have been introduced to Mr. Dundas, the first Lord Melville, who was then Treasurer of the Navy, and had the chief management of the affairs of Scotland. This statesman was but little addicted to literature; still, had such an introduction taken place, he might probably have been induced to bestow that consideration on the claims of the poet, which, in the absence of any personal acquaintance, Burns's works should have commanded at his hands.

From Blair, Burns passed "many miles through a wild country, among cliffs grey with eternal snows, and gloomy savage glens, till he crossed the Spey; and went down the stream through Strathspey, (so famous in Scottish music), Badenoch, &c. to Grant Castle, where he spent half a day with Sir James Grant; crossed the country to Fort George, but called by the way at Cawdor, the ancient seat of Macbeth, where he saw the identical bed in which, tradition says, King Duncan was murdered; lastly, from Fort George to Inverness. From Inverness, he went along the Murray Frith to Fochabers, taking Culloden Muir and Brodie House in his way. - Thursday, Came over Culloden Muir-reflections on the field of battle-breakfast at Kilraick-old Mrs. Rose-sterling sense, warm heart, strong passion, honest pride—all to an uncommon degree—a true chieftain's wife, daughter of Clephane-Mrs. Rose junior, a little milder than the mother. perhaps owing to her being younger-two young ladies-Miss Rose sung two Gaelic songs-beautiful and lovely-Miss Sophy Brodie, not very beautiful, but most agreeable and amiable—both of them the gentlest, mildest, sweetest creatures on earth, and happiness be with them! Brodie House to lie-Mr. B. truly polite, but not quite the Highland cordiality.-Friday, Cross the Findhorn to Forres—famous stone at Forres—Mr. Brodie tells me the muir where Shakspeare lays Macbeth's witch meeting, is still haunted—that the country folks won't pass by night.—Elgin—venerable ruins of the abbey, a grander effect at first glance than Melrose, but nothing near so beautiful.—Cross Spey to Fochabers—fine palace, worthy of the noble, the pointe, the generous proprietor-the Duke makes me happier than ever great man did; noble, princely, yet mild, condescending, and affable-gay and kind - The Duchess charming, witty, kind, and sensible—God bless them."*-

Burns, who had been much noticed by this noble family when in Edinburgh, happened to present himself at Gordon Castle, just at the dinner hour, and being invited to take a place at the table, did so, without for the moment adverting to the circumstance that his travelling companion had been left alone at the inn. in the adjacent village. On remembering this soon after dinner, he begged to be allowed to rejoin his friend; and the Duke of Gordon, who now for the first time learned that he was not journeying alone, immediately proposed to send an invitation to Mr Nicoll to come to the Castle. His Grace's messenger found the haughty schoolmaster striding up and down before the inn door, in a state of high wrath and indignation, at what he considered Burns's neglect, and no apologies could soften his mood. He had already ordered horses, and the poet finding that he must choose between the ducal circle and his irritable associate, at once left Gordon Castle, and repaired to the inn; whence Nicoll and he, in silence and mutual displeasure, pursued their journey along the

coast of the Murray Frith. The abridgment of Burns's visit at Gordon Castle, "was not only," says Mr. Walker, "a mortifying disappointment, but in all probability a serious misfortune, as a longer stay among persons of such influence, might hav, begot a permanent intimacy, and on their parts, an active concern for his future advancement." * But this touches on a delicate subject, which we shall not at present pause to consider.

Pursuing his journey along the coast, the poet visited successively Nairn, Forres, Aberdeen, and Stonehive; where one of his relations, James Burness, writer in Montrose, met him by appointment, and conducted him into the circle of his paternal kindred, among whom he spent two or three When William Burness, his father, abandoned his native district, never to revisit it, he, as he used to tell his children, took a sorrowful farewell of his brother on the summit of the last hill from which the roof of their lowly home could be descried; and the old man appears to have ever after kept up an affectionate correspondence with his family. It fell to the poet's lot to communicate his father's death to the Kincardineshire kindred, and afte. that he seems to have maintained the same sort of correspondence. He now formed a personal acquaintance with these good people, and in a letter to his brother Gilbert, we find him describing them in terms which show the lively interest he took in all their concerns. **

"The rest of my stages," says he, " are not worth rehearing: warm as I was from Ossian's country, where I had seen his very grave, what cared I for fishing towns and fertile carses?" He arrived once more in Auld Reekie, on the 16th of September, having travelled about six hundred miles in two-and-twenty days-greatly extended his acquaintance with his own country, and visited some of its most classical scenery-observed something of Highland manners, which must have been as interest ing as they were novel to him-and strengthened considerably among the sturdy Jacobites of the North those political opinions which he at this pe riod avowed.

Of the few poems composed during this Highland tour, we have alread, mentioned two or three. While standing by the Fall of Fyers, near Lock Ness, he wrote with his pencil the vigorous couplets-

> " Among the heathy hills and rugged woods, The roaring Fyers pours his mossy floods, ' &c.

When at Sir William Murray's of Ochtertyre, he celebrated Miss Murray of Lintrose, commonly called "The Flower of Sutherland," in the Song-

> " Blythe, blythe, and merry was she, Blythe was she but and ben," &c.

And the verses On Scaring some Wildfowl on Loch Turit,-

" Why, ve tenants of the lake, For me your wat'ry haunts forsake," &c.

were composed while under the same roof. These last, except perhaps Bruar Water, are the best that he added to his collection during the wanderings of the summer. But in Burns's subsequent productions, we find many traces of the delight with which he had contemplated nature in these alpine regions

[·] General Correspondence.

The poet once more visited his family at Mossgiel, and Mr. Miller at Dalswinton, ere the winter set in: and on more leisurely examination of that gentleman's estate, we find him writing as if he had all but decided to become his tenant on the farm of Elliesland. It was not, however, until he had for the third time visited Dumfriesshire, in March 1788, that a bargain was actually concluded. More than half of the intervening months were spent in Edinburgh, where Burns found, or fancied that his presence was necessary for the satisfactory completion of his affairs with the booksellers. It seems to be clear enough that one great object was the society of his jovial intimates in the capital. Nor was he without the ammsement of a little romance to fill up what vacant hours they left him. He lodged that winter in Bristo Street, on purpose to be near a beautiful widow—the same to whom he addressed the song,

" Clarinda, mistress of my soul," &c.

and a series of prose epistles, which have been separately published, and which present more instances of bad taste, bombastic language, and fulsome sentiment, than could be produced from all his writings besides.

At this time the publication called Johnson's Museum of Scottish Song was going on in Edinburgh; and the editor appears to have early prevailed on Burns to give him his assistance in the arrangement of his materials. Though Green grow the rashes is the only song, entirely his, which appears in the first volume, published in 1787, many of the old ballads included in that volume bear traces of his hand; but in the second volume, which appeared in March 1788, we find no fewer than five songs by Burns; two that have been already mentioned, 'and three far better than them, viz. Theniel Menzies' bonny Mary; that grand lyric,

"Farewell, ye dungeons dark and strong, The wretch's destiny, Macpherson's time will not be long On yonder gallows tree;"

both of which performances bespeak the recent impressions of his Highland visit; and, lastly, Whistle and I'll come to you, my lad. Burns had been from his youth upwards an enthusiastic lover of the old minstrelsy and music of his country; but he now studied both subjects with far better opportunities and appliances than he could have commanded previously; and it is from this time that we must date his ambition to transmit his own poetry to posterity, in eternal association with those exquisite airs which had hitherto, in far too many instances, been married to verses that did not deserve to be immortal. It is well known that from this time Burns composed very few pieces but songs; and whether we ought or not to regret that such was the case, must depend on the estimate we make of his songs as compared with his other poems; a point on which critics are to this hour divided, and on which their descendants are not very like y to agree. Mr. Walker, who is one of those that lament Burns's comparative dereliction of the species of composition which he most cultivated in the early days of his inspiration, suggests very sensibly, that if Burns had not taken to song-writing, he would probably have written little or nothing amidst the various temptations to company and dissipation which now and henceforth surrounded him-to say nothing of the active duties of life in which

[&]quot; 'Clarinda,' and " How pleasant the banks of the clear winding Devo 1."

he was at length about to be engaged. Burns was present, on the 31st of December, at a dinner to celebrate the birth-day of the unfortunate Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and produced on the occasion an ode, part of which Dr. Currie has preserved. The specimen will not induce any regret that the remainder of the piece has been suppressed. It appears to be a mouthing rhapsody—far, far different indeed from the Chevalier's Lament, which the poet composed some months afterwards, with probably the tithe of the effort, while riding alone "through a track of melancholy muirs be-

tween Galloway and Ayrshire, it being Sunday." *

For six weeks of the time that Burns spent this year in Edinburgh, he was confined to his room, in consequence of an overturn in a hackney coach. "Here I am," he writes, "under the care of a surgeon, with a bruised limb extended on a cushion, and the tints of my mind vying with the livid horrors preceding a midnight thunder-storm. A drunken coachman was the cause of the first, and incomparably the lightest evil; misfortune, bodily constitution, hell, and myself, have formed a quadruple alliance to guarantee the other. I have taken tooth and nail to the Bible, and am got half way through the five books of Moses, and half way in Joshua. really a glorious book. I sent for my bookbinder to-day, and ordered him to get an 8vo. Bible in sheets, the best paper and print in town, and bind it with all the elegance of his craft." + - In another letter, which opens gaily enough, we find him reverting to the same prevailing darkness of mood "I can t say I am altogether at my ease when I see any where in my path that meagre, squalid, famine-faced spectre, Poverty, attended as he always is by iron-fisted Oppression, and leering Contempt. But I have sturdily withstood his buffetings many a hard-laboured day, and still my motto is I DARE. My worst enemy is moi-même. There are just two creatures that I would envy-a horse in his wild state traversing the forests of Asia, or an oyster on some of the desert shores of Europe. The one has not a wish without enjoyment; the other has neither wish nor fear." ‡-One more specimen may be sufficient. | " These have been six horrible weeks. Anguish and low spirits have made me unfit to read, write, or think. I have a hundred times wished that one could resign life as an officer does a commission; for I would not take in any poor ignorant wretch by selling out. Lately, I was a sixpenny private, and God knows a miserable soldier enough: now I march to the campaign a starving cadet, a little more conspicuously wretched. I am ashamed of all this; for though I do not want bravery for the warfare of life, I could wish, like some other soldiers, to have as much fortitude or cunning as to dissemble or conceal my cowardice."

It seems impossible to doubt that Burns had in fact lingered in Edinburgh, in the hope that, to use a vague but sufficiently expressive phrase, something would be done for him. He visited and revisited a farm,—talked and wrote about "having a fortune at the plough-tail," and so forth; but all the while nourished, and assuredly it would have been most strange if he had not, the fond dream that the admiration of his country would ere long present itself in some solid and tangible shape. His illness and confinement gave him leisure to concentrate his imagination on the darker side of his prospects; and the letters which we have queted may teach those who envy the powers and the fame of genius, to pause for a moment over

[·] General Correspondence, No. 46

⁺ Reliques, p. 43.

General Correspondence, No. 43.

[#] Ibid. p. 44.

the annals of literature, and think what superior capabilities of misery have been, in the great majority of cases, interwoven with the possession of those very talents, from which all but their possessors derive unmingled gratification. Burns's distresses, however, were to be still farther aggravated, While still under the hands of his surgeon, he received intelligence from Mauchline that his intimacy with Jean Armour had once more exposed her to the reproaches of her family. The father sternly and at once turned her out of doors; and Burns, unable to walk across his room, had to write to his friends in Mauchline to procure shelter for his children, and for her whom he considered as-all but his wife. In a letter to Mrs. Dunlop, written on hearing of this new misfortune, he says, " 'I wish I were dead, but I'm no like to die.' I fear I am something like-undone; but I hope for the best. You must not desert me. Your friendship I think I can count on, though I should date my letters from a marching regiment. Early in life, and all my life, I reckoned on a recruiting drum as my forlorn hope. Seriously, though, life at present presents me with but a melancholy path— But my limb will soon be sound, and I shall struggle on." *

It seems to have been now that Burns at last screwed up his courage to solicit the active interference in his behalf of the Earl of Glencairn. The letter is a brief one. Burns could id endure this novel attitude, and he rushed at once to his request. "I wish," says he, "to get into the excise. I am told your Lordship will easily procure me the grant from the commissioners; and your lordship's patronage and kindness, which have already rescued me from obscurity, wretchedness, and exile, embolden me to ask that interest. You have likewise put it in my power to save the little tie of home, that sheltered an aged mother, two brothers, and three sisters from destruction. There, my lord, you have bound me over to the highest gratitude. My heart sinks within me at the idea of applying to any other of The Great who have honoured me with their countenance. I am ill qualified to dog the heels of greatness with the impertinence of solicitation; and tremble nearly as much at the thought of the cold promise as of the cold denial." † It would be hard to think that this letter was coldly or negligently received; on the contrary, we know that Burns's gratitude to Lord Glencairn lasted as long as his life. But the excise appointment which he coveted was not procured by any exertion of his noble patron's influence. Mr. Alexander Wood, surgeon, (still affectionately remembered in Edinburgh as "kind old Sandy Wood,") happening to hear Eurns, while his patient, mention the object of his wishes, went immediately, without dropping any hint of his intention, and communicated the state of the poet's case to Mr. Graham of Fintray, one of the commissioners of excise, who had met Burns at the Duke of Athole's in the autumn, and who immediately had the poet's name put on the roll. - " I have chosen this, my dear friend," (thus wrote Burns to Mrs. Dunlop), "after mature delibera-The question is not at what door of Fortune's palace shall we enter in ; but what doors does she open to us? I was not likely to get any thing to do. I wanted un bût, which is a dangerous, an unhappy situation. I got this without any hanging on or mortifying solicitation. It is immediate bread, and, though poor in comparison of the last eighteen months of my existence, 'tis luxury in comparison of all my preceding life. Besides, the commissioners are some of them my acquaintances, and all of them my firm friends." I

^{*} Reliques, p. 48.

Our poet seems to have kept up an angry correspondence during his con finement with his bookseller, Mr. Creech, whom he also abuses very heartily in his letters to his friends in Ayrshire. The publisher's accounts, however, when they were at last made up, must have given the impatient author a very agreeable surprise; for, in his letter above quoted, to Lord Glencairn, we find him expressing his hopes that the gross profits of his book might amount to "better than £200," whereas, on the day of settling with Mr Creech, he found himself in possession of £500, if not of £600. coll, the most intimate friend Barns had, writes to Mr John Lewars, excise officer at Dunfries, immediately on hearing of the poet's death,-" He certainly told me that he received £600 for the first Edinburgh edition, and £100 afterwards for the copyright."—Dr. Currie states the gross product of Creech's edition at £500, and Burns himself, in one of his printed letters, at £400 only. Nicoll hints, in the letter already referred to, that Burns had contracted debts while in Edinburgh, which he might not wish to avow on all occasions; and if we are to believe this—and, as is probable, the expense of printing the subscription edition, should, moreover, be deducted from the £700 stated by Mr. Nicoll—the apparent centradictions in these stories may be pretty nearly reconciled. There appears to be reason for thinking that Creech subsequently paid more than ±100 for the If he did not, how came Burns to realize, as Currie states it at the end of his Memoir, "nearly £900 in all by his poems?"

This supply came truly in the hour of need; and it seems to have elevated his spirits greatly, and given him for the time a new stock of confidence; for he now resumed immediately his purpose of taking Mr. Miller's farm, retaining his excise commission in his pocket as a dernier resort, to be made use of only should some reverse of fortune come upon him. His first act, however, was to relieve his brother from his difficulties, by advancing £ 180 or £ 200, to assist him in the management of Mossgiel. "I give myself no airs on this," he generously says, in a letter to Dr. Moore, "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 the throwing a little filial piety and fraternal affection into the scale in my favour, migh-

help i) smooth matters at the grand reckoning." *

[·] General Correspondence, __ No. 66.

CHAPTER VII.

**PSYMENTS — Marries — Announcements, (apologetical), of the event—Rennalss—Becomer (788) Farmer at Elliesland, on the Nith, in a romantic vicinity, six miles from Dunfries—The Muse wakeful as ever, while the Poet maintains a varied and extensive literary correspondence with all and sundsy—Remarks upon the correspondence—Shetch of his person and habits at this period by a brother poot, who shows cause against success in farming—The unaward conjunction of Gauger to Farmer—The natice of the squirearchy, and the calls of admiring visitors, lead too uniformly to the ultra wavivial life—Leaves Ellieslana (1791) to be exciseman in the town of Dumfries.

"To make a happy fireside clime
For weans and wife—
That's the true pathos and sublime
Of human life."

Burns, as soon as his bruised limb was able for a journey, went to Mossgiel, and went through the ceremony of a Justice of Peace marriage with Jean Armour, in the writing-chambers of his friend Gavin Hamilton. then crossed the country to Dalswinton, and concluded his bargain with Mr. Miller as to the farm of Elliesland, on terms which must undoubtedly have been considered by both parties, as highly favourable to the poet; they were indeed fixed by two of Burns's own friends, who accompanied him for that purpose from Ayrshire. The lease was for four successive terms. of nineteen years each, -in all seventy six years; the rent for the first three years and crops £50; during the remainder of the period £70 per annum. Mr. Miller bound himself to defray the expense of any plantations which Burns might please to make on the banks of the river; and, the farm-house and offices being in a delapidated condition, the new tenant was to receive £300 from the proprietor, for the erection of suitable buildings. Burns entered on possession of his farm at Whitsuntide 1788, but the necessary rebuilding of the house prevented his removing Mrs. Burns thither until the season was far advanced. He had, moreover, to qualify himself for holding his excise commission by six weeks' attendance on the business of that profession at Ayr. From these circumstances, he led all the summer a wandering and unsettled life, and Dr. Currie mentions this as one of his chief misfortunes. The poet, as he says, was continually riding between Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire, and often spending a night on the road, " sometimes fell into company, and forgot the resolutions he had formed." What these resolutions were, the poet himself shall tell us. On the third day of his residence at Elliesland, he thus writes to Mr. Ainslie: -" 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. Cost what it will, I am determined to buy in among the grave squadrons of heavy-armed thought, or the artillery corps of plodding cortrivance. Were it not for the terrors of my ticklish situation 'especting a family of children, I am decidedly of opinion that the step I have

taken is vastly for my happiness." *

To all his friends he expresses himself in terms of similar satisfaction in regard to his marriage. "Your surmise, Madam," he writes to Mrs. Dunlop, " is just. I am indeed a husband. I found a once much-loved, and still much-loved female, literally and truly cast out to the mercy of the naked elements, but as I enabled her to purchase a shelter; and there is no sporting with a fellow-creature's happiness or misery. The most placid goodnature and sweetness of disposition; a warm heart, gratefully devoted with all its powers to love me; vigorous health and sprightly cheerfulness, set off to the best advantage by a more than commonly handsome figure; these, I think, in a woman, may make a good wife, though she should never have read a page but the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, nor danced in a brighter assembly than a penny-pay wedding. . . To jealousy or infidelity I am an equal stranger; my preservative from the first, is the most thorough consciousness of her sentiments of honour, and her attachment to me; my antidote against the last, is my long and deeprooted affection for her. In housewife matters, of aptness to learn, and activity to execute, she is eminently mistress, and during my absence in Nithsdale, sne is regularly and constantly an apprentice to my mother and sisters in their dairy, and other rural business. . . . You are right, that a bachelor state would have ensured me more friends; but from a cause you will easily guess, conscious peace in the enjoyment of my own mind, and unmistrusting confidence in approaching my God, would reldon have been of the number." +

Some months later he tells Miss Chalmers that his marriage " was not. perhaps, in consequence of the attachment of romance,"-(he is addressing a young lady),-" but," he centinues, "I have no cause to repent it. If I have not got polite tattie, modish manners, and fashionable dress, I am not sickened and disgusted with the multiform curse of boarding-school affectation; and I have got the handsomest figure, the sweetest temper, the soundest constitution, and the kindest heart in the country. Mrs. Burns believes as firmly as her creed, that I am le plus bel csprit et le plus honnête homme in the universe; although she scarcely ever, in her life, except the Scriptures and the Psalms of David in Metre, spent five minutes tegether on either prose or verse--I must except also a certain late publication of Scots poems, which she has perused very devoutly, and all the ballads of the country, as she has (O the partial lover, you will say), the finest woodnote-wild I ever heard."-It was during this honeymoon, as he calls it, while chiefly resident in a miserable hovel at Elliesland, ‡ and only occasionally spending a day or two in Ayrshire, that he wrote the beat titul song:

> " Of a' the airts the wind can blaw I dearly like the west, For there the bonnie lassie lives, the lassie I lo'e best; There wildwoods grow, and rivers row, and mony a hill between; But day and night my fancy's flight is ever wi' my Jean. O blaw, ye westlin winds, blaw sait amang the leafy trees, Wi' gentle gale, frae muir and dale, bring hame the laden bees, And bring the lassie back to me, that's aye sae neat and clean;

Ae blink o' her wad banish care, sae lovely is my Jean."

⁺ See General Correspondence, No. 53; and Reliques, p. 69. Reliques, p. 63. # Reliques, p. 75. | Ibid. p. 273.

One of Burns's letters, written not long after this, contains a passage strongly marked with his haughtiness of character. "I have escaped," says he, if the fantastic caprice, the apish affectation, with all the other blessed boarding-school acquirements which are sometimes to be found among females of the upper ranks, but almost universally pervade the misses of the

would-be gentry."*

" A discerning reader," says Mr. Walker, " will perceive that the letters in which he announces his marriage to some of his most respected correspondents, are written in that state when the mind is pained by reflecting on an unwelcome step, and finds relief to itself in seeking arguments to justify the deed, and essen its disadvantages in the opinion of others." † I confess I am not able to discern any traces of this kind of feeling in any of Burns's letters on this interesting and important occasion. The Rev. Hamilton Paul takes an original view of this business:—" Much praise," says he, " has been lavished on Burns for renewing his engagement with Jean when in the blaze of his fame. . . The praise is misplaced. We do not think a man entitled to credit or commendation for doing what the law could compel him to perform. Burns was in reality a married man, and it is truly ludicrous to hear him, aware as he must have been, of the indissoluble power of the obligation, though every document was destroyed, talking of himself as a bachelor." † There is no justice in these remarks. It is very true, that, by a merciful fiction of the law of Scotland, the female, in Miss Armour's condition, who produces a written promise of marriage, is considered as having furnished evidence of an irregular marriage having taken place between her and her lover; but in this case the female herself had destroyed the document, and lived for many months not only not assuming, but rejecting the character of Purns's wife; and had she, under such eircumstances, attempted to establish a marriage, with no document in her hand, and with no parole evidence to show that any such document had ever existed, to say nothing of proving its exact tenor, but that of her own father, it is clear that no ecclesiastical court in the world could have failed to decide against her. So far from Burns's having all along regarded her as his wife, it is extremely doubtful whether she had ever for one moment considered him as actually her husband, until he declared the marriage of 1788. Burns did no more than justice as well as honour demanded; but the act was one which no human tribunal could have compelled him to perform.

To return to our story. Burns complains sadly of his solitary condition, when living in the only hovel that he found extant on his farm. "1 am," says he, (September 9th) "busy with my harvest, but for all that most picasurable part of life called social intercourse, I am here at the very elbow of existence. The only things that are to be found in this country in any degree of perfection, are stupidity and canting. Prose they only know in graces, &c., and the value of these they estimate as they do their plaiding webs, by the ell. As for the muses, they have as much idea of a rhinoceros as of a poet." And in another letter (September 16th) he says "This hovel that I shelter in while occasionally here, is pervious to every blast that blows, and every shower that falls, and I am only preserved from being chilled to death by being suffocated by smoke. You will be pleased to hear that I have laid aside idle eclat, and bind every day after

[·] General Correspondence, No. 55.

[#] Paul's Life of Burns. p. 45.

⁺ Morrison, vol. i. p. Ixxxvii.

my reapers." His Fouse, however, did not take much time in building, nor had he reason to complain of want of society long. He brought his wife home to Elliesland about the end of November; and few housekeepers start with a larger provision of young mouths to feed than this couple. Mrs. Burns had lain in this autumn, for the second time, of twins, and I suppose "sonsy, smirking, dear-bought Bess,"* accompanied her younger brothers and sisters from Mossgiel. From that quarter also Burns brought a whole establishment of servants, male and female, who, of course, as was then the universal custom amongst the small farmers, both of the west and of the south of Scotland, partook, at the same table, of the same fare with their master and mistress.

Elliesland is beautifully situated on the banks of the Nith, about six miles above Dumfries, exactly opposite to the house of Dalswinton, of those noble woods and gardens amidst which Burns's landlord, the ingenious Mr. Patrick Miller, found relaxation from the scientific studies and researches in which he so greatly excelled. On the Dalswinton side, the river washes lawns and groves; but over against these the bank rises into a long red scaur, of considerable height, along the verge of which, where the bare shingle of the precipice all but overhangs the stream, Burns had his favourite walk, and might now be seen striding alone, early and late, especially when the winds were loud, and the waters below him swollen and turbu-For he was one of those that enjoy nature most in the more serious and severe of her aspects; and throughout his poetry, for one allusion to the liveliness of spring, or the splendour of summer, it would be easy to point out twenty in which he records the solemn delight with which he contemplated the melancholy grandeur of autumn, or the savage gloom of winter; and he has himself told us, that it was his custom " to take a gloamin' shot at the muses."

The poet was accustomed to say, that the most happy period of his life was the first winter he spent at Elliesland,—for the first time under a roof of his own—with his wife and children about him—and in spite of occasional lapses into the melancholy which had haunted his youth, looking forward to a life of well-regulated, and not ill-rewarded, industry. It is known that he welcomed his wife to her rooftree at Elliesland in the song,

"I hae a wife o' mine 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."

In commenting on this "little lively lucky song," as he well calls it, Mr. A Cunningham says, "Burns had built his house, he had committed his seed-corn to the ground, he was in the prime, nay the morning of life—health, and strength, and agricultural skill were on his side—his gennus had been acknowledged by his country, and rewarded by a subscription, more extensive than any Scottish poet ever received before; no wonder, therefore, that he broke out into voluntary song, expressive of his sense of importance and independence."

Burns, in his letters of the year 1789, makes many apologies for doing but little in his poetical vocation; his farm, without doubt, occupied much of his attention, but the want of social intercourse, of which he complained on his first arrival in Nithsdale, had by this time totally disappeared. Or

^{*} POETICAL INVENTORY to Mr. Aiken, February 1786.

the contrary, his company was courted eagerly, not only by his brotherfarmers, but by the neighbouring gentry of all classes; and now, too, for the first time, he began to be visited continually in his own house by curious travellers of all sorts, who did not consider, any more than the generous poet himself, that an extensive practice of hospitality must cost more time than he ought to have had, and far more money than he ever had, at his disposal. Meantime, he was not wholly regardless of the muses; for in addition to some pieces which we have already had occasion to notice, he contributed to this year's Museum, The Thames flows proudly to the Sea; The lazy mist hangs, &c.; The day returns, my bosom burns; Tam Gleu, (one of the best of his humorous songs); the splendid lyric, Go fetch to me a pint of wine, and My heart's in the Hielands, (in both of which, however, he adopted some lines of ancient songs to the same tunes); John Anderson, in part also a rifaceiumento; the best of all his Bacchanalian pieces, Willie brewed a peck o' mant, written in celebration of a festive meeting at the country residence, in Dumfriesshire, of his friend Mr. Nicoll of the High School; and lastly, that noblest of all his ballads, To Mary in Heaven. This celebrated poem was, it is on all hands admitted, composed by Burns in September 1789, on the anniversary of the day on which he heard of the death of his early love, Mary Campbell; but Mr. Cromek has thought fit to dress up the story with circumstances which did not oc-Mrs. Burns, the only person who could appeal to personal recollection on this occasion, and whose recollections of all circumstances conneeted with the history of her husband's poems, are represented as being remarkably distinct and vivid, gives what may at first appear a more prosaic edition of the history. * According to her, Burns spent that day, though labouring under cold, in the usual work of his harvest, and apparently in excellent spirits. But as the twilight deepened, he appeared to grow "very sad about something," and at length wandered out into the barn-yard, to which his wife, in her anxiety for his health, followed him, entreating him in vain to observe that frost had set in, and to return to the fireside. On being again and again requested to do so, he always promised compliance-but still remained where he was, striding up and down slowly, and contemplating the sky, which was singularly clear and At last Mrs. Burns found him stretched on a mass of straw, with his eyes fixed on a beautiful planet "that shone like another moon;" and prevailed on him to come in. He immediately on entering the house, called for his desk, and wrote exactly as they now stand, with all the case of one copying from memory, the sublime and pathetic verses-

That lovest 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;
See'st thou thy lover lowly land,
Hear'st thou the grouns that rend his breast?" &c.

" Thou lingering star with lessening ray,

The Mother's Lament for her Son, and Inscription in an Hermitage in Nithsdale, were also written this year. From the time when Burns settled Limself in Dumfriesshire, he appears to have conducted with much care the extensive correspondence in which his celebrity had engaged him. The

[•] I owe these particulars to Mr. M'Diarmid, the able editor of the Dumfries Courier, and brother of the lamented author of "Lives of British Statesmen."

etters that passed between him and his brother Gilbert, are among the most precious of the collection. That the brothers had entire knowledge of and confidence in each other, no one can doubt; and the plain manly affectionate language in which they both write, is truly honourable to them. and to the parents that reared them. "Dear Brother," writes Gilbert, January 1st, 1789, "I have just finished my new-year's-day breakfast in the usual form, which naturally makes me call to mind the days of former years, and the society in which we used to begin them; and when I look at our family vicissitudes, 'through the dark postern of time long elapsed,' I cannot help remarking to you, my dear brother, how good the God of seasons is to us; and that, however some clouds may seem to lour over the portion of time before us, we have great reason to hope that all will turn out well."

It was on the same new-year's-day that Burns himself addressed to Mrs. Dunlop a letter, part of which is here transcribed. It is dated Elliesland, New-year-day morning, 1789, and certainly cannot be read too often: "This, dear Madam, is a morning of wishes, and would to God that I came under the apostle James's description!—the prayer of a righteous man availeth much. In that case, madam, you should welcome in a year full of blessings; everything that obstructs or disturbs tranquillity and self-enjoyment, should be removed, and every pleasure that frail humanity can taste, should be yours. I own myself so little a Presbyterian, that I approve of set times and seasons of more than ordinary acts of devotion, for breaking in on that habituated routine of life and thought, which is so apt to reduce our existence to a kind of instinct, or even sometimes, and with some minds, to a state very little superior to mere machinery. This day,-the first Sunday of May,—a breezy, blue-skyed moon sometime about the beginning, and a hoary morning and calm sunny day about the end of autumn;

these, time out of mind, have been with me a kind of holiday.

"I believe I owe this to that glorious paper in the Spectator, 'The Vision of Mirza; a piece that struck my young fancy before I was capable of fixing an idea to a word of three syllables: 'On the 5th day of the moon, which, according to the custom of my forefathers, I always keep holy, after having washed myself, and offered up my morning devotions, I ascended the high hill of Bagdat, in order to pass the rest of the day in meditation and prayer.' We know nothing, or next to nothing, of the substance of structure of our souls, so cannot account for those seeming caprices in them, that one should be particularly pleased with this thing, or struck with that, which, on minds of a different cast, makes no extraordinary impression. I have some favourite flowers in spring, among which are the mountain-daisy, the hare-bell, the fox-glove, the wild brier-rose, the budding-birch, and the hoary hawthorn, that I view and hang over with particular delight. I never hear the loud, solitary whistle of the curlew in a summer noon, or the wild mixing cadence of a troop of grey plover, in an autumnal morning, without feeling an elevation of soul like the enthusiasm of devotion or poetry. Tell me, my dear friend, to what can this be ow ing? Are we a piece of machinery, which, like the Æolian harp, passive, takes the impression of the passing accident? Or do these workings argue something within us above the trodden clod? I own myself partial to such proofs of those awful and important realities-a God that made all things -man's immaterial and immortal nature-and a world of weal or woe be yond death and the grave."

Few, it is to be hoped, can read such things as these without delight; none surely, that taste the clevated pleasure they are calculated to inspire can turn from them to the well-known issue of Burns's history, without being afflicted. The "golden days" of Elliesland, as Dr. Currie justly calls them, were not destined to be many. Burns's farming speculations once more failed; and he himself seems to have been aware that such was likely to be the case ere he had given the business many months 'trial; for, ere the autumn of 1788 was over, he applied to his patron, Mr. Graham of Fintray, for actual employment as an exciseman, and was accordingly appointed to do duty, in that capacity, in the district where his lands were situated. His income, as a revenue officer, was at first only £35; it hy and by rose to £50; and sometimes was £70. These pounds were hardly earned, since the duties of his new calling necessarily withdrew him very often from the farm, which needed his utmost attention, and exposed him, which was still worse, to innumerable temptations of the kind he was least

likely to resist.

I have now the satisfaction of presenting the reader with some particulars of this part of Burns's history, derived from a source which every lover of Scotland and Scottish poetry must be prepared to hear mentioned with respect. It happened that at the time when our poet went to Niths dale, the father of Mr. Allan Cunningham was steward on the estate of Dalswinton: he was, as all who have read the writings of his sons will readily believe, a man of remarkable talents and attainments: he was a wise and good man; a devout admirer of Purns's genius; and one of those scher neighbours who in vain strove, by advice and warning, to arrest the poet in the downhill path, towards which a thousand seductions were perpetually drawing him. Mr. Allan Cunningham was, of course, almost a child when he first saw Burns; but, in what he has to say on this subject, we may be sure we are hearing the substance of his benevolent and sagacious father's observations and reflections. His own boyish recollections of the poet's personal appearance and demeanour will, however, be read with interest. "I was very young," says Allan Cunningham, "when I first saw Burns. He came to see my father; and their conversation turned partly on farming, partly on poetry, in both of which my father had taste Burns had just come to Nithsdale; and I think he appeared a shade more swartly than he does in Nasmyth's picture, and at least ten years older than he really was at the time. His face was deeply marked by thought, and the habitual expression intensely melancholy. His frame was very muscular and well proportioned, though he had a short neck, and something of a ploughman's stoop: he was strong, and proud of his strength I saw him one evening match himself with a number of masons; and out of five-and twenty practised hands, the most vigorous young men in the parish, there was only one that could lift the same weight as Burns. He had a very manly face, and a very melancholy look; but on the coming of those he esteemed, his looks brightened up, and his whole face beamed with affection and genius. His voice was very musical. I once heard him read Tam o' Shanter. I think I hear him now. His fine manly voice followed all the undulations of the sense, and expressed as well as his genius had done, the pathos and humour, the horrible and the awful, of that wonderful performance. As a man feels, so will he write; and in proportion as he sympathizes with his author, so will he read him with grace and cifect.

" I said that Burns and my father conversed about poetry and farming The poet had newly taken possession of his farm of Elliesland,—the masons were busy building his house,-the applause of the world was with him, and a little of its money in his pocket, in short, he had found a restingplace at last. He spoke with great delight about the excellence of his farm, and particularly about the beauty of the situation. 'Yes,' my father said, 'the walks on the river bank are fine, and you will see from your windows some miles of the Nith; but you will also see several farms of fine rich holm, * any one of which you might have had. You have made a poet's choice, rather than a farmer's.' If Burns had much of a farmer's skill, he had little of a farmer's prudence and economy. I once inquired of James Corrie, a sagacious old farmer, whose ground marched with Elliesland, the cause of the poet's failure. 'Faith,' said he, 'how could he miss but fail, when his servants ate the bread as fast as it was baked? I don't mean figuratively, I mean literally. Consider a little. At that time close economy was necessary to have enabled a man to clear twenty pounds ayear by Elliesland. Now, Burns's own handywork was out of the question: he neither ploughed, nor sowed, nor reaped, at least like a hardworking farmer; and then he had a beyy of servants from Ayrshire. lasses did nothing but bake bread, and the lads sat by the fireside, and ate it warm with ale. Waste of time and consumption of food would soon reach to twenty pounds a-year."

"The truth of the case," says Mr. Cunningham, in another letter with which he has favoured me, "the truth is, that if Robert Burns liked his farm, it was more for the beauty of the situation than for the labours which it demanded. He was too wayward to attend to the stated duties of a husbandman, and too impatient to wait till the ground returned in gain the cultivation he bestowed upon it. The condition of a farmer, a Nithsdale one, I mean, was then very humble His one-story house had a covering of straw, and a clay floor; the furniture was from the hands of a country carpenter; and, between the roof and floor, there seldom intervened a smoother ceiling than of rough rods and grassy turf-while a huge lang-settle of black oak for himself, and a carved arm chair for his wife, were the only matters out of keeping with the homely looks of his residence. He took all his meals in his own kitchen, and presided regularly among his children and domestics. He performed family worship every evening-except during the hurry of harvest, when that duty was perhaps limited to Saturday A few religious books two or three favourite poets, the history of his country, and his Bible, aided him in forming the minds and manners of the family. To domestic education, Scotland owes as much as to the care

of her clergy, and the excellence of her parish schools.

"The picture out of doors was less interesting. The ground from which the farmer sought support, was generally in a very moderate state of cultivation. The implements with which he tilled his land were primitive and clumsy, and his own knowledge of the management of crops exceedingly imited. He plodded on in the regular slothful routine of his ancestors; he rooted out no bushes, he dug up no stones; he drained not, neither did he enclose; and weeds obtained then full share of the dung and the lime, which he bestowed more like a medicine than a meal on his soil. His plough was the rude old Scotch one; his harrows had as often teeth at

^{*} Holm is flat, rich meadow land, intervening between a stream and the general elevation of the adjoining country.

wood as of iron; his carts were heavy and low-wheeled, or were, more properly speaking, tumbler-carts, so called to distinguish them from trail carts, both of which were in common use. On these rude carriages his manure was taken to the field, and his crop brought home. The farmer himself corresponded in all respects with his imperfect instruments. poverty secured him from risking costly experiments; and his hatred of innovation made him entrench himself behind a breast-work of old maxims and rustic saws, which he interpreted as oracles delivered against improve-With ground in such condition, with tools so unfit, and with knowledge so imperfect, he sometimes succeeded in wringing a few hundred pount s Scots from the farm he occupied. Such was generally the state of agriculture when Burns came to Nithsdale. I know not how far his own skill was equal to the task of improvement—his trial was short and unfortunate. An important change soon took place, by which he was not fated to profit; he had not the foresight to see its approach, nor, probably, the fortitude to await its coming.

"In the year 1790, much of the ground in Nithsdale was leased at seven, and ten, and fifteen shillings per acre; and the farmer, in his person and his house, differed little from the peasants and mechanics around him. He would have thought his daughter wedded in her degree, had she married a joiner or a mason; and at kirk or market, all men beneath the rank of a " portioner" of the soil mingled together, equals in appearance and importunce. But the war which soon commenced, gave a decided impulse to agriculture: the army and navy consumed largely; corn rose in demand: the price augmented; more land was called into cultivation; and, as leases expired, the proprietors improved the grounds, built better houses, enlarged the rents; and the farmer was soon borne on the wings of sudden wealth above his original condition. His house obtained a slated roof, sash-windows, carpeted floors, plastered walls, and even began to exchange the hanks of yarn with which it was formerly hung, for paintings and pianofortes. He laid aside his coat of home-made cloth; he retired from his seat among his servants; he-I am grieved to mention it-gave up family worship as a thing unfashionable, and became a kind of rustic gentleman, who rode a blood horse, and galloped home on market nights at the peril of his own neck, and to the terror of every modest pedestrian. When a change like this took place, and a farmer could, with a dozen years' industry, be able to purchase the land he rented—which many were, and many did—the same, or a still more profitable change might have happened with respect to Elliesland; and Burns, had he stuck by his lease and his plough, would, in all human possibility, have found the independence which he sought, and sought in vain, from the coldness and parsimony of mankind."

Mr. Cunningham sums up his reminiscences of Burns at Elliesland in these terms:—" During the prosperity of his farm, my father often said that Burns conducted himself wisely, and like one anxious for his name as a man, and his fame as a poet. He went to Dunscore Kirk on Sunday, though he expressed oftener than once his dislike to the stern Calvinism of that strict old divine, Mr. Kirkpatrick:—he assisted in forming a reading club; and at weddings and house-heatings, and kirns, and other scenes of festity, he was a welcome guest, universally liked by the young and the old. But the failure of his farming projects, and the limited income with which he was compelled to support an increasing family and an expensive station in life, preyed on his spirit; and, during these fits of despair, he was will

ing too often to become the companion of the thoughtless and the gross. I am grieved to say, that besides leaving the book too much for the bowl, and grave and wise friends for lewd and reckless companions, he was also in the occasional practice of composing songs, in which he surpassed the licentiousness, as well as the wit and humour, of the old Scottish muse. These have unfortunately found their way to the press, and I am afraid they cannot be recalled. In conclusion, I may say, that few men have had so much of the poet about them, and few poets so much of the man;—the man was probably less pure than he ought to have been, but the poet was pure and bright to the last."

The reader must be sufficiently prepared to hear, that from the time when he entered on his excise duties, the poet more and more neglected the concerns of his farm. Occasionally, he might be seen holding the plough, an exercise in which he excelled, and was proud of excelling, or stalking down his furrows, with the white sheet of grain wrapt about him, a "tenty seedsman;" but he was more commonly occupied in far different pursuits. "I am now," says he, in one of his letters, "a poor rascally gauger, condemned to gallop two hundred miles every week, to inspect dirty ponds and yeasty barrels." Both in verse and in prose he has recorded the feelings with which he first followed his new vocation. His jests on the subject are uniformly bitter. "I have the same consolation," he tells Mr Ainslie, "which I once heard a recruiting sergeant give to his audience in the streets of Kilmarnock: Gentlemen, for your farther encourage. ment, I can assure you that ours is the most blackguard corps under the crown, and, consequently, with us an honest fellow has the surest chance of preferment." On one occasion, however, he takes a higher tone. "There is a certain stigma," says he to Bishop Geddes, " in the name of Exciseman; but I do not intend to borrow honour from any profession:"-which may perhaps remind the reader of Gibbon's lofty language, on finally quitting the learned and polished circles of London and Paris, for his Swiss retirement: "I am too modest, or too proud, to rate my value by that of my associates."

Burns, in his perpetual perambulations over the moors of Dumfriesshire. had every temptation to encounter, which bodily fatigue, the blandishments of hosts and hostesses, and the habitual manners of those who acted along with him in the duties of the excise, could present. He was, moreover, wherever he went, exposed to perils of his own, by the reputation which he had earned as a poet, and by his extraordinary powers of entertainment in conversation. From the eastle to the cottage, every door flew open at his approach; and the old system of hospitality, then flourishing, rendered it difficult for the most soberly inclined guest to rise from any man's board in the same trim that he sat down to it. The farmer, if Burns was seen passing, left his reapers, and trotted by the side of Jenny Geddes, until he could persuade the bard that the day was hot enough to demand an extra-libation. If he entered an inn at midnight, after all the it mates were in bed, the news of his arrival circulated from the cellar to the garret; and ere ten minutes had elapsed, the landlord and all his guests were assembled round the ingle; the largest punch-bowl was produced; and

" Re ours this right-who knows what comes to-morrow?"

was the language of every eye in the circle that welcomed him. The stateliest gentry of the county, whenever they had especial merriment in

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 jo-Three gentlemen of ancient descent, had met to detervial squirearchy. mine, by a solemn drinking match, who should possess the Whistle, which a common ancestor of them all had carned 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

> " Then up rose the bard like a prophet in drink, Craigdarroch shall soar when creation shall sink; But if thou would'st flourish immortal in rhyme, Come, one bottle more, and have at the sublime."

Nor, as has already been hinted, was he safe from temptations of this kind, even when he was at home, and most disposed to enjoy in quiet the society of his wife and children. Lion-gazers from all quarters beset him; they ate and drank at his cost, and often went away to criticise him and his fare, as if they had done Burns and his black bowl + great honour in condescending to be entertained for a single evening, with such company and such liquor.

We have on record various glimpses of him, as he appeared while he was half-farmer, half-exciseman; and some of these present him in attitudes and aspects, on which it would be pleasing to dwell. For example, the eircumstances under which the verses on The wounded Hare were written, are mentioned generally by the poet himself. James Thomson, son of the occupier of a farm adjoining Elliesland, told Allan Cunningham, that it was he who wounded the animal. "Burns," said this person, "was in the custom, when at home, of strolling by himself in the twilight every evening, along the Nith, and by the march between his land and ours. The hares often came and nibbled our wheat braird; and once, in the gloaming,-it was in April,-I got a shot at one, and wounded her: she ran bleeding by Burns, who was pacing up and down by himself, not far from me. He started, and with a bitter curse, ordered me out of his sight, or he would throw me instantly into the Nith. And had I stayed, I'll warrant he would have been as good as his word-though I was both young and strong.'

Among other curious travellers who found their way about this time to Elliesland, was Captain Grose, the celebrated antiquarian, whom Burns briefly describes as

> " A fine fat fodgel wight-Of stature short, but genius bright;"

and who has painted his own portrait, both with pen and pencil, at full length, in his Olio. This gentleman's taste and pursuits are ludicrously set forth in the copy of verses-

[•] These particulars are from a letter of David Macculloch, Esq., who, being at this period a very young man, a passionate admirer of Burns, and a capital singer of many of his serious songs, used often, in his enthusiasm, to accompany the poet on his professional excursions. † Burns's famous black punch-bowl, of Inverary marble, was the nuptial gift of Mt Armour, I is father-in-1 w, who himself fashioned it. After passing through many hands, it is now in excellent keeping, that of Alexander Hastie, Esq. of London.

xxxviii

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS.

"Hear, Land o' Cakes and brither Scots, Frae Maidenkirk to John O'Groats, A chield's amang ye takin' notes," &c.

and, inter alia, his love of port is not forgotten. Grose and Burns had too much in common, not to become great friends. The poet's accurate knowledge of Scottish phraseology and customs, was of great use to the researches of the humourous antiquarian; and, above all, it is to their acquaintance that we owe Tam o' Shanter. Burns told the story as he had heard it in Ayrshire, in a letter to the Captain, and was easily persuaded to versify it. The poem was the work of one day; and Mrs. Burns well remembers the circumstances. He spent most of the day on his favourite walk by the river, where, in the afternoon, she joined him with some of her children. "He was busily engaged crooning to himsell, and Mrs. Burns perceiving that her presence was an interruption, loitered behind with her little ones among the broom. Her attention was presently attracted by the strange and wild gesticulations of the bard, who, now at some distance, was agonized with an ungovernable access of joy. He was reciting very loud, and with the tears rolling down his cheeks, those animated verses which he had just conceived :-

"Now Tam! O Tam! had they been queans, A' plamp and strappin' in their teens; Their sarks, instead of creeshie flannen, Been snaw-white seventeen-hunder "linen,—Thir brecks o' mine, my only pair, That ance were plush o' good blue hair, I wad bae gi'en them off my burdies, For ae blink o' the bonnie burdies!" †

To the last Burns was of opinion that *Tum o' Shanter* was the best of all his productions; and although it does not always happen that poet and public come to the same conclusion on such points, I believe the decision in question has been all but unanimously approved of. The admirable execution of the piece, so far as it goes, leaves nothing to wish for; the only criticism has been, that the catastrophe appears unworthy of the preparation. Burns lays the scene of this remarkable performance almost on the spot where he was born; and all the terrific circumstances by which he has marked the progress of Tam's midnight journey, are drawn from local tradition.

"By this time he was cross the ford Whare in the snaw the chapman smoor'd, And past the birks and meikle stane, Whare drucken Charlie brak's neck-bane; And through the whins, and by the cairn, Whare hunter's fand the murder'd bairn; And near the thore, aboon the well, Whare Mungo's mither hang'd hersell."

None of these tragic memoranda were derived from imagination. Nor was I'am o' Shanter himself an imaginary character. Shanter is a farm close to Kirkoswald's, that smuggling village, in which Burns, when nineteen years old, studied mensuration, and "first became acquainted with scenes of swaggering riot." The then occupier of Shanter, by name Douglas

"The manufacturer's term for a fine linen, woven on a recd of 1700 divisions."—Cromek.
 The above is quoted from a MS, journal of Cromek.
 Mr. M'Diarnid confirms the statement, and adds, that the poet, having committed the verses to witing on the top of his toni-bjke over the water, came into the house, and read them immediately in high triumph at he fireside.

Grahame, was, by all accounts, equally what the Tam of the poet appears, —a jolly, careless, rustic, who took much more interest in the contraband traffic of the coast, than the rotation of crops. Burns knew the man well; and to his dying day, he, nothing loath, passed among his rural compeers

by the name of Tam o' Shanter.

A few words will bring us to the close of Burns's carrer at Elliesland, Mr. Ramsay of Ochtertyre, happening to pass through Nithsdale in 1790, met Burns riding rapidly near Closeburn. The poet was obliged to pursue his professional journey, but sent on Mr. Ramsay and his fellow-traveller to Elliesland, where he joined them as soon as his duty permitted him, saying, as he entered, "I come, to use the words of Shakspeare, steaced in haste." Arr. Ramsay was "much pleased with his near Nathin qualis, and his modest mansion, so unlike the babitation of ordinary rustics." The evening was spent delightfully. A gentleman of dry temperament, who looked in accidentally, soon partook the contagion, and sat listening to Burns with the tears running over his checks. "Poor Burns!" says Mr. Ramsay, "from that time I met him no more."

The summer after, some English travellers, calling at Elliesland, were told that the poet was walking by the river. They proceeded in scarch of him, and presently, "on a rock that projected into the stream, they saw a man employed in angling, of a singular appearance. He had a cap made of a fox's skin on his head; a loose great-coat, fastened round him by a belt, from which depended an enormous Highland broadsword. It was Burns. He received them with great cordiality, and asked them to share his humble dinner." These travellers also classed the evening they spent

at Elliesland with the brightest of their lives.

Towards the close of 1791, the poet, finally despairing of his farm, determined to give up his lease, which the kindness of his landlord rendered easy of arrangement; and procuring an appointment to the Dumfries division, which raised his salary from the revenue to £70 per annum, removed his family to the county town, in which he terminated his days. His conduet as an excise officer had hitherto met with uniform approbation; and he nourished warm hopes of being promoted, when he had thus avowedly devoted himself altogether to the service. He left Elliesland, however, with a heavy heart. The affection of his neighbours was rekindled in all its early fervour by the thoughts of parting with him; and the roup of his farming-stock and other effects, was, in spite of whisky, a very melancholy scene. The competition for his chattles was eager, each being anxious to secure a memorandum of Burns's residence among them. It is pleasing to know, that among other "titles manifold" to their respect and gratitude, Burns had superintended the formation of a subscription library in the parish. His letters to the booksellers on this subject do him much honour: his choice of authors (which business was naturally left to his discretion) being in the highest degree judicious. Such institutions are now common, almost universal, indeed, in all the rural districts of southern Scotland: but it should never be forgotten that Burns was among the first, if not the very first, to set the example. "He was so good," says Mr. Riddel, "as to take the whole management of this concern; he was treasurer, librarian, and censor, to our little society, who will long have a grateful sense of his public spirit, and exertions for their improvement, and information." Once, and only once, did Burns quit his residence at Elliesland to revisit Edinburgh. His object was to close accounts with Creech; that business ac

complished, he returned immediately, and he never again saw the capital He thus writes to Mrs. Dunlop:—" To a man who has a home, however humble and remote, if that home is, like mine, the scene of domestic comfort, the bustle of Edinburgh will soon be a business of sickening disgust—

"Vain pomp and glor of the world, I hate you!"

"When I must skulk into a corner, lest the rattling equipage of some gap and blockhead should mangle me in the mire, I am tempted to exclaim, what merits had he had, or what demerits have I had, in some state of pre-existence, that he is ushered into this state of being with the sceptre of rule, and the key of riches in his puny fist, and I kicked into the world, the sport of folly or the victim of pride often as I have glided with humble stealth through the pomp of Prince's Street, it has suggested itself to me as an improvement on the present human figure, that a man, in proportion to his own conceit of his consequence in the world, could have pushed out the longitude of his common size, as a snail pushes out his terms, or as we draw out a perspective"

CHAPTER VIII.

Concens.—Is more baset in town than country—His early biographers, (Dr. Currie not excepted), have coloured too darkly under that head—It is not correct to speak of the poet as having such into a toper, or a solitary drinker, or of his revels as other than occasional, or of their having interfered with the punctual discharge of his official duties—He is shown to have been the affectionate and beloved husband, although passing follies imputed; and the constant and most assidnous instructor of his children—Impulses of the French Revolution—Symptoms of fraterizing—The attention of his official superiors is called to them—Practically no blow is inflicted, only the bad name—Interesting details of this period—Gives his whole soul to song making—Preference in that for his native dialect, with the other attendant facts, as to the partition of his immortal type.

"The King's most humble servant, I

Can scarcely spare a minute;
But I am yours at dinner-threa

Or else the devil's in it."

The four principal biographers of our poet, Heron, Currie, Walker, and Irving, concur in the general statement, that his moral course from the 'ime when he settled in Dumfries, was downwards. Heron knew more of he matter personally than any of the others, and his words are these :--" In Dumfries his dissipation became still more deeply habitual. He was here exposed more than in the country, to be solicited to share the riot of the dissolute and the idle. Foolish young men, such as writers' apprentices, young surgeons, merchants' clerks, and his brother excisemen, flocked cagerly about him, and from time to time pressed him to The Caledonian drink with them, that they might enjoy his wicked wit. Club, too, and the Dumfries and Galloway Hunt, had occasional meetings in Dumfries after Burns came to reside there, and the poet was of course invited to share their hospitality, and hesitated not to accept the invitation. The morals of the town were, in consequence of its becoming so much the scene of public amusement, not a little corrupted, and though a husband and a father, Burns did not escape suffering by the geneal contamination, in a manner which I forbear to describe. In the intervals between his different fits of intemperance, he suffered the keenest anguish of remorse and horribly afflictive foresight. His Jean behaved with a degree of maternal and conjugal tenderness and prudence, which made him feel more bitterly the evils of his misconduct, though they could not reclaim him."-This picture, dark as it is, wants some distressing shades that mingle in the parallel one by Dr. Currie; it wants nothing, however, of which truth demands the insertion. That Burns, dissipated, ere he went to Dumfries, became still more dissipated in a town, than he had been in the country, is certain. It may also be true, that his wife had her own

 $^{^{\}circ}$ " The above answer to an invitation was written extempore on a leaf torm from his Ex-size-book.— $Cromek's\ MSS$

particular causes, sometimes, for dissatisfaction. But that Burns ever sunk into a toper-that he ever was addicted to solitary drinking-that his bottle ever interfered with his discharge of his duties as an exciseman-or that, in spite of some transitory follies, he ever ceased to be a most affectionate husband-all these charges have been insinuated-and they are all His intemperance was, as Heron says, in fits; his aberrations of all kinds were occasional, not systematic; they were all to himself the sources of exquisite misery in the retrospect; they were the aberrations of a man whose moral sense was never deadened; -of one who encountered more temptations from without and from within, than the immense majority of mankind, far from having to contend against, are even able to imagine;of one, finally, who prayed for pardon, where alone effectual pardon could be found ;-and who died ere he had reached that term of life up to which the passions of many, who, their mortal career being regarded as a whole, are honoured as among the most virtuous of mankind, have proved too strong for the control of reason. We have already seen that the poet was careful of decorum in all things during the brief space of his prosperity at Elliesland, and that he became less so on many points, as the prospects of his farming speculation darkened around him. It seems to be equally certain, that he entertained high hopes of promotion in the excise at the period of his removal to Dumfries; and that the comparative recklessness of his later conduct there, was consequent on a certain overclouding of these professional expectations. The case is broadly stated so by Walker and Paul; and there are hints to the same effect in the narrative of Currie statement has no doubt been exaggerated, but it has its foundation in truth; and by the kindness of Mr. Train, supervisor at Castle Douglas in Gailo. way, I shall presently be enabled to give some details which may throw light on this business.

Burns was much patronised when in Edinburgh by the Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, and other leading Whigs of the place-much more so, to their honour be it said, than by any of the influential adherents of the then administration. His landlord at Elliesland, Mr. Miller of Dalswinton, his neighbour, Mr. Riddel of Friars Carse, and most of the other gentlemen who showed him special attention, belonged to the same political party; and, on his removal to Dumfries, it so happened, that some of his immediate superiors in the revenue service of the district, and other persons of standing authority, into whose society he was thrown, entertained sentiments of the same description. Burns, whenever in his letters he talks seriously of political matters, uniformly describes his early jacobitism as mere " matter of fancy." It may, however, be easily believed, that a fancy like his, long indulged in dreams of that sort, was well prepared to pass into certain other dreams, which likewise involved feelings of dissatisfaction with "the existing order of things." Many of the old elements of political disaffection in Scotland, put on a new shape at the outbrealing of the French Revolution; and jacobites became half jacobins, ere they were at all aware in what the doctrines of jacobinism were to end. The Whigs naturally regarded the first dawn of freedom in France with feelings of sympathy, delight, exultation. The general, the all but universal tone of feeling was favourable to the first assailants of the Bourbon despotism; and there were few who more ardently participated in the general sentiment of the day than Burns. The revulsion of feeling that look place in this country at large, when wanton atrocities began to stair

the course of the French Revolution, and Burke lifted his powerful voice, was great. Scenes more painful at the time, and more so even now in the retrospect, than had for generations afflicted Scotland, were the consequences of the rancour into which party feelings on both sides now rose and fermented. Old and dear ties of friendship were torn in sunder; society was for a time shaken to its centre. In the most extravagant dreams of the jacobites there had always been much to command respect, high chivalrous devotion, reverence for old affections, ancestral loyalty, and the generosity of romance. In the new species of hostility, every thing seemed mean as well as perilous; it was scorned even more than hated. The very name stained whatever it came near; and men that had known and loved each other from boyhood, stood aloof, if this influence interfered, as if it had been some loathsome pestilence.

There was a great deal of stately Toryism at this time in the town of Dumfries, which was the favourite winter retreat of many of the best gentlemen's families of the south of Scotland. Feelings that worked more violently in Edinburgh than in London, acquired additional energy still, in this provincial capital. All men's eyes were upon Burns. He was the standing marvel of the place; his toasts, his jokes, his epigrams, his songs, were the daily food of conversation and scandal; and he, open and careless, and thinking he did no great harm in saying and singing what many of his superiors had not the least objection to hear and applaud, soon began to be considered among the local admirers and disciples of King George the Third and his minister, as the most dangerous of all the apostles of se-

dition,-and to be shunned accordingly.

The records of the Excise-Office are silent concerning the suspicions which the Commissioners of the time certainly took up in regard to Burns as a political offender—according to the phraseology of the tempestuous period, a democrat In that department, as then conducted, I am assured that nothing could have been more unlike the usual course of things, than that one syllable should have been set down in writing on such a subject, unless the case had been one of extremities. That an inquiry was instituted, we know from Burns's own letters—but what the exact termination of the inquiry was, will never, in all probability, be ascertained. According to the tradition of the neighbourhood, Burns, inter alia, gave great offence by demurring in a large mixed company to the proposed toast, " the health of William Pitt;" and left the room in indignation, because the society rejected what he wished to substitute, namely, "the health of a greater and a better man, George Washington." I suppose the warmest admirer of Mr. Pitt's talents and politics would hardly venture now-a-days to dissent substantially from Burns's estimate of the comparative merits of these two great men. The name of Washington, at all events, when contemporary passions shall have finally sunk into the peace of the grave, will unquestionably have its place in the first rank of heroic virtue, -a station which demands the exhibition of victory pure and unstained over temptations and trials extraordinary, in kind as well as strength. But at the time when Burns, being a servant of Mr. Pitt's government, was guilty of this indiscretion, it is obvious that a great deal "more was meant than reached the ear." In the poet's own correspondence, we have traces of another occurrence of the same sort. Burns thus writes to a gentleman at whose table he had dined the day before :—" I was, I know, drunk last night, but I am soher this morning. From the expressions Captain - made use

of to me, had I had nobody's welfare to care for but my own, we should certainly have come, according to the manner of the world, to the necessity of murdering one another about the business. The words were such as generally, I believe, end in a brace of pistols; but I am still pleased to think that I did not ruin the peace and welfare of a wife and children in a drunken squabble. Farther, you know that the report of certain political opinions being mine, has already once before brought me to the brink of destruction. I dread last night's business may be interpreted in the same way. You, I beg, will take care to prevent it. I tax your wish for Mrs. Burns's welfare with the task of waiting on every gentleman who was present to state this to him; and, as you please, show this letter. What, after all, was the obnoxious toast? May our success in the present war be equal to the justice of our cause-a toast that the most outrageous frenzy of loyalty cannot object to."-Burns, no question, was guilty of unpoliteness as well as indiscretion, in offering any such toasts as these in mixed company; but that such toasts should have been considered as attaching any grave suspicion to his character as a loyal subject, is a circumstance which can only be accounted for by reference to the exaggerated state of political feelings on all matters, and among all descriptions of men, at that melancholy period of disaffection, distrust, and disunion. Who, at any other period than that lamentable time, would ever have dreamed of erecting the drinking, or declining to drink, the health of a particular minister, or the approving, or disapproving, of a particular measure of government, into the test of a man's loyalty to his King?

Burns, eager of temper, loud of tone, and with declamation and sarcasm equally at command, was, we may easily believe, the most hated of human beings, because the most dreaded, among the provincial champions of the administration of which he thought fit to disapprove. But that he ever, in his most ardent moods, upheld the principles of those whose applause of the French Revolution was but the mask of revolutionary designs at home, after these principles had been really developed by those that maintained them, and understood by him, it may be safely denied. There is not, in all his correspondence, one syllable to give countenance to such a charge. His indiscretion, however, did not always confine itself to words; and though an incident now about to be recorded, belongs to the year 1792, before the French war broke out, there is reason to believe that it formed the main subject of the inquiry which the Excise Commissioners thought themselves called upon to institute touching the politics of our poet.

At that period a great deal of contraband traffic, chiefly from the Isle of Man, was going on along the ceasts of Galloway and Ayrshire, and the whole of the revenue officers from Gretna to Dumfries, were placed under the orders of a superintendent residing in Annan, who exerted himself zealously in intercepting the descent of the smuggling vessels. On the 27th of February, a suspicious-looking brig was discovered in the Solway Frith, and Burns was one of the party whom the superintendent conducted to watch her motions. She got into shallow water the day afterwards, and the officers were enabled to discover that her crew were nunerous, armed, and not likely to yield without a struggle. Lewars, a brother exciseman, an intimate friend of our poet, was accordingly sent to Dumfries for a guard of dragoons; the superintendent, Mr. Crawford, proceeded himself on a similar errand to Ecclefechan, and Burns was left with some men under his orders, to watch the brig, and prevent landing or escape. From

the private journal of one of the excisemen, (now in my hands), it appears that Burns manifested considerable impatience while thus occupied, being left for many hours in a wet salt-marsh, with a force which he knew to be madequate for the purpose it was meant to fulfil. One of his conrades hearing him abuse his friend Lewars in particular, for being slow about his journey, the man answered, that he also wished the devil had him for his pains, and that Burns, in the meantime, would do well to indite a song upon the sluggard: Burns said nothing; but after taking a few strides by himself among the reeds and shingle, rejoined his party, and chanted to them this well-known ditty:—

"The de'il cam' fiddling thro' the town, And danc'd awa' wi' the Exciseman; And ilk auld wife cry'd, 'Auld Mahoun, 'We wish you luck o' the prize, man.

Chorus.- We'll mak' our maut, and brew our drink, We'll dance and sing and rejoice, man;

- We'll dance and sing and rejoice, man;
 And mony thanks to the muckle black de'il
 That danc'd awa' wi' the Exciseman
- 'There's threesome reels, and foursome 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 Exciseman.'"

Lewars arrived shortly afterwards with his dragoons; and Burns, putting himself at their head, waded, sword in hand, to the brig, and was the first to board her. The crew lost heart, and submitted, though their numbers were greater than those of the assailing force. The vessel was condemned, and, with all her arms and stores, sold by auction next day at Dumfries: upon which occasion Burns, whose behaviour had been highly commended, thought fit to purchase four carronades, by way of trophy. But his glee went a step farther; he sent the guns, with a letter, to the French Convention, requesting that body to accept of them as a mark of his admiration and respect. The present, and its accompaniment, were intercepted at the custom-house at Dover; and here, there appears to be little room to doubt, was the principal circumstance that drew on Burns the notice of his realous superiors. We were not, it is true, at war with France; but every one knew and felt that we were to be so ere long; and nobody can pretend that Burns was not guilty, on this occasion, of a most absurd and presumptuous breach of decorum. When he learned the impression that had been created by his conduct, and its probable consequences, he wrote to his patron, Mr. Graham of Fintray, the following letter, dated December 1792:

"Sir,—i have been surprised, confounded, and distracted by Mr. Mitchell, the collector, telling me that he has received an order from your board to inquire into my political conduct, and blaming me as a person disaffected to government. Sir, you are a husband and a father. You know what you would feel to see the much-loved wife of your boson, and your helpless, prattling little ones turned adrift into the world, degraded and disgraced, from a situation in which they had been respectable and repected, and left almost without the necessary support of a miserable existence. Alas! Sir, must I think that such soon will be my lot? and from the damned dark insinuations of hellish, groundless envy too? I believe, Sir, I may aver it, and in the sight of Omniscience, that I would not tell a deli-

berate falsehood, no, not though even worse horrors, if worse can be, than those I have mentioned, hung over my head. And I say that the allegation, whatever villain has made it, is a lie. To the British Constitution, on revolution principles, next, after my God, I am most devoutly attached You, Sir, have been much and generously my friend. Heaven knows have warmly I have felt the obligation, and how gratefully I have thanked you Fortune, Sir, has made you powerful, and me impotent; has given you patronage, and me dependence. I would not, for my single self, call on your humanity: were such my insular, unconnected situation, I would disperse the tear that now swells in my eye; I could brave misfortune; I could face ruin; at the worst, 'death's thousand doors stand open.' But, good God! the tender concerns to at I have mentioned, the claims and ties that I see at this moment, and feel around me, how they unnerve courage and wither resolution! To your patronage, as a man of some genius, you have allowed me a claim; and your esteem, as an honest man, I know is my due. these, Sir, permit me to appeal. By these may I adjure you to save me from that misery which threatens to overwhelm me; and which, with my latest breath, I will say I have not deserved!"

On the 2d of January, (a week or two afterwards), we find him writing to Mrs. Dunlop in these terms:—"Mr. C. can be of little service to me at present; at least, I should be shy of applying. I cannot probably be settled as a supervisor for several years. I must wait the rotation of lists, &c. Besides, some envious malicious devil has raised a little demur on my political principles, and I wish to let that matter settle before I offer myself too much in the eye of my superiors. I have set henceforth a scal on my lips, as to these unlucky politics; but to you I must breathe my sentiments. In this, as in every thing else, I shall show the undisguised emotions of my soul. War, I deprecate: misery and ruin to thousands are in

the blast that announces the destructive demon. But——"

"The remainder of this letter," says Cromek, "has been torn away by some barbarous hand."—There can be little doubt that it was torn away by one of the kindest hands in the world, that of Mrs. Dunlop herself, and

from the most praise-worth motive.

The exact result of the Excise Board's investigation is hidden, as has been said above, in obscurity; nor is it at all likely that the cloud will be withdrawn hereafter. A general impression, however, appears to have gone forth, that the affair terminated in something which Burns himself considered as tantamount to the destruction of all hope of future promotion in his profession; and it has been insinuated by almost every one or his biographers, that the crushing of these hopes operated unhappily, even fatally, on the tone of his mind, and, in consequence, on the habits of his life. In a word, the early death of Burns has been (by implication at least) ascribed mainly to the circumstances in question. Even Sir Walter Scot: has distinctly intimated his acquiescence in this prevalent notion. "The political predilections," says he, " for they could hardly be termed principles, of Burns, were entirely determined by his feelings. At his first appearance, he felt, or affected, a propensity to Jacobitism. Indeed, a youth of his warm imagination in Scotland thirty years ago, could hardly escape this bias. The side of Charles Edward was that, not surely of sound sense and sober reason, but of remantic gallantry and high achievement. The madequacy of the means by which that prince astempted to regain the rown forfeited by his fathers, the strange and almost poetical adventures

which he underwent,—the Scottish martial character, honoured in his victories, and degraded and crushed in his defeat,-the tales of the veterans who had followed his adventurous standard, were all calculated to impress upon the mind of a poet a warm interest in the cause of the House of Stnart. Yet the impression was not of a very serious cast; for Burns himself acknowledges in one of his letters, (Reliques, p. 240), that ' to tell the matter of fact, except when my passions were heated by some accidental cause, my Jacobitism was merely by way of vive la bagatelle.' The same enthusiastic ardour of disposition swayed Burns in his choice of political tenets, when the country was agitated by revolutionary principles. That the poet should have chosen the side on which high talents were most likely to procure celebrity; that he to whom the fastidious distinctions of society were always odious, should have listened with compla cence to the voice of French philosophy, which denounced them as usurpations on the rights of man, was precisely the thing to be expected. Yet we cannot but think, that if his superiors in the Excise department had tried the experiment of soothing rather than irritating his feelings, they might have spared themselves the disgrace of rendering desperate the possessor of such uncommon talents. For it is but too certain, that from the moment his hopes of promotion were utterly blasted, his tendency to dissipation hurried him precipitately into those excesses which shortened his We doubt not, that in that awful period of national discord, he had done and said enough to deter, in ordinary cases, the servants of government from countenancing an avowed partizan of faction. But this partizan was Burns! Surely the experiment of lenity might have been tried, and The conduct of Mr. Graham of Fintray, our poet's perhaps successfully. only shield against actual dismission and consequent ruin, reflects the highest credit on that gentleman."

In the general strain of sentiment in this passage, who can refuse to concur? but I am bound to say, that after a careful examination of all the documents, printed and MS., to which I have had access, I have great doubts as to some of the principal facts assumed in this eloquent statement. I have before me, for example, a letter of Mr. Findlater, formerly Collector at Glasgow, who was, at the period in question, Burns's immediate superior in the Dumfries district, in which that very respectable person distinctly says :- "I may venture to assert, that when Burns was ac cused of a leaning to democracy, and an inquiry into his conduct took place, he was subjected, in consequence thereof, to no more than perhaps a verbal or private caution to be more circumspect in future. Neither do I believe his promotion was thereby affected, as has been stated. That, had he lived, would, I have every reason to think, have gone on in the usual routine. His good and steady friend Mr. Graham would have attended to this. What cause, therefore, was there for depression of spirits on thi account? or how should he have been hurried thereby to a premature grave? I never saw his spirit fail till he was borne down by the pressure of disease and bodily weakness; and even then it would occasionally revive, and like an expiring lamp, emit bright flashes to the last."

When the war had fairly broken out, a battalion of volunteers was formed in Dumfries, and Burns was an original member of the corps. It is very true that his accession was objected to by some of his neighbours but these were over-ruled by the gentlemen who took the lead in the busicess, and the poet soon became, as might have been expected, the great

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est possible favourite with his brothers in arms. His commanding officer Colonel De Peyster, attests his zealous discharge of his duties as a mem ber of the corps; and their attachment to him was on the increase to the last. He was their laureate, and in that capacity did more good service to the government of the country, at a crisis of the darkest alarm and danger, than perhaps any one person of his rank and station, with the exception of Dibdin, had the power or the inclination to render. "Burns," says Allan Cunningham, "was a zealous lover of his country, and has stamped his patriotic feelings in many a lasting verse. His poor ana honest Sodger laid hold at once on the public feeling, and it was everywhere sung with an enthusiasm which only began to abate when Campbell's Exile of Erin and Wounded Hussar were published. Dumfries, which sent so many of her sons to the wars, rung with it from port to port; and the poet, wherever he went, heard it echoing from house and hall. I wish this exquisite and useful song, with Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled,-the Song of Death, and Does haughty Gaul Invasion Threat,-all lyrics which enforce a love of country, and a martial enthusiasm into men's breasts, had obtained some reward for the poet. His perishable conversation was remembered by the rich to his prejudice-his imperishable lyrics were rewarded only by the admiration and tears of his fellow peasants."

Lastly, whatever the rebuke of the Excise Board amounted to-(Mr. James Gray, at that time schoolmaster in Dumfries, and seeing much of Burns both as the teacher of his children, and as a personal friend and associate of literary taste and talent, is the only person who gives any thing like an exact statement: and according to him, Burns was admonished " that it was his business to act, not to think") -in whatever language the censure was clothed, the Excise Board did nothing from which Burns had any cause to suppose that his hopes of ultimate promotion were extinguish-Nay, if he had taken up such a notion, rightly or erroneously, Mr. Findlater, who had him constantly under his eye, and who enjoyed all his confidence, and who enjoyed then, as he still enjoys, the utmost confidence of the Board, must have known the fact to be so. Such, I cannot help thinking, is the fair view of the case: at all events, we know that Burns, the year before he died, was permitted to act as a Supervisor; a thing not likely to have occurred had there been any resolution against promoting him in his proper order to a permanent situation of that superior rank.

On the whole, then, I am of opinion that the Excise Board have been dealt with harshly, when men of eminence have talked of their conduct to Burns as affixing disgrace to them. It appears that Burns, being guilty unquestionably of great indiscretion and indecorum both of word and deed, was admonished in a private manner, that at such a period of national distraction, it behaved a public officer, gifted with talents and necessarily with influence like his, very carefully to abstain from conduct which, now that passions have had time to cool, no sane man will say became his situation that Burns's subsequent conduct effaced the unfavourable impression created in the minds of his superiors; and that he had begun to taste the fruits of their recovered approbation and confidence, ere his career was closed by These Commissioners of Excise were themselves subillness and death. ordinate officers of the government, and strictly responsible for those under them. That they did try the experiment of lenity to a certain extent, appears to be made out; that they could have been justified in trying it to a farther extent, is at the least doubtful. But with regard to the government

of the country itself, I must say I think it is much more difficult to defend them. Mr. Pitt's ministry gave Dibdin a pension of £200 a-year for writing his Sea Songs; and one cannot help remembering, that when Burns didbegin to excite the ardour and patriotism of his countrymen by such songs as Mr. Cunningham has been alluding to, there were persons who had every opportunity of representing to the Premier the claims of a greater than Dibdin. Lenity, indulgence, to whatever length carried in such quarters as these, would have been at once safe and graceful. What the minor politicians of the day thought of Burns's poetry I know not; but Mr. Pitt himself appreciated it as highly as any man. "I can think of no verse," said the great Minister, when Burns was no more—"I can think of no verse since Shakspeare's, that has so much the appearance of coming sweetly from nature." *

Had Burns put forth some newspaper squibs upon Lepaux or Carnot, or a smart paniphlet "On the State of the Country," he might have been more attended to in his lifetime. It is common to say, "what is everybody's business is nobody's business;" but one may be pardoned for thinking that in such cases as this, that which the general voice of the country does admit to be everybody's business, comes in fact to be the business of

those whom the nation intrusts with national concerns.

To return to Sir Walter Scott's reviewal—it seems that he has somewhat overstated the political indiscretions of which Burns was actually guilty. Let us hear the counter-statement of Mr. Gray,† who, as has already been mentioned, enjoyed Burns's intimacy and confidence during his residence in Dunfries.—No one who ever knew anything of that excellent man, will for a moment suspect him of giving any other than what he believes to be true.

"Burns (says he) was enthusiastically fond of liberty, and a lover of the popular part of our constitution; but he saw and admired the just and delicate proportions of the political fabric, and nothing could be farther from his aim than to level with the dust the venerable pile reared by the labours and the wisdom of ages. That provision of the constitution, however, by which it is made to contain a self-correcting principle, obtained no inconsiderable share of his admiration: he was, therefore, a zealous advocate of constitutional reform. The necessity of this he often supported in conversation with all the energy of an irresistible eloquence; but there is no evidence that he ever went farther. He was a member of no political club. At the time when, in certain societies, the mad cry of revolution was raised from one end of the kingdom to the other, his voice was never heard in their debates, nor did he ever support their opinions in writing, or correspond with them in any form whatever. Though limited to an income which any other man would have considered poverty, he refused \$50 ayear offered to him for a weekly article, by the proprietors of an opposition paper; and two reasons, equally honourable to him, induced him to reject this proposal. His independent spirit spurned indignantly the idea of be-

I am assured that Mr. Pitt used these words at the table of the late Lord Liverpool, and after Burns's death. How that event might come to be a natural topic of conversation at that table, will be seen in the sequel.

⁺ Mr. Gray removed from the school of Dumfries to the High School of Edinburgh, in which eminent seminary he for many years laboured with distinguished success. He then became Professor of Latin in the Institution at Belfast; he afterwards entered into findy orders, and died a few years since in the East Indies, as officiating chapbain to the Company in the presidency of Madras.

coming the hireling of a party; and whatever may lave been his opinion of the men and measures that then prevailed, he did not think it right to fetter the operations of that government by which he was employed."

The satement about the newspaper, refers to Mr. Perry of the Morning Chronicle, who, at the suggestion of Mr. Miller of Dalswinton, made the proposal referred to, and received for answer a letter which may be seen in the General Correspondence of our poet, and the tenor of which is in accordance with what Mr. Gray has said. Mr. Perry afterwards pressed Burns to settle in London as a regular writer for his paper, and the poet declined to do so, alleging that, however small, his Excise appointment was a certainty, which, in justice to his family, he could not think of aban doning. *

Burns, after the Excise inquiry, took care, no doubt, to avoid similar scrapes; but he had no reluctance to meddle largely and zealously in the squabbles of county politics and contested elections; and thus, by merely espousing, on all occasions, the cause of the Whig candidates, kept up very effectually the spleen which the Tories had originally conceived on tolerably legitimate grounds. One of the most celebrated of these effusions was written on a desperately contested election for the Dumfries district of boroughs, between Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall, and Mr. Miller the younger of Dalswinton; Burns, of course, maintaining the cause of his patron's family. There is much humour in it :-

THE FIVE CARLINES.

- . There were five carlines in the south, they fell upon a scheme, To send a lad to Lumnun town to bring them tidings hame, Nor only bring them tidings hame, but do their errands there, And aiblins gowd and honour baith might be that laddie's share.
- 2. There was Maggy by the banks o' Nith, + a dame w' pride eneugh, And Marjory o' the Monylochs, ‡ a carline auld and teugh; And blinkin Bess o' Annandale, \$ that dwelt near Solway-side, And whisky Jean that took her gill in Galloway sae wide; ‡ And black Joan frae Crichton Peel, ¶ o' gipsy kith and kin,— Five wighter carlines war na foun' the south countrie within.
- 3. To send a lad to Lunnun town, they met upon a day, And mony a knight and mony a laird their errand fain wad gae, But nae ane could their fancy please; O ne'er a anc but tway.
- 4. The first he was a belted knight, ** bred o' a border clan, And he wad gae to Lunnun town, might nae man him withstan', And he wad do their errands weel, and meikle he wad say, And ilka ane at Lunnun court would bid to him gude day.
- 5. The next came in a sodger youth, ++ and spak wi' modest grace, And he wad gae to Lunnun town, if sae their pleasure was; He wadna hecht them courtly gifts, nor meikle speech pretend, But he wad hecht an honest heart, wad ne'er desert a friend.
- 6. Now, wham to choose and wham refuse, at strife thir carlines fell, For some had gentle folks to please, and some wad please themsel.
- 7. Then out spak mim-mou'd Meg o' Nith, and she spak up wi' pride, And she wad send the sodger youth, whatever might betide; For the auld guidman o' Lunnun ‡‡ court she didna care a pin; But she wad send the sodger youth to greet his eldest son. §§

- § Annan.
- This is stated on the authority of Major Miller.
 Dumfries.
 Lachmaben.
 Sir J. Johnstone. ohnstone. †† Major Miller. §§ The Prince of Wales.

[Kirkcudbright

George III.

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS.

8. Then up sprang Bess o' Annaudale, and a deadly aith she's taen, That she wad vote the border knight, though she should vote her lane; For far-aff fowls hae teathers fair, and fools o' change are fair; But I hae tried the border knight, and I'll try him yet again.

9. Says black Joan frae Crichton Peel, a carline stoor and grim, The auld guidman, and the young guidman, for me may sink or swim; For fools will freat o' right or wrang, while knaves laugh them to scorn: But the sodger's friends hae blawn the best, so he shall bear the horn.

10. Then whisky Jean spak ower her drink, Ye weel ken, kimmers a', The auld guidman o' Lunnun court, he's back's been at the wa'; And mony a friend that kiss't his cup, is now a fremit wight, But it's ne'er be said o' whisky Jean—1'll send the border knight.

11. Then slow raise Marjory o' the Lochs, and wrinkled was her brow, Her ancient weed was russet gray, her auld Scots bluid was true; There's some great folks set light by me.—I set as light by them; But I will sen' to Lunnun toun wham I like best at hame.

12. Sae how this weighty plea may end, nae mortal wight can tell, God grant the King and ilka man may look weel to himsell.

The above is far the best humoured of these productions. The c.ection to which it refers was carried in Major Miller's favour, but after a severe contest, and at a very heavy expense.

These political conflicts were not to be mingled in with impunity by the chosen laureate, wit, and orator of the district. He himself, in an unpublished piece, speaks of the terror excited by

" _____ Burns's venom, when
He dips in gall unmix'd his eager pen,
And pours his vengeance in the burning line;"

and represents his victims, on one of these electioneering occasions, as leading a choral shout that

" ____ He for his heresies in church and state, Might richly merit Mur's and Palmer's fate."

But what rendered him more and more the object of aversion to one set of people, was sure to connect him more strongly with the passions, and, unfortunately for himself and for us, with the pleasures of the other; and we have, among many confessions to the same purpose, the following, which I quote as the shortest, in one of the poet's letters from Dumfries to Mrs. Dunlop. "I am better, but not quite free of my complaint (he refers to the palpitation of heart.) You must not think, as you seem to insinuate, that in my way of life I want exercise. Of that I have enough; but occasional hard drinking is the devil to me." He knew well what he was doing whenever he mingled in such debaucheries: he had, long ere this, described himself as parting "with a slice of his constitution" every time he was guilty of such excess.

This brings us back to a subject on which it can give no one pleasure to

expatiate.

in Dr. Currie," says Gilbert Burns, "knowing the events of the latter years of my brother's life, only from the reports which had been propagated, and thinking it necessary, lest the candour of his work should be called in question, to state the substance of these reports, has given a very exagrated view of the failings of my brother's life at that period, which is certainly to be regretted."—"I love Dr. Currie," says the Rev. James Gray, already more than once referred to, but I love the memory of Burns more

and no consideration shall deter me from a hold declaration of the truth The poet of The Cottar's Saturday Night, who felt all the charms of the humble piety and virtue which he sung, is charged. (in Dr Currie's Narrative), with vices which would reduce him to a level with the most degraded of his species. As I knew him during that period of his life emphatically called his evil days, I am enabled to speak from my own observation. It is not my intention to extenuate his errors, because they were combined with genius; on that account, they were only the more dangerous, because the more seductive, and deserve the more severe reprehension; but I shall likewise claim that nothing may be said in malice even against him . . . It came under my own view professionally, that he superintended the education of his children with a degree of eare that I have never seen surpassed by any parent in any rank of life whatever. In the bosom of his family he spent many a delightful hour in directing the studies of his eldest son, a boy of uncommon talents. I have frequently found him explaining to this youth, then not more than nine years of age, the English poets, from Shakspeare to Gray, or storing his mind with examples of heroic virtue, as they live in the pages of our most celebrated English his-I would ask any person of common candour, if employments like

these are consistent with habitual drunkenness?

" It is not denied that he sometimes mingled with society unworthy of him. He was of a social and convivial nature. He was courted by all classes of men for the fascinating powers of his conversation, but over his social scene uncontrolled passion never presided. Over the social bowl, his wit flashed for hours tegether, penetrating whatever it struck, like the fire from heaven; but even in the hour of thoughtless gaity and merriment, I never knew it tainted by indecency. It was playful or caustic by turns, following an allusion through all its windings; astonishing by its rapidity, or amusing by its wild originality, and grotesque, yet natural combinations, but never, within my observation, disgusting by its grossness. In his morning hours, I never saw him like one suffering from the effects of last night's intemperance. He appeared then clear and unclouded. He was the eloquent advocate of humanity, justice, and political freedom. From his paintings, virtue appeared more levely, and piety assumed a more ce-While his keen eye was pregnant with fancy and feeling, and his voice attuned to the very passion which he wished to communicate, it would hardly have been possible to conceive any being more interesting and delightful. I may likewise add, that to the very end of his life, reading was his favourite aniusement. I have never known any man so intimately acquainted with the elegant English authors. He seemed to have the poets by heart. The prose authors he could quote either in their own words, or clothe their ideas in language more beautiful than their own. Nor was there ever any decay in any of the powers of his mind. last day of his life, his judgment, his memory, his imagination, were fresh and vigorous, as when he composed The Cottar's Saturday Night. The truth is, that Burns was seldom intoxicated. The drunkard soon becomes besotted, and is shunned even by the convivial. Had he been so, he could not long have continued the idol of every party. It will be freely confessed, that the hour of enjoyment was often prolonged beyond the limit marked by prudence; but what man will venture to affirm, that in sixuations where he was conscious of giving so much pleasure, he could at all imes have listened to her voice?

The men with whom he generally associated, were not of the lowest order. He numbered among his intimate friends, many of the most respectable inhabitants of Dumfries and the vicinity. Several of those were at tached to him by ties that the hand of calumny, busy as it was, could never snap asunder. They admired the poet for his genus, and loved the man for the candour, generosity, and kindness of his nature. His early friends clung to him through good and bad report, with a zeal and fidelity that prove their disbelief of the malicious stories circulated to his disadvantage. Among them were some of the most distinguished characters in this country, and not a few females, eminent for delicacy, taste, and genius. They were proud of his friendship, and cherished him to the last moment of his existence. He was endeared to them even by his misfortunes, and they still retain for his memory that affectionate veneration which virtue alone inspires."

Part of Mr. Gray's letter is omitted, only because it touches on subjects, as to which Mr. Findlater's statement must be considered as of not merely

sufficient, but the very highest authority.

" My connexion with Robert Burns," says that most respectable man, " commenced immediately after his admission into the Excise, and continued to the hour of his death. * In all that time, the superintendence of his behaviour, as an officer of the revenue, was a branch of my especial province, and it may be supposed that I would not be an inattentive observer of the general conduct of a man and a poet, so celebrated by his country In the fermer capacity, he was exemplary in his attention; and was even jealous of the least imputation on his vigilance: as a proof of which, it may not be foreign to the subject to quote a part of a letter from him to myself, in a case of only seeming inattention .- 'I know, Sir, and regret deeply, that this business glances with a malign aspect on my character as an officer; but, as I am really innocent in the affair, and as the gentleman is known to be an illicit dealer, and particularly as this is the single instance of the least shadow of carelessnes or imprepriety in my conduct as an officer, I shall be peculiarly unfortunate if my character shall fall a sacrifice to the dark manœuvres of a smuggler. - This of itself affords more than a presumption of his attention to business, as it cannot be supposed he would have written in such a style to me, but from the impulse of a conscious rectitude in this department of his duty. Indeed, it was not till near the latter end of his days that there was any falling off in this respect; and this was amply accounted for in the pressure of disease and accumulating infirmities. I will further avow, that I never saw him, which was very frequently while he lived at Elliesland, and still more so, almost every day, after he removed to Dumfries, but in hours of business he wa quite himself, and capable of discharging the duties of his office; nor was he ever known to drink by himself, or seen to indulge in the use of liquor in a fore-I have seen Burns in all his various phases, in his convivial moments, in his sober moods, and in the bosom of his family; indeed, I believe I saw more of him than any other individual had occasion to see, after he became an Excise officer, and I never beheld any thing like the gross enormities with which he is now charged: That when set down in an evening with a few friends whom he liked, he was apt to prolong the social hour beyond the bounds which prudence would dictate, is unques

Mr. Findlater watched by Burns the night before he died.

tionable; but in his family, I will venture to say, he was never seen other wise than attentive and affectionate to a high degree."

These statements are entitled to every consideration: they come from men altogether incapable, for any purpose, of wilfully stating that which

they know to be untrue.

To whatever Burns's excesses amounted, they were, it is obvious, and that frequently, the subject of rebuke and remonstrance even from his own dearest friends. That such reprimands should have been received at times with a strange mixture of remorse and indignation, none that have considered the nervous susceptibility and haughtiness of Burns's character can hear with surprise. But this was only when the good advice was oral. No one knew better than he how to answer the written homilies of such persons as were most likely to take the freedom of admonishing him on points of such delicacy; nor is there any thing in all his correspondence more amusing than his reply to a certain solemn lecture of William Nicoll. . . "O thou, wisest among the wise, meridian blaze of prudence, full moon of discretion, and chief of many counsellors! how infinitely is thy puddleheaded, rattle-headed, wrong-headed, round-headed slave indebted to thy supereminent goodness, that from the luminous path of thy own right-lined rectitude thou lookest benignly down on an erring wretch, of whom the zig-zag wanderings defy all the powers of calculation, from the simple copulation of units, up to the hidden mysteries of fluxions! May one feeble ray of that light of wisdom which darts from thy sensorium, straight as the arrow of heaven, and bright as the meteor of inspiration, may it be my portion, so that I may be less unworthy of the face and favour of that father of proverbs and master of maxims, that antipod of folly, and magnet among the sages, the wise and witty Willy Nicoll! Amen! amen! Yea, so be it!

" For me! I am a beast, a reptile, and know nothing!" &c. &c. &c.

To how many that have moralized over the life and death of Burns,

might not such a Tu quoque be addressed!

The strongest argument in favour of those who denounce the statements of Heron, Currie, and their fellow biographers, concerning the habits of the poet, during the latter years of his career, as culpably and egregiously exaggerated, still remains to be considered. On the whole, Eurns gave satisfaction by his manner of executing the duties of his station in the revenue service; he, moreover, as Mr. Gray tells us, (and upon this ground Mr. Gray could not possibly be mistaken), took a lively interest in the edueation of his children, and spent more hours in their private tuition than fathers who have more leisure than his excisemanship left him, are often in the custom of so bestowing.—" He was a kind and attentive father, and took great delight in spending his evenings in the cultivation of the minds of his children. Their education was the grand object of his life, and he did not, like most parents, think it sufficient to send them to public schools; he was their private instructor, and even at that early age, bestowed great pains in training their minds to habits of thought and reflection, and in keeping them pure from every form of vice. This he considered as a sacred duty, and never, to the period of his last illness, relaxed in his diligence. With his eldest son, a boy of not more than nine years of age, he had read many of the favourite poets, and some of the best historians in our language; and what is more remarkable, gave him considerable aid in the study of Latin. This boy at ended the Grammar School of Dumfries

and soon attracted my notice by the strength of his talent, and the a dour of his ambition. Before he had been a year at school, I thought it right to advance him a form, and he began to read Cæsar, and gave me translations of that author of such beauty as I confess surprised me. On inquiry, I found that his father made him turn over his dictionary, till he was able to translate to him the passage in such a way that he could gather the anthor's meaning, and that it was to him he owed that polished and forcible English with which I was so greatly struck. I have mentioned this incident merely to show what minute attention he paid to this important branch of parental Juty." * Lastly, although to all men's regret he wrote, after his removal to Dumfriesshire, only one poetical piece of considerable length, (Tam o' Shanter), his epistolary correspondence, and his songs to Johnson's Museum, and to the collection of Mr. George Thomson, furnish undeniable proof that, in whatever fits of dissipation he unhappily indulged, he never could possibly have sunk into any thing like that habitual grossness of manners and sottish degradation of mind, which the writers in question have not hesitated to hold up to the commiseration of mankind.

Of his letters written at Elliesland and Dumfries, nearly three octavo volumes have been already printed by Currie and Cromek; and it would be easy to swell the collection to double this extent. Enough, however, has been published to enable every reader to judge for himself of the character of Burns's style of epistolary composition. The severest criticism bestowed on it has been, that it is too elaborate—that, however natural the feelings, the expression is frequently more studied and artificial than belongs to that species of composition. Be this remark altogether just in point of taste, or otherwise, the fact on which it is founded, furnishes strength to our present position. The poet produced in these years a great

body of elaborate prose-writing.

We have already had occasion to notice some of his contributions to Johnson's Museum. He continued to the last month of his life to take a lively interest in that work: and besides writing for it some dozens of excellent original songs, his diligence in collecting ancient pieces hitherto unpublished, and his taste and skill in eking out fragments, were largely and most happily exerted, all along, for its benefit. Mr. Cromek saw among Johnson's papers, no fewer than 184 of the pieces which enter into

the collection, in Burns's handwriting.

His connexion with the more important work of Mr. Thomson commenced in September 1792; and Mr. Gray justly says, that whoever considers his correspondence with the editor, and the collection itself, must be satisfied, that from that time till the commencement of his last illness, not many days ever passed over his head without the production of some new stanzas for its pages. Besides old materials, for the most part embellished with lines, if not verses of his own, and a whole body of hints, suggestions, and criticisms, Burns gave Mr. Thomson about sixty original songs. The songs in this collection are by many eminent critics placed decidedly at the head of all our poet's performances: it is by none disputed that very many of them are worthy of his most felicitous inspiration. He bestowed much more care on them than on his contributions to the Museum; and the taste and feeling of the editor secured the work against any intrusions of that over-warm element which was too apt to mingle in his amatory ef-

[•] Letter from the Rev. James Gray to Mr. Gilbert Burns. See his Edition, vol. I Appendix, No. v.

fusions. Burns knew that he was now engaged on a work destined for the eye and ear of refinement; he laboured throughout, under the salutary feeling, "virginibus puerisque canto;" and the consequences have been happy indeed for his own fame—for the literary taste, and the national music, of Scotland; and, what is of far higher importance, the moral and national

feelings of his countrymen.

In almost all these productions—certainly in all that deserve to be placed in the first rank of his compositions—Burns made use of his native dialect. He did so, too, in opposition to the advice of almost all the lettered correspondents he had-more especially of Dr. Moore, who, in his own novels never ventured on more than a few casual specimens of Scottish colloquy -following therein the example of his illustrious predecessor Smollett; and not foreseeing that a triumph over English prejudice, which Smollett might have achieved, had he pleased to make the effort, was destined to be the prize of Burns's perseverance in obeying the dictates of native taste and judgment. Our poet received such suggestions, for the most part, in silence-not choosing to argue with others on a matter which concerned only his own feelings; but in writing to Mr. Thomson, he had no occasion either to conceal or disguise his sentiments. "These English songs," says he, "gravel me to death. I have not that command of the language that I have of my native tongue;"* and again, " so much for nambypamby. I may, after all, try my hand at it in Scots verse. There I am always most at home." +--He, besides, would have considered it as a sort of national crime to do any thing that must tend to divorce the music of his native land from her peculiar idiom. The "genius loci" was never worshipped more fervently than by Burns. "I am such an enthusiast," says he, "that in the course of my several peregrinations through Scotland, I made a pilgrimage to the individual spot from which every song took its rise, Lochaber and the Braes of Bullenden excepted. So far as the locality, either from the title of the air or the tenor of the song, could be ascertained, I have paid my devotions at the particular shrine of every Scottish Muse." With such feelings, he was not likely to touch with an irreverent hand the old fabric of our national song, or to meditate a lyrical revolution for the pleasure of strangers. "There is," says he, ‡ "a naiveté, a pastoral simplicity in a slight intermixture of Scots words and phraseology, which is more in unison (at least to my taste, and I will add, to every genuine Caledonian taste), with the simple pathos or rustic sprightliness of our native music, than any English verses whatever. One hint more let me give you :-- Whatever Mr. Fleyel does, let him not alter one iota of the original airs; I mean in the song department; but let our Scottish national music preserve its native features. They are, I own, frequently wild and irreducible to the more modern rules; but on that very eccentricity, perhaps, depends a great part of their effect." §

Of the delight with which Eurns laboured for Mr. Thomson's Collection, his letters contain some lively descriptions. "You cannot imagine," says he, 7th April 1793, "how much this business has added to my enjoyments. What with my early attachment to ballads, your book and ballad-

[•] Correspondence with Mr. Thomson, p. 111. † Ibid. p. 30. ‡ Ibid. p. 30. to dialocate the reader to hear, that is spite of all Burra's success in the use of his native dialocat, even an eminently spirited bookseller to whom the manuscript of Waverley was submitted, hesitated for some time about publishing it, on account of the Scots dialogue interwoven in the novel.

making are now as completely my hobbyhorse as ever fertification was Uncle Toby's; so I'll e'en canter it away till I come to the limit of my race, (God grant I may take the right side of the winning-post), and then, cheerfully looking back on the honest folks with whom I have been happy. I shall say or sing, 'Sae merry as we a' hae been,' and raising my last looks to the whole human race, the last words of the voice of Coila shall

be 'Good night, and joy be wi' you, a'." *

"Until I am complete master of a tune in my own singing, such as it is, I can never," says Burns, "compose for it. My way is this: I consider the poetic sentiment correspondent to my idea of the musical expression,—then choose my theme,—compose 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 verses 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 hind legs of my elbow-chair, by way of calling forth my own critical strictures, as my pen goes. Scriously, this, at home, is almost invariably my way.—What cursed egotism!" †

In this correspondence with Mr. Thomson, and in Cromek's later publication, the reader will find a world of interesting details about the particular circumstances under which these immortal songs were severally written. They are all, or almost all, in fact, part and parcel of the poet's personal history. No man ever made his muse more completely the companion of his own individual life. A new flood of light has just been poured on the same subject, in Mr. Allan Cunningham's "Collection of Scottish Songs;" unless, therefore, I were to transcribe volumes, and all popular volumes too, it is impossible to go into the details of this part of the poet's history. The reader must be contented with a few general memoranda;

e. g.

"Do you think that the sober gin-horse routine of existence could inspire a man with life, and love, and joy,—could fire him with enthusiasm, or melt him with pathos equal to the genius of your book? No, no. Whenever I want to be more than ordinary in song—to be in some degree equal to your divine airs—do you imagine I fast and pray for the celestial emanation? Tout au contraire. I have a glorious recipe, the very one that for his own use was invented by the Divinity of healing and poetry, when erst he piped to the flocks of Admetus,—I put myself on a regimen of admiring a fine woman." ‡

"I can assure you I was never more in carnest.—Conjugal love is a passion which I deeply feel, and highly venerate; but, somehow, it does not

make such a figure in poesy as that other species of the passion,

" Where love is liberty, and nature law."

Musically speaking, the first is an instrument, of which the gamut is scanty and contined, but the tones inexpressibly sweet; while the last has powers equal to all the intellectual modulations of the human soul. Still I am a very poet in my enthusiasm of the passion. The welfare and happiness of the beloved object is the first and inviolate sentiment that pervades my

^{*} Correspondence with Mr. Thomson, p. 57. + Ibid. p. 119.

soal; and—whatever pleasures I might wish for, or whatever raptures they might give me—yet, if they interfere with that first principle, it is having these pleasures at a dishonest price; and justice forbids, and generosity disdains the purchase." *

Of all Burns's love songs, the best, in his own opinion, was that which

begins,

"Yestreen I had a pint o' wine, A place where body saw na'."

Mr. Cunningham says, "if the poet thought so, I am sorry for it;" while the Reverend Hamilton Paul fully concurs in the author's own estimate of the performance.

There is in the same collection a love song, which unites the suffrages, and ever will do so, of all men. It has furnished Byron with a motto, and Sco** has said that that motto is "worth a thousand romances."

" Had we never loved sae kindly, Had we never loved sae blindly, Never met—or never parted, We had ne'er been broken-hearted."

There are traditions which connect Burns with the heroines of these be-

witching songs.

I envy no one the task of inquiring minutely in how far these traditions rest on the foundation of truth. They refer at worst to occasional errors. "Many insinuations," says Mr. Gray, "have been made against the poet's character as a husband, but without the slightest proof; and I might pass from the charge with that neglect which it merits; but I am happy to say that I have in exculpation the direct evidence of Mrs. Burns herself, who, among many amiable and respectable qualities, ranks a veneration for the memory of her departed husband, whom she never names but in terms of the profoundest respect and the deepest regret, to lament his misfortunes, or to extot his kindnesses to herself, not as the momentary overflowings of the heart in a season of penitence for offences generously forgiven, but an habitual tenderness, which ended only with his life. I place this evidence, which I am proud to bring forward on her own authority, against a thousand anonymous calumnies." †

Among the effusions, not amatory, which our poet contributed to Mr. Thomson's Collection, the famous song of Bannockburn holds the first place. We have already seen in how lively a manner Burns's feelings were kindled when he visited that glorious field. According to tradition, the tune played when Bruce led his troops to the charge, was "Hey tuttie tattie;" and it was humming this old air as he rode by himself through Glenken, a wild district in Galloway, during a terrific storm of wind and rain, that the poet composed his immortal lyric in its first and noblest form. This is one

more instance of his delight in the sterner aspects of nature.

" Come, winter, with thine angry howl, And raging bend the naked tree—"

"There is hardly," says he in one of his letters, "there is scarcely any earthly object gives me mere—I do not know if I should call it pleasure

Correspondence with Mr. Thomson, p. 191.
 Letter in Gilbert Burns's Edition, vol. I. Appendix, p. 437.

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS.

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but something which exalts me, something which enraptures me—than to walk in the sheltered side of a wood 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 wrapt up in a kind of enthusiasm to Him, who, to use the pompous language of the Hebrew Bard, 'walks on the wings of the wind.' —To the last, his best poetry was gloduced amidst scenes of solemn desolution.

CHAPTER IX.

Coalints.— The poet's mortal period approaches—His speculiar temperament—Symptoms of premature old age—These not diminished by narrow circumstances, by chagrin from neglect, and by the death of a Daughter—The poet misses public patronage: and even the fair fraits of his on a genius—the appropriation of which is debated for the casuists who yielded to him merely the shell—His magnanimity when death is at hand; his interviews, conversations, and addresses as a dying man—Dies, 21st July 1796—Public faueral, at which many attend, and amongst the rest the future Premier of England, who had steadily refused to achnowledge the poet, living—His family munificently provided for by the public—Analysis of character—His integrity, religious state, and genius—Strictures upon him and his writings by Scott, Campbell, Byron, and others.

46 I dread thee, Fate, relentless and severe, With all a poet's, husband's, father's fear.

We are drawing near the close of this great poet's mortal career; and I would fain hope the details of the last chapter may have prepared the humane reader to contemplate it with sentiments of sorrow, pure and undebased with any considerable intermixture of less genial feelings.

For some years before Burns was lost to his country, it is sufficiently plain that he had been, on political grounds, an object of suspicion and distrust to a large portion of the population that had most opportunity of observing him. The mean subaiterns of party had, it is very easy to suppose, delighted in decrying him on pretexts, good, bad, and indifferent, equally—to their superiors; and hence, who will not willingly believe it? the temporary and local prevalence of those extravagantly injurious reports, the essence of which Dr. Currie, no doubt, thought it his duty, as a biographer, to extract and circulate.

A gentleman of that county, whose name I have already more than once had occasion to refer to, has often told me, that he was seldom more grieved, than when riding into Dumfries one fine summer's evening, about this time, to attend a county ball, he saw Burns walking alone, on the shady side of the principal street of the town, while the opposite side 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. The horseman dismounted and joined Burns, who, on his proposing to him to cross the street, said, "Nay, nay, my young friend,—that's all over now;" and quoted, after a pause, some verses of Lady Grizzel Baillie's pathetic ballad,—

"His bonnet stood ance fu' fair on his brow, His auld ane look'd better than mony ane's new; But now he lets't wear ony way it will hing, And casts himsell dowie upon the corn bing. O were we young, as we ance hae been, We sud hae been galloping doun on yon green, And linking it ower the lilywhite lea,— And werena my heart light I wad die."

It was little in Burns's character to let his feelings on certain subjects, escape in this fashion. He, immediately after citing these verses, assumed the sprightliness of his most pleasing manner; and taking his young friend home with him, entertained him very agreeably until the hour of the ball arrived, with a bowl of his usual potation, and Bonnie Jean's singing of

some verses which he had recently composed.

The untimely death of one who, had he lived to any thing like the usual term of human existence, might have done so much to increase his fame as a poet, and to purify and dignify his character as a man, was, it is too probable, hastened by his own intemperances and imprudences: but it seems to be extremely improbable, that, even if his manhood had been a course of saintlike virtue in all respects, the irritable and nerveus bodily constitution which he inherited from his father, shaken as it was by the toils and miseries of his ill-starred youth, could have sustained, to any thing like the psalmist's "allotted span," the exhausting excitements of an intensely poetical temperament. Since the first pages of this narrative were sent to the press, I have heard from an old acquaintance of the bard, who often shared his bed with him at Mossgiel, that even at that early period, when intemperance assuredly had had nothing to do with the matter, those ominous symptoms of radical disorder in the digestive system, the "palpitation and suffocation" of which Gilbert speaks, were so regularly his nocturnal visitants, that it was his custom to have a great tub of cold water by his bedside, into which he usually plunged more than once in the course of the night, thereby procuring instant, though but shortlived relief. a frame thus originally constructed, and thus early tried with most severe afflictions, external and internal, what must not have been, under any subsequent course of circumstances, the effect of that exquisite sensibility of mind, but for which the world would never have heard any thing either of the sins, or the sorrows, or the poetry of Burns!

"The fates and characters of the rhyming tribe," * (thus writes the poet himself), "often employ my thoughts when I am disposed to be me-There is not, among all the martyrologies that ever were penned, so rueful a narrative as the lives of the poets.-In the comparative view of wretches, the criterion is not what they are doomed to suffer, but how they are formed to bear. Take a being of our kind, give him a stronger imagination and a more delicate sensibility, which between them will ever engender a more ungovernable set of passions, than are the usual lot of man; implant in him an irresistible impulse to some idle vagary, such as arranging wild flowers in fantastical nosegays, tracing the grasshopper to his haunt by his chirping song, watching the frisks of the little minnows in the sunny pool, or hunting after the intrigues of butterflies—in short send him adrift after some pursuit which shall eternally mislead him from the paths of lucre, and yet curse him with a keener relish than any man iving for the pleasures that lucre can purchase; lastly, fill up the measure of his woes by bestowing on him a spurning sense of his own dignity, and

you have created a wight nearly as miserable as a poet."

[·] Letter to Miss Chalmers in 1793.

In these few short sentences, as it appears to me, Burns has traced his own character far better than any one else has done it since.—But with this lot what pleasures were not mingled?—"To you, Madam," he proceeds, "I need not recount the fairy pleasures the muse bestows to counterbalance this catalogue of evils. Bewitching poetry is like bewitching woman; she has in all ages been accused of misleading mankind from the counsels of wisdom and the paths of prudence, involving them in difficulties, baiting them with poverty, branding them with infamy, and plunging them in the whirling vortex of ruin; yet, where is the man but must own that all our happiness on earth is not worthy the name—that even the holy hermit's solitary prospect of pardisiacal bliss is but the glitter of a northern sun, rising over a frozen region, compared with the many pleasures, the nameless raptures, that we owe to the lovely Queen of the heart of man!"

It is common to say of those who over-indulge themselves in material stimulants, that they *live first*; what wonder that the career of the poet's thick-coming fancies should, in the immense majority of cases, be rapid

too?

That Burns lived fast, in both senses of the phrase, we have abundant evidence from himself; and that the more earthly motion was somewhat accelerated as it approached the close, we may believe, without finding it at all necessary to mingle anger with our sorrow. " Even in his earliest poems," as Mr. Wordsworth says, in a beautiful passage of his letter to Mr. Gray, "through the veil of assumed habits and pretended qualities, enough of the real man appears to show, that he was conscious of sufficient cause to dread his own passions, and to bewail his errors! We have rejected as false sometimes in the latter, and of necessity as false in the spirit, many of the testimonies that others have borne against him :- but, by his own handin words the import of which cannot be mistaken-it has been recorded that the order of his life but faintly corresponded with the clearness of his views. It is probable that he would have proved a still greater poet if, by strength of reason, he could have controlled the propensities which his sensibility engendered; but he would have been a poet of a different class: and certain it is, had that desirable restraint been early established, many peculiar beauties which enrich his verses could never have existed, and many accessary influences, which contribute greatly to their effect, would have been wanting. For instance, the momentous truth of the passage-

"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.

Then gently scan your brother man, Still gentlier sister woman— Though they may gang a kennin' wrang; To step aside is human,"

could not possibly have been conveyed with such pathetic terce by any poet that ever lived, speaking in his own voice; unless it were felt that, like Burns, he was a man who preached from the text of his own errors and whose wisdom, beautiful as a flower that might have risen from seed sown from above, was in fact a scion from the root of personal suffering."

In how far the "thoughtless follies" of the poet did actually hasten his end, it is needless to conjecture. They had their share, unquestionably, along with other influences which it would be inhuman to characterise as

mere follies-such, for example, as that general depression of spirits which haur ted him from his youth, and, in all likelihood, sat more heavily or such a being as Burns than a man of plain common sense might guess,—or even a casual expression of discouraging tendency from the persons on whose good-will all hopes of substantial advancement in the scale of worldly promotion depended,—or that partial exclusion from the species of society our poet had been accustomed to adorn and delight, which, from however inadequate causes, certainly did occur during some of the latter years of his life.—All such sorrows as these must have acted with twofold tyranny upon Burns; harassing, in the first place, one of the most sensitive minds that ever filled a human bosom, and, alas! by consequence, tempting to additional excesses. How he struggled against the tide of his misery, let the following letter speak.—It was written February 25, 1794, and addressed to Mr. Alexander Cunningham, an eccentric being, but generous and faithful in his friendship to Burns, and, when Burns was no more, to his family .- " Canst thou minister," says the poet, " to a mind diseased? Canst thou speak peace and rest to a soul tost on a sea of troubles, without one friendly star to guide her course, and dreading that the next surge may overwhelm her? Canst thou give to a frame, tremblingly alive as the tortures of suspense, the stability and hardihood of the rock that braves the blast - If thou canst not do the least of these, why would'st thou disturb me in my miseries, with thy inquiries after me? For these two months I have not been able to lift a pen. My constitution and frame were ab origine, blasted with a deep incurable taint of hypochondria, which poisons my existence. Of late a number of domestic vexations, and some pecuniary share in the ruin of these **** times-losses which, though trifling, were yet what I could ill bear, have so irritated me, that my feelings at times could only be envied by a reprobate spirit listening to the sentence that dooms it to perdition. Are you deep in the language of consolation? have exhausted in reflection every topic of comfort. A heart at ease would have been charmed with my sentiments and reasonings; but as to myself, I was like Judas Iscariot preaching the gospel; he might melt and mould the hearts of those around him, but his own kept its native incorrigibility. Still there are two great pillars that bear us up, amid the wreck of misfortune and misery. The ONE is composed of the different modifications of a certain noble, stubborn something in man, known by the names of courage, fortitude, magnanimity. The OTHER is made up of those feelings and sentiments, which, however the sceptic may deny, or the enthusiast disfigure them, are yet, I am convinced, original and component parts of the human soul; those senses of the mind, if I may be allowed the expression, which connect us with, and link us to those awful obscure realities-an all powerful and equally beneficent God—and a world to come, beyond death and the grave. The first gives the nerve of combat, while a ray of hope beams on the field ;-the last pours the balm of comfort into the wounds which time can never cure.

"I do not remember, my dear Cunningham, that you and I ever talked on the subject of religion at all. I know some who laugh at it, as the trick of the crafty few, to lead the undiscerning MANY; or at most as an uncertain obscurity, which mankind can never know any thing of, and with which they are fools if they give themselves much to do. Nor would I quarrel with a man for his irreligion, any more than I would for his want of a musical ear. I would regret that he was shut out from what, to me and to

others, were such superlative sources of enjoyment. It is in this point of view and for this reason, that I will deeply imbue the mind of every child of mine with religion. If my son should happen to be a man of feeling, sentiment, and taste, I shall thus add largely to his enjoyments. Let me flatter myself that this sweet little fellow who is just now running about my desk, will be a man of a melting, ardent, glowing heart; and an imagination, delighted with the painter, and rapt with the poet. Let me figure him, wandering out in a sweet evening, to inhale the balmy gales, and enjoy the growing luxuriance of the spring; himself the while in the blooming youth of life. He looks abroad on all nature, and through nature up to nature's God. His soul, by swift, delighted degrees, is rapt above this sublunary sphere, until he can be silent no longer, and bursts out into the glorious enthusiasm of Thomson,

'These, as they change, Almighty Father, these Are but the varied God.—The rolling year Is full of Thee:'

and so on, in all the spirit and ardour of that charming hymn.—These are no ideal pleasures; they are real delights; and I ask what of the delights among the sons of men are superior, not to say, equal to them? And they have this precious, vast addition, that conscious virtue stamps them for her own; and lays hold on them to bring herself into the presence of a witness-

ing. judging, and approving God."

They who have been told that Burns was ever a degraded being—who have permitted themselves to believe that his only consolations were those of "the opiate guilt applies to grief," will do well to pause over this noble letter and judge for themselves. The enemy under which he was destined to sink, had already beaten in the outworks of his constitution when these lines were penned. The reader has already had occasion to observe, that Burns had in those closing years of his life to struggle almost continually with pecuniary difficulties, than which nothing could have been more likely to pour bitterness intolerable into the cup of his existence. His lively imagination exaggerated to itself every real evil; and this among, and perhaps above, all the rest; at least, in many of his letters we find him alluding to the probability of his being arrested for debts, which we now know to have been of very trivial amount at the worst, which we also know he himself lived to discharge to the utmost farthing, and in regard to which it is impossible to doubt that his personal friends in Dumfries would have at all times been ready to prevent the law taking its ultimate course. This last consideration, however, was one which would have given slender relief to How he shrunk with horror and loathing from the sense of pecuniary obligation, no matter to whom, we have had abundant indications already.

The following extract. from one of his letters to Mr. Macmurdo, dated December 1793, will speak for itself':—" Sir, it is said that we take the greatest liberties with our greatest friends, and I pay myself a very high compliment in the manner in which I am going to apply the remark. I have owed you money longer than ever I owed it to any man.—Here is Ker's account, and here are six guineas; and now, I don't owe a shilling to man, or woman either. But for these damned dirty, dog's-eared little pages, (bank-notes), I had done myself the honour to have waited on you long ago. Independent of the obligations your hospitality has laid

me under, the consciousness of your superiority in the rank of man and gentleman of itself was fully as much as I could ever make head against

but to owe you money too, was more than I could face.

The question naturally arises: Burns was all this while pouring out his beautiful songs for the Museum of Johnson and the greater work of Thomson; how did he happen to derive no pecuniary advantages from this continual exertion of his genius in a form of composition so eminently calculated for popularity? Nor, indeed, is it an easy matter to answer this very The poet himself, in a letter to Mr. Carfrae, dated obvious question. 1789, speaks thus :- " The profits of the labours of a man of genius are, I hope, as honourable as any profits whatever; and Mr. Mylne's relations are most justly entitled to that honest harvest which fate has denied himself to reap." And yet, so far from looking to Mr. Johnson for any pecuniary remuneration for the very laborious part he took in his work, it appears from a passage in Cromek's Reliques, that the poet asked a single copy of the Museum to give to a fair friend, by way of a great favour to himself-and that that copy and his own were really all he ever received at the hands of the publisher. Of the secret history of Johnson and his book I know nothing; but the Correspondence of Burns with Mr. Thomson contains curious enough details concerning his connexion with that gentleman's more important undertaking. At the outset, September 1792, we find Mr. Thomson saying, "We will esteem your poetical assistance a particular favour, besides paying any reasonable price you shall please to demand for it. Profit is quite a secondary consideration with us, and we are resolved to save neither pains nor expense on the publication." To which Burns replies immediately, " As to any remuneration, you may think my songs either above or below price; for they shall absolutely be the one or the other. In the honest enthusiasm with which I embark in your undertaking, to talk of money, wages, fee, hire, &c. would be downright prostitution of soul. A proof of each of the songs that I compose or amend I shall receive as a favour. In the rustic phrase of the season, Gude speca the wark." The next time we meet with any hint as to money matters in the Correspondence is in a letter of Mr. Thomson, 1st July 1793, where he says, "I cannot express how much I am obliged to you for the exquisite new songs you are sending me; but thanks, my friend, are a poor return for what you have done: as I shall be benefited by the publication, you must suffer me to enclose a small mark of my gratitude, and to repeat it afterwards when I find it convenient. Do not return it, for, by Heaven, if you do, our correspondence is at an end." To which letter (it inclosed (5) Burns thus replies:—"I assure you my dear Sir, that you truly hurt me with your pecuniary parcel. It degrades me in my own eyes. ever, to return it would sayour of affectation; but as to any more traffic of that debtor and creditor kind, I swear by that honour which crowns the upright statue of Robert Eurns's integrity-on the least motion of it, I will indignantly spurn the by-past transaction, and from that moment commence entire stranger to you. Burns's character for generosity of sentiment and independence of mind will, I trust, long outlive any of his wants which the cold unfeeling ore can supply: at least, I will take care that such a character he shall deserve."-In November 1794, we find Mr. Thomson writing to Burns, "Do not, I beseech you, return any books."-In May 1795, "You really make me blush when you tell me you have not merited the drawing from me;" (this was a drawing of The Cottar's Saturday Night

by Alian); "I do not think I can ever repay you, or sufficiently esteem and respect you, for the liberal and kind manner in which you have enter ed into the spirit of my undertaking, which could not have been perfected without you. So I beg you would not make a fool of me again by speak ing of obligation." In February 1796, we have Burns acknowledging a " handsome elegant present to Mrs. B ...," which was a worsted shawl. Lastly, on the 12th July of the same year, (that is, little more than a week before Burns died), he writes to Mr. Thomson in these terms :- " After all my boasted independence, cursed necessity compels me to implore you for five pounds. A cruel of a haberdasher, to whom I owe an account, taking it into his head that I am dying, has commenced a process, and will infallibly put me into jail. Do, for God's sake, send me that sum, and that by return of post. Forgive me this earnestness; but the horrors of a jail have put me half distracted .- I do not ask this gratuitously, for, upon returning health, I hereby promise and engage to furnish you with five pounds worth of the neatest song genius you have seen." which Mr. Thomson replies-" Ever since I received your melancholy letter by Mrs. Hyslop, I have been ruminating in what manner I could endeavour to alleviate your sufferings. Again and again I thought of a pecuniary offer; but the recollection of one of your letters on this subject, and the fear of offending your independent spirit, checked my resolution. I thank you heartily, therefore, for the frankness of your letter of the 12th, and with great pleasure enclose a draft for the very sum I proposed send-Would I were Chancellor of the Exchequer but one day for your sake !-- Pray, my good Sir, is it not possible for you to muster a volume of poetry? Do not shun this method of obtaining the value of your labour; remember Pope published the *Iliad* by subscription. Think of this, my dear Burns, and do not think me intrusive with my advice."

Such are the details of this matter, as recorded in the correspondence of the two individuals concerned. Some time after Burn's death, Mr. Thomson was attacked on account of his behaviour to the poet, in a novel called *Nubilia*. In Professor Walker's Memoirs of Burns, which appeared in 1816, Mr. Thomson took the opportunity of defending himself thus:—

"I have been attacked with much bitterness, and accused of not endeavouring to remunerate Burns for the songs which he wrote for my collection; although there is the clearest evidence of the contrary, both in the printed correspondence between the poet and me, and in the public testimony of Dr. Currie. My assailant, too, without knowing any thing of the matter, states, that I had enriched myself by the labours of Burns; and, of course, that my want of generosity was inexcusable. Now, the fact is, that notwithstanding the united labours of all the men of genius who have enriched my collection, I am not even yet compensated for the precious time consumed by me in poring over musty volumes, and in corresponding with every amateur and poet by whose means I expected to make any valuable additions to our national music and song ;- for the exertion and money it cost me to obtain accompaniments from the greatest masters of harmony in Vienna; - and for the sums paid to engravers, printers, and others. On this subject, the testimony of Mr. Preston in London, a man of unquestionable and well-known character, who has printed the music for every copy of my work, may be more satisfactory than any thing I can say: In August 1809, he wrote me as follows: 'I am concerned at the very unwa rantable attack which has been made upon you by the author

of Nubilia; nothing could be more unjust than to say you had enriched yourself by Burns's labours; for the whole concern, though it includes the labours of Haydn, has scarcely afforded a compensation for the various expenses, and for the time employed on the work. When a work obtains any celebrity, publishers are generally supposed to derive a profit ten times beyond the reality; the sale is greatly magnified, and the expenses are not in the least taken into consideration. It is truly vexatious to be so grossly and scandalously abused for conduct, the very reverse of which has been manifest through the whole transaction.'-Were I the sordid man that the anonymous author calls me, I had a most inviting opportunity to profit much more than I did by the lyrics of our great bard. He had written above fifty songs expressly for my work; they were in my possession unpublished at his death; I had the right and the power of retaining them till I should be ready to publish them; but when I was informed that an edition of the poet's works was projected for the benefit of his family, I put them in immediate possession of the whole of his songs, as well as letters, and thus enabled Dr. Currie to complete the four volumes which were sold for the family's behoof to Messrs. Cadell and Davies. And I have the satisfaction of knowing, that the most zealous friends of the family, Mr. Cunninghame, Mr. Syme, and Dr. Currie, and the poet's own brother, considered my sacrifice of the prior right of publishing the songs, as no ungrateful return for the disinterested and liberal conduct of the poet. Accordingly, Mr. Gilbert Burns, in a letter to me, which alone might suffice for an answer to all the novelist's abuse, thus expresses himself:—' If ever I come to Edinburgh, I will certainly call on a person whose handsome conduct to my brother's family has secured my esteem, and confirmed me in the opinion, that musical taste and talents have a close connexion with the harmony of the moral feelings.' Nothing is farther from my thoughts than to claim any merit for what I did. I never would have said a word on the subject, but for the harsh and groundless accusation which has been brought forward, either by ignorance or animosity, and which I have long suffered to remain unnoticed, from my great dislike to any public appearance."

This statement of Mr. Thomson supersedes the necessity of any additional remarks, (writes Professor Walker). When the public is satisfied; when the relations of Burns are grateful; and, above all, when the delicate mind of Mr. Thomson is at peace with itself in contemplating his conduct, there can be no necessity for a nameless novelist to contradict them.

So far, Mr. Walker:—Why Burns, who was of opinion, when he wrote his letter to Mr Carfrae, that "no profits are more honourable than those of the labours of a man of genius," and whose own notions of independence had sustained no shock in the receipt of hundreds of pounds from Creech, should have spurned the suggestion of pecuniary recompense from Thomson, it is no easy matter to explain; nor do I profess to understand why Mr. Thomson took so little pains to argue the matter in lumine with the poet, and convince him, that the time which he himself considered as fairly entitled to be paid for by a common bookseller, ought of right to be valued and acknowledged on similar terms by the editor and proprietor of a book containing both songs and music. They order these things differently aow: a living lyric poet whom none will place in a higher rank than Burns, has long, it is understood, been in the habit of receiving about as much money annually for an annual handful of songs, as was ever paid to our ward for the whole body of his writings.

Of the increasing irritability of our poet's temperament, amidst those troubles, external and internal, that preceded his last illness, his letters furnish proofs, to dwell on which could only inflict unnecessary pain. Let one example suffice.—" Sunday closes a period of our curst revenue business, and may probably keep me employed with my pen until noon. Fine employment for a poet's pen! Here I sit, altogether Novemberish, a d—nelange of fretfulness and melancholy; not enough of the one to rouse me to passion, nor of the other to repose me in torpor; my soul flouncing and fluttering round her tenement, like a wild finch, caught amid the horrors of winter, and newly thrust into a cage. Well, I am persuaded that it was of me the Hebrew sage prophesied, when he foretold—'And behold, on whatsoever this man doth set his heart, it shall not prosper!' Pray that wisdom and bliss be more frequent visitors of R. B."

Towards the close of 1795 Burns was as has been previously mentioned, employed as an accing Supervisor of Excise. This was apparently a step to a permanent situation of that higher and more lucrative class; and from thence, there was every reason to believe, the kind patronage of Mr. Graham might elevate him yet farther. These hopes, however, were mingled and darkened with serrow. For four months of that year his youngest child lingered through an illness of which every week promised to be the last; and she was finally cut off when the poet, who had watched her with anxious tenderness, was from home on professional business. This was a severe blow, and his own nerves, though as yet he had not taken any seri-

ous alarm about his ailments, were ill fitted to withstand it.

"There had need," he writes to Mrs. Dunlop, 15th December, "there had much need be many pleasures annexed to the states of husband and father, for God knows, they have many peculiar cares. I cannot describe to you the anxious, skeepless hours these ties frequently give me. I see a train of helpless little folks; me and my exertions all their stay; and on what a brittle thread does the life of man hang! If I am nipt off at the command of fate, even in all the vigour of manhood as I am, such things happen every day—gracious God! what would become of my little fleck! "Tis here that I envy your people of fortune.—A father on his death-bed, taking an everlasting leave of his children, has indeed woe enough; but the man of competent fortune leaves his sons and daughters independency and friends; while I—but I shall run distrected if I think any longer on the subject."

To the same lady, on the 29th of the month, he, after mentioning his supervisorship, and saying that at last his political sins seemed to be forgiven him—goes on in this ominous tone—" What a transient business is life! Very lately I was a boy; but t'other day a young man; and t already begin to feel the rigid three and stiffening joints of old age coming fast over my frame." We may trace the melancholy sequel in the few following

extracts.

** 31st January 1796.—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 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 a 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 deer in the street.

When pleasure fascinates the mental sight, Affliction purifies the visual ray, Roligion hails the drear, the untried night, That shuts, for ever shuts! life's doubtful day."

But a few days after this, Burns was so exceedingly imprudent as to join a festive circle at a tavern dinner, where he remained till about three in the morning. The weather was severe, and he, being much intoxicated, took no precaution in thus exposing his debilitated frame to its influence. It has been said, that he fell asleep upon the snow on his way home. It is certain, that next morning he was sensible of an icy numbness through all his joints—that his rheumatism returned with tenfold force upon him—and that from that unhappy hour, his mind broaded ominously on the fatal issue. The course of medicine to which he submitted was violent; confinement, accustomed as he had been to much bodily exercise, preyed miserably on all his powers; he drooped visibly, and all the hopes of his friends, that health would return with summer, were destined to disappointment.

"4th June 1796.*—I am in such miserable health as to be utterly incapable of showing my loyalty in any way. Rackt as I am with rheumatisms, I meet every face with a greeting like that of Balak and Balaam,—

Come curse me Jacob; and come defy me Israel."

"7th July —I fear the voice of the Bard will soon be heard among you no more.—For these eight or ten months I have been ailing, sometimes bed-fast and sometimes not; but these last three months I have been tortured with an excruciating rheumatism which has reduced me to nearly the last stage. You actually would not know me if you saw me—pale, emaciated, and so feeble, as occasionally to need help from my chair.—My spirits

fled! fled! But I can no more on the subject."

This last letter was addressed to Mr. Cunningham of Edinburgh, from the small village of Brow on the Solway Frith, about ten miles from Dumfries, to which the poet removed about the end of June; "the medical folks," as he says, "having told him that his last and only chance was bathing, country quarters, and riding." In separating himself by their advice from his family for these purposes, he carried with him a heavy burden of care. "The duce of the matter," he writes, "is this; when an exciseman is off duty, his salary is reduced. What way, in the name of thrift, shall I maintain myself and keep a horse in country quarters on 455? "Ite implored his friends in Edinburgh, to make interest with the Eoard to grant him his full salary; if they do not, I must lay my account with an exit truly en pecte—if I die not of disease, I must perish with hunger."

Mrs. Riddell of Glenriddel, a beautiful and very accomplished woman, to whom many of Furns's most interesting letters, in the latter years of his life, were addressed, happened to be in the neighbourhood of I row when Burns reached his bathing quarters, and exerted herself to make him as comfortable as circumstances permitted. Having sent her carriage for his conveyance, the poet visited her on the 5th July; and she has, in a letter published by Dr. Currie, thus described his appearance and conversation

on that occasion :-

"I was struck with his appearance on entering the room. The stamp of death was impressed on his features. He seemed already touching the brink of eteruity. His first salutation was, 'Well, Madam, have you any commands for the other world?' I replied that it seemed a doubtful case which of us should be there soonest, and that I hoped he would yet live to write my epitaph. (I was then in a poor state of health.) He looked in my face with an air of great kindness, and expressed his concern at seeing me look so ill, with his accustomed sensibility. At table he ate little or nothing, and he complained of having entirely lost the tone of his stomach. We had a long and serious conversation about his present situation, and the approaching termination of all his earthly prospects. He spoke of his death without any of the ostentation of philosophy, but with firmness as well as feeling—as an event likely to happen very soon, and which gave him concern chiefly from leaving his four children so young and unprotected, and his wife in so interesting a situation-in the hourly expectation of lying-in of a fifth. He mentioned, with seeming pride and satisfaction, the promising genius of his eldest son, and the flattering marks of approbation he had received from his teachers, and dwelt particularly on his hopes of that boy's future conduct and merit. His anxiety for his family seemed to hang heavy upon him, and the more perhaps from the reflection that he had not done them all the justice he was so well qualified to do. Passing from this subject, he showed great concern about the care of his literary fame, and particularly the publication of his posthumous works. said he was well aware that his death would occasion some noise, and that every scrap of his writings would be revived against him to the injury of his future reputation: that letters and verses written with unguarded and improper freedom, and which he carnestly wished to have buried in oblivion, would be handed about by idle vanity or malevolence, when no dread of his resentment would restrain them, or prevent the censures of shrill-tongued malice, or the insidious sarcasms of envy, from pouring forth all their venom to blast his fame. He lamented that he had written many epigrams on persons against whom he entertained no enmity, and whose characters he should be sorry to wound; and many indifferent poetical pieces, which he feared would now, with all their imperfections on their head, be thrust upon the world. On this account he deeply regretted having deferred to put his papers into a state of arrangement, as he was now quite incapable of the exertion.- The conversation was kept up with great evenness and animation on his side. I have seldom seen his mind greater or more collected. There was frequently a considerable degree of vivacity in his sallies, and they would probably have had a greater share, had not the concern and dejection I could not disguise, damped the spirit of pleasantry he seemed not unwilling to indulge.-We parted about sun-set on the evening of that day (the 5th of July 1796); the next day I saw him again, and we parted to meet no more!"

I do not know the exact date of the following letter to Mrs Burns:—
"Brow, Thursday.—My dearest Love, I delayed writing until I could
tell you what effect sea-bathing was likely to produce. It would be injustice to deny that it has eased my pains, and I think has strengthened me
put my appetite is still extremely bad. No flesh nor fish can I swallow,
porridge and milk are the only things I can taste. I am very happy to
hear, by Miss Jess Lewars, that you are all well. My very best and kindest compliments to her and to all the children. I will see you on Sunday

Your affectionate husband, R. B."

There is a very affecting letter to Gilbert, dated the 7th, in which the poet says, "I am dangerously ill, and not likely to get better.—God keep

my wife and children." On the 12th, he wrote the letter to Mr. George Thomson, above quoted, requesting £5; and, on the same day, he penged also the following—the last letter that he ever wrote—to his friend Mrs

Dunlop.

" Madam, I have written you so often, without receiving any answer, that I would not trouble you again, but for the circumstances in which I am. An illness which has long hung about me, in all probability will speedily send me beyond that bourne whence no traveller returns. Your friendship, with which for many years you honoured me, was a friendship dearest to my soul. Your conversation, and especially your correspondence, were at once highly entertaining and instructive. With what pleasure did I use to break up the seal! The remembrance yet adds one pulse more to my poor palpitating heart. Farewell!!!"

I give the following anecdote in the words of Mr. M'Diarmid: *-"Rousseau, we all know, when dying, wished to be carried into the open air, that he might obtain a parting look of the glorious orb of day. A night or two before Burns left Brow, he drank tea with Mrs. Craig, widow of the minister of Ruthwell. His altered appearance excited much silent sympathy; and the evening being beautiful, and the sun shining brightly through the casement, Miss Craig (now Mrs. Henry Duncan), was afraid the light might be too much for him, and rose with the view of letting down the win-Burns immediately guessed what she meant; and, regarding the young lady with a look of great benignity, said, . Thank you, my dear, for your kind attention : but, oh, let him shine ; he will not shine long for

On the 18th, despairing of any benefit from the sea, our poet came back to Dumfries. Mr. Allan Cunningham, who saw him arrive "visibly changed in his looks, being with difficulty able to stand upright, and reach his own door," has given a striking picture, in one of his essays, of the state of popular feeling in the town during the short space which intervened between his return and his death.—" Dumfries was like a besieged place. It was known he was dying, and the anxiety, not of the rich and learned only, but of the mechanics and peasants, exceeded all belief. Wherever two or three people stood together, their talk was of Burns, and of him alone. They spoke of his history—of his person—of his works—of his family—of his fame - and of his untimely and approaching fate, with a warmth and an enthusiasm which will ever endear Dumfries to my remembrance. All that he said or was saying-the opinions of the physicians, (and Maxwell was a kind and a skilful one), were eagerly caught up and reported from street to street, and from house to house.

" His good humour," Cunningham adds, " was unruffled, and his wit never forsook him. He looked to one of his fellow volunteers with a smile, as he stood by the bed-side with his eyes wet, and said, 'John, don't let the awkward squad fire over me.' He repressed with a smile the hopes of his friends, and told them he had lived long enough. As his life drew near a close, the eager yet decorous solicitude of his fellow townsmen increased. It is the practice of the young men of Dumfries to meet in the streets during the hours of remission from labour, and by these means I had an opportunity of witnessing the general solicitude of all ranks and of all ages, his differences with them on some important points were forgotten and for-

[·] I take the opportunity of once more acknowledging my great obligations to this gentleman who is I understand, connected by his marriage with the family of the poet

given; they thought only of his genius—of the delight his compositions had diffused—and they talked of him with the same awe as of some departing spirit, whose voice was to gladden them no more." *

"A tremour now pervaded his frame," says Dr. Currie, on the authority of the physician who attended him; "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." On the fourth,

"I went to see him laid out for the grave," says Mr. Allan Cunningham; "several elder people were with me. He lay in a plain unadorned coffin, with a linen sheet drawn over his face; and on the bed, and around the body, herbs and flowers were thickly strewn, according to the usage of the country. He was wasted somewhat by long illness; but death had not

July 21st 1796, Robert Burns died.

increased the swarthy hue of his face, which was uncommonly dark and deeply marked-his broad and open brow was pale and serene, and around it his sable hair lay in masses, slightly touched with grey. where he lay was plain and neat, and the simplicity of the poet's humble dwelling pressed the presence of death more closely on the heart than if his bier had been embellished by vanity, and covered with the blazonry of high ancestry and rank. We stood and gazed on him in silence for the space of several minutes-we went, and others succeeded us-not a whisper was heard. This was several days after his death." On the 25th of July, the remains of the poet were removed to the Trades Hall, where they lay in state until the next morning. The volunteers of Dumfries were determined to inter their illustrious comrade (as indeed he had anticipated) with military honours. The chief persons of the town and neighbourhood resolved to make part of the procession; and not a few travelled from great distances to witness the solemnity. The streets were lined by the Fen able Infantry of Angusshire, and the Cavalry of the Cinque Ports, then quarted at Dumfries, whose commander, Lord Hawksbury, (afterwards Earl of Liverpool), although he had always declined a personal introduction to the poet, + officiated as one of the chief mourners. "The multitude who accompanied Burns to the grave, went step by step," says Cunningham, "with the chief mourners. They might amount to ten or twelve thousand. Not a word was heard It was an impressive and mournful sight to see men of all ranks and persuasions and opinions mingling as brothers, and stepping side by side down the streets of Dumfries, with the remains of him who had sung of their loves and joys and domestic endearments, with a truth and a tenderness which none perhaps have since equalled. I could, indeed, have wished the military part of the pro-

cession away. The scarlet and gold—the banners displayed—the measured step, and the military array—with the sounds of martial instruments of music, had no share in increasing the solemnity of the burial scene; and had no connexion with the poet. I looked on it then, and I consider it now, as an idle ostentation, a piece of superfluous state which might have been spared, more especially as his neglected, and traduced, and insulted spirit had experienced no kindness in the body from those lofty people who are now proud of being numbered as his coevals and countrymen.

+ So Mr. Syme has informed Mr. M'Day - mid

I found myself at the brink of the poet's grave, into which he was about to descend for ever. There was a pause among the mourners, as if loath to

In the London Magazine, 1824. Article, "Robe Burns are Lord Byron."

part with his remains; and when he was at last lowered, and the first shovelful of earth sounded on his coffin lid. I looked up and saw tears on many checks where tears were not usual. The volunteers justified the fears of their comrade, by three ragged and straggling volleys. The earth was heaped up, the green sod laid over him, and the multitude stood gazing on the grave for some minutes' space, and then melted silently away. The day was a fine one, the sun was almost without a clond, and not a drop of rain fell from dawn to twilight. I notice this, not from any concurrence in the common superstition, that 'happy is the corpse which the rain rains on,' but to confute the pious fraud of a religious Magazine, which made Heaven express its wrath, at the interment of a profane poet, in thunder, in lightning, and in rain."

During the funeral solemnity, Mrs. Burns was seized with the pains of labour, and gave birth to a posthunous son, who quickly followed his father to the grave. Mr. Cunningham describes the appearance of the family, when they at last emerged from their home of sorrow:—"A weeping widow and four helpless sons; they came into the streets in their mournings, and public sympathy was awakened afresh. I shall never forget the looks of his boys, and the compassion which they excited. The poet's life had not been without errors, and such errors, too, as a wife is slow in forgiving; but he was honoured then, and is honoured now, by the unalienable affection of his wife, and the world repays her prudence and her love

by its regard and esteem."

Immediately after the poet's death, a subscription was opened for the benefit of his family; Mr. Miller of Dalswinton, Dr. Maxwell, Mr. Syme, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. M'Murdo, becoming trustees for the application of the money. Many names from other parts of Scotland appeared in the lists, and not a few from England, especially London and Liverpool. Seven hundred pounds were in this way collected; an additional sum was forwarded from India; and the profits of Dr. Currie's Life and Edition of Burns were also considerable. The result has been, that the sons of the poet received an excellent education, and that Mrs. Burns has continued to reside, enjoying a decent independence, in the house where the poet died, situated in what is now, by the authority of the Magistrates of Dumfries, called Burns' Street.

"Of the (four surviving) sons of the poet," says their uncle Gilbert in 1820, "Robert, the eldest, is placed as a clerk in the Stamp Office, London, (Mr. Burns still remains in that establishment), Francis Wallace, the second, died in 1803; William Nicoll, the third, went to Madras in 1811; and James Glencairn, the youngest, to Bengal in 1812, both as cadets in the Honourable Company's service." These young gentlemen have all, it is believed, conducted themselves through life in a manner highly honourable to themselves, and to the name which they bear. One of them (James), as soon as his circumstances permitted, settled a liberal annuity on his estimable nother, which she still survives to enjoy.

The great poet himself, whose name is enough to enhoble his children's children, was, to the eternal disgrace of his country, suffered to live and die in penury, and, as far as such a creature could be degraded by any external circumstances, in degradation. Who can open the page of burns, and remember without a blush, that the author of such verses, the human being whose breast glowed with such feelings, was doomed to earn mere bread for his child en by casting up the stock of publicans' cellars, and rid

ing over moors and mosses in quest of smuggling stills? The subscription for his poems was, for the time, large and liberal, and perhaps absolves the gentry of Scotland as individuals; but that some strong movement of indignation lid not spread over the whole kingdom, when it was known that Robert Barns, after being caressed and flattered by the noblest and most learned of his countrymen, was about to be established as a common gauger among the wilds of Niths lale—and that, after he was so established, no interference from a higher quarter arrested that unworthy career:—these are circumstances which must centinue to bear heavily on the memory of that generation of Scotsmen, and especially of those who then adminis-

tered the public patronage of Scotland.

In defence, or at least in palliation, of this national crime, two false ar guments, the one resting on facts grossly exaggerated, the other having no foundation whatever either on knowledge or on wisdom, have been rashly set up, and arrogantly as well as ignorantly maintained. To the one, namely, that public patronage would have been wrongfully bestowed on the Poet, because the Exciseman was a political partizan, it is hoped the details embodied in this narrative have supplied a sufficient answer: had the matter been as bad as the boldest critics have ever ventured to insinuate, Sir Walter Scott's answer would still have remained-" this partizan was BURNS." The other argument is a still more heartless, as well as absurd one; to wit, that from the moral character and habits of the man, no patronage, however liberal, could have influenced and controlled his conduct, so as to work lasting and effective improvement, and lengthen his life by raising it more nearly to the elevation of his genius This is indeed a candid and a generous method of judging! Are imprudence and intemperance, then, found to increase usually in proportion as the worldly circumstances of men are easy? Is not the very opposite of this doctrine acknowledged by almost all that have ever tried the reverses of Fortune's wheel themselves-by all that have contemplated, from an elevation not too high for sympathy, the usual course of manners, when their fellow creatures either encounter or live in constant apprehension of

> "The thousand ills that rise where money fails, Debts, threats, and duns, bills, bailiffs, writs, and jails?"

To such mean miseries the latter years of Burns's life were exposed, no less than his early youth, and after what natural buoyancy of animal spirits he ever possessed, had sunk under the influence of time, which, surely bringing experience, fails seldem to bring care also and sorrow, to spirits more mercurial than his; and in what bitterness of heart he submitted to his fate, let his own burning words once more tell us. "Take," says ne, writing to one who never ceased to be his friend-" take these two guineas, and place them over against that *** account of yours, which has gagged my mouth these five or six months! I can as little write good things as apologies to the man I owe money to. O, the supreme curse of making three guineas do the business of five! Poverty! thou half sister of death, thou cousin german of hell! Oppressed by thee, the man of sentiment, whose heart glows with independence, and melts with sensibility inly pines under the neglect, or writhes in bitterness of soul, under the contumely of arrogant, unfeeling wealth. Oppressed by thee, the son of genius, whose ill-starred ambition plants him at the tables of the fashionable and polite, must see, in suffering silence, his remark neglected, and

nis person despised, while shallow greatness, in his idiot attempts at wit, shall meet with countenance and applause. Nor is it only the family of worth that have reason to complain of thee; the children of folly and vice, though, in common with thee, the offspring of evil, smart equally under thy rod. The man of unfortunate disposition and neglected education, is condemned as a fool for his dissipation, despised and shunned as a needy wretch, when his follies, as usual, bring him to want; and when his necessities drive him to dishonest practices, he is abhorred as a miscreant, and perishes by the justice of his country. But far otherwise is the lot of the man of family and fortune. His early follies and extravagance, are spirit and fire; his consequent wants, are the embarrassments of an honest fellow; and when, to remedy the matter, he has gained a legal commission to plunder distant provinces, or massacre peaceful nations, he returns, perhaps, laden with the spoils of rapine and murder; lives wicked and respected, and dies a ***** and a lord !-Nay, worst of all, alas for helpless woman! the needy prostitute, who has shivered at the corner of the street, waiting to earn the wages of casual prostitution, is left neglected and insulted, ridden down by the chariot wheels of the coroneted RIP, hurrying on to the guilty assignation; she, who, without the same necessities to plead, riots nightly in the same guilty trade.—Well: divines may say of it what they please, but execretion is to the mind, what phlebotomy is to the body; the vital sluices of both are wonderfully relieved by their respective evacuations." *

In such evacuations of indignant spleen the proud heart of many an unfortunate genius, besides this, has found or sought relief: and to other more dangerous indulgences, the affliction of such sensitive spirits had often, ere his time, condescended. The list is a long and a painful one; and it includes some names that can claim but a scanty share in the apology of Burns. Addison himself, the elegant, the philosophical, the religious Audison, must be numbered with these offenders:-Jonson, Cotton, Prior, Parnell, Otway, Savage, all sinned in the same sort, and the transgressions of them all have been leniently dealt with, in comparison with those of one whose genius was probably greater than any of theirs; his appetites more fervid, his temptations more abundant, his repentance more severe. The beautiful genius of Collins sunk under similar contaminations; and those who have from dullness of head, or sourness of heart, joined in the too general clamour against Burns, may learn a lesson of candour, of mercy, and of justice, from the language in which one of the best of men, and loftiest of moralists, has commented on frailties that hurried a kindred spirit to a

"In a long centinuance of poverty, and long habits of dissipation," says Johnson, "it cannot be expected that any character should be exactly uniform. That this man, wise and virtuous as he was, passed always unentangled through the snares of life, it would be prejudice and temerity to affirm: but it may be said that he at least preserved the source of action unpolluted, that his principles were never shaken, that his distinctions of right and wrong were never confounded, and that his faults had nothing of malignity or design, but proceeded from some unexpected pressure or casual temptation. Such was the fate of Collins, with whom I once de lighted to converse, and whom I yet remember with tenderness."

like untimely grave.

[·] Letter to Mr. Peter Hill, bookseller, Edinburgh. General Correspondence, p. 328.

Burns was an honest man: after all his struggles, he owed no man a shilling when he died. His heart was always warm and his hand open. "His charities," says Mr. Gray, "were great beyond his means;" and I have to thank Mr. Allan Cunningham for the following anecdote, for which I am sure every reader will thank him too. Mr. Maxwell of Tcraughty, an old, austere, sarcastic gentleman, who cared nothing about poetry, used to say when the Excise-books of the district were produced at the meetings of the Justices,—"Bring me Burns's journal: it always does me good to see it, for it shows that an honest officer may carry a kind heart about with him."

Of his religious principles, we are bound to judge by what he has told himself in his more serious moments. He sometimes doubted with the sorrow, what in the main, and above all, in the end, he believed with the iervour of a poet. " It occasionally haunts me," says he in one of his letters, -" the dark suspicion, that immortality may be only too good news to be true;" and here, as on many points besides, how much did his method of thinking, (I fear I must add of acting), resemble that of a noble poet more recently lost to us. "I am no bigot to infidelity," said Lord Byron, " and did not expect that because I doubted the immortality of man, I should be charged with denying the existence of a God. It was the comparative insignificance of ourselves and our world, when placed in comparison with the mighty whole, of which it is an atom, that first led me to imagine that our pretensions to immortality might be overrated." I dare not pretend to quote the sequel from memory, but the effect was, that Byron, like Burns, complained of "the early discipline of Scotch Calvinism," and the natural gloom of a melancholy heart, as having between them engendered "a hypochondriacal disease," which occasionally visited and depressed him through life. In the opposite scale, we are, in justice to Burns, to place many pages which breathe the ardour, nay the exultation of faith, and the humble sincerity of Christian hope; and, as the poet himself has warned us, it well befits us

" At the balance to be mute."

Let us avoid, in the name of Religion herself, the fatal error of those who would rashly swell the catalogue of the enemies of religion. "A sally of levity," says ence more Dr. Johnson, "an indecent jest, an unreasonable objection, are sufficient, in the opinion of some men, to efface a name from the lists of Christianity, to exclude a soul from everlasting life. Such men are so watchful to censure, that they have seldom much care to look for favourable interpretations of ambiguities, or to know how soon any step of inadvertency has been expiated by sorrow and retractation, but let fly their fulminations without mercy or prudence against slight offences or casual temerities, against crimes never committed, or immediately repented. The zealot should recollect, that he is labouring, by this frequency of excommunication, against his own cause, and voluntarily adding strength to the enemies of truth. It must always be the condition of a great part of mankind, to reject and embrace tenets upon the authority of those whom they think wiser than themselves, and therefore the addition of every name to infidelity, in some degree invalidates that argument upon which the religion of multitudes is necessarily founded." * In conclusion, let me adopt

the beautiful sentiment of that illustrious moral poet of our own time, whose generous defence of Burns will be remembered while the language lasts;—

"Let no mean hope your souls enslave—
Be independent, generous, brave;
Your" Poer "such example gave,
And such revere,
But be admonished by his grave,
And think and fear." "

It is possible, perhaps for some it may be easy, to imagine a character of a much higher cast than that of Burns, developed, too, under circumstances in many respects not unlike those of his history-the character of a man of lowly birth, and powerful genius, elevated by that philosophy which is alone pure and divine, far above all those annoyances of terrestrial spleen and passion, which mixed from the beginning with the workings of his inspiration, and in the end were able to eat deep into the great heart which they had long tormented. Such a being would have received, no question, a species of devout reverence, I mean when the grave had closed on him, to which the warmest admirers of our poet can advance no pretensions for their unfortunate favourite; but could such a being have delighted his species—could be even have instructed them like Burns? Ought we not to be thankful for every new variety of form and circumstance, in and under which the ennobling energies of true and lofty genius are found addressing themselves to the common brethren of the race? Would we have none but Miltons and Cowpers in poetry-but Brownes and Southevs in prose? Alas! if it were so, to how large a portion of the species would all the gifts of all the muses remain for ever a fountain shut up and a book scaled! Were the doctrine of intellectual excommunication to be thus expounded and enforced, how small the library that would remain to kindle the fancy, to draw out and refine the feelings, to enlighten the head by expanding the heart of man! From Aristophanes to Byron, how broad the sweep, how woeful the desolation!

In the absence of that vehement sympathy with humanity as it is, its sorrows and its joys as they are, we might have had a great man, perhaps a great poet, but we could have had no Burns. It is very noble to despise the accidents of fortune; but what moral homily concerning these, could have equalled that which Burns's poetry, considered alongside of Burns's history, and the history of his fame, presents! It is very noble to be above the allurements of pleasure; but who preaches so effectually against them, as he who sets forth in immortal verse his own intense sympathy with those that yield, and in verse and in prose, in action and in passion, in life and in death, the dangers and the miscries of yielding?

It requires a graver audacity of hypocrisy than falls to the share of most men, to declaim against Burns's sensibility to the tangible cares and toils of his earthly condition; there are more who venture on broad denunciations of his sympathy with the joys of sense and passion. To these, the great moral poet already quoted speaks in the following noble passage—and must he speak in vain? "Permit me," says he, "to remind you, that it is the privilege of poetic genius to catch, under certain restrictions of which perhaps' at the time of its being exerted it is but dimly conscious, a

Wordsworth's address to the sons of Burns, on visiting his grave in 1803.

spirit of pleasure wherever it can be found,—in the walks of nature, and in the business of men.—The poet, trusting to primary instincts, luxuriates among the felicities of love and wine, and is enraptured while he describes the fairer aspects of war; nor does he shrink from the company of the pas sion of love though immoderate-from convivial pleasure though intempeate-nor from the presence of war though savage, and recognised as the hand-maid of desolation. Frequently and admirably has Burns given way to these impulses of nature; both with reference to himself, and in describing the condition of others. Who, but some impenetrable dunce or narrewminded puritant in works of art, ever read without delight the picture which he has drawn of the convivial exaltation of the rustic adventurer, Tam o' Shanter? The poet fears not to tell the reader in the outset, that his hero was a desperate and sottish drunkard, whose excesses were frequent as his opportunities. This reprobate sits down to his cups, while the storm is roaring, and heaven and earth are in confusion;—the night is driven on by song and tumultuous noise-laughter and jest thicken as the beverage improves upon the palate-conjugal fidelity archly bends to the service of general benevolence-selfishness is not absent, but wearing the mask of social cordiality-and, while these various elements of humanity are blended into one proud and happy composition of elated spirits, the anger of the tempest without doors only heightens and sets off the enjoy ment within .- I pity him who cannot perceive that, in all this, though there was no moral purpose, there is a moral effect.

"Kings may be blest, but Tam was glorious, O'er a' the ills o' life victorious."

"What a lesson do these words convey of charitable indulgence for the vicious habits of the principal actor in this scene, and of those who resemble him!—Men who to the rigidly virtuous are objects almost of loathing, and whom therefore they cannot serve! The poet, penetrating the unsightly and disgusting surfaces of things, has unveiled with exquisite skill the finer ties of imagination and feeling, that often bind these beings to practices productive of much unhappiness to themselves, and to those whom it is their duty to cherish;—and, as far as he puts the reader into possession of this intelligent sympathy, he qualifies him for exercising a salutary influence over the minds of those who are thus deplorably deceived." *

That some men in every age will comfort themselves in the practice of certain vices, by reference to particular passages both in the history and in the poetry of Burns, there is all reason to fear; but surely the general influence of both is calculated, and has been found, to produce far different effects. The universal popularity which his writings have all along enjoyed among one of the most virtuous of nations, is of itself, as it would seem, a decisive circumstance. Search Scotland over, from the Pentland to the Solway, and there is not a cottage but so poor and wretched as to be without its Bible; and hardly one that, on the same shelf, and next to it, does not possess a Burns. Have the people degenerated since their adoption of this new manual? Has their attachment to the Book of Bocks declined? Are their hearts less firmly bound, than were their fathers', to the old faith and the old virtues? I believe, he that knows the most of the country wils

be the readiest to answer all these questions, as every lover of genius and virtue would desire to hear them answered.

On one point there can be no controversy; the poetry of Burns has had most powerful influence in reviving and strengthening the national feelings of his countrymen. Amidst penury and labour, his youth fed on the old minstrelsy and traditional glories of his nation, and his genius divined, that what he felt so deeply must belong to a spirit that might lie smothered around him, but could not be extinguished. The political circumstances of Scotland were, and had been, such as to starve the flame of patriotism; the popular literature had striven, and not in vain, to make itself English; and, above all, a new and a cold system of speculative philosophy had be gun to spread widely among us. A peasant appeared, and set himself to check the creeping pestilence of this indifference. Whatever genius has since then been devoted to the illustration of the national manners, and sustaining thereby of the national feelings of the people, there can be no doubt that Burns will ever be remembered as the founder, and, alas! in his own person as the martyr, of this reformation.

That what is now-a-days called, by solitary eminence, the wealth of the nation, had been on the increase ever since our incorporation with a greater and wealthier state—nay, that the laws had been improving, and, above all, the administration of the laws, it would be mere bigotry to dispute. It may also be conceded easily, that the national mind had been rapidly clearing itself of many injurious prejudices—that the people, as a people, had been gradually and surely advancing in knowledge and wisdom, as well as in wealth and security. But all this good had not been accomplished without rude work. If the improvement were valuable, it had been purchased dearly. "The spring fire," Allan Cumingham says beautifully somewhere, "which destroys the furze, makes an end also of the nests of a thousand song-birds; and he who goes a-trouting with lime leaves little of life in the stream." We were getting fast ashaned of many precious and beautiful

things, only for that they were old and our own.

It has already been remarked, how even Smollett, who began with a national tragedy, and one of the noblest of national lyrics, never dared to make use of the dialect of his own country; and how Moore, another most enthusiastic Scotsman, followed in this respect, as in others, the example of Smollett, and over and over again counselled Burns to do the like. But a still more striking sign of the times is to be found in the style adopted by both of these novelists, especially the great master of the art, in their representations of the manners and characters of their own countrymen. In Humphry Clinker, the last and best of Smollett's tales, there are some traits of a better kind—but, taking his works as a whole, the impression it conveys is certainly a painful, a disgusting one. The Scotsmen of these authors, are the Jockeys and Archies of farce—

Time out of mind the Southrons' mirthmakers-

the best of them grotesque combinations of simplicity and hypocrisy, pride and meanness. When such men, high-spirited Scottish gentlemen, possessed of learning and talents, and, one of them at least, of splendid genius, felt, or fancied, the necessity of making such submissions to the prejudices of the dominant nation, and did so without exciting a murmur among their own countrymen, we may form some notion of the boldness of Burns's experiment; and on contrasting the state of things then with what is before us

now, it will cost no effort to appreciate the nature and consequences of the victory in which our poet led the way, by achievements never in their kind to be sur assed. "Burns," says Mr. Campbell, "has given the elixir vite to his dialect;"—he gave it to more than his dialect. "He was," says a writer, in whose language a brother poet will be recognised—"he was in many respects born at a happy time; happy for a man of genius like him, but fatal and hopeless to the more common mind. A whole world of life lay before Burns, whose inmost recesses, and darkest nooks, and sunniest eminences, he had famil arly trodden from his childhood. All that world he felt could be made his own. No conqueror had overrun its fertile provinces, and it was for him to be crowned supreme over all the

' Lyric singers of that high-soul'd land.'

The crown that he has won can never be removed from his head. Much is yet left for other poets, even among that life where his spirit delighted to work; but he has built monuments on all the high places, and they who follow can only hope to leave behind them some far humbler memorials."*

Dr. Currie says, that " if fiction be the soul of poctry, as some assert, Burns can have small pretensions to the name of poet." The success of Burns, the influence of his verse, would alone be enough to overturn all the systems of a thousand definers; but the Doctor has obviously taken fiction in far too limited a sense. There are indeed but few of Burns's pieces in which he is found creating beings and circumstances, both alike alien from his own person and experience, and then by the power of imagination, divining and expressing what forms life and passion would assume with, and under these.—But there are some; there is quite enough to satisfy every reader of Hallowe'en, the Joliy Beggars, and Tam o' Shanter, (to say nothing of various particular songs, such as Bruce's Address, Macpherson's Lament, &c.), that Burns, if he pleased, might have been as largely and as successfully an inventor in this way, as he is in another walk, perhaps not so inferior to this as many people may have accustomed themselves to believe; in the art, namely, of recombining and new-combining, varying, embellishing, and fixing and transmitting the elements of a most picturesque experience, and most vivid feelings.

Lord Byron, in his letter on Pope, treats with high and just contempt the laborious triffing which has been expended on distinguishing by airdrawn lines and technical slang-words, the elements and materials of poetical exertion; and, among other things, expresses his scorn of the attempts that have been made to class Burns among minor poets, merely because he has put forth few large pieces, and still fewer of what is called the purely imaginative character. Fight who will about words and forms, "Burns's rank," says he, "is in the first class of his art;" and, I believe, the world at large are now-a-days well prepared to prefer a line from such a pen as Byron's on any such subject as this, to the most luculent dissertation that ever perplexed the brains of writer and of reader. Sentio, ergo sum, says the metaphysician; the critic may safely parody the saying, and assert that that is poetry of the highest order, which exerts influence of the most

powerful order on the hearts and minds of mankind.

Burns has been appreciated duly, and he has had the fortune to be praised eloquently, by almost every poet who has come after him. To accu-

mulate all that has been said of him, even by men like himself, of the first order, would fill a volume—and a noble monument, no question, that volume would be—the noblest, except what he has left us in his own immortal verses, which—were some dross removed, and the rest arranged in a chronological order—would I believe form, to the intelligent, a more perfect and vivid history of his life than will ever be composed out of all the materials in the world besides.

"The impression of his genius," says Campbell, "is deep and universal; and viewing him merely as a poet, there is scarcely another regret connected with his name, than that his productions, with all their merit, fail short of the talents which he possessed. That he never attempted any great work of fiction, may be partly traced to the cast of his genius, and partly to his circumstances, and defective education. His poetical temperament was that of fitful transports, rather than steady inspiration. Whatever he might have written, was likely to have been fraught with passion. There is always enough of interest in life to cherish the feelings of genius; but it requires knowledge to enlarge and enrich the imagination. Of that knowledge which unrolls the diversities of human manners, adventures and characters, to a poet's study, he could have no great share; although he stamped the little treasure which he possessed in the mintage of sove-

reign genius." *

" Notwithstanding," says Sir Walter Scott, "the spirit of many of his lyrics, and the exquisite sweetness and simplicity of others, we cannot but deeply regret that so much of his time and talents was frittered away in compiling and composing for musical collections. There is sufficient evidence, that even the genius of Burns could not support him in the monotonous task of writing love verses, on heaving bosoms and sparkling eyes, and twisting them into such rhythmical forms as might suit the capricious evolutions of Scotch reels and strathspeys. Besides, this constant waste of his power and fancy in small and insignificant compositions, must necessarily have had no little effect in deterring him from undertaking any grave or important task. Let no one suppose that we undervalue the songs of Burns. When his soul was intent on suiting a favourite air to words humorous or tender, as the subject demanded, no poet of our tongue ever displayed higher skill in marrying melody to immortal verse. But the writing of a series of songs for large musical collections, degenerated into a slavish labour which no talents could support, led to negligence, and, above all, diverted the poet from his grand plan of dramatic composition. To produce a work of this kind, neither, perhaps, a regular tragedy nor comedy, but something partaking of the nature of both, seems to have been long the cherished wish of Burns. He had even fixed on the subject, which was an adventure in low life, said to have happened to Robert Bruce, while wandering in danger and disguise, after being defeated by the English. The Scottish dialect would have rendered such a piece totally unfit for the stage; but those who recollect the masculine and lofty tone of martial spirit which glows in the poem of Bannockburn, will sigh to think what the character of the gallant Bruce might have proved under the hand of Burns. It would undoubtedly have wanted that tinge of chivalrous feeling which the manners of the age, no less than the disposition of the monarch, demanded, but this deficiency would have been more than supplied by a bard who could have drawn from his own perceptions, the unbending energy of a

[·] Specimens, vol. vii. 241.

hero sustaining the desertion of friends, the persecution of enemies, and the utmost malice of disastrous fortune. The scene, too, being partly laid in humble life, admitted that display of broad humour and exquisite patnos, with which he could, interchangeably and at pleasure, adorn his cottage Nor was the assemblage of familiar sentiments incompatible in Burns, with those of the most exalted dignity. In the inimitable tale of Tam o' Shanter, he has left us sufficient evidence of his abilities to comoine the ludicrous with the awful, and even the horrible. No poet, with the exception of Shakspeare, ever possessed the power of exciting the most varied and discordant emotions with such rapid transitions. His humourous description of death in the poem on Dr. Hornbook borders on the terrific, and the witches' dance in the kirk of Alloa is at once ludicrous and horrible. Deeply must we then regret those avocations which diverted a fancy so varied and so vigorous, joined with language and expression suited to all its changes, from leaving a more substantial monument to his own fame, and to the honour of his country."

The cantata of the Jolly Beggars, which was not printed at all until some time after the poet's death, and has not been included in the editions of his works until within these few years, cannot be considered as it deserves, without strongly heightening our regret that Burns never lived to execute his meditated drama. That extraordinary sketch, coupled with his later lyrics in a higher vein, is enough to show that in him we had a master capable of placing the musical drama on a level with the loftiest of our classical forms. Beggar's Bush, and Beggar's Opera, sink into tameness in the comparison; and indeed, without profanity to the name of Shakspeare, it may be said, that out of such materials, even his genius could hardly have constructed a piece in which imagination could have more splendidly predominated over the outward shows of things—in which the sympathy-awakening power of poetry could have been displayed more triumphantly under circumstances of the greatest difficulty.—That remarkable performance, by the way, was an early production of the Mauchline period. I

know nothing but the Tam o' Shanter that is calculated to convey so high

an impression of what Burns might have done.

As to Burns's want of education and knowledge, Mr. Campbell may not have considered, but he must admit, that whatever Burns's opportunities had been at the time when he produced his first poems, such a man as he was not likely to be a hard reader, (which he certainly was), and a constant observer of men and manners, in a much wider circle of society than almost any other great poet has ever moved in, from three-and-twenty to eight-and thirty, without having thoroughly removed any pretext for auguring unfavourably on that score, of what he might have been expected to produce in the more elaborate departments of his art, had his life been spared to the usual limits of humanity. In another way, however, I cannot help suspecting that Burns's enlarged knowledge, both of men and books, produced an unfavourable effect, rather than otherwise, on the exertions, such as they were, of his later years. His generous spirit was open to the impression of every kind of excellence; his lively imagination, bending its own vigour to whatever it touched, made him admire even what other people try to read in vain; and after travelling, as he did, over the general surface of our literature, he appears to have been somewhat startled at the consideration of what he himself had, in comparative ignorance, adventured, and to have been more intimidated than encouraged by the retrospect

In most of the new departments in which he made some trial of his strength, [such, for example, as the moral epistle in Pope's vein, the heroic satire, &c.), he appears to have soon lost heart, and paused. There is indeed one magnificent exception in Tamo' Shanter—a piece which no one can understand without believing, that had Burns pursued that walk, and poured out his stores of traditionary lore, embellished with his extraordinary powers of description of all kinds, we might have had from his hand a series of national tales, uniting the quaint simplicity, sly humour, and irresistible pathos of another Chaucer, with the strong and graceful versification, and masculine wit and sense of another Dryden.

This was a sort of feeling that must have in time subsided.—But let us not waste words in regretting what might have been, where so much is.—Burns, short and painful as were his years, has left behind him a volume in which there is inspiration for every fancy, and music for every mood; which lives, and will live in strength and vigour—" to soothe," as a generous lover of genius has said—" the sorrows of how many a lover, to inflame the patriotism of how many a soldier, to fan the fires of how many a genius, to disperse the gloom of solitude, appease the agonies of pain, encourage virtue, and show vice its ugliness;" *—a volume, in which, centuries hence, as now, wherever a Scotsman may wander, he will find the dearest censolation of his exile.—Already has

Glory without end Scattered the clouds away; and on that name attend The tears and praises of all time."+

The mortal remains of the poet rest in Dumfries churchyard. For nineteen years they were covered by the plain and humble tombstone placed over them by his widow, bearing the inscription simply of his name. But a splendid mausoleum having been erected by public subscription on the most elevated site which the churchyard presented, the remains were solemnly transferred thither on the 8th June 1815; the original tombstone having been sunk under the bottom of the mausoleum. This shrine of the poet is annually visited by many pilgrims. The inscription it bears is given Another spiendid monumental edifice has also been erected to his memory on a commanding situation at the foot of the Carrick hills in Ayrshire, in the immediate vicinity of the old cottage where the poet was born; and such is the unceasing, nay daily increasing veneration of his admiring countrymen, that a third one, of singular beauty of design, is now in progress, upon a striking projection of that most picturesque eminence-the Calton Hill of Edinburgh -The cut annexed to p. cxxxvi. exhibits a view, necessarily but an imperfect one, of the monument lamentioned.

See the Censura Literaria of Sir Egerton Brydges, vol. ii. p. 55 Lord Byron's Child Hateld, Canto iv. 36.

INSCRIPTION UPON THE POET'S MONUMENT IN DUMFRIES CHURCHYARD.

IN AETERNUM HONOREM ROBERTI BURNS

POETARUM CALEDONIAE SUI AEVI LONGE PRINCIPIS
CUJUS CARMINA EXIMIA PATRIO SERMONE SCRIPTA
ANIMI MAGIS ARDENTIS VIQUE INGENII
QUAM ARTE VEL CULTU CONSPICUA
FACETIIS JUCUNDIFATE LEPORE AFFLUENTIA
OMNIBUS LITTERARUM CULTORIBUS SATIS NOTA
CIVES SUI NECNON PLERIQUE OMNES
MUSARUM AMANTISSIMI MEMORIANQUE VIRI
ARTE FOETICA TAM PRAECLARI FOVENTES
HOC: MAUSOLE IJM

HOC MAUSOLEUM

SUPER RELIQUIAS POETAE MORTALES

EXTRUENDUM CURAVERE
PRIMUM HUJUS AEDIFICH LAPIDEM
GULIELMUS MILLER ARMIGER

REIPUBLICAE ARCINITECTONICAE AFUD SCOTOS

IM REGIONE AUSTRALI CURIO MAXIMUS PROVINCIALIS

GEORGIO TERTIO REGNANTE

GEORGIO WALLIARUM FRINCIPE

SUMMAM IMPERII PRO PATRE TENENTE

JOSEPHO GASS ARMIGERO DUMFRISIAE FRAEFECTO

THONA F. HUNT LONDINENSI ARCHITECTO

POSUIT

NONIS JUNIIS ANNO LUCIS VMDCCCXV

The many poetical effusions the Peot's death gave rise to, presents a wide field for selection .- The elegiac verses by Mr. Roscoe of Liverpool have been preferred, as the most fitting sequel to his eventful life

ON

THE DEATH OF BURNS.

REAR high thy bleak majestic hills, Thy shelter'd valleys proudly spread, And, Scotta, pour the thousand rills, And wave thy heatlis with blossoms red; But, ah! what poet now shall tread Thy airy heights, thy woodland reign, Since he, the sweetest bard, is dead, That ever breath'd the southing strain !

As green thy towering pines may grow, As clear thy streams may speed along, As bright thy summer suns may glow, As gaily charm thy feathery throng; But now, unheeded is the song, And dull and lifeless all around, For his wild harp lies all unstrung, And cold the hand that waked its sound.

What though thy vigorous offspring rise, In arts, in arms, thy sons excel: Tho' beauty in thy daughters' eyes. And health in every feature dwell? Yet who shall now their praises tell, In strains impassion'd, fond, and free, Since he no more the song shall swell To love, and liberty, and thee?

With step-dame eye and frown severe His hapless youth why didst thou view? For all thy joys to him were dear, And all his vows to thee were due; Nor greater bliss his bosom knew, In opening youth's delightful prime, Than when thy favouring car he drew To listen to his chaunted rhyme.

Thy lonely wastes and frowning skies To him were all with rapture fraught ; He heard with joy the tempest rise That waked him to sublimer thought; And oft thy winding dells he sought, [fume, And let the carcless moments roll Where wild-flowers pour'd their rathe per-And with sincere devetion brought To thee the summer's earliest bloom.

But an! no fond maternal smile His unprotected youth enjoy'd. His limbs inur'd to early toil, 11is days with early hardships tried; And more to mark the gloomy void, And bid him feel his misery Before his infant eyes would glide Day-dreams of immortality.

"et, not by cold neglect depress'd, With sinewy ann he turn'd the soil, sank with the evening sun to rest. And met at morn his earliest smile. Naked by his rustic pipe, meanwhile The powers of fancy came along, And south'd his lengthened hours of toil, With native wit and sprightly song.

-Ah! days of bliss, too swiftly fled, When vigorous health from labour springs And bland contentment smooths the bed. And sleep his ready opiate brings; And hovering round on airy wings Float the light forms of young desire, That of unutterable things The soft and shadowy hope inspire.

Now spells of mightier power prepare, Bid brighter phantoms round him dance ; Let Flattery spread her viewless snare, And Fame attract his vagrant glance: Let sprightly Pleasure too advance, Unveil'd her eyes, anclasp'd her zone, Till, lost in love's delirious trance, He scorns the joys his youth has known.

Let Friendship pour her brightest blaze, Expanding all the bloom of soul; And Mirth concentre all her rays And point them from the sparkling bows In social pleasure unconfined, And confidence that spurps control Unlock the inmost springs of mind :

cxxxvi

ON THE DEATH OF BURNS.

And lead his steps those bowers among, Where elegance with splendour vies, Or Science bels her favour'd throng To more refined sensations rise: Beyond the peasant's humbler joys, And freed from each laborious strife, There let him learn the bliss to prize That waits the sons of polish'd life.

Then whilst his throbbing veins beat high With every impulse of delight, Dash from his lips the cup of joy, And shroad the seene in shades of night; And let Despair, with wizard light, Disclose the yawning gulf below, And pour incessant on his sight Her spectred ills and shapes of woe:

And show beneath a cheerless shed, With sorrowing heart and streaming eyes, In silent grief where droops her head, The partner of his early joys; And let his infants' tender cries
His fond parental succour claim,
And bid him hear in agonies
A husband's and a father's name.

"Tis done, the powerful charm succeeds; His high reluctant spirit bends; In bitterness of soul he bleeds, Nor longer with his fate contends. An idiot laugh the welkin rends. As genius thus degraded lies; Till putying Heaven the veil extends That shrouds the Poet's ardent eyes.

—Rear high thy bleak majestic hills, Thy shelter'd valleys proudly spread, And, Scorlat, poar thy thousand rills, And wave thy heaths with blossoms red; But never more shall poet tread Thy airy heights, thy woodland reign, Since he, the sweetest bard, is dead, That ever breathed the soothing strain.



CHARACTER

OF

BURNS AND HIS WRITINGS,

BY

MRS. RIDDELL OF GLENRIDDELL.

The attention of the public seems to be much occupied at present with the loss it has recently sustained in the death of the Caledonian poet, Robert Burns; a loss calculated to be severely felt throughout the literary world, as well as lamented in the narrower sphere of private friendship. It was not therefore probable that such an event should be long unattended with the accustomed profusion of posthumous anecdotes and memoirs which are usually circulated immediately after the death of every rare and celebrated personage: I had however conceived no intention of appropriating to myself the privilege of criticising Burns's writings and character, or of anticipating on the province of a biographer.

Conscious indeed of my own inability to do justice to such a subject, I should have continued wholly silent, had misrepresentation and calumny been less industrious; but a regard to truth, no less than affection for the memory of a friend, must now justify my offering to the public a few at least of those observations which an intimate acquaintance with Burns, and the frequent opportunities I have had of observing equally his happy qualities and his failings for several years past, have enabled me to communicate.

It will actually be an injustice done to Burns's character, not only by future generations and foreign countries, but even by his native Scotland, and perhaps a number of his contemporaries, that he is generally talked of, and considered, with reference to his poetical talents only: for the fact is, even allowing his great and original genius its due tribute of admiration, that poetry (I appeal to all who have had the advantage of being person ally acquainted with him) was actually not his forte. Many others, perhaps, may have ascended to prouder heights in the region of Parnassus but none certainly ever outshone Burns in the charms—the sorcery, I

[&]quot; Mrs. Riddell knew the poet well; she had every opportunity for observation of what he said and did, as well as of what was said of him and done towards him. Her beautfully written Elege,—Irrendly yet condid, e-was well received and generally circulated at the time. It has been inserted by Dr. Currie in his several editions, as interesting from its elegance, and authoritative from the writer's accurate information; we have therefore most readily given it a place here.

exxxviii CHARACTER OF BURNS AND HIS WRITINGS.

would almost call it, of fascinating conversation, the spontaneous eloquence of social argument, or the unstudied poignancy of brilliant repartee; nor was any man, I believe, ever gifted with a larger portion of the ' vivida vis animi.' His personal endowments were perfectly correspondent to the qualifications of his mind: his form was manly; his action, energy itself; devoid in great measure perhaps of those graces, of that polish, acquired only in the refinement of societies where in early life he could have no opportunities of mixing; but where, such was the irresistible power of attraction that encircled him, though his appearance and manners were always peculiar, he never failed to delight and to excel. His figure seemed to bear testimony to his earlier destination and employments. It seemed rather moulded by nature for the rough exercises of Agriculture, than the gentler cultivation of the Belles Lettres. tures were stamped with the hardy character of independence, and the firmness of conscious, though not arrogant, pre-eminence; the animated expressions of countenance were almost peculiar to himself; the rapid lightnings of his eye were always the harbingers of some flash of genius, whether they darted the fiery glances of insulted and indignant superiority, or beamed with the impassioned sentiment of fervent and impetuous His voice alone could improve upon the magic of his eye: sonorous, replete with the finest modulations, it alternately captivated the ear with the melody of poetic numbers, the perspicuity of nervous reasoning, or the ardent sallies of enthusiastic patriotism. The keenness of satire was, I am almost at a loss whether to say, his forte or his foible; for though nature had endowed him with a portion of the most pointed excellence in that dangerous talent, he suffered it too often to be the vehicle of personal, and sometimes unfounded, animosities. It was not always that sportiveness of humour, that "unwary pleasantry," which Sterne has depicted with touches so conciliatory; but the darts of ridicule were frequently directed as the caprice of the instant suggested, or as the altercations of parties and of persons happened to kindle the restlessness of his spirit into interest or aversion. This, however, was not invariably the case; his wit, (which is no unusual matter indeed), had always the start of his judgment, and would lead him into the indulgence of raillery uniformly acute, but often unaccompanied with the least desire to wound. The suppression of an arch and full-pointed bon mot, from a dread of offending its object, the sage of Zurich very properly classes as a virtue only to be sought for in the Calendar of Saints; if so, Burns must not be too severely dealt with for being rather deficient in it. He paid for his mischievous wit as dearly as any one could do. "Twas no extravagant arithmetic," to say of him, as was said of Yorick, that " for every ten jokes he got a hundred enemics;" but much allowance will be made by a candid mind for the splenetic warmth of a spirit whom "distress had spited with the world," and which, unbounded in its intellectual sallies and pursuits, continually experienced the curbs imposed by the waywardness of his fortune. The vivacity of his wishes and temper was indeed checked by almost habitual disappointments, which sat heavy on a heart that acknowledged the ruling passion of independence, without having ever been placed beyond the grasp of penury. His soul was never languid or inactive, and his genius was extinguished only with the last spark of retreating life. His passions rendered him, according as they disclosed themselves in affection or antipathy, an object of enthusiastic attachment, or of decided enmity: for he possessed none of that negative insipidity of chacacter, whose love might be regarded with indifference, or whose resentment could be considered with contempt. In this, it should seem, the temper of his associates took the tincture from his own; for he acknowledge ed in the universe but two classes of objects, those of adoration the most fervent, or of aversion the most uncontrolable; and it has been frequently a reproach to him, that, unsusceptible of indifference, often hating, where he ought only to have despised, he alternately opened his heart and poured forth the treasures of his understanding to such as were incapable of appreciating the homage; and elevated to the privileges of an adversary, some who were unqualified in all respects for the honour of a contest so distinguished.

It is said that the celebrated Dr. Johnson professed to "love a good nater"—a temperament that would have singularly adapted him to cherish a prepossession in favour of our bard, who perhaps fell but little short even of the surly Doctor in this qualification, as long as the disposition to ill-will continued; but the warmth of his passions was fortunately corrected by their versatility. He was seldom, indeed never, implacable in his resentments, and sometimes, it has been alleged, not inviolably faithful in his engagements of friendship. Much indeed has been said about his inconstancy and caprice; but I am inclined to believe, that they originated less in a levity of sentiment, than from an extreme impetuosity of feeling, which rendered him prompt to take umbrage; and his sensations of pique, where he fancied he had discovered the traces of neglect, scorn, or unkindness, took their measure of asperity from the overflowings of the opposite sentiment which preceded them, and which seldom failed to regain its ascendancy in his bosom on the return of calmer reflection. He was candid and manly in the avowal of his errors, and his avowal was a reparation, His native fierté never forsaking him for a moment, the value of a frank acknowledgment was enhanced tenfeld towards a generous mind, from its never being attended with servility. His mind, organized only for the stronger and more acute operations of the passions, was impracticable to the efforts of superciliousness that would have depressed it into humility, and equally superior to the encroachments of venal suggestions that might have led him into the mazes of hypocrisy.

It has been observed, that he was far from averse to the incense of flattery, and could receive it tempered with less delicacy than might have been expected, as he seldom transgressed extravagantly in that way himself; where he paid a compliment, it might indeed claim the power of intoxication, as approbation from him was always an honest tribute from the warmth and sincerity of his heart. It has been sometimes represented, by those who it should seem had a view to depreciate, though they could not hope wholly to obscure that native brilliancy, which the powers of this extraordinary man had invariably bestowed on every thing that came from his lips or pen, that the history of the Ayrshire ploughboy was an ingenious fiction, fabricated for the purposes of obtaining the interests of the great, and enhancing the merits of what in reality required no The Cotter's Saturday Night, Tam o' Shanter, and the Mountain Daisy, besides a number of later productions, where the maturity of his genius will be readily traced, and which will be given to the public as soon as his friends have collected and arranged them, speak sufficiently for themselves; and had they fallen from a hand more dignified in the rank of society than that of a peasant, they had perhaps bestowed as unusual a

grace there, as even in the humbler shade of rustic inspiration from whence

they really sprung.

To the obscure scene of Burns's education, and to the laborious, though honourable station of rural industry, in which his parentage enrolled him, almost every inhabitant of the south of Scotland can give testimony. only surviving brother, Gilbert Burns, now guides the ploughshare of his forefathers in Ayrshire, at a farm near Mauchline; * and our poet's eldest son (a lad of nine years of age, whose early dispositions already prove him to be in some measure the inheritor of his father's talents as well as indigence) has been destined by his family to the humble employments of the loom. +

That Burns had received no classical education, and was acquainted with the Greek and Roman authors only through the medium of translations, is a fact of which all who were in the habits of conversing with him, might readily be convinced. I have indeed se.dom observed him to be at a loss in conversation, unless where the dead languages and their writers have been the subjects of discussion. When I have pressed him to tell me why he never applied himself to acquire the Latin, in particular, a language which his happy memory would have so soon enabled him to be master of, he used only to reply with a smile, that he had already learnt all the Latin he desired to know, and that was Omnia vincit amor; a sentence that, from his writings and most favourite pursuits, it should undoubtedly seem that he was most thoroughly versed in; but I really believe his classic erudition extended little, if any, farther.

The penchant Burns had uniformly acknowledged for the festive pleasures of the table, and towards the fairer and softer objects of nature's creation, has been the rallying point from whence the attacks of his censors have been uniformly directed; and to these, it must be confessed, he shewed himself no stoic. His poetical pieces blend with alternate happiness of description, the frolic spirit of the flowing bowl, or melt the heart to the tender and impassioned sentiments in which beauty always taught him to pour forth his own. But who would wish to reprove the feelings he has consecrated with such lively touches of nature? And where is the rugged moralist who will persuade us so far to "chill the genial current of the soul," as to regret that Ovid ever celebrated his Corinna, or that Anacreon sung beneath his vine?

I will not however undertake to be the apologist of the irregularities even of a man of genius, though I believe it is as certain that genius never was free from irregularities, as that their absolution may in a great measure be justly claimed, since it is perfectly evident that the world had continued very stationary in its intellectual acquirements, had it never given birth to any but men of plain sense. Evenness of conduct, and a due regard to the decorums of the world, have been so rarely seen to move hand in hand with genius, that some have gone as far as to say, though there I cannot wholly acquiesce, that they are even incompatible; besides, the frailties that cast their shade over the splendour of superior merit, are more conspicuously glaring than where they are the attendants of mere medi-

* The fate of this worthy man is noticed at p. 302, where will be found a deserved tribute

to his memory, (for he, too, alas I is gone), from the pen of a friend.

+ The plan of breeding the poet's eldest son a manufacturer was given up. He has been placed in one of the public offices (the Stamp-Office) in London, where he continues to fill respectably a respectable situation. His striking likeness to the poet bas born often 10marked

ocrity. It is only on the gem we are disturbed to see the dust; the pebble may be soiled, and we never regard it. The eccentric intuitions of genius too often yield the soul to the wild effervescence of desires, always unbounded, and sometimes equally dangerous to the repose of others as fata. to its own. No wonder then if virtue herself be sometimes lost in the blaze of kindling animation, or that the calm monitions of reason are not invariably found sufficient to fetter an imagination which scorns the narrow limits and restrictions that would chain it to the level of ordinary minds. The child of nature, the child of sensibility, unschooled in the rigid precepts of philosophy, too often unable to control the passions which proved a source of frequent errors and misfortunes to him, Burns made his own artless apology in language more impressive than all the argumentatory vindications in the world could do, in one of his own poems, where he delineates the gradual expansion of his mind to the lessons of the "tutelary muse," who concludes an address to her pupil, almost unique for simplicity and beautiful poetry, with these lines:

> "I saw thy pulse's madd'ning 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 have already transgressed beyond the bounds I had proposed to myself, on first committing this sketch to paper, which comprehends what at least I have been led to deem the leading features of Burns's mind and character: a literary critique I do not aim at; mine is wholly fulfilled, if in these pages I have been able to delineate any of those strong traits that distinguished him.—of those talents which raised him from the plough, where he passed the bleak morning of his life, weaving his rude wreaths of poesy with the wild field-flowers that sprang around his cottage, to that enviable eminence of literary fame, where Scotland will long cherish his memory with delight and gratitude; and proudly remember, that beneath her cold sky a genius was ripened, without care or culture, that would have done honour to climes more favourable to those lux-ariances—that warmth of colouring and fancy in which he so eminently excelled.

From several paragraphs 1 have noticed in the public prints, ever since the idea of sending this sketch to some one of them was formed, I find private animosities have not yet subsided, and that envy has not yet exhausted all her shafts. I still trust, however, that herest fame will be permanently affixed to Burns's character, which I think it wil oe found he has merited by the candid and impartial among his countrymen. And where a recollection of the imprudences that sullied his brighter qualifications interpose, let the imperfection of all human excellence be remembered at the same time, leaving those inconsistencies, which alternately exalted his nature into the seraph, and sunk it again into the man, to the tribunal which alone can investigate the labyrinths of the human heart—

"Where they alike in trembling hope repose,

The bosom of his father and his God."

GRAY'S ELEGY.

Annandale, August 7, 1796.

[.] Vide the Vision-Duan 2d.



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 turned my wild, artless notes, as she inspired.—She whispered me to come to this ancient Metropolis of Caledonia, and ay my Songs 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 me 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 profer my warmest wishes to the Great Fountain of Honour, the Monarch of the Universe, for your welfare and happiness.

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 Scats; 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 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 BURNG

April 4, 1787.

POEMS,

CHIEFLY SCOTTISH.

THE TWA DOGS:

A TALE.

Twas is that place o' Scotland's isle,
That nears the name o' Auld King Coil,
Upon a bonnie day in June,
When wearing thro' the afternoon,
Twas dogs that were an thrang at hame,
Forgather'd ance upon a time.

The first I'll name they ca'd him Casar, Was keepit for his Honour's pleasure; His hair, his size, his mouth, his lugs, Show'd he was nane o' Scotland's dogs; But whalpit some place far alroad, Where sailors gang to fish for cod.

His locked, letter'd, braw brass collar Show'd him the gentleman and scholar: But tho' he was o' high degree,
The fient a pride na pride had he;
But wad has spent an hour caressin',
Ev'n with a tinkler gipsey's messin'.
At kirk or market, mill or smiddie,
Nae tawted tyke, tho' e'er sac duddie,
But he wad stan't, as glad to see him,
And stroan't on stanes an' hillocks wi' him,

The tither was a ploughman's collie, A rhyming, ranting, raving billie, Wha for his friend an comrade had him, And in his freaks had Luath ca'd him, Anter some dog in Highland sang,* Was made lang syne—Lord knows how lang.

He was a gash an' faithfu' tyke, As ever lap a sheugh or dyke. His honest, sonsie, baws'nt face, Aye gat him friends in ilka place. His breast was white, his towzie back Wed clad wi' coat o' glossy black; His gawcie tail, wi' upward curl, Hurg o'er his hurdies wi' a swurl. Naedoubt but they were fain o' ither, An' unon pack an' thick thegither; Wi' social noise whyles sunif'd and snowhit; Whyles mice and mowdieworts they howkit; 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, And there began a lang digression, About the lords o' the creation

CÆSAB.

I've often wonder'd honest Luath, What sort o' life poor dogs like you nave. An' when the gentry's life I saw, What way poor bodies lived ava.

Our Laird gets in his racked rents, His coals, his kain, and a' his steats; His rises when he likes himsel'; His flunkies answer at the hell; He ca's his coach, he ca's his horse; He draws a bonnie silken purse, As lang's my tail, whare, thro' the stecks, The yellow letter'd Geordie keeks.

Frae morn to e'en its nought but toiling,
At baking, roasting, frying, boiling;
An' tho' the gentry fast are stechin',
Yet ev'n the ha' folk fill their pechan
Wi's sauce, ragouts, and sic like trashtrie,
That's little short o' downright wastrie.
Our Whipper-in, wee blastit wonuer,
Poor worthless elf, it eats a dinner,
Better than ony tenant man
His Honour hus in a' the lan':
An' what poor cot-folk pit their painch in,
I own its past my comprehension.

LUATH.

Trowth, Casar, whyles they're fash't eneugh
A cotter howkin in a sheugh,
Wi' dirty stanes biggin a dyke,
Baring a quarry, and sic like,
Himself, a wife, he thus sustains,
A smytrie o' wee duddie weans,
An' nought but his han' darg, to keep
Them right and tight in thack an' rape.

Cuchullin's dog in Ossian's Fingal.

An' when they meet wi sair disasters, Like loss o' health, or want of masters, Ye maist wad think, a wee touch langer, An' they mann starve o' cauld and hunger; But, how it comes, I never ken'd yet, They're maistly wonderfu' contented; An' buirdly chiels, an' clever hizzies, Are bred in sic a way as this is.

CASAR

But then to see how ye're negleckit, How huf'd, and cull'd, and disrespeckit! L—d, man, our gentry care as little For delvers, ditchers, and sic cattle; They gang as saucy by poor fo'k, As I wad by a stinking brock.

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 mann thole a factor's soash; He'll stamp an' threaten, curse au' swear, He'll apprehend them, poind their gear; While they mann stan', wi' aspect humble, An' hear it a', au' fear an' tremble!

I see how folk live that hac riches; But surely poor folk maun be wretches.

LUATH.

They're nae sae wretched's ane wad think; Tho' constantly on poortith's brink; They're sae accustomed wi' the sight, The view o't gi'es them little fright.

Then chance an' fortune are sae guided, They're aye 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 grushie weans an' faithfu' wives; The prattlin things are just their pride That sweetens a' their fire-side.

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

As bleak-fac'd Hallowmas returns, They get the jovial. rantin' kirns, When raral lyfe, o' every station, Unite in common recreation: Love blinks, Wit slaps, an' social Mirth Forgets there's Care upo' the earth.

That merry I y the rear begins, They bar the accor on frosty winds; The nappy recks we' manthing re* w An' sheds a heart-inspiring steam; The luntin' pipe, ar d sneeshin' mill, Are handed round wi' right guid will: The cantie auld folks crackin' crouse, The young anes rantin' thro' the house,— My heart has been sue fain to see them, That I for joy hae barkit wi' them.

Still it's owre true that ye hae said, Siz game is now owre aften play'd. There's moie a creditable stock O' decent, honest, fawsont fo'k, Are riven out baith root and branch, Some rascal's pridefu' greed to quench, Wha thinks to knit himself the faster In favours wi' some gentle master, Wha aiblins thrang a parliamentin', For Britain's guid his saul indentin'-

CÆSAR.

Haith, lad, ye little ken about it

For Britain's guid !—guid faith, I doubt it

Say, rather, gaun as Premiers lead him,

An' sayin' aye or no's they bid him:

At operas an' plays parading,

Mortgaging, gambling, masquerading;

Or may be, in a frolic daft,

To Hague or Calais takes a waft,

To mak a tour, and tak a whirl,

To learn bon ton and see the worl'

There, at Vienna, or Versailles,
He rives his father's and entails!
Or by Madrid he takes the rout,
To thrum guitars and feeht wi' nowt;
Or down Italian vista startles,
Wh—re-honting among groves o' myrtles:
Then bouses drumly German water,
To mak himsel' look fair and fatter,
An' clear the consequential sorrows
Love gifts of Carnival signoras.
Love gifts of Carnival signoras.
For Britain's guid!—for her destruction,
Wi' dissipation, fewd, an' faction.

LUATH.

Hech man! dear sirs! is that the gate They waste sae mony a braw 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 themselves wi' countra sports, It wad for every ane be better, The Laird, the Tenaot, an' the Cotter: For thae frank, rantin', ramblin' billies, Fient haet o' them's ill-hearted fellows; Except for breakin' o' their timmer, Or speakin' lightly o' their limmer, Or shootin' o' a hare or moor-cock, The ne'er a bit they're ill to poor folk.

But will ye tell me, Marter Casar, Sure great folk's 'i''e's a l''e o ple sore! Ne cavid or hunger e'et can ster them, The very thought o't need na fear them. CESAR.

L-d, man, were ye but whyles where 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' gripes an' granes : But human bodies are sic fools, For a' their colleges an' schools, That when nae real ills perplex them, They mak enow themselves to vex them. An' aye the less they hae to sturt them, In like proportion less will hart them ; A country fellow at the pleugh, His acres till'd, he's right enough; A country girl at her wheel, Her dizzens done, she's unco weel; But Gentlemen, an' Ladies warst, Wi' ev'ndown want o' wark are curst, They luiter, lounging, lank, an' lazy; Tho' deil haet ails them, yet nneasy; Their days insipid, dull, an' tasteless; Their nights unquiet, lang, an' restless; An' ev'n their sports, their balls, an' races, Their gallopin' through public places. There's sie parade, sie pomp, an' art, The joy can scarcely reach the heart. The men cast out in party matches, Then sowther a' in deep debauches : Ae night they're mad wi' drink an wh-ring, Neist day their life is past enduring. The ladies arm-in-arm in clusters, As great and gracious a' as sisters ; But hear their absent thoughts o' ither, They're a' run deils an' jads thegither. Whyles o'er the wee bit cup and platie, They sip the scandal potion pretty; Or lee lang nights, wi' crabbit leuks Pore owre the devil's pictur'd benks; Stake on a chance a farmer's stackyard, An' cheat like ony unhang'd blackguard.

There's some exception, man an' woman; But this is Gentry's life in common.

By this the sun was out o' sight: An' darker gloaming brought the night: The bum-clock humm'd w' lazy drone; The kye stood rowtin' i' the loan: When up they gat an shook their lugs, Reioic'd they were na men but dogs; And each took aff his several way, Resolv't to met some ither day.

SCOTCH DRINK

Gie him strong drink, until he wink, That's sinking in des, air; An' liquor guid to fire his bluid, That's prest wi' grief an' care; There let him bouse, and deep carouse
Wi bumpers thowing o'er,
Till he forgets his brees or debts,
An' minds his griefs no more.
Solomon's Provines, xxxi. 6, 7.

Let other poets raise a fracus,

Bout vines, and wines, and drunken Bacchus,
An' crabbit names an 'stories wrack us,
An' grate our lug,
I sing the juice Socts 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, ream o'er the brink,
In glorious faem,
Inspire me, till I lisp and wink,
To sing thy name.

Let husky Wheat the haughs adorn, And Aits set up their awnie horn, Ao' Pease and Beans at e'en or morn, Perfume the plain, Leeze me on thee, John Barlegoorn, Thou king o' grain!

On thee aft Scotland chows her cood,
In supple scones, the wail o' food!
Or tumblin' in the boiling flood,
Wi' kail an' beef;
But when thou pours thy strong heart's blood
There thou shines chief

Food fills the wame, an' keeps us livin'; Tho' life's a gift no worth receivin', When heavy dragg'd wi' pine and grievin'; But oil'd by thee, The wheels o' life gae down-hill, scrievin', Wi' rattlin' glee.

Thou clears the head o' doited Lear;
Thou cheers the heart o' drooping Care;
Thou strings the nerves o' Labour sair;
At's weary toil;
Thou even brightens dark Despair
Wi' cloomy smile.

Aft, clad in massy silver weed, Wife 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 morning
In cog or bicker

BURNS' WORKS.

An' just a wee drap sp'ritual hurn in, An' gusty sucker!

When Yulcan gies his bellows breath, An' ploughmen gather wi' their graith, O rare! to see the fizz an' freath I' the lugget caup! Then Burnewin o comes on like death At ev'ry chanp.

Nae mercy, then, for airn or steel; The brawnie, bainie, ploughman chiel', Brings hard owrehip, wi' sturdy wheel, The strong forehammer, Till block an' studdie ring an reel Wi'd dusome clamour.

When skirlin weanies see the light,
Thou maks the gossips clatter bright,
How fumlin' cuifs their dearies slight,
Wae worth the name!
Nac howdie gets a social night,
Or black frac them.

When neebours anger at a plea,
An' just as wad as wad can be,
How easy can the barley bree
Cement the quarrel;
It's aye the cheapest lawyer's fee,
To taste the barrel.

Alake! that e'er my Muse has reason To wyte her countrymen wi' treason; But mony daily weet their weason Wi' liquors nice, An' hardly, in a winter's season, E'er spier her price,

Wae worth that brandy, burning trash, Fell source o' monie a pain an' brash! Twins monie a poor, doylt, drunken hash, O' half his days; An' sends, beside, auld Scotland's cash To her warst faes.

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' whishy punch W' honest men.

O Whisky! soul o' plays an' pranks! Accept a Bardie's humble thanks! When wanting thee, what tuneless cranks Are my poor verses!

• Burnewin-Burn-the-wind - the blacksmith - an appropriate title.

Thou comes—they rattle i' their ranks
At ither's a-s!

Thee, Ferintosh! O sadly lost! Scotland, lament frae coast to coast! Now colic grips, and barkin hoast, May kill us a'; For loyal Forbes' chartered boast sa'en awa'!

Thae curst horse leeches o' th' Excise,
Wha mak the Whishy Stells their prize!
Haud up thy han', Deil! ance, twice, thriwe!
There, seize the blinkers!
An' bake them up in brunstane pies
For poor d—n'd drinkers.

Fortune! if thou'll but gie me still Hale breeks, 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 thee best.

THE AUTHOR'S

EARNEST CRY AND PRAYER .

TO THE

SCOTCH REPRESENTATIVES

IN THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

YE Irish Lords, Ye Knights an' Squires, Wha represent our braghs an' shires, And doucely manage our affairs In parliament, To you a simple I cets prayers Are humbly sent.

Alas! my roupet Muse is hearse! Your honours' hearts wi' grief 'twad pierce To see her sittin' on her a— Low i' the dust,

An' screichin' out prosaic verse, An' like to brust!

Tell them wha has the chief direction, Scotland an' me's in great affliction, E'er sin they laid that curst restriction On Aquavita.

An' trues them up to strong conviction

An' rouse them up to strong conviction

An' move their pity.

This was written before the act anent the Scoal Distilleries, of session 1786; for which Scotland and the Author return their most grateful thanks.

Star forth, an' tell you Premier Youth, The h est, open, naked truth : Tell ln o' mine and Scotland's drouth. His servants humble : The mu kle devil blaw ye south, If ye dissemble!

Does my great man glunch an' gloom! Speak out, an' never fash your thumb: Let pose- an' pensions sink or soom Wi' them wha grant 'em :

If honest,y they canna come,

Far better want 'em.

In gat, ring votes you were na slack : Now stard 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 crack Before them a'

Paint Scotland greeting owre her thrissle : Her mutche n stoup as toom's a whissle; An' d-mn'd Excisemen in a bussle, Seizin' a stell. Triumphant rushin't like a mussel, Or lampit shell.

Then on the tither hand present her, A blackguard souggler right behint her, An' cheek-for-coow, a chuffie Vintner, Colleaguing join, Picking her poucr as bare as winter Of a' kind coin.

Is there, that bear the name o' Scot, But feels his heart's uid rising hot, To see his poor auld dither's pot Thus dung in staves, An plunder'd o' her lu most groat By Jows knaves?

Alas! I'm but a namele wight, Trode i' the mire out o' sigt But could I like Montgomerie 6ght, Or gab lik Boswell, There's some sark-necks I wad craw tight, An' tie some i se well.

God bless your Honours, can ye see't, The kind, auld, cantie Carlin greet, An' no get warmly to your feet, An gar them hear it, An' tell them wi' a patriot heat, Ye winna bear it !

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

Dempster, a true blue Scot I'se warran ; Thee, aith-letesting, chaste Kilherran;

An' that glib-gabbet High and Baron, The Laird o' Graham : * An' ane, a chap that's dann'd auldfarran. Dundas his name.

Erskine, a spunkie Norland billie; True Campbells, Frederick an' Ilay ; An' Livingstone, the bauld Sir Willie; An' mony ithers, 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, Ye'll see't or lang, She'll teach you, wi' a reckin' whittle, Anither sang.

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

An' L-d if ance they pit her till't, 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' the first she meets!

For G-d sake, Sirs! then speak her fair, An' straik her cannie wi' the hair, An' to the muckle house repair, Wi' instant speed, An' strive, wi' a' your wit an' lear, To get remead.

You ill-tongu'd tinkler, Charlie Fox, May taunt you wi' his jeers au' mocks; But gie him't het, my hearty cocks! E'en cowe the caddie An' send him to his dicing box An' sportin' lady.

Tell you guid bluid o' auld Bockonnoch's. I'll be his debt twa mashlum bannocks, An' drink his health in auld Nunse Tinnocks, Nine times a week, If he some scheme, like tea and winnocks, Wad kindly seek.

Could he some commutation broach, I'll piedge my aith in guid braid Scotch, He need na tear their foul reproach Nor erudition,

You mixtie-maxtie queer hotel-potch, The Coalition,

Auld Scotland has a rauele torgue; She's just a devil wi' a rung;

The present Duke of Montrose.—(1800-)
 † A worthy old Hostess of the Author's in Mauch-fine, where he sometimes studies Politics over a glass of guid auld Scotch Drink.

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

God bless your Honours a' your days, Wi' sonps o' kail and brats o' claise, In spite o' a' the thievish kaes 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 wines, rich clust 'ring rise; Their lot auld Scotland ne'er envies, But blithe and frisky, She eyes her freeborn martial boys.

Tak aff their Whisky.

What tho' their Phoebus kinder warms, hile fragrance blooms and 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 shouther;
They downs bide the stuk o' pouther;
Their bauldest thought's a hank 'ning swither
To stan' or rin,
Till skelp—a shot—they're aff, a' throwther,
To save their skin.

But bring a Scotsman frae his hill, Clap in his cheek a Highland gill, Say, such is royal George's will, 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, with fearless eye he sees him; Wi' bluidy hand a welcome gies him; Au' when he fa's, His latest draught o' breathin' lea'es him In faint huzzus.

Sages their solemn een may steek,
An raise a philosophic reek,
An' physically causes seek,
In clime an' season;
But tell me Whishy'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 tine your dam;
(Freedom and Whisky gang thegither!)
Tak aff your dram!

THE HOLY FAIR.

A robe of seeming truth and trust Hild crafty Observation; And secret hung with poison'd crust, The dirk of Defamation: A mask that like the gorget show'd Dye-varying on the pigeon; And for a mantle large and broad, He wrant him in Religion.

Upow a simmer Sunday morn,
When Nature's face is fair,
I walked forth to view the corn,
An' snulf the callar air.
The rising sun owre Galston muirs.
Wi' glurious light was glintin';
The hares were hirplin' down the 'urs,
The lav'rocks they were chantin'
Fu' sweet that day.

As lightsomely I glowr'd abroad
To see a scene sae gay,
Three hizzies, early at the road,
Can skelpin' up the wa';
Can skelpin' up the wa';
But ane wi' lyart lining;
The third that gaed a wee a-back,
Was in the fashion snning,
Fu' gay that day.

THE twa appear'd like sisters twin, In feature, form, an' class;
Their visage wither'd, lang, an' thin, An' sour as ony slass;
The third came up, hap-stap-an'-loup, As light as ony lammie, An' wi' a curchic low did stoop, As soon as e'er sie saw me, Fu' kind that day

IV.
Wi bannet aff, quoth I, 'Sweet lass,
I think ye seem to ken me;
I'm sure I've seen that honnie face,
But yet I canna name ye.'
Quo' she, an' laughin' as she spak,
An' tak's me by the hunds,
'Ye, for my sake, ha'e gi'en the feck
Of a' the ten commands

A screed some day.

* Holy Fair is a common phrase in the west of Scot land for a sacramental occasion.

v.

" My name is Fun—your cronic dear,
The nearest friend ye ha'e;
An' this is Superstition here,
An' that's Hypocriss,
I'm gaun to Holy Fair,

I'm gaun to —— Holy Fair,
To spend an hour in daffin';
Gin ye'll go there, you runk'ed pair,
We will get famous lrughin'
At them this day.

VI.

Quoth I, 'With a' my heart I'll do't; I'll get my Sunday's sark on, An' meet you on the holy spot; Faith we'se hae fine remarkin'! Then I gaed hame at crowthe time, An soon I made me ready; For roads were clod, free side to side, Wi' monie a weary body,

VII

Here farmers gash, in ridin' graith Gaed hoddin' by their cotters; Their swankies young, in braw braid-claith Are springin' o'er the gutters. The lasses, skelpin' barefoot, thrang,

In silks an' scarlets glitter; Wi' sweet-milk cheese in morie a whang, An' faris bak'd wi' butter,

Fu' crump that day.

In droves that day.

III.

When by the plate we set our nose,
Weel heaped up wi' ha'pence,
A greedy glowr Black Bonnet throws,
An' we mann draw our tippence.
Then in we go to see the show,
On ev'ry side they're gatherin',
Some carrying deals, some chairs an' stools,
An' some are busy bletherin',
Right boud that day.

137

Here stands a shed to fend the show'rs,
An' screen our countra Gentry,
There, racer Jess, an' twa-three whores,
Are blinkin' at the entry.
Here sits a raw of tithin' jides,
Wi' heavin' breast and bare neck,
An' there a batch of wabster lads,
Blackgoardin' frac K.——ek,

X.

For fun this day.

Kere some are thinkin' on their sins, An' some upo' their clase; An curses feet that fyld his shins, Anither sighs an' prays; On this hand sits a chosen swatch, Wi' serow'd up grace-proud faces; On that a set o' chops at watch, Thrang winkin' on the lasses To chairs that day XI.

O happy is the 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 loof upon her boson
Unken'd that day.

XII.

XIII.

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'! His lengthen'd chin, his turu'd-up snout, His eldnitch squeet and gestures, Oh, how they fire the heart devout, Like cantharidian plasters,

On sie a day!

XIV.

But hark! the tent has chang'd its voice;
There's peace and rest nac larger:
For a' the real judges its.
They canna sit for anger.
On practice and on notals;
An' aff the godly pour in thrangs,
To gie the jars an' barrels
A lift that day.

XV.

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

XVI.

In guid time comes an antidote
Against sic poison'd nostrum:
For ______, frac the water-fit,
Ascends the holy rostrum:
See, up he's got the word a' God,
An' meek an' mim has view'd it,

While Common-sense has ta'en the road, An' aff, an' up the Cowgate, * Fast, fast, that day

XVII.

- neist the guard relieves, An' orthodoxy raibles, Tho' in his heart he weel believes. And thinks it auld wives' fables: But, faith; the birkie wants a manse So cannily he hums them;

Altho' his carnal wit and sense Like hafflins-ways o'ercomes him At times that day,

XVIIL

Now but an' ben, the change-house fills, Wi' vill-caup commentators: Here's crying out for bakes and gills, And there the pint stoup clatters; While thick an' thrang, an' loud an' lang, Wi' logic, an' wi' Scripture, They raise a din, that in the end, Is like to breed a rupture

XIX. Leeze me on Drink! it gi'es us mair

O' wrath that day.

Than either School or College: It kindles wit, it wankens lair, It pangs us fou o' knowledge. Be't whisky gill, or penny wheep, Or ony stronger potion, It never fails, on drinking deep, To kittle up our notion By night or day.

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

But now the L-d's am trumpet touts, Till a' the bilis are rairin', An' echoes back return the shouts: Black _____ is na spairin': His piercing words, like Highland swords, Divide the joints an marrow; His talk o' Hell, where devits dwell, Our very sauls does harrow t Wi' fright that day.

XXII.

A vast, unbottom'd houndless pit, Fill'd fon o' lowin' brunstane,

Wha's ragin' flame an' scorchin' heat, Wad melt the hardest whun-stane The half asleep start up wi' fear, An' think they hear it roarin, When presently it does appear, 'Twas but some neighbour snorin Asleep that day.

XXIII.

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

XXIV.

In comes a gaucie, gask guidwife. An' sits down by the fire. Syne draws her kebbuck an' her knife. The lasses they are shyer. The suld 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! for him that gets nac less, Or lasses that hae nacthing ! Sma' need has he to say a grace Or melvie 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!

XXVI.

Now Clinkumbell, wi' rattlin' tow, Begins to jow an' croon; Some swagger hame, the best they dow, Some wait the afternoon. At slaps 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.

XXVII.

How monie hearts this day converts O' sinners and o' lasses Their hearts o' stane, gin night, are game As saft as ony flesh is. There's some are fou o' love divine; There's some are fou o' brandy; An' mony jobs that day begin, May end in houghmagandie Some ither day

A street so called, which faces the end in Shakespeare's Hamlet.

DEATH AND DOCTOR HORN-11 red ve weel, tak care e' skaith, BOOK .

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, at times, to vend, And nail't wi' Scripture.

But this that I am gaun to tell, Which lately on a night befell, L just as true's the De'ils in hell Or Dublin city:

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

The Clachan vill had made me eanty, I was nae fou, but just had plenty; I stacher'd whiles, but yet took tent aye To free the ditches : An' hillocks, stanes, an' bushes, kenn'd aye Frae ghaists an' witches.

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

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

I there wi' Something did forgathes, That put me in an cerie swither: An' awfu' scythe, out-owre ac shouther, Clear-dangling, hang; A three-taed leister on the ither, Lay, large and lang.

Its stature seem'd lang Scotch ells twa. The queerest shape that e'er I saw, For fient a wame it had ava; And then, its shanks.

They were as thin, as sharp, an' sma' As cheeks o' branks. 'Guid-een,'quo'I; 'Friend! hae ye been mawin',

When ither folk are basy sawin'?' . It seem'd to mak' a kind o' stan', But naething spak: At length, says I, ' Friend, where ye gaun, Will ye go back?

It spak right howe, - ' My name is Death, But be na fley'd.'-Quoth I, ' Guid faith, Ye're maybe come to stap my breath; But tent me, billie :

See there's a galy !"

' Guidman,' quo' he, ' put up your whittle, I'm no design'd to try its mettle: But if I did, I wad be kittle To be mislear'd.

I wadna mind it, no, that spittle Out owre my beard.

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

Come gie's your news : This while * ye hae been mony a gate, At mony a house.'

' Ay, ay !' quo' he, an' shook his head. 'Its een a lang, lang time indeed Sin' I began to nick the thread. An' choke the breath:

Folk mann do something for their bread. An' sae mann Death.

Sax thousand years are nearhand fled Sin' I was to the butching bred. An' mony a scheme in vain's been laid, To stap or sear me; Till ane Hornbook 's + taen up the trade. An' faith, he'd waur me

' Ye ken Jock Hornbook, i' the Clachan, Deil mak his king's hood in a spleuchan ! He's grown sae weel acquaint wi' Buckan ! An' ither chaps,

The weans haud out their fingers laughin' An' pouk my hips.

See, here's a scythe, and there's a dart, They hae piere'd mony a gallant heart: But Doctor Hornbook, wi' his art And cursed skill,

Has made them baith no worth a f-t, Damn'd haet they'll kill.

'Twas but yestreen, nue farther gaen, I threw a noble throw at ane; Wi' less, I'm sure, I've bundreds slain ; But deil-ma-care,

It just play'd dirl on the bane, But did nae mair.

' Hornbook was by, wi' ready art, And had sae fortified the part, That when I looked to my dart, It was sae blunt,

Fient haet o't wad hae piere'd the heart Of a kail-runt.

I drew my scythe in sic a fury,

 An epidemical fever was then raging in that country
 † This gentlem on, Dr. Hornbook, is, professionally
 a brother of the Sovereign Order of the Ferula; but by intuition and inspiration, is at once an Apothecary Surgeon, and Physician.

‡ Buchan's Domest's Medicine.

This rencounter happened in seed-time, 1785.

I nearhand coupit wi' my hurry,
But yet the bauld **Apothecary**
Withstood the shock;
I might as weel hae tried a quarry
O' hard whin rock.

· An' then a' doctors' saws and whittles, Of a' dimensions, shapes, an' mettles, A' kinds o' boxes, mugs, an' bottles, He's sure to hae; Their Latin names as fast he rattles As A B C.

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

'Forbye some new, uncommon weapons, Urinus Spiritus ot capons; Or Mite-horn shavings, filings, scrapings; Distill'd per se; Sal-alkali o' Midge-tail clippins, An' mory mae,'

4 Waes me for Johnny Ged's Hole * now; Quo'1, * If that the news be true! His braw calf-ward where gowans grew, Sae white an' bonnie, Nae doubt they'll rive it wi' the plough; They'll ruin Johnny!

The creature grain'd an eldritch laugh, An' says, 'Ye need na yoke the pleugh, Kirk-yards will soon he till'd eneugh, Tak ye nae fear; They'll a' be trench'd wi' mony a sheugh In twa-three year.

'Whare I kill'd ane a fair strae death, By less 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 claith, By drap an' nill.

An honest Wabster 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 slade cannie to her hed.

But ne'er spak mair.

' A courtra Laird had ta'en the batts, Or some et murring in his guts,

* The grave-digger.

His only son for Hornbook sets,

An' pays him well;

The lad, for twa guid gimmer pets,

Was laid himsel'

'A bonnie lass, ye ken her name, Some ill-brewn drink had hov'd her wane; She trusts hersel', to hide the shame, In Hambealta area,

In Hornbook's care; Horn sent her aff to her lang hame, To hide it there.

'That's just a swatch o' Hornbook's way; Thus goes he on from day to day, Thus does he poison, kill, an' slay,

An's weel paid for't;
Yet stops me o' my lawfu' prey,
Wi' his damn'd dirt.

'But hark! I'll tell you of a plot, Though dinna ye he speaking o't; I'll nail the self-conceited sot,

As dead's a herrin'; Neist time we meet, I'll wad a groat, He gets his fairin'!'

But just as he began to tell,
The auld kirk-hammer strak the bell,
Some wee short hour ayout the twal,
Which rais'd us baith
I took the way that pleased mysel'.

And sae did Death.

THE BRIGS OF AYR:

A POEM.

INSCRIBED TO J. B Eso. Ayr.

The simple Bard, rough at the rustic plough, Learning his tuneful trade from every bough; The chanting linet, or the mellow thrush, Hailing the setting sun, sweet, in the green thorn bush:

The soaring lark, the perching red-breast shrill, Or deep-toned plovers, grey, wild whistling o'er the hill;

Shall be, nurst in the Peasant's lowly shed, To hardy independence bravely bred, By early Poverty to hardship steel'd, And train'd to arms in stern Misfartune

And train'd to arms in stern Misfortune' field—
Shall be be guilty of their hireling crimes,

Shain he do guilty of their fareing crimes, The servile, mercenary Swiss of rhymes? Or labour hard the panegyric close, With all the venal soul of tedicating Prose? No! though his artless strains he rudely sings, And throws his hand uncountly o'er the strings He glows with all the spirit of he Bard, Fame, honest fame, his great, his dear reward, Fame, honest fame, his great, his dear reward, Still, if some Patron's generous care he trace, Skilled in the secret, to hestow with grace; When B——— befriends his humble rame And hands the rustic stranger up to James.

With heart-felt throes his grateful

swells, The godlike t) give alone excels.

'Twas when the stacks get on their winter And thack and rape secure the toil-won crap:

Fotatoe bings are snugged up frae skaith Of coming Winter's biting, frosty breath; The bees, rejoicing o'er their simmer toils, Unnumber'd buds an' flowers' delicions 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'd wi' brimstone

The thundering guns are heard on ev'ry side, The wounded coveys, reeling, scatter wide; The feather'd field-mates, bound by Nature's tie, Sires, mothers, children, in one carnage 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 wi' arry 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 wanton in the rays.

'Twas in that season, when a simple bard, Unknown and poor, simplicity s reward, Ae night, within the ancient brugh of Ayr, By whim inspired, or haply prest wi' care, He left his bed, and took his wayward route, And down by Simpson's * wheel'd the left about:

(Whether impell'd by all-directing Fate To 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-clock, + had number'd two, And Wallace tower + had sworn the fact was *r110 *

The tide-swoln Firth, with sullen-sounding

Thro' the still night dash'd hoarse along the

All else was hush'd as Nature's coved e'e: The silent moon shone high o'er tow'r and tree: The chilly frost, beneath the silver beam, Crept, gently-crusting, o'er the glittering stream.

When, lo! on either hand the list'ning bard, The clanging sough of whistling wings be heard ;

Two dusky forms dart thro' the midnight air, Pwift as the Gos t drives on the wheeling hare;

I noted tavern at the Aul I Brig end.
The two streptes.
The gos-hawk, or falcen.

bosom | Ane on th Auld Brig his airy shape uprears, The ither flutters o'er the rising piers : Our warlike Rhymer instantly descry'd The Sprites that owre the Brigs of Ayr preside. (That Bards are second-sighted is nae joke, An' ken the lingo of the sp'ritual folk; Fays, Spunkies, Kelpies, a' they can explain them, And ev'n the vera deils they brawly ken them. ? Auld Brig appear'd of ancient Pictish race, The very wrinkles Gothic in his face: He seem'd as he wi' Time had warstl'd lang Yet toughly doure, he bade an unco bang. New Brig was buskit in a braw new coat, That he, at Lon'on, frae ane Alams got; In's hand five taner staves as smooth's a bead, Wi' virls and whirlygigums at the head. The Goth was stalking round with anxious search.

Soving the time-worn flaws in every arch; It chanc'd his new-come neebor took his e'e, And e'en a vex'd an' angry heart had he! Wi' thieveless sneer to see each modish mien, He, down the water, gies him thus guide'en-

AULD BRIG.

I doubt na', frien', ve'il think ye're nae sheep .

Ance we were streekit o'er frae bank to bank! But gin ve be a brig as auld as me, Tho' faith that day I doubt ye'll never see; There'll be, if that day come, I'll wad a boddle, Some fewer whigmaleeries in your noddle

NEW BRIG.

Auld Vandal, ye but show your little mense, Just much about it wi' your scanty sense; Will your poor narrow foot-path of a street, Where two wheel-barrows tremble when they meet,

Your ruin'd formless bulk, o' stane an' lime, Compare wi' bonnie Brigs o' modern time? There's men o' taste would tak' the Ducat stream.

Tho' they should cast the very sark and swim, Ere they would grate their fee ings wi' the view Of sie an ugly Gothie hulk as you.

AULD BRIG.

Conceited gowk! puff'd up wi' windy pride! This monie a year I've stood the flood an' tide An' tho' wi' crazy eild I'm sair forfairn, 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 bette.. 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 beil, Or where the Greenock winds his moorland course.

Or haunted Garpal + draws his feeble source,

^{*} A noted ford, just above the Auld Brig.
† The banks of Garpal Water is one of the few places

Arous d by blust'ring winds and spetting thowes, In mony a torrent down his sa-broo rowes; While crashing ice, borne on the roaring speat, Sweeps dams, an' mills, an' brigs, a' to the

And from Glenbuck* down to the Ratton key, Auld Aur is just one lengthen'd tumbling sea; Then down ye'll hurl, deil nor ye never rise! And dash the gumlie jaups up to the pouring

A lesson sadly teaching, to your cost, That Architecture's noble art is lost!

NEW BRIG.

Fine Architecture, trowth, I needs must say't

The L-d be thankit that we've tint the gate o't!

Gaunt, ghastly, gaist-alluring edifices, Hanging with threat'ning jut, like precipices ; O'er-arching, mouldy, gloom-inspiring coves, Supporting roofs fantastic, stony groves; Windows and doors, in nameless sculpture drest.

With order, symmetry, or taste unblest; Forms like some bedlam statuary's dream, The eraz'd creations of misguided whim; Forms might be worshipp'd on the bended knee.

And still the second dread command be free, Their likeness is not found on earth, in air, or

Mansions that would disgrace the building taste Of any mason, reptile, bird, or heast; Fit only for a doited Monkish race, Or frosty maids forsworn the dear embrace, Or cuifs of later times, who held the notion That sullen gloom was sterling true devotion; Fancies that our guid Brugh denies protection, And soon may they expire, unblest with resurrection!

AULD BRIG.

O ye, my dear-remember'd ancient yealings, Were ye but here to share my wounded feelings! Ye worthy Proveses, an' mony a Bailie, Wha in the paths o' righteousness did toil ave; Ye dainty Deacons, an ye douce Conveners, To whom our moderns are but causeycleaners;

Ye godly Councils who has blest this town : Ye godly Brethren of the sacred gown, Wha meekly gae your hurdies to the smiters; And (what would now be strange) ye godly Writers :

A' ye douce folk I've borne aboon the brook Were ye but here, what would ye say or do! How would your spirits groan in deep vexation

To see each melancholy alteration;

in the West of Scotland, where those fancy-scaring be-In the west of scottand, where those rancy-scaring or Ings, known by the name of Ghabts, still continue pertonaciously to inhabt.

• The source of the river Ayr.

• A smaal landing place above the large key.

And agonizing, curse the time and place When ye begat the base, degenerate race! Nae langer Rev'rend Men, their count:y'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 staumrel, corky-headed, graceless Gentry, The herryment and ruin of the country; Men, three parts made by tailors and by bar-

Wha waste your well-hain'd gear on dnew Brigs and Harbours !

Now hand you there! for faith ye've said enough,

And muckle mair than ye can mak to through, As for your Priesthood, I shall say but little, Corbies and Clergy are a shot right kittle : But, under favour o' your langer beard, Abuse o' Magistrates might weel be spared: To liken them to your auld warld squad, I must needs say comparisons are odd. In Ayr, Wag-wits nae mair can hae a handie To mouth 'a Citizen,' a term o' scandal: Nae mair the Council waddles down the

In all the pomp of ignorant conceit; Men wha grew wise priggin' owre hops an' raisins.

Or gather'd lib'ral views in Bonds and Seisins. If haply Knowledge, on a random tramp, Had shored them with a glimmer of his lamp, And would to Common-sense, for once betrayed them.

Plain dull Stupidity stept kindly in to aid them.

What farther clishmaclaver might been said, What bloody wars, if Sprites had blood to

No man can tell ; but all before their sight, A fairy train appear'd in order bright: Adown the glitt'ring stream they featly danced: Bright to the moon their various dresses glanced:

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' Lauchlin. * thairm-inspiring 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 melting airs, The lover's raptured joys or bleeding cares; How would his Highland lug been nobler fir'd, And even his matchless hand with finer touch inspir'd!

A well known performer of Scottish music on the

No guess could tell wnat instrument appear'd, But all the soul of Music's self was heard; Harmonious concert rung in every part, While simple medody pour'd moving on the heart.

The Genius of the stream in front appears, A venerable chief advanced in years; His hoary head with water-lilies crown'd,

His manly leg with garter tangle 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

And Summer, with his fervid-beaming eye:
All-cheering Plenty, with her flowing horn,
Led yellow Autumn wreath'd with nodding
corn;

V. Come let a proper text be read,
An' touch it alf w' vigon;

Then Winter's time-bleached locks did hoary show,

By Haspitality with cloudless brow; Next follow'd Courage with his martial stride, From where the Feal wild-woody coverts hide; Benevolence, with mild benignant air, A female form, came from the tow'rs of Stair-Learning and Worth in equal measures trode From simple Catrine, their long-low'd abode. Last, white-rold'd Peace, crown'd with a hazel

To rustic Agriculture did bequeath
The broken iron instruments of death:
At sight of whom our Sprites forgat their kindling wrath.

THE ORDINATION.

For sense they little owe to Frugal Heav'n-To please the Mob they hide the little giv'n.

KILMARNOCK Wabsters, fidge an' claw, An' pour your creeshie nations; An' ye wha leather rax an' draw, Of a' denominations.

Swith to the Laigh Kirk, ane an' a',
An' there tak up your stations;
Then aff to Begbie's in a raw,

An' pour divine libations For joy this day.

II.

Curst Common-sense, that imp o' hell,
Cur in wi' Maggie Lauder;

But O ______ aft made her yell,
An' R _____ sair misca'd her;
This day, M'-____ takes the flail,
An' he's the boy will blaud her!

 Alloding to a scoffing ballad which was made on the admission of the late Reverend and worthy Mr. L. to the Laigh Kirk. He'll clap a shangan on her tail, An' set the bairns to daud her Wi' dirt this day

III.

Mak haste an' turn king David owre,
An' lit wi' holy clangor;
O' double verse come gie us four,
An' skirl up the Bangor:
This day the Kirk kirks up a stoure,
Nae mair the knuves shall wrang her
For heresy is in her power,
And gloriously she'll whang her
Wi' pith this day.

IV.

Come let a proper text be read,
An' touch it aff w' vigour,
How graceless Ham • leggh 1: his Dad,
Which made Canaan a niges:
Or Phineas † drove the murdering bads,
W' whore-abhorring rigour;
Or Zipporah, † the scaulling jade,
Was like a bluidy tiger
I' the inn that day,

v.

There, try his mettle on the creed,
An' 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,
An' punish each transgression;
Especial, rams that cross the breed,
Gie them sufficient threshin',
Spare them nae day.

VI

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

VII.

Nae mair by Babel's streams we'll weep,
To thick upon our Zion;
An' hing our fiddles up to sleep,
Like baby-clouts a-dryin';
Come, screw the pegs with tunefa' cheep,
An' owre the thairns be tryin';
Oh, rare! to see our elbucks wheep,
An' a like lamb-tails flyin'
Fu' fast this day.

VIII

Lang Patronage, wi' rod o' airn, Has shored the Kirk's undoin'.

Genesis, ch. ix. ver. 22. Numbers, ch. xxv. ver. 8. Exodus, ch. iv. ver 25.

As lately Fenwick, sair forfairn, Has proven to its ruin: Our Patron, honest man! Glencairn, He saw mischief was brewin': An' like a godly elect bairn, He's wal'd us out a true ane.

An' sound this day.

Now R harangue nae mair. But steek 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 Netherton repair. Au' turn a carper weaver

Aff hand this day.

and you were just a match, We never had sic twa drones; Auld Hornie did the Laigh Kirk watch, Just like a winkin' bandrons : An' ave he catch'd the tither wretch, To fry them in his caudrons: But now his bonour maun detach, Wi' a' his brimstone squadrons, Fast, fast, this day.

See, see auid Orthodoxy's faes, She's swingein' through the city; Ifark how the nine-tail'd cat she plays! I vow it's unco pretty: There, Learning, wi' his Greekish face. Grunts out some Latin ditty : An' Common-sense is gaun, she says, To mak to Jamie Beattie Her plaint this day.

But there's Morality himsel', Embracing a' 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! New there—they're packed aff to hell, An' banish'd our dominions, Henceforth this day

O happy day! rejoice, rejoice! Come house about the porter! Morality's demnre decoys Shall here nae mair find quarte: : M'----, R-----, are the Joys, That heresy can ortu. They'll gie u or on a rape a hoyse, I z' cowe her measure shorter By the head some day.

Come bring the tither matchkin in. An' here's for a conclusion,

To every New Light * mother's son. From this time forth, Confusion: If mair they deave us wi' their din, Or Patronage intrusion, We'll light a spunk, an' ev'ry skin, We'll rin them aff in fusion Like oil, some day

THE CALF.

TO THE REV. MR.

On his Text, Malacni, ch. iv. ver. 2. And they shall go forth, and grow up, like calves of he stall.

RIGHT SIR! your text I'll prove it true, Though Heretics may laugh ; For instance; there's yoursel' just now, God knows, an unco Calf !

An' should some Patron be so kind. As bless you wi' a kirk, I doubt nae, Sir, but then we'll find. Ye're still as great a Stirk.

But, if the Lover's raptur'd hour Shall ever be your lot, Forbid it, every heavenly Power, You e'er should be a Stot!

Tho', when some kind, connubial Dear, Your but-and-ben 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, Few men o' sense will doubt your claims To rank amang the newte.

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!'

ADDRESS TO THE DEIL

O Prince! O Chief of many throned Power's That led th' embattled Scraphim to war .- Millon.

O THOU! whatever title suit thee.

Auld Hornie, Satan, Nick, or Clootie, Wha in you cavern grim an' sootie, Clo 'd ui dei

Spairges abo 1. the "unstane cootie, To scaud poor wretches

Hear me, auld Hangie, for a wee, An' let poor damned bodies be ;

* New Light is a cant phrase in the West of Sectland, for those religious opinions which Dr. Taylor of Norwich has defended so strenuously.

I'm sure sma' pleasuve it can gie, E'en to a deil, To skelp an' scaud poor dogs like me. An' hear ns squeel!

Great is thy pow'r, an' great thy fame;
'ar kend and noted is thy name;
An' tho' you lowin' heigh's thy hame,
Thou travels far;
An' faith! thou's neither lag nor lame,
Nor blate nor scaur

Whyles, ranging like a roarin' lion, For prey, a' holes and corners tryin'; Whyles on the strong-wing'd tempest flyin', Tirling the kirks; Whyles, in the human bosom pryin', Unseen thou lurks.

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

When twilight did my Graunie summon,
To say her prayers, douce honest woman!
Aft yout the dyke she's heard you bummin'!
Wi' eerie drone;
Or, rustlin', thro' the boortries comin',

Wi' heavy groan.

Ae dreary, windy, winter night, The stars shot down wi' sklentin' light, Wi' you, mysel', I gat a fright,

Ayont the lough;
Ye, like a rash-bush, stood in sight,
Wi' waving sough.

The eudgel in my nieve did shake, Each bristi'd hair stood like a stake, When wi' an eldritch stoor, quaick—quaick— Amang the springs, Awa ye squatter'd, like a drake, On whistling wings,

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

Thence countra wives, wi' toil an' pain,
May plunge an' plunge the kirn in vain;
For, oh! the yellow treasure's ta'en
By witching skill;
An' dawtit, twal-pint Hawkie's gane
As yell's the Bill,

Thence mystic kints mak great abuse.
On young Guinn n, food, keen, an' crouse;
War 'these varietume i' the house,
By cantrip wit,

Is instant made no worth a louse, Just at the bit.

When thowes dissolve the snawy hoord An' float the jinglin' icy-boord, Then Water-kelpies haunt the foord, By your direction, An' nighted Trav'llers are allured To their destruction.

An' aft your moss-traversing Spunkies
Decoy the wight that late and drunk 's ;
The bleezin', curst, mischievous monkeys
Delnde 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 mann stop, Or, strange to tell! The youngest Brother ye wad whip Aff straught to hell'

Lang syne, in Eden's bonuic 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 flowery swaird
In shady bower:

Then you, ye auld, suic-drawing dog! Ye came to Paradise iacog, An' played on man a cursed brogue, (Black be your fa'!) An' gied the infant world a shog, 'Maist ruined a'

D'ye mind that day, when in a bizs, Wi'r reekit duds, and reestit gizz, Ye did present your smoutie phiz 'Mang better folk, An' sklented on the man of Uz Your spitefu' joke?

An' how ye gat him i' your thrall,
An' brak him out o' house an' hall,
While scabs and blotches did him gall,
Wi' bitter claw,
An' lowsed his ill tongned wicked Scawl.
Was warst ava?

But a' your doings to rehearse, Your wily snares an' fechtin' fieree, Sin' that day Michael' did you pieree, Down to this time, Wad ding a Lallan tongue, or Erse, In prose or rhyme.

An' now, auld Cloots, I ken vo're thinkin A certain Bardie's rantin', drinkin', 500 v Auchiess Lour will send 'sin Frakin'. Thinkin', 1996 here's party

- Vide Milton, book vi-

But, faith ! Le'll turn a corner, jinkin', And cheat you yet.

But, fare ye weel, anld Nickie-ben! O wad ye tak a thought and men'! Ye aiblins might—I dinna ken— Still hae a stake— I m wae to think upon von den,

Even for your sake!

THE

DEATH AND DYING WORDS

OF

POOR MAILIE,

THE AUTHOR'S ONLY PET YOWE.

AN UNCO MOURNFU' TALE.

As Mailiz, an' her lambs thegither, Were as day nibbling on the tether, Upon her cloor she coost a hitch, An' owre she warsled in the ditch; There, groaning, dying, she did lie, When Hughoo' he came doytin by.

Wi' glowrin' een, and lifted han's, Poor Hughoc like a statue stan's: He saw her days were near-hand ended, But, wae's 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 waefu' case! My dying words attentive hear, An' bear them to my Master dear.
- "Ill him, if e'er again he keep As muckle gear as buy a sheep, O, bid him never tie them marr Wi' wicked strings o' hemp or hair! But ea' them out to park or hill, An' let them wander at their will! So may his flock increase, an' grow!
- 'Tell him, he was a master kin',
 An' aye was guid to me an' mine:
 Au' 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 fend themsel; An' tent them duly, e'en an' morn, Wi' teats o' hay an' rips o' corn.
 - A necbor herd-callan.

- 'An' may they never learn the gaets
 Of ither vile, wanrestfu' pets!
 Of slink thro' slaps, an' reave an' st-al,
 At stacks o' pease, or stocks o' kail.
 So may they, like their great forbears,
 For mony a year come thro' the sheers:
 So wives will gie them bits o' bread,
 An' bairns greet for them when they'te dead
- 'My poor toop lamb, my son an' heir, O bid him breed him up wi' care'! An' if he live to be a heast, To pit some havins in his breast! An' ware him, what I winan anne, To stay content wi' yowes at hame; An' no to rin an' wear his cloob tutes.
- 'An' neist my yowie, silly thing, Guid keep thee frae a tether string.' O, may thon ne'er forgather np. Wi' ony blastit moorland toop: But aye keep mind to moop an' mell Wi' sheep o' credit like thyse!'
- 'An' now, my bairns, wi' my last breato, I lea'e my blessin' wi' you baith: An' when you think upo' your mither, Mind to be kin' to ane anither.
- ' Now, honest Hughoc, dinna fail To tell my master a' my tale; An' bid him burn this cursed tether, An', for thy pains, thou'se get my blether.'

This said, poor Mailie turn'd her head, And closed her een amang the dead.

POOR MAILIE'S ELEGY

LAMENT in rhyme, lament in prose, Wi's aut tears trickling down your nose; Our bardie's fate is at a close, Pust a' remead;

The last sad cape-stane o' 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 bardle, dowie, wear
The mourning weed:
He's lost a friend and neebor dear,
In Mailiz dead.

Thro' a' the town 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 eam 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' thiev sh greed.

POEMS.

17

Our hardie, lanely, keeps the spence Sin' Mailie's dead.

Or, if he wanders up the howe, Her living image in her yore, Comes bleating to him ower the knowe, For bits o' bread; An' down the briny peurls rowe For Mailie dead.

She was nae get o' moorland tips, Wi' tawted ket, an' hairy hips: For her forbears were brought in ships Frae yout the Ticeed! A bonnier fleesh ne er cross'd the elips Than Mailte dead.

Wae worth the man wha first did shape That vile, wanchance thing—a rape! It maks guid fellows girn an' gape! Mi' chokin' dread; An' Rebin's bonnet wave wi' crape, For Mailie dead.

O, a' ye hards on bonnie Doen!
An' wha on Apr your chaunters tune!
Come, join the melancholious croon
O' R.bin's reed!
His heart will never get aboon
His Maille dead.

TO J. S

Friendship! mysterious cement of the soul! Sweet'ner of life, and solder of society! I owe thee much!——Blair.

DEAR S——, the sleest, paukie thief, That e'er attempted stealth or rief, Ye surely hae some warbock-breef Owre human hearts; For ne'er a bosom yet was prief Against your arts.

For me, I swear by sun an' moon, And every star that blinks aboon, Ye've cost me twenty par o' shoon, Just gaun to see you: And every ither pair that's done, Mair taen I'n wi' you,

That auld capricious earlin, Nature,
To mak amends for scrimpit stature,
She's turn'd you aff, a human creature
On her first plan,
And in her freaks, on every feature,
She's wrote, the Man,

Just now I've taen the fit o' rhyme, My barmie noddle's working prime, My fancy yerkit up sublime Wi' hasty summon: Hae ye a leisure moment's time

To hear what's comin'?

Some rhyme a neebor's name to lash; Some rhyme (vain thought!) for needfa' cash, Some rhyme to court the countra clash, An' raise a din; For me an aim! I never fash; I rhyme for fun,

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

This while my notion's taen a skewt,
To try my fate in guid black preat;
But still the mair I'm that way bent,
Something cries 'Hoolie
I red you, honest man, tak teut!
Ye'll shaw your folly.

'There's ither poets, much your betters,
Far seen in Greck, deep men o' letters,
Hae thought they had ensured their debtors.
A' future ages;
Now moths deform in shapeless tetters,
Their unknown pages.

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

I'll wander on, with tentless heed How never-halting moments speed, Till fate shall snap the brittle thread; Thea, 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 'arge, before enjoyment's gale, Let's tak' the tide.

T, is life, sae far's I understand, 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 spect'd, See crazy, weary, joyless eild, Wi' wrinkled face, Comes hostin', hirplin', ower the field, Wi' creepin' pace.

When ance life's day graws near the gloamin', | Gie wealth to some be-ledger'd cit, Then fareweet vacant carcless roamin'; An' fareweel cheerfu' 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-hoys, at the 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. Amang the leaves: And though the puny wound appear, Short while it grieves,

Some, lucky, find a flowery spat, For which they never toiled nor swat, They drink the sweet and eat the fat, But care or pain; And haply eye the barren hut With high disdain.

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

An' others, like your humble servan', Poor wights nae rules nor roads observin': To right or left, eternal swervin', They zig-zag on; Till curst wi' age, obscure an' starvin', They aften groan.

Alas! what bitter toil an' straining-But truce with peevish poor complaining! Is Fortune's fickle Luna waning? E'en let her gang ! Beneath what light she has remaining, 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,

Aye rowth o' rhymes.

Gie dreeping roasts to countra lairds, Till icicles hing frae their beards: Gie fine braw claes to fine life-guards, An' maids of honovr ; An' yill an whisky gie to cairds, Until they sconner.

A title, Dempster merits it . A garter gie to Willie Pitt ;

In cent. per cent But give me real, sterling wit, An' I'm content.

' While ye are pleased to keep me hata I'll sit down o'er my scanty meal, Be't water-brose or muslin-kail, Wi' cheerfu' face,

As lang's the muses dinna fail To say the grace."

An anxious e'e I never throws Behint my lug, or by my nose; I jouk beneath misfortune's blows, As weel's I may Sworn foe to sorrow, care, an' prose, I rhyme away.

O ye douce folk, that live by rule, Grave, tideless-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 grare, nae doubt ye're wise, Nae ferly tho' ye do despise The hairum-scairum, ram-stam boys, The rattlin' squad: I see you upward cast your eyes-

-Ye ken the road.-Whilst I-bot I shall hand me there-Wi' you I'll scarce gang ony where-Then, Jamie, I shall say nae mair,

But quat my sang, Content wi' you to mak a pair, Whare'er I gang.

A DREAM.

Thoughts, words, and deeds, the statute blames with But surely dreams were ne'er indicted treason.

[On reading, in the public papers, the Laureate's Ode, with the other parade of June 4, 1786, the author was no sooner dropt asleep, than he imagined himself transported to the birth-day levee; and in Endreaning fancy, made the following Address.]

Guid-Mornin' to your Majesty ! May heaven augment your blisses, On every new birth-day ye see, A humble poet wishes My bardship bere, at your leves, On sic a day as this is,

Is sure an uncouth sight to see,
Amang the birth-day dresses
Sae fine this day.

Is see ye're complimented thrang,
By mony a lord an' lady,
'God save the King!' 's a cuckoo sang
That's unco easy said aye;
The poets, too, a venal gang,
Wi'rhymes weel turu'd an' ready,
Wad gar you trow ye ne'er do wrang,
But aye unerring steady,

On sic a day,

For me! before a monarch's face, Ev'n there I winna flatter; For neither pension, poet, nor place, Am I your humble debtor: So nae reflection on your grace, Your kingship to bespatter; There's monie want been o' the race, An' aiblins ane been better

Than you this day.

Tis very true, my sov reign king,
My skill may weet be doubted:
But facts are chiels that winna ding,
An' downa be disputed:
Your royal nest, beneath your wing,
Is e'en right reft an' clouted,
An' now the third part o' the string,
An' less, will gang about it
Than did ae day.

V.

Far be't frae me that I aspire
To blanne 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
Fo chaps, wha, in a barn or byre,
Wad better fill'd their station
Than courts yon day.

VI.
An' now ye've gien auld Britain peace,
Her broken shins to plaister;
Your sair taxation does her fleece,
Till she has searce a tester;
For me, thank God, my life's a lease,
Nac bargain wearing faster,
Or, faith! I fear, that wi' the gese,
I shortly boost to pasture
I' the craft some day

VII.

I'm no mistrusting Willie Pitt,
When taxes he enlarges.

(An' Will's a true guid fallow's get,
A name not envy spairges),
hat he intends to nay your debt,
An' lessen a' your charges;

But, God-sake! It nae saving fit Abridge your bonnie barges An' boats this day.

VIII.

Adieu, my Liege! may freedom geck
Beneath your high protection;
An' may ye rax Corruption's neck,
An' gie her for dissection!
But since I'm here, I'll no neglect,
In loyal, tune affection,
To pay your Queen, with due respect,
My fealty an' subjection
This great birth-day,

IX.

Hail, Majesty! Most Excellent!

While nobles strive to please ye,
Will ye accept a compliment
A simple poet gies ye?

Thae bonnie bairutime, Henv'n has lent,
Still higher may they heeze 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 sairs,
I'm tauld ye'te driving rarely;
But some day ye may gnaw your nails,
An' curse your fully sairly,
That e'er ye brak Diana's pales,
Or rattled dice wi' Charlie,
By night or day,

XI.
Yet aft a ragged coxfe's been known
To mak a noble oirer:
So, ye may doncely fill a throne,
For a' their clish-ma-claver:
There, him * at Apincount wha shone,
Few better were or braver;
An' yet wi' funny queer Sir John,†
Ile was an uneo shaver

XII.

For monie a day

For you, right rev rend Osnabrug,
Nane sets the luen-sleere sweeter,
Altho' a ribbon at your lug
Wad been a dress completer:
As ye disown you paughty dog
That bears the keys of Peter,
Then, swith! an' get a wife to hug,
Or, trouth, ye'll stain the mitre
Some luckless dag.

XIII

Young royal Tarry Breeks, I learn, Ye've lately come athwart her;

King Henry V.
 Sir John Falstaff, vide Shakespeare.

A glorious galley stem an stern, Weel rigg'd for Venus' barter; But first hang out, that she'll discern Your hymencal charter, Then heave aboard your grapple airn, An' large a po' her quarter, Come full that day,

XIV.

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 nae British boys awa', For kings are unco scant ave; An' German gentles are but sma', They're better just than want aye On onie day.

XV.

God bless you a'! consider now. Ye're unco muckle dautet; But, ere the course o' life be thro'. It may be bitter sautet ; An' I hae seen their coggie fou, That yet hae tarrow't at it : But or the day was done, I trow, The laggen they has clautet Fu' clean that day

THE VISION.

DUAN FIRST. +

THE sun had closed the winter day. The curlers quat their roaring play, An' hunger'd maukin ta'en her way To kail-yards gree While faithless snaws ilk step betray Whare she has be-

The thresher's weary flingin-tree The lee-lang day had tired me : And whan the day had closed his e'e Far i' the west, Ben i' the spence, 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 smeek,

The and clay biggin An' neard the restless rattons 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.

· Alluding to the newspaper account of a certain royal ballor, amou.

With surging foar

**Duan, a term of Ossian's for the different divisions
of a digressive poem. See his Cathe Loda, vol. 4. of

Whenson's translation.

The lordly dome.

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-sarks Is a' th' amount.

I started, mutt'ring, blockhead! c. f And heav'd on high my waukit lota, To swear by a' you starry roof, Or some rach alch, That I, henceforth, world be ing.ac proof

When click! the string the sneck did dra-An' jee! the doo. gred to the wa'; An' by my ing' w. I saw, Now bleezin bright, A tight or la .d' lb Hizzie braw,

Till any laze breath-

Come full in sight

Ye need pa doubt, I held my whisht The infant aith half-form'd was crush't ; I g'ov c's as eerie's I'd been dusht In some wild glen; The 1 west, like modest worth, she blush't, And stepped ben.

Green, slender, leaf-clad holly-boughs, Were twisted gracefu' round her brows; I took her for some Scottish Muse. By that same token : An' 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 honous

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

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

And seem'd to my astonish'd view, A well known und.

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

POEMS.

There, well-fed Irwine stately thuds : Auld hermit Ayr staw thro' his woods, On to the shore:

And many a esser torrent sends, With scenning roar.

Low, in a sandy valley spread, An ancient borough rear'd ber head; Still, as in Scottish story read, She boosts a race.

To every nobler virtue bred, And polish'd grace.

By stately tow'r or palace fair, Or rains 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 feature stern.

My heart did glowing transport feel, To see a race * heroic wheel, And brandish round the deep dy'd steel In sturdy blows; While back-recoiling seem'd to reel Their suthron focs.

His Country's Saviour, + mark him well ! Bold Richardton's t heroic swell; The chief on Sark & who glorious fell, in high command; And he whom ruthless fates expel

His native land.

There, where a sceptred Pictish shade | Stalk'd round his ashes lowly laid, I mark'd a martial race pourtray'd In colours strong ;

Bold, soldier-featur'd, undismay'd They strode along.

Thro' many a wild, romantic grove, I 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, To Nature's God and Nature's law They gave their lore,

· The Wallaces. t William Wallace.

• The Wallaces.

† William Wallace,
Adam Wallace, of Riehardton, cousin to the immortal preserver of scottish independence.

§ Wallace, Laird of Craughe, who was second in command, under Douglas Earl of Ormond, at the famous battle on the banks of Sark, fought anno 1438. That glorious victory was principally awing to the judicious conduct and intreplut valour of the gallant Laird of Craughe who held of his wounds after the action interplut valour of the gallant Laird of Craughe who held of his wounds after the action in the conduction of the property of the property of the property of the property of the Wood of the Control of the Wood of the W

Clerk.

fler. Doon pour'd down his far-fetch'd floods; | This, all its source and end to draw, That, to adore.

> Brudon's brave ward * I well could spy, Beneath old Scotia's smiling eve. Who call'd on Fame, low standing by, To hand him on, Where . Many a patriot-name on high. And hero shone.

DUAN SECOND

Wirm 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.

"Mong swelling floods of reeking gore, They, ardent, kindling spirits pour; Or, 'mid the venal 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-in-pired tongue; Hence sweet harmonions Beattie sung llis " Minstrel lays;"

Or tore, with noble ardour stung, The sceptic's bays.

' To lower orders are assign'd The humbler ranks of human-kind.

· Colone Fullarton.

The rustic Bard, the lab'ring Hind, The Artisan; All choose, 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.

And some instruct the shepherd-train, Blithe 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 eareful 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.

⁴ With future hope, I oft would gaze, Fond on thy little early ways, Thy rudely caroll'd, chiming phrase, In uncouth rhymes, Fired 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 loar Struck thy young eye.

' Or when the deep-green mantled 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 general mirth
With boundless love.

4 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.

4 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 strains The loves, the ways of simple swains Till now, o'er all my wide domains Thy fame extends; And some, the pride of Coild'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 three,
With Shenstone's art;
Or pour, with Gray, the moving flow
Warm on the heart.

' Yet all heneath 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 Potoss's mine, Nor king's regard, Can give a bliss o'ermatching thine, A rustic Bard.

'To give my counsels all in one, Thy tuneful fames still careful fan; Preserve the dignity of Man, With soul erect; And trust the Universal plan Will all protect.

"And wear than this,"—she solemn said.
The polish'd leaves, and berries red,
Did rustling play;
And, like a passing thought, she fled
In light away.

ADDRESS TO THE UNCO GUID

OR THE

RIGIDLY RIGHTEOUS.

My son, these maxims make r vol-And lump them are thegith e; The Rigid Righteoux is a fool. The Rigid Wise another: The cleanest corn that e'er was dight May hae some pyles o' eaff in; Sae ne'er a fellow-creature slight For random fits o' daffin.

Solomon.-Eccles, ch. vli. ver. 16.

O ye wha are sac guid yoursel, Sae pious an' 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.

Supple 'd wi' store o' water. The heapit happer's ebbing still, And still the clap plays clatter.

Hear me, ye venerable core, As counsel for poor mortals, That frequent pass douce Wisdom's door For glaikit Folly's portals; I, for their thoughtless, careless sakes. Would here propone defences, Their donsie tricks, their black mistakes, Their failings and mischances.

Ye see your state wi' theirs compared, An' shudder at the niffer. But cast a moment's fair regard, What maks the mighty differ ? Discount what scaot occasion gave, That purity ye pride in, An' (what's aft mair than a' the lave) Your better art o' hiding,

Think, when your castigated pulse Gies now and then a wallop, What ragings must his veins convulse. That still eternal gallop: Wi' wind and tide fair i' your tail, Right on ye send your sea-way; But in the teeth o' baith to sail. It maks an unco lee-way.

See social life and glee sit down, All joyous and unthinking, Till, quite transmografied, they're grown Debauchery and drinking: O would they stay to calculate Th' eternal consequences; Or your more dreaded hell to state, Damnation of expenses !

Ye high, exalted, virtuous dames, Ty'd up in godly laces, Before ve 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, Ve're aiblins 'se temptation.

VII. Then gently scan your brother man,

Still gentler sister woman; Tho' they may gang a kennin wrang, To step aside is haman: 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 hias: 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

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

Has auld K———— seen the Deil!
Or great M———— † thrawn his heel? Or R-- t again grown weel To preach an' read? ' Na, waur than a'!' cries ilka chiel. ' Tam Samson's dead!

- lang may grunt an' grane, An' sigh, an' sab, an' greet her lane, An' cleed her bairns, man, wife, and wean In mourning weed; To death, she's dearly paid the Kane, Tam Samson's dead

The brethren of the my-tic 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 locks 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,

[•] When this worthy old sportsman went out last multifoul season, he supposed it was to be, in Ossian's phrase, 't he last of his fields!' and expressed an ar-dent wish to die and be buried in the murs. On thie hit the author composed his elegy and epitaph.

† A earthin preacher, a great favourite with the mil-life the processing of the processing of the processing of the standard processing of the pr

[‡] Another preacher, an equal favourite with the few who was at that time ailing. For him see also the Or dination Stanza IX.

Or up the rink, like Jehu roar. In time o' need : But now he lags on death's hog-score. Tam Samson's dead!

Now safe the stately saymont sail. And trouts bedropp'd wi' crimson hail, And cels weel kenn'd for souple tail, And geds for greed, Since dark in death's fish-creel we wail, Tam Samson dead!

Rejoice, ye birring paitricks a'; Ye cootie moorcocks, cronsely craw; Ye maukins, cock your fud fu' braw. Withouten dread; Your mortal fac is now awa'. Tam Samson's dead -

That waefu' morn be ever mourn'd. Saw him in shootin' graith 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 gont his ancles fetters; In vain the barns came down like waters, An acre braid! Now ev'ry auld wife, greetin', clatters, Tam Samson's deac

Owre mony a weary hag he limpit, An' ave the tither shot he thumpit, Till coward death behind him jumpit, Wi' deadly feide; 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 ; L-d, five!' he cry'd, an' owre did stagger; Tam Samson's dead!

alk heavy hunter mourn'd a brither; Ilk sportsman youth bemoan'd a father; You auld grey stane, among 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 spitefa' muirfowl bigs her nest, To hatch an' breed . Alas! nac mair he'il them molest! Tam Samson's dead !

When August winds the heather wave, and sportsmen wander by you grave, Three volleys let his mem'ry crave O pouther 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 : He had twa fauts, or may be three, Yet what remead?

As social, honest man, want we: Tam Samson's dead

THE EPITAPH

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

PER CONTRA.

Go, Fame, and canter like a filly Thro' a' the streets an' neuks o' Killie.* Tell every social, honest billie,

To cease his grievin For yet unskaith'd by death's gleg gullie, Tam Samson's livin

HALLOW EEN, †

[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, the country where the scene is east, notes are samed, to give some account of the principal charms and spells of that night, so big with propincey to the peasurity in the West of Scotland. The passion of prj-ing into futurity makes a striking part of the history human nature in its rude state, in all ages and nations: and it may be some contertainment to a philosophic mind, if any such should honour the author with a perusal, to see the remains of it a mong the more unembgluened mour own.]

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 gless of art. Goidsmith

Uros that night, when fairles light, On Cassilis Downans | dance, Or owre the lays, in splendid blaze, On sprightly coursers prances,

Or for Colcan the route is ta'en, Beneath the moon's pale beams!

· Killie is a phrase the country folks sometimes use for Kılmarnock

for Kulmarnock,

† Is thought to be a night when witches, devils, and
other mischief-making beings, are all abroad on their
baneful multiplik errands; particularly those zerola
prople, the Fairnes, are said on that night to hold;
grand anniverson the result of the Region of the
melerbourhood of the ancient soil of the Earls of Caselike.

silia.





Il-ere, un the core, to stray an' rove Amang the rocks and streams, To sport that night

Amang the bonnie winding banks Where Doon rins, wnnplin', clear, Where BRUCE + ance rul'd the martial ranks. An' shook his Carrick spear, Some merry, friendly, countra folks, Together did convene.

To burn their mits, an' pou their stocks, An' hand their Halloween Fu' blithe that night.

The lasses feat, an' clean'y neat, Mair braw than when their fine: Their faces blithe, fo' sweetly kythe, Hearts leal, an' warm, an' kin': The lads sae trig, wi' wooer-babs, Weel knotted on their garten, Some unco blate, an' some wi' ga's, Gar lasses' hearts gang startin Whyles fast at night.

Theu first and foremost, thro' the kail. Their stocks t maun a' be sought ance; They steek their een, an' graip an' wale, For muckle anes and straught anes. Poor hav'rel Will tell aff the drift, An' wander'd thro' the b w-kail, An' pou't, for want o' better shift, A runt was like a sow-tail. Sae bow't that night.

Then, straught or crooked, yird or nane, They roar an' ery a' throu'ther; The vera wee things, todha', rin Wi' stocks out-owre their shouther; An' gif the custor's sweet or sour, Wi' joctelegs they taste them; Syne coziely, about the door, Wi' cannie care, they've plac'd them To lie that night.

A noted cavern near Colean-house, called The A noted cavern near Colean-noise, cancer the Cove of Colean; which, as Cassilia Downans, is famed in country story for being a favourite haunt for fairnes. The famous family of that nane, the ancestors of Robert, the great deliverer of his country, were Earls

of Carrick.

The first eeremony of Halloween, is pulling each

2 deck, or plant of kail. They most go out, hand in

ham with eyes shut, and pull the first they meet

with 18 being be go little, straight, or ecooked, 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 1001, that is tocher, or fortune; and the taste of the custor, that is the heart of the stem, is the taste of the custor, that is the heart of the stem, is the taste of the custor, that is the heart of the stem, is the custor of the properties of t

VI.

The lasses staw frae 'mang them a To pou their stalks o' corn ; * But Rab slips out, and jinks alout, Behint the muckle thorn : He grippet Nelly hard an' fast: Lond skirl'd a' the lasses : But her tap-pickle maist was lost, When kiuttlin' in the fruse-house \$ Wi' him that night

The auld guidwife's weel-hoordet nits ! Are round an' round divided, And monie lads and lasses' fates, Are there that night decided : Some kindle, couthy, side by side, An' burn thegither trimly; Some start awa' wi' saucy pride, An' jump out-owre the chimlie Fu' high that night.

THE

Jean slips in twa wi' tentie e'e; Wha 'twas, she wadna tell; But this is Jock, an' this is me, She says in to hersei': He bleez'd owre her, and she owre him As they wad never mair part; Till fuff! he started up the lum, An' Jean had e'en a sair heart To see't that night.

1X.

Poor Willie, wi' his bow-kail runt, Was brunt wi' primsie Mallie; An' Mallie, nae doubt, took the drunt. To be compar'd to Willie: Mall's nit lap out wi' pridefu' fling, An' her ain fit it brunt it; While Willie lap, and swoor by jing, 'Twas just the way he wanted To be that night.

Nell had the fause-house in her min'. She pits hersel' an' Rob in ; In loving bleeze they sweetly join, Till white in ase they're subbin': Nell's heart was dancin' at the view, She whisper'd Rob to look for't:

. They go to the barn-yard, and pull cach, at three several times, a stalk of casts. If the third saw wants the top-pick's, that is, the grain at the top of the stalk, the party in question will come to the marriage bed any thing but a maid.

I when the corn is in a doubtful state, by being too

any thing but a mail.

I 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 partimen in his stack, with an opening in the side which is fairest exposed to the wind; this leads a fairest exposed to the

26

Rob, stowlins, prie'd her bonnie mou, Fu' cozie in the neuk for't, Unseen that night.

XI.

But Merran sat behint their backs. Her thoughts on Andrew Bell; She lea'es them gashin' at their cracks, And slips out by hersel': She thro' the yard the nearest taks, An' to the kiln she goes then, An' darklins grainit for the banks, And in the blue cl e* throws then. Right fear't that night

XII

An' aye she win't, an' aye she swat, I wat she made nae jankin; Till something held within the pat, Guid L-d! but she was quakin'! But whether 'twas the Deil himsel', Or whether 'twas a bank-en. Or whether it was Andrew Bell.

She did na wait on talkin' To spear that night.

Wee Jenny to her Grannie says, " Will ve go wi' me, graunie? I'll eat the apple+ at the glass, I gat frae uncle Johnie :" She fuff't her pipe wi' sic a lunt, In wrath she was sie vap'rin', She notic't na, an aizle brunt Her braw new worset apron Out thro' that night.

XIV.

" Ye little skelpie-limmer's face! How daur ye try sie sportin', As seek the foul Thief ony place, For him to spae your fortune ; Nae doubt but ye may get a sight ! Great cause ye hae to fear it; For monie a ane has gotten a fright, An' liv'd an' di'd delecet On sie a night.

" Ae hairst afore the Sherra-moor. I mind 't as weel's yestreen, I was a gilpey then, I'm sure I was na past fyfteen:

The simmer had been cauld an' wat, An' stuff was nuco green; In' ave a rantin kirn we gat, An' inst on Halloween

It fell that night

" Our stibble-rig was Rab M'Graea, A clever, sturdy fallow ; He's sin gat Eppie Sim wi' wean. That liv'd in Achmacalla: He gat hemp-seed,* I mind it weel, An' he made unco light o't; But mony a day was by himsel', He was sae sairly frighted That vera night.'

XVII.

Than 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 guid-man raught down the pock An' out a handfn' 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, The graip he for a harrow taks, An' haurls at his curpin : An' ev'ry now an' then he says, " Hemp-seed I saw thee, An' her that is to be my lass, Come after me, and draw thee, As fast this night."

YIX

He whistl'd up Lord Lennox' march, To keep his conrage cheery; Altho' his hair began to arch, He was sae fley'd an' eerie: Till presently he hears a squeak, An' then a grane an' grantle; He by his shouther gae a keek, An' tumbl'd wi' a wintle Out-owre that night

He roar'd a horrid murder shout, In dreadfu' desperation! An' young an' auld cam rinnin' out, To hear the sad narration :

[•] Whoever would, with success, try this spell, must strictly observe these directions: Sweal out, all aloue to the Alta, and, darkling, throw in othe pod a clue of blue yarn; wind it in new clue off the sld one; and, towards the latter end, something will hold the thread, demand who handse; i. e. who holds? an answer will be returned "rom the kith-per," by maming the Christian and dirmans of your future sponse. In the control of the c

conjugal companion. In he, will be seen in the glass, as if peeping over your shoulder.

Steal out unperceived and sow a handful of hemp-• Steal out unperceived and sow a handful of hempseed; harrowing it with any thing you can conveniently draw after you. Repeat now and then, "Hempseed Is to I saw thee; hempseed I saw thee; and him for her! that is to be my true-love, come after me and pour that is to be my true-love, come after me and pour thee." Look over your "dr's handler, and you will see the appearance of the person invoked, in the attitude of juding hemp. Some it ditions say, "come after me, and shaw thee," that is, show thyself; in which care it simply appears. Other omit the harrowing and say, "come after me, and harrow thee."

He swoor 'twas hilchin Jean M'Craw, Or crouchie Merran Humphie, Till stop ! she trotted thro' them a'; A ' wha was it but Grumphie Asteer that night .

Meg fain wad to the barn hae gane, To win three wechts o' naething : " But for to meet the deil her lane, She pat but little faith in : She gies the herd a pickle nits, An' twa red cheekit apples, To watch, while for the barn she sets, In hopes to see Tam Kipples That vera night.

XXII.

She turns the key wi' cannie thraw An' owre the threshold ventures: But first on Sawnie gies a et', Syne bauldly in she enters; A ratton rattled up the wa', An' she cry'd, L—d preserve her! An' ran thro' midden-hole an' a', An' pray'd wi' zeal and fervour, Fu' fast that n ght.

XXIII.

They hoy't out Will, wi' sair advice; Then becht him some fine braw ane; It chane'd the stack he foddom'd thrice,+ Was timmer-prapt for thrawin'; He taks a swirlie auld moss-oak, For some black, grousome earlin; An' loot a wince, an' drew a stroke, Till skin in blypes cam haurlin' Aff's nieves that night.

A wanton widow Leezie was, As canty as a kittlen ; But Och ! that night, amang a shaws, She got a fearfu' settlin'!

XXIV.

She thro' the whins, an' by the cairn, An' owre the hill gaed serievin', Where three lairds' lands met at a burn,‡ To dip her left sark-sleeve in,

. This charm must likewise be performed unpercived, and alone. You go to the barn, and open both donrs, taking them off the longes, if possible; for the e is danger, that the being about to appear, may shut the doors, and do you some meshicf. Then take that instrument used in winnowing the corn, which, in our instrument used in winnowing the corn, which, in our country dislect, we call a wreth, and go through all the attitudes of letting down corn against the wind. Repeat it three times: and the third time an apparation will pass through the harn, in at the windy door, and out at the other, having both the figure in question, and the appearance or retinue, marking the employment, or station in life.

Was bent that night.

t Take an opportunity of going, unnoticed, to a Bear-st-ck, and tachom it three times round. The last fathom of he last time you will catch in your arms the appearance of your future conjugal yoke-

† You go out, one or more, for this is a social spell, to a south tuning spring or rivulet, where three lards lands meet, and dip your left shirt sleeve. Go

XXV.

Whyles owre a linn the burnie plays, As thro' the glen it wimpl't ; Whyles round a rocky sear it strays; Whyles in a wiel it dimpl't; Whyles glitter'd to the nightly rays, Wi' bickering, dancing dazzle; Whyles cookit underneath the brace, Below the spreading hazel, Unseen that night.

XXVI.

Amang the brackens, on the brae, Between her an' the moon, The deil, or else an ontler quey, Gat up an' gae a croon : Poor Leezie's heart maist lap the hool ; Ne'er lavrock-height she jumpit, But mist a fit, an' in the pool Out-owre the lugs she plumpit, Wi' a plunge that night

In order, on the clean hearth-stane, The luggies three * are ranged, And ev'ry time great care is ta'en, To see them duly changed: Auld uncle John, who wedlock's joys Sin' Mar's-year did desire, Because he gat the toom-dish thrice, He heav'd them on the fire, In wrath that night.

Wi' merry sangs, an' friendly eracks,

XXVIII.

I wat they did na weary; An' unco tales, and funnie jokes, Their sports were cheap an' cheery : Till butter'd so'ns, + wi' fragrant lunt, Set a' their gals a-steerin' : Syne, wi' a social glass o' strunt, They parted aff careerin'

Fu' blithe that night.

to bed in sight of a fire, and hang your wet sleeve be-fore it to dry. Lie awake; and some time near mid-night, an apparition, having the exact figure of the

highl, an apparation, 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.

Take three dishes, put clean water in one, foul water in another, leave the third empty; blandfold a person, and lead him to the hearth where the dishes are ranged: le for she dijss the left hand; if by chance in the ciean water, the future husband or wite enance in the clean water, the future husband or wife wil come to the bar of matrimony a maid; if in the foul, a widow; if in the empty dish, it foretible, with equal certainty, no marriage at all. It is repeated three times, and every time the arrangement of the dishes is altered.

† Sowens, with butter instead of milk to them, is always the Halloween Supper.

THE

AULD FARMER'S

NEW-YEAR MORNING SALUTATION TO HIS

AULD MARE MAGGIE,

ON GIVING HER THE ACCUSTOMED RIPPOF CORN TO HANSEL IN THE NEW YEAR.

A Guid New-Year I wish thee, Maggie! Hae, there's a ripp to thy and baggie. The' thou's howe-backit, now, an' knaggie, I'vn seen the day,

Thou could hae gaen like onie staggie Out-owre the lay.

Tho' now thou's dowie, stiff, an' crazy, An' thy auld hide's as white's a daisy, I've seen thee dappi'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, steeve, an' swank, An' set weel down a shapely shank As e'er tred yird; An' could hae flown out-owre a stank,

Like onie bird.

It's now some nine-an'-twenty year, Sin' thou was my guid father's mere; He gied me thee, o' tocher elear, An' fifty mark; Tho' it was sma', twas weel-won gear, An' thou was stark.

When first I gaed to woo my Jenny, Ye then was trottm' wi' your minnie: Tho' ye was trickie, slee, an' funnie, Ye ne'er was donsie, But hamely, tawie, quiet, an' cannie, An' unco sonsie.

That day, ye prane'd wi' muckle pride, When ye bure hame my bonnie bride; An' sweet an' gracefu' she did ride; Wi' muden air! Kyle Stewart I could bragged wide, For sie a pair.

The' now ye dow but hoyte an' hobble, An' wintle like a samount-coble, That day ye was a jinker no.le, Fer heels an' win'! An' ran them till they a' did wamble, Far, far behin'.

When there and I were young and skeigh, Au'stable-meals at fairs were dreigh, How then wad prance, an's snore, an'skreigh, An' tak the road! Town's bedies ran, an'stode abeigh, Au' ca't thee mad. At Brooses thou had ne'er a fellow,
For pith an' speed;
But ev'ry tail thou pay't them hollow,
Whare'er thou gaed.

We took the road aye like a swallow:

When thou was corn't, an' I was mellow,

The sma', droop-rumpl't, hunter cattle, Might aiblins waur't thee for a brattle; But sax Scotch miles thou try't their mettle, An' gar't them whaizle: Nac whip nor spur, but just a wattle

Thon was a noble filtie-lan',
As e'er in tug or tow 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.

O' saugh or hazel.

Thou never braindy't, an' fetch't, an' fliskit But thy auld tail thou wad hae whiskit, Au' spread abreed thy weel-fill'd brisket, Wi' pith an' puw'r, Till spritty knowes wad rair't an' risket, An' shvet owre.

When frosts lay lang, an' snaws were deep, An' threaten'd labour back to keep, I gied thy cog a wee bit heap Aboon the timmer: I ken'd my Maggie wadna sleep For that, or simmer.

In cart or car thou never reestit;
The steyest brae thou wad has fac't it;
Thou never lap, and sten t, and breastit,
Then stood to blaw;
But just thy step a wee thing hastit,
Thou snoov't awa.

Monie a sair daurk we twa hae wrongbt, An' wi' the weary warl' fought! An' munie 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, I'll reserve ane Laid by for you.

We've worn to crazy years thegither ; We'll toyte about wi' ane anither ; Wi' tentie care I'll flic thy tether,

To some bain'd rig,
Whare ye may nobly rax your leather,

Wi' sma' fatigue.

TO A MOUSE.

ON TURNING HER UP IN HER NEST WITH THE FLOUGH, NOVEMBER, 1785.

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin', tim'rous beastie, O, what a panie's in thy breastie! Thou need na' start awa sae hasty, Wi' bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,

wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry man's dominion Has broken Nature's social union, An' just tes 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, thuu man live! A daimen wher in a thrave 'S a sma' request;

S a sma' request:
I'll get a blessin' wi' the lave,
An' never miss't!

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!
Its silly wa's the win's are strewin'!
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,
O' foggage green!
An' bleak December's winds ensuin',
Baith snell 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.

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble, His cost thee mony a weary nibble! New thou's turn'd out, for a' thy trouble, But house or hald, I'd thole the winter's sleety dribble, An' cranrench cauld!

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane, In proving foresight may be vain: The best laid schemes o' mice an' men, Gang aft agley, An' lea'e us nought but grief an pain, For promis'd ioy.

Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me !
The present salv toucheth thee:

But, Och: I backward cast my e e On prospects drear; An' forward, though i canua sec, I guess an' fear.

A WINTER NIGHT.

Poor 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 ragge-firess, defend you From seasons such as these?—Shaksepears.

Wifes biting B. reas, fell and doure,
Shirp shivers through the leafless bow'r;
When Phabus gi'es a short-liv'd glower
Far south the lift,
Dim-dark'ning through the flaky show'r
Or whirling drift;

Ae night the storm the steeples rocked, Poor labour sweet in sleep was locked, While burns, wi' snawy wreaths up-choked, Wild-eddying swirl,

Or through the mining outlet bocked, Down headlong harl.

List'ning, the doors an' winnocks rattle,
I thought me on the ouric cattle,
Or silly sheep, who bide this brattle
O' winter war,
And through the drift, deep-lairing sprattle
Beneath a scar.

Ilk happing bird, wee, helpless thing,
That in the merry month o' spring,
Delighted me to hear thee sing,
What comes o' thee?
Whare wilt then cow'r thy chittering 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 pitiless the tempest wild Sore on you beats,

Now Phabe, in her midnight reign, Dark muffled, view'd the dreary plain; Still crowding thoughts, a pensive train, Rose in my soul, When on my ear this plaintive strair, Slow, solemn stope—

Elow, blow, y winds, with heavier gust And freeze, ye Litter-biting frost; Descend, ye chilly, smothering snows; Not all your rage, as now, united, shows More bard unkindness, unrelenting, Veogeful malice unrepeating. Than heaven-illumin'd man on 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! Even in the peaceful rural vale,

Truth, weeping, tells the mournful tale, How pampered Luxury, Flatt'ry by her side, The parasite empoisoning her ear,

With all the servile wretches in the rear, Looks o'er prond property, extended wide; And eyes the simple rustic hind,

And eyes the simple rustic hind,
Whose toil upholds the glitt'ring show,
A creature of another kind.

Some courser substance, unrefined,
Placed for her lordly use thus far, thus vile,
helow-

Where, where is Love's fond, tender throe, With lordly Honour's lafty brow, The powers you proudly own?

Is there, beneath Love's noble nan.e, Can harbour, dark, the selfish aim, To bless himself alone!

Mark maiden-innocease a prey
To love-pretending snares,
This boasting Honour turns away,
Shunning 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 rock-

iog 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-satisfy'd keen Nature's clam'rous call,

satisfy d keen Nature's clam rous call, Stretch'd on his straw he lays himself to

sleep, While thro' the rugged roof and chinky wall, Chill o'er his slumbers piles the drifty heap! Think on the dungeon's grim confine,

Where guilt and poor misortune pine! Guilt, erring man, relenting view! But shall thy legal rage pursue The wretch, already crushed low By cruel Fortune's undescreed blow?

Affliction's sons are brothers in distress,

A brother to relieve, how exquisite the
bliss!'

I heard nae mair, for Chanticleer
Shook off the pouthery snaw,
And hail'd the moraing with a cheer,
A cottage-rousing cray...

But deep this truth impressed my mind— Thro' all his works abroad, The heart benevolent and kind The most resembles God.

EPISTLE TO DAVIE,

A BROTHER POET.

January -

I.
While winds frae aff Ben-Lomond blaw,
And bar the doors wi' driving snaw,
And hing us owre the ingle,

I set me down to pass the time, And spin a verse or twa o' rhyme, In hamely westlan' jingle.

While frosty winds blaw in the drift, Ben to the chimla lug,

I grudge a wee the great folk's gift,
That live sae bien and snug:
I tent less, and want less

Their roomy fireside;
But hanker and canker,
To see their cursed pride.

II.

Its hardly in a body's pow'r
To keep at times frae being sour,
To see how things are shar'd;
How best o' chiels are whiles in want,
While coofs on countless thousands rant;

An' ken na how to wair't:
But, Davie, lad, ne'er fash your head.
Tho' we hae little gear,

Tho' we hae little gear,
We're fit to win our daily bread,
As lang's we're hale and fier:
' Mair speir na, nor fear na'

Auld age ne'er mind a feg, The last o't, the warst o't, Is only for to beg.

III.

To lie in kilns and barns at e'en, When baues are craz'd and bluid is thin, Is, doubtless, great distress! Yet then, content could make us blest;

Ev'n then sometimes we'd snatch a taste
Of truest happiness.

The honest heart that's free frae a'
Intended frand or guile,
However fortune kick the ba',

Has aye some cause to smile;
And mind still, you'll find still,
A comfort this nae sma':

A comfort this nae sma': Nae mair then, we'll care then, Nae farther can we fa'.

IV.

What though, like commoners of air, We wander out we know not where, But either house or hall?

Yet nature's charms, the hills and woods, The sweeping vales, and foaming floods, Are free alike to all. In days when daisies deck the ground.

And bla abirds whistle clear,

David Sillar, one of the club at Tarbolton, and author of a volume of poems in the Scottish dialect.
 t Ramsay.

With honest joy our hearts will bound, To see the coming year: On braes when we please, then, We'll sit and sowth a tune ; Syne rhyme till't, 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, To mak 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, nos pleasures, Could make us cappy lang; The heart ay'es the part aye, That makes us right or wrang.

Think ye that sie as you and I, Wha drudge and drive through wet an' dry Wi' never-ceasing toil; Think ye, are we less blest than they, Wha scarcely tent us in their way, As hardly worth their while? Alas! how oft 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, hie met wi' some, An's thankfu' 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 nue other where.

But tent me, Davie, ace o' hearts! (To say aught else wad wrang the eartes, 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, 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, And sets me a' on flame!

O all ye Powers who rule above! O Thou whose very self art love! Thou knowest 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 soluce 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 numbered 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,

It lightens, it brightens The tenebrific scene. To meet with, and greet with My Davie or my Jean.

O, how that name inspires my style!

A tie more tender still.

The words come skelpin' rank and file. Amaist before I ken! The ready measure rins as fine. As Phæbus and the famous Nine Were glowrin' owre my pen. My spaviet Pegasus will limp, Till ance he's fairly het; And then he'll hiltch, and stilt, and jump, An' rin an' unco fit : But lest then, the beast then, Should rue his hasty ride. I'll light now, and dight now His sweaty wizen'd hide.

THE LAMENT.

OCCASIONED BY THEUNFORTUNATE ISSUE IF A FRIEND'S AMOUR.

Alas! how oft does Goodness wound itself And sweet Affection prove the spring of woe I- 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 wor I nightly viglis keep, Beneath thy wan unwarming beam; And mourn, in lamentation deep, How life and love are all a dream.

I joyless view thy rays adorn The faintly-marked distant hill: I joyless view thy trembling horn, Reflected in the gurgling rill: My fondly-fluttering heart be still ! Thou busy power, Remembrance, cease! Ah! must the agonizing thrill For ever bar returning peace!

III.

No idly-feign'd poetic pains, My sad, love-lorn lamentings claim; No shepherd's pipe-Arcadian strains; No fabled tortures, quaint and tame : Ine plighted faith; the mutual flame; The oft-attested Powers above: The promised 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 snoth? 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 de-troy'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 Phæbus, 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 eve-Keep watchings with the nightly thief: Or if I slumber, fancy, elief, Reigns haggard-wild, in sore affright : Ev'n day, all-bitter, brings relief, From such a horror-breathing night.

O! thou bright queen, who o'er th' expanse Now highest reign'st, with boundless sway Oft has thy silent-marking glance Observ'd us, fondly wandering, stray : The time, unheeded, sped away,

While love's luxurious pulse beat high, Beneath thy silver-gleaming ray, To mark the mutual-kindling eve.

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'll wander thro'; And hopeless, comfortless, I'll moura A faithless woman's broken vow.

DESPONDENCY:

AN ODE.

OPPRESS'D with grief, oppress'd with cars, A burden more than I can bear. I sit me down and sigh : O life! thou art a galling load, Along 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 ev'ry 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 evining thought, By onfrequented 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.

1 V.

Than I, no lonely hermit placed Where never human footstep traced, 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-exchanged 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 ve court, When manhood is your wish! The losses, the crosses, That active man engage! The fears all, the tears all, Of dim declining age !

WINTER:

A DIRGE.

THE wintry west extends his blast, And hail and rain does blaw; Or, the stormy north sends driving forth The blinding sleet and snaw . 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'ercast," . The joyless winter-day, Let others fear, to me more dear Than all the pride of May : The tempest's howl, it southes my soul. My griefs it seems to join, The leafless trees my fancy please. Their fate resembles mine!

Thou Power 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 (O, 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 R. AIKEN, ESQ.

Let not ambition mock their useful toil, Their homely joys, and destiny obscure.

Nor grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,
The short and 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:

To you I sing, in simple Scottish lays,

The lowly train in life's sequester'd scene; The native feelings strong, the guileless ways;

What Aitken in a cottage would have Ah! tho his worth unknown, far happier there, I ween!

November chill blaws loud wi' angry sough : The short'ning winter-day is near a close; The miry beasts retreating frae the pleugh; The black'ning trains o' craws to their

The toil-worn Cotter frae his labour goes, This night his weekly moil is at an end, Collects his spades, his mattocks, and his

Hoping the morn in ease and rest to spend. And weary, o'er the moor, his course does hameward bend.

* Dr. Young.

III.

At length his lonely cot appears in view, Beneath the shelter of an aged tree:

Th' expectant wee things, toddlin, stacher thro' [an' glee.

To meet their Dad, wi' flichterin' noise

His wee bit ingle, blinkin' bonnily,

His clean hearth-stane, his thriftie wifie's smile,

The lisping infant prattling on his knee,
Does a' his weary carking cares beguile,
And makes him quite forget his labour an' his

IV.

Belyve the elder bairns come drapping in, At service out, amang the farmers roun', Some ca' the pleugh, some herd, some tentie rin

A cannie errand to a neebor town; Their eldest hope, their Jenny, woman

grown, In youthfu' bloom, love sparklin' in her e'e, Comes hame, perhaps, to show a bra' new

gown, Or deposit her sair-won penny-fee,

To help her parents dear, if they in hardship be.

٦.

Wi' joy unfeign'd brothers and sisters meet, An' each for other's weelfare kindly spiers: The social hours, swift-wing'd, unnotic'd fleet:

Each tells the uncos 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, Gars auld claes look amaist as weel's the new:

The father mixes a' wi' admonition due.

VI.

Their master's an' their mistress's command, The younkers a' are warned to obey;

And mind their labours wi' an eyedent hand, And ne'er, tho' ont o' sight, to jauk or play: 'An' O! be sure to fear the Lond alway! 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!

VII.

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 fiame

Sparkle in *Jenny's* e'e, and flush her cheek; Wi' heart-struck auxious care, inquires his name.

while Jenny hafflins is afraid to speak;
Weel pleas'd the mother hears it's nae wild,
worthless rake.

VIII.

Wi' kindly welcome Jenny brings him ben; A strappin youth; Le taks the mother's eye; Blithe Jenny sees the visit's no ill ta'en;

The father cracks of horses, pleughs, and kye. [joy

The youngster's artless heart o'erflows wi But blate and laithfu', scarce can weel behave;

The mother, wi' a woman's wiles, can spy
What makes the youth sae bashfu' an' sae

Weel pleas'd to think her bairn's respected like the lave.

IX

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 heavenly pleasure
spare,

One cordial in this melancholy vale,
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest pair,

In other's arms breathe out the tender tale, Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents the ev'ning gale.'

κ.

Is there, in human form, that bears a heart— A wretch! a villain! lost to love and truth! That can, with studied, siy, ensuaring ar-,

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

Then paints the ruin'd maid, and their distraction wild?

XI.

But now the supper crowns their simple board,

The halesome parritch, chief o'Scotia's food:
The sowpe their only Hawkie does afford,
That 'yon't the hallan snugly chows her

cood:
The dame brings forth in complimental mood,
To grace the lad, her weel hain'd kebbuck

fell, An' aft he's prest, an' aft he ca's it guid;

The frugal wifie, garrulous, will tell, How 'twas a towmond auld, sin' lint was i' the

XII.

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 haffets wearing thin an' bare : Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide,

He wales a portion with judicious care; And ' Let us worship Goo!' he says, with solemn air.

XIII.

They chant their artless notes in simple guise : They tune their hearts, by far the noblest frise: Perhaps Dundee's wild warbling measures Or plaintive Martyrs, worthy of the name ;

Or noble Elgin beets the heav'n-ward flame, The sweetest far of Scotia's holy lays : Compared with these, Italian trills are tame ; The tickl'd cars no heart-felt raptures raise; Nae unison hae they with our Creator's praise,

XIV.

The priest-like father reads the sacred page. How Abram was the friend of GoDon high; Or, Moses bade eternal warfare wage With Amalek's ungracious progeny;

Or how the royal bard did groaning lie [ire; Beneath the stroke of Heav'n's avenging Or, Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing cry; Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphie fire:

Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is the theme, How guiltless blood for guilty man was

How He, who bore in Heaven the second Had not on earth whercon to lay his head; How his first followers and servants sped; The precepts sage they wrote to many a How he, who lone in Patmos banished, [land :

Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand; And heard great Bab'lon's doom pronounced by Heaven's command.

XVI.

Then kneeling down to HEAVEN'S ETERNAL King,

The saint, the father, and the husband Hope 'springs exulting on triumphant wing. That thus they all shall meet in future 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.

XVII.

Compared with this, how poor Religion'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, incensed, the pageant will desert, The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole; But hapiy, in some cottage far apart,

May hear, well-pleased, the language of the And in his book of life the immates poor enrol.

· I ope's Windsor Forest

XVIII.

Then homeward all take off their sev'ral way : The youngling cottagers retire to rest:

The parent pair their secret homage pay, And proffer up to Heaven 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.

XIX.

From seenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs,

That makes her loved at home, revered abroad:

Princes and lords are but the breath of kings, "An honest man's the noblest work of Gon!"

And certes, it fair virtue's heav'nly road, The cottage teaves the palace far behind; What is a lordling's pomp! a cumbrous load, Disguising oft the wretch of human kind,

Studied in acts of hell, in wickedness refined!

O Scotia! my dear, my native soil! For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is

Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil, Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content!

And, O! may Heav'n their simple lives prevent

From Luxury's contagion, weak and vile . Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent, A virtuous populace may rise the while, And stand a wall of fire around their muchloved Isle.

XXI.

O Thou! who pour'd the patriotic tide, That stream'd thro' Wallace's undaunted heart:

Who dared to nobly stem tyrannic pride, Or nobly die, the second glorious part, The patriot's God, peculiarly thou art,

His friend, inspirer, guardian, and reward.)

never, never, Scotia's realm desert ; But still the patriot and the patriot bard, In bright succession raise, her ornament and guard!

MAN WAS MADE TO MOURN:

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.

II.

Young stranger, whither wand'rest 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!

III

The sun that overhangs you moors, Out-spreading far and wide, Where hundreds labour to support A haughty lordling's pride; I've seen you weary winter-sun Twice forty times return; And ev'ry time has added proofs, That man was made to mouro.

IV.

O man! while in thy early years,
Itew prodigal of time!
Mis-spending all thy precious hours;
Thy glorious youthful prime!
Alternate follies take the sway;
Licentious passions burn;
Which tenfold force gives Nature's law,
That man was made to monrn.

7.

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.

VI.
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 every land,
Are wretched and forlorn;
That man was made to mourn.

VII.

Many and sharp the num'rons 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

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 pethion spurn,
Unmindful, tho' a weeping wife
And helpless offspring mourn.

IX

If I'm design'd you lordling's slave— By Nature's law design'd, Wh, 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?

x.

X.
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 recompense
To comfort those that moun!

XI.

O Death! the poor man's dearest fries of 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!

A PRAYER

IN THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.

I.

O THOU unknown, Almighty Cause Of all my hope and fear! In whose dread presence, ere an hour, Perhaps I must appear!

II.

If I have wander'd in those paths
Of life I ought to shun;
As something, loudly, in my breast,
Remonstrates I have done;

777

Thou know'st that Thou hast formed ma With passions wild and strong; And list'ning to their witching voice Has often led me wrong. IV.

Where human weakness has come short, Or frailty stept aside, Do thou, All Gmd! for such thou art,

In shades of darkness hide.

V.

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.

Why am I loath 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 renewed 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 Gon, And justly smart beneath his sin-avenging rod.

Fain would I say, 'Forgive my foul offence!'
Fain promise never more to disobey;

But, should my Author health again dis-

pense,
Again I might desert fair virtue's way;
Again in folly's path might go astray;
Again exalt the brute and sink the man;
Than how shou'd I for heavenly mercy pray,
Who act so counter heavenly mercy's plan?
Who sin so oft have mouraid's, yet to temptation

O Thon, great Governor of all below!
If I may dare a lifted eye to Thee,
Thy nod can make the tempest cease to

ran?

Or still the tunult of the raging sea; With that controlling pow'r assist ev'n me, Those headlong furious passions to con-

For all unfit I feel my pow'rs to be,

To rule their torrent in th' allowed line!

o aid me with thy help, Omnipotence Divine!

LVING AT A REVEREND FRIEND'S HOUSE ONE NIGHT, THE AUTHOR LEFT THE FOLLOWING

VERSES.

IN THE ROOM WHERE HE SLEPT.

I. Э тнои dread Pow'r, who reign'st above, I know thou wilt me hear, When for this scene of peace and ove, I make my prayer sincere.

II.

The hoary sire—the mortal stake, Long, long be pleased to spare, To bless his little filial flock, And show what good men are,

Ш

She, who her lovely offspring eyes With tender hopes and fears, O bless her with a mother's joys, But spare a mother's tears!

1V.

Their hope, their stay, their darling youth, In manhood's dawning blush; Bless him, thon God of love and truth, Up to a parent's wish!

V.

The heauteous, seraph sister-band, With earnest tears I pray, Thou know'st the snares on ev'ry hand, Guide thou their steps alway!

7.1

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 placed, 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 Gon.

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.

For why? that Gop the good adore
Hath giv'n them peace and rest,
But hath decreed that wicked men
Shall ne'er be truly blest.

A PRAYER.

WEER THE PRESSURE OF VIOLENT ANGUISH.

THOU Great Being! what thou art Surpasses me to know: it sure am I, 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 resolves,

To bear and not repine.

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 Beueath thy forming hand, Before this pond'rous globe itself Arose at thy command;

That pow'r which rais'd, and still upholds 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 gav'st the word: Thy creature, man, Is to existence brought:
Again thou say'st, 'Ye sons of men,
Keturn 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 ploting in April, 1786.

Wee, modest, crimson-tipped flow'r,
Thou's met me in an evil hour;
For I maun crush amang the stoure
Thy slender stem;
To spare thee now is past my pow'r,
Thou bonnie gem.

Alas! it's no thy nechor sweet,
The bonny Lark, companion meet.
Bending thee 'mang the dewy weet!
Wi' spreckl'd breast,
When upward-springing, blithe, to greet
The purpling east.

Cauld blew the bitter-biting north Upon thy early, humble, birth; Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth Amid the storm, Scarce rear'd above the parent, earth Thy tender form.

The flaunting flow'rs our gardens yield, High sheltring woods and wa's maun shield; But thou beneath the random bield O' clod or stare,

Adorns the histic stibble-field, Unseen, alane.

There, in thy scanty mantle clad, Thy snawie bosom sun-ward spread, Thou lifts thy unassuming head In humble guise; But now the share uprears thy bed, And low thou lies!

Such is the fate of artless Maid, Sweet floweret 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 whelm him o'er

Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n,
Who long with wants and wees has striv n,
By human pride or cunning driv'n
To mis'ry's brink,
Till wrench'd of every stay but Heaven,
He, ruin'd, sink!

Ev'n thou who mourn'st the Daisy s fate, That fate is thine-no distant date: Stern Rure's plough-share drives, elate, Full on thy bloom, Fill crush 1 beneath the furrow's weight, Shall be thy doom!

TO RUIN.

ī.

ALL bail! inexorable lord!
At whose destruction-breathing word,
The mightiest empires fall!
Thy cruel, woe-delighted train,
The ministers of grief and pain,
A sullen welcome, all!
With stern resolv'd, despairing eye,
I see each simed 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 blackn'ing,
Tho' thick 'ning and blackn'ing.

Round my devoted head.

ΤŢ

And thou grim power, by life abhorr'd,
While life a pleasure can afford,
Oh! hear a wretch's prayer:
No more I shrink appail'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 jouless day;
My weary heart its throlbings cease,
Cold mouldering in the clay?
No fear more, no tear more,
To starn my lifeless lace;
Enclasped, and grasped

TO MISS L-

Within my cold embrace!

WITH BEALTIE'S POEMS, AS A NEW-YEAR'S GIFT, JAN, 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 infart year to hail;
I send you nore than India boasts
In Edwor; 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

мач ----, 1786.

T

I LANO hae thought, my youthfu' Friend,
A something to have sent you,
Tho' it should serve nae other 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,
Penhaps urn out a sermon.

II.

Ye'll try the warld soon, my lad,
And, Andrew dear, believe me,
Ye'll find mankind an unco squad,
And muckle they may grieve ye:
For care and trouble set your thought,
E'en when your end's attained;
An a' your views may come to nought,
Where ev'ry nerve is strained.

III

I'll no say, men are villains a';
The real, harden'd wicked,
Wha hae nae cheek but human law,
Are to a few restricted;
But och, mankin! are noto weak,
An' little to be trusted;
If seff the wavering bilance shake,
Its rarely right adjusted!

* * * *

Yet they who fo' in fortune's strike
Their fare we should no censure,
For still th' important end of life
They equally may answer;
A man may hae an honest heart,
Tho' poortith hourly stare him;
A man may tak a neebon's part,
Yet hae no eash to spare him.

ν

Aye free aff han' 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 thre' every other man, Wi' sharpen'd sly inspection.

VI.

The sacred lowe o' weel-plac'd love, Luxuriantly indulge it; But never tempt th' illicit rore, Tho' naething should divulge it I wave the quantum o' the sin, The hazard of concealing; But och! it hardens a' within, And petrifes the feeling!

VIL

To catch dame Fortune's golden smile.
Assiduous wait upon her:

And gather gear by ev'ry wile That's justified by honour ; Not for to hide it in a hedge, Nor for a train-attendant; But for the glorious privilege Of being independent.

VIII.

The fear o' hell's a hangman's whip To haud the wretch in order; But where we feel your honour grip, Let that ave be your border: Its slightest touches, instant pause-Debar a' side pretences; And resolutely keep its laws, Uncaring consequences.

· IX.

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's 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 poble unchor.

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, Than ever did th' adviser!

ON A SCOTCH BARD,

GONE TO THE WEST INDIES.

A' TE wha live by sonps o' drink, A' ye wha live by crambo-clink, A' ye wha live and never think, Come mourn wi' me! Our billie's gi'en us a' a jink,

An' owre the sea.

Lament him a' ye rantin core, Wha dearly like a random-splore, Nae mair he'll join the merry rocr, In social kev:

For now he's ta'en anither shore, An' owre the was

The bonnie lassies 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 wat they'll sairly miss him, That's owre the sea.

O Fortune, they ha'e room to grumble ' Hadst thou ta'en aff some drowsy bammel, Wha can do nought but fyke an' fumble, 'Twad been nae olea

But he was gleg as ony wumble, That's owre the sea.

Auld, cantie Kyle may veepers wear, An' stain them wi' the sant, sant tear; Twill mak' her poor auld heart, I fear, In flinders tlee : He was her laureat monie a year, That's owre the sea

He saw misfortune's cauld nor-wast Lang mostering up a bitter blast; A jillet brak' his heart at last, Ill may she be! So, took a birth afore the must, An' owre the sea

To tremble under Fortune's cummock, On scarce a bellyfu' o' drummock, Wi' his proud, independent stomach Could ill agree : So, row't his hurdies in a hammock, An' owre the sea.

He ne er was gi'en to great misguidiag Yet coin his pouches wad na bide in; Wi' him, it ne'er was under hiding ; He dealt it free: The must was a' that he took pride in, That's owre the sea.

Jamaica bodies, use him weel, An' hap him in a cozie biel; Ye'll find him ave a dainty chiel, And fu' o' glee: He wadna wrang'd the vera deil, That's owre the sea.

Fareweel, my thyme-composing billie! Your native soil was right ill-willie; But may ye flourish like a liv, Now boundle; I'll toast ye in my hindmost gillie,

The' owre the sea.

TO A HAGGIS.

FAIR fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great chieftain o' the puddin-race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy of a grace
As lang's my arm,

The groaning trencher there ye fil, Your hardies like a distant hill, Your pin wad help to mend a mill In time o' need, While thro' your pores the dews distil Like amber head.

His knife see rustic lahour dight, An' cut you up wi' ready slight, Trenching your gushing entrails bright, Like onic ditch; And then, O what a glorious sight, Warn-reckin', rich!

Then horn for horn they stretch an' strive, Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive, Till a' their weel-swall'd kytes belyve Are hent like drums;

Then auld guidman, marst like to ryve, Bethankit hums.

Is there that o'er his French ragont, Or olio that wad staw a sow, Or fricassee wad mak her spew Wi' perfect sconner, Looks down wi' sucering, scornfu' view, On sie a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash, As feekless as a wither'd rash, His spindle-shank a gaid whip-lash, His nieve a nit; Taro' bloody flood or field to dash, O how unfit!

Eut mark the rustic, haggis fed, The trembling earth resonads his tread, Clap in his walie nieve a blude, He'll make it whissle; An' legs, an' arms, an heads will sned, Like taps o' thrissle

Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care, And dish them out their bill o' fare, And Scotland wants na skinking ware That jamps in luggies; But, if ye wish her gratefu', pray'r, Gie her a Hagyis!

A DEDICATION.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, ESQ.

Expect na, Sir, in this narration, A fleechin, fleth 'mi dedication, To roze you up, an 'ca' you guid. An' sprung o' great an' noble bloid, Because ye're surnamed like his groce, Perhaps related to the race; Then when I'm tited—and sae are ye, Wi'mony a fulsome, sinfu' lie, Set up a face, hew—stop short, For fear your modesty be hart.

This may do—maun do, Sir, wi' them wka man please the great folk for a wamefa'; For me! sa haigh I needrah box, For, Lord be thinkir, I can plungh; And when I down a yoke a n uig g. Then, Lord be thankit, I can leg; Sae I shall say, and that's nac flatt'hir', It's just sie poet an' sie patron.

The Poet, some gnia tugel help hins, Or c'se, I fear some ill a re skelp him; He may do weel for a' he's done ye. But only he's no just begun yet.

The Patron, (Sir, ye mann forgie me, I winna lie, come what will o' me) On ev'ry hand it will allowed be, He's just—nae hetter than he should be.

I readily and freely grant, He downa see a poor man want; What's no his aim he wama tak it, What ance he says he winna break it; Onght he can head he'll no refuse Till aft his goodness is abused; And rascals whyles that do him wrang, Ev'n that, he does na mind it lang; As master, landlord, husband, father He does na fall his part in either.

But then, me thanks to him for a' that;
Nac godly symptom ye can ca' that;
It's maething but a milder feature,
Of our poor, sinfu' corrupt nature:
Ye'll get the best o' moral works,
Whang black Gentons and pagan Turks,
Or hunters wild on Ponoduxi,
Wha never heard of orthodoxy.
That he's the poor man's friend in need,
The gentleman in word and deed,
It's no thro' terror of damnation;
It's just a carnal inclination.

Morality, thou deadly hane, 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; Abuse a brother to his brek; Steal thro' a winnock frae a wh-re, But point the rake that take the d.or; Be to the poor like onic whunstane, And hand their noses to the grunstane; Ply ev'ry arto' legal thieving; No matter, stick to sound believing.

Learn three mile pray'rs, an' half-mile graces, weel-spread looves, an lang wry faces; Grunt up a solema, lengthen'd groan, And dann a' parties but your own;

I'll war:ant then, ye're nie deceiver, A steady, sturdy, staunch believer.

O ye wha leave the springs of Calvin, For gunlie duls 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 Misery moans, And strikes the ever-deep ning tones, Still louder shrieks, and heavier groans!

Your pardon, Sir, for this digression, I maist forgat 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' ny works I did review, To dedicate them, Sir, to You: Berause (ye need na tak it ill) I thought them something like yoursel'.

Then patronise them wi' your favour, And your petitioner shall ever— I had amaist said ever pray, But that's a word I need na say: For prayin' I hae little skill o't; I'm baith dead-sweer, an' wretched ill o't; But I'se repeat earh 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'rons, honest heart, For that same gen'rous spirit smart! May K _____'s far honour'd name Lang beet his hymeneal flame. Till H ____s, at least a dizen, Are frae her nuptial labours risen: Five bonnie lasses round their table, And seven braw fellows, stout an' able To serve their king and country weel, By word, or peo, 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, When obbing life nae mar shall flow, The last, sad, mouraful rites bestow!"

I will not wind a lang conclusion, Wi' complimentary effusion; But wh let 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'rs above prevent!) That iron-hearted earl, Wint, Attended in his grun advances, By sad unistakes, and black mischances, While hopes, and joys, and pieasures fly h.m.,
Make you as poor a dog as I am,
Your humble servant their no more;
For who would humbly serve the poor!
But, by a poor man's hopes in Heaven!
While recollection's power is given.
If, in the vale of humble life,
The virtim sad of fortune's strife,
I, thro' the tender gushing tear,
Should recognize my master dear,
If friendless, low, we meet together,
Then, Sir, your hand—my friend and brother

TO A LOUSE

ON SEEING ONE ON A LADY'S BONNET &

HA! whare ye gaun, ye crowlin' ferlie? Your impudence protects you sairly: I canna say but ye strunt rarely,

Owre gauze and lace; Tho' faith, I fear ye dine but sparely On sic a place.

Ya ugly, creepin', blastit wonner, Detested, shunn'd by saunt an' sinner, How dare you set your fit upon her, Sae fine a lady! Gae somewhere else and seek your dinner

Swith, in some beggar's haffet squattle; There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle Wi' ither kindred, jumpin' cattle,

On some poor body.

In shoals and nations;
Whare horn nor bane ne'er dare unsettle
Your thick plantations.

Now haud you there, ye're out o' sight, Below the fatt'rils, snug and tight: Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right Till ye've got on it, The vera tapmost, tow'ring height

My south! right banld ve set your nos' cat, As plump and grey as ony grozet; O for some rank, mercurial rozet,

O' Miss's bonnet.

Or fell, red smeddum, I'd gi'e you sic a hearty dose o't, Wad dress your drod m.

You on an auld wife's flannen toy; Or aiblins some bit duddie boy, On's wyliccoat; But Miss's fine *Lunardie!* fie, How dare ye do't!

I wad no been surprised to spy

O, Jenny, dinna toss your head, An' set your heautres a' abread! Ye little ken what cursed speed The blastie's makin'! That winks and finger-ends, I dread, Are notice takin'!

O wad some power 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!

ADDRESS TO EDINBURGH.

I

Edina! Scatia's durling seat!

All hall thy palaces and towers,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat legislation's sovereign pow'rs!
From marking wildly-setter'd flow'rs,
As on the hanks of Ayr I stray'd,
And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,
I shelter in thy homour'd shade.

11

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 blance and her rod; There learning, with his eagle eyes, Seeks science in her coy abode.

111

Thy sons, Edina, social, kind,
With open arms the stranger hall;
Their views enlarged, their liberal 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.

w

Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn! Gay as the gilded summer sky, Bweet as the dewy milk-white thorn, Dear as the raptured thrill of joy! Fair Bernet strikes th' adoring eye, Heaven's beauties on my fancy shine! I see the size of love on high.

And own his work indeed divine!

There, watching high the least alarma,
Thy rough rude fortress gleams afar;
Like some hold vetctan, grey in arms,
And mark'd with many a seamy sear;
The pondrous wall and massy bar,
Grim-using o'er the rugged rock;
Have off withstood assading war,
And off repell'd the invider's shock.

VI.

With awe-struck thought, and pitying tears, I view that noble, stately do me, Where Scalia's kings of other years, Famed heroes, had their royal home. Alas! how changed 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!

VII

Wild beats my heart to trace your steps,
Whose ancestors in days of yore,
Thro' hostile ranks and ruin'd gaps
Old Scotia's bloody lion bore E'en I who sing in rustic lore,
Haply my sires have left their sked,
And faced grim danger's loudest roar,
Bold-following where your fathers led!

3'111

EDINA! Scotia's darling seat!

All hail thy palaces and tow'rs,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet
Sat legislation's sow'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'd in thy honour'd shade.

EPISTLE TO J. LAPRAIK,

AN OLD SCOTTISH BARD, APRIL 1st, 1785

While briers an' woodbines budding green, An' paitricks scraichin loud at e'en, An' morning poussie whiddin 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 from and jokin',
Ye need na doubt:
At length we had a hearty yokin',
At sang about,

There was ac sang amang the rest.
About them a' it pleased me best.
That some kind husband had addrest
To some sweet wife;
It thirl'd the heart-strings thro' the L-nast.
A to the life.

I've scarce heard ought described sae weel, What gen'rous, maniy bosoms feel; Thought I, ' Can this be Pope, or Steele, Or Beattie's wark?'

They tald me 'twas an odd kind chiel About Murkirk.

It put me fidgin-fain to hear't, And sae about him there I spiert, Then a' that ken't him round declared He had ingine, 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 Teviotdale,
He had few matches

Then up I gat, an' swoor an aith, Tho' I should pawn my pleugh an' graith, Or die a cadger pownie's death,

At some dyke back,
A pint an' gill I'd gie them baith
To hear your erack.

But, first an' feremost, I should tell, Amaist as soon as I could spell, I to the crambo-jingle fell, Tho' rude and rough,

Yet crooning to a body's sel'

Does weel eneugh.

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 glauce,
I jingle at her.

Your critic folk may cock their nose, And say, ' How can you e'er propose, You wha ken hardly rerse frae prose, To mak a sang?' But, by your leaves, my learned foes, Ye're may be wrang

What's a' your jargon o' your schools, four Latin names for horns an' stools; If honest nature made you fools, What saiss your grammars? Ye'd better taen up spades and shools, Or knappin-haumers.

A set o' dull conceited hashes, Confuse their brains in college classes! They gang in stirks, and come out asses, Plain truth to speak; An' syne they think to climb Parnassus By dint o' Greek!

Gie me ae spark o' Nature's fire!

That's a' the learning I desire;

Then tho' I drudge thro' dub an' mire

At pleugh or cart,

My muse, though hanely in attre,

May touch the heart,

O for a spunk o' Allan's glee, Or Ferguson's, the build and slee, Or bright Laprach's, my friend to be, If I can hit it! That would be lear eneugh for me!

If I could get it.

Now, Sir, if ye hae friends enow, Tho' real friends, I b'lieve are few, Yet, if your catalogue be fou, I'se no insist, But gif ye want ae friend that's true, I'm on, your list.

I winna blaw about mysel;
As ill I like my faults to tell;
But friends, and folk that wish me well,
They sometimes roose me
Tho' I maun own, as monie still
As far abuse me.

There's ae wee faut they whyles lay to me,
I like the lasses—Guid forgie me!
For monie a plack they wheedle frae me,
At dance or fair;
May be some ither thing they gie me
They weel can spare,

But Mauchline race, or Mauchline fair, I should be proud to meet you there; We'se gie ae night's discharge to care, If we forgather, An' hae a swap o' rhyming-ware Wi'a ue anither

The four-gill chap, we'se gar him clatter,
An' kiesen him wi' reekin' water;
Syne we'll sit down an' tak our whitter,
To cheer our heart;
An' faith we'se be acquainted better
Before we part.

Awa ye selfish warly race, Wha think that havins, sense, an' grace, Ev'n love and friendship, should give place To catch the plack! I dinna like to see your face,

Nor hear your crack.

But ye whom social pleasure charms,
Whose hearts the tide of kindness warms,
Who hold your being on the terms,
'Each aid the others,'
Come to my bowl, come to my arms,

But, to conclude my lang epistle, As my auld pen's worn to the grissle; Twa lines frae you wad gar me fissle, Who aun, most fervent, While I can either sing, or whissle,

Your friend and servant

My friends, my brothers.

POEMS.

TO THE SAME.

APRIL 21, 1785.

While new-ca'd kye ront at the stake, An' pownies reck in pleugh or hrake, This hour on e'enin's edge I take, To own I'm debtor Fo honest-hearted auld Layraik For his kind letter.

Forje-ket sair, with weary legs, Rattlin' the corn out-owre the rigs, Or dealing thro' amang the naigs Their ten hours bite, My awkart muse sair pleads and legs, I would na write.

The tapetless ramfeezl'd hizzie, She's saft at best, and something lazy, Quo' sl.a. 'Ye ken, we've been sae busy, This month an' mair, That trouth my head is grown right dizzie, An' something sair.'

Her dowff excuses pat me mad; 'Conscience,' says I, 'ye thowless jad! I'll write, an' that a hearty bland, 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,
Roose yeu sae weel for your deserts,
In terms sae friendly,
Tet ye'll neglect to shaw your parts,
An' thank him kindly!'

Sae I gat paper in a blink, An' down gaed stumpie in the ink: Quoth I, 'Before I sleep a wink, I vow l'll close it; An' if ye winna mak' it clink, By Jove l'll prose it!'

Sac I've begun to scrawl, but whether In rhyme, or prose, or bailt thegither, Or some hotch-potch that's rightly neither, Let time mak proof; But I shall scribble down some blether Just clean aff loof.

My worthy friend, ne'er grudge an' carp Tho' fortune use you hard an' sharp; Come, kittle up your moordand harp Wi' gleesome touch! Ne'er mind how Fortune waft and warp; She's but a betch.

She's gien me monie a jirt and fleg, Sin I could striddle owre a rig; But, by the L—d, tho' I should heg, Wi'lyart pow, I'll laugh, an' slng, an' shake my leg, As lang's I duw!

Now comes the sax and twentieth simmer,
I've seen the bud upo' the timmer,
Still persecuted by the limmer,
Frae year to year;
But yet, despite the kittle kunmer,
I. Rob. am here

Do ye envy the city Gent,
Behint a kist to lie and sklent,
Or purse-proud, big wi' cent, per cent.
And muckle wame,
In some bit brught to represent
A Ballie's name?

Or is't the paughty feudal thane, Wi' ruffled sark and glancin' cane, Wha thinks himself nae sheep-shank hane, But lordly stalks, While caps an' bonnets aff are tace, As by he walks?

Go Thon wha gies us each guid gift! Gie me o' wit and sense a lift. Then turn me, if Thon please, adrift. Thro' Scotland wide a Wi' cits nor laids I wadna shift, In a' their pride!'

Were this the charter of our state,
'On pain o' hell be rich and great,'
Damnation then would be our fate,
Beyond remead;
But, thanks to Heav'n! that's no the gate
We learn our creed.

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, An' none but he !

O mandate glorious and divine! The ragged followers o' the Nine, Poor, thoughtless devils! yet may skine In glorious light, While sordid sons of Mammon's line Are dark as night.

Tho' here they scrape, an' squeeze, an' grown Their worthless nievefu' o' a soul May in some future carease how! The forest's fright; Or in some day-detesting ov! May shun the light.

Then may Lupraik and Burns arise, To reach their native, kindred skies, And sing their pleasures, hopes, and joys, In some mild sphere, Still closer knit in friendship's ties, Each passing year. TO W. S-

OCHILTREE.

May 1785.

I GAT your letter, winsome Willie : Wi' gratefu' heart I thank you brawlie; Tho' I mann say't, I wad be silly, An' unco vain, Should I believe, my coaxin' billie, Your flatterin' strain.

But I'se believe ye kindly meant it, I sud be laith to think ve hinted Ironic satire, sidelins sklented On my poor musie; Tho' in sie phraisin' terms ye've penn'd it. I scarce excuse ve.

My senses wad he in a creel. Should I but dare a hope to speel, Wi' Allan or wi' Gilbertfield, The braes of fame : Or Ferguson, the writer chiel, A deathless name.

(O Ferguson ! thy glorious parts In suited law's dry, musty arts ! My curse upon your whunstane hearts, Ye E'nbrugh Gentry! The tithe 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, As whyles they're like to be my dead, (O sad disease!) ! kittle up my rustic reed ; It gies me ease.

Auld Coila now may fidge fu' fain, She's gotten poets o' her ain, Chiels who their chanters winns hain, 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 measured style; She lay like some unkenned of isle Beside New-Holland, Or whare wild-meeting oceans boil Besouth Magellan.

Ramsay an' famous Ferguson Gied Forth an' Tay a lift aboon : Yarrow an' Tweed to monie a tune, Owre Scotland rings, While Irwin, Lugar, Ayr, an' Doon, Nae body sings.

Th' Ilissus, 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 ann 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, Where glorious Wallace Aft bure the gree, as story tells, Frae southern 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, Or glorious died.

O sweet are Coila s haughs an' woods, When lintwhites chant among the buds, An' jinkin hares, in amorous whids, Their loves enjoy, While thro' the braes the cushat eroods With wailfu' ery!

Ev'n winter bleak has charms to me When winds rave thro' the naked tree : Or frost on hills of Ochiltree Are hoary grey;

Or blinding drifts wild-furious flee, Dark'ning the day !

O Nature! a' thy shows 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 fand 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 heartfelt sang!

The warly race may drudge and drive. Hog-shouther, jundie, stretch, an' strive, Let me fair Nature's face descrive, And I, wi' pleasure, Shall let the busy, grundling hive Bum o'er their treasure

Fareweel, 'my rhyme-eomposing 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 and taxes ; While moorian' herds like guid fat braxice; While terra firma on her axis Diurnal turns,

Count on a friend, in faith and practice, In Robert Burns.

POSTSCRIPT.

My memory's no worth a preez;
I had amaist forgotten clean,
Ye bade 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 callans
At grammar, logic, an' sic talents,
They took nae psins their speech to balance,
Or rules to gi'e,
But spak their thoughts in plain braid lallans,
Like vou or me.

In thae auld times, they thought the moon, lust like a sark, or pair o' shoon, Wore by degrees, till her last roon, Gaed past their viewing, An' shortly after she was done, They gat a new ane.

This past for certain, undisputed; It n'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, Wad threap auld folk the thing misteuk; For 'twas the auld moon turn'd a neuk, An' out o' sight, An' backlins-comin', to the leuk, She grew mair bright.

This was deny'd, it was affirm'd;
The kerds and hissels were alarm'd;
The rev'rend grey-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' aithe to clours an' nicks; An' monie a fallow gat this licks, Wi' hearty crunt; An' some, to learn them for their tricks, Were hang'd an' brunt.

This game was play'd in monie lands, An' andd-light caddies bure sic hands, That faith, the youngsters took the sands, Wi' nimble shanks, Till lairds forbade, by strict commands, Sie bluidy pranks.

But new-light herds gat sic a cowe, Folk thought them ruin'd stick-an'-stowe, Till now arraist on ev'ry knowe, Ye'll find ane plac'd;

• See Note, p. 14.

An' some, their new-light fair avow, Just quite barefac'd.

Nae doubt the auld-light flocks are blestiz'; Their zealous herds are vex'd an' sweatin'; Mysel, I've even seen them greetin' Wi' girnin' spite,

To hear the moon sae sadly lie'd on

By word an' write.

But shortly they will cowe the louns! Some auld-light herds in neebor tuwns Are mind't, in things they ca' balloons, An' stay a 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, 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 nacthing but a ' moonshine matter;'
But tho' dull prose-folk Latin splatter
In logic tulzie,
I hope, we hardies ken some better
Than mind sic heulzie.

EPISTLE TO J. RANKINE.

ENCLOSING SOME POEMS.

O ROUGH, rude, ready-witted Rankine, The wale o' cocks for finn and drinkin'! There's mony goddy folks are thinkin', Your dreams * an' tricks Will send you, Korah-like, a-sinkin', Straight to auld Nick's.

Ye ha'e 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'.

Hyperisy, in mercy spare it!
That holy robe, O dinna tear it!
Spare't for their sakes who 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 skaithing It's just the blue-gown badge an' claithing O' saunts; tak that, ye lea'e them naething To ken them by,

• A certain humorous dream (I his was then me); ing a noise in the country-ende.

Frae ony unregenerate neathen Like you or L

I've sent you here some rhyming ware, A that I bargain'd for an' mair; Sae, when you hae an hour to spare, I will expect Yon sang,* ye'll sen't 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!
I'd botter gapp and sur'd the bing.

I'd better gaen and earr'd the king At Bunker's Hill.

'Twas ae night lately in my fun,
I gaed a roving wi' the gun,
An' brought a paitrick to the grun,
A bonnie hen,
And, as the twilight was begun,
Thought name wad ken.

The poor wee thing was little huit; I straikit it a wee for sport,
Ne'er thinkin' they wad fash me for't;
But, deil-ma care!
Somebody tells the paacher-court

The hale affair.

Some and us'd hands had ta'en a note,
That sie a hen had got a shot;
I was suspected for the plot;
I scorn'd to lie;
So gat the whissle o' my groat,
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' dele,
For this, niest year.

As soon's the clockin' time is by,
An' the wee pouts begun to cry,
L—d, I'se hae sportin' by an' by,
For my gowd guinea:
Tho' I should herd the buckshin kye
For't, in Virginia.

Trowth, they had meikle for to blame!
'Twas neither broket wing nor limb,
But twa-three draps shout the wame,
Searce thro' the fextlers;
An' baith a yellow George to claim,
An' thole their blethers!

It pits me aye as mad's a hare; So I can rhyme nor write nac mair, But pennyworths again is fair, When time's expedient: Meanwhile I am, respected Sir, Your most obedient.

. A song he had promised the Author.

WRITTEN IN

FRIARS CARSE HERMITAGE.

ON NITH-SIDE

Thou whom chance may hither lead, Be thou clad in russet weed, Be thou deckt in silken stole, Grave 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.

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 sparn 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 clifty hold, While cheerful peace, with linnet song, Chants the lowly dells among.

As the shades of ev'ning close, Beck'ning thee to long repose: As life itself becomes disease, Seek the chimney-neuk of ease, There ruminate with suber thought, On all thou'st seen, and heard, and wrough And teach the sportive younker's 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? 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 from of swill Hear't. To virtue or to vice is giv'n. 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; Sileep, whence thou shalt ne'er awake. Night, where dawn shall never breas, Till future life, future no more, To light and joy the good restore, To light and joy unknown before. Stranger, go! Heav'n be thy guide! Quod the beadsman of Nith-side.

ODE.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MRS. - OF -

DWELLER in you dungeon dark, Hangman of creation! mark Who in widow-weeds appears, Laden with unhonoured years, Noosing with care a bursting purse, Baited with many a deally curse!

STROPHE.

ANTISTROPHE.

Planderer of armies, lift thine eyes, (A while forbear, ye tort'ring fiends), Sees, thou wause step unwaining airner neals? No fallen angel, burl'd from upper skies; The thy trusty quoudan 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 Manumon fail,
Omnipotent as he is here?
O, bitter mock'ry of the pompous bier,
While down the wretched rital part is driv'n!
The cave-lodg'd beggar, with a conscience clear,
Expires in rags, unknown, and goes to Heav'n.

ELEGY

ON

CAPTAIN MATTHEW HENDERSON.

A GENTLEMAN WHO HELD THE PATENT FOR HIS HONOURS IMMED'ATELY FROM AL-MIGHTY 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! than tyrant fell and bloody;

Haurl thee hame to his black smiddle, O'er hurcheon hides, And like steek-fish come o'er his studdle Wi' thy auld sides!

He's gane, he's gane! he's frae us tore, The ac best fellow e'er was born! Thee, Matthew, Nature's sel shall mourn By wood and wild, Where, haply, Pity strays forforn, Frae man exil'd.

Ye hills, near neebors o' the starns, That proudly cock your creeting cairns! Ye cliffs, the haunts of sailing yearns, Where celo slumbers! Come join, ye Nature's sturdiest bairns, My wailing numbers!

Mourn ilka grave the cushat kens! Ye haz'lly shaws and briery dens! Ye burnies, wiinplin down your glens, Wi' toddlin' din, Or foaming strang, wi' hasty stens, Frae lin to lin.

Mourn little harebells o'er the lee; Ye stately fox-gloves fair to see; Ye woodbines, hanging bonnille In scented bow're; Ye roses on your thorny tree, The first o' flow'rs.

At dawn, when ev'ry grassy hlade Drops with a diamond at his head, At ev'n, when beans their fragrance shed I' th' rustling gale, Ye maukins whiddin thro' the glade, Come join my wail.

Mourn ye wee songsters o' the wnod; Y georuse that crap the heather bind; Y e curlews calling thro' a chid; Ye whistling plover; And mourn, ye whirring pairtiek brood; Ife's gane for ever!

Mourn, sonty coots, and speckled teals; Ye fisher herons, watching eels; Ye duck and drake, wi' airy wheels Circling the lake; Ye bitterns, till the quagmire reels, Rair for his sake.

Mourn, clam'ring craiks at close o' day,
'Mang fields o' flow'ring clover 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, frae your ivy bow'r, In some auld tree, or eldritch tow'r, What time the moon, wi' silent glow r, Sets up her horn, Wail thro' the dreary midnight hour Till waukrife morn!

O rivers, forests, hills, and plains! Oft have ye heard my cauty strains:
But now, what else for me remains
But tales of woe;
An' frae my een the drapping rains
Mann ever flow.

Mourn, spring, thou darling of the year! Ilk 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 cross'd 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 the honest tuft I'll wait, Thou man of worth! And weep the ae best fellow's fate E'er lay in earth

THE EPITAPH.

Stor, 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 nncommon merit hast,
Yet spurn'd at fortune's door, man;
A look of pity hither east,
For Matthew was a poor man,

If thou a noble sodger art,

That passest 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 von thy praise, For Matthew was a bright man

If thou at friendship's sacred ca', Wad life itself resign, man: Thy sympathetic tear mann 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 ue er guid wine did fear, man,
This was thy billie, dam, and sire,
For Matthew was a queer man.

If ony whiggish whingin sot,

To blane poor Matthew dare, man
May dool and sorrow be his lot,

For Matthew was a rare man.

LAMENT OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

ON THE APPROACH OF SPRING.

Now Nature hangs her mantle green On every blooming tree, And spreads her sheets o' daisies white Out n'er the grassy lea: Now Phoebus cheers the crystal streams, And glads the azure skies; But nought can glad the weary wight That fast in durance lies.

Now law'rocks wake the merry mora, Aloft on dewy wing; The merle, in his noontide how'r, Makes woudland echoes ring; Makes woudland echoes ring; Sings drowsy day to rest: In love and freedom they rejuice, Wi' care nor thrall opprest.

Now blooms the lily by the bank, The primnose down the brae; The hawthom's budding in the giez And milk-white is the slae; The meanest hind in fair Scotlan1, May rove their sweets aming; But I, the Queen of a' Scotland, Maun lie in prison strang.

I was the Queen o' bonnie France, Where happy I hae been; Fa' lightly raise I in the morn, As blithe lay down at e'en; And I'm the sovereign of Scotland, And mony a traitor there. Yet here I lie in foreign bands, And new rending care. But as for thee, theu false woman, My sister and my fae, Grim vengeance, yet, shall whet a sword

Grim vengeance, yet, shall whet a swor 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 thy reign, That neer wad blink on mine! Gol keep thee frae thy mother's fies, Or turn their hearts to thee;

And where thou meet'st thy mother's friend, Remember him for me!

O! soon, to me, may sammer-suns
Nac 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

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.

TO ROBERT GRAHAM, Esq.

OF FINTRA.

LATE crippled of an arm, and now a leg, About to beg a pass for leave to beg; Dull, listles, teas'd, dejected, and deprest, (Nature is adverse to a cripple's rest); Will generous Graham list to his poet's wail? (It southes poor misery, hearkening 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 arraign; Of thy caprice maternal I complain. The lion and the built thy care have found, One shakes the forest, and one spurns the

ground:

Thon giv'st the ass his hide, the snoil his shell,
Th' envenom'd wasp, victorious, guards his cell.
Thy minious, kings defend, control, devour,
In all th' omnipotence of rule and power.

Foxes and statesmen, subtile wiles ensure;
The cit and polecat stink, and are secure;
Toads with their poison, doctors with their
drug, [snug.

The priest and hedge-hog, in their robes are Ev'n silly woman has her warlike arts, {darts. Her tongue and eyes, her dreaded spear and

But O'h! 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 hels to hear him from the opening dun No claws to dig, his hated sight to shun;

No horns, but those by luckless Hymen worn, And those, alas! not Annithea's horn: No nerves olfactory, Manmon's trusty cur, Clad in rich dulness' comfartable fur, In naked feeling, and in aching pride, Jle bears th' unbroken blast from every side; Vampyre booksellers drain him to the heart, And scorpion critics curcless venom dart.

Critics—appall'd, I venture on the name, Those cut-throut bandits in the paths of fame; Bloody dissectors, worse than ten Monroes; He hacks to teach, they mangle to expose.

His heart by causeless, wanton malice wrang, By blockheads' during into madness stung; His well-won bays, than life itself more dear, By misereants torn, who ne'er one sprig must wear;

Foil'd, bleeding, tortur'd, in the unequal strife The hiples piec flounders on through life, Till fl-d each hope that once his bosom fired, And fled each muse that glorious once inspired, Low sunk in squalid, unprotected age, Dead, even resentment, for his injured page, He heeds or feels no more the ruthless critic's rage!

So, by some hedge, the generous steed deceased,
For half-starv'd snarling curs a dainty feast;
By toil and famine wore to skin and bone.

By toil and famine wore to skin and bone. Lies senseless of each tugging bitch's son.

O dulness! portion of the truly blest!

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 heams.
If mantling high she fills the golden cup,
With sober selfish case they sip it up; [serve,
Conscious the bounteous meel they well deThey only wonder 'some folks' do not starve.
The grave sage hero thus casy picks his frog,
And thinks the mallard a sad worthless dog.
When disuppointment snaps the che of hope,
And thro' disastrous night they darkling grope,
With deaf endurance sloggishly they hear,
And just conclude 'that fools are fortune's exre.'
So, heavy, passive to the tempest's shocks,
Strong on the sign-post stands the stupid ox.

Not so the idle muses' mad-cap train, Not such the workings of their moon-struck brain:

In equanimity they never dwell, By turns in soaring heaven, or vaulted hell.

I dread thee, fate, relentless and severe, With all a poet's, husband's, father's fear; Already one strong hold of hope is lost, Gleneairn, the truly noble, lies in dust; (Fled, like the sun eclips'd as noon appears, And left us darkling in a world of tears): O! hear my ardient, grateful, selfish pray'r! Fintra, 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 And thou, my last, best, only friend, death!

LAMENT FOR JAMES EARL OF GLENCAIRN.

THE wind blew hollow frae the hills. By fits the sun's departing beam 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. Whose trunk was mould'ring down with years;

His locks were bleached white wi' time, His hoary check 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 alang,

" Ye scatter'd birds that faintly sing, The relics of the vernal quire! Ye woods that shed on a' the winds

The honours of the aged year ! A few short months, and gird and gay, Again ye'll charm the ear and e'e; But nocht 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 hald of earth is gone : Nae leaf o' mine shall greet the spring, Nae simmer sun exalt my bloom : But I mann lie before the storm. And ithers 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: Unheard, unpitied, unrelieved, I bear alane my lade o' care, . or 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 hars ! The voice of woe and wild despair ! Awake, resound thy latest lay, Then sleep in silence evermair ! That fillest an untimely tomb,

Accept this tribute from the bard Thou brought from fortune's mirkest gloom

" In poverty's low barren vale, Thick mists, obscure, involv'd me round : Tho' oft I turn'd the wistful eye, Nae 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.

"O! 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 vestreen: 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 !*

LINES.

SENT TO SIR JOHN WHITEFORD, OF WHITEFORD BART, WITH THE POREGOING POEM.

Thou, who thy honour as thy God rever'st, Who, save thy mind's reproach, nought earthly

To thee this votive offering 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 is gone, And tread the dreary path to that dark world unknown.

TAM O' SHANTER:

A TALE.

Of Brownyis and of Bogilis full is this Buke. Gawin Longlan

WHEN chapman billies leave the street, And droutly neebors, neebors meet,

A; market-days are wearing late,
An' folk begin to tak the gate;
While we sit housing at the nappy,
An' gettia' fou and unco happy,
We think na on the lung Scots miles,
The mosses, waters, slaps, and stiles,
That lie between us and our hame,
Whare sits our sulky sullen dame,
Gathering her hrows like gathering storm,
Norsing 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 surpasses, For honest men and bonny lasses).

O Tam ! had'st thou but been sae wise. As ta'en thy ain wife Kate's advice! She tauld thee weel thou was a skellum. A blethering, blustering, drunken blellum; That frae November till October. Ae market-day thon was na soher: That ilka melder, 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 L-d's house, ev'n on Sunday, Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday. She prophesy'd, that late or soon, Thou would be found deep drown'd in Doon : Or catch'd wi' warlocks in the mirk, By Alloway's auld haunted kirk.

Ah, gentle dames! it gars me greet, To think how mony counsels sweet, How mony lengthen'd sage advices, The husband fracthe wite despises!

But to our tale : Ae market night, Tam had got planted unco right; Fast by an ingle, bleezing finely, Wi' reaming swats, that drank divinely; And at his elbow, souter Johnny, His ancient, trusty, drouthy erony; Tam lo'ed him like a vera brither : They had been fou for weeks thegither, The night drave on wi' sangs an' clatter ; And aye the ale was growing better: The landlady and Tam grew gracions, Wi' favours, secret, sweet, and precious; The souter 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 fee hame wi' lades o' treasure, The minutes wing'd their way wi' pleasure: Kings may be blest, but Tum was glorions, 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 horealis race,
Thike the horealis race,
To like the rainkow's lovely form
Evanshing amid the storm.—
Nae man can tether time or tide;
The hour approaches Tam mann ride;
That hour, o' night's biack arch the key-same.
That dreary hour he mounts his heast in;
And sie a night he taks the road in,
As ne'er pour sinner was abroad in.

The wind blew as 'twad blawn its last; The rattin' showers rose on the blast: The speedy gleams the darkness swallow'd; Loud, deep, and lang, the thunder bellow'd; That night, a child might understand, The deil had business on his hand.

Wed mounted on his grey mare, Meg—
A better never lifted leg—
Tam skelpit on thro' dub and mire,
Despising wind, and rain, and fire;
Whiles holding fast his guid blue bonnet;
Whiles crooning o'er some and Scots sonnet;
Whiles glow'ring round wi' prudent cares,
Lest bagles eatch him unawares;
Kirk-Alloway was drawing nigh,
Whare ghaists and houlets nightly ery—

By this time he was cross the ford, Whate in the snaw the chapman smoor'd; And past the birks and meikle stane. Whare drunken Charlie brak 's neck-bane ; And thro' the whins, and by the cairn, Whare hunters fand the murder'd bairn; And near the thorn, aboon the well, Whare Mango's mither hanged hersel,-Before him $D_{\mathcal{O}} u$ 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 scen'd in a bleeze ; Thro' ilka bore the beams were glancing, And loud resounded mirth and dancing-

Inspiring bold John Burleycorn! What dangers thou can't 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 cared na deils a boddle. But Maggie stood right sair astonish'd, Till, by the heel and hand admonish'd, She ventured forward on the light; And, vow! 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. A winnock-bunker in the east, There sat and Nick, in shape o' beast : A towzie tyke, black, grim, and large, To gie them music was his charge: He screw'd his pipes and gart them skirk Till roof and rafters a' did dirk -.

Coffins stood round like open presses, That shaw'd the dead in their last dresses; And by some devilish cantrip 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 : Twa span-lang, wee, unchristen'd bairus: A thief, new-cutted frae a rape, Wi' his last gasp his gab did gape; Five tomahawks, wi' blude red-rusted; Five seymitars wi' murder erusted; 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 unlawfo'.

As Tammie glowr'd, amaz'd and curious, The piper loud and louder blew; The piper loud and louder blew; The dancers quick and quicker flew; They reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleckit, Till ilka carbin swat and reckit, And coost her duddies to the wark, And linket at it in her sark!

Now Tam, O Tam! had they been queans A' plump an' strapping, in their teens; Their sarks, instead o' cree-shie flamen, Been saw-white seventeen hundre linen! Thir breeks o' mine, my only pair, That ance were plush, o' guid blue hair, I wad hae gi'en them aff my hurdies! For ae blink o't the bonnie burdies!

But wither'd beldams, and and droll, Rigwoodie hags wad spean a foal, Lowping and flinging on a crummock, I wonder didna turn thy stomach.

But Tam kenn'd what was what fu' brawlie, There was ae winsome wench and walie, That night enlisted in the core, (Lang after kenn'd on Carrick shore! For mony a beast to dead she shot, And perish'd mony a bounie boat, And shook baith meikle corn and hear, And kept the country side in fear), Her entty-sark, o' Paisley harn, That while a lassie she had worn, In longitude though sorely scanty, It was her best, and she was variatio.-Ah! little kenn'd thy reverend grannie, That sark she coft for her wee Nannic, Wi' twa pund Scots, ('twas a' her riches), Wad ever grac'd a dance of witches!

But nere my muse her wing mann cour; Stephys are fur heyond her pow'r; To sing how Nannie lap and fling, (A souple jule she was and strang) And how Tum stood, like ane hewitch'd, And thought his very cen corieh'd. Even Satan glow'd, and blg'd fu' fain, And hoteh'd and blew wi' might and main. Till first ae caper, syne antilter, Tam tint his reason a' thegither, And roars out, "Wed done, Cutty-sara! And in an instant all was dark; And searcely had he Mangie rallied, When out the hellish legion sallied.

As bees hizz out wi' angry fyke, When plundering herds assail their byke; As open pussie's mortal foes, When, pop! she starts before their nose; As eager runs the market crowd, When "Catch the thief!" resounds aloud; So Maggier runs, the witches follow, Wi' runnie an eldritch sereech and hollow.

Ah, Tam! Ah, Tam! thou'll get thy fairis 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-stane of the brig, There at them thou thy tail may toss, A running stream they dare na cross. But ere the key-stane she could make, The fient a tale she had to shake! For Nannie, far before the rest, Hard upon noble Maggie prest, And flew at Tam wi' furious ettle, But little wist she Maggie's mettle-Ae spring brought aff her master hale, But left behind her ain grey tail: The carlin charght her by the rump, And left poor Maggie scarce a stump.

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read, Bit man and mother's son take 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 Tum o' Shanter's mare.

ON SEEING A WOUNDED HARE LIMP BY ME,

WHICH A FELLOW HAD JUST SHOT AT.

INHUMAN man! curse on thy barb'rous act, And blasted be thy murder-aiming eye: May never pity southe thee with a sigh, Nor ever pleasure glad thy crucl heart!

Go live, poor wanderer of the wood and field, The bitter bittle that of his remains:

[•] It is a well known fact, that witches, or any evinerists, have no power to follow a poor wight any farther than the middle of the vest running stream.—It may be proper likewise to mention to the benighted traveller, that when he falls in with bodge, whatevet danger may be in his going forward, there is musmore hazard in turning backs.

No more the thickening brakes and verdant plains,

To thee shall home, or food, or pastime 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 carth with thy bloody bosom prest.

Oft as by winding Nith, I musing wait
The soher eve, or hall the cheerful dawn,
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, ROX-BURGHSHIRE, WITH BAYS.

WITLE virgin Spring, by Eden's flood, Unfolds her tender mintle green, Or pranks the sod in fredie mood, Or tunes Eolan 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 boonty feed:

While maniae Win er riges n'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 exiding tear,
Proclaims that Thouson was her son.

EPITAPHS.

ON A CELEBRATED RULING ELDER.

HERE souter John in death does keep; To hell, if he's game thither, Satan, gie him thy year to keep, He'll haud it weel thegither.

ON A NOISY POLEMIC.

Below thir stanes lie Jamie's banes:
O Death, its my opinion,
Thou ne'er took such a bleth'rin bitch
Into thy dark dominion!

ON WEE JOHNNY.

Hic jacet wee Johnny.

Whoe'er than art, O reader, know,
That death has murder'd Johnny!
An' here his bedy lies fu' low—
For saul, he ne'er had ony.

FOR THE AUTHOR'S FATHER

O YE whose cheek the tear of pity stains, Draw near with pious rev'rence and attend! Here lie the loving husband's dear remains, 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 leaned to virtue's side."

FOR R. A. Esc.

Know thou, O stranger to the fame Of this much lov'd, much honour'd name (For none that knew him need be to'd) A warmer heart death ne'er made cold.

FOR G. H. Esc.

; The poor man weeps—here G_n sleeps
Whom canting wretches blam'd:
But with such as he, where'er he be,
May I be sawed or t_d!

A BARD'S EPITAPH.

Is there a whim-inspired fool, Owre fast for thought, owre hot for rue, Owre blate to seek, owre proud to snool, 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,

· Goldsmith.

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, Can others teach the course to steer, Yet runs, himself, life's mad career, Wild as the wave; Here pause—and, through 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 flame,
But thoughtless folies hid 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, eautious, self-control, Is wisdom's root.

ON THE LATE

CAPTAIN GROSE'S

PEREGRINATIONS THROUGH SCOTLAND, COL-LECTING THE ANTIQUITIES OF THAT KINGDOM.

Hean, Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots, Frae Maidenkink to Johnny Groat's; If there's a hole in a' your coats, I rede you tent it: A chield's amang you, takung notes, And, faith, he'll prent it.

If in your bounds ye chance to light
Upon a fine, fat, fodgel wight,
O' stature short, but genius bright,
That's he, mark weel—
And wow! he has an unco slight
O' cank and keel.

By some and, houlet-haunted biggin,*
Or kirk, deserted by its riggin,
It's ten to ane ye'll find him snug in
Some eldritch part,
Wi' deils, they say, L—d safe's! colleaguin'
At some black art.—

Ilk ghaist that haunts and ha' or chamer, Ye gipsey-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 tanid he was a sodger bred, And ane wad rather fa'n than fled;

· Vide his Antiquities of Scotland.

But now he's quat the spurtle blade,
And dog-skin wallet,
And ta'en the—Antiquarian trade,
I think they call it.

He has a fouth o' auld nick nackets: Rusty airn caps and jinglin' jackets,* Wad had the Lothian three in tackets, A townout guid: And partich pats, and anid sunt-backets

And parritch pats, and and sant-backets, Before the Flood.

Of Eve's first fire he has a cinder; Auld Tubal Cain's fire-shool and fender; That which distinguished the gender O' Balann's ass; A broom-stick o' the witch of Endor, Weel shod wi' brzss.

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 jocteleg, Or lang-kail gullie,—

But wad ye see him in his glee, For meikle glee and fun has he, Then set him down, and twa or three Guid fellows wi' him, And nort, O nort! Shine thou a wee,

And port, O port! Shine than a wee,

And then ye'll see him!

Now, by the pow'rs o' verse and prose!

Thou art a dainty chiel, O Grose.—
Whae'er o' thee shall ill suppose,
They sain misea' thee;
I'd take the rascal by the nose,
Wad say, Shame fa' thee!

TO MISS CRUIKSHANKS,

A VERY YOUNG LADY, WRITTEN ON THE BLANK LEAF OF A BOOK, PRESENTED TO HER BY THE AUTHOR.

Beautious rose-bud, young and gay, Blooming on thy early May, Never may'st thou, lovely flow'r, Chilly shrink in sleety stow'r: Never Boreas' hoary path, Never Eners', pois' nous breath, Never baleful stellar lights, Taint thee with untimely blights! Never, never repute thief Riot on thy virgin leaf! Nor even Sol ton fiercely view Thy bosom blushing still with dew!

May'st thou long, sweet crimson gem, Richly deck thy native stem;

· Vide his treatise on Ancient Armour and Weapons

Till some ec'ning sober, calm, Dropping dews, and oreathing balm, While all around the woodland rings, And ec'ry bird thy requiem sings; Thou, amid the dirgeful seund, Shed thy dying honours round, And resign to parent earth The loveless from she e'er gave birth.

ON READING IN A NEWSPAPER, THE DEATH OF

JOHN MILEOD, Eso.

BROTHER TO A YOUNG LADY, A PARTICULAR FRIEND OF THE AUTHOR'S.

SAD thy tale, thou idle page, And rueful thy alarms: Death tears the brother of her love From Isabella's arms,

Sweetly deck'd with pearly dew The morning rose may blow; But, cold successive mountide blasts May lay its beauties low.

Fair on Isabel'a's morn
The sun propitions 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 rung.

Dread Omnipotence, alone,

Can heal the would be gave;

Can point the brimful grief-worn eyes

To scenes beyond the grave.

Virtuous blossoms there shall blow, And fear no withering blast; There Isabella's spotless worth Shall happy be at last.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF BRUAR-WATER.*

TO THE NOBLE DUKE OF ATHOLE.

My Lord, I know your noble ear
Woe ne'er assils in vair.
Embodien'd thus, I beg you'll hear
Your humble slave complain,
How sancy Phobins' scorching beams,
In flaming summer-pride,

Dry-withering, waste my foaming streams, And drink my crystai tide.

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 the whitening stames amang,
In gasping death to wallow.

The lightly-jumpin glowrin trouts.

Last day I grat, wi' spite and teen,
As poet B—— 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 sher'd me:
But had I in my glory been,
He, kneeting, wad ador'd me.

Here, foaming down the shelvy rocks, In twisting strength I rin; There, high my boiling torrent smokes, Wild-roaring o'er a lion: Enjoying large each spring and well As nature gave them me, I am, although I say't mysel, Worth gaun a mile to see.

Would then my noble master please. To grant my highest wishes, He'll shade my banks m' 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 soher laverock, warbling wild, Shall to the skies aspire; The gowdspink, music's gayest child, Shall sweetly join the choir: The blackbird strong, the lantwhite clear, The mavis wild and mellow; The robin pensive autumn cheer, In all her locks of yellow.

This ton, a covert shall ensure, To shield them from the storm; And coward maukin skep secure, Low in her grassy form. Here shall the shepherd make his seat, To weave his crown of flowers; Or find a shell ring safe retreat, From prone descending showers.

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 charma The hour of heav'n to grace, And birks extend their fragrant arms

To screen the dear embrace.

1 2

Bruar Palls, in Athole, are exceedingly pictures que and beautiful; but their effect is much impaired by the want of trees and shrubs.

Here, haply too, at vernal dawn, Some musing bird may stray, And eye the simoking, dewy lawn, And misty mountain, grey; Or, by the reaper's nightly beam, Mild chequering through the trees, Rave to my dirkly dashing stream, Hoarse-welling on the breeze.

Let lofty firs, and ashes cool,
My lowly banks o'erspread,
And view, deep-bending in the pool,
Their shadows' watery bed!
Let fragrant birks in woodbines drest,
My craggy cliffs adorn;
And, for the little songster's nest,
The close embow'ring thorn.

So may old Scotia's darling hope, Your little angel hand, 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 he—" Athole's homest men, And Athole's homine lasses!"

ON SCARING SOME WATER-FOWL,

IN LOCH-TURIT;

A WILD SCENE AMONG THE HILLS OF OCHTERTYRE.

Wirv, ye tenunts of the lake, For me your watery haunt forsake? Tell me, fellow-creatures, why At my presence thus you fly? Why disturb your social joys, Parent, filial, kindred thes?—Common friend to you and me, Nature's gifts to all are free: Peaceful keep your dimpling wave, Busy feed, or wanton live; Or, beneath the shelt-ring rock, Dide the surging billow's shock.

Conscious, blushing for our race, Soon, too soon, your feirs I trace. Man, your proud usurping foe, Would be lord of all below; Plumes himself in Freedom's pride, Tyrant stern to all heside.

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, Glorione in his heart humane, and creatures for his pleasure slain.

In these savage, liquid plains, Only known to wand ring swins, 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,

WRITTEN WITH A PENCIL

OVER THE CHIMNEY-PIECE IN THE PARLOUR OF THE INN AT KENMORE, TAYMOUTH.

Admiring Nature in her wildest grace,
These northern seems with weary feet I trace;
Oer many a winding dale and painful steep,
Th' abodes of covey'd grouse and timid sheep,
My avage journey, curious, I pursue,
If fam'd Breadalbane opens to my view—
The meeting clifs 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 his verdant side,
The lawns wood-fringed in Natures native taste;
The hillocks dropt in Nature's carcless haste!
The arches striding o'er the new-born stream
The village, glittering in the moontide beam—

Poetic ardours in my bosom swell, Lone wandering by the hermit's mossy cell; The sweeping theatre of hanging woods; The incessant roar of headlong tumbling floods—

Here Poesy might wake her heav'n-taught lyre, And look through nature with creative fire; Here, to the wrongs of fate half reconcil'd, Misfortune's lighten'd steps might wander wild;

And disappointment, in these lonely bounds, Find balm to southe her bitter rankling wounds Here heart-struck Grief might heaven-ward stretch her sean,

And injur'd worth forget and nardon man.

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; Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds, Where, thro' a shapeless breach, bis stream

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-scen, through rising mists, and ceaseless showers.

The heary cavern, wide-surrounding lowers, Still that the gap the struggling river toils, And still below, the horrid caldron boils—

ON THE BURTH OF A

POSTHUMOUS CHILD.

BORN IN PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF FAMILY DISTRESS.

Sweet Flow'ret, pledge o' meikle love, And ward o' mony a prayer, What heart o' stane wad thou na move, Sae helpless, sweet, and fair!

November hirples 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 blaw, Protect thee frae the driving shower, The bitter frost and snaw!

May He, the friend of woe and want, Who heals life's various stounds, 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 gent.
Unscath'd by ruffian hand!
And from thee many a parent stem
Arise to deck our land!

THE WHISTLE

A BALLAD.

As the authentic prose history of the Whisele is extions, I shall here give it.—In the train of A one of
Domark, who she may be it.—In the train of A one of
Domark, who she were also in the state of the sixth, where the sixth, where the she is the sixth is the she is the sixth of great provess, and a matchless champion of Bacebus. He had a little chony Whistic
which at the commencement of the origins he laid on
the table, and whoever was last able to blow it, every
body 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
sligle defeat, at the courts of Copenhagen, sneelholm, Moseow, Warsaw, and several of the petty
courts in Germany; and challenged the Seist Bachanalians to the alternative of trying his provess, or else
throws on the part of the Seists, the Dane was encountered by Sir Robert Lawrie of Maxwelton, ancestor of
the present worthy baronet of that name; who, after
three days and three nights' hard contest, left the
Seandinavian under the table,

And blem on the Whistle his requiem shrill.

Sir Walter, son to Sir Robert before mentioned, afterwards but the Whitele to Walter Rubdel, of Glenriddel, who had married a sister of Sir Wajer's.—Or Friday, the 16-h of October 1790, at Friars-Carse, the Whistle was once more contended for, as related in the ballad, by the present Sir Robert Lawrie of Maxwelton; Robert Ruddel, Esq. of Glenriddel, timed descendant and representative of Walter Ruddel, who won the Whistle, and in whose family it had cominued; and Alexander Ferguson, Esq. of Cringdatroch, blownes descended of the great Sir Robert; which had gentleman carried off the hard-won homomos of un field.

I sing of a Whistle, a Whistle of worth, I sing of a Whistle, the pride of the North, Was brought to the court of our good Scottish

King,
And long with this Whistle all Scotland shal,
ring.

Old Loda,* still rueing the arm of Fingal,
The god of the bottle sends down from his
hall—

"This Whistle's your challenge, to Scotland get o'er,

And drink them to hell, Sir 1 or ne'er see me more!"

Old poets have sung, and old chronicles tell What champions ventur'd, what champions 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 Scanr,

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 le.

Thus Robert, victorious, the trophy has gain'd;

Which now in his house has for ages remain'd

· See Ossian' Carie-thura.

Till three noble chieftains, and all of his blood, I The jovial contest again have renew'd.

Three joyous good fellows, with hearts clear

Craigdarroch, 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

" By the gods of the ancients," Glenriddel replies,

" Before I surrender so glorious a prize, I'll conjure the ghost of the great Rorie More, And bumper his horn with him twenty times o'er.

Sir Robert, a soldier, no speech would pre-

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 or he'd vield.

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 levely dame.

A bard was selected to witness the fray, And tell future ages the feats of the day; 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 every new cork is a new spring of joy : In the bands of old friendship and kindred so

And the bands grew the tighter the more they were wet.

Gay pleasure ran riot as bumpers ran o'er; Bright I hobbs ne'er witness'd so joyous a core, And vowed that to leave them he was quite for lorn.

Till Cynthia tinted he'd see them next morn.

Six bottles a-piece had well wore out the

When gallant Sir Robert, to finish the fight,

· See Johnson's Tour to the Hebrides.

Turn'd o'er in one bumper a bottle of red. And swore 'twas the way that their ancestors

Then worthy Glenriddel, so cautious and 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 Rubert fought hard to the

But who can with fate and quart bumpers contend?

Though fate said-a hero should perish in light; So uprose bright Phabus-and down fell the knight.

Next uprose our bard, like a prophet in drink :-

"Craigdarroch, thou'lt soar when creation shall sink :

But if thou would flourish immortal in rhyme, Come-one bottle more-and have at the sublime!

"Thy line, that have struggled for Freedom with Bruce,

Shall heroes and patriots ever produce; So thine be the lanrel, and mine be the bay; The field thou hast wun, by you bright god of day !"

SECOND EPISTLE TO DAVIE.

A BROTHER POET. +

ACLD NEFFOR.

I'm three times doubly o'er your debtor, For your auld-fairent, frien'ly letter; l'ho' I maun say't, I doubt ye flatter, Ye speak so fair:

For my puir, silly, rhymin' clatter, Some less maun sair.

Hale be your heart, hale be your fiddle ; Lang may your elbuck jink and diddle, To cheer you through the weary widdle O' war'ly cares,

I'ill bairns' bairns kindly cuddle Your auld grev hairs.

But Davie, lad, I'm red ye're glaikit; I'm tauld the Muse ye hae negleckit;

An' gif it's sae, ye sud be lickit Until ye fyke; Sic hans as you sud ne'er be faikit,

Be hain't who like.

[†] This is prefixed to the poems of David Sillar, published at Kulmarnock, 1–89, and has not before appeared in our author's printed poems.





Por me, 'm on Parnassus brink, Rivin' tr : words to gar them clink ; Whyles daez't wi' love, whyles daez't wi' drink, Wi' jads or masons;

An' whyles, but aye owre late, I think, Braw soher lessons.

'h' 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. They ever think.

Nae thought, nae view, nae scheme of livin'; Nat cares to 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.

Lecze me on rhyme! it's ave a treasure. My chief, amaist my only pleasure, At hame, a-fiel', at wark or leisure, The Muse, poor hizzie!

Tho' rough an' raploch be her measure, She's seldom lazy.

Hand to the Muse, my dainty Davie : The warl' may play you mony a shavie; But for the Muse, she'll never leave ve, Tho' e'er sae poor,

Na. even tho' limpin' wi' the spavie Frae door tae door.

ON MY EARLY DAYS.

I MIND it weel in early date, When I was beardless, young, and blate, An' first could thresh the barn, Or hand a yokin o' the pleugh, An' tho' forfoughten sair eneugh, Yet unco proud to learn-When first among the vellow corn A man I reckon'd was, And wi' the lave ilk merry mern Could rank my rig and lass-

Still shearing, and clearing The tither stooked raw, Wi' claivers, an' haivers, Wearing the day awa.

E'en then a wish, I mind its pow'r, A wish that to my latest hour Shall strongly heave my breast, The 'I for poor auld Scotland's sake, Some usefu' plan or book could make, Or sing a sang, at least. The rough burr-thistle, spreading wide Amang the bearded bear,

I turn'd the weeder clips aside. An' spired 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' range Wild floated in my brain: 'Till 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 her jingle, Her witching smile, her panky e'en That gart my heart-strings tingle . I fired, inspired,

At every kindling keek, But bashing, and dashing, I feared aye to speak.*

ON THE DEATH OF

SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR

THE lamp of day, with ill-presaging glare, Dim, cloudy, sunk beneath the western wave. Th' inconstant blast howl'd thro' the darkening

And hollow whistled in the rocky cave.

Lone as I wander'd by each cliff and dell, Once the loved haunts of Scotia's royal train; †

Or mused where limpid streams once hallow'd well.t

Or mould'ring ruins mark the sacred fane. \$

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 disclosed 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 shield I view'd; Her form majestic droop'd in pensive woe, The lightning of her eye in tears imbued.

- · The reader will find some explanation of this poem in p. viii.

 The King's Park at Holyrood-house.
 - St. Anthony's Well.

Reversed that spear, redoubtable in war. Reclined that banner, erst in fields unfurl'd. That like a deathful meteor gleam'd afar, And braved the mighty monarchs of the world -

" My pitriot son fills an untimely grave!" With accents wild and lifted arms she cried; " Low lies the hand that oft was stretch'd to

Low lies the heart that swell'd with honest pride!

' A weeping country joins a widow's tear, The helpless poor mix with the orphan's erv ; The dreoping arts around their patron's bier, And grateful science heaves the heartfelt sigh.

" I saw my sons resume their ancient fire; I saw fair Freedom's blossoms richly blow! But, ah ! how hope is born but to expire! Relentless fate has laid the guardian low .-

" My patriot falls, but shall he lie unsung, While empty greatness saves a worthless 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 virtues last, That distant years may boast of other Blairs". She said, and vanish'd with the sweeping

WRITTEN

ON THE BLANK LEAF OF A COPY OF THE POEMS, PRESENTED TO AN OLD SWEETHEART, THEN MARRIED. *

ONCE fondly lov'd, and still remember'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, Cr haply lies beneath th' Atlantic roar,

THE JOLLY BEGGARS: A CANTATA.

RECITATIVO.

WHEN lyart leaves bestrow the yird, Or wavering like the Banckie-bird,+ Bedim cauld Boreas' blast ;

* The girl mentioned in the letter to Dr. Moore. The old Scotel name for the Bat.

When hailstanes drive wi' bitter skyte. And infant frosts begin to bite. In hoary cranreuch drest; Ae night at e'en a merry core, O' randie, gangrel bodies, In Poosie-Nansie's held the splore, To drink their orra duddies: Wi' quaffing and laughing, They ranted and they sang :

Wi' jumping and thumping,

The very girdle rang. First, niest 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 an' blankets warm-

She blinket on her sodger: An' ave he gies the tonsie drab The tither skelpin' kiss, While she held up her greedy gab

Just like an a'mons dish. Ilk smack did crack still. Just like a cadger's whip, 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

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 east on the heights of

Abram: I served out my trade when the gallant game

was play'd, And the Moro low was laid at the sound of the drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

I lastly was with Curtis, among the floating batt'ries.

And there I left for witness an arm and a limb; Yet let my country need me, with Elliot to head me,

I'd clatter my stumps at the sound of the drum. Lal de daudle, &c.

IV.

And now the' I must beg with a wooden arm and leg,

And many a tatter'd rag hanging over my burs

POEMS.

63

I'm as happy with my wallet, my i ottle and His ray regimental they flutter'd so gandy. my callet.

As when I us'd in scarlet to follow a drum. Lal de daud.e. &c.

the drum.

What the' with heary 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 tother bottle tell. I could meet a troop of hell, at the sound of

Lal de daudle, &c.

RECITATIVO.

He ended; and the kebars sheuk, Aboon the chorus roar: While frighted rattans backward leuk, And seek the benmost bore; A fairy fiddler frae the neuk, He skirl'd out encore ! But up arose the martial chuck, And laid the loud uproar.

AIR.

Tune-" Soldier Laddle."

I once was a maid, the' I cannot tell when, And still my delight is in proper young men; Some one of a troop of dragoous was my daddie, No wonder I'm fond of a sodger laddie, Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

II.

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,

I ransported I was with my sodger laddie. Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

But the godly old chaplain left him in the mrch, The sword I forsook for the sake of the church, He ventur'd the soul, and I risked the body, Twas then I prov'd false to my sodger laddie. Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

Full soon I grew sick of my sanetified sot, The regiment at large for a husband I got; From the gilded spontoon to the fife I was ready.

Lasked no more but a sodger laddie. Sing, Lal de lal, &e.

But the peace it reduc'd me to beg in despair, Fill I met my old boy at Cunningham fair;

My heart it rejoic'd at my sodger laddie. Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

And now I have liv'a-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.

Then niest outspak a raucle carlin, Wha kent sae weel to cleek the sterling For monie a pursie she had hooked, And had in mony a well been ducked. Her dove had been a Highland laddie, But weary fa' the waefu' woodie! Wi' sighs and sobs she thus began To wail ber braw John Highlandman.

A TT

Tune-" O an' ye were dead, Gudeman."

A HIGHLAND lad my love was born, The Lalland laws he held in scorn; But he still was faithfu' to his clan, My gallant braw John Highlandman.

cnorus.

Sing, hey my braw John Highlandman ! Sing, ho my braw John Highlandman! There's not a lad in a' the lan' Was match for my John Highlandman.

II.

With his philibeg an' tartan plaid, An' gude claymore down by his side, The ladies hearts he did trepan, My gallar; braw John Highlandman. Sing, hey, &c.

We ranged a' from Tweed to Spey, An' liv'd like lords and ladies gay; For a Lalland face he feared none, 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 one, They've hang'd my braw John Higlandman, Sing, hey, &c.

VI.

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 scraper, wi' his fiddle, Wha us'd at trysts and fairs to driddle, Her strappin limb and gausy middle He reach'd nae higher, Uad hol'd his heartic l-ke a riddle, An' blawn't on fire.

Wi' hand on haunch, an' upward e'e, He eroon'd his gamut, one, two, three, Then in an Arioso key, The wee Apollo

Set off wi' Allegretto glee
His giga solo.

AIR.

Tung-" Whist! owre the lave o't."

I

Let me ryke up to dight that tear, An' go wi me to be my dear, An' then your every care and fear May whistle owre the lave o't.

CHORUS.

I am a fiddler to my trade, An' a' the times that e'er I play'd, The sweetest still to wife or maid, Was whistle owre the lave o't.

11

At kirns and weddings we'se be there,
An' O! sae nicely's we will fare;
We'll bouse about till Daddie Care
Sings whistle owre the lave o't.
1 an. &c.

111

Sae merrily the banes we'll pyke, An' sun oursels about the dyke, An' at our leisure, when we like, We'll whistle owre the lave o't. I am. &c.

IV.

But bless me wi' your heaven o' charms, And while I kittle hair on thairms, Hunger, cauld, an a sick harms, May whistle ower the lave o't. I am, &c. PECITATIVO

Her charms had struck a sturdy Caird,
As weel as poor Gutscraper:
He taks the fiddler by the beard,
And draws a rusty rapier—

He swoor by a' was swearing worth, To speet him like a pliver, Unless he would from that time forth,

Relinquish her for ever.

Wi' glastly e'e, poor tweedle dee

Upon his hunkers bended, And pray'd for grace wi' rucfu' face, And sac the quarrel ended.

But though his little heart did grieve, When round the tinkler prest her, He feign'd to snirtle in his sleeve, When thus the caird address'd her

ATD

Tune-" Clout the Caldron."

I.

My bonnie lass, I work in brass,
A tinkler is my station;
I've traveli'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's

To go and clout the cauldron.
I've ta'en the gold, &...

* *

Despise that shrimp, that wither'd imp, Wi' a his noise an' caprin', An' tak' a share wi' those that bear The budget an' the aprom.

An' by that stowp, my faith and houp,

An' by that dear Keilbagie, *
If e'er ye want, or meet wi' scant,
May I ne'er weet my craigie.
An' by that stown be.

RECITATIVO.

The caird prevail'd—the unblushing fair In his embraces sunk, Partly wi' love o'ercome sae sair, An' partly she was drunk. Sir Violino, with an air That show'd a man of spunk, Wish'd unison between the pair,

An' made the bottle clunk

To their health that night

But hurchin Cupid shot a shaft That play'd a dame a shavie, The fiddler rak'd her fore an aft, Behint the chicken cavie. Her lord, a wight o' Homei's * craft, Tho' limping with the spavie,

 A peculiar sort of whisky so called, a great favourite with Poosie-Nancie's clubs.
 Homer is allowed to be the oldest balled-singer on record. An' shor'd them Daintie Davie
O book that night.

He was a care-defying blade
As ever Bacchus listed,
Though Fortune sair mpon him laid,
His heart she ever miss'd it.
He had no wish but—to be glad,
Nor want but—when he thirsted;
He hated nought but—to be sad,
And thus the Muse suggested,
His saug that night.

AIR.

Tune-" For a' that, an' a' that."

I.

I AM a bard of no regard,
Wi' gentle folks, an' a' that;
But Homer-like, the glowran byke,
Fractown to town I draw that

CHONIE

For a' that, an' a that;
An' twice as meikle's a' that;
I've lost but ane, I've twa behin',
I've wife enough for a' that,

II.

Inever drank the Muse's stank,
Castalia's burn, an' a' that;
But there it streams, and richly reams,
My Helicon I ca' that.
For a' that, &c.

111.

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,

w

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 have put me daft,
They've ta'en me in, an' a' that;
But clear your decks, and here's the sex!
I like the jads for a' that,

" For a' that, an' a' that,
An' 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's wa's shook with a thunder of applause,
Re-echo'd from each mouth:

They toom'd their pocks, an' pawn'd their duds, They scarcely left to co'er their fods, To quench their lower drouth.

Then owre again, the jovial thrang,
The poet did request,
To loose his pack an 'wale a sang,
A ballad o' the best:
He rising, rejoicing,
Between hie twa Deborahz,
Looks round him, an 'found them
Impatient for the chorus,

Alk

Tune-" Jolly Mortals fill your Glasses.

See! the smoking bowl before us, Mark our jovial ragged ring! Round and round take up the chorus, And in raptures let us sing.

cnonus.

A fig for those by law protected Liberty's a glorious feast!

Courts for cowards were erected,

Churches built to please the prices

**

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.

HI.

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.

IV.
Does the train-attended carriage
Through the country lighter rove?
Does the sober bed of marriage
Witness brighter scenes of love?

Λ fig, &c. V.

Life is all a variorum,

We regard not how it goes;
Let them cant about decorum

Who have characters to lose.

A fig. &c.

VI.

Here's to the 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 for those by law protected!

Liberty's a glorious feast!

Courts for cowards were erected,

Churches built to please the prices.

THE KIRK'S ALARM: *

A SATIRE.

ORTHODOX, orthodox, wha believe in John

Let me sound an alarm to your conscience ; There's a heretic blast has been blawn in the

That what is no sense must be nonsense.

Dr. Mae, & Dr. Mae, you should stretch on a

To strike evil doers wi' terror: To join faith and sense upon ony pretence, Is heretic, dampable 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 Bob t 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, auld Satan must have

For preaching that three's ane an' twa.

Rumble John, Rumble John, mount the steps wi' a groan,

Cry the book is wi' heresy cramm'd : Then lug out your ladle, deel brimstone like adle,

And roar every note of the damn'd.

Simper James, | Simper James, leave the fair Killie dames,

There's a holier chace in your view; I'll lay on your head, that the pack ye'll soon

For puppies like you there's but few.

Singet Sawney, ** Singet Sawney, are ye herding the penny,

Unconscious what evils await; Wi' a jump, yell, and howl, alarm every soul,

For the foul thief is just at your gate.

Daddy Auld, ++ Daddy Auld, there's a tod in the fauld.

A tod meikle want than the clerk; Tho' ye can do little skaith, ye'll be in at the death,

And if ye canna bite ye may bark.

• This pown was written a short time after the publication of Mr. Medila Essay.

• Ma. Mr.—dl. — i R.—t A.—n,

• Dr. D = Mr. A.—ll. — i Mr. A.—ll. — i Mr. A.—ll.

1] Mr. A -- d.

Davie Bluster, * Davie Bluster, if for a saint ye do muster,

The corps is no nice of recruits; Yet to worth lets be just, royal blood ye might

boast. If the ass was the king of the brutes.

Jamie Goose, + Jamie Goose, ye ha'e made but toom roose.

In hunting the wicked lieutenant;

But the Doctor's your mark, for the L-d's halv ark:

He has cooper'd and cawd a wrang pin in't.

Poet Willie, † Poet Willie, gie the Doctor » volley.

Wi' your liberty's chain and your wit; O'er Pegasus' side ve ne'er laid a stride,

Ye but smelt, man, the place where he sh-t.

Andro Gouk, & Andro Gouk, ye may slander the book,

And the book not the waur let me tell ye; Ye are rich, and look big, but lay by hat and wig,

And ye'll hae a calf's head o' sma' value.

Barr Steenie, | Barr Steenie, what mean ye? what mean ve?

If ye'll meddle nae mair wi' the matter, Ye may ha'e some pretence to havins and sense, Wi' people wha ken ye nae better.

Irvine side. ** Irvine side, wi' your turkey-cock pride,

Of manhood but sma' is your share;

Ye've the figure, 'tis true, even your faes will allow,

And your friends they dare grant you nae

Muirland Jock, ++ Muirland Jock, when the L-d makes a rock

To crush Common Sense for her sins, If ill manners were wit, there's no mortal so fit To confound the poor Doctor at ance.

Holy Will, ## Holy Will, there was wit i' you! skull.

When ye pilfer'd the alms o' the poor; The timmer is scant, when ye're ta'en for a saint,

Wha should swing in a rape for an hour.

Calvin's sons, Calvin's sons, seize your sp'ritual guns,

Ammunition ve never can need;

Your hearts are the stuff, will be powther enough.

And your skulls are storehouses o' lead.

† Mr. Y—g, C—k. ¶ Dr. A. M—H. *• Mr. S—h, ti—n. ‡‡ An E—r ip M—e-1 Mr. P—s, A-r. || Mr. S— V—, B—r.

Poet Burns, Peet Burns, wi' your priest-skelping turns,
Or pay their skin;

Why desert ye your ruld native shire; Your muse is a gipsie, e'en tho' she were tipsie, She could ca' us nae want than we are.

THE TWA HERDS.*

O a' ye pious godly flocks, Weef fed on pasture's orthodox, Wha now will keep you frae the fox, Or worrying tykes, Or wha will tent the waifs and crocks.

Or wha will tent the waifs and crocks, About the dykes?

The twa best herds in a' the wast, That e'er ga'e gospel horn a blast, These five-and-twenty simmers past, O! doel to tell.

Ha'e had a bitter black ont-cast Atween themsel.

O, M—y, man, and worthy R—II, How could you raise so vile a bustle, Ye'll see how new-light herds will whistle, An' 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 laird respeckit, To wear the plaid, Eat by the brutes themselves eleckit, To be their rudius.

What flock wi' M-y's flock could rank, Sae hale and hearty every shank, Nae poison'd soor Arminian stank,

He let them taste, Frae Calvin's well, aye clear they drank, O sic a feast!

The thummart, wil'-cat, brock, and tod, Weel kend his voice thro' a' the wood, He smelt their ilka hole and road, Baith out and in, And weel he lik'd to shed their bluid.

What herd like R——Il 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 bla

And sell their skin.

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 drub, Or pay their skin; Could shake them o'er the burning dub, Or heave them in.

Sie twa—O! do I live to see't, Sie famous twa should disagreet, An' names, like villain, hypocrite, Ilk ither gi'en, While new-light herds wi' laughin' spice, Say neither's liew.'!

A' ye wha tent the gospel fauld, There's D——n, deep, and P——s, shaul, But chiefly thon, apostle A—d We trust in thee,

That thou wilt work them, not and cauld, Till they agree.

Consider, Sirs, how we're beset,
There's scarce a new herd that we get,
But comes frac 'mang that cursed set,
I winna name,
I hope frac heav'n to see them yet

In fiery flame.

D—e has been lang our fae,
M'—Il has wraught us meikle wae,
And that curs'd rascal ca'd M'—e,
And baith the S—
That aft ha'e made us black and blae,
W' vengefu' paws.

Auld W——w lang has hatch'd mischief, We thought aye death wad bring relief, But he has gotten, to our grief,

Ane to succeed him, A chield wha'll soundly buff our beef; I meikle dread him.

And mony a ane that I could tell,
Wha fain would openly rebel,
Forby turn-coats amang oursel,
There S—h for ane,
I doubt he's but a grey nick quill,
And that ye'll fin'.

O! a' ye flocks o'er a' the hills, By mosses, merdows, moors, and fells, Come join your coursel and your skills, To cow the lairds.

And get the brutes the power themsels, To choose their herds

Then Orthodoxy yet may prance,
And learning in a woody dance,
And that fell eur ca'd Common Sense,
That bites sae sair,
Be builsh'd o'er the sea to France:
Let him bark there.

[•] This piece was among the first of our Author's productions which he submitted to the public; and was occasioned by a dispute between two Cergymen, near Kilmarnock.

M'Q—e's pathetic manly sense,

And guid M'——h,

Wi S—th, who thro' the heart can glance,

May a' pack aff.

THE HENPECK'D HUSBAND.

Curs' to be the man, the poorest wretch in life, The cronching vasal to the tyrant wife, Who has no will but by her high permission; Who has not sixpence but in her possession; Who must to her his dear friend's secret tell; Who dreads a curtain lecture worse than hell. Were such the wife had fallen to my part, I'd break her spirit, or I'd break her heart; I'd charm her with the magic of a switch, I'd kiss her maids, and kick the perverse b—h

ELEGY ON THE YEAR 1788.

Fox bords or kings I dinna mourn, E'en let them die—for that they're born! But, oh, prodigious to reflect, A Toxmont, Sirs, is game to wreek! O Eighty-eight, in thy smal space What dire events ha'e taken place! Of what enjoyments thou hast refu us! In what a pickle thou hast left us!

The Spanish empire's tint ahead, An' my auld teethless Bawtie's dead; The toolzie's teugh' tween Pitt an' Fox, An' our guidwiie's wee birdy cocks; The tane is game, a bhindy devil, But to the hen-birds onco civil; The tither's dour, has nae sie breedin', But better stuff ne'er claw'd a midden!

Ye ministers, come mount the pulpit, An' ery till ye be hearse an' rupit; For Eighty-eight he wish'd you weel, An' gied you a' baith gear an' meal; E'en mony a plack, an' mony a peck, Ye ken yoursels, for little feck!

Ye bonnie lasses dight your een, For some o' you hae tint a frien': In Eighty-eight, ye ken, was ta'en What ye'll ne'er hae to gi'e again.

O'serve the very nowt an' sheep, How dowff an' dowie now they creep; Nay, even the yirth itsel' does cry, For Embro' wells are grutten dry.

O Eighty-nine thou's but a bairn, An' no owre auld, I hope, to learn! Thou heardless boy, I pray tak' care, Thou now has get thy daddy's chair, Nae hand-cuff'd, mizzl'd, haff-skackl'd Regent But, like himsel', a full free agent. Be sure ye follow out the plan Nae waur than he did, honest man ! As meikle better as you can. January 1, 1759.

VERSES

WRITTEN ON A WINDOW OF THE INN AT

WE cam na here to view your warks
In hopes to be mair wise,
But only, lest we gang to hell,
It may be nae surprise:
But when we tirl'd at your door,
Your porter dought na hear us;
Sae may, should we to hell's yetts come,
Your billy Satan sair us!

LINES WRITTEN BY BURNS,

WHILE ON HIS DEATH-BED, TO J—N R—K—N AYRSHIRE, AND FORWARDED TO HIM IMME DIATELY AFTER THE POET'S DEATH.

Hr who of R—k—n sang, lies stiff and dead, And a green grassy hillock hides his head; Alas! alas! a devilish change indeed!

At a meeting of the DUMFRIES-SHIRE VOLUNTEERS, held to commemorate the audiversary of Rodden victory, April Lth 1782, BURNS was called upon for a Song, instead of which he delivered the following Likes:

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 be swing And here's the grand fabric, our free Constitution,

As built on the base of the great Revolution; And longer with Politics not to be cranmid, Be Anarchy curs'd, and he Tyranny damn'd; And who would to Liherty e'er prove disloyal, May his son be a hangman, and he kis first trial

STRATHALLAN'S LAMENT.

THICKEST night o'erhangs my dwelling! Howling tempests o'er me rave! Turbid torrents, wintry swelling, Still surround my lonely cave!

Crystal streamlets gently flowing, Bu-y 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 deny'd 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!*

CLARINDA.

CLARINDA, mistress of my soul,
The measur'd time is run!
The wretch beneath the dreary pole,
So marks his latest sun.

To what dark cave of frozen night Shall poor Sylvander hie; Depriv'd 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?

A VISION.

As I stood by you roofless tower, Where the wa'-flower scents the dewy air, Where th' 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 hazelly path,
Was rushing by the ruin'd wa's,
Hasting to join the sweeping Nith,*
Whase distant roaring swells and fa's.

The cauld blue north was streaming forth Her lights, wi' hissing cerie 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 moon-beam, shook, to see
A stern and stalwart ghaist arise,
Attir'd as minstrels wont to be.

Had I a statue bren o' stane,

His darin look had daunted me;

And on his honnet grav'd was plain,

The sacred posie—Liberty!

And frae his harp sic strains did flow, Might roused the slumb'ring 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 ventur't in my rhymes.‡

COPY OF A POETICAL ADDRESS

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 despised and neglected;

 Variation. To join you river on the Strath.
 Variation. Now looking over firth and fauld, Her horn the pale-faced Cynthia rear'd; When, lo, in form of ministrel auld,

A stern and stalwart ghaist appear.

I This poon, an imprincippe of which was printed in Johnson's Muceum is been even from the poet.

MS, with he last corrections. The secenty so finely described is taken from nature. The poet is supposed to be musing by night on the banks of the river Clu, den, and by the rums of Linduden-Abbey, founded in the tweifit century, in the reign of Malcom IV or whose present situation the reader may find some account in Penanut's Tour in Secdand, or Grose's Antiquities if that division of the island. Such a time and such a place are well fitted for holding converse with aerial beings. Though this poem has a political bias, ever his opinions may be, would forgive the being omitted. Our poet's prudence suppressed the song of Liberty, perhaps fortunately for his reputation. It may be questioned whether, even in the resources of his genius, a strain of poetry could he a been found zorthy of the grandeur and scienture of this pre-

Strathallan, it is presumed, was one of the followers of the young Chevalier, and is supposed to be typing concealed in some cave of the Highlands, after the battle of Culloden This song was written before the year 1788

The' something like moisture conglobes in my To ken what French mischief was brewn , eye, Or what the drumlie Dutch were doin';

Let no one misdeem me disloyal;

A poor friendless wand'rer may well claim a If Venus yet had got his nose off; sigh,

Or how the collieshankie works

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 degenerate 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 nothing of
mine;

Their title's avow'd by the country.

But why of that epocha make such a fuss,

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.

Now life's chilly evening dim shades on 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.

My muse jilted me here, and turned a conner on me, and I have not got again into her good graces. Do me the justice to helieve me sincere in my grateful remembrance of the many civilities you have knounced me with since I came to Edinburgh, and in assuring you that I have the honour to be, Revered Sir,

Your obliged and very humble Servant, R. BURNS.

EDINBURGH, 1787.

THE FOLLOWING POEM

WAS WRITTEN TO A GENTLEMAN WHO HAD SENT HIM A NEWSPAPER, AND OFFERED TO CONTINUE IT TREE OF EXPENSE.

KIND sir, I've read your paper through, And faith, to me, 'twas really new! How gnessed ye, sir, what maist I wanted? This mony a day I've grain'd and gaunted Or what the drumlie Dutch were doin': That vile doup skelper, Emperor Joseph, Or how the collieshankie works Atween the Russian and the Turks: Or if the Swede, before he halt, Would play anither Charles the Twalt! If Denmark, ony body snak o't: Or Poland, wna had now the tack o't; How cut-throat Prussian blades were hingin How libbet Italy was singin; If Spaniard, Portuguese, or Swiss, Were saying or takin ought amiss : Or how our merry lads at hame, In Britain's court kept up the game : How royal George, the Lord leuk o'er 1 im \$ Was managing St. Stephen's quorum ; If sleekit Chatham Will was livin, Or glaikit Charlie got his nieve in ; How daddie Burke the plea was cookin, If Warren Hastings' neck was yeukin; How cesses, stents, and fees were raxed, Or if bare a- yet were taxed; The news o' prioces, dukes, and earls, Pimps, sharpers, bawds, and opera-giris, If that daft Buckie, Geordie Wales, Was threshin still at hizzies' tails, Or if he was growin oughtlins douser, 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!

ELLISLAND, Monday Morning, 1790.

POEM.

ON PASTORAL POETRY.

HAIL Poesie! then nymph reserved! In chase o' thee, what crowds has swerved Frae common sense, or sunk enerved 'Mang keaps o' clavers; 'And och! o'er aft thy joes has starved, 'Mid a' thy favours!

Say, Lassie, why thy train amang, While local the trump's heroic clang, And sock or buskin skelp alang To death or marriage; Scarce ane has tried the shepherd-sang But wil miscarriage?

In Homer's craft Jock Milton thrives; Eschylus' pen Will Shakespeare drives; Wee Pope, the knuffin, 'till him rives Horarian fame; In thy sweet sang, Barbanld, survives Even Sappho's flame

But thez, Theorritus, wha matches? They're no herd's ballats, Maro's catches: Squire Pope but busks his skinlin patches O' heathen tatters : I pass by hunders, nameless wretches,

That ape their betters. In this braw age o' wit an lear, Will nane the Shepherd's whistle mair Blaw sweetly in its native air

And rural grace : And wi' the far-famed Grecian share A rival place?

Yes! there is ane; a Scottish callan! There's ane ; come forrit, honest Allan ! Thou need na jouk behint the hallan, A chiel so clever :

The teeth o' time may gnaw Tamtallan. 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 glens thy burnie strays, Where bonnie lassies bleach their class: Or trots by hazelly shaws or braes, Wi' hawthorns gray,

Where blackbirds join the shepherd's lays At close o' day.

Thy rural loves are nature's sel: Nae bombast spates o' nonsense swell : Nae snap conceits, but that sweet spell O' witchin' love.

That charm that can the strongest quell, The sternest move.

SKETCH.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

THIS day, Time winds th' exhausted chain, To run the twelvemonths' length again . I see the old hald-pated fellow, With ardent eyes, complexion sallow, Adjust the unimpair'd machine, To wheel the equal, dull routine.

The absent lover, minor heir, In vain assail him with their prayer. Deaf as my friend he sees them press, Nor makes the hour one moment less, Will you (the Major's with the hounds, The happy tenants share his rounds; Coila's fair Rachel's care to-day,* And blooming Keith's engaged with Gray);

From housewife cares a minute borrow--That grandchild's cap will do to-morra v-And join with me a moralizing, This day's propitions to be wise in. First, what did vesternight deliver : " Another year is gone for ever," And what is this day's strong suggestion ! "The passing moment's all we rest on !" Rest on-for what! What do we here? Or why regard the passing year? Will time, amns'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. 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 woeful night-Since then, my honour'd first of friends, On this poor being all depends : Let us th' important now employ, And live as those who never die, The' 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 THE LATE

MR. WILLIAM SMELLIE.*

AUTHOR OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF NATURAL HIS TORY, AND MEMBER OF THE ANTIQUARIAN AND ROYAL SOCIETIES OF EDINBURGH.

To Crochallan came The old cock'd hat, the grey surtout, the same; His bristling beard just rising in its might. 'Twas four long nights and days to shaving

night. His uncombed grizzly locks wild-staring, thatch'd.

A head for thought profound and clear, unmatch d:

Yet, tho' his canstie wit was biting, rude, His heart was warm, benevolent and good

from the Vision, see page 69.

^{*} This young lady was drawing a picture of Coilar club in Edinburgh, under the name of Crochallar Tencibles.

POETICAL INSCRIPTION

FOR

AN ALTAR TO INDEPENDENCE,

AT KERROUCHTRY, THE SEAT OF MR. HERON-WRITTEN IN SUMMER, 1795.

Titou of an independent mind, With soul resolved, with soul resigned; Prepared power's proudest frown to brave, Who will not be, nor have a slave; Virtue alone who dost revere, Thy own reproach alone dost fear, Approach this shrine, and worship here,

SONNET,

οv

THE DEATH OF MR. RIDDEL.

No more, ye warblers of the wood, no more, Nor pour your descant grating on my ear: Thou young-eyed Spring thy charms I cannot bear;

More welcome were to me grim Winter's wildest roar.

How can ve please, ye flowers, with all your dies.

Ye blow upon the sod that wraps my friend:
How can I to the tuneful strain attend?

That strain pours 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, and 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.

MONODY

ON

A LADY FAMED FOR HER CAPRICE.

How cold is that bosom which folly once fir'd, How pale is that check where the rouge lately glisten'd:

How silent that tongue which the echoes oft

How dull is that ear which to flattery so listened.

BURNS WORKS.

If sorrow and anguish their exit await,
From friendship and dearest affection re
moved;

How doubly severer, Eliza, thy fate, Thou diedst unwept, as thou livedst unleved

Loves, graces, and virtues. I call not on you; So shy, grave, and distant, ye shed not a tear:

But come, all ye offspring of folly so true,

And flowers let us cull for Eliza's cc. I bier.

We'll search through the garden for each silly flower,

We'll roam through the forest for each idle weed:

But chiefly the nettle, so typical, shower,

For none e'er approach'd her but rued the
rash deed.

We'll sculpture the marble, we'll measure the lav;

Here Vanity strums on her idiot lyre;
There keen indignation shall dart on her prey,
Which spurning contempt shall redeem from
his ire.

THE EPITAPH.

Here lies, now a prey to insulting neglect,
What once was a butterfly gay in life .
beam;

Want only of wisdom denied her respect, Want only of goodness denied her esteem.

ANSWER TO A MANDATE

SENT BY THE SURVEYOR OF THE WINDOWS, CARRIAGES, &C. TO FACH FRANCE, ORDER-ING HIM TO SEND A SIGNED LIST OF HIS HORSES, SERVANTS, WHEEL-CARRIAGES, &C, AND WHETHER HE WAS A MARKIED MAN OR A BACHELOR, AND WHAT CHILDREN THEY HAD.

Six, as your mandate did request, 1 send you here a faithful list, My horses, servants, carts, and graith, To which I'm free to tak my aith. Imprimis, then, for carriage cattle, I hae four brutes o' gallant mettle, As ever drew before a pettle. My hand-u're, a gaid and has heen, And wight and wilful a' his days seen; My hand-u-hin, 1 a gaid brown filly, Wha aft has borne me safe frae Killie; 1

Robert Riddel, E4j. of Friar's Carse, a very worthy character, and one to whom our bard thought biniself under many obligations.

The fore-horse on the left-hand, in the plough.
 The hindmost on the left-hand, in the plough.
 Kilmatnock.

And your andd borough mony a time, In days when riding was me erime: My fur-at-hin, 'a guid, grey beast, As e'er in tug or tow was traced; The forth, a Highbord Donald hasty, A d-mn'd red-wnd. Kilburnie blastic-For-ly-a cowte, of cowtes the wale, As ever ran before a rail; An' he be spared to be a beast, He'l, draw me fifteen pand at least.

Wheel carriages I hae but few. Three earts, and twa are feekly new, An auld wheel-barrow, mair for token, Ae leg and baith the trams are broken : I made a poker o' the spindle, And my and mither brunt the trundle. For men, I've three mischievous boys, Run-deils for rautin and for noise; A gadsman ane, a thresher t'other, Wee Davor hands the nowt in fother. Urule their, as I ought, discreetly, And often about them completely, and aye on Sundays duly nightly, I on the questions tairge them tightly, 'Till, faith; wee Davoe's grown sae gleg, (Tho' scarcely langer than my leg) He'll screed you aff effectual calling, As fast as ony in the dwalling.

Pve nane in female servant station, Lord keep me aye fine a' temptation! I hae nae wife, and that my bliss is, And ye hae hid me tax on misses; For wesne I'm mair thu weel contented, Heaven sent me ane mair than I wanted: My somse, smirking, dear-bought Bess, She stares the dabdie in her face, Emough of ought ye like but grace. But her, my homy, sweet, wee lady, Pve said enough for her already, And if ye tax her or her mither, By the L—d ye've get them a' thegither!

And now, remember, Mr. Aiken, Nac kind of license our 1'm taking. Thro' dut and dub for lib 1'll paidle, Erz I sae dear pay for a saddle; I've sturdy stumps, the Lord be thankit! And a' my gates on foot I'll shank it.

This list wi' my ain hand I've wrote it, The day and date is under notet; Then know all ye whom it concerns, Subscrips huic,

ROBERT BURNS.

IMPROMPTU,

ON MES _____'S BIRTH-DAY.

4th November, 1793,

O.n Winter with his frosty beard, Thus once to Jove his prayer preferr'd; "What have I done of all the year, To bear this hited doom severe?" My cheerless soon so pleasure know; Night's horrid car drags dreary, slow; My dismal months no joys are crowning, But spleary English hanging, drowning,

Now, Jove, for once be mighty civil;
To counterbalance all this cvil;
Give me, and I've no more to say,
Give me Maria's natal day!
That brilliant gift will so errich me,
Spring, Summer, Automn cannot match me;
"Tis done!" say Jove; so ends my story,
And Winter once rejuiced in glory.

ADDRESS TO A LADY.

On wert thou in the cauld blast,
On yonder lea, on yonder lea,
My plaidie to the angry airt,
I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee;
Or did musfortune's bitter storms
Around thee blaw, around thee blaw,
I'hy bield should be my bosom,
To share it a', to share it a',

Or were I in the wildest waste, See black and bare, sae blick and bare, The desert were a paradise. If thou wert there, if thou wert there, Or were I "nonarch o' the globe, Wi' thee to reign, wi' thee to reign; The brightest jewel in my crown Wad be my queen, wal be my queen

TO A YOUNG LADY,

MISS JESSY L , OF 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 prage;
With every kindliest, best presage
Of future bliss, enrol thy name:
With native worth, and spotless fame,
And wakeful caution, still aware
Of ill—but chief, nam's felon snare;
All blameless joys on corth we find,
And all the treasures of the mind—
These be thy gnardian and reward;
So prays thy fathful friend, the bind.

[.] The hindmost on the right-hand, in the plough.

SONNET.

WRITTEN ON THE 25TH JANUARY, 1793 THE BIRTH-DAY OF THE AUTHOR, ON HEARING A THRUSH SING IN A MORNING WALK.

SING on, sweet thrush, upon the leafless bough, Sing on, sweet bird, I listen to thy strain, See aged Winter 'mid his surly reign,

At thy blythe carol clears his furrowed brow.

So in lone poverty's dominion drear, Sits meek content with light upanxious 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 you orient skies !

Riches denied, thy boon was purer joys, What wealth could never give nor take away!

Yet come, thou child of poverty and care, The mite high heaven bestowed, that mite with thee I'll share.

EXTEMPORE.

TO MR. S-E:

ON REFUSING TO DINE WITH HIM, AFTER HAV-ING BEEN PROMISED THE FIRST OF COM-PANY, AND THE FIRST OF COOKERY, 17th DECEMBER, 1795.

No more of your guests, he they titled or not, And cookery the first in the nation : Who is proof to thy personal converse and wit, Is proof to all other temptation.

TO MR. S-E.

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 S-e were fit. JERUSALEM TAVERN, Dumfries.

POEM. ADDRESSED TO MR. MITCHELL, COLLECTOR OF EXCISE, DUMFRIES, 1796.

FRIEND of the port, tried and leal, Wha, wanting thee, might beg or steal; Alake, alake, the meikle dell, Wi' a' his witches Are at it, skelpin'! jig and reel,

In my poor pouches.

I, modestly, fu' fain wad nint it, That one pound one, I sairly want it; If wi' the hizzie down ye send it,

It would be kind: And while my heart wi' life-blood dunted I'd bear't in mind.

So may the auld year gang out mouning To see the new come laden, groaning, Wi' double plenty o'er the loaning

To thee and thine : Domestic peace and comforts crowning The hail design.

POSTSCRIPT.

YE've heard this while how I've been licket And by fell death was nearly nicket: Grim loon! he gat me by the fecket,

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 promised mair o't, My bale and weel I'll tak' a care o't A tentier way :

Then farewell folly, hide and hair o't, For ance and ave.

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?

Wine 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, DUMFRIES, 1796.

My honoured colonel, deep I feel Your interest in the poet's weal; Ah! how sma' heart hae I to speel The steep Parnassus, Surrounded thus by holus pill, And potion glasses.

O what a easty world were it, Would pain and care, and sickness spare is: And fortune, favour, worth, and merit, As they deserve; (And aye a' rowth, roast bee and claret; Sync wha would starve)

POEMS.

Dame life, the fiction out may trick her, And in paste gems and frippery deck her; Oh! flickering, feeble, and unsicker I've found her still,

Ave wavering like the willow wicker, 'Tween good and ill.

Then that curst carmagnole, auld Satan, Watches like bandrons by a rattan, Our sinfu' saul to get a claut on Wi' felon ire;

Syne, whip! his tail ye'll ne'er east saut on,

11e's aff like fire.

Ah Nick! ah Nick, it is na fair,

Ah Nick! an Alek, it is na fair,
First showing us the tempting ware,
Bright wines and bonnie lasses tare,
To put us daft;
Syne weave unseen thy spider's snare
O hell's danni'd waft.

Poor man, the flie, aft bizzes by, And aft as chance he comes thee nigh, Thy audd damn'd chlow yeaks wi' joy, And hellish pleasure; Already in thy fancy's eye, Thy sicker treasure.

Soon heels o'er gawdie! in he gangs, And like a sheep-head on a tangs, Thy girning langh enjoys his pangs And murdering wrestle, As dangling in the wind he bangs 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! umen!

ADDRESS TO THE TOOTH-ACHE.

My curse upon your venom'd stang,
That shoots my tortur'd gums alang;
And thro' my lugs gies mony a twang,
Wi' gnawing vengeance;
Tearing my nerves wi' bitter pang,
Like racking engines!

When fevers burn, or ague freezes, Rheumatics gnaw, or cholic squeezes; Our neighbour's sympathy may case us, Wi' pitying moan; But thee—thou hell o' a' discusse, Aye mucks our groan!

Adown my beard the slavers trickle; I throw the wee stools o'er the meikle, As round the fire the giglets keckle, To see me lonp; While raving and I wish a heckle

While raving mad, I wish a heckle Were in their doup. O' a' the num'rous kaman dools, Ill har'sts, daft bargains, cutty stools, Or worthy friends raked i' the mools, Sad sight to see! The tricks o' knaves or fash o' fools, Thou bear'st the gree.

Where'er that place be, priests ca' hell,
Whence a' the tones o' mis'ry yell,
And ranked plagues their numbers fell,
In dreadfu' raw,
Thou, Tooth-ACLE, surely bear'st the bell,
Amang them a'!

O thou grim mischief-making chiel,
That gars the notes o' discord squeel,
"Till daft mankind aft dance a reel
In gore a shoe-thick;—
Gie a' the faces o' Scotla-Nu's weel
A townood's Tooth-Acha

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 hent returns, For boons accorded, goodness ever new, The gift still deaver 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 mid efface; If I that giver's bounty e'er disgrace; Then roll to me, along your wandering spherea 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 inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives m bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

A GRACE BEFORE DINNER

O Thou, who kindly dost provide For ev'ry creature's want! We bless thee, God of nature w'de, For all thy goodness lent;

BURNS' WORKS.

And if it please thee, heavenly guide,
May never worse be sent;
But whether granted, or denied,
Lord bless us with content!

Amen I

TO MY DEAR AND MUCH HONOURED FRIEND.

MRS. DUNLOP, OF DUNLOP,

ON 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 feeth,
Telling o'er his little joys;
Hapless bird! a prey the sures,
To each pirate of the skies.

Dearly bought the hidden treasure,
Fiver feelings can bestow:
Chords that vibrate sweetest pleasure,
Thrill the deepest notes of woe.

A VERSE.

COMPOSED AND REPEATED 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.

ADDITIONAL PIECES OF POETRY,

From the Reliques, Published in 1809,

BY MR. CROMEK.

The contributions were poured so copiously upon Dr. Currie that selection became a duty, and a put aside several interesting pieces both in prose and verse, which would have done honour to the Poet's memory: But besides these there were other pieces extant, which did not come under the Doctan's notice: All of them, both of the rejected and discovered description, have since been collected and published by Mr. Cromek, whose personal devotion to the Poet, and generally to the poetry of his country, rendered him a most assiduous collector. The additional pieces of poetry so collected and published by Cromek, are given here. The additional songs and correspondence, taken from the Reliques and his more recent publication, "Select Scottish Songs," will each appear in the proper place.]

ELEGY

οN

MR. WILLIAM CREECH,

BOOKSELLER, EDINBURGH.

I.

AULD chuckie Reekie's * sair distrest,
Down droops her ance weel burnish't crest,
Nae joy her bonie buskit nest
Can yield ava,

Her darling bird that she loe's best, Willie's awa!

· Edinburgh.

H.

O Willie was a witty wight, And had o' things an unco' slight; And Reekie ay he keepit tight, And trig an' brawa But now they'll busk her like a fright, Willie's awa!

HI

The stiffest o' them a' he bow'd, The bandlest o' them a' he cow'd; They durst nae mair than he allow'd, That was a law: We've lost a birkie weel worth gowd, Willie's awa !

TC.

Now gawkies, tawpies, gowks and fools, Frae colleges and boarding schools, May sprout like simmer puddock-stools In glen or shaw : He wha could brush them down to mools Willie's awa!

The breth'ren o' the Commerce-Chaumer * May mourn their loss wi' doolfu' clamour; 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 !

UII

Now worthy G--v's latin face, T-r's and G--'s modest grace; M'K-e, S-t, 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 cheeps like some bewildered chicken, Sear'd frae it's minnie and the cleckin By hoodie-craw;

Grief's gien his heart an unco kickin', Willie's awa!

Now ev'ry sour-mou'd grinin' blellum, And Calvin's fock, are fit to fell him : And self-conceited critic skellum His quill may draw;

He wha could brawlie ward their bellum Willie's awa!

Up wimpling 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;

• The Chamber of Commerce of Edinburgh of which Mr. C. was Secretary. † Many literary gorltemen were accustomed to meet at Mr. Creech's house at breakfast. Burns often met with them there, when he called, and hence the name I Lerce.

And lastly, streekit out to bleach In winter snaw : When I forget thee! WILLIE CREECH. The far awa !

May never wicked fortune touzle him! May never wicked men bumboozle him ! Until a pow as auld's Methusalem! He canty claw ! Then to the blessed, New Jerusalem Fleet wing awa !

ELEGY

0.00

PEG NICHOLSON.

PEG NICHOLSON was a good bay mare. As ever trode on airn; But now she's floating down the Nith, And past the Mouth o' Cairn.

Peg Nicholson was a good bay mare, And rode thro' thick and thin : But now she's floating down the Nith. And wanting even the skin.

Peg Nicholson was a good bay mare, And ance she bore a priest; But now she's floating down the Nith, For Solway fish a feast,

Peg Nicholson was a good bay mare, And the priest he rode her sair : And much oppressed and bruised she was; -As priest-rid cattle are, &c. &c.

ODE TO LIBERTY.

(Imperfect).

[In a letter to Mrs. Dunlop, the poet says :- The sunn a letter to Aris. Duniop, the poet says:—The sun-ject is Liberty: You know, my bonoured if end how dear the theme is to me. I design it an irregu-lar Oute for General Washington's brith-day. After having mentioned the degeneracy of other kingdoms. I come to Scotland thus]:

THEE, Caledonia, thy wild heaths among, Thee, fained for martial deed and sacred song, To thee I turn with swimming eyes;

Where is that soul of freedom fled? Immingled with the mighty dead!

Beneath that hallowed turf where WALLACE lies !

 Margaret Nicholson, the maniae, whose visitations Margaret vienoison, the mannae, whose visitations very much alarmed George the 'Unit for his life. In naving their steads, the poet and his friend Nicol seem to have had a pr ference, in the way of doing homour, of course, for the worthies who had used freedom with both priest and king

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 bearing.

Behold that eye which shot immortal hate, Crushing the despot's proudest bearing, That arm which, nerved with thundering fate, Braved neurpation's boldest daring! One quenched in darkness like the sinking star, And one the palsied arm of tottering, powerless age.

A PRAYER-IN DISTRESS.

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 soal with firm resolves
To hear and not repine!

A PRAYER,

WHEN FAINTING FITS, AND OTHER ALARMING SYMPTOMS OF A PLEURISY OR SOME OTHER DANGEROUS DISORDER, WHICH INDEED STILL THREATENS ME, FIRST FUT NATURE ON THE ALARM.

O thou unknown, Almighty Cause Of all my hope and fear! In whose dread presence, ere an hour, Perhaps I must appear.

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 Lias 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 tarkness hide.

Where with intention I have err'd, No other plea I have, But, Thou art good; and goodness still Delighteth to forgive.

DESPONDENCY:

A HYMN.

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 renewing 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 neath bis sin-avenging rod.

Fain would I say, 'Forgive my foul offence?'
Fain promise never more to disobey;
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;

Again exart the fittle and sink the man;
Then now should I for heavenly mercy pray,
Who act so counter heavenly 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,
Or still the tumult of the raging sea;
With that controling 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!

LINES ON RELIGION.

"Tis this, my frien l, that streaks our morning bright;

'Tis this, that gilds the horror of our night!
When wealth forsakes us, and when friends are

When friends are faithless, or when foes pursue; 'It's this that wards the blow, or stills the smart, Disarns affliction, or repels its dart: Within the breast bids purest raptures rise, Bids smiling conscience spread her cloudless skies'

EPISTLES IN VERSE

TO J. LAPRAIK.

Sept. 18th, 1785.

Gun speed an' furder to you Johny, Guid health, hale han's, an' weather bony; Now when ye're nickan down fu' canny The staff o' bread, May to gelen work a storn o' bread,

May ye ne'er want a stoup o' brany To clear your head.

May Boreas never thresh your rigs, Nor kick your rickles aff their legs, Sendin' the stuff o'er muis an' haggs 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 andd stumpie pen I gat it Wi' muckle wark, An' took my jocteleg * an' whatt it, Like ony 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 nue jads frae heathen hills To help, or roose us, But browster wives † an' whisky stills, They are the muses,

Your friendship Sir, I winna quat it, An' if ye mak' objections at it, Then han' in nieve some day we'll knot it, An' witness take,

An' witness take, An' when wi' Usquabae we've wat it It winna break.

But if the beast and branks he spar'd Till kye be gaun without the herd, Au' a' the vittel in the yard, An' thekit right, I mean your incle-side to guard

I mean your ingle-side to guard

Ae winter night.

Then muse-inspirin' aqua-vitæ
Shall make us baith sae blythe an' witty,
Till ye forget ye're auld an' gatty,
An' be as canty

As ye were nine year less than thretty, Sweet ane-an'-twenty.

> * Jocteleg—a knife. * Browster wives—Alehouse wives.

But stooks are cowpet * w? the blast,
Au' now the sinn keeks a the west
Then I maun rin amang the rest
An' quat my chanter;
Sae I subscribe mysel in haste,
Your's, Rab the Ranter.

TO THE

REV. JOHN M'MATH,

INCLOSING A COPY OF HOLY WILLIE'S PRAYER.
WHICH HE HAD REQUESTED.

Sept. 17th, 1785.

While at the stook the shearers cow'r
To shin the bitter blaudin' show'r,
Or in gulravage † rinnin scow'r
To pass the time,
To you I dedicate the hour
Is idle rhyme,

My musie, tir'd wi' mony a sonnet On gown, an' ban', an' douse black bonnet, Is grown right eeie now she's done it, Lest they shou'd blame her, An' rouse their holy thunder on it

An' rouse their holy thunder on it And anathem her.

I own 'twas rash, an' rather hardy, That I, a simple, countra bardie, Shou'd meddle wi' a pack sae sturdy, Wha, if rhey ken me, Can easy, wi' a single wordie, Louse h-ll upon me.

But I gae mad at their grimaces, Their sighan, cantan, grace-proud faces, Their three-mile prayers, an hauf-mile graces, Their raxen conscience, Whaws greed, revenge, an' pride disgraces Waur nor their nonsense.

There's Gaun, † miska't waur than a beast,
Wha has mair honor in his breast
Than mory scores as guid's the priest
Wha sae abus't him.
An' may a bard no crack his jest
What way they've use't him.

See him, I the poor man's friend in need,
The gentleman in word an' deed,
An' shall his fame an' honour bleen
By worthless skellums,
An' not a muse creet her Isaal
To cowe the blellums.

- . m ...

Compet—Tumbled over.
 Sutrawage — Running in a confused, disorderly manner, like boys when leaving schoor.
 Gavin Hamilton, Esq.
 The poet has introduced the two first lines of this.

]] The poet has introduced the two first lines of this stauza into the dedication of his works to Mr. Hamilton.

O Pope, had I thy satire's darts
To gie the rascals their deserts,
I'd rip their rotten, hoilow hearts,
An' tell aloud
Their jugglin' hocus pocus arts
Fo cheat the crowd,

God knows, I'm no the thing I shou'd be, Nor am I ev'n the thing I con'd be, But twenty times, I rather wou'd be An atheist clean, Than under 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 fanse
He'il still disdain,
An' then cry zeal for gospel laws,
Like some we ken,

They take religion in their mouth; They talk o' mercy, grace, an' truth, For what? to gie their malace skouth On some puir wight, An' hunt him down, o'er right an' ruth, To ruin streight,

All hail, religion! maid divine!
Pardon a muse sae mean as mine,
Who in her rough imperfect line
Thus daurs to name thee;
To stigmatize false friends of thine
Can me'er defame thee.

The' blotch't an' foul wi' mony a stain, An' far unworthy of thy train, With trembling voice I tune my strain To join with those, Who boldly dare thy cause maintain In spite of foes:

In spite o' crowds, in spite o' mobs,
In spite of undermining jobs,
In spite o' dark banditti sabs
At worth an' merit,
By scoundrels, even wi' holy robes,
But hellish spirit.

O Ayr, my dear, my native ground, Within thy preshyterial 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 honor) Even Sir, by them your heart's esteen'd, An' winning-manner.

Pardon this freedom I have ta'en, An' if impertment I've been Impute it not, good Sir, in ane
Whase heart ne'er wrang'd po
But to les utmost would befriend
Ought that belang'd v.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, Esq.

MAUCHLINE.

(RECOMMENDING A BOY).

Mosgarille, May 3, 1786.

I none it, Sir, my bounden duty To warn you how that Master Tootie,

Alias, Laird M Gaun,

Was here to hire you had away

Bout whom ye spak the tither day.

An' wad hae don't aff han'.
But lest he learn the callan tricks.

As faith 1 muckle doubt him, Like scrapin' out auld Crumnie's nicks, An' tellin' lies about them; As lieve then 1'd have then, Your clerkship he should sair, If sae be, ye may be Not fitted otherwhere.

Altho' I say't, he's gleg enough, An' 'bont a house that's rude an' rough, The boy might learn to sucar But then wi' you, he'll he sac taught, An' get sic fair example stranght,

I hae na ony fear.
Ye'll catechise him every quink,
An' shore him weel wi' hell;
An' gar him follow to the kirk—

—Ay when ye gang yoursel,
If ye then, mann be then
Frae hame this comin Friday,
Then please Sir, to lea'e Sir,
The orders wi' your lady.

My word of honour I has gien, In Paisley John's, that night at e'en, To meet the Warld's worm; To try to get the twa to gree,

An' name the airles † an' the fee,
In legal mode an' form:
I ken he weel a Snick can draw,

I ken he weel a Snick can draw,

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, you share still,
Of gratefol MINSTREL BURNS,

[•] Master Toolte then lived in Mauchline's a dealer in Cows. It was his common practice to rut the noke or markings from the hours of eattle, to disguise their age. — He was an artful rick-countring character; hence he is called a Suick-drauter. In the port's "Address to the Dely," he styles that august personage an aud, snick-drawing dog! " The dried—Earnest money.

POEMS

TO MR. M'ADAM,

OF CRAIGEN-GILLAN.

IN ANSWER TO AN OBLIGING LETTER HE SENT IN THE COMMENCEMENT OF MY POETIC (AREER.

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'd fu' loud.

Now deil-ma care about their jaw, The senseless, gawky million; I'll cock my nose aboun 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' well, Is ay a blest infection.

Tho', by his a banes wha in a tub Match'd Macedonian Sandy! On my ain legs thro' dirt and dub, I independent stand ay.—

And when those legs to gud; 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 bonie lasses baith, I'm tald they're loosome kimmers!

And God bless young Dunaskin's laird,
The blossom of our gentry!

And may be wear an auld man's beard,
A credit to his country.

TO CAPTAIN RIDDEL,

GLENRIDDEL.

(EXTEMPORE LINES ON RETURING 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 naming.

Our friends the reviewers, those chippers and hewers,

Are judges of mortar and stone, Sir; But of meet, or unmeet, in a fabric complete, I'll boldly pronounce they are none, Sir.

· Diogenes.

My goose-quilt too rude is to tell all your goodness

Bestowed 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 TERRAUGHTY.*

ON HIS BIRTH-DAY.

Health, ay mosour'd by care or grief; Health, ay mosour'd by care or grief; Inspir'd, I turn'd Fate's sybil leaf, This natal morn,

I see thy life is stuff o' prief, Scarce quite half we n.—

This day thou metes threescore eleven, And I can tell that bounteous Heaven (The second sight, ye ken, is given 'To ilka Poet') 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 morrow, May desolation's lang-teeth'd harrow,

Nine miles an hour, Rake them, like Sodom and Gomorrah, In brunstane stoure—

But for thy friends, and they are mony, Baith honest men and lasses bonie, May couthie fortune, kind and cannie, In social glee,

Wi' mornings blythe and e'enings funny Bless them and thee.

Farweel, and birkie! Lord be near ye, And then the Deil he daurna steer ye Your friends ay hove, your faces ay fear ye, For me, shame fa' me, If neist my heart I dinna wear ye

While Bunns 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 crucity directs the thickening blows;

• Mr. Maxwell, of Terraughty, near Dumfries this the J. P. who, at the Excess Courts, called for Burn's reports: they shewed that he, while he acted up to the law, could reconcile his duty with humant ty. * Altho' an Excisionan he had a heart! Upon a time, Sir Abeer the great, In all his pedagogic powers elate, His awful chair of state resolves to mount, And call the trembling vowels to account.—

First enter'd A, a grave, broad, solemn wight, But ah! defirm'd, dishonest to the sight! His twisted head look'd backward on his way, And flagrant from the scourge he grunted ai!

Reluctant, E stalk'd in; with piteous race The justling 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 pedact stifles keen the Roman sound, Not all his mongrel diphthongs can compound; And next the title following close behind, he to the nameless, ghastly wretch assign'd.

The cohweb'd gothic dome resounded, 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 expert, Might there have learnt new mysteries of his art; So grin, deform'd, with horrors entering U, His dearest friend and brother searcely 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, Baptiz'd him eu, and kick'd him from his sight.

A SKETCH.

A LITTLE, upright, pert, turt, tripping wight, And still his precious self his dear delight: 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 vice la bagatelle, et vice l'amour; So travell'd monkies their grimace improve, Polish their grin, nay sigh for ladies' love. Much specious lore but latte understood; Fincering off outshines the solid wood! His solid snee—by inches you must tell, But mete his cunning by the old Scots ell; His medding vanity, a husy fiend, Still making work his selfish craft must mend.

TO THE OWL:

BY JOHN M'CREDDIE.

SAD bird of night, what sorrow calls thee forth, To vent thy plaints thus in the midnight 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 forform? Or fear that winter will thy nest invade? Or friendiess 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 pleas'd 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 check Sad, pitcous tears in native sorrows fall? Less kind the heart when anguish bids it break? Less happy he who lists to pity's call?

Ah no, sad owl! nor is thy voice less sweet, That sadness tines it, and that grief is there; That spring's gay notes, unskill'd, thou canst repeat;

That 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 tow'r, thy melancholy dome, While the gray walls and desert solitudes Return each note, responsive to the gloom Of ivied coverts and surrounding woods;

There hooting; I will list more pleas'd to thes, Than ever lover to the nightingale; Or drooping wretch, oppress'd with misery, Lending his ear to some condoling tale.

EXTEMPORE.

IN THE COURT OF SESSION.

Tune-" Gillicrankie."

LORD ADVOCATE, ROBERT DUNDAS.

He clench'd his pamphlets in his fist,
He quoted and he hinted,
Till in a declamation-mist,
His argument he tint it:
He gaped for't, he graped for't,
He fand it was awa, man;

But what his common sense came short, He eked out wi' law, man.

MR. HENRY ERSKING.

Collected Harry stood awee, Then open'd out his arm, man; His lordship sat wi' ruefu' e'e. And ey'd the gathering storm, man: Like wind-driv'n hail it did assail, Or torrents owre a lin, man :

The Bench sae wise lift up their eyes, Half-wanken'd wi' the din, man,

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.

ADDRESS

TO GENERAL DUMOURIER.

(A PARODY ON ROBIN ADAIR).

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 son! I'll dance a dance with you, DumouThen 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-mned no doubt-Dumourier

EXTEMPORE EFFUSIONS.

[The Poet paid a visit on horseback to Carlisle: which he was at table his steed was turned out to graze in ne was at table in steed was turned out to graze in an enclosure, but wandered, probably in quest of better pasture, into an adjoining one; it was im-pounded by order of the Mayor—whose term of of-fee expired next day:—The Muse thus delivered herself on the occasion!

Was e'er puir poet sae befitted, The maister drunk-the horse committed; Puir harmless beas, : take thee nae care, Thou'lt be a horse, when he's nae mair-(mayer)

TO A FRIEND,

WITH A POUND OF SNUFF.

O could I give thee India's wealth, As I this trifle send :

Why then the joy of both would be, To share it with a friend.

But golden sands ne'er yet have graced The Heliconian stream; Then take what gold can never buy, An honest Bard's esteem.

*It is almost needless to observe that the song of Print Addit, begins thus:

You're welcome to Paxton, Robin Addir;
You're welcome to Paxton, Robin Addir,—
How does Johnny Mackerell do?
Ave, and Luke Gardener too?
Why did they not come along with you Robin
Addir?

[#] It is almost needless to observe that the song of

ESSAY

UPON

SCOTTISH POETRY,

INCLUDING THE POETRY OF BURNS,

BY DR. CURRIE

THAT Burns had not the advantages of a classical education, or of any degree of acquaintance with the Greek or Roman writers in their original dress, has appeared in the history of his life. He acquired indeed some knowledge of the French language, but it does not appear that he was ever much conversant in French literature, nor is there any evidence of his having derived any of his poetical stories from that source. With the English classics he became well acquainted in the course of his life, and the effects of this acquaintance are observable in his latter productions; but the character and style of his poetry were formed very early, and the model which he followed, in as far as he can be said to have had one, is to be sought for in the works of the poets who have written in the Scottish dialect-in the works of such of them more especially, as are familiar to the peasantry of Scotland. Some observations on these may form a proper introduction to a more particular examination of the poetry of Burns. The studies of the editor in this direction are indeed very recent and very imperfect. It would have been imprudent for him to have entered on this subject at all, but for the kindness of Mr. Ramsay of Ochtertyre, whose assistance he is proud to acknowledge, and to whom the reader must ascribe whatever is of any value in the following imperfect sketch of literary compositions in the Scottish idiom.

It is a circumstance not a little curious, and which does not seem to be satisfactorily explained, that in the thirteenth century the language of the two British nations, if at all different, differed only in dialect, the Gaelic in the one, like the Welch and Armorie in the cher, heing confined to the mountainous districts.* The English under the Edwards, and the Sexts under Wallace and Bruce, spoke the same language, We may observe also, that in Scotland the history ascends to a period nearly as remote as in England. Barbour and Blind Harry, James the First, Dunbar, Douglis, and Lindsay, who live

ed in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteest. contries, were coeval with the fathers of poetry it England; and in the opinion of Mr. Wharton, not interior to them in genius or in composition. Trough the language of the two countries gradually deviated from each other during this periol, yet the difference on the whole was not considerable; nor perhaps greater than between the different dialects of the different parts of England in our own time.

At the death of James the Fifth, in 1512, the language of Scotland was in a flourishing condition, wanting only writers in prose equal to those in verse. Two circumstances, propitious on the whole, operated to prevent this. The first was the passion of the Scots for composition in Latin; and the second, the accession of James the Sixth to the English throne. It may easily be imagined, that if Bachanan had devoted his admirable talents, even in part, to the cultivation of his native tongue, as was done by the revivers of letters in Italy, he would have left compositions in that language which might have excited other men of genus to have followed his example,+ and give duration to the language itself. union of the two crowns in the person of James, overthrew all reasonable expectation of this kind. That monarch, seated on the English throne, would no loreer be addressed in the rude dialect in which the Scottish clergy had so often insulted his dignity. He encouraged Latin or English only, both of which he prided himself on writing with purity, though he himself never could acquire the English pronunciation, but spoke with a Scottish idiom and intonation to the last. Scotsmen of talents declined writing in their native language, which they knew was not acceptable to their learned and pedantic monarch; and at a time when national prejudice and enmity prevaned to a great degree, they disdained to study the nicities of the English tongue, though of so much easier acquisition than a dead language. Lord Stirling and Drummond of Hawthornden, the only Scutsmen who wrote

Historical Essays on Scottish Song, p. 20, by Mr.

studied the language of England, and composed in it with precision and elegance, They were however the last of their countrymen who deserved to be considered as poets in that century. The mases of Scotland sunk into silence, and did not again raise their voices for a period of eighty years.

To what causes are we to attribute this extreme depression among a people comparatively searned, enterprising, and ingenious? we impute it to the fanaticism of the covenanters, or to the tyranny of the house of Stuart after their restoration to the throne? Doubtless these causes operated, but they seem unequal to account for the effect. In England similar distractions and oppressions took place, yet poetry flourished there in a remarkable degree. During this period, Cowley, and Waller, and Dryden sung, and Milton raised his strain of unparalleled grandeur. To the causes already mentioned, another must be added, in accounting for the toroor of Scottish literature-the want of a proper vehicle for men of genius to employ. The civil wars had frightened away the Latin muses, and no standard had been established of the Scottish tongue, which was deviating still farther from the pure English idiom.

The revival of literature in Scotland may be dated from the establishment of the union, or rather from the extinction of the rebellion in 1715. The nations being finally incorporated, it was clearly seen that their tongues must in the end incorporate also; or rather indeed that the Scottish language must degenerate into a provincial idiom, to be avoided by those who would aim at distinction in letters, or rise to

eminence in the united legislature.

Soon after this, a band of men of genius appeared, who studied the English classics, and imitated their beauties in the same manner as they studied the classics of Greece and Rome. They had admirable models of composition lately presented to them by the writers of the reign uf Queen Anne : particularly in the periodical papers published by Steele, Addison, and their associated friends, which circulated widely through Scotland, and diffused every where a taste for parity of style and sentiment, and for critical disquisition. At length, the Scottish writers succeeded in English composition, and a union was formed of the literary talents, as well as of the legislatures of the two nations. On this occasion the poets took the lead. While Henry Home, Dr. Wallace, and their learned associates, were only laying in their intellectual stores, and studying to clear themselves of their Scottish idioms, Thomson, Mallet, and Hamilson of Bangour, had made their appearance before the public, and been enrolled on the list of English poets. The writers in prose followed -a numerous and powerful band, and poured their ample stores into the general stream of Bri-

poetry in those times, were exceptions. They tish literature. Scotland possessed her four unit versities before the accession of James to the English throne. Immediately before the union, she acquired her parochial schools. These establishments combining happily together, made the elements of knowledge of easy acquisition and presented a direct path, by which the ardent student might be carried along into the recesses of science or learning. As civil broils ecased, and faction and prejudice gradually died away, a wider field was opened to literary ambition, and the influence of the Scottish institutions for instruction, on the productions of the press, became more and more apparent.

It seems indeed probable, that the establishment of the parochial schools produced effects on the rural mase of Scotland also, which have not hitherto been suspected, and which, though less splendid in their nature, are not however to be regarded as trivial, whether we consider the happiness or the morals of the people.

There is some reason to believe, that the original inhabitants of the British isles possessed a peculiar and interesting species of music, which being banished from the plains by the successive invasions of the Saxons, Danes, and Normans, was preserved with the native race, in the wilds of Ireland and in the mountains of Scotland and Wales. The Irish, the Scottish, and the Welsh music, differ indeed from each other, but the difference may be considered as in dialect only, and probably produced by the influence of time, like the different dialects of their common language. If this conjecture be true, the Scottish music must be more immediately of a Highland origin, and the Lowland tunes, though now of a character somewhat distinet, must have descended from the mountains in remote ages. Whatever credit may be given to conjectures, evidently involved in great uncertainty, there can be no doubt that the Scottish peasantry have been long in possession of a number of songs and ballads composed in their native dialect, and sung to their native music. The subjects of these compositions were such as most interested the simple inhabitants, and in the succession of time varied probably as the condition of society varied. During the separation and the hostility of the two nations, these songs and ballads, as far as our imperfect doenments enable us to judge, were chiefly warlike; such as the Huntis of Cheriot, and the Battle of Harlaw, After the union of the two crowns when a certain degree of peace and tranquillity took place, the tural muse of Scotland breathed in softer accents. " In the want of real evidence respecting the history of our songs," says Ramsay of Ochtertyre, "recourse may be had to conjecture. One would be disposed to think, that the most beautiful of the Scottish tunca were clothed with new words after the union of the crowns. The inhabitants of the borders, who had formerly been warriors from choice, and husbandmen from neressity, either quitted the country, or were transformed into real shepchivalry for which they are celebrated by Froissart, remained sufficient to inspire elevation of sentiment and gallantry towards the fair sex. The familiarity and kindness which had long subsisted between the gentry and the peasantry, could not all at once be obliterated, and this connexion tended to sweeten rural life. In this state of innocence, case, and tranquillity of mind, the love of poetry and music would still maintain its ground, though it would naturally assume a form congenial to the more peaceful state of society. The minstrels, whose metrical tales used once to rouse the borderers like the trumpet's sound, had been, by an order of the Legislature (1579), classed with rogues and vagabonds, and attempted to be suppressed. Knox and his disciples influenced the Scottish parliament, but contended in vain with her rural Amidst our Arcadian vales, probably on the banks of the Tweed, or some of its tributary streams, one or more original geniuses may have arisen who were destined to give a tew turn to the taste of their countrymen. They would see that the events and pursuits which chequer private life were the proper subjects f. r popular poetry. Love, which had formerly held a divided sway with glory and ambition, became now the master-passion of the soul. To portray in lively and delicate colours, though with a hasty hand, the hopes and fears that agitate the breast of the love-sak swain, or forlorn marden, afford ample scope to the rural poet. Love-songs, of which Tibullus himself would not have been a hamed, might be composed by an uneducated rustic with a slight tineture of letters; or if in these songs the character of the rustic be sometimes assumed, the truth of character, and the language of nature, are preserved. With unaffected sunplicity and tenderness, topics are urged, most likely to soften the heart of a cruel and coy mistress, or to regain a fickle lover. Even in such as are of a melancholy east, a ray of hope breaks through, and dispels the deep and settled gloom which characterizes the sweetst of the Highland luinas, or vocal airs. Nor are these songs all plaintive; many of them are lively and humorous, and some appear to us coarse and indelicate. They seem, however, genuine descriptions of the manners of an energetic and sequestered people in their hours of mirth and festivity, though in their portraits some objects are brought into open view, which more fastidious painters would have thrown into shade.

not for gain, their effusions seldom exceeded a love-song, or a billad of satire or humour, were seldon committed to writing, but trea- characters of his time. Having published a sured up in the memory of their frends and neighbours. Neither known to the learned nor neighborrs. Neither known to the learnest nor | " " He was coeval with Joseph Mitchell, and his patronized by the grout, these rustic bards lived | club of son 2 wits, who, about 17 9, pushed as very addied in obscurity; and by a strange latality, power mischian; to whose Dr Young, the eighbor of

berds, easy in their c.rcumstances, and satisfied their story, and even their very names have Some sparks of that spirit of been forgotten. When proper models for pastoral songs were produced, there would be ne want of imitators. To succeed in this species of composition, soundness of understanding and sensibility of heart were more requisite than flights of imagination or pomp of numbers. Great changes have certainly taken place in Scottish song-writing, though we cannot trace the steps of this change; and few of the pieces admired in Queen Mary's time are now to be discovered in modern collections. It is possible, though not probable, that the music may have remained nearly the same, though the words to the tunes were entirely new-modelled."

These conjectures are highly ingenious. It cannot, however, be presumed, that the state of ease and tranquillity described by Mr. Ramsav took place among the Scottish peasantry inunediately on the union of the crowns, or indeed during the greater part of the seventeenth cen-The Scottish nation, through all ranks, was deeply agitated by the civil wars, and the religious persecutions which succeeded each other in that disastrous period; it was not till after the revolution in 1688, and the subsequent establishment of their beloved form of church government, that the peasantry of the Lowlands enjoyed comparative repose; and it is since that period that a great number of the most admired Scottish songs have been produced, though the tnnes to which they are sung, are in general of much greater antiquity. It is not unreasonable to suppose, that the peace and security derived from the Revolution, and the Union, produced a favourable change on the rustic poetry of Scotland; and it can scarcely be doubted, that the institution of parish schools in 1696, by which a certain degree of instruction was diffused universally among the peasantry, contributed to this happy effect.

Soon after this appeared Allan Ramsay, the Scottish Theoritus. He was born on the high mountains that divide Clydesdale and Annaudale, in a small hamlet by the banks of Glengonar, a stream which descends i to the Clyde. The ruins of this hamlet are still shown to the inomrany traveller. He was the son of a peasant, and probably received such instruction as his parish-school bestowed, and the poverty of his parents admitted. Ramsay male his appearance in Educburgh, in the beginning of the present century, in the humble character of an apprentice to a barber; he was then fourteen or fitteen years of age. By degrees he acquired notice for his social disposition, and his talent "As those rural poets sung for amusement, for the composition of verses in the Scottish idiom; and, changing his profession for that of a bookseller, he became istimate with many of which, like the words of the elder minstres, the literary, as well as the gay and fashionable

rotume of poems of his own in 1721, which | shepherds, caught the language of the characters title of the Ever-Green, and was afterwards meonraged to present to the world a collection procured them," says Ramsay of Ochtertyre, " whether from tradition or manuscript, is uncertain. As in the Ever-Green he made some rish attempts to improve on the originals of his ancient poems, he probably used still greater freedom with the songs and ballads. The truth cannot, however, be known on this point, till manuscripts of the songs printed by him, more ancient than the present century, shall be produced, or access be obtained to his own papers, if they are still in existence. To several tunes which either wanted words, or had words that were improver or imperfect, he or his friends adapted verses worthy of the melodies they aecompanied, worthy indeed of the golden age. These verses were perfectly intelligible to every rustic, yet justly admired by persons of taste, who regarded them as the genuine offspring of the pastoral muse. In some respects Ramsay had advantages not possessed by poets writing in the Scottish dielect in our days. Songs in the dialect of Cumberland or Lancashire, could never be popular, because these dialects have never been spoken by persons of fashion. But till the middle of the present century, every Scotsman, from the peer to the peasant, spoke a truly Doric language. It is true the English moralists and poets were by this time read by every person of condition, and considered as the standards for polite composition. But, as national prejudices were still strong, the busy, the learned, the gay, and the fair continued to speak their native dialect, and that with an elegance and poignancy of which Scotsmen of the present day can have no just notion. I am old enough to have conversed with Mr. Spittal, of Leuchat, a scholar and a man of fashion, who survived all the members of the Union Parliament, in which he had a seat. His pronunciation and of Thames Street. Had we retained a court and parliament of our own, the tongues of the like the Castilian and Portuguese; but each would have its own classics, not in a single branch, but in the whole circle of literature.

" Ramsay associated with the men of wit and fashion of his day, and several of them attempted to write poetry in his manner. Persons too idle or too dissipated to think of compositions that required much exertion, succeeded very happily in making tender sonners to favoorite tunes in compliment to their mistresses, and transforming themselves into impassioned

was favourably received, he undertook to make they assumed. Thus, about the year 1731, a collection of ancient Scottish poems, under the Robert Crawfurd of Anchinames, wrote the modern song of Tweedside, which has been so much admired. In 1743, Sir Gilbert Elliot, of Scottish songs. " From what sources he the first of our lawvers who both spoke and wrote English elogantly, composed, in the charactor of a love-sick swain, a beautiful song, beginning, My sleep I reglected, I lost my sheep-hook, on the marriage of his mistress, Miss Forbes, with Roudd Crawford, And about twelve years afterwards, the sister of Sir Gilbert wrote the ancient words to the tune of the Flowers of the Ferest. + and supposed to allude to the battle of Flowden. In spite of the double rhyme, it is a sweet, and though in some parts allegorical, a natural expression of national sorrow. The more modern words to the same tune, beginning, I have seen the smiling of f.r. tune beguiling, were written long before by Mrs. Cockburn, a woman of great wit, who outlived all the first group of literati of the present century, all of whom were very fond of her. I was delighted with her company, though when I saw her, she was very old. Aluch did she know that is now lost."

In addition to these instances of Scottish songs, produced in the earlier part of the present century, may be mentioned the ballad of Hardiknate, by Lady Wardlaw; the ballad of William and Margaret; and the song entitled the Birks of Invermay, by Mallet; the lovesong, beginning, For ever, Fortune, wilt thou prove, produced by the youthful muse of Thomson ; and the exquisite pathetic ballad. the Brees of Yarrow, by Hamilton of Bangour. On the revival of letters in Scotland, subsequent to the Union, a very general taste seems to have prevailed for the national songs and music. " For many years," says Mr. Ramsay, "the singing of songs was the great delight of the higher and middle order of the people, as well as of the peasantry; and though a taste for Italian music has interfered with this amusement, it is still very prevalent. Between forty and fifty years phraseology differed as much from the common ago, the common people were not only exceeddialect, as the language of St. James's from that ingly fond of songs and badads, but of metrical history. Often have I, in my cheerful morn of youth, listened to them with delight, when two sister kingdoms would indeed have differed teading or reciting the exploits of Wallace and Bruce against the Southrons, Lord Hades was wont to call Blind Harry their Bible, he being their great favourite next the Scriptures, When, therefore, one in the vale of life felt the first emotion of genius, he wanted not models sui generis. But though the seeds of poetry were scattered with a plentiful hand among the Scottish peasantry, the pr duct was probably like that of pears and apples-of a thousand that sprung up, nine hundred and fifty are so had as to set the teeth on edge; forty-five or

Thoughts, prefixed a copy of verses." ! fa letter f om Mr Ramsay of Ochtertyt :

^{*} Beginning, What beauties does Flora disclose + Begir ting, I have heard a litting at our curs

more are passable and useful; and the rest of der each of these points of view, and close our an exquisite flavour. Allan Ramsay and Barns are wildings of this last description. They had the example of the elder Scottish poets; they were not without the aid of the best English writers; and, what was of still more importance, they were no strangers to the book of nature, and to the book of God,"

From this general view, it is apparent that Allan Ramsay may be considered as in a great measure the reviver of the rural poetry of his country. His collection of ancient Scottish poems under the name of The Ever-green, his collection of Scottish songs, and his own poems, the principal of which is the Gentle Shepherd, have been universally read among the peasantry of his country, and have in some degree superseded the adventures of Bruce and Wallace, as recorded by Barbour and Blind Harry. Burns was well acquainted with all of these. He had also before him the poems of Fergusson in the Scottish dialect, which have been produced in our own times, and of which it will be necessary to give a short account,

Fergusson was born of parents who had it in their power to procure him a liberal education, a circumstance, however, which in Scotland, implies no very high rank in society. From a well written and apporently authentic account of his life, we learn that he spent six years at the schools of Edinburgh and Dundee, and several years at the universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's. It appears that he was at one time destined for the Scottish church; but as he advanced towards manhood, he renonneed that intention, and at Edinburgh entered the office of an attorney. Fergusson had sensibility of mind, a warm and generous heart, and talents for society, of the most attractive kind. To such a man no situation could be more dangerous than that in which he was placed. The excesses into which he was led, impaired his feeble constitution, and he sunk under them in the month of October, 1774, in his 23d or 24th year. Burns was not acquainted with the soems of this youthful genins when he himself began to write poetry; and when he first saw them, he had renounced the muses. But while he resided in the town of Irvine, meeting with Fergusson's Scottish Poems, he informs us that he "strung his tyre ancw with emulating vigour." Touched by the sympathy originating in kindred genius, and in the forebodings of similar fortune, Burns regarded Fergusson with a partial and an affectionate admiration. Over his grave be erected a monument, as has al-! ready been mentioned; and his poems he has in several instances made the subjects of his invitation.

From this account of the Scottish poems known to Burns, those who are acquainted with them will see they are chiefly homorous or pathetic; and under one or other of these rescriptions most of his own poems will class. Let us compare him with his predecessors un- nature, the descriptive parts are in the gennine

examination with a few general observations.

It has frequently been observed, that Scotland has produced, comparatively speaking, few writers who have excelled in humour. But this observation is true only when applied to those who have continued to reside in their own country, and have confined themselves to composition in pure English; and in these circumstances it admits of an easy explanation. The Scottish poets, who have written in the dialect of Scotland, have been at all times remarkable for dwelling on subjects of humour, in which indeed some of them have excelled. It would be easy to show, that the dialect of Scotland having become provincial, is now scarcely suited to the more elevated kinds of poetry. may believe that the poem of Christis Kirk of the Grene was written by James the First of Scotland, this accomplished monarch, who had received an English education under Henry the Fourth, and who bore arms under his gallant successor, gave the model on which the greater part of the humorous productions of the rustic muse of Scotland had been formed Kirk of the Grene was reprinted by Ramsay, somewhat modernized in the orthography, and two cantos were added by him, in which he attempts to carry on the design. Hence the poem of King James is usually printed in Ramsay's The royal bard describes, in the first works. canto, a rustic dance, and afterwards a contention in archery, ending in an affray. Ramsay relates the restoration of concord, and the renewal of the rural sports with the humours of a country wedding. Though each of the poets describes the manners of his respective age, yet in the whole piece there is a very sufficient uniformity; a striking proof of the identity of character in the Scottish peasantry at the two periods, distant from each other three hundred year. It is an honourable distinction to this body of men, that their character and manners, very little embellished, have been found to be susceptible of an amusing and interesting species of poetry; and it must appear not a little curious, that the single nation of modern Europe which possesses an original poetry, should have received the model, followed by their rustic bards, from the monarch on the throne.

The two additional cantos to Christis Kirk of the Grene, written by Ramsay, though objectionable in point of delicacy, are among the happiest of his productions. It's chief excellence indeed, lay in the description of rural characters, incidents, and scenery; for he did not possess any very high powers either of imagina. tion or of understanding. He was well acquainted with the peasantry of Scotland, their lives and opinions. The subject was in a goat measure new; his talents were equal to the subject, and he has shown that it may se happily adapted to pastoral poetry. In his Gentle Shepherd, the characters are delineations from

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affections of rural life are finely portrayed, and happiest of all his productions, and certain'y the heart is pleasingly interested in the happi- was the archetype of the Cotter's Solundar ness that is best we! on innocence and virtue. Throughout the wh 'e there is an air of reality which the most carele's reader cannot but per- the peasantry of Scotland, of the present times, ceive; and in lact no poem ever perhaps acquired so high a reputation, in which truth recrived so Little embellishment from the imagination. In his pistoral songs, and his rural tales, Ramsay appears to less advantage, indeed, but that of Ramsay or Fergusson, both of whom, as still with considerable attraction. The story of he himself informs us, he had "frequently in his the Monk and the Miller's Wife, though somewhat licentions, may rank with the happiest flame, than to servile imitation." His descripproductions of Prior or La Fontaine. But when live powers, whether the objects on which they he attempts subjects from higher life, and aims at pure English composition, he is feeble and uninteresting, and seldom even reaches mediocrity. Neither are his familiar epistles and elegies in the Scottish dialect entitled to much approbation. Though Fergusson had higher powers of imagination than Ramsay, his genius was not of the highest order; nor did his learning, which was considerable, improve his genius. His poems written in pure English, in which he often toflows classical models, though dialogue by an account of the persons and chasuperior to the English poems of Ramsay, seldom rise above mediocrity; but in those com- has named Casar, is a dog of condition:posed in the Scottish dialect he is often very successful. He was, in general, however, less happy than Ramsay in the subjects of his muse As he spent the greater part of his life in Edinburgh, and wrote for his amusement in the intervals of business or dissipation, his Scottish poems are chiefly founded on the incidents of a town life, which, though they are not susceptible of humour, do not admit of those delineations of scenery and manners, which vivify the rural poetry of Ramsay, and which so agreeably amuse the fancy and interest the heart. town eclogues of Fergusson, if we may so denominate them, are however faithful to nature, and often distinguished by a very happy vein of humour. His poems entitled The Daft Days. The ring's Birth-day in Edinburgh, Leith Races, and The Hailow Fair, will justify this character. In these, particularly in the last, he imitated Christis Kirk of the Grene, as Ramsay had done before him. His Address to the Tron-kirk Bell is an exquisite piece of humonr, which Burns has scarcely excelled. In appreciating the genins of Fergusson, it ought to be recoilected, that his poems are the careless effusions of an irregular though amiable young man, who wrote for the periodical papers of the day, and who died in early youth. Had his life been prolonged under happier circumstances of fortane, he would probably have risen to much of the two speakers, is kept in view. aninteresting, The Farmer's Ingle, which, year:

style of heartiful simplicity, the passions and may be considered as a Scottish past and, is the Night. Fergusson, and more especially Burns, have shown, that the character and manners of are as well adapted to poetry, as in the days of Ramsay, or of the author of Chri tis Kirk of the Grene.

The humour of Burns is of a richer vein than eye, but rather with a view to kindle at their are employed be comie or serious, animate, or inanimate, are of the highest order,-A superiority of this kind is essential to every species of poetical excellence. In one of his earlier poems his plan seems to be to inculcate a lesson of contentment on the lower classes of society, by showing that their superiors are neither much better nor happier than themselves; and this he chooses to execute in the form of a dialogue between two dogs. He introduces this racters of the speakers. The first, whom he

" His locked, letter'd, braw brass collar, Showed him the gentleman and scholar,"

High-beed though he is, he is however full of condescension:

" At kirk or market, mill or smiddle, Nie tawted tyke, tho' e'er sae duddie, But he wad stan't, as glad to see him, An' stroun't on stanes an' hillocks wi' him."

The other, Luath, is a "plougman's collie," but a cur of a good heart and a sound understanding.

" His honest, sonsie, baws'nt face, Aye gat him friends in ilka place; His breast was white, his towsie back Weel clad wi' coat o' glossy black; His garcie tail, wi' upward curl, Hung o'er his hurdies wi' a swirt."

Never were twn dogs so exquisitely delineated. Their gambols, before they sit down to moralize, are described with an equal degree of happiness; and through the whole dialogue, the character, as well as the different condition eigher reputation. He might have excelled in speech of Luath, in which he enumerates the rural poetry, for though his professed pastorals comforts of the poor, gives the following acon the established Saction model, are stale and count of their merriment on the first day of the

^{&#}x27;That merry day the year begins, They bar the door on rosty winds.

The Loppy reeks wi' mantling ream, And theds a heart-inspirin' steam ; The lantin pipe, and suceshin' mill, Are handed round wi' right guid-will: The canty auld folks crackin' crouse, The young ares rantin' thro' the house-My Leart has been sae fain to see them, That I for joy hae barkit wi' them."

Of all the animals who have mora ized on human affairs since the days of Æsop, the dog seems best entitled to this privilege, as well from his superior sagacity, as from his being, more than any other, the friend and associate of man. The dogs of Burns, excepting in their talent for moralizing, are downright dogs. The "twa dogs" are constantly kept before our eyes, and the contrast between their form and character as dogs, and the sagacity of their conversation, heightens the humour, and deepens the impression of the poet's satire. Though in this poem the chief excellence may be considered as humour, yet great talents are displayed in its composition; the happiest powers of description and the deepest insight into the human heart. It is seidom, however, that the humour of Burns appears in so simple a form. The liveliness of his sensibility frequently impels him to introduce into subjects of humour, emotions of tenderness or of pity; and, where occasion admits, he is sometimes carried on to exert the higher powers of imagination. In such instances he leaves the society of Ramsay and of Fergusson, and associates himself with the masters of English poetry, whose language he frequently assumes.

Of the union of tenderness and humour, examples may be found in The Death and Dying Words of po r Millie, in The auld Farmer's New-Year's Morning Salutation to his Mare Maggie, and in many other of his poems. The praise of whisky is a favourite subject with To this he dedicates his poem of Scotch Drink. After mentioning its cheering influence in a variety of situations, he describes, with singular liveliness and power of fancy, its stimulating effects on the blacksmith working

at his forge :

Nae mercy, then, for airn or steel; The brawnie, bainie, ploughman chiel, Brings hard owre-hip, wi' sturdy wheel, The strong fore-hammer, Till block an' studdie ring and recl Wi' dinsome clamour."

Again, however, he sinks into humour, and tonelades the poem with the following most Laghable, but most irreverent apostrophe;

4 Scotland, my auld, respected mither ! Though whyles ye moistify your feather, 'Tili where you sit, on craps o' heather, Ve tine your dain

Freedom and Whisky gong thegither, Tak aff your dram!"

Of this union of humour, with the highe. powers of imagination, instances may be found in the poem entitled Death and Dr. Hornbook, and in almost every stanzı of the Address te the Deil, one of the happiest of his productions, After reproaching this terrible being with all his "doings" and misdeeds, in the course of which he passes through a series of Scottish superstitions, and rises at times into a high strain of poetry; he concludes this address, delivered in a tone of great familiarity, not altogether unmixed with apprehension, in the following words :

" But, fare ye weel, auld Nickie-ben 1 O wad ye tak a thought an' men' Ye aiblins might-I dinna ken-Still ha'e a stake-I'm wae to think upo' yon den Ev'n for your sake!

Humour and tenderness are here so happily intermixed, that it is impossible to say which preponderates.

Fergusson wrote a dialogue between the Causeway and the Plainst nes,* of Edinburgh This probably suggested to Burns his dialogue between the Old and New Bridge over the river Ayr. The nature of such subjects requires that they shall be treated humorously, and Fergusson has attempted nothing beyond this. the Causeway and the Plainstones talk together, no attempt is made to personify the speakers.

In the dialogue between the Brigs of Ayr, the poet, "press'd by care," or "inspired by whim," had left his bed in the town of Ayr, and wandered out alone in the darkness and solitude of a winter night, to the mouth of the river, where the stillness was interrupted only by the rushing sound of the inflox of the tide. It was after midnight. The Dangeon-clock had struck two, and the sound had been repeated by Wallace Tower. All else was hushed. The moon shone brightly, and

" The chilly frost, beneath the silver beam, Crept, gently-crusting, o'er the glittering stream."

In this situation, the listening hard hears the " clanging sugh" of wings moving through the air, and speedily he perceives two heings, reared, the one on the Old, the other on the New Bridge, whose form and attire he describes, and whose conversation with each other he rehearses. These genii enter into a comparison of the respective edifices over which they preside, and afterwards, as is usual between the old and young, compare modern characters and manners with They differ, as may be exthose of post times.

[·] Plains 2 ws- ide pavement.

humorous, may be considered as a proper busiinterrupted by a new scene of wonders:

-" all before their sight A fairy train appear'd in order bright: Adown the glittering stream they featly danced; Bright to the moon their various dresses glanced; They footed o'er the wat'ry glass so neat, The infint ice scarce bent beneath their feet : While arts of minstrelsy among them rung. And soul-ennobled Bards heroic ditties sung."

. The Genius of the Stream in front appears, A venerable chief, advanced in years : His hoary head with water-lilies crown'd, His manly leg with garter tangle bound."

Next follow a number of other allegorical beings, among whom are the four seasons, Rural Joy, Plenty, Hospitality, and Courage.

" Benevolence, with mild benignant air, A female form, came from the tow'rs of Stair : Learning and Worth in equal measures trode, From simple Catrine, their long-loved abode : Last, white-robed Peace, crown'd with a hazel

To rustic Agriculture did bequeath The broken iron instrument of Death; At sight of whom our Sprites forgat their kindling wrath.'

This poem, irregular and imperfect as it is, displays various and powerful talents, and may serve to illustrate the genius of Burns. In particular, it affords a striking instance of his being carried beyond his original purpose by the powers of imagination.

In Fergusson's poem, the Plainstones and Causeway contrast the characters of the different persons who walked upon them Burns probably conceived, that, by a dialogue between the Old and New Bridge, he might form a humorous contrast between ancient and modern manners in the town of Ayr. Such a dialogue could only be supposed to pass in the stillness of night; and this led our poet into a description of a midnight seene, which excited in a high Brigs of Ayr is appeared.

stow a little pains in making the figures more surest proof, as well as the most brilliant triumph correct, and in smoothing the versification.

pected, and trant and scold each other in broad | cluded his Dedication to G. H. Es; discover Scotch. This conversation, which is certainly like his other writings, the powers of a superior understanding. They display deep insight into ness of the noein. As the debate runs high, and human nature, a gay and happy strain of reflecthreatens serious consequences, all at once it is tion, great independence of sentiment, and generosity of heart. The Halloween of Burns is free from every objection. It is interesting not merely from its humorous description of manners. but as it records the spells and churms used on the celebration of a festival, now, even in Scotland, falling into neglect, but which was once observed over the greater part of Britain and Ireland. These charms are supposed to afford an insight into futurity, especially on the subject of marriage, the most interesting event of rural life. In the Halloween, a female, in performing one of the spells, has oceasion to go out by moonlight to dip her shift-sleeve into a stream running towards the South. It was not necessary for Burns to give a description of this stream. But it was the character of his ardent mind to pour forth not merely what the occasion required, but what it admitted; and the temptation to describe so beautiful a natural object by moonlight, was not to be resisted-

> "Whyles owre a line the burnie plays, As through the glen it wimpi't; Whyles round the rocky scar it strays; Whyles in a wiel it dimpl't; Whyles glitter'd to the nightly rays, Wi' bickering dincing dazzle; Whyles cookit underneath the braes, Beneath the spreading hazel, Unseen that night,

Those who understand the Scottish dialect will allow this to be one of the finest instances of description which the records of poetry afford.

In pastoral, or, to speak more correctly, in rural poetry of a serious nature. Burns excelled equ. by as in that of a humorous kind, and, using less of the Scottish dialect in his serious poems, he becomes more generally intelligible ficult to decide whether the Address to a Mouse whose nest was turned up with the plough, should be considered as serious or consie. Be this as it may, the poem is one of the happiest and most finished of his productions. If we smile at the "bickering brattle" of this little flying animal, it is a smile of tenderness and pity. The descriptive part is admirable: the moral reflections beautiful, and arising directly out of the degree the powers of his imagination. During occasion; and in the canclusion there is a deep the whole dialogue the scenery is present to his unclancholy, a sentiment of doubt and dread, fancy, and at length it suggests to him a fairy that arises to the sublime. The Address to a dance of aerial beings, under the beams of the Mountain Daisy, turned down with the plaugh, croon, by which the wrath of the Genii of the is a poem of the same nature, though somewhat inferior in point of originality, as well as in the Incongruous as the different parts of this poem interest produced. To extract out of incidents are, it is not an incongruity that displesses; and so common, and scemingly so trivial as these, we have only to regret that the poet did not be- so fine a trans of sentiment and imagery, is the of original genius. The Vision, in two cantos The ejistles of Burns, in which may be in- from which a beautiful extract is taken by Mr

Mackenzie, in the 97th number of the Lounger, | nature and condition of man, which are so conis a poem of great and various excellence. The opening, in which the poet describes his own state of mind, retiring in the evening, wearied, from the labours of the day, to moralize on his conduct and prospects, is truly interesting. The chamber, if we may so term it, in which he sits down to muse, is an exquisite painting :-

" There, lanely, by the ingle cheek, I sat and eved the snewing reek. That fill'd wi' heast-prov. king sme k That auld clay biggin; An' heard the restless rattons squeak About the riggin.

To reconcile to our imagination the entrance of an aerial being into a mansion of this kind. required the powers of Burns-be, however, sneceeds. Coils enters, and her countenance, attiaude, and dress, unlike those of other spiritual beings, are distinctly portrayed. To the painting on her mantle, on which is depicted the most striking scenery, as well as the most distinguished characters, of his native country, some exceptions may be made. The mantle of Coila, like the cup of Thyrsis, and the shield of Achilles, is too much crowded with figures, and some of the objects represented upon it are searcely admissible. according to the principles of design. The generous temperament of Burns led him into these exuberances. In his second edition he enlarged the number of figures originally introduced, that he might include objects to which he was attached by sentiments of affection, gratitude, or patriotism. The second Duan, or canto of this poem, in which Coila describes her own nature and occupations, particularly her superintendence of his infant genius, and in which she reconciles him to the character of a bard, is an elevated and solemn strain of poetry, ranking in all respects, excepting the harmony of numbers, with the higher productions of the English muse. concluding stanza, compared with that already quoted, will show to what a height Burns rises in this poem, from the point at which he set out -

" 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."

in various poems Burns has exhibited the nicture of a mind under the deep impressions of real sorrow. The Lament, the Ode to Ruin, Despondency, and Winter, a Dirge, are of this character. In the first of these poems the eighth stanza, which describes a sleepless night from plan was formed, Burns trusted entirely to his anguish of mind, is particularly striking. Burns often indulged in those melancholy views of the

genial to the temperament of sensibility. Tha poem entitled Man was made to Mourn, affords an instance of this kind, and The W'nter Night is of the same description. The last is highly characteristic, both of the temper of mind, and of the condition of Burns. It begins with a description of a dreadful storm on a night in winter. The poet represents himself as lying in bed, and listening to its howling. In this situation, he naturally turns his thoughts to the ourie . Cattie, and the silly + Sheep, exposed to all the violence of the tempest. Having lamented their fate, he proceeds in the following :-

" Ilk happing hird-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 chittering wing, An' close thy e'e?

Other reflections of the same nature occur to his mind; and as the midnight moon, " muffled with clouds," casts her dreary light on his window, thoughts of a darker and more melancholy nature crowd upon him. In this state of mind, he hears a voice pouring through the gloom, a solemn and plaintive strain of reflection. The mourner compares the fury of the elements with that of man to his brother man, and finds the former light in the balance.

" See stern Oppression's iron grtp, Or mad Ambition's gory hand, Sending, like blood-hounds from the slip, Woe, want, and murder, o'er the land."

He pursues this train of reflection through a variety of particulars, in the course of which he introduces the following animated apostrophe:--

" O ye! who sunk in beds of down, Feel not a want but what vourselves create, Think, for a moment, on his wretched fate, Whom feiends and fortune quite disown!

Ill-satisfy'd keen Nature's claim'rous call, Stretch'd on his straw he lays him down to sleep

While thro' the ragged roof and chinky wail, Chill o'er his slumbers piles the drifty heap."

The strain of sentiment which runs through this poem is noble, though the execution is naequal, and the versification is defective.

Among the serious poems of Burns, The Cotter's Saturday Night is perhaps entitled to the first rank. The Farmer's Ingle of Fergus son evidently suggested the plan of this poem, as has been already mentioned; but after the

[·] See the first Idyllium of Theoretius.

^{*} Owie, out-lying. Ourie Callle, Cattle that are unhoused all winter.

¹ Sitty is in this, as in other places, a term of com-passion and endearment.

own powers for the execution. Fergusson's man grown," are circumstances of the most inpoem is certainly very beautiful. It has all the tharms which depend on rural characters and ed; and after their fugal supper, the represenmanners happily portrayed, and exhibited under tation of these bumbler cottagers forming a wider circumstances highly grateful to the imagination, circle round their hearth, and uniting in the The Farmer's Ingle begins with describing the worship of God, is a picture the most deeply afreturn of evening. The toils of the day are over, and the farmer retires to his comfortable fireside. The reception which he and his men-servants receive from the careful house-wife, is pleasingly described. After their supper is over,

"Bout kirk and market eke their tales gae on, How Jock woo'd Jenny here to be his bride; And there how Marion for a bastard son,

Upon the cutty-stool was forced to ride, The waefu' scauld o' our Mess John to bide.

The "Guidame" is next introduced as forming a circle round the fire, in the midst of her grandchildren, and while she spins from the rock, and the spindle plays on her "russet lap," she is relating to the young ones tales of witches and The poet exclaims, ghosts.

" O mock na this my friends! but rather mourn. Ye in life's brawest spring wi' reason clear, Wi' eild our idle fancies a' return.

And dim our doleft? days wi' bairnly fear : The mind's aye cradl'd when the grave is near."

In the meantime the farmer, wearied with the on the settle, a sort of rustic couch, which extends on one side of the fire, and the cat and house-dog leap upon it to receive his caresses. Here, resting at his ease, he gives his directions to his men-servants for the succeeding day, The house-wife follows his example, and gives her orders to the maidens. By degrees the oil remarks. in the cruise begins to fail; the fire runs low: sleep steals on his rustic group; and they move off to enjoy their peaceful slumbers. The poet concludes by hestowing his blessing on the " husbandman and all his tribe."

This is an original and truly interesting pastoral. It possesses every thing required in this species of composition. We might have perhaps said, every thing that it admits, had not Burns written his Cotter's Saturday Night.

The cottager returning from his labours, has no servants to accompany him, to partake of his fare, or to receive his instructions. The circle which I'e joins, is composed of his wife and children only; and if it admits of less variety, it affords an opportunity for representing scenes that more strongly interest the affections. younger children running to meet him, and clambering round his knee; the elder, returning clambering round his knee; the elder, returning from their weekly labours with the neighbouring which form the subjects of the Sectifs hope contest which form the subjects of the Sectifs hopes, are all subjects of the subjects of the section of the lady is generally victorious. From the collection belowing and instructions; the incidents of the lady is generally victorious. From the collection of Mr. Pinkerton, we find that the comic muse of Scot leading and instructions; the incidents of the lady is generally victorious. From the collection of the lady is generally victorious. From the collection of the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is given by the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which are the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which form the subjects of the Sectifs hope, and their wives the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which form the subjects of the Sectifs hope, and the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which form the subjects of the Sectifs hope, and the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which form the subjects of the Sectifs hope, and the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which for the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which for the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which for the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which for the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is the lady is generally victorious. From the collection which is the lady is generally victorious.

feeting of any which the rural muse has ever presented to the view. Burns was admirably adapted to this delineation. Like all men of genius he was of the temperament of devotion, and the powers of memory co-operated in this they begin to talk on the rural events of the day, instance with the sensibility of his heart, and the fervour of his imagination. The Cotter's Saturday Night is tender and moral, it is solemn and devotional, and rises at length in a strain of grandeur and sublimity, which modern poetry has not surpassed. The noble sentiments of patriotism with which it concludes, correspond with the rest of the poem. In no age or country have the pastoral muses breathed such elevated accents, if the Messiah of Pope be excepted, which is indeed a pastoral in form only. It is to be regretted that Burns did not employ his genius on other subjects of the same nature, which the manners and customs of the Scottisk. peasantry would have amply supplied. Such peetry is not to be estimated by the degree of pleasure which it bestows; it sinks deeply into the heart, and is calculated, for beyond any other human means, for giving permanence to the scenes and the characters it so exquisitely describes.

Before we conclude, it will be proper to offatignes of the day, stretches himself at length fer a few observations on the lyric productions of Burns. His compositions of this kind are chiefly songs, generally in the Scottish dialect, and always after the model of the Scottish songs, on the general character and moral influence of which, some observations have already been offered. We may hazard a few more particular

> Of the historic or heroic hallads of Scotland it is unnecessary to speak. Burns has no where imitated them, a circumstance to be regretted, since in this species of composition, from its admitting the more terrible, as well as the softer graces of poetry, he was eminently qualified to have excelled. The Scottish songs which served as a model to Burns, are almost without exception pastoral, or rather rural. Such of them as are comic, frequently treat of a rustic courtship, or a country wedding; or they describe the differences of opinion which arise in married life. Burns has imitated this species, and surpassed his models. The song beginning " Husband, husband, cease your strife," may be cited in support of this observation. Ilis other

courtship of Jenny, their cluest daughter, "wo-

nature, are delivered in the character of the perthe passion is delineated under a particular aspect. Neither is it the fiercer impulses of desire that are expressed, as in the celebrated ode of Suppho, the model of so many modern songs; among other causes, the easy access they obtain but those gentler emotions of tenderness and aft to the heart. Generalization is the voice of but permit him to associate his emotions with of poets of a refined and scientific age. the charms of external nature, and breathe the accents of purity and innocence, as well as of in the Scottish songs, while it contributes greatlove. In these respects the love-songs of Scot- ly to the interest they excite, also shows that land are honourably distinguished from the they have originated among a people in the earmost admired classical compositions of the same lier stages of society. Where this form of comkind; and by such associations, a variety as position appears in songs of a modern date, it well as liveliness, is given to the representation indicates that they have been written after the of this passion, which are not to be found in ancient model. * the poetry of Greece or Rome, or perhaps of a degree of interest and realily is given to the sentiment, by the spot destined to these happy interviews being particularized. The lovers perhaps meet at the Bush aboon Traquair, or on the Banks of Ettrick : the nymphs are invoked to wander among the wilds of Roslin or the Woods of Invermay. Nor is the spot merely pointed out; the scenery is often described

comic songs are of equal merit. In the rural | maxim of Horace, ut pictura poesis, is faithfulsongs of Scotland, whether humorous or ten- ly observed by these rustic bards, who are guidder, the sentiments are given to particular cha- ed by the same impulse of nature and sensibility racters, and very generally, the incidents are which influenced the father of epic poetry, on referred to particular scenery. This last eir- whose example the precept of the Roman poet cumstance may be considered as a distinguish- was perhaps founded. By this means the innaing feature of the Scottish songs, and on it a gination is employed to interest the feelings. considerable part of their attraction depends. When we do not conceive distinctly, we do not On all occasions the sentiments, of whatever sympathize deeply in any human affection; and we conceive nothing in the abstract. Abstraceson principally interested. If love be described, tion, so useful in morals, and so essential in it is not as it is observed, but as it is felt; and science, must be abandoned when the heart is to be subdued by the powers of poetry or of eloquence. The bards of a ruder condition of society paint individual objects; and hence, fection, which do not entirely absorb the lover; poets, whose learning overpowers their genius;

The dramatic style which prevails so much

The Scottish songs are of very unequal poe any other nation. Many of the love-songs of tical merit, and this inequality often extends to Scotland describe scenes of rural courtship; the different parts of the same song. Those that many may be considered as invocations from are humorous, or characteristic of manners, lovers to their mistresses. On such occasions have in general the merit of copying nature; those that are serious are tender and often sweetly interesting, but seldom exhibit high powers of imagination, which indeed do not

* One or two examples may illustrate this observation. A Scottish song, written about a hundred years ago, begins thus:-

" On Ettrick Banks, on a summer's night At gloaming, when the sheep drove hame I met my lassie, braw and tight, Come wading barefoot a' her lane.

My heart grew light, I ran, I flang My arms about her lily-neck, And kissed and clasped there fu' lang— My words they were na mony feck."

The lover, who is a Highlander, goes on to relate the language he employed with his Lowland maid to one ranguage ne employed with his Lowanu maid to win her heart, and to persuade her to fly with him to the Highland hills, there to share his fortune. The semiments are in themselves beautiful. Hat we feel them with double force, while we conserve that they were addressed by a lover to his mistress, whom he not all alone on a summer's evening, by the banks of a heautiful stream, which some of us have actually seen, and which all of us can paint to our imagination. Let us take another example. It is now a nymph that speaks. Here how she expresses herselfHe skipt the burn, and flew to me, I met him with good will."

Here is another picture drawn by the pencil of Na-If pointed out; the scenery is often described as well as the character, so as to represent a brook, watching her lover, as he descends the opposite complete picture to the fancy. This the above the picture of the fancy of the picture of the pict surrounding seenery becomes endeared to the fair mourner, and she bursts into the following exclama-

> " O the broom, the bonnie bonnie broom, The broom of the Cowden-knowes! I wish I were with my dear swain, With his pipe and his ewes.

Thus the individual spot of this happy interview is pointed out, and the picture is completed.

That the dramatic form of writing characterizes productions of an early, or what amounts to the same, of a rude stage of society, may be illustrated by a reference to the most ancient compositions that we know of, the Hebrew scriptures, and the writings of Homer. The form of dialogue is adopted in the old Scottish The form of dialogue is adopted in the our Secusion ballads, even in narration, whenever the situations described become interesting. This sometimes produced a very striking effect, of which an instance may be given from the ballad of Edom o' Gordon, a composition apparently of the sexteenth contury. The story tion apparently of the sixteenth century. The story of the ballad is shortly this: The Castle of Rhodes in the absence of its lord, is attacked by the robber Edom Gordon. The lady stands on her defence, beats off the assailants, and wounds Gordon, who in his rage orders the eastle to be set on fire. That his orders are orders the eastle to be set on fire. That his orders are carried into effect, we learn from the expostulation of the buly, who is represented as standing on the battle

[&]quot; How blythe each morn was I to see "
My swain come o'er the hill!

The alliance of the words of the Scottish songs with the music has in some instances given to the former a popularity, which otherwise they would never have obtained.

The association of the words and the music of these songs with the more beautiful parts of the scenery of Scotland, contributes to the same effect. It has given them not merely popularity, but permanence; it has imparted to the works of man some portion of the durability of the works of nature. If, from our imperfect experience of the past, we may judge with any confidence respecting the future, songs of this description are of all others the least likely to die. In the changes of language they may no doubt suffer change; but the associated strain of sentiment and of music will perhaps survive, while the clear stream sweeps down the vale of Yarrow, or the vellow broom waves on the Cowden-Knowes.

The first attempts of Burns in song-writing were not very successful. His habitual inattention to the exactness of rhymes, and to the harmony of numbers, arising probably from the models on which his versification was formed. were faults likely to appear to more advantage in this species of composition, than in any other; and we may also remark, that the strength of his imagination, and the exuberance of his sensibility, were with difficulty restrained within the limits of gentleness, delicacy and tenderness, which seem to be assigned to the love-songs of his nation. Burns was better adapted by nature for following in such compositions the model of the Grecian than of the Scottish muse. By study and practice he however surmounted all these obstacles. earlier songs there is some ruggedness; but this gradually disappears in his successive efforts; and some of his later compositions of this kind may be compared, in polished delicacy, with the finest songs in our language, while in the eloquence of sensibility they surpass them all.

The songs of Burns, like the models he followed and excelled, are often dramatic, and for the greater part amatory; and the beauties of rural nature are every where associated with the passions and emotions of the mind.

easily find a place in this species of composition. | daining to copy the works of others, he has not like some poets of great name, admitted into his descriptions exotic imagery. The landscapes he has painted, and the objects with which they are embellished, are, in every single instance, such as are to be found in his own country. In a mountainous region, especially when it is comparatively rude and naked, the most beautiful scenery will always be found in the valleys, and on the banks of the wooded streams. Such scenery is peculiarly interesting at the close of a summer day. As we advance northwards, the number of the days of summer, indeed, diminishes; but from this cause, as well as from the mildness of the temperature, the attraction increases, and the summer night becomes still more beautiful. The greater obliquity of the sun's path in the ecliptic, prolongs the grateful season of twilight to the midnight hours, and the shades of the evening seem to mingle with the morning's dawn. The rural poets of Scotland, as may be expected, associate in their songs the expression of passion, with the most beautiful of their scenery, in the fairest season of the year, and generally in those hours of the evening when the beauties of nature are most interesting.

To all these adventitious circumstances, on which so much of the effect of poetry depends, great attention is paid by Burns. scarcely a single song of his in which particular scenery is not described, or allusions made to natural objects, remarkable for beauty or interest; and though his descriptions are not so full as are sometimes met with in the older Scottish songs, they are in the highest degree appropriate and interesting. Instances in proof of this might be quoted from the Lea Rig, Highland Mary, the Soldier's Return, Logan Water, from that beautiful pastoral, Bonnie Jean, and a great number of others. Occasionally the force of his genius carries him beyond the usual boundaries of Scottish song, and the natural objects introduced have more of the character of sublimity. An instance of this kind is noticed by Mr. Syme, and many others might be adduced.

" Had I a cave on some wild, distant shore, Where the winds howl to the wave's dashing roar;

There would I weep my woes, There seek my lost repose, Till grief my eyes should close Ne'er to wake more."

In one song, the scene of which is laid in a winter night, the "wan moon" is described as " setting behind the white waves;" in another, the "storms" are apostrophized, and commanded to "rest in the cave of their slumbers." On several occasions, the genius of Burns loses sight entirely of his archetypes, and rises into a strain of uniform sub imity. Instances of this kind appear in Liberty, a Vision, and in his two

ments and remonstrating on this barbarity. She is interrupted-

[&]quot; O then bespake her little son,

Sate on his nourice knee; Says ' mither dear, gi' owre this house,

For the reck it smithers me.

[&]quot;I wad gie a' my gowd, my childe, Sae wad I a' my tee, F or ac blast o' the westlin wind,

To blaw the reak trae thee.

The circumstantiality of the Scottish love-songs, The circumstantiality of the Sectish love-songs, and the dramate form which prevails so generally in them, probably arises from their being the descendants them, probably arises from their being the descendants and successors of the ancient ballats. In the beautiful mottern song of Mary of Castic-Cary, the dramatic form has a very happy effect. The same may be said of Domaid and Flora, and Come under my Paidtie, by the sevice author, Mr. Macniel.

of Death. These last are of a description of the general circulation of his poems in England, which we have no other in our language. The notwithstanding the dialect in whic' the greatmartial sours of our nation are not military, but er part are written, and which macht be supnaval. If we were to seek a comparison of posed to render them here uncouth or obscure. these songs of Burns with others of a similar In some instances he has used this dialect on nature, we must have recourse to the poetry of ancient Greece, or of modern Gaul.

Burns has made an important addition to the songs of Scotland. In his compositions, the poetry equals and sometimes surpasses the music. He has enlarged the poetical scenery of his country. Many of her rivers and mountains, formerly unknown to the muse, are now consecrated by his immortal verse. The Doon, the Lugar, the Ayr, the Nith, and the Cluden, will in future, like the Yarrow, the Tweed, and the Tay, be considered as classic streams, and their borders will be trode with new and superior emotions.

The greater part of the songs of Burns were written after he removed into the county of Influenced, perhaps, by habits formed in early life, he usually composed while walking in the open air. When engaged in writing these songs, his favourite walks were in the banks of the Nith, or of the Claden, particularly near the ruins of Lincluden Abbey; and this beautiful scenery he has very happily described under various aspects, as it appears during the softness and serenity of evening, and during the stillness and solemnity of the moonlight night.

There is no species of poetry, the productions of the drama not excepted, so much calculated to influence the morals, as well as the happiness of a people, as those popular verses which are associated with the national airs, and which being learnt in the years of infancy, make a deep impression on the heart before the evoluion of the powers of the understanding. The compositions of Burns, of this kind, now presented in a collected form to the world, make a like of this kind is, however, accidental, not namost important addition to the popular songs of tural. It is of the species of disgust which we his nation. Like all his other writings, they feel at seeing a female of high birth in the dress exhibit independence of sentiment; they are of a rustic; which, if she be really young and peculiarly calculated to increase those ties which beautiful, a little habit will enable us to overbind generous hearts to their native soil, and to come. A lady who assumes such a dress puts the domestic circle of their infancy: and to her beauty, indeed, to a severer trial. She recherish those sensibilities which, under due re- jects-she, indeed, opposes the influence of fastriction, form the purest happiness of our na-shion; she, possibly, abandons the grace of ture. If in his unguarded moments he com-elegant and flowing drapery; but her native posed some songs on which this praise cannot charms remain, the more striking, perhaps, bebe bestowed, let us hope that they will speedily cause the less adorned; and to these she trusts be forgotten. In several instances, where Scot- for fixing her empire on those affections over tish are were allied to words objectionable in which fashion has no sway. If she succeeds, a point of delicacy, Burns has substituted others new association arises. The dress of the beauof a purer character. On such occasions, with- tiful rustic becomes itself beautiful, and estabout changing the subject, he has changed the lishes a new fashion for the young and the gay. sentiments. A proof of this may be seen in the And when, in after ages, the contemplative obar of John Anderson my Joe, which is now server shall view her picture in the gallery that united to words that breathe a strain of conjugal contains the portraits of the beauties of succestenderness, that is as highly moral as it is ex- sive centuries, each in the dress of her respecquisitely affecting.

war-songs, Bruce to his troops, and the Song | ing proof of the strength of Burns's genius, than subjects of a sublime nature; but in general he confines it to sentiments or description of a tender or humorous kind; and, where he rises into elevation of thought, he assumes a purer English style. The singular faculty he possessed of mingling in the same poem humorous sentiments and descriptions, with imagery of a sublime and terrific nature, enabled him to use this variety of dialect on some occasions with striking effect. His poem of Tam o' Shanter affords an instance of this. There he passes from a scene of the lowest humour, to situations of the most awful and terrible kind. He is a musician that runs from the lowest to the highest of his keys: and the use of the Scottish dialect enables him to add two additional notes to the bottom of his scale.

Great efforts have been made by the inhabitants of Scotland, of the superior ranks, to approximate in their speech to the pure English standard : and this has made it difficult to write in the Scottish dialect, without exciting in them some feelings of disgust, which in England are scarcely felt. An Englishman who understands the meaning of the Scottish words, is not offended, nay, on certain subjects, he is perhaps pleased with the rustic dialect, as he may be with the Dorie Greek of Theorritus.

But a Scotchman inhabiting his own coustry, if a man of education, and more especially if a literary character, has banished such words from his writings, and has attempted to banish them from his speech; and being accustomed to hear them from the vulgar daily, does not easily admit of their use in poetry, which requires a style elevated and ornamental. A dissately affecting.

Fow circums ences could afford a more strik- than that of her rivals, from the standard of his

rals in the lineaments of nature.

Burns wrote professedly for the peasantry of his country, and by them their native dialect is universally relished. To a numerous class of the natives of Scotland of another description, it may also be considered as attractive in a different point of view. Estranged from their native soil, and suread over foreign lands, the idiom of their country unites with the sentiments and the descriptions on which it is employed, to recall to their minds the interesting scenes of infancy and youth-to awaken many pleasing, many tender recollections. Literary men, residing at Edinburgh or Aberdeen, cannot judge on this point for one hundred and fifty thousand of their expatriated countrymen.

To the use of the Scottish dialect in one species of poetry, the composition of songs, the taste of the public has been for some time reconciled. The dialect in question excels, as has already been observed, in the copiousness and exactness of its terms for natural objects; and in pastoral or rural songs, it gives a Doric simplicity, which is very generally approved. Neither does the regret seem well founded which some persons of taste have expressed, that Burns used this dialeet in so many other of his compositions. His declared purpose was to paint the manners of rustic life among his "humble compeers," and it is not easy to conceive, that this could have been done with equal humour and effect, if he had not adopted their idiom. There are some, indeed, who will think the subject too low for Persons of this sickly taste will find their delicacies consulted in many a polite and learned author; let them not seek for gratification in the rough and vigorous lines, in the unbridled humour, or in the overpowering sensibility of this bard of nature.

To determine the comparative merit of Burns would be no easy task. Many persons afterwards distinguished in literature, have been born in as humble a situation of life; but it would be difficult to find any other who while I monuments of genius

baste, and he will give the palm to her who ex-learning his subsistence by daily about, has written verses which have attracted and retained universal attention, and which are likely to give the author a permanent and distinguished place among the followers of the muses. It he is deficient in grace, he is distinguished for ease as well as energy; and these are indications of the higher order of genius. The father of epic poetry exhibits one of his heroes as excelling in strength, another in swiftness-to form his perfect warrior, these attributes are combined. Every species of intellectual superiority admits, perhaps, of a similar arrangement. One writer excels in torce-another in ease; he is superior to them both, in whom both these qualities are united. Of Homer himself it may be said, that like his own Achilles, he surpasses his competitors in mobility as well as strength.

The force of Burns lay in the powers of Lis understanding, and in the sensibility of his heart; and these will be found to infuse the living principle into all the works of genius which seem destined to immortality. His sensibility had an uncommon range, He was alive to every species of emotion. He is one of the few poets that can be mentioned, who have at once excelled in humour, in tenderness, and in sublimity; a praise unknown to the ancients, and which in modern times is only due to Ariosto, to Shakspeare, and perhaps to Voltaire. To compare the writings of the Scottish peasant with the works of these giants in literature, might appear presumptuous; yet it may be asserted that he has displayed the foot of Hercules. How near he might have approached them by proper culture, with lengthened years, and under happier anspices, it is not for us to calculate. But while we run over the melancholy story of his life, it is impossible not to heave a sigh at the asperity of his fortune: and as we survey the records of his mind, it is easy to see, that out of such materials have been reared the fairest and the most durable of the



THE SONGS.

THE poetry of Burns has been referred to as one of the causes which prevented the Scottish language from falling into disuse. It was beginning to be discentinued as vulgar, even as the medium of oral communication; and an obvious consequence of that state of the public taste was, that the Scottish songs, sweetly pathetic and expressive as many of them are, were not fashionable, but rather studiously avoided. The publication of his poetry changed this taste. Burns, followed by Scott, not merely revived the use of their native tongue in their own country, but gave it a currency in the polite world generally; an effect which was greatly assisted by Burns's songs, and not a little by what he did for the songs of his predecessors. He was a most devoted admirer of the lyrical effusions of the olden time, and became a diligent collector of the ancient words, as well as of the sets of the music. His remarks, historical and anecdotic, upon the several songs, are amusing and instructive; and where there were blanks to be supplied, he was ready as powerful at a refit. To do all this. and at same time to double the stock of Scottish songs, was no small task; and so well has it been executed, that in place of forming the amusement and delight of the Scots only, they have become a part, pay, have taken the lead, of the lyrical compositions used, and in fashion, throughout the British dominions. It is because of their intrinsic worth, as a branch of elegant amusement, that we have given the whole here, presented in two distinct parts:- The first part contains the songs before Burns, with the remarks, by which he has so felicitously illustrated them. - The second part is formed of his own songs, and which are now brought together, in place of being scattered over, and mixed with the prose pieces, as heretofore -The whole forming a complete collection of select Scottish Songs, such as cannot fail to be acceptable to the lovers of good taste, and innocent amusement in every country.

SELECT

SCOTTISH SONGS.

TEE poet thus writes to Mrs. Dunlop :- 'I | Man's course on earth ' will report nad an old grand-uncle, with whom my mother lived awhile in her girlish years; the good old man, for such he was, was long blind ere he died; during which time, his highest enjoyment was to sit down and cry, while my mother would sing the simple old soog of The Life and Age of Man. The song, as here given, was taken down from the recitation of the poet's mother, who had never seen a printed copy of it,-and had learned it from her mother in early youth.]

THE LIFE AND AGE OF MAN:

OR.

A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF HIS NATURE, RISE AND FALL, ACCORDING TO THE TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

Tune-" Isle of Kell."

Upon the sixte-n hunder year, of God and fifty three, Frae Christ was born, that bought us dear, as writings testifie; On January the sixteenth day, as I did ly alone, With many a sigh and sob did say,

Ah! Man is made to moan. Dame Natur, that excellent bride, did stand up me before, And said to me, thou must provide this life for to abhor: Thou seest what things are gone before. experience teaches thee: Yet do not miss to remember this, that one day thou must die.

recall back to thy mind, Consider how they ebb and flow, each thing in their own kind; Yet few of them have such a strain. as God hath given to thee; Therefore this lesson keep in mind,temember man to die.

Of all the creatures bearing life

if I have time and space; It may be long, it may be short, as God hath giv'n him grace. His natur to the herbs compare, that in the ground ly dead ; And to each month add five year. and so we will procede.

The first five years then of man's life compare to Januar; In all that time but sturt and strife, he can but greet and roar. So is the fields of flowers all bare, hy reason of the frost: Kept in the ground both safe and sound not one of them is lost.

So to years ten I shall speak then of Februar but lack : The child is meek and weak of spir't, nothing can undertake: So all the flow'rs, for lack of show'rs, no springing up can make, Yet birds do sing and praise their king, and each one choose their mate.

Then in comes March, that noble arch, with wholesome spring and air, The child doth spring to years fifteen, with visage fine and fair ; So do the flow'rs with softening show're ay spring up as .re see; Yet nevertheless remember this. that one day we must die.

Then brave April doth sweetly smi.a. the flow'rs do fair appear, The child is then become a man. to the age of twenty year; If he be kind and well inclin'd, and brought up at the school, Then men may know if he foreshow a wise man or a fool.

Then cometh May, gallant and gay, when fragant flow'rs do thrive,

The child is then become a map, of age twenty and five: And for his life doth seek a wife, his life and years to spend; Christ from above send peace and love, and grace unto the end!

Then cometh June with pleasant tune, when fields with flow'rs are clad, And Phoebus bright is at his height, all creatures then are glad:
Then he appears of thretty years, with courage hold and stout;
His nature so makes him to go, of death he hath no doubt.

Then July comes with his hot climes, and constant in his kind, The man doth thrive to thirty-five, and sober grows in mind; His children small do on him call, and breed him sturt and strife;

Then August old, both stout and bold, when flow'rs do stoutly stand; So man appears to forty years, with wisdom and command; And doth provide his honse to guide, children and familie; Yet do not miss t' remember this, that one day thou must die.

September then comes with his train, and makes the flow'rs to fade; Then man belyve is forty-five, grave, constant, wise, and staid. When he looks on, how youth is gone, and shall it no more see; Then may he say, both night and da', have mercy, Lord, on me!

October's blast comes in with boast, and makes the flow'rs to fall; Then man appears to fifty years, old age doth on him call: The almod tree doth flourish hie, and pale grows man we see; Then it is time to use this line, remember, man, to die.

November air maketh fields bare of flow'rs, of gravs, and corn;
Then man arrives to fifty-five, and sick both e'en and morn:
Loins, legs, and thighs, without disease, makes him to sigh and say,
Ah! Christ on high have mind on me, and learn me for to die!

December fell baith sharp and snell, makes flow'rs ereep in the ground; Then man's threescore, both sick and sore, no soundness in him found. His cars and e'en, and teeth of hane, all these now do him fail; Then may be say, both night and day, that death shall him assail.

And if there be, thro' natur stout, some that live ten years more;
Or if he creepeth up and down, till he comes to fourscore;
Yet all this time is but a line, no pleasure can he see:
Then may he say, both night and day, have merry, Lord, on me!

Thus have I shown you as I can, the course of all mens' life; We will return where we began, but either sturt or strife:

**Dame Memorie doth take her leave, she'il last no more, we see; God grant that I may not you grieve, Ye'il yet nae mair of mae mair of me.

BESS THE GAWKIE.

Titis song shews that the Scottish Muses did not all leave us when we lost Ramsay and Oswald,* as I have good reason to believe that the verses and music are both posterior to the days of these two gentlemen.—It is a heautiful song, and in the genuine Scots taste. We have few pastoral compositions. I mean the pastoraof nature, that are equal to this.—BERKS.

BUTTLE young Bess to Jean did say, Will ye gang to yon sunny brae, Where flocks do feed and herds do stray, And sport awhile wi' Jamie? Ah na, lass, I'll no gang there, Nor about Jamie tak nae care, Nor about Jamie tak nae care, For he's taen up wi' Maggy!

For hark, and I will tell you, lass, Did I not see your Jamie pass, Wi' meikle gladness in his face, Out o'er the muir to Maggy. I wat he gae her mony a kiss, And Maggy took them ne'er amiss; 'Tween ilka smark, pleas'd her with this, That Bess was but a gawkie.

For when a civil kiss I seek, She turns her head, and thraws her cheek,

[•] Oswald was a music-seller in London, about the year 1730. He published a large collection of Noottish times, which he called The Catedonian Procket Companion. Mr. Tytier observes, that his genius in composition, joined to his taste in the performance of Section, joined to his taste in the performance of Section for the companion of the process of the performance of the companion of the performance of the

And for an hour she'll scarcely speak; Who'd not call her a gawkie? But sure my Maggie has mair sense, She'll gie a score without offence; Now gie me ane unto the mense, And ye shall be my dawtie.

O, Jamie, ye ha'e mony tane, But I will never stand for ane, Or twa, when we do meet again; Sae ne'er think me a gawkie. Ah, na, lass, that ne'er can be, Sie thoughts as these are far from Lie,

Or ony that sweet face that see, E'er to think thee a gawkie. But whisht!—nae mair of this we'll speak, For yonder Jamie does us meet; Instead of Meg he kiss'd sae sweet, I trow he likes the gawkie.

O dear bess, I hardly knew, When I came by, your gown sae new, I think you've got it wat wi' dew;

Quoth she, that's like a gawkie:

It's wat wi' dew, and 'twill get rain, And I'll get gowns when it is gane, Sae yon may gang the gate you came, And tell it to your dawtie. The guilt appear'd in Jamie's check; Ile cry'd, O cruel maid, but sweet, If I should gang anither gate, I ne'er could meet my dawtie.

The lasses fast frae him they flew,
And left poor Jamie sair to rue,
That ever Maggy's face he knew,
Or yet ca'd Bess a gawkie.
As they went o'er the unir they sang;
The hills and dales with echoes rang,
The hills and dales with echoes rang,

Gang o'er the muir to Maggy!

FAIR ANNIE OF LOCHROYAN.

(ORIGINAL SONG OF-OH OPEN THE DOOR,

It is somewhat singular, that in Lanark, Renfrew, Ayr, Wigton, Kirkeudbright, and Dumfries-shires, there is searcely an old song or tune which, from the title, &c. can be guessed to belong to, or be the production of these counties. This, I conjecture, is one of these very few; as the ball.d, which is a long one, is called both by tradition and in printed collections, The Lass o' Lockroyan, which I take to be Lockroyan in Galloway.—Burns.

Sweet Annie built a bonnie ship, And set her on the sea; The sails were a' of the damask silk, The masts of silver free. The gladsome waters sung below,
And the sweet wind sung above—
Make way for Annie of Lochroyan,
She comes to seek her love.

A gentle wind came with a sweep, And stretched her silken sail, When up there came a reaver rude, With many a shout and hail: O touch her not, my mariners a', Such loveliness goes free; Make way for Annie of Lochroyan,

She seeks Lord Gregorie.

The moon looked out with all her stars,
The ship moved merrily on,
Until she came to a castle high,
That all as diamonds shone:
On every tower there streamed a light,
On the middle tower shone three—
Move for that tower my mariners a',
My love keeps watch for me.

She took her young son in her arms,
And on the deck she stood—
The wind rose with an angry gust,
The sea wave wakened rude.
Oh open the door, Lord Gregory, love;
Oh open and let me in;
The sea foam hangs in my yellow hair,
The surge dreeps down my chin.

All for thy sake, Lord Gregory, love,
I have sailed the perilous way,
And thy tair son is 'tween my breasts,
And he'll be dead ere day.
The foam hangs on the topmost cliff,
The fires run on the sky,
And hear you not your true love's voice.
And her sweet baby's cry?

Fair Annie turned her round about,
And tears began to flow—
May never a baby suck a breast
Wi' a heart sae fou of woe.
Take down, take down that silver masSet up a mast of tree,
It does nae become a forsaken dame
To sail sae royallie.

Oh read my dream, my mother, dear I heard a sweet babe greet,
And saw fair Annie of Lochroyan
Lie cauld dead at my feer.
And loud and loud his mother laugned—
Oh sights mair sure than sleep,
I saw fair Annie, and heard her voice,
And her baby wail and weep.

O he went down to you sea side
As fast as he could fare,
He saw fair Annie and her sweet babe,
But the wild wind tossed them sair;
And hey Annie, and how Annie,
And Annie winna ye hide?

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But ave the mair he called A.mie, The broader grew the tide.

And hey Annie, and how Annie, Dear Annie speak to me, But ave the louder he cried Annie, The louder roared the sea. The wind waxed loud, the sea grew rough, The ship sunk nigh the shore, Fair Annie floated through the foam. But the baby rose no more.

O first he kissed her cherry cheek. And then he kissed her chin. And syne he kissed her rosy lips, But there was nue broath within. O my love's love was true as light, As meek and sweet was she-

My mother's hate was strong as death, And fiercer than the sea.

ROSLIN CASTLE.

THESE beautiful verses were the production of a Richard Hewit, a young man that Dr. Blacklock, to whom I am indebted for the anec. dote, kept for some years as an amanuensis. I do not know who was the author of the second song to the tune. Tytler, in his amusing hisry of Scots music, gives the air to Oswald; rut in Oswald's own collection of Scots tunes, where he affixes an asterisk to those he himself composed, he does not make the least claim to the tune .- BURNS.

'Twas in that season of the year. When all things gay and sweet appear, That Colin, with the morning ray, Arose and sung his rural lay. Of Nanny's charms the shepherd sung, The hills and dales with Nanny rung; While Roslin Castle heard the swain. And echoed back the cheerful strain.

Awake, sweet Muse! the breathing spring, With rapture warms; awake and sing! Awake and join the vocal throng, Who hail the morning with a song; To Nanny raise the cheerful lay, O! bid her haste and come away : In sweetest smiles herself adorn, And add new graces to the morn!

O, hark, my love! on ev'ry spray, Each feather'd warbler tunes his lay; Tis beauty fires the ravish'd throng, And love inspires the melting song : Then let my raptur'd notes arise, For beauty darts from Nanny's eyes : And love my rising bosom warms, And fills my soul with sweet alarms.

O! come, my love! thy Colin's lay With rapture calls, O come away! Come, while the Muse this wreath shall twine Around that modest brow of thine : O! hither baste, and with thee bring That beauty blooming like the spring; Those graces that divinely shine, And charm this ravish'd breast of mine!

SAW YE JOHNNIE CUMMIN? QUO' SHE.

THIS song for genuine humour in the verses, and lively originality in the air, is unparalleled I take it to be very old .- BURNS.

Saw ye Johnnie cummin? quo' she, Saw ve Johnnie cummin, O saw ve Johnnie cummin, quo' she Saw ye Johnnie cummin, Wi' his blue bonnet on his head. And his doggie runnin, quo' she And his doggie runnin?

Fee him, father, fee him, quo' she . Fee him, father, fee him : For he is a gallant lad, And a weel doin'; And a' the wark about the house Gaes wi' me when I see him, quo' she Wi' me when I see him.

What will I do wi' him, hussy? What will I do wi' him? He's ne'er a sark upon his back, And I hae nane to gie him. I hae twa sarks into my kist, And ane o' them I'll gie him. And for a mark of mair fee. Dinna stand wi' him, quo' sne; Dinna stand wi' him.

For weel do I lo'e him, quo' she; Weel do I lo'e him : O fee him, father, fee him, quo' she ; Fee him, father, fee him; He'll haud the pleugh, thrash i' the bern, And lie wi' me at e'en, quo' she; Lie wi' me at e'en.

CLOUT THE CALDRON.

A TRADITION is mentioned in the Bee, that the second Bishop Chisholm, of Dunblane, used to say, that if he were going to be hanged, nothing would soothe his mind so much by the way, as to hear Clout the Caldron played.

BURNS' WORKS.

I have met with another tradition, that the the original one, but though it has a very great sld song to this tune,

Hae ye ony pots or pans, Or onie broken chanlers,

was composed on one of the Kenmure family, in the Cavalier times: and alluded to an amour be had, while under hiding, in the disguise of an itinerant tinker. The air is also known by the name of

The Blacksmith and his Apron,

which from the rythym, seems to have been a line of some old song to the tune,-BURNS.

HAVE you any pots or pans, Or any broken chandlers? I am a tinkler to my trade, And newly come frae Flanders, As scant of siller as of grace, Disbanded, we've a bad run; Gar tell the lady of the place, I'm come to clout her caldron. Fa adrie, didle, didle, &c.

Madam, if you have wark for me, I'll do't to your contentment, And dinna care a single flie For any man's resentment: For, lady fair, though I appear To ev'ry ane a tinkler, Yet to yoursel I'm bauld to tell, I am a gentle jinker. Fa adrie, didle, didle, &c.

Love Jupiter into a swan Turu'd for his lovely Leda; He like a bull o er meadows ran, To carry aff Europa. Then may not I, as well as he, To cheat your Argos blinker, And win your love, like mighty Jove Thus hide me in a tinkler? Fa adrie, didle, didle, &c.

Sir, ye appear a cunning man, But this five plot you'll fail in, For there is neither pot nor pan Of mine you'll drive a nail in. Then bind your budget on your back. And nails up in your apron, For I've a tinkler under tick That's us'd to clout my caldron. Fa adrie, didle, didle, &c.

SAW YE NAE MY PEGGY?

deed superior, to Ramsay's verses, " The Toast," as he calls them. There is another set of the The two songs in Rumsay, one of them evi-

deal of merit, it is not quite ladies' reading .--

Saw ye nae my Peggy, Saw ye nae my Peggy, Saw ye nae my Peggy, Coming o'er the lea? Sure a finer creature Ne'er was form'd by nature, So complete each feature, So divine is she.

O! how Peggy charms me; Every look still warms me ; Every thought alarms me, Lest she love nae me. Peggy doth discover Nought but charms all over : Nature bids me love her, That's a law to me.

Who would leave a lover, To become a rover? No, I'll ne'er give over, 'Till I happy be. For since love inspires me, As her beauty fires me, And her absence tires me, Nought can please but she.

When I hope to gain her, Fate seems to detain her, Cou'd I but obtain her, Happy wou'd I be! I'll ly down before her, Bless, sigh, and adore her, With faint looks implore her, 'Till she pity me.

The original words, for they can scarcely be called verses, seem to be as follows; a song familiar from the cradle to every Scottish ear.

Saw ve my Maggie, Saw ye my Maggie, Saw ye my Maggie, Linkin o'er the lea?

High kilted was she, High kilted was she, High kilted was she, Her coat aboon her knee.

What mark has your Maggie, What mark has your Maggie, What mark has your Maggie, That are may ken her ve? (by)

Though it by no means follows that the sil-This charming song is much older, and inwhich I have quoted part, to be the old verses. words, much older still, and which I take to be dently his own, are never to be met with in the

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fire-side circle of our peasantry; while that If they command the storms to blaw, which I take to be the old song, is in every Then upo' sight the hallstains that shepherd's mouth, Rams ty, I suppose, had thought the old verses unworthy of a place in But soon as ere they cry, " Be quiet," his collection. - BURNS.

FYE. GAE RUB HER O'ER WI' STRAE.

Ir is self-evident that the first four lines of this song are part of a song more ancient than Ramsay's beautiful verses which are annexed to them. As music is the language of nature; and poetry, particularly songs, are always less or more localized (if I may be allowed the verb) by some of the modifications of time and place, this is the reason why so many of our Scots airs have outlived their original, and perhaps many subsequent sets of verses; except a single name, or phrase, or sometimes one or two lines, simply to distinguish the tunes by.

To this day among people who know nothing of Ramsay's verses, the following is the song, and all the song that ever I heard :- BURNS.

GIN ve meet a bonnie lassie, Gie her a Kss and let her gae ; But gis ve meet a dirty hizzie, Eve, gar rub her o'er wi' strae.

Fve, gae rub her, rub her, rub her, Fye, gae rub her o'er wi' strae : An' gin ye meet a dirty hizzie, Fye, gar rub her o'er wi' strae.

Look up to Pentland's tow'ring tap, Bury'd beneath great wreaths of snaw. O'er ilka clengh, ilk scar, and slap, As high as ony Roman wa.

Driving their baws frae whins or tee, There's no nae gowfers to be seen; Nor donsser fowk wysing a-jee The byass-bouls on Tamson's green.

Then fling on coals, and ripe the ribs, And beek the house baith butt and ben ; That mutchkin stowp it hads but dribs, Then let's get in the tappit hen.

Good claret best keeps out the cauld, And drives away the winter soon; It makes a man baith gas1 and bauld, And heaves his saul be, ond the moon.

Leave to the gods your ilka care, If that they think us worth their while, They can a rowth of blessings spare, Which will our fashions fears beguile.

For what they have a mind to do, That will they to should we gang wood; Then upo' sight the hailstains thad

The blatt'ring winds dare nae mair move, But cour into their caves, and wait The high command of supreme Jovs.

Let neist day come as it thinks fit, The present minute's only ours; On pleasure let's employ our wit, And laugh at fortune's fickle powers.

Be sure ve dinna quat the grip Of ilka joy when ye are young. Before and age your vitals nip, And lay ye twafald o'er a rung.

Sweet youth's a blythe and heartson e time: Then, lads and lasses, while it's May, Gae pou the gowan in its prime, Before it wither and decay.

Watch the saft minutes of delyte, When Jenny speaks beneath her breath. And kisses, laying a' the wyte On you, if she kepp ony skaith.

" Haith, ye're ill-hred," she'll smiling say : "Ye'll worry me, ye greedy rook; Syne frae your arms she'll rin away. And hide hersell in some dark nook.

Her laugh will lead you to the place Where lies the happiness you want, And plainly tells you to your face, Nineteen nav-says are haff a grant.

Now to her heaving bosom cling, And sweetly toolie for a kiss. Frae her fair finger whop a ring, As taiken of a future bless.

These bennisons, I'm very sure, Are of the gods' indulgent grant; Then, surly earles, whisht, forbear To plague us with your whining cant.

THE LASS O' LIVISTON.

THE old song, in three eight-line stanzas, is well known, and has merit as to wit and humour; but it is rather unfit for insertion .- b begins,

THE bonnie lass o' Liviston, Her name ye ken, her name ye ken, And she has written in her contract, To lie her lane, to lie her lane, &c. &c.

THE LAST TIME I CAME O'ER THE | The Weaver and his Shuttle, O, what

RAMSAY found the first line of this song, which had been preserved as the title of the charming air, and then composed the rest of the verses to suit that line. This has always a finer effect than composing English words, or words with an idea foreign to the spirit of the old title. Where old titles of songs convey any idea at all, it will generally be found to be quite in the spirit of the air .- Burns.

THE last time I came o'er the muir, I left my love behind me: Ye pow'rs! what pain do I endure. When soft ideas mind me. Soon as the ruddy morn display'd The beaming day ensuing, I met betimes my lovely maid, In fit retreats for wooing.

Beneath the cooling shade we lav-Gazing and chastely sporting; We kiss'd and promis'd time away, Till night spread her black curtain : I pitied all beneath the skies, Ev'n kings, when she was nigh me ; In raptures I beheld her eyes, Which could but ill deny me.

Should I be eall'd where cannons roar, Where mortal steel may wound me: Or cast upon some foreign shore, Where dangers may surround me; Yet hopes again to see my love, To feast on glowing kisses, Shall make my cares at distance move. In prospect of such blisses,

In all my soul there s not one place To let a rival enter; Since she excels in ev'ry grace, In her my love shall centre. Sooner the seas shall cease to flow, Their waves the Alps shall cover : On Greenland's ice shall roses grow, Before I cease to love her

The next time I gang o'er the muir. She shall a lover find me: and that my faith is firm and pure, Though I left her behind me. Then Hymen's sacred bonds shall chain My heart to her fair bosom; There, while my being does remain, My love more fresh shall blossom.

JOHNNY'S GRAY BREEKS.

Though this has certainly every evidence of ging a Scottisa air, yet there is a well-known me and song in the North of Ireland, called, though sung much quicker, is eve y note the very tune.

WHEN I was in my se'nteen year, I was baith blythe and bonny. the ads loo'd me baith far and near, Bz; I loo'd nane but Johnny : He gain'd my heart in two three weeks. He spake sae blythe and kindly; And I made him new gray breeks, That fitted him most finely.

He was a handsome fellow: His humour was baith frank and fire. His bonny locks sae vellow, Like gowd they glitter'd in my ee 🛰 His dimpl'd chin and rosy cheeks, And face sae fair and ruddy; And then a days his gray breeks, Was neither auld nor duddy.

But now they're threadbare worn. They're wider than they wont to be ; They're tashed-like, and sair torn, And clouted sair on ilka knee. But gin I had a simmer's day, As I have had right mony, I'd make a web o' new gray, To be breeks to my Johnny.

For he's weel wordy o them, And better gin I had to gie, And I'll tak pains upo' them, Frae fauts I'll strive to keep them free To clead him weel shall be my care, And please him a' my study; But he maun wear the auld pair Awes, tho' they be duddy.

For when the lad was in his prime, Like him there was nae mony He ca'd me ave his bonny thing, Sae wha wou'd na lo'e Johnny ? So I lo'e Johnny's gray breeks, For a' the care they've gi'en me yet, And gin we live anither year, We'll keep them hale between us yet

Now to conclude,—his gray breeks, I'll sing them up wi' mirth and glee : Here's luck to a' the gray steeks, That show themsells upo' the knee! And if wi' health I'm spared, A' wee while as I may. I shall hae them prepared, As wee' as ony that's o' gray

Stained.

KATE of Aberdeen, is, I believe, the work of poor Cunningham the player; of whom the following anecdote, though told before, deserves a recital. A fat dignitary of the church coming past Conningham one Sunday as the poor poet was busy plying a fishing-rod in some stream near Durham, his native country, his reverence reprimanded Cunningham very severely for such an occupation on such a day. The poor poet, with that inoffensive gentleness of manners which was his peculiar characteristic, replied, that he honed God and his reverence would forgive his seeming profanity of that sacred day, " as he had no dinner to eat, but what lay at the bottom of that pool ?" This, Mr. Woods, the player, who knew Cunningham well, and esteemed him much. assured me was true.—BURNS.

ilver moon's enamour'd beam. Steals softly through the night. To wanton with the winding stream, And kiss reflected light. To beds of state go balmy sleep, ('Tis where you've seldom been), May's vigil while the shepherds keep With Kate of Aberdeen!

Upon the green the virgins wait, In rosy chaplets gay, Till morn unbar her golden gate, And give the promis'd May. Methinks I hear the maids declare The promis'd May, when seen, Not half so fragrant, half so fair, As Kate of Aberdeen!

Strike up the tabor's boldest notes, We'll rouse the nodding grove; The nested birds shall raise their throats, And hail the maid I love : And see-the matin lark mistakes, He quits the tufted green; Fond bird! 'tis not the morning breaks, 'Tis Kate of Aberdeen!

Now lightsome o'er the level mead, Where midnight fairies rove, Like them, the joeund dance we'll lead, Or tune the reed to love: For see the rosy May draws nigh, She claims a virgin queen; And hark, the happy shepherds erv, " 'Tis Kate of Aberdeen !"

THE LASS OF PATIE'S MILL.

In Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland,

MAY EVF OR KATE OF ABERDEEN, Ayrshire .- The following ancedete I had from the present Sir William Cunningham, of Robertland, who had it from the last John, Earl of Loudon,-The then Earl of Loudon, father to Earl John, before mentioned, had Ramsay at Loudon, and one day walking together by the banks of Irvine water, near New-Mills, at a place yet called Patie's Mill, they were struck with the appearance of a beautiful country girl. His lord-hip observed, that she would be a fine theme for a song .- Allan lagged behind in returning to Loudon Castle, and at dinner produced this identical song .- Bunns.

> THE lass of Patie's mill. So bonny, blythe, and gay, In spite of all my skill, She stole my heart away. When tedding of the hay, Bare-headed on the green, Love 'midst her locks did play, And wanton'd in her een.

Her arms white, round, and smooth, Breasts rising in their dawn, To age it would give youth, To press 'em with his hand: Thro' all my spirits ran An ecstasy of bliss, When I such sweetness fand Wrapt in a balmy kiss.

Without the help of art, Like flowers which grace the wild. She did her sweets impart, Whene'er she spoke or smil'd. Her looks they were so mild, Free from affected pride, She me to love beguil'd; I wish'd her for my bride.

O had I all that wealth, Hoperon's high mountains . fill, Insur'd lang life and health, And pleasure at my will; I'd promise and fulfil. That none but honny she, The lass of Patie's mill Shou'd share the same wi' me

THE TURNIMSPIKE.

THERE is a stanza of this excellent song for local humour, omitted in this set, -where I have placed the asterisms. >

HERSELL pe highlank thentleman, Pe auld as Pothwell Prig, man;

this song is localized (a verb I must use for want of another to express my idea) somewhere in the North of Scotland, and likewise is claimed by and loth verses. The verse is here restored.

And mony alterations seen
Amang te lawland whig, man.
Fal, &c

First when her to the lawlands came, Nainsel was driving cows, man; There was nae laws about him's nerse, About the preeks or trews, man.

Nainsell did wear the philabeg, The plaid prick't on her shouder; The guid claymore hung pe her pelt, De pistol sharg'd wi' pouder.

But for whereas these cursed preeks, Wherewith man's nerse be locket, O hon! that e'er she saw the day! For a' her houghs be prokit.

Every ting in de highlands now Pe turn'd to alteration; The sodger dwall at our door-sheek, And tat's te great vexation.

Scotland be turn't a Ningland now, An' laws pring on de cager; Nainsell wad durk him for his deeds, But oh! she fear te sodger.

Anither law came after dat,

Me never saw de like, man;
They mak a lang road on de crund,
And ca' him Turnimspike, man.

An' wow! she pe a ponny road, Like Louden corn-rigs, man; Where twa carts may gang on her, An' no preak ithers legs, man.

They sharge a penny for ilka horse, (In troth, tacy'll no pe sheaper,; For nought but gaen upo' the crund, And they gie me a paper.

They tak the horse then py te head, And tere tey mak her stan, man; Me tell tem, me hae seen te day, Tey had na sic comman, man.

Nae doubt, Nainsell mann traw his purse, And pay tem what him likes, man; I'll see a shudgment on his toor; Tat filthy Turninspike, man.

But I'll awa to the Highland hills,
Where te'il a ane dare turn her,
And no come near your Turnimspike,
Unless it pe to purn her.
Fal, &c.

HIGHLAND LADDIE.

As this was a favourite theme with our later Scottish nusses, there are several airs and songs of that name. That which I take to be the oldest, is to be found in the Musical Museum, beginning, I have been at Crookie-den.—

I HAE been at Crookie-den,*
My bonnic laddie, Highland laddie;
Viewing Willie and his men,
My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie

There our faes that burnt and slew, My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie; There, at last, they gat their due, My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie.

Satan sits in his black neuk,
My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie;
Breaking sticks to roast the Duke,
My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie:

The bluidy monster gae a yell,
My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie;
And loud the laugh gaed round a' hell!
My bonnie laddie, Highland laddie.

One of my reasons is, that Oswald has it in his collection by the name of The auld Highland Laddie.—It is also known by the name of Jinglan J. hait, which is a well known song of four or five stanzas, and seems to be an earlier song than Jacobite times. As a proof of this, it is little known to the peasantry by the name of Highland Laddie; while every body knows Jinglan Johne. The song begins,

Jinglan John, the meickle man, He met wi' a lass was blythe and bonnic.

Another Highard Laddie is also in the Museum, vol. v., which I take to be Ramsay's original, as he has borrowed the chorus " O my bonnie Highland lad, &c." It consists of three stanzas, besides the chorus; and has humour in its composition—it is an excellent but somewhat liceutious song.—It begins,

As I cam o'er Cairney-Mount, And down amang the blooming heather, &c.

This air, and the common Highland Laddie, seem only to be different sets.

Another Highland Laddie, also in the Museum, vol. v. is the tune of several Jacobite frag ments.—One of these old songs to it, only exists, as far as I know, in these four lines—

Whare hae ye been a' day, Bonnie laddie, Highland laddie? Down the back o' Bell's brae, Courtin Maggie, courtin Maggie.

▲ eant name for Hell

Another of this name is Dr. Arne's beautiful air, | And how the lass that wants it is by the lads talled, the new Highland Laddie.

THE BLAITHRIE O'T.

THE following is a set of this song, which was the earliest song I remember to have got by When a child, an old woman sung it to me, and I picked it up, every word, at first hearing.

O WILLY weel I mind, I lent you my hand, To sing you a song which you did me command: But my memory's so bad, I had almost forgot That you call'd it the gear and the blaithrie o't.

I'll not sing about confusion, delusion, or pride, I'll sing about a laddie was for a virtuous bride; For virtue is an ornament that time will never

And preferable to gear and the blaithrie o't.

Tho' my lassie hae nae scarlets or silks to put on, We envy not the greatest that sits upon the throne:

I wad rather hae my lassie, tho' she cam in her smock,

Than a princess wi' the gear and the blaithrie o't.

Tho' we hae nae horses or menzie at command. We will toil on our foot, and we'll work wi'our hand:

And when wearied without rest, we'll find it sweet in any spot,

And we'll value not the gear and the blaithrie o't.

If we hae ony babies, we'll count them as lent : Hae we less, hae we mair, we will ave be content; For they say they hae mair pleasure that wins but a groat,

Than the miser wi' his gear and the blaithrie o't.

I'll not meddle wi' th' affairs o' the kirk or the

They're nae matters for a sang, let them sink let them swim.

On your kirk l'il ne'er encroach, hut I'll hold it still remote,

Sae tak this for the gear and the blaithrie o't.

THE BLAITHRIE O'T.

WHEN I think on this warld's pelf, And the little wee share I have o't to myself,

· The following observation was found in a memoandum book belonging to Burns:

The Highlanders' Prayer at Sheriff-Muir. "O L-d le thou with us; but, if thou be not with as, be not against us; but leave it bet veen the red coals sad us !"

forgot.

May the shame fa' the gear and the blaithrie o't !.

Jockie was the laddie that held the pleugh, But now he's got gowd and gear enough ; He thinks nae mair of me that wears the plaiden cout :

May the shaine fa' the gear and the blaithrie 6't !

Jenny was the lassie that mucked the byre. But now she is clad in her silken attire, And Jockie says he lo'es her, and swears he's

me forgot;
May the shame fa' the gear and the blaithrie o't!

But all this shall never daunton me. Sae lang's I keep my fancy free:

For the lad that's sae inconstant, he's not werth a great:

May the shame fa' the gear and the blaithrie o't !

TWEEDSIDE.

In Ramsay's Tea-table Miscellany, he tells us that about thirty of the songs in that publication were the works of some young gentlemen of his acquaintance; which songs are marked with the letters D. C., &c .- Old Mr. Tytler, of Woodhouselee, the worthy and able defender of the beauteous Queen of Scots, told me that the songs marked C, in the Tca-table, were the composition of a Mr. Crawford, of the house of Achinames, who was afterwards unfortunately drowned coming from France .- As Tytler was most intimately aequainted with Allan Ramsay, I think the anecdote may be depended on. Of consequence, the beautiful song of Tweedside is Mr. Crawford's, and indeed does great honour to his poetical talents. He was a Robert Crawford ; the Mary he celebrates, was Mary Stuart, of the Castlemilk family, afterwards married to a Mr. John Belches.

What beauties does Flora disclose! How sweet are her smiles upon Tweed ! Yet Mary's still sweeter than those ; Both nature and fancy exceed. Nor daisy, nor sweet blushing rose, Not all the gay flowers of the field. Nor Tweed gliding gently through those, Such beauty and pleasure does yield.

The warblers are heard in the grove, The linnet, the lark, and the thrush, The blackbird and sweet cooing dove, With music enchant ev'ry bush.

• Shame full the gear and the blud ry o't, is the ture of an old Scottish song, spoken when a young hand, some girl marries an old man, upon the account of haw wealth — Kelly's Scots Proverbs.

Come, let us go forth vo the mead, Let us see how the primroses spring, We'll lodge in some village on Tweed, And love while the feather'd folks sing.

How does my love pass the long day?
Does Mary not 'tend a few sheep?
Do they never carelessly stray,
While happily she lies askeep?
Tweed's murrurs should hull her to rest;
Kind nature indulging my bliss,
To relieve the soft pains of my breast,
I'd steal an ambrosial kiss.

'Tis she does the virgins excel,
No beauty with her may compare;
Love's graces around her do dwell;
She's fairest, where thousands are fair.
Say, charmer, where do thy flocks stray?
Öh! tell me at noon where they feed;
Shall I seek them on sweet winding Tay,
Or the pleasanter banks of the Tweed?

I have seen a song, calling itself the original *Tweedside*, and said to have been composed by a Lord Yester. It consisted of two stanzas, of which I still recollect the first.

When Maggy and I was acquaint, 1 carried my nod-lle fu' hie; Nea lintwhite on a' the green plain, Nor gowdspink sae happy as me: But I saw her sae fair, and I lo'ed; 1 woo'd, but I came mae great speed; So now I mann wander abroad. And lay my banes far frae the Tweed.

The last stanza runs thus : - ED.

To Meiggy my love I did tell, Saut tears did my passion express, Alas I for I loo'd her o'erwell, An' the women loo sic a man less. Her heart it was frozen and cauld, Her pride had my ruin decreed; Therefore I will wander abroad, And lay my baues far frae the Tweed.

THE BOATIE ROWS.

The author of the Boatic Rows, was a Mr. Ewen of Aberdeen. It is a charming display of womanly affection mingling with the concerns and occupations of life. It is nearly equal to There's nac luck about the house.

O WFEL may the bottle row, And better may she saced; And lessome may the boatle ro That wins my bairus bread. The boatle rows, rhe boatle rows, The boatle rows indeel; And weel may the boatle row That wins the bairus bread. I cust * my line in Largo bay,
And fishes I catch'd nine;
There was three to boil, and three to £.
And three to bait the line:
The hoatie rows, the boatie rows,
The hoatie rows indeed;
And happy be the lot of a'
Who wishes her to speed.

O weel may the boatie row, That fills a heavy creel,† And cleads wa a' frae head to feet, And buys our porridge meal: The boatie rows, the boatie rows, The boatie rows indeed; And happy be the lot of a' That wish the boatie speed.

When Jamie vow'd he would be mine, And wan frae me my heart, O muckle lighter grew my creel, He swore we'd never part: The boatie rows, the boatie rows, The boatie rows fu' weel; And muckle lighter is the load, When love bears up the creel.

My kurteh I put upo' my head, And dress'd mysel' fu' braw; I true my heart was douf an' wae, When Jamie gaed awa: But weel may the boatie row, And lucky be her part; And lightsome he the lassie's care, That yields an honest heart.

When Sawney, Jock, an' Janetie, Are up and gotten lear, They'll help to gar the boatie row, And lighten a' our care: The boatie rows, the boatie rows, The boatie rows fu' weel; And lightsome be her heart that bears The murlain, and the creel.

And when wi' age we're worn down, And hirpling round the door, They'll row to keep us dry and warm, As we did them before:— Then weel may the boatic row, She wins the bairns bread; And happy be the lot of a' That wish the boat to speed!

THE HAPPY MARRIAGE.

Anothen, out very pretty Anglo-Scottick

Cast.—The Aberdeenshire dialect.
 An oner basket.

How blest has my time been, what joys have I | Unto the yowes a milkin, kind sir, she says, known.

Sioce wedlock's soft bondage made Jessy my

So joyful my heart is, so easy my chain, That freedom is tasteless, and roving a pain.

Thro' walks grown with woodbines, as often we

Around us our boys and girls frolic and play : How pleasing their sport is! the wanton ones

And borrow their looks from my Jessy and me.

To try her sweet temper, oft times am I seen In revels all day with the nymphs on the green : The' painful my absence, my donbts she beguiles.

And meets me at night with complacence and smiles.

What the' on her cheeks the rose loses its hue, Her wit and good humour bloom all the year thro':

Time still, as he flies, adds increase to her truth, And gives to her mind what he steals from her youth.

Ye shepherds so gay, who make love to ensuare, And cheat, with false vows, the too credulous

In search of true pleasure, how vainly you roam! To hold it for life, you must find it at home.

THE POSIE.

It appears evident to me that Oswald composed his Roslin Custle on the modulation of this air .- In the second part of Oswald's, in the three first bars, he has either hit on a wonderful similarity to, or else he has entirely horrowed the three first bars of the old air; and the close of both tunes is almost exactly the same. The old verses to which it was sung, when I took down the notes from a country girl's voice, had no great merit. The following is a speci-

THERE was a pretty May, and a milkin she went:

Wi' her red rosy cheeks, and her coal-black hair:

And she has met a young man a comin o'er the bent,

With a double and adieu to thee fair May.

O where are ye goin, my ain pretty May, Wi thy red rosy cheeks, and thy coal-black hair ?

· Maid.

With a double and adieu to thee fair May,

What if I gang alang wi' thee, my ain pretty May,

Wi' thy red rosy checks, and thy coal-black hair;

Wad I be aught the warse o' that, kind sir, she says,

With a double and adieu to thee fair May. &c. &c.

THE POSIE

O LUVE will venture in, where it dans no wee! he seen.

O lave will ventore in, where wisdom ance has been,

But I will down you 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' woman kind, and blooms without a peer;

And a' to be a posic to my ain dear May.

I'il pu' the budding rose, when Phœbus peeps in view,

For it's like a baumy kiss o' her sweet bonie mou;

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 unaffected air, And a' to be a posie to my ain dear May;

The hawthorn I will pu', wi' its locks o' siller

Where, like an aged man, it stands at break o But the songster's nest within the bush I winne

tak away ;

And a' to be a posie to my ain dear May

The woodbine I will pu', when the e'ning sta. is near,

And the diamond draps o' dew shall be her e'er sae clear;

The violet's for modesty which weel she fa's ta wear,

And a' to be a posie to my ain dear May.

I'll tie the posie round wi' the silken band o luve.

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 air dear Mar

MARY'S DREAM.

THE Mary here alluded to is generally supto be Miss Mary Macghie, daughter to
the Laird of Airds, in Galloway. The poet
was a Mr. Alexander Lowe, who likewise
wrote another beautiful song, called Pompey's
Ghost.—I have seen a poetic epistle from him
North America, where he now is, or lately
was, to a lady in Scotland.—By the strain of
the verses, it appeared that they allude to some
love disappointment.

THE moon had climb'd the bignest hill,
Which rises o'er the source of Dee,
And from the eastern summet shed
Her silver light on tow'r and tree:
Wheo Mary laid her down to sleep,
Her thoughts on Sandy far at sea;
When soft and low a voice was heard,
Saying, Mary, weep no more for me.

She from her pillow gently rais'd Her head to ask, who there might be; She saw young Sandy shiv'ring stand, With visage pale and hollow eye;

O Mary, dear, cold is my clay,
It lies beneath a stormy sea;

- 'Far, far from thee, I sleep in death;
 'So, Mary, weep no more for me.
- Three stormy nights and stormy days
 We toss'd upon the raging main;
- And long we strove our bark to save,
 But all our striving was in vain.
 E'en then when horror chill'd my blood,
- 'E'en then when horror chill a my blood,
 'My heart was fill'd with love for thee:
 'The storm is past, and I at rest:
- The storm is past, and I at rest;
 So, Mary, weep no more for me.

O maiden dear, thyself prepare,
'We soon shall meet upon that shore,
'Where love is free from doubt and care,

And thou and I shall part no more! Lond crow'd the cock, the shadows fled, No more of Sandy could she see;

No more of Sandy could she see; But soft the passing spirit said, "Sweet Mary, weep no more for me!"

THE JOLLY BEGGAR.

SAID to have been composed by King James V., on a frolic of his own.

THERE was a jolly beggar, and a begging he was bonn',

And he took up his quarters into a land'art town,

And we'll gang nae mair a roving,
See late into the night,
And we'll gang nae mair a roving, boys,

Ind we'll gang nae mair a roving, boys

Let the moon shine ne'er sae bright!

He wad neither ly in barn, nor yet wad he in byre,

But in shint the ha' door, or else afore the fire, And we'll gang nae mair, &c

The beggar's bed was made at e'en wi' good clean straw and hav.

And in ahint the ha' door, and there the beggar lay,

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

Up raise the good man's dechter, and for to ba.

the door,

And there she saw the beggar standin i' the floor,

And we'll gang nae mair, &c

He took the lassie in his arms, and to the bed he ran.

O hooly, hooly wi' me, sir, ye'll waken our goodman,

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

The beggar was a cunnin loon, and ne'er a word he spake,

Until he got his turn done, syne he began te erack,

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

Is there ony dogs into this town? maiden, tell

And what wad ye do wi' them, my hinny and my dow?

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

They'll rive a' my mealpocks, and do me meikle wrang,

O dool for the doing o't! are ye the puir man?

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

Then she took up the mealpocks and flang them o'er the wa',

The deil gae wi' the mealpocks, my maidenhead and a',

And we'll gang nue mair, &c.

I took ye for some gentleman, at least the laird of Brothe;

O dool for the doing o't! are ye the puir bodie?

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

He took the lassie in his arms, and gae her kisses three.

And four-and-twenty hunder merk to pay the nurice-fee,

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

He took a horn frae his side, and blew buith loud and shrill,

And four-and-twenty belted knights came skipping o'er the hill.

And we'll gang me mair, &c.

SONGS.

And he took out his little knife, loot a' his dud- | When 'tis carded, row'd and space. dies fa'.

And he was the brawest gentleman that was amang them a'.

And we'll gang nae mair, &c.

The beggar was a cliver loon, and he lap shoulder height,

O ay for sicken quarters as I gat yesternight! And we'll gang nue mair, &c.

THE MAID THAT TENDS THE GOATS.

BY MR. DUDGEON.

Tuis Dudgeon is a respectable farmer's son in Berwickshire.

Ur amang von eliffy rocks Sweetly rings the rising echo. To the maid that tends the goats, Lilting o'er her native notes. Hark! she sings, "Young Sandy's kind An' he's promised ay to loe me; Here's a brooch I ne'er shall tine Till he's fairly married to me : Drive away ye drone Time, An' bring about our bridal day.

" Sandy herds a flock o' sheep. Aften does he blaw the whistle. In a strain sae saftly sweet, Lammies list'ning dimma bleat. He's as fleet's the mountain roe, Haroy as the highland heather, Wading through the winter snow, Keeping ay his flock together; But a plaid, wi' bare houghs, He braves the bleakest norlin blast.

" Brawly he can dance and sing Canty glee or highland cronach: Nane can ever match his fling, At a reel, or round a ring ; Wightly can be wield a rung. In a brawl he's ay the bangster: A' his maise can ne'er be sung By the lange-t-winded sangster.

Sangs that sing o' Sandy Come short, though they were e'er sae lang."

TARRY WOO.

This is a very pretty song; but I fancy that the first half stanza, as well as the tune itself, are much older than the rest of the words.

TARRY WOO, tarry WOO, Tarry woo is ill to spin; Card it well, card it well, Card :. well ere ye begin.

Then the work is haflens done; But when woven, drest and clean, It may be cleading for a queen.

Sing, my bonny harmless sheep, That feed upon the mountain's steep-Bleating sweetly as ve go, Thro' the winter's frost and snow; Hart, and hynd, and fallow-deer, No be haff so useful are: Frae kings to him that hads the plow, Are all oblig'd to tarry woo.

Up, ve shepherds, dance and skip, O'er the hills and vallies trip, Sing up the praise of tarry woo, Sing the flocks that bear it too: Harmless creatures without blame, That clead the back, and cram the warze, Keep us warm and hearty fou: Leese me on the 'arry woo.

How happy is the shepherd's life, Far frae courts, and free of strife, While the gimmers bleat and bae, And the lambkins answer mae: No such music to his ear :--Of thief or fox he has no fear : Sturdy Kent and Colly true, Will defend the tarry woo.

He lives content, and envies none; Not even a monarch on his throne, Tho' he the royal sceptre sways, Has not sweeter holidays. Who'd be a king, can ony tell, When a shepherd sings sae well? Sings sae well, and pays his due, With honest heart and tarry woo.

THE COLLIER'S BONNIE LASSIE.

THE first half stanza is much older than the days of Ramsay .- The old words began thus :-

THE collier has a dochter, and, O, she's wonder bonnie!

A laird he was that sought her, rich baith in lands and money.

She wad na hae a laird, nor wad she be a lady But she wad hae a collier, the color o' her daddia

THE collier has a naughter, And O she's wonder bonny : A laird he was that sought her, Rich baith in lands and money : The tutors watch'd the motion Of this young honest lover; But love is like the ocean ; Wha car its depth discover?

He had the art to please ye, And was by a respected; It is airs sat round him easy, Genteel, but unaffected. The collier's bonnie lassic, Fair as the new-blown lilie, Ay sweet, and never saucy, Secur'd the heart of Wiffie,

He lov'd beyond expression
The charins that were about her,
And panted for possession,
His life was dull without her
After mature resolving,
Close to his breast he held her
In saftest flames dissolving,
He tenderly thus tell'd her;

My bonny collier's daughter, Let nacthing discompose ye, Tis no your scanty tocher Shall ever gar me lose ye: For I have gear in pleuty, And love says, 'Tis my duty To ware what heav'a has lent me Upon your wit and beauty.

MY AIN KIND DEARIE-O.

The old words of this song are omitted here, though much more beautiful than these inserted; which were mostly composed by poor Fergusson, in one of his merry humours.—The old words began thus:—

I'll rowe thee o'er the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O,
I'll rowe thee o'er the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O,
Altho' the night were ne'er sae wat,
And I were ne'er sae weary, O,
I'll rowe thee o'er the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O.—

Witt. ye gang o'er the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O?
And euddle there sae kindlie,
My ain kind dearie, O?
At theory dike and birken-tree,
We'll daff and ne'er be weary, O;
They'll seng ill een frae you and me,
My ain kind dearie, O!

Nae herds, wi' kent or colly, there, Shull ever come to fear ye, O; But havrocks, whistling in the air, Shall woo, like me, their dearie, O. While others herd their lambs and yowes, And toil for warld's gear, my jo; Upon the lea, my pleasure grows, W' thee my kind dearie, O.

DOWN THE BURN, DAVIE.

I have been informed, that the tune of **Down** the Burn, Davie, was the composition of David Maigh, keeper of the blood slough hounds, belonging to the Laird of Riddel, in Tweeddale.

WHEN trees did bud, and fields were green, And broom bloom d fair to see; When Mary was complete fifteen, And love laughd in her e'e; Blythe Davie's blinks her heart did move, To speak her mind thus free, Gang down the turn Davie, love,

Now Davie did each lad surpass, That dwalt on yon burn side, And Mary was the bonniest lass, Just meet to be a bride; Her cheeks were rosie, red and white, Her coks were bke Aurora bright, Her looks were bke Aurora bright, Her lips like dropping dew.

And I shall follow thee.

As down the burn they took their way, What tender tales they said! His cheek to her's he aft did lay, And with her bosom play'd;

What pass'd, I guess, was harmless play, And naething sure unmeet; For, ganging hame, I heard them say, They lik'd a walk see sweet; And that they aften should return, Sie pleasure to renew; Quoth Mary, Love, I like the burn, And ay shall follow you.*

BLINK O'ER THE BURN, SWEET BETTY.

THE old words, all that I remember, are,-

BLING over the burn, sweet Betty,
It is a cauld winter night;
It rains, it hails, it thunders,
The moon she gies nae light:
It's a' for the sake o's weet Betty,
That ever I tint my way;
Sweet, let me lie beyond thee,
Until it be break o' day.—

O, Betty will bake my bread, And Betty will brew my ale, And Betty will be my love, When I come over the dale:

The last four lines of the third stanza, being somewhat objectionable in point of delivery, are omitted. Burns altered these lines. Has his alteration been attended with his usual success, it would have been adopted.

Blink over the burn, sweet Betty,
Blink over the burn to me,
And while I has life, dear lassie,
My ain sweet Betty thou's be.—

THERE'S NAE LUCK ABOUT THE HOUSE.

This is one of the most beautiful songs in the Scots, or any other language.—The two lines,

> And will I see his face again! And will I hear him speak!

as well as the two preceding ones, are unequalled almost by any thing I ever heard or read; and the lines,

The present moment is our ain, The neist we never saw—

are worthy of the first poet.—It is long posterior to Ramsuy's days,—About the year 1771, or 72, it came first on the streets as a ballad; and I suppose the composition of the song was not much anterior to that period.*

And are ye sure the news is true?
And are ye sure he's weel?
Is this a time to talk o' wark?
Ye jads, lay by your wheel!
Is this a time to talk of wark,
When Colin's at the door?
Gie me my cloak! I'll to the quay,
And see him come ashore.
For there's noe luck about the house,

For there's nae luck about the house, There's nae luck ava; There's little pleasure in the house, When our gudeman's awa.

Rise up, and mak a clean fire-side,
Put on the muckle pat;
Gie httle Kate her cotton gown,
And Jock his Sunday's coat;
And mak their shoon as black as slaes,
Their hose as white as snaw;
It's a to please my ain gudeman,
He likes to see them braw.

For ther's vae luck, &c.

There is twa hens upon the bank,
'Sbeen fed this month and mair;
Mak haste and thraw their necks about,
That Colin weel may fare;
And spread the table neat and clean,
Gar ilka thing look braw;
It's a for love of my gudeman,—
For he's been long awa.

For there's nae luck, &c.

• It is no wascertained that Meikle, the translateof Camoens, was the author of this song.

O gie me down my bigonets,
My bishop-satin gown;
For I mann tell the bailie's wife
That Colin's come to town;
My Sunday's shoon they mann gae on,
My hose o' pearl blue,
It's a' to please my ain gudeman,
For he's haith leel and true.
For there's nae lach, &c.

Sae true's his words, sae smooth's his speech
Itis breath like caller air,
Itis breath sery foot has music in't,
When he comes up the stair:
And will I see his face again!
And will I hear him speak!
I'm dowright dizzy with the thought,
In troth I'm like to greet!
For there's mae luch, &c.

The cauld blasts of the winter wind,
That thrilled thro' my heart,
They're a' blaun by; I hae Lim safe,
'Till death we'll never part;
But what puts parting in my head?
It may be far awa;
The present moment is our ain,
The neist we never saw!
For there's mae luck, &c.

Since Colin's well, I'm well contert,
I has nas mair to crave;
Comid I but Ive to mak him bless,
I'm blest aboon the lave;
And will I see his face again!
And will I hear him speek!
I'm downright dizzy with ane threst
I troth I'm like to greet!

JOHN HAY'S BONNIE LAWORL

John May's Ponrie Lassic was Laighter of John Hay, Erd, or Marquis of Trieddale, and late Countess Downger of Euchargh.—She died at Broomletals, near Kelsa, some time between the year, 1710 and 1740.

By smooth winding Tay a swain was reckning Afrent'd he, Oh hey! mann I still live pining Myset thus away, and daurna discover To my bonnie Hay that I am her lover!

Nee mair it will hide, the flame waxes stronger; If she's not my bride, my days are nae langer: Then I'll take a heart, and try at a venture, Maybe, ere we part, my vows may content her.

She's fresh as the Spring, and sweet as Aurora, When birds mount and sing, bidding day a goodmorrow;

The swaird of the mead, enamell'd wi' daisies, Looks wither'd and dead when twin'd of her But if she appear where verdure invites her, The fountains run clear, and flowers smell the sweeter;

Tis heaven to be by when her wit is a-flowing, Her smiles and bright eyes set my spirits a-glowing.

The mair that I gaze, the deeper I'm wounded, Struck dumb wi' amaze, my mind is confounded; I'm a' in a fire, dear maid, to caress ye, For a' my desire is Hay's bonnie lassie.

THE BONNIE BRUCKET LASSIE.

The idea of this song is to me very original: the two first lines are all of it that is old. The rest of the song, as well as those songs in the Museum marked T, are the works of an obscure, tippling, but extraordinary body of the name of Tyder, commonly known by the name of Balloon Tytler, from his having projected a balloon: A mortal, who, though he drudges about Edinburgh as a common printer, with leaky shoes, a sky-lighted hat, and knee-buckles as unlike as George-by-the-Grace-of-God, and Solumon-the Son-of-David; yet that same unknown drunken mortal is author and compiler of three-fourths Elliot's pompons Encyclopedia Britannica, which he compused at half a guinca a week!*

THE honnie brucket lassie She's blue beneath the c'en; She was the fairest lassie That danced on the green; A lad he ho'd her dearly, She did his love return; But he his yows has broken, And left her for to mourn.

"My shape," she says, "was handsome, My face was fair and clean; But now I'm bonnie brucket, And blue beneath the e'en: My eyes were bright and sparkling, Before that they turn'd blue; But now they're dull with weeping, And a', my love, for you.

" My person it was comely,
My shape, they said, was neat;
But now I am quite chang'd,
My stays they winna meet:
A' night I sleeped soundly,
My mind was never sad;
But now my rest is broken,
W' thinking o' my lad.

O could I live in darkness, Or hide toe in the sea,

• Balloon Tytler, is here referred to.

Since my love is unfai.hful, And has forsaken me! No other love I suffer'd Within my breast to dwel! In nought I have offended, But loving him too well."

Her lover heard her mourning,
As by he chane'd to pass,
And press'd unto his bosom
The lovely brucket lass:
"My dear," he said, "cease grieving,
Since that your love's sae true,
My bonnie brucket lassie
"Ill faithful prove to you."

SAE MERRY AS WE TWA HA'E BEEN

This song is beautiful.—The chorus in particular is truly pathetic.—I never could Jears any thing of its author.

A LASS that was laden with care
Sat heavily under yon thorn;
Usten'd awhile for to hear,
When thus she began for to mourn;
Whene'er my dear shepherd was there,
The birds did melodiously sing,
And cold nipping winter did wear
A face that resembled the spring.
Sae merry as we twa hae been,
Sae merry as we twa hae been,
My heart it is like for to break,
When I think on the days we hae see

Our flocks feeding close by his side,
He gently pressing my hand,
I'view'd the wide world in its pride,
And laugh'd at the pomp of command!
My dear, he would oft to me say,
What makes you hard-hearted to me?
Oh! why do you thus turn away
From him who is dying for thee?
Saw merry, &c.

But now he is far from my sight,
Perhays a deceiver may prove,
Which makes me lament day and night,
That ever I granted my love.
At eve, when the rest of the folk
Were merrily seated to spin,
I set myself under an oak,
And heavily sighed for him.
Sae merry, &c.

THE BUSH ABOON TRAQUAIR.

This is another beautiful song of Mr. Craw ford's composition. In the neighbourhood of Traquair, tradition still shews the old "Bush;" which, when I saw it in the year 1787, was Earl of Traquair has planted a clamp of trees near by, which he calls " The New Bush,"

HEAR nie, ye nymphs, and every swain, I'll tell how Peggy grieves me ; Tho' thus I languish and complain, Alas! she ne'er believes me. My vows and sighs, like silent air, Unheeded never move her : The bonnie bush aboon Traquair. Was where I first did love her.

That day she smil'd and made me glad. No maid seem'd ever kinder: I thought myself the luckiest lad, So sweetly there to find her. I try'd to sooth my am'rous flame, In words that I thought tender; If more there pass'd, I'm not to blame, I meant not to offend her.

Yet now she scornful flees the plain, The fields we then frequented; If e'er we meet, she shews disdain, She looks as ne'er acquainted. The bonnie bush bloom'd fair in May, Its sweets I'll ay remember: But now her frowns make it decay, It fades as in December.

Ye rural pow'rs, who hear my strains, Why thus should Peggy grieve me? Oh! make her partner in my pains, Then let her smiles relieve me: If not, my love will turn despair, My passion no more tender; I'll leave the bush aboun Traquair.

To lonely wilds I'll wander.

CROMLET'S LILT.

" In the latter end of the 16th century, the Chisholms were proprietors of the estate of Cromlecks (now possessed by the Drummonds). The eldest son of that family was very much attached to a daughter of Sterling of Ardoch, commonly known by the name of Fair Helen of Ardoch.

" At that time the opportunities of meeting betwixt the sexes were more rare, consequently more sought after than now; and the Scottish ladies, far from priding themselves on extensive literature, were thought sufficiently book-learned if they could make out the Scriptures in their mother tongue. Writing was entirely out of the line of female education: At that period the most of our young men of family sought a fortune, or found a grave, in France. lus, when he went abroad to the war, was obliged to leave the management of his correspendence with his mistress to a lay brother of

composed of eight or nine ragged birches. The | the monastery of Dumblain, in the immediate neighbourhood of Cromleck, and near Ardoch. This man, unfortunatel /, was deeply sensible of Helen's charms. He artfully prepossessed her with stories to the disadvantage of Cromlus: and by misinterpreting or keeping up the letters and messages intrusted to his care. Le entirely irritated both All connection was broken off betwixt them : Helen was inconsolable, and Crombus has left behind him, in the ballad called Cromlet's Lilt, a proof of the elegance of his genius, as well as the steadiness of his love.

"When the artful monk thought time had sufficiently softene ! Helen's sorrow, he proposed himself as a lover: Helen was obdurate: but at last, overcome by the persuasions of her brother with whom she lived, and who, having a family of thirty-one children, was probably very well pleased to get her off his hands, she submitted, rather than consented to the ceremony; but there her compliance ended; and, when forcibly put into bed, she started quite frantic from it, screaming out, that after three gentle taps on the wainscoat, at the hed head, she heard Cromlos's voice, crying, Helen, Helen. mind me. * Crombus soon after coming home, the treachery of the confidant was discovered,-her marriage disannulled,-and Helen became lady Cromlecks,"

N. B. Marg. Murray, mother to these thirtyone children, was daughter to Murray of Strewn, one of the seventeen sons of Tullybardine, and whose youngest son, commonly called the Tutor of Ardoch, died in the year 1715, aged 111 years.

SINCE all thy vows, false maid, Are blown to air. And my poor heart betray'd To sad despair, Into some wilderness, My grief I will express. And thy hard-heartedness, O cruel fair.

Have I not graven our loves On every tree In vonder spreading groves, Tho' faise thou he: Was not a solemn oath Plighted betwixt us both, Thou thy faith, I my troth, Constant to be?

Some gloomy place I'll find, Some doleful shade, Where neither sun nor wind E'er entrance had: Into that hollow cave, There will I sigh and rave, Because thou dost behave So faithlessly.

Wild fruit snall be my meat,
I'll drink the spring,
Cold earth shall be my set;
For covering
I'll have the starry sky
My head to canopy,
Uatil my soul on by
Shall spread its winz.

I'll have no funeral fire,
No grave do I desire,
No or hesquies:
The courteous Real-breast he
With leaves will cover me,
And sing my elegy
With doleful voice.

And when a ghost I am,
I'll visit thee,
O thou deceiful dame,
Whose cruelty
Has kill'd the kindest heart
That e'er felt Cupid's dart,
And never can desert
From loving thee.

MY DEARIE, IF THOU DIE.

ANGTHER beautiful song of Crawford's.

Love never more shall give me pain, My fancy's fix'd on thee, Nor ever maid my heart shall gain, My Peggy, if thou die. Thy beauty doth such pleasure give, Thy love's so true to me, Without thee I can never live, My devie, if thou die.

If fate shall tear thee from my breast, How shall I lonely stray! In dreaty dreams the night I'll waste, In sighs, the silent day. In e'er can so much virtue find, Nor such perfection see; Then I'll remounce all woman kind, My Peggy, after thee.

No new-blown beauty fires my heart,
With Copid's raving rage;
But thine, which can such sweets impart,
Must all the world engage.
Twas this, that like the morning sun,
Gave joy and life to me;
And when its destin'd day is done,
With Pegry let me die.

Ye powers that smile on virtuous love, And in such pleasure share; You who its faithful flames approve, With pity view the fair; Restore my Peggy's wonted charms, Those charms so dear to me! Oh! never rob them from these arms; I'm lost if Peggy die.

SHE ROSE AND LET ME IN.

THE old set of this song, which is still to be found in printed collections, is much prettier than this: but somehody, I believe it was Ramsay, took it into his head to clear it of some seeming indelicacies, and made it at once more chaste and more dull.

THE night her silent sable wore,
And gloomy were the skies;
Of glitt ring stars appear'd no more
Than those in Nelly's eyes.
When at her father's yate I knock'd,
Where I had often been,
She, shrouded only with her smock,
Arose and loot me in.

Fast lock'd within her close embrace, She trembling stood asham'd; Her swelling breast, and glowing face, And ev'ry touch inflam'd. My eager passion I ohey'd, Resolv'd the fort to win; And her fond heart was soon betray'd To yield and let me in.

Then, then, beyond expressing, Transporting was the joy; I knew no greater blessing, So bless'd a man was I. And she, all ravish'd with delight, Bid me oft come again; And kindly vow'd, that ev'ry night She'd rise and let me in.

But ah! at last she prov'd with baira, And sighing sat and dull, And I that was as much concern'd, Look'd e'en just like a fool. Her lovely eyes with tears ran o'er, Repenting her rash sin: She sigh'd, and eurs'd the fatal hour That e'er she loot me in.

But who cou'd ernelly deceive, Or from such beauty part? I lov'd her so, I could not leave The charmer of my heart; But wedded, and conceal'd our crime Thus all was well again, And now she thanks the happy time That e'er she loot me in.

I AM not sure if this old and charming air be of the South, as is commonly said, or of the North of Scotland .- There is a song apparently as ancient as Ewe-Bughts, Marion, which sings to the same tune, and is evidently of the North .- It begins thus :-

THE Lord o' Gordon had three dochters, Mary, Marget, and Jean, They wad no stay at bonnie Castle Gordon,

But awa to Aberdeen.

WILL ve go to the ewe-bughts, Marion, And wear in the sheep wi' me : The sun shines sweet, my Marion, But mae haff sae sweet as thee. O Marion's a bouny lass, And the blyth blinks in her e'e; And fain wad I marry Marion, Gin Marion wad marry me.

There's gowd in your garters, Marion, And silk on your white hause-bane; Fu' fain wad I kiss my Marion. At e'en when I come hane. There's braw lads in Eurnslaw, Marion, Wha gape, and glower with their e'e, At kirk when they see my Marion ; But nane of them lo'es like me.

I've nine milk-ewes, my Marion, A cow and a brawny quey, I'll gie them a' to my Marion, Just on her bridal-day : And ye's get a green sey apron, And waistcoat of the London brown, And wow! but ye will be vap'ring, Whene'er ye gang to tle town.

I'm young and stout, my Marion : Nane dance like me on the green ; And gin ye forsake me, Marion, I'll e'en draw up wi' Jean : Sae put on your pearlins, Marion, And kyrtle of the cramasie; and soon as my chin has rae bair on, I shall come west, and see ye.

LEWIS GORDON.+

This air is a proof how one of our Scots tunes comes to be composed out of another.

 This is marked in the T a Table Miscellany as an old song with additions—full.

1 "Lord Lewis Gordon, younger brother to the then Duke o'. Gordon, commarded a detachment for the Chevalter, and acquirted himself with great gallantry and judgment. "The died in 1751."

GO TO THE EWE-BUGHTS, MARION. thave one of the earliest copies of the song, and it has prefixed.

Tune of Tarry Woo .-

Of which tune, a different set has insensibly varied into a different air .- To a Scots critic, the puthos of the line,

" Tho' his back be at the wa',"

-must be very striking. - It needs not a Jacobite prejudice to be affected with this song. The supposed author of " Lewis Gordon" was a Mr Geddes, priest, at Shenval, in the Ainzie.

On! send Lewie Gordon hame, And the lad I winns name; Tho' his back be at the wa'. Here's to him that's far awa! Oh hon! my Highland man, Oh, my bonny Highland man; Weel would I my true-love ken, Amang ten thousand Highland men,

Oh! to see his tartan-trews, Bonnet blue, and laigh-heei'd shoes, Philabeg aboon his knee; That's the lad that I'll gang wi'! Oh hon, &c.

The princely youth that I do mean, Is fitted for to be a king : On his breast he wears a star; You'd tak him for the God of War Oh hon, &c.

Oh to see this Princely One, Seated on a royal throne! Disasters a' would disappear, Then begins the Jub'lee year ! Oh hon, &c.

OH ONO CHRIO.

Dr. Blacklock informed me that this song was composed on the infamous massacre of Glencoe.

OH! was not I a weary wight! Oh! one chri, oh! one chri-Maid, wife, and widow, in one night ! When in my soft and yielding arms, O! when most I thought him free from harms Even at the dead time of the night, They broke my bower, and slew my knight. With ae lock of his jet-black hair, I'll tie my heart for evermir; Nae sly-tongued youth, or flitt'ring swain, Shall e'er untye this knot again; Thine still, dear youth, that heart shall be, Nor pant for aught, save heaven and thee.

(The ehorus repeated at the end of each line).

THE REDS OF SWEET ROSES.

This song, as far as I know, for the first have been an old chorus. time appears here in print .- When I was a boy, it was a very popular song in Ayrshire. I remember to have heard those fanatics, the Buchanites, sing some of their nonsensical rhymes, which they dignify with the name of lymns, to this air .- BURNS.

One morning in May, The small birds sang sweetly. The flowers were bloomin' gay, Oh there I met my true love, As fresh as dawnin' day, Down among the beds of sweet roses.

As I was a walking

Fu' white was her barefoot, New bathed in the dew ; Whiter was her white hand, Her een were bonnie blne; And kind were her whispers, And sweet was her moo, Down among the beds o' sweet roses.

My father and my mother, I wot they told me true, That I liked ill to thrash, And I like worse to plough: But I vow the maidens like me. For I kend the way to woo. Down among the beds of sweet roses.

CORN RIGS ARE BONNY.

My Patie is a lover gay, His mind is never muddy, His breath is sweeter than new hay, His face is fair and ruddy. His shape is handsome, middle size ; He's stately in his wawking; The shining of his een surprise; 'Tis heaven to hear him tawking.

Last night I met him on a bawk, Where yellow corn was growing, There mony a kindly word he spake, That set my heart a-glowing. He kiss'd, and yow'd he wad be mine. And loo'd me best of ony; That gars me like to sing sinsyne, O corn rigs are bonny.

et maidens of a silly mind Refuse what maist they're wanting, Since we for yielding are design'd, We chastely should be granting; Then I'll comply and marry Pate, And some my cockernony He's free to rougle air or late, Where corn rigs are bonny.

All the old words that ever I could meet with to this air were the following, which seem to

> O corn rigs and rve rigs. O corn rigs are bonnie; And where'er you meet a bonnie lass, Preen up her cockerneuy.

WAUKIN O' THE FAULD.

THERE are two stanzas still sung to this tune. which I take to be the original song whence Ramsay composed his beautiful song of the name in the Gentle Shepherd .- It begins,

> O will ve speak at our town, As ye come frae the fauld, &c.

I regret that, as in many of our old songs, the delicacy of this old fragment is not equal to its wit and humour.

> My Peggy is a young thing, Just enter'd in her teens, Fair as the day, and sweet as May, Fair as the day, and always gay. My Peggy is a young thing, And I'm not very auld, Yet well I like to meet her at The wanking of the fauld.

My Peggy speaks sae sweetly, Whene'er we meet alane, I wish nae mair to lay my care, I wish pae mair of a' that's rare, My Peggy speaks sae sweetly, To a' the lave I'm cauld; But she gars a' my spirits glow, At wanking of the fauld.

My Peggy smiles sae kindly, Whene'er I whisper love, That I look down on a' the town, That I look down upon a crown, My Peggy smiles sae kindly, It makes me blythe and bauld, And naething gi'es me sic delight. As wauking of the fauld.

My Peggy sings sae saftly, When on my pipe I play; By a' the rest it is confest, By a' the rest, that she sings best. My Peggy sings sae saftly, And in her sangs are tald, With innocence, the wale of serse, At wanking of the faul i.

MAGGIE LAUDER.

This old song, so pregnant with Scottish rairiets and energy, is much relished by all ranks, notwithstanding its broad wit and palpuble allusions. - Its language is a precious model of imitation: sly, sprightly, and forcibly expressive .- Maggie's tongue wags out the nicknames of Rob the Piper with all the careless lightsomeness of unrestrained gaiety.

WHA wad no be in love Wi' bonny Maggie Lauder? A piper met her gann to Fife, And speir'd what was't they ca'd her ;-Right scornfully she answer'd him, Begone, you ballanshaker ! Jog on your gate, you bladderskate, My name is Maggie Lauder.

Maggie, quo' he, and by my bags, I'm fidgin' fain to see thee; Sit down by me, my bonny bird, In troth I winns steer thee: For I'm a piper to my trade, My name is Rob the Ranter; The lasses loop as they were daft, When I blaw up my chanter.

Piper, quo' Meg, hae ye your bags? Or is your drone in order? If ye be Rob, I've heard o' you, Live you upo' the border? The lasses a', baith far and near, Have heard o' Rob the Ranter; I'll shake my foot wi' right gude will, Gif you'll blaw up your chanter.

Then to his bags he flew wi' speed, About the drone he twisted; Meg up and wallop'd o'er the green, For brawly could she frisk t. Weel done! quo' he-play up! quo' she; Weel bobb'd ! quo' Rob the Ranter ; 'Tis worth my while to play indeed, When I hae sic a dancer.

Weel hae ve play'd your part, quo' Meg, Your cheeks are like the crimson; There's nane in Scotland plays sae weel, Since we lost Habbie Simpson. I've liv'd in Fife, baith maid and wife, These ten years and a quarter; G:n' ye should come to Enster Fair, Speir ye for Maggie Lauder.

TRANENT MUIR.

Tune-" Killierankie."

that Lieutenant Smith, whom he mentions in the ninth stanza, came to Haddington after the publication of the song, and sent a challenge to Skirvin to meet him at Haddington, and answer for the unworthy manner in which he had noticed him in his song. "Gang awa back," said the honest farmer, "and tell Mr. Smith that I had no leisure to come to Haddington; but tell him to come here; and I'll tak a look o' him; and if I think I'm fit to fecht him, I'l, fecht him; and if no-I'll do as he did .- I'L rin awa."_

THE Chevalier, being void of fear, Did march up Birsle brae, man, And thro' Tranent, e'er he did stent, As fast as he could gae, man: While General Cope did taunt and mock, Wi' mony a lond huzza, man; But e'er next morn proclaim'd the cock, We heard another craw, man.

The brave I reniel, as I heard tell, Led Camerons on in clouds, man; The morning fair, and clear the air, They loos'd with devilish thuds, man: Down guns they threw, and swords they drew And soon did chace them aff, man; On Seaton-Crafts they buft their chafts, And gart them rin like daft, man,

The bluff dragonns swore blood and 'oons, They'd make the rebels run, man : And yet they flee when them they see, And winna fire a gun, man : They turn'd their back, the foot they brake, Such terror seiz'd them a', man; Some wet their cheeks, some ful'd their brecks And some for fear did fa', man,

The volunteers prick'd up their ears, And yow gin they were crouse, man; But when the bairns saw't turn to earn'st, They were not worth a louse, man; Maist feek gade hame; O fy for shame! They'd better stay'd awa', man, Than wi' cockage to make parade, And do nae good at a', man.

Menteith the great, when hersell sb-t. Un'wares did ding him o'er, man; Yet wad nae stand to bear a hand, But aff fou fast did scour, man; O'er Sontra hill, e'er he stood still Before be tasted meat, mon: Troth he may brag of his swift nag, That bare him all sae fleet, man.

[&]quot;The minister of Longformacus, a volunteer; who, Skirvin, a very worthy respectable farmer, near Haddington. I have heard the anecdote often, over, and earried his gun as a trophy to Con, these ramp.

And Simpson * keen, to clear the een Of rebels far in wrang, man, Did never strive wi' pistols five, But gallop'd with the thrang, man : He turn'd his back, and in a crack Was cleanly out of sight, man ; And thought it best ; it was nae jest Wi' Highlanders to fight, man.

'Mangst a' the gang nane bade the bang But twa, and ane was tane, man; For Campbell rade, but Myriet staid, And sair he paid the kain, t man; Fell skelps he got, was war than shot Frae the sharp-edg'd claymore, man; Frae many a spout came running out His recking het red gore, man.

But Gard'ner | brave did still behave Like to a hero bright, man; His courage true, like him were few, That still despised flight, man; For king and laws, and country's cause, In honour's bed he lay, man; His life, but not his courage, fled, While he had breath to draw, man.

And Major Bowle, that worthy soul, Was brought down to the ground, man; His horse being shot, it was his lot For to get mony a wound, man: Lieutenant Smith, of Irish birth, Frae whom he call'd for aid, man, Being full of dread, lap o'er his head, And wadna be gainsaid, man.

He made sie haste, sae spur'd his beast, Twas little there he saw, man; To Berwick rade, and safely said, The Scots were rebels a', man; But let that end, for well 'tis kend His use and wont to lie, man; The Teague is naught, he never faught, When he had room to flee, man,

And Caddell drest, among the rest, With gun and good claymore, man. On gelding grey he rode that way, With pistols set before, man; The cause was good, he'd spend his blood. Before that he would yield, man; But the night before he left the cor. And never fac'd the field, man.

But gallant Roger, like a soger, Stood and bravely fought, man : I'm wae to tell, at last he fell, But mae down wi' him brought, man : At point of death, wi' his last breath, (Some standing round in ring, man), On's back lying flat, he wav'd his hat, And cry'd, God save the king, man-

Some Highland rogues, like hungry dogs, Neglecting to pursue, man, About they fae'd, and in great haste Upon the booty flew, man; And they, as gain, for all their pain, Are deck'd wi spoils of war, man; Fow bald can tell how her nainsell Was ne'er sae pra before, man.

At the thorn-tree, which you may see Bewest the meadow-mill, man; There mony slain lay on the plain, The clans pursuing still, man. Sic unco' hacks, and deadly whacks, I never saw the like, man; Lost hands and heads cost them their deads. That fell near Preston-dyke, man.

That afternoon, when a' was done, I gaed to see the fray, man; But hal I wist what after past, I'd better staid away, man: On Seaton sands, wi' nimble hands, They pick'd my pockets hare, man; But I wish ne'er to drie sie fear, For a' the snm and mair, man.

† Mr. Myrie was a student of physic, from Jamaica; he entered as a volunteer in Cope's army, and was miscrably mangled by the broadsword.

1 i. e. He suffered severely in the cause.

1 6.4 He suffered severely in the cause.

If James Gardiner, Colone of a regiment of horse. This gentlem in's conduct, however celebrated, does not seem to have proceeded so much from the generous ardour of a noble and heroic mind, as from a part of religious enthussain, and a bigoted reliance on the Presbyterian doctrine of prefer ination, which the first process of the present of the present of the first process of the first process of the present of the first process of the present of the pres axe.

Colonel Gardiner having, when a gay young man, at Paris, made an as ignation with a lady, was, as he peetended, not only deterred from keeping his appositionent, but thoroughly reclaimed from all such thoughts in future, by an apparation. See his Life by Dooldrador Doddridge.

STREPHON AND LYDIA.

Tunc-" The Gordon's had the Guiding o't."

THE following account of this song I lie from Dr. Blacklock.

The Strephon and Lydia mentioned in the song were perhaps the loveliest couple of their time. The gentleman was commonly known by the name of Beau Gibson. The lady was the Gentle Jean, celebrated somewhere in Mr. Hamilton of Bangour's poems .- Having frequently met at public places, they had formed a reciprocal attachment, which their friends thought dangerous, as their resources were by no means adequate to their tastes and habits of To elude the bad consequences of such a connection, Strephon was sent abroad with a

[•] Another volunteer Presbyterian minister, who said he would con ince the rebels of their error by the dint of his pistols; having, for that purpose, two in his pockets, two in his holsters, and one in his belt.

commission, and perished in Admiral Vernon's Syne 2' my kin will say and swears expedition to Carthagena.

The author of the song was William Wallace, Esq. of Cairnhill, in Ayrshire .- BURNS.

ALL lovely on the sultry beach, Expiring Strephon lay, No hand the cordial draught to reach, Nor chear the gloomy way. Ill-fated youth! no parent nigh, To catch thy fleeting breath, No bride, to fix thy swimming eye, Or smooth the face of death.

Far distant from the mournful scene, Thy parents sit at ease, Thy Lydia rifles all the plain, And all the spring to please Ill-fated youth! by fault of friend, Not force of foe depress'd, Thou fall'st, alas! thyself, thy kind, Thy country, unredress'd !

I'M O'ER YOUNG TO MARRY YET.

THE chorus of this song is old .- The rest of , such as it is, is mine -BURNS.

I'm o'er young, I'm o'er young, I'm o'er young to marry yet; I'm o'er young, 'twad be a sin To take me frae my mammy yet,

There is a stray, characteristic verse, which ought to be restored.

My minnie coft me a new gown, The kirk maun hae the gracing o't; Ware I to lie wi' you. kind Sir, I'm feared ye'd spoil the lacing o't. I'm o'er young, &c.

MY JO. JANET.

Johnson, the publisher, with a foolish delicacy, refused to insert the last stanza of this aumorous ballad .- Bunns,

SWEET Sir, for your courtesie, When ye come by the Bass then, For the luve ye bear to me, Buy me a keeking-glass, then.-Keek into the draw-well,

Janet, Janet; And there ye'll see your bonny sell, My Jo, Janet.

Keeking in the draw-well clear, What if I should fa' in,

I drown'd mysell for sin.-Hand the better be the brue,

Janet, Janet, Hand the better be the brue, My Jo, Janet.

Good Sir, for your courtesie, Coming through Aberdeen, then, For the luve ye bear to me, Buy me a pair of sheen, then .-Clout the auld, the new are dear, Janet, Janet;

Ac poir may gain ye ha'f a year, My Jo, Janet.

But what if dancing on the green, And skipping like a maukin, If they should see my clouted shoon, Of me they will be tankin'. Dance ay laigh, and late at e'en, Janet, Janet; Sync a' their fauts will no be seen, My Jo, Janet.

Kind Sir, for your courtesie, When ye gae to the Cross, then, For the luve ye bear to me, Buy me a pacing-horse, then,-Pace upo' your spinning-wheel, Janet, Janet; Pace upo' your spinning-wheel, My Jo, Janet.

My spinning-wheel is auld and stiff, The rock o't winna stand, Sir, To keep the temper-pin in tiff, Employs right aft my hand, Sir.--Mak the best o't that ye can, Janet, Janet; But like it never wale a man. .My Jo, Janet.

GUDE YILL COMES, AND GUDE YILL GOES.

THIS song sings to the tune called The bot. tom of the punch boul, of which a very good copy may be found in M. Gilbon's Collection. BURNS.

Tune-" The Happy Farmer."

O gude yill comes, and gude yill goes, Gude yill gars me sell my hose, Sell my hose, and puwn my shown, For gude yill keeps my heart aboon.

I HAD sax owsen in a pleugh, And they drew tough and weel enough : I drank them a' ane by ane, For gude yill keeps my heart aboon. Gude yill, Sc.

I had forty shillin in a clout, Gude yill gart me pyke them out : That gear should moule I thought a sin, Gude yill keeps my heart aboon. Gude yill, &c.

The meikle pot upon my back, Unto the yill-house I did pack; It melted a' wi' the heat o' the moon, Gude yill keeps my heart aboon.

Gude y'll, &c.

Gude yill hauds me bare and busy, Gars me moop wi' the servant hizzie, Stand in the kirk when I hae done, Gude yill keeps my heart aboon. • Gude yill, &c.

I wish their fa' may be a gallows, Winna gie gude yill to gude fellows, And keep a soup 'till the afternoon, Gude yill keeps my heart aboon.

O gude yill comes, and gude yill goes, Gude yill gars me sell my hose, Sell my hose, and pawn my shoon, Gude yill keeps my heart aboon.

WERE NA MY HEART LIGHT I WAD DIE.

LORD HAILES, in the notes to his collection of ancient Scots poems, says that this song was the composition of a Lady Grissel Baillie, daughter of the first Earl of Marchmont, and wife of George Baillie, of Jervswood.—Burks.

THERE was anes a May, and she loo'd na men, She beggit ' rr bonny how'r down in yon glen ; But now she cries doo!! and a well-a-day! Come down the green gate, and come here away. But now she cries, &c.

When bonny young Johny came o'er the sea, He said he saw maithing sae lovely as me; He hecht me baith rings and mony braw thiogs; And were na my heart light I wad die. He hecht me, &c.

He had a wee titty that lood na me, Because I was twice as bonny as she; She rais'd such a pother 'twixt him and his mother.

That were na my heart light, I wad die. She rais'd, &c.

The day it was set, and the bridal to he,
The write took a dwam, and lay down to die;
She main'd and she gram d out of dolour and
pain,

Till he vow'd he never wad see me again.
She main'd &c.

His kin was for one of a higher degree, Said, What had he to do with the like of me? Albeit I was bonny, I was na for Johny; And were na my heart light, I wad die. Albeit I was. &c.

They said, I had neither cow nor caff, Nor dribbles of drink rins throw the draff, Nor pickles of meal rins throw the mill-ee; And were na my heart light, I wad die, Nor pickles of, &c.

His titty she was baith wylie and slee, She spy'd me as I came o'er the lee; And then she ran in and made a loud din, Believe your ain een, an ye trow na me. And then she, &c.

His bonnet stood ay fou round on his brow; His auld ane looks ay as well as some's new; But now he lets't wear ony gate it will hing, And casts himself dowie upon the corn-bing. But now he, &c.

And now he gaes 'dandering' about the dykes
And a' he dow do is to hund the tykes:
The live-lang night he ne'er steeks his ee,
And were na my heart light, I wad die.
The live-lang, &c.

Were I young for thee, as I hae been,
We shou'd hae been galloping down on yon green,
And linking it on the lily-white lee;
And wow gin I were but young for thee!

And linking &c.

MARY SCOTT, THE FLOWER OF YARROW.

MR. ROBERTSON, in his statistical account of the parish of Selkirk, says, that Mary Scott, the Flower of Varrow, was descended from the Dry hope, and married into the Harden family. Her daughter was married to a predecessor of the present Sir Francis Elliot of Stobbs, and of the late Lord Heathfield.

There is a circumstance in their contract of marriage that merits attention, as it strongly marks the predatory spirit of the times.—The father-in-law agrees to keep his daughter, for some time after the marriage; for which the son-in-law binds himself to give him the profits of the first Michaelms moon.—Buns.

HAPPY's the love which meets return,
When in soft flames souls equal hurn;
But words are wanting to discover.
The torments of a hopeless lover.
Ye registers of leav'n, relate,
If looking o'er the rolls of fate,
Did you there see me mark'd to marrow
Mary Seott the flower of Yarrow?

The hand of Burns is visible here. The 1st and 4th verses only are the original ones.

Ah no! her form's too heav'nly fair, Her love the gods above must share; While mortals with despir explore her, And at distance due adore her. O lovely maid! ny doubts beguile, Revive and bless me with a smile: Alas! if not, you'll soon debar a Sighing swain the banks of Yarrow

Be hush, ye fears, I'll not despair; My Mary's tender as she's fair; Then I'll go tell her all mine anguish, She is too good to let me languish; She is too good to let me languish; With success crown'd, I'll not envy The folks who dwell above the sky; When Mary Scott's become my marrow, We'll make a paradise in Yarrow.

THE HIGHLAND QUEEN.

THE Highland Queen, music and poetry, was composed by a Mr. M'Vicar, purser of the Solbay man of war.—This I had from Dr. B ack-lock.—BURNS.

Tune-" The Highland Queen."

No more my song shall he, ye swains, Of purling streams or flowrie plains: More pleasing beauties now inspire, And Phœbus deigns the warhling lyre.

Divinely aided, thus I mean To celebrate, to celebrate, To celebrate my Highland Queen.

In her sweet innocence you'll find With freedom, truth and virtue join'd: Strict honour fills her spotless soul, And gives a lustre to the whole.

A match'ess shape and lovely mein All centre in, all centre io, All centre in my Highland Queen.

No sordid wish or triffing joy Her settled calm of mind destroy: From pride and affectation free, Alike she smiles on you and me.

The brightest nymph that trips the green I do pronounce, I do pronounce, I do pronounce, I do pronounce my Highland Queen.

How blest the youth, whose gentle fate Has destined to so fair a mate, With all those wondrous gifts in store, To which each coming day brings more.

No man more happy can be seen Possessing thee, possessing thee, Possessing thee, my Highland Queen.

THE MUCKIN' O' GEORDIE'S BYRE.

THE chorus of this song is old.—The rest is the work of Balloon Tytler. —Bunns.

Tune-" The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre."

The muckin' o' Geordie's byre,
And the shool an' the graip sae clean,
Has gar'd me weet my cheeks,
And greet wi' baith my cen.

It was ne'er my father's will,
Nor yet my mither's desire,
That e'er I should fyle my fingers
Wi' muckin' o' Geordie's byre.

The mouse is a merry beast,
The mondiwort wants the een,
But the warld shall ne'er get wit,
Sae merry as we hae been.
It was ne'er my father's will,
Nor yet my mither's desire,
That e'er I should fyle my fingers
Wi' muckin' o' Geordie's bure.

MACPHERSON'S FAREWELL,

ALSO KNOWN AS MACPHERSON'S RANT.

HE was a daring robber in the beginning of this (eighteenth) century—was condemned to be hanged at Inverness. He is said, when under sentence of death, to have composed this tune, which he called his own Lament, or Fare-

Gow has published a variation of this fine tune, as his own composition, which he calls "The Princess Augusta."—BURNS.

I've spent my time in rioting,
Debauch'd my health and strength;
I've pillaged, plundered, murdered,
But now, alas! at length
I'm brought to punishmeet direct.
Pale death draws near to me;
This end I never did project
To hang upon a tree.

well.

To hang upon a tree, a tree,
That cursed unhappy death;
Like to a woif to worried be,
And choaked in the breath:
My very heart would surely break
When this I think upon,
Did not my courage singular
Bid pensive thoughts begone,

[•] A singularly learned but unhappy person. He leads to 1 carly a yage of the world; before there was toleration in Britain, when he was obliged to quit (1703) because of his democratical writings; when he took refuge 4 stalem as a newspaper editor. He also lived befor, here were Temperance Societies any where.

No man on earth, that draweth breath,
More courage had than I:
I dated my foes unto their face,
And would not from them fly.
This grandeur stout, I did keep out,
Like Hector, manfully:
Then wonder one like me so stout
Should hang upon a tree.

The Egyptian band I did command,
With courage more by far,
Than ever did a general
His seldiers in the war.
Being feared by all, both great and small,
I liv'd most joyfullie:
Oh, curse upon this fate o' mine,
To hang upon a tree.

As for my life I do not care,
If justice would take place,
And bring my fellow-plunderers
Unto the same disgrace:
But Peter Brown, that notour loon,
Escaped and was made free:
Oh, curse upon this fate o' mine,
To hang upon a tree.

Both law and justice buried are,
And fraud and guile succeed;
The guilty pass unpunished,
If money intercede.
The Laird o' Graunt, that Highland Saunt,
His mighty majestic,
He pleads the cause of Peter Brown,
And lets Macpherson die.

The destiny of my life contrived,
By those whom I obliged,
Rewarded me much ill for good,
And left me no refuge:
But Braco Duff, io rage enough,
He first laid hands on me;
And if that death would not prevent,
Avenged would I be.

As for my life, it is but short,
When I shall be no more;
To part with life, I am content,
As any heretofare.
Therefore, good people all, take heed,
This warning take hy me—
According to the lives you lead,
Rewarded you shall be.*

UP IN THE MORNING EARLY.

THE chorus of this is old; the two stanzas are mine.

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.

Cold blaws the wind frac east to west,
The drift is driving sairly;
Sac loud and shrill's I hear the blast,
I'm sure it's winter fairly.
BURNS,

UP IN THE MORNING EARLY

BY JOHN HAMILTON.

CAULD blaws the wind frae north to soute.
The drift is driving sairly,
The sheep are courin' in the heuch:
O, sirs, its winter fairly.
Now up in the mornin's no for me,
Up in the mornin' carly;
Pd rather gae supperless to my bed
Than rise in the mornin' carly.

Loud roars the blast among the woods, And tirls the branches barely; On bill and house hear how it thuds, The frost is nipping sairly. Now up in the mornin's no for me, Up in the mornin' early; To sit a' nicht wad better agree Than rise in the mornia' early.

The sun peeps ower yon southland hills Like only timorous carlie, Just blinks a wee, then sinks again, And that we find severely. Now up in the mornin's no fer me, Up in in the mornin' early; When snaw blaws in at the chimly check, Wha'd rise in the mornin' early.

Nae linties lilt on hedge or bush; Poor things they suffer sairly, In cauldrife quarters a' the night, A' day they feed but sparely. Now up in the mornin's no for me, Up in the mornin' carly; A pennyless purse I wad rather dree Than rise in the mornin' carly.

A cozie house and canty wife,
Aye keep a body cheerly;
And pantries stou'd wi' meat and drink,
They answer unco rarely.
But up in the mornin's no for nie,
Up in the mornin' early;
The gowan mann glint on bank and brass,

he gowan maun glint on bank and brac When I rise in the mornin' early

[•] Burns' own set of the Lament, appears liker the natural effusions of the high-spirited command, than this homily

GALA-WATER.

I have heard a concluding verse sung to these words—it is,

An' ay she came at e'enin fa',
Amung the yellow broom, sae eerie,
To seek the snood o' silk she tint;
She fau na it, but gat her dearie.—Bunns,

The original song of Gala-water was thus recited by a resident in that very pastoral district.

Bonnie lass of Gala-water; Braw, braw lass of Gala-water! I would wade the stream sae deep, For you braw lass of Gala-water.

Braw, braw lads of Gala-water;
O, braw lads of Gala-water!
I'll kilt my coat aboon my knee,
And follow my love thro' the water.

Sae fair her hair, sae brent her brow, Sae bonnie blue her een, my dearie; Sae white her teeth, sae sweet her mou', I often kiss her till I'm wearie.

O'er yon bink, and o'er yon brae, O'er yon moss among the heather; I'll kilt my coat aboon my knee, And follow my love thro' the water

Down among the broom, the broom, Down among the broom, my dearie; The lassie lost her silken snood,

That gart her greet till she was wearie.

DUMBARTON DRUMS.

Turn is the last of the West Highland airs; and from it, over the whole tract of country to the confines of Tweedside, there is hardly a tune or song that one can say has taken its origin from any place or transaction in that part of Scatland.—The oldset Ayrshire reel, is Steenarton Lusses, which was made by the father of the present Sir Walter Montgomery Cunningham, alus Lord Lyle; since which period there has indeed been local music in that country in great plenty.—Johnie Faa is the only old song which I could ever trace as belonging to the extensive county of Ayr.—Burns.

The poet has fallen under a mistake here:—
the drums here celebrated were not those of the
town, or garrison of Dumbarton; but of the
regiment commanded by Lord Dumbarton—a
ravalier of the house of Douglas—who signalized
himself on the Jacobite side in 1685.—The old
song was as follows:—

DUMBARTON'S drums heat bonny, O, When they mind me of my dear Julnie, O.

How cappy am I,
When my soldier is hy,
While he kisses and blesses his Annie, O!
Tis a soldier alone can delight me, O,
For his graceful looks do invite me, O:
While guarded in his arms,
I'll fear no war's alarms,

Neither danger nor death shall e'er fright me, O

My love is a handsome laddie, O,
Genteel, but ne'er foppish nor gaudy, O:
Tho' commissions are dear,

Yet I'll buy him one this year; For he shall serve no longer a cadie, O. A soldier has honour and bravery, O, Unacquainted with rogues and their knavery, Ot He minds no other thing

But the ladies or the king; For cv'ry other care is but slavery, O.

Then I'll be the captain's lady, O; Farewell all my friends and my daddy, O: I'll wait no more at home, But I'll follow with the drum, And whene'er that beats, I'll be ready, O. Dumbarton's drums sound bonny, O, They are sprightly like my dear Johnie, O: How bappy shall I be,

When on my soldier's knee, And he kisses and blesses his Annie, O !

FOR LACK OF GOLD.

THE country girls in Ayrshire, instead of the

She me forsook for a great duke, say,

For Athole's duke she me forsook;

which I take to be the original reading.

These words were composed by the late Dr. Austin, physician at Edinburgh.—He had courted a lady,* to whom he was shortly to have been married; but the Doke of Athole having seen her, became so much in love with her, that he made proposals of marriage, which were accepted of, and she jilted the Doctor.—Burns.

DR. AUSTIN

Tune-" For Lack of Gold."

Fon lack of gold she has left me, O; And of all that's dear she's bereft me, O; She me forsook for Athole's duke, And to endless wo she has left me, O. A star and garter have more art Than youth, a true and faithful heart;

" Jean, daughter of John Drummond, of Megginch, Esq. For empty titles we must part; For glittering show she has left me, O.

No ernel fair shall ever move My injur'd neart again to love; Thro' distant climates I must rove, Since Jeany she has left me, O. Ye powers above, I to your care Resign my faithless lovely fair; Your choicest blessings he her share, Tho' she has ever left me, O!

MILL, MILL O.

THE original, or at least a song evidently prior to Ramsay's, is still extant.—It runs thus:

The mill, mill O, and the kill, kill O, And the coggin o' Peggy's wheel O, The sack and the sieve, and a' she did leave, And danc'd the miller's reel O.

As I cam down you waterside,
And by you shellin-hill O,
There I spied a bonnie bonnie lass,
And a lass that I lov'd right weel O.—•

MILL, MILL O.

BENEATH a green shade I fand a fair maid Was sleeping sound and still-O, A' lowing wi' love, my fancy did rove, Around her with good will-O: Her bosom I press'd, but, sunk in her rest, She stir'd na my joy to spill-O; While kindly she slept, close to her I crept, And kiss'd, and kiss'd her my fill-O.

Oblig'd by command in Flanders to land, T'employ my courage and skill-O, Frae 'er quiety' 1 stew, hoist'd sails and awa, For wind blew fair on the hill-O. Twa years brought me hame, where loud-frasing fame

Tald me with a voice right shrill-O,
My lass, like a fool, had mounted the stool,
Nor ken'd wha'd done her the ill-O.

Mair fond of her charms, with my son in her arms,

A ferlying speer'd how she fell-O; Wi' the tear in her eye, quoth she, let me die, Sweet Sir, gin I can tell-O. Love gae the command, I took her by he hand, And bad her a' fears expel-O, And nae mair look wan, for I was the man Wha had done her the deed x/sell-O.

My bonnie sweet lass, on the gowany grass, Beneath the shilling-hill-O.

If I did offence, I'se make ye amends, Before I leave Peggy's mill-O.

And round with a soger reel-O

O! the mill, mill-O, and the kill, kill-O, And the cogging of the wheel-O, The sack and the sieve, a' that ye man leave

WALY, WALY.

In the west country I have heard a different edition of the second stanza.—Instead of the four lines, beginning with, "When cookle shells," Sr. the other way ran thus:—

O WHEREFORE need I busk my head, Or wherefore need I kame my hair, Sin my fause luve has me forsook, And says he'll never luve me mair.— BURNS,

O wats waly up the bank,
And waly waly down the brae,
And waly waly by yon burn-side,
Where I and my love were wont to gae.
Hent my back unto an aik,
I thought it was a trustic trie;
But first it bow'd, and syne it brake,
And sae my true love did lyghtlie me.

O waly waly gin love be bonnie
A little time while it is new;
But when its auld it waxeth cauld,
And fades awa' like morning-dew.
O wherefore shu'd I bank my head?
Or wherefore shu'd I kame my hair?
For my true love has me forsook,
And says he'll never loe me mair.

Now Arthur-seat shall be my he'.
The sheits shall neir he fi'ld by me:
Saint Anton's well sall be my drink,
Since my true love has forsaken me.
Marti'nas wind, whan wilt thou blaw,
And shake the green leaves aff the trie?
O gentle death, whan wilt the a cum?
For of my life I am werrie.

'Tis not the frost that freezes fell, Nor blawing snaw's inelemencie; 'Tis not sic cauld that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cauld to me. Whan we came in by Glasgowe town, We were a comely sight to see;

^{*} The remaining two stanzas, though pretty enough, partake rather too much of the rude simplicity of the "Olden time" to be admitted here.—Ed.

My love was clad i' th' black velvet, And I mysell in cramasiz.

But had I wist before I kisst,
That ove had been sae ill to win,
I had lockt my heart in a case of gowd,
And pinn d it wi' a siller pin.
Oh, oh! if my young babe were borne,
And set upon the nurse's knee,
And I mysell were dead and gone,
For a maid again He never be!

TODLEN HAME.

This is, perhaps, the first bottle song that ever was composed —Burns.

WHEN I've a surpence under my thumb,
Then I'll get credit in ilka town:
But ay when I'm poor they bid me gae by;
O! poverty parts good company.
Tadlen hame, tottlen hame,
Coucha my love come todlen hame?

Fair-fa' the goodwife, and send her good sale, Sen gi'es us white bannocks to drink her ale, Syne if Ler tippony chance to be sma', Wz'll tak a good seour o't, and ca't awa'. Todlen hame, todlen hame, As round us a neep, come todlen hame.

My kimmer and I lay down to sleep, And twa pintstoups at our hed-feet; Aad ay when we waken'd, we drank them dry: What think ye of my wee kimmer and I? Todden but, and todlen ben. Sue round as my lowe comes todlen hame.

Lecze me on liquor, my todlen dow, Ye're ay sae good humour'd when weeting your mou; When sober sae sour, ye'll fight wi' a flee,

When sober sae sour, ye'll nght wi' a flee,
That 'tis a blyth sight to the hairos and me,
When todlen hame, tollen hame,
When round as a neep ye cove todlen hame.

CAULD KAIL IN ABENDEEN.

This ong is by the Duke of Gorden .- The verses are,

THERE'S caud kail in Aberdeen, And castocks in Strabogie; When ilka lad mum hae his lass, Then fye, gie me my cogie. My coyie, Sirs, my coyie; Sirs, I cannot want my coyie: I wadna gie my three-girr'd stoup For a' the quenes on B-gie. There's Johnie Smith has got a wife That scrimps him o' his coge, If she were mine, upon my life I'd douk her in a bogie. My cogie, Sirs, &c.—Buans.

CAULD KAIL IN ABERDEEN.

THERE'S cauld kail in Aberdeen, And castocks in Stra'bogie; Gin I but hae a bonny lass, Ye're welcome to your cogie; And ye may sit up a' the night, And drink till it be braid day-light; Gie me a lass baith clean and tight, To dance the Reel of Bogie.

In cotillons the French excel; John Bull loves countra-dances; The Spaniards dance fandangos well; Mynheer an allemande prances; In foursome reels the Scotch delight, The threesome maist dance wond rous ligns; But twasome's ding a' out o' sight, Danc'd to the Reel of Bogie.

Come, lads, and view your partners well, Wale each a blythsome rogic;
I'll tak this lassie to mysel,
She seems sae keen and vogie!
Now piper lad harg up the spring;
The countra fashion is the thing,
To pric their mou's e'er we begin
To dance the Reel of Bogie.

Now ilka lad has got a lass, Save yon auld doited fogie; And ta'en a fling upo' the grass, As they do in Stra'bogie; But a' the lasses look sac fain, We canna think oursel's to hain, For they mann hae their came again To dance the Reel of Bogie.

Now a' the lads hae done their best, Like true men of Stra'bogie; We'll stop awhile and tak a rest, And tipple out a cogie: Come now, my lads, and tak your glass, And try ilk other to surpass, In wishing health to every lass To dance the Reel of Bogie.

WE RAN AND THEY RAN.

The author of We ran and they ran, and they ran and we ran, &c. was the late Rev Murduch M'Lennan, minister at Crathie, Ossside.—Bouxs.

There's some say that we wan. Some say that they wan, Some say that nane wan at a', man; But one thing I'm sure. That at Sheriff Muir .

A battle there was, which I saw, man ; And we ran, and they ran, and they ran, and we ran, and we ran, and they ran awa', 100/127-

Brave Argyle + and Belhaven, \$ Not like frighted Leven, § Which Rothes | and Haddington ¶ sa', man; For they all with Wightman ** Advanced on the right, man, While others took flight, being ra', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Lord Roxburgh ++ was there, In order to share With Douglas, ## who stood not in awe, man, Volunteerly to ramble With lord Loudon Campbell, | | Brave Hay §§ did suffer for a', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Sir John Schaw, ¶¶ that great knight, Wi' broad-sword most bright, On horseback he briskly did charge, man; An hero that's bold, None could him with-hold,

He stoutly encounter'd the targemen. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

For the cowardly Whittim, *** For fear they should cut him, Seeing glittering broad-swords wi' a pa', man, And that in such thrang, Made Baird edicang, +++ And from the brave clans ran awa', man.

And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Brave Mar * and Panmure + Were firm I am sure, The latter was kidnapt awa', man, With brisk men about, Brave Harry t retook

His brother, and laught at them a', man-And we run, and they ran, &c.

Grave Marshall # and Lithgow, & And Glengary's | pith too, Assisted by brave Loggie-a-man, ** And Gordons the bright

So boldly did fight, The redcoats took flight and awa', man, And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Strathmore †† and Clanronald ‡‡ Cry'd still, advance, Donald! Till both these heroes did fa', man ; | | | For there was such hashing, And broad-swords a clashing, Brave Forfar & himself got a cla', man.

And we ran, and they ran, &c.

* John (Erskine) Earl of Mar, commander-in-chief of the Chevalier's army; a nobleman of great spirit, honour, and abilities. He died at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1752. † James (Maule) Earl of Panmure; died at Paris,

t Honourable Harry Maule, brother to the Earl. The circumstance here alluded to is thus related in the Earl of Mar's printed account of the engagement:—
"The prisoners taken by us were very civily used, and none of them stript." Some were allowed to return and none of them stript. Some were allowed to return to String upon their parole, &c. . . The few prisoners taken by the enemy on our left were most of them stript and wounded after taken. The Earl of Parmure being first of the prisoners wounded after taken. The Parole, the was left in a village, and by the heavy retreat of the enemy, upon the approach of our army, was reserved by his brother and his sevents.

|| George (Keith) Farl Marischall, then a youth at college. He died at his government of Neufchatel in with him in this battle.

§ James (Livingston) Earl of Calendar and Linlith-gow: attainted.

Alexander M'Donald of Glengary, laird of a elan; a brave and spirited chief; attained.

** Thomas Drummond of Logie-Almond; commanded the two battalions of Drummonds.

wounded. good parts, of a most amiable disposition and character." †† John (Lyon) Earl of Strathmore; "a man of

Ranald M'Donald, Captain of Clan Ranald. N. B. The Captain of a clan was one who, being next or near in blood to the Chief, headed them in his infan

or nein monogone consecution of the monogone consecution of the consec kill'd, among whom were the Earl of Statalheore [and the Captain of Clan Ranald, both much lamented." The latter, 'for his good parts and gentle accomplishments, was look'd upon as the most gallant and generous young gentleman among the claus. He was lamented by both parties that knew hun."

His servant, who lay on the field watching his dead body, being asked next day who that was, answered, He was a man yesterday.—Boswell's Journe, to the He-

brides, p. 539. (§ Archibald (Douglas) Sarl of Forfar, who commanded a regiment in the Luke's army. He is said to have been shot in the knee, and to have had ten of twelve cuts in his head from the broad swords. died a few days after of his wounds.

* The battle of Dumblain or Sheriff-muir was fought the 13th of November 1713, between the Earl of Mar, for the Chevalier, and the Duke of Argyle for the government. Both sides claimed the vietory, the left wing of either army being routed. The capture of Preston, it is very temarkable, happened on the same day.

t John (Campbell) 2d Duke of Argyle, commanderin-chief of the government forces; a nobleman of great talents and integrity, much respected by all parties:

tion (1,15).

‡ John (Hamilton) Lord Belhaven; served as a vo-lunteer; and had the command of a troop of horse raised by the county of Haddington; perished at sea, 1721.

B David (Lesly) Earl of Leven; for the government.
John (Lesly) Earl of Rothes; for the government,
The mas (Hamilton) Earl of Haddington; for the government.

** Mejor-General Joseph Wightman.

†† John (Ker) first Duke of Roxburgh; for the goment.

Archibald (Douglas) Duke of Douglas,

[II] Itugh (Campbell) Earl of Loudon.

§ Archibald Earl of Hay, brother to the Duke of Arcyle. He was dangerously wounded.

¶ An officer in the troop of gentleman volunteers.

• Mojor-general Thomas Whitham.

• Add du camp.

Lord Perth * stond the storm, Seaforth + but lukewarm, Kilsyth I and Strathallan I not sla', man ; And Hamilton & pled The men were not bred, For he had no fancy to fa', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Brave generons Southesk, ¶

Lord Rollo ++ not fear'd,

Tilebairn ** was brisk, Whose & ther indeed would not dra', man, Into the same yoke, Which serv'd for a cloak,

To keep the estate 'twixt them twa, man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Kintore ## and his beard, Pitsligo | and Ogilvie §§ a', man, And brothers Balfours, ¶¶ They stood the first show'rs, Clackmannan and Burleigh *** did cla', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

But Cleppan ††† acted pretty, And Strowan the witty, ## A poet that pleases us a', man;

For mine is but rhime, In respect of what's fine, Or what he is able to dra', man,

And we ran, and they ran, &c.

 James Marquis of Drummond, son of James (Drummond) Duke of Perth, was li utenant-general of horse, and "behaved with great gallantry." He was attainted, but escaped to France, where he soon after died.
† William (Mackenzie) Earl of Scaforth. He was

attainted, and died in 1740.

‡ William (Livingston) Viscount Kilsyth: attainted. William (Drummond) Viscount Kusyn; artanteu, whose sense of loyalty could scarcely equal the spirit and activity he manufested in the cases. He was taken prisoner in this battle, which he survived to perish in the still more fatal one of Culloden.mur.

§ Lieutenant-general George Hamilton, commanding under the Earl of Mar.

¶ James (Carnegie) Earl of Southesk; was attaintail and exercise it. A James (Carnegger Fair of Southess; was attained, and, escaping to France, thed there in 1729.

* William (Nurray) Marquis of Tullibardin, eldes on to the Duke of Athole. Having been attainted, he was taken at sea in 1746, and died soon after, of a

he was taken at sea in 1746, and died soon after, of a flux, in the Town. Lord Rolls, "1-a man of singular merit and great nitegrity," died in 1750. It will am (Reith) Earl of Kintore. III Alexander (Forbeo) Lord Plisligo; "a man of good paris, great homer and spirit, and universally beloved and esteemed." He was engaged again in the affair of 1745, for which he was attainted, and died et an advancul age in 1762

\{\}\ \lambda \text{ and it is a close to of David (Ogil-\text{vie'}) Earl of Airly. He was attainted, but afterwards pardoned. His father, not dra'ing into the same yoke, aveil the estate.

¶¶ Some relations it is supposed of the Lord Bur-

*** Robert (Balfour) Lord Burleigh. He was at-

*** Robert (Balfour) Lord Burleigh. He was altained, and died in 1757.

†† Major William Clephane, addutantegenal of the Marquis of Drummond.

‡‡ Alexand r Robertson of Struan; who, having experience! every vicisitude of life, with a stoical finances, deed in peace 1749. He was an excellent ext, and he left elegies worthy of Tibullus.

For Huntley and Sinchir 3 They both play'd the tinclair, With consciences black like a cra' man-Some Angus and Fifemen They ran for their life, man, And ne'er a Lot's wife there at a', man, And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Then Laurie the traytor. Who betray'd his master, His king and his country and a', man. Pretending Mar might Give order to fight, To the right of the army awa', man.

And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Then Laurie, for fear Of what he might hear, Took Drammond's best horse and awa', mea Instead o' going to Perth, He crossed the Firth, Alongst Stirling-bridge and awa', man. and we ran, and they ran, &c.

To London he press'd, And there he address'd, That he behav'd best o' them a', man; And there without strife Got settled for life, An hundred a year to his fa', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

In Burrowstounness He resides wi' disgrace, Till his neck stand in need of a dra', man And then in a tether He'll swing frae a ladder. [And] go aff the stage with a pa', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

Rob Roy stood watch On a hill for to eatch The booty for ought that I sa', man, For he ne'er advane'd From the place he was stanc'd. Till nae mair to do there at a', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

So we a' took the flight, And Moubray the wright; But Letham the smith was a bra' man, For he took the gont, Which truly was wit, By judging it time to withdra', man.

And we ran, and they run, &c. And trum et M'Lean, Whose breeks were not clean,

Alexander (Gordon) Marquis of Huntley, eldest

- Alexander (Gordon) Marquis of Huntley, cldest son to the Duke of Gordon, who, according to the usual policy of his country, (of which we here meet with several other instances), remained neutral.
- John Sunclair, Esq. commonly called Master of Sinclair, delest son of Henry Lord Sinclair; was at-tainted, but afterwards pard ned, and died in 1780.
- The state was preserved of course.

When I like you was young and free, I valued not the proudest she;

Sae bide you yet, &c.

Sae bide you yet, &c.

e le bide vou vet. &c

Like you I vainly boasted then, That men alone were born to reign.

Great Hercules and Sampson too,

Were stronger men than I or you;

And felt the distaff and the sheers.

But nought is found by sea or land,

That can a wayward wife withstand.

Yet they were baffled by their dears,

Stout gates of brass, and well-built walls,

Are proof 'gainst swords and cannon-balls ,

Thre' misfortune he happen'd to fa', man, By saving his neck His trumpet did break, Came aff without musick at a', man. And we ran, and they ran, &c.

So there such a race was, As ne'er in that place was, And as little chase was at a', man;

Frae ither they 'rnn' Without touk o' drum

They did not make use of a pa', man. And we run, and they run, and they ran, and we ran, and we ran, and they ran awa', mcn.

RIDE VE VET.

THERE is a beautiful song to this tune, beginning,

Alas, my son, you little know-

which is the composition of a Miss Jenny

ALAS! my son, you little know The sorrows that from wedlock flow: Farewell to every day of ease, When you have gotten a wife to please. Sae bide you yet, and bide you yet, Ye little ken what's to betide you yet; The half of that will game you yet, If a wayward wife obtain you yet.

Your experience is but small, As yet you've met with little thrall; The black cow on your foot ne'er trod, Which gars you sing alang the road. Sae bide you yet, &c.

Sometimes the rock, sometimes the red, Or some piece of the spinning-wheel, She will drive at you wi' good will, And then she'll send you to the de'il. Sae bide you yet, &c.

GIN I had a wee house and a canty wee fire A bonny wee wifie to praise and admire, A bonny wee yardie aside a wee burn; Fareweel to the bodies that yammer and more Graham of Dumfries .- BURNS.

Sae bide ye yet, and bide ye yet, Ye little ken what may betide ye yet, Some bonny wee body may be mu lot, And I'll be canty wi' thinking o't.

LIDE YE YET.

OLD SET.

When I gang afield, and come home at e en, I'll get my wee wifie fou neat and fou clean; And a bonny wee bairne npon her knee, That will cry, papa, or daddy, to me. Sue bide ye yet, &c.

And if there happen ever to be A diff'rence atween my wee wife and me, In hearty good humour, although she be teaz'd. I'll kiss her and clap her until she be pleas'd. Sae bide ye yet, &c.

THE ROCK AND THE WEE PICKLE TOW.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.

THERE was an auld wife an' a wee pickle tow, An' she wad gae try the spinning o't, She lonted her down, an' her rock took a low, She sat an' she grat, an' she flet and she flang, An' she threw an' she blew, an' she wrigl'd an'

An' she choked, an' boaked, an' cry'd like to

I've wanted a sark for these eight years an' ten,

^{*} The particulars of this ancedote no where appear. The hero is supposed to be the same John Mileon, Interpet, who was sent from Lord Mar, then at Perth, with a letter to the Duke of Argyle, at Swiling camp, on the 50th of October. Fix i-signal Letters 1750, and the same state of t

SONGS.

But I vow I shall want it for as lang again, Or ever I try the spinning o't; For never since ever they ca'd me as they ca'

Did sie a mis!ap an' misonter befa' me, But ye shail hae leave baith to hang me an' draw me,

The neist time I try the spinning o't,

I has keeped my house for these three score o' vears,

An' ay I kept free o' the spinning o't, But how I was sarked foul fa' them that speers, For it minds me upo' the beginning o't. But our women are now a days grown sue bra', That ilka an mann hae a sark an' some hae twa, The warlds were better when ne'er an awa' Had a rag but ane at the beginning o't.

Foul fa' her that ever advis'd me to spin, That had heen so lang a heginning o't, I might well have ended as I did begin, Nor have got sick a skair with the spinning o't. But they'll say, she's a wyse wife that kens her ain weerl,

I thought on a day, it should never be speer'd, How loot ye the low take your rock be the beard,

When ye yeed to try the spinning o't?

The spinning, the spinning it gars my heart sob, When I think upo' the beginning o't, I thought er I died to have anes made a web, But still I had weers o' the spinning o't. But had I nine dathers, as I hae but three, The safest and soundest advice I cud gee, Is that they frae spinning wad keep their hands free.

For fear of a bad beginning o't.

Yet in spite of my counsel if they will needs run The drearysome risk of the spinning o't, Let them seek out a lythe in the hear of the sun, And there venture o' the beginning o't: But to do as I did, alas, and awow! To busk up a rock at the check of the luw, Says, that I had but fittle wit us my pow, And as little ado with the spinning o't.

But yet after a', there is ac thing that grieves My heart to think o' the beginning o't, Had I won the length but of ac pair o' sleeves, Then there had been word o' the spinning o't; This I wad ha' washen an' bloech'd like the snaw, And o' my twa gardies like moggans wad draw, An' then fouk wad say, that auld Guzy was bra', An' a' was upon her ain spinning o't.

But gin I wad shog about till a new spring, I should yet hae a bout of the spinning o't, A mutchkin of linseed I'd i' the yerd fling, For a' the wan chansic beginning o't. All gar my ain Timmic gae down to the how, An cut me a 'ock of a widdershines grow, Of good ranty-tree for to carry my tow, An' a spindle of the same for the twining o't.

For now when I min by set Maggy Grim.
This morning just a segment of o 6,
She was never cird samey, but camy an' slim,
An' sae it has fair'd my spinning o't.
But an' my new rock were anse cutted an' dry,
I'll a' Maggies can an' her cantraps defy,
An' but onic sussit the spinning I'll try,
Au' ye's a' hear o' the beginning o't.

Quo' Tibby, her dather, tak tent fit ye say, The never a rags we'll be seeking o't, Gin ye anes begin, ye'll tarveal's night an' day, Sae it's vam ony mair to be speaking o't. Since lambas I'm now gaing thirty an' twa, Ao' never a dud sark had I yet gryt or sma', An' what war am I'? I'm as warm an' as bra', As thrumny tail'd Meg that's a spinner o't.

To labor the lint Lind, an' then buy the seed, An' then to yoke me to the harrowing o't, An' syn loll amon't an' pike out ilka weed, Like rwine in a sty at the farrowing o't; Syn powing and ripling and 'steeping, an' thea To gar's gae an' spread it npo' the cauld plain, An' then after a' may be labor in vain, When the wind and the weet gets the fusion o't.

But tho' it should anter the weather to byde, Wt' beckles we're set to the drubbing o't, An' then frac our fingers to gnidge aff the hide, With the wearisome wark o' the rubbing o't. An' syn ilka tait man be heckl'd out throw, The lint putten ac gate, anither the tow, Syn on a ruck wi't, an' it taks a low, The back o' my hand to the spinning o't.

Quo' Jenny, I think 'oman ye're i' the right, Set your feet ay a spar to the spinning o't, We may tak our advice frae our ain mither's fright

That she gat when she try'd the beginning o't. But they'll say that anld fouk are twice bairns indeed.

An' sae she has kythed it, but there's nae need To siekan an amshack that we drive our head, As langs we're sae skair'd fra the spinning o't,

Quo' Nanny the youngest, I've now heard

An' downe's your doom o' the spinning o't, Gin ye, fan the cows flings, the cog cast awa', Ye may see where ye'll lick up your winning

But I see that but spinning I'll never be bra', But gae by the name of a dilp or a da, Sae lack where ye like I shall ames shak a fa', Afore I be dung with the spinning o't.

For well I can mind me when black Willie Bel. Had Tibble there just at the winning o't, What blew up the bargain, she kens well hersell, Was the want of the knack of the spinning o't. An' now, poor 'oman, for ought that I ken, She may never get sic an offer again, But pine away bit ao' bit, like Jenkin's hen, An' naething to wyte but the spinning o't.

But were it for naething, but just this alane, I shall yet hae about o' the spinning o't, They may cast me for ca'ing me black at the bean.

But nae cause I shun'd the beginning o't. But, be that as it happens, I care not a strae, But nane of the lads shall hae it to say, When they come till woo, she kens naething avae.

Nor has onie ken o' the spinning o't.

In the days they ca'd yore, gin auld fouks had but won.

To a surkout hough side for the winning o't, Of coat raips well cut by the cast o' their hun, They never sought mair o' the spinning o't. A pair of grey boggers well clinked benew, Of nae other lit but the hue of the ew, With a pair of rough rullions to scuff thro' the dew,

Was the fee they sought at the beginning o't.

But we maun hae linen, an' that maun hae we, An' how get we that, but the spinning o't? How can we hae face for to seek a gryt fee, Except we can help at the winning o't? An' we mann hae pearlins and mabbies an' cocks.

An' some other thing that the ladies ca' smoks, An' how get we that, gin we tak na our rocks, And pow what we can at the spinning o't?

'Tis need'ess for us for to tak our remarks Frae our mither's miscooking the spinning n't, She never kend ought o' the gueed of the sarks, Frae this aback to the beginning o't. Twa three ell of plaiden was a' that was sought By our and warld bodies, an' that boot be bought.

For in ilka town sickan things was mae wronght, So little they kend o' the spinning o't.

HOOLY AND FAIRLY.

It is remark-worthy that the song of Hooly and Fairly, in all the old editions of it, is cal ed The Drunken Wife o' Galloway, which ocalizes it to that country -Bunns.

THE DRUNKEN WIFE O' GALLOWAY.

OH! what had I to do for to marry? My wife she drinks naething but sack and Canary,

I to her friends complain'd right early, O ! gin my wife wad drink hoch, and fair.n. Hooly and fairly, kooly and fairly,

It gin my wife wast drink I ... vel fairly.]

First she drank crummic, and syne she drank garie;

Now she has druken my bonny grey marie, That carried me thro' a' the dubs and the larie O ! gin, &c.

She has druken her stockins, sa has she her

And she has druken her bonny new gown; Her wee bit dud sark that co'erd her fu' rarely O ! gin, &c.

If she'd drink but her ain things I wad na much

But she drinks my claiths I canna weel spare, When I'm wi' my gossips, it angers me sairly, O! gin, &c.

My Sunday's coat she's laid it a wad, The best blue bonnet e'er was on my head; At kirk and at market I'm cover'd but barely, 0 ! gin, &c.

The verra gray mittens that gaed on my han's, To her neebor wife she has laid them in pawns; My bane-headed staff that I lo'ed sae dearly, 0 ! gin, &c.

If there's ony siller, she mann keep the purse; If I seek but a baubee she'll scauld and she'll

She gangs like a queen-I scrimped and sparely, 0 / gin, &c.

I never was given to wrangling nor strife, Nor e'er did refuse her the comforts of life; Ere it come to a war I'm ay for a parley. 0 ! gin, &c.

A pint wi' her cummers I wad her allow, But when she sits down she fills herself fou; And when she is fou she's unco camstarie, O! gin, &c.

When she comes to the street she roars and she rants,

Has nae fear u' her neebors, nor minds the house wants;

She rants up some fool-sang, like " Up y'er heart, Charlie."

0 / gin, &c.

And when she comes hame she lays on the lada She ca's the lasses baith limmers and jads, And I, my ain sell, an auld cuckold carlie, O! gin my wife wad drink hooly and fairly, Hooly and fairly, hooly and fairly, O! gin my wife wad drink hooly and fairly.

THE OLD MAN'S SONG.

BY THE REV J. SKINNER.

Twee-" Dumbarton Drums."

O! way should old age so much wound as !. There is nothing in it all to confound us : For how happy now am I, With my old wife sitting by,

And our bairns and our oys f all around us; For how happy now am I, Se.

We began in the warld wi' naething, And we've jogg'd on, and toil'd for the ac thing; We made use of what we had, And our thankful hearts were glad; When we got the bit meat and the claithing, We made use of what we had, &c.

We have liv'd all our life-time contented. Since the day we became first acquainted; It's true we've been but poor, And we are so to this honr; But we never yet repin'd or lamented. It's true we've been but poor, &c.

When we had any stock, we ne'er vauntit, Nor did we hing our heads when we wantit; But we always gave a share Of the little we cou'd spare,

When it pleas'd a kind Heaven to grant it. But we always gave a share, &c.

We never laid a scheme to he wealthy, By means that were cunning or stealthy; But we always had the bliss, (And what further could we wiss). To be pleas'd with ourselves, and be healthy. But we always had the bliss, &c.

What tho' we cannot boast of our guineas, We have plenty of Jockies and Jeanies; And these, I'm certain, are More lesirable by far Than a hig full of poor vellow sleenies.

And these, I'm certain, are, &c. We have seen many wonder and ferly, Of changes that almost are yearly, Among rich folks up and down, Both in country and in town,

Who now live but scrimply and harely, Among -ich folks up and down, &c.

Then why should people brag of prosperity? A straiten'd life we see is no rarity; Indeed we've been in want, And our living's been but scant, Yet we never were reduced to need charity. In lead we've been in want, &c.

. This tune requires o to be added at the end of each of the long lines, but in reading the tong the O is bester omitted.

t Ogs-Grand-children.

In this Louse we first came together, Where we've long been a father and mither . And the' not of stone and lime, It will last us all our time;

And, I hope, we shall ne'er need anither. And the' n t of stone and lime, &c.

And when we leave this poor habitation, We'll depart with a good commendation; We'll go hand in hand, I wiss, To a better bouse than this, To make room for the next generation. Then why should old age so much wound us There is nothing in it all to confound us ?

For how happy now am I, With my old wife sitting by, And our bairns and our oys all around us.

TAK YOUR AULD CLOAK ABOUT YE.

A PART of this old song, according to the English set of it, is quoted in Shakspeare. --BURNS.

In winter when the rain rain'd cauld, And frost and snaw on ilka hill. And Boreas, with his blasts sae bauld. Was threat ning a' our ky to kill : Then Bell my wife, wha loves na strife, She said to me right hastily, Get up, goodman, save Cromy's life, And tak your auld cloak about ye.

My Cromie is an useful cow, And she is come of a good kyne: Aft has she wet the bairns' mon, And I am lait's that she shou'd tyne. Get up, goodman, it is fou time, The sun shines in the lift sae hie; Sloth never made a gracious end, Go tak your auld cloak about ye.

My cloak was anes a good grey cloak When it was fitting for my wear; But now it's scantly worth a groat, For I have worn't this thirty year; Let's spend the gear that we have won. We little ken the day we'll die : Then I'll be proud, since I have sworn To have a new cloak about me.

In the drinking scene in Othello: Iago sings, --

King Stephen was a worthy peer, His breeches cost him but a cnown; He held them six penee all too dear, With this he called the tailor lown. He was a wight of high remown, And thou art but of low degree; This pride that publis the country down, Then take thine auld clock about thee. King Stephen was a worthy peer,

The old song from which these stant is were taken was recovered by Dr. Percy, and preserved by him a his Reliques of Ancient Poetry.

In days when our king Robert rang,
His trews they cust but haff a cruwn;
He said they were a groat o'er dear,
And call'd the taylor thief and loun,
In was the king that wore a cruwn,
And thou the man of laigh degree,
Tis pride puts a' the country down,
Sae tak thy auld clouk about thee.

Every land has its ain laugh, Ilk kind of corn it has its hool, I think the warld is a'r ron wrang, When ilka wife her man wad rule; Do ye not see Rob, Jock, and Hab, As they are girled gallantly, While I sit hurklen in the ase; I'll have a new closk about me,

Goodman, I wate 'tis thirty years,
Since we did ane anither ken;
And we have had between us twa,
Of lads and bonny lasses ten:
Now they are women grown and men,
I wish and pray well may they be;
And if you prove a good husband,
E'en tak your anid cloak about ye.

Bell my wife, she loves na strife;
But she wad guide me, if she can,
And to maintain an easy life,
I aft mann yield, tho I'm goodman.
Nonght's to be won at woman's hand,
Unless ye give her a' the plea;
Then I'll leave aff where I began,
And tak my auld cloak about me.

JOHNY FAA, OR THE GYPSIE

The people in Ayrshire begin this song—
The gypsies cam to my Lord Cassilis' yett.

They have a great many more stanzas in this song than I ever yet saw in any printed copy. The eastle is still remaining at Maybole, where his lordship shut up his wayward spouse, and kept her for life.—BURKS.

THE gypsies came to our good lord's gate, And wow but they sang sweetly; They sang sae sweet, and sae very complete, That down came the fair ladie.

And she came tripping down the stair, And a' her mads before her; As soon as they saw her weelfar'd face, They coost the glamer o'er her.

" Gar tak fra me this gay mantile, And bring to me a plaidie; For if kith and kin and a' had sworn, Vil follow the gyzsie laddie. "Yestreen I lay in a well-made bed, And my good lord beside me; This night I'll ly in a tenant's barn, Whatever shall betide me."

Come to your bed, says Johny Fan, Oh! come to your bed, my deary; For I yow and swear by the hilt of my swo?) That your loid shall nae mair come near ye

" I'll go to bed to my Johny Fax, And I'll go to bed to my deary; For I vow and swear by what past yestreen, That my lord shall nae mair come near me

" I'll mak a hap to my Johny Faa, And I'll mak a hap to my deary; And he's get a' the coat gaes round, And my lord shall nae mair come near me.

And when our lord came home at e'en, And speir'd for his fair lady, The tane she cry'd, and the other reply'd, She's away wi' the gypsic laddie.

"Gae saddle to me the black, black steed, Gae saddle and mak him ready; Before that I either cat or sleep, I'll gae seek my fair lady."

And we were fifteen well-made men,
Altho' we were nae bonny;
And we were a' put down for ane,
A fair young wanton lady.

TO DAUNTON ME.

THE two following old stanzas to this tune have some merit: -BURNS.

To daunton me, to daunton me, O ken ye what it is that'll drunton me?— There's eighty eight and eighty nine, And a' that I hae born sinsyne, There's cess and press and Presbytrie, I think it will do meikle for to daunton me.

But to wanton me, to wanton me, O ken ye what it is that wad wanton me?— To see guide corn upon the rigs, And banishment amang the Whigs, And right restored where right some so, I think it would do mekke for to wanton ma.

TO DAUNTON ME.

THERE is an old set of the song: not political, but very independent. It runs thus:--

The blude red rose at Yule may blaw.
The simmer lilies blume in snaw.





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The frost may freeze the deepest sea,
But an anid min shall never dainton me,
To dainton me, and me sae young,
Wi' his fause heart and flatterin' tongue,
That is the thing ye ne'er shall see,
Fo, an auld man shall never daunton me.

For a' his meal, for a' his maut, For a' his fresh beef, and his saut, For a' his gowd and white monie, An auld man shall never daunton me. To daunton me, &c.

His gear may buy him kye and yowes, His gear may buy him glens and knowes, But me he shall not buy nor lee, For an auld man shall never daunton me, To daunton me, &c.

He hirples twa fau'd as he dow, Wi' his teethless gab, and his bald pow, And the rheum rins down frae his red blue e'e, But an auld man shall never daunton me.

THE BONNIE LASS MADE THE BED TO ME.

"The Bonnie Liss made the Bed to me," was composed on an amour of Charles II, when skulking in the North, about Aberdeen, in the time of the usurption. He formed une petite affaire with a daughter of the House of Portletham, who was the lass that made the bed to him:—two verses of it are,

I kiss'n her lips sac rosy red,
While the tear stood blinkin in her e'e;
I said my lassic dinna cry,
For ye ay shall mak the bed to me.

She took her mither's winding sheet, And o't she made a sark to me; Blythe and merry may she be, The lass that made the bed to me.

Burns.

I HAD A HORSE AND I HAD NAE MAIR.

This story was founded on fact. A John Hunter, ancestor to a very respectable farming family who live in a place in the parish, I think, of Galston, called Barr-mill, was the luckless hero that had a horse and had not mair.—For some little youthful follies he found it necessary to make a retreat to the West-Highlands, where he feed himself to a Highland Laird, for that is the expression of all the oral editions of the song I ever heard.—The present Mr. Hunter, who told me the aocedote, is the great-grand-thild to our hero.—Burns.

I HAD a horse, and I had no mair,
I gat him frae my dubly;
My purse was light, and my heart was sair.
But my wit it was fu' ready.
But as I thought me on a time,
Outwittens of my dubly,
To fee mysel to a Invland laird,
Waa had a bonnie lady.

I wrote a letter, and thus began,
"Malam, he not offended,
I'm o'er the lugs in love wi' you,
And care not tho' ye kend it:
For I get little frae he hird,
And far less frae my diddy,
And I would blythely be the man
Would strive to please my lady."

She read my letter, and she leugh,
"Ye needna been sae blate, man;
You might hae come to me yoursel,
And tauld me o' your state, man:
Ye might hae come to me yoursel,
Outwrittens o' only body,
And made John Ginekston of the laird,
And kis'd his bonnie had;"

Then she pat siller in my purse,
We drank wine in a coggie;
She feed a man to rub my horse,
And wow! but I was vogie.
But I gat ne'er as sair a fleg,
Since I came frae my daddy,
The laird came, rap rap, to the yett,
When I was wi' his lady.

Then she pat me below a chair,
And happ'd me wi' a plaidie;
But I was like to swarf wi' forr,
And wish'd me wi' my daddy.
The laird went out, he saw na me,
I went when I was ready:
I promis'd, but I ne'er gade back
To kiss his bonnie lady.

AULD ROBIN GRAY.

This air was formerly called The Bridsgroom greets when the sun gamps down. The words are by Lady Ann Lindsay.—BURNS.

When the sheep are in the fauld, and the ky at hame,

And a' the warld to sleep are gane; The waes of my heart fa' in show'rs frae my ee, When my gudeman lyes sound by me.

Young Jamie loo'd me wee., and he sought me for his bride,

But saving a crown he had naething heside; To make that crown a pound, my same gade to sea,

And the crown and the pound were baith for ine He had nae been awa a week but only twa, When my mother she fell sick, and the cow was stown awa;

My father brak his arm, and my Jamie at the sea, And auld Robin Gray came a courting me.

My father coudna work, and my mother coudna spin,

I toil'd day and night, but their bread I coudna win; Auld Rob maintain'd them baith, and wi' tears

in his ee,

Said, " Jenny, for their sakes, O marry me."

My heart it said nay, I look'd for Jamie back, But the wind it blew high, and the ship it was a wrack;

The slip it was a wrack, why didna Jenny die, And why do I live to say, waes me?

My father argued sair, tho' my mither didna speak,

She look'd in my face till my heart was like to break;

So they gi'ed him my hand, tho' my heart was in the sea, And auld Robin Gray is gudeman to me.

I hadna been a wife a week but only four, When sitting sae mournfully at the door,

I saw my Jame's wraith, for I coudna think it he,
'Till he said, "I'm come back for to marry
thee."

O sair did we greet, and mickle did we say,
We took but ac kiss, and we tore ourselves
away,

I wish I were dead! but I'm no like to die, And why do I live to say, waes me!

I gang like a ghaist, and I carena to spin, I darna think on Jamie, for that wad be a sin; But I'll do my best a gudewife to be, For auld Robin Gray is kind unto me.

UP AND WARY A' WILLIE.

The expression, "Up and warn a' Willie," alludes to the Crantara on warning of a High-and Clan to arms. Not understanding this, the Lowlanders in the west and south say, "Up and warr them a', &c. This edition of the song I got from Tom Niel," of facetious fame, in Edinburgh.

Up and warn a', Willie,
Warn, warn a',
To hear my casty Highland sang,
Relate the thing I saw, Willie.—BURNS.

When we gaed to the brzes o' Mar,
And to the wapon-shaw, Willie,
Wi' true design to serve the king,
And banish whigs awa, Willie,
Up and warn a', Willie,
Warn, warn a';
For lords and lairds came there bedeen,

And wou but they were braw, Wilhe
But when the standard was set up,
Right fierce the wind did blaw, Willie;

The royal nit upon the tap

Down to the ground did fa', Willia,

Up and warn a', Willie,

Warn, warn a';

Then second-sighted Sandy said, We'd do nae gude at a', Willie,

But when the army join'd at Perth,
The bravest e'er ye saw, Willie,
We didna doubt the rogues to rout,
Restore our king and a', Willie,
Up and warn a', Willie,
Warn, warn a';
The pipers play d frae right to left.

But when we march'd to Sherra-muir, And there the rebels saw, Willie, Brave Argyle attack'd our right, Our flank and front and a', Willie.

O whirry whigs awa, Willie.

Our flank and front and a', Willie.

Up and warn a', Willie,

Warn, warn a';

Traitor Huntly soon gave way,

Seaforth, St. Clair and a', Willie.

But brave Glengary on our right,
The rebels' left did claw, Willie;
He there the greatest slaughter made

That ever Donald saw, Willie, Up and warn a' Willie, Warn, warn a';

And Whittam s-t his breeks for fear, And fast did rin awa, Willie.

For he ca'd us a Highland mob.
And soon he'd slay us a' Willie,
But we chas'd him back to Stirling orig,
Dragoons and foot and a', Willie,
Up and warn a', Wille,
Warn, warn a';
At length we rallied on a hill,
And briskly up did draw, Willie.

But when Argyle did view our line, And them in order saw, Willie, He streight gaed to Dumblane again, And back his left did draw, Willie Up and warn a', Willie,

Warn, warn a'; Then we to Anchteraider march'd, To wait a better fa', Willie.

Now if ye spear wha wan the day.
I've tell'd you what I saw. Willia.

[•] Tom Niel was a carpenter in Edinburgh, and lived thirdly by making coffus. He was a so Precentor, or Clerk, in one of the churches. He had a good strong voice, and was greatly distinguished by his powers of naturery, and his humorous manner of singing the oid Gottab balled.

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We baith did fight and baith did beat,
And baith did rin awa, Willie,
Up and warn a', Willie,
Warn, warn a';
For second-sighted Sandie said,
We'd do nae gude at a', Willie,

THE BLYTHSOME BRIDAL.

I find the *Blythsome Bridal* in James Watson's Collection of Sects Poems, printed at Edinburgh in 1706.

This song has humon, and a felicity of expression worthy of Rumsay, with even more than his wonted broadness and sprightly hanguage. The Witty Catalogue of Names, with their Historical Epithets, are done in the true Lowland Scottish taste of an age ago, when every householder was nicknamed either from rome prominent part of his character, person, r lands and housen, which he rented. Thus—

"Skape-fitted Roh." "Thrawn-mon'd Rado" the Dubs." "Roarin Jock i' the Swair."

"Slaverin' Simmie o' Todshaw." "Souple Kate o' Irongray," & & &c.—Burns.

For there will be lilting there;
For Jockie's to be married to Maggie,
The lass wi' the gauden hair.
And there will be lang-kail and pottage,
And bannocks of barley-meal,
And there will be good sawt herring,
To relish a cog of good ale.
I'y let us all to the brival,
For there will be lilting there,
For Jockie's to be marry'd to Maggie,

The lass with the yauden hair.

Fy let us all to the bridal,

And there will be Sandie the sutor,
And 'Will' with the meikle mow;
And there will be Tam the 'bluter,'
With Andrew the tinkler, I trow,
And there will be bow-legged Robbie,
With thumbless Katie's goodman;
And there will be blue-cheeked Dowbie,
And Lawrie the laird of the land.
Fy let us all, &c.

And there will be sow-libber Patic,
And plouckie-fac'd Wat i' the mill,
Capper-nos'd Francie, and Gibbie,
That wons in the how of the hill;
And there will be Alaster Sibbie,
Wha in with black Bessy did mool,
With sneevling Lillie, and Tibbie,
The lass that stands aft on the stool,
Fy let us all, &c.

And Madge that was buckled to Steenie, And coft him [grey] breeks to his arse, Wha after was hangit for stealing, Great mercy it happened na warse: And there will be gleed Geordie Janners, And Kirsh wi' the bly-white leg, Wha ' gade' to the south for manners, And bang'd up her wame in Mons Meg Fy let us all, &c.

And there will be Judan Maclawrie,
And blinkin daft Barbra 'Maeleg,'
Wi' flae-lugged, sharny-fac'd Lawrie,
And shangy-mon'd halucket Meg.
And there will be happer-ars'd Nansy,
And fairy-fac'd Flowrie be name,
Muck Madie, and fat-hipped Lizie,
The lass with the gauden wanne
Fy let us all, &c.

And there will be girn-again Gibbie, With his glakit wife Jennie Bell, And Misle-shim'd Mnago Macapie, The lad that was skipper himsel. There lads and lasses in pearlings Will feast in the heart of the ha', Ou sybows, and ryfarts, and carlings, That are baith sodden and raw.

Fy let us all, §c.

And there will be fadges and brachen,
With fouth of good gappoks of skate,
Pow-solie, and drammonck, and crowle,
And callour nout-feet in a plate;
And there will be partans and buckies,
Speldens and whytens enew,
And singed sheep-heads, and a haggize,
And scadlips to sup till ye spew.
Fy let us all, &c.

And there will be happer'd-milk kebbucks, And sowens, and failes, and baps, With swats, and well-scraped paunches, And brandy in stoups and in caps: And there will be meal-kail and castocks, With skink to sup till ye rive; And rests to rost on a brander, Of flouks that were taken alive. Fy let us all, &c.

Scrapt haddocks, wilks, dilse, and tangles, And a mill of good snishing to pric; When weary with eating and drinking, We'll rise up and dance till we die. Then fy let us all to the Inital, For there will be lilting there; For Jackie's to be marry'd to Maggy, The lass with the guaden hair.

O CAN YE LABOUR LEA, YOUNG MAN.

This song has long been known among the inhabitants of Nith-dale and Galloway, where it is a great favourite. The first verse should be restored to its original state.

I FEED a lad at Roodsmass. Wi' siller pennies three; When he came home at Martinmass, He could nae labour lea. O canna ye labour lea, young lad, O canna ye labour lea ? Indeed, quo' he, my hand's out-An' up his graith packed he.

This old way is the truest, for the terms, the first of the half year .- BURNS.

> I FEED a man at Martinmass, Wi' arle-pennies three; But a' the faute I had to him. He could nae labour lea. O can ye labour lea, young man, O cun ye labour lea? Gue back the gate ye came again, Ye'se never scorn me.

O clappin's gude in Febarwar, An' kissins sweet in May; But what signifies a young man's ove An't dinna last for ay. O can ye, &c.

O kissin is the key of luve, An clappin is the lock, An' makin-of's the best thing That e'er a young thing got. O can ye, &c.

IN THE GARB OF OLD GAUL.

This tune was the composition of General Reid, and called by him The Highland, or 42d Regiment's March. The words are by Sir Harry Ersking .- burns.

In the garb of old Gaul, wi' the fire of old Rome,

From the heath-cover'd mountains of Scotia we come,

Where the Romans endeavour'd our country to gain,

But our ancestors fought, and they fought not in vain.

> Such our love of liberty, our country, and our laws.

That like our ancestors of old, we stand by Freedom's cause; We'll bravely fight like Leroes bold, for

honour and applause, And defy the French, with all their art, to alter our laws.

No effeminate customs our sinews unbrace, No luxurious tables enervate our race, Our loud-sounding pipe bears the true martial strain,

So do we the old Scottish valour retain.

Such our love, &c.

We're tall as the oak on the mount of the vale, As swift as the roe which the hound doth assail, As the full-moon in autumn our shields do ap

Minerva would dread to encounter our spear. Such our love, &c.

As a storm in the ocean when Boreas blows, So are we enrag'd when we rush on our foes; We sons of the mountains, tremendous as rocks Roodwass is the hiring fair, and Hullowmass Dash the force of our foes with our thundering strokes.

Such our love, &c.

Quebec and Cape Breton, the pride of old France,

In their troops fondly boasted till we did advance;

But when our claymores they saw us produce, Their courage did fail, and they sued for a truce. Such our love, &c.

In our realm may the fury of faction long cease, May our councils be wise, and our commerce increase;

And in Seotia's cold climate may each of us find, That our friends still prove true, and our beauties prove kind.

Then we'll defend our liberty, our country and our laws,

And teach our late posterity to fight in Freedom's cause, That they like our uncestors bold, &c.

WOO'D AND MARRIED AND A'

Woo'd and married and a'. Woo'd and married and a', Was she not very weel aff, Was woo'd and married and a'!

THE bride came out o' the byre, And O as she dighted her cheeks, " Sirs, I'm to be married the night, And has nouther blanket nor sheets; Has nouther blankets nor sheets, Nor scarce a coverlet too; The bride that has a' to borrow, Has e'en right meikle ado." Woo'd and married, &c.

Out spake the bride's father, As he came in frae the pleugh, " O had yere tongue, my daughter, And yese get gear enough; The stirk that stands i' the tether, And our bra' basin'd yade, Will carry ye hame yere corn; What wad ye be at ye jade?" Woo'd and married, &c.

Outspake the bride's mither, " What deil needs a' this pride? I had nae a plack in my ponca That night I was a bride; My gown was linsy-woolsy, And ne'er a surk ava, And ye hae ribbons and buskins Mar tana ane or twa."
Woo'd and married, &c.

"What's the matter?" quo' Willic,
"Tho' we he scant o' claiths,
We'll creep the nearer thegither,
And we'll smoor a' the fleas;
Sanner is coming on,
And we'll get teats o' woo;
And we'll get a lass o' our ain,
And she'll spin claiths anew."

Outspake the bride's brither,
As he came in wi' the kye,
"Pair Willie had ne'er hae ta'en ye,
Had he kent ye as weel as I;
For you're haith proud and saney,
And no for a puir man's wife,
Gin I canna get a better,
Ise never take ane i' my life."

Woo'd and married, &c.

Woo'd and married, &c.

Outspake the bride's sister,
As she came in frae the byre,
"O gin I were but married,
It's a' that I desire;
But we puir folk mann live single,
And do the best we can;
I dinna care what I should want,
If I could but get a man."
Woo'd and married and a',
Woo'd and married and a',
Was she not very used aff,
Was voo'd and married and a'.

THE FLOWERS OF THE FOREST.

A successful imitation of an old song is really attended with less difficulty than to convince a blockhead that one of these jew desprits is a forgery. This fine ballad is even a more palpable imitation than Hardiknute. The manners indeed are old, but the language is of yesterday. Its author must very soon be discovered.—Burks.

BY JANE ELLIOT.

I've heard a lilting At the ewes miking, Lasses a' lilting before the break o' day, But now I hear monning On ilka green loaning, Since our brave forresters are a' wed away.

At buchts in the morning Nae blythe lads are scorning;

The lasses are lonely, dowie and wae : Nae daffin, nae gabbing, But sighing and sabbing, Ilk ane lifts her leglin, and hies her away.

At e'en in the gloming Nae swankies are roaming, 'Mang stacks with the lasses at bogle to play; For ilk ane sits drearie, Lamenting her dearie, The flow'rs o' the forest wh' are a' wed away.

In har'st at the shearing Nae bythe lads are jeering, The Bansters are lyart, and runkled, and grey; At fairs nor at preaching, Nae woonig, nae fleeching, Since our bra foresters are a' wed away.

O dule for the order! Sent our lids to the border! The English for anes, by guile wan the day: The flow'rs of the forest Wha aye shone the foremost, The prime of the land lie cauld in the clay

THE FLOWERS OF THE FOREST.

BY MRS. COCKBURN.

I've seen the smiling of fortune beguiling, I've tasted her favours, and felt her decay; Sweet is her blessing, and kind her caressing, But soon it is fled—it is fled far away.

I've seen the forest adorned of the foremost, With flowers of the fairest, both pleasant and gay:

Full sweet was their blooming, their scent the air perfuming,

But now they are wither'd, and a' wede awae

I've seen the morning, with gold the hills adorning,

And the red storm roaring, before the parting

day;
I've seen Tweed's silver streams, glittering in
the sunny beams,

Turn drumly and dark, as they rolled on their way.

O fielde fortune! why this cruel sporting?

Why thus perplex us poor sons of a day?

Thy frowns cannot fear me, thy smiles cannot

cheer me,
Since the flowers of the forest are a' wede

TIRBIE DUNBAR.

Turz-" Johnny M'Gill."

This tune is said to be the composition of John M'Gill, fidller, in Girvan. He called it after his own name.—BURNS.

O, wilt thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie Dunbar;
O, wilt thou go wi' me, sweet Tibbie Dunbar;

bar;
Wilt thou ride on a horse, or be drawn in a car,
Or walk by my side, O sweet Tibbic Dunbar?

I carena thy daddie, his lands and his money, I carena thy kin, sae high and sae lordly: But say thou wilt hae me for better for waur, And come in thy coatie, sweet Tibbie Dun-

THIS IS NO MINE AIN HOUSE.

THE first half stanza is old, the rest is Ramsay's. The old words are :--Burns.

O THIS is no mine ain house, My ain house, my ain house; This is no mine ain house, I ken by the biggin o't.

There's bread and cheese are my door-cheeks, Are my door-cheeks, are my door-cheeks; There's bread and cheese are my door-cheeks; And pan-cakes the riggin o't.

This is no my ain wean,
My ain weam, my ain wean;
This is no my ain wean,
I ken by the greetic o't.

I'll tak the curchie aff my head, Aff my head, aff my head; I'll tak the curchie aff my head, And row't about the feetie o't.

The tune is an old Highland air, called Shuan truish willi, han.

THE GABERLUNZIE-MAN.

THE Gaberlunzie-Man is supposed to commenorate an intrigue of James the Fifth. Mr. Callander of Craigforth, published some years ago, an edition of Christ's Kirk on the Green, and the Gaberlunzie-Man, with notes critical unl historical. James the Fifth is said to have been fond of Gosford, in Aberlady Parish, and that it was suspected by his cotemporaries, that in his frequent excursions to that part of the country he had other purposes in view besides golfing and archery. Three favourite ladies!

Sandilands, Weir, and Oliphant, (one of them resided at Gosford, and the others in the neighbourhood), were occasionally visited by their royal and gallant admirer, which gave rise to the following satirical advice to his Majesty, from Sir David Lindsay, of the Mount, Lord Lyon.

Sow not your seed on Sandylands, Spend not your strength in Weir, And ride not on an Elephant, For spoiling o' your gear.—Burns.

Thu pawky auld carle came o'er the lee, Wi' many good e'ens and days to me, Saying, Goodwife, for your courtesie,

Will ye lodge a silly poor man!
The night was canld, the carle was wat,
And down ayont the ingle he sat;
My daughter's shoulders he 'gan to clap,
And cadgily ranted and sang.

O wow! quo' he, were I as free,
As first when I saw this country,
How blyth and merry wad I be!
And I wad never think lang.
He grew canty, and she grew fain;
But little did her andd minny ken
What thir slee twa togither were say'n,
When wooing they were sae thrang.

And O! quo' he, ann ye were as black As e'er the crown of my dady's hat, 'Tis I wad lay thee by my back,

And awa' wi' me thou shou'd gang.
And O! quo' she, ann I were as white,
As e'er the snaw lay on the dike,
I'd clead me braw, and lady like,
And awa' with thee I'd gang.

Between the twa was made a plot; They raise awee before the cock, And willy they shot the lock, And fast to the bent are they gane. Up the morn the auld wife raise, And at her leisure put on her claise; Syne to the servant's bed she gass, To spec for the silly poor man.

She gaed to the bed where the beggar lay, The strae was cauld, he was away, She clapt her hand, cry'd Waladay,

For some of our gear will be gane. Some ran to coffers, and some to kists, But nought was stown that cou'd be mist, She danc'd her lane, cry'd, Praise be blest, I have lodg'd a leal poor man.

Since nathing's awa', as we can learn, The kirn's to kirn, and milk to earn, Gae butt the house, lass, and waken my bairn. And bid her come quickly ben. The servent gade where the daughter lay, The sheets was could, she was away, And fast to her goodwife gan say, She's aff with the Gaberlunzie-nan.

O fy gar ride, and fy gar ria, And haste ye find these truytors again; For she's be burnt, and he's be slam,

The wearifu' Gaberlinzie-man. Some rade upo' borse, some ran a fit, The wife was wood, and out o' her wit: She cou'd ni gang, nor yet cou'd she sit, But ay she curs'd and she ban'd.

Mean time far hind out o'er the les, Fu' snug in a glen, where nane cou'd see, The twa, with kindly sport and glee, Cut frae a new cheese a whang: The priving was good, it pleas'd them baith, To lo'e her for ay, he gae her his aith; Quo' she, to leave the I will be laith,

O kend my minny I were wi' you, lllsarlly wad she crook her mon, Sie a poor man she'd never trow, After the Gaberlunzie-man. My dear, quo' he, ye're yet o'er young, And ha' nae lear'd the beggar's tongue, To follow me frae town to town, And carry the Gaberlunzie on.

My winsome Gaberlunzie-man.

Wi' cauk and keel I'll win your bread, And spindles and whorles for them wha need, Whilk is a gentle trade indeed,

To carry the Gaberlunzie—O.
I'll bow my leg, and crook my knee,
And draw a black clout o'er my eye,
A cripple or blind they will ca' me,
While we shall be merry and sing.

JONNIE COUP.

Fhis satirieal song was composed to commemorate General Cope's defeat at Preston-Pans, in 1745, when he marched against the clans. The air was the tune of an old song, of which I have heard some verses, but now only remember the title, which was.

Will ye go to the coals in the morning.

Cour sent a letter frae Dunhar,
Charle, meet me an ye dare,
And I'll learn you the art of war,
if you'll meet wi' me in the morning.
Hey Jonnie Conp, are ye waking yet?
Or are your downs a-beating yet?
If ye were waking I wou'd wait
To gung to the coals i' the morning.

When Charlie look'd the letter upon, He drew his sword the scalburd from, Come follow me, my merry merry men, And we'll meet wi' Comp i' the morning. Hey Jonnie Coup, &c.

Now, Jonnie, be as good as your word, Come let us try both fire and sword, And dinna rin awa' like a frighted bird, That's chas'd frae it's nest in the morning Hey Jonnie Coup, &c.

When Jonnie Coup he heard of this, He thought it wadna be amiss To hae a horse in readiness, To flie awa' i' the morning. Hey Jonnie Coup, &c

Fy now Jonnie get up and rin,
The Highland bagpipes makes a din,
It's best to sleep in a hale skin,
For 'twill be a bluddie morning.

Hey Jonnie Coup, &c.

When Jonnie Coup to Berwick came, They spear'd at him, where's a' your men. The deil confound me gin I ken, For I left them a' i' the morning. Hey Jonnie Coup, &c.

Now, Jonnie, trouth ye was na blate, To come wi' the news o' your ain defeat, And leave your men in sie a strait, So early in the morning. Hey Jonnie Coup, &c.

Ah! faith, co' Jonnie, I got a fleg, With their claymores and philabegs, If I face them again, deil break my legs, So I wish you a good morning. Hey Jonnie Cup, &c.

A WAUKRIFE MINNIE.

I PICKED up this old song and tune from a country girl in Nithsdale.—I never met with it elsewhere in Scotland.—Bunns.

WHARE are you gaun, my bonnie lass,
Where are you gaun, my hinnie,
She answer'd me right saueille,
An errand for my minnie.

O whare live ye, my bonnic has, O whare live ye, my hinnie, By yen burn-side, gin ye maun ken, In a wee house wi' my minzie.

But I foor up the glen at eez,

To see my bonnie lassie;

And lang before the gray morn cam,

She was na bauf sae saucis.

O weary fa' the waukrife cock, And the fournant lay his crawin! He wauken'd the auld wife frae her sleep, A wee blink or the dawin.

An angry wife I wat she raise, And o'er the bed she brought her ; And wi' a mickle hazle rung She made her a weel pay'd dochter

O fare thee weel, my bonnie lass! O fare thee weel, my hinnie! Thou art a gay and a bonnie lass, But thou hast a waukrife minnie.

TULLOCHGORUM.

THIS, first of songs, is the master-piece of my old triend Skinner. He was passing the day at the town of El'on, I think it was, in a friend's house whose name was Montgomery .- Mrs. Montgomery observing, en passant, that the beautiful reel of Tullochyorum wanted words, she begged them of Mr. Skinner, who gratified her wishes, and the wishes of every lover of Scottish song, in this most excellent ballad.

These particulars I had from the author's son, Bishop Skinner, at Aberdeen .- Burns,

Come gie's a sang, Montgomery ery'd, And lay your disputes all aside, What signifies't for folks to chide

For what was done before them : Let Whig and Tory all agree, Whig and Tory, Whig and Tory, Whig and Tory all agree,

To drop their Whig mig-morum, Let Whig and Tory all agree To spend the night wi' mirth and glee, And cheerful sing alang wi' me,

The Reel c' Tuilochgorum. O, Tullochgorum's my delight, It gars us a' in ane unite,

And ony sumph that keeps up spite, In conscience I abhor him: For blythe and cheerie we'll be a', Blythe and cheerie, blythe and cheerie, Blythe and cheerie we'll he a', And make a happy quorum,

For blythe and cheerie we'll be a', As lang as we hae breath to draw, And dance till we be like to fa' The Reel o' Tullochgorum.

What needs there be sae great a fraise, Wi' dringing dall Italian lays, I wadna gie our ain Strathspeys For half a hunder score o' them-They're dowf and dowie at the best, Dowf and dowie, dowf and dowie, Dowf and dowie at the best, Wi' a' their variorum ; They're dowf and dowie at the best, Their allegros and a' the rest, They canna please a Scottish taste, Compar'd wi' Tullochgorum.

Let warldly worms their minds oppress Wi' fears o' want and double cess, And sullen sots themsells distress Wi' keeping up decorum: Shall we sae sour and sulky sit, Sour and sulky, sour and sulky, Sour and sulky shall we sit Like old philosophorom! Shall we sae sour and sulky sit, Wi' neither sense, nor mirth, nor wit, Nor ever try to shake a fit

To the Reel o' Tullochgorum >

May choicest blessings ay attend Each honest, open-hearted friend, And calm and quiet be his end, And a' that's good watch o'er him;

May peace and plenty be his lot, Peace and plenty, peace and plenty, Peace and plenty be his lot, And dainties a great store o' them; May peace and plenty be his lot, Unstain'd by any vicious spot, And may be never want a groat,

That's fond o' Tullochgorum! But for the sullen frumpish fool, That loves to be oppression's tool, May envy gnaw his rotten soul,

And discontent devour him; May dool and sorrow be his chance, Dool and sorrow, dool and sorrow, Dool and sorrow he his chance, And nane say, wae's me for him! May dool and sorrow be his chance, Wi' a' the ills that come frae France, Wha e'er he be that winna dance The Reel o' Tullochgorum.

JOHN O' BADENYON.

This excellent song is also the composition of my worthy friend, old Skinner, at Linshart, BURNS.

WHEN first I cam to be a man Of twenty years or so, I thought myself a handsome youth, And fain the world would know ;

The peasantry have a verse superior to some of those recovered by Burns, which is worthy of notice.

[&]quot; O though thy hair was gowden weft, An' thy lips o' drapping timnie,
Thou hast gotten the clog that winna cling
For a' you're waukrife minnie."

In best attire I stept abroad,
With spirits brisk and gay,
And here and there and every where
Was like a morn in May;
No care I had nor fear of want,
But rambled up and down,
And for a hean I might have past
In country or in town;
I still was pleas'd where'er I went,
And when I was alone,
I tund my pipe and pleas'd myself

Now in the days of youthful prime A mistress I must find, For boxe, I heard, gave one an air, And ev'n improved the mind: On Phillis fair above the rest

Wi' John o' Badenyon.

Kind fortune fixt my eyes, Her piercing beauty struck my heart, And she became my choice; To Cupid now with bearty prayer 1 offer d many a vow;

And dane'd and sung, and sigh'd, and swore, As other lovers do; But, when at last I breath'd my flame,

I found her cold as stone;
I left the girl, and tun'd my pipe
To John o' Badenyon,

When love had thus my heart beguil'd With foolish hopes and vain; To friendship's port I steer'd my course, And laugh'd at lovers pain; A friend I got by lucky chance, 'Twas something like divine, An honest friend's a precious gift, And such a gift was mine; And now whatever might betide, A happy man was I, Ia any strait I knew to whom I freely might apply; A strait soon came: my friend I try'd; He heard, and spurn'd my moan; I by'd me home, and tun'd my pipe

To John o' Badenyon.

Methought I should be wiser next,
And would a patriot turn,
Began to doat on Johnny Wilkes,
And cry up Parson Horne.*
Their manly spirit I admir'd,
And prais'd their noble zeal,
Who had with flaming tongue and pen
Maintain'd the public weal;
But e'er a moath or two had past,
I found myself betray'd,
"Twas self and party after all,
For a' the stir they made;
At last I saw the factions knaves
Insult the very throme,
I curs'd them a', and tan'd my pipe
To John o' Badenyon.

This song was composed when Wilkes, Horne,
 bc. were making a noise about liberty.

What next to do I mus'd a while, Still hoping to succeed, I pitch'd on books for company, And gravely try'd to read : I bought and borrow'd every where, And study'd night and day, Nor miss'd what dean or doctor wrote That happen'd in my way : Philosophy I now esteem'd The ornament of youth, And carefully through many a page I hunted after truth. A thousand various schemes I try'd. And yet was pleas'd with none, I threw them by, and tun'd my pipe To John o' Badenyon.

And now ye youngsters every where,
That wish to make a show,
Take heed in time, nor foully hope
For happiness below;
What you may fancy pleasure here,
Is but an empty name,
And girls, and friends, and books, and so,
You'll find them all the same;
Then be advised and warning take
From such a man as me;
I'm neither Pope nor Cardinal,
Nor one of high degree;

You'll meet displeasure every where. Then do as I have done, E'en tune your pipe and please yourselves With John o' Badeuyon.

THE LAIRD OF COCKPEN.

HERE is a verse of this lively old song tha used to be sung after these printed ones.—
BURNS.

O, wha has lien wi' our Lord yestreen?
O, wha has lien wi' our Lord yestreen?
In his soft down bed, O, twa fowk were the sted,
An' whare lay the chamber maid, lassie, yestreen?

COCKPEN.

O, with she came ben she bobbed fu' law, O, when she came ben she bobbed fu' law, And when she came ben she kiss'd Cockpen, And syne deny'd she did it at a'.

And was na Cockpen right saucie with a', And was na Cockpen right saucie with a', In leaving the daughter of a Lord, And kissin a collier lassie, an' a'?

O never look down my lassie, at a, O never look down my lassie, at a', Thy lips are as sweet, and thy figure complete, As the finest dame in castle or ha'.

Tho' thou has nae silk and holland sae sma', Tho' thou has nae silk and holland sae sma', Thy coat and thy sark are thy ain handy-wark, And Lady Jean was never sae braw!

THE following set of this song is now very common. It is ascribed to the authoress of the novel of "Marriage."

THE LAIRD OF COCKPEN.

Tune-" The Laird of Coekpen."

THE Laird o' Cockpen, he is proud an' he's great;

His mind is ta'en up wi' the things of the state: He wanted a wife his braw house to keep; But favour wi' wooin' was fashious to seek.

Down by the dyke-side a lady did dwell; At his table head he thought she'd look well; M'Leish's ae daughter o' Claverse-ha' Lee, A pennyless lass wi' a lang pedigree.

His wig was weel pouther'd, as guid as when new,

His waistcoat was white, his coat it was blue; He put on a ring,—a sword,—and cock'd hat,—And wha' could refuse the Laird wi' a' that?

He took the grey mare and rade cannalie; And rapp'd at the yett o' Claverse-ha' Lee: Gae tell Mistress Jean to come speedily ben: She's wanted to speak wi' the Laird o' Coekpen.

Mistress Jean she was makin' the elder-flower wine:

"And what brings the Laird at sic a like time?" She put aff her apron, and on her silk gown, Her mutch wi' red ribbons, and gaed awa' down.

And when she cam' ben, he bood fu' low; And what was his errand he soon let her know; Amazed was the Laird, when the lady said Na', And wi' a laigh curtsie she turned awa'.

Dumbfounder'd he was, but nae sigh did he gie; He mounted his mare, and rade cannilie: And atten he thought, as he gaed thro' the glen, She's daft to refuse the Laird o' Cockpen.

And now that the Laird his exit had made, Mistress Jean she reflected on what she had said: Oh for ane I'll get better, it's want I'll get ten, I was daft to refuse the Laird o' Cockpen.

Neist time that the Laird and the lady were seen. They were gaun arm in arm to the kirk ou the green;

Now she sits in the Ha' like a weel-tappit hen; But as yet there's nae chickens appeared at Cockpen.

CA' THE EWES TO THE KNOWES.

This beautiful song is in the true old Scotch taste, yet I do not know that either air or words were in print before.—Bunns.

Ca' the ewes to the knowes, Ca' them whare the heather grows Ca' them whare the burnie rowes, My bonnie dearie.

As I gaed down the water-side, There I met my shepherd lad, He row'd me sweetly in his plaid, An' he ca'd me his dearie. Ca' the cures, &c.

Will ye gang down the water-side, And see the waves sae sweetly glide, Beneath the hazels spreading wide, The moon it shines in' clearly. Ca' the ewes, &c.

I was bred up at nae sie school,
My shepherd led, to play the foo,
And a' the day to sit in dool,
And naebody to see me.
Ca' the ewes, &c.

Ye sall get gowns and ribbons meet, Cauf-leather shoon upon your feet, And in my arms ye'se lie and sleep, And ye sall be my derrie. Ca' the exces, &c.

If ye'll but stand to what ye've said,
I'se gang wi' you my shepherd-lad.
And ye may rowe me in your plaid,
And I sall be your dearie.

Ca' the ewes, &c.

While waters wimple to the sea;
While day blinks in the lift sae hie;
'Till clay-cauld death sall blin my e'e,
Ye sall be my dearic."
Ca' the eves, &c.

LADIE MARY ANN.

THE starting verse should be restored .-

"LADY MARY ANN gaed out o' her bower, An' she found a bonnie rose new i' the flower; As she kiss'd its ruddy lips drapping wi' dew, Quo' she, ye're nae sae sweet as my Charlie's mou."

 Mrs. Burns informed the Editor that the last verse of this song was written by Burns.

LADIE MARY ANN.

O Laby Mary Ann looks o'er the eastle wa', She saw three boonie boys playing at the ba'. The youngest ne was the flower amang them a'; My bonnle laddie's young, but 'he's growin' yet.

"O father, O father, an' ye think it fit, We'll send hun a vear 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 in the dew, Sweet was its smell, and bonnie was its hue, And the langer it blossomed, 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 blooming, and straight was its make, 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 has seen; But far better days, I trust, will come again, For my bonnie laddie's young, but he's growin' yet.

KILLYCRANKY.

The battle of Killycranky was the last stand made by the Clans for James, after his abdication. Here Dundee fell in the moment of victory, and with him fell the hopes of the party.—General Mackay, when he found the Highlanders did not pursue his flying army, said, "Dundee must be killed, or he never would have overlooked this advantage."—A great stone marks the spot where Dundee fell.—Burns.

CLAVERS and his highland-men,
Came down upo' the raw, man,
Who being stout, gave mony a clout,
The lads began to claw, then.
With sword and terge into the'r hand,
Wi' which they were nee slaw, man,
Wi' mony a fearful heavy sigh,
The lads began to claw, then.

O'er bush, o'er bank, o'er ditch, o'er stank, She flang amang them a', man; The butter-box got mony knocks, Their riggings paid for a' then; They got their pilks, wi's adden straiks, Which to their grief they saw, man; Wi' clinkum clankum o'er their crowns, The lads began to fa' theu.

Hur skipt about, hur leapt about, And flang amang them a', man; The English blades got broken heads,
Their crowns were cleav'd in twa then.
The durk and door made their last hour,
And prov'd their find fa, man;
They thought the devil had been there,
That play'd them sie a paw then.

The solemn league and covenant Came whagging up the hills, man, Thought highland trews durst not refuse For to subscribe their bills then: In Willie's name * they thought nae and Durst stop their course at a', man; But hur name sell, wi' mony a knock, Cry'd, Furich-whiggs, awa', man.

Sir Evan Du, and his men true,
Came linking up the brink, man;
The Hogan Dutch they feared such,
They bred a horrid stink, then.
The true Muclean, and his fierce men,
Came in amang them a', man;
Nane durst withstand his heavy hand,
All fled and ran awa' then.

Oh' on a ri, oh' on a ri,

Why should she lose king Shames, man?

Oh' rig in di, oh' rig in di,

She shall break a' her banes then;

With furichinish, an' stay a while,

And speak a word or twa, man,

She's gi' a stroike, out o'er the neck,

Before ye win awa' then.

O fy for shame, ye're three for ane,
Hin nane-sell's won the day, man;
King Shame's red-costs should be hung av
Because they ran awa' then;
Had bent their brews, like highland brow.
And made as lang a stay, man,
They'd sav'd their king, the seried they.
And Willed' run' awa' ther.

THE EWIE WI' THE CROOKIT HOP &

Another exceller forg of old Skinner's -

Were I but able to reherrse.

I'd sound it wilds in proper verse,
I'd sound it wilds a loud and fierce.
As ever y'p r's drone could blaw;
I'te fewle wilds to remain the sworn.

Sie y Fw: vas never born,
I'te down the first way.

Sie y Eve was never born,
I'te was never born,
I'te rebout nor far awa'.

I never needed tar nor keil To risik her upo' hip or heel,

· Prince of Orange.

Her crookit horn did as weel
To ken her by mno' them a';
She never threaten'd seab nor rot,
But keepit ay her ain jog trot,
Baith to the fauld and to the coat,
Was never sweir to lead nor caw.

Was never sweir to lead nor caw, Baith to the fauld and to the coat, &c.

Cauld nor hunger never dang her, Wind nor wet could never wrang her, Aoes she lay an ouk and langer,

Furth aneath a wreath o' snaw. Whan ither Ewies lap the dyke, And eat the kail for a' the tyke, My Ewie never play'd the like, But tyc'd about the barn wa';

My Ewie never play'd the like, &c.

A better or a thriftier beast, Nae honest man could weel hae wist, For silly thing she never mist,

To hae ilk year a lamb or twa';
The first she had I gae to Jock,
To be to him a kind o' stock,
And now the laddie has a flock

O' mair nor thirty head ava'; And now the laddie has a flock, &c.

I lookit aye at even' for her, Lest mischanter shou'd come o'er her, Or the fowmart might devour her, Gin the beastie bade awa;

My Ewie wi' the crookit horn, Well deserv'd baith girse and corn, Sic a Ewe was never born,

Here-about nor far awa. Sic a Ewe was never born, &c.

Yet last ouk, for a' my keeping, (Wha can speak it without weeping?) A villain cam when I was sleeping,

Sta' my Ewie, horn and a'; I sought her sair upo' the morn, And down ancath a buss o' thurn I got my Ewie's crookit horn, But my Ewie was awa'.

I got my Ewie's crockit horn, &c.

O! gin I had the loun that did it, Sworn I have as well as said it, Tho' a' the warld should forbid it, I wad gic his neck a thra';

I never met wi' sic a turn,
As this sin ever I was born,
My Ewie wi' the crookit horn,
Silly Ewie stown awa'.
My Ewie wi' the crookit horn, &c.

O! had she died o' crook or cauld, As Ewies do when they grow auld, It wad noe been, by mony fauld,

Sae sare a heart to nane o's a': For a' the claith that we has worn, Frae her and ber's sae aften shorn. The loss o' her we cou'd hae born, Had fair strae-death ta'en her awa'. The loss o' her we cou'd hae born, &c.

But thus, poor thing, to lose her life, Aneath a bleedy villain's knife, I'm really fley't that our guidwife

I'm really fley't that our guidwile
Will never win aboon't ava:
O! a' ye bards benotth Kioghorn,
Call your muses up and mourn,
Our Ewie wi' the crookit horn,
Stown frae's, and fellt and a'!
Our Ewie wi' the crookit horn, &c.

ANDRO WI' HIS CUTTIE GUN.

This blythsome song, so full of Scottish humour and convivial merriment, is an intinate favourite at Bridal Trystes, and House-heatings. It contains a spirited picture of a country ale-house touched off with all the lightsome gaiety so peculiar to the rural muse of Caledonia, when at a fair.

Instead of the line,

" Girdle cakes weel toasted brown,"

I have heard it sung,

"Knuckled cakes weel brandert brown."

These cakes are kneaded out with the knuckles, and toasted over the red embers of wood on a gridiror. They are remarkably fine, and have a delicate relish when eaten warm with ale. On winter market nights the landlady heats them, and drops them into the quaigh to warm the ale:

"Weel does the cannie Kimmer ken To gar the swats gae glibber down."

BURNS

BLYTH WAS SHE

Blyth, blyth, blyth was she, Blyth was she butt and ben; And weel she lou'd a Hawick gill, And leugh to see a tappit hen. She took me in, and set me down, And heght to keep me lawing-free; But, cunning earling that she was, She gart me birle my bawbie.

We loo'd the liquor well enough;
But wees my heart my cash was done
Before that I had quench'd my drowth,
And laith I was to pawn my shoon.
When we had three times toom'd our stony,
And the niest chappin new begun,
Wha started in to hecze our hope,
But Andro' wi' bis entry eun.

The carling brought her kebbuck ben, With girdle-cakes weel-toasted brown, Well does the camp kimmer ken, They gar the swats gae glibber down. We ca'd the bicker aft about? Till dawning we ne'er jee'd our bun,

And ay the cleanest drinker out Was Andro' wi' his cutty gun.

He did like ony mavis sing,
And as 1 in his oxter sat,
He ca'd me ay his bonny thing,
And mony a sappy kiss I gat:
I hae been east, I hae been west,
I hae been far ayont the sun;
But the blythest lad that c'er I saw
Was Andro wi' his cutty gun!

HUGHIE GRAHAM.

THERE are several editions of this ballad.—
This, here inserted, is from oral tradition in Ayrshire, where, when I was a boy, it was a popular song.—It originally, had a simple old tune, which I have forgotten.—Bunns.

OUR lords are to the mountains gane, A hunting o' the fallow deer, And they have gripet Hughie Graham For stealing o' the bishop's mare.

And they have tied him hand and foot, And led him up, thro' Stirling town; The lads and lasses met him there, Cried, Hughie Graham thou'rt a lonn,

O lowse my right hand free, he says, And put my braid sword in the same; He's no in Stirling town this day, Dare tell the tale to Hughie Graham.

Up then bespake the brave Whitefoord, As he set by the bishop's knee, Five hundred white stots I'd gie you If ye'll let Hughie Graham free.

O haud your tongue, the bishop says, And wi' your pleading let me be; For the ten Grahams were in his coat, Hughie Graham this day shall die.

Up then bespake the fair Whitefoord, As she sat by the bishop's koce; Five hundred white pence I'll gie you, If ye'll gie Hughie Graham to me.

O hand your tongue now lady fair, And wi' your pleading let it be; Altho' ten Grahams were in his coat, Its for my honor he mann die. They've ta'en him to the gallows knowe, He looked to the gallows tree, Yet never colour left his cheek, Nor ever did he blink his ee.

At length he looked round about, To see whatever he could spy; And there he saw his auld father, And he was weeping bitterly.

O haud your tongue, my fither dear, And wi' your weeping let it be; Thy weeping's sairer on my heart, Than a' that they can do to me.

And ye may gie my brother John, My sword that's bent in the middle clear, And let him come at twelve o'clock, And see me pay the bishop's mare.

And ye may gie my brother James My sword that's bent in the middle brown. And bid him come at four o'clock, And see his brother Hugh cut down.

Remember me to Maggy my wife, The niest time ve gang o'er the moor, Tell her she staw the bishop's mare, Tell her she was the bishop's whore.

And ye may tell my kith and kin, I never did disgrace their blood; And when they meet the bishop's cloak, To mak it shorter by the hood.

LORD RONALD, MY SON.

Trus air, a very favourite one in Ayrshire, is evidently the original of Lochaber. In this manner most of our finest more modern airs have had their origin. Some early minstrel, or musical shepherd, composed the simple artless original air, which being picked up by the more learned musician, took the improved for tim bears.—BUNNS.

The name is commonly sounded Ronald, of Randal.

WHERE have ye been hunting, Lord Randal, my son? Where have ye been hunting, My hand-some young man? In you wild wood, Oh mother, So make my bed soon: For I'm wae, and I'm weary, And fain would lie down.

Where gat ye your dinner, Lord Randal, my son? Where gat ye your dinner, My handsome young man? O, I dined with my true love, So make my bed soon: For I'm wae, and I'm weary, And fain would lie down.

O, what was your dinner, Lord Randal, my son? O, what was your dinner, My handsome young man? Eels boiled in broo, mother; So make my bed soon: For I'm wae, and I'm weary, And fain would lie down.

O, where did she find them, Lord Randal, my son? O, where did she catch them, My handsome young man? Neath the hush of brown brekan, So make my bed soon: For I'm wae, and I'm weary And fain would lie down.

Now, where are your bloodhounds, Lord Randal, my son? What came of your bloodhounds, My handsome young man? They swelled and died, mother, And sae maun I soon: O, I am wae, and I'm weary,

And fain would lie down.

I fear you are poisoned,
Lord Randal, my sen!
I fear you are poisoned,
My handsome young man!
O yes I am poisoned,
So make my bed soon:
I am sick, sick at heart,
And I now must lie down.

LOGAN BRAES.

THERE were two old songs to this tune; one of them contained some striking lines, the other entered into the sweets of wooing rather too freely for modero poetry.—It began,

" Ae simmer night on Logan bracs, I helped a honnie lassie on wi' her claes, First wi' her stockins, an' syne wi' her shoon, But she gied me the glaiks when a' was done."

The other seems older, but it is not so characteristic of Scottish courtship.

" Logan Water's wide and deep,
An' laith am I to weet my feet;
But gif ye Il consent to gang wi' me,
I'll hire a borse to carry thee."
Buans.

ANOTHER SET.

LOGAN WATER.

EY JOHN MAYNE.

Ly Logan's streams that rin sae deep, Fu' aft', wi' glee, I've herded sheep, I've herded sheep, or gather'd slaes, Wi' my dear lad, on Logan Braes: But, wae's my heart, thae days are gane, And, fu' o' grief, I herd my lane; Whi le my dear lad mann face his faes, Far. far frae me and Logan Braes!

Nae mair at Logan Kirk will he, Atween the preachings, meet wi' me— Meet wi' me, or, when it's mirk, Convoy me hame frae Logan Kirk! I weil may sing, thae days are gane— Frae Kirk and Fair I come my lane, While my dear lad mann face his f.es, Far, far frae me and Logan Braes!

O'ER THE MOOR AMANG THE HEATHER.

This song is the composition of a Jean Glever, a girl who was not only a w—e, but also a thief; and in one or other character has visited most of the Correction Houses in the West.—She was born, I believe, in Kilmannock:—I took the song down from her singing as she was strolling through the country, with a slight of hand blackguard.—Burns.

COMIN' thro' the Craigs o' Kyle, Amang the bonnie blooming heather, There I met a bonnie lassie, Keeping a' her yowes thegither.

O'er the moor among the heather, O'er the moor among the heather, There I met a bonnie lassie, Keeping a' her yowes thegither.

Says I, my dearie, where is thy hame, In moor or dale, pray tell me whether? She says, I tent the fleery flocks That feed amang the blooming heather, O'er the moor, &c.

We laid us down upon a bank, Sae warm and sunny was the weather, She left her flocks at large to rove Amang the bounie blooming heather. O'er the moor, &c.

While thus we lay she sang a sang,
Till echo rang a mile and farther,
And ay the burden o' the sang
Was—o'er the moor amang the heather,
O'er toe moor, ye.

St.: charm'd my heart, and aye sinsy se, I could no think on any ither:
By sea and sky she shall be mine!
The bennie lass among the heather.

O'er the moor, &c.

BONNIE DUNDEE.

O WHARE gat ye that hauver-meal hannock,
O silly hlind hodie. O dinna ye see!
I got it frae a sodger laddie,
Between Saint Johnstone and bonnie Dundee.
O gm I saw the laddie that gae me't!
Aft has he doud!'d me on his knee:
May heav'n protect my bonnie Scotch laddie,

And sen' him safe hame to his babic and me!

May blessins light on thy sweet, we lippic!
May blessins light on thy bonnie ee-bree!
Thou smiles sae like my sodger laddie,
Thou's dearer, dearer ay to me!
But I'll big a bow'r on yon bonnie banks,
Whare Tay rins wimplan by sae clear;
An' ill cled thee in the tartan fine,
An' mak thee a man like thy daddie dear!

OLD VERSE.

Ye're like to the timmer o' you rotten wood, Ye're like to the bark o' you rotten tree, Ye slip frae me like a knotless thread, An' ye'll crack your credit wi' mae than me,

DONOCHT-HEAD.

Tune-" Gordon Castle."

Keen blaws the wind o'er Donocht-Head,*
The snaw drives snelly thro' the dale,
The Gaberlunzie tirls my sneck,
And shivering tells his waefu' tale.

" Cauld is the night, O let me in,
" And dinna let your minstrel fa',

"And dinna let his windin-sheet
"Be naething but a wreath o' snaw!

"Full ninety winters has I seen,
"And pip'd where gor-tooks whitring flew,
"And mony a day ye've dane'd, I ween,
"To lits which frase my drone I blew,"

My Eppie wak'd, and soon she cry'd,
"Get up, Guidman, and let him in;

"For weel ye ken the winter night
"Was short when he began his din."

M/ Eppie's voice. O wow it's sweet
E'en tho' she bans and scaulds awee;
But when it's tun'd to sorrow's tale,
O haith, it's doub y dear to me!

· A mountain in the North.

Come in, and Carl! I'll steer my fire, I'll mak it bleeze a bonnie flame; Your blude is thin, ye've tint the gate, Ye should na stray sae far frae hame.

"Nae lame have I," the minstrel said,
"Sad party strife o'erturn'd my ha';
"And, weeping at the eve o' life,

"I wander thro' a wreath o' snaw."

THE BANKS OF THE TWEED.

This song is one of the many attempts that English composers have made to uniter the Scottish manner, and which I shall, in these strictures, beg leave to distinguish by the appellation of Anglo-Scottish productions. The music is pretty good, but the verses are just above contempt.—Burns.

BARNETT.

I LEFT the sweet banks of the deep flowing Tweed,

And my own little cot by the wild wood, When Fanny was sporting through valley and mead,

In the beautiful morning of childhood And oftimes alone, by the wave-heaten shore, When the billows of twilight were flowing,

I thought, as I mus'd on the days that were o'er, Hew the rose on her cheek would be blowing

I came to the banks of the deep flowing Tweed, And mine own little cot by the wild wood, When o'er me ten summers had gather'd their speed,

And Fanny had pase'd from her childhood.

I found her as fair as my fancy could dream,

Not a bud of her loveliness hlighted,

And I wish'd I had ne'er seen her beauty's soft beam.

Or that we were for ever united.

THE FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH.

Titts Song is one of the many effusions of Scots jacobitsm.—The title, Flavers of Edinburgh, has no manner of connexion with the present verses, so I suspect there has been an older set of words, of which the title is all that remains.

[•] This affecting poem was long attributed to Burns. He thus remarks on it. "Donoch-Hrad's not mine I would give ten pounds it were. It appeared first in the Edinburgh Heral's and came to the editor of that the Edinburgh Heral's and came to the editor of that the composition of Whilm PI kernig, a north of England poet, who is not known to have written any thoug more.

By the ove, it is singular enough that the Scottish Muses were all Jacobites. - I have paid more attention to every description of Scots songs than perhaps any body living has done, and I do not recollect one single stanza, or even the title of the most trifling Scots air, which has the least panegyrical reference to the families of Nassan or Brunswick; while there are hundreds satirizing them. This may be thought no panegyric on the Scots Poets, but I mean it as such. For myself, I would always take it as a compliment to have it said, that my heart ran before my head; and surely the gallant though unfortunate house of Stuart, the king of our fathers for so many heroic ages, is a theme much more interesting than BURNS.

My love was once a bonny lad,
He was the flower of all his kin,
The absence of his bonny face
Has rent my tender heart in twain,
day nor night find no delight,
In silent tears I still complain;
And exclaim 'gainst those my rival foes,
That ha'e ta'en from me my dailing swain.

Despair and anguish fills my breast, Since I have lost my blooming rose; I sigh and moan while others rest, His absence yields me no repose. To seek my love I'll range and rove, Thro' every grove and distant plain; Thus I'll ne'er cease, but spend my days, To hear tidings from my darling swain.

There's naething strange in Nature's change, Since purents shew such cruelty; They caus'd my love from me to range, And knows not to what destiny. The pretty kids and tender lambs May cease to sport upon the plain; But PH moorn and lament in deep discontent For the absence of my darling swain.

Kind Neptune, let me thee entirat, To send a fair and pleasant gale; Ye dolphins sweet, upon me wait, And convey me on your tail; Heavens bless my voyage with success, While crossing of the raging main, And send me safe o'er to that distant shore, To meet my lovely durling swain.

All joy and mirth at our return Shall then abound from Tweed to Tay; The bells shall ring and sweet birds sing. To grace and crown our nuptial day. Thus bless'd wi' charms in my love's arms, My hent once more I will regain; Then I'll rance no more to a distant shore, But in love will enjoy my darling swain,

CHARLIE, AE'S MY DARLING

OLD VERSES.

Tune-" Charlie is my darling."

'Twas on a Monday morning, Richt early in the year, That Charlie ean to our toun, The young Chevalier And Charlie he's my durling, My darling, my durling; Charlie he say durling, The young Chevalier.

As he was walking up the street,
The city for to view,
O there he spied a bonnie lass,
The window looking through.
And Charlie, &c.

Sae licht's he jumped up the stair,
And tirled at the pin;
And wha sae ready as hersell,
To let the laddic in!
And Charlie, &c.

He set his Jenny on his knee,
All in his Highland dress;
For brawly weel he kenned the way
To please a bonnie lass.
And Charlie, &c.

It's np yon heathy mountain, And down yon scroggy glen, We daurna gang a-milking, For Charlie and his men, And Churlie, &c

THE SOUTERS OF SELKIRE

Up with the souters of Selkirk,
And down with the Earl of Home!
And up wi' a' the brave lads,
Who sew the single-soled shoon!

O! fye upon yellow and yellow, And fye upon yellow and green; And up wi' the true blue and searlet, And up wi' the single-soled shoon!

Up wi' the souters of Selkirk— Up wi' the lingle and last! There's fame wi' the days that's coming And glory wi' them that are past.

Up wi' the souters of Selkirk— Lads that are trusty and leal; And up with the men of the Forest, And down wi' the Merse to the deil!

O! mitres are made for noddles, But feet they are made for shoon; And fame is as sib to Selkirk
As light is true to the moon,

There sits a souter in Selkirk,
Wha sings as he draws his thread—
There's gallant souters in Selkirk
As lang there's water in Tweed,

CRAIL TOUN.

" Tune-" Sir John Malcolm."

And was ye e'er in Crail toun? Igo and ago;

And saw ye there Clerk Dishington?† Sing irom, igon, ago.

His wig was like a doukit hen, Igo and ago; The tail o't like a goose-pen, Sing irom, igon, ago.

And dinna ye ken Sir John Malcolm?

Gin he's a wise man I mistak him, Sing irom, igon, ago.

And hand ye weel frae Sandie Don, Igo and ago;

He's ten times duter nor Sir John, Sing irom, igon, ago.

To hear them o' their travels talk, Igo and ago;

To gae to London's but a walk, Sing irom, igon, ago.

To see the wonders o' the deep, Igo and ago,

Wad gar a min baith wail and weep, Sing irom, igon, ago.

To see the levinthan skip,
Igo and ago.
And wi' his tail ding ower a ship,
Sing irom, igon, ago.

 There is a somewhat different version of this strange wang in Herd's Collection, 1776. The present, which I think the best, is copied from the Scottish Ministrel.

† The person known in Scottish song and tradition by the epither Clerk Dislungton, was a morary who resked about the middle of the last century in Crad, and acted as the towns-lerk of that ancient burgh, in have been informed, that he was a person of great local celebrity in his time, as an uncompromising humourlet.

MY ONLY JO AND DEARIE, O

GALL.

Tune-" My only jo and deane Q."

Thy check is o' the rose's hue,
My only jo and deare, O;
Thy neck is o' the silter dew,
Upon the bank sue briery, O.
Thy reth are o' the ivery,
O sweet's the twinkle o' 'thine ee;
Nac joy, nae pleasure blims on me,
My only lo and dearle. O.

When we were bairnies on yon brae, And youth was blinkin' bonnie, O, Aft we wad daff the lee lang day, Our joys fu' sweet and monie, O. Aft I wad chase thee ower the lee, And round about the thorry tree; Or pu' the wild flow'rs a' for thee, My only io and dearie, O.

I hae a wish I canna tine,

'Mang a' the cares that grieve me, O;
A wish that thou wert ever mine,
And never mair to leave me, O;
Then I wad dant then neht and day,
Nae ither warldly care I d hae,
I'll life's warm stream forgat to play,
My only jo and dearie, O.

FAIRLY SHOT O' HER.

Tune-" Fairly shot o' her.4

O gin I were fairly shot o' her! Fairly, fairly, fairly shot o' her! O gin I were forly shot o' her! If she were dead, I wad dance on the top o' her

Till we were married, I couldna see light til her;

For a month after, a' thing aye gaed right wi' her: But these ten years I has prayed for a wrigh:

to her— O gin I were fairly shot o' ber!

O gin I were fairly shot o' her!
O gin I were fairly shot o' her! &c.

Nane o' her relations or friends could stay wi' her:

The neebours and bairns are fain to flee frae her: And I my ainsell am forced to gie way till her: O gin I were fairly shot o' her!

O gin I were fairly shot o' her ! &c

She gangs aye sae braw, she's sae muckte pride in her:

There's no a gudewife in the haill country-side like her.

Richard Gall, the son of a dealer in old furniture in St. Mary's Wyod, Edinburgh was brought up to the business of a printer, and ded at an early age about the beginning of the present sentury.

Wi' dress and wi' drink, the deil wadna bide wi'| When our gudewife had puddins to make O gin I were fairly shot o' her !

O gin I were fairly shot o' her ! &c.

If the time were but come that to the kirk-gate

And into the yird I'd mak mysell quit o' her, I'd then be as blythe as first when I met wi'

O gin I were fairly shot o' her ! O gin I were fairly shot o' her ! &c.

FALSE LUVE! AND HAE YE PLAY'D ME THIS.

FALSE luve! and hae ye play'd me this, In summer, 'mid the flowers? I shall repay ye back again In winter, mid the showers.

But again, dear luve, and again, dear luve, Will ye not turn again? As ye look to other women Shall I to other mea?*

FARE YE WEEL, MY AULD WIFE.

AND fare ye weel, my auld wife; Sing bum, bee, berry, bum; Fare ye weel, my auld wife : Sing hum, bum, bum. Fare ye weel, my auld wife, The steerer up o' sturt and strife, The maut 's alone the meal the nicht, Wi' some, some, some,

And fare ye weel, my pike-staff; Sing bum, bee, berry, bum : Fare ye weel, my pike-staff; Sing bum, bum, bum. Fare ye weel, my pike-staff, W" von nae mair ny wife l'll haff; The maut's above the meal the nicht, Wi' some, some, some,

GET UP AND BAR THE DOOR.

Ir fell about the Martinmas time. And a gay time it was than,

From Herd's Collection, 1776.—A slightly different version is put by Sir Wal er Scott into the mouth of Davie Gellatley, in the celebrated novel of Waverley.

" False love, and hast thou play'd me this,

In summer, among the flowers?

I will repay the back again
In winter, among the showers.

"Unless again, again, my love, Unless you turn again, As you with other maidens rove,

Ull smile on other men

And she buil'd them in the pan. And the barrin' o' our door weil, weil, weil And the barrin' o' our door weil.

The wind blew cauld frae south to north, It blew into the floor; Says our gudeman to our gudewife, Get up and bar the door. And the barrin', &c.

My hand is in my hussyfe skep, Gudeman, as ye may see; An it shouldna be barr'd this hunner year, It's no be barr'd for me. And the barrin', &c.

They made a paction 'tween them twa, They made it firm and sure, The first that spak the foremost word Should rise and bar the door. And the burrin', &c.

Then by there came twa gentlemen, At twelve o'clock at night; And they could neither see house nor ha's Nor coal nor candle-licht. And the barrin', &c.

Now whether is this a rich man's house, Or whether is this a puir? But never a word wad ane o' them speak, For the barrin' o' the door. And the barrin', &c.

And first they ate the white puddins, And syne they ate the black ; And muckle thocht our gudewife to hersell, But never a word she spak. And the barrin', &c.

Then said the tane unto the tother, Hae, man, take ye my knife, Do ye tak aff the auld man's beard, And I'll kiss the gudewife. And the barrin', &c.

But there's nae water in the house, And what shall we do than? What ails ye at the puddin' broo. That boils into the pan? And the barrin', &c.

O, up then startit our zudeman, And an angry man was he: Wad ve kiss my wife before my face, And scaud me wi' puddin' bree? And the barrin', &c.

Then up and startit our gudewife, Gi'ed three skips on the floor: Gudeman, ye've spoken the foremost word, Get up and bar the door. . And the barrin', &c.

From Herd's Collection, 1776.—Tradition, as re-ported in Johnson's Musical Museum, affirms that the

LOGIE O' BUCHAN.

Tune-" Logie o' Buchan."

O. Logie o' Buchan, O, Logie, the laird, They hae ta'en awa Jamie that delved in the

yard; He play'd on the pipe and the viol sae sma'; They hae ta'en awa Jamie, the flower o' them a' He said, Thinh na lang, lassie, though I

gong awa , He said, Think na lang, lassic, though I gang awa ;

For the simmer is coming, cauld winter's

And I'll come back and see thee in spite o' them a'.

O, Sandie has owsen, and siller, and kye, A house and a haddin, and a' things forbye, But I wad hae Jamie, wi's bonnet in's hand, Before I'd hae Sandy wi' houses and land. He said, &c.

My daddie looks sulky, my minnie looks sour, They frown upon Jamie, because he is poor; But daddie and minnie although that they be, There's name o' them a' like my Jamie to me. He said, &c.

I sit on my creepie, and spin at my wheel, And think on the laddie that lo'ed me sae weel ; He had but ae sixpence-he brak it in twa,

And he gi'ed me the hauf o't when he gaed awa. Then, haste ye back, Jamie, and bide na awa. Then haste ye back, Jamie, and bide na awa; Simmer is comin', cauld winter's awa, And ye'll come and see me in spite o' them

a'.

"gudeman" of this song was a person of the name of guideman of this song was a person of the name of John Bhut, who heed of your in Crawford-Muir, John Bhut, who heed of your in Crawford-Muir, them is in most of the Collections of Scottish Tunes; the other, though to appearance equally ancient, scens to have been preserved by tradi ion alone, as we have never seen it in print. A third tune, to which we have never seen it in print. A third tune, to which we have never seen it in print. A thort tune, to which we have the properties of the properties of the properties of the superior of the properties of the properti ovn 20 intry.

 "I ogie of Buchan" is stated by Mr. Peter Buchan
of Peterhead, in his Gleanings of Scarce Old Ballads
(18.7), to have been the composition of Mr. George Halket, and to have been written by him while selvoolmoster of Rathen, in Aberdenshire, about the year
1756. "The poetry of this individual," says Mr.
Buchan, "was chieff, Jacebottical, and long remanded
familiar amongst the peasantry in that quarter of the
country: One of the best knoon of these, at the pracent, is 'Wherry, Whigs, awa, man? In 1746, Mr.
Halket write a dialogue benwixt George II and the
Devil, which failing into the hands of the Duke of
Creed stand white on his march to Colloden, he ofcred stand white on his march to Colloden, he ofcred stand white on his march to Colloden, he ofcred stand white on his march to Colloden, he ofthe sheal of its author. Mr. Halket dield in '756.
"The Logic here mentioned, is in one of the adloining parishes (Cramond) where Mr. Halket then
resided; and the hero of the price was James Rokertson, gardener at the place of Logic." Halket, and to have been written by him while school-

HERE'S A HEALTH TO THEM THAT'S AWA.

Tune-" 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: Here's a health to them that were here short

And canna be here the day.

It s gude to be merry and wise; It's gude to be honest and true; It's gude to be aff wi' the auld love, Before ve be on wi' the new.

HEY, CA' THROUGH.

Tune-" Hey, ca' through."

Ur wi' the carles o' Dysart, And the lads o' Buckhaven, And the kimmers n' Largo, And the lasses o' Leven Hey, ca' through, ca' through, For we has muckle ado: Hey, ca' through, ca' through, For we hae muchle ado.

We hae tales to tell. And we hae sangs to sing ; We hae pennies so spend, And we hae pints to bring. Hey, ca' through, &c.

We'li live a' our days; And them that comes behin', Let them do the like, And spend the gear they win. Hey, ca' through, &c.

I LO'ED NE'ER A LADDIE BUT ANE CLUNIE.

Tune-" My lodging is on the cold ground."

I Lo'ED ne'er a laddle but ane : He lo'ed ne'er a lassie but me, He's willing to mak me his ain; And his ain I am willing to be. He has coft me a rokelay o' blue, And a pair o' mittens v' green; The price was a kiss o' my mou'; And I paid him the debt yestreen.

Let ithers brag weel o' their gear, Their land, and their lordly degree . I carena for ought but my dear, For he's lika thing lordly to me: His words are sae sugar'd, sae sweet ! His sense drives ilk fear far awa! I listen-poor fool! and I greet; Yet how sweet are the tears as they fa'?

AYE WAUKING, O.

THE ORIGINAL SONG, FROM RECITATION.

O I'm wet, wet,
O I'm wet and weary!
Yet fain wad I rise and rin,
If I thought I would neet my deary.
Ay wanking, O!
Wanking age, and weary,
Steep I can get nane
For thinking of my de.rry.

Simmer's a pleasant time,
Flowers of every colour,
The water rins ower the heugh—
And I lang for my true lover
Ay wauking, &c.

When I sleep I dream,
When I wank I'm eerie;
Sleep I can get nane
For thinking o' my deary.
Ay wauking, &c.

Lanely night comes on;
A' the lave are sleeping;
I think on my love,
And blear my een wi' greeting,
Ay wanking, &c.

Feather-beds are soft,
Painted rooms are bonnie;
But a kise o my dear love
Is better 'ar than ony.

Ay wauking, &c.

KELVIN GROVE.

JOHN LYLE.

Tunc-" Kelvin Grove."

Let us haste to Kelvin grove, honnie lassie, O; Through its mazes let us rove, bonnie lassie, O; Where the rose in all its pride Decks the hollow dingle's side, Where the midnight fairies glide, bonnie lassie, O.

We will wander by the mill, bonnie lassie, O, To the cree beside the rill, bonnie lassie, O; Where the glens rehound the call Of the lofty waterfall, Through the mountain's rocky hall, bonnie Lassie, O.

Then we'll up to yonder glade, bonnie lassie, O, Where so oft, beneath its shade, bonnie lassie, O, With the songsters in the greve, We have told our tale of love, And have sportive garlands wove, bon rie lassie, O.

Ab! I soon must hid agieu, bonnie lassie, O, To this fairy scene and you, bonnie lassie, O,

To the streamlet winding clear, To the fragrant-scented brier, E'en to thee of all most dear, bonnie lassie, O.

For the frowns of fortune low'r, bonnie lassie, O
On thy lover at this hour, bonnie lassie, O
Ere the golden orb of day,
Wakes the warblers from the spray,
From this land I must away, bonnie lassie, O.

And when on a distant shore, honnie lassie, O, Should I fall 'midst battle's roar, bonnie lassie, G, Wilt thou, Helen, when you hear Of thy lover on his bier,

To his memory shed a tear, b mie lassie? O.

BLUE BONNETS OVER THE BORDER

Twne-" Blue Bonnets over the Border."

March, march, Ettrick and Teviotdale,
Why, my lads, dinna ye march forward is
order?

March, march, Eskdale and Liddesdale; All the blue bonnets are over the Border. Many a banner spread flutters above your head; Many a crest that is famous in story: Mount and make ready, then, sons of the moun-

tain glen;
Fight for your Queen and the old Scottish
glory.

Come from the hills where your hirsels are gras-

Come from the glen of the buck and the roe; Come to the crag where the beacon is blazing; Come with the buckler, the lance, and the bow Trumpets are sounding, war steeds are bounding; Stand to your arms, and march in good order. England shall many a day tell of the bloody fray, When the blue bonnets came over the Border.

COMIN' THROUGH THE RYE.

Tune-" Gin a Body meet a Body.

GIN a body meet a body

Comin' through the tye,
Gin a body kiss a body,
Need a body cry?
Ev'ry lastie has her lac'de,
Name, they say, hae I!
Yet a' the lads they smile at me,
When comin' through the rye.
Amang the train there is a swain

I dearly lo'e mysell;
But whan his hame, or what his name,
I dinna care to tell.

Kelvin Grove is a beautifully wooded dell, about two mites from Glasgow, forming a sort of lovers' was for the lads and lasses at that city.

SONGS.

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G.n a body meet a body, Comin' frae the town, Gin a body greet a body, Need a body frown? Ev'ry lassie has her laddic, Nane, they say, hae I!

Yet a' the lads they smile at me, When comin' through the rye. Amang the train there is a swain I dearly lo'e mysell;

But whaur his hame, or what his name,

I dinna care to tell. DINNA THINK, BONNIE LASSIE.

Tune-" The Smith's a gallant fireman."

O DINNA think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to leave thee; Dinna think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to leave

thee; Dinna think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to leave

thee; I'll tak a stick into my hand, and come again

and see thee. Far's the gate ye hae to gang; dark's the

night and eerie ; Far's the gate ye hae to gang; dark's the

night and ecrie; Far's the gate ye hae to gang; dark's the night and ceric;

O stay this night wi' your love, and dinna gang and leave me.

It's but a night and hauf a day that I'll leave my dearie;

But a night and hauf a day that I'll leave my dearie;

But a night and hauf a day that I'll leave my dearie; Whene'er the sun gaes west the loch I'll

come again and see thee. Dinna gang, my bonnie lad, dinna gang and

leave me ;

Dinna gang, my bonnie lad, dinna gang and leave me; When a' the lave are sound asleep, I'm dull

und eerie; And a' the lee-lang night I 'm sad, wi' thinking on my dearie.

O dinna think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to | How, vonnie Mary Hay, I can loe nane but leave thee;

Dinna think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to leave thee;

Dinna think, bonnie lassie, I'm gaun to leave thee; When e'er the sun gaes out o' sight, I'll come

again and see thee. Waves are rising o'er the sea; winds blaw

load and fear me; Waves are rising o'er the sea; winds blaw

load and fear me.

While the winds and waves do roar, I am wae and dreary;

And gin ye lo'e me as ye say, ye winna gang and leave me.

O never mair, bonnie lassie; will I gang and leave thee:

Never mair, bonnie lassie, will I gang and leave thee ;

Never mair, bonnie lassic, will I gang and leave thee;

E'en let the world gang as it will, I'll stay at hame and cheer thee.

Frae his hand he coost his stick; I winna gang and leave thee;

Threw his plaid into the neuk; never can I

grieve thee; Drew his boots, and flang them by; cried my lass, be cheerie;

I'll kiss the tear frae aff thy check, and never leave my dearie.

BONNIE MARY HAY.

CRAWFORD

Bonnie Mary Hay, I will loc thee yet; For thine eye is the slae, and thy hair is the jet, The snaw is thy skin, and the rose is thy cheek;

O, bonnie Mary Hay, I will loc thee yet !

O, bonnie Mary Hay, will ye gang wi' me, When the sun's in the west, to the hawthorn tree,

To the hawthown tree, and the bonnic berry den?

And I'll tell thee, Mary Hay, how I loe thes then.

O, bonnic Mary Hay, it is haliday to me, When thou art couthie, kind, and free;

There's nae clouds in the lift, nor storms in the sky,

Bonnie Mary Hay, when thou art nigh.

O, bonnie Mary Hay, thou manna say me nay, But come to the bower, by the hawthorn brae; But come to the bower, and I'll tell ye a' what's true.

you.

CARLE, AN THE KING COME.

Tune-" Carle, an the King come."

CARLE, an the king come, Carle, an the king come. Thou shalt dance and I will sing,

Carle, an the king come

An somebody were come again,
Then somebody mann cross the main;
And every man shall hae his ain,
Carle, an the king come.

I trow we swappit for the worse; We ga'e the boot and better horse; And that we'll tell them at the corse, Carle, an the king come.

When yellow corn grows on the rigs, And gibbets stand to hang the Whigs, O, then we'll a' dance Scottish jigs, Carle, an the king come.

Nae mair wi' pinch and drouth we'll dine, As we hae done—a dog's propine— But quaff our draughts o'rosy wine, Carle, an the king come.

> Cogie, an the king come, Cogie, an the king come, I'se be fou and thou'se be toom Cogie, an the king come.

COME UNDER MY PLAIDIE.

MACNIEL.

Tune-" Johnny M'Gill."

Come under my plaidie; the night's gaun to fa'; Come in frac the cauld blast, the drift, and the

Come under my plaidie, and sit down beside me; There's room in't, dear lassie, believe me, for twa.

Come under my plaidie, and sit down beside me; I'll hap ye frae every cauld blast that can blaw: Come under my plaidie, and sit down beside me; There's room in't, dear lassie, believe me, for twa.

Gae 'wa wi' yere plaidie! auld Donald, gae 'wa; 'fear na the cauld blast, the drift, nor the snaw! Gae 'wa wi' your plaidie! I'll no sit beside ye; Ye micht be my gutcher! auld Donald, gae 'wa. I'm gaun to meet Johnnie—he's young and he's bonnie;

He's been at Meg's bridal, fou trig and fou hraw! Nane dances sae lichtly, sae gracefu', or tichtly, His cheek's like the new rose, his brow's like the snaw!

Dear Marion, let that flee stick to the wa'; Your Jock's but a gowk, and has naething ava; The haill o' his pack he has now on his back; He's thretty, and I am but three score and twa.

Be frank now and kindly-I'll busk ye aye finely;

To kirk or to market there'll few gang sae braw; A bien house to bine in, a chaise for to ride in, And flunkies to 'tend ye as aft as ye ca'.

My father aye tauld me, my mother and a', Ye'd mak a gude husband, and keep me aye braw;

It's true, I lo'e Johnnie; he's young and he's bonnie;

But, wae's me! I ken he has naething ava!
I hae little tocher; ye've made a gude offer;

I'm now mair than twenty; my time is but sma'!

Sae gie my your plaidie; I'll caep in beside ye; I thocht ye'd been aulder than three score and twa!

She crap in ayont him, beside the stane wa', Whare Johnnie was listnin', and heard her tell a'. The day was appointed!—his proud heart it dunted.

And strack 'gainst his side, as if burstin' in

He wander'd hame wearie, the nicht it was

And, thowless, he tint his gate 'mang the deep snaw:

The howlet was screamin', while Johnnie cried, Women

Wad marry auld Nick, if he'd keep them aye braw.

O, the deil's in the lasses! they gang now sae braw,

They'll lie down wi' auld men o' fourscore and twa; The hail o' their marriage is gowd and a car-

riage;
Plain love is the cauldest blast now that can

blaw.

Auld dotards, be wary! tak tent when ye

Young wives, wi' their coaches, they'll whip

and they'll ca',
Till they meet wi' some Johnuie that's youth-

fu' and bonnie, And they'll gie ye horns on ilk haffet to claw.

DUSTY MILLER.

Tune-" The dusty Miller."

HEV. the dusty miller,
And his dusty coat!
He will win a shilling,
Ere he spend a groat,
Dusty was the coat,
Dusty was the colour;
Dusty was the kiss,
That I gat frae the miller?

This is an old favour the cavalier song; the chorus, at least, is as old as the time of the Commonwealth, when the return of King Charles II, was a matter of faily prayer to the Loyalists.

Hey, the dusty miller, And his dusty sack ! Leeze me on the calling Fills the dusty peck ; Fills the dusty peck, Brings the dusty sillet : I wad gie my coatie For the dusty miller.

THE WEARY PUND O' TOW.

FROM RECITATION.

Tune-" The weary pund o' tow."

I BOUGHT my wife a stane o' lint As good as ere did grow, And a' that she could make o' that Was ae weary pund o' tow. The weary pund, the weary pund, The weary pund o' tow, I thought my wife would end her life Before she span her tow.

I lookit to my yarn-nag, And it grew never mair; I lookit to my beef-stand-My heart grew wonder sair ; I lookit to my meal-boat, And O, but it was howe! I think my wife will end her life Afore she spin her tow.

But if your wife and my wife Were in a boat thegither, And you other man's wife Were in to steer the ruther; And if the boat were bottomless, And seven mile to row, I think they'd ne'er come hame again, To spin the pund o' tow !

THE LANDART LAIRD.

THERE lives a landart * laird in Fife. And he has married a dandily wife: She wadna shape, nor yet wad she sew, But sit wi' her cummers, and fill hersell fu'

She wadna spin, nor yet wad she card ; But she wad sit and crack wi' the laird. Sae he is donn to the sheep-fauld, And eleckit a wether+ by the spauld. !

He's whirled aff the gude wether's skin, And wrapped the dandily lady therein. 4 I downa pay you, for your gentle kin; But weel may I skelp my wether's skin.§

KEEP THE COUNTRY, BONNIE LASSIE.

Tune-" Keep the Country, bonnie Lassic.

KEFF the country, bonnie lassie, Keep the country, keep the country : Keep the country, bonnie Lissie; Lads will a' gie gowd for ye :

Gowd for ye, bonnie lassie, Gowd for ye, gowd for ye: Keep the country, bonnie lassie; Lads will a' gie gowd for ye.

HAP AND ROW THE FEETIE O'T

WILLIAM CREECH.

Tune-" Hap and Rowe the Feetie o'L"

We'll hap and row, we'll hap and row, We'll hap and row the feetie o't. It is a wee bit weary thing : I downa bide the greetie o't.

Ann we pat on the wee bit pan, To boil the lick o' meatic o't; A cinder fell and spoil'd the plan, And burnt a' the feetie o't. We'll hap and row, &c.

Fu' sair it grat, the puir wee brat, And ave it kicked the feetie o't. Till, pair we elf, it tired itself; And then began the sleepie o't. We'll hap and row, &c.

The skirling brat nae parritch gat, When it gaed to the sleepie o't; It's waesome true, instead o' t's mou', They're round about the feetie o't. We'll hap and row, &c.

JUMPIN' JOHN

Tune-" Jumpin' John

HER daddie forbade, her minnie forbade : Forbidden she wadna be. She wadna trow't, the browst she brewed, Wad taste sae bitterlie.

The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' John Beguiled the bonnie lassie; The lang lad they ca' Jumpin' John Beguiled the bonnie lassie.

But weel may I skelp my wether's skin.§

**Londward—that is, living in a part of the country at some distance from any town.

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A cow and a cauf, a yowe and a hanf,
And thretty gude shillings and three;
A very gude tocher, a cottarman's dochter,
The lass wi' the bonnie black ee.

The lang lad, &c.

O DEAR! MINNIE, WHAT SHALL I DO?

Tune-" O dear! mother, what shall I do ?"

"OH dear! minnie, what shall I do? Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do? Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do?" "Daft thing, doiled thing, do as I do."

"If I be black, I canna be lo'ed; If I be fair, I canna be gude; If I be lordly, the lads will look by me; Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do?"

"Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do? Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do? Oh dear! minnie, what shall I do?" 'Daft thing, doiled thing, do as I do."

KILLIECRANKIE, O.

Tune-" The braes o' Killicerankie."

WHERE hae ye been sae brawk, lad?
Where hae ye been sae brankie, O?
Where hae ye been sae brankie, O?
Where hae ye been sae brawk, lad?
Can ye by Killiecrankie, O?
An ye had been where I hae been,
Ye wadna been sae cantie, O;
An ye had seen what I hae seen
On the brase o' Killiecrankie, O.

I've faught at land, I've faught at sea; At hame I faught my anntie, O; But I met the deevil and Dundee, On the bracs o' Killieerankie, O! An ye had been, &c.

The bauld Pitcur fell in a far, And Claverse gat a clankie, O; Or I had fed an Athole gled, On the braes o' Killicerankie, O. An ye had been, &c.

DONALD COUPER.

Tune-" Donal I Cooper and his man."

Hey Donald, howe Oonald,
Hey Donald Conner!

Ye's gane awa to seek a wife,
And he's come hame without her.

O Donald Couper and his may Held to a Highland fair, man And a' to seek a bonnie lass— But fient a ane was there, man.

At length he got a carline gray,
And she's come hirplin hame, man;
And she's fawn owre the buffet stool,
And brak her rumple-bane, man.

LITTLE WAT YE WHA'S COMING

Tune-" Little wat ye wha's coming."

LITTLE wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; Jock and Tam and a' 's coming!

Duncao's coming, Donald's coming, Colin's coming, Ronald's coming, Dougao's coming, Lauchlan's coming, Alister and a' 's coming!

Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; Jock and Tam and a' 's coming!

Borland and his men's coming, The Camerons and Maclean's coming, The Gordons and Macgregor's coming, A' the Duniewastles coming!

Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; MacGilvray o' Drumglass is coming!

Winton's coming, Nithsdale's coming, Carnwath's coming, Kennure's coming, Derwentwater and Foster's coming, Withrington and Nairn's coming!

Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; Blythe Cowhill and a' 's coming!

The Laird o' Macintosh is coming, Macrabie and Macdonald's coming, The Mackenzies and Macphersons coming, A' the wild MacCraws coming!

Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; Donald Gun and a' 's coming!

They gloom, they glowr, they look sae big. At ilka stroke they'll fell a Whig; They'll fright the fuds of the Pockpuds; For mony a buttock bare's coming.

Little wat ye wha a coming, Little wat ye wha s coming, Little wat ye wha's coming; Mony a buttock bare's coming!

OCH HEY, JOHNNIE LAD

TANNAHILL

Oen hey, Johnnie lad, Ye're no sae kind's ye son'd hae been; Och hey, Johnnie lad, Ye didna keep your tryst yestreen. I waited lang beside the wood, Sae wae and weary a' my lane; Och liey, Johnnie lad, It was a waefu' nicht yestreen!

I lookit by the whinny knowe,
I lookit by the firs sag green;
I lookit ower the spunkie howe,
And aye I thocht ye wad hae been.
The ne'er a supper cross'd my craig,
The ne'er a sleep has closed my een
Och hey, Johnnie lad,
Ye're no sae kind's ye sou'd hae been

Gin ye were waitin' by the wood, It's I was waitin' by the thorn; I thocht it was the place we set, And waited maist till dawnin' morn. But be nac heat, my honnie lass, Let my waitin' stand for thine; We'll awa to Craigton shaw, And seek the joys we tint yestreen.

OUR GUDEMAN CAM HAME AT E'EN.

Our gudeman cam hame at e'en. And hame cam he; And there he saw a saddle-horse. Where nae horse should be. Oh, how cam this horse here? How can this be? How cam this horse here? Without the leave o' me? A horse! quo' she; Aye, a horse, quo' he. Ye auld blind dotard carle, And blinder mat ye be ! It's but a bonnie milk-cow. My mither sent to me. A milk-cow! quo' he; Aye, a milk-cow, quo' she. Far hae I ridden, And muckle hae I seen ; But a saddle on a milk-cow Saw I never nane.

Our gudeman cam hame at e ea, And hame cam he; He spied a pair o' jack-boots, Where nae boots should be. What's this now, gudewife? What's this I see? How cam that boots here, Without the leave o' me? Boots! quo' she; Aye, boots, quo' he. Ye auld blind dotard carle, And blinder mat ye be . It's but a pair o' water-stoups, The cooper sent to me. Water-stoups ! quo' he ; Aye, water stoups, quo' she. Far hae I ridden, And muckle hae I seen; But siller-spurs on water-stoups Saw I never nane.

Our gudeman cam hame at e'cen. And hame cam he; And there he saw a siller sword, Where nae sword should be. What's this now, gudewife? What's this I see? O how cam this sword here. Without the leave o' me? A sword, que sae Aye, a sword, quo' he Ye auld blind dotard carle, And blinder mat ve be ! It's but a parridge-spurtle, My minnie sent to me. A parridge-spurtle! quo' he; Aye, a parridge-spurtle, quo' sl.a. Weel, far hae I ridden, And muckle hae I seen; But siller-handed parridge-spurtles Saw I never nane.

Our gudeman cam hame at e'en, And hame cam he; And there he spied a powder d wig, Where nae wig should be. What's this now, gudewife? What's this I see ? How cam this wig here, Without the leave o' me? A wig! quo' she; Aye, a wig, quo' he. Ye auld blind dotard carle, And blinder mat ye be! Tis naething but a clocken-hen My minnie sent to me. A clocken-hen! quo' he; Aye, a clocken-hen, quo' she-Far hae I ridden, And muckle hae I seen, But pouther on a clocken-hen Saw I never nane.

Our gudeman cam hame at e'en, And hame cam he:

And there he saw a mickle coat, Where nae coat should be. How cam this coat here? How can this be? How cam this coat here, Without the leave o' me? A coat! quo' she; Aye, a coat, quo' he. Ye auld blind dotard carle, And blinder mat ve be ! It's but a pair o' blankets My minnie sent to me. Blankets! quo' he;

Far hae I ridden, And muckle hae I seen; But buttons upon blankets Saw I never nane!

Ben gaed our gudeman, And ben gaed he; And there he spied a sturdy man,

Ave. blankets, quo' she

Where nae man should be. How cam this man here? How can this be? How cam this man here, Without the leave o' me? A man! quo' she; Aye, a man, quo' he. Puir blind body, And blinder mat you be ! It's but a new milkin' maid, My mither sent to me. A maid! quo' he; Ave, a maid, quo' she. Far hae I ridden. And muckle hae I seen,

But lang-bearded maidens Saw I never nane.

GO TO BERWICK, JOHNIE

Tune-" Go to Berwick Johnie,"

Go to Berwick, Johnie; Bring her frae the Border; You sweet bonnie lassie, Let her gae nae farther. English loons will twine ye O' the lovely treasure; But we'll let them ken, A sword wi' them we'll measure.

Go to Berwick, Johnie, And regain your honour; Drive them ower the Tweed, And show our Scottish banner. I am Rob the king, And ye are Jock, my brither ; But, before we lose her, We'll a' there thegither.

IF YE'LL BE MY DAWTIE, AND SIT IN MY PLAID.

Tune-" Hie, Ronnie Lassie,"

Hie, bonnie lassie, blink over the burn, And if your sheep wander I'll gie them a turn Sae happy as we'll be on yonder green shade, If ye'll be my dawtie, and sit in my plaid.

A vowe and two lammies are a' my haill stock. But I'll sell a lammie out o' my wee flock, To buy thee a head-piece, sae bonnie and braid. If ye'll be my dawtie, and sit in my plaid.

I hae little siller, but ae hauf-year s fee, But if ye will tak' it, I'll gie't a' to thee; And then we'll be married, and lie in ae bed, If ye'll be my dawtie, and sit in my plaid.

I'LL NEVER LEAVE THEE

RAMSAV.

JOHNNY.

Though, for seven years and mair, honour should reave me

To fields where cannons rair, thou needsns grieve thee;

For deep in my spirit thy sweets are indented; And love shall preserve ay what love has im-

Leave thee, leave thee, I'll never leave thee, Gang the warld as it will, dearest, believe me !

Oh, Johnny, I'm jealous, whene'er ye discover My sentiments yielding, ye'll torn a loose rover ; And hought in the world would vex my heart sairer,

If you prove inconstant, and fancy ane fairer, Grieve me, grieve me, oh, it wad grieve me, A' the lang night and day, if you deceive me!

My Nelly, let never sic fancies oppress ye; For, while my blood's warm, I'll kindly caress

Your saft blooming beauties first kindled love's fire,

Your virtue and wit mak it av flame the higher Leave thee, leave thee, I'll never leave thee, Gang the world as it will, dearest, believe me!

1795, mentions, that he had heard it gravely asserted at Edinburgh, that " a foolish song, beginning,

Go, go, go, go to Berwick, Johnie! Thou shalt have the horse, and I shall have the poney

This popular rant is from Johnson's Musical Mu-tions, and that the person thus addressed was no other seum, vol. VI., 1803. Risson, in his Scottash Songs.
 than in plant Achates, Sir John Gratama.

NELLY.

Then, Johnny! I frankly this minute allow ye To think me your mistress, for love gars me trow ye;

And gin ye prove false, to yoursell he it said, then.

Ye win but sma' honour to wrang a puir maiden. Reave me, reave me, oh, it would reave me Of my rest, night and day, if you deceive me!

JOHNNY.

Bid icc-shogles hammer red gauds on the studdy, And fair summer mornings nae mair appear ruddy;

Bio Britons think as gate, and when they obey thee,

And wordy o' my hand:

But never till that time, believe I'll betray thee. Leave thee, leave thee! I'll never leave thee! The starns shall gae withershins ere I deceive thee!

KATHERINE OGIE.

As walking forth to view the plain,
Upon a morning early,
While May's sweet seent did cheer my brain,
From flowers which grow so rarely,
I chanced to meet a pretty maid;
She shined, though it was foggy;
ask'd her name; sweet Sir, she said,
My name is Katherine Ogie.

I stood a while, and did admire,
To see a nymph so stately;
So brisk an ir there did appear,
In a country maid so neatly:
Such natural sweetness she display'd,
Like a lilie in a bogie;
Diana's self was ne'er array'd
Like this same Kathetine Ogie.

Thon flower of females, beauty's queen,
Who sees thee, sure must prize thee;
Though thou art drest in robes but mean,
Yet these cannot disguise thee:
Thy handsome air, and graceful look,
Far excels any clownish rogie;
Thou art a match for lord or duke,
My charming Katherine Ogie.

Owere I but some shepherd swain!
To feed my flock beside thee,
At boughting-time to leave the plain,
In milking to abide thee;
I'd think myself a happier man,
With Kate, my club, and dogie,
Iban he that hugs his thousands ten,
Had I but Katherine Ogie.

OWER BOGIE

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Tune-" O'er Bogie."

I WILL awa' wi' my love,
I will awa' wi' her,
Though a' my kin hal sworn and said
I'll ower Bogie wi' her.
If I can get but her consent,
I dinna care a strae;
Though ilka ane be discontent,
Awa' wi her I'll gae.

For now she's mistress o' my heart, And wordy o' my hand; And weel, I wat, we shanna part For siller or for land. Let rakes delight to swear and drink, And beaux admire fine lace; But my chief pleasure is to blink On Betty's bonnie face.

I will awa' wi' my love,
I will awa' wi' her,
Though a' my kin had sworn and said,
I'll o'er Bogie wi' her.

LASS, GIN YE LO'E ME.

JAMES TYTLER.

Tune-" Lass, gin ye lo'e me."

I HAE laid a herring in sant— Lass, gin ye lo'e me, tell me now; i I hae brev'd a forpit o' maut, An' I canna come ilka day to woo: I hae a calf that will soon be a cow— Lass, gin ye lo'e me, tell me now; t I lae a stook, and I'll soon hac a mowe; And I canna come ilka day to woo:

I hae a house upon yon moor—

Lass, gin ye lo'e me, tell me now;

Three sparrows may dance upon the floor,

And I canna come ilka day to woo:

I lace a but, an' I hae a ben—

Lass, gin ye lo'e me, tell me now;

A penny to keep, and a penny to spen',

An' I eanna come ilka day to woo:

I hae a hen wi' a happitie-leg—
Lass, gin ye lo'e µe, tell me now;
That ilka day lays me an egg,
An' I canna come ilka day to woo:
I hae a chece µon my skelf—
Lass, gin ye lo'e me, tell me now;
And soon wi' mites' twill rin itself,
And I canna come ilka day to woo.

LASSIE, LIE NEAR ME.

DR. BLACKLOCK.

Tunc-" Laddie, lie near me."

Land hae we parted been, Lassie, my deerie; Now we are met again, Lassie, lit war me.

Near me, near me,
Lassie, lie near me.
Lang hast thou lain thy lane;
Lassie, lie near me.

A' that I hae endured, Lassie, my dearie, Here in thy arms is cured; Lassie, lie near me.

LOW DOUN I' THE BRUME.

Tune-" Low down i' the Broom."

My daddie is a cankert earle,
He'll no twine wi' his gear;
My minnie she's a scauldin' wife,
Hauds a' the house asteer.
But let them say, or let them do,
It's a' ane to me,
For he's low down, he's in the brume,
That's waitin' on me:
Waiting on me, my love,
He's waiting on me:
For he's low down, he's in the brume,
That's waitin on me.

My auntie Kate sits at her wheel, And sair she lightlies me; But weel I ken it's a' envy, For ne'er a joe has she. And let them say, &c.

My cousin Kate was sair beguiled Wi' Johnnie o' the Glen; And aye sinsyne she cries, Beware O' fause deluding men. And let them suy, &c.

Gleed Sandy he cam wast yestreen, And speir'd when I saw Pate; And aye sinsyne the neebors round They jeer me air and late. And let them suy, &c.

THE CAMPBELLS ARE COMING.

"The Campbells are coming."

The Campbells are coming, O-ho, O-ho!
The Campbells are coming, O-ho!
The Campbells are coming to bonnie Lock
leven!

The Campbells are coming, O-ho, O-ho

Uron the Lomonds I lay, I lay;
Upon the Lomonds I lay;
I lookit doun to bonnie Lochleven,
And saw three perches play.
The Campbells are coming, &c.

Great Argyle he goes before;
He makes the cannons and guns to roar;
With sound o' trumpet, pipe, and drum;
The Camphells are coming, O-ho, O-ho!
The Campbells are coming, &c.

The Campbells they are a' in arms,
Their loyal faith and truth to show,
With banners rattling in the wind;
The Campbells are coming, O-ho, O-ho!

The Campbells are coming, &c.

MERRY HAE I BEEN TEETHING A

Tune-" Lord Breadalbane's March."

O MERRY hae I been teething a heckle, And merry hae I been shapin a spune; O merry hae I been cloutin a kettle, And kissin my Katie when a' was dune.

O a' the lang day I ca' at my hammer, And a' the lang day I whistle and sing;

A' the lang nicht I cuddle my kimmer, And a' the lang nicht as happy's a king.

Bitter in dule I lickit my winnins,
O' marrying Bess, to gie her a slave:
Blest be the hours she cooled in her linens,
And blythe be the bird that sings over her
grave!

Come to my arms, my Katie, my Katie, And come to my arms, my Katie again! Drucken or suber, here's to thee, Katie! And blest be the day I did it again!

The chorus of this song is very old: tradition ascribes the verses to a Lard of Balnamoon in Forfarshire; but upon that point the learned differ. It is one of the most popular ditties in Scotland.

[•] From Johnson's Musical Museum, Part III., 1790, where it is instituated, as an on dil, that it was composed on the imprisonment of Queen Mary in Localeven Castle. The Lorionds are two well-known hills, overhanging Lechleven to the east, and visible from Edinburgh. The air is the well-known family tune or march of the Clan Campbell.

MY AULD MAN.

Tune-" Saw ye my Father ?"

in the land of Fife there lived a wicked wife, And in the town of Cupar then,

Who sorely did lament, and made her complaint, Oh when will ye die, my auld man?

n cam her cousin Kate, when it was growing

She said, What's gude for an auld man? O wheit-breid and wine, and a kinnen new slain;

That's gude for an auld man,

Cam ye in to jeer, or cam ye in to scorn, And what for cam ye in?

For bear-bread and water, I'm sure, is much better-

It's ower gude for an auld man.

Now the auld man's deid, and, without remeid, Into his cauld grave he's gane:

Lie still wi' my blessing! of thee I hae nae missing;

I'll ne'er mourn for an auld man.

Within a little mair than three quarters of a year. She was married to a young man then,

Who drank at the wine, and tippled at the beer, And spent more gear than he wan,

O black grew her brows, and howe grew her And cauld grew her pat and her pan : And now she sighs, and aye she says,

I wish I had my silly auld man!

FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEBODY

OLD VERSES.

Tune-" Somebody."

For the sake of somebody, For the sake of somebody, I could wake a winter meht, For the sake of somebody,

I AM gaon to seek a wife, I am gaun to buy a plaidy; I have three stane o' woo'; Carline, is thy daughter ready? For the sake of somebody, &c. Betty, lassy, say't thysell, Though thy dame be ill to shoe; First we'll buckle, then we'll tell : Let her flyte, and syne come to. What signifies a mother's gloom, When love and kisses come in play? Should we wither in our bloom. And in simmer mak nae hay? For the sake of somebody, &c.

Bonny lad, I carena by, Though I try my luck wi' thee, Since ve are content to tie The half-mark bridal-hand wi' me. I'll slip hame and wash my feet, And steal on linens fair and clean; Syne at the trysting-place we'll meet, To do but what my dame has done. For the sake of somebody, For the sake of somebody, I could wake a winter nicht, For the sake of somebody.

SANDY O'ER THE LEE.

Tune-" Sandy o'er the lee."

I WINNA marry ony man but Sandy ower the

I winna marry ony man bot Sandy ower the lee; I winna hae the dominie, for gude he canna be; But I will hae my Sandy lad, my Sandy ower the lee:

For he's ane a-kissing, kissing, ane a-kiss ing me;

He's aye a-kissing, kissing, aye a-kissing me.

I winna hae the minister, for all his godly looks; Nor yet will I the lawyer hae, for a' his wily crooks;

I winna hae the ploughman lad, nor yet will I the miller,

But I will hae my Sandy lad, without a penny siller.

For he's aye a-kissing, &c.

I winns hae the soldier lad, for he gangs to the

I winna hae the sailor lad, because he smells u'

I winns hae the lord, or laird, for a' their meikle gear, But I will hae my Sandy lad, my Sandy o'er

the muir.

Tune-" My Love is but a lassie yet."

My love, she's but a lassie yet; My love, she's but a lassie vet

From Ritson's "Scottish Songs," 1793, into which the editor mentions that it was copied from some common collection, whose title he did not remarked. It has often been the task of the Scottish but she has to the evis of the souther should be the common that it was copied from but she has to the evis of the souther should be souther should be sh painting, as in the present ease. No tune is assigned to the song in this present ease to the song in this suggest the fine air, "Saw ye my tather," rather as being suitable to the peculiar rhythm of the verse. Jan to the spirit of the composition. cition.

I'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, needna say he's woo'd, But he may say he's bought her, O. My lore, she's, §c.

Come draw a drap o' the nest o't yet; Come draw a drap o' the hest o't yet; Gae seek for pleasure where ye will— But here I never miss'd it yet. My loce, she's, &c.

We're a' dry wi' drinking o't; We're a' dry wi' drinking o't; The minister kiss'd the fiddler's wife, And couldna preach for thinking o't. My love, she's, &c.

MY WIFE HAS TA'EN THE GEE.

Tune-" My Wife has ta'en the Gee."

A friend o' mine cam here yestreen, And he wad hae me down To drink a bottle o' ale wi' him In the neist burrows town: But oh, indeed, it was. Sir, Sac far the waur for me; For, lang or e'er that I cam hame, My wife had tame the gee.

We sat sae late, and drank sae stout,
The trath I tell to you,
That, lang or e'er the midnicht cam,
We a' were roarin' fou.
My wife sits at the fireside,
And the ten blinds aye her ee;
The ne'er a bed wad she gang to,
But sit and tak' the gee.

In the mornin' sune, when I cam doun,
The ne'er a word she spake;
But mony a sad and sour look,
And aye her head she'd shake.
My dear, quoth I, what aileth thee,
To look sae sour on me?
I'll never du the like again,
If you'll ne'er tak' the gee.

When that she heard, she ran, she flang
Her arms about my neck;
And twenty kisses, in a crack;
And, poor wee thing, she grat.
If you'll nefer do the like again,
But bide at hame wi' me,
I'll lay my life, I'll be the wife
That never taks the gee.*

THE BONNIE LASS O' BRANKSOME

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Tune-" The Bonnie Lass o' Branksome.

As I came in by Teviot side,
And by the brase of Branksome,
There first I saw my bonny bride,
Young, smiling, sweet, and handsome
Her skin was safter than the down,
And white as alabaster;
Her hair, a shining, waving brown;
In straightness nane surpass'd her.

Life glow'd upon her lip and cheek, Her clear een were surprising, And beautifully turn'd her neck, Her little breasts just rising: Nae silken hose with gushats fine, Or shoon with glancing laces, On her bare leg, forbade to shine Weel-shapen native graces.

Ae little coat and hodice white
Was sum o' a' her claithing;
E'en these o'er muckle;—mair delyte
She'd given clad wi' naething.
We lean'd upon a flowery brae,
By which a burnie trotted;
On her I glowr'd my soul away,
While on her sweets I doated.

A thousand beauties of desert
Before had scarce alarm'd me,
Till this dear artless struck my heart,
And, bot designing, charm'd me.
Hurried by love, close to my breast
I clasp'd this final of blisses,—
Wha smiled, and said, Without a prist,
Sir, hope for noch thu kisses.

I had nae heart to do her harm, And yet I couldna want her; What she denanded, ilka charm O' hers pled I should grant her. Since heaven had dealt to me a routh, Straight to the kirk I led her; There plighted her my faith and trouth, And a young lady made her.*

MY WIFE'S A WANTON WEE THING. Tune-" My wife's a wanton wee thing."

My wife's a wanton wee thing, My wife's a wanton wee thing,

From Her I's collection, 1776.

[•] This song, which appeared in the Tea-Table Miscellany, (1729), was founded upon a real medent. The bonnic fasts was daughter to a worana who keyt an atchouse at the hamilet n ar Branksome Castle, in Teviotidale. A young olitier, of some rath,—his same we believe was Maitland,—happened to be be quartered somewhere in the neighbourhood, saw, loved, and married her. So strange was such an alliance desmed in those days, that the old mother, under whose auspics it was performed, did not estape the imputation of witcherat!

My wife's a wanton wee thing; She winna be guided by me.

She play'd the loon ere she was married, She play'd the loon ere she was married, She play'd the loon ere she was married; She'll do't again ere she die!

She sell'd her coat, and she drank i She sell'd her coat, and she drank it, She row'd bersell in a blanket; She winna be guided by me.

She mind't na when I forbade her, She mind't na when I forbade her; I took a rung and I claw'd her, And a braw gude bairn was she!*

WE'RE A' NODDIN.

Tune-" Nid noddin."

O, we're a' noddin, nid, nid, noddin, O, we're a' noddin, at our house at hame.

How's a' wi' ye, kimmer? and how do ye thrive?

And how mony bairns hae ye now?—Bairns I hae five.

And are they a' at hame wi' you?—Na, na, na; Fur twa o' them's been herdin' sin' Jamie gaed

And we're a' noddin, nid, nid, noddin; And we're a' noddin, at our house at hame.

Grannic nods i' the neuk, and fends as she may, And brags that we'll ne'er be what she's been in tier day.

Vow! but she was bonnie; and vow! but she was braw.

was braw,

And she had rowth o' wooers ance, I'se warrant,
great and sma.'

And we're a' noddin, &c.

Weary fa' Kate, that she winna nod too; She sits i' the corner, suppin' a' the broo; Aud when the bit bairnies wad e'en hae their share.

She gies them the ladle, but deil a drap's there.

And we're a' noddin, &c.

Now, fareweel, kimmer, and weel may ye thrive; They sae the French is rinnin' for't, and we'll hae peace belyve.

The bear's 't the brear, and the hay's i' the stack, And a' 'll be right wi' us, gin Jamie were come back.

And we're a noddin', &c.

MY NATIVE CALLDONIA.

SAIR, sair was my heart, when I parted frae my Jean,

And sair, sair I sigh'd, while the tears stood in

For my daddie is but poor, and my fortune is but sma';

Which gars me leave my native Cale onia.

When I think on days now gane, and how happy I hae been,

While wandering wi' my dearle, where the primrose blaws unseen:

I'm wae to leave my lassie, and my dandie's simple ha',

Or the hills and healthfu' breeze o' Caledonia,

But wherever I wander, still happy be my Jean! Nae care disturb her bosom, where peace has ever been!

Then, though ills on ills befa' me, for her I'll bear them a',

Though aft I'll Leave a sigh for Caledonia.

But should riches e'er be mine, and my Jeanie still be true,

Then blaw, ye favourin' breezes, till my native land I view;

Then I'll kneel on Scotia's shore, while the heart-felt tear shall fa',

And never leave my Jean and Caledonia.

O, AN YE WERE DEID, GUIDMAN

Tane-" O, an ye war deid, Guidman."

O, AN ye were deid, guidman, And a green truff on your head, guidman, That I might ware my widowheid Upon a rantin Highlandman.

There's sax eggs in the pan, guidman, There's sax eggs in the pan, guidman; There's ane to you, and twa to me, And three to our John Highlandman.

There's beef into the pot, guidman, There's beef into the pot, guidman; The banes for yon, and the broe for me, And the beef for our John Highlandman.

There's sax horse in the sta', guidman, There's sax horse in the sta', guidman; There's ane to you, and twa to me, And three to our John Highlandman.

There's sax kye in the byre, guidman, There's sax kye in the byre, guidman; There's nane o' them yours, but there's twa + them mine.

And the lave is our John Highlandman's.

From Johnson's Scots Musical Museum, vol. III. 1790. The two first stanzas, however, appear in Herd's collection, 1776.

BURNS' WORKS.

OH, WHAT A PARISH!

ADAM CRAWFORD.

Tune-" Bonnie Dundee."

O, what a parish, what a terrible parish, O, what a parish is that of Dunkell! They hae hange, the minister, drouned the

precentor.

Dung down tre steeple, and drucken the bell I

Inough the steeple was doza, the kirk was still

They biggit a lum where the bell used to hang; A steil-pat they gat, and they brewed Hieland whisky;

On Sundays they drank it, and rantit and sang! O, what a parish, &c.

Oh, had you but seen how gracefu' it luikit, To see the grammed pews sae socially join! Macdonald, the piper, stuck up i' the poupit, He made the pipes skirl sweet music divine! O, what a parish, &c.

When the heart-cheerin spirit had mountit the

To a ball on the green they a' did adjourn; Maids, wi' their coats kiltit, they skippit and liltit ;

When tired, they shook hands, and a hame did return

O, what a parish, &c.

Wad the kirks in our Britain hand sic social meetings, Nae warning they'd need frae a far-tinkling

For true love and friendship wad ea' them the-

Far better than roaring o' horrors o' hell. O, what parish, Se.

OLD KING COUL.

OLD King Coul was a jolly old soul, And a jolly old soul was he; And old King Coul he had a brown bowl, And they brought him in fiddlers three; And every fiddler was a very good fiddler,

And a very good fiddler was he: Fiddle-diddle, fiddle-diddle, went the fiddlers

And there's no a lass in a' Scotland, Compared to our sweet Marjorie.

Old King Coul was a jolly old soul, And a jully old soul was he;

· Crawford, the inditer of this curious fro ic, was a When white was my o'erlay as foam o' the linn, tailor in Edinburgh, and the author of some ther good And siller was clinkin' my ponches within

Old King Coul, he had a brown howl, And they brought him in pipers three:

Ha-diddle, how-diddle, ha-diddle, how-diddle, went the pipers three;

Fiddle-diddle, fiddle-diddle, went the fiddlers three:

And there's no a lass in a the land, Compared to our sweet Marjorie.

Old King Coul was a jolly old soul, And a jolly old soul was he;

Old King Coul, he had a brown bowl, And they brought him in harpers three : Twingle-twangle, twingle-twangle, went the

harpers; Ha-diddle, how-diddle, ha-diddle, how diddle, went the pipers;

Fiddle-diddle, fiddle-diddle, went the fiddlers three :

And there's no a lass in a' the land, Compared to our sweet Marjorie.

Old King Coul was a jolly old soul, And a jolly old soul was he; Old King Coul, he had a brown bowl,

And they brought him in trumpeters three: Twarra-rang, twarra-rang, went the trumpeters:

Twingle-twangle, twingle-twangle, went the harpers;

Ha-diddle, how-diddle, ha-diddle, how-diddle, went the pipers; Fiddle-diddle, fiddle-diddle, went the fiddlers

three . And there's no a lass in a' Scotland, Compared to sweet Marjorie.

Old King Coul was a jolly old soul, And a jully old soul was he;

Old King Coul, he had a brown bowl, And they brought him in drummers three: Rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub, went the drummers; Twarra-rang, twarra-rang, went the trumpet-

Twingle-twangle, twingle-twangle, went the harpers;

Ha-diddle, how-diddle, ha-diddle, how-diddle, went the pipers;

Fiddle-diddle, fiddle-diddle, went the fiddlers three:

And there's no a lass in a' the land, Compared to sweet Marjorie.

PCVERTY PARTS GUDE COMPANIE

JOANNA BAILLIE.

Tune-" Todlin hame.

SONGS.

When my lambkins were bleating on meadow His boots they were made of the jag, and brac;

When he went to the weapon-share.

As I gaed to my love in new cleeding sae gay, Kind was she,

And my friends were free; But poverty parts gude companie.

How swift pass'd the minutes and hours of delight!

The piper play'd cheerly, the crusic burn'd bright;

And link'd in my hand was the maiden sae dear, As she footed the floor in her holiday gear.

Woe is me,

And can it then be, That poverty parts sic companie!

We met at the fair, we met at the kirk,
We met in the sunshine, and met in the mirk;
And the sounds of her voice, and the blinks of
her een,

The cheering and life of my bosom have been.

Leaves frae the tree

At Martinmas flee;

And poverty parts sweet companie.

At hidal and infare I've braced me wi' pride; The bruse I hae won, and a kiss o' the bride; And loud was the laughter gay fellows among, When I utter'd my banter and chorus'd my song.

Dowie to dree Are jesting and glee, When poverty parts gude companie.

Wherever I gaed the blythe lasses smiled sweet, And mithers and aunties were mair than dis-

While kebbuck and bicker were set on the

But now they pass by me, and never a word.

So let it be,

For the worldly and slie

Wi' poverty keep nae companie.

WILLIE WAS A WANTON WAG.

WILLIAM WALKINGSHAW OF WALKINGSHAW.

Tune-" Willie was a wanton Wag."

WILLIE was a wanton wag.

The blythest lad that e'er I saw:
At bridals still he bore the brag,
And carried aye the gree awa.
His doublet was of Shetland shag,
And wow but Willie he was braw;
And at bis shouthers hung a tag
That pleased the lasses best of a'.

He was a man without a clag;
His heart was frank, without a flaw;
And aye whatever Willie said,
It stn. was hadden as a law.

His hoots they were made of the jag,
When he went to the weapon-haw;
Upon the green nane durst him brag,
The fient a ane amang them a'.

And was not Willie weel worth gowd?
He wan the love o' grit and sma';
For, after he the bride had kiss'd,
He kiss'd the lasses haill-sale a'.
Sae merrily round the ring they row'd,
When by the hand he led them a';
And smack on smack on them Lestow'd,
By vittee of a standing law.

And was na Willie a great loun,
As shyre a lick as e'er was seen?
When he danced with the lasses round,
The bridegroom spier'd where he had been
Quoth Willie, I've been at the ring;
Wi' hobbin', faith, my shanks are sair;
Gae ca' the bride and maidens in,
For Willie he dow do na mair.

Then rest ye, Willie, I'll gae out,
And for a wee fill up the ring;
But shame licht on his souple snout!
He wanted Wilhe's wanton fling.
Then straight he to the bride did fare,
Says, Weel's me on your bonny face;
With bobbin' Willie's shanks are sair,
And I am come to fill his place,

Bridegroom, says she, you'll spoil the dance.
And at the ring you'll aye be lag.
Unless like Willie ye advance;
Oh, Willie has a wanton leg!
For wi't the learns us a' to steer,
And foremost aye bears up the ring;
We will find nae sie dancin' here,
If we want Willie's wanton fling, *

THE AULD MAN'S MEAR'S DEAD.

Tune-" The auld man's mear's dead "

The auld man's mear's dead; The puir body's mear's dead; The auld man's mear's dead, A mile aboon Dundee.

There was hay to ca', and lint to lead,
A hunder hotts c' muck to spread,
And peats and truffs and a' to lead—
And yet the jaud to dee!

The auld man's, &c.

She had the fiercie and the flenk,
The wheezloch and the wanton yeuk
On ilka knee she had a breuk—
What ail'd the beast to de.
The auld man's, &.

• From the Tea-Table Miscellany, 1724. As it is there signed by the initials of the author, there arises a presumption that he was alive, a d a friend of Ram asy, at the period of the publication of that work. She was lang-tooth'd and blench-lippit, Heam-hough'd and hargis-fittit, Lang-neckst, chamber-chaftit, And yet the jaud to dee! * The audd man s. &c.

ROY'S WIFE OF ALDIVALLOCH.

MRS. GRANT OF CARRON.

Tunc-" The Ruffian's Rant."

Roy's wife of Aldivalloch, Roy's wife of Aldivalloch, Wat ye how she cheated me, As I came o'er the braes of Balloch?

She vow'd, she swore, she wad be mine; She said she lo'ed me best of onie; But, ah! the fickle, faithless quean, She's ta'en the carle, and left her Johnie. Roy's wife, &c.

Oh, she was a canty quean,
And weel could dance the Hieland walloch!
How hap y I, had she been mine,
Or 1 been Roy of Aldivalloch!
Roy's wife, &c.

Her hair sae fair, her cen sae clear,
Her wee bit mon' sae sweet and bonnie!
To me she ever will be dear,
Though she's for ever left her Johnie.
Roy's wife, &c.

STEER HER UP AND HAUD HER GAUN.

GAUN.

Tune-" Steer her up and haud her gaun."

O STEER her up and haud her gaun; Her mother's at the noill, jo:

• The late Rev. Mr. Clanie, minister of the parish of Borthwick, near Edinburgh, (who was so enthissianteally fond of singing Secutish songs, that he used to hang his watch round the candle on Sunday evenings, and wair anxiously till the conjunction of the bands at 12 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 12 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 13 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 14 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 15 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 20 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 20 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 20 octock permit cell him to break out in one of his 20 octock permit cell him which he sung "Bonn Dundee" "White you have you have

But gin she wiona tak a man, E'en let her tak her will, jo. Pray thee, lad, leave sill, thinking; Cast thy cares of love away; Let's our sorrows drown in drinking; 'Tis daffin langer to delay.

See that shining glass of claret, How iovitingly it looks! Take it aff, and let's have mair o't; Pox on fighting, trade, and books! Let's have pleasure, while wc're able; Bring us in the meikle bowl; Place't on the middle of the table; And let wind and weather gowl.

Call the drawer; let him fill it Fon as ever it can hold: Oh, tak tent ye dinna spill it; 'Tis mair precious far than gold. By you've drunk a dozen bumpers, Bacchus will begin to prove, Spite of Venus and her numpers, Drinking better is than love.

SYMON BRODIE.

Tune-" Symon Brodie."

SYMON BRODIE had a cow,

The cow was lost, and he cou'd na find her
When he had done what man could do,
The cow cam hame, and her tail behind hea
Honest auld Symon Brudie,
Stupid auld doitit bonite!
Til awa to the North countrie,
And see my ain deur Symon Brodie.

Symon Brodie had a wife,
And, wow! but she was braw and bonnie;
She took the dish-clout alf the buik,
And preen'd it to her cockernonie,
Honest auld Symon Brotie, &c.

NEIL GOW'S FAREWELL TO WHISKY.

Tune-" Farwell to Whisky,"

You've surely heard o' famous Neil, The man that played the fiddle weel; I wat he was a canty chiel,

And dearly loe'd the whisky, O. And, aye sin he wore the tartan trews, He dearly lo'ed the Athole brose; And wae was he, you may suppose, To play farewell to whisky, O.

Alake, quoth Neil, I'm frail and anld,
And find my blude grow unco cauld;
I think 'twad make me blythe and bauld.
A wee drap Highland whisky, O

SONGS.

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Yet the doctors they do a' agree. That whisky's no the drink for me. Saul! quoth Neil, 'twill spoil my glee, Should they part me and whisky, O.

Though I can baith get wine and ale, And find my head and fingers hale, I'll be content, though legs should fail,

To play farewell to whisky, O But still I think on add lang syne, When Paradise our friends did tyne, Because something ran in their mind, Forbid like Highland whisky, O.

Come, a' ye powers o' musie, come; I find my heart grows uneo glum; My fiddle-strings will no play bum,

To say, Fareweel to whisky, O. Yet I'll take my fiddle in my hand, And screw the pegs up while they'll stand, To make a lamentation grand,

On gude auld Highland whisky, O.

THE LAMMIE.

HECTOR MACNEILL.

Tune-" Whar hae ye been a' day."

Whar hae ye been a' day, My boy Tammy? I've been by burn and flow'ry orae, Meadow green and mountain grey, Sourting o' this young thing, Just come free her mammy.

And whar gat ye that young thing.
My boy Tammy?
I got her down in yonder howe,
Smiling on a bonnie knowe,
Herding ae wee lamb and ewe,
For her poor mannny.

What said ye to the bonnie bairn, My hoy Tammy? I praised her een, sae lovely blue, Her dimpled check and cherry mou;— I prec'd it aft, as ye may trow!— She said she'd tell her mammy

I held her to my beating heart, My young, my smiling lammie! I hae a house, it east me dear, I've wealth o' pleni-hen and gear; Ye'se get it a', were't ten times mair, Gin ye will leave your manny.

The smile gaed aff her bonnie face—
I maunna leave my manumy.
She's gien me meat, she's gien me claise,
She's been my comfort a' my days:—
My father's death brought monie waes—
I cann I leave my manmy.

We'll tak her hame and mak her fain, My ain kind-hearted lammie. We'll gie her meat, we'll gie her elaise, We'll be her comfort a' her days. The wee thing gies her hand, and says— There! gang and ask my mammy.

Has she been to the kirk wi' thee, My boy Tammy? She has been to the kirk wi' Lie, And the tear was in her ee: For O! she's but a young thing, Just come frac her mammy.

THE WEE WIFIKIE.

DR. A. GEDDES.

Tune-" The wee bit Wifikie."

THERE was a wee bit wifikie was comin' frame the fair,

Had got a wee bit drappikie, that bred her muckle care;

It gaed about the wifie's heart, and she began to spew.

O! quo' the wifikie, I wish I binna fou. I wish I binna fou, I wish I binna fou, O! quo' the wifikie, I wish I binna fou.

If Johnnie find me barley-sick, I'm sure he'll claw my skin;

But I'll lie down and tak a nap before that I gae in.

Sittin' at the dyke-side, and takin' o' her nap, By cam a packman laddie, wi' a little pack, Wi' a little pack, quo she, wi' a little pack, By cam a packman laddie, wi' a little pack

He's clippit a' her gowden locks, sae bonnie and sae lang;

He's ta'en her purse and a' her placks, and fast awa he ran:

And when the wife wakened, her head was like a bee,
Oh! quo' the wifikie, this is not me.

This is nae me, quo' she, this is nae me; Somebody has been fellin' me, and this is nae me.

I met wi' kindly company, and birl'd my bawbee!

And still, if this be Bessikie, three placks remain wi' me:

And I will look the pursic neaks, see gin the cunyic be ;-

There's neither purse nor plack about me, This is not me, This is not me, &c.

I have a little housikie, but and a kindly man. A dog, they ca' him Doussikie; if this be ma, he'll fawn. And Johnnie he'll come to the door, and kindly welcome gie,

And a' the bairns on the floor-head will dance, if this he me.

Will dance, if this he me, &c.

The nicht was late, and dang out weet, and, oh, but it was dark;

The doggie heard a body's fit, and he began to bark:

O, when she heard the doggie bark, and ken-

nin' it was he, O, weel ken ye, Doussiekie, quo she, this is nae

This is nae me, &e.

When Johnnie heard his Bessie's word, fast to the door he ran:

Is that you, Bessikie?—Wow, na, man! Be kind to the bairns a', and weil mat ye be; And fareweel, Johonie, quo' she, this is nae me. This is nae me. &c.

John ran to the minister; his hair stood a' on end;

I've gotten sic a fright, Sir, I fear I'll never mend;

My wife's come hame without a head, crying out most pitcouslie:

Oh, fareweel, Johnnie, quo' she, this is nae me!
This is nae me, &e.

The tale you tell, the parson said, is wonderful to me,

How that a wife without a head should speak, or hear, or see!

But things that happen hereabout so strangely alter'd be,
That I cound maist wi' Bessie say, 'Tis neither

you nor sae!

Neither you nor she, quo' he, neither you

nor she; Wow, na, Johnnie man, 'tis neither you nor she,

Now Johnnie he cam hame again, and wow, but he was fain,

Fo see his little Bessikie come to hersell again. He got her sittin' on a stool, wi' Tibbock on her knee:

O come awa, Johnnie, quo' she, come awa to

me

For I've got a drap wi' Tibbikie, and this is

For I've got a drap wi' Tibbikie, and this is now me.

This is now me, quo' she, this is now me; I've got a drap wi' Tibbikie, and this is now me.

FAREWELL TO AYRSHIRE

GALL.

Scenes of woe and scenes of pleasure, Scenes that former thoughts renew, Scenes of woe and scenes of pleasure, Now a sad and last adieu!

Bonny Doon, sae sweet and gloamin, Fare thee weel before I gang! Bonny Doon, whare, early roaming, First I weav'd the rustic sang!

Bowers, adieu, whare Love, decoying, First inthrall'd this heart o' mine, There the saftest sweets enjoying,— Sweets that Mem'ry ne'er shall tyne!

Friends, so near my bosom ever, Ye hae rendered moment's dear; But, alas! when forc'd to sever, Then the stroke, O, how severe!

Friends! that parting tear reserve it, Tho' 'tis doubly dear to me! Could I think I did deserve it, How much happier would I be!

Scenes of wee and scenes of pleasure, Scenes that former thoughts renew, Scenes of wee and scenes of pleasure, Now a sad and last adieu!

TIBBLE FOWLER.

Tune-" Tibbie Fowler."

TIBBLE FOWLER o' the Glen,
There's ower mony wooing at her;
Tibble Fowler o' the Glen,

There's ower mony wooing at her.

Wooin' at her, pu'in' at her,

Courtin' her, and canna get her;

Filthy elf, it's for her pelf

That a' the lads are wooing at her.

Ten earn east, and ten cam west; Ten cam rowin' ower the water:

A Jacobite allusion, probably to the change of the Stuart for the Brunswick dynasty, in 1714.

^{*} Said to have been written by the Rev. Dr. Strachan, late minister of Carnwath, although certainly grounded upon a song of older standing, the name of which is mentioned in the Tea-Table Miscellany. The two first verses of the song appeared in Herd's Collection, 1776.

There is a tradition at Leith that Tibbie Fowler was a real person, and married, seme time auring the seventeenth century, to the representative of the attainted Lomity of Lugan of Hestatrig, whose town-house, dated 1576, is still pointed out at the head of a street in Leith, called the Sherit-biae. The marriage-contract between Lugan and Isabella Powler's still extant, in the possession of a gentleman resident at Leith—See Complete! History of Leith, note, p. 214.

Twa cam down the lang dyke-side: There's twa-and-thirty wooin' at her. Wooin' at her, &c.

There's seven but, and seven ben, Seven in the pantry wi' her; Twenty head about the door: There's ane-and-forty wooin' at her. Wooin' at her, &c.

She's got pendles in her lugs; Cockle-shells wad set her better! High-heel'd shoon, and siller tags; And a' the lads are wonin' at her. Wooin' at her, &c.

Be a lassic e'er sae black,
Gin she hae the penny siller,
Set her up on Tintock tap,
The wind will blaw a man sill her.
Wooin' at her, &c.

Be a lassie e'er sae fair,
An she want the penny siller,
A flie may fell her in the air,
Before a man be even'd till her.
Wooin' at her, &c.

ANNIE LAURIE. •

Maxwelton banks are bonnie,
Where carly fa's the dew;
Where ine and Annie Laurie
Made up the promise true;
Made up the promise true,
And never forget will 1;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'il lay me donn and die.

She's backit like the peacock; She's breisit like the swan; She's jimp about the middle; Her waist ye weel micht span: Her waist ye well micht span; And she has a rolling eye; And for bonnie Annie Laurie I'll lay me doun and die.

THE BRISK YOUNG LAD.

Tune - " Bung your eye in the morning."

THERE cam a young man to my daddie's door My daddie's door, my daddie's door; There cam a young man to my daddie's door, Cam seeking me to woo.

And wow! but he was a braw young lad, A brisk young lad, and a braw young lad. And wow! but he was a braw young lad, Can seeking me to woo.

Bat I was haking when he came,
When he came, when he came;
I took him in and gied him a scone,
To thowe his cozen mon.

And wow! but he was, &c.

I set him in aside the hink; I gae him bread and ale to drink; Ano ne'er a blythe styme wad he blink, Uutil his wame was fou. And wow! but he was, &c.

Gae, get you gone, you cauldrife wooer, Ye sour-looking, cauldrife wooer! I straightway show'd him to the door, Saying, Come nae mair to woo. And wow! but he was, &c

There lay a deuk-dub before the door,
Before the door, before the door;
There lar a deuk-dub before the door,
And there felt he, I trow!

And www l but he was, &c.

Out cam the guidman, and high he shouted; Out cam the guidwife, and laigh she louted; And a' the toun-neebors were gather'd about it; And there lay he, I trow! And wow! but he was, &c.

Then out cam I, and sneer'd and smiled; Ye cam to woo, but ye're a' beguiled; Ye've fa'en i' the dirt, and ye're a' befyled; We'll hae nae mair o' you! And wow! but he was, &c.

KIND ROBIN LO'ES ME.

Tune-" Robin lo'es me."

Rouse is my only jo, For Robin has the art to lo'e; Sae to his suit I mean to bow, Because I ken he lo'es me. Happy, happy was the shower, That led me to his birken bower, Where first of love I fand the power, And kenn'd that Robin lo'ed me.

They speak of napkins, speak of rings, Speak of gluves and kissin' strings;

[•] These two verses, which are in a style wonderfully tender and chatte for their age, were written by a Mr. Douglas of Fingland. Mr. Douglas of Fingland the Mr. Douglas of Fingland the Mr. Douglas of Fingland the Writer of Riddell of Minto. As Sir Robert was created a baronet in the year 1685, it is probable that the verses were composed about the end of the seventeenth or the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is painful to record, that, notwithstanding the ardent and chivaltous affection displayed by Mr. Douglas in his poem, he did not obtain the heroine for a wife: She was marned to Mr. Ferguson of Craigdarroch—See "A Balad Book," (or inted at Edinburgh in 1824), p. 107.

And name a thousand bonnie tnings,
And ca' them signs he lo'es me.
But I'd prefer a smack o' Rob,
Scated on the velvet fog,
To gifts as lang's a plaitlen web;
Because I ken he lo'es me.

He's tall and sonsie, frank and free, Lo'ed by a', and dear to me; W'i him I'd live, wi' him I'd dee, Because my Robin lo'es me. My tittie Mary said to me, Our courtship but a joke wad be, And I or lang be made to see That Robin ididna lo'e me.

But little kens she what has been,
Me and my honest Rob between;
And in his wooing, O sae keen
Kind Robin is that he's me.
Then fly, ye Lazy hours, away,
And hasten on the happy day,
When, Join your hands, Me's John will say,
And mak him mine that lo'es me.

Till then, let every chance unite To fix our love and give delight, And I'll look down on such wi' spi'e. Wha doubt that Robin lo'es n. ...

O ney, Robin! quo' she, O hey, Robin! quo' she,

O hey, Robin! quo' she; Kind Robin lo'es me.

THE POETS, WHAT FOOLS THEY'RE TO DEAVE US.

ROBERT GILFILLAN.

Tune-" Fy, let us a' to the bridal."

The poets, what fools they're to deave us, How ilka ane's lassic's sae fine; The tane is on angel—and, save us! The meist ane you meet wi's divine. And then there's a lang-nebbit sonnet, Be't Katie, or Janet, or Jean; And the moon, or some fir-thy planet's Compared to the blink o' her een.

The carth an' the sea they've ransackit
For sim'lies to set off their charms;
And no a wee flow'r but's attackit
By poets, like humbees, in swarms.
Now, what signifies a' this clatter,
By chiels that the truth winna tell?
Wad it no be settlie' 'he matter,
To say, Lass, ye're just like your sell?

An' then there's nae end to the evil,

For they are no deaf to the din—

That like me ony puir luckless deevil

Daur scarce look the gate they are in!

But e'en let them be, w. their seornin':
There's a lassic whase name I could tell;
Her smile is as sweet as the mornin'—
But whisht! I am ravin' mysell.

Dut he that o' ravin's convickit,
When a bonnie sweet lass he thinks on,
May he ne'er get anither strait jacket
Than that buckled to by Mess John!
An' he wha—though cautious an' canny—
The charms o' the fair never saw,
Though wise as King Solomon's grannie.
I swear is the daftest of a'.

'TWAS WITHIN A MILE OF EDIN-BURGH TOWN.

Tune-" Within a mile of Edinburgh."
'Twas within a mile of Edinburgh town,

In the rosy time of the year;
Sweet flowers bloom'd, and the grass was down,
And each shepherd woo'd his dear.
Bonny Jockey, blythe and gay,
Kiss'd swert Jenny, making hay,
The lassie blush'd, and frowning, cried, "No.

no, it will not do;
I cannot, eannot, wonnot, wonnot, mannot bue kle too."

Jockey was a wag that never would wed,
Though long he had followed the lass;
Contented she earned and eat her own bread,
And merrily turn'd up the grass.
Bonny Jockey, blythe and free,
Won her heart right merrily:
Yet still she blush'd, and frowning, cried, "No,
no, it will not do;

I cannot, cannot, wonnot, wonnot, mannot buckle too."

But when he vow'd he would make her his bride,

Though his flocks and herds were not few,
She gave him her hand, and a kiss beside,
And vow'd she'd for ever he true.
Bonny Jockey, blythe and free,
Won her heart right merrily:
At church she no more frowning, cried, "No,

no, it will not do;
I cannot, eannot, wonnot, wonnot buokle too."

MY LUVE'S IN GERMANIE.

Tune-" My luve's in Germanie."

My luve's in Germanie; Send him hame, send him hame; My luve's in Germanie; Send him hame. My luve's in Germanie, Fighting brave for royafty; He may ne'er his Jeanie see; Send him hame, send him hame; He may ne'er his Jeanie see; Send him hame.

He's as brave as brave can be; Send him hame, send him hame; Our faces are ten to three; Send him hame. Our faces are ten to three; He maun either fa' or flee, In the cause of loyalty; Send him hame, send him hame; In the cause of loyalty; Send him hame,

Your luve ne'er learnt to flee, Bonnie dame, vinsome dame; Your luve ne'er learnt to flee, Winsone dame. Your luve ne'er learnt to flee, But he fell in Germanie, Fighting brave for loyalty, Mournfu' dame, mournfu' dame; Fighting brave for loyalty, Mournfu' dame.

He'll ne'er come ower the sea; Willie's slain; Willie's slain, Willie's slain; We'll ne'er come ower the sea; Willie's gane! He will ne'er come ower the sea, To his have and ain countrie. This wardd's nae mair for me; Willie's gane, Willie's gane; This wardd's nee mair for me; Willie's gane!

TO THE KYE WI' ME.

O was na' she worthy o' kisses,
Far mue than twa or three,
And worthy o' bridal blisses,
Wha gaed to the kye wi' me.
O gang to the kye wi' me,
Gang to the kye wi' me,
Ower the burn and through the broom,
And I'll be merry wi' thee.

I hae a house a biggin,
Another that's like to fa',
And I love a scornfu' lassie,
Wha grieves me warst of a'.
O gang to the kye wi' me, my love,
O gang to the kye wi' me.
Ye'll ti.nk nae mair o' your mither
Amang the broom wi' me.

I hae a house a biggin, Anither that's like to fa', I hae noo the lass'e wi' bairn,
Which vexes me warst of a'.
O gang to the kye wi' me, ray low,
Gang to the kye wi' me,
I hae an auld mither at hame,
Will doudle it on her knee.

THE MILLER O' DEE.

Tune-" The Miller of Dec."

THERE was a jolly miller once
Lived on the river Dee;
He wrought and sung from morn till night,
No lark more blythe than he.
And this the burden of his song
For ever used to be;
1 care for nobody, no, not I,
If nobody cares for me.

And this, &c.

When spring began its merry career,
O, then his heart was gry;
He feared not summer's sultry heat,
Nor winter's cold decay.
No foresight marred the miller's cheer
Who off did sing and say,
Let others live from year to year,
I'll live from day to day.
No foresight, &c.

Theo, like this miller, hold and free, Let us be glad and sing; The days of youth are made for glee, And life is on the wing. The song shall pass from me to you, Around this jovial ring. Let heart, and hand, and voice agree: And so, God save our king.*

SAW YE MY FATHER?

Tune-" Saw ye my father ?"

" O saw ye my father, or saw ye my mother, Or saw ye my true love John?"

"I saw not your father, I saw not your mother But I saw your true love John."

" It's now ten at night, and the stars gie nae light,

And the bells they ring ding dong; He's met with some delay, that causeth him to

But he will be here ere long."

The surly auld carle did naething but snarle, And Jonnie's face it grew red;

 From an old MS. copy. The song seems to have been first printed in Herd's Collection, 1776. Yet, though he often sighed, he re'er a word | Now ye peep like a powt; ye glumph and ye replied,

Till all were asleep in bed.

Un Johnie rose, and to the door he goes, And gently tirled at the pin. The lassie, taking tent, unto the door she went, And she opened and let him in.

- " And are ye come at last, and do I hold ye fast ? And is my Johnie true?"
- " I have nae time to tell, but sae lang's I like mysell,

Sae lang sall I love you."

" Flee up, flee up, my bonnie grey cock, And craw whan it is day:

Your neck shall be like the bonnie beaten gowd, And your wings of the silver grev."

The cock proved fause, and uptrue he was ; For he crew an hour ower sune. The lassie thought it day, when she sent her

love away, And it was but a blink o' the mune

TAM O' THE BALLOCH

H. AINSLEY.

Tunc-" The Campbells are coming.

In the Nick o' the Balloch lived Muirland Tam, Weel stentit wi' brochan and braxie-ham; A breist like a buird, and a back like a door, And a wapping wame that hung down afore.

But what's come ower ye, Muirland Tam? For your leg's now grown like a wheel-barrow tram;

Your ee it's faun in-your nose it's faun out, And the skin o' your cheek's like a dirty clout.

O ance, like a yaud, ye spankit the bent, Wi' a fecket sae fou, and a stocking sae stent, The strength o' a stot-the wecht o' a cow; Now, Tammy, my man, ye're grown like a grew.

I mind sin' the blink o' a canty quean Could watered your mou and lichtit your een ; Now ye leuk like a yowe, when ye should be a rain;

O what can be wrang wi' ye, Muirland Tam?

Has some dowg o' the yirth set your gear ahreed? Hae they broken your heart or broken your head? Hae they rackit wi' rungs or kittled wi' steel? Ot, Tammy, my man, hae ye seen the deil?

Wha auce was your match at a stoup and a tale? Wi' a voice like a sea, and a drouth like a whale? | For he is fourscore, and I'm but fifteeu.

gaunt;

Oh, Tammy, my man, are ye turned a saunt?

Come, lowse your heart, ye man o' the muir; We tell our distress ere we look for a cure: There's laws for a wrang, and sa's for a sair; Sae, Tammy, my man, what wad ye hae mair?

Oh! neebour, it neither was thresher nor thief, That deepened my ee, and lichtened my beef; But the word that makes me sae waefu' and wan, Is-Tam o' the Balloch's a married man !

HAUD AWA FRAE ME DONALD.

HAUD awa, bide awa! Haud awa frae me, Donald: I've seen the man I well could love, But that was never thee, Donald. Wi' plumed bonnet waiving proud, And claymore by thy knee, Donald, And Lord o' Moray's mountains high, Thou'rt no a match for me, Donald.

Haud awa, bide awa, Haud awa frae me. Donald. What sairs your mountains and your lochs. I canna swim nor flee Donald: But if ye'll come when you fair sun Is sunk beneath the sea, Donald. I'll quit my kin, and kilt my cots, And take the hills wi' thee, Donald.

One of the old verses runs thus:-

Haud awa, bide awa. Haud awa frae me, Donald, Keep awa your cauld hand Frae my warm knee Donald.

AULD ROB MORRIS.

Twae-" Auld Rob Morris."

MOTHER.

AULD Rob Morris, that wons in you glen, He s the king o' guid fallows, and wale o' auld men;

He has fourscore o' black sheep, and fourscore

Auld Rob Morris is the man ye maun lo'e.

DAUGUTER.

Haud your tongue, mother, and let that abee; For his eild and my eild can never agree : They'll never agree, and that will be seen;

MOTHER.

Handyour tongue, dochter, and lay by your pride, For he is the bridegroom, and ye se be the bride; He shall lie by your side, and kiss you too; Auld Rob Mor. is is the man ye mann lo'e.

DAUGHTER.

Auld Rob Morris, I ken him fn' weel, His back sticks out like ony peat-creel; He's out shinn'd, in-kneed, and ringle-eyed too; Auld Rob Morris is the man I'll ne'er lo'e.

MOTHER.

Though auld Rob Morris be an elderly man, Yet his auld brass will buy you a new pan; Then, dochter, ye should na be sa ill to shoe, For auld Rob Morris is the man ye maun & e.

DAUGHTER.

But auld Rob Marris I never will hae, fits back is so stiff, and his beard is grown grey; I Lad rather die than live wi' him a year; Sae mair o' Rob Morris I never will hear.

THE MALT-MAN.

THE malt-man comes on Munday,
He craves wonder sair,
Cries, Dame, come gi'e nie my siller,
Or malt ye sall ne'er get mair.
I took him into the pantry,
And gave him some good cock-broo,
Syne paid him upon a gantree,
As hostler-wives should de.

When malt-men came for siller,
And gaugers with wands o'er soon,
Wives, tak them a' down to the cellar,
And clear them as I have done.
This bewith, when cunzie is scanty,
Will keep them frae making din;
The knack I learn'd frae an auld aunty,
The snackest of a' my kin.

The malt-man is right cunning,
But I can be as slee,
And he may crack of his winning,
When he clears scores with me:
For come when he likes, I'm ready;
But if frac hame I be,
Let him wait on our kind lady,
She'll answer a bill for me.

THE AULD WIFE BEYONT THE FIRE.

THERE was a wife won'd in a glen, And she had dochters nine or ten, That sought the house baith but and ben, To find their man a snishing. The auld wife beyont the fire, The auld wife aniest the fire, The auld wife aboon the fire, She died for lack of snishing.

Her mill into some hole had fawn, Whatreeks, quoth she, let it be gawn, For I mann hae a young goodman Shall furnish me with snishing. The auld wife, &c.

Her eldest dochter said right banld, Fy, mother, mind that now ye're auld, And if ye with a younker wald, He'll waste away your snishing. The auld wife, &c.

The youngest dochter ga'e a shout, O mother dear! your teeth's a' out, Besides ha'f blind, you have the gout, Your nill can had nae snishing. The auld wife, &c.

Ye lied, ye limmers, cries and mump, For I hae baith a tooth and stump, And will nae langer live in dump, By wanting of my snishing, The andd wife, ye.

Thole ye, says Peg, that pawky slut,
Mother, if ye can crack a nut,
Then we will a' consent to it,
That you shall have a suishing.
The auld wife, &c.

The auld ane did agree to that, And they a pistol-bullet gat; She powerfully began to crack, To win hersell a snishing. The auld wife, §c.

Braw sport it was to see her chow't, And 'tween her gums sae squeeze and row't, While frae her jaws the slaver flow'd, And ay she curs'd poor stumpy. The audd wife, &c.

At last she ga'e a desperate squeez,
Which brak the lang tooth by the necz,
And syne poor stumpy was at ease,
But she tint hopes of snishing.
The and wife, &c.

She of the task began to tire, And frae her dochters did retire, Syne lean'd her down ayout the five, And died for lack of snishing. The and wife, &c.

Ye auld wives, notice well this truth, Assoon as ve're past mark of mouth,

Saishing, in its literal meaning, is snuff made of tobacco; but, in this song, it means sometimes contentment, a husband, love, money, &c.

Ne'er do what's only fit for youth,
And leave aff thoughts of snishing:
Elss, like this wije beyont the fire,
Ye'r bairns against you will conspire;
Nor will ye get, unless ye hire,
A young man with your snishing,

BESSY BELL AND MARY GRAY.

O nessy Bell and Mary Gray,
They are twa bonny lassies,
They bigg'd a bow'r on you burn-brae,
And theek'd it o'er wi' rashes.
Fair Bessy Bell I loo'd yestreen,
And thought I ne'er could alter,
But Mary Gray's twa pawky een,
They gar my faucy falter.

Now Bessy's hair's like a lint tap, She smiles like a May morning, When Phobons starts frae Thetis' lap, The hills with rays adorning: White is her neck, saft is her hand, Her waist and feet's fu' genty; With ilka grace she can command; Her lips, O wow! they're dainty.

And Mary's locks are like a craw, Her een like diamonds glances; She's ay sac elean, redd up, and braw, She kills whene'er she dances: Blythe as a kid, with wit at will, She blooming, tight, and tall is; And guides her airs sae gracefu' still, O Jove, she's like thy Pallas.

Dear Bessy Bell and Mary Gray, Ye unco sair oppress us; Our fancies jee between you twa, Ye are sie bonny lassies: Wac's me! for baith I canna get, To ane by law we're stented; Then I'll draw cuts, and take my fate, And be with ane contented.

BONNY BARBARA ALLAN.

It was io and about the Martinmas time, When the green leaves were a-falling, That Sir John Græme in the west country Fell in love with Barbara Allan.

He sent his man down through the town, To the place where she was dwelling, O haste, and come to my master dear, Gin ye be Barbara Allan.

O hooly, hooly rose she up, To the place where he was lying, And when she drew the curtain by, Young man, I think you're dying

O its I'm sick, and very very sick, And 'tis a' for Barbara Allan. O the better for me ye's never be, Tho' your heart's blood were a-spilling

O dinna ye mind, young man, said she, When he was in the tavern a-drinking, That ye made the healths gae round and round And slighted Barbara Allan?

He turn'd his face unto the wall, And death was with him dealing; Adieu, adieu, my dear friends all, And be kind to Barbara Allan.

And slowly, slowly raise she up, And slowly, slowly left him; And sighing, said, she cou'd not stay, Since death of life had reft him.

She had not gane a mile but twa,
When she heard the dead-bell ringing,
And every jow that the dead-bell gied
It cry'd, Wo to Barbara Allao.

O mother, mother, make my bed, O make it saft and narrow, Since my love dy'd for me to-day, I'll die for him to-morrow.

ETTRICK BANKS.

On Ettrick banks, in a summer's night,
At glowming when the sheep drawe hame;
I met my lassie braw and tight,
Came wading, barefoot, a' her lane:
My heart grew light, I ran, I flang
My arms about her lily neck,
And kiss'd and clapp'd her there fou lang;
My words they were na mony, feck.

I said, my lassie, will ye go
To the highland hills, the Earse to learn
I'd baith giv thee a cow and ew,
When ye come to the brigg of Earn.
At Leith, auld meal comes in, ne'er fash,
And herrings at the Broomy Law;
Chear up your heart, my bouny lass,
There's gear to win we never saw.

All day when we have wrought enough, When winter, fiosts, and snaw begin, Soon as the san gaes west the loch, At night when you sit down to spin, I'll screw my pipes and play a spring: And thus the weary night will end, I'll the tender kid and lamb-time bring Our pleasant summer back again.

Sone when the trees are in their bloom, And gowans glent o'er ilka field, I'll meet my lass among the broom, And lead you to my summer-shield. Then far frae a' their scornfu' din,

That make the kindly hearts their sport, We'll laugh and kiss, and dance and sing, And gar the langest day seem short.

THE BIRKS OF INVERMAY.

DAVID MALLET.

Tune-" The Birks of Invermay.

THE smiling morn, the breathing spring, Invite the tunefu' birds to sing; And, while they warble from the spray, Love melts the universal lay. Let us, Amanda, timely wise, Like them, improve the hour that flies : And in soft raptures waste the day, Among the birks of Invermay.

For sonn the winter of the year, And age, life's winter, will appear; At this th, living bloom will fade, As that will strip the verdant shade. Our taste of pleasure then is o'er, The feather'd songsters are no more; And when they drop, and we decay, Adieu the hirks of Invermay!

THE BRAES O' BALLENDEAN.

DR. BLACKLOCK.

Tune-" The Bracs o' Ballendean,"

Beneath a green shade, a lovely young swain Ae evening reclined, to discover his pain; So sad, yet so sweetly, he warbled his woe, The winds ceased to breathe, and the fountain to

Rude winds wi' compassion could hear him complain,

Yet Chloe, less gentle, was deaf to his strain.

• Invermay is a small woody glen, watered by the rivulet May, which there joins the river Earn. It is about five miles above the bridge of Earn, and nearly nine from Perth. The seat of Mt Belsches, the propertor of this pocitical region, and who takes from it is servitorial designation, stands at the bottom of the later of the servitorial designation, stands at the bottom of the elder of the servitorial designation, stands at the bottom of the elder of the servitorial designation, stands at the bottom of the elder of the servitorial designation, stands at the bottom of the elder of the servitorial tension of the elder of the elder

of cascade scenery.

The song appeared in the 4th volume of the Tea-Table Miscellany.

How happy, he cried, my moments once flew, Ere Chloe's bright charms first flash'd in my view!

Those eyes then wi' pleasure the dawn could survey;

Nor smiled the fair morning mair cheerful than

Now scenes of distress please only my sight; I'm tortured in pleasure, and languish in light

Through changes in vain relief I pursue, All, all but conspire my griefs to renew; From sunshine to zephyrs and shades we repair-To sunshine we fly from too piercing an air; But love's ardent fire burns always the same, No winter can cool it, no summer inflame.

But see the pale moon, all clouded, retires; The breezes grow cool, not Strephon's desires: I fly from the dangers of tempest and wind, Yet nourish the madness that preys on my mind, Ah, wretch! how can life be worthy thy care? To lengthen its moments, but lengthens despair. .

THE BRUME O' THE COWDEN. KNOWES.

Tune-" The Brume o' the Cowdenknowes."

How blyth, ilk morn, was I to see My swain come ower the hill! He skint the burn and flew to me:

I met him with good will. Oh, the brume, the bonnie, bonnie brume ! The brume o' the Cowdenknowes ! I wish I were with my dear swain, With his pipe and my yowes.

I wanted neither yowe nor lamb, While his flock near me lay; He gather'd in my sheep at night, And cheer'd me a' the day. Oh, the brume, &c.

He tuned his pipe, and play'd sie sweet, The birds sat listening bye; E'en the dull cattle stood and gazed, Charm'd with the melodye. Oh, the brume, &c.

While thus we spent our time, by turns, Betwixt our flocks and play, I envied not the fairest dame, Though e'er so rich or gay. Oh, the Irume, &c.

The elebrated Tenducci used to sing this song, with great effect, in St. Cecilia's Hall, at Edinburgh, about fifty years ago. Mr. Tytler, who was a great paadom inty (cars ago. 3a) Titter, who was a great pa-tron of that obsolete place of amusement, says, in his Dissentation on Scottish Music, "Who could heat with insens-billity, or without heim moved in the high-est degree, Le diocci sing, "Pil cever leave thee," or, "The Ilraes o' Balleudean." The air was composed by Oswald.

Hard fate, that I should banish'd be, Gang heavily, and mourn, Because I loved the kindest swain That ever yet was born. Oh, the brume, &c.

He did oblige me every hour ; Con\d 1 but faithful be ? He stawe my heart; could I refuse Whate'er he ask'd of me? Oh, the brume, &c.

My doggie, and my little kit That held my wee soup whey, My plaidie, brooch, and crookit stick, May now lie useless by. Oh, the brume, &c.

Adieu, ye Cowdenknowes, adieu ! Fareweel, a' pleasures there ! Ye gods, restore me to my swain-Is a' I crave or care. Oh, the brume, &c.

THE CARLE HE CAM OWER THE

CRAFT. Tune-" The Carle he cam ower the Craft."

THE carle he cam ower the craft, Wi' his beard new-shaven; He looked at me as he'd been daft,-The carle trowed that I wad hae him. Hout awa! I winna hae him! Na, forsooth, I winna hae him ! For a' his beard new-shaven, Ne'er a bit o' me will hae him.

A siller brooch he gae me neist, To fasten on my curchie nookit; I wore 't a wee upon my breist, But soon, alake! the tongue o't crook ; And sae may his; I winna hae him! Na, forsooth, I winna hae him! Twice-a-bairn's a lassie's jest; Sae ony fool for me may hae him.

The carle has nae fault but ane; For he has land and dollars plenty; But, wae's me for him, skin and bane Is no for a plump lass of twenty. Hout awa, I winna hae him! Na, forsooth, I winna hae him ! What signifies his dirty riggs, And cash, without a man wi' them? But should my ankert daddie gar Me tak him 'gainst my inclination, I warn the fumbler to beware That antlers dinna claim their station Hout awa! I winna hae him! Na, for sooth, I winna hae him! I'm flee'd to crack the haly band, Sac lawty says, I shou'd na hae him

THE WEE THING.

MACNEIL.

Tune-" Bonnie Dundee."

Saw ye my wee thing? saw ye my ain thing? Saw ye my true love down on you lea? Cross'd she the meadow yestreen at the gloam-

Sought she the burnie whar flow'rs the haw-

Her hair it is lint-white; her skin it is milk white;

Dark is the blue o' her saft-rolling ee; Red red her ripe lips, and sweeter than roses : Whar could my wee thing wander frae me?-

I saw nae your wee thing, I saw nae your ain thing,

Nor saw I your true love down on you lea; But I met my honnie thing late in the gloamin. Down by the burnie whar flow'rs the hawtree.

Her hair it was lint-white; her skin it was milk-white:

Dark was the blue o' her saft-rolling ee; Red were her ripe lips, and sweeter than roses; Sweet were the kisses that she gae to me !-

It was na my wee thing, it was na my ain thing,

It was no my true love ye met by the tree: Proud is her leal heart! and modest her nature! She never loed onie till ance she loed me.

Her name it is Mary; she's frae Castle-Cary; Aft has she sat, when a hairn, on my knee: Fair as your face is, war't fifty times fairer, Young bragger, she ne'er would gie kisses to thee !-

It was, then, your Mary; she's frae Castle-

It was, then, your true love I met by the tree:

Proud as her heart is, and modest her nature, Sweet were the kisses that she gae to me .-

Sair gloom'd his dark brow-blood-ted hie cheek grew-

Wild flash'd the fire frae his red-rolling ce '

[•] As the reader may be supposed ar xious to know something of the place which has thus been the subject of so much poetry, theeditor thinks it project to inform him, that, "the Cowdenknowes," or, as sometimes spelled in old writings, the Coldingknowes, are two little hills on the east side of the vale of Lauderdale, Berwickshire. They lie immediately to the south of the vilage of Earlston, celebrated as the residence of "the earliest known Scottish poet," Thought in the thymer.

your scorning

Defend ye, fause traitor! for loadly ye he .-

Awa wi' beguiling cried the youth, smiling : Aff went the bonnet; the lint-white locks flee:

"he belted plaid fa'ing, her white bosom shaw-

Fair stood the loved maid wi' the dark-rolling ee!

Is it my wee thing! is it mine ain thing! Is it my true love here that I see !-

O Jamie, forgie me; your heart's constant to

I'll never mair wander, dear ! ddie, frae thee !

THE WHITE COCKADE.

Tunc-" The White Cockade."

My love was born in Aberdeen, The bonniest lad that e'er was seen : But now he makes our hearts fu' sad-He's ta'en the field wi' his white cockade.

O, he's a ranting roving blade ! O, he's a brisk and a bonny lad! Retide what may, my heart is glad To see my lad wi' his white cockade.

O, leeze me on the philabeg, The hairy hough, and garter'd leg! But aye the thing that glads my ee, Is the white cockade about the bree. O, he's a ranting, &c.

I'll sell my rock, I'll sell my reel, My rippling kame, and spinning wheel, To buy my lad a tartan plaid, A braidsword and a white cockade. O, he's a runting, &c.

I'll sell my rokely and my tow, My gude grey mare and hawket cow, That every loyal Buchan lad May tak the field wi' his white cockade. O 'le's a ranting, &c.

THE WIDOW.

ALLAN RAMSAY.

THE widow can bake, and the widow can brew, The widow can shape, and the widow can sew, And mony braw things the widow can do;

I hen have at the widow, my laddie. With conrage attack her, baith early and late: To kiss her and clap her ye maunna be blate: Speak well, and do better; for that's the best

To win a young widow, my laddre.

Le'se rue sair, this morning, your boasts and TI c widow she's youthful, and never ae hair The want of the wearing, and has a good skair Of every thing lovely; she's witty and fair, And has a rich jointure, my laddie

What could ve wish better, your pleasure to erown,

Than a widow, the bonniest toast in the town, With, Naething but-draw in your stool and sit

And sport with the widow, my laddic.

Then till her, and kill her with courtesie dead, Though stark love and kindness be all you car plead;

Be heartsome and airy, and hope to succeed With the bonnie gay widow, my laddie. Strike iron while 'tis het, if ye'd Lave it to wald;

For fortune ay favours the active and bauld, But ruins the wooer that's thowless and cauld Unfit for the widow, my laddie.

THE YELLOW-HAIR'D LADDIE.

OLD VERSES.

Tune-" The yellow-hair'd Laddis."

THE vellow-hair'd laddie sat down on von brae. Cried, Milk the yowes, lassie, let nane o' them gae;

And aye as she milkit, she merrily sang, The yellow-hair'd laddie shall be my gudeman. And aye as she milkit, she merrily sang, The yellow-hair'd laddie shall be my gude-

The weather is cauld, and my cleadin is thin, The yowes are new clipt, and they winna buch!

They winna bucht in, although I should dee: Oh, yellow-haird'd laddie, be kind unto me. And aye as she milkit, &c.

The gudewife cries butt the house, Jennie, come ben;

The cheese is to mak, and the butter's to kirn. Though butter, and cheese, and a' should gang

I'll crack and I'll kiss wi' my love ac half hour. It's ae lung half hour, and we'll e'en mak it three.

For the yellow-hair'd laddie my gudeman shall be. .

. From the Toa-Table Miscellany, 1724.

THE YOUNG LAIRD AND EDINBURGII KATIE.

RAMSAV.

Tune-" Tartan Sereen."

Now wat ye wha I met yestreen, Coming down the street, my joe ? My mistress, in her tartan screen, Fu' bonnie, braw, and sweet, my joe! My dear, quoth I, thanks to the night That never wiss'd a lover ill, Sin' ye're out o' your mither's sicht, Let's tak' a walk up to the hill.*

Oh. Katie, wilt thou gang wi' me, And leave the dinsome toun a while? The blossom's sprouting frae the tree, And a' creation's gann to smile. The mavis, nichtingale, and lark, The bleating lambs and whistling hynd,

In ilka dale, green shaw, and park, Will nourish health, and glad your mind.

Sune as the clear gudeman o' day Does bend his mornin' draught o' dew. We'll gae to some burn-side and play, And gather flouirs to busk your brow. We'll pou the daisies on the green, The lucken-gowans frae the bog; Between hands, now and then, we'll lean And sport upon the velvet fog.

There 's, up into a pleasant glen, A wee piece frae my father's tower, A canny, saft, and flowery den, Which circling birks have form'd a bower. Whene'er the snn grows high and warm, We'll to the caller shade remove; There will I lock thee in my arm, And love at I kiss, and kiss and love.

MY MOTHER'S AYE GLOWRIN' OWER ME:

IN ANSWER TO THE YOUNG LAIRD AND EDINBURGH KATY.

RAMSAY.

a une-" My Mother's aye glowrin' ower me."

My mother's aye glowrin' ower me, Though she did the same before me :

I canna get leave To look at my love, Or else she'd be like to devour me.

Right fain wad I tak' your offer, Sweet Sir-but I'll tyne my tocher Then, Sandy, ye'll fret, And wyte your pair Kate, Whene'er ye keek in your toom coffer

For though my father has plenty Of silver, and plenishing dainty, Yet he's unco sweir To twine wi' his gear ; And sae we had need to be tenty.

Tutor my parente wi' caution, Be wylie in ilka otion; Brag weel o' our land, And, there's nay leal hand, Win them, I'll be at your devotion.

WANDERING WILLIE-

OLD VERSES.

Tune-" Wandering Willie."

HERE awa, there awa, wandering Willie! Here awa, there awa, hand awa hame : Lang have I sought thee, dear have I bought tince;

Now I have gotten my Willie again.

Through the lang muir I have followed my Willie: Through the lang muir I have followed him

hame. Whatever betide us, nought shall divide us;

Love new rewa ds all my sorrow and pain. Here awa, there awa, here awa, Willie!

Here awa, there awa, here awa, hame ! Come, love, believe me, nothing can grieve me, Ilka thing pleases, when Willie's at hame. .

CAM' YE O'ER FRAE FRANCE.

CAM' ye o'er frae France, came ye doun by Lunnon,

Saw ye Geordie Whelps and his bonny woman War' ye at the place ca'd the kittle-housie, Saw ye Geordie's grace, ridin' on a goosie.

Geordie he's a man, there 's little doubt o't, He's done a' he can, wha can do without it; Down there cam' a blade, .inkin' like a lordic. He wad drive a trade at the loom o' Geordie.

^{*} It is quite as remarkable as it is true, that the mode of sourtship among people of the middle ranks in Ediaburzh has undergone a complete change in the course of no more than the last thirty years. It used to be customary for lovers to walk together It used to be customery to make a March 16 for hours, both during the day and the evening, in the Mesukows, or the King's Park, or the fields may be caughed by the New Town: presences move only known to artizans and serving girls.

The song appeared in the Tea-Table Miscellany,

From Hard's Collection, 1776. † This plainly ulludes to Count Konirgamer's and the Queen.

The the clait? were bad, blythely may we niffer, Gin we get a wab, it mak's little differ; We hae tot our plaid, bounet, belt and swordie, Ha's and maillins braid, but we hae a Geordie.

Hey for Sandy Don, hey for cockolorum, Hey for Bobbin' John and his Highland quorum;

Many a sword and lance swings at Highland hurdie,

How they'll skip and dance o'er the bum o' Geordie.

THE HIGHLAND LADDIE.

ANOTHER SET.

The lawland lads think they are fine;
But O they're vain and idly gaudy!
How much unlike that graceful mien,
And manly looks of my highland laddie?
O my bonny, bonny highland laddie,
My handsome, chermung highland laddie,
My heaven still guard, and love reward
Our lawland lass and her highland laddie.

If I were free at will to chuse

To be the wealthiest lawland lady,
I'd take young Donald without trews,
With bonnet blue, and belted plaidy.

O my bonny, &c.

The brawest beau in borrows town,
In a' his airs, with art made ready,
Compar'd to him, he's but a clown;
He's finer far in's tartan plaidy,
O my bonny, &c.

O'er benty hill with him I'll run,
And leave my lawland kin and dady;
Frae winter's cauld, and sammer's sun,
He'll screen me with his highland plaidy.
O my bonny, &c.

A painted room, and silken hed,
May please a lawl and lard and lady;
But I can kiss, and he as glad,
Behind a bush in's highland plaidy.
O my bouny, &c.

Few compliments between us pass, I ca' him my dear highland laddie, And he ca's me his lawland lass, Syne rows me in beneath his olaidy. O my bouny, &c.

Nae greater joy I'll e'er pretend,
Than that his hove prove true and steady,
Like mine to hun, which ne'er shall end,
While heaven preserves my highland laddie.
O my bonny, &c.

JENNY NETTLES.

SAW ye Jenny Nettles, Jenny Nettles, Jenny Nettles, Saw ye Jenny Nettles, Coming frac the market? Bag and baggage on her back, Her fee and bountith in her lap; Bag and baggage on her back, And a babie in her oxter?

I met ayont the kairny, Jenny Nettles, Jenny Nettles, Singing till her bairny, Robin Rattle's bastart ; To flee the dood upo' the stool, And ilka une that mocks her, She round about seeks Robin out, To stap it in his oxter

Fy, fy! Robin Rattle,
Robin Rattle, Robin Rattle;
Fy, fy! Robin Rattle,
Use Jenny Nettles kindly;
Score out the blame, and shun the shame,
And without mair debate o't,
Tak hame your wean, make Jenny fain
The leel and leesome gate o't.

O MERRY MAY THE MAID BE.

SIR JOHN CLERK OF PENNYCUICK.

Tune-" Merry may the Maid be."

O, MERRY may the maid be
That marries the miller!
For, foul day or fair day,
He's aye bringing till her.
H'as aye a penny in his pouch,
For dinner or for supper;
Wi' beef, and pease, and melting cheese,
An' lumps o' yellew butter.

Behind the door stands hags o' meal,
And in the ark is plenty,
And good hard cakes his mither bakes,
And mony a sweeter dainty.
A good fat sow, a sleeky cow,
Are standing in the byre;
Whilst winking puss, wi' mealy mou,
Is playing round the fire.

Good signs are these, my mither says,
And bids me take the miller;
A miller's wife's a merry wife.
And he's aye bringing till her.
For meal or munt shell never want,
Till wood and water's scanty;
As lang's there's cocks and clockin hens,
She'll aye hae eggs in plenty.

BURNS' WORKS.

THE TAILOR.

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 lassic was sleepy and thought on nac ill;
The weather was cauld and the lassic lay still;
The rinth part o' manhood may sure hac its
will:

She kent weel the Tailor could do her nae ill.

The Tailor grew droosy, and thought in a dream.

How he canked out the claith, and then felled in the scam;

A while ayout midnight, before the cocks craw, The Tailor fell thro' the bed thimbles an' a'.

The day it has come, and the nicht it has gane, Said the bonnie young lassie when sighing plane:

Since men are but scant, it wad gee me nue pain,

To see the bit Tailor come skippin again.

AWA, WHIGS, AWA!

JACOBITE SONG.

Tune-" Awa, Whige, awa!"

Our thistles flourish'd fresh and fuir,
And benny bloom'd our roses.
But Whigs came, like a frost in June,
And wither'd a' our posies.
Awa, Whigs, awa!
Awa, Whigs, awa!
Ye're but a pack o' traitor loons;
Ye'll me'r do good at a'.

Our sad decay in church and state Surpasses my descriving; The Whigs came o'er us for a curse, And we have done wi' thriving. Awa, Whigs! awa, &c.

A foreign Whiggish loon bought seeds, In Scottish yird to cover; But we'll pu' a' his dibbled lecks, And pack him to Hanover. Awa, Whigs! awa, &c.

Our ancient crown's fa'n i' the dust,
Deil blind them wi' the stour o't!
And write their names in his black heuk,
Wha ga'e the Whigs the power o't!

Awa, Whi I awa, &c.

Grim Vengeance lang has ta'en a nap,
But we may see him wanken:
Gude help the day, when royal heads
Are hunted like a munkin!
Awa, Whigs! awa, &c.

The deil he heard the stour o' tongues, And ramping came amang us; But he pitied us, sae cursed w' Whigs,— He turn'd and wadna wrang us. Awa, Whigs! awa, Ye

Sae grim he sat among the reek,
Thrang bundling brimstone matches;
And coon'd, 'mang the benk-taking Whiga,
Seraps of anld Calvin's catches.
Awa, Whigs, awa!
Awa, Whigs, owa!
Ye'll rin me out o' wun spunks,
And we'r do good at a'.

LOCH-NA-GARR.

BYRON.

Away ye gay lamiscapes, ye gardens of roses, In you let the minions of luxury rove; Restore me the rocks where the snow-flake re

If still they are sacred to freedom and love.
Yet, Caledonia, dear are thy mountains.
Round their white summits the elements war,
The attracts foam, 'stead of smooth flowing
fountains,

I sigh for the valley of dark Loch-na-garr.

Shades of the dead! have I heard your voices Rise on the night-rolling breath of the gale, Surely the soul of the hero rejoices, And rides on the wind, o'er his own Highland dale.

Round Loch-na-garr, while the stormy mist gathers,

Winter presides in his cold iey car; Clouds there encircle the forms of my fathers, They dwell 'mid the tempests of dark Lochna-garr.

THE MERRY MEN, O.

When I was red, and ripe, and crouse,
Ripe and crouse, ripe and crouse,
My father built a wee house, a wee house,
To hand me frac the men, O.
There came a lad and gae a shout,
Gae a shout, gae a shout.

The wa's fell in, and I fell out, Amang the merry men, O.

I dream sic sweet things in my sleep, In my sleep, in my sleep,

My minny says I winna keep, Amang sae mony men. O.

When plums are tipe, they should be 100'd, Should be poo'd, should be poo'd,

When maids are ripe, they should be woo'd At seven years and ten, O.

My love, I cried it, at the port,
At the port, at the port,
The captain hade a guine, for't,
The colonel he hade ten, O.
The chaplain he hade siller for't,
Siller for't, siller for't,
But the sergeant hade me naething for't,
Yet he cam farthest ben. O.

KENMURE'S ON AND AWA, WILLIE.

Tun-" Kenmure's on and awa."

O, KERMURE'S on and awa, Willie, O. Kenmure's on and awa; And Kenmure's lord's the bravest lord That ever Galloway saw.

Succes 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 Kemmure's health in wine, Willie, Here's Kemmure's health in wine! There ne'er was a coward o' Kemmure's blude, Nor yet o' Gordon's line.

O, Kermure's lads are men, Willie,
O, Kenmure's lads are men!
Their hearts and swords are metal true;
And that their faces shall ken.

They'll live or die wi' fame, Willie, They'll live or die wi' fame; But sune wi' sound and victorie May Kenmure's lord come hame!

Here's him that's fir 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.

POLWART ON THE GREEN.

Ar Polwart on the green,
If you'll meet me the morn,
Where lasses do convene
To dance about the thorn,

A kindly welcome you shall meet Frac her wha likes to view A lover and a lad complete, The lad and lover you.

Let dorty dames say Na,
As lang as e'er they please,
Seem caulder than the sna',
While inwardly they bleeze;
But I will frankly shaw my mind,
And yield my heart to thee;
Be ever to the captive kind,
'That langs na to be free.

At Polwart on the green,
Amang the new-mawn hay,
With sangs and dancing keen
We'll pass the heartsome day.
At night, if beds he o'er thrang laid,
And thou be twin'd of thine,
Thou shalt he welcome, my dear lad,
To take a part of mine.

HAME NEVER CAME HE.

Saddled, and bridled, and booted rode he, A plume in his helmet, a sword at his knee; But toom cam' the saddle, all bluidy to see, And hame cam' the steed, but hame never cam he.

Down cam' his gray father, sabhin' sae sair, Down cam' his auld mither, teacing her hair, Down cam' his sweet wife wi' bonnie bairns three.

Ane at her bosom, and two at her knee.

There stood the fleet steed all foamin' and hot, There shriek'd his sweet wife, and sank on the

There stood his gray father, weeping sae free, So hame cam' his steed, but hame never cam be.

THE BOB OF DUMBLANE.

Lassiz, lend me your braw hemp heckle, And I'll lend you my thripling kame; For fainness, deary, I'll gar ye keckle, If ye'll go dance the Bob of Dumblane. Haste ye, gang to the ground of your trunkies, Busk ye braw, and dinna think shame; Consider in time, if leading of anonkies Be better than dancing the Bob of Dumblane,

Be frank, my lassie, lest I grow fickle, And take my word and offer again, Syne ye may chance to repent it mickle, Ye did na accept the Bob of Dumblanø The dioner, the piper, and priest shall be ready, And I'm grown dowy with lying my lane; Away theo, leave baith miony and dady, And try with me the Bob of Dumblane,

LOCHABER NO MORE

Tune-" Louisber no more."

EAREWELL to Lochaber, and farewell my Jean, Where heartsome with thee I've mony day been; For Lochaber no more, Lochaber no more, We'll may be reture to Lochaber no more. These tears that I shed, they are a' for my dear, And no for the dangers attending on weir, Tho here on rough seas to a far bloody shore, May be to return to Lochaber no more.

The hurricanes rise, and rise ev'ry wind, They'll ne'er make a tempest like that in my

The' loudest of thunder on louder waves roar, That's nacthing like leaving my love on the shore. To leave thee behind me my heart is sair pain'd, By ease that's inglorious, no fame can be gain'd. And beauty and love's the reward of the brave, And I must deserve it before I can erast.

Then glory, my Jeany, mann plead my excuse, Since honour commands me, how can I refuse? Without it I oc'er can have merit for thee, And without thy favour I'd better not be. I gae then, my lass, to win honour and fame, And if I should luck to come gloriously hame, I'l bring a heart to thee with love running o'er, And then I'll leave thee and Lochaber no more.

JOCKY SAID TO JEANY.

JOCKY said to Jeany, Jeany, witt thou do't? Ne'er a fit, quo' Jeany, for my tocher-good, For my tocher-good, I winna marry thee. E'ens ye like, quo' Jockey, ye may let it be.

I hae gowd and gear, I hae land enough, I hae even good owsen ganging in a pleugh, Ganging in a pleugh, and linking o'er the lee, And gin ye winna tak me, I can let ye be.

I hae a good ha' house, a barn and a byre, A stack afore the door, I'll make a rantin fire, I'll make a rantin fire, azd merry -nall we be: And gin ye wima tak me, I can let ye be.

Jeany said to Jocky. Gin ye winna tell, Ye shall be the lad. I'll be the lass mysell. Ye're a honny lad, and I'm a lassie free, Ye're welcomer to tak me than to let me be.

THE LOWLANDS OF HOI LAND ANOTHER VERSION

The luve that I has chosen
I'll therewith be content;
The saut sea will be frozen
Before that I repent;
Repent it will I never
Until the day I die,
Though the Lowlands of Holland
Hae twined my love and me.

My luve lies in the saut sea, And I am on the side; Enough to break a young thing's heart Wha lately was a happy bride And pleasure in her ee; But the Lowlands of Holland

Oh! Holland is a barren place, In it there grows nae grain, Nor ony habitation Wherein for to remain; But the sugar canes are plenty, And the wine draps face the tree, But the Lowlands of Holland Hae twined my love and me.

Hae twined my love and me

My love he built a bonnie ship, And sent her to the sea, Wi's seen score guid mariners To bear her companie. Three score to the bottom gaed, And three score diel at sea; And the Lowlands of Holland Hae twined my love aud me.

JENNY DANG THE WEAVEN

Jenny lap, and Jenny flang, Jenny dang the weaver; The piper played as Jenny sprang, An' aye she dang the weaver.

As I cam in by Fisherrow,
Musselburgh was near me,
I threw aff the mussel-pock,
And courtit wi' my deerie.

Had Jenny's apron bidden down
The kirk wad ne'er hae ken'd it;
But now the word 's gane thro the town,
The devil canna mend it.

Jenny lap, and Jenny fling, Jenny dang the weaver; The piper played as Jenny sprang, And aye she dang the weaver.

As I went out ae May morning, Ae May morning it happened to be, O there I saw a very bonnie lass Come linkin' o'er the lea to me. And O she was a weel-faud lass, Sweet as the flower sae newly sprung; I said, fair maid, an' ye fancy me, When she laughing said, I am too young.

To be your bride I am too young, And far our proud to be your loon; This is the merry month of May, But I'll be aulder, Sir, in June. The hawthorns flourished fresh and fair, And o'er our heads the small birds sing, And never a word the lassie said, But, gentle Sir, I am too young.

THE WEE, WEE GERMAN LAIRDIN.

WITA the deil hae we gotten for a king, But a wee, wee German lairdie? And, when we gaed to bring him, He was delving in his yardie: Shenghing kail, and laying leeks, But the hose, and but the breeks; And up his beggar duds he cleeks-This wee, wee German lairdie.

And he's clapt down in our gudeman's chair, The wee, wee German lairdie; And he's brought fouth o' foreign trash, And dibbled them in his yardie. He's pu'd the rose o' English loons And broken the harp o' Irish clowns; But our thistle taps will jag his thumbs-This wee, wee German lairdie.

Come up amang our Highland hills. Thou wee, wee German lairdie, And see the Stuart's lang-kail thrive We dibbled in our yardie: And if a stock ve dure to pu', Or hand the yoking o' a plough, We'll break your sceptre o'er your mcu, Thou wee bit German lairdie.

Our hills are steep, our glens are deep, Nae fitting for a yardie; And our Norland thistles winna pu', Thou wee bit German lairdie: And we've the trenching blades o' weir-Wad pruoe ye o' your German gear-

AS I WENT OUT AE MAY MORNING | We'll pass ye 'neath the claymore's shear, Thou feckless German lairdie!

> Auld Scotland, thou'rt ower cauld a hole For nursin' sicean vermin; But the very dougs o' England's court

They bark and howl in German. Then keep thy dabble in thy ain hand, Thy spade but and thy yardie;

For wha the deil has we gotten for a king, But a wee, wee German lairdie?

THE FORAY.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

THE last of our steers on the board has been spread,

And the last flask of wine in our goblets is red : Up, up, my brave kinsmen !-belt swords and begone;

There are dangers to dare, and there's spoil to won!

The eyes that so lately mixed glances with ours, For a space must be dim, as they gaze from the towers,

And strive to distinguish, through tempest and gloom,

The prance of the steeds and the top of the plume.

The rain is descending, the wind rises loud, The moon her red beacon has veiled with a cloud-

'Tis the better, my mates, for the warder's dull

Shall in confidence slumber, nor dream we are

Our steeds are impatient-I hear my blythe

grey; There is life in his hoof-clang and hope in his neigh;

Like the flash of a meteor, the glance of his mane Shall marshal your march through the dark-

ness and rain.

The draw-bridge has dropped, and the bugle has blown; One pledge is to quaff yet-then mount and

begone:

To their honour and peace that shall rest with the slain!

To their health and their glee that see Tevint again!

BURNS'S SONGS.

ADIEU: A HEART-WARM FOND ADIEU! | Who shall say that fortune grieves him-

Tune-" The Peacock."

Addentify and a heart-warm fond adieu!
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favour'd, ye enlighten'd few,
Companions of my social joy!
Though! It foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing Fortune's sliddry ba',
With melting heart, and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, though 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 thi thieroglyphic bright, Which none but craftsmen ever saw! Strong memory on my heart shall write Those happy scenes when far awa!

May freedom, harmony, and love, Unite you in the grand designe, Beneath the Omniscient Eye above, The glorious architect divine! That you may keep th' unerring line, Still rising by the planmet's law, Till order bright completely shine— Shall be my prayer when fir awa.

And yon, farewell! whose merits claim, Justly, that highest badge to wear! Heaven 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 a.k it with a tear, To him, the bard, that's far awa.*

AE FOND KISS.

Az fond kiss, and then we sever; Ae farewell, alas, for ever! Deep in heart-wrong tears I'll pledge thee, War in sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

 Written as a sort of farewell to the Masonic companions of his youth, when the port was on the point of leaving Scotland for Jamaica, 1786. 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 thy 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 loved sae kindly, Had we never loved sae hindly; Never met—or never parted, We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

Fare thee well, thou first and fairest!
Fare thee well, thou best and dearest!
Thine be like joy and treasure,
Peace, enjoyment, love, and pleasure!
Ae fond kiss, and then we sever;
Ae farewell, alas, for ever!
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thea,
War in sighs and grouns I'll wage thee.

AFTON WATER.

Tune-" The Yellow-hair'd Laddie."

FLOW gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braces.

Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise, My Mary's asleep by thy murmining stream; Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stock-dove, whose echo resounds through the glen.

Ye wild-whistling blackbirds, in you flowery den,

Thou green-crested lapwing, thy screaming forhear,

I charge you, disturb not my slumbering fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills, Far mark'd with the courses of clear-winding rills;

There daily I wander, as more 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 primroses blow There oft, as mold evening creeps o'er the lea, The sweet seented birk shades my Mary and mo Thy crystal stream, Afton, now lovely it glides, But he still was faithful to his can, And winds by the cot where my Mary resides! How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave. As, gath'ring sweet flow'rets, she stems thy clear wave !

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green

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.

AGAIN REJOICING NATURE SEES.

Tune-" Johnnie'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.

In vain to me the cowslips blaw ; In vain to me the vi'lets spring; In vain to me, in glen or shaw, The mavis and the lintwhite sing.

The merry ploughboy cheers his team : Wi' joy the tentie seedman stanks; But life to me's a weary dream, A dream of ane that never wanks.

The wanton cont the water skims : Amang the reeds the ducklings ery; The stately swan majestic swims; And every thing is blest but I.

The shepherd steeks his faulding slaps, And o'er the moorland whistles shrill; Wi' wild, unequal, wandering step, I meet him on the dewy hill.

And when the lark, 'tween light and dark, Blithe waukens by the daisy's side, And mounts and sings on fluttering wings, A woe-worn ghaist, I hameward glide.

Come, Winter, with thine angry howl, At I raging hend the naked tree; Thy gloom will soothe my cheerless soul, When nature all is sad like me!

A HIGHLAND LAD MY LOVE WAS BORN.

THE " RAUCLE CARLINE'S" SONG IN THE "JOLLY BEGGARS."

Tune-" O an ye war dead, guidman!"

A HIGHLAND lad my love was born, The Lawland laws he held in scorn ; My gallant, braw John Highlandman! Sing hey, my braw John Highlandman! Sing ho, my braw John Highlandman! There's not a' lad in a the land, Was match for my braw John Highlandman!

With his philabeg and 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 lived like lords and ladies gay; For a Lawland face he feared none, My gallant braw John Highlandman. Sing hey, &c.

They banished him beyond the sea; But, ere the bud was on the tree, Adown my cheeks the pearls ran, Embracing my braw John Highlandman. Sing hey, &c.

But, och! they catched him at the last. And bound him in a dungeon fast; My curse upon them every one, They've hanged my braw John Highlandman' Sing hey, &c.

And now, a widow, I must mourn Departed joys that ne'er return, No comfort but a hearty can, When I think on John Highlandman. Sing hey, &c.

AMANG THE TREES WHERE HUM MING BEES.

Tune-" The King of France, he rade a Race.

AMANG the trees where humming bees At buds and flowers were hinging, O; Auld Caledon drew out her drone. And to her pipe was singing, O; Twas Pibroch, sang, strathspey, or reels She dirl'd them aff, fu' clearly, O; When there cam a yell o' foreign sque-'e That dang her tapsalteerie, O-

Their capon craws and queer ha ha's, They made our lugs grow eerie, O The hungry bike did scrape and pike Till we were wae 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.

A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT.

Tune-" 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 danr be puir for a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
Our toils obscure, and a' that,
The rank is but the gainea-stamp—
The man's the gowl for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear holdin-grey, and a' that?
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine;
A mon's a man for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that,
Their tinsel show, and a' that,
The homest man, though e'er sae puir,
Is king o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts, and stares, and a' that;
Though hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a cuif for a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
His ribbon, star, and a' that,
The man of independent mind,
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A king can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his micht,
Gude faith, he mauma fa' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Their dignities, and a' that,
The pith o' sense, the pride o' worth,
Are higher ranks for 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, and a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
I's comin' yet for a' that,
That man to man, the warld o'er,
Shall brothe so be for a' that.

ANNA.

Tune-" Banks of Banna."

YESTEVEN I had a pint o' wine, A place where body saw na; Yestreen lay on this breast o' nine The raven locks of Anna. The hungry Jew in wilderness, Rejoicing ower his manna, Was mething to my himpy 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.
There I'il despise imperial charms,
An empress or sultana,
While dying raptures, in her arms
I give and take with Anna.

Awa, thou flaunting god of 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 au angel pen to write
My transports with my Anna.*

ANNIE.

Tune-" Allan Water."

I WALKED out with the Museum in my hand, and turning up Allan Water, the words appeared to me rather unworthy of so fine an air, so I sat and raved under the shade of an old thorn till I wrote one to suit the measure.

By Allan stream I chanced to rove,
While Phobus sank beyond Benledi,
The winds were whisp'ring through the grove,
The yellow corn was waving ready:
I listen'd to a lover's sang,
And thought on youthful pleasures many;
And aye the wild-wood echoes rang—

O, happy he the woodbine bower;
Nac nightly bogle mak it eerie;
Nor ever so-row stain the hour,
The place and time I meet my dearie!
Her head upon my throlbing breast,
She, sinking, said, I'm thine for ever!
While many a kiss the seal impress'd,
The sacred vow, we ne'er should sever.

O, dearly do I love thee, Annie

The haunt o' Spring's the primrose brae;
The Simmer joys the flocks to follow;
How cheerie, through her short'ning day,
Is Antuma in her weeds o' yellow!
But can they melt the glowing heart,
Or chain the soul in speechless pleasure,
Or through each nerve the rapture dart,
Like meeting her, our bosom's treasure?

This song, like "Highland Mary," affords a strong proof of the power which poerry possesses of raising and subliming objects. Highland Mary was the dairy mail of Col-licht; Anna is said to have been something meaner. The poet sure was in a fine phrenzy rolling when he said, "I think this is the best lovesong i ever worte."

A RED RED ROSE.

Tune-" Low down in the Brume."

O, My luve's like a red red rese, 'That's newly sprung in June; O, my luve's like the melodie, That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass, Sae deep in luve am I; And I will love 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; will love thee still, my dear, While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve,
And fare thee weel a while!
And I will come again, my luve,
Though it were ten thousand mile.

A ROSE-BUD BY MY EARLY WALK.

This song I composed on Miss Jenny Cruikshauk, only child to my worthy friend Mr. William Cruikshauk of the High-School, Elinburgh. The air is by David Sillar, quondam merchant, now schoolmaster, in Irvine: the Davie to whom I address my poetical epistle.

A ROSE-BUD by my early walk, Adown a corn-inclosed bawk, 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 (ich 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, Amang the fresh green leaves bedewed, Awake the early morning.

So thou, dear bird, young Jeany 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 watched thy early morning.

A SOUTHLAND JENNY.

This is a popular Ayrshire song, though the notes were never taken down before,—It, a, well as many of the ballad times in this collection, was written from Mrs. Burns's voice.

A SOUTHLAND Jenny that was right bonny, Had for a suitor a Norkand Johnnie, But he was sicken a bashfu' wooer, That he could scarcely speak unto her.

But blinks o' her heauty, and hopes o' her siller Forced him at last to tell his mind till her; My dear, quo' he, we'll nae langer tarry, Gin ye can lo'e me, let's o'er the moor and marry

Come awa then, my Norland laddie, Tho' we gang neat, some are mair gaudy; Albeit I hae neither land nor money, Come, and I'll ware my beauty on thee.

Ye lasses o' the South, ye're a' for dressin; Lasses o' the North, mind milkin and threshin, My minnie wad be angry, and sae wad my daddie, Should I marry ane as dink as a lady.

I maun hae a wife that will rise i' the mornin, Cruddle a' the milk, and keep the house a

scauldin;
Tulzie wi' her neebors, and learn at my minnie,
A Norland Jocky maun hae a Norland Jenny.

My father's only dochter, wi' farms and same ready,

Wad be ill hestowed upon sic a clownish body; A' that I said was to try what was in thee, Gae hame, ye Norland Jockie, and court you? Norland Jenny!

AULD LANG SYNE.

Short.n audl acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should aud acquaintance be forgot,
And andd lang syne!
For audl lang syne, my jo,
For audl lang syne, my jo,
We'll tah a cup o' kin-lness yet,
For audl dang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint stoup!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

We twa hae run about the braes, And pou't the gowans fine; But we've wander'd mony a weary foct Sin auld lang syue. For auld, &c. We twa hae paidl't i' the burn, Frae morning sun 'till dine; But seas between us braid hae roar'd, Sin auld lang syne. For auld, &c.

And there's a han', my trusty fiere, And gies a han' o' thine! And we'll tak a right gude willy-waught For auld lang syne! For auld, &c.

AULD ROB MORRIS.

THERE'S auld Rob Morris, that wins in yon glen,
He's the king o' gude fellows, and wale of auld

men;
He has gowd in his coffers; he has ousen and kine,

And ae bonnie lassie, his darling and mine.

She's fresh in the morning, the fairest in May; She's sweet as the evening among the new hay; As blythe, and as artless, as the lamb on the

And dear to my heart as the light to my ee.

But oh! she's an heiress: auld Robin's a laird, And my daddie has nought but a cothouse and yard.

A wooer like me manna hope to come speed.

The wounds I must hide that will soon be my dead.

The day comes to me, but delight brings me

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!

Oh had she but been of a lower degree, I then might hae hop'a she wad smil'd upon me;

O how past deserving had then been my bless, As now my distraction, no words can express.

BESSY AND HER SPINNING WHEEL.

Tune-" The sottom of the Punch Bowl,"

O LESZE me on my spinning-wheel! O lecze me on my rock and reel! Frac tap to tae that elects me bien, And hape me feil * and warm at e'en! I'll set me doun, and sing, and spin, White haigh descends the simmer sun;

· Covers me with a stuff agreeable to the sain.

Blest wi' content, and milk, and meal— O leeze me on my spinning-wheel!

On ilka hand the burnies trot,
And meet below my theekit cot;
And nested birk and hawthorn white
Aeross the pool their arms unite,
Alike to screen the birdie's nest,
And little fishes' caller rest;
The sun blinks kindly in the biel,
Where blythe I turn my spunning-wheel

On lofty aiks the cushats wail, And echo cons the doolfu' tale; The lintwhites in the bazel braes, Delighted, rival ither's lays; The craik amang the clover hay, The pairtick whirring ower the lea, The swallow jinkin' round my shiel Amuse me at my spiuning-wheel.

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 flaring idle toys, Amid their cumbrous, dinsome joys Can they the peace and pleaver feel Of Bessy at her spinning-wheel?

BEWARE O' BONNIE AND

I COMPOSED this song out of compliment to Miss Ann Masterton, the daughter of m, rriend, Alkan Masterton, the author of the air of Strathallan's Lament, and two or three others in this work.

YE gallants bright I red ye right, Beware o' bonnie Ann; Her comely face sac fu' o' grace, Your heart she will trepan. Her een sac bright, like stars by night, Her skin is like the swan; Sac jimply lac'd her genty waist, That sweetly ye might span.

Youth, grace, and love, attendant mov., And pleasure leads the van: In a' their charms, and conquering arms, Incy wait on bonnie Aon. The captive bands may chain the hands, But love enslayes the man;

Ye gallants braw, I red you a', Beware o' bonnie Ann.

BEHOLD THE HOUR, THE BOAT ARRIVE.

Tune-" Oran Gaoil."

Brooth the hour, the boat arrive;
Thou goest, thou darling of my heart!
Sever'd from thee, can I survive?
But fate has will'd, and we must part.
'Ill often greet this surging swell,
You distant isle will often hail:
'F en here! I took my last farewell,
There latest mark'd her vanish'd sail.''

Along the solitary shore,
While flitting sea-fowl round me cry,
Across the robing, dashing roar,
I'll westward turn my wistful eye:
Happy, thou Indian growe, I'll say,
Where now my Nancy's path may be!
While through thy sweet she loves to stray,
Oh, tell me, does she muse on me?

BEYOND THEE, DEARIE.

It is remarkable of this air, that it is the confine of that country where the greatest part of our Lowland music, (so far as from the title, words, &c. we can localize it), has been composed. From Craigice-burn, near Moffat, until one reaches the West Highlands, we have scarcely one slow air of any antiquity.

The song was composed on a passion which a Mr. Gillespie, a particular friend of mine, had for a Mrs. Lorimer, afterwards a Mrs. Whelpdale.—The young lady was born at Craigieburn wood.—The chorus is part of an old foolish ballad.—

Beyond thee, dearie, heyond thee, dearie, And O to be lying beyond thee, O sweetly, soundly, weel may he sleep, That's laid in the bed beyond thee.

CRAIGIE-BURN WOOD.

Sweet closes the evening on Craigie-burn wood,
And blythely awakens the morrow;
But the pride of the spring in the Craigie-burn
wood,
Can yield me to 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.

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 talk.

I see thee sweet and bonnie,
But oh, what will my torments be,
If thou refuse thy Johnie!

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 name before me;
And a' my days o' life to come,
I'll gratefully adore three,
Beyond thee, &c.

BLYTHE HAE I BEEN ON YOU HELL

Tune-" Liggeram cosh."

BLYTHE 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: Lesley is sae fair and coy, Care and anguish seize me.

Heavy, heavy is the task,
Hopeless love declaring;
Trembling, I dow noth but glowr
Sighing, dumb, despairing!
If she winna ease the thraws,
In my bosom swelling;
Underneath the grass-green sod,
Soon man he my dwelling.

BLYTHE WAS SHE.

Blythe, blythe and merry was she, Blythe was she but and ben; Blythe by the banks of Ern, And blythe in Glenturit glen.

By Oughtertyre grows the aik,
On Yarrow banks, the birken shaw;
But Phemie was a boonnier lass
Than braes o' Yarrow ever saw.
Blythe, &c.

Her looks were like a flow'r in May, Her smile was like a simmer morn; She tripped by the banks of Ern, As light's a bird upon a thorn. Blythe, &c.

Her bonny face it was as meek
As ony lamb upon a lee;
The evening sun was ne'er sae sweet
As was the blink o' Phemie's e'e.
Blythe, &c.

The Highland hill's I've wander'd wide,
And o'er the Lowlands I hae been;
But Phemie was the blythest lass
That ever trod the dewy green.
Blythe, &c.

BONNIE WEE THING

Tune-" Bonnie Wee Thing."

Bonnie wee thing, cannie wee thing,
Lovely wee thing, wert thou mine,
I wad wear thee in my bosom,
Lest my jewel I should tine

Wistfully I look and languish In that honnie face o' thine; And my heart it stounds 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 thing, cannie wee thing, Lovely wee thing, wert thou mine, I wad wear thee io my bosom, Lest my jewel I should tine.

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 flow'ry Spring leads sunny Summer, And yellow Autumn preses near, Then in his turn comes gloomy Winter, Till smiling Spring again appear. Thus seasous dancing, hie advancing, Old Time and Nature their changes tell, But never ranging, still unchanging Ladore my hounic Bell.

BONNIE LESLEY.

Tunc-" The Collier's bonnie Lazze.

O, saw ye bonnie Lesley,
As she gaed 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 never made anither!

Thun art a queen, fair Lesley,
Thy subjects we before thee:
Thou art divine, fair Lesley;
The hearts o' men adore thee.
The Deil he couldna scaith thee,
Or aught that wad belang thee;
He'd look into thy bonnie face,
And say, I canna wrang thee I

The Powers aboon will tent thee, Misfortune shanna steer 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 breg we hae a lass There's nane again sae bonnie.*

BONNIE JEAN.

Tunc-" 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 wronght her mammie's wark, And aye she sang sae merrilie; The blythest 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 brawest 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 danced wi' Jeanie on the down; And lang ere witless Jeanie wist, Her heart was tint, her peace was stown.

Written in honour of Miss Lesley Baillie of Avrshire, (now Mrs Cumming of Logie), when on he way to England, arough Dumfries.

SONGS

As in the bosom o' the stream

The moonbeam dwells at dewy e'en,
So trembling, pure, was tender love,
Within the breast o' bonnie Jean.

And now she works her mamnie's wark, And aye she sighs wi' grief and pain; Yet wistna what her ail might be, Or what wad make her weel again.

But didna Jeanie's heart loup light, And didna joy blink in her ee, As Rebie tauld a tale o' love, Ae e'ening, 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 of love:

O Jeanie fair, I lo'e thee dear;
O canst than think to fancy me?
Or wilt thou leave thy mammie's cot,
And learn to tent the farms wi' me?

At barn nor byre thou shalt na drudge, Or naething else to trouble thee; But stray amang the heather-bells, And tent the waving corn wi' me.

Now what could artless Jeanie do?

She had nae will to say him na:
At length she blush'd a sweet consent,
And love was aye between them twa.

HEY TUTTIE TAITTIE.

I have met the tradition universally over Scotland, and particularly about Stirling, in the neighbourhood of the scene, that this air was Robert Bruce's march at the Battle of Bannockburn.

BRUCE'S ADDRESS

TO HIS TROOPS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.

Tune-" Hey tuttie taittie."

Scors, wha hae wi' Wallace bled! Scots, wham Bruce has aften led! Welcome to your gory bed, Or to victorie!

Now's the day, and now's the hour: See the front of battle lour: See approach proud Edward's power— Chains and slaverie!

Wha will be a traitor knave?
Wha can fill a coward's grave?
Wha sae base as be a slave?
Let him turn d flee!

Wha, for Scotland's kizz and law, Freedom's sword will strongly draw, Freeman stand, or freeman fa', Let him follow me!

By oppression's woes and pains, By your sons in servile chains, We will drain our dearest veins, But they shall be free.

Lay the proud usurpers low, Tyrants fall in every foe, Liberty's in every blow, Let us do, or die!

CA' THE YOWES TO THE KNOWES

Ca' the yowes to the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rowes,
My bonnie dearie.

Hark, the mavis' evening sang, Sounding Cluden's woods amang; Then a-faulding let us gang, My bonnie dearie.

We'll gang down by Cluden side, Through the hazels spreading wide O'er the waves that sweetly glide, My bonnie dearie.

Yonder Cluden's silent towers, Where, at moonshine midnight hours, O'er the dewy budding flowers The fairies dance sae cheerie.

Ghaist nor hogle shalt thou fear; Thou'rt to love and heaven sae dear, Nocht of ill may come thee near, My honnie dearie.

Fair and lovely as thou art,
Thou hast stoun my very heart;
I can die—but canna part,
My bonnie dearie.

CANST THOU LEAVE ME THUS, MY KATY?

Tune-" Roy's wife."

Canst thou leave me thus, my Katy? Canst thou leave me thus, my Katy? Well thou knowest 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 farthful swain's reward—
An aching, broken heart, my Katy?

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.

He wanders as free as the wind on his mountains, Save love's willing fetters—the chains of his Jean.*

REPLY TO THE ABOVE

Y A YOUNG ENGLISH GENTLEWOMAN. FOUND AMONGST BURNS'S MANUSCRIPTS AFTER HIS DECEASE.

STAY, my Willie—yet believe me, Stay, my Willie—yet believe me; 'Tweel, thou know'st na every pung Wad wring my bosom shouldst thou leave me.

Tell me that thou yet art true,
And a' my wrongs shall be forgiven;
And when this heart proves false to thee,
Yon sun shall cease its course in heaven.

But to think I was betray'd,
That falsehood e'er our loves should sunder!
To take the floweret to my breast,
And find the guilefu' serpent under!

Could I hope thou'dst ne'er deceive me, Celestial pleasures, might I choose 'em, I'd slight, nor seek in other spheres That heaven I'd find within thy bosom.

CALEDONIA.

THEIR groves O sweet myrtles let foreign lands

Where bright-beaming summers exalt the perfume;

Far dearer to me you lone glen o' green breckan, With the burn stealing under the lang yellow broom.

Far dearer to me you humble broom bowers,
Where the blue bell and gowan lurk lowly
unseen;

For there, lightly tripping among the wild flowers, A listening the lumet, aft wanders my Jean.

Though rich is the breeze, in their gay sunny vallies,

And cauld Caledonia's blast on the wave;
Their sweet-scented woodlands, that skirt the
prond palace,

What are they ?-- the haunt o' the tyrant and

The slave's spicy forests and gold-bubbling fountains,

The brave Caledonian views wi' disdain;

CHLOE.

ALTERED FROM AN OLD ENGLISH SONG

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.
Lovely was she by the dawn,
Youthful Chloe, charming Chloe,

Tripping o'er the pearly luwn,
The youthful, charming Chloe.

The feather'd prople you might see

Perch'd all around on every tree,

• Burns wrote this song In compliment to Mrs. Burns during their honeymoon. The air, with many others of equial beauty, was the composition of a Mr. Marshall, who, in Burns's time, was butler to the Duke of Gordon.

This seautiful song—beautiful for both its amatory and its patriotic sentiment—evens to have been composed by Burns during the period when he was courting the lady who alterwards became his wife. The present generation is much interested in this lady, and descreedly; as, in addition to her poetical history, which is an extremely interesting one, she is a personage of the greatst a private worth, and in every respect deserving to be esteemed as the widow of Scotland's best and most endeared bad. The following areculors will perhaps be held as testifying in no inconsiderable degree. In a undiffy which he may not hitherto have

will perhaps be held as testifying in no meonsiderable degree, to a quality which she may not hitherto have been supposed to possess—her will be not supposed to possess—her will be not supposed to possess—her will be not been supposed to posses—her will be not held to the notation of the historical death, o voupied exactly the same house in Dumfres, which she inhabited before that event, and that it is customary for strangers, who happen to pass through or visit the town, to pay their respects to her, with or without letters of in-froduction, precisely as they do to the churchyard, the bridge, the harbour, or any other public object to the property of the proper

In nates of swe test melody They hal the charming Chloe;

Till, painting gay the eastern skies, The glorious sun begin to rise, Outrivall'd by the radiant eyes Of youthful, charming Chloe. Lovely was she, &c.

CHLORIS.

Tune-" My Lodging is on the Cold Ground."

My Chloris, mark how green the groves, 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.

Let minstre's sweep the skilfu' string In lordly lechtit ha'; The shepherd steps his simple reed, Blythe, in the birken shaw.

The princely revel may survey Our rustie dance wi' scorn : But are their hearts as light as ours. Be reath the milk-white thorn?

"e she herd, in the flow'ry glen, In shepherd's phrase will woo; The courtier tells a fairer tale. But is his heart as true?

I've wild-wood flowers I've pu'd, to deck That spotless breast of thine : The courtier's gems may witness love, But 'tis na love like n

: ARINDA.*

CLARINDA, to stress of my soul, The measur'd time is run! The wretch beneath the dreary pole, So marks his latest sun,

To what dark cave of frozen night Shall poor Sylvander hie; Depriv'd 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 glimmeriog planet fix My worship to its ray?

CONTENTIT WI' LITTLE.

Tune-" Lumps o' Puddin."

CONTENTIT wi' little, and cantie wi' mair. Whene'er I forgather wi' sorrow and care, I gie them a skelp, as they're creepin' alang, Wi' a cogue o' gude swats and an auld Scottish sang.

I whiles claw the elbow o' troublesome thocht; But man is a sodger, and life is a faucht: My mirth and gude humour are coin in my pouch, And my freedom's my lairdship nae monarch daur touch.

A towmond o' trouble, should that be my fa, A nicht o' gude fellowship sowthers it a': When at the blythe end o' our journey at last, Tha the deil ever thinks o' the road he has past?

Blind chance, let her snapper and stoite on her Be't to me, be't frae me, e'en let me jaud gae;

Come ease or come travail, come pleasure or pain, My warst word is-Welcome, and welcome, again!

COME, LET ME TAKE THEE TO MY BREAST.

Tune-" Cauld Kail in Aberdeen."

COME, let me take thee to my breast, And pledge we ne'er shall sunder; And I shall spurn, as vilest dust, The warld'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' a' thy charms, I clasp my countless treasure; I'll seek mae mair o' heaven to share, Than sie 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.

Th widow alluder a in the Life

COUNTRY LASSIE.

In simmer when the hay was mawn, And corn wav'd green in ilka field, While claver blooms white o'er the lca, And roses blaw in ilka bield ; Blythe Bessie in the milking shiel, Says, I'll be wed come o't what will ; Out spake a dame in wrinkled eild, O' gude advisement comes nae ill.

Its ye hae wooers mony a ane, And, lassie, ye're but young, ye kan; Then wait a wee, and cannie wale, A routhie butt, a routhie ben : There's Johnie o' the Buskie-glen, Fn' is his barn, fu' is his byre; Tak this frae me, my bonnie hen, It's plenty beets the luver's fire.

For Johnie o' the Buskie-glen, I dinna care a single flie; He lo'es sae weel his craps and kye, He has nae luve to spare for me: But blythe's the blink o' Robie's e'e, And weel I wat he lo'es me dear : Ae blink o' him I wad na gie For Buskie-glen and a' his gear.

O thoughtless lassie, life's a faught, The canniest gate, the strife is sair; But ave fu' han't is fechtin' best, A hungry care's an unco care : But some will spend, and some will spare, And wilfu' folk maun hae their will; Syne as ye brew, my maiden fair, Keep mind that ye maun drink the yill.

O gear will buy me rigs o' land, And gear will buy me sheep and kye; But the tender heart o' leesome luve, The gowd and siller canna buy: We may be poor, Robie and I, Light is the burden luve lays on ; Content and love brings peace and joy, What mair hae queens upon a throne?

DAINTIE DAVIE.

Turs song, tradition says, and the composition itself confirms it, was composed on the Rev. David Williamson's getting the daughter of Lady Cherrytrees with child, while a party of dragoons were searching her house to apprehend O! art thou not ashamed him for being an adherent to the solemn league and covenant. - The pious woman had put a lady's night-cap on him, and had laid him a-bed with her own daughter, and passed him to the soldiery as a lady, her daughter's bed-fellow. -A mutilated stanza or two are to be found in Herd's collection, but the original song consists Hold on till thou art mellow; of five or six stanzas, and were their delicacy

equal to their wit and humous they would merit a place in any collection .- The first stanza

Being pursued by a dragoon, Within my bed he was laid down ; And well I wat he was worth his room, For he was my daintie Davie.

DAINTY DAVIE.

Trac-" Dainty Davie."

Now rosy May comes in wi' flowers, To deck her gay green birken bowers, And now come in my happy hours, To wander wi' my Davie.

Meet me on the warlock knowe, Dainty Davie, dainty Davie; There I'll spend the day wi' you, My ain dear dainty 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 on, &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 on, &c.

When day, expiring in the west, The curtain draws o' Nature's rest. I'll flee to his arms I lo'e best, And that's my dainty Davie. Meet me on, &c.

DELUDED SWAIN, THE PLEASURE

Tune-" The Collier's Bonnie Lassie."

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 roaming, The clouds' uncertain motion, They are but types of woman.

To doat upon a feature? If man thou wouldst be named, Despise the silly creature.

Go, find an honest fellow: Good claret set before thee: And then to bed in glory

DOES MAUGHTY GAUL.

Tunc-" Push about the Jorum."

April, 1795.

Dors hanghty Gaul invasion threat?
Then let the loons beware, Sir,
There's wooden walls upon our seas,
And volunteers on shore, Sir,
The Nith shall run to Corsincon,*
And Criffel sink in Solway,†
Ere we permit a foreign foe
On British ground to rally!

Fall de rall, §c.

O let us not, like snarling tykes, In wrangling be divided; 'Till slap come in an unco loon And wi' a rung decide it. Be Britain still to Britain true, Amang oursels united; For never but by British hands Mann British wrangs be righted. Fall de rull, §c.

The kettle o' the kirk and state,
Perhaps a clout may fail in't;
But deil a foreign tinkler loon
Shall ever ca' a nail in't.
Our fathers' bluid the kettle bought,
And wha wad dare to spuil it;
By heaven the sacrilegious dog
Shall fuel be to boil it.
Full de rall, &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 damned together!
Who will not sing "God save the king,"
Shall hang is high's the steeple;
But, while we sing "God save the king,'
We'll ne'er forget the people.
Fall de rall, &c.

DOWN THE BURN DAVIE.

VERSE ADDED BY BURNS TO THE OLD SONG.

As down the burn they took their way,
And through the flowery dale,
Ilis check to hers he aft did lay,
And love was age the tale
With—Mary when shall we return,
Such pleasure to renew?
Quoth Mary, love, I like the burn,
And aye will follow you.

DUNCAN GRAY.

Dr. BLACKLOCK informed me that he i.ad often heard the tradition that this air was composed by a carman in Glasgow.

DUNCAN GRAY cam here to woo,

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Oo blythe yule night when we were fou,

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Maggic coost her head fu' high,

Look'd asklent and nno skeigh;

Gart poor Duncan stand abeigh;

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

Duncan fleech'd and Duncau pray d:

Ha, ha, &c.

Meg was deaf as Ailsa Craig, *

Ha, ha, &c

Duncan sigh'd baith ont and in,

Grat his e'en baith bleert and blin,

Spak o'lowpin o'er a linn;

Ha, ha, &c.

Time and chance are but a tide, Ha, ha, $\S c$.
Slighted love is sair to bide, Ha, ha, $\S c$.
Shall I, like a fool, quo' he, For a haughty hizzie die;
She muy gae to—France for me! Ha, ha, $\S c$.

How it comes let doctors tell,

Ha, ha, §c.

Meg grew sick—as he grew heal,

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, ka, &c.

Maggie's was a piteous case,

Ha, ka, &c.

Duncan could na be her death,

Swellisg pity smoor'd his wrath;

Now they're crouse and canty baith,

Ha, ha, the wooing o't.

EVAN BANKS.

SLOW spreads the gloom my sour desires, The sun from India's shore retires; To Evan banks, with term rate ray, Home of my youtn, it is also time day. Oh! shanks to me for ever dear! Oh! stream whose murmurs still I hear! All, all my hopes of bits reside, Where Evan mingles with the Clyde.

A high hill at the source of the Nith.

A well-known mountain at the mouth of the same

[·] A well-known rock in the Frith of Clyde.

And sae, in simple beauty drest,
Whose image lives within my breast;
Who trembling heard my piercing sigh,
And long pursu'd me with her eye!
Does she, with heart unchang'd as mine,
If in the vocal bowers recline?
Or where you 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 bost? Return, ye moments of delight, With richer treasures bless my sight! Swift from this desert let me part, And By to meet a kindred heart! Nor more may anght my steps divide From that dear stream which flows to Clyde.

FAIR ELIZA.

A GAELIC AIR.

Turn again, thou fair Eliza,
Ae kind blink before we part,
Rew on thy despairing lover!
Caust thou break his faithfu! hear!.
Turn again, thou fair Eliza;
If to love thy heart denies,
For pity hide the cruel sontence
Under fiendship's kind disguise!

Thee, dear maid, hie I offended?
The offence is laving thee.
Carst thou wreck his peace for ever
Wha for thine wid gladly die!
While the life heats in my bosom,
Thou shalt mix in like throe:
Turn again, thou lovely maiden,
As sweet smile on me bestow.

Not the bee upon the blossom, In the pride o' simy moon; Not the little sporting fairy, All beneath the survier moon; Not the poet in the unment Fancy lightens on his ee, Kens the pleasure, feels the rapture That thy presence giest o me. FAIREST MAID ON DEVON BANKS.

Tune-" Rothiemurchie."

Fairest maid on Devon banks, Crystal Devon, winding Decon, Wilt than lay that frown aside, And smile as thou wert wont to do

Full well thou knowest 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 that beanteous self I awear,
No love but thine my heart shall know.
Fairest maid, &c.

FATE GAVE THE WORD.

Tune-" Finlayston House."

FATE gave the word, the arrow sped, And pierced my darling's heart: And with him all the joys are fled Life can to me impart. My cruel hands the sapling drops, In dust dishonom'd laid: So fell the pride of all my hopes, My age's future shade.

The mother linnet in the brake
Bewails her ravished young;
So I for my last darling's sake,
Lament the live-day long.
Death, of I've fear'd thy faral blow,
Now fond I bare my breast,
O do thou kindly lay me low
With bim I love at rest!

FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEBODY

My heart is sair, I dare nac tell,
My heart is sair for somebody;
I could wake a vinter might
For the sake of somebody.
Oh-hon! for somebody!
Oh-hey! for somebody!

[•] These verses, and the letter enclosing them, are of their author. Air, syme is of opinion that he could not have be on in any danger of a paid at funding where certainly be had many fine friends, marked any necessity of innohring a significant paid, the first about the true had a paid of the paid of the first about the true had a paid or to be if these most entired, and the horizontal application for the first most included in the paid of th

I could range the world around, For the sake of 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-hey! for somebody! Oh-hey! for somebody! I wad do—what wad! not, Fo, the sake of somebody!

FORLORN, MY LOVE.

Tune-" Let me in this ae night."

Forlown, 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.
O went thou hove, 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 bad of hope and joy;
And shelter, shade, nor home have I,
Save in these arms of thine, love,
O wert, &c.

Cold, alter'd friendship's ernel 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.

FROM THEE, ELIZA.

Tuns-" Gilderoy."

From thee, Eliza, I must go,
And from my native shore;
The cruel fates between us throw
A boundless occan's roar;
But boundless occans, roring 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 hears.
While death stands victor by,
That throb, Eliza, is thy part,
And thine that latest sigh.

GALA WATER.

Tune-" Gala Water.

THERE'S braw, braw lads on Yarrow Yraes, That wander through the blunning heather, But Yarrow braes, our Ettrick shaws, Can match the lads o' Gala Water,

But there is ane, a secret ane,
Abune them a' I loe him better;
And I'll be his, and he'll be mine,
The bonnie lad o' Gala Water.

Although his daddie was nae laird, And though I hae na mickle tocher; Yet rich in kindest, truest love, We'll tent our flocks ou Gala Water,

It ne'er was wealth, it ne'er was wealth,
That coft contentment, peace, or pleasure;
The bands and bliss o' mutual love,
O that's the chiefest warld's treasure!

GLOOMY DECEMBER.

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 parting hour
But the dire feeling. O farewell for ecer,
Is anguish omning!'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 shaken my bosom. Since my last hope and last comfort is gone Still as I hail thee, thou gloomy December, Still shall I hail thee wi' surrow and care; For sad was the patting thos makes me remember,

Parting wi' Nancy, Oh, ne'er to meet mair,

· · ·

afterwards Mrs. Templeton, was the heroine of this beautiful song.

Miss Miller of Mauchline, (probably the same lady whom the poet has celebrated in his catalogue of the beauties of that village—

[&]quot; Miss Miller is fine"---)

BURNS' WORKS.

GREEN GROW THE RASHES:

A FRAGMENT.

Green grow the rashes, O!
Green grow the rashes, O!
The sweetest hours that e'er I spend,
Are spent amang the lasses, O!

THERE'S nought but care on every han',
In every hour that passes, O;
What signifies the life o' man,
Au' 'twere na for the lasses, O.
Green grow, &c.

The warly race may riches chase,
An' riches still may fly them, O;
An' though 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'es, My arms about my dearie, O; An' warly cares, an' warly men, May a gae tapsalteerie, O. Green grow, &c.

For you so douse, ye sneer at this, Ye're nought but senseless asses, O; The wisest man the warld e'er saw, He dearly loved the lasses, O. Green grow, &c.

Auld nature swears, the lovely dears Her noblest work she classes, O; Her 'prentice hao' she tried on man, And then she made the lasses, O. Green grow, &c.

GUDEWIFE, COUNT THE LAWIN.

Tune-" Gudewife, count the Lawin."

Game is the day, and mirk's the night; But we'll ne'er stray for fant o' light; For ale and brandy's stars and moon, And blude-red wine's the rising sun. Then, gudevife, count the lawin, The lawin, the lawin, Then, gudevife, count the lawin, And bring a coggie mair.

There's wealth and ease for gentlemen, And semple folk mann fecht and fen; But here we're a' in ae accord, For ilka man that's drunk's a lord, Then, gudewife, &c.

My coughe is a haly pool, That heals the wounds o' care and doe'; And pleasure is a wanton trout—
An' ye drink but deep, ye'll find him out.
Then, gudewife, count the lawin,
The lawin, the lawin,
Then, gudewife, count the lawin,
And bring's a coggie mair.

HANDSOME NELL.

Tune-" I am a man unmarried

O, ONCE I lov'd a bonnie lass,
Ay, and I love her still,
And wailst that virtue warms my breast,
I'll love my handsome Nell.
Tal lal de ral, &c.

As bonnie lasses I hae seen, And mony full as braw, But for a modest gracefu' mien The like I never saw. Tal lal de ral, &c.

A honnie lass, I will confess, Is pleasant to the ee, But without some better qualities She's no a lass for me. Tal lat de ral, &c.

But Nelly's looks are blithe and sweet,
And what is best of a'
Her reputation was complete,
And fair without a flaw.
Tal lal de ral, &c.

She dresses aye sae clean and neat,
Both decent and genteel;
And then there's something in her gais
Gars ony dress look weel.

Tal lal de ral, &c.

A gaudy dress and gentle air May slightly touch the heart, But it's innocence and modesty That polishes the dart. Tal lal de ral, &c.

Tis this in Nelly pleases me,
'Tis this enchants my soul;
For absolutely in my breast
She reigns without control.

Tal lal de ral, &c.

It must be confessed that these lines give me indication of the future genius of Burns; hu' he himself seems to have been fond of them, probably from the recollections they excited.





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HAD I A CAVE.

Han I a cave on some wild distant shore,
Where the winds how! 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 declare
All thy fond plighted vows—fleeting as air!
To thy new lover hie,
Laugh o'er thy perjury,
Then in thy bosom try
What peace is there.

Compare this with the old crambo-clink,-to

You're welcome to Paxton, young Robin Adair, Your welcome, but asking, sweet Robin Adair. How does Johnnie Mackeral do? Aye, and Luke Gardener too? Come love me and never rue, Robin Adair,

HIGHLAND HARRY.

Mr Ha.ry 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.
Oh, for him back again!
Oh, for kim back again!
I wad jie 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. Oh, for him back again! &c.

Oh, were some villains hangit hie, And ilka body had their ain, Then I micht see the joyfu' sicht, My Highland Harry back again. Oh, for him back again! &c.

Sad was the day, and sad the hour,
He left me in his native plain,
And rush'd his much-wrong'd prince to join;
But, oh! he'll ne'er come back again!
Oh, for him back again! &c.

Strong was my Harry's arm in war, Unmatch'd in a' Culloden's plain; But vengeance marks him for her ain— I'll never see him back again.* Oh, for him back again! &c.

HIGHLAND MARY.

Tune-" Katherine Ogie."

YE banks, and braes, and streams around The Castle o' Montgomery!*
Green be your woods, and fair your flow rs, Your waters never dramlie!
There simmer first unfauld her robes,
And there they langest 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 ourselves asunder: But, ol! fell death's untimely frost, That nipt my flower sae early! Now green's the sod, and cauld's the elay, 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;
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.

HER FLOWING LOCKS:

A 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 wat wi' dew,
O, what a feast, her bonnic mou!
Her cheeks a mair celestial hue,
A crimson still diviner.

The first three verses of this song, excepting the chorus, are by Burns. The air to which it is sung, is the II phlander's Farewell to Ireland, with some alterations, sung slowly.

Coilsfield House, near Mauchline; but poetically titled as above, on account of the name of the proprietor.

HERE'S, A BOTTLE AND AN HONEST! Thou art sweet as the smile when kind lovers FRIEND.

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 of care, man. Then catch the moments as they fly, And use them as ye ought, man :-Believe me, happiness is shy, And comes not ay when sought, man.

> HERE'S A HEALTH TO THEM THAT'S AWA.

> > PATRIOTIC-UNFINISHED.

HERE's a health to them that's awa, Here's a health to them that's awa; And wha winna wish gude luck to our cause, May never gude luck be their fa'! It's gude to be merry and wise, It's gude to be honest and true, It's gude 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 Charlie, the chief o' the clan, Altho' that his band be sma'. May liberty meet wi' success ! May prindence protect her frae evil! May tyrants and tyranny tine in the mist, And wander their way to the devil!

Here's a Lealth to them that's awa, Here's a health to them that's awa. Here's a health to Tammie, the Norland laddie, That lives at the lng of 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 would indite.

Here's a health to them that's awa. Here's a health to them that's awa, Here's Chieftain M Leod, a Chieftain worth gowd.

Tho' bred amang mountains o' snaw!

HERE'S A HEALTH TO ANE 1 LO'E DEAR.

Tune-" Here's a Health to them that's awa."

HERE's a health to ane I lo'e dear-Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear ;

mect. And soft as their parting tear, Jessie!

Although thou mann never be mine-Although even hope is denied-'Tis sweeter for thee despairing Than aught in the world beside, Jessie!

I mourn through the gay gaudy day, As hopeless I muse on thy charms; But welcome the dream o' sweet slumber, For then I am lock'd in thy arms, Jessie!

I guess by the dear angel smile, I guess by the love-rolling ee; But why urge the tender confession, 'Gainst fortune's fell cruel decree, Jessie 10

HOW CRUEL ARE THE PARENTS

ALTERED FROM AN OLD ENGLISH SONG.

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. Become a wretched wife.

The ravening hawk pursuing, The trembling dove thus flies. To shun impelling ruin A while her pinions tries; 'Till of escape despairing, No shelter or retreat, She trusts the ruthless falconer. And drops beneath his feet.

HOW LANG AND DREARY IS THE NIGHT.

Tune-" Cauld Kail in Aberdeen.

How lang and dreary is the night, When I am frae my dearie : I restlees lie frae e'en to morn, Though I were ne'er sae weary.

> For, oh, her lanely nights are lang, And, oh, her dreums are eerie, And, oh, her willow'd heart is sair, That's absent frue her dearie.

Written upon Miss Lewars, now Mrs. Thomson
of Domefriest a true friend and a great favourite or
the poet, and, at his death, one of the most sympathizing friends of his afflicted widow.

When I think on the lightsome days I spent wi' thee, my dearie; And now what seas between as roar, How can I but be cerie? For, oh, &c.

How slow ye move, ye heavy hours; The joyless day how dreary! It wasna sae ye glinted by, When I was wi' my dearie. For, oh, &c.

I AM A SON OF MARS.

Tunc-" Soldier's Joy."

I AM son of Mars who have been in mary 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 Ahram; I served out my trade when the gallant game

was play'd,

And the Moro low was laid at the sound of the

dram.

Lal de daudie, &c.

I lastly was with Curtis, among the floating batt'ries,

And there I left for witness an arm and a limb; Yet let my country need me, with Elliot to head me,

I'd clatter my stumps at the sound of the drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

And now tho' 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 bottle and my callet,

As when I us'd in scarlet to follow a 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 tother

bottle tell,
could meet a troop of hell at the sound of the
drum.

Lal de daudle, &c.

I DREAM'D I LAY WHERE FLOWERS WERE SPRINGING.

THESE two stanzas I composed when I was seventeen, and are among the oldest of my printed pieces.

I DREAM'D I lay where flowers 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, drumlie wave.

Such was my life's deceifful morning,
Such the pleasures I enjoy'd;
But lang or noon, lond tempests storming,
A' my flow'ry bliss destroy'd.
Tho' fickle fortune has deceiv'd me,
She promis'd fair, and perform'd but ill;
Of mony a joy and hope bereav'd me,
I bear a leart shall support me still.

I'LL AYE CA' IN BY YON TOUN

Tune-" I'll gang nae mair to yon town."

l'LL aye ca' in by yon toun,
And by yon garden green again;
l'il aye ca' in by yon toun,
And see my bonnie Jean again.

There's nane shall ken, there's nane shall guss What brings me back the gate again, But she, my fairest faithfu' lass; And stowlins we shall 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.

I'll aye ca' in by yon toun, And by yon garden green again; I'll aye ca' in by yon toun, And see my bonnie Jean again.

I'M O'ER YOUNG TO MARRY L.f.

THE chorus is old :-- the rest of it, such was is, is mine.

I'st my mammy's ae bairn,
Wi' unco folk, I weary, Sir;
And lying in a man's bed,
I'm fley'd wad mak me irie, Sir.
I'm o'er young, I'm o'er yourg,
I'm o'er young to marry yet.

BURNS' WORKS.

I'm o'er young, twad be a sin
To tak me frae my sammy yet.

Hallowmas is some and gane,

The nights are lang in winter, Sir;
And you and I in ae bed,
In trowth I darena venture, Sir.

I'm o'er young, &c.

My minnie coft me a new gown,
The kirk maun hae the gracing o't;
War I to lie wi' you, kind Sir,
I'm fear'd ye'd spoil the lacing o't.
I'm o'er young, &c.

Fu' loud and shrill the frosty wind Blaws thro' the leafless timmer, Sir; But should ye come this gate again, I'll aulder be gin simmer, Sir. I'm o'er young, &c.

IT IS NA, JEAN, THY BONNIE FACE.

THESE were originally English verses:-I gave them their Scotch dress.

Ir is na, Jean, thy bonnie face,
Nor shape that I admire,
Altho' thy beauty and thy grace
Might weel awank desire.
Something in lika part o' thee
To praise, to love, I find;
Pat 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 cana 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.

Jamie, come try me, Jamie, come try me; If ye wad win my love, Can ye na try me? If ye should ask my love, Could I deny thee? If ye wad win my love, Jamie, come try me.

My heart leaps light, my love, When ye come nigh me; If I had wiogs, my love, Think na I'd fly thee. If ye wad woo me, love, Wha can espy thee? I'm far aboon fortune, love, When I am by thee.

I come from my chamber
When the moon's glowing;
I walk by the streamlet
'Mang the broom flowing.
The bright moon and stars, love—
None else espy me;
And if ye wad win my love,
Jamie, come try me.

JOCKIE'S TA'EN THE PARTING KISS.

Jockir's ta'en the parting kiss,
Ower the mountains he is gane;
And with him is a' my bliss;
Nought but griefs wi' me remain.
Spare my love, ye winds that blaw,
Plashy sleets, and beating rain!
Spare my love, thou feathery snaw,
Drifting o'er the frozen plain!

When the shades of evening creep
Ower the day's fair gladsome ee,
Sound and safely may he sleep,
Sweetly blythe his wankening be!
He will think on her he loves,
Fondly he'll repeat her name;
For, where'er he distant roves,
Jockie's heart is still at hame.

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, And they hae sworn a solemn oath John Barleycorn was dead.

But the cheerful spring came kindly on,
And show'rs 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.

• This is partly composed on the plan of an old song known by the same name.

The soher autumn enter'd mild, When he grew wan and pale; It's 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'er a weapon long and sharp, And cut him by the knee; Then ty'd him fast upon a cart, Like a rogue for forgerie.

They laid him down upon his back, And cudgell'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 used him worst of all, For he crush'd him between 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: I will 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 fai in old Scotland!

JOHN ANDERSON, MY JO, IMPROVED.

late at e en.

Ye'll blear out a' your een, John, arai why should you do so,

Gang sooner to your bed at e'en, John Anderson,

John Anderson, my jo, John, when nature first

To try her canny hand, John, her master-wc:k was man;

And you amang them a', John, sae trig fras tap to toe,

She proved to be nae journey-work, John Ar. derson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John, ye were my firet

conceit, And ye na think it strange, John, tho' I ca' ye trim and neat;

Tho' some folk say ye're auld, John, I never think ye so,

But I think ye're ave the same to me, John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John, we've seen our bairns' bairns,

And yet, my dear John Anderson, I'm happy in your arms,

And sae are ye in mine, John-I'm sure ye': ne'er say no,

Tho' the days are gane, that we have seen, John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John, what pleasure does it gie

To see sae mony sprouts, John, spring up 'tween you and me,

And ilka lad and lass, John, in our footsteps to go, Makes perfect heaven here on earth, John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John, when we were first acquaint,

Your locks were like the raven, your bonnie brow was brent,

But now your head's turned bald, John, your locks are like the snaw,

Yet blessings on your frosty pow, John Anderson, my jo.

John Anderson, my jo, John, frae year to year we've past,

And soon that year maun come, John, will bring us to our last:

But let nae that affright us, John, our hearts were ne'er our foe,

While in innocent delight we lived, John Anderson, my jo.

JOHN ANDERSON, my jo, John, I wonder what John Anderson, my jo, John, we clam the hil thegither,

To rise so soon in the morning, and sit up st 'And mony a canty day, John, we've had wi ane anither;

Now we maun totter down, John, but hand in | He begged, for gudesake ! I wad be his wife, hand we'll go, Sae, e'en to preserve the pair body in life,

And we'll sleep thegither at the foot, John Anderson, my jo.

LAST MAY A BRAW WOOER.

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 nacthing I hated like men: The deuce gae wi' him to believe me, believe

The deuce gae wi' him to believe me !

He spak' o' the darts o' my bonnie black een, And vow'd for my love he was deein'. I said he micht dee when he liked for Jean ; The guid forgi'e me for leein', for leein', The guid forgi'e me for leein' !

A weel-stockit mailin', himsell for the laird, And marriage aff-hand, were his proffer. I never loot on that I kean'd it or cared; But thocht I might hae a waur offer, waur

offer. But thought I might hae a wanr offer.

But, what wad ye think, in a fortnicht or less,-The deil's in his taste to gang near her !-He up the lang loan to my black cousin Bess-

Guess ye how, the jaud! I could bear her, could bear her, Guess ye how, the jaud! I could bear her!

But a' the neist week, as I fretted wi' care, I gaed to the tryst o' Dalgarnock :

And wha but my braw fickle wooer was there? Wha glowr'd as he had seen a warlock, a warlock,

Wha glowr'd as he had seen a warlock.

Out ower my left shouther I gi'ed him a blink, Lest necbors micht 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 yow'd I was his dear lassie.

I speir'd for my cousin, fou couthie and sweet, Gin she had recover'd her hearin'?

And how my auld shoon fitted her shauchled feet ?

Gude sauf us! how he fell a-swearin', aswearin'

Gude sauf us! how he fell a-swearin'.

LASSIE WI' THE LINT-WHITE LOCKS

I think I mann wed him to-morrow, to reas

Or else I wad kill him wi' sorrow;

I think I maun wed him to-morrow.

Tune-" Rothiemurchus' Rant."

Lassie wi' the lint white locks. Bonnie lussie, artless lassie, Wilt thou wi' me tend the flocks ? Wilt thou be my dearie, O?

Now Nature cleads 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, Through 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 faithful breast, I'll comfort thee, my dearie, O. Lassie, wi', &c.

LAY THY LOOF IN MINE, LASS

Tune-" O lay the loof in mine, lass."

O LAY thy loof in mine, lass, In mine, lass, in mine, lass; And swear on thy white hand, lass, That thou wilt be my ain.

A slave to love's unbounded sway, He aft has wrought me muckle wae; But now he is my deadly fae, Unless thou be my ain.

There's mony a lass has broke my rest, That for a blink I hae lo'ed best; But thou art queen within my breast, For ever to remain.

[.] In Scotland, when a cast-off lover pays his ad-In Scotland, when a cast-on lover pays his indesses to a new mistress, that new mistress is said to have got the aud shoon (old shoes) of the former one, litere the metaphor is made to carry an extremely ingenious sarcasm at the clumsiness of the new mistress's person.

LE NOT WOMAN E'ER COMPLAIN.

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 abroad 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.

LONG, LONG THE NIGHT

Tune-" Ave wakin'."

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 e'en 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.

LOGAN BRAES.

Twae-" Logan Water."

O, LOGAN sweectly 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 the flowery banks appear Like drumfie winter, dark an drear, While my dear lad maun face his face, 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 flow 2023. Blythe morning lifts his rosy eye, And evening's tears are tears of joy; My soul, delightless, a' surveys, While Wille's far frac Logan bracs.

Within yon milk-white hawthorn buab, Amang her nestlings sits the thrush: Her faithfu' mate will share her toil, Or wi' his soog 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 make mony 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 brase!

LORD GREGORY.

Он, mirk, mirk is this midnight hour, And loud the tempests roar; A wacfu' wanderer seeks thy tower, 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 may na be.

Lord Gregory, mind'st thou not the guesty by bonnie Irvine side,
Where first I own'd that virgin love
I lang lang had denied?

How aften didst thou pledge the vow,
Thou wad for aye be mine!
And my fond heart, itsell sae true,
It me'er mistrusted thine.

Hard is thy heart, Lord Gregory,
And flinty is thy breast!
Thou dart of heaven that flashes by.
Oh, wilt thou give me rest!

Ye mustering thunders from above, Your willing victim see;

· Originally,

"Ye mind na 'mid your cruel joys,
"The widow's tears, the orphan's cries

But spare and pardon my false love His wrongs to heaven and me!*

LINES ON LORD DAER.

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 sprackled† up the brae,
I dinner'd wi' a Lord.

I've been at drucken, erriters' † 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; An' sic a Lord—lang Scotch ells twa, Our peerage he o'erlooks them a' As I look o'er a sonnet.

But O for Hogarth's magic power!
To show Sir Bardy's willyart glowr,§
And how he stared and stammer'd,
Whan goavan || as if led wi' branks,¶
An's tumpan 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 glee,
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 plouchman.

Then from his Lordship I shall learn, Henceforth to meet with unconcern, One rank as well's another; Nae honest worthy man need care, To meet with noble youthful DAER, For he but meets a brother.

These lines will be read with no common interest by all who remember the unaffected simplicity of appearance, the sweetness of countenance and manners, and the unsuspecting benevolence of heart, of Basil, Lord Dare.—It was a younger brother of his who, as Earl of Selkirk, became so well known as the advocate of voluntary emigration, and who settled the colony upon the Red River.

MACPHERSON'S FAREWELL.

Tune-" Maepherson's Rant.

FAREWEIL, ye prisons dark and strong,

The wretch's destinie!
Macpherson's time will not be long
On yonder gallows tree!
Sae rantingly, sae wantonly,
Sae dantonly gaed he,
He play'd a spring, and danced it rewad,
Beneath the gallows tree!

Oh, what is death, but parting breath?
On mony a bluidy plain
I've daur'd his face, and in this place
I scorn him yet again.
Sue rantingly, &c.

Untie these bands frae aff my hands, And bring to me my sword; And there's nae man in a' Scotland But I'll brave him at a word. Sae rantingly, &c.

I've lived a life of sturt and strife; I die by treacherie: It burns my heart I must depart, And not avenged be. Sae rantingly, &c.

Now fareweil, light, thon sunshine bright,
And all beneath the sky!
May coward shame distain his name,
The wretch that dares not die!
Sae rantingly, &c.

MARIA'S DWELLING.

Tune-" The last time I cam o'er the Moor."

FAREWELL thou stream that winding flows
Around Maria's dwelling!
Ah cruel mem'ry! spare the thrées
Within my bosom swelling:
Condemn'd to drag a hopeless chain,
And still in secret languish;
To feel a fire in ev'ry vein,

Yet dare not speek my anguish.

The wretch of love, unseen, unknown,
I fain my crime would cover:

^{*} This song was composed upon the subject of the well-known and very beautiful ballad, entitled "The Lass of Lochroyan."

The bursting sigh, the unweeting groan Betray the hopeless lover. I know noy doom must be despair, Thou wilt, nor canst relieve me; But oh, Maria, hear one prayer, For pity's suke forgive me.

The music of thy tongne I heard,
Nor wist while it enslav'd me;
I saw thine eyes, yet nothing fear'a,
'Till fears no more had saved me.
The unwary sailor thus aghast,
The wheeling torrent viewing;
'Mid circling horrors yields at last
To overwhehning ruin.

MARK YONDER POMP.

Tune-" Deil tak' the wars."

MARK yonder pomp of costly fashion,
Round the wealthy, titled bride:
But when compared with real passion,
Poor is all that princely pride.
What are their showy treasures?
What are their 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, Shiinking 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 Av'tice would deny
His worshipp'd deity,
And feel thro' every vein Love's raptures roll.

MARY MORISON.

Tune-" Bide ye yet."

O. MARY, at thy window be;
It is the wished, the trysted hour:
Those smiles and glunces let me see
That make the miser's treasure poor.
How blythely wad I byde the stoure,
A weary slave frae sun to sun,
Culd I the rich reward secure,
The levely Mary Morison!

Yestreen, when to the stented string The dance gaed through the lichtit ha', To thee my fancy took its wing— I sat, but neither heard nor saw. Though this was fair, and that was braw And you the torst o' a' the town, I split'd, and said among them a', Ye are na Mary Morisson.

O, Mary, canst thou wreck his peace,
Wha for thy sake wad gladly dee?
Or canst thou break that heart of his,
Whase only faut is loving thee?
If love for love thou wilt na gie,
At least he pity to me shown;
A thocht ungentle canna be
The thocht of Mary Morison.

MEG O' THE MILL.

Tune-" O 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 coof wi' a claut 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 wnddiefu' bleerit knurl; She's left the guid fallow, and ta'en the churl.

The miller he hecht her a heart leal and loving:
The laird did address her wi' matter mair mo-

A fine pacing-horse wi' a clear-chain'd bridle, A whip by her side, and a bonny side-saddle.

O wae on the siller, it's sae prevailing; And wae on the love that's fix'd on a mailin'! A tocher's nae word in a true lover's patle. But, Gie me my love, and a fig for the warl!

MUSING ON THE ROARING OCEAN.

I COMPOSED these verses out of compliment to a Mrs. M'Lachlan, whose husband is an officer in the East Indies.

Tune-" Drumion 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 hillow Yielding late to nature's law, Wkispring spirits round my pillow, Talk of him that's far awa.

Ye whom sorrow never wounded, Ye who never shed a tear, Care-untroubled, 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!

MY BONNIE MARY.

Tuis air is Oswald's; the first half-stanza of the song is old, the rest mine.*

Go fetch to me a pint o' wine,
An' fill it in a silver tassie;
That I may drink before I go,
A service to my bonnie lassie;
He boat rocks at the pier o' Leith;
Fu' lond the wind blaws frae the ferry;
The ship rides by the Berwick-law,
And I manu lea' 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 not the roar o' sea or shore
Wad make me langer wish to tarry;
Nor shouts o' war that's heard afar,
It's leaving thee, my bonne Mary.

MY HEART'S IN THE HIGHLANDS.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here-

My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer; A-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.

Farewell to the mountains high cover'd with snow;

Farewell to the straths and green valleys below; Farewell to the forests and wild hanging woods, Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring 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.

MY LADY'S GOWN THERE'S GAIRS UPON'T.

Mr 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.

My lord a-hunting he is gane, But hounds or hawks wi' him are name: By Colin's cottage lies his game, If Colin's Jenny be at hame.

My lady's white, my lady's red, And kith and kin o' Cassilis' blude, But her ten-pund lands o' tocher gude Were a' the charms his lordship lo'ed.

Out o'er yon moor, out o'er yon moss, Whare gor-cocks through the heather pass; There wons auld Colin's bonny lass, A lily in a wilderness.

Sae sweetly move her genty limbs, Like music notes o' lover's hymns; The diamond dew is her een sae blue, Where laughing love sae wanton swims.

My lady's dink, my lady's drest, The flower and fancy o' the west; But the lassie that man lo'es the best, O that's the lass to mak him blest.

MY NANNIE'S AWA.

Twnc-" There'll never be peace till Jamie comes

Now in her green mantle blythe nature arrays, And listens the lambkins that bleat ower 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 woodlands adorn,

And violets bathe in the weet o' the morn; They pain my sad bosom, sae sweetly they blaw! They mind me o' Nannie—and Nannie's awa.

Thou laverock, that springs frae the dews of the lawn,

The shepherd to warn of the grey-breaking

And thou mellow mavis, that hails the night-fa'; Give over for pity-my Nannie's awa.

Come, autumn, sae pensive, in yellow and grey, And soothe me wi' tidings o' nature's decay: The dark, dreary winter, and wild-driving snaw, Alane can delight me—my Nannie's awa.

This song, which Burns here acknowledges to be bis own, was first introduced by him in a letter to Mrs. Dunlop, as two old stanzas.

MY NANNIE, O.

Tune -" My Nanr.e, O."

Behind you hills where Stinchar flows, Mang moors an' mosses many, O, The wintry son the day has clos'd, And I'll awa to Nannie, O. The westland wind blaws loud an' shrill; The night's baith mirk and rainy, O; But I'll get my plaid and out I'll steal, An' owre the hills to Nannie, O.

My Nannie's charming, sweet, au' young; Na' artfu' wiles to win ye, O; May ill beda' the flattering tongue That wad beguile my Nannie, O. Her face is fair, her heart is true, As spotless as she's bonnie, O: The opening gowan, wet 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 wari's gear ne'er troubles me, My thoughts are a' my Nannie, O.

Our anld Guidman delights to view His sheep an' kye thrive bonnie, O; But I'm as hlythe that hands his plengh, An' has nae care but Nannie, O. Come weel, come weel, I care na by, I'll take what Heaven will sen' me, O; Nae ither care in life hae I, But live, an' love my Nannie, O.

MY PEGGY'S FACE.

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 untive 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.

MY SODGER LADDIE.

THE SOLDIER'S DOXY'S SOM: IN "THE JOLLY BEGGARS."

Tune-" Sodger Laddie,"

I ONCE was a maid, the I canna 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, Lat de lad, &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 check was so ruddy,
Transported I was with my sodger laddie.

Sing, Lal de lal, &c.

But the godly old chaplain left him in the Inrch, The sword I forsook for the sake of the church, He ventur'd the soul, and I risked the body, 'Twas then I prov'd false to my sodger laddie, Sing, Lul de lal, &c.

Full soon I grew sick of my sanetified 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, Lat de lat, &c.

But the peace it reduc'd me to beg in despair, Till I met my old boy at Cunningham fair; His ray regimental they flutter'd so gandy, My heart it rejoic'd at my sodger laddie, Sing, Lad de lad, &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 g ass steady,

Here's to thee, my hero, my sodger laddie. Sing, Lat de lat, &c.

MY SPOUSE NANCIE.

Tune-" My Jo, Janet."

Husband, husband, cease your strife, Nor longer idly rave, Sir; Though I am your wedded wife, Yet I'm not your slave, Sir,

One of two must still obey, Nancie, Nancie; Is it man or woman, say, My spouse Nancie?

If 'tis still the lordly word, Service and obedience; I'll desert my sovereign lord, And so good-bye allegiance

Sad will I be so bereft, Nancie, Nancie: Yet I'll try to make a soift, My spouse Nancie.

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, Nancie, Nancie, Strength to bear it will be given, My spouse Nancie.

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 Nancie, Nancie; Then all hell will fly for fear, My spouse Nancie!

MY TOCHER'S THE JEWEL.

G MERLE thinks my love o' my beauty,
And meikle thinks my love o' my kin;
But little thinks my love I ken brawlie,
My tocher's the jewel has charms for him.
R's a' for the apple he'll nourish the tree;
It's a' for the hinney he'll cherish the bee,
My laddie's sae meikle in love wi' the siller,
He canna hae love to spare for me.

Your proffer o' luve's an arle penny,
My tocher's the hargain ye wad buy;
But an' ye be crafty, I am cunnin,
Sac ye wi' anither your fortune maun try.
Ye'ra like to the timmer o' yon rotten wood,
Ye're like to the bank o' yon rotten tree,
Ye'll slip frae me like a knotless thread,
And ye'll crack your credit wi' mae nor me.

MY WIFE'S A WINSOME WEE THING.

Tune-" My wife's a wanton wee thing."

She is a winsome wee thing, She is a handsome wee thing, She is a bonnie wee thing, This sweet wee wife o' mine!

I never saw a fairer, I never loo'd a dearer; And neist my heart I'll wear her, For fear my jewel tine.

She is a winsome wee thing, She is a handsome wee thing, She is a honnie wee thing, This sweet wee wife o' mine, The warld's wrack we share **
The warstle and the care o't;
W' her I'll blythely bear it,
And think my lot divine.

NAE-BODY.

I HAE a wife o' my ain,
I'll partake wi' nae-body;
I'll tak cuckold frae nane,
I'll gie cuckold to nae-body.

I hae a penny to spend,

There—thanks to nae-body;
I hae naething to lend,
I'll borrow frae nae-body.

I am nae-body's lord,
I'll be slave to nae-body;
I bae a guid braid sword,
I'll tak dunts frae nae-body

I'll be merry and free,
I'll be sad for nae-body;
If nae-body care for me,
I'll care for nae-body.

NANCY.

THINE 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:
Leve's the cloudless summer sun
Yature gay adorning.

NOW SPRING HAS CLAD THE GROVE IN GREEN.

Now spring has clad the grove 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 you wimpling burn Glides swift, a silver dart, And safe beneath the shady thorn Defies the angler's art; My life was ance that careless stream, That wanton trout was I; But love, wi' unrelecting beam, Has scorch'd my fountains 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, Aad nuw beneath the withering blast, My youth and joy consume.

The waken'd lav'rock warbling springs, And climbs the early sky, Winnowing blythe het 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's snows, Cr Afric's burning zone, Wi' man and nature leagued my foes, So Peggy ne'er I'd known! The wretch whase doom is, "hope nae mair," That tongue his woes can tell! Within whase bosons, save despair, Nae kinder spurits dwell.

NOW BANK AND BRAE ARE CLAD IN GREEN.

Now bank and brae are clad in green
An's eatter'd curvilips sweetly spring,
By Girvan's fury haunted stream
The birdies flit on wanton wing.
Te Cassilis' banks when e'ening fa's,
Thers wi' my Mary let me flee,
There eatch her ilks glance of love
The bonnie blink o' Mary's ee!

The child wha boasts o' warld's walth, Is aften 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 lika glance o' lova
The bonnie blink o' Mary's se

NOW WESTLIN' WINDS.

Tune-" I had a horse, I had nae mair."

Now westlin' winds, and slaughtering guns,
Bring autumn's pleasant weather;
The murcock springs, on whirring wings,
Amang the blooming heather.
Now waving grain, wide o'er the plain,
Delights the weary farmer;
And the moon shine's bright, when I rove a
night,
To muse upon my charmer.

The partridge loves the fruitfal fells;
The plover loves the mountains;
The woodcock hannts the lonely dells;
The soaring hern the fountains.
Through 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 every kind their pleasure find,
The savage and the tender;
Some social join, and leagues combine;
Some solitary wander:
Avanot, away! the cruel sway,
Tyrannic man's dominion;
The sportman's joy, the mufdering cry,
The fluttring, gory pinion.

But, Peggy dear, the evening's clear, Thick flies the skinming 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 rusting corn, the fruited thorn, And every happy creature.

We'll gently walk, and sweetly ta'k,
Till the silent moon shine clearly;
I'll grasp thy waist, and fouldy press't,
And swear I love thee dearly.
Not vernal showers to budding flowers,
Not autumn to the farmer,
So dear can be as thou to me,
My fair, my lovely clarmer!

OF A' THE AIRTS THE WIND CAN

Tune-" Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspey."

I COMPOSED this song out of compliment to Mrs. Burns. It was during the honey-moon.

Of a' the airts the wind can blaw, I dearly like the west, For there the bonnie lassic lives, The lass that I lue hest: Tho' wild woods grow, and rivers row,

Wi' mony a hill betwee 1.

Baith day and night, my fancy's flight Is ever wi' my Jean.

I see her in the dewy flow'r,
Sae lovely, sweet, and fair;
I hear her vioice in ilka bird,
W? music charm the air:
There's not a bonnie flower that springs,
By fountain, shaw, or green,
Nor yet a bonnie bird that sings,
But minds me o' my Jean.

Upon the banks o' flowing Clyde
The lasses busk them braw;
But when their best they hae put on,
My Jeanie dings them a';
In hamely weeds she far exceeds
The fairest o' the town;
Baith sage and gay confeet? sae,
Tho' drest in russet gown.

The gamesome lamh, that sucks its dam,
Mair harmless canna be;
She has nae faut, (if sie ye ca't),
Except her love for me:
The sparkling dew, o' clearest hue,
Is like her shining cen;
In shape and air, nane can compare
Wi' my sweet lovely Jean.

O blaw, ye westlin winds, blaw saft Amang the leafy trees; Wi gentle gale, frae muir and dale, Bring hame the laden bees, And bring the lassie back to me That's aye sae neat and clean; Ae blink o' ber wad banish care, Sae lovely is my Jean.

What sighs and vows among the knowes,
Hae past atween us twa!
How fain to meet, how was to part
That day she gaed awa!
The powers aboon can only ken,
To whom the heart is seen,
That name can be see dear to me
As my sweet lovely Jean.

O, AY MY WIFE SHE DANG ME.

Tune-" O, ay my Wife she dang me."

O, ay my wife she dang me,
And aft my wife she banged me!
If ye gie a woman a' her will,
Gude faith, she'll soon owergang ye

On peace and rest my mind was bent, And, fool I was, I married • But never honest man's intent As cursedly miscarried ! O, ay my wife, &c. Some sair o' comfort still at last,
When a' thir days are dune, man—
My pains o' hell on earth is past,
I'm sure o' heaven aboon, man.
O, ay my wife, &c.

O BONNIE WAS YON ROSY BRIER

O BONNIE was yon rosy brier, That blooms sae far frae haunt o' man; And bonnie she, and ah! how dear! It shaded frae the e'enin' sun.

Yon rosebuds in the morning dew How pure, amang the leaves sae green; But purer was the lover's vow They witness'd in their shade yestreen.

All in its rude and prickly hower,
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;
And I the world, nor wish, nor scorn,
Its joys and griefs alike resign.

O, FOR ANE AND TWENTY, TAM.

Tune-" The Mondiewort."

An' O, for ane and twenty, Tam!
An' hey, sweet ane and twenty, Tam!
I'll learn my kin a rattling sang,
An' I saw ane and twenty, Tam!

They snool me sair, and haud me down, And gar me look like Blantie, Tam! But three short years will soon wheel roan', And then comes ane and twenty, Tam! An' O, for, &c.

A gleib o' lan', 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, &c.

They'll hae me wed a wealthy coot,
Tho' I mysel hae plenty, Tam;
But hears't thou, laddie, there's my loof,
I'm thine at ane and twenty, Tam!
An' O, for, &c.

ROSE.

Tune-" Hughie Graham."

OH, gin my love were you red rose That grows upon the castle wa', And I mysell a d.ap o' dew, Into her bonnie breast to fa'! Oh, there, beyond expression blest, I'd feast on beauty a' the nicht; Seated on her silk-saft faulds to rest, Till fleyed awa by Phæbus' licht.

ADDITIONAL STANZA BY BURNS.

O, WERE my love you lilae 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 ! How I wad sing on wanton wing, When youthfu' May its bloom renewed.

OH, WERT THOU IN THE CAULD BLAST.

OH, wert thou in the cauld blast, On yonder lea, on yonder lea; My plaidie to the angry airt, 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, Sae black and bare, sae black and bare, The desert were a paradise, If thou wert there, it thou wert there. Or were I monarch of the globe, With thee to reign, with thee to reign; The brightest jewel in my crown Wad be my queen, wad be my queen.

O LEAVE NOVELLES, YE MAUCHLINE BELLES.

A FRAGMENT

Tune-" Donald Blue."

O LEAVE novelles, ye Manchline belles, Ye're safer at your spinning wheel; Such witching books are baited books, For rakish rooks like Rob Mossgiel. Sing tal, lal, lay.

Your fine Tom Jones and Grandisons, They make your youthful fancies reel,

Off, GIN MY LOVE WERE YON RED | They heat your brains, and fire your veins, And then you're prey for Rob Mossgiel. Sing tal, lal, lay.

> Beware a tongue that's smoothly hung; A heart that warmly seeks to feel; That feeling heart but acts a part, 'Tis rakish art in Rob Mossgiel. Sing tal, lal, lay.

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. Sing tal, lal, lay.

O LET ME IN THIS AE NIGHT

Tunc-" Let me in this ae night."

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. 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 week 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 nae me o' wind and rain, Upbraid nae me wi' cauld disdain. Gae back the road ye cam again, I winna let you in, jo. I tell you now this ae night,

This ae ae, ae night; And ance 'or a', this ae night; I winn. let you in, jo.

The snellest blast at mirkest hours, That round the pathless wand'rer pours, Is nought to what poor slie 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 weird may be her aln, jo. I tell you now, &c.

The bird that charm'd his summer-day Is now the cruel fowler's prev : Let witless, trusting woman say How aft her fate's the same, jo. I tell you now, &c.

O LUVE WILL VENTURE IN.

O LUVE will venture in, where it daur na weel he seen.

O luve will venture in, where wisdom ance has

But I will down you river rove, amang 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 Pnæbus peeps in view,

For it's like a baumy kiss o' her sweet bonie mon :

The hyacinth's for constancy wi' its unchanging blue,

And a to be a posic 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 unaffected air, And a' to be a posie to my ain dear May.

The hawthorn I will pu', wi' its locks o' siller

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'ening star is near, And the diamond draps 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 ilear May.

I'll tie the posie round wi' the silken band o'

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 mr ain dear May.

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 darna name, But I will ave 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 gude watch o'er them; And here's to them we darna tell, The dearest o' the quorum, And e's to, &c.

ON CESSNOCK BANKS THERE LIVES A LASS.

Tune-" If he be a butcher neat and trim."

On Cessnock banks there lives a lass, Could I describe her shape and mien; The graces of her weelfar'd face, And the glancin' of her sparklin' e'en.

She's fresher than the morning dawn When rising Phoebus first is seen, When dewdrops twinkle o'er the lawn ; An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

She's stately like yon youthful ash, That grows the cowslip braes between, And shoots its head above each bush; An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

She's spotless as the flow'ring thorn With flow'rs so white and leaves so greez, When purest in the dewy morn An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'e .

Her looks are like the sportive lamb, When flow'ry May adorns the scene, That wantons round its bleating dam; An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

Her hair is like the curling mist That shades the mountain side at e'en, When flow'r-reviving rains are past; An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

Her forehead's like the show'ry bow, When shining sunbeams intervene And gild the distant mountain's brow; An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

covered from the oral communication of a lady residing at Glasgow whom the Bard in early life affection ately admired . This song was an early production.

Her voice s like the ev'ning thrush
That sings in Cessnock banks unseen,
While his mate sits nestling in the bush;
An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

Her lips are like the cherries ripe,
That sunny walls from boreas screen,
They tempt the taste and charm the sight;
An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

Her teeth are like a flock of sheep,
With fleeces newly washen clean,
That slowly mount the rising step;
An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

Her breath is like the fragrant breeze
That gently stirs the blossom'd bean,
When Phœbus sinks behind the seas;
An' she's twa glancin' sparklin' e'en.

But it's not her air, her form, her face, Tho' matching beauty's fabled queen, But the mind that shines in ev'ry grace An' chiefly in her sparklin' e'en

ON THE SEAS AND FAR AWAY

Tune-" O'er the hills and far away."

How can my poor heart be glad, When absent from my sailor lad? How ean I the thought forego, He's on the seas to meet his foe! 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.

tre with him that's far away.

On the seas and far away,

On stormy seas and fur 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'ting at his gun:
Bullets, spare my only joy!
Fate, do with me what you may,
Spare but him that's far away,
Even was a summer of the seas and far away, &c.

At the starless midnight hour,
When winter rules with boundless power,
As the stoms the forests tear,
And thunders rend the howling air,
Listening to the doubling roar,
Surging on the nocky shore,
A. ! can—I weep and pray
For his weal that's far away,
On the seas and far away, &c.

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 prosperous gales
Fill my sailor's welcome sails,
To my arms their charge convey,
My dear lad that's far away.

On the seas and fur away, &c.

ON A BANK OF FLOWERS.

Tune-" On a bank of flowers."

On a bank of flowers, on a summer day,
For summer lightly drest,
The youthful, blooming Nelly lay,
With love and sleep opprest;
When Willie, wandering through the wood,
Who for her favour oft bad sued;
He gazed, he wished, he feared, he blushed,
And trembled where he stood.

Her closed eyes, like weapons sheathed,
Were sealed in soft repose;
Her lips, still as she fragrant breathed,
It richer dyed the rose.
The springing lille, sweetly prest,
Wild wanton kissed her rival breast.
He gazed, he wished, he feared, he blushed,
His boson 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 gazed, he wished, he feared, he blushed,
And sighed his very soul.

As flies the partridge from the brake, On fear-inspired wings; So Nelly, starting, half awake, Away affrighted springs, But Willie followed—as he should; He overtook her in the wood; He wowed, he prayed, he found the maid Forgiving all and good!

OPEN THE DOOR TO ME, OH.

OH, open the door, some pity show,
Oh, open the door to me, oh!
Though 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 caulder thy love for me, oh!

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BURNS WORKS.

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 opened it wide, She sees his pale corse on the plain, oh! My true love, she cried, and sunk down by his side,

Never to rise again, oh!

Is nocht sae fragrant or sae sweet
As is a kiss o' Willie.

HE.

Let fortune's wheel at random rin, And fools may tyne, and knaves may win ; My thoughts are a' bound upon ane, And that's my ain dear Philly.

SHE.

What's a' the joys that gowd can gie? I care nae wealth a single flie; The lad I love's the lad for me, And that's my ain dear Willie.

O PHILLY, HAPPY BE THAT DAY

Tunc-" The sow's tail."

HF.

O PHILLY, happy he that day When roving through the gather'd hay, My youthfu' heart was stown away, And by thy charms, my Philly.

SHT.

O Willie, 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 Willie.

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.

...

As on the brief the budding rose Still richer breathes and fairer blows, So in my tender bosom grows The love I bear my Willie.

HE.

The milder sun and bluer sky, That crown my barvest cares wi' joy, Were ne'er sae welcome to my eye As is a sight of Philly.

SIEP.

The little swallow's wanton wing, The' wafting o'er the flowery spring, Did ne'er to me sic tidings bring, As meeting o' my Willie.

HE.

The bee, that thro' the sunny hour Sips nectar in the opening flower, Compar'd we' my delight is poor, Upon the lips o' Philly.

SHE.

The woodbine in the dewy weet When evening shades to blence meet. O STAY, SWEET WARBLING WOOD LARK.

Tune-" Loch-Erroch side."

O srax, sweet warbling wood-lark, stay, Nor quit for me the trembling spray I 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 'disdaining.

Say, was thy little mate unkind, And heard thee as the careless wind? Oh, nocht but love and sorrow join'd, Sic notes of wne 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!

O WAT YE WHA'S IN YOU TOUN

Tune-" I'll gang nae mair to yon toun."

O war ye wha's in you town
Ye see the e'ening sun njon?
The fairest maid's in yon toun,
That e'ening 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 ce.
How blest, ye birds, that round her sing,
And welcome in the blooming year!
And doubly welcome be the spring,
The season to my Jeanie dear!

The sun blinks blythe on yon toun, Amang yon broomy braces sae green; But my delight, in yon toun, And dearest pleasure, is my Jean. Without my love, not a' the charms Of Paradise could yield me joy; But gie me sean e in my arms, And welcome Lapland's drearie sky. My cave wad be a lover's hower, Though raging winter rent the air; And she a lovely little flower, That I wad tent and shelter there.

O sweet is she in yon toun,
The sinking sun's gane down upon;
The dearest maid's in yon toun,
His setting heam e'er shone upon.
Hangry fate be sworn my file,
And suffering I am doom'd to bear,
I'll careless quit aught else nelow;
But spare, oh! spare me Jeanie dear.
For, while life's dearest blood runs warm,
My thoughts frae her shall ne'er depart;
For, as most lovely is her form,

She has the truest, kindest heart.

O WERE I ON PARNASSUS' HILL.

Titts air is Oswald's: the song I made out ompliment to Mrs. Burns.

O were I on Parnassus' hill,
Or had o' Helicon my fill;
That I might catch poetic skill,
To sing how dear I love thee.
But Nith man: 'e my Muse's well,
My Muse man. ce thy bonnie sell;
On Corsiocon 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 coudna sing, I coudna sing, I coudna sing, How much, how dear, I love thee. I see the dancing o'er the green, Thy waist sae jimp, thy limbs sae clean, Thy tempting lips, thy roguish een—By heaven and earth I love thee!

By night, by day, a-field, at hame, The thoughts o' thee my breast inflame; And ay I muse and sing thy name, I only live to love thee!

The' 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 love thee!

O WUA IS SHE THAT LOES ME.

Tune-" Morag."

O WHA is she that loes me, And has my heart a-keeping? O sweet is she that loes me, As dews o' simmer weeping,
In tears the rose-bud steeping:
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 he-

If thou shalt meet a lassic
In grace and beauty charming,
That e'en thy chosen lassic,
Erewhile thy breast sac warming,
Had ne'er see powers alarming;
O that's, &c.

If thou hadst heard her talking,
And thy attentions plighted,
That ilka body talking,
But her by thee is slighted;
And if thou art delighted;
O that's, &c.

If thou hast met this fair one,
When frac her thou hast parted;
If every other fair one
But her, thou hast deserted,
And thou art broken-hearted;
O that's, &c.

OUT OVER THE FORTH I LOCK TO THE NORTH.

Out over the Forth I look to the north, But what is the north and its Highlands to ne? The south nor the east gie east to my brest, The far foreign land, or the wild rolling sea.

But I look to the west, when I gae to .cst,
That happy my dreams and my slue.bore may
be;
For five it the west lives be I le's beet

For far in the west lives he I lo'e best,

The lad that is dear to my babic and me

PEGGY ALISON.

ILK care and fear, when thou art near,
I ever mair defy them;
Young kings upon their hansel throne
Are no sae blest as I am!
I'll kiss thee yet, yet,
An' I'll kiss thee o'cr again,
An' I'll kiss thee yet, yet,
My bonnie Peppy Alison.

When in my arms, wi' a' thy charma, I clasp my countless treasure, I seek nae mair o' Heaven to share, Than sie a moment's pleasure!

I'll kiss, &c.

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! I'll kiss, &c.

POWERS CELESTIAL.

Powers celestial, whose protection Ever guards the virtuous fair, While in distant climes 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, Sooth 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. *

PHILLIS THE FAIR.

Tune-" Robin Adair."

While larks with little wing Fanned the pure air, Tasting the breathing spring, Forth I did fare; Gay the sun's golden eye Peeped o'er the mountains high; Such thy morn! did I cry, Phillis the fair.

In each bird's careless song
Glad I did share,
While you wild flowers among,
Chance led me there:
Sweet to the opening day,
Rusebuds bent the dewy spray;
Such thy bloom! did I say,
Phillis the fair,

Down in a shady walk,
Doves cooing were;
I marked the cruel hawk
Caught in a snare;
So kind may fortune he!
Such make his destiny,
He who would injust thee,
Phillis the fair!

PUIRTITH CAULD.

Tune-" I had a horse."

O, PURRITH CAULD, and restless love,
Ye wreck my peace between ye;
Yet puirtith a' I could forgie,
An 'twere na for my Jeanie,
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?

This world's wealth when I 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 should fate, &c.

Her een, sae bonnie blue, betray
How she repays my passion;
But prudence is her owerword aye,
She talks of rank and fashion.
On why should fate, &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 should fate, &c.

How blest the humble cottar's lot'
He woos his simple dearie;
The sillie bogles, wealth and state,
Can never make them cerie.
O, why should fate, &c.

RATTLIN, ROARIN WILLIE.

The last stanza of this song is mine; it was composed out of compliment to one of the wortkiest fellows in the world, William Dunbar, Esq. Writer to the signet, Edinburgh, and Colonel of the Crochallan corps, a club of wits who took that title at the time of raising the fencible regiments.

O RATTLIN, roarin Willie,
O he held to the fair,
An' for to sell his fiddle,
And buy some ither ware;
But parting wi' his fiddle,
The saut tear blint his ee;
And rattlin roarin Willie,
Ye're welcome hame to me.

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' wou'd think I was mad, For many a rantin day

My fiddle and I hae had!

Probably written on Highland Mary, on the event the Poet's departure for the West Indies.

SONGS.

RAVING WINDS AROUND HER BLOWING.

I COMPOSED these verses on Miss Isabella M'Leod of Raza, alluding to her feelings on the death of her sister, and the still more melancholy death of her sister's husband, the late Earl of Loudou.

Tune-" M'Grigor of Roro's Lament."

RAVING winds around her blowing, Yellow leaves the woodlands strewing, By a river hoarsely roaring, Isabella stray'd deploring. Farewell hours, that late did measure Sunshine days of joy and pleasure; Hail! thou gloomy night of sorrow, Cheerless night that knows no morrow!

O'er the Past too fondly pondering, On the hopeless Future wandering; Chilly grief my life-blood freezes, Fell despair my fancy seizes. Life, thou soul of every blessing, Load to misery most distressing; Gladly how would I resign face, And to dark oblivion join thee!

SAW YE OUGHT O' CAPTAIN GROSE.

Tune-" Sir John Malcolm."

Ken ye ought o' Captain Grose?

Igo and ago,
If he's among 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 steer him,
Iram, coram, dago.

But please transmit th' inclosed letter,
Igo, and ago,
Which will oblige your humble debtor,
Iram, coram, dago.

So may you have auld stanes in store, Igo, and ago, 223

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.

SCROGGAM.

THERE was a wife wonned in Cockpen, Scroggam; She brewed gude ale for gentlemen; Sing, auld Cowl, lay ye down by me; Scroggam, my dearie, Ruffum.

The gudewife's dochter fell in a fever,
Seroggam;
The priest o' the parish fell in another:
Sing, anld Cowl, lay ye down by me;
Seroggam, my dearie, Ruffum.

They laid the twa in the bed thegither,

Scroggam,
That the heat o' the tane might cool the tother
Sing, auld Cowl, lay ye down by me;
Scroggam, my deane, Ruffum.

SHE'S FAIR AND FAUSE.

Tune-" She's fair and fause."

SHE's fair and fause that causes my smart,
I loo'd her mickle and lang;
She's broken her vow, she's broken my heart,
And I may e'en gae hang.
A cuif cam in wi' rowth o' gear,
And I hae tint my dearest dear;
But woman is but waild's gear,
Sae let the bonnie lass gang.

Whae'er ye be that woman love,
To this be never blind,
Nae ferlie 'tis though fickle she prove;
A woman has't by kind:
O woman, lovely woman fair!
An angel's form's faun to thy share,
'Twad been ower mickle to hae gi'en thee wair
I mean an angel mind.

SHE SAYS SHE LO'ES ME BEST OF A'.

Tune-" Onagh's Water-fall."

SAE flaxen were her ringlets, Her eyebrows of a darker hue,

BURNS' WORKS.

Bewitchingly o'er-arching
Twa laughing cen o' bonnie blue.
Her smiling sae wyling,
Wad make a wretch forget his wee;
What pleasure, what treasure,
Unto these rosy lips to grow;
Such was my Chloris' bonnie face,
When first her bonnie face I saw,
And age 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 graceful 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;

She says she lo'es me best of a'.

Let others love the city,
And gandy show at sunny noon;
Gie me the lonely valley,
The dewy eve, and rising moon.
Fair beaming and streaming,
Her silver light the boughs aman;

And aye my Chloris' dearest charm,

While falling, recalling,

The amorous thrush concludes his sang:
There, dearest Chloris, wilt thou rove
By wimpling burn and leafy shaw,
And hear un vows o' truth and love,
And say thou lo'es me best of a'.

SIC A WIFE AS WILLIE HAD.

Tunc-" Tibby Fowler."

WILLIE WASTLE dwalt on Tweed,
The place they ca' dit Linkumdoddie.
Willie was a wabster gude,
Could stown a clew wi' one bodie.
He had a wife was dour and din,
O, Tinkler Madgie was her mother:
Sie a wife as Willie had,
I wadna gie a button for her!

She has an ee, she has but ane,
The cat has twa the very colour;
Twa rustie teeth, forbye a stump,
A clapper tongoe wad deave a miller;
A whi-kin' heard about her mou';
Her mose and chin they threaten ither:
Sie a wife as Willie had,
I wadna gie a button for her!

She's bow-hough'd, she's hein-shinn'd, Ae limpin' leg a hand-bread shorter; She's twisted richt, 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 wadna gie a buttoo for her!

Auld baudrons* by the ingle sits,
And wi' her loof her face a-washin';
But Willie's wife is nae sae trig,
She dichts her grunyie't wi' a hushion.
Her wale neeves.
Hike midden errels;
Her face wad fyle the Logan Water
Sie a wife as Willie had,
I wadna gie a button for her!

STEER HER UP AND HAUD HER GAUN.

Tune-" Steer her up,"

O STZER her up and haud her gaun;
Her mother's at the mill, jo;
And gin she winna tak a man,
E'en let her tak her will, jo.

First shore her wi' a kindly kiss, And ca' another gill, jo; And gin she tak the thing amiss, E'en let her flyte her fill, jo.

O steer her up, and be na blate; And gin she tak it ill, jo, Then lea' the lassie to her fate, And time nae langer spill, jo.

Ne'er break your heart for ae reaut,
But think apon it still, jo,
That gin the lassie winna do't,
Ye'll find another will, jo.

SWEET FA'S THE EVE ON CRAIGIE BURN.

Sweet fa's the eve on Craigie-burn, And blythe 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 hea.t, If I conceal it langer.

If thou refuse to pity me, If thou shalt love anither,

• The cat. † Mouth. † Cushica.

| Fists.

SONGS.

When you green leaves fade frac the tree, Around my grave they'll wither.

TAM GLEN.

My heart is a-breaking, dear tittie, Some counsel unto me come len', To anger them a' is a pity, But what wi!' I do wi' Tam Glen?

I'm thinking, wi' sie a braw fellow, In poortith I might mak a fen: What eare I in riches to wallow, If I maunna marry Tam Gleo.

There's Lowrie the laird o' Durneller,
" Gude 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 deave 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 gude hunder marks ten: But, if it's ordain'd I maun tak him, O wha will I get like Tam Glen?

Yestreen at the Valentine's dealing, My heart to my mon gied a sten; For thrice I drew ane without failing, And thrice it was written Tam Glen.

The last Hallowe'en I was waukin
My droukit sark-sleeve, as ye ken;
His theness cam up the house staukin,
And the very grey breeks o' Tam Glen!

Come counsel, dear tittie, don't tarry; I'll gie you my bonnie black hen, Gin ye will advise me to marry The lad I lo'e dearly, Tam Glen.

THE AULD MAN.

Bur lately seen in gladsome green
The woods rejoiced the day,
Thro' genule showers the laughing flowers
In double pride were gay:
But aow 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 the we Shall melt the snaws of age; My trunk of eild, but buss or beild, Sinks in time's wintry rage. Oh, age has weary days, And nights o' sleepless pain! Thou golden time o' youthfu' prime, Why comest thou not again!

THE BANKS O' DOON.

Ye banks and braces o' bonuic Doon,
How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair;
How can ye chant ye little birds,
And I sae weary fu', o' care!
Thou'll break my heart thou warbling bird,
That wantons thro' the flowering thorn:
Thou minds me o' departed joys,
Departed never to return.

Oft hae I rov'd by bonnie Doon,
To see the rose and woodbine twine;
And ilka bird sang o' its luve,
And, fondly, sae did I o' nine,
Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose,
Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree;
And my fause lover stole my rose,
But ah! be left the thorn wi' me.

THE BANKS BY CASTLE-GORDON

Tune-" Morag.

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 bands: These, their richly gleaning waves, I leave to tyrants and their slaves; Give me the stream that sweetly laves The banks by Castle-Gordon,

Spley 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 bave
The storus, by Castle-Gorden.

Wildly here, without control, Nature reigns and rules the whole; In that soher pensive mood, Dearest to the feeling soul, She plants the forest, pours the flood, Life's pour day I'll musing rave.

[•] Cragie-burn wood is situated on the banks of the river Moffat, and about three mites distant from the village of that name, eclebrated for its medicinal waters. The woods of Cragie-burn, and of Dumericf, where at one time favourtle haunts of our poet. It was there he met the "Lassie wi' the lint-white looks," and that he conceived several of his beautiful Tyros.

And find at night a sheltering cave, Where waters flow and wild woods wave, By bonnie Castle-Gordon.

THE BANKS OF THE DEVON.

Tune-" Rhannerach dhon na chri."

THESE verses were composed on a charming THE BARD'S SONG IN "THE JOLLY BEGGAZE girl, a Miss Charlotte Hamilton, who is now married to James M'Kitriek Adair, Esq. physician. She is sister to my worthy friend, Gavin Hamilton, of Mauchline; and was horn on the banks of Ayr, but was, at the time I wrote these lines, residing at Herveyston, in Clackmanuanshire, on the romantic banks of the little river Devon .- I first heard the air from a lady in Inverness, and got the notes taken down for this work.

How pleasant the banks of the clear winding Devon.

With green spreading bushes and flow'rs blooming fair!

But the bonniest flow'r on the banks of the De-

Was once a sweet bud on the braes of the

Mild he the sun on this sweet-blushing flow'r, In the gay rosy morn as it bathes in the dew; And gentle the fall of the soft vernal show'r, 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 seizest, The verdure and pride of the garden or lawn ! Let Bourbon exult in his gay gilded lilies, And England triumphant display her proud

rose; A fairer than either adorns the green vallies, Where Devon, sweet Devon, meandering flows

THE BANKS OF CREE.

Tune-" The banks of Cree."

HERE is the glen, and here the bower, All underneath the birchen shade; The village bell has to I'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 bear ! So calls the woodlark to 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 flowery banks of Cree.

THE BARD'S SONG.

Tune-" Jolly mortals, fill your glasses."

SEE the smoking bowl before us, Mark our jovial ragged ring ! Round and round take up the chorus, And in raptures let us sing-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 for those, &c.

Life is all a variorum, We regard not how it goes, Let them cant about decorum. Who have characters to lose. A fig for those, &c.

Here's to budgets, bags, and wallets! Here's to all our wandering train! Here's our ragged brats and callets! One and all cry out, Amen! A fig for those, &c.

THE BATTLE OF SHERIFF-MUIR.

BETWEEN THE DUKE OF ARGYLE AND THE EARL OF MAR.

" O CAM ye here the fight to shun, Or herd the sheep wi' me, man? Or were ye at the Sherra-muir, And did the battle see, man ?" I saw the battle sair and tengh, And reekin-red ran monie a sheugh, My heart for fear gae sough for sough, To hear the thuds, and see the cluds O' claus frae woods, in tartan duds, Wha glaum'd 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 bluid outgush'd, And mony a bouk did fa', man . The great Argyle led on his files. I wat they glanced twenty miles !

They hack'd and hash'd, while broadswords Now simmer blinks on flowery braes, clash'd,

And o'er the crystal streamlets plays;

And thro' they dash'd, and hew'd and smash'd, Till fey men died awa, man.

But had you seen the philibegs,
And skyrin tartun trews, man,
When in the teeth they dar'd our whigs,
And covenant true blues, man;
In lines extended lang and large,
When bayonets opposed the targe,
And thousands hastened to the charge,
W' highland wrath they frae the sheath,
Drew blades o' death, till out o' breath,
They fled like frighted doos, man.

"O how deil Tam can that be true?

The chase gaed frae the north, man;

I saw myself, they did pursue
The horsemen back to Forth, man;
And at Dumblane, in my ain sight,
They took the brig wi' a' their might,
And straught to Stirling winged their flight;
But, cursed lot! the gates were shut;
And mony a hunted poor red-coat

For fear amaist did swarf, man."

My sister Kate came up the gate Wi' crowdie unto me, man: She swo os he saw some rebels run, Frae Perth unto Dundee, man; Their left-hand general had noa skill, The Angus lads had nae good will That day their nechol's blood to spill; For fear by foes, that they should lose Tieir cogs o' brose; all crying woes, And so it goes, you see, man.

They've lost some gallant gentlemen, Amang the Highland clans, man; I fear my Lord Panmure is slain,

Tear my Lord rammure is stain,
Or fallen in whiggish hands, man.
Now wad ye sing this double fight,
Some fell for wrang, and some for right;
But mony bade the world gude-night;
Then ye may tell, how pell and mell,
By red claymores, and muskets, knell,
Wi' dying yeil, the tories fell,

And whigs to hell did flee, man.

THE BIRKS OF ABERFELDY.

I composen these stanzas standing under the Falls of Aberfeldy, at or near Moness.

Tune-" The Birks of Abergeldy."

Bonnie lassie, will ye go, will ye go, will ye go, Bonnie lassic, will ye go, to the Birks of Aberfeldy?

 This was written about the time our bard made his tour to the Highlands, 1787.

Now simmer blinks on flowery brass, And o'er the crystal streamlets plays; Come, let us spend the lichtsome days In the Birks of Aberfeldy. Bonnie lassie, &c. 227

While o'er their head the hazels hing, The little birdies blythely sing, Or lichtly flit on wanton wing, In the Birks of Aberfeldy, Bonnie lassie, &c.

The brace ascend like lofty wa's,
The foamin' stream deep-roaring fa's,
O'erlang wi' fragrant spreadin' shaws,
The Birks of Aberfeldy.

Bonnie lassie, &c.

The hoary cliffs are crown'd wi' flow'rs,
White ower the lin the burnie pours,
And, risin', weets wi' misty show'rs
The Birks of Aberfeldy,
Isonnie lassie, &c.,

Let fortune's gifts at random flee,
They ne'er shall draw a wish frae me,
Supremely bless'd wi' love and thee,
In the Birks of Aberfeldy.

Bonnie lassie, &c.

THE BIG-BELLIED BOTTLE.

Tune-" Prepare, my dear Brethren, to the Tavers

No churchman am I, for to rail and to write; No statesman or 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 seen not the peasant, though 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 chorus is borrowed from an old simple ballad, called "The Birks of Abergeldy;" of which the following is a fragment.

Ponnie lassie, will ye go, Will ye go, will ye go, Bonne lassie, will ye go. To the birks o' Abergeldie? Ye shall get a gown o' sik, A gown o' sik, a gown o' sik, Ye shall get a gown o' sik, And eoat of calinnankie

BURNS' WORKS.

The w fe of my bosom, alas! she did die; For sweet consolation to church I did fly; I found that old Solomon preved it fair, That a 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 wreek; But the pursy old landlord just waddled up stairs.

With a glorious bottle, that ended my cares.

"Life's cares they are comforts," 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,

And faith I agree with th' old prig to a hair, For a big-be-lied bottle's a heaven of care.

STANZA ADDED IN A MASON LODGE.

Then fill up a bumper, and make it o'erflow, And honours masonic prepare for to throw; May every true brother of the compass and square

Have a big-bellied bottle when harass'd with

THE BLUE-EYED LASSIE.

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, wat wi' dew; Her heaving bosom, lily-white— It was her e'en sae bonnie blue.

She talk'd, she smiled, my heart she wyl'd,
She charm'd my soul I wist na how;
And aye the stound, 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.

THE BONNIE WEE THING.

Composen on my little idol, "The charm-ng, lovely Davies."

Bonnie wee thing, cannie wee thing, Lovely wee thing was thou mine;

Young's Night Thoughts.
 The heroine of this song was Miss J. of Lochmaben. This lady, now Mrs. R. after residing some time in Liverpool, is settled with her husband in New York, North America.

I wad wear thee in my bosom, Lest my jewel I should tine.

Wishfully I look and languish,
In that bonnie face of thine,
And my heart it stounds wi' anguish,
Lest my wee thing be na mine.

Bonnie wee thing, &c.

Wit, and grace, and love, and beauty,
In aé constellation shine;
To adore thee is my duty,
Goddess o' this soul o' mine!
Bonnie wee thing, &c.

THE BRAES O' BALLOCHMYLE.

The Catrine woods were yellow seen,
The flowers decayed on Catrine lee,
Nae lav'rock sang on hillock green,
But nature sicken'd on the ce.
Thro' faded groves Maria sang,
Hersel' in beauty's bloom the while,
And aye the wild wood echoes rang,
Fareweel the brase o' Ballochmyle.

Low in your wintry bels, ye flowers,
Again ye'll flourish fresh and fair;
Ye birdies dumb, in withering bowers,
Again ye'll charm the vocai air.
But here, alas! for me nae mair,
Shall birdie charm, or floweret smile;
Fareweel the bonnie banks of Ayr,
Fareweel, fareweel! sweet Ballochmyle!

THE CARL OF KELLYBURN BRAES.

THESE words are mine; I composed them from the old traditionary verses.

THERE lived a earl 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 the rue is
in prime.

Ae day as the carl gaed up the lang glen,
(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme)
He met wi' the devil; says, "How do yow fen?"
And the thyme it is wither'd and the rue is
in prime.

"I've got a bad wife, Sir; that's a' my com plaint; (Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme)

 Catrine, in Ayrshire, the seat of Dugald Stewart Esq Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edi-burgh. Ballochmyle, formerly the scat of Sin John Whitefoord, now of —— Alexander, Esq. (1800. SONGS.

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For, saving your presence, to her ye're a saint ; And to her auld husband he's carried her back ; And the thyme it is wither'd and the rue is in prime."

It's neither your stot nor your staig I shall

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) But gie me vonr wife, man, for her I must have, And the thyme it is wither'd and the rue is in prime."

" O welcome, most kindly," the blythe carl said, (Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) But if ye can match her, ye're war nor ye're ca'd, And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rue is in prime."

The devil has got the auld wife on his back; (Hev, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) And, like a poor pedlar, he's carried his pack ; And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rne is in prime.

He's carried her hame to his ain hallan-door; (Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) Syne bade her gae in, for a bitch and a whore, And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rue is in prime.

Then straight he makes fifty, the pick o' his

(Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) Turn out on her gaurd in the clap of a hand; And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rue is prime.

The carlin gaed thro' them like ony wude bear, (Hey, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) Whae'er she gat hands on came near her nae

And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rue is in prime.

" A reekit wee devil looks over the wa'; (Hey and the rne grows bonnie wi' thyme) O, help, master, help, or she'll ruin us a', And the thyme it is wither'd, and the 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 the 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 heaven, but in

in prime.

Then Satan has travelled again wi' his pack; Hoy, and the rue grows bonnie wi' thyme) And the thyme it is wither'd, and the 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 the rue is in prime.

THE CHEVALIER'S LAMENT.

Tune-" Captain O' Kaine."

THE small birds rejoice in the green leaves returning;

The murmuring streamlet runs clear through the vale;

The hawthorn trees blow in the dews of the morning:

And wild scattered cowslips bedeck the green dale.

But what can give pleasure, or what can seem fair,

When the lingerin' moments are numbered by care ?

No flowers gaily springing, Or birds sweetly singing,

Can sooth the sad bosom of joyless despair.

The deed that I dared, could it merit their ma-

A king and 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, for-

lorn ; My brave gallant friends, 'tis your rain I mour's.

Your deeds proved so loyal In hot bloody trial; Alas! can I make it no better .eturn!

THE DAY RETURNS MY BOSOM BURNS.

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 oun was half sae sweet; Than a' the pride that loads the tide, And crosses o'er the sultry line : And the thyme it is wither'd, and the rue is Than kingly robes, than crowns and globes. Heaven gave me more, it made thee mine.

> While day and night can bring delight, Or nature ought of pleasure give !

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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 DEATH SONG.

Scene—A Field of Battle.—Time of the Day— Evening.—The Wounded and Dying of the Victorious Army are supposed to join in the following Song:

FAREWELL, thou fair day, thou green earth, and ye skies,

Now gay with the bright 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 to the brave.

Thou strikest the 1-11 peasant; he sinks in the dark,

Nor saves even the wreck of a name;
Thou strikest the young hero—a glorious mark!
He falls in the blaze of his fame!

In the proud field of 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!

THE DEIL'S AWA WI' THE EXCISE-MAN.

The deil cam fiddling th ough the toun,
And danced awa w' the exciseman;
And ilka andd wife crted, Audd Mahoun,
I wish you lu.k o' the prize, man.
The deil's awa, the deil's owa,
The deil's awa w' the exciseman;
He's danced awa, he's danced awa,
He's danced awa w' the exciseman!

We'll mak our mant, we'll brew our drink, We'll laugh, sing, and rejoice, man; And mony braw thanks to the meikle black deil, That danced awa wi' the exciseman! The deil's awa, &c.

There's threesome reels, there's foursome reels, There's hornpipes and strathspeys, man; But the ae best dance e ar cam to the heels,
Was, The deil's awa wi' the excelenar.

The deil's awa, &c.

THE ELECTION.

Tunc-" Fy, let us a' to the bridal."

Fy, let us a' to Kirkcudbright, For there will be bickering there, For Murray's light horse are to muster; And oh, how the heroes will swear!

And there will be Murray commander,
And Gordon the battle to win:
Like brithers they'll stand by each other,
Sae knit in alliance and sin.
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be black-nebbed Johnnie,
The tongue of the trump to them a';
If he get na hell for his haddin',
The deil gets nae justice ava!
Fy, let us u', §c.

And there will be Templeton's birkie,
A boy no sae black at the bane;
But, as to his fine Nabob fortune,
We'll e'en let the subject alane.
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be Wigton's new sheriff;
Dame Justice fu' brawly has sped;
She's gotten the heart of a B——by,
But what has become of the head?
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be Cardoness' squire, So mighty in Cardoness' eyes; A wight that will weather damnation, For the devil the prey will despise. Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be Douglasses doughty,
New christening towns far and near;
Abjuring their democrat doings,
By kissing the doup of a peer
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be Kenmure sae generous,
Whose honour is proof 'gainst the storm;
To save them frae stark reprobation,
He lent them his name to the firm.
Fy, let us a', &c.

But we winn mention Redeastle;
The body, e'en let him escape:
He'd venture the gallows for siller,
An 'tweren; the cost o' the rape,
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there is our King's Lord Lieutenant, Sae famed for his grateful return? The billie is getting his questions,

To say in St. Stephen's the morn.

Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be lads of the gospel, Muirhead, wha's as gude as he's true; And there will be Buittle's apostle, Wha's mair o' the black than the blue. Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be folk frae 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.

Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be wealthy young Richard:
Dame Fortune should hing by the neck:
But for prodigal thriftless bestowing,
His merit had won him respect.

Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be rich brither Nabobs; Though Nabobs, yet men o' the first: And there will be Colliston's whiskers, And Quintin, o' lads not the warst. Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be Stamp-office Johnnie— Tak tent how you purchase a dram; And there will be gay Cossencarry; And there will be gieg Colonel Tam. Fy, let us a', §c.

And there will be trusty Kirrochtrie, Whase honour is ever his sa' If the virtues were packed in a parcel, His worth might be sample for a'.

Fy, let us a', &c.

And can we forget the auld Major,
Wha'll ne'er be forgot in the Greys?
Our flattery we'll keep for some other;
Him only it's justice to praise.
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there will be maiden Kilkerran,
And also Barskimming's gude wight;
And there will be roaring Birtwhistle,
Wha luckily roars in the right.
Fy, let us a', &c.

And there, frae toe Niddislale border, We'll mingle the Maxwells in droves, Teuch Jockie, stanch Geordie, and Willie, That granes for the fishes and loves. Fv, bt us a', &c.

And there will be Logan M'D-1; Sculduddery and he will be there; And also the Scott o' Galloway, Sodgering, gunpowder Blair. Fy, let us a', &c.

Then hey! the chaste interest o' Broughton, And hey for the blessings 'twill bring! It may send Balma_bie to the Commons; In Sudom 'twould make him a king. Fy, let us a', &c.

And hey! for the sanctified M—r—y,
Our land wha wi' chapels has stored;
He foundered his horse among harlots,
But gied the auld mare to the Lord.
Fy, let us a', &c.

THE GALLANT WEAVER.

WHERE Cart rins rowin to the sea, By mony a flow'r and spreading tree, There lives a lad, the lad for me, He is a gallant weaver.

Oh I had wooers 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-hand To gie the lad that has the land, But to my heart I'll add my hana, And give it to the weaver.

While birds rejoice in leafy bowers;
While bees delight in opening flowers;
While corn grows green in simmer showers,
I'll love my gallant weaver.*

THE GARDENER WI' HIS PAIDLE.

This air is the Gardeners' March. The title of the song only is old; the rest is mine.

When rosy May comes in wi' nowers, To deck her gay, green-spreading bowers; Then busy, busy are his hours, The gard'ner wi' his paidle.

The crystal waters gently fa';
The merry birds are lovers a';
The scented breezes round him blaw,
The gard'ner wi' his paidle.

When purple morning starts the hare To steal upon her early fare; Then thro' the dews he mann repair, The gard'ner wi' his paidle.

Meaning the family of the Earl of Selkirk, resident at St. Mary's Isle, near Kirkcudbright.

[•] In some editions sailor is substituted for weaver.

BURNS' WORKS.

When day expiring in the west, The curtain draws of nature's rest; He flies to her arms he lo'es best, The gard'ner wi' his paidle.

THE GLOOMY NIGHT IS GATHER-ING FAST.

Tune-" Banks of Ayr."

The gloomy night is gath'ring fast, Loud roars the wild inconstant blast, Yon marky cloud is foul with rain, I see it driving o'er the plain. The huster 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 ripening 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 baoks of Ayr.

'Tis not the surging billows' roar,
'Tis not that fatal, deadly shore;
Though death in every shape appear,
The wretched have no more to fear:
But round my heart the ties are bound,
That heart transpierced with many a wound;
Those bleed afresh, those ties I tear,
To leave the bonnie banks of Ayr.

Firewell old Coila's hills and dales, Her heathy moors and winding vales; The scene where wretched fancy roves, Pursuing past, unhappy loves! Farewell my friends, farewell my focs, My peace with these, my love with those; The bursting tears my heart declare; Farewell the bonnie banks of Ayr.*

THE HEATHER WAS BLOOMING.

Twie-" I red you beware at the hunting."

The heather was blooming, the meadows were mawn.

Our lads gard a hunting, as day at the dawn, O'er moors and o'er mosses and mony a gleu, At length they discovered a bo mic moor-hen.

 Burns wrote this song, while convoying his chest to far on the road from Ayrshire to Grienock, where he intended to embrate in a few days for Jamaca. He designed it, he says, as his farewell darge to his native country. Ired you beware at the hunting, young men; Ired you beware at the hunting, young men; Tak some on the wing, and some as they spring,

But cannily steal on a bonnie moor-hen.

Sweet brushing the dew from the brown heather bells,

Her colours betray'd her on you mossy fells; Her plumage outlastred the pride o' the spring, And C 1 as she wantoned gay on the wing. I red, &c.

Auld Phæbus himsei, as he peep'd o er the hill; In spite at her plumage he tryed his skill; He levell'd his rays where she bask'd on the

His rays were outshone, and but mark'd where she lay.

I red, &c.

They hunted the valley, they hunted the hill; The best of our lads wi' the best o' their skill; But still as the fairest she sat in their sight, Then, whirr! she was over, a mile at a flight.—

I red, &c.

THE HIGHLAND LASSIE, O.

This was a composition of mine in very early life, before I was known at all in the world.

NAE gentle dames, tho' ne'er sae fair, Sall ever be my Muse's care; Their titles a' are empty shew; Gie ne my Highland lassie, O. Within the glen sae bushy, O, Aboon the plain sae rushy, O, I cet me down wi' right good will, To sing my Highland lassie, O.

O were you hills and vallies mine, You palace and you gardens fine! The world then the love should know! I bear my Highland lassie, O. Within the ylon, §c.

But fickle fortune frowns on me, And I mann cross the raging sea; But while my crimson currents flow, I'll lo'e my 'I'-1'and lassic, 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 trace a distant shore; That Indian wealth may lustre throw Around my Highland Jassie, O. Within the glen, &c.

She has my heart, she has my hand, By secret truth and honour's band! 'Fill the mortal stroke shall lay me low, Pra thine, my Highland lassie, O. Farewell the glen, sae bushy, O, Farewell the plain, sae rashy, O, To other lands I now must go, To sing my Highland lassie, O.

THE LAD THAT'S FAR AWA.

Tune-" O'er the hills and far awa."

O, now 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 ave the tear comes in my ee To think on him that's far awa.

My father pat me frae his door, My friends they has 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 snoods 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 cleed the birken shaw; and my sweet habie will be born. And he'll come hame that's far awa.

THE LASS OF BALLOCHMYLE.

Tung-" 'The Lass of Ballochmyle,"

Twas even, the dewy fields were green, On ilka blade the pearls hang; The zephyr wanton'd round the bean. And bore its fragrant sweets alang : In ev'ry glen the mavis sang; All nature list'ning seem'd the while, Except where greenwood echoes rang, Amang the braes o' Ballochmyle.

With eareless step I onward stray'd, My heart rejoiced in Nature's joy; When, musing in a lonely glade, A maiden fair I chanced to spy: Her look was like the morning's eye, Her air like Nature's vernal smile :

The lily's one, and rose's dye, Bespake the lass o' Ballochmyle.

Fair is the morn in flowery May, And sweet is night in Autumn mild, When roving through the garden gay, Or wand'ring in the lonely wild; But woman, Nature's darling child ! There all her charms she does compile; Even there her other works are foil'd, By the bonnie lass o' Ballochmyle.

Oh, had she been a country maid, And I the happy country swain, Though shelter'd in the lowest shed That ever rose on Scotland's plain ! Through 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 dig the Indian mine. Give me the cot below the pine, To tend the flocks, or till the soil, And ev'ry day have joys divine, Wi' the bunnie lass o' Ballochmyle. *

THE LASS THAT MADE THE BED TO ME.+

WHEN Januar winds were blawin' cauld, Unto the north I bent my way, The mirksome night did me enfauld, I kend na where to lodge till day; But by good luck a lass I met, Just in the middle of my care, And kindly she did me invite To walk into a chamber fair.

I bow'd fu' low unto this main. And thank'd her for her courtesie; I bow'd fu' low unto this maid, And bade her make the bed to me,

· This song was written in praise of Miss Alexander This song was written in praise or arris auxaniae
 of Ballochinyle. Burns happen-d one fine evening to meet this young lady, when walking through the leantful woods of Ballochinyle, which lie at the distance of two miles from his farm of Mossgiel. Struck tance of two mites from his farm of Mossgiel. Struck with a sense of her passing beauty, he wrote his noble lyric; which he soon after sent to her, enclosed in a letter, as full of delicate and romantae sentiment, and as notical as Itself. He was somewhat mortified to find, that either maidenly modest, or pride of supe-rior station, prevented her from acknowledging the reccipt of his compliment: Indeed it is no where recorded that she, at any stage of hie, shewed the smallest sense of it; as to her the pearls seem to have been hterally thrown away.

† There is an older and coarser song, containing the

† There is an oneer and courser song, containing the same inedents, and said to have been occasioned by an adventure of Charles II., when that momarch resided in Scotland with the Presbyterian army, 1650-51. The affair happened at the house of Port-Lethern, in Aber deenshire, and it was a daughter of the laird that mads

She made the bed bath wide and braid, Wi' twa white hands she spread it doun; She put the cop to her rosy lips, And drank, Young man, now sleep ye soun.

She snatch'd the candle in her hand, And from the chamber went wi' speed: But I ca'd her quickly back again, To lay some mair beneath my heid. A cod she laid beneath my heid, And served me with a 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; It will be time to speak the morn, If ye hae ony love for me. Her hair was like the links o' gowd, Her teeth were like the ivorie, Her cheeks like lilles dipt in wine, The lass that made the bed to me.

Her bosom was the driven snaw, Twa driftit heaps sae fair to see; Her limbs the poilsh'd marble stane, The lass that made the bed to me. I kiss'd her ower and ower again, And aye she wistna what to say; I laid her 'tween me and the wa'; The lassie thoon in ang till day.

Upon the morrow, when we rase,
I thank'd her for her courtesie;
And aye she blush'd, and aye she sigh'd,
And said, Alas! ye've ruin'd me.
I elasy'd her waist, and kiss'd her syne,
While the tear stood twinklin' in her ee;
I said, My lassie, dinna cry,
For ye aye shall mak the bed to me.

She took her mother's Holland sheets, And made them a m sarks to me; Blyttle and merry may she be, The lass that made the bed to me. The bonnie lass that made the bed to me, The braw lass that made the bed to me; I'll ne'er forget, till the day I dee, The lass that made the bed to me.

THE LAZY MIST.

THE lazy mist hangs from the brow of the hiii, Concealing the course of the dark winding rill; How languid the scenes, late so sprightly, ap-

As audium to winter resigns the pale year. The forests are leadless, the meadows are brown, And all the gay foppers of summer is flown: Apart let me wander, apart let me muse, How goick time is flying, how keen fate pursue.

'How long I ave liv'd-but how much liv'd in

How little of life's scanty span may remain:
What aspects old Time, in his progress, 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.

THE LEA-RIG.

Tune-" The Lea-Rig."

WHEN o'er the hills the eastern star Tells buchtin-time is near, my jo; And owsen frae the furrowed field Return sae douff and weary, O; Down by the burn, where scented birks Wi' dew are hanging clear, my jo, I'll meet thee on the lea-rig, My an sund dearie, O.

In mirkest glen, at midnicht hour,
I'd rove and ne'er be eerie, O,
If through that glen I gaed to thee,
My ain kind dearie, O.
Although 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 LOVELY LASS OF INVERNESS.

THE first half stanza of this ballad is old.

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 ee.
Drumassie moor, Drumossie day,
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 ad
That ever blest a woman s ee:
Now was to thee thon cruel lord,
A bluidy man I trow thou oe,
For mony a heart thon hast mane sur,
That ne'er did wrang to thine or thee!

SONGS.

THE LOVER'S MORNING SALUTE TO HIS MISTRESS.

Tune-" Deil tak the wars."

SLEEP'sr thou, or wak'st thou, fairest creature? Rosy morn now lifts his eye, Numbering ilka bad which nature Waters wi' the tears o' joy : Now through the leafy woods, And by the reeking floods; Wild Nature's tenants, freely, gladly stray; The lintwhite 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." Phæbus gilding the brow o' morning Banishes ilka darksome shade, Nature gladdening and adorning; Such to me my lovely maid.

The murky shades o' care With starless gloom o'ercast my sullen sky; But when in beauty's light, She meets my ravish'd sight, When through my very heart Her beaming glories dart ; Tis then I wake to life, to light and joy. +

When absent frae my fair,

THE RIGS O' BARLEY.

Tune-" Corn-Rigs are bonnie.

Ir 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' sına' persuasion shee agreed To see me through the barley.

The sky was blue, the wind was still, The moon was shining clearly; I set her down, wi' right good-will, Amang the rigs o' barley. I ken't her heart was a' mv ain ; I loved her most sincere.v : I kiss'd her ower and ower again, Amang the rigs o' barley.

· Variation. Now to the streaming foun ain, Or up the heathy mountain
The hart, hind, and roe, freely, wildly-wanton stray;
In twining hazel bowers His lay the linnet pours:

† Variation. When frae my Chloris parted, When trae my Choris parcet, Sad, cheeless, broken hearted,
Then night gloomy sets, cloudy, dark, o'erest
gloomy sets, cloudy, dark, o'erest
But when she charms my sight,
In prule of beauty's light,
When thro' my very heart
Her beaming glones dart;
Tu then, 'ns then I wake to life and joy.

Her heart was beating rarely-My blessings on that happy place, Amang the rigs o' barley ! But by the moon and stars so bright, That shone that hour sae clearly ! She aye shall bless that happy night, Amang the rigs o' barley.

I lock'd her in my fond embrace !

I hae been blythe wi' comrades dcar: I hae been merry drinking; I hae been joyfu' gathering gear ; I hae been happy thinking: But a' the pleasures e'er I saw Though they were doubled fairly, That happy night was worth them a'

Amang the rigs o' barley.

THE SOLDIER'S RETURN.

Tune-" The Mill, Mill, O."

When wild war's deadly blast was blawn. And gentle peace returning, And eyes again wi' pleasure beam'd, That had been blear'd wi' mourning ; I left the lines and tented field, Where lang I'd been a lodger; My humble knapsack a' my wealth; A poor but honest sodger.

A leal light heart beat in my breast, My hands 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 oft 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

Wi' alter'd voice, quoth I, sweet lass, Sweet as you hawthorn's blossom, O! happy, happy may he be, That's dearest to thy bosom ! My purse is light, I've far to gang,

That in my ee was swelling.

And fain wad be thy lodger; I've serv'd my king and country lang Tak pity on a sodger.

Sae wistfully she gazed on me, And lovelier grew than ever ; Qnoth she, A sodger anre I loved, Forget him will I never.

BURNS' WORKS.

Our humble cot and hamely fare, Ye freely shall partake o't; That gallant budge, the dear cockade, Ye're welcome for the sake o't.

She gazed-she redden'd like a rose-Syne pile as ony lily; She sank within my arms, and cried, Art thou my ain dear Willie? By Him, who made you 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; Though poor in gear, we're rich in love, And mair we'se ne'er be parted. Quoth she, My grandsire left me gowd, A mailin plenish'd fairly;

Then come, my faithfu' 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. *

THE BANKS OF NITH.

Tune-" Robie Donna Gorach."

THE Thames flows proudly to the sea, Where royal cities stand; But sweeter flows the Nith to me, Where Cummins ance had high command: When shall I see that honoured land, That winding stream I love so dear ! Must wayward fortune's adverse hand For ever, ever keep me here.

How lovely, Nith, thy fruitful vales, 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 hours consume, Amang the friends of early days!

* "Burns, I have been informed," says a elergyman of Dumfriesshire, in a letter to Mr. George Thomson, editor of Select Mchodies of Scotland, " was one summer evening in the inn at Brownhill, with a couple of

nor exenting in the nin at Brownhill, with a couple of friends, when poor way, worn solder passed the win-dow. Of a sudden it struck the post to call him which, he all a to ce fell into one of those fits of all-straction, not tunusual to him. He was littled to the region where he had his gard and and his single robes about him, and the result was this admirable song he cut vost for 'The Mill, Mill, O.'

THE TOAST.

At a meeting of the DUMPRIESSHIRE VOLUNTEERS held to commemorate the anniversary of RODNEY'S victory, April 12th, 1782, BURNS was called upon for a Song, instead of which he delivered the following LINES :-

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 Revolution; And longer with Politics not to be cramm'd, Be Anarchy curs'd, and be Tyranny damn'd; And who would to Liberty e'er prove disloyal, May his son be a hangman, and he his first trial.

THERE'LL NEVER BE PEACE TILL JAMIE COMES HAME.

This tune is sometimes called, There's few gude Fellows when Willie's awa .- But I never have been able to meet with any thing else of the song than the title.

Tune-" There'll never be peace till Jamie comes hame."

By you castle-wa', at the close o' the day, I heard a man sing, though his head it was

And, as he was singing, the tears down came-There'il never be peace till Jamie comes hame.

The church is in ruins, the state is in jars, Delusions, oppressions, and murderous wars: We daurna 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 yird:

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 hows me down, Since I that my bairns, and he tint his crown; But till my last moments my words are the same.

There'll never be peace till Jamie comes nama

THE STOWN GLANCE O' KINDNESS. | The birdies dowie moaning,

Tune-" Laddie, lie near me."

'Twas na her bonnie blue ee was my ruin; Fair though she be, that was ne'er my undoin': 'Twas the dear suile when naebody did mind us, 'Twas the bewitching, sweet, stown glance o' kindness.

Sair do I fear that to hope is denied me, Sair do I fear that despair mann abide me; But though fell fortune should fate us to sever, Queen shall she be in my bosom for ever.

Mary, I'm thine wi' a passion sincerest, And thou hast plighted me love o' the dearest! Ana thou'rt the angel that never can alter; Sooner the sun in his motion shall falter.

THERE'S NEWS, LASSES.

THERE'S news, lasses, news, Gude news hae I to tell; There's a bout fu' o' lads Come to our toun to sell.

The wean wants a cradle,
And the cradle wants a cod;
And I'll no gang to my bcd,
Until I get a nod.

Father, quo' she, Mother, quo' she,
Do ye what ye can,
I'll no 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.

THE YOUNG HIGHLAND ROVER.

Tune-" Morag."

Loud blaw 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 ga, where'er he stray,
May heaven he his warden:
Return him safe to fair Strathspey,
And bounie Castle-Gordon!

The trees now naked groaning, Shall soon wi' leaves be hirging, The birdies dowie moaning,
Shall a' be blythely singing,
And every flower be springing.
Sae I'll rejoice the lee-lang day,

When by his mighty warden
My youth's returned to fair Strathspey,
And bonnie Castle-Gordon, *

THE WOODLARK.

Tune-" Where'll bonnie Annie lie."

Or, " Loch-Erroch Side."

O STAY, sweet warbling wood-lark, stay, Nor quit for me the trembling spray, A helpless 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' disdaining.

Say, was thy little mate unkind, And heard thee as the careless wind? Oh, nocht but love and sorrow join'd, Sic notes o' woe 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!

THERE'S A YOUTH IN THIS CITY

THERE'S a youth in this city, it were a great pity

That he from our lasses should wander awa; For he's bonnie and braw, weel-favour'd with a' And his hair has a natural buckle and a'.

His coat is the hue of his honnet sae blue; His fecket† 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 pennic's the jewel that beautifies a'.— There's Meg wi' the mailin, that fain wad a haen him,

And Susy whase daddy was Laird o' the ha :

The young Highland rover is supposed to be th young Chevalier, Prince Charles Edward.
 † An under-waistcoat with sleeves.

There's lang-tocher'd Nancy maist fetters his | But weel the watching lover marks

-But the laddie's dear sel he lo'es dearest of a'. His coat is the hue, &c.

THE TOCHER FOR ME.

Tune-" Balinamona Ora."

Awa wi' your witcheraft o' beauty's alarms, The slender bit beauty you grasp in your arms; O, gie me the lass that has aeres o' charms,

O, gie me the lass wi' the weel-stockit farms. 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

And withers the faster, the faster it grows; 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 possest; But the sweet yellow darlings wi' Geordie im-

prest, The langer ye hae them-the mair they're ca-

Then hey, &c.

THIS IS NO MY AIN LASSIE.

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 ee. O this is no my ain lassie,

Fair though the lassic be; O weel hen I my ain lassie, Kind love is in her ee.

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 ee.

O this is no my ain lassie, &c.

A thicf sae pawkie is my Jean, To steal a blink, by a' unseen; But gleg as light are lover's een, When kind love is in the ee. O this is no my ain Lassie, &c.

"t may escape the courtly sparks, It may escape the learned clerks : The kind love that's in her ee.

O this is no my ain lassie, &c.

THERE WAS ONCE A DAY

Tune-" 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 Caledonia's divine?)

From Tweed to the Oreades was her domain, To hunt, or to pasture, or to 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

But chiefly the woods were here fav'rite resort, Her darling amusement, the hounds and the

Long quiet she reigned; 'till thitherward steers A flight of bold eagles from Adria's strand : * Repeated, successive, for many long years,

They darken'd the air, and they plundered 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 during invaders they fled or they died.

The fell Harpy-raven tock wing from the north, The scourge of the seas, and the dread of the shore;+

The wild Scandinavian boar issued forth To wanton in carnage, and wallow in gore : t O'er countries and kingdoms their fury pre-

vail'd, No arts could appease them, nor arms could repel;

But brave Caledonia in vain they assail'd, As Largs well can witness, and Loncartie tell. §

The Cameleon-savage disturb'd her repose, With tumult, disquiet, rebellion and strife;

[•] The Romans. † The Saxons. ‡ The Danes. § Two famous battles, in which the Danes or Nor wegians were defeated.

SONGS.

Provoked 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'il 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 hypothenuse;
Then ergo she'll match them, and match
them always.†

THOU HAST LEFT ME EVER, JAMIE.

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, Jamie,
Thou hast me forsaken, Jamie,
Thou hast me forsaken,
Thou canst love another jo,
While my heart is breaking:
Soon my weary een I'll close,
Never more to waken, Jamie,
Never more to waken.

TIBBIE, I HAE SEEN THE DAY.

THIS SONG I COMPOSED ABOUT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN.

Tune-" Invercald's reel.

O Tibbie, I hae seen the day Ye wadna been sae shy; For laik o' gear ye lightly me, But trowth, I care na by.

 The Highlanders of the Isles.
 This singular figure of poetry, taken from the mathematics, refers to the famous proposition of Pythagoras, the 47th of Euclid. In a right-angled triangle, the square of the hypothenuse is always equal to the squares of the two other sides.

Yestreen I met you on the moor, Ye spak na, but gaed by like stoure; Ye geck at me because I'm poor, But feint a hair care I. 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. Tibbic, I hae, &c.

But sorrow tak him that's sae niean, Altho' his pouch o' coin were clean, Wha follows ony saucy quean

That looks sae proud and high. Tibbie, I hae, &c.

Altho' a lad were e'er sae smart, If that he want the yellow dirt, Ye'll east your head anither airt, Au' answer him fu' dry.

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.

Tibbie, I hae, &c.

But, Tibbie, lass, tak my advice, Your daddie's gear maks you sae nice, The deil a ane wad speir your price, Were ye as poor as I. Tibbie, I hae, &c.

There lives a lass in yonder park, I wouldna gie her in her sark For thee wi' a' thy thousand mark; Ye need na look sae high. Tibbie, I hae, &c.

TO MARY IN HEAVEN.

Trou 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,
Oh, Mary, dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast!

That sacred hour ean 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 pelibled shore, O'erhung with wild woods thickening green; The fragrant birch, the hawthorn hear, Twined amorous round the raptured scene. The flowers sprung wanton to be prest, The birds sung love on every spray; Till too, too soon the glowing west

Till too, too soon the glowing west.
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day.
Still o'er these scenes my memory wakes,

And fondly broods with miser care;
Time but the impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear
My Mary, dear departed shade!
Where is the place of blissful cart?

Where is thy place of blissful rest? See'st thou lover lowly laid?

Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?

TRUE HEARTED WAS HE.

Tune-" Bonnie Dundee."

FAUE hearted was he, the sad swain o' the Yarrow,

And fair are the maids on the banks o' the

But by the sweet side o' the Nith's winding

Are lovers as faithful, and maidens as fair; fo 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' brely young Jessie, Unseen is the lily, unheeded the rose. Love sits in her smile, a wizard ensnaring; Entbron'd in her een he delivers his law; And still to her charms she alone is a stranger. Her modest demeanour's the jewel of a'.

WANDERING WILLIE.

Tune-" Here awa, there awa."

Here awa, there awa, wandering Willie! Here awa, there awa, hand awa hame! Come to my busom, my ain only dearie; Tell me thou bring'st me my Willie again.

Winter winds blew loud and cauld at our parting:

Fears for my Willie brought tears in my ee: Welcome now, saramer, and welcome, my Willie; The summer to nature, and Willie to me.

Here awa, &c.

Rest, ye wild storms, in the caves of your slambers!

How your dread howling a lover alarms!
Wauken, ye breezes! row gently, ye billows!
And waft my dear laddle ance mair to my arme
Here awa, &c.

But, oh, if he's faithless, and minds na his Nannie, Flow still between us, thou dark heaving main! May I never see it, may I never trow it,

But, dying, believe that my Willie's my ain!

Here awa, &c.

WAE IS MY HEART.

WAE is my heart, and the tear's in my ee; Lang, lang joy's been a stranger to me: Forsaken and friendless my burden I bear, And the sweet voice o' pity ne'er sounds in my ear

Love thou hast pleasures; and deep has I loved; Love thou hast sorrows; and sair has I proved; But this bruised heart that now bleeds in my breast,

I can feel by its throbbings will soon be at rest.

O if I were, where happy I has been; Down by you stream and you bonnie castle green; For there he is wand'ring and musing on me, Wha wad soon dry the tear free his Phillis's ea

WHAT CAN A YOUNG LASSIE DO WI' AN AULD MAN.

WILAT can a young lassie, what shall a young lassic.

What can a young lassie do wi' an auld man?
Bad luck on the pennie that tempted my minnie
To sell her poor Jenny for siller an' lan'!
Bad luck on the pennie, &c.

He's always compleenin frae mornin to e'enin, He hosts and he hirples the weary day lang, He's doy'lt and he's dozin, his bhuid it is frozen, O' dreary's the night wi' a crazy auld man! Bad luck on the pennie, &c.

He hums and he hankers, he frets and he cankers;
I never can please him, do a' that I can;

He's peevish, and jealous of a' the young fellows, O, dool on the day, I met wi' an auld man! Bad luck on the pennie, &c.

My auld auntic Katic upon me takes pity, I'll do my endeavour to follow her plan; I'll cross him, and wrack him, until I heartbreak him,

And then his auld brass will buy me a new pan Bad luck on the pennie, &c.

To Mary Campbell, one of Burne's earliest and post beloved mistresses, a darry-maid in the neigh bourhood of Mossgiel.—See farther particulars in the 130.

WHA IS THAT AT MY BOWER DOOR. | But at New- York, wi' knife and fork,

This tune is also known by the name of Lass an I come near thee. The words are mine.

Wha is that at my bower door?
O wha is it but Findlay;—
Then gae your gate ye's mae be here!
Indeed maun 1, quo' Findlay.
What mak ye sae like a thie?
O come and see, quo' Findlay;—
Before the morn ye'll work mischief;
Indeed will 1, quu' 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 hower if ye should stay?

Let me stay, quo' Findlay;—
I ted will I, quo' Findlay.

Here this night if ye remain?
I'll remain, quo' Findlay;—
I'd dread ye'll learn the gate again;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay;
What may pass within this hower;
Let it pass, quo' Findlay;—
Ye maun conceal 'sill your last hour;
Indeed will I, quo' Findlay!

WHEN GUILDFORD GOOD:

A FRAGMENT.

Tune-" Killicrankie.

When Guildford good our pilot stood,
And did our helm thraw, man,
Ae night, at tea, began a plea,
Within America, man:
Then up they gat the maskin-pat,
And in the sea did jaw, man;
An' did oae less, in full Congress,
Than quite refuse our law, man.

Then thro' the lakes Montgomery takes, 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 Quebee,
Montgomery-like did fa', man;
Wi's word in hand, before his band,
Amang his enemies a', man.

Poor Tammy Gage, within a cage, Was kept at Poston ha', man; Till Willie Hove took o'er the knowe For Philadelphia, man; Wi's word an' gun he thought a sin Gud Christian bluod to draw, man; ut at Nev- York, wi' knife and fork Sir-loin he hacked sma', man.

Burooyne gaed up, like spur an' whip, Till Fraser brave did fa' man; Then lost his way, ae misty day, In Saratoga shaw, man. Cornwallis fought as lang's he dought, An' did the buckskins claw, man; But Clinton's glaive frae rust to save, He hung it to the wa', man.

Then Montague, an' Guildford too,
Began to fear a fa', man;
And Sackville doure, wha stood the stoure,
The German chief to thraw, man:
For Paddy Barke, like onie Turk,
Nae mercy had at a', man;
An' Charlie Fox threw by the box,
An' lows'd his tinkler jaw, man.

Then Rockingham took up the game;
Till death did on him ca', man;
When Shelburne meck held up his cheek,
Conform to gospel law, man.
Saint Stephen's boys, wi' jarriug noise,
They did his measures thraw, man,
For North and Fox united stocks,
And bott. Jim 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;
And 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 slee Dundas arous'd the class Be-north the Roman wa', man: An' Chatham's wraith, in heavenly graith, (Inspired bardies saw, man) W' kindling eyes, cry'd, "Wille, rise! Would I ha'e fear'd them a', man?"

But word an' blow, North, Fox, and Co. Gow'''d Willie like a ba', man, Till Suthrons raise, and coust their claise Behind him in a raw, man; An' Cateloth threw by the drone, An' did her whittle draw, man; An' swoor fu' rude, thro' dirt and blood To make it guid in law, man.

WHERE ARE THE JOYS I HAE MET | WILLIE BREW'D A PECK O' MAUT IN THE MORNING.

Tune-" Saw ye my father."

WHERE are the joys I had met in the morning, That danced to the lark's early song? Where is the peace that awaited my wandering, At evening the wild woods among?

No more a-winding the course of you 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 discover, Yet long, long too wel! have I known: All that has caused this wreck in my bosom. Is Jenny, fair Jenny alone.

Time cannot aid me, my griefs are immortal, Nor Hope dare a comfort bestow: Come then, enamour'd and fond of my anguish, Enjoyment I'll seek in my woe.

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 come nae unless the back-yett be ajee : Syne up the back style, and let nae body see, And come as ye were nae comin' to me. And come as ye were nae comin' to me.

O whistle, &c.

At kirk, or at market, whene'er ye meet me, Gang by me as the' that ye cared nae a flie; But steal me a blink o' your bonnie black e'ee, Yet look as ye were nae lookin' at me. Yet look as ye were nae lookin' at me. O whistle, &c.

Aye vow and protest that ye care na for me, And whiles ye may lightly my beauty a wee; But court mae anither, tho' jokin ye be, For fear that she wyle your fancy frae me. For fear that she wyle your fancy frac me. O whistle, &c.

THIS air is Masterton's; the song mine .-The occasion of it was this :- Mr. Wm. Nicol. of the High School, Edinburgh, during the antumn 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. Masterton and I agreed, each in our own way, that we should celebrate the business.

O WILLIE brew'd peck o' maut, And Rob and Allan cam to see; Three blyther hearts, that lee-lang night, Ye wad na find in Christendie. We are na fou, we're na that fou, But just a drappie in our ee : The cock may craw, the day may daw And ay we'll taste the barley bree.

Here are we met, three merry boys, Three merry boys I trou are we; And mony a night we've merry been, And mony 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 . She shines sae bright to wyle us hame, But by my sooth she'll wait a we! 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.

WILT THOU BE MY DEARIE.

Tune-" The Sutor's Dochter."

Will't thou be my dearie: When sorrow wrings the gentle heart. Wilt thou let me cheer thee: By the treasure of my soul, That's the love I bear thee ! I swear and yow that only thou Shall ever be my dearie. Only thou, I swear and vow, Shall ever be my dearie.

Lassie, say thou lo'es me; Or if thou wilt na be my ain. Say na thou'lt refuse me 1 If it winna, canna be, Thou for thine may choose me, Let me, lassie, quickly die, Trusting that thou lo'es me; Lassie let me quickly die, Trusting that thon lo'es me.

[.] In some of the MSS, the first four lines run thus: O whistle and I'll come to thee, my jo, O whistle and I'll come to thee, my jo; Tho' father and mother and a' should say no, O whistle and I'll come to thee, my jo.

WILL YE GO TO THE INDIES, MY MARY?

Tunc-" The Yowe-buchts."

WILL ye go to the Indies, my Mary, And leave auld Scotia's shore? Will ye go the Indies, my Mary, Across the Atlantic's roar?

Oh, sweet grow 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, 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!

YON WILD MOSSY MOUNTAINS.

You 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' you wild, mossy moors; For there, by a lanely, and sequester'd stream, Resides a sweet lassie, my thought and my dream.

For there, &c.

Amang thae 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.

For there, wi'my lassie, the day lang I rove, While o'er us unheeded, flie the swift hours o' love.

For there, &c.

• When Burns was designing his voyage to the West Indies, he wrote this song as a farewell to a girl whum he happened to regard, at the time, with considerable admiration. He afterwards sent it to Mr. Thomson for publication in his splendid collection of the national music and musical poetry of Scotland. 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 ma.

Her parentage, &c.

To beauty what man but mann yield him a prize,

In her armour of glances, and blushes, and sighs;

And when wit and refinement hae polished her darts,

They dazzle our een, as they flie to our hearts, And when wit, &c.

But kindness, sweet kindness, in the fond sparkling e'e,

Has lustre outshining 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 '
And the heart-beating, &c.

YOUNG JOCKEY.

Tune-" Jockie was the blythest lash"

In a' our town or here awa;
Fu' blithe he whistled at the gand,
Fu' lightly dane'd he in the ha'!
He roos'd my e'en sae bonnie blue,
He roos'd my waist sae genty sna;
An' ay my heart came to my mon,
When ne'er a body heard or saw.

Young Jockey was the blithest lad

My Jockey toils upon the plain,
"Thro' wind and weet, thro' frost and snaw
And o'er the let leuk fu' fain
When Jockey's owsen hameward ca'.
An' ay the night comes round again,
When in his arms he taks me a';

An' ay he vows he'll be my ain
As lang's he has a breath to draw.

YOUNG PEGGY

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 heams 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 die has grac'd them, They charm th' admiring gazer's sight And sweetly tempt to taste them: Her smile is as the evining 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 sim can gain Her winning pow'rs to lessen: And fretful envy grins in vain, The poison'd toolt to fasten. Ye pow'rs of Honour, Love, and Twells, 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 fillal blossom.*

[•] This was one of the poet's earliest compositions. It is copied from a MS. book, which he had before his first publication.

THE CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICE.

Or the following letters of Burns, a considstable number were transmitted for publication, by the individuals to whom they were addressed; out very few have been printed entire. It will easily be believed, that in a series of letters written without the least view to publication, varions passages were found unfit for the press, from different considerations. It will also be readily supposed, that our Poet, writing nearly at the same time, and under the same feelings to different individuals, would sometimes fall into the same train of sentiment and forms of expression. To avoid, therefore, the tediousness of such repetitions, it has been found necessary to mutilate many of the individual letters, and sometimes to exscind parts of great delicacy-the unbridled effusions of panegyric and regard. But though many of the letters are printed from originals furnished by the persons to whom they were addressed, others are printed from first draughts, or sketches, found among the papers of our Bard. Though in general no man committed his thoughts to his correspondents with less consideration or effort than Burns, yet it appears that in some instances he was dissatisfied with his first essays, and wrote out his communications in a fairer character, or perhaps in more studied language. In the chaos of his manuscripts, some of the original sketches were found; and as these sketches, though less perfect, are fairly to be considered as the offspring of his mind, where they have seemed in themselves worthy of a place in this volume, and they have been inserted, though they may not always correspond exactly with the letters transmitted, which have been lost or withheld.

Our anthor appears at one time to have formed an intention of making a collection of his letters for the amusement of a friend. ingly he copied an inconsiderable number of them into a hook, which he presented to Ropert Riddel, of Glenriddel, Esq. Among these was the account of his life, addressed to Dr. Moore, and printed in the Life. In copying from his imperfect sketches (it does not appear that he had the letters actually sent to Lis corexpondents before him) he seems to have occa- al enthusiasm, he might have had more success

sionally enlarged his observations, and altered his expressions. In such instances his emendations have been adopted; but in truth there are but five of the letters thus selected by the poet, to be found in the present volume, the rest being thought of inferior merit, or otherwise unfit for the public eye.

In printing this volume, the Editor has found some corrections of grammar necessary; but these have been very few, and such as may be supposed to occur in the careless effusions, even of literary characters, who have not been in the habit of carrying their compositions to the press, These corrections have never been extended to any habitual modes of expression of the Poet, even where his phraseology may seem to violate the delicacies of taste: or the idiom of our langnage, which he wrote in general with great accuracy. Some difference will indeed be found in this respect in his earlier and in his later compositions; and this volume will exhibit the progress of his style, as well as the history of his mind. In this Edition, several new letters were introduced not in Dr. Currie's Edition, and which have been taken from the works of Cromek and the more recent publishers. series commences with the Bard's Love Letters -the first four being of that description. They were omitted from Dr. Currie's Edition: why, They have been held has not been explained. to be sufficiently interesting to be here inserted. He states the issue of the courtship in these terms: -" To crown my distresses, a belle fille whom I adored, and who had pledged her soul to meet me in the field of matrimony, jilted me with pcculiar circumstances of mortification." Mr. Lockhart remarks of the letters :-- " They are surely as well worth preserving, as many in the Collection; particularly when their early date is considered."—He then quotes from them largely, and adds,-" In such excellent English did Burns woo his country maidens, in at most his 20th year." But we suspect the fault of the English was, that it was too good. It was too coldly correct to suit the taste of the fair maiden : had the wooer used a sprinkling of his native tongue, with a deeper infusion of his constitution-



LETTERS, &c.

LOVE LETTERS.

No. I.

(WRITTEN ABOUT THE YEAR 1780.)

1 FERTLY believe, my dear Eliza, that the pure genuine feelings of love, are as rare in the world as the pure genuine principles of virtue and piety. This, I hope, will account for the meanmon style of all my letters to you. ancommon, I mean, their being written in such serious manner, which, to tell you the truth, aas made me often afraid lest you should take ne for a zealous bigot, who conversed with his nistress as he would converse with his miniser. I don't know how it is, my dear; for hough, except your company, there is nothing on earth that gives me so much pleasure as rriting to you, yet it never gives me those giddy raptures so much talked of among lovers. I have often thought, that if a well-grounded affection be not really a part of virtue, 'tis something extremely a-kin to it. Whenever the thought of my Eliza warms my heart, every feeling of humanity, every principle of generoway, kindles in my breast. It extinguishes every Lty spark of malice and envy, which are but too apt to infest me. I grasp every creature in the arms of universal benevolence, and equally participate in the pleasures of the happy, and sympathise with the miseries of the unfortunate. I assure you, my dear, I often look up to the divine Disposer of events, with an eye of gratitude for the blessing which I hope he intends bestow on me, in bestowing you. I sincerely wish that he may bless my endeavours to make your life as comfortable and happy as possible, both in sweetening the rougher parts of my natural temper, and bettering the un-kindly circumstances of my fortupe. This, my dear, is a passion, at least in r / view, worthy of a man, and I will add, worthy of a Chris-The sordid earth-worm may profess love to a woman's person, whilst, in reality, his affection is centered in her pocket; and the slavish drudge may go a-wooning as he goes to the norse-market, to choose one who is stout and distain their firty, pury ideas. I would be perhaps one of those transient flashes I have

heartily out of humonr with myself, if I thoug. I were capable of having so poor a notion othe sex, which were designed to crown the pleasures of society. Poor devila! I don't envy them their happiness who have such notions For my part, I propose quite other pleasures with my dear partner.

No. II.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR ELIZA,

I no not remember in the course of your acquaintance and mine, ever to have heard your opinion on the ordinary way of falling in love, amongst people of our station of life: . do not mean the persons who proceed in the way of bargain, but those whose affection is really placed on the person.

Though I be, as you know very well, but a very awkward lover myself, yet as I have some opportunities of observing the conduct of others who are much better skilled in the affair of courtship than I am, I often think it is owing to lucky chance more than to good management, that there are not more unhappy mar-

riages than usually are.

It is natural for a young fellow to like the acquaintance of she females, and customary for him to keep them company when occasion serves : some one of them is more agreeable to him than the rest; there is something, he knows not what, pleases him, h knows not how, in her company. This I take to be what is called love with the greatest part of us, and I must own, my dear Eliza, it is a hard game such a one as you have to play when you meet with such a lover. You cannot refuse but he is sincere, and yet though you use him ever so favourably, perhaps in a few months, or at farthest in a year or two, the same unaccountable fancy may make him as distractedly fond of another, whilst you are quite forgot. I am aware, that perhaps the next time I have the pleasure of seeing you, you firm, and, as we may say of an old horse, one may bid me take my own lesson home, and tell who will be a good drudge and draw kindly. me that the passion I have professed for you is

been describing; but I hope, my dear Eliza, be performed, if he be villain enough to pracyou will do me the justice to believe me, when tise such detestable conduct: but to a ma. I assure you, that the love I have for you is whose heart glows with the principles of in-counded on the sacred principles of virtue and tegrity and truth; and who sincerely loves a nonour, and by consequence, so long as you contiry possessed of those amiable quatities which of sentiment, and purity of manners-to such a first inspired my passion for you, so long must I one, in such circumstances, I can assure you, continue to love you. Believe me, my dear, it my dear, from my own feelings at this present is love like this alone which can render the married state hap by. People may talk of flames and such a number of foreboding fears, and distrustraptures as long as they please; and a warm ful anxieties crowd into my mind when I am in fancy with a flow of youthful spirits, may make your company, or when I sit down to write to them feel someticing like what they describe; you, that what to speak or what to write I am but sure I am, the nobler faculties of the mind, altogether at a loss. with kindred feelings of the heart, can only be the foundation of friendship, and it has always tised, and which I shall invariably keep with been my opinion, that the married life was only you, and that is, honestly to tell you the plain friendship in a more exalted degree.

and it should please providence to spare us to that I am surprised they can be used by any one the latest periods of life, I can look forward in so noble, so generous a passion as virtuous and see, that even then, though bent down love. No, my dear Eliza, I shall never endeawith wrinkled age; even then, when all other wour to gain your favour by such detestable worldly circumstances will be indifferent to me, practices. If you will be so good and so generworldly circumstances will be indifferent to me, practices. If you will be so good and so gener-I will regard my Eliza with the tenderest affection, and for this plain reason, because she panion, your bosom friend through life; there is still possessed of those noble qualities, improved to a much higher degree, which first greater transport; but I shall never think of inspired my affection for her.

"O: state, when souls each other draw, "When love is liberty, and nature law."

I know, were I to speak in such a style to many a girl who thinks herself possessed of no small share of sense, she would think it ridiculous-but the language of the heart is, my dear Eliza, the only courtship I shall ever use

When I look over what I have written, I am sensible it is vastly different from the ordinary style of courtship-but I shall make no apology-I know your good nature will excuse what vour good sense may see amiss.

No. III.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR ELIFA,

every other situation in life, telling the truth is stancy and fidelity, which are never intended to never can be happy; but sure I am that de-

woman of amiable person, uncommon refinement moment, courtship is a task indeed. There is

truth. There is something so mean and nn-If you will be so good as to grant my wishes, manly in the arts of dissimulation and falsehood, is nothing on this side of eternity shall give me purchasing your hand by any arts unworthy of a man, and I will add of a Christian. There is one thing, my dear, which I earnestly request of you, and it is this; that you would soon either put an end to my hopes by a peremptory refusal, or cure me of my fears by a generous consent.

It would oblige me much if you would send me a line or two when convenient. I shall only add further, that if a behaviour regulated (though perhaps but very imperfectly) by the rules of honour and virtue, if a heart devoted to love and esteem you, and an earnest endeavour to promote your happiness; and if these are qualities you would wish in a friend, in a husband; I hope you shall ever find them in your real friend and sincere lover.

No. IV.

TO THE SAME.

I ought in good manners to have acknowhelged the receipt of your letter before this time, I HAVE often thought it a peculiarly un- but my heart was so shocked with the contents lucky circumstance in love, that though, in of it, that I can scarcely yet collect my thoughts so as to write to you on the subject, not only the safest, but actually by far the easi- attempt to describe what I felt on receiving your est way of proceeding, a lover is never under letter. I read it over and over, again and again greater difficulty in acting, or more puzzled for and though it was in the politest language of reexpression, than when his passion is sincere, fusal, still it was peremptory; "you were sorry and his intentions are honourable. I do not you could not make me a return, but you wish think that it is very difficult for a person of or-me" wha, without you, I never can obtain, dinary capacity to talk of love and fondness, "you wish me all kind of happiness." It would which are not felt, and to make vows of con- be weak and unmandy to say, that without you I

CORRESPONDENCE.

ing life with you, would have given it a relish, pretty well as un homme des offaires, I might that, wanting you, I never can taste. have been what the world calls a pushing, ac-

Your uncommon personal advantages, and your superior good sense, do not so much strike me; these, possibly in a few instances, may be met with in others; but that amiable goodness, that tender feminine softness, that endearing sweetness of disposition, with all the charming offspring of a warm feeling heart-these I never again expect to meet with in such a degree in this world. All these charming qualities, heightened by an education much beyond any thing I have ever met with in any woman I ever dared to approach, have made an impression on my heart that I do not think the world can ever efface. My imagination has fondly flattered itself with a wish, I dare not say it ever reached a hope, that possibly I might one day call you mine. I had formed the most delightful images, and my fancy fondly brooded over them; but now I am wretched for the loss of what I really had no right expect. I must now think no more of you as a mistress, still I presume to ask to be admitted as a friend. As such I wish to be allowed to wait on you, and as I expect to remove in a few days a little farther off, and you, I suppose, will perhaps soon leave this place, I wish to see you or hear from you soon; and if an expression should perhaps escape me rather too warm for friendship, I hope you will pardon it in, my dear Miss -, (pardon me the dear expression for once.) .

LETTERS, 1783, 1784.

No. V.

TO MR. JOHN MURDOCH,

SCHOOLMASTER

STAPLES INN BUILDINGS, LONDON.

DEAR SIR, Lochlee, 15th January, 1783.

As I have an opportunity of sending you a letter, without putting you to that expense which any production of mine would but ill repay, I embrace it with pleasure, to tell you that I have not forgotten, nor ever will forget, the many obligations I lie under to your kindness and friendship.

I do not doubt, Sir, but you will wish to I forget that I am a po know what has been the result of all the pains indiced and unknown of an indulgent father, and a masterly teacher; and I wish I could gratify your curiosity with reading a page or two such a receital as you would be pleased with; but that is what I am afraid will not be the case, I have, indeed, kept pretty clear of vicious habits; and in this respect, I hope, my conduct will not disgrace the clucation I have gotten; but as a man of the world, I am most miserably deficient.—One would have thought, that bred ion of an internat beggar last shirt albuted ion of an internat beggar in the property of the state of

have been what the world calls a pushing, active fellow; but, to tell you the truth, Sir, there is hardly any thing more my reverse. I seem to be one sent into the world to see, and observe; and I very easily compound with the knave who tricks me of my money, if there be my thing original about him which shows me human nature in a different light from any thing I have seen before. In short, the joy of my heart is to "study men, their manners, and their ways;" and for this darling subject, I cheerfully sacrifice every other consideration. I am quite indolent about those great concerns that set the bustling busy sons of care agog; and if I have to answer for the present hour, I am very easy with regard to any thing further. Even the last, worst shift of the unfortunate and the wretched, does not much terrify me: I know that even then my talent for what country folks call "a sensible crack," when once it is sanctified by a hoary head, would procute me so much esteem, that even then-I would learn to be happy. However, I am under no apprehensions about that; for, though indolent, yet, so far as an extremely delicate constitution permits, I am not lazy; and in many things, especially in tavern matters, I am a strict economist; not indeed for the sake of the money, but one of the principal parts in my composition is a kind of pride of stomach, and I scorn to fear the face of any man living : above every thing, I abhor as hell, the idea of sneaking in a corner to avoid a dun-possibly some pitiful, sordid wretch, who in my heart I despise and detest. 'Tis this, and this alone, that endears economy to me. In the matter of books, indeed, I am very profuse. My favourite authors are of the sentimental kind, such as Shenstone, particularly his Elegics; Thomson; Man of Feeling, a book I prize next to the Bible; Man of the World; Sterne, especially h's Sentimental Journey; Macpherson's Ossian, &c. These are the glorious models afte which I endeavour to form my conduct; and 'tis incogruous, 'tis absurd, to suppose that the man whose mind glows with sentiments lightened up at the r sacred flame-the man whose heart distends with benevolence to all the human race-he " who can soar abeve this fittle scene of things," can be descend to mind the paltry concerns above which the terrefilial race fret, and fume, and vex themselves? O how the glorious triumph swells my heart! I forget that I am a poor insignificant devil, unnoticed and unknown, stalking up and down fairs and markets, when I happen to be in them, reading a page or two of mankind, and "catcliing the manners living as they rise," whilst the men of business jostle me on every side as an idle encumbrance in their way .- But I dare say I have by this time tired your patience; so shall conclude with begging you to give Mrs.

The last shift alluded to here, must be the condition of an itinerant beggar

Murdoch-not my compliments, for that is a | she repays him with an equal return of affective mere common-place story, but-my warmest, tion. kindest wishes for her welfare; and accept of the same for yourself, from,

Dear Sir. Yours. &c.

No VI.

THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM THE MS. PROSE PRESENTED BY OUR BARD TO MR. RIDDEL.

On rummaging over some old papers, I lighted on a MS. of my early years, in which I had determined to write myself out, as I was placed by fortune among a class of men to whom my ideas would have been nonsense. I had meant that the book should have lain by me, in the And hope that, some time or other, even after I was no more, my thoughts would fall into the hands of somebody capable of appreciating their value. It sets off thus :

Observations, Hints, Songs, Scraps of Poetry, &c. by R. B .- a man who had little art in making money, and still less in keeping it; but was, however, a man of some sense, and a great deal of honesty, and unbounded good-will to every creature, rational and irrational. As he was but little indebted to scholastic education, and bred at a plough-tail, his performances must be strongly unctured with his unpolished rustic way of life; but as I believe they are really his own, it may be some entertainment to a curious observer of human nature, to see how a ploughman thinks and feels, under the pressure of love. ambition, arriety, grief, with the like cares and passions, which, however diversified by the "wod's and manners of life, operate pretty much anke, I believe, on all the species.

"There are numbers in the world who do not want sense to make a figure, so much as an opinion of their own abilities, to put them upon recording their observations, and allowing them the same importance which they do to those which appear in print."—SHENSTONE.

" Pleasing, when youth is long expired, to trace The forms our pencil, or our pen designed! Such was our youthful air, and shape, and face, Such the soft image of our youthful mind.'

April, 1783.

Notwithstanding all that has been said against love, respecting the folly and weakness it leads a young inexperienced mind into; still I think it in a great measure deserves the highest encomirms that have been passed on it. If any thing on earth deserves the name of rapture or

August.

There is certainly some connection between love, and music, and poetry; and, therefore, 1 have always thought a fine toucl of nature, that passage in a modern love composition:

" As tow'rd her cot, he jogg'd along, Her name was frequent in his song.

For my own part, I never had the least thought or inclination of turning poet, till I got once heartily in love; and then rhyme and song were, in a manner, the spontaneous language of my heart.

September.

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 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.

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. In every other circumstance, the mind Has this to say-" It was no deed of mine;" But when to all the evil of mi-fortune This sting is added-" Blame thy foolish self! 1 Or worser far, the pangs of keen remorse; The torturing, gnawing consciousness of guilt-Of guilt, perhaps, where we've involved others The young, the innocent, who fondly leved us. Nay, more, that very love their cause of ruin! O 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 batter horrors of his crime, Can reason down its agonizing throbs; And, after proper purpose of amendment, Can firmly force his jarring thoughts to peace 'O, happy! happy! envisble man! O glorious magnanimity of soul.

May 4, 1784.

I have often observed, in the course of my experience of human life, that every man, even transport, it is the feelings of green eighteen in the worse, has something good about him; the company of the mistress of his heart, was a though very often nothing else than a happy this or that virtue. For this reason, no man the following : ran say in what degree any other person, besides himself, can be, with strict justice, called wicked. Let any of the strictest character for regularity of conduct among us, examine impartially how many vices he has never been guilty of, not from any care or vigilance, but for want of opportunity, or some accidental circumstance intervening; how many of the weaknesses of mankind he has escaped, because he was out of the line of such temptation; and, what often, if not always weighs more than all the rest, how much he is indebted to the world's good opinion, because the world does not know all: I say, any man who can thus think, will sean the failings, nay, the faults and crimes, of mankind around him, with a brother's eve.

that part of mankind commonly known by the adinary phrase of blackquards, sometimes farther than was consistent with the safety of my heart. character; those who, by thoughtless prodigality or headstrong passions, have been driven to ruin. Though disgraced by follies, nay, sometimes " stained with guilt, . . .," I have yet found among them, in not a few instances, some of the noblest virtues, magnanimity, generosity, disinterested

friendship, and even modesty.

As I am what the men of the world, if they knew such a man, would call a whimsical mortal, I have various sources of pleasure and enjoyment, which are, in a manner, peculiar to myself, or some here and there such other outof-the-way person. Such is the peculiar plea-sure 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 every thing 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 curaptures me-than to walk in the sheltered side of the wood, or high planta-

temperament of constitution inclining him to just after a train of misfortunes, I composed

The wintry west extends his blast, &c. See Songs.

Shenstone finely observes, that love-verses, writ without any real passion, are the most nauseous of all conceits; and I have often thought that no man can be a proper critic of love-composition, except he himself, in one or more instances, have been a warm votary of this passion. As I have been all along a miserable dupe to love, and have been led into a thousand weaknesses and follies by it, for that reason I put the more confidence in my critical skill, in distinguishing foppery, and conceit, from real passion and nature. Whether I have often courted the acquaintance of the following song will stand the test, I will not pretend to say, because it is my own; only I can say it was at the time, genuine from the

Behind yon hills, &c.

See Songs.

I think the whole species of young men may be naturally enough divided into two grand classes, which I shall call the grave and the merry; though, by the bye, these terms do not with propriety enough express my ideas. The grave I shall east into the usual division of those who are goaded on by the love of money, and those whose darling wish is to make a figure in the world. The merry are, the men of pleasure of all denominations; the jovial lads, who have too much fire and spirit to have any settled rule of action; but without much deliberation, follow the strong impulses of nature; the thoughtless, the careless, the indolent-in particular he, who, with a happy sweetness of natural temper, and a cheerful vacancy of thought, steals through life-generally, indeed, in poverty and obscurity; but poverty and obscurity are only evils to him who can sit gravely down and make a repining comparison between his own situation and that of others; and lastly to grace the quorum, such are, generally, those heads are capable of all the towerings of genius, and whose hearts are warmed with all the delicacy of feeling.

As the grand end of human life is to cultivate an intercourse with that Being to whom we owe life, with every enjoyment that can render life delightful; and to maintain an integritive tion, in a cloudy winter-day, and hear the conduct towards our fel ow-creatures; that so, stormy wind howling among the trees, and by forming piety and virtue into habit, we may raving over the plain. It is my best season be fit members for that society of the pious and for devotion; my mind is wrapt up in a kind the good, which reason and revelation teach us of enthusiasm to Him, who, in the posspous to expect beyond the grave: I do not see that language of the Hebrew bard, "walks on the the turn of mind, and pursuits of any son of powings of the wind.' In one of these seasons, verty and obscurity, are in the least more inimi

eal to the sacred interests of piety and virtue, | for your silence and neglect; I shall only azy I than the, even lawful, bustling and straining received yours with great pleasure. I have enafter the world's riches and honours; and I do not see but that he n.ay gain Heaven as well (which, by the bye, is no mean consideration), who steals through the vale of life, amusing himself with every little flower that fortune himself with every little flower that fortune M Kinlay's being called to Kilmarnock; Scotch throws in his way; as he who, straining straight Drink, a poem; The Cotter's Saturday Night; forward, and perhaps bespattering all about him, gains some of life's little eminences; where, after all, he can only see, and he seen, a little more conspicuously, than what, in the pride of his heart, he is apt to term the poor, indolent devil he has left behind him.

There is a noble sublimity, a heart-melting tenderness, in some of our ancient ballads, which shows them to be the work of a masterly hand: and it has often given me many a heart-ache to reflect, that such glorious old bards-bards who very probably owed all their talents to native genius, yet have described the exploits of heroes, the pangs of disappointment, and the meltings of love, with such fine strokes of naturethat their very names (O how mortifying to a bard's vanity!) are now "buried among the wreck of things which were."

O ye illustrious names unknown! who could feel so strongly and describe so well; the last, the meanest of the muses' train-one who, though far inferior to your flights, yet eyes your path, and with trembling wing would sometimes toar after you-a poor rustic bard unknown, pays this sympathetic pang to your memory! Some of you tell us, with all the charms of verse, that you have been unfortunate in the world-infortunate in love: he too has felt the loss of his little fortune, the loss of friends, and, worse than all, the loss of the woman he adored. Like you, all his consolation was his muse: she taught him in rustic measures to complain. Happy could be have done it with your strength of imagination and flow of verse! May the turf lie lightly on your bones! and may you now enjoy that solace and rest which this world seldom gives to the heart, tuned to all the feelings of pucsy and love!

This is all worth quoting in my MSS., and more than all.

R. B.

LETTERS, 1786.

No. VII.

TO MR. JCHN RICHMOND, EDINBURGIL He died in the West-Indies.

MY DEAR SIR,

closed you a piece of rhyming ware for your perusal. I have been very busy with the niuses since I saw you, and have composed, among several others, The Ordination, a poem on Mr. An Address to the Devil, &c. I have likewise completed my poem on the Dogs, but have not shewn it to the world. My chief patron now is Mr. Aiken in Ayr, who is pleased to express great approbation of my works. Be so good as send me Fergusson, by Connel, and I will remit you the money. I have no news to acquaint you with about Mauchline, they are just going on in the old way. I have some very important news with respect to myself, not the most agreeable, news that I am sure you cannot guess, but I shall give you the particulars another time. I am extremely happy with Smith; } he is the only friend I have now in Mauchline. I can scarcely forgive your long neglect of me, and I beg you will let me hear from you reguiarly by Connel. If you would act your part as a friend, I am sure neither good nor bad for, tune should strange or alter me. Excuse haste, as I got yours but yesterday .- I am,

My dear Sir, Yours. ROBT. BURNESS. 1

No. VIII.

TO MR. M'WHINNIE, WRITER, AYR.

Mossgiel, 17th April, 1786.

It is injuring some hearts, those hearts that elegantly bear the impression of the good Creator, to say to them you give them the trouble of obliging a friend; for this reason, I only tell you that I gratify my own feelings in requesting your friendly offices with respect to the enclosed, because I know it will gratify yours to assist me in it to the utmost of your power.

I have sent you four copies, as I have no less than eight dozen, which is a great deal more

than I shall ever need.

Be sure to remember a poor poet militant in your prayers. He looks forward with fear and trembling to that, to him, important moment

[·] Connel-the Mauchline carrier.

[†] Mr. James Smith, then a shop-keeper in Mauchline. It was to this young man that Burn's addressed ac of his finest performances-" To J. S-" beginning

[&]quot; Dear S, the sleest, paukie thief."

y DEAR SIR, Mossgiel, Feb. 17, 1786. This is the only letter the Editor has met with in the Post adds the termination cas to his name as his father and family had spelled it.

which stamps the die with-with-with, per- | news to tell you that will give me any pleasure haps the eternal disgrace of,

My dear Sir, You hambled. afflicted. tormented

ROBT. BURNS.

No. IX.

TO MONS. JAMES SMITH, MAUCHLINE.

Monday Morning, Mossgiel, 1786. MY DEAR SIR,

I WENT to Dr. Douglas yesterday fully resolved to take the opportunity of Capt. Smith; but . Sound the Doctor with a Mr. and Mrs. White, both Jamaicans, and they have deranged my plans altogether. They assure him that to send me from Savannah la Mar to Port Antonio will cost my master, Charles Douglas, upwards of fifty pounds; besides running the risk of throwing myself into a plcuritic fever in consequence of hard travelling in the sun. On these accounts, he refuses sending me with Smith, but | (THE GENTLEMAN TO WHOM THE COTTER'S a vessel sails from Greenock the first of Sept. right for the place of my destination. The Captain of her is an intimate of Mr. Gavin Hamilton's, and as good a fellow as heart could wish: with him I am destined to go. Where I shall shelter, I know not, but I hope to weather the storm. Perish the drop of blood of mine that fears them ! I know their worst, and am prepared to meet it .-

I'll laugh, an' sing, an' shake my leg, As lang's I dow.

On Thursday morning, if you can muster as much self-denial as to be out of bed about seven o'clock, I shall see you as I ride through to Cumnock. After all, Heaven bless the sex! I feel there is still happiness for me among

O woman, lovely woman! Heaven designed you To temper man! we had been brutes without you!

No. X.

TO MR. DAVID BRICE.

Mossgiel, June 12, 1786. I RECEIVED your message by G. Paterson, and as I am not very throng at present, I just and movements within, re-pecting the excise. write to let you know that there is such a worth. There are many things plead strongly against it; less, rhyming reprobate, as your humble servant, the uncertainty of getting soon into business, the

to mention or you to hear.

And now for a grand cure; the ship is on her way home that is to take me out to Jamaica and then, farewell dear old Scotland, and farewell dear ungrateful Jean, for never, never will I see you more.

You will have heard that I am going to commence Poet in print; and to-morrow my works go to the press. I expect it will be a volume or about two hundred pages-it is just the last foo ish action I intend to do; and then turn a wise man as fast as possible.

> Believe me to be. Dear BRICE. Your friend and well-wisher.

No. XI.

TO MR. AIKEN

SATURDAY NIGHT IS ADDRESSED.)

Ayrshire, 1786.

I was with Wilson, my printer, t'other day, and settled all our by gone matters between us. After I had paid him all demands, I made him the offer of the second edition, on the hazard of being paid out of the first and readiest, which he declines. By his account, the paper of a thousand copies would cost about twenty-seven pounds, and the printing about fifteen or sixteen : he offers to agree to this for the printing, if I will advance for the paper; but this you know, is out of my power; so farewell hopes of a second edition till I grow richer !--an epocha which, I think, will arrive at the payment of the British national debt.

There is scarcely any thing hurts me so much in being disappointed of my second edition, as not having it in my power to show my grati-tude to Mr. Ballantyne, by publishing my poen of The Brigs of Ayr. I would detest mysel as a wretch, if I thought I were capable, in a very long life, of forgetting the honest, warm, and tender delicacy with which he enters into my interests. I am sometimes pleased with myself in my grateful sensations; but I believe, on the whole, I have very little merit in it, as my gratitude is not a virtue, the consequence of reflection, but sheerly the instinctive emotion of a heart too inattentive to allow worldly maxims and views to settle into selfish habits.

I have been feeling all the various rotations still in the land of the living, though I can consequences of my follies, which may perhaps scarcely say, in the place of hope. I have no make it impracticable for me to stay at home.

and besides I have for some time been pining gressive struggle; and that, however I might and besides 1 have for some time been pining gressive struggie; and that, nowever 1 might you pretty well know—the pang of disappointment, the sting of pride, with some wandering 1 could well boast), still, more than these passabs of remorse, which never fail to settle on my vitals like vultures, when attention is not when all my school-fellows and youthful comcalled away by the calls of society or the vaga- peers (those misguided few excepted, who joinries of the muse. Even in the hour of social mirth, my gaiety is the madness of an intoxicated criminal under the hands of the executioner, hope and earnest intent on some one or other All these reasons urge me to go abroad; and to of the many paths of busy life, I was "stand-all these reasons I have only one answer—the ing idle in the market place," or only left the feelings of a father. This, in the present mood chase of the butterfly from flower to flower, to I am in, overbalances every thing that can be hunt fancy from whim to whim. laid in the scale against it.

You may perhaps think it an extravagant fancy, but it is a sentiment which strikes home to my very soul: though sceptical, in some precede conversion, it is very far from always points, of our current belief, yet, I think, I have every evidence for the reality of a life beyond the stinted bourne of our present existence; if so, then how should I, in the presence of that tremendous Being, the Author of existence, how should I meet the reproaches of those who stand to me in the dear relation of children, whom I deserted in the smiling innocency of helpless infancy? O, thou great unknown Power! thou Almighty God! who hast lighted up reason in my breast, and blessed me with immortality! I have frequently wandered from that order and regularity necessary for the perfection of thy works, yet thou hast never left me nor forsaken me !

Since I wrote the foregoing sheet, I have seen something of the storm of mischief thickening over my folly-devoted head. Should you, my friends, my benefactors, be successful in your applications for me, perhaps it may not be in my power in that way to reap the fruit of your friendly efforts. What I have written in the preceding pages is the settled tenor of my present resolution, but should inimical circumstances forbid me closing with your kind offer, or, enjoying it, only threaten to entail farther misery-

To tell the truth, I have little reason for this last complaint, as the world, in general, has been kind to me, fully up to my deserts. I was, for some time past, fast getting into the pining distrustful snarl of the misanthrope. I saw myself alone, unfit for the struggle of life, shrinking at every rising cloud in the chancedirected atmosphere of fortune, while, all defenceless, I looked about in vain for a cover. It never occurred to me, at least never with the force it deserved, that this world is a busy scene, and man a creature destined for a pro- Mrs. Burns.

You see, Sir, that if to know one's errors were a probability of mending them. I stand a fair chance; but, according to the reverend Westminster divines, though conviction must implying it. .

No. XII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP, OF DUNLOP.

Aurshire, 1786

I AM truly sorry I was not at home yesterday, when I was so much honoured with your order for my copies, and incomparably more by the handsome compliments you are pleased to pay my poetic abilities. I am fully persuaded that there is not any class of mankind so feelingly alive to the titillations of applause as the sons of Parnassus; nor is it easy to conceive how the heart of the poor bard dances with rapture, when those whose character in life gives them a right to be polite judges, honour him with their approbation. Had you been thoroughly acquainted with me, Madatn, you could not have touched my darling heart-chord more sweetly than by noticing my attempts to celebrate your illustrious ancestor, the Saviour of his Country.

" Great, patriot hero! ill-requited chief."

The first book I met with in my early years, which I perused with pleasure, was The Life of Hannibal: the next was The History of Sir William Wallace : for several of my earlier years I had few other authors; and many a solitary hour have I stole out, after the laborious vocations of the day, to shed a tear over their glorious but unfortunate stories. In those boyish days I remember in particular being

[•] This latter was evidently written anner the dis-tress of mind occasioned by our Poet's separation from

CORRESPONDENCE.

these lines occur-

" Syne to the Leglen wood, when it was late, To make a silent and a safe retreat.'

I chose a fine summer Sunday, the only day my line of life allowed, and walked half a dozen of miles to pay my respects to the Leglen wood, with as much devont enthusiasm as ever pilgrim did to Loretto: and, as I explored every den and dell where I could suppose my heroic countryman to have lodged, I recollect (for even then I was a rhymer), that my heart glowed with a wish to be able to make a sung on him in some measure equal to his merits.

No. XIII.

TO MRS. STEWART, OF STAIR.

THE hurry of my preparations for going abroad has hindered me from performing my promise so soon as I intended. I have here sent you a parcel of songs, &c. which never made their appearance, except to a friend or two at most. Perhaps some of them may be no great entertainment to you : but of that I am far from being an adequate judge. The song to the tune of Ettrick Banks, you will easily see the impropriety of exposing much even in manuscript. I think, mysell, it has some merit, both as a tolerable description of one of Nature's sweetest scenes, a July evening, and one of the finest pieces of Nature's workmanship, the finest indeed we know any thing of, an amiable, beautiful young woman; but I have no common friend to procure me that permission, without which I would not dare to spread the copy.

I am quite aware, Madam, what task the world would assign me in this letter. The obscure bard, when any of the great condescend to take notice of him, should heap the alear with the incense of flattery. Their high ancestry, their own great and godlike qualities and actions, where your real character is to be found-the company of your compeers: and more, I am afraid that even the most refined adulation is by no means the road to your good opinion.

One feature of your character I shall ever with grateful pleasure remember-the reception I got, when I had the honour of waiting on you at Stair. I am little acquainted with politeness; but I know a goad deal of benevolence of temper and goodness of heart. Surely, did those in exalted stations know how happy they could make some classes of their inferiors by conde-

struck with that part of Wallace's story where scension and affability, they would never stand so high, measuring out w h every look the height of their elevation, but condescend as sweetly as did Mrs. Stewart of Stair.*

No. XIV.

DR. BLACKLOCK

THE REVEREND MR. G. LOWRIE.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

I OUGHT to have acknowledged your favour long ago, not only as a testimony of your kind remembrance, but as it gave me an opportunity of sharing one of the finest, and, perhaps, one of the most genuine entertainments, of which the human mind is susceptible. A number of avocations retarded my progress in reading the poems; at last, however, I have finished that pleasing perusal Many instances have I seen of Nature's force and beneficence exerted under numerous and formidable disadvantages; but none equal to that with which you have been kind enough to present me. There is a pathos and delicacy in his serious poems, a vein of wit and humour in those of a more festive turn, which cannot be too much admired, nor too warmly approved; and I think I shall never open the book without feeling my astonishment renewed and increased. It was my wish to have expressed my approbation in verse; but whether from declining life, or a temporary depression of spirits, it is at present out of my power to accomplish that agreeable intention,

Mr. Stewart, Professor of Morals in this Um versity, had formerly read me three of the poems, and I had desired him to get my name inserted among the subscribers; but whether this was done, or not, I never could learn. I have little intercourse with Dr. Blair, but will take care to have the poems communicated to him by the intervention of some mutual friend. It has been told me by a gentleman, to whom I showed the should be recounted with the most exaggerated performances, and who sought a copy with dilidescription. This, Madam, is a task for which gence and ardour, that the whole impression is I am altogether unfit. Besides a certain dis- already exhausted. It were, therefore, much to qualifying pride of heart, I know nothing of he wished, for the sake of the young man, that your connections in life, and have no access to a second edition, more numerous than the former, could immediately be printed; as it appears certain that its intrinsic merit, and the exertion of the author's friends, might give it a more universal circulation than any thing of the kind which has been published within my memory. \$\frac{1}{2}

[.] The song enclosed is that given in the Life of our Poet; beginning,

^{&#}x27;Twas e'en-the dewy fields were green, &c.

[†] The reader will perceive that this is the letter which produced the determination of our Bard to give up his scheme of going to the West Indies, and to try the fate of a new edition of his pourns in Edinburgh. A copy of this letter was sent by Mr. Lowric to Mr. of Hamilton, and by him communicated to Burns, among whose papers it was found.

No. XV.

FROM SIR JOHN WHITEFORD.

Edinburgh, 4th December, 1786. I RECEIVED your letter a few days ago. I do net pretend to much interest, but what I have I shall be ready to exert in procuring the attainment of any object you have in view. Your character as a man (forgive my reversing your order), as well as a poet, entitle you, I think, to the assistance of every inhabitant of Ayrshire. I have been told you wished to be made a ganger; I submit it to your consideration, whether it would not be more desirable, if a sum could be raised by subscription, for a second edition of your poems, to lav it out in the stocking of a small farm. I am personaded it would be a line of life, much more agreeable to your feelings, and in the end more satisfactory. When you have considered this, let me know, and whatever you determine upon, I will endeavour to promote as far as my abilities will permit. With compli ments to my friend the doctor, I am,

Your friend and well-wisher, JOHN WHITEFORD.

P. S .- I shall take it as a favour when you at any time send me a new production.

No. XVI.

FROM THE REV. MR. G. LOWRIE.

22d December, 1786. I LAST week received a letter from Dr. Blackock, in which he expresses a desire of seeing you. I write this to you, that you may lose no time in waiting upon him, should you not yet have seen him.

I rejoice to hear, from all corners, of your rising fame, and I wish and expect it may tower still higher by the new publication But, as a friend, I warn you to prepare to meet with your eighth wise man of the world. share of detraction and envy-a train that always accompany great men. For your comfort, friends and admirers will increase, and that you have some chance of ministerial, or even . . . in no danger of suffering by applause and a full purse? Remember Solomon's advice, which he spoke from experience, " stronger is be that conquers," &c. aid, in Calypso's isle, or even in that of Cyprus. devil of a poet. I hope you have also Minerva with you. I need not tell you how much a modest diff deoce Kennedy in my poetic prayers, but you both m and invincible temperance adoru the most shin-prose and verse.

ing talents, and elevate the mind, a d exalt and refine the imagination even of a poet.

I hope you will not imagine I speak from suspicion or evil report. I assure you I speak from love and good report, and good opinion, and a strong desire to see you shine as much in the sunshine as you have done in the shade, and in the practice as you do in the theory of virtue. This is my prayer, in return for your elegant composition in verse. All here join in compli ments, and good wishes for your further prosperity.

No. XVII.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, Esq.

MARCHINE.

Edinburgh, Dec. 7, 1786.

I HAVE paid every attention to your com mands, but can only say what perhaps you will have heard before this reach you, that Muirkirklands were bought by a John Gordon, W. S. but for whom I know not ; Mauchlands, Haugh Mila, &c. by a Frederick Fotheringham, supposed to be for Ballochmyle Laird, and Adamhill and Shawood were bought for Oswald's folks .- This is so imperfect an account, and will he so late ere it reach you, that were it not to discharge my conscience I would not trouble you with it; but after all my diligence I could make it no sooner nor better.

For my own affairs, I am in a fair way of becoming as eminent as Thomas a Kempis or John Bunyan; and you may expect henceforth to see my birth-day inserted among the wonderful events, in the poor Robin's and Aberdeen Almanacks, along with the Black Monday, and the battle of Bothwell Bridge.-My lord Glencairn and the Dean of Faculty, Mr. H. Erskine, have taken me under their wing; and by all probability I shall soon be the tenth worthy, and the Through my lord's influence it is inserted in the records of the Caledonian hunt, that they universally, one I am in great hopes that the number of your and all, subscribe for the second edition .- My subscription bills come out to-morrow, and you shall have some of them next post .- I have me* patronage. Now, my friend, such rapid success in Mr. Dalrymple, of Orangefield, what Solomon is very uncommon: and do you think yourself emphatically calls, " A friend that sticketh closer than a brother."-The warmth with which he interests himself in my affairs is of the same enthusiastic kind which you, Mr. Aiken, Keep fast hold of your rural sim- and the few patrons that took notice of my earplicity and purity, like Telemachis, by Mentor's lier poetic days, shewed for the poor unlucky

I always remember Mrs. Hamilton and Miss

May could ne'er catch you but a hap, Nor hunger but in plenty's lap ! Amer !

No. XVIII.

TO DR. M'KENZIE, MAUCHLINE.

(ENCLOSING HIM THE EXTEMPORE VERSES ON DINING WITH LORD DAER,)

DEAR SIR. Wednesday Morning.

I NEVER spent an afternoon among great loiks with half that pleasure as when, in company with you, I had the honour of paying my devoirs to that plain, honest, worthy man, the professor. + I would be delighted to see him perform acts of kindness and friendship, though I were not the object; he does it with such a grace. I think his character, divided into ten parts, stands thus-four parts Socrates-four parts Nathaniel-and two parts Shakespeare's

The foregoing verses were really extempore, but a little corrected since. They may entertain you a little with the help of that partiality with which you are so good as favour the performances of

Dear Sir.

Your very humble Servant.

No. XIX.

TO JOHN BALLANTINE, Esq. BANKER.

Ayr.

Edinburgh, 13th Dec. 1786.

MY HONGURED PRIEND.

I would not write you till I could have it in my power to give you some account of myself and my matters, which by the bye is often no easy task .- I arrived here on Tuesday was se'nnight, and have suffered ever since I came to town with a miserable head-ache and stomach complaint, but am now a good deal hetter .- I have found a worthy warm friend in Mr. Dalrymple, of Orangefield, who introduced me to Lord Glencairn, a man whose worth and A heavily-solemn oath this !- I am, and have brotherly kindness to me, I shall remember when time shall be no more. - By his interest it is p. and in the Caledonian hunt, and entered in their books, that they are to take each a copy of the second edition, for which they are to pay one guinea. I have been introduced to a good many of the Noblesse, but my avowed patrons and patronesses are, the Duchess of

† Professor Dogald Stewart

Gordon-The Countess of Glencairn, with my Lord, and Lady Betty* The Dean of Faculty
—Sir John Whitefoord,—I have likewise wing friends among the literati; Professors Stewart, Blair, and Mr. M Kenzie-the Man of Feeling. -An unknown hand left ten guineas for the Ayrshire bard with Mr. Sibbald, which I got. I since have discovered my generous unknown friend to be Patrick Miller, Esq. brother to the Justice Clerk; and drank a glass of claret with him by invitation at his own house yesternight. I am nearly agreed with Creech to print my book, and I suppose I will begin on Monday. I will send a subscription bill or two, next post; when I intend writing my first kind patron, Mr. Aiken. I saw his son to-day and he is very well.

Dugald Stewart, and some of my learned friends, put me in the periodical paper called the Lounger,† a copy of which I here enclose you-I was, Sir, when I was first honoured with your notice, too obscure; now I tremble lest I should be ruined by being dragged too suddenly into the glare of polite and learned observation.

I shall certainly, my ever honoured pation, write you an account of my every step; and better health and more spirits may enable me to make it something better than this stupid matter of fact epistle.

I have the honour to be, Good Sir,

Your ever grateful humble Servant

If any of my friends write me, my direction is, care of Mr. Creech, booksener.

No. XX.;

TO MR. WILLIAM CHALMERS.

WRITER, AYR.

Edinburgh, Dec. 27, 1786.

MY DEAR FRIEND.

I confess I have sinned the sin for which there is hardly any forgiveness-ingratitude to friendship-in not writing you sooner; but of all men living, I had intended to send you an entertaining letter; and by all the plodding, stupid powers, that in nodding, conceited majesty, preside over the dull routine of businessbeen, ever since I came to Edinburgh, as unfit to write a letter of humour, as to write a commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine, who was hanished to the Isle of Patmos, by the cruel and bloody Domitian, son to Vespasian and brother to Titus, both emperors of Rome, and who was himself an emperor, and

^{• &}quot; But" is frequently used for " without;" ! c. without clothing.

Lady Betty Cunningham.
 The paper here alluded to, was written by Mr.
 M'Kenzie, the celebrated author of the Man of Feel.

ing.
2 This letter is now presented entire.

raised the secend or third persecution, I forget which, against the Christians, and after throwing the said Apostle John, brother to the Apostle James, commony called James the greater, to distinguish bim from another James, who was, on some account or other, known by the name of James the less, after throwing him into a caldron of boiling oil, from which he was miracultously preserved, he banished the poor son of Zebedee, to a desert island in the Archipelago, where he was gifted with the second sight, and saw as many wild beasts as I have seen since I came to Ediaburgh; which, a circumstance not very uncommon in story-telling, brings me back to where I set out.

To make you some amends for what, before you reach this paragraph, you will have suffered; I enclose you two poems I have carded and

spun since I past Glenbuck.

One blank in the address to Ediaburgh—
"Fair B——," is heavenly Miss Burnet, daughter to Lord Mooboddo, at whose house I have had the honour to be more than once.

There has not been any thing nearly like her, in all the combinations of beauty, grace, and goodness, the Great Creator has formed, since Milton's Eve on the first day of her existence.

My direction is-care of Andrew Bruce, merchant, Bridge-Street.

LETTERS, 1787.

No. XXI.

TO JOHN BALLANTINE, Esq.

Edinburgh, Jan. 14, 1787.

MY HONOURED FRIEND,

It gives me a secret comfort to observe in myself that I am nut yet so far gone as Willie Gaw's skate, "past redemption;" for I have still this favourable symptom of grace, that when my conscience, as in the case of this letter, tells me I am leaving something undone that I ought to do, it teazes me eternally till I do it.

I ain, still "dark as was chaos" in respect to futurity. My generous friend, Mr. Patrick Miller, has been talking with me about a lease of some farm or other in an estate called Dalswinton, which he has lately bought near Dumfries. Some life-rented embittering recollections whisper me that I will be happier any where than in my old neighbourhood, but Mr. Miller is no judge of bard; and though I dare say he means to favour me, yet he may give me, in his opinion, an advantageous bargain, that may ruin me. I am to take a tour by Dumfries as I retarm, and have promised to meet Mr. Miller on his lan's some time in May.

I went to a Mason-lodge resternight, where the most Worshipful-Grana Master Charters, and all the Grand-Lodge of Scotland visited .-The meeting was numerous and elegant; all the different Lodges about town were present, in all their pomp. The Grand Master, who presided with great solemnity and honour to himself as a gentleman and Mason, among other general toasts gave "Caledonia, and Caledonia's Bard, Brother B," which rung through the whole assembly with multiplied honours and repeated acclamations. As I had no idea such a thing would happen, I was downright thunder-struck. and trembling in every nerve made the best return in my power. Just as I had finished, some of the grand officers said, so loud that I could hear, with a most comforting accent, "Very well indeed!" which set me something to rights again.

I have to-day corrected my 152d page. My best good wishes to Mr. Aiken.

I am ever,
Dear Sir,
Your much indebted humble Servant

No. XXII.

TO THE EARL OF EGLINTON.

Y LORD, Edinburgh, Jan. 1787.

As I have bet slender pretensions to philosophy, I cannot rise to the exalted ideas of a citizen of the world; but have all those national prejudices which, I believe, glow peculiarly strong in the breast of a Scotchman. There is scarcely any thing to which I am so feelingly alive, as the honour and welfare of my country; and, as a poet, I have no higher enjoyment than singing her sons and daughters. Fate had cast my station in the veriest shades of life; but never did a heart pant more ardently than mine, to be distinguished; though, till very lately, I looked in vain on every side for a ray of light. It is easy, then, to guess how much I was gratified with the countenance and approbation of one of my country's most illustrious sons, when Mr. Wauchope called on me yesterday, on the part of your lordship. Your munificence, my lord, certainly deserves my very grateful acknowledgments; but your patronage is a bounty peculiarly suited to my feelings. I am not master enough of the etiquette of life to know whether there be not some impropricty in troubling your lordship with my thanks; but my heart whispered me to do it. From the emotions of my inmost soul I do it. Selfish in gratitude, I hope, I am incapable of; and mer cenary servility, I trust, I shall ever have so much honest pride as to detest.

[•] This is one of a great number of old saws that Burus, when a lad, nad picked up from his mother, of which the good old woman had a vast collection.

No. XXIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Edinburgh, 15th Jan. 1787. Yours of the 9th current, which I am this

moment honoured with, is a deep reproach to me for ungrateful neglect. I will tell you the real truth, for I am miserably awkward at a fib: I wished to have written to Dr. Moore before I wrote to you; but though, every day since I received yours of December 30th, the idea, the wish to write him, has constantly pressed on my thoughts, yet I could not for my soul set about it. I know his fame and charaeter, and I am one of "the sons of little men," To write him a mere matter-of-fact affair, like self in my fame and character as a poet, I rea merchant's order, would be disgracing the little character I have; and to write the author of The View of Society and Manners a letter of sentiment-I declare svery artery runs cold at the thought. I shall try, however, to write him to-morrow or next day. His kind interposition in my behalf I have already experienced, as a gentleman waited on me the other day, on the part of Lord Eglinton, with ten guineas by way of subscription for two copies of my next adition.

The word you object to in the mention I have made of my glorious countryman and your immortal ancestor, is indeed borrowed from Thomson; but it does not strike me as an improper epithet. I distrusted my own judgment on your finding fault with it, and applied for the opinion of some of the literati here, who honour me with their critical strictures, and skev all allow it to be proper. The song you ask I cannot recollect, and I have not a copy of it. I have not composed any thing on the great Wallace, except what you have seen in print, and the enclosed, which I will print in this edi-You will see I have mentioned some others of the name. When I composed my Vision, long ago, I had attempted a description of Kyle, of which the additional stanzas are a part, as it originally stood. My heart glows with a wish to be able to do justice to the merits of the Sariour of his Country, which, sooner or later, I shall at least attempt.

You are afraid I shall grow intoxicated with my prosperity as a poet. Alas! Madam, I know myself and the world too well. I do not mean any airs of affected modesty; I am willing to believe that my abilities deserved some notice; but in a most enlightened, informed age and nation, when poetry is and has been the study of men of the first natural genius, aided with all the powers of polite learning, polite books, and polite company-to be dragged forth to the full glare of learned and polite observation, with all my imperfections of awk-

Your patronizing me, and interesting yourjoice in; it exalts me in my own idea; and whether you can or cannot aid me in my subscription is a trifle. Has a paltry subscription. bill any charms to the heart of a bard, compared with the pitronage of the descendant of the immortal Wallace?

No. XXIV

TO DR. MOORE.

1767.

MRS. DUNLOP has been so kind as to send me extracts of letters she has had from you, where you do the rustic bard the honour of noticing him and his works. Those who have felt the anxieties and solicitudes of authorship, can only know what pleasure it gives to be noticed in such a manner by judges of the first character. Your criticisms, Sir, I receive with reverence; only, I am sorry they mostly came too late; a peccant passage or two, that I would certainly have altered, were gone to the press.

The hope to be admired for ages is, in by far the greater part of those even who are authors of repute, an unsubstantial dream. For my part, my first ambition was, and still my strongest wish is, to please my compeers, the rustic inmates of the hamlet, while ever changing language and manners shall allow me to be relished and understood. I am very willing to admit that I have some poetical abilities; and as few, if any writers, either moral or poetical, are intimately acquainted with the classes of mankind awong whom I have chiefly mingled, I may have seen men and manners in a different phasis from what is common, which may assist originality of thought. Still I know very well the novelty of my character has by far the greatest share in the learned and polite notice I have lately had; and in a linguage where Pope and Churchill have raised the Luigh, and Shenstone and Gray drawn the tear-where Thomson and Beattie have painted the landscape, and Lyttleton and Collins described the heart, I am not vain o nough to hope for distinguished poetic time.

ward rusticity and crude unpolished ideas on my head-I assure you, Madain, I do not dissemble when I tell you I tremble for the consequences. The novelty of a poet in my obscure situation, without any of those advantages which are reckoned necessary for that character, at least at this time of day, has raised a partial tide of public notice, which has borne me to a height where I am absolutely, feelingly certain, my abilities are inadequate to support me; and too surely do I see that time when the same tide will leave me, and recede, perhaps, as far below the mark of truth.

^{*} Stanzas in the Vision, beginning third stanza, * By stately tower M palace fair," and ending with the first duan.

No. XXV.

FROM DR. MOORE.

Clifford Street, Jan. 23, 1787. I HAVE just received your letter, by which I find I have reason to complain of my friend Mrs. Dunlop for transmitting to you extracts from my letters to her, by much too freely and too carelessly written for your perusal. I must forgive her, however, in consideration of her good intention, as you will forgive me, I hope, for the freedom I use with certain expressions. in consideration of my admiration of the poems in general. If I may judge of the author's dispositinn from his works, with all the other good qualities of a poet, he has not the irritable temper ascribed to that race of men by one of their own number, whom you have the happiness to resemble in ease and curious felicity of expression. Indeed the poetical heatites, however original and brilliant, and lavishly scettered, are not all I admire in your works; the love of your native country, that feeling sensibility to all the objects of humanity, and the independent spirit which breathes through the whole, give me a most favourable impression of the poet, and have made me often regret that I did not see the poems, the certain effect of which would have been my seeing the author last summer, when I was longer in Scotland than I have been for many years.

Before I received your letter, I sent enclosed

in a letter to ______, a sonnet by Miss Williams, a young poetical lady, which she wrote on reading your Mountain-Daisy; perhaps it

may not displease you. *

I have been trying to add to the number of your subscribers, but I find many of my acquaintance are already among them. I have only to add, that with every sentiment of esteem, and most cordial good wishes,

I am,

Your obedient humble servant, J. MOORE.

. The sonnet is as follows :-

While soon the garden's flaunting flowers decay,

And grattered on the carth neglected lie, The "Mountain-Daivy," cherished by the ray A poet drew from heaven, shall never die. Ah, like that lonely flower the poet rose!

'Mid penury's bare soil and bitter gale;

He felt each storm that on the mountain blows, Nor ever knew the shelter of the vale.

By genius in her native vigour nurst,

On nature with impassion'd look he gazed; Then through the cloud of adverse fortune burst Indignant, and in light unburrow'd blazed. Scotia! from rude affliction shield thy bard,

His heaven-taught numbers Fame herself will guard.

No. XXVI.

TO DR. MOORE.

SIR, Edinburgh, 15th Feb. 1787.

PARDON my seeming neglect in delaying so long to acknowledge the honour you have done me, in your kind notice of me, January 23d. Not many months ago, I knew no other employment than following the plough, nor could boast any thing higher than a distant acquaintance with a country clergyman. Mere greatness never embarrasses me: I have nothing to ask from the great, and I do not fear their judgment; but genius, polished by learning, and at its proper point of elevation in the eye of the world, this of late I frequently meet with, and tremble at its approach. I scorn the affectation of seeming modesty to cover self-conceit. That I have some merit I do not deny; but I see, with frequent wringings of heart, that the novelty of my character, and the honest national prejudice of my countrymen, have borne me to a height altogether untenable to my abilities.

For the honour Miss W. has done me, please, Sir, return her in my name, my most grateful thanks. I have more than once thought of paying her in kind, but have hitherto quitted the idea in hopeless despondency. I had never before heard of her; but the other duy I got her poems, which, for several reasons, some belonging to the head, and others the offspring of the heart, give me a great deal of pleasure. I have little pretensions to critic lore: there are, I think, two characteristic features in her poetry—the unfettered wild flight of native genius, and the querulous, sombre tenderness of "time-settled sorrow."

I only know what pleases me, often without being able to tell why.

No. XXVII.

TO JOHN BALLANTINE, Esq. Ayr.

Edinburgh, Feb. 24, 1787

MY HONOURED FRIEND,

I WILL soon be with you now in guid black prent; in a week or ten days at farthest—I am obliged, against my own wish, to print sub-

scribers names, so if any of my Ayr friends land too early in life for recollection. is not have subscription bills, they must be sent in to without it. Creech directly .- I am getting my phiz done by an entinent engraver; and if it can be ready in time. I will appear in my book looking like other fools, to my title page."

I have the honour to be, Ever your grateful, &c. I remain, with greatest sincerity,

Your obedient servant, J. MOORE

No. XXVIII.

FROM DR. MOORE.

Clifford Street, 28th Feb. 1787.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 15th gave me a great deal of pleasure. It is not surprising that you improve in correctness and taste, considering where you have been for some time past. swear there is no danger of your admitting any polish which might weaken the vigour of your native powers.

I am glad to perceive that you disdain the nauseous affectation of decrying your own merit as a poet-an affectation which is displayed with most ostentation by those who have the greatest share of self-conceit, and which only adds undeceiving falsehood to disgusting vanity. For you to deny the merit of your poems would be arraigning the fixed opinion of the public.

As the new edition of my View of Society is not yet ready, I have sent you the former edition, which, I beg you will accept as a small mark of my esteem. It is sent by sea, to the care of Mr. Creech; and, along with these four volumes for yourself, I have also sent my Medical Sketches, in one volume, for my friend Mrs. Daulop of Dunlop: this you will be so obliging as to transmit, or if you chance to pass soon by

Dunlop, to give to her.

I am happy to hear that your subscription is an ample, and shall rejoice at every piece of good fortune that befalls you; for you are a very great favourite in my family; and this is a higher compliment than perhaps you are aware of. It includes almost all the professions, and of course is a proof that your writings are adapted to various tastes and situations. My youngest son who is at Winchester school, writes to me that he is translating some stanzas of your Hallowe'en into Latin verse, for the benefit of his comrades. This union of taste partly proceeds, no doubt, from the cement of Scottish seess, no toutor, from the cement of Scottish partiality, with which they are all somewhat thetured. Even your translator, who left Scottianong the MSS.

TO THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN.

MY LORD.

Edinburg's, 1787.

I WANTED to purchase a profile of your lord. ship, which I was told was to be got in town; but I am truly sorry to see that a blundering painter has spoiled a "human face divine. The enclosed stanzas I intended to have written below a picture or profile of your lordship, could I have been so happy as to procure one with any thing of a likeness.

As I will soon return to my shades, I wanted to have something like a material object for my gratitude; I wanted to have it in my power to say to a friend, There is my noble patron, my generous benefactor. Allow me, my lord, to publish these verses. I conjure your lordship by the honest throe of gratitude, by the generous wish of benevolence, by all the powers and feelings which compose the magnanimous mind, do not deny me this petition. I owe to your lordship; and what has not in some other in stances always been the case with me, the weigh of the obligation is a pleasing load. I trust, have a heart as independent as your lordship's, than which I can say nothing more; and would not be beholden to favours that would crucify my feelings. Your dignified character in life, and manner of supporting that character are flattering to my pride; and I would be jealous of the purity of my grateful attachment, where I was under the patronage of one of the much favoured sons of fortune.

Almost every poet has ce'ehrated his patrons, particularly when they were names dear to fame, and illustrious in their country; allow me, then, my lord, if you think the verses have intrinsic merit, to tell the world how much I have the honour to be

> Your loadship's highly indebted, And ever grateful humble servant

No. XXIX.

[.] This portrait is engraved by Mr. Beugo, an artist • This portrait is engraved by Mr. Beugo, an artist who well merits the either bestowed on him by the poet, after a memor of Mr. Nasmyth, which he point-ed cos amove, and liberally presented to Burns. This picture is \(\ell\) the column size.

No. XXX.

TO THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

MY LORD.

Tuz bonour your lordship has done me, by your notice and advice in yours of the 1st instant, I shall ever gratefully remember :

boast,

They best can give it who deserve it most."

my heart, when you advise me to fire my muse at Scottish story and Scottish scenes. I wish for nothing more than to make a leisurely pilgrimage through my native country; to sit and muse on those once hard-contended fields, where Caledonia, rejoicing, saw her bloody lion borne through broken ranks to victory and fame; and, catching the inspiration, to pour the deathless names in song. But, my lord, in the midst of these enthusiastic reveries, a long-visaged, dry, moral-looking phantom strides across my imagination, and pronounces these emphatic words, " I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence."

This, my lord, is unanswerable. I must return to my humble station, and woo my rustic muse in my wonted way at the plough-tail. Still, my lord, while the drops of life warm my heart, gratitude to that dear-loved country in which I hoast my birth, and gratitude to those her distinguished sons, who have honoured me so much with their patronage and approbation, shall, while steeling through my humble shades. ever distend my bosom, aud at times draw forth the swelling tear.

No. XXXI.

Ext. Pr perty in favour of MR. ROBERT Burne, to creet and keep up a Headstone in memory of Poet FERGUSSON, 1787.

> Session-house, within the Kirk of Canongate, the twenty-second day of February, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven years.

Sederunt of the managers of the Kirk and Kirkyard Funds of Canongate.

Witten day, the treasurer to the said funds with the feelings of the dproduced a letter from Mr. Robert Burns, of, appointed to be engrossed in their sederunt- in your truly entertaining miscellany, you are book, and of which letter the tenor follows, welcome to. The prose extract is literally as " To the Honourable Bailies of Canongate, Mr. Sprott sent 't me.

Edinburgh. Gentiemen, I am sorry to be told that the remains of Robert Fergusson, the se justly celebrated poet, a man whose talents, for ages to come, will do honour to our Caledonian name, lie in your church-yard, among the ignoble dead, unnoticed and unknown.

" Some memorial to direct the steps of the lovers of Scottish song, when they wish to shed a tear over the "narrow house," of the bard "Praise from thy lips 'tis mine with jcy to who is no more, is surely a tribute due to Fergusson's memory; a tribute I wish to have the

honour of paying.

" I petition you, then, Gentlemen, to permit Your lordship touches the darling chord of me to lay a simple stone over his revered ashes, to remain an unalienable property to his deathless fame. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your very humble servant, (sic subscribitur),

"ROBERT BURNS,"

Thereafter the said managers, in considera tion of the laudable and disinterested motion of Mr. Burns, and the propriety of his request, did, and hereby do, unanimously grant power and liberty to the said Robert Burns to erect a headstone at the grave of the said Robert Fergusson, and to keep up and preserve the same to his memory in all time coming. Ex tracted forth of the records of the managers, by

WILLIAM SPROTT, Clerk

No. XXXII.

TO -

You may think, and too justly, that I am a selfish ungrateful fellow, having received so many repeated instances of kindness from you, and yet never putting pen to paper to say. thank you; but if you knew what a devil of a life my conscience has led me on that account, your good heart would think yourself too much avenged. By the bye, there is nothing in the whole frame of man which seems to me so unaccountable as that thing called conscience. Had the troublesome yelping our powers effi-cient to prevent a mischief, he might be of use: but at the beginning of the business, his feeble efforts are to the workings of passion as the infant frosts of an autumnal morning to the unclouded fervour of the rising sun : and no sooner are the tumultuous doings of the wicked deed over, than, amidst the bitter native consequences of folly, in the very vortex of our horrors, up starts conscience, and harrows us

I have enclosed you, by way of expirtion, date the sixth current, which was read, and some verse and prose, that, if they merit a place

The Inscription on the Stone is as follows: HERE LIES ROBERT FERGUSSON.

Borr. September 5th, 1751-Died, 16th October 1774.

No sculptured marble here, nor pompous 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.

On the other side of the Stone is as follows :

" By special grant of the Managers to Robert Burns, who erected this stone, this burial-place is to remain for ever sacred to the memory of Robert Fergusson."

No. XXXIII.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM -

8th March, 1787.

I AM truly happy to know you have found a - : his patronage of you does him great honour. He is truly a good man; by far the best I ever knew, or, perhaps, ever shall know, in this world. But I must not speak all I think of him, lest I should be thought partial.

So you have obtained liberty from the magistrates to erect a stone over Fergusson's grave? I do not doubt it; such things have been, as Shakespeare says, " in the olden time:"

"The poet's fate, is here in emblem shown, He ask'd for bread, and he received a stone."

It is, I believe, upon poor Butler's tomb that this is written. But how many brothers of Parnassus, as well as poor Butler and poor Fergasson, have asked for bread, and been served with the same sauce!

The magistrates gave you liberty, did they? O generous magistrates! . . . celchrated over the three kingdoms for his public spirit, gives a poor poet liberty to raise a tomb to a poor poet's memory !-most generous! . once u on a time gave that same poet the mighty sum of eighteen pence for a copy of his works. But then it must be considered that the poet was at this time absolutely starving, and besought his aid with all the earne-tness of hunger; and. over and above, he received a - worth, at least one-third of the value, in exchange, but which, I believe the poet afterwards very un-

would take a snug, well-siren bed-room for me, where I may have the pleasure of seeing you over a morning cup of tea. But by all accounts, it will be a matter of some difficulty to see you at all, unless your company is bespoke a week hefore-hand. There is a great runnour here concerning your great intimacy with the Duchess of -, and other lulies of distinction. I am really told that " cards to invite fly by thousands each night;" and, if you had one, I suppose there would also be "bribes to your old secretary." It seems you are resolved to make hay while the sun shines, and avoid, if possible, the fate of poor Fergusson, Quærenda pecunia primum est, virtus post nummos, is a good maxim to thrive by: you seemed to despise it while in this country; but probably some philosopher in Edinburgh has taught you better sense.

Pray, are you yet engraving as well as printing ?-Are you yet seized

"With itch of picture in the front, With bays of wicked rhyme upon't !"

But I must give up this trifling, and attend to matters that more concern myself: so, as the Aberdeen wit says, adicu dryly, we sal drink phan we meet.*

No. XXXIV.

TO MR. JAMES CANDLISH,

STUDENT IN PHYSIC, COLLEGE, GLASGOW

Edinburgh, March 21, 1787.

MY EVER DEAR OLD ACQUAINTANCE, I was equally surprised and pleased at your letter; though I dare say you will think by my delaying so long to write to you, that I am so drowned in the intoxication of good fortune as to be indifferent to old and once dear connections. The truth is, I was determined to write a good letter, full of argument, amplification, erndition, and, as Bayes says, all their. I thought of it, and thought of it, but for my soul I cannot: and lest you should mistake the cause of my silence, I just sit down to tell you so. Don't give yourself credit though, that the strength of your logic scares me; the truth is, I never mean to meet you on that ground at all. You have

[•] The abo e extract is from a letter of one of the ablest of our poet's correspondents, which contains some interesting anecdores of Ferguss in, that we should have been because to be a longer of the posted beautiful. have been happy to have inserted, if they could have been authenticated. The writer is mistaken in supposing the magistrates of Edinburgh had any share in the which, I believe the poet afterwards very ungratefully expunged.

Next week I hope to have the pleasure of
seeing you in Edinhurgh; and as my stay with
for eight or ten days, I wish you or

I guide magistrates of Edinhurgh had an share in the
funsaction respecting the mountaint excellent for Fergusson by our bart; this, it is evident, possed between
the first section of the Caronicale. Norther
at Edinhurgh, nor anywhere else, the mag strates use at
the first section of the Caronical Agit to the themselves to impure how the hones of
poor poet is furnished, or how his grave is adorned.

shown me one thing, which was to be demon- | them the cold name of criticisms, I receive with strated; that strong pride of reasoning, with a reverence. I have made some small alterations little affectation of singularity, may mislead the in what I before had printed. I have the adbest of hearts. were first acquainted, in the pride of despising literati here, but with them I sometimes find it old women's stories, ventured in "the daring path Spinosa trod;" but experience of the weakness, not the strength, of human powers, made me glad to grasp at revealed religion.

I must stop, but don't impute my brevity to a wrong cause. I am still, in the Apostle Paul's phrase, "The old man with his deeds" as when we were sporting about the lady thorn. I shall he four weeks here yet, at least; and so I shall expect to hear from you-welcome sense, wel-

come nonsense.

I am, with the warmest sincerity, My dear old friend, Yours,

No. XXXV.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR FRIEND.

IF once I were gone from this scene of hurry and dissipation, 1 promise myself the pleasure of that correspondence being renewed which has the honoured abodes of her heroes, been so long broken. At present I have time is an engraver, and has taken it into his head to publish a collection of all our songs set to music, of which the words and music are done by Scots-This, you will easily guess, is an undertaking exactly to my taste. I have collected, begged, borrowed, and stolen all the songs I could meet with. Pompey's Ghost, words and music, I beg from you immediately, to go into his second number: the first is already published. I shall shew you the first number when I see you in Glasgow, which will be in a fortnight or less. Do be so kind as send me the song in a day or two: you cannot imagine how much it will oblige me.

Direct to me at Mr. W. Cruikshank's, St. James's Square, New Town, Edinburgh.

No. XXXVI.

TO MRS, DUNLOP.

Edinburgh, March 22, 1787. I READ your letter with watery eyes. A little, very little while ago, I had scarce a friend but the stubborn pride of my own bosom; now I am distinguished, patronized, befriended by Your friendly advices, I will not give

You kindly interest yourself in my future views and prospects; there I can give you no light; it is all

" Dark as was chaos, ere the infant sun Was roll'd together, or had tried his beams Athwart the gloom profound,"

The appellation of a Scottish bard is by far my highest pride; to continue to deserve it is my most exalted ambition. Scottish scenes and Scottish story are the themes I could wish to sing. I have no deater aim than to have it in my power, unplagued with the rootine of business, for which heaven knows I am unfit enough, to make leisurely pilgrimages through Caledonia; to sit on the fields of her battles; to wander on the romantic banks of her rivers; and to muse by the stately towers or venerable ruins, once

But these are all Utopian thoughts: I have for nothing. Dissipation and business engross dallied long enough with life: 'tis time to be in every moment. I am engaged in assisting an earnest. I have a fond, an aged mother to care honest Scots enthosiast, a friend of mine, who for; and some other bosom ties perhaps equally tender. Where the individual only suffers by the consequences of his own thoughtlessness, indolence, or folly, he may be excusable: nay, shining abilities, and some of the nobler virtues, may half-sanctify a heedless character; but where God and nature have intrusted the welfare of others to his care; where the trust is sacred, and the ties are dear, that man must be far gone in selfishness, or strangely lost to reflection, whom these connections will not rouse to exertion.

I guess that I shall clear between two and three hundred pounds by my authorship; with that sum I intend, so far as I may be said to have any intention, to return to my old acquaintance, the plough, and, if I can meet with a lease by which I can live, to commence farmer. I do not intend to give up poetry : being bred to labour secures me independence; and the muses are my chief, sometimes have been my only enjoyment. If my practice second my resolution, I shall have principally at heart the serious business of life; but while following my plough, or building up my shocks, I shall cast a leisure glance to that dear, that only feature of my character, which gave me the notice of my country and the patronage of a Wallace.

Thus, honoured madam, I have given you the bard, his situation, and his views, native as ther

are in his own bosom.

I, likewise, since you and I vice of some very judicious friends among the necessary to claim the privilege of thinking for myself. The noble Earl of Glencairn, to whom I owe more than to any man, does me the honour of giving me his strictures; his hints with respect to impropriety or indelicacy, I follow implicitly.

[·] Johnson, the publisher of the Scots Musical Museum.

No. XXXVII

TO THE SAME.

MADAM, Edibburgh, 15th April, 1787.
There is an affectation of gratitude which I dislike. The periods of Johnson and the pauses of Sterne may hide a selfish heart. For my part, Madam, I trust I have too much pride for scryility, and too little prudence for selfishness. I have this moment broke open your letter, but

" Rude am I in speech,
And therefore little can I grace my cause
In speaking for myself—"

so I shall not trouble you with any fine speeches and hunted figures. I shall just tay my hand on my heart, and say, I hope I shall ever have the truest, the warmest, sense of your goodness,

I come abroad in print for certain on Wednesday. Your orders I shall punctually attend to; only, by the way, I must tell you that I was paid before for Dr. Moore's and Miss W's copies, through the medium of Commissioner Cochrane in this place; but that we can settle when I have the bonour of waiting on you.

Dr. Smith* was just gone to London the morning before I received your letter to him.

No. XXXVIII.

TO DR. MOORE.

Edinburgh, 23d April, 1787.

I RECEIVED the books, and sent the one you mentioned to Mrs. Dunlop. I am ill-skilled in beating the coverts of inagination for metaphors of gratitude. I thank you, Sir, for the honour you have done me; and to my latest hour will warmly remember it. To be highly pleased with your book, is what I have in common with the world; but to regard these volumes as a mark of the author's friendly esteem, is a still more supreme gratification.

I leave I.derburgh in the course of ten days or a fortnight; and after a few pilgrimages over some of the classic ground of Caledonia, Cowden Knowes, Banks of Yarrow, Tweed, &c. 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. To the rich, the great, the fashionable, the polite, ! have no equivalent to offer; and I am afraid my meteor appearance will by no means entitle me to a settled correspondence with any of you, who are the permanent lights of genius and literature.

. Adam Smith.

My most respectful compliments to Miss W If once this tangent flight of mine were over and I were returned to my wonted leisurely motion in my old circle. I may probably endeayour to return her poetic compliment in kind

No. XXXIX.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

TO MRS DUNLOP.

Edinburgh, 30th April, 1787.

Your criticisms, Madam, I understand very well, and could have wished to have pleased you better. You are right in your guest that I am not very amenable to counsel. Poets, much my superiors, have so fluttered those who possessed the adventitious qualities of wealth and power, that I am determined to flatter no created being either in prose or verse.

I set as little by ______, lords, clergy, critics, &c. as all these respective gentry do by my bardship. I know what I may expect from the world by and by—illiberal abuse, and perhaps contemptuous neglect.

I am happy, Madain, that some of my own favourite pieces are distinguished by your particular approduction. For my Dream, which has unfortunately incurred your loyal displeasure, I hope in four weeks, or less, to have the honour of appearing at Dunlop in its defence, in person.

No. XL.

TO THE REVEREND DR. BUGH BLAIR.

Lawn-Market, Edinburga, 3d May. 1787. REVEREND AND MUCH RESPECTED SIR,

I LEAVE Edinburgh to-morrow morning, but could not go without troubling you with half a line, sincerely to thank you for the kindness, patronage, and friendship you have shown me. I often felt the embarras-ment of my singular si tuation; drawn forth from the veriest shades of life to the glare of remark; and honoured by the notice of those illustrious names of my country, whose works, while they are applieded to the end of time, will ever instruct and mend the heart. However the meteor-like novelty of my appearance in the world might attract notice, and honour me with the acquaintance of the permanent lights of genins and literature, those who are truly benefactors of the immortal nature of man; I knew very well, that my utmo merit was far nnequal to the task of preservi-

that character when once the novelty was ove I have made up my mind, that abuse, or almo

I have sent you a proof impression of Beugo's work for me, lone on Indian paper, as a trifling but sincere testimony with what heartwarm gratitude I am, &c.

No. XLL

FROM DR. BLAIR.

Argyle-Square, Edinburgh, 4th May, 1787. DEAR SIR.

I was favoured this forenoon with your very obliging letter, together with an impression of farms. I heartily wish the offers to be made your portrait, for which I return you my best thanks. The success you have met with I do not think was beyond your merits; and if I hearted proprietor to live under than Mr. Milhave had any small hand in contributing to it, ler. When you return, if you come this way, it gives me great pleasure. I know no way in I will be happy to see you, and to know conwhich literary persons, who are advanced in years, can do more service to the world, than in forwarding the efforts of rising genius, or bringing forth unknown merit from obscurity. I was the first person who brought out to the notice of the world, the poems of Ossian: first by the Fragments of Ancient Poetry, which I published, and afterwards, by my setting on foot the undertaking for collecting and publishing the Works of Ossian; and I have always considered this as a meritorious action of my

Your situation, as you say, was indeed very singular; and, in being brought out all at once from the shades of deepest privacy, to so great a share of public notice and observation, you had to stand a severe trial. I am happy that you have stood it so well; and as far as I have known or heard, though in the midst of many temptations, without reproach to your character and behaviour.

You are now, I presume, to retire to a more private walk of lin; and I trust, will conduct yourself there with industry, prudence, and honour. You have laid the foundation for just public esteem In the midst of those employments, which your situation will render proper, you will not, I hope, neglect to promote that esteem, by cultivating your genius, and attending to such productions of it as may taise your tharacter still higher. At the same time, be not in too great a haste to come forward. Take dare say by this time you are with wretched time and leisure to improve and mature your rese, but I am jaded to death; so, with a grate-talents; for on any second production you give ful farewell, Le world, your fate, as a poet, will very much depend. There is, no doubt, a gloss of novelty which time wears off. As you very properly hint yourself, you are not to be surprised if, in your raral retreat, you do not find yourself sur-'ounded with that glare of notice and applause which here shone upon you. No man can be good poet without being somewhat of a phi-

even neglect, will not surprise me in my losopher. He must lay his account, that any one, who exposes himself to public observacion, will occasionally meet with the attacks of illiberal censure, which it is always best to overlook and despise. He will be inclined sometimes to court retreat, and to disappear from public view. He will not affect to shine atways, that he may at proper seasons come forth with more advantage and energy. He will not think himself neglected if he be not always praised. I have taken the liberty, you see, of an old man, to give advice and make reflections which your own good sense will, I dare say, render uonecessary.

As you mention your being just about to leave town, you are going, I should suppose, to Dumfriesshire, to look at some of Mr. Miller's you there may answer; as I am persuaded you will not easily find a more generous and better cerning your future plans of life. You will find me, by the 22d of this month, not in my house in Argyle Square, but at a country-house at Restalrig, about a mile east from Edinburgh, near the Musselburgh road. Wishing you all success and prosperity, I am, with real regard and estcem,

Dear Sir. Yours sincerely, HUGH BLAIR.

No. XLII.

TO WILLIAM CREECH, Esq. (of Edinburgh,) LONDON.

Selkirk, 13th May, 1787.

MY HONOURED FRIEND,

THE enclosed . I have just wrote, nearly ex tempore, in a solitary inn in Selkirk, after a miserable wet day's riding.-I have been over most of East Lothian, Berwick, Roxburgh, and Selkirkshires; and next week I begin a tour through the north of England. Yesterday I dined with Lady Hariot, sister to my noble patron, Quem Deus conservet ! I would write till I would tire you as much with dull prose as I

I have the honour to be, Good Sir, yours sincere'y.

[·] Elegy on W. Creech; see the Poetry.

No. XLIII.

FROM DR. MOORE

Glitford Street, May 23, 1787.

CTAR IIR.

I HAD the pleasure of your letter by Mr. Creech, and soon after he sent me the new edition of your poems. You seem to think it insumbent on you to send to each subscriber a number of copies proportionate to his subscription money; but you may depend upon it, few subscribers expect more than one copy, whatever they subscribed. I must inform you, however, that I took twelve copies for those subscribers for whose money you were so accurate as to send me a receipt; and Lord Eglinton told me he had sent for six copies for himself, as he wished to give five of them in presents.

Some of the poems you have added in this last edition are beautiful, particularly the Winter Night, the Address to Edinburgh, Green grow the Rashes, and the two songs immediately following; the latter of which was exquisite. By the way, I imagine you have a peculiar talent for such compositions, which you ought to indulge. No kind of poetry demands more delicacy or higher polishing. Horace is more admired on account of his Odes than all his other writings. But nothing now added is equal to your Vision and Cotter's Saturday Night. In these are united fine imagery, natural and pathetic description, with sublimity of language and thought. It is evident that you already possess a great variety of expression and command of the English language; you ought, therefore, to deal more sparingly for the future in the provincial dialect :- why should you, by using that, limit the number of your admirers to those who understand the Scottish, when you can extend it to all persons of taste who under stand the English language? In my opinion, you should plan some larger work than any you have as yet attempted. I mean, reflect upon some proper subject, and arrange the plan in your mind, without beginning to execute any part of it till you have studied most of the best English poets, and read a little more of history. The Greek and Roman stories you can read in some abridgment, and soon become master of the most brilliant facts, which must highly delight a poetical mind. You should also, and very soon may, become master of the heathen mythology, to which there are everlasting alluinylanogy, to make the poets, and which in itself is allful up hill and down brac, in Scotland and charmingly fanciful. What will require to be England, as teugh and birnie as a vera devil wi studied with more attention, is modern history , me. It's true, she's as poor's a sang-maker that is, the history of France and Great Britain, from the beginning of Henry the Seventh's reign I know very well you have a mind capable of attaining knowledge by a shorter process than commonly used, and I am certain you are ca-

His subsequent compositions will bear testimony the accuracy of Dr. Moore's judgment.

pable of making a better use of it, when attain ed, than is generally done.

I beg you will not give yourself the trouble of writing to me when it is inconvenient, and make no apology, when you do write, for having postponed it; be assured of this, however that I shall always be happy to hear from you I think my friend Mr. - told me that you had some poems in manuscript by you of a sati-rical and humorous nature (in which, by the way, I think you very strong), which your prudent friends prevailed on you to omit, particularly one called Somebody's Confession; if you will entrust me with a sight of any of these, I will pawn my word to give no copies, and will be obliged to you for a perusal of them.

I understand you intend to take a farm, and make the useful and respectable business of husbandry your chief occupation; this, I hope, will not prevent your making occasional addresses to the nine ladies who have shown you such fayour, one of whom visited you in the auld clay biggin. Virgil, before you, proved to the world that there is nothing in the business of husbandry inimical to poetry; and I sincerely hope that you may afford an example of a good poet being a successful farmer. I fear it will not be in my power to visit Scotland this season; when I do, I'll endeavour to find you ont, for I heartily wish to see and converse with you. If ever your occasions call you to this place, I make no doubt of your paying me a visit, and you may depend on a very cordial welcome from this family. I am, dear Sir,

Your friend and obedient servant.

J. MOORE.

No. XLIV.

TO MR. W. NICOLL. MASTER OF THE HIGH-SCHOOL, EDINBURGH.

Curlisle, June 1, 1787.

KIND, HONEST-HEARTED WILLIE.

I'm sitten down here, after seven and forty miles ridin, e'en as forjesket and forniaw'd as a forfoughten cock, to gie you some not on o' my land lowper-like stravaguin sin the sorrowfu' hour that I shouk hands and parted wi' aula Reckie,

My auld, ga'd gleyde o' a meere has huchvall'd up hill and down brae, in Scotland and

. This mare was the Poer's favourite JENNY GED nes, of whom honourable and most humorous men-tion is made in a letter, inserted in Dr. Currie's officion, vol 1, p. 105.

This old and faithful servant of the Poet's was named I mison and nature security transfer the set of gainst religious uniovation, threw a stool at the Dean of traditions uniovation, threw a stool at the Dean of traditions that seed, when he attempted in 157, to in troduce the Scottish Little gy. " On Sunday, the 254 and as hard's a kick, and tipper-taipers when he taks the gate, first like a lady's gentlewoman in a minuwae, or a hen on het girdle, hut she's a yauld, poutherie Girran for a' that, and has a stomack like Willie Stalker's mere that wal has a stomack like Willie Stalker's mere that whip me aff her five stimparts o' the best aits at a down-sittin and ne'er fash her thumb. When ance her ringbanes and spavies, her crucks and cramps, are fairly soupil'd, she beets to, and ay the hindmost hour the tightest. I could wager her price to a thretty pennies that, for twa or three wooks ridin at fifty mile a day, the deli-sticket a five gallopers acqueesh (Syde and Whithorn could cast saut on her tail.)

I hae dander'd owre a' the kintra frae Dambar to Se'craig, and hae forgather'd wi' mony a guid fallow, and monie a weelfar'd hizzie. met wi' twa dink gaines in particlar, ane o' them a son-ie, fine, fodgel lass, baith braw and bonie; the tither was a clean-hankit, straught, tight, weelfar'd winch, as blithe's a lintwhite on a flowerie thorn, and as sweet and modest's a new blawn plumrose in a hazle shaw. They were baith bred to mainers by the benk, and onie ane o' them had as muckle smeddum and rumblgumtion as the half o' some presbytries that you and I baith ken. They play'd me sik a deevil o' a shavie that I daur say if my harigals were turn'd out, ye wad see twa nicks i' the heart o' me like the mark o' a kail-whittle in a confident you can do far better in Great Bricastock.

I was ginn to write you a lang pystle, but, Gude forgie me, I gat mysel sae notouriously bitchify'd the day after kail-time that I can hardly stoiter but and ben.

My hest respecks to the guidwife and a' our common friens, especiall Mr. and Mrs Cruiksshank and «to» honest guidman o' Jock's Lodge. Til be an D'unfries the morn gif the beast be

to the fore, and the branks bide hale. Gude be wi' you, Willie!

Amen!-

No. XLV.

FROM MR. JOHN HUTCHINSON.

Jamaica, St. Ann's, 14th June, 1787.

I RECEIVED yours, dated Eduburgh, 2d January, 1787, wherein you acquaint me you were engaged with Mr. Douglas of Port Antonio, for

and am happy some unexpected accidents intervened that prevented your sailing with the ves sel, as I have great reason to think Mr. Douglas's employ would by no means have answered your expectations. I received a copy of your publications, for which I return you my thanks, and it is my own opinion, as well as that of such of my friends as have seen them, they are most excellent in their kind; although some could have wished they had been in the English style, as they allege the Scottish dialect is now becoming obsolete, and thereby the elegance and beauties of your poems are in a great measure lost to far the greater part of the community, Nevertheless there is no doubt you had sufficient reasons for your conduct-perhaps the wishes of some of the Scottish nobility and gentry, your patrons, who will always relish their own old country style; and your own inclinations for the same. It is evident from several passages in your works, you are as capable of writing in the English as in the Scottish dialect, and I am in great hopes your genius for poetry, from the specimen you have already given, will turn out both for profit and honour to yourself and country. I can by no means advise you now to think of coming to the West Indies, as, I assure you, there is no encouragement for a man of learning and genius here; and am very tain, than in Jamaica. I am glad to hear my friends are well, and shall always be happy to hear from you at all convenient opportunities, wishing you success in all your undertakings. I will esteem it a particular favour if you will send me a copy of the other edition you are now printing.

I am, with respect,
Dear Sir, yours, &c.
JOHN HUTCHINSON

No. XLVI.

TO MR. W. NICOLL.

Mauchline, June 18, 1787.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM now arrived safe in my native country
after a very agreeable jaunt, and have the pleasure to find all my friends well. I breakfasted
with your grey-headed, reverend friend, Mr.
Smith; and was highly pleased both with the
cortiil welcome he gave me, and his most excellent appearance and sterling good sense.

I have been with Mr. Miller at Dalswinton, and am to meet him again in Angust. From my view of the lands and his reception of my bardship, my hopes in that business are rather mended; but still they are but slander.

I am quite charmed with Dumfries folks-Mr. Burnside, the clergyman, in particular, is

the stool on which she had beer sitting, at the Deark head. A wild uproat commenced that lost ant. The service was interrupted. The winner invaded the desl with exceptions and outcries, and the Dean disenaged thinself from his striple to reseight from their hands "—Laing's Hutt of Scot and, vol. in p. 122.

of July, the Deen of Edinburgh prepared to officiate in 8t Ghe's. The congregation continued quaet till the service began, when an old woman, impelled by sudden indi-nation, started up, and exclaiming aboud. Viblant' dust thou sev the Mes at my log. I three the stool on which she had beer sitting, at the Dean's head. A wild uproar commenced that forstart. The

s man whom I shall ever gratefully remember; and Stirling, and am felighted with their apthe constituents of her manner and heart : in short-but if I say one word more about her, I shall be directly in love with her.

I never, my friend, thought mankind very capable of any thing generous; but the stateliness of the Patricians in Edinburgh, and the servility of my plebeian brethren, (who, perhaps, formerly eyed me askance), since I returned home, have nearly put me out of conceit altogether with my species. I have bought a pocket Milton which I carry perpetually about with me, in order to study the sentiments-the dauntless magnanimity; the intrepid, unyield-ing independence, the desperate daring, and noble defiance of hardship, in that great personage, SATAN. 'Tis true, I have just now a little cash; but I am afraid the star that hitherto has shed its malignant, purpose-blasting rays full in my zenith; that noxious planet so baneful in its influences to the rhyming tribe, I much dread it is not yet beneath my horizon .--Misfortune dodges the path of human life; the poetic mind finds itself miserably deranged in, and unfit for the walks of business; add to all, that, thoughtless follies and hare-brained whims, like so many ignes futui, eternally diverging from the right line of sober discretion, sparkle with step-bewitching blaze in the idly-gazing eyes of the poor heedless Bard, till, pop, "he falls like Lucifer, never to hope again." God grant this may be an unreal picture with respect to me! but should it not, I have very little dependence on mankind. I will close my letter with this tribute my heart bids me pay N'coll, and all the circle of our common friends.

P. S. I shall be in Edinburgh about the latter end of July.

No. XLVII.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR. Stirling, 28th Aug. 1787.

and his wife, Gude forgie me, I had almost pearance: richly waving crops of wheat, barley, oroke the tenta commandment on her account. See, but no harvest at all yet, except in one or Simplicity, elegance, good sense, sweetness of two places, an old Wife's Ridge.—Yesterday disposition, good humour, kind hospitality, are morning I rode from this town ap the meandring Devon's banks to pay my respects to some Ayrshire folks at Harvieston. After breakfast, we made a party to go and see the famous Caudron-linn, a remarkable cascade in the Devon, about five miles above Harvieston; and after spending one of the most pleasant days I ever had in my life, I returned to Stirling in the evening. They are a family, Sir, thou; h I had not had any prior tie; though they had not been the brother and si-ters of a certain generous friend of mine, I would never forget them. I am told you have not seen them these several years, so you can have very little idea of what these young folks are now. Your brother is as tall as you are, but slender rather than otherwise; and I have the satisfaction to inform you that he is getting the better of those consumptive symptoms which I suppose you know were threatening him. His make, and particularly his manner, resemble you, but he will still have a finer face. (I put in the word still, to please Mrs. Hamilton.) Good sense, modesty, and at the same time a just idea of that respect that man owes to man, and has a right in his turn to exact, are striking features in his character; and, what with me is the Alpha and the Omega, he has a heart might adorn the breast of a poet! Grace has a good figure and the look of health and cheerfulness, but nothing else remarkable in her person. I scarcely ever saw so striking a likeness as is between her and your Lttle Beenie; the mouth and chin particularly. She is reserved at first; but as we grew better acquainted, I was delighted with the native you-the many ties of acquaintance and friend- frankness of her manner, and the sterling sense thip which I have, or think I have in life, I of her observation. Of Charlotte, I cannot have felt along the lines, and, d-n them! they speak in common terms of admiration; she is are almost all of them of such wail contexture, not only beautiful, but lovely. Her form is elethat I am sure they would not stand the breath gant; her features not regular, but they have of the least adverse breeze of fortune; but from the smile of sweetness and the settled complayou, my ever dear Sir, I look with confidence cency of good nature in the highest degree; and for the Apostolic love that shall wait on me her complexion, now that she has happily re-"through good report and bad report"-the covered her wonted health, is equal to Miss love which Solumon emphatically says "Is Burnet's. After the exercise of our riding to etrong as death." My compliments to Mrs. the Falls, Charlotte was exactly Dr. Donne's mistress:

> - " Her pure and eloquent blood Spoke in her cheeks, and so distinctly wrought,

That one would almost say her body thought,'

Her eyes are fascinating; at once expressive of good sense, tenderness, and a noble mind.

I do not give you all this account, my good Sir, to flatter you. I mean it to reproach you. Such relations the first peer in the realm might own with pride; then why do you not keep up HERE am I on my way to Inverness. I have more correspondence with these so annuable rambled over the rich, fertile carses of Falkirk young folks? I had a thousand questions to

answer about you all: I had to describe the lable company, raises an honest glow in my bo little ones with the minuteness of anatomy, som. They were highly delighted when I told them that John's was so good a boy, and so fine a scholar, and that Willie + was going on still very pretty; but I have it in commission to tell her from them that beauty is a poor silly bauble without she be good. Miss Chalmers I had left in Edinburgh, but I had the pleasure of meeting with Mrs. Chalmers, only Lady M Kenzie being rather a little alarmingly ill of a sore-throat, somewhat marr'd our enjoyment.

I shall not be in Ayrshire for four weeks. My most respectful compliments to Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Kennedy, and Dr. M'Kenzie. shall probably write him from some stage or

other. I am ever, Sir, Yours most gratefully.

No. XLVIII.

TO MR. WALKER, BLAIR OF ATHOLE

Inverness, 5th Sept. 1787.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just time to write the foregoing, and to tell you that it was (at least most part of it), the effusion of an half hour I spent at Bruar. I do not mean it was extempore, for I have endeavoured to brush it up as well as Mr. N----'s chat, and the jogging of the chaise, would allow. It eases my heart a good deal, as rhyme is the coin with which a poet pays his debts of honour or gratitude. What I owe to the noble family of Athole, of the first kind, I shall ever proudly boast; what I owe of the last, so help me God in my hour of need, I shall never forget.

The little "angel band !- I declare I prayed for them very sincerely to-day at the Fall of Fyars. I shall never forget the fine familypiece I saw at Blair; the amiable, the truly noble Duchess, with her smiling little seraph in her lap, at the head of the table; the lovely " olive plants," as the Hebrew bard finely says, round the happy mother; the beautiful Mrs G, the lovely, sweet Miss C. &c. I wish I had the powers of Guido to do them justice! My Lord Duke's kind hospitality, markedly kind, indeed Mr G. of F scharms of conversation—Sir W. M—'s friendship—in short, the recollection of all that polite, agree-

No. XLIX.

TO MR. GILBERT BURNS.

Edinburgh, 17th Sept. 1787 MY DEAR BROTHER,

I ARRIVED here safe yesterday evening, after a tour of twenty-two days, and travelling near six randred miles, windings included. furthest 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 druidieal circles of stones to Dunkeld, a seat of the Duke of Athole: thence cross Tay, and up one of his tribetary 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 Macbeath; 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 Burnes, 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. 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 dired 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 farther 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 birth for William, be: am not likely to be successful --

[•] This is the "wee curlle Johnnie," mentioned in Burn's dedication to Gavin Hamilton, Eq. To this gratheman, and every branch of the family, the Editor is indebted for much intornation respecting the poot, and every gratefully acknowledges the kindness shown to himself.

Now married to the Rev. John Tod, Minister of Farewel. Meuchline.

1 "The humble Petition of Bruar-Water to the

No. L.

FROM MR. R----

813. Ochtertyre, 22d October, 1787.
'Twas only yesterday I got Colonel Edmontoun's answer, that neither the words of Down the burn Dovie, nor Dainty Davie (I

Down the burn Davie, nor Dainty Davie (I forgot which you mentioned), were written by Colonel G. Crawford. Next time I meet him, I will inquire about his consin's poetical talents.

Enclosed are the inscriptions you requested, and a letter to Mr. Young, whose company and musical talents will, I am persuaded, be a feast to you. * Nobody can give you better hints, as to your present plan, than he. Receive also Omeron Cameron, which seemed to make such a deep impression on your imagination, that I am not without hopes it will beget some

* These Inscriptions, so much admired by Burns, are below:-

WRITTEN IN 1768.

FOR THE SALICTUM AT OCHTERTYRE.

SALUBRITATIS voluptatisque causa,
Hoc Salictum,
Paludem olim infidam,
Mihi mei-que de-ieco et exorno.
Hic, procul negotiis streptuque
Innomis deliciis
Slvalas inter nascentes reptandi,
Apiumque labores suspiciendi,
Fruor,
Fruor,

Fruor,
Hic, si faxit Deus opt. max.
Prope hune fontein pellucidum.
Cum quadam juventutis amico superstite,
Sæpe conquiescam, senex,
Jatentus modicis, meoque lætus!

Sin aliter—
Evique paululum supersit,
Vos silvulæ, et amiei,
Cæteraque amæna,
Valete, diuque lætamini!

ENGLISHED.

To improve both air and soil, I drain and decorate this plantation of willows, Which was lately an unprofitable morass.

Here, far from noise and strife,
I love to wander,

Fow foully marking the progress of my trees. Now studying the bee, its aris and manners. Here, if it pleases Almighty God, May I often rest in the evening of life, With the control of the control of the Control of the Competency, And happy with my lot. If valo thee humble wishes,

If vain these humble wishes, And life draws near a close, Ye trees and friends, And whatever else is dear, Farewell, and long may ye flourish.

ABOVE THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE.

WRITTEN IN 1775.

Mini meisque utinam conting.

Prope Taichi marginem,
Avito in Agello,
Rene vivere fausteque mori!

thing to delight the public in one time; and, no doubt, the circumstances of this little tale might be varied or extended, so as to make part of a pastoral comedy. Age or wounds might have kept Omeron at home, whilst his countrymen were in the field. His station may be somewhat varied, without losing his simplicity and kindness . . . A group of characters, male and female, connected with the plot, might be formed from his family, or some neighbouring one of rank. It is not indispensable that the guest should be a man of high station; nor is the political quartel in which he is engaged, of much importance, unless to call forth the exercise of generosity and faithfulness, grafted on patriarchal hospitality. To introduce state affairs, would raise the style above comedy; though a small spice of them would season the converse of swains. Upon this head I cannot say more than to recommend the study of the character of Emmæus in the Odyssey, which, in Mr. Pope's translation, is an exquisite and invaluable drawing from nature, that would suit some of our conntry elders of the present day.

There must be love in the plot, and a happy discovery; and peace and partion may be the reward of hospitality, and honest attachment to misguided principles. When you have once thought of a plot, and brought the story into form, Dr. Blacklock, or Mr. II. Mackenzie, may be useful in dividing it into acts and scenes; for in these matters one must pay some attention to certain rules of the drama. These you could afterwards fill up at your leisure. But, whilst I presume to give a few well-meant hints, let me advise you to study the spirit of my namesake's dialogue, . which is natural without being low, and, under the trammels of verse, is such as country people in their situations speak every day. You have only to bring down your own strain a very little. A great plan, such as this, would concenter all your ideas, which facilitates the exe-

cution, and makes it a part of one's pleasure.

I approve of your plan of retiring from din
and desipation to a farm of very moderate size,
sufficient to find exercise for mind and body,
but not so great as to absorb better things.
And if some intellectual pursuit be well chosen
and steadily pursued, it will be more hierative
than must farms, in this age of rapid improvement.

Upon this subject, as your well-wisher and admirer, permit me to go a step fartler. Let

ENGLISHED.

On the banks of the Teith, In the small but sweet inheritance Of my fathers, May I and mine live in peace, And die in joyful hope!

These inscriptions, and the translations, are in the hand-writing of Mr. it——.

• Allan Ramsay, in the Gentle Shepherd,

those bright tilents which the Almighty has bestowed on you, be henceforth employed to the noble purpose of supporting the cause of truth and virtue. An imagination so varied and forcible as yours, may do this in many different modes; nor is it necessary to be always serious, which you have been to good purpose; good morals may be recommended in a comedy, or even in a song. Great allowances are due to the heat and inexperience of youth ; - and few poets can boast, like Thomson, of never having written a line, which, dying, they would wish to blot. In particular, I wish you to keep clear of the thorny walks of satire, which makes a man a hundred enemies for one friend, and is doubly dangerous when one is supposed to extend the slips and weaknesses of individuals to their sect or purty. About modes of faith, serious and excellent men have always differed; and there are certain curious questions, which may afford scope to men of metaphysical heads, but seldom mend the heart or temper. Whilst these points are beyond human ken, it is sufficient that all our sects concur in their views of morals. You will forgive me for these hints,

Well! what think you of good lady G.? It is a pity she is so deaf, and speaks so indistinctly. Her house is a specimen of the mansions of our gentry of the last age, when hospitality and elevation of mind were conspicuous amidst plain fare and plain furniture. I shall be glad to hear from you at times, if it were no more than to show that you take the effusions of an obscure man like me in good part. I beg my best respects to Dr. and Mrs.

Blacklock, And am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. RAMSAY.

* TALE OF OMERON CAMERON.

In one of the wars betwirt the Crown of Scotland and the Larks of the Isles, Mexander Stewart, Earl of Mar (a distinguished character in the fifteenth century), and Donald Stewart, Earl of Caithness, had the command of the rotal army. They marched into Lochaber, with a view of attacking a body of M'Donalds, commanded by Donald Balloch, and posted upon an arm of the sea which intersects that country. Having timely medigence of their approach, the insurgents got of precipitately to the onposite above in their precipitately to the onposite above in their troops encumped a full eccurity: But they are the precipitately and the precipitately in the property of the precipitately the precipitately interest and the precipitately interest and the precipitately are the precipitately and the p

The Earl of Mar escaped in the dark, without any attendants, and made for the more hilly part of the country. In the course of his flight he came to the loose of the poor man, whose name was Omeron Camelone and the course of the poor man, whose name was Omeron Camelone the course of the poor man, whose name was Omeron Camelone the Course of the Cours

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No LE.

Athole House, 13th September, 1785; Youra better of the 5th reached me only on the 11th; what awkward route it had taken I know not; but it deprived me of the pleasure of writing to you in the manner yan proposed, as you must have left Dundee before a letter could possibly have got there. I hope your disappointment on being forced to leave us was as great as appeared from your expressions. This is the best consolation for the greatness of ours. I still think with vexation on that ill-timed indisposition which lest me a day's enjoyment of a man (I speak without flattery) possessed of those very dispositions and talents I most admire; one

You know how anxious the Duke was to have another day of you, and to let Mr. Dundas have the pleasure of your conversation as the best dainty with which he could entertain an honoured guest. You know likewise the eagerness the ladies showed to detain you; but perhaps you do not know the scheme which they devised, with their usual fertility in resources. One of the servants was sent to your driver to bribe him to loosen or pull off a shoe from one of his horses, but the author's

before the fire, and plenty of ionizioh, or Highland some prepared to conclude their meat.—The whole family and their guest also heartily, and there were special sound, in telling tales and singuistic special sound, in telling tales and singuistic special sound, in telling tales and singuistic special through the hearth, spread the cow hide upon it, and decreat the stranger to lie down. The Earl wrapped his plaid about him, and slept sound on the hude, whilst the family betook themselves to rest in a corner of the same room.

Next morning they had a plentiful breakfar, and at his departure his guest asked (ameron, if he knew whom he had cintertained; "You may probabe," and whom he had contestained; "You may probabe," as we will be a support of the king's officers in the there are also as my duty to protect you. The support of the area of the health of health of the health of health of

distress, you shall soon see me."

The royal army was soon after smaller to make beed agrinst it, dispersed. The M+Donable, however, got notice that Omeron ladd been the Earl's host, and forced him to fly the country. He came with his wire and children to the gate of Kildrummic Castle, and children to the gate of Kildrummic Castle, and children with his bobt and appearance. The work of the country of the cou

⁴ Mool Odhar, f. e. the brown humble cow.

failed. Proh mirum! The driver was incor-|rect, and some particular stanzas would give ruptible. Your verses have given us much universal pleasure. Let me know, however, if delight, and I think will produce their proper effect. They produced a powerful one immediately; for the morning after I read them, we all set out in procession to the Bruar, where none of the ladies had bee; these seven or eight years, and again enjoyed them there. The passages we most admired are the description of the dying tronts. Of the high fall " twisting strength," is a happy picture of the upper part. The characters of the birds, " mild and mellow," is the thrush itself, benevolent anxiety for their happiness and safety I highly approve. The two stanzas beginning " Here haply too"-darkly dashing is most descriptively Ossianic.

Here I cannot deny myself the pleasure of mentioning an incident which happened yesterday at the Bruar. As we passed the door of a most miserable hovel, an old woman curtsied to us with locks of such poverty, and such contentment, that each of us involuntarily gave her some money. She was astonished, and in the confusion of her gratitude, invited us in. C. and I, that we might not hurt her delicacy, entered-but, good God, what wretchedness! It was a cow-house-her own cottage had been burnt last winter. The poor old creature stood perfectly silent-looked at Miss C. then to the money, and burst into tears-Miss C. joined her, and, with a vehemence of sensibility, took out her purse, and emptied it into the old woman's lap. What a charming scene !- A sweet accomplished girl of seventeen in so angelic a situation! Take your pencil and paint her in your most glowing tints. - Hold her up amidst the darkness of this scene of human woe, to the icy dames that flaunt through the gaieties of life, without ever feeling one generous, one great emotion.

Two days after you left us, I went to Taymouth. It is a charming place, but still I think art has been too busy. Let me be your Cicerone for two days at Dunkeld, and you will acknowledge that in the beauties of naked nature we are not surpassed. The loch, the Gothic arcade, and the fall of the hermitage, gave me most delight. But I think the last has not been taken proper advantage of. The hermitage is too much in the common-place style. Every body expects the couch, the bookpress, a d the hairy gown. The Duke's idea I think better. A rich and elegant apartment is an excellent contrast to a scene of Alpine

I must now beg your permission (unless you have some other design) to have your verses printed. They appear to me extremely cor-

you include to give them any farther touches,

Were they in some of the public papers, we could more easily disseminate them among our friends, which many of us are anxious to do-

When you pay your promised visit to the Braes of Ochtertyre, Mr. and Mrs. Graham of Balgowan beg to have the pleasure of conducting you to the hower of Bessy Bell and Mary Gray, which is now in their possession. The Duchess would give any consideration for another sight of your letter to Dr. Moore; we must fall upon some method of procuring it for her. I shall enclose this to our mutual friend -, who may forward it. I shall be extremely happy to hear from you at your first leisure. Enclose your letter in a cover addressed to the Duke of Athole, Dankeld,

God bless you,

No. LII.

FROM MR. A M-

6th October, 1787. HAVING just arrived from abroad, I had your poems put into my hands: the pleasure I received in reading them, has induced me to solicit your liberty to publish them amongst a number of our countrymen in America, 4tc which place I shall shortly return), and where they will be a treat of such excellence, that i would be an injury to your merit and their feeling to prevent their appearing in public,

Receive the following hastily-written liust from a well-wisher.

FAIR fa' your pen, my dainty Rob, Your leison way o' writing, Whiles, glowring o'er your warks I sob, Whiles laugh, whiles downright greeting Your sonsie tykes may charm a chiel, Their words are wondrous bonny, But guid Scotch drink the truth does say It is as guid as ony

Wi* you this day.

Poor Mailie, troth, I'll nae but think, Ye did the poor thing wrang. To leave her tether'd on the brink Of stank sae wide and lang; Her dying words upbraid ye sair, Cry fye on your neglect; Guid faith! gin ye had got play fair This deed had stretch'd your neck That mournfu' days

• "The humble petition of Bruar-Water to the But, was's me, how dare I fin' faut, Wi' sic a winsome bardie,

Duke of Athole.

Wha great an' sma's begun to dant, And tak' him by the gardie; it sets na ony lawland chiel, Like you to verse or thyme, For few like you can fley the de'il, And shelp auld wither'd Time On onv day.

It's fair to praise ilk canty callan, Be he of purest fame, If he but tries to raise as Allan, Auld Scotia's bonny name; To you, therefore, in humble rhyme, Better I canna gi'e. And the' it's but a swatch of thine, Accept these lines frae me, Upo' this day.

Frae Jock o' Groats to bonny Tweed, Frae that e'en to the line, In ilka place where Scotsmen bleed, There shall your bardship shine; Ilk henest chiel wha reads your buick, Will there aye meet a brither, He lang may seek, and lang will look, Ere he fin' sic anither

On ony day.

Feart that my cruicket verse should spairge Some wark of wordie mak', I'se nae mair o' this head enlarge, But now my farewell tak': Lang may you live, lang may you write, And sing like English Weischell, This prayer I do myself indite, From yours still, A-This very day.

No. LIII.

FROM MR. J. RAMSAY.

TO THE

REVEREND W. YOUNG, AT ERSKINE.

Ochtertyre, 22d Oct. 1787. DEAR SIR. Allow me to introduce Mr. Burns, whose poenes, I dare say, have given you much pleasure. Upon a personal acquaintance, I doubt not, you will relish the man as much as his works, in which there is a rich vein of intellectual ore. I'e has heard some of our Highland luinigs or songs played, which delighted him so much that he has made words to one or two of them, which will render these more popular As he has thought of being in your family, afterwards wife of Mr. John Relches, quarter, I am persuaded you will not think it The Colonel never saw Robert Crawford, though abour lost to include the poet of nature with a he was at his burial fifty-five years ago. He comple of those sweet artless melodies, which was a pretty young man, and had lived long in only want to be married (in Milton's phrase) I rance. Lady Ankerville is his niece, and may to congenial words. I wish we could conjure know more of his poetical vein. An epitaph

up the ghost of Joseph M'D. to infuse into our bard a portion of his enthusiasm for those neglected airs, which do not suit the fastidious musicians of the present hour. But if it be true that Corelli (whom I looked on as the Homer of music) is out of date, it is no proof of their taste; this, however, is going out of my province. You can show Mr. Burns the manner of singing these same luinigs; and, it he can humour it in words, I do not despair or seeing one of them sung upon the stage, in the original style, round a napkin.

I am very sorry we are likely to meet so seldom in this neighbourhood. It is one of the greatest drawbacks that attends obscurity, that one has so few opportunities of cultivating acquaintances at a distance. I hope, however, some time or other, to have the pleasure of beating up your quarters at Erskine, and of hauling you away to Paisley, &c.; meanwhile I beg to be remembered to Messrs. Boog and Mylne.

If Mr. B. goes by ____, give him a billet on our friend Mr. Stuart, who, I presume, does not dread the frown of his diocesan.

I am, Dear Sir, Your most obedient humble servant, J. RAMSAY

No. LIV.

FROM MR. RAMSAY.

TO

DR. BLACKLOCK.

DEAR SIR, Ochtertyre, 27th Oct. 1787. I RECEIVED yours by Mr. Burns, and give you many thanks for giving me an opportunity of conversing with a man of his calibre. He will, I doubt not, let you know what passed between us on the subject of my hints, to which I have made additions, in a letter sent him t'other day to your care.

You may tell Mr. Burns, when you see him, that Colonel Edmonstoune told me t'other day, that his cousin, Colonel George Crawford, was no port, but a great singer of songs; but that his eldest brother Robert (by a former marriage) had a great turn that way, having written the words of The Bush aboon Traquair, and Tweedside. That the Mary to whom it was addressed was Mary Stewart of the Castlemilk of life, and the vanity of those sweet effusions. minds from your earliest infancy! May you live -But I have hardly room to offer my best com- as he did! if you do, you can never be unhappy. pliments to Mrs. Blacklock; and I am,

Dear Doctor, Your most obedient humble servant, J. RAMSAY.

No. LV

FROM MR. JOHN MURDOCH.

MY DEAR SIR, London, 28th Oct. 1787.

As my friend, Mr. Brown, is going from this place to your neighbourhood, I embrace the opportunity of telling you that I am yet alive, toerably well, and always in expectation of being better. By the much-valued letters before me, I see that it was my duty to have given you this inteiligence about three years and nine months ago; and have nothing to allege as an excuse but that we poor, busy, bustling bodies in London, are so much taken up with the various pursuits in which we are here engaged, that we seldom think of any person, creature, place, or thing, that is absent. But this is not altogether the case with me; for I often think of you, and Hornie, and Russel, and an unfathomed depth, and lowan trunstane, all in the same minute, although you and they are (as I suppose) at a considerable dis-I flatter myself, however, with the pleasing thought, that you and I shall meet some time or other either in Scotland or England. If ever you come hither, you will have the satisfaction of seeing your poems relished by the Caledonian's in London, full as much as they can be by those of Edinburgh. We frequently repeat some of your verses in our Caledonian society; and you may believe, that I am not a little vain that I have had some share in cultivating such a genius. I was not absolutely certain that you were the author, till a few days ago, when I mide a visit to Mts. Hill, Dr. M'Comb's eldest daughter, who lives in town, a letter from her sister in Edinburgh, with whom the verses in Scotch. you had been in company when in that capital.

of visiting this huge, overgrown metropolis? It would afford matter for a large poem. Here you would have an opportunity of indulging your vein in the study of mankind, perhaps to a greater degree than in any city upon the face of the globe; for the inhabitants of London, as you know are a collection of all nations, kindreds, and tongues, who make it, as it were, the centre of their commerce.

Present my respectful compliments to Mrs. Burns, to my dear friend Gilbert, and all the rest of her amiable children. May the Father of the universe bless you all with those principles and disposition, that the best of parents

monger like me might moralize upon the vanity took such uncommon pains to instil into your I feel myself grown serious all at once, and af feeted in a manner I cannot describe. I sha'l only add, that it is one of the greatest pleasures I promise myself before I die, that of seeing the family of a man whose memory I revere more than that of any person that ever I was acquainted with.

I am, my dear Friend, Yours sincerely, JOHN MURDOCH.

No. LVI.

FROM MR. ---

Gordon Castle, 31st October, 1787. Ir you were not sensible of your fault as well as of your loss in leaving this place so suddenly, I should condemn you to starve upon cauld had for ae towmont at least; and as for Dick Latine,* your travelling companion, without banning him wi' a' the curses contained in your letter, (which he'll no value a bawbee), I should give him nought but Stra'bogie castocks to chew for sax ouks, or aye until he was as sensible of his error as you seem to be of yours.

Your song I showed without producing the author; and it was judged by the Duchess to be the production of Dr. Beattie. I sent a copy of ir, by her Grace's desire, to a Mrs. M'Pherson in Badenoch, who sings Morag and all other Gaelic songs in great perfection. I have recorded it likewise, by Lady Charlotte's desire, in a book belonging to her ladyship, where it is in company with a great many other poems and verses, some of the writers of which are no less eminent for their political than for their poetical abilities. When the Duchess was informed that and who told me that she was informed of it by you were the author she wished you had written

Any setter directed to me here will come to Pray let me know if you have any intention hand safely, and, if sent under the Duke's cover, it will likewise come free; that is, as long as the Duke is in this country.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely.

No. LVII.

FROM THE REV. JOHN SKINNER.

Linshart, 14th Nov. 1787. Your kind return without date, but of postmark October 25th, came to my hand only this day; and, to testify my punctuality to my po-

* Mr. Nicon.

swer it in kind. Your acknowledgment of my poor but just encomiums on your surprising genius, and your opinion of my rhyming excursions, are both, I think, by far too high. The difference between our two tracts of education and ways of life is entirely in your favour, and gives you the preference every manner of way. I know a classical education will not create a versifying taste, but it mightily improves and assists it; and though, where both these meet, there may sometimes be ground for approbation, yet where taste appears single, as it were, and neither cramped nor supported by acquisition, I will always sustain the justice of its prior claim to appliese. A small portion of taste, this way, I have had almost from childhood, especially in the old Scottish dialect: and it is as old a thing as I remember, my fondness for Christ kirk o' the Green, which I had by heart ere I was twelve years of age, and which, some years ago, I attempted to turn into Latin verse. While I was young, I dabbled a good deal in these things; but, on getting the black gown, I gave it pretty much over, till my daughters grew up, who, being all good singers, plagned me for words to some of their favourite tunes, and so extorted these effusions, which have made a public appearance beyond my expectations, and contrary to my intentions, at the same time that I hope there is nothing to be found in them uncharacteristic, or unbecoming the cloth, which I would always wish to see respected.

As to the assistance you propose from me in the undertaking you are engaged in, 'I am sorry I cannot give it so far as I could wish, and you, perhaps, expect. My daughters, who were my only intelligencers, are all foris familiate, and the old wom in their mother has lost that tiste. There are two from my own pen, which I might give you, if worth the while. One to the old Scotch time of Domburton's Drums.

The other perhaps you have met with, as your noble friend the Duchess has, I am told, heard of it. It was squeezed out of me by a brother parson in her neighbourhood, to accommodate a new Highland reel for the Marquis's bith-day, to the stanza of

" Tune your fiddles, tune them sweetly," &c.

If this last answer your purpose, you may have it from a brother of mine, Mr. James Skinner, writer in Edinburgh, who, I believe, can give the music too.

There is another humorous thing, I have heard said to be done by the Catholic priest Geddes, and which hit my taste much:

" There was a wee wifeikie was coming frae the fair,

Had gotten a little drapikie, which bred her meikle care;

etic engagement, I sit down imm-diately to an- It took upo' the wife's heart, and she began to swer it in kind. Your acknowledgment of my spew,

And quo' the wee wiscikie, I wish I binna sou I wish, &c. &c.

I have heard of another new composition, by a young ploughman of my acquaintance, that I am wastly pleased with, to the time of The humours of Glen, which I fear won't do, as the music, I am told, is of Irish original. I have mentioned these, such as they are, to show my readiness to oblige yon, and to contribute my mute, if I could, to the patriotic work you have in hand, and which I wish all success to. You have only to notify your mind, and what you want of the above shall be sent you.

Meantime, while you are thus publicly, I may say, employed, do not sheath your own proper and piercing weapon. From what I have seen of yours already, I am inclined ta hope for much good. One lesson of virtue and morality, delivered in your amusing style, and from such as you, will operate more than dozens would do from such as nee, who shall be told it is our employment, and be never more minded: whereas, from a pen like yours, as being one of the many, what comes will be admired. Admiration will produce regard, and regard will leave an impression, especially when example gene along.

Now binna saying I'm ill bred, Else, by my troth, I'll not be glad For eadgers, ye have heard it said, And sie like fry, Maun aye be harland in their trade, And sae mann I.

Wishing you from my poet-pen, all success, and in my other character, all happiness and heavenly direction,

I remain, with esteem,
Your sincere friend,
JOHN SKINNER.

No. LVIII.

FROM MRS. ROSS.

R, Kilravock Castle, 30th Nov. 1787.

I HOFE you will do me the justice to believe, that it was no defect in gratitude for your punctual performance of your parting promise, that has made me so long in acknowledging it, but merely the difficulty I had in getting the Highland songs yon wishel to have, accurately much; they are at last enclosed; but how shal I convey along with them those graces they acquired from the meladious voice of one of the fair spirits of the hill of Kildrummie! These I must leave to your imagination to supply. I has powers sufficient to transport you to her

^{• &}quot;A plan of publishing a complete collection of cottagh Songs," &c.

still vibrate in the ears of menory. To her I when they sat down with him seven days and air, indebted for geiting the enclosed notes, seven nights, and spake not a word, They are clothed with "thoughts that breathe, and words that burn." These, however, being in an unknown tongue to you, you must again have recourse to that same fertile imagination of yours to interpret them, and suppose a lover's description of the beauties of an adored mistress -why did I say unknown? The language of love is an universal one, that seems to have escaped the confusion of Babel, and to be un-

derstood by all nations.

I rejoice to find that you were pleased with so many things, persons, and places in your northern tour, because it leads me to hope you may be induced to revisit them again. the old castle of K-k, and its inhabitants, both our hearts, in spite of absence, and that, whose image he so richly bears. even us, frozen sisters of the north.

-k and K-The friends of Kof us reading your poems, and some of us singing ments, the wreck of matter, and the crash of your songs, and me little Hugh looking at your worlds," picture, and you'h seldom be wrong. We remember Mr. N. with as much good will as we do any body, who hurried Mr. Burns from us.

Farewell, Sir, I can only contribute the widow's mite to the esteem and admiration excited by your merits and genius, but this I give as she did, with all my heart-being sincerely veurs,

No. LIX.

- DALRYMPLE, Esq. OF ORANGEFIELD.

Edinburgh, 1787. DEAR SIR,

I SUPPOSE the devil is so elated with his sucress with you, that he is determined by a coup de main to complete his purposes on you all at sougs; I would not wait for the second numonce, in making you a poet. I broke open the ber; I hate delays in little marks of friendletter you sent me; hummed over the rhymes; ship, as I hate dissimulation in the language of and, as I saw they were extempore, said to my- the heart. I am determined to pay Charlotte seif they were very well : but when I saw at a poetic compliment, if I could hit on some the hortom a name that I shall ever value with glorious old Scotch air, in number second. grateful respect, " I gapit wide but naething I was nearly as much struck as the

side, to recall her acrents, and to make them truends of Job, of affliction-hearing memory,

I am naturally of a superstitious cast, and as soon as my wonder-scared imagination regained its consciousness and resumed its functions, I cast about what this mimia of yours might portend. My foreboding ideas had the wide stretch of possibility; and several events, great in their magnitude, and important in their consequences, occurred to my fancy. The downfal of the conclave, or the crushing of the cork rumps; a ducal coronet to Lord George G-— and the protestant interest; or St. Peter's keys to . .

You want to know how I come on. were amongst these, adds to my satisfaction. I just in statu quo, or, not to insult a gentleman am even vain enough to admit your very flat-tering application of the line of Addison's; at noble Earl of Glencairn took me by the hand any rate, allow me to believe that "friendship to-day, and interested bimself in my concerns, will maintain the ground she has occupied" in with a goodness like that benevolent being, when we do meet, it will be as acquaintance of stronger proof of the immortality of the soul, a score of years standing; and on this footing, than any that philosophy ever produced. A consider me as interested in the future course of mind like his can never die. Let the worshipyour fame, so splendidly commenced. Any ful squire, H. L. or the reverend Mass J. M. communications of the progress of your muse go into their primitive nothing. At best they will be received with great gratitude, and the are but ill-digested lumps of chaos, only one of fire of your genius will have power to warm, them strongly tinged with hitminious particles and sulphureous effluvia. But my noble pa--e tron, eternal as the heroic swell of magnanimiunite in cordial regards to you. When you in- ty, and the generous throb of benevolence, shall cline to figure either in your idea, suppose some look on with princely eye at " the war of ele-

> THE following fragments are all that now exist of twelve or fourteen of the finest letters that Burns ever wrote. In an evil hour, the originals were thrown into the fire by the late Mrs. Adair of Scarborough; the Charlotte so often mentioned in this correspondence, and the lady to whom " The Banks of the Devon" is addressed.

No. LX.

TO MISS MARGARET CHAIMERS,

(NOW MRS. HAY, OF EDINBURGH).

Sept. 26, 1787.

I send Charlotte the first number of the

[·] Of the Scots Musical Museum-

You will see a small attempt on a shred of pa-|our family), I am determined, if my Dumfriet per in the book; but though Dr. Blacklock commended it very highly, I am not just satis-I intend to make it defied with it myself. scription of some kind : the whining cant of love, except in real passion, and by a masterly nand, is to me as insufferable as the preaching cent of old Father Smeaton, Whig-minister at Kilmaurs. Darts, flames, capids, loves, graces, and all that farrago, are just a Mauchline . —a senseless rabble.

I got an excellent poetic epistle yesternight from the old, venerable author of Tullochgorum, John of Badenvon, &c. I suppose you know he is a clergyman. It is by far the finest poetic compliment I ever got. I will send you

a copy of it.

I go on Thursday or Friday to Dumfries to wait on Mr. Miller about his farms. - Do tell that to Lady M'Kenzie, that she may give me eredit for a little wisdom. "I wisdom dwell with prudence." What a blessed fire-side! How happy should I be to pass a winter evening under their venerable roof! and smoke a pipe of tobacco, or drink water-grael with them ! What solemn, lengthened, laughter-quashing gravity of phiz! What sage remarks on the good-for-nothing sons and daughters of indiscretion and folly! And what frugal lessons, as we straitened the fire-side circle, on the uses of the poker and tongs!

Miss N. is very well, and hegs to be rememhand, and heart-melting modulation of periods my God, I will give credit for any degree of in my power, to urge her out to Herveiston, excellence the sex are capable of attaining, it is but all in vain. My rhetoric seems quite to have lost its effect on the lovely half of mankind. I have seen the day-but that is a "tale of other years."-In my conscience I believe that my heart has been so oft on fire that it is absolutely vitrified. I look on the sex with something like the admiration with which I regard the starry sky in a frosty December night. I admire the beauty of the Creator's workmanslap; I am charmed with the wild but graceful eccentricity of their motions, and-wish them good night. I mean this with respect to a certain passion dont j' at en l'honneur d'etre un miscrable esclave: as for friendship, you and Charlotte have given me pleasure, permanent pleasure, " which the world cannot give, nor take away," I hope; and which will ou. Last the heavens and the earth.

Without date.

I HAVE been at Dumfries, and at one visit a but subject. "Some folk has a hantle of more shall be decided about a farm in that country. I am rather he peless in it; but as ney Afternoon.—To close the melancholy reflective which are only a younger brother's fortune in by the title of the "Wabster's grace."

business fail me, to return into partnership with him, and at our leisure take another farm in the neighbourhood. I assure you I look for high compliments from you and Charlotte on this very sage instance of my unfathoniable, incomprehensible wisdom. Talking of Charlotte, I must tell her that I have to the best of my power, paid her a poetic compliment, now completed. The air is admirable : true old Highland. It was the tune of a Gaelic song which an Inverness lady sung me when I was there; and I was so charmed with it that I begged her to write me a set of it from her singing; for it had never been set before. I am fixed that it shall go in Johnson's next number; so Cha .lotte and you need not spend your precious time in contradicting me. I won't say the poetry is first-rate; though I am convinced it is very well: and, what is not always the case with compliments to ladies, it is not only sincere but just.

(Here follows the song of " The Banks of the Devon.")

Edinburgh, Nov. 21, 1787.

I HAVE one vexations fault to the kindlywelcome, well filled sheet which I owe to your and Charlotte's goodness-it contains too much hered in the old way to you. I used all my sense, sentiment, and good-spelling. It is im-eloquence, all the persuasive flourishes of the possible that even you two, whom I declare to impossible you can go on to correspond at that rate; so like those who, Shenstone says, retire because they have made a good speech, I shall after a few letters hear no more of you. 1 in sist that you shall write whatever comes first what you see, what you read, what you hear, what you admire, what you dislike, trifles, bagatelles, nonsense; or to fill up a corner, e'en put down a laugh at full length. Now none of your polite hints about flattery : I leave that to your lovers, if you have or shall have any : though thank heaven I have found at last two girls who can be luxuriantly happy in their own minds and with one another, without that commonly necessary appendage to female bl.ss, A LOVER.

Charlotte and you are just two favourite resting places for my soul in her wanderings through the weary, thorny wilderness of this world-God knows I am ill-fitted for the struggle: I glory in being a Poet, and I want to be thought a wise man-1 would fondly be generous, and I wish to be rich. After all, I am afraid I am

brother is an excellent farmer, and is, besides, tions at the end of last sheet, I shall just add a an exceedingly prudent, solit min. (qualities piece of devotion commonly known in Carnels

Some say we ne, and e'en sae do we! Guide forgie us, and I nope sae will he! -Up and to your looms, lads.'

Edinburgh, Dec. 12, 1787.

I am here under the care of a surgeon, with a bruised limb extended on a cushion; and the tints of my mind vying with the livid horror preceding a midnight thunder-storm. A drunken coachman was the cause of the first, and incomparably the lightest evil; misfortune, bodily constitution, hell and myself, have formed a "Quadruple Alliance" to guarantee the other. I got my fall on Saturday, and am getting slowly better.

I have taken tooth and nail to the bible, and am got through the five books of Moses, and half way in Joshua It is really a glorious I sent for my bookbinder to-day, and ordered him to get me an octavo bible in sheets. the best paper and print in town; and bind it with all the elegance of his craft.

I would give my best song to my worst enemy, I mean the merit of making it, to have you and Charlotte by me. You are angelic creatures, and would pour oil and wine into my wounded spirit.

I enclose you a proof copy of the "Banks of the Devon," which present with my best wishes to Charlotte. The "Ochil-hills," you shall probably have next week for yourself. None of your fine speeches!

Edinburgh, Dec. 19, 1787.

I BEGIN this letter in answer to yours of the 17th current, which is not yet cold since I read it. The atmosphere of my soul is vastly clearer than when I wrote you last. For the first time, yesterday I crossed the room on crutches. It would do your heart good too see my bardship, not on my poetic, but on my ouken stilts; throwing my best leg with an air! and with as much hilarity in my gait and countenance, as a May frog leaping across the newly harrowed ridge, enjoying the fragrance of the refreshed earth after the long-expected shower!

I can't say I am altogether at my ease when I I see any where in my path, that meagre, squalid, famine-faced spectre, poverty; attended as he always is, by iron-fisted oppression, and leering contempt; but I have sturdily withstood self on my skill in marking characters; because his buffetings many a hard-laboured day already, and still my motto is-I DARE! My worst dazzled in my judgment for glaring wealth; and memy is Moimeme. I lie so miserably open to the inroads and incursions of a mischievous, biassed against squalid poverty; I was unac-

" Some say we're thieves, and e'en sae are we, | banners of imagination, whim, captiee, and passion; and the heavy-armed veteran regulars of wisdom, prucance and fore-thought, move so very, very slow, that I am almost in a state of perpetual warfare, and alas! frequent defeat. There are just two creatures that I would envy, a horse in his wild state traversing the forests of Asia, or an oyster on some of the desert shores of Europe. The one has not a wish without enjoyment, the other has neither wish nor fear.

Edinburgh, Mirch 14, 1788.

I know, my ever dear friend, that you will be pleased with the news when I tell you, 1 have at last taken a lease of a farm. night I completed a bargain with Mr. Miller, of Dalswinton, for the farm of Ellisland, on the banks of the Nith, between five and six miles above Dumfries. I begin at Whitsunday to build a house, drive lime, &c. and heaven be my help! for it will take a strong effort to bring my mind into the routine of business. I have discharged all the army of my former pursuits, fancies and pleasures; a motley host! and have literally and strictly retained only the ideas of a few friends, which I have incorporated into a life-guard. I trust in Dr. Johnson's observation, "Where much is attempted, something is done." Firmness both in sufferance and exertion, is a character I would wish to be thought to possess; and have always despised the whining yelp of complaint, and the cowardly, feeble

Poor Miss K, is ailing a good deal this winter, and begged me to remember her to you the first time I wrote you. Surely woman, amiable woman, is often made in vain! Top delicately formed for the rougher pursuits of ambition; too noble for the dirt of avarice, and even too gentle for the rage of pleasure; forned indeed for and highly susceptible of enjoyment and rapture; but that enjoyment, alis! almost wholly at the mercy of the caprice, malevolence, stupidity, or wickedness of an animal at all times comparatively unfeeling, and often brutal.

Mauchline, 7th April, 1788.

I AM indebted to you and Miss Nimmo for letting me know Miss Kenedy. Strange! how apt we are to indulge prejudices in our judg-ments of one another! Even I, who pique my-I am too proud of my character as a man, to be too proud of my siturion as a poor man to be ight-armed, well-mounted banditti, under the quainted with Miss K.'s very uncommon worth

grand but, the sober science of life. I have is a dangerous, an unhappy situation. I go lately made some sacrifices for which, were I this without any hanging on, or mortifying soriva roce with you to paint the situation and licitation; it is immediate bread, and though recount the circumstances, you would applaud poor in comparison of the last eighteen months me. of my existence, 'tis luxury in comparison of all

No date.

Now for that wayward, unfortunate thing, I have broke measures with and last week I wrote him a frosty, keen letter. He replied in terms of chastisement, and promised me upon his honour that I should have the account on Monday; but this is Tuesday, and yet I have not heard a word from him. God have mercy on me! a poor d-mned, incautious, duped, unfortunate fool! The sport, the miserable victim, of rebellious pride; hypochondriae imagination, agonizing sensibility, and hedlam passions!

" I wish that I were dead, but I'm no like to die !" I had lately " a hairbreadth 'scape in th' imminent deadly breach" of love too. Thank my stars I got off heart-whole, "waur fleyd than hurt."-Interruption.

I have this moment got a hint I fear I am something like-undone-but I hope for the best. Come, stubborn prole and unshrinking resolution! accompany me through this, to me, miserable world! You must not desert me! Your friendship I think I can count on, though I should date my letters from a marching regiment. Early in life, and all my life, I reckoned on a recruiting drum as my forlorn hope. Seriously though, life at present presents me with but a melancholy path: but-my limb will soon be sound, and I shall struggle on.

Edinburgh, Sunday. To-Morrow, my dear Madam, I leave Edmburgh.

I have altered alt my plans of future life, A farm that I could live in, I could not find; and indeed, after the necessary support my brother and the rest of the family required. I could not venture on farming in that style suitable to my feelings. You will condemn me for the next step I have taken. I have entered into the excise. I stay in the west about three weeks, and like a whipt spaniel, he talks of being with you then return to Edinburgh for six weeks instruc- in the Christmas days. Mr. - has given tions; afterwards, for I get employ instantly, I him the invitation, and he is determined to acgo od ii plait a Dien,-et mon Roi. I have cept of it. O selfishness! he owns in his sowhosen this, my dear friend, after mature deli- ber moments, that from his own volatility of beration. The quest on is not at what door of inclination, the circumstances in which he is sifortune's palace shall we enter in; but what tuated and his knowledge of his father's d'spo-doors does she open to us? I was not likely to sition,—the whole uffair is chimerica!—yet b

I am going on a good deal progressive in mon get any thing to do. I wanted un bût, which my preceding life : besides, the commissioners are some of them my acquaintances, and all of them my firm friends.

NO. LXI.

TO MISS CHALMERS.

MY DEAR MADAM, Edinburgh, Dec. 1787. I JUST now have read yours. The poetic compliments I pay cannot be misunderstood. They are neither of them so particular as to point you out to the world at large; and the circle of your acquaintances will allow all 1 have said. Besides I have complimented you chiefly, almost solely, on your mental charms, Shall I be plain with you? I will; so look to it, Personal attractions, Madam, you have much above par; wit, understanding, and worth, you possess in the first class. This is a cursed flat way of telling you these truths, but let me hear no more of your sheepish timidity. I know the world a little. I know what they will say of my poems; by second sight I suppose; for I am seldom out in my conjectures; and you may believe me, my dear Madam, I would not run any risk of hurting you by an ill-judged compliment. I wish to show to the world, the odds between a poet's friends and those of simple prosemen. More for your information both the pieces go in. One of them, " Where braving all the winter's harms," is already setthe tune is Neil Gow's Lamentation for Abercarney; the other is to be set to an old Highland air in Daniel Dow's " collection of ancient Scots music; the name is Ha a Chaillich air mo Dheidh. My treacherous memory has forgot every circumstance about Les Incas, only I think you mentioned them as being in Cpossession. I shall ask him about it. I am afraid the song of " Somebody" will come too late-as I shall, for certain, leave town in a week for Ayrshire, and from that to Dumfries, but there my hopes are siender. I leave my direction in town, so any thing, wherever I am, will reach me.

I saw your's to -- it is not too severe, nor did he take it amiss. On the contrary,

will gratify an idle penchant at the enormous, cruel expense of perhaps ruining the peace of the very woman for whom he professes the generous passion of love! He is a gentleman in his mind and manners. tant pis !- He is a volatile school-boy; the heir of a man's fortune who well knows the value of two times two !

Perdition seize them and their fortunes, before they should make the amiable, the lovely - the derided object of their purse-proud

contempt.

I am doubly happy to hear of Mrs. recovery, because I really thought all was over with her. There are days of pleasure yet awaiting her.

As I cam in by Glenap I met with an aged woman : She bade me chear up my heart. For the best o' my days was coming."

No. LXII.

TO MISS M-N.

Saturday Noon, No. 2, St. James's Sqr. New- Town, Edinburgh.

HERE have I sat, my dear Madam, in the stony attitude of perplexed study for fifteen vexatious minutes, my head askew, bending over the intended card; my fixed eye insensible to the very light of day poured around; my pen-dulous goose-feather, loaded with ink, hanging over the future letter; all for the important purpose of writing a complimentary card to accompany your trinket.

Compliments is such a miserable Greenland expression; lies at such a chilly polar distance from the torrid zone of my constitution, that I cannot, for the very soul of me, use it to ary person for whom I have the twentieth part of the esteem, every one must have for you who

knows you.

As I leave town in three or four days, I can give myself the pleasure of calling for you only for a minute. Tuesday evening, sometime about seven, or after, I shall wait on you, for your farewell commands.

The hinge of your box, I put into the hands of the proper Connoisseur. The broken glass, likewise, went under review; but deliberative wisdom thought it would too much endanger the w' ole fabric.

I am, dear Madam,

With all sincerity of enthusiasm, Your very humble Servant. No. LXIII.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE, EDINBURGE

Edinburgh, Sunday Morning, Nov. 23, 1787.

I BFG, my dear Sir, you would not make any appointment to take us to Mr. Ainslie's tonight. On looking over my engagements, constitution, present state of my health, some little vexations soul concerns, &c. I find I can't sup abroad to-night.

I shall be in to-day till one o'clock if you have a leisure heur.

You will think it comantic when I tell you, that I find the idea of your friendship almost necessary to my existence. - You assume a proper length of face in my bitter hours of bluedevilism, and you laugh fully up to my highest wishes at my good things .- I don't know, upon the whole, if you are one of the first fellows in God's world, but you are so to me. I tell you this just now in the conviction that some inequalities in my temper and manner may perhaps sometimes make you suspect that I am not so warmly as I ought to be

Your Locat.

No. LXIV.

TO JOHN BALLANTINE, Esq.

WHILE here I sit, sad and solitary, by the side of a fire in a little country inn, and drying my wet clothes, in pops a poor fellow of a sodger and tells me he is going to Ayr. By heavens! say I to myself, with a tide of good spirits which the magic of that sound, Auld Toon o' Ayr, conjured up, I will send my last song to Mr. Ballantine. - Here it is-

(The first sketch of " Ye Banks and Braces o Bonnie Doon.")

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

No. LXV.

FROM THE POET TO DR. MOORE,

GIVING A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Mauchline, 2d Aug. 1787.

For some months past I have been tambling over the country; but I am now confined with some lingering complaints, originating, as I take it, in the stomach. To divert my sprite a little in this miserable fog of cunni, I have taken a whim to give you a history of myself My name has made some little noise in this coun-

try; you have done me the honour to interest and boyish days, too, I owed much to an old am, and how I came by that character, may per- She had, I suppose, the largest collection in the haps amnee you in an idle moment. I will give country of tales and songs concerning devils, you an honest natrative; though I know it will ghosts, fairies, brownies, witches, warlacks, Sir, I have, like Solomon, whose character, ex-sept in the trifling affair of wisdom, I some-cept in the trifling affair of wisdom, I some-drines think I resemble,—I have, I say, like bin, the latent seeds of poetry; but had so strong an turned my eyes to behold madness and folly, and, effect on my imagination, that to this hour, in like him too, frequently shaken hands with their my nocturnal rambles, I sometimes keep a sharp intoxicating friendship. you, that the poor author wrote them under some to shake of these idle terrors. The earliest comsuspicion that he was doing what he ought not The Vision of Mirza, and a hymn of Addison's, to do; a predicament he has more than ouce heginning, How are thy Servants blest, O been in before.

assume that character which the pye-coated guardians of escutcheons call a Gentleman. When at Edinburgh last winter, I got acquainted in the Herald's Office; and, looking through that granary of honours, I there found almost every name in the kingdom; but for me,

" My ancient but ignoble blood Has crept through scoundrels ever since the flood."

Gules, purpure, argent, &c. quite disowned me. My father was of the north of Scotland, the son of a farmer, and was thrown by early misfortunes on the world at large; where, after many years wanderings and sojournings, he picked up a pretty large quantity of observation and experience, to which I am indebted for most of my little pretensions to wisdom .- I have met with few who understood men, their manners, and their ways, equal to him; but stubborn, ungainly integrity, and head ong, ungovernable irasei- afterwards, to puzzle Calvinism with so much bility, are disqualifying circumstances; conse- heat and indiscretion, that I raised a line and cry quently I was born a very poor man's son. For of heresy against me, which has not ceased to the first six or seven years of my life, my far this hour. ther was a gardener to a worthy gentleman of small estate in the neighbourh od of Ayr. Had to me. My scial disposition, when not checkhe continued in that station, I must have march- ed by some modifications of spirited pride, was, ed off to be one of the little unnerlings about a like our chatechism-definition of infinitude, farm-house; but it was his dearest wish and without bounds or limits. I formed several conprayer to have it in his power to keep his chil- nections with other younkers who possessed sudren under his own eye till they could discern perior advantages, the youngling actors, who between good and evil; so, with the assistance were busy in the rehearsal of parts in which tley of his generous master, my father ventured on were shortly to appear on the stage of life, a small farm on his estate. At those years where, alas! I was destined to drudge behind I was by no means a favourite with any body, the scenes. It is not commonly at this green I was a good deal noted for a retentive memory, age that our young gentry have a just sense of a stubborn sturdy something in my disposition, the immense distance between them and their and an enthusiastic idiot party. I say idiot piety, ragged play-fellows. It takes a few dashes into because I was then but a child. Though it cost the world, to give the young great man that prothe schoolmaster some thrashings, I made an expert, decent, unnoticing disregard for the puor, school English school ar; and by the time I was insignificant, stupid devils, the mechanics and ten or cleven years of age. I was a critic in sub-peasantry around him, who were perhaps born

yourself very warmly in my behalf; and I think woman who resided in the family, remarkable a faithful account of what character of a man I for her ignorance, credulity, and superstition. be often at my own expense; -- for I assure you, spunkies kelpies, elf-candles, dead-lights, wraiths, After you look-nut in suspicious places; and though nohave perused these pages, should you think them body can be more sceptical than I am in such trifling and impertinent, I only beg leave to tell matters, yet it often takes an effort of philosophy twitching qualms of conscience, arising from a position that I recollect taking pleasure in, was Lord! I particularly remember one half-stanza I have not the most distant pretensions to which was music to my boyish ears-

> " For though on dreadful whirls we hung High on the broken wave-

I met with these pieces in Mason's English Collection, one of my school-books. The two first books I ever read in private, and which gave me more pleasure than any two books I ever read since, were, The Life of Hann bal, and The History of Sir William Wallace. Hannibal gave my young ideas such a turn, that I used to strut in raptures up and down after the recruiting drum and bag-pipe, and wish myself tall enough to be a soldier; while the story of Wallace poured a Scottish prejudice into my veins, which will boil along there till the floodgates of life shut in eternal rest

Polemical divinity about this time was putting the country half-mad; and I, ambitious of shining in conversation parties on Sundays, between sermons, at funerals, &c. used, a few years

My vicinity to Ayr was of some advantage stantives, verbs, and participles. In my infant in the same village. My young superiors never

mostled the clouterly appearance of my plough-boy careass, the two extremes of which were of-ten exposed to all the inclemencies of all the sea-joint sung a sonz, which wis said to be com-sons. They would give me stray volumes of posed by a small country laint's son, on one of his books—among them, even then, I could pick up—fither's maids, with whom he was in love; and I trinted, helped me to a little French. Parting cast peuts, his father living in the moor lands, with these my young friends and benefactors, as he had no more scholar-craft than my-elf. they occasionally went off for the East or West Indies, was often to me a sore affliction; but I which at times have been my only, and till was soon called to more serious evils. My fa- within the last twelve months, have been my ther's generous master died; the farm proved a highest enjoyment. My father struggled on ruinous bargain; and, to clench the misfortune, till he reached the freedom in his lease, when we fell into the hands of a factor, who set for the picture I have drawn of one in my Tale of farther in the country. The nature of the Taca Dogs. My father was advanced in life brigain the made was such as to throw a little when he married; I was the eldest of seven ready money into his hands at the commence-children; and he, worn out by early hardships, ment of his lease; otherwise the affair would was unfit for libour. My father's spirit was have been impracticable. For four years we soon irritated, but not easily broken. There was lived comfortably here; but a difference coma freedom in his lease in two years more; and to mencing between him and his landlord, as to weather these two years, we retrenched our ex- terms, after three years tossing and whirling penses. We lived very poorly: I was a dexterous ploughman, for my age; and the next eldest to me was a brother (Gilbert) who could drive tion, which, after two years' promises, kindly the plough very well, and help me to thrush the stepped in, and carried him away, to where the corn. A novel writer might perhaps have view- wicked cease from troubling, and where the ed these scenes with some satisfaction; but so weary are at rest. did not I; my indignation yet boils at the recollection of the s-

hermit, with the unceasing moil of a galleyslave, brought me to my sixteenth year; a littumn my partner was a bewitching creature a with Pope's Works, some plays of Soukspeare, Indeed, I did not know myself way I liked so convinced I owe to this practice much of my crimuch to loiter behind with her, when returns the craft, such as it is. ing in the evening from our labours; why the to my eventue of the my heart strings theffi a bursh. I went to a country dameng-school.—

Bike an Rolian harp; and particularly why my pulse beat such a turious ratan when I looked against these meetings; and my going was, and fingered over her little hand to pick out the what to this moment I repent, in opposition to cruel nettle-strings and this these. Among her his wishes. My father, as I said before, was other love inspiring qualities, she sung sweetly; subject to strong passions; from that instance and it was her tavourite reel, to which I at- of disobedience in me, he took a sort of dishke tempted giving an embodied vehicle in rhyme, to me, which I believe was one cause of the dis I was not so presumptuous as to imagine that I sipation which marked my severeling years

some observations; and one, whose heart I am saw no reason why I might not thyme as well as sure not even the Munny Begum scenes have he; for, excepting that he could smear sheep, and

Thus with me began love and poetry; in the vortex of litigation, my father was just saved from the horrors of a jail by a consump-

It is during the time that we lived on this -I factor's insolent threa- farm that my little story is most eventful. I tening letters, which used to set us all in tears, was, at the beginning of this perial, perhaps This kind of life-the cheerless gloom of a the most unguinly, awkward boy in the parish -no solitaire was less acquainted with the ways of the world. What I knew of ancient tle before which period I first committed the sin story was gathered from Salmon's and Guthof Rhyme. You know our country cust in of rie's geographical grammars; and the ideas I coupling a man and woman together as partners, had formed of modern manners, of literature, in the labours of harvest. In my fifteenth an- and criticism, I got from the Spectat 7. These year younger than myself. My scarcity of Tall and Dickson on Agriculture, the Practice in that language; but you know the Soci-derstanding, Stackhouse's History of this diomess, be was a bonnie sweet, sonsee lass. Buble, Justice's British Gardener's Livetony, In short, she altogether, unwittingly to herself, Buyle's Lectures, Allan Rumsey's Webs. initiated me in that delicious possion, which, in Taylor's Scripture Doctrine of Original Sin, spite of acid disappointment, gun-horse prudence, A Select Collection of English Songs, and and hook worm philosophy. I hold to be the Herrey's Meditation, had foured the whole hist of human joys, our dearest blessing here of my reading. The collection of songs was my below! How she caught the conti, ion. I can early our medical people talk much of insteading to labour, song by song, verse fection from breathing the same art, the touch, by verse; carefully noting the true tender, or &c.; but I never expressly said I loved here, so dime, from affectation and fusion. I am

In my seventeenth year, to give my manners

say dissipation, comparatively with the strictness, and solutety, and regularity of Presbyterian country life; for though the Will-o'-Wisp was, that I spent my nineteenth summer on a meteors of thoughtless whim were almost the smuggling coast, a good distance for in home, at sole lights of my path, yet early ingrained piety and virtue kept me for several years afterwards within the line of innocence. The great mis-fortune of my life was to want an aim. I had knowledge of mankind. The contraband trade felt carly some stirrings of ambition, but they were the blind gropings of Homer's Cyclops round the walls of his cave. I saw my father's carried it on. Seenes of swaggering riot and situation entailed on me perpetual labour. The roaring dissipation were till this time new to only two openings by which I could enter the temple of Fortune, was the gate of niggardly economy, or the path of 1 .tle chicaning bargainmaking. The first is so contracted an aperture, I never could squeeze myself into it ;-the last I always hated-there was contamination in the very entrance! Thus abandoned of aim or view in life, with a strong a petite for sociability, as well from native hilarity, as from a pride of observation and remark; a constitutional melancholy or hypochondriasm that made me fly sulitude; add to these incentives to social life, my reputation for bookish knowledge, a cerrain wild logical talent, and a strength of thought, something like the rudiments of good sense; and it will not seem surprising that I was generally a welcome guest where I visited, or any great wonder that, always where two or three nict together, there was I among them. But, far beyond all other impulses of my heart, was un penchant a l'adorable moitée du genre humain. My heart was completely tinder, and was eternally lighted up by some goddess or other; and as in every other warfare in this would my fortune was various, sometimes I was received with favour, and sometimes I was mortified with a repulse. At the plough, soythe, or reap-hook, I feared no competitor, and thus I set absolute want at defiance; and as I never eared farther for my labours than while I was in actual exercise. I spent the evenings in the way after my own heart. A country lad seldom carries on a love adventure without an assisting confidant I possessed a curiosity, zeal, and intrepid dexterity, that recommended me as a proper second on these occasions; and I dare say, I felt as much pleasure in being in the searet of half the laves of the parish of Tarbolton, as ever d d statesmen in knowing the intrigues of half the courts of Europe -The very goosefeather in my hand seems to know instinctively the well-worn path of my imagination, the fayourite theme of my song; and is with difficulty restrained from giving you a couple of paragraphs on the love adventures of my compeers, the humble inviates of the firm-house and cottage; but the grave sons of science, ambition, library gave me great pleasure; Steine and or avarice, baptize these things by the name of M. Kenzie... Tristrum Shondy and The Man follies. To the sons and daughters of labour of Feelin, --were my bosom favourites. Poesy and poverty, they are matters of the most seri- was still a darling walk for a v mind; but it ans pature; to them, the ardent hope, the sto- was only indulged in according to the humour en interview, the tender farevell, are the great- of the hour. I had usually half a dozen or more at and most delicious parts of their enjoyments. pieces on haud; I took up one or other, as is

Another circumstance in my life walkb made some alteration in my mind and manners, a noted school, to learn mensuration, surveying, dialling, &c. in which I made a pretty good was at that time very successful, and it sometimes happened to me to fall in with those who me; but I was no enemy to social life. Hers though I learnt to fill my glass, and to mix without fear in a drunken squabble, yet I went on with a high hand with my geometry, till the sun entered Virgo, a month which is always a carnival in my bosom, when a charming filette, who lived next door to the school, overset my trigonometry, and set me off at a tangent from the sphere of my studies. I, however, struggled on with my sines, and co-sines, for a few days more; but stepping into the garden one charming noon to take the sun's altitude, there I met my angel,

" Like Proserpine, gathering flowers, Herself a fairer flower."-

It was in vain to think of doing any more good at school. The remaining week I staid, I did nothing but eraze the faculties of my soul about her, or steal out to meet her; and the two last nights of my stay in the country, had sleep been a mortal sin, the image of this modest and innocent girl had kept me guiltless.

I returned home very considerably improved. My reading was enlarged with the very important addition of Thomson's and Shenstone's Works; I had seen human nature in a new phasis; and I engaged several of my school-fellows to keep up a literary correspondence with me. This improved me in composition. I had met with a collection of letters by the wits of Queen Anne's reign, and I pored over them most devoutly; I kept copies of any of my own letters that pleased me; and a comparison between them and the composition of most of my correspondents flattered my vanity. I carried this whim so far, that though I had not three farthings worth of business in the world, yet almost every post brought me as many letters as if I had been a broad plothing son of day-book and ledger.

My life flowed on much in the same course till my twenty-third year. Vive l'amour, et vive la bagatelle, were my sole principles of action. The addition of two more authors to my

suited the momentary tone of the mind, and ing star; but he spoke co-lilled love with the dismissed the work as it bordered on fatigue. Levity of a sailor, which hitherto I had regarded My passions, when once lighted up, raged like then the coming over my verses, like a spell, soothed all into quiet! None of the rhymes of those days are in print, except Winter, a Dirge, the eldest of my printed pieces; The Death of Poor Mailie, John Barleycorn, and Songs, first, secone, and third. Song second was the ebullition of that passion which ended the forementioned school business.

My twenty-third year was to me an import-Partly through whim, and partly that I wished to set about doing something in life, I joined a flax dresser in a neighbouring town (Irvine) to learn his trade. This was an unlucky affair. My -----; and, to finish the whole, as we were giving a welcome carousal to the new year, the shop took fire, and burnt to ashes; and I was left, like a true post ast worth a sixpence.

I was obliged to give up this scheme: the clouds of misfortune were gathering thick round my father's head; and, what was worst of all, he was visibly far gone in a consumption; and, to crown my distresses, a belle fille, whom I adored, and who had pledged her soul to meet me in the field of matrimony, jilted me, with peculiar circumstances of mortification, finishing evil that brought up the rear of this infernal file, was, my constitutional melancholy being increased to such a degree, that for three months I was in a state of mind scarcely to be envied by the hopeless wretches who have got their mittimus-Depart from me, ye cursed !

From this adventure, I learned something of a town life; but the principal thing which gave my mind a turn, was a friendship I formed with a young fellow, a very noble character, but a hapless son of misfortune. He was the son of a simple mechanic; but a great man in the neighbourhood taking him under his patronage, gave him a genteel education, with a view of bettering his situation in life. The patron dying just as he was ready to launch out into the world, the poor fellow in despir went to sea; where, after a variety of good and ill fortune, a little before I was acquainted with bim, he had been set ashore by an American privateer, on the wild coast of Connaught, stripped of every thing. I cannot quit this poor fellow's story, without adding, that he is at this time master of a large West Indiaman belonging to the Thames.

His mind was fraught with independence, magnanimity, and every manly virtue. I loved and admired him to a degree of enthusiasm, and of course strove to imitate him. In some measure, I succeeded; I had pride before, but he taught it to flow in proper channels. His knowledge of the world was vastly superior to mine, and I was all attention to learn. He was the only man I ever saw who was a greater fool than myself, where woman was the presid- | Cald.

with horror. Here his friendship did me a misso many devils, till they got vent in rhyme; and chief; and the consequence was, that soon after I resumed the plough, I wrote the Poet's Welcome. My reading only increased, while in this town, by two stray volumes of Pamela, and one of Ferdinand Count Fathom, which gave me some idea of novels. Rhyme, except some religious pieces that are in print, I had given up; but meeting with Fergusson's Scottish Poems, I strung anew my wildly-sounding lyre with emulating vigour. When my father died, his all went among the hell-hounds that prowl in the kennel of justice; but we made a shift to collect a little money in the family amongst us, with which, to keep as together, my brother and I took a neighbouring farm. My brother wanted my hair-brained imagination, as well as my social and amorous madness; but, in good sense, and every sober quantification, he was far my superior.

I entered on this farm with a full resolution. Come, go to, I will be wise! I read farming books; I calculated crops; I attended markets; and, in short, in spite of the devil, and the world, and the flesh, I believe I should have been a wise man; but the first year, from unfortunitely buying bad seed, the second, from a late harvest, we lost half our crops. This overset all my wisdom, and I returned, lik the dog to his vomit, and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire.

I now began to be known in the neighbourhood as a maker of thymes. The first of my poetic offspring that saw the light, was a burlesque lamentation on a quarrel between two reverend Calvinists, both of them dramatis personæ in my Holy Fair. I had a notion myself, that the piece had some merit; but to prevent the worst, I gave a copy of it to a friend who was very fond of such things, and told him that I could not guess who was the author of it, but that I thought it pretty elever. a certain description of the clergy, as well as laity, it met with a roar of applause. Hely Willie's Prayer next made its appearance, and alarmed the kirk-session so much, that they held several meetings to look over their spiritual artillery, if haply any of it might be pointed against profane rhymers. Unluckily for me, my wanderings led me on another side, within point blank shot of their heaviest metal. is the unfortunate story that gave rise to my printed poem, The Lament. This was a most melancholy affair, which I cannot yet bear to reflect on, and had very nearly given me one or two of the principal qualifications for a place among those who have lost the chart, and mistaken the reckoning of Rationality. I gave up my part of the farm to my brother; in truth it was only nominally mine; and made what little

[·] Rob the Rhymer's Welcome to his Bastare

before leaving my native country for ever, I repolved to publish my poems. 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 cars-a poor negro-driver,-or perhaps a vicam to that inhospitable clime, and gone to the world of spirits! I can truly say, that pauvre incount 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. 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 as 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 gra-tified 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 opimon 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 ong shed its blasting influence in my zenith, a kind Providence placed me under the patron-

preparation was in my power for Jamaica. But, | age of one of the noblest of men, the Earl of Glencairn. Oublie moi, Grand Dieu, si jamais je l'oublie!

> I need relate no farther. At Edinburgh I was in a new world; I mingled among many classes of men, but all of them new to me, and I was all attention to catch the characters and the manners living as they rise. Whether I have profited, time will show.

> My most respectful compliments to Miss W. Her very elegant and friendly letter I cannot auswer at present, as my presence is requisite in Edinburgh, and I set out to-morrow.

No. LXVI.

FROM GILBERT BURNS.

A RUNNING COMMENTARY ON THE FORE-GOING.

THE farm was upwards of seventy acres + (between eighty and ninety English statute measure), the rent of which was to be forty pounds annually for the first six years, and afterwards forty-five pounds. My father endeavoured to sell his lessehold property, for the purpose of stocking this farm, but at that time was unable, and Mr. Ferguson lent him a hundred pounds for that purpose. He removed to his new situation at Whitsuntide, 1766. It was, I think, not above two years after this, that Murdoch, our tutor and friend, left this part of the country; and there being no school near us, and our little services being useful on the farm, my father undertook to teach us arithmetic in the winter evenings, by candle-light; and in this way my two eldest sisters got all the education they received. I remember a circumstance that happened at this time, which, though trifling in itself, is fresh in my memory, and may serve to illustrate the early character of my brother. Murdoch came to spend a night with us, and to take his leave when he was about to go into Carrick. He brought us, as a present and memorial of him, a small compendium of English Grammar, and the tragedy of Titus Andronicus; and by way of passing the evening, he began to read the play aloud. We were all attention for some time, till presently the whole party was dissolved in tears. A female in the play (I have but a confused remembrance of it) had

[.] There are various copies of this letter, in the author's handwriting; and one of these, evidently corrected, is in the book in which he had copied several of his letters. This has been used for the press, with some omissions, and one slight alteration suggested by

her hands chopt off, and her tongue cut out, when my father, regretting that we wrote as and then was in-ultingly desired to call for wail, sent us week about, during a summer quarter to wash her hands. At this, in an agony of ter, to the parish schoo of Dalrymple, which, distress, we with one voice desired he would though between two and three miles distant, read no more. My father observed, that if we was the nearest to us, that we might have an would not hear it out, it would be needless to opportunity of remedying this defect. About leave the play with us. Robert replied, that it this time a bookish acquaintance of my father's it was left he would burn it. My father was procured us a reading of two volumes of Richgoing to chide him for this ungrateful return to ardson's Pamela, which was the first novel we his tutor's kindness; but Murdoch interfered, de- read, and the only part of Richardson's works claring that he liked to see so much sensibility; my brother was acquainted with till towards and he left The School for Love, a comedy the period of his commencing author. Till that (translated, I think, from the French), in its time too be remained unacquainted with Fieldplace.

own age, or near it, in the neighbourhood, rowed a volume of English history from Mr. Indeed the greatest part of the land in the Hamilton of Bonrtree-hill's gardener. It treatvicinity was at that time possessed by shop- ed of the reign of James the First, and his unkeepers, and people of that stamp, who had fortunate son Charles, but I do not know who retired from business, or who kept their farm was the author; all that I remember of it is in the country, at the same time that they fol. something of Charles's conversation with his lowed business in town. My father was for children. About this time Mundoch, our for-some time almost the only companion we had, mer teacher, after having been in different He conversed familiarly on all subjects with us, places in the country, and having taught a as if we had been men; and was at great pains, school some time in Dumfrics, came to be the while we accompanied him in the labours of the established teacher of the English language in farm, to lead the conversation to such subjects Ayr, a circumstance of considerable consequence as might tend to increase our knowledge, or to us. The remembrance of my father's former confirm us in virtuous habits. He horrowed friendship, and his attachment to my brother, Salmon's Geographical Grammar for us, and endeavoured to make us acquainted with the situation and history of the different countries some other poetry, the first that we had an opin the world; while, from a book-society in portunity of reading, excepting what is con Avr, he procured for us the reading of Der- tained in The English Collection, and in the ham's Physico and Astro - Theology, and volume of The Edinburgh Magazine for 1772; Ray's Wisdom of God in the Creation, to excepting also these excellent new songs that give us some idea of astronomy and natural his- are hawked about the country in baskets, or tory. Robert read all these books with an avi- exposed on stalls in the streets. dity and industry scarcely to be equalled. My tather had been a subscriber to Stackhouse's ple school, my father sent Robert to Ayr, to History of the Bible, then lately published by levise his English grammar, with his former James Meuros in Kilmarnock: from this teacher. He had been there only one week, Robert collected a competent knowledge of an- when he was obliged to return, to assist at the cent history; for no book was so voluminous harvest. When the harvest was over, he went as to slacken his industry, or so antiquitated as back to school, where he remained two weeks; to damp his researches. A brother of my mo- and this completes the account of his school ther, who had lived with us some time, and education, excepting one summer quarter, some had learnt some arithmetic by our winter even- time afterwards, that he attended the parish ing's candle, went into a bookseller's shop in school of Kirk-Oswald (where he lived with a Ayr, to purchase The Ready Reckoner, or brother of my mother's) to learn surveying, Tradesman's sure Guide, and a book to teach him to write letters. Luckily, in place of The Murdoch, he himself was engaged in learning Complete Letter- Writer. he got, by mistake, French, and he communicated the instructions a small collection of letters by the most emi- he received to my brother, who, when he returnnent writers, with a few sensible directions for ed, brought home with him a French dictionary attaining an easy epistolary style. This book and grammar, and the Adventures of Telenviwas to Robert of the greatest consequence. It chus in the original. In a little while, by the inspired him with a strong desire to excel in assistance of these books, he had acquired such a letter-writing, while it furnished him with mo- knowledge of the language, as to read and undels by some of the first writers in our lan- derstand any French author in prose. This

ing, with Smollet, (two volumes of Ferdinand Nothing could be more retired than our ge-neral manner of living at Mount Oliphant; Pickle excepted), with Hume, with Robertson, we rarely saw any body but the members of our own family. There were no boys of our

During the two last weeks that he was with was considered as a sort of prodigy, and, through My brother was about thirteen or fourteen, the medium of Murdoch, procured him the ac-

quaintance of several lads in Ayr, who were at | Mount Oliphant, the farm my father possessed some families, particularly that of Dr. Malcolm, where a knowledge of French was a recommendation.

Observing the facility with which he had acquired the French language, Mr. Robinson, the established writing-master in Ayr, and Mr. Murdoch's particular friend, having himself acquired a considerable knowledge of the Latin language by his own industry, without ever hathe same attempt, promising him every assistance in his power. Agreeably to this advice, he purchased The Rudiments of the Latin Tongue, the most rigid economy. but finding this study dry and uninteresting, it was quickly laid aside. He frequently returned to his Rudiments on any little chagrin or disserving himself the ridicule that would attach to this sort of conduct if it were known, he made two or three humorous stanzas on the subject, which I cannot now recollect, but they all ended,

" So I'll to my Latin again."

means of my brother's improvement. Worthy man! though foreign to my present purpose, I cannot take leave of him without tracing his future history. He continued for some years a respected and useful teacher at Ayr, till one evening that he had been overtaken in liquor, he happened to speak somewhat disrespectfully of Dr. Dalrymple, the parish minister, who had not paid him that attention to which he thought himself entitled. In Ayr he might as well have spoken blasphemy. He found it proper to give up his appointment. He went to London, where he still lives, a private teacher of French. He has been a considerable time married, and keeps a shop of stationery wares.

The father of Dr. Paterson, now physician at Ayr, was, I believe, a native of Aberdeenshire, and was one of the established teachers in Ayr when my father settled in the neighbourhood. He early recognised my father as a fellow native of the north of Scotland, and a certain deree of intimacy subsisted between them during Mr Paterson's life. After his death, his widow, who is a very genteel woman, and of great worth, delighted in doing what she thought her husband would have wished to have done, and assiduously kept up her attentions to all his acquaintance. She kept alive the intimacy with took place respecting them; the subjects in discur family, by frequently inviting my father and pute were submitted to arbitration, and the demother to her house on Sundays, when she met cision involved my father's affairs in ruin. He then at chucco.

for books, she kindly offered us the use of her Spectator, Pope's Translation of Homer, and (extending from the seventeenth to the twentyseveral other books that were of use to us. fourth of my brother's age), were not marked

that time gabbling French, and the notice of in the parish of Ayr, is almost the very poorest soil I know of in a state of cultivation. A stronger proof of this I cannot give, than that, notwithstanding the extraordinary rise in the va'ne of lands in Scotland, it was, after a considerable sum laid out in improving it by the proprietor, let, a few years ago, five pounds per annum lower than the rent paid for it by my father thirty years ago. My father, in consequence of this, soon came into difficulties, which ving learned it at school, advised Robert to make were increased by the loss of several of his cattle by accidents and disease .- To the buffetings of misfortune we could only oppose hard labour and We lived very sparingly. For several years butcher's meat was a stranger in the house, while all the members of the family exerted themselves to the utmost of appointment, particularly in his love affairs; their strength and rather beyond it, in the labut the Lavin seldom predominated more than a bours of the farm. My brother, at the age of day or two at a time, or a week at most. Ob- thirteen, assisted in thrashing the crop of corn, and at fifteen was the principal labourer on the farm, for we had no hired servant, male or female. The anguish of mind we felt at our tender years, under these straits and difficulties, was very great. To think of our father growing old, (for he was now above fity), broken down with the long continued fatigues of his Thus you see Mr. Murdoch was a principal life, with a wife and five other children, and in a declining state of circumstances, these reflections produced in my brother's mind and mine sensations of the deepest distress. I doubt not but the hard labour and sorrow of this period of his life, was in a great measure the cause of that depression of spirits with which Robert was so often afflicted through his whole live afterwards. At this time he was almost constantly afflicted in the evenings with a dull headache, which, at a future period of his life, was exchanged for a palpitation of the heart, and a threatening of fainting and suffocation in his bed, in the night-time.

By a stipulation in my father's lease, he had a right to throw it up, if he thought proper, at the end of every sixth year. He attempted to fix himself in a better farm at the end of the first six years, but failing in that attempt, he continued where he was for six years more. He then took the farm of Lochlea, of 130 acres, at the tent of twenty shillings an acre, in the parish of Tarbolton, of Mr. a merchant in Ayr, and now (1797) a merchant in Liverpool. He removed to this farm at Whitsunday, 1777, and possessed it only seven years. No writing had ever been made out of the conditions of the lease, a misunderstanding lived to know of this decision, but not to see any When she came to know my brother's passion execution in consequence of it. He died on the 13th of February, 1784.

this time the foundation was laid of certain habits in my brother's character, which afterwards became but too prominent, and which malice and envy have taken delight to enlarge on. Though, when young, he was bashful and awkward in his intercourse with women, yet when he approached manhood, his attachment to their society became very strong, and he was constantly the victim of some fair enslaver. The symptoms of his passion were often such as nearly to equal those of the celebrated Sappho. I never indeed knew that he fainted, sunk, and died away; but the agitations of his mind and body exceeded any thing of the kind I ever koew in real life. He had always a particular jealousy of people who were richer than himself, or who had more consequence in life. His love, therefore, rarely settled on persons of this description. When he selected any one, out of the sovereignty of his good pleasure, to whom he should pay his particular attention, she was instantly invested with a sufficient stock of charms, out of the pleutiful stores of his own imagination; and there was often a great dissimilitude between his fair captivator, as she appeared to others, and as she seemed when invested with the attributes he gave her. One generally reigned paramount in his affections; but as Yorick's affections flowed out toward Madame de L at the remise door, while the eternal vows of Eliza were upon him, so Robert was frequently encountering other attractions, which formed so many under plots in the drama of his love. As these connections were governed by the strictest rules of virtue and modesty (from which he never deviated till he reached his 23d year), he became anxious to be in a situation to marry. This was not likely to be soon the case while he remained a farmer, as the stocking of a farm required a sum of money he had no probability of being master of for a great while. He began, therefore, to think of trying some other line of life. He and I had for several years taken land of my father for the purpose of raising flax on our own account. In the course of selling it, Robert began to think of turning flax-dresser, both as being suitable to his grand view of settling in life, and as subservient to the flax raising. He accordingly wrought at the business of a flax-dresser in Irvine for six months, but abandoned it at that period, as neither agreeing with his health nor inclination. In Irvine he had contracted some acquaintance of a freet manner of thinking and living than he had been used to, whose society prepared him for overleaping the bounds of rigid virtue which had hitherto restrained him. Towards the end of the period under review (in his 24th year), and soon after his father's death, he was furnished with the subject of his epistle to John Rankin. During this period also he became a freemason, which was his first intro-

by much aterary improvement; but during | praise he has bestowed on Scotch drink (which seems to have misled his historians), I do not recollect, during these seven years, nor till towards the end of his commencing author (when his growing celebrity occasioned his being often in company), to have ever seen him intoxicated, nor was he at all given to drinking. A stronger proof of the general sobriety of his conduct need not be required than what I am about to give. During the whole of the time we lived in the firm of Lochlea with my father, he allowed my brother and me such wages for our labour as he gave to other labourers, as a part of which, every article of our clothing manufactured in the family was regularly accounted for. When my father's affairs drew near a crisis, Robert and I took the farm of Mossgiel, consisting of 118 acres, at the rent of £90 per annum (the farm on which I live at present) from Mr. Gavin Hamilton, as an asylum for the family in case of the worst. 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 one year exceeded his slender income. As I was intrusted with the keeping of the family accounts, it is not possible that there can be any fallacy in this statement in my brother's favour. His temperance and frugality were every thing that could be

The farm of Mossgiel lies very high, and mostly on a cold wet bottom. The first four year's that we were on the farm were very frosty, and the spring was very late. Our crops in consequence were very unprofitable; and, notwithstanding our utmost diligence and economy, we found ourselves obliged to give up our bargain, with the loss of a considerable part of our original stock. It was during these four years that Robert formed his connection with Jean Armour, afterwards Mrs. Burns. This connection could no longer be concealed, about the time we came to a final determination to quit the farm. Robert durst not engage with a family in his poor unsettled state, but was anxious to shield his partner by every means in his power from the consequences of their imprudence. It was agreed therefore between them, that they should make a legal acknowledgment of an irregular and private marriage; that he should go to Jamaica, to push his fortune; and that she should remain with her father till it might please Providence to put the means of supporting a family in his power,

Mrs. Burns was a great favourite of her father's. The intimation of a private marriage was the first suggestion he received of her rea duction to the life of a boon companion. Yet, situation. He was in the greatest distress, and notwithstanding these circumstances, and the fainted away. The marriage did not appear to him to make the matter any better. A husband in Jamaica appeared to him and to his wife little better than none, and an effectual bar to any other prospects of a settlement in life that their daughter might have. They therefore expressed a wish to her, that the written papers which respected the marriage should be cancelled, and thus the marriage rendered void. In her meleacholy state she felt the deepest remorse at having brought such heavy affliction on parents that loved her so tenderly, and submitted to their entreaties. Their wish was mentioned to Robert. He felt the deepest anguish of he requested me to communicate to you what mind. He offered to stay at home and provide ever particulars I could recoilect concerning for his wife and family in the best manner that Robert Burns, the Ayrshire poet. My business her imprudence had been, she still, in the eyes of her partial parents, might look to a better connexion than that with my friendless and unhappy brother, at that time without house or impression of sorrow was not effaced, till by a regular marriage they were indissolubly united. In the state of mind which this separation proas possible, and agreed with Dr. Douglas to go out to Jamaica as an assistant overseer, or, as I As he had not sufficient money to pay his passage, and the vessel in which Dr. Douglas was to procure a passage for him was not expected to sail for some time, Mr. Hamilton advised him to publish his poems in the meantime by subscription, as a likely way of getting a little money to provide him more liberally in necessaries for Jamaica. Agreeably to this advice, subscription bills were printed immediately, and the printing was commenced at Kilmarnock, his preparations going on at the same time for his poems met with in the world, and the friends they procured him, made him change his resolation of going to Jamaica, and he was advised to go to Edinburgh to publish a second edition. On his return, in happier circumstances, he renewed his connexion with Mrs. Burns, and rendered it permanent by a union for life.

Thus, Madam, have I endeavoured to give you a simple narrative of the leading circumstances in my brother's early life. The remaining part he spent in Edinburgh or in Dumfriesshire, and its incidents are as well known to you as to me. His genius having procured him that he had received very satisfactory informayour patronage and friendship, this gave rise to tion of Mr. Tennant, the master of the Engthe correspondence between you, in which, I lish school, concerning my improvement in most respectful, but most unreserved confidence. the month of May following. I was engaged by and which only terminated with the last days of Mr. Burnes, and four of his neighbours, to teach, Sis life.

No. LXVII.

FROM MR. MURDOCH

TO

DR. MOORE,

AS TO THE POET'S EARLY TUITION.

I was lately favoured with a letter from one worthy friend, the Rev. William Adair, in which his daily labours could provide for them; that being at present multifarious and harassing, my being the only means in his power. Even this attention is consequently so much divided, and I offer they did not approve of; for, humble as am so little in the habit of expressing my thoughts Miss Armour's station was, and great though on paper, that at this distance of time I can give but a very imperfect sketch of the early part of the life of that extraordinary genius with which alone I am acquainted.

William Burnes, the father of the poet, was hiding-place. Robert at length consented to born in the shire of Kincardine, and bred a their wishes; but his feelings on this occasion gardener. He had been settled in Ayrshire ten were of the most distracting nature; and the or twelve years before I knew him, and had been in the service of Mr. Crawford of Doonside. He was afterwards employed as a gardener and overseer by Provost Ferguson of duced, he wished to leave the country as soon Doonholm, in the parish of Alloway, which is now united with that of Avr. In this parish, on the road side, a Scotch mile and a half from believe it is called, a book-keeper, on his estate. the town of Ayr, and half a mile from the bridge of Doon, William Burnes took a piece of land, consisting of about seven acres, part of which he laid out in garden ground, and part of which he kept to graze a cow, &c. still continning in the employ of Provost Ferguson. Upon this little farm was crected a humble dwelling, of which William Burnes was the architect. It was, with the exception of a little straw, literally a tabernacle of clay. In this mean cottage, of which I myself was at times an inhabitant, I really believe there dwelt a his voyage. The reception, however, which larger portion of content than in any palace in Europe. The Cotter's Saturday Night, will give some idea of the temper and manners that prevailed there.

In 1765, about the middle of March, Mr. W. Burnes came to Ayr, and sent to the school where I was improving in writing under my good friend Mr. Robinson, desiring that I would come and speak to him at a certain inn, and bring my writing book with me. This was immediately complied with. Having examined my writing, he was pleased with it-(you will readily allow he was not difficult), and told me believe, his sentiments were delivered with the English, and in his method of teaching. In and accordingly began to teach the little school a. Alloway, which was situated a few yards

from the argillaceous fabric above mentioned. | the English school at Ayr; and in 1773, Robert My five employers undertook to board me by turns, and to make up a certain salary, at the end of the year, provided my quarterly payments from the different pupils did not amount

My pupil, Robert Burns, was then between six and seven years of age; his preceptor about eighteen. Robert and his younger brother Gilbert, had been grounded a little in English before they were put under my eare. They both made a rapid progress in reading, and a tolerable progress in writing. In reading, dividing words into syllables by rule, spelling without book, parsing sentences, &c., Robert and Gilbert were generally at the upper end of the class, even when ranged with boys by far their seniors. The books most commonly used in the school were, the Spelling Book, the New Testament, the Bible, Mason's Collection of Prose and Verse, and Fisher's English Grammar. They com aited to memory the 'aymus, and other poems of that collection, with uncommon facility. This facility was partly owing to the method pursued by their father and me in in-tructing them, which was, to make them thoroughly acquainted with the meaning of every word in each sentence that was to be committed to memory. By the hye, this may be easier done, and at an earlier period, than is generally thought. As soon as they were capable of it, I taught them to turn verse into its natural prose order; sometimes to substitute synonymous expressions for poetical words, and to supply all the ellipses. These, you know, are the means of knowing that the pupil understands his author. These are excellent helps to the arrangement of words in sentences, as well as to a variety of expression.

more lively imagination, and to be more of the end of three weeks, one of which was spent enwit, than Robert. I attempted to teach them a tirely in the study of English, and the other two little church music. Here they were left far behind by all the rest of the school. Robert's ear, in particular, was remarkably dull, and his voice untunable. It was long before I could get them to distinguish one tune from another. Robert's countenance was generally grave, and expressive good William Burnes might enjoy a mental feast. of a serious, contemplative, and thoughtful mind. Gilbert's face said, Mirth, with thee I mean to other hand. The father and the son sat down live; and certainly, if any person who knew the with us, when we enjoyed a conversation, wheretwo boys, had been asked which of them was in solid reasoning, sensible remark, and a mothe most likely to court the muses, he would derate seasoning of jocularity, were so nicely surely never have guessed that Robert had a propensity of that kind.

mud edifice, and took possession of a farm ways rational information in view, had still (Mount Oliphant) of his own improving, while some question to propose to my more learned in the service of Provost Ferguson. This farm friends, upon moral or natural philosophy, or being at a considerable distance from the school, some such interesting subject. Mrs. Burnes the boys could not attend regularly; and some too was of the party as much as possible; changes taking place among the other supporters of the school, I left it, having continued "But still the house affairs would draw her thence." to conduct it for nearly two years and a half.

In the year 1772, I was appointed (being one She'd come again, and, with a greedy ear of five candidates who were examined) to teach Devour up their ciscourse."-

Burns came to board and ledge with me, for the purpose of revising English grammar, &c. that he might be better qualified to instruct his brothers and sisters at home. He was now with me day and night, in school, at meals, and in all my walks. At the end of one week, I told him, that, as he was now pretty much master of the parts of speech, &c., I should like to teach him something of French pronunciation, that when he should meet with the name of a French town, ship, officer, or the like, in the newspapers, he might be able to pronounce it something like a French word. Robert was glad to hear this proposal, and immediately we attacked the French with great courage.

Now there was little else to be heard but the declension of nouns, the conjugation of verbs, &c. When walking together, and even at meals, I was constantly telling him the names of different objects, as they presented themselves, in French; so that he was hourly laying in a stock of words, and sometimes little phrases. In short, he took such pleasure in learning, and I in teaching, that it was difficult to say which of the two was most zealous in the business; and about the end of the second week of our study of the French, we began to read a little of the Adventures of Telemachus, in Feselon's own words.

But now the plains of Mount Oliphant began to whiten, and Robert was summoned to relinquish the pleasing scenes that surrounded the grotto of Calypso, and, armed with a sickle, to seek glory by signalizing himself in the fields of Ccres-and so he did; for although but about fifteen, I was told that he performed the work of a man.

Thus was I deprived of my very apt pupil, Gilbert always appeared to me to possess a and consequently agreeable companion, at the chiefly in that of French. I did not, however, lose sight of him; but was a frequent visitant at his father's house, when I had my half-holiday, and very often went accompanied with one or two persons more intelligent than myself, that -Then the labouring our was shifted to some blended as to render it palatable to all parties, Robert had a hundred questions to ask me about In the year 1767, Mr. Burnes quitted his the French, &c.; and the father who had al-

Which ever as she could with haste dispatch,

and particularly that of her husband. At all and perpetuate the memory of those who excel times, and in all companies, she listened to him in moral rectitude, as it is to extol what are with a more marked attention than to any body else. When under the necessity of being absent while he was speaking, she seemed to regret, as a real pass most of the monuments I see in Westminloss, that she had missed what the good man had said. This worthy woman, Agnes Brown, had the most thorough esteem for her husband of any woman I ever knew. I can by no means wonder that she highly esteemed him; for I myself have always considered William Burnes as by far the best of the human race that ever

had the pleasure of being acquainted withand many a worthy character I have known. I can encerfully join with Robert in the last line of his epitaph (borrowed from Goldsmith),

' And even his failings lean'd to virtue's side,"

He was an excellent husband, if I may judge from his assiduous attention to the ease and comfort of his worthy partner, and from her affectionate behaviour to him, as well as her unwearied attention to the duties of a mother.

took pleasure in leading his children in the path | could not rear his numerous family upon it.of virtue; not in driving them, as some parents After being there some years, he removed to do, to the performance of duties to which they Lochlea, in the parish of Tarbolton, where, I themselves are averse. He took care to find believe, Robert wrote most of his poems. fault but very seldom; and therefore, when he with the taws, even on the skirt of the coat, year 1783. I received one since, but it is misgave heart-felt pain, produced a loud lamenta- laid. Please remember me, in the best mantion, and brought forth a flood of tears.

He had the art of gaining the esteem and good-will of those that were labourers under him. I think I never saw him angry but twice, the one time it was with the foreman of the band, for not reaping the field as he was desired; and the other time, it was with an old man, for using smutty innendoes and double entendres. Were every fool-mouthed old man to receive a seasonable check in this way, it would be to the advantage of the rising generation. As he was at no time overhearing to inferiors, he was equally incapable of that passive, pitiful, paltry spirit, that induces some people to keep booing and booing in the presence of a great He always treated superiors with a becoming respect; but he never gave the smallest enconregement to aristocratical arrogance. But

called heroic actions: then would the mausoleum of the friend of my youth overtop and surster Abbey.

Although I cannot do justice to the character of this worthy man, yet you will perceive, from these few particulars, what kind of person had the principal hand in the education of our poet. He spoke the English language with more propriety (both with respect to diction and pronunciation), than any man I ever knew, with no greater advantages. This had a very good effect on the boys, who began to talk, and reason like men, much sooner than their neighbours I do not recollect any of their cotemporaries, at my little seminary, who afterwards made any great figure as literary characters, except Dr. Tenant, who was chaplain to Colonel Fullarton's regiment, and who is now in the East Indies. He is a man of genius and learning; yet affable, and free from pedantry,

Mr. Burnes, in a short time, found that he He was a tender and affectionate father; he had overrated Mount Oliphant, and that he

But here, Sir, you will permit me to panse. did rebuke, he was listened to with a kind of I can tell you but little more relative to our reverential awe. A look of disapprobation was poet. I shall, however, in my next, send you felt; a reproof was severely so; and a stripe a copy of one of his letters to me, about the ner, to my worthy friend Mr. Adair, when you see him or write to him.

Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square, London, Feb. 22, 1799.

No. LXVIII.

FROM PROFESSOR DUGALD STEWART

то

DR. MOORE,

CONTAINING HIS SKETCHES OF THE POET.

THE first time I saw Robert Burns was on I must not pretend to give you a description of the 23d of October, 1786, when he dired at my all the manly qualities, the rational and Chris- house in Ayrshire, together with our common tian virtnes of the venerable William Burnes. friend Mr. John Mackenzie, surgeon in Mauch-Time would fail me. I shall only add, that he line, to whom I am indebted for the pleasure of rarefully practised every known duty, and avoid—his acquaintance. I am enabled to mention the ed every thing that was crininal; or, in the date particularly, by some verses which Barot spiratle's words, Herein did he exercise him- wrote after he returned home, and in which the self, in living a life void of eff nee towards day of our meeting is recorded. My excellent God and towards men. O for a world of men and much lamented friend, the late Basil, Lord of such dispositions! We should then have no Daer, happened to arrive at Catrine the same wars. I have often wished, for the good of day, and by the kindness and frankness of his mankind, that it were as customary to honour manners, left an impression on the mind of the

allude to are among the most imperfect of his and habits should continue the same as in the pieces, but a few stanzas may perhaps be an former part of life; with the addition of, what object of curiosity to you, both on account of I considered as then completely within his reach, the character to which they relate, and of the a good farm on moderate terms, in a part of the light which they throw on the situation and country agreeable to his taste. feelings of the writer, before his name was known to the public. .

time, whether, at the period of our first ac- his own. I cannot say that I could perceive quaintance, the Kilmarnock edition of his poems had been just published, or was yet in the press. I suspect that the latter was the case, as I have still in my possession copies in his own handwriting, or some of his favourite performances; particularly of his verses "on turning up a Mouse with his plough ;"-" on the Mountain acquaintance. His dress was perfectly suited to Daisy;" and " the Lament." On my return to his station, plain and unpretending, with a suf-Edinburgh, I showed the volume, and mentioned what I knew of the author's history, to several of my friends, and among others, to Mr. Henry Mackenzie, who first recommended him to public notice in the 97th number of The

extremely gloomy, that he had seriously formed! a plan of going out to Jamaica in a very humble situation, not, however, without lamenting, that his want of patronage should force him to think of a project so repugnant to his feelings, when his ambition aimed at no higher an object than the station of an exciseman or gauger in his own

country.

His manners were then, as they continued ever afterwards, simple, manly, and independent; strongly expressive of conscious genius not witnessed, like himself, the happiness and and worth; but without any thing that indicated forwardness, arrogance, or vanity. He took his share in conversation, but not more than cobite; which was perhaps owing partly to belonged to him; and listened with apparent this, that his father was originally from the esattention and deference, on subjects where his tate of Lord Marcschall. Indeed he did not want of education deprived him of the means of appear to have thought much on such subjects, information. If there had been a little more of nor very consistently. He had a very strong gentleness and accommodation in his temper, he sense of religion, and expressed deep regret at would, I think, have been still more interest- the levity with which he had heard it treated ing; but he had been accustomed to give law occasionally in some convival meetings which in the circle of his ordinary acquaintance; and he frequented. I speak of him as he was in his dread of any thing approaching to meanness the winter of 1786-7; for afterwards we met or servility, rendered his manner somewhat de- but se'dom, and our conversations turned chiefcided and hard. Nothing, perhaps, was more ly on his literary projects, or his private affairs. remarkable among his various attainments, than his language, when he spoke in company; more ever seen Burns. If you have, it is superfluous particulally as he aimed at purity in his turn of for me add, that the idea which his conversa expression, and avoided more successfully than thou conveyed of the powers of his mind, exmost Scotchmen, the peculiarities of Scottish ceeded, if possible, that which is suggested by phraseology.

following, and remained there for several months, than one instance, with the unaccountable dis-By whose advice he took this step, I am unable parity between their general talents, and the oco say. Perhaps it was suggested only by his casional inspirations of their more favoured moswn curiosity to see a little more of the world; ments. But all the faculties of Burns's mind

soot, whic never was effaced. The verses I | the first, and asways wished that his pursuits

The attentions he received during his stay ic town from all ranks and descriptions of persons, I cannot positively say, at this distance of were such as would have turned any head but any unfavourable effect which they left on his mind. He retained the same simplicity of manners are appearance which had struck me so forcibly when I first saw him in the country; nor did he seem to feel any additional self-importance from the number and rank of his new ficient attention to neatness If I recollect right he always wore boots; and, when on more that usual ceremony, buck-skin breeches.

The variety of his engagements, while in Edinburgh, prevented me from seeing him so often as I could have wished. In the course of At this time Burns's prospects in life were so the spring he called on me once or twice, at my request, early in the morning, and walked with me to Braid-Hills, in the neighbourhood of the town, when he charmed me still more by his private conversation, than he had ever done in company. He was passionately fond of the beauties of nature; and I recollect once he told me, when I was admiring a distant prospect in one of our morning walks, that the sight of so many smoking cottages gave a pleasure to his mind, which none could understand who had the worth which they contained.

In his political principles he was then a Ja-

I do not recollect whether it appears or not the fluency, and precision, and originality of from any of your letters to me, that you had his writings. Among the p ets whom I have He came to Edinburgh early in the winter happened to know, I have been struck, in more out, I confess, I dreaded the consequences from were, as far as I could judg , equally vigorous; and his predilection for poetry was rather the result of his own enthumastic and impassioned

[·] See Songs, p. 210.

that species of composition. eation I should have pronounced him to be fit- positions of others, where there was any real ted to excel in whatever walk of ambition he ground for praise. I repeated to him many had chosen to exert his abilities.

als with whom he happened to meet, was plainly a favourite one. The remarks he made on
them were always shrewd and pointed, though
the read with unmixed delight, notwithstanding frequently inclining too much to sarcasm. His his former efforts in that very difficult species praise of those he loved was sometimes indiscri- of writing; and I have little doubt that it had minate and extravagant; but this, I suspect, some effect in polishing his subsequent compoproceeded rather from the caprice and humour sitions. of the moment, than from the effects of attachment in blinding his judgment. His wit was ready, and always impressed with the marks of a vigorous understanding; but, to my taste. not often pleasing or happy. His attempts at epigram, in his printed works, are the only performances, perhaps, that he has produced, totally unworthy of his genius.

In summer, 1787, I passed some weeks in Ayrshire, and saw Burns occasionally. I think that he made a pretty long excursion that season to the Highlands, and that he also visited what Beattie calls the Arcadian ground of Scotland, upon the banks of the Teviot and the

Tweed.

I should have mentioned before, that notwithstanding various reports I heard during the preceding winter, of Burns's predilection for convivial, and not very select society, I should have concluded in favour of his habits of sobriety, from all of him that ever fell under my own observation. He told me indeed himself, that the weakness of his stomach was such as to deprive him entirely of any merit in his temperance. I was however somewhat alarmed about the effect of his now comparatively sedentary and luxurious life, when he confessed to first direction to her son's genius. me, the first night he spent in my house after his winter's campaign in town, that he had been much disturbed when in bed, by a palpitation at his heart, which, he said, was a complaint to which he had of late become subject.

In the course of the same season, I was led by curiesity to attend for an hour or two a Mason-Lodge in Mauchline, where Burns presided. He had occasion to make some short unpremeditated compliments to different individuals from whom he had no reason to expect a visit, and every thing he said was happily conceived, and forcibly as well as fluently expressed. If taste is liable to be influenced by accidental cir-I am not mistaken, he told me, that ir that cumstances. village, before going to Edinburgh, he had be-longed to a small club of such of the inhabitants as had a taste for books, when they used to converse and debate on any interesting question what might have been expected from his tions that occurred to them in the course of station in life. He ascribed much of his own sheir reading. His manner of speaking in publie had evidently the marks of some practice in he had received from his instructions and examextempore eleention.

wars considered as characteristical in a high statement of fact,) the two last lines of the fol

temper, than of a genius exclusively adapted to degree of true genius, the extreme facility and From his couver- good nature of his taste, in judging of the compassages of English poetry with which he was Among the subjects on which he was accus-tomed to dwell, the characters of the individu-nessed the tears of admiration and rapture with

In judging of prose, I do not think his taste was equally sound. I once read to him a passage or two in Franklin's Works, which I thought very happily executed, upon the model of Addison; but he did not appear to relish, or to perceive the beauty which they derived from their exquisite simplicity, and spoke of them with indifference, when compared with the point, and antithesis, and quaintness of Junius. The influence of this taste is very perceptible in his own prose compositions, although their great and various excellencies render some of them scarcely less objects of wonder than his poetical performances. The late Dr. Robertson used to say, that, considering his education, the former seemed to him the more extraordinary of the two.

His memory was uncommonly retentive, at least for poetry, of which he recited to me frequently long compositions with the most minute accuracy. They were chiefly ballads, and other pieces in our Scottish dialect; great part of them (he told me) he had learned in his childhood, from his mother, who delighted in such recitations, and whose poetical taste, rude as it probably was, gave, it is presumable, the

Of the more polished verses which accidentally fell into his hands in his early years, he mentioned particularly the recommendatory poems, by different authors, prefixed to Hervey's Meditations; a book which has always had a very wide circulation among such of the country people of Scotland, as affect to unite some degree of taste with their religious studies. And these poems (although they are certainly below mediocrity) he continued to read with a degree of rapture beyond expression. He took notice of this fact himself, as a proof how much the

His father appeared to me, from the account he gave of him, to have been a respectable and worthy character, possessed of a mind superior to what might have been expected from his principles and feelings to the early impressions ple. I recollect that he once applied to him I must not omit to mention, what I have al- (and he added, that the passage was a litera

lowing passage in the Minstrel; the whole of] which he repeated with great enthusiasm;

" Shall I be left forgotten in the dust, When fate, relenting, lets the flower revive : Shall nature's voice, to man alone unjust, Bid him, though doom'd to perish, hope to live?"

Is it for this fair Virtue oft must strive With disappointment, pennry, and pain? No! Heaven's immortal spring shall yet arrive; And man's maje-tic beauty bloom again, Bright through th' eternal year of love's trium-

phant reigu.

This truth sublime, his simple sire had taught : In sooth, 'twas almost all the shepherd knew.

With respect to Burns's early education, I cannot say any thing with certainty. He always spoke with respect and gratitude of the school-master who had taught him to read English; and who, finding in his scholar a more than ordinary ardour for knowledge, had been at pains to instruct him in the grammatical principles of the language. He began the study of Latin, but drop; ed it before he had finished the verbs. I have sometimes heard him quote a few Latin words, such as omnia vincit amor, &c., but they seemed to be such as he had caught from conversation, and which he repeated by rote. I think he had a project, after he came to Edinburgh, of prosecuting the study under his intimate friend, the late Mr. Nicoll, one of the master- of the grammar-school here; but I do not know that he ever proceeded so far as to make the attempt.

He certainly possessed a smattering of French; and, if he had an affectation in any thing, it was in introducing occasionally a word or phrase from that lauguage. It is possible that his knowledge in this respect might be more extensive than I suppose it to be: but this you can learn from his more intimate acquaintance. It would be worth while to inquire, whether he was able to read the French authors with such facility as to receive from them any improvement to his taste. For my own part, I doubt it much-nor would I believe it, but on very strong and pointed evidence.

If my memory does not fail me, he was well instructed in arithmetic, and knew something of practical geometry, particularly of surveying. -All his other attainments were entirely his

The last time I saw him was during the winter, 1788-89; when he passed an evening with me at Drumsheugh, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where I was then living. My friend Mr. Alison was the only other person in comteresting. A present which Mr. Alison sent him afterwards of his Essays on . aste, drew | I remember to have read with some legree of strong impression on his mind, so as a rouse it

surprise at the distinct conception he appeared from it to have formed, of the general principles of the doctrine of association. When I eaw Mr. Alison in Shropshire last autumn, I forgot to inquire if the letter be still in existence. If it is, you may easily procure it, by means of our friend Mr. Houtbrooke.

No. LXIX.

FROM GILBERT BURNS

TO

DR. CURRIE.

GIVING THE HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE PRINCIPAL POEMS.

It may gratify curiosity to know some particulars of the history of the preceding Poems, on which the celebrity of our Bard has been hitherto founded; and with this view the following extract is made from a letter of Gilbert Burns, the brother of our Poet, and his friend and confidant from his earliest years.

Mossgiel, 2d April, 1793. DEAR SIR. Your letter of the 14th of March I received in due course, but, from the harry of the season, have been hitherto hindered from answer ing it. I will now try to give you what satisfaction I can in regard to the particulars you mention. I cannot pretend to be very accurate in respect to the dates of the poems, but none of them, except Winter, a Dirge, (which was a juvenile production), the Death and Dying Words of poor Mailie, and some of the songs, were composed before the year 1784. The circonstances 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 Lochhe. 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 Loy, 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 iving in the ditch. Robert was nach tickled with Hughoc'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 Dea h and Dying pany. I never saw him more agreeable or in- Words pretty much in the way they now stand.

Among the earliest of his poems was the Epistle to Darie. Robert often composed withfrom Burns a letter of acknowledgment, which out any regular plan. When any thing made a impulse, and embody the thought in rhyme. If he hit on two or three stanzas to please him, he would then think of proper introductory, connecting, and concluding stanzas; hence the middle of a poem was often first produced. It was, I think, in summer 1784, when in the interval of harder labour, he and I were weeding in the garden (kailyard) that he repeated to me the principal part of this epistle. I believe the first idea of Robert's becoming an author was started on this occasion. I was much pleased with the epistle, and said to him I was of opinion it would bear being printed, and that it would be well received by people of taste : that I thought it at least equal, if not superior, to many of Allao Ramsav's epistles, and that the merit of these, and much other Scotch poetry, seemed to consist principally in the knack of the expression-but here, there was a strain of interesting sentiment, and the Scotticism of the language scarcely seemed affected, but appeared to be the natural language of the poet; that, besides, there was certainly some novelty in a poet pointing out the consolations that were in store for him when he should go a-begging. Robert seemed very well pleased with my criticism; and we talked of sending it to some magazine, but as this plan afforded no opportunity of knowing how it would take, the idea was dropped.

It was, I think, in the winter following, as the family fire (and I could yet point out the 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 angust personage. Death and Dr. Hornbook, though not published in the Kilmarnock edition, was produced early in the year 1785. The schoolmaster of Tarbolton parish, to eke up the scanty subsistence allowed to that useful class of men, had set up a shop of grocery goods. Having accidentally fallen in with some medical books, and become most hobby-horsically attached to the study of medicinc, he had added the sale of a few medicines to his little trade. He had got a shop-bill printed, at the bottom of which, overlooking his own incapacity, he had advertised, that " Advice would be given in common disorders at the shop, gratis." Robert was at a mason-meeting, in Tarbolton, when the "Dominie" unfortunately made too ostentatious a display of his medical skill. As he parted in the evening from this mixture of pedantry and physic, at the place where he describes his meeting with his mind; this set him to work for the rest of the way home. These circumstances he relattermon, as I was holding the plough, and he hit the taste of valettered criticism. I should

so poetic exertion, he would give way to the was letting the water off the field beside me The Epistle () John Laprash was produced exactly on the occasion described by the author. He says in that poem, On fasten e'en he had a rockin'. I believe he has omitted the word It is a term derived rocking in the glossary. from those primitive times, when the countrywomen employed their spare hours in spinning on the rock, or distaff. This simple instrument 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 connection the phrase had with the implement was forgotten when the rock gave way to the spinning-wheel, the phrase came to be used by both sexes on socia. 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 boson lean," was sung, and we are informed who was the author. Upon this Robert wrote his first epistle to Lapraik; and his second in reply to his answer. The verses to the Mouse and Mountain-Daisy were composed on the occasions mentioned, and while the anthor was holding the plough; could point out the particular spot where each was composed. Holding the plough was a favonrite situation with Robert for poetic compositions, and some of his best verses were prowe were going together with carts for coal to duced while he was at that exercise. Several of the poems were produced for the purpose of particular spot), that the author first repeated bringing forward some favourite sentiment of the to me the Address to the Deil. The curious 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 Min was made to Mourn, was composed. 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 the title of the poem, were taken from Fergusson'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, Death, one of those floating ideas of apparition, I do not recollect to have read or heard any he mentions in his letter to Dr. Moore, crossed thing by which I was more highly electrified. The fifth and sixth stanzis, and the eighteenth, thrilled with peculiar ecstasy through my soul ed when he repeated the verses to me next af- I mention this to you, that you may see what

renned taste of Mr. Roscoe, who has borne such burial-place of his father, and where he himself honourante testimony to this poem, agrees with had a sort of claim to bay down his bones when me in the selection. Fergusson, in his Hallow Fair of Edinburgh, I believe, likewise furnished a hint of the title and 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. 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. Tile of Twa Dogs was composed after the resolution of publishing was nearly taken. Robert 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 upon 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 wis given up for the Tale as it now stands. Casar was merely the creature of the poet's imagination, created for the purpose of holding chat with his favourite Luath. The first time Robert heard the spinnet played upon, was at the house of Dr. Lawrie, then minisier of the parish

sider it as his burial-place, and we learned that | Churchman am I. reverence for it, people generally have for the burial-place of their ancestors. My brother was living in Ellisland, when Captain Grose, on his peregrinations through Scotland, s.aid some time at Carse-house, in the neighbourhood, with Captain Robert Riddel, of Glen-Riddell, a partitalar friend of my brother's. The Antiquarian and the Poet were "Unco pack and thick thegither." Robert requested of Captain Grose, when he should come to Ayrahire, that he would

be giad to know, if the enrightened mind and make a drawing of Alloway Kirk, as it was the they should be no longer serviceable to him; and added, by way of encouragement, that it was the scene of many a good story of witches and apparitions, of which he knew the Captair was very fond. The Cuptain agreed to the request, provided the Poet would furnish a witchstory, to be printed along with it. Tam o' Shanter was produced on this occasion, and was first published in Grose's Antiquities of Scotland.

This prem is founded on a traditional story. The leading circumstances of a man riding home very late from Ayr, in a stormy night, his seeing a light in Alloway Kirk, his having the curiosity had had a dog, which he called Luath, that was to look in, his seeing a dance of witches, with the devil playing on the bag-pipe to them, the scanty covering of one of the witches, which made him so far forget himself as to cry-" Weel loupen, short sark !"-with the melancholy catastrophe of the piece; is all a true story, that can be well attested by many respectable old people in that neighbourhood.

I do not at present recollect any circumstances respectig the other poems, that could be at all interesting; even some of those I have mentioned, I am afraid, may appear trifling enough, but you will only make use of what appears to you of consequence.

The following Poems in the first Edinburga of Loudon, now in Glasgow, having given up edition, were not in that published in Kilmar the parish in favour of his son. Dr. Lawrie nock. Death and Dr. Hornbook; The Brigs has several daughters; one of them played; the of Ayr; The Calf; (the poet had been with father and mother led down the dance; the rest Mr. Gavin Hamilton in the morning, who said of the sisters, the brother, the poet, and the jocularly to him when he was going to church, other guest, mixed in it. It was a delightful in allusion to the injunction of some parents to family scene for our poet, then lately introduced their children, that he must be sure to bring to the world. His mind was roused to a poetic him a note of the sermon at mid-day; this adenthusiasm, and the stanzas, p. 36, were left in the room where he slept. It was to Dr. Lawrie that Dr. Blacklock's letter was addressed, The Address to the Unco Guid; Tam Samwhich my brother, in his letter to Dr. Moore, son's Elegy; A Winter Night; Stanzas on mentions as the reason of his going to Edinburgh, the same occasion as the preceding prayer;
When my father fened his little property near
Mloway Kirk, the wall of the church-yard had
gone to ruin, and cattle had free liberty of passlent anguish; The first six verses of the nineturing in it. My father, with two or three other
tenth Psalm; Verses to Mss Logan, with neighbours, joined in an application to the town Beattie's Poems; To a Haggis; Address to council of Ayr, who were superiors of the ad- Edinburgh; John Barleycorn; When Guiljoining land, for liberty to rebuild it, and raised find Guid; Behind you hills where Stinchar by sub-cription a sum for enclosing this ancient flows ; Green grow the Rashes ; Again recemetery with a wall; hence he came to con- joicing Nature sees; The gloomy Night; No

No. LXX.

FROM GILBERT BURNS

TO DR. CURRIE.

Dinning, Dumfriesshire, 24th Oct. 1800. DEAR SIR,

Yours of the 17th instant came to my hand

yesterday, and I sit down this afternoon to write the most rigid economy, that he might be able you in return; but when I shall be able to to keep his children at home, thereby having an finish all I wish to say to you, I cannot tell. I opportunity of watching the progress of our am sorry your conviction is not complete re- young minds, and forming in them early habite specting feck. There is no doubt that if you of piety and virtue; and from this motive alone take two English words which appear synony- did he engage in farming, the source of all his mous to mony fech, and judge by the rules of difficulties and distresses. English construction, it will appear a barbarism. I believe if you take this mode of translating long letter on the subject of the books I recomfrom any language, the effect will frequently he mended to the Manchline club, and the effects the same. But if you take the expression mony fech to have, as I have stated it, the same mean- of men, I meant merely that I wished to write ing with the English expression very many, you on that subject, with the view that, in some (and such license every translator must be al- future communication to the public, you might lowed, especially when he translates from a take up the subject more at large, that, by means simple dialect which has never been subjected of your happy manner of writing, the attention to rule, and where the precise meaning of words of people of power and influence might be fixed is of consequence not minutely attended to), it on it. will be well enough. One thing I am certain I should overcome my indolence, and the diffiof, that ours is the sense universally understood culty of arranging my thoughts so far as to put in this country; and I believe no Scotsman who my threat in execution, till some time ago, behas lived contented at home, pleased with the fore I had finished my harvest, having a call simple manners, the simple melodies, and the from Mr. Ewart, with a message from you, simple dialect of his native country, unvitiated pressing me to the performance of this task, I by foreign intercourse, " whose soul proud science never taught to stray," ever discovered barbarism in the song of Etrick Banks.

The story you have heard of the gable of my father's house falling down, is simply as follows .- When my father built his "clay biggin," he put in two stone-jambs, as they are called, and a lintel, carrying up a chimney in bis cl.y-gable. The consequence was, that as the gable subsided, the jambs, remaining firm, threw it off its centre; and, one very stormy morning, when my brother was nine or ten days old, a little before day-light, a part of the gable lell out, and the rest appeared so shattered, that my mother, with the young poet, had to be carried through the storm to a neighbour's house, where they remained a week til their own dwelling was adjusted. That you may not think too meanly of this house, or of my father's taste in building, by supposing the poet's description in the Vision (which is entirely a fancy picture) applicable to it, allow me to take notice to you, that the house consisted of a kitchen in one end, and a room in the other, with a fire-place and chimney; that my father had constructed a concealed hed in the kitchen, there, he can neither be a useful nor a respectwith a small closet at the end, of the same ma- able member of society. It is nevertheless true, terials with the house, and, when altogether cast that "the proper study of mankind is man; over, outside and in, with lime, it had a neat, comfortable appearance, such as no family of the same rank, in the present improved style of how he may increase or secure his happiness; living, would think themselves ill-lodged in. I and how he may prevent or soften the many wish likewise to take notice in passing, that all miseries incident to human life. I think the though the "Cotter," in the Saturday Night, pursuit of happiness is too frequently confined is an exact copy of my father in his manners, to the endeavour after the acquisition of wealth. his family devotion, and exhorta ions, yet the I do not wish to be considered as an idle deother parts of the description do not apply to claimer against riches, which, after all that can our family. None of us were ever "at service he said against them, will still be considered by out among the necbors roun." Instead of our men of common sense as objects of importance; de, ositing our "sair won penny-fee" with our and poverty will be felt as a sore evil, after all

When I threatened you in my last with a of refinement of taste on the labouring classes I had little expectation, however, that thought myself no longer at liberty to decline it, and resolved to set about it with my first leisure. I will now therefore endeavour to lay before you what has occurred to my mind on a subject where people capable of observation, and of placing their remarks in a proper point of view, have seldom an opportunity of making their remarks on real life. In doing this I may perhaps be led sometimes to write more in the manner of a person communicating information to you which you did not know before, and at other times more in the style of egotism than I would choose to do to any person in whose candour, and even personal good-will, I had less confidence.

There are two several lines of study that open to every man as he enters life: the one, the general science of life, of duty, and of happiness: the other, the particular arts of his employment or situation in society, and the several branches of knowledge therewith connected. This last is certainly indispensable, as nothing can be more disgraceful than ignorance in the way of one's own profession; and whatever a man's specime tive knowledge may be, if he is ill informed to consider what duties are encumbent on him as a rational creature, and a member of society; parents, my father laboured hard, and lived with the fine things that can be said of its advan

great proportion of the miseries of life arise from the want of economy, and a prudent attention to money, or the ill-directed or intemperate pursuit of it. But however valuable riches may be as the means of comfort, independence, and the pleasure of doing good to others, yet I am of opinion, that they may be, and frequently are, purchased at too great a cost, and that sacrifices are made in the pursuit which the acquisition cannot compensate. I remember hearing my worthy teacher, Mr. Murdoch, relate an anecdote to my father, which I think sets this matter in a strong light, and perhaps was the origin, or at least tended to promote this way of thinking in me. When Mr. Murdoch left Alloway, he went to teach and reside in the family of an opulent farmer who had a number of sons. A neighbour coming on a visit, in the course of therefore, the education of the lower classes to conversation asked the father how he meant to dispose of his sons, The father replied, that he had not determined. The visitor said, that were he in his place he would give them all good education and send them abroad, without (perhaps) having a precise idea where. The father objected, that many young men lost their health in foreign countries, and many their lives. True, replied the visitor, but as you have a number of sons, it will be strange if some one of them does not live and make a fortune.

Let any person who has the feelings of a father comment on this story; but though few will avow, even to themselves, that such views govern their conduct, yet do we not daily see people shipping off their sons, (and who would do so by their daughters also, if there were any demand for them), that they may be rich or

considered in any other point of view than as think themselves judges, who do not agree with the means of raising them from that station to which they were born, and of making a fortune. I am ignorant of the mysteries of the art of acquiring a fortune without any thing to begin with, ment, does not appear to me to be the fittest and cannot calculate, with any degree of exactness, the difficulties to be surmounted, the mortifications to be suffered, and the degradation of character to be submitted to, in lending one's self to be the minister of other people's vices, or in the practice of rapine, fraud, oppression, or dissimulation, in the progress; but even when the wished for end is attained, it may be questioned whether happiness be much increased by the use of the word taste. I understand it to the change venturer of the lower ranks of life returned from or any other thing, the contemplation of which the East or West Indies with all the hauteur of gives pleasure and delight to the wind. I supa vulgar mind accustumed to be served by slaves, pose it is in this sense you wish it to be underassuming a character, which, from the early habits of life, he is ill fitted to support, displaying books are calculated to cultivate, (beside the magnificence which raises the envy of some, and taste for fine writing, which many of the papers the contempt of others; claiming an equality tend to improve and to gratify), is what is prowith the great, which they are unwilling to al- per, consistent, and becoming in human chalow; inly p ming at the precedence of the here-fracter and conduct, as almost every paper relates ditary gentry; maddened by the polished inso- to these subjects. leace of some of the unworthy part of them;

tages; on the contrary I am of opinion, that a | seeking pleasure in the society of men who can condescend to flatter him, and listen to his absurdity for the sike of a good dinner and good wine; I cannot avoid concluding, that his brother, or companion, who, by a diligent application to the labours of agriculture, or some useful mechanic employment, and the careful hushanding of his gains, has acquired a competence in his station, is a much happier, and, in the eve of a person who can take an enlarged view of mankind, a much more respectable man.

But the votaries of wealth may be considered as a great number of candidates striving for a few prizes, and whatever addition the successful may make to their pleasure or happiness, the disappointed will always have more to suffer, I am afraid, than those who abide contented in the station to which they were born. I wish, be promoted and directed to their improvement as men, as the means of increasing their virtue, and opening to them new and digmified sources of pleasure and happiness. I have heard some people object to the education of the lower classes of men, as rendering them less useful, by abstracting them from their proper business; others, as tending to make them saucy to their superiors, impatient of their condition, and turbulent subjects; while you, with more humanity, have your fears alarmed, lest the delicacy of mind, induced by that sort of education and reading I recommend, should render the evils of their situation in apportable to them. I wish to examine the validity of each of these o jections, beginning with the one you have mentioned.

I do not mean to controvert your criticism of my favour te books, the Mirror and Lounger, The education of the lower classes is soldom although I understand there are people who The acquisition of knowledge, except you. what is connected with human life and conduct, or the particular business of his employpursuit for a peasant. I would say with the

> " How empty learning, and how vain is are, Save where it guides the life, or mends the heart !"

There seems to be a considerable latitude in When I have seen a fortunate ad- be the perception and relish of beauty, order, stood. If I am right, the taste which these

I am sorry I have not these books by me.

that I might point out some instances. I re- and natural relief in devotion and religious re-mer her two; one, the beautiful story of La Rocne, where, heside the pleasure one derives to appearance at ease, are not without their from a beautiful simple story told in M'Kenzie's share of evils, and that even toil itself is not happiest manner, the mind is led to taste, with destitute of advantages. He listeus to the words heartfelt rapture, the consolation to be derived of his favourite poet ; in deep affliction, from habitual devotion and trust in Almighty God. The other, the story of General W____, where the reader is led to nave a high relish for that firmness of mind which disregards appearances, the common forms and vanities of life, for the sake of doing instice in a case which was out of the reach of human laws.

Allow me then to remark, that if the morality of these books is subordinate to the cultivation of taste; that taste, that refinement of mind and delicacy of sentiment which they are intended to give, are the strongest gnard and surest foundation of morality and virtue. Other moralists guard, as it were, the overtact; these papers, by exalting duty into sentiment, are calculated to make every deviation from rectitude and propriety of conduct, painful to the mind,

" Whose temper'd powers, Refine at length, and every passion wears A chaster, milder, more attractive mien."

I readily grant you that the refinement of mind which I contend for, increases our sensibility to the evils of life; but what station of next to the person who intlife is without its evils! There seems to be no of potatoes into this island. such thing as perfect happiness in this world, and we must balance the pleasure and the pain education of the common people is, to prevent which we derive from taste, before we can pro- the intrusion of artificial wants, perly appreciate it in the case before us. I apprehend that on a minute examination it will thing in the dispositions of my mind, and my appear, that the evils peculiar to the lower ranks habits of life which I can approve of; and for of life, derive their power to wound us, more from the suggestions of false pride, and the mind with the sentiment, that nothing was more "contagion of luxury weak and vile." than the unworthy the character of a man, than that his refinement of our taste. It was a favourite re- happiness should in the least depend on what he mark of my brother's, that there was no part should eat or drink. of the constitution of our nature, to which we my mind with this, that although I was as fond were more indebted, than that by which "cus- of sweetmeats as children generally are, yet I selton makes things familiar and easy," (a copy dom laid out any of the half-pence which rela-Mr. Murdoch used to set us to write), and there tions or neighbours gave me at fairs, in the puris little labour which custom will not make easy chase of them; and if I did, every mouthful I to a man in health, if he is not ashamed of his swallowed was accompanied with shame and reemployment, or does not begin to compare his morse; and to this hour I never include in the situation with those he may see going about at use of any delicacy, but I feel a considerable detheir ease.

spect due to him as a man; he has learned that thinking I consider as of great consequence, no employment is dishonourable in itself; that both to the virtue and happiness of men in the while be performs aright the duties of that sta- lower ranks of life. And thus, Sir, I am of tion in which God has placed him, he is as opinion, that if their minds are early and deeply great as a king in the eyes of Him whom he is imprest with a sense of the dignity of man, as principally desirous to please; for the man of such; with the love of independence and of intaste, who is constantly obliged to labour, must dustry, economy and temperance, as the most of necessity he religious. If you teach him only obvious means of making themselves indepen-to reason, you may make him an atheist, a dema-dent, and the virtues most becoming their situgogue, or any vile thing; but if you teach him ation, and necessary to their happiness; men ir to teel, his feelings can only find their proper the lower ranks of life may partake of the plea

" O mortal man, that livest here by toil, Cease to repine and grudge thy hard estate; That like an emmet thon must ever moil, Is a sad sentence of an ancient date;

And, certes, there is for it reason great; Although sometimes it makes thee weep and wail,

And curse thy stars, and early drudge and late: Withouten that would come a heavier bale, Loose life, unruly passions, and diseases pale!"

And, while he repeats the words, the grateful recollection comes across his mind, how often he has derived ineffable pleasure from the sweet song of " Nature's dailing child." I can say, from my own experience, that there is no sort of farm labour inconsistent with the most refined and pleasurable state of the mind that I am acquainted with, thrashing alone excepted, That, indeed, I have always considered as insupportable drudgery, and think the ingenious mechanic who invented the thrashing machine, ought to have a statue among the benefactors of his country, and should be placed in the niche next to the person who introduced the culture

Perhaps the thing of most importance in the memory of my worthy father for almost every none more than the pains he took to impress my So early did he impress gree of self-reproach and alarm for the degrada-But the man of enlarged mind feels the re- tion of the human character. Such a habit of

sures to be derived from the perusal of books candidate's capacity of teading the English lan calculated to improve the mind and refine the guage with grace and propriety; to his under taste, without any danger of becoming more un-standing thoroughly, and having a high relist happy in their situation, or discontented with it. for the beauties of English authors, both in poetry Nor do I think there is any danger of their be- and prose; to that good sense and knowledge roming less useful. There are some hours every of human nature which would enable him to acday that the most constant labourer is neither going some influence on the minds and affections at work nor asleep. These hours are either ap- of his scholars; to the general worth of his chapropriated to amusement or to sloth. If a taste for employing these hours in reading were cultivated, I do not suppose that the return to labour would be more difficult. Every one will allow, that the attachment to idle amusements, or even to sloth, has as powerful a tendency to attachment to books; while the one dissipates the mind, and the other tends to increase its powers of self-government. To those who are afraid that the improvement of the minds of the common people might be dangerous to the state, or the established order of society, I would remark, that turbulence and commotion are certainly very inimical to the feelings of a refined mind. Let the matter be brought to the test of experience and observation, Of what de-Are they not universally owing to composed? the want of enlargement and improvement of mind among the common people? Nay, let any one recollect the characters of those who formed the calmer and more deliberate associations, which lately gave so much alarm to the government of this country. I suppose few of the common people who were to be found in such societies, had the education and turn of mind I have been endeavouring to recommend Allow me to suggest one reason for endeavouring to enlighten the minds of the common people. Their morals have hitherto been guarded by a sort of dim religious awa, which from a variety of causes seems wearing off. I think the alteration in this respect considerable, in the short period of my observation. I have already given my opinion of the effects of refinement of mind on morals and virtue. Whenever volgar minds begin to shake off the dogmas of the religion in which they have been educated, the progress is quick and immediate to downright in my capacity of writing on such subjects. infidelity: and nothing but refinement of mind can enable them to distinguish between the pure about my situation and prospects. I am much essence of religion, and the gross systems which pleased with the soil of this farm, and with the men have been perpetually connecting it with. In addition to what has already been done for the education of the common people of this country, in the establishment of parish schools, I G. S. Monteith, whose general character and wish to see the salaries augmented in some proportion to the present expense of living, and the I am highly pleased with. But the land is in earnings of people of similar rank, endowments such a state as to require a considerable immeand usefulness, in society; and I hope that the diate outlay of money in the purchase of maliberality of the present age will be no longer nure, the grubbing of brush-wood, removing of disgraced by refusing, to so useful a class of men, stones, &c. which twelve years' struggle with a such encouragement as may make parish schools farm of a cold ungrateful soil has but ill preparworth the attention of men fitted for the impor-tant duties of that office. In filling up the va-however, to my mind, I think there is next to

racter, and the love of his king and his country. than to his proficiency in the knowledge of Latin and Greek. I would then have a sort of high English class established, not only for the purpose of teaching the pupils to read in that graceful and agreeable manner that might make them abstract men from their proper Insiness, as the fond of reading, but to make them understand what they read, and discover the beauties of the author, in composition and sentiment. I would have established in every parish a small circulating library, consisting of the books which the young people had read extracts from in the collections they had read at school, and any other books well calculated to refine the mind, improve the moral feelings, recommend the practice of virtue, and communicate such knowledge as might be useful and suitable to the labouring scription of people are mobs and insurrections classes of men. I would have the schoolmaster act as librarian, and in recommending books to his young friends, formerly his pupils, and letting in the light of them upon their young minds, he should have the assistance of the minister. If once such education were become general, the low delights of the public-house, and other scenes of riot and depravity, would be contemned and neglected, while industry, order, cleanliness, and every victue which taste and independence of mind could recommend, would prevail and flourish. Thus possessed of a virtuous and enlightened populace, with high delight I should consider my native country as at the head of all the nations of the earth, ancient or modern.

Thus, Sir, have I executed my threat to the fullest extent, in regard to the length of my letter. If I had not presumed on doing it more to my liking, I should not have undertaken it; but I have not time to attempt it anew; nor, if I would, am I certain that I should succeed any better. I have learned to have less confidence

I am much obliged by your kind inquiries terms on which I possess it. I receive great encouragement likewise in building, enclosing, and other conveniences, from my landlord Mr. conduct, as a landlord and country gentlema. ancies, I would have more attention paid to the a certainty that in five or six years I shall be in

a hopeful way of attaining a situation which I in February 1788, he received, as the profits of think is eligible for happiness as any one I know; for I have always been of opinion, that that generosity, which formed a part of his naif a man, bred to the habits of a farming his. who possesses a farm of good soil, on such terms as enables him easily to pay all demands, is not happy, he ought to look somewhere else than to his situation for the causes of his uneasiness.

I beg you will present my most respectful compliments to Mrs. Currie, and remember me to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe, and Mr. Roscoe jun. whose kind attentions to me, when in Liverpool, I shall never forget .- I am, dear Sir, your most obedient, and much obliged humble servant,

GILBERT BURNS.

DEATH AND CHARACTER OF GILBERT BURNS.

This most worthy and ta'ented individual ned at Grant's Braes, in the neighbourhood of daddington, and on the estate of Lady Blan-'yre, for whom he was long factor, on Sunday 5th April 1827, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. " He had no fixed or formed complaint, but for several months preceding his dissolution, there was a gradual decay of the powers of nature; and the infirmities of age, combined with severe domestic affliction, hastened the release of as pure a spirit as ever inhabited a human bosom. On the 4th of January he lost a daughter who had long been the pride of the family hearth; and on the 26th of February following, his youngest son,-a youth of great promise, died in Edinburgh of typhus fever, just as he was about being licensed for the ministry. These repeated trials were too much for the excellent old man; the mind which, throughout a long and blameless life, had pointed unweariedly to its home in the skies, ceased as it were, to hold communion with things earthly, and on the recurrence of that hallowed morning, which, like his sire of old, he had been accustomed to sanctify, he expired without a groan or struggle, in peace, and even love with all mankind, and in bumble confidence of a blessed immortality .-The early life of Mr. Gilbert Burns is intimately blended with that of the poet. He was eighteen months younger than Robert-possessed the same penetrating judgment, and, according to Mr. Murdoch, their first instructor, surpassed him in vivacity till pretty nearly the age of manhood. When the greatest of our bards was invited by Dr. Blacklock to visit Edinburgh, the subject of the present imperfect Memoir was struggling in the churlish farm of Mossgiel, and toiling late and early to keep a house over his aged mother, and unprotected sisters. In these circumstances, the poet's success was the first thing that stemmed the ebbing tide of the fortunes of his lamily. In settling with Mr. Creech

his second publication, about £500, and with ture, he immediately presented Gilbert with nearly the half of his whole wealth. Thus succoured, the deceased married a Miss Breckenridge. and removed to a better farm (Dinning in Dumfriesshire), but still reserved a seat at the family board for his truly venerable mother, who died a few years ago. While in Dinning, he was recommended to Lady Blantyre; and though our memory does not serve us precisely as to date. he must have been an inhabitant of East Lothian, for very nearly a quarter of a century. Ladyship's affairs were managed with the greatest fidelity and prudence; the factor and his constituent were worthy of each other; and in a district distinguished for the skill, talents, and opulence of its farmers, no man was more respected then Mr. Gilbert Burns. His wife, who still survives, bore him a family of six sons and five daughters; hat of these, one son, and four daughters, predeceased their father. His means, though limited, were always managed with enviable frugality, as a proof of which we may state that every one of his boys received what is called a classical education.

No. LXXI.

THE POET'S SCRAP-BOOK.

THE Poet kept a Scrap-Book, which was what the title imports, really a thing of shreds and patches. In the following extracts, we have not been quite so sparing as Dr. Currie, whose extracts are above, nor so very profuse as Mr. Cromek, who, in his Reliques, has turned the book inside out. The prose articles are chiefly in the way of maxims or observations they have less of worldly selfishness, and more of the religious feeling, than those of Rochfoueaud: The poetical scraps are numerous-such of them as are worth preserving, and have not already appeared amongst the poems, will be found below.

MY FATHER WAS A FARMER.

Tune-" 'The Weaver and his Shuttle, O."

My Father was a Farmer upon the Carrick border, O, And carefully he bred me in deceney 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 rituation, O.

In many a way, and vain essay, I courted fortune's fayour, O: Some cause unseen, still stept between, to frustrata

each enderwour, O; Semetimes by foes I was o'erpow'rd; sometimes by friends forsaken, O; And when my hope was at the top, I still was word mistaken, O.

[.] This sketch is by Mr. Maediarmid, of the Dumtries Courier, in which Journal it first appeared.

Then sore harass'd, and tir'd at last, with fortune's makes me yet shudder, I hung my harp on the vain delusion, O; I dropt my scheines, like idle dreams, and came to this

conclusion, O;
The past was bad, and the fature hid; its good or ill

untryed, 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 befriend me, O; must toil, and sweat and broil, and labour to sus-

tain me, O,
To plough and sow, to reap and mow, 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 doomed to wander, O,
Till down my weary bones 1 lay in everlasting slum-

ber, G: 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 panee, 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 farther, O;

But as oaily 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 generally 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 unremit-

ting ardour, O,
The rore 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 clown I will prefer before you, O.

ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF ROBERT RUISSEAUX.*

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 cankert care E'er mair come near him.

To tell the truth, they seldom fash't him, Except the moment that they crush't him; For sune as chance or fate had husht'em, Tho' e'er sae short, Then wi a rhyme or song he lasht'em,

And thought it sport .-Tho' he was bred to kintra wark, And counted was baith wight and stark, Yet that was never Robin's mark 'To mak a man;

But tell him, he was a learn d elark, Ye roos'd him then. †

Melancholy .- There was a certain period of my life that my spirit was broke by repeated lo-ses and disasters, which threatened, and indeed effected, the utter ruin of my fortune. My body too was attacked by that most dreadful distemper, a hypochondria, or confirmed melancholy: In this wretched state, the recollection of which

. Ye roos'd- ye prais'd.

willow trees, except in some lucid intervals, in one of which I composed the following. (Here follows the prayer in distress. p. 73.) - March 1784.

Religious Sentiment .- What a creature is man! A little alarm last night, and to-day, that I am mortal, has made such a revolution on my spirits! There is no philosophy, no divinity, that comes half so much home to the mind. I have no idea of conrage that braves Heaven: 'Tis the wild ravings of an imaginary hero in Beillam.

My favourite feature in Milton's Satan is his manly fortitude in supporting what cannot be remedied-in short, the wild, broken fragments of a noble, exalted mind in ruins. I meant no more by saying he was a favourite hero of

I hate the very idea of a controversial divinity; as I firmly believe that every honest upright man, of whatever sect, will be accepted of the deity. I despise the superstition of a fanatic, but I love the religion of a man.

Nothing astonishes me more, when a little sickness clogs the wheel of life, than the thoughtless career we run in the hour of health. " None saith, where is God, my maker, that giveth songs in the night; who teacheth us more knowledge than the beasts of the field, and more understanding than the fowls of the

My creed is pretty nearly expressed in the last clause of Jamie Dean's grace, an honest weaver in Ayrshire; " Lord grant that we may lead a gude life! for a gude life maks a gude end, at least it helps weel!"

A decent means of livelihood in the world, an approving God, a peaceful conscience, and one firm trusty friend; can any body that has these,

be said to be unhappy?

The dignified and dignifying consciousness of an honest man, and the well grounded trust in approving heaven, are two most substantial sources of happiness.

Give me, my Maker, to remember thee! Give me to feel "another's woe;" and continue with me that dear-lov'd friend that feels with mine!

In proportion as we are wrung with grief, or distracted with anxiety, the ideas of a compassionate Deity, an Almighty Protector, are doubly

I have been, this morning, taking a peep through, as Young finely says, "the dark post-ern of time long elapsed;" 'twas a rueful prospeet! What a tissue of thoughtlessness, weakness, and folly ! My life reminded me of a ruined temple. What strength, what proportion in some parts! What unsightly gaps, what prostrate ruins in others! I kneeled down before the Father of Mercies, and said, "Father I have si med against Heaven, and in thy sight. and am no more worthy to be called thy son. I rose, eased, and strengthened.

o Ruisseaux--st eams-a play on his own name.

TTERS, 1788.

No. LXXII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Edinburgh, 21st Jan. 1788.

AFTER six weeks' confinement, I am beginning to walk across the room. They have been six horrible weeks; anguish and low spirits made me unfit to read, write, or think.

I have a hundred times wished that one could resign life as an officer resigns a commission: for I would not take in any poor, ignorant wretch, by selling out. Lately I was a ixpenny private; and, God knows, a miserable voldier enough; now I march to the campaign, a starving cadet: a little more conspicuously wretched.

I am ashamed of all this; for though I do want bravery for the warfare of life, I could wish, like some other soldiers, to have as much fortitude or cunning as to dissemble or conceal my cowardice.

As soon as I can bear the journey, which will be, I suppose, about the middle of next week, I leave Edinburgh, and soon after I shall pay my grateful duty at Duniop-house.

No. LXXIII.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

TO THE SAME.

Edinburgh, 12th Feb. 1788.

Some things, in your late letters, hurt me: not that you say them, but that you mistake me. Religion, my honoured Madam, has not only been all my life my chief dependence, but my dearest enjoyment. I have undeed been the lackless victim of wayward follies; but, alas! I have ever been "more fool than knave." A mathematician without religion, is a probable character; an irreligious poet, is a monster.

No. LXXIV.

TO A LADY.

Mossgiel, 7th March, 1788.

The last paragraph in yours of the 30th February affected me most, so I shall begin my answer where you ended your letter. That I am often a sinner with any little wit I have, I do confess: but I have taxed my recollection to purpose, to find out when it was semployed against you. I hate an angenerous sareasm, a great deal worse than I do the devil; at least I was fax as Minton describes him; and though I may be rac-cave enough to be sometimes guilty of it myself, I cannot endure it in others. You, my honoured friend, who cannot appear in any light, life Jament.

but you are sure of being respectable—you can afford to pass by an occasion to display you wit, because you may depend for fame on your sense; or if you choose to be silent, you know you can rely on the gratitude of many and the esteem of all; but God help us who are wits or witlings by profession, if we stand not for fame there, we sink unsupported!

I am highly flattered by the news you tell me of Coila.* I may say to the fair printer who does me so much honour, as Dr. Beattie says to Ross the poet, of his Muse Scotia, from which, by the bye, I took the idea of Coila: ('Tis a poem of Beattie's in the Scots dialect, which perhaps you have never seen.)

"Ye shak your head, but o' my fegs,
Ye've set auld Scotia on her legs:
Lang had she lien wi' buffe and flegs,
Rumber'd and dignia

Bombaz'd and dizzie, Her fiddle wanted strings and pegs, Waes me, poor hizzie."

No. LXXV.

TO MR. ROBERT CLEGHORN.

Mauchline, 21st March, 1788, YESTERDAY, my dear Sir, as I was riding through a track of melancholy joyless muirs, between Galloway and Ayrshire, it being Sunday, I turned my thoughts to pealms, and hymns, and spiritual songs; and your favourite air, Captain O'Kean, coming at length in my head, I tried these words to it. You will see that the first part of the tune must be repeated.

I am tolerably pleased with these verses, but as I have only a sketch of the tune, I leave it with you to try if they suit the measure of the

I am so harassed with care and anxiety, about this farming project of mine, that my muse has degenerated into the veriest proses-wench that ever picked cinders, or followed a tinker. When I am turty got into the routine of business, I shall trouble you with a longer epistle; perhaps with some queries respecting farming; at present, the world sits such a load on my mind, that it has effaced almost every trace of the _______in me.

My very best compliments and good wishes to Mrs. Cleghorn.

No. LXXVI.

FROM MR. ROBERT CLEGHORN.

Saughton Mills, 27th April, 1788.
MY DEAR BROTHER FARMER,
I was favoured with your very kind letter of

A lady was making a picture from the description
of Coila in the Vision.
I there the bard gives the first stanza of the Chees
lier's Lament.

CORRESPONDENCE.

the 31st alt, and consider myself greatly obliged them eventy-four dutiful children to their pato you, for your attention in sending me the rents, twenty-four useful members of society, song to my favourite air, Captain O'Kean. and twenty-four approven servants of their God ! The words delight me much; they fit the time to a hair. I wish you would send me a verse or two more; and if you have no objection, I would have it in the Jacobite style. Suppose it should be sung after the fatal field of Culloden by the unfortunate Charles : Tenducci personates the lovely Mary Stuart in the song Queen Mary's Lamentation .- Why may not I sing in the person of her great-great-great grandson?*

Any skill I have in country business you may truly command. Situation, soil, customs of countries may vary from each other, but Farmer Attention is a good farmer in every place. I beg to hear from you soon. Mrs. Cleghorn joins me in best compliments.

I am, in the most comprehensive sense of the word, your very sincere friend,

ROBERT CLEGHORN.

No. LXXVII.

TO MR. JAMES SMITH,

AVON PRINTFIELD, LINLITHGOW.

Manchline, April 28, 1789. Beware of your Strasburgh, my good Sir! Look on this as the opening of a correspondence like the opening of a twenty-four gun battery! There is no understanding a man properly,

without knowing something of his previous ideas (that is to say, if the man has any ideas; for I know many who in the animal-muster, pass for men, that are the scanty masters of only one idea on any given subject, and by far the greatest art of your acquaintances and mine can barely boast of ideas, 1.25-1.5-1.75, or some such fractional matter), so to let you a little into the secrets of my perioranium, there is, you must know, a certain clean-limbed, handsome, bewitching young hussy of your acquaintance, to whom I have lately and privately given a matrimonial title to my corpus.

" Bode a robe and wear it,"

Says the wise old Scots adage! I hate to presage ill-luck; and as my girl has been doubly kinder to me than even the best of women usually are to their partners of our sex, in similar circumstances. I reckon on twelve times a brace of children against I celebrate my twelfth wedding day: these twenty-four will give me twenty-four gossippings, twenty-four christenings, (I mean one equal to two), and I hope by the blessing of the God of my fathers, to make

Our Poet took this advice. See poetry for the of Tuesday unable to stir out of bed whole of that beautiful song—the Chevaher's tarent, the miserable effects of a violent cold.

. . . " Light's heartsome," quo' the wife when she was stealing sheep. You see what a lamp I have hung up to lighten your paths, when you are idle enough to explore the combinations and relations of my ideas 'Tis now as plain as a pike-staff, why a twenty-four gun battery was a metaphor I could readily employ.

Now for business .- I intend to present Mrs. Burns with a printed shawl, an article of woich I dare say you have variety: 'tis my first present to her since I have irrevocably called ner mine, and I have a kind of whimsical wish to get her the said first present from an old and much valued friend of hers and mine, a trusty Trojan, on whose friendship I count myself

possessed of a life-rent lease.

Look on this letter as a " beginning of sorrows;" I'll write you till your eyes ache with reading nonsense.

Mrs. Burns ('tis only her private designs. tion), begs her best compliments to you.

No. LXXVIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Mauchline, 28th April, 1755

Your powers of reprehension must be great indeed, as I assure you they made my heart ache with penitential pangs, even though I was really not guilty. As I commence farmer at Whitsunday, you will easily guess I must be pretty busy; but that is not all. As I got the offer of the excise business without solicitation; and as it costs me only six months' attendince for instructions, to entitle me to a commission; which commission lies by me, and at any future period, on my simple petition, can be resumed; I thought five and thirty pounds a-year was no had dernier resort for a poor poet, if fortune in her jade tricks should kick him down from the little eminence to which she has lately helped him up.

For this reason, I am at present attending these instructions, to have them completed be-Still, Madam, 1 prepared fore Whitsunday. with the sincerest pleasure to meet you at the Mount, and came to my brother's on Saturday night, to set out on Sunday; but for some nights preceding I had slept in an apartment, where the force of the winds and rain was only mitigated by being sifted through number ess apertures in the windows, wail-, &c. In consequence I was on Sunday, Monday, and part of Tuesday unable to stir out of bed, with all

You see, Midam, the truth of the French maxim, Le vrai n'est pas toujours le vrai-sem- to your host, Mr. Cruikshauk, who has given bluble; your last was so full of expostulation, such high approbation to my poor Latinity and was something so like the language of an offended friend, that I began to tremble for a correspondence, which I had with grateful pleasure set down as one of the greatest enjoyments of my future life.

Your books have delighted me; Virgil, Dryden, and Tasso, were all equal strangers to me; but of this more at large in my next

No. LXXIX.

FROM THE REV. JOHN SKINNER.

Linshart, 28th April, 1788.

I necesived your last, with the curious present you have favoured me with, and would have made proper acknowledgments before now, out that I have been necessarily engaged in matters of a different complexion. And now that I have got a little respite, I make use of it to thank you for this valuable instance of your good will, and to assure you that, with the sincere heart of a true Scot, man, I highly esteem both the gift and the giver: as a small testimuny of which I have herewith sent you for your amusement (and in a form which I hope you will excuse for saving postage) the two songs I wrote about to you already. Charming Nuncy is the real production of genius in a ploughman of twenty years of age at the time of its appearing, with no more education than what he picked up at an old farmer-grandfather's fireside, though now, by the strength of natural parts, he is clerk to a thriving bleachfield in the neighbourhood. And I doubt not but you will find in it a simplicity and delicacy, with some turns of humour, that will please one of your taste; at least it pleased me when I first saw it, if that can be any recommendation to it. The other is entirely descriptive of my own sentiments, and you may make use of one or both as you shall see good.

· CHARMING NANCY.

A SONG, BY A BUCHAN PLOUGHMAN.

Tune-" Humours of Glen."

Some sing of sweet Mally, some sing of fair Nelly, And some call sweet Susie the cause of their pal Some love to be jolly, some love inclancholy, And some love to sing of the Humours of Glene of their paln:

But my only fancy, is my pretty Nancy,
In venting my passion, Pll strive to be plain,
Pll ask no more treasure, Pll seek no more pleasure, But thee, my dear Naney, gin thou wert my ain.

Her beauty delights me, ner kindness invites me, Her pleasant behaviour is free from all stain;

You will oblige me my presenting my respects you may let him know, that as I have likewise been a dabbler in Latin poetry, I have two things that I would, if he desires it, submit not to his judgment, but to his amusement : the one, a translation of Christ's Kirk o' the Green, printed at Aberdeen some years ago; the other, Batrachomyomachia Homeri Latinis versibus cum additumentis, given in lately to Chalmers, to print if he pleases. Mr. C. will know Seria non semper delectant, non joca semper. Semper delectant seria mixta jocis.

I have just room to repeat compliments and

good wishes from,

Sir, your humble servant, JOHN SKINNER.

No. LXXX.

TO PROFESSOR DUGALD STEWART.

Mauchline, 3d May, 1787. I ENCLOSE you one or two more of my baga telles. If the fervent wishes of honest gratitude have any influence with that great, unknown Being, who frames the chain of causes and events; prosperity and happiness will attend your visit to the Continent, and return you safe to your native shore.

Wherever I am, allow me, Sir, to claim it as my privilege, to acquaint you with my progress in my trade of rhymes; as I am sure I could say it with truth, that, next to my little fame, and the having it in my power to make life

Therefore, my sweet jewel, O do not prove cruel, Consent, my dear Na ey, and come he my ain: Her carriage is comely, her language is homely, Her dress is quite decent when ta'en in the main; She's blooming in feature, she's handsome in stature,

My charming, dear Naney, O wert thou my ain! Like Phœbus adorning the fair ruddy morning,

Like Pracebis adorning the fair ruddy morning, Her bright veys are spatkling, her brows are serene, Her yellow locks shining, in beauty combining, My charming, sweet Naney, will thou be my sin? The whole of her face is with maidenly graces Arrayd like the gowans, that grow in yon glen, Sho's well shaped and slender, true hearted and tender, My charming, sweet Nancy, O wert thou my ain!

I'll seek through the nation for some habitation I'll seek through the nation for some habitation, To shelter my dear from the cold, snow, and rain, With songs to my deary, I'll keep her aye cheery, My charming, sweet Namey, gin thou weet my air, I'll work at my calling, to furnish thy dwelling, With ev'ly thing needful thy life to sustain, With ev'ly thing needful thy life to sustain Thou shalt not sit single, but by a cl. ar nigle, I'll marrow thee, Naley, when thou art my ain.

I'll make true affection the constant direction I'll make true affection the constant direction Of loving my Naney while hife doth ren ain: That youth will be wasting, true love shall be lasting My charming, sweet Naney, gin thow wert my ain. But what it my Naney should after her fancy. To favour another be forward and tain, I will not compel her, they think they have been Begone thou false Naney, thou's ne'er be my ain.

The Old Man's Song, (see p. 135)

more comfortable to those whom nature has | tunate in all my buyings and bargainings hithermade dear to me, I shall ever regard your countenance, your patronage, your friendly good offices, as the most valued consequence of my late with this last affair : it has indeed added to u y success in life.

No. LXXXI.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

MADAM. Mauchline, 4th May, 1788. Davden's Virgil has delighted me. I do not know whether the critics will agree with me, but the Georgics are to me by far the best of Virgil. It is indeed a species of writing entirely new to me; and has filled my head with a thousand fancies of emulation; but, alas! when I read the Georgies, and then survey my own powers, 'tis like the idea of a Shetland poney, drawn up by the side of a thorough-bred hunter, to start for the plate. I own I am disappointed in the Æneid. Faultless correctness may please, and does highly please the lettered critic; but to that awful character I have not the most distant pretensions. I do not know whether I do not hazard my pretensions to be a critic of any kind, when I say that I think Virgil, in many instances, a servile copier of Homer. If I had the Odyssey by me, I could parallel many passages where Virgil has evidently copied, but by no means improved Homer. Nor can I think there is any thing of this owing to the translators; for, from every thing I have seen of Dryden, I think him, in genius and fluency of language, Pope's master. I have not perused Tasso enough to form an opinion: in some future letter, you shall have my ideas of him; though I am conscious my criticisms must be very inaccurate and imperfect, as there I have ever felt and lamented my want of learning most,

No. LXXXII.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Mauchline, May 26, 1788.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM two kind letters in your debt, but I have been from home, and horridly busy buying and preparing for my farming business; over and above the plague of my Excise instructions, which this week will finish.

As I flatter my wishes that I foresee many future years' correspondence between us, 'tis foolish to talk of excusing dull epistles: a dull letter may be a very kind onc. I have the pleature to tell you that I have been extremely for- i. c. from Whitsunday to Martininas, &c.

to; Mrs. Burns not excepted; which title ! now avow to the world. I am truly pleased anxieties for futurity, but it has given a stalling to my mind and resolutions, unknown to be and the poor girl has the most sacred enthusiasm of attachment to me, and has not a wish but to gratify my every idea of her deportment. I am interrupted.

Farewell! my aear Sir.

Na LXXXIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

MADAM. 27th May, 1788.

I HAVE been torturing my philosophy to no purpose, to account for that kind partiality of yours, which, unlike . . .

. , has followed me in my return to the shade of life, with assiduous benevolence. Often did I regret in the fleeting hours of my late will-o'-wisp appearance, that "here I had no continuing city;" and but for the consolation of a few solid guineas, could almost lament the time that a momentary acquaintance with wealth and splendour put me so much out of conceit with the sworn companions of my road through life, insignificance, and poverty.

There are few circumstances relating to the unequal distribution of the good things of this life, that give me more vexation (I mean in what I see around me) than the importance the opulent bestow on their trifling family affairs, compared with the very same things on the contracted scale of a cottage. Last afternoon I had the honour to spend an hour or two at a good woman's fireside, where the planks that composed the floor were decorated with a splendid carpet, and the gay table sparkled with silver and china. 'Tis now about term-day, and there has been a revolution among those creatures, who, though in appearance partakers, and equally noble partakers of the same nature with madame; are from time to time, their nerves, their sinews, their health, strength, wisdom, experience, genius, time, nay, a good part of their very thoughts, sold for months and years, not only to the necessities, the conveniences, but the caprices of the important few. " We talked of the insignificant creatures; nay, notwithstanding their general stupidity and rascality did some of the poor devils the honour to com-

· Servants in Scotland are hired from term to gray

mend them. But light be the turf upon is a good wife, though she shou! I never have read breast, who taught "Reverence thyself." We a page, but the Scriptures of the Old and New looked down on the upolished wretches, their Testament, nor have danced in a brighter as impertinent wives and clouterly brats, as the sembly than a penny pay-wedding. lordly bull does on the little dirty ant-hill. whose puny inhabitants he crushes in the carelessness of his ramble, or tosses in air in the wantonness of his pride.

No. LXXXIV.

TO THE SAME.

(AT MR. DUNLOP'S, HADDINGTON.)

Ellisland, 13th June, 1788.

"Where'er I roam, whatever realms I see, My heart, nntravell'd, fondly turns to thee; Still to my friend it turns with ceaseless pain, And drags at each remove a lengthen'd chain.' GOLDSMITH.

THIS is the second day, my honoured friend, that I have been on my farm. A solitary inmate of an old, smoky spence; far from every object I love, or by whom I am loved; nor any acquaintance older than yesterday, except Jenny Geddes, the old mare I ride on; while uncouth cares, and novel plans, hourly insult my awkward ignorance and bashful inexperience. There is a foggy atmosphere native to my soul in the hour of care, consequently the dreary objects seem larger than the life. Extreme sensibility, irritated and prejudiced on the gloomy side by a series of misfortnnes and disappointments, at that period of my existence when the soul is laying in her cargo of ideas for the voyage of life, is, I believe, the principal cause of this unhappy frame of mind.

" The valiant, in himself, what can be suffer? Or what need he regard his single woes?" &c.

Your surmise, Madam, is just; I am indeed a husband.

I found a once much-loved and still muchloved female, literally and truly cast out to the mercy of the naked elements, but as I enabled her to purchase a shelter; and there is no sporting with a fellow-creature's happiness or

The most placid good-nature and sweetness of disposition . a warm heart, gratefully devoted him. with all its powers to love me; vigorous health and sprightly cheerfulness, set off to the best my recollection, and I beg you will nelp him advantage, by a more than common handsome figure; these, I think, in a woman, may make

No. LXXXV.

TO MR. P. HILL.

MY DEAR HILL,

I SHALL say nothing at all to your mad present-you have so long and often been of important service to me, and I suppose you mean to go on conferring obligations until I shall not be able to lift up my face before you. In the meantime, as Sir Roger de Coverley, because it happened to be a cold day in which he made his will, ordered his servants great coats for monrning, so, because I have been this week plagued with an indigestion, I have sent you by the carrier a fine old ewe-milk cheese.

Indigestion is the devil: nay, 'tis the devil and all. It besets a man in every one of his senses. I lose my appetite at the sight of successful knavery; and sicken to loathing at the noise and nonsense of self-important folly. When the hollow-hearted wretch takes me by the hand, the feeling spoils my dinner; the proud man's wine so offends my palate, that it chokes me in the gullet; and the pulvilis'd, feathered, pert coxcomb, is so disgustful in my nostril that my stomach turns.

If ever you have any of these disagreeable sensations, let me pre-cribe for you patience and a bit of my cheese. I know that you are no niggard of your good things among your friends, and some of them are in much need of a slice. There in my eye is our friend Smellie, a man positively of the first abilities and greatest strength of mind, as well as one of the best hearts and keenest wits that I have ever met with: when you see him, as, alas! he too is smarting at the pinch of distressful circumstances, aggravated by the sneer of contumelious greatness-a bit of my cheese alone will not cure him, but if you add a tankard of brown stout, and superadd a magnum of right Oporto, you will see his sorrows vanish like the morning mist before the summer sun.

C-h, the earliest friend, except my only brother, that I have on earth, and one of the worthiest fellows that ever any man called by the name of friend, if a luncheon of my cheese would help to rid him of some of his superabundant modesty, you would do well to give it

David * with his Courant comes, to, across

[.] Printer of the Edinburgh Evening Courant.

rargely from the said ewe-milk cheese, to ena- In Ayrshire I have several pariations of friendble him to digest those - bedaubing paragraphs with which he is eternally larding the tean characters of certain great men in a certain great town. I grant you the periods are very well turned; so, a fresh egg is a very good ining; but when thrown at a man in a pillory It does not at all improve his figure, not to menzion the irreparable loss of the egg.

-r, I would wish My facetious friend, Dalso to be a partaker; not to digest his spleen, for that he laughs off, but to digest his last night's wine at the last field-day of the Croch-

allan corps. "

Among our common friends I must not forget one of the dearest of them, Cunningham. The brutality, insolence, and selfishness of a world unworthy of having such a fellow as he is in it, I know sticks in his stomach, and if you can help him to any thing that will make him a little easier on that score, it will be very obliging.

_ Se, he is such a As to honest Jcontented happy man that I know not what can annoy him, except perhaps he may not have got the better of a parcel of modest anecdotes which a certain poet gave him one night at supper, the last time the said poet was in town.

Though I have mentioned so many men of law, I shall have nothing to do with them professedly-the Faculty are beyond my prescription. As to their clients, that is another thing; God knows they have much to digest !

The clergy I pass by; their profundity of erudition, and their liberality of sentiment; their total want of pride, and their detestation of hypocrisy, are so proverbially notorious as to place them far, far above either my praise or censure.

I was going to mention a man of worth, whom I have the honour to call friend, the Laird of Craigdarroch; but I have spoken to the landlord of the King's arms inn here, to have, at the next county-meeting, a large ewemilk cheese on the table, for the benefit of the Dumfriesshire whigs, to enable them to digest the Duke of Queensberry's late political con-

I have just this moment an opportunity of a private hand to Edinburgh, as perhaps you would not digest double postage.

No. LXXXVI.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Ellisland, June 14, 1788. Turs is now the third day, my dearest Sir, that I have sojourned in these regions; and during these three days you have occupied more of my thoughts than in three weeks preceding :

· A club a choice spirits.

ship's compass, here it points invariably to the pole.-My farm gives me a good many uncouth cares and auxieties, but I hate the language o. complaint. Job, or some one of his triends, says well-" Why should a living man complain?"

I have lately been much mortified with contemplating an unlucky imperfection in the very framing and construction of my soul; namely, a blundering inaccuracy of her olfactory organs in hitting the scent of craft or design in my fellow creatures. I do not mean any compliment to my ingennousness, or to hint that the defect is in consequence of the unsuspicious simplicity of conscious truth and honour: I take it to be, in some way or other, an imperfection in the mental sight; or, metaphor apart, some modification of dulness. In two or three smal instances lately, I have been most shamefully out.

I have all along, hitherto, in the warfare of life, been bred to arms among the light-horsethe 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 plodding contrivance.

What books are you reading, or what is the subject of your thoughts, besides the great studies of your profession? You said something , bout religion in your last. I don't exactly remember what it was, as the letter is in Ayrshire; but I thought it not only prettily said, but nobly thought. You will make a noble fellow if once you were married. I make no reservation of your being well-married: You have so much se se, and knowledge of human nature, that though you may not realize perhaps the ideas of romance, yet you will never be ill-married.

Were it not for the terrors of my ticklish situation respecting provision for a family of children, I am decidedly of opinion that the step I have taken is vastly for my happiness. As it is, I look to the excise scheme as a certainty of maintenance; a maintenance, luxury to what either Mrs. Burns or I were born to.

Adien.

No. LXXXVII.

TO MR. MORISON, WRIGHT, MAUCHLINE.

E lisland, June 22, 1788.

MY DEAR SIR, NECESSITY obliges me to go into my new

. This letter refers to chairs and other articles of furniture which the Poet hat erdered.

house, even before it be plastered. I will inha- | bours, who has made himself absolutely con bit the one end until the other is finished. About three weeks more, I think, will at farthest, be my time, beyond which I cannot stay in this present house. If ever you wished to deserve the blessing of him that was ready to perish; if ever you were in a situation that a little kindness would have rescued you from many evils; if ever you hope to find rest in future states of antried being ;-get these matters of mine ready. My servant will be out in the beginning of next week for the clock. My compliments to Mrs. Morison.

I am, after all my tribulation, Dear Sir, yours.

No. LXXXVIII.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Ellisland, June 30, 1789.

MY DEAR SIR,

I JUST now received your brief epistle; and to take vengeance on your laziness, I have, you see, taken a long sheet of writing-paper, and have begun at the top of the page, intending to scribble on to the very last corner.

I am vext at that affair of the . . ., but dare not enlarge on the subject until you send me your direction, as I suppose that will be altered on your late master and friend's death. I am concerned for the old fellow's exit, only as I fear it may be to your disadvantage in any respect-for an old man's dying, except he have been a very benevolent character, or in some particular situation of life, that the welfare of the poor or the helpless depended on him, I think it an event of the most trifling moment to the world. Man is naturally a kind benevolent animal, but he is dropt into such a needy situation here in this vexatious world, and has such a whoreson, hungry, growling, multiplying pack of necessities, appetites, passions, and desires appear nam, ready to devour him for want of other food; that in fact he must lay aside his cares for others, that he may look properly to himself. You have been imposed upon in paying Mr. M ---- for the profile of a Mr. II. 1 aid not meation it in my letter to you, nor did I ever give Mr. M --- any such order. I have no objection to lose the money, but I will not have any such profile in my possession.

I desired the carrier to pay you, but as I MY DEAR SIR, mentioned only los. to him, I will tather in-

now been interrupted by one of my new neigh- honour of dining at Mr. Bailie's, I was almost

temptible in my eyes, by his silly, garrulous pruriency. I know it has been a fault of my own too; but from this moment I abjure it as I would the service of hell! Your poets, spendthrifts, and other fools of that kidney, pretend, forsooth, to crack their jokes on prudence, but 'tis a squalid vagabond glorying in his rags. Still, imprudence respecting money matters, is much more pardonable than imprudence respecting character. I have no objection to prefer prodigality to avarice, in some few instances; but I appeal to your observation, if you have not met, and often met, with the same little disingenuousness, the same hollow-hearted insincerity, and disintegritive depravity of principle, in the hackney'd victims of profusion, as in the unfeeling children of parsimony. I have every possible reverence for the much-talked-of world beyond the grave, and I wish that which piety believes and virtue deserves, may be all matter of fact-But in things belonging to and terminating in this present scene of existence, man has serious and interesting business on hand. Whether a man shall shake hands with wel come in the distinguished elevation of respect, or shrink from contempt in the abject corner of insignificance; whether he shall wanton under the tropic of plenty, at least enjoy himself in the comfortable latitudes of easy convenience, or starve in the arctic circle of dreary poverty; whether he shall rise in the manly consciousness of a self-approving mind, or sink beneath a galling load of regret and remorse-these are alternatives of the last moment.

You see how I preach. You used occasionally to sermonize ton; I wish you would in charity, favour me with a sheet fall in your own I admire the close of a letter L rd Bolingbroke writes to Dean Swift, " Adieu, dear Swift! with all thy faults I love thee entirely: make an effort to love me with all mine! Humble servant, and all that trumpery, is now such a prostituted business, that honest friendship, in her sincere way, must have recourse to her primitive, simple, -farewell!

No. LXXXIX.

TO MR. GEORGE LOCKHART, MERCHANT, GLASGOW.

Mauchline, July 18, 1788.

I AM just going or Nithsdale, else I would close you a guinea note. I have it not indeed certainly have transcribed some of my rhyming to spare here, as I am only a sojourner in a things for you. The Miss Bailies I have seen strange land in this place; but in a day or two in Edinburgh. "Fair and lovely are thy works, I return to Manchine, and there I have the Lord God Almighty! Who would not praise bank notes through the house, like salt perints.

There is a great degree of folly in taking unnecessarily of one's private affairs. I have just admire them. I declare, one day I had the in the predicament of the children of Israel, following were the production of yesterday as when they could not look on Moses's face for I jogged through the wild hills of New Cumthe glory that shone in it when he descended from Mount Sinai.

I did once write a poetic address from the falls of Bruar to his Grace of Athole, when I was in the Highlands. When you return to Scotland let me know, and I will send such of my pieces as please myself best.

I return to Manchline in about ten days. My compliments to the truth, but at present in laste,
Yours sincerely. My compliments to Mr. Purden. I am in ointed, ununell'd."

No. XC.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Mauchline, 2d Aug. 1788.

HONOURED MADAM, Your kind letter welcomed me yesternight, to Ayrshire. I am indeed seriously angry with you at the quantum of your luckpenuy; but vexed and hurt as I was, I could not help laughing very heartily at the noble lord's apology for

the missed napkin.

I would write you from Nithsda'e, and give you my direction there, but I have scarce an opportunity of calling at a post-office once in a fortnight. I am six miles from Dumfries, am scarcely ever in it myself, and, as yet, have little acquaintance in the neighbourhood. Besides, I am now very busy on my farm, building a dwelling-house; as at present I am almost an evangelical man in Nithsdale, for I have scarce " where to lay my head."

There are some passages in your last that brought tears in my eyes. "The heart knoweth its own sorrows, and a stranger intermed-dleth not therewith." The repository of these " sorrows of the heart," is a kind of sanctum sanctorum; and 'tis only a chosen friend, and that too at particular, sacred times, who dares

enter into them.

" Heaven oft tears the bosom chords That nature finest strung."

You will excuse this quotation for the sake of the author. Instead of entering on this subject farther, I shall transcribe you a few lines I wrote in a hermitage belonging to a gentleman in my Nithsdale neighbourhood. They are almost the only favours the muse has conferred sa me in that country.

(The lines on Friar Carse hermitage, beginging

Thou whom chance may hither lead.)

nock. I intended inserting them, or something like them, in an epistic I am going to write to the gentleman on whose friendship my excise hopes depend, Mr. Graham of Fintry; one of the worthiest and most accomplished gentlemen, not only of this country, but I will dare to say it, of this age. The following are just the first crude thoughts " unhousel'd, unan-

Pity the tuneful muses' helpless train; Weak, timid landsmen on life's stormy main : The world were blest, did bless on them depend;

Ah, that "the friendly e'er should want a friend!"

The little fate bestows they share as soon; Unlike sage, proverb'd, wisdom's hard-wrung boon.

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 shoula; We own they're prudent, but who feels they're good?

Ye wise one's, hence! ye hurt the social eye; God's image rudely etch'd on base alloy ! But come .

Here the muse left me. I am astonished at what you tell me of Anthony's writing me. I never received it. Poor fellow! you vex me much by telting me that he is unfortunate. shall be in Ayrshire ten days from this date. I have just room for an old Roman farewell!

No. XCI.

TO THE SAME.

Manchline, 10th August, 1788 MY MUCH HONOURED FRIEND.

Youns of the 24th June is before me. I found it, as well as another valued friend-m7 wife, waiting to welcome me to Ayrshire: I met both with the sincerest pleasure.

When I write you, Madam, I do not sit down to answer every paragraph of yours, by celoing every sentiment, like the faithful commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled, answering a speech from the best of kings! I express myself in the fulness of my heart, and may perhaps be guilty of neglecting some of your kind inquiries; but not from your very odd reason that I do not read your letters. All your epistles Since I am in the way of transcribing, the for several months have cost me nothing, ex

BURNS' WORKS.

cept a swelling throb of gratitude, or a deep-felt sentiment of veneration.

Mrs. Burns, Madam, is the identical woman

When she first found herself " as women wish to be who love their lords;" as I loved her nearly to distraction, we took steps for a private marriage. Her parents got the hint; and not only forbade me her company and their house, but on my rumoured West Indian vovage, got a warrant to put me in jail, till I should find security in my about-to-be paternal rela-You know my lucky reverse of fortune. On my eclatint return to Mauchline, I was made very welcome to visit my girl. The usual consequences began to betray her; and as I was at that time laid up a cripple in Edinburgh, she was turned, literally turned out of doors, and I wrote to a friend to shelter her, till my return, when our marriage was declared. happiness or misery was in my hands, and who zould trifle with such a deposit?

I can easily fancy a more agreeable companion for my journey of life, but, upon my honour, I have never seen the individual instance.

Circumstanced as I am, I could never have got a female partner for life, who could have entered into my favorite studies, relished my favourite authors, &c. without probably entailing on me, at the same time, expensive living, faut-stic capitee, perhaps spick affectation, with all the other blessed boarding-school acquirements, which (pardomes moi, Madame) are sometimes to be found among females of the upper ranks, but atmost universally pervade the misses of the would-be-geatry.

I like your way in your church-yard incubrations. Thoughts that are the spontaneous result of accidental situations, either respecting health, place, or company, have often a strength, and always an originality, that would in vain be looked for in fancied circumstances and studied paragraphs. For me, I have often thought of keeping a letter, in progression, by me, to send you when the sheet was written out. Now I talk of sheets, I must tell you, my reason for writing to you on paper of this kind, is my pruriency of writing to you at large. A page of post is on such a dissocial, narrow-minded scale, that I cannot abide it; and double letters, at least in my miscellaneous reverie manner, are a mountions tax in a close correspondence.

No. XCIL

TO THE SAME.

Ellishand, 16th Angust, 1788.

I AM in a fine disposition, my homogred friend, so send you an elegiac epistle; and want only genius to make it quite Shenstonian.

" Why droops my heart with fancied woes for-

Why sicks my soul beneath each wintry sky?"

My increasing cares in this, as yet, strange country—gloomy conjectures in the dark vista of futurity—consciousness of my own inability for the struggle of the world—my broadened mark to misfortone in a wife and children:— I could indulge these reflections, till my humour should ferment into the most actid chagrin, that would corrode the very thread of life.

To counterwork these baneful feelings, I have sat down to write to you; as I declare upon my soul I always find that the most sovereign

balm for my wounded spirit.

I was yesterday at Mr. — 's to dinner, for the first time. My reception was quite to ry mind; from the lady of the house quite fattering. She sometimes hits on a couplet or two, imprompta. She repeated one or two to the admiration of all present. My suffrage as a professional man was expected. I for once went agonizing over the belly of my conscience. Pardon me, ye, my adored household geds, Independence of Spirit, and Integrity of Soul! In the course of conversation, Johnson's Musical Museum, a collection of Scottish songs with the music, was talked of. We got a song on the harpsichord, beginning.

" Raving winds around her blowing."

The air was much admired: the lady of the house asked me whose were the words—"Mine, Madam—they are indeed my very best verses:" she took not the smallest notice of them! The old Scottish prover be says, well, "king's caff is better than ither folks' corn." I was going to make a New Testament quotation about "casting pearls;" but that would be too virulent, for the indy is actually a woman of sense and taste.

After all that has been said on the other side of the question, man is by no means a bappor creature. I do not speak of the selected lew, favoured by partial heaven, whose souls are tundence and wisdom—I speak of the neglected many, whose nerves, whose sinews, whose days are sold to the minions of forture.

If I thought you had never seer it I would

transcribe for you a stanza of an old Scottish this affair, if I succeed, I am afraid I shall but Sallad, called The Life and Age of Man, be- too much need a patronizing friend. ginning thus,

"Twas in the sixteenth hunder year Of God and fifty three,

Free Christ was born, that bought us dear, As writings testifie."

I had an old grand-uncle, with whom my mother lived a while in her girlish years; the good old man, for such he was, was long blind ere he died, during which time, his highest enjoyment was to sit down and cry, while my mother would sing the simple old song of The life and Age of Man.

It is this way of thinking-it is those melancholy truths, that make religion so precious to the poor, miserable children of men-If it is a mere phantem, existing only in the heated ima-

gination of euthusiasm,

" What truth on earth so precious as the lie!"

My idle reasonings sometimes make me a little sceptical, but the necessities of my heart always give the cold philosophizings the lie. Who looks for the heart weamed from earth; the soul affianced to her God; the corresponence fixed with heiven; the pious supplication and devout thanksgiving, constant as the vicissitudes of even and morn; who thinks to meet with these in the court, the pilace, in the glare of public life? No: to find them in their precious importance and divine efficacy, we must search among the obscure recesses of disappointment, affliction, poverty, and distress.

I am sure, den Madim, you are now more than pleased with the length of my letters. return to Avrshire, middle of next week; and it quickens my pice to think that there will be a letter from you waiting me there. I must be here again very soon for my harvest.

No. XCIII.

TO R. GRAHAM, OF FINTRY, Esq.

Wites I had the honour of being introduced to you at Athole-house, I did not think so soon of asking a favour of you. When Lear, in Shakspeare, asks old Kent, why he wished to be in his service, he answers, " Because you have that 10 your face which I could like to (Nature may have her whim as well as we, call master," A being form d'amuse his graver friends, there some and there the homa, with a request for an order for instructions. In

of conduct as a man, and fidelity and attention as an officer, I dare engage for : but with any thing like business, except manual labour, I am totally unacquainted.

I had intended to have closed my late appearance on the stage of life, in the character of a country farmer; but after discharging some filial and fraternal claims, I find I could only fight for existence in that miserable manner, which I have lived to see throw a venerable parent into the jaws of a jail; whence death, the poor man's last and often best friend, rescued him.

I know, Sir, that to need your goodness is to have a claim on it; may I therefore beg your patronage to forward me in this affair, till I be appointed to a division, where, by the belp of rigid economy, I will try to support that independence so dear to my soul, but which has been too often so distant from my situation.

WHEN nature her great master-piece designed, And fram'd her last, best work, the human mind, Her eve 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, furmers, native sons of earth, And merchandise' whole genus take their birth: Each prudent cit a warm existence finds, And all mechanics' many aproped 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 hampish philosophic dough, Then marks th' unyielding mass with grave designs,

Law, physics, politics, and deep divines; Last, she sublimes th' Amora of the poles, The flashing elements of female souls.

The order'd system fair before her stood, Nature well pleased pronounced it very good; But ere she gave creating labour o'er, Half-jest, she tried one curious labour more. Some spumy, fiery, ignes fatures matter; Such as the slightest breath of air might scatter; With arch alacrity and conscious glee For some such reason, Sir, do I Her Hogarth-art perhaps she meant to show it) now solicit your patronage. You know, I date She forms the thing, and christens it-a poet. say, of an application I lately made to your Greature, the oft the prey of circ and sorrow, Board to be admitted an officer of excise. I When bless'd to-day minimatel of to-morrow,

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 mankind, 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 bounteous Gra-

Pity the tuneful muses' hapless train, Weak, timid landmen 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 bless'd, did bless 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 begnn, 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 their

Ye wise ones, hence! ye hurt the social eye! God's image rudely etch'd on base alloy! But come ye who the godlike pleasure know Hearen's attribute distinguish'd-to bestow ! Whose arms of love would grasp the human race: Come thou who giv'st with all a courtier'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 command; But there are such who court the tuncful nine-Heavens, should the brauded character be mine! Whose verse in manhood's pride sublimely flows, Yet vilest reptiles in their begging prose. Mark, how their lofty independent spirit. Soars on the spurning wing of injured 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-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, patronize 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 pie-ball'd jacket let me patch once more;

On eighteen pence a-week I've lived before.

Though, thanks to heaven, I dare even that lan shift,

I trust, meantime, my boon is in thy gift: That placed by thee, upon the wish'd-for height, Where, man and nature forer in her sight, My muse may imp her wing for some sublimes

flight.

No. XCIV.

TO MR. BEUGO, ENGRAVER, EDINBURGH.

MY DEAR SIR, Eaisland, Sept. 9, 1788.

THERE is not in Edinburgh above the number of the graces whose letters would have given me so much pleasure as yours of the 3d instant, which only reached me yesternight.

I am here on my farm, busy with my harvest; but for all that most pleasurable part of life called social communication, I am here at the very elbow of existence. The only things that are to be found in this country in any degree of perfection, are stupidity and canting. Pro-e, they only know in graces, prayers, &c. and the value of these they estimate as they do their plaiding webs-by the ell! As for the muses, they have as much an idea of a rhinoceros as of a poet. For my old capricion good-natured hussy of a muse-

By banks of Nith I sat and went When Coila I thought on, In midst thereof I hung my harp The willow trees upon.

I am generally about half my time in Ayrshire with my "darling Jean," and then I, at lucid intervals, throw my horny fist across my becobwebbed lyre, much in the same manner as an old wife throws her hand across the spokes of her spinning wheel.

I well send you " The Fortunate Shepherd ess" as soon as I return to Ayrshire, for there I keep it with other precious treasure. I snam send it by a careful hand, as I would not for any thing it should be mislaid or lost. I do not wish to serve you from any benevolence, or other grave Christian virtue; 'tis purely a selfish gratification of my own feelings whenever I think of you.

If your better functions would give you lessure to write me I should be extremely happy; that is to say, if you neither keep nor look for a

[·] This is our poet's first epistle to Graham of Fintry. It is not equal to the second, but it contains too much of the characteristic vigour of its author, o be suppressed. A little more knowledge of natural history or of chemistry was wented to enable bim to e each the original conception corrective.

obliged to write a letter. I sometimes write a shades of VILLAL IV. friend twice a week, at other times once a

I am exceedingly pleased with your fancy in making the author you mention place a map of Iceland instead of his portrait before his works :

Twas a glorious idea.

Could you conveniently do me one thing-Whenever you finish any head I could like to have a proof copy of it. I might tell you a long story about your fine genius; but as what every body knows cannot have escaped you, I shall not say one syllable about it.

No. XCV.

TO MISS CHALMERS, EDINBURGH.

Ellisland, near Dumfries, Sept. 16, 1788. WHERE are you? and how are you? and is Lady M'Kenzie recovering her health? for I have had but one solitary letter from you. will not think you have forgot me, Madam; and for my part-

> "When thee Jerusalem I forget, Skill part from my right hand !"

"My heart is not of that rock, nor my soul careless as that sea " I do not make my progress among mankind as a bowl does among its bearing away any mark or impression, except be a saving bargain. where they hit in hostile collision.

I am here, driven in with my harvest-folks by had weather; and as you and your sister once did me the honour of interesting yourselves much a l'egard de moi, I sit down to beg the continuation of your goodness. - I can truly say that, all the exterior of life apart, I never saw two, whose esteem flattered the nobler feelings of my soul-I will not say, more, but, so much as Lady M'Kenzie and Miss Chalmers. When I think of yon-hearts the best, minds the noblest, of human kind -un ortunate, even in the shades of life-when I think I have met with you, and days, than I can do with almost any body I meet souls; and a late, important step in my life has the same way, why may they not be FRIENDS? sours; and a race, important step in my me has the same way, why may they not be FRINDS? kindly taken me out of the way of those an. When I may have an opportunity of sending gravful iniquities, which, however overlooked you this, Heaven only knows. Shenstone sive, in lashionable license, or varnished in fashional. "When one is confined idle within doors by back

regular correspondence. I hate the idea of being | able phrase, are indeed but lighter and deeper

Shortly after my last return to Ayrshire, I married "my Jean." This was not in consequence of the attachment of romance perhaps; but I had a long and much-loved fellow-ereature's happiness or misery in my determination, and I durst not trifle with so important a deposit. Nor have I any cause to repent it have not got polite tattle, modish manners, and fashionable dress, I am not sickened and d sgusted with the multiform curse of boarding-school affectation; and I have got the handsomest figure, the sweetest temper, the soundest constitution, and the kindest heart in the county, Mrs. Burns believes, as firmly as her creed, that I am le plus bel esprit, et le plus honnete homme in the universe; although she scarcely ever in her life, except the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, and the Psulms of David in metre, spent five minutes together on either prose or verse. I must except also from this last, a certain late publication of Scots poems, which she has perused very devoutly; and all the ballads in the country, as she has (O the partial lover! you will cry) the finest " woodnote wild" I ever heard .- I am the more particular in this lady's character, as I know she will henceforth have the honour of a share in your best wishes. She is still at Mauchline, as I am building my house; for this hovel that I shelter in, while occasionally here, is pervious to every blist that blows, and every shower that falls; and I am only preserved from being chilled to death, by being suffocated with smoke. I do not find my farm that pennyworth I was bearing away any mark or impression, except be a saving bargain. You will be pleased to hear that I have laid aside idle eclut, and bind every day after my reapers.

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. If I could set all before your view, whatever disrespect you in common with the world, have for this business, I know you would approve of my i 'ea.

I will make no apology, dear Madam, for this egotistic detail: I know you and your sister will be interested in every circum-tance of it, have lived more of real life with you in eight What signify the silly, idle gewgaws of weath, or the ideal trumpery of greatness. When felwith in eight years—when I think on the im-probability of meeting you in this world again. God, have the same benevolence of heart, the low partakers of the same nature fear the same -I could sit down and cry like a child !-If same nobleness of soul, the same detestation at ever you honoured me with a place in your every thing dishonest, and the same storn seeteen, I trust I can now plead more desirt.— every thing unworthy—if they are not in the I am secure against that crushing grip of iron dependance of absolute beggary, in the nine of poverty, which, alas! is less or more fatal to the common sense are they not EQUALS? And if native worth and purity of, I fear, the noblest the bias, the instructive bias of their souls run

weather, the best antidote against ennui is, to than once; but scarce y ever with more pieceread the letters of, or write to one's friends;" sure than when I received yours of the 12th inin that case then, if the weather continues thus, stant. To make myself understood; I had I may scrawl you half a quire.

I very lately, to wit, since harvest began. wrote a poem, not in imitation, but in the manner of Pope's Moral Epistles. It is only a short from him. It was dated the very day he had essay, just to try the strength of my Muse's pinion in that way. I will send you a copy of it, when once I have heard from you. I have likewise been laying the foundation of some pretty large poetic works: how the superstructure the blasting depredations of a canker-toothed, will come on I leave to that great maker and marrer of projects-TIME. Johnson's collection of Scots songs is going on in the third volume; feeling exactitude, the pro and con of an auand of consequence finds me a consumpt for a thor's merits; they are the judicious observagreat deal of idle metre. - One of the most to- tions of animated friendship, selecting the beaulerable things I have done in that way, is, two stanzas that I made to an air, a musical gentle

niversary of his wedding-day, which happens on The day returns --- my bosom burns, The blissful day we twa did meet, &c .- P. 99.

man * of my acquaintance composed for the an-

I shall give over this letter for shame. If I should be seized with a scribbling fit, before this goes away, I shall make it another letter; and then you may allow your patience a week's respite between the two. I have not room for more than the old, kind, hearty, FAREWELL!

To make some amends, mes cheres Mesdames, tor dragging you on to this second sheet; and to relieve a little the tiresomeness of my unstudied and uncorrectible prose, I shall transcribe you some of my late poetic bagatelles; though I have, these eight or ten months, done very little that way. One day, in an hermitage on the banks of Nith, belonging to a gentleman in my neighbourlood, who is so good as give me a key at pleasure, I wrote as follows; supposing myself the sequestered, venerable inhabitant of the lonely mansion.

(Lines written in Friar's Carse Hermitage.+)

No. XCVI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP, OF DUNLOP.

Manchline, 27th Sept. 1788. I HAVE received twins, dear Madam, more

· Captam Riddel of Glenridde.

wrote to Mr. Graham, enclosing my poem addressed to him, and the same post which favoured me with yours, brought me ao answer received mine; and I am quite at a loss to say whether it was most polite or kind.

Your criticisms, my honoured benefactress, are truly the work of a friend. They are not caterpillar critic; nor are they the fair state ment of cold impartiality, balancing with unties of the piece. I have just arrived from Nithsdale, and will be here a fortnight. I was on horseback this morning by three o'clock; for between my wife and my farm is just fortythe seventh of November. Take it as follows: six miles. As I jogged on in the dark, I was taken with a poetic lit, as follows:

" Mrs. F of C slamentation for the death of her son; an uncommonly promising youth of eighteen or niueteen years of age."

(Here follow the verses, entitled, " A Mo-'her's Lament for the Loss of her Son.")

You will not send me your poetic rambles, bit, you see, I am no niggard of mine. I am sure your impromptu's give me double pleasure; what falls from your pen, can neither be uncutertaining in itself, nor indifferent to me.

The one fault you found, is just : but I cannot please myself in an emendation.

What a life of solicitude is the life of a pareat! You interested me much in your young

I would not take my folio paper for this epistle, and now I repent it. I am so juded with my dirty long journey that I was afraid to drawl into the essence of duluess with any thing larger than a quarto, and so I must leave out another thyme of this morning's manufacture.

I will pay the sanientipotent George most cheerfally, to hear from you ere I leave Ayr shire.

No. XCVII.

TO MR. P. HILL.

verdict should be "guilty A poet of Nature's

[•] Captain Riddel of Glenriddo.

• The poster temperaturout is ever predisposed to executions of the "horrbid and awful." Burns, in currently from his viers at Glenriddot L., arm at Flechals, had be post frough a luttle wild wood at Flechals, had be post frough a luttle wild wood at Flechals, had been been in this country about three days, and all that time my chief reading has been the "Address to Loch Lomond," you have no correct to entage. This was related by a lady, a panicled one of the author's jury, to determine mo-ortunities of secular this saturary practice exemptic. opportunities of seeing this salutary practice exempli-

making!" It is an excellent method for im- pathless top," is a good expression; and the provement, and what I believe every poet does, surrounding view from it is truly great; the to place some favourite classic author, in his own walks of study and composition, before him, as a model. Though your author had not mentioned the name, I could have, at half a glance, guessed his model to be Thomson. Will my brother poet forgive me, if I venture to hint, that his imitation of that immortal bard, is in two or three places rather more servile than uch a genius as his required .- e. g.

To soothe the madding passions all to peace,

To soothe the throbbing passions into peace, THOMSON.

I think the Address is, in simplicity, harmony, and elegance of versification, fully equal to the Seasons. Like Thomson, too, he has looked into nature for himself; you meet with no copied description. One particular criticism I made at first reading; in no one instance has he said too much. He never flags in his progress, but like a true poet of Nature's making, kindles in his course. His beginning is simple, and modest, as if distrustful of the strength of his pinion; only, I do not altogether like

" Truth,

The soul of every song that's nobly great."

Fiction is the soul of many a song that is nobly great. Perhaps I am wrong: this may be but a prose criticism. Is not the phrase, in line 7, page 6, "Great take," too much vulgarized by every-day language, for so sublime a poem?

"Great mass of waters, theme for nobler song,"

is perhaps no emendation. His enumeration of a comparison with other lakes, is at once hermonious and poetic. Every reader's ideas must sweep the

" Winding margin of an hundred miles."

The perspective that follows mountains blue the imprisoned billows beating in vain-the wooded isles-the digression on the yew-tree " Ben Lomond's lofty cloud-enveloped head," &c. are beautiful. A thunder-storm is a subject which has been often tried, yet our poet, in his grand picture, has interjected a circumstance, so far as I know, entirely original:

" The gloom Deep seam'd with frequent streaks of moving

fire." In his preface to the storm, "the glens how

beautifully fancied. Ben Lomond's " lofty, lished in the Bee of Dr. Anderson.

" Silver mist, Beneath the beaming sun,"

is well described; and here, he has contrived to enliven his poem with a little of that passion which bids fair, I think, to usurp the modern muses altogether. I know not how far this episode is a beauty upon the whole, but the swain's wish to carry " some faint idea of the vision bright," to entertain her "partial listening car," is a pretty thought. But, in my opinion, the most beautiful passages in the whole poem, are the fowls crowding, in wintry frosts, to Loch Lomond's "hospitable flood;" their wheeling round, their lighting, mixing, diving, &c. and the glorious description of the sportsman. This last is equal to any thing in the Seasons. The idea of " the floating tribes distant seem, far glistering to the moon," provoking his eye as he is obliged to leave them, is a noble ray of poetic genius. "The howling winds," the "hidcous roar" of "the white cascades," are all in the same style.

I forget that while I am thus holding forth. with the heedless warmth of an enthosiast, I am perhaps tiring you with nonsense. I must, however, mention, that the last verse of the sixteer h page is one of the most elegant compliments I have ever seen. I must likewise notice that beautiful paragraph, beginning, "The gleaming lake," &c. I dare not go into the particular beauties of the two last paragraphs, but they are admirably fine, and truly Ossianic.

I must beg your pardon for this lengthened scrawl. I had no idea of it when I began-I should like to know who the author is; but, whoever he be, please present him with my grateful thanks for the entertainment he has afforded me *

A friend of mine desired me to commission for hun two books, Letters on the Religion cssential to Man, a book you sent me before; and, The World Unmasked, or the Philosopher the greatest Cheat. Send me them by the first opportunity. The Bible you sert me is truly elegant; I only wish it had been in two volumes,

No. XCVIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP, AT MOREHAM MAINS.

MADAM, Mauchline, 13th Nov. 1788. I HAD the very great pleasure of dining at Dunlop yesterday. Men are said to flatter wo-

In his preface to the storm, "the giens now dark between," is noble highland landscape! is said to be written by a gettleman, now one of the "rain plowing the red mould," too, is who translated the beautiful story of the Paria, as pub who translated the beautiful story of the Paria, as pub

of Dunlop.

SIR.

men because they are weak; if it is so, poets the ruling features of whose administration have must be weaker still; for Misses R. and K. ever been, mildness to the suoject, and tenderness and Miss G. M.K, with their flattering attentions, and artful compliments, absolutely turned Bred and my head. I own they did not lard me over as the principles of reason and common sense, it

their sly insinuations and delicate innendos of ner, in which the reverend gentleman mentioncompliment, that if it had not been for a lucky ed the House of Stuart, and which I am afraid, recollection, how much additional weight and lustre your good opinion and friendship must may rejoice sufficiently in our deliverance from give me in that circle, I had certainly looked upon myself as a person of no small consequence, of those, whose misfortune it was, perhaps as I dare not say one word how much I was charm- much as their crime, to be the authors of those ed with the major's friendly welcome, elegant evils; and we may bliss Gon for all his good-manner, and acute remark, lest I should be ness to us as a nation, without, at the same time, thought to balance my orientalisms of applause over against the finest quey in Ayrshire, which harboured ideas, and made attempts, that most he made a present of to help and adoro my farm. stock. As it was on hallow-day, I am determined annually as that day returns, to decorate her horns with an ode of gratitude to the family

So soon as I know of your arrival at Dunlop, I will take the first conveniency to dedicate a day, or perhaps two, to you and friendship, under the guarantee of the major's hospitality. There will soon be threescore and ten miles of permanent distance between us; and now that your friendship and friendly correspondence is entwisted with the heart-strings of my enjoyment of life, I must indulge myself in a happy day of " the feast of reason and the flow of soul."

No. XCIX.

November 8, 1788.

NOTWITHSTANDING the opprobrious epithets with which some of our philosophers and gloomy sectaries have branded our nature-the principle of universal selfishness, the proneness to all evil, they have given us; still, the detestation in which inhumanity to the distressed, or insolence to the fallen, are held by all mankind, shows that they are not natives of the human heart .- Even the unhappy partner of our kind, who is undone-the bitter consequence of his follies or his crimes-who but sympathises with the miseries of this reined profligate brother? we forget the ir aries, and feel for the man.

I went last Wednesday to my parish church, most cordially to join in grateful acknowledgements to the AUTHOR OF ALL GOOD, for the consequent blessings of the glorious revolution. To that auspicious event we owe no less than our liberties civil and religious; to it we are akewise indebted for the present Royal Family,

Bred and educated in revolution principles, many a poet does his patron could not be any silly political prejudice which . but they so intoxicated me with made my heart revolt at the harsh, abusive manwas too much the language of the day. past evils, without cruelly raking up the ashes cursing a few ruined, powerless exiles, who only of us would have done, had we been in their situation.

" The bloody and tyrannical House of Stuart," may be said with propriety and justice when compared with the present Royal Family, and the sentiments of our days; but is there no allowance to be made for the manners of the times? Were the royal contemporaries of the Stuarts more attentive to their subjects' rights? Might not the epithets of " bloody and tyrannical" be, with at least equal justice, applied to the House of Tudor, of York, or any other of their predecessors?

The simple state of the case, Sir, seems to be this-At that period, the science of government, the knowledge of the true relation between king and subject, was, like other sciences and other knowledge, just in its infancy, emerging from dark ages of ignorance and barbarity.

The Stuarts only contended for prerogatives which they knew their predecessors enjoyed, and which they saw their contemporaries enjoying; but these prerogatives were inimical to the happiness of a nation, and the rights of subjects.

In this coutest between prince and people, the consequence of that light of science, which had lately dawned over Europe, the monarch of France, for example, was victorious over the struggling liberties of his people; with us, luckily the monarch failed, and his unwarrantable pretensions fell a sacrifice to our rights and happi-Whether it was owing to the wisdom of leading individuals, or to the justling of parties, I cannot pretend to determine; but likewise, happily for us, the kingly power was shifted into another branch of the family, who, as they owed the throne solely to the call of a free people, could claim nothing inconsistent with the covenanted terms which placed them there.

The Stuarts have been condemned and laughed at for the folly and impracticability of their attempts in 1715 and 1745. That they failed, I bless Gon; but cannot join in the ridicule against them. Who does not know that the abilities or defects of leaders and con manders are often hidden until put to the touchstone of exigency; and that there is a caprice of fortune,

an omnipotence in particular accidents and conquictures of circumstances, which exalt us as heroes, or brand us as madmen, just as they are

for or against us?

Man, Mr. Publisher, is a strange, weak, inconsistent being. Who would believe, Sir, that, in this our Augustan age of liberality and refinement, while we seem so justly sensible and jealous of our rights and liberties, and animated with such indignation against the very memory of those who would have subverted them-that a certain people, under our national protection, should complain not against our monarch and a few favourite advisers, but against our WHOLE LEGISLATIVE BODY, for similar oppression, and almost in the very same terms, as our forefathers did of the House of Stuart! I will not, I cannot enter into the merits of the cause, but I dare say the American Congress, in 1776, will be allowed to be as able and as enlightened as the English convention was in 1688; and that their posterity will ce ebrate the centenary of their deliverance from us, as duly and sincerely as we do ours from the oppressive measures of the wrong-headed House of Stuart.

To conclude, Sir; let every man who has a tear for the many miseries incident to lumanity, feel for a family illustrious as any in Europe, and unfortunate beyond historic precedent; and let every Briton (and particularly every Scotsman), who ever looked with reverential pity on the dotage of a parent, cast a veil over the fatal mistakes of the kings of his forefathers.

No. C.

TO MR. JAMES JOHNSON, ENGRAVER, EDINBURGH.

Mauchline, Nov. 15, 1788.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE sent you two more songs.—If you have got any tunes, or any thing to correct, please send them by return of the carrier.

I can easily see, my dear friend, that you will very probably have four volumes. Perhaps you may not find your account horratively, in this busines; hut you are a patriot for the music of your country; and I am certain, posterity will look on themselves as highly indebted to your public spirit. Be not in a hurry; let us go on correctly; and your name shall be immortal.

I am preparing a flaming preface for your dirid volume. I see every day, new musical publications advertised; but what are they? Gandy, hunted butterflies of a day, and theu value, for ever: but your work will outlive the momentary neglects of idle fashion, and defy the

teeth of time.

Have you never a fair goldless that leads you a wild-goose chase of amorous devotion? Let me know a few of her qualities, such as, whether she be either black, or fair; plump, or tin; short, or tall, &c.; and choose your air, and I shall task my Muse to celebrate her.

No. CI.

TO DR. BLACKLOCK.

Mauchline, Nov. 15, 1788.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

As I hear nothing of your motions but thay you are, or were, out of town, I do not know where this may find you, or whether it will find you at all. I wrote you a long letter, dated from the land of matrimony, in June; but either it had not found you, or, what I dread more, it found you or Mrs. Blacklock in too precarious a state of health and spirits, to take notice of an idle packet.

I have done many little things for Johnson, since I had the pleasure of seeing you; and I have finished one piece, in the way of Pope's Moral Epistles; but from your silence, I have every thing to fear, so I have only sent you two melanchely things, which I tremble lest they should too well suit the tone of your present

feelings.

In a fortnight I move, bag and baggage, to Nithsdale; till then, my direction is at this place; after that period, it will be at Ellisland, near Dunnfries. It would extremely oblige mewere it but half a line, to let me know how you are, and where you are.—Can I be indifferent to the fate of a man, to whom I owe so much? A man whom I not only esteen but venerate.

My warmest good wishes and most respectful compliments to Mrs. Blacklock, and Miss John-

ston, if she is with you.

I cannot conclude without telling you that I amore and more pleased with the step I took respecting "my Jean."—Two things, from my happy experience, I set down as apothegms in life. A wife's head is immaterial, compared with her heart—and—"Virtue's (for wisdom what poet pretends to it)—ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Adieu!

(Here follow "The mother's lament for the oss of her son," p. 200, and the song beginning. "The lazy mist hangs from the brow of the hill," n. 234.)

[•] This letter was sent to the publisher of the Edinburgh Evening Courant.

No. CH.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisand, 17th December, 1788.

MY DEAR HONOURED FRIEND,

Yours, dated Edinburgh, which I have just read, makes me very unhappy. Almost " blind and wholly deaf," are melancholy news of human nature; but when told of a much loved and honoured friend, they carry misery in the sound. Goodness on your part, and gratitude on mine, began a tie, which has gradually and strongly entwisted itself among the dearest chords of my bosom; and I tremble at the omens of your late and present ailing habits and shattered health. You miscalculate matters widely, when you forbid my waiting on you, lest it should hurt my worldly concerns. My small scale of farming is exceedingly more simple and easy than what you have lately seen at Moreham Mains. But be that as it may, the heart of the man, and the fancy of the poet, are the two grand considerations for which I live: if miry ridges, and dirty dunghills are to engross the best part of the functions of my soul immortal, I had better been a rook or a magpie at once, and then I should not have been plagued with any ideas superior to breaking of clods, and picking up grubs; not to mention barn-door cocks or mallards, creatures with which I could almost exchange lives at any time. - If you continue so deaf, I am afraid a visit will be no great pleasure to either of us; but if I hear you are got so well again as to be able to relish conversation, look you to it, Madam, for I will make my threatenings good; I am to be at the new-year-day fair of Ayr, and by all that is sacred in the world, friend, I will come and see you.

Your meeting, which you so well describe, with your old schoolf flow and friend, was truly nateresting. Out upon the ways of the world!

—They spoil these "social offsprings of the heart." Two veterans of the "men of the word" would have met, with little more heartworkings than two old hacks worn out on the road. Apropos, is not the Scotch plusas, "Auld lang syne," exceedingly expressive. There is an old song and true which has often tailled through my soul. You know I am an enthusiast in old Scotch songs. I shall give you the verses on the other sheet, as I suppose Mr. Ker will save you the postage.

Light be the turf on the breast of the Heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment! There is more of the fire of native penius in it, than in half a dozen of modern English Bucchanalians. Now I am on my

hobby horse, I cannot help inserting two ather old stanzas, which please me mightily.

> Go fetch to me a pint o wine, An' fill it in a silver tassie, (See

> > No. CIII.

TO A YOUNG LADY,

WHO HAD HEARD DE HAD BEEN MAKING 4 BALLAD ON HER, ENCLOSING THAT BALLAD,

MADAM, December, 1788.

I UNDERSTAND my very worthy neighbour Mr. Riddel, has informed you that I have made you the subject of some verses. There is something so provoking in the idea of being the burden of a ballad, that I do not think Job or Moses, though such patterns of patience and meekness, could have resisted the curiosity to know what that ballad was; so my worthy friend has done me a mischief, which I dare say he never intended; and reduced me to the unfortunate alternative of leaving your curiosity ungratified, or else disgusting you with foolisa verses, the unfinished production of a random moment, and never meant to have met your ear I have heard or read somewhere of a gentleman, who had some genius, much eccentricity, and very considerable dexterity with his pencil. In the accidental groups of life into which one is thrown, wherever this gentleman met with a character in a more than ordinary degree congenial to his heart, he used to steal a sketch ot the face, merely, he said, as a nota bene to point out the agreeable recollection to his memory. What this gentleman's pencil was to him, is my muse to me; and the verses I do myself the honour to send you are a memento exactly of the same kind that he indulged in.

It may be more owing to the fistidiousness of my caprice, than the delicacy of my taste, that I am so often tired, disgusted, and hurt with the insipidity, affectation, and pride of mankind, that when I meet with a person " after my own heart," I positively feel what an orthodox protestant would call a species of idolatry which acts on my fancy like in-piration, and I can no more desist rhyming on the impulse, than an Æolian harp can refuse its tones to the streaming air. A distich or two would be the consequence, though the object which hit my fancy were grey-bearded age; but where my theme is youth and beauty, a young lady whose personal charms, wit, and sentiment, are equally striking and maffected, by heavens! though I had lived threescore years a mairied man, and threescore years before I was a married man, my imagination would ballow the very idea; and I am truly sorry that the enclosed stanzas have done such poor justice to such a subject.

[·] Here follows the song of Auld lang syna.

No. CIV.

TO SIR JOHN WHITEFOORD.

December, 1788. 51R.

MR. M'KENZIE, in Mauchline, my very warm and worthy friend, has informed me how much you are pleased to interest yourself in my fate as a man, and, (what to me is incomparably dearer) my fame as a poet. I have, Sir, in one or two instances, been patronized by those of your character in life, when I was introduced to their notice by -- friends to them, and honoured acquaintances to me: but you are the first gentleman in the country whose benevolence and goodness of heart has interested him for me, unsolicited and unknown. I am not master enough of the etiquette of these matters to know, nor did I stay to inquire, whether formal duty bade, or cold propriety disallowed, my thanking you in this manner, as I am convinced, from the light in which you kindly view me, that you will do me the justice to believe this letter is not the manouvre of a needy, sharping author, fastening on those in upper life, who honour him with a little notice of him or his works. Indeed the situation of poets is generally such, to a proverb, as may, in some measure, palliate that prostitution of heart and talents they have at times been guilty of. I do not think prodigality is, by an means, a necessary concomitant of a poetic turn, but believe a carcless, indolent inattention to economy, is almost inseparable from it; then there must be in the heart of every baid of Nature's making, a certain modest sensibility, mixed with a kind of pride, that will ever keep him out of the way of those windfalls of fortune, which frequently light on hardy impudence and foot-licking servility. It is not easy to imagine a more helpless state than his, whose poetic fancy unfits him for the world, and whose character as a scholar, gives him some preten-sions to the politesse of life-yet is as poor as I

For my part, I thank Heaven, my star has been kinder; learning never elevated my ideas above the peasant's shed, and I have an independent fortune at the plough-tail.

I was surprised to hear that any one, who pretended in the least to the manners of the gentleman, should be so foolish, or worse, as to stoop to traduce the morals of such a one as I am, and so inhumanly cruel, too, as to meddle with that late most unfortugate, unhappy part of my story. With a tear of gratitude, I thank you, Sir, for the warmth with which you interposed in behalf of my conduct. I am, I acknowledge, too frequently the sport of whim, caprice, and passion-but reverence to God, and integrity to my fellow-creatures, I hope I shall ever preserve. I have no return, Sir, to make you for your goodness but one-a return the end, of autumn; these, time out of mind which, I am persuaded, will not be unaccept- have been with me a kind of holiday. shle-whe honest, warm wishes of a grateful

heart for your happiness, and every one of that lovely flock, who stand to you in a filial relation. If ever calminy aim the poisoned shaft at them, may friendship be by to ward the blow!

LETTERS, 1789.

No. CV.

FROM MR. G. BURNS.

DEAR BROTHER, Mossgiel, 1st Jan. 1789.

I have just finished my new-year's-day breakfast in the usual form, which naturally makes me call to mind the days of former years, and the society in which we used to begin them; and when I look at our family vicissitudes, "through the dark postern of time long clapsed," I cannot help remarking to you, my dear brother, how good the God of Seasons is to us; and that however some clouds may seem to lower over the portion of time before us, we have great reason to hope that all will turn out well.

Your mother and sisters, with Robert the second, join me in the compliments of the season to you and Mrs. Burus, and beg you will remember us in the same manner to William. the first time you see him.

I am, dear brother, yours, GILBERT BURNS.

No. CVI.

TO MRS, DUNLOP,

Ellisland, New-Year-Day Morning, 1789. Titts, dear Madain, is a morning of wishes, and would to God that I came under the apostle James's description ! -the prayer of a righteous man availeth much. In that case, Madam, you should welcome in a year full of blessings; every thing that obstructs or disturbs tranquillity and self-enjoyment, should be removed, and every pleasure that frail humanity can taste, should be yours. I own myself so little a Presbyterian, that I approve of set times and seasons of more than ordinary acts of devotion, for breaking in on that habituated routine of life and thought, which is so apt to reduce our existence to a kind of instinct, or even sometimes, and with some minds, to a state very little superior to mere machinery.

This day; the first Sunday of May; a breezy, blue-skyed noon some time about the beginning, and a hoary morning and calm sunny day about

I believe I owe this to that glorious paper in | that woe fell upon the head of mortal man, # lables: " On the 5th day of the moon, which, according to the custom of my forefathers. I always keep holy, after having washed myself, and offered up my morning devotions, I ascended the high hill of Bagdat, in order to pass the rest of the day in meditation and prayer."

We know nothing, or next to nothing, of the substance or structure of our souls, so cannot account for those seeming caprices, in them, that one should be particularly pleased with this thing, or struck with that, which, on minds of a different cast, makes no extraordinary impression. I have some favourite flowers in spring, among which are the mountain daisy, the bare-bell, the fox-glove, the wild-brier rose, the budding birch, and the hoary hawthorn, that I view and hang over with particular delight. I never hear the loud, solitary whistle of the curlew, in a summer noon, or the wild mixing cadence of a troop of grey plover, in an autumnal morning, without feeling an elevation of soul like the enthusiasm of devotion or poe-Tell me, my dear friend, to what can this be owing? Are we a piece of machinery, which, like the Æolian harp, passive, takes the impression of the passing accident? Or do these workings argue something within us above the trodden clod? I own myself partial to such proofs of those awful and important realities-a God that made all things-man's immaterial and immortal nature-and a world of weal or wee beyond death and the grave.

No. CVII.

FROM THE REV. P. CARFRAE.

2d January, 1789. Ir you have lately seen Mrs. Dunlop, of Dunlop, you have certainly heard of the author of the verses which accompany this letter. He str, was a man highly respectable for every accomplishment and virtue which adorns the charac-To a great deter of a man or a Christian. gree of literature, of taste, and poetic genius, was added an invincible modesty of temper, in life, and confined the perfect knowledge of his character and talents to the small circle of his chosen friends. He was untimely taken from us, a few weeks ago, by an inflammatory fever, in the prime of life-beloved by all, who enjoyed his acquaintance, and lamented by all, who have any regard for virtue or genius. There person whom all men speak well of; if ever pride.

the Spectator, "The Vision of Mirza;" a fell upon him. He has left behind him a conpiece that struck my young fancy before I was siderable number of compositions, chiefly poeticapable of fixing an idea to a word of three syl- cal; sufficient, I imagine, to make a large octavo volume. In particular, two complete and regular tragedies, a farce of three acts, and some smaller poems on different subjects. It falls to my share, who have lived in the most intimate and uninterrupted friendship with him from my youth upwards, to transmit to you the verses he wrote on the publication of your incomparable poems. It is probable they were his last, as they were found in his scrutoire, folded up with the form of a letter addressed to you, and I imagine, were only prevented from being sent by himself, by that meiancholy dispensation which we still bemoan. The verses themselves I will not pretend to criticise when writing to a gentleman whom I consider as entirely qualified to judge of their merit. They are the only verses he seems to have attempted in the Scottish style; and I hesitate not to say, in general, that they will bring no dishonour on the Scottish muse ;--- and allow me to add, that if it is your opinion they are not unworthy of the author, and will be no discredit to you, it is the inclination of Mr. Mylne's friends that they should be immediately published in some periodical work, to give the world a specimen of what may be expected from his performances in the poetic line, which, perhaps, will be afterwards published for the advantage of his family.

> I must beg the favour of a letter from yon, acknowledging the receipt of this, and to be allowed to subscribe myself with great regard, Sir, your most obedient servant,

P. C.

No. CVIII.

TO DR. MOORE.

Ellisland, near Dumfrics, 4th Jan. 1789.

As often as I think of writing to you, which has been three or four times every week these six months, it gives me something so like the idea of an ordinary-sized statue offering at a conversation with the Rhodian Colossus, that my which prevented, in a great degree, his figuring mind misgives me, and the affair always miscarries somewhere between purpose and resolve. 1 have, at last, got some business with you, and business-letters are written by the style-book. -I say my business is with you, Sir, for you never had any with me, except the business that benevolence has in the mansion of poverty.

The character and employment of a poet is a woe pronounced in Scripture against the were fermerly my pleasure, but are now my know that a very great deal of my

situation, and the honest prejudice of Scotsmen; it was mere selfishness on my part; I was conbut still, as I said in the preface to my first ediscious that the wrong scale of the halance was tion, I do look upon myself as having some pre- pretty heavily charged, and I thought that tensions from Nature to the poetic character. I throwing a little filial piety, and fraternal affecnave not a doubt but the knack, the aptitude, to tion, into the scale in my favour, might help to earn the Muses' trade, is a gift bestowed by smooth matters at the grand reckoning. There Him "who forms the secret bias of the soul;" is still one thing would make my circumstances ... but as I firmly believe, that excellence in the quite easy; I have an excise officer's commisprofession is the fruit of industry, labour, attention, and pains. At least I am resolved to try sion. My request to Mr. Graham, who is one my doctrine by the test of experience. Another of the commissioners of excise, was, if in his appearance from the press I put off to a very power, to procure me that division. If I were distant day, a day that may never arrive-but very sanguine, I might hope that some of my poesy I am determined to prosecute with all my great patrons might procure me a treasury warvigour. Nature has given very few, if any, of rant for supervisor, surveyor-general, &c. the profession, the talents of shining in every species of composition. I shall try (for until trial it is impossible to know), whether she has qualified me to shine in any one. The worst of it is, by the time one has finished a piece, it has poetry, delightful maid," I would consecrate my been so often viewed and reviewed before the future days. mental eye, that one loses, in a good measure, the powers of critical discrimination. Here the best criterion I know is a friend-not only of abilities to judge, but with good nature enough, like a prudent teacher with a young learner, to praise perhaps a little more than is exactly just, lest the thin-skinned animal fall into that most deplorable of all poetic diseases-heart-breaking despondency of himself. Dare I, Sir, already immensely indebted to your goodness, ask the MANY happy returns of the season to you, additional obligation of your being that friend to my dear Sir. May you be comparatively happy me? I enclose you an essay of mine, in a walk of poesy to me entirely new; I mean the epistle addressed to R. G., Esq., or Robert Graham, of Fintry, Esq., a gentleman of uncommon worth, to whom I lie under very great obligations. The story of the poem, like most of my poems, is connected with my own story, and to give you the one, I must give you something of the other. I cannot boast of-

I believe I shall, in whole, L.100 copy-right included, clear about L.400 some little odds; and even part of this depends upon what the gentleman has yet to settle with me. I give you this information, because you did me the honour to interest yourself much in my welfare.

To give the rest of my story in brief, I have married "my Jean," and taken a farm; with the first step I have every day more and more for bread, business, notice, and distinction, in reason to be satisfied; with the last, it is rather common with hundreds .- But who are they? the reverse. I have a younger brother, who Men, like yourself, and of that aggregate body, supports my aged mother; another still younger your compeers, seven-tenths of them come short brother, and three sisters, in a farm. On my of your advantages natural and accidental; while last return from Edinburgh, it cost me about two of those that remain either neglect their L.180 to save them from ruin. Not that I parts, as flowers blooming in a desert, or misnave lost so much-I only interposed between spend their strength, like a bull goring a brammy brother and his impending fate by the loan ble bush.

Late eclat was owing to the singularity of my of so much. I give myself no airs on this, for sion, and I live in the midst of a country divi-

Thus secure of a livelihood, "to thee, sweet

No. CIX.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Ellisland, Jun. 6, 1789.

up to your comparative worth among the sons of men; which wish would, I am sure, make you one of the most blest of the human race.

I do not know if passing a "Writer to the Signet" be a trial of scientific merit, or a mere business of friends and interest. However it be, let me quoto you my two favourite passages, which though I have repeated them ten thousand times, still they rouse my manhood and steel my resolution like inspiration.

 On Reason build resolve, That column of true majesty in man. Young.

Hear, Alfred, hero of the state, Thy genius heaven's high will declare; The triumph of the truly great Is never, never to despair ! s never to despair !

MASQUE OF ALFRED.

a grant you enter the lists of life, to struggle

But to change the theme: I am still catering | corrections of years can enable me to produce for Johnson's publication; and among others, I have brushed up the following old favourite song a little, with a view to your worship. have only altered a word zere and there; but if you like the humour of i; we shall think of a stanza or two to add to it.

No. CX.

TO BISHOP GEDDES.

Ellisland, near Dumfries, 3d Feb. 1789. VENERABLE FATHER.

As I am conscious that wherever I am you do me the honour to interest yourself in my welfare, it gives me pleasure to inform you, that I am here at last, stationary in the serious business of life, and have now not only the retired leisure, but the hearty inclination, to attend to those great and important questions-what I am? where I am? and for what I am destined?

In that first concern, the conduct of the man, there was ever but one side on which I was habitually blameable, and there I have secured myself in the way pointed out by Nature and Nature's God. I was sensible that, to so helpless a creature as a poor poet, a wife and family were incumbrances, which a species of prudence would bid him shun; but when the alternative was, being at eternal warfare with myself, on account of habitual follies, to give them no worse name, which no general example, no licentious wit, no sophistical infidelity would, to me, ever justify, I must have been a fool to have hesitated, and a madman to have made another choice.

In the affair of a livelihood, I think myself tolerably secure: I have good hopes of my farm ; but should they fail, I have an excise commission, which on my simple petition, will, at any time, procure me bread. There is a certain stigma affixed to the character of an excise officer, but I do not intend to norrow nonour me to expect.

something worth preserving.

You will see in your book, which I beg your pardon for detaining so long, that I have been tuning my lyre on the banks of Nith. Some larger poetic plans that are floating in my umagination, or partly put in execution, I shall impart to you when I have the pleasure of meeting with you, which, if you are then in Edinburg. , I shall have about the beginning of March.

That acquaintance, worthy Sir, with which you were pleased to honour me, you must still allow me to challenge; for with whatever unconcern I give up my transient connection with the merely great, I cannot lose the patronizing notice of the learned and the good, without the bitterest regret.

No. CXI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 4th March, 1789.

HERE am I, my honoured friend, returned safe from the capital. 'To a man, who has a home, however humble or remote-if that home is like mine, the scene of domestic comfort—the bustle of Edinburgh will soon be a business of sickening disgust.

"Vain pomp and glory of this world, I hate you!"

When I must skulk into a corner, lest the rattling equipage of some gaping blockhead should mangle me in the mire, I am tempted to exclaim-" what merits has he had, or what demerit have I had, in some state of pre-existence, that he is ushered into this state of being with the sceptre of rule, and the key of riches, in his puny fist, and I am kicked into the world, the sport of folly, or the victim of pride?" I have read somewhere of a monarch (in Spain I think it was), who was so out of humour with the Ptolemean system of astronomy, that he said, had he been of the CREATOR's council, he could have saved him a great deal of labour and absurdity. I will not defend this blaspnemous from any profession; and though the salary be speech; but often, as I have glided with humble comparatively small, it is great to any thing stealth through the pomp of Prince's Street, it that the first twenty-five years of my life taught has suggested itself to me, as an improvement on the present human figure, that a man, in proportion to his own conceit of his consequence in the world, could have pushed out the longitude of his common size, as a snail pushes out Thus, with a rational aim and method in life, by this horns, or as we draw out a perspective, you may easily guess, my reverend and much-honoured friend, that my characteristical trade digious saving it would be in the tear and wear is not forgotten. I am, if possible, more than of the neck and limb-sinews of many of his Maever an enthusiast to the muses. I am deter- jesty's liege subjects in the way of tossing the mined to study man and nature, and in that head and tiptoe strutting, would evidently turn view incessantly; and to try if the ripening and out a vast advantage, in enabling us at once te

CORRESPONDENCE.

adjust the ceremonials in making a bow, or making way to a great man, and that too within a second of the precise spherical angle of reverence, or an inch of the particular point of respectful distance, which the important creature itself requires; as a measuring-glance at its towering altitude would determine the affair like

You are right, Madam, in your idea of poor Mylne's poem, which he has addressed to me. The piece has a good deal of merit, but it has one great fault-it is, by far, too long. Besides, my success has encouraged such a shoal of ill-spawned monsters to crawl into public notice, under the title of Scottish Poets, that the very term of Scottish Poetry borders on the burlesque. When I write to Mr. C. I shall advise him rather to try one of his deceased friend's English pieces. I am prodigiandy hurried with my own matters, else I would have requested a perusal of all Mylne's poetic performances; and would have offered his friends my assistance in either selecting or correcting what would be proper for the press. What it is that occupies me so much, and perhaps a little oppresses my present spirits, shall fill up a paragraph in some future letter. In the meantime allow me to close this epistle with a few lines done by a friend of mine . . . I give you them, that as you have seen alterations I have ventured to make in them, be

the original, you may guess whether one or two any real improvement.

Like the fair plant that from our touch withdraws

Shrink mildly fearful even from applause, Be all a mother's fondest hope can dream, And all you are, my charming -----, seem. Straight as the fox-glove, ere her bells disclose, Mild as the maiden-blushing hawthorn blows, Fair as the fairest of each lovely kind,

Your form shall be the image of your mind: Your manners shall so true your soul express, That all shall long to know the worth they guess; Congenial hearts shall greet with kindred love,

And even sick'ning envy must approve. .

No. CXII.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM BURNS, THE POET'S BROTHER.

[Titts and three letters which follow hereafter, are the genuine and artless productions of the poet's younger Brother, WILLIAM BUKNS, a young man, who after having served an apprenticeship to the trade of a Saddler, took his road towards the South, and having resided a short time at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, arrived in London, where he died of a patrid fever in the year 1790.]

Longtown, Feb. 15, 1789.

As I am now in a manner only entering into the world, I begin this our correspondence, with a view of being a gainer by your advice, more than ever you can be by any thing I can write you of what I see, or what I hear, in the course of my wanderings. I know not how it happened, but you were more shy of your counsel than I could have wished the time I staid with you: whether it was because you thought it would disgust me to have my faults freely told me while I was dependant on you; or whether it was because you saw that by my indolent disposition, your instructions would have no effect, I cannot determine; but if it proceeded from any of the above causes, the reason of withholding your admonition is now done away, for I now stand on my cwn bottom, and that indolence, which I am very conscious of, is something rubbed off, by being called to act in life whether I will or not; and my inexperience, which I daily feel, makes me wish for that advice which you are so able to give, and which I can only expect from you or Gilbert since the loss of the kindest and ablest of fathers.

The morning after I went from the Isle, I left Dumfries about five o'clock and came to Annan to breakfast, and staid about an hour: and I reached this place about two o'clock. have got work here, and I intend to stay a month or six weeks, and then go forward, as I wish to be at York about the latter end of summer, where I propose to spend next winter, and go on for London in the spring.

I have the promise of seven shillings a week from Mr. Proctor while I stay here, and sixpence more if he succeeds himself, for he has only new begun trade here. I am to pay four shillings per week of board wages, so that my neat income here will be much the same as in Dumfries.

The enclosed you will send to Gilbert with the first opportunity. Please send me the first Wednesday after you receive this, by the Carlisle waggon, two of my coarse shirts, one of my best linen ones, my velveteen vest, and a neckeloth; write to me along with them, and direct to me, Saddler, in Longtown, and they will not miscarry, for I am boarded in the waggoner's house. You may either let them be given in to the wag con, or send them to Coulthard and Gellebourn's shop and they will forward them Pray write me often while I stay here,-- I wish you would send me a letter, though never so small, every week, for they will be no expense to me, and but little trouble to you. Flease to give my best wishes to my sister-in-law, and believe me to be your affectionate And obliged Brother.

WILLIAM BURNS

hese beautiful lines, we have reason to believe, are the production of the lady to whom this letter is adress d

did me singular service the day I came here, and feetual manner, to those tender connections merits my hearty thanks. From what has been whose right it is, the pecuniary reward of those said the conclusion is this; that my hearty merits. thanks and my best wishes are all that you and my sister must expect from

W. B.

No. CXIII.

TO THE REV. P. CARFRAE.

REVEREND SIR,

1789.

I no not recollect that I have ever felt a severer pang of shame, than on looking at the date of your obliging letter, which accompanied Mr. Mylne's poem.

I am much to blame: the honour Mr. Mylne has done me, greatly enhanced in its value by the endearing, though melancholy circumstance, of its being the last production of his muse, deserved a better return.

I have, as you hint, thought of sending a copy of the poem to some periodical publication; but, on second thoughts, I am afraid have it in your power to serve such a character, that, in the present case, it would be an improper step. My success, perhaps as much accidental as merited, has brought an inundation of nonsense under the name of Scottish poetry. Subscription-bills for Scottish poems have so dunned, and daily do dun the public, that the very name is in danger of contempt. For these probably knew her personally, an honour of reasons, if publishing any of Mr. M.'s poems in a magazine, &c. he at all prodent, in my opinion it certainly should not be a Scottish poem. The profits of the labours of a man of genius, are, I tested with the most heartfelt cordiality. Howhope, as bonomable as any profits whatever; ever, in the particular part of her conduct which and Mr. Mylne's relations are most justly entitled to that honest harvest, which fate has de-blamcable. In January last, on my road to aied himself to resp. But let the friends of Mr. Ayrshire, I had put up at Bailie Wigham's in Mylne's fame (among whom I crave the honour of ranking myself), always keep in eye his respectability as a man and as a poet, and take no howling wind were ushering in a night of snow measure that, before the world knows any thing and drift. My horse and I were both much about him, would risk his name and character fatigned with the labours of the day, and just as being classed with the fools of the times.

and the way in which I would proceed with the funeral pageantry of the late great Mrs Mr. Myine's poems, is this : - I would publish, in two or three English and Scottish public horrors of the tempestuous night, and jade my papers, any one of his English poems which horse, my young favourite horse, whom I had should, by private judges, be thought the most just christened Pegasus, twelve miles farther excellent, and mention it at the same time, as on, through the wildest muis and hills of Ayr one of the productions of a Lothian farmer, of shire, to New Cumnock, the next inn. respectable character, lately decessed, whose powers of poesy and processink under me, when penns his friends had it in idea to publish some it would describe what felt. Sufflee it to say a sub-cryiton, for the sake of his numerous that when a good fire, at New Cunnock, had been penns and the processing the sake of his numerous that when a good fire, at New Cunnock, had been penns and penns an 5. nily :-not in pity to that family, but in jus- so far recovered my frozen sinews, I sat down we to what his friends think the poetic merits and wrote the enclosed ode.

P. S. The great coat you gave me at parting of the deceased; and to secure, in the most of

No. CXIV.

TO DR. MOORE.

Ellisland, 23d March, 1785. THE gentleman who will deliver you this is a Mr. Nielson, a worthy clergyman in my neighbourhood, and a very particular acquaintance o. mine. As I have troubled him with this packet, I must turn him over to your goodness, to recompense him for it in a way in which he much needs your assistance, and where you can effectually serve him :- Mr. Nielson is on his way for France, to wait on his Grace of Queensberry, on some little business of a good deal of importance to him, and he wishes for your instructions respecting the most eligible mode of travelling, &c. for him, when he has crossed the Channel. I should not have dared to take this liberty with you, but that I am told, by those who have the honour of your personal acquaintance, that to be a poor honest Scotchman is a letter of recommendation to you, and that to gives you much pleasure.

The enclosed ode is a compliment to the memory of the late Mrs. ----, of which I cannot boast; but I spent my early years in her neighbourhood, and among her servants and tenants. I know that she was deroused my poetic wrath, she was much less Sanguhar, the only tolerable inn in the place. The frost was keen, and the grim evening and my friend the Bailie and I were bidding defiance I have, Sir. some experience of publishing; to the storm, over a smoking bowl, in wheels -, and poor I am forced to brave all the

est, he has been amicable and fair with me.

No. CXV.

TO MR. PETER HILL.

Ellisland, 2d April, 1789.

I WILL make no excuses, my dear Bibliopous, (God forgive me for murdering language!) that I have sat down to write you on this vile paper.

It is economy, Sir; it is that cardinal virtue, prudence; so I beg you will sit down, and either compose or borrow a panegyrie. If you are going to borrow, apply to

to compose, or rather to compound, something very clever on my remarkable frugality; that I write to one of my most esteemed friends on this wretched paper, which was originally in-tended for the venal fist of some drunken exciseman, to take dirty notes in a miserable vault of an ale-cellar.

O Frugality! thou mother of ten thousand blessings-thou cook of fat beef and dainty greens !-thou manufacturer of warm Shetland hose, and comfortable surtouts !- thou old housewife, darning thy decayed stockings with thy ancient spectacles on thy aged nose;-lead me, hand me in thy clutching palsied fist, up those heights, and through those thickets, hitherto inaccessible, and impervious to my anxious weary feet :- not those Parnassian craggs, bleak and barren, where the hungry worshippers of fame are, breathless, clambering, hanging between heaven and hell; but those glattering cliffs of Potesi, where the all sufficient, allpowerful deity, Wealth, holds his immediate court of joys and pleasures; where the sunny exposure of plenty, and the hot walls of profusion, produce those blis-ful fruits of luxury, exotics in this world, and natives of paradise !-Thou withered sybil, my sage conductress, usher me into the refulgent, adored presence !- The power, splendid and potent as he now is, was that communicating them to you gives to me, once the puling nursling of thy faithful care, I am satisfied. and tender arms! Call me thy son, thy cousin, thy kinsman, or favourite, and adjure the god, by the scenes of his infant years, no longer to tepulse me as a stranger, or an alien, but to faour demerits Pledge yourself for me, that, for lows :-

I was at Edinbergh lately, and settled finally the glorious cause of Lucke, I will do any thing, with Mr. Creech; and I must own, that, at be any thing-but the horse-leech of private oppression, or the vulture of public robbery!

But to descend from heroics,

I want a Shakspeare; I want likewise an Eng lish dictionary-Johnson's, I suppose, is best In these and all my prose commissions, the cheapest is always the best for me. There is a small debt of honour that I owe Mr. Robert Cleghorn, in Saughton Mills, my worthy friend, and your well-wisher. Please give him, and urge him to take it, the first time you see him, ten shillings worth of any thing you have to sell, and place it to my account.

The library scheme that I mentioned to you is already begun, under the direction of Captain Riddel. There is another in emulation of it going on at Closeburn, under the auspices of Mr. Monteith, of Closeburn, which will be on a greater scale than ours. Captain R gave his infant society a great many of his old books, else I had written you on that subject; but, one of these days, I shall trouble you with a commission for "The Monkland Friendly Society"-a copy of The Spectator, Mirror, and Lounger; Man of Feeling, Ann of the World, Guthrie's Geographical Grammar, with some religious pieces, will likely be our first order.

When I grow richer, I will write to you on gilt post, to make amends for this sheet. At present, every guinea has a five-guinea errand

> My dear Sir, Your faithful, poor, but bonest friend,

> > No. CXVI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 2d April, 1789.

I no sooner hit on any poetic plan or fance but I wish to send it to you; and if knowing and reading these give half the pleasure to you,

I have a poetic whim in my head, which I vour me with his peculiar countenance and pro- at present dedicate, or rather inscribe, to the tection! He doily bestows his greatest kindness Right Hon. C. J. Fox; but how long that on the undeserving and the worthless—assure fancy may hold, I cannot say. A few of the him, that I bring ample documents of meritori- first lines I have just rough-sketched, as followed, the state of the state

SKETCH OF C. J. FOX.

How wisdom and folly meet, mix, and unite; How virtue and vice blend their black and their white;

How genius, th' illustrious father of fiction, Confounds rule and law, reconciles contradic-

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.

Then 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, Na man with the half of 'em e'er went quite right; A sorry, poor mishegot son of the muses, For using thy name offers fifty excuses.

Good L-d, what is man! for as simple he looks,

Do but try to develope his hooks and his crocks; 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 pity, in rearing so beauteous a system,

One trilling particular, truth, should have miss'd laim;

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

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 dronken iellow 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

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.

On the 20th current I hope to have the honour of assuring you, in person, how sincerely 1 am,

No. CXVII.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

MY DEAR SIA, Ellisland, 4th May, 1789, Your duty free favour of the 26th April I received two days ago: I will not say I perused it with pleasure; that is the cold compliment of ceremony; I perused it, Sir, with delicious satisfaction.—In short, it is such a letter, that not you, nor your friend, but the legislature, by express provise in their postage laws, should frank. A letter informed with the soul of friendshap, is such an honour to human nature, that they should order it free ingress and egress to and from their bags, and mals, as an encouragement and mark of distinction to super-eminent virtue.

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 hurst of a shot from a neighbouring plantation, and presently a poor little wounded hare came crippling by me. You will guess my indignation at the inhuman fellow who could shoot a hare at this season, when they all of them have young ones. Indeed there is something in that business of destroying, for our sport, individuals in the animal creation that do not injure us materially, which I could never reconcile to my ideas of virtue.

(See Poetry.)

Let me know how you like my poem. I am doubtful whether it would not be an improvement to keep out the last stanza but one altogether.

C--- is a glorious production of the author of man. You, he, and the noble Colonel of the C--- are, to me,

"Dear as the ruddy drops which warm my breast."

I have a good mind to make verses on you all, to the tune of "three good fellows ayout the glen."

No. CXVIII.

Fur poem, in the preceding letter, had also been sent by our bard to Dr. Gregory for his criticism. The following is that gentleman's realy.

FROM DR. GREGORY.

DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 2d June, 1789.

I' ARE the first leisure hour I could communa, to thank you for your letter, and the copy of verses enclosed in it. As there is real poetic merit, I mean both fancy, and tenderness, and some happy expressions, in them, I think they well deserve that you should revise them carefully and polish them to the utmost. This I am sure you can do if you please, for you have great command both of expression and of rhymes; and you may judge from the two last pieces of Mrs. Hunter's poetry, that I gave you, how much correctness and high polish enhance the value of such compositions. As you desire it, I shall, with great freedom, give you my most rigorous criticisms on your verses. I wish you would give me another edition of them, much amended, and I will send it to Mrs. Hunter, who, I am sure, will have much pleasure in reading it. Pray, give me likewise for myself, and her too, a copy (as much amended as you please) of the Water Fowl on Lock Turit.

The Wounded Hare is a pretty good subject; but the measure, or stanza, you have chosen for it, is not a good one; it does not flow well; and the rhyme of the fourth line is almost lost by its distance from the first; and the two interposed, close rhymes. If I were you, I would

put it into a different stanza yet.

Stanza 1.—The exectations in the first two lines are strong or coarse; but they may puss, "Murder-aiming" is a bail compound epithet, and not very intelligible. "Blood-stained," in stanz iii. line 4, has the same fault: Bleeding besom is infinitely better. You have accustomed yourself to such epithets, and have no notion how stiff and quaint they appear to others, and how incongruous with poetic fancy, and tender sentiments. Suppose Pope had written, "Why that blood-stained bosom gored," how would you have liked it? Form is neither a poetic, nor a dignified, nor a plain, convinon word: it is a mere sportsman's word; unsuitable to pathetic or serious poetry.

" Mangled" is a coarse word. " Innocent," in this sense, is a nursery word; but both may

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Stanza 4.—" Who will now provide that life a mother only can bestow," will not do at all: it is not grammar—it is not intelligible. Do you mean "provide for that life which the mother had bestowed and used to provide for?"

There was a ridiculous slip of the pen, "Feeling" (I suppose) for "Fellow," in the title of your copy of verses; but even fellow would be wrong; it is but a colloquial and vulgar word, unsmit dole to your sentiments. "Shot" is improper too.—On seeing a person (or a sportsman) wound a hate; it is needless to add with what weapon; but if you think otherwise, you should say, with a fowling-piece.

Let me see you when you come to town, and I will show you some more of Mrs. Hunter's poems.

No. CXIX.

TO MR. JAMES HAMILTON,

GROCER, GLASGOW.

DEAR SIR, Ellisland, May, 26, 1789.

I SEND you by John Glover, carrier, the above account for Mr. Turnbull, as I suppose

you know his address.

I would fain offer, my dear Sir, a word of sympathy with your misfortunes; but it is a tender string, and I know not how to touch it. It is easy to flourish a set of high-flown sentiments on the subject that would give great satisfaction to—a breast quite at ease; but as oxe observes, who was very seldom mistaken in the theory of life, "The heart knoweth its own sorrows, and a stranger intermeddleth not therewith."

Among some distressful emergencies that I have experienced in life, I have ever laid this down as my foundation of comfort—That he he who has lived the life of an honest man, has by no means lived in rain!

With every wish for your welfare and future

success,

I am, my dear Sir, Sincerely yours.

No. CXX.

TO WM. CREECH, Esq.

Ellisland, May 30, 1799.

I man intended to have troubled you with a long letter, but at present the delightful sensations of an omnipotent toothach so engross all my inner man, as to put it out of my power even to write nonsense .- However, as in duty bound, I approach my bookseller with an offering in my hand-a few poetic clinches and a song :- To expect any other kind of offering from the RHYMING TRIBE, would be to know them much less than you do. I do not pretend that there is much merit in these morceaux, but I have two reasons for sending them; primo, they are mostly ill-natured, so are in unison with my present feelings, while fitty troops of infernal spirits are driving post from ear to ear along my jaw-bones; and secondly, they are so short, that you cannot leave off in the middle, and hart my pride in the idea that you found any work of mine too heavy to get through.

I have a request to beg of you, and I not only beg of you, but conjure you—by all your wishes and by all your hopes, that the muse

It must be admitted, that this criticism is not more distinguished by its good sense, than by its freefoin from cerein-my. It is impossible not to sinite at the manner in which the poet may be suppressed to have seex-ved it. In ract it appears, as the sailors say, to.

will spare the satiric wink in the moment of " Lo, children are God's neritage," &c. 12 your foilbles; that she will warble the song of which last Mrs. Burns, who, by the bye, has a rapture round your hymened couch; and that glorious "wood-note wild" at either old song she will shed on your turf the honest tear of or psalmody, joins me with the pathos of Hanelegiae gratitude! grant my request as speedily del's Messiah. as possible.-Send me by the very first fly or coach for this place, three copies of the last edition of my poems; which place to my account.

Now, may the good things of prose, and the good things of verse, come among thy hands until they be filled with the good things of this tife! prayeth

ROBT. BURNS

No. CXXI.

TO MR. M'AULEY.

OF DUMBARTON.

4th June, 1789.

THOUGH I am not without my fears respecting my fate at that grand, universal inquest of right and wrong, commonly called The Last Day, yet I trust there is one sin, which that arch-vagabond, Satan, who, I understand, is to be king's evidence, cannot throw in my teeth -I mean ingratitude. There is a certain pretty large quantum of kindness for which I reyour debtor; but though unable to repay the debt, I assure you, Sir, I shall ever warmly remember the obligation. It gives me the sincerest pleasure to hear by my old acquaintance, Mr. Kennedy, that you are, in immortal Allan's language, " Hale and weel, and living;" and that your charming family are well, and promising to be an amiable and respectable addition to the company of performers, whom the Great Manager of the Drama of Man is bringing into action for the succeeding age

With respect to my welfare, a subject in which you once warmly and effectively interested yourself, I am here in my old way, holding my plough, marking the growth of my corn, or the health of my dairy; and at times sauntering by the delightful windings of the Nith, on the margin of which I have built my humble domicile, praying for sensonable weather, or holding an intrigue with the Muses; the only

No. CXXII.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Ellisland, June 8, 1789.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am perfectly ashamed of myself when I look at the date of your last. It is not that I forget the friend of my heart and the companion of my peregrinations; but I have been condemned to drudgery beyond sufferance, though not, thank God, beyond redemption. I have had a collection of poems by a lady put into my hands to prepare them for the press; which horrid task, with sowing my corn with my own hand, a parcel of masons, wrights, plaisterers, &c. to attend to, roaming on business through Ayrshire-all this was against me, and the very first dreadful article was of itself too much for

13th. I have not had a moment to spare from main, and from inability, I fear, must remain incessant toil since the 8th. Life, my dear Sir, is a serious matter. You know by experience that a man's individual self is a good deal, but believe me, a wife and family of children, whenever you have the honour to be a husband and a father, will shew you that your present most anxious hours of solicitude are spent on trifles. The welfare of those who are very dear to us, whose only support, hope and stay we are-this, to a generous mind, is another sort of more important object of care than any concerns whatever which centre merely in the individual. On the other hand, let no ye ng, unmarried, rakehelly dog among you, make a song of his pretended liberty and freedom from care. relations we stand in to king, country, kindred, and friends, be any thing but the visionary fancies of dreaming metaphysici ms; if religion, virtue, magnanimity, generosity, humanity and justice be aught but empty sounds; then the man who may be said to live only for others, gypseys with whom I have now any intercourse. for the beloved, honourable female whose tender As I am entered into the holy state of matrimo- faithful embrace endears life, and for the helpay, I trust my face is turned completely Zion- less little innocents who are to be the men and ward; and as it is a rule with all honest fel- women, the worshippers of his God, the subows, to repeat no grievances, I hope that the jects of his king, and the support, nay the very ittle poetic licences of former days, will of vital existence of his Country, in the ensuing course fall under the oblivious influence of some age;—compare such a man with any fellow good-natured statute of celestial proscription, whatever, who, whether he bustle and push in In my family devotion, which, like a good press business among labourers, clerks, statesmen; or byterian, I occasionally give to my household whether he roar and rant, and drink and sing folks. I am extremely fond of the pealin, " Let in taverns-a fellow over whose grave no one not the errors of my youth," &c. and that other, will breathe a single heigh-ho, except from the

polymeb-tie of what is called good fellowship- | you from every proper attention to the study who has no view nor aim but what terminates and practice of bushandry, in which I underin himself-if there be any grovelling earthborn stand you are very learned, and which I fancy wretch of our species, a renegado to common sense, who would fain believe that the noble creature, man, is no better than a sort of fungus, generated out of nothing, nobody knows how, and soon dissipating in nothing, nobody knows where; such a stupid beast, such a crawling reptile might balance the foregoing unexaggerated comparison, but no one else would have the patience.

Forgive me, my dear Sir, for this long silence. To make you amends, I shall send you soon, and more encouraging still, without any postage, one or two rhymes of my later manufacture.

No. CXXIII.

FROM DR. MOORE.

Clifford Street, 10th June, 1789. DEAR SIR. I THANK you for the different communications you have made me of your occasional productions in manuscript, all of which have merit, and some of them merit of a different kind from what appears in the poems you have published. You ought carefully to preserve all your occasional productions, to correct and improve them at your leisure; and when you can select as many of these as will make a volume, publish it either at Edinburgh or London, by subscription: On such an occasion, it may be in my power, as it is very much in my inclination, to be of service to you.

If I were to offer an opinion, it would be, that in your future productions you should abandon the Scottish stanza and dialect, and adopt the measure and language of modern English poetry.

The stanza which you use in imitation of Christ Kirk on the Green, with the tiresome repitition of " that day," is fatiguing to English ears, and I should think not very agreeable to Scottish.

All the fine satire and humour of your II ly trouble to yourself, you cou'd have conveyed the whole to them. The same is true of some of your other poems. In your Epistle to J. S, ends with, "Short while it grieves," are easy, flowing, gaily philosophical, and of Horatian elegan e-the language is English, with a few Scotas to add to the beauty: for what poet would not prefer gloaming to twilight.

ready for the P

you will choose to adhere to as a wife, while poetry amuses you from time to time as a mistress. The former, like a prudent wife, must not show ill humour, although you retain a sneaking kindness to this agreeable gipsy, and pay her occasional visits, which in no manner alienates your heart from your lawful spouse, but tends on the contrary to promote her interest.

I desired Mr. Cadell to write to Mr. Creech to send you a copy of Zeluco. This performance has had great success here, but I shall be glad to have your opinion of it, because I know you are above saying what you do not think.

I beg you will offer my best wishes to my very good friend Mrs. Hamilton, who I understand is your neighbour. If she is as happy as I wish her, she is happy enough. Make my compliments also to Mrs. Burns, and believe une to be, with sincere esteem,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

No. CXXIV.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 21st June, 1789.

DEAR MADAM,

WILL you take the effusions, the miserable effusions of low sprits, just as they flow from their bitter spring. I know not of any particular cause for this worst of all my locs besetting me, but for some time my soul has been beclouded with a thickening atmosphere of evil imaginations and gloomy presages.

Monday Evening.

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 Fair is lost on the English; yet, without more 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, the stanzas from that beginning with this line, and that he must be intimately acquainted with "This life, so far's I understand," to that which the operations and progress of the internal machinery, and consequent outward deportment of this creature which he has made; these are, I think, self-evident propositions. That there is tish words, and some of those so harmo dous, a real and eternal distinction between virtue and vice, and consequently that I am an accountable creature; that from the seeming nature of the I imagine, that by carefulty keeping, and oc- human mind, as well as from the evident im casionally polishing and e treeting those verses, perfection, nay, positive injustice, in the admiwhich the muse dictates, you will within a year instration of affairs, both in the natural and or two, have another volume as large as the first, mored worlds, there must be a retributive scene ; and this, without diverting of existence beyond the grave; mast, 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 obscurest and most illiterate of our species; therefore, Jesus Christ was from God.

Whatever mitigates the 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.

What think you, Madam, of my creed? I trust that I have said nothing that will lessen me in the eye of one, whose good opinion I value almost next to the approbation of my own mind.

No. CXXV.

FROM MISS J. L-

Loudon-House, 12th July, 1789. THOUGH I have not the happiness of being personally acquainted with you, yet amongst the number of those who have read and admired your publications, may I be permitted to trouble you with this. You must know, Sir, I am somewhat in love with the Muses, though I cannot boast of any favours they have deigned to confer upon me as yet; my situation in lite has been very much against me as to that. 1 have spent some years in and about Ecclefechan (where my parents reside), in the station of a servant, and am now come to Loudon-House, at present possessed by Mrs. Il--: she is daughter to Mrs. Dunlop, of Dunlop, whom I understand you are particularly acquainted with. As I had the pleasure of perusing your poems, I felt a partiality for the author, which I should not have experienced had you been in more dignified station. I wrote a few verses of address to you, which I did not then think of ever presenting: but as fortune seems to have favoured me in this, by bringing me into a family by whom you are well known and much esteemed, and where perhaps I may have an opportunity of seeing you; I shall, in hopes of your future Iries dship, take the liberty to transcribe them.

> PAIR fa' the honest rustic swain, The pride o' a' our Scottish plain : Thou gi'es us joy to hear thy stra n, And note sae sweet: Old Ramsay's shade revived again In thee we greet.

Loved Thalia, that delightfa' muse, Seem'd lang shut up as a recluse; To all she did her aid refuse,

Since Allan's day : 'Till Burns arose, then did she chuse To grace his lay.

To hear thy sang all ranks desire, Sae weel you strike the dormant lyre ; Apullo with poetic fire Thy breast does was m .

And critics silently admire Thy art to charm.

Cæsar and Luath weel can speak, 'Tis pity e'er their gabs should steek, But into human nature keek, And knots unravel:

To hear their lectures once a-week, Nine miles I'd travel.

Thy dedication to G. H.

An unco bonnie hamespun speech, Wi' winsome glee the heart can teach A better lesson, Than servile bards, who fawn and fleech Like beggar's messun.

When slighted love becomes your theme, And women's faithless vows you blame . With so much pathos you exclaim, In your lament; But glanced by the most frigid dame, She would relent.

The daisy too ye sing wi' skill; And weel ve praise the whisky gill ; In vain I blunt my feckless quill, Your fame to raise; While eeho sounds from ilka hill, To Burns's praise.

Did Addison or Pope but hear, Or Sam, that critic most severe. A ploughboy sing with throat sae clear, They in a rage,
Their works would a' in pieces war,

And curse your page. Sure Milton's eloquence were faint,

The beauties of your verse to paint, My rude unpolish'd strokes but taint Their brilliancy; Th' attempt would doubtless vex a saint

And weel may me.

The task I'll drop with heart sincere, To heaven present my humble pray'r That all the blessings mortals share, May be by turns,

Dispensed by az indulgent care To Robert Burns.

Sir, I hope you will pardon my boldness in this; my hand trembles while I write to you, conscious of my unworthiness of what I would most earnestly solicit, viz. your favour and friendship; yet hoping you will show yourself possessed of as much generosity and good-nature as will prevent your exposing what may justly be found hable to censure in this measure, I shall take the liberty to subscribe myself,

Sir, Your most obedient hun ble servant,

P. S .- If you would condescend to honour me with a few lines from your hand. I would take it as a particular favour, and direct to me at Loudon-House, near Galslock.

No. CXXVI

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM.

London, 5th Aug. 1789. Excuse me when I say, that the uncommon abilities which you possess, must render your correspondence very acceptable to any one. I can assure you, I am particularly proud of your partiality, and shall endeavour, by every method in my power, to merit a continuance of your politeness.

When you can spare a few moments I should be proud of a letter from you, directed for me, Gerrard Street, Soho.

I cannot express my happiness sufficiently inestimable friend, Bob Fergusson, who was particularly intimate with myself and selations.* While I reollect with pleasure his extraordinary talents, and many amiable qualities, it affords admitted; but notwithstanding many favourable representations, I am yet to learn that he inherits his convivial powers.

There was such a richness of conversation, such a plenitude of lancy and attraction in him, views and schemes are concentred in an aim, I that when I call the happy period of our inter-shall be glad to hear from you; as your wel course to my memory, I feel myself in a state of fare and happiness is by no means a subject in delirium. I was then younger than him by different to eight or ten years; but his manner was so felicitons, that he enraptured every person around him, and infused into the hearts of the young and old, the spirit and animation which operated en his own mind.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.

. The erection of a monument to him.

No. CXXVII.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM,

IN ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING

MY DEAR SIR,

THE hurry of a farmer in this particular season, and the indolence of a poet at all times and seasons, will, I hope, plead my excuse for ne gleeting so long to answer your obliging letter of the 5th of August.

That you have done well in quitting your laborious concern in . . . I do not doubt; the weighty reasons you mention were, I hope, very, and deservedly indeed, weighty ones, and your health is a matter of the last importance, but whether the remaining proprietors of the paper have also done well, is what I much doubt. The so far as I was a reader, exhibited such a brilliancy of point, such an elegance of paragraph, and such a variety of intelligence, that I can hardly conceive it possisble to continue a daily paper in the same degree of excellence; but if there was a min who had abilities equal to the task, that man's assistance the proprietors have lost.

When I received your letter I was transcribing for . . . , my letter to the magistrates of the Canongate, Edinburgh, begging their permission to place a tomb-stone over poor Fergusson, and their edict in consequence of my petition; but now I shall send them to . . Poor Fergusson! If there be a life be-

yond the grave, which I trust there is; and if there be a good God presiding over all nature, which I am sure there is: thou art now enjoyat the instance of your attachment to my late ing existence in a glorious world, where worth of the heart alone is distinction in the man; where riches, deprived of all their picasure-purchasing powers, return to their native sordid matter; where titles and honours are the disregurded reveries of an idle dream; and where me the greatest consolution, that I am honoured gurded reveries of an idle dream; and where with the correspondence of his successor in national simplicity and genius. That Mr. Burns quence of steady dulness, and those thoughtless, has refined in the art of poetry, must readily be though often destructive follies, which are the unavoidable aberrations of fruit human nature, will be thrown into equal oblivion as if they had never been!

Adieu, my dear Sir! so sonn as your present

Yours, &c.

No. CXXVIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 6th September, 1789.

I have mentioned in my last, my appointment to the excise, and the birth of little Frank; who, by the bye, I trust will be no discredit to the honourable name of Wallace, as he has a fine manly countenance, and a figure that might do credit to a little fellow two months older; and likewise an excellent good temper, though when he pleases he has a pipe, only not quite so loud as the horn that his immortal namesake blew as a signal to take out the pin of Stirling bridge.

I had some time ago an epistle, part poetic, and part prosaic, from your poetess, Mrs. J. L____; a very ingenious, but modest compo-I should have written her as she requested, but for the hurry of this new business. I have heard of her and her compositions in this country: and I am happy to add, always to the honour of her character. The fact is, I know not well how to write to her; I should sit down to a sheet of paper that I knew not how to stain. I am no daub at fine drawn letterwriting; and except when prompted by friendship or gratitude, or which happens extremely rarely, inspired by the Mose (I know not her name), that presides over epistolary writing, I sit down, when necessitated to write, as I would sit down to beat hemp.

Some parts of your letter of the 20th August struck me with melanchuly concern for the state of your mind at present.

.

Would I could write you a letter of comfort! I would sit down to it with as much pleasure, as I would to write an epic poem of my own composition, that should equal the Iliad. Religion, my dear friend, is the true comfort! A strong persuasion in a future state of existence; a proposition so obviously probable, that, setting revelation aside, every nation and people, so far as investigation has reached, for at least near four thousand years, have, in some mode or other, firmly believed it. In vain would we reason and pretend to doubt. I have myself done so to a very during pitch; but when I reflected, that I was opposing the most ardent wishes, and the most darling hopes of good men, and flying in the face of all buman belief, in all ages, I was shocked at my own conduct.

I know not whether I have ever sent you the following lines, or if you have ever seen them; out it is one of my favourite quotations, which I keep constantly by me in my progress through life, in the language of the book of Job,

" Against the day of battle and of war."-

spoken of religion.

" 'Tis this, my friend, that streaks our morning bright,

'Tis this that gilds the horror of our night, When wealth forsakes us, and when friends are few;

When friends are faithless, or when foes pur

'Tis this that wards the blow, or stills the smart,

Disarms affliction or repels his dart: Within the breast bids purest raptures rise, Bids smiling conscience spread her cloudless skies.

I have been very busy with Zeluco. The Doctor is so obliging as to request my opinion of it; and I have been revolving in my mind some kind of criticisms on novel writing, but it is a depth beyond my research. I shall however digest my thoughts on the subject as well as I can. Zeluco is a most sterling performance.

Farewell! A Dieu, le bon Dieu, je vous commende!

No. CXXIX.

FROM DR. BLACKLOCK.

Edinburgh, 24th August, 1789.
Dear Burns, thou brother of my heart,
Both for thy virtues and thy art:
If art it may be call'd in thee,
Which nature's bounty, large and free,
With pleasure on thy breast diffuses,
And warms thy soul with all the Muses.
Whether to laugh with easy grace,
Thy numbers move the sage's face,
Or bid the softer passions rise,
And ruthless souls with grief surprise,
'Tis nature's voice distinctly felt,
Through thee her organ, thus to melt.

Most anxionsly I wish to know, With thee of late how matters go; How keeps thy much-loved Jean her health? What promises thy farm of wealth? Whether the Muse persists to smile, And all thy anxious cares beguile? Whether bright fancy keeps alive? And how thy darling infants thive?

For me, with grief and sickness spent, Since I my journey homeward bent, Spirits depress'd no more I mourn, But vigour, life, and health return No more to gloomy thoughts a prey, I sleep all night, and live all day; By turns my book and friend enjoy, And thus my circling hours employ; Happy while yet these hours remain, If Burns could join the cheerful trains.

CORRESPONDENCE.

With wo ited zeal, sincere and fervent, Salute once more his humble servant,

THO. BLACKLOCK.

No. CXXX.

TO DR. BLACKLOCK

Ellisland 21st October, 1789. Wow, but your letter made me vanntie! And are ye hale, and weel, and cantie? I keu'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 Heron south ! And never drink he near his drouth ! He tauld 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 tired o' sauls to waste his lear on, E'en tried the body.

But what d'ye think, my trusty fier, I'm turn'd a gauger—Peace be here! Parnassian queeus, I fear, I fear, Ye'll now disdain me, And then my fifty pounds a-year Will little gain me.

Ye glaiket, gleesome, 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 two wee laddies, They maun has brose and brata o' duddies : Ye ken yoursel my heart right proud is, I needna vaunt, But I'll sned besoms-thraw saugh woodies, Before they want.

Lord help me through this warld o' care ! I'm weary sick o't late and air ! Not but I hae a richer share Than mony ithers; But why snound ae man better fare, And a' men brithers ! 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.

Come FIRM RESOLVE take thou the van

And let us mind, faint heart ne'er wan A lady fair:

Will whyles do mair.

Thou stalk o' carl-hemp in man!

Wha does the utmost that he can,

My compliments to sister Beckie; And eke the same to honest Lucky; I wat she is a dainty chuckie, As u'er tread clay ! And gratefully my gude auld cockie,

I'm your's fur ave. ROBERT BURNS.

No. CXXXI.

TO CAPTAIN RIDDEL, CARSE.

Ellisland, Oct. 16, 1789. Brg with the idea of this important day at Friars Carse, I have watched the elements and skies in the full persuasion that they would announce it to the astonished world by some phenomena of terrific portent .- Yesternight until a very late hour did I wait with anxious horror, for the appearance of some Comet firing half the sky; or aerial armies of sanguinary Scandinavians, darting athwart the startled heavens rapid as the ragged lightning, and horrid as those convulsions of nature that bury nations.

The elements, however, seem to take the matter very quietly: they did not even usher in this morning with triple suns and a shower o blood, symbolical of the three potent heroes, and the mighty claret-shed of the day .- For me, as Thomson in his Winter says of the storm—I shall "Hear astonished, and astonished sing,"

> The whistle and the man; I sing The man that won the whistle, &c.

No. CXXXII.

TO THE SAME.

I wish from my inmost soul it were in my power to give you a more substantial gratifica-

Mr. Heron, author of the History of Scotland;
 and among various other works, of a respectable life of our poet humself.

[·] The day on which " the Whistle" was contended

than transcribing a few of his idle rhymes,-However, "an old song," though to a proverb an instance of insignificance, is generally the only coin a poet has to pay with.

If my poems which I have transcribed, and equal to the grateful respect and high esteem I bear for the gentleman to whom I present them. they would be the finest poems in the language. -As they are, they will at least be a testimony with what sincerity I have the honour to be, Sir.

Your devoted humble servant.

No. CXXXIII.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

Ellisland, Nov. 1, 1789.

MY DEAR FRIEND.

I HAD written you long ere now, could I have guessed where to find you, for I am sure you have more good sense than to waste the precious days of vacation time in the dirt of business and Edinburgh. - Wherever you are, God bless you, and lead you not into temptation, but deliver von from evil!

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 journeymen excisemen, I was directly planted down to all intents and purposes an officer of excise: there to flourish and bring forth fruits -- worthy of re-

I know not how the word exciseman, or still more opprobrious, gauger, will sound in your ears. I too have seen the day when my auditory nerves would have felt very delicately on this subject; but a wife and children are things which have a wonderful power in blunting these kind of sensations. Fifty pounds a year for life, and a provision for widows and orphans, you will allow is no bad settlement for a poet. For the ignominy of the profession, I have the encouragement which I once heard a recruiting sergeant give to a numerous, if not a respectable audience, in the streets of Kilmarnock. -" Centlemen, for your further and better encouragement, I can assure you that our regiment and consequently with us an honest fellow has The surest chance for preferment."

You need not doubt that I find several very unpleasant and disagreeable circumstances in my business; but I am tired with and disgusted at the language of complaint against the evils of the antiquarian, you will enter into any humour situations does not abound with pleasures, and seen them before, as I sent them to a London cas its inconveniences and ills; capricions fool- paper. Though I dare say you have noted

tion and return for all your goodness to the poet, [ish man mistakes these inconveniences and like as if they were the peculiar property of his par ticular situation; and hence that eternal fickleness, that love of change, which has ruined, and daily does ruin many a fine fellow, as well as many a blockhead; and is almost, without exmean still to transcribe into your book, were ception, a constant source of disappointment and misery.

I long to hear from you how you go on-not so much in business as in life. Are you pretty well satisfied with your own exertions, and tolerably at ease in your internal reflections? 'Tis much to be a great character as a lawyer, but beyond comparison more to be a great character as a man. That you may be both the one and the other is the earnest wish, and that you will be both is the firm persuasion of,

My dear Sir, &c.

No. CXXXIV.

TO R. GRAHAM, ESQ. OF FINTRY.

SIR. 9th December, 1789.

I HAVE a good while had a wish to trouble you with a letter, and had certainly done it long ere now-but for a humiliating something that throws cold water on the resolution, as if one should say, "You have found Mr. Graham a very powerful and kind friend indeed, and that interest he is so kindly taking in your concerns, you ought by every thing in your power to keep alive and cherish." Now though, since God has thought proper to make one powerful and another helpless, the connexion of obliger and obliged is all fair; and though my being under your patronage is to me highly honourable, yet, Sir, allow me to flatter myself, that, as a poet and an honest man, you first interested yourself in my welfare, and principally as such still, you permit me to approach you.

I have found the excise business go on a great deal smoother with me than I expected; owing a good deal to the generous friendship of Mr. Mitchell, my collector, and the kind assistance of Mr. Findlater, my supervisor. I dare to be honest, and I fear no labour. Nor do I find my hurried life greatly inimical to my correspondence with the Muses. Their visits to me, indeed, and I believe to most of their acquaintance, like the visits of good angels, are short and far between; but I meet them now and then na is the most blackguard corps under the crown, I jog through the hills of Nithsdale, just as 1 used to do on the banks of Ayr. I take the liberty to enclose you a few bagatelles, all of them the productions of my leisure thoughts in my excise rides.

If you know or have ever seen Captain Grose, Human existence in the most favourable that is in the verses on him. Perhaps you have

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of the solemn-league-and-covenant fire, which jonly to curse him with life which gives him na shone so conspicuous in Lord George Gordon, pleasure; and yet the awful, dark termination and the Kilmarnock weavers, yet I think you must have heard of Dr. M'Gill, one of the clergymen of Ayr, and his heretical book. God help him, poor man! Though he is one of the worthiest, as well as one of the ablest of the whole priesthood of the Kirk of Scotland, in every sense of that ambiguous term, yet the poor Doctor and his numerous family are in imminent danger of being thrown out to the mercy of the winter-winds. The enclosed ballad on that business is, I confess, too local, but I laughed myself at some conceits in it, though I am convinced in my conscience, that there are a good many heavy stanzas in it too.

The election ballad, as you will see, alludes to the present canvass in our string of boroughs. I do not believe there will be such a hard run

match in the whole general election. *

I am too little a man to have any political attachments; I am deeply indebted to, and have the warmest veneration for, individuals of both parties; but a man who has it in his power to be the father of a country, and who - is a character that one canuot speak of with patience.

Sir J. J. does "what man can do," but yet I doubt his fate.

No. CXXXV.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 13th December, 1789.

Many thanks, dear Madam, for your sheetful of Rhymes. Though at present I am below the veriest prose, yet from you every thing pleases. I am groaning under the miseries of a diseased nervous system; a system, the state of which is most conducive to our happinessor the most productive of our misery. For now near three weeks I have been so ill with a nervous head-ache, that I have been obliged to give up, for a time, my excise books, being scarce able to lift my head, much less to ride once a-week over ten muir parishes. What is Man! To-day, in the luxuriance of health, exulting in the enjoyment of existence; in a few days, pernaps in a few hours, loaded with conscious painful being, counting the tardy pace of the lingering moments by the repercussions of anguish, and refusing or denied a comforter. Day follows night, and night comes after day,

of that life, is a something at which he recoils.

" Tell us, ye dead; will none of you in pity Disclose the secret-

What 'tis you are, and we must shortly be ! - 'tis no matter;

A little time will make us learn'd as you are."

Can it be possible, that when I resign this frail, feverish being, I shall still find myself in conscious existence! When the last gasp of agony has announced, that I am no more to those that knew me, and the few who loved me; when the cold, stiffened, unconscious, ghastly corse is resigned into the earth, to be the prey of unsightly reptiles, and to become in time a trodden clod, shall I yet be warm in life, sceing and seen, enjoying and enjoyed? Ye venerable sages, and holy flamens, is there probability in your conjectures, truth in your stories of another world beyond death ; or are they all alike, baseless visions, and fabricated fables? If there is another life, it must be only for the just, the benevolent, the amiable, and the humine; what a flattering idea, then, is the world to come? Would to God I as firmly believed it, as I ardently wish it! There I should meet an aged parent, now at rest from the many buffetings of an evil world, against which he so long and so bravely struggled. There should I meet the friend, the disinterested friend of my early life; the man who rejoiced to see me, because he loved me and could serve me. - Muir! thy weaknesses were the aberrations of human nature, but thy heart glowed with every thing generous, manly, and noble; and if ever emanation from the All-good Being animated a human form, it was thine !- There should I with speechless agony of rapture, again recognize my lost, my ever dear Mary! whose bosom was fraught with truth, honour, constancy, and love.

My Mary, dear departed shade! Where is thy place of heavenly rest? Seest thou thy lover lowly laid?

Hear'st thou the groans that send his breast?

Jesus Christ, thou amiablest of characters! I trust thou art no impostor, and that thy revelation of blissful scenes of existence beyond death and the grave, is not one of the many impositions which time after time have been pulmed on credulous mankind. I trust that in thee, "shall all the families of the earth be blessed," by being yet connected together in better world, where every tie that bound heart to heart, in this state of existence, shall be, far beyond our present conceptions, more endearing

I am a good deal inclined to think with those who maintain, that what are called nervous affections are in fact diseases of the mind. I CARnot reason, I cannot think; and but to you I would not venture to write any thing above an

This alludes to the contest for the borough of Dumfries, between the Duke of Queensberry's interest and that of Sir James Johnstone.

order to a cobbler. You have felt too much of the ills of life not to sympathize with a diseased wretch, who has impaired more than half of any faculties he possessed. Your goodness will excuse this distracted scrawl, which the writer dare searcely read, and which he would throw into the fire, were he able to write any thing better, or indeed any thing at all.

Rumour told me something of a son of yours who was returned from the East or West Indies. If you have gotten news of James or Anthony, it was cruel in you not to let me know; as I promise you, on the sincerity of a man, who is weary of one world and anxious about another, that scarce any thing could give me so much pleasure as to hear of any good thing befalling my honoured friend.

It you have a minute's leisure, take up your pen in pity to le pauvre miserable.

No. CXXXVI.

TO SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.

THE following circumstance has, I believe, been omitted in the statistical account, transmitted to you, of the parish of Dunscore, in Nithsdale. I beg leave to send it to you, because it is new and may be useful. How far it is deserving of a place in your patriotic publica-

tion, you are the best judge.

To store the minds of the lower classes with useful knowledge, is certainly of very great importance, both to them as individuals, and to society at large. Giving them a turn for reading and reflection, is giving them a source of innocent and laudable amusement; and besides raises them to a more dignified degree in the scale of rationality. Impressed with this idea, a gentleman in this parish, Robert Riddel, Esq. of Glenriddel, set on foot a species of circulating liberary, on a plan so simple as to be practicable in any corner of the country; and so useful, as to deserve the notice of every country gentleman, who thinks the improvement of that part of his own species, whom chance has thrown into the humble walks of the peasant and the artizan, a matter worthy of his attention.

Mr. Riddel got a number of his own tenants, and farming neighbours, to form themselves into a society for the purpose of having a library They entered into a legal among themselves. engagement to abide by it for three years; with a saving clause or two, in case of removal to a distance, or of death. Each member, at his entry, paid five shillings, and at each of their meetings, which were held every fourth Saturday, sixpence more. With their entry-money, and the credit which they took on the faith of their future funds, they laid in a tolerable stock;

of books at the commencement. What authors they were to purchase, was always decided by the majority. At every meeting, all the books, under certain fines and forfeitures, by way of penalty, were to be produced; and the members had their choice of the volumes in rotation. He whose name stood, for that night, first on the list, had his choice of what volume he pleased in the whole collection; the second had his choice after the first; the third after the second, and so on to the last. At next meeting, he who had been first on the list at the preceding meet ing, was last at this; he who had been second was first; and so on through the whole three years. At the expiration of the engagement, the books were sold by auction, but only among the members themselves; and each man had his share of the common stock, in money or in books, as he chose to be a purchaser or not.

At the breaking up of this little society, which was formed under Mr. Riddel's patronage, what with benefactions of books from him, and what with their own purchases, they had collected together upwards of one hundred and fifty volumes. It will easily be guessed, that a good deal of trash would be bought. Among the books, however, of this little library, were Blair's Sermons, Robertson's Hist ry of Scotland, Hume's History of the Stuarts, the Spectato-, Idler, Adventurer, Mirror, Lounger, Observer, Man of Feeling, Man of the World, Chrysal, Don Quixotte, Joseph Andrews, &c. A peasant who can read, and enjoy such books, is certainly a much superior being to his neighbour, who perhaps stalks beside his team, very little removed, except in shape, from the brute he drives.

Wishing your patriotic exertions their so much merited success, I am,

Sir. Your humble servant, A PEASANT.

. The above is extracted from the third volume of Sir John Sinelair's Statistics, p. 598.—It was enclosed to Sir John by Mr. Riddel himself in the following ietter, also printed there:-

"Sin Jonn,
"I enclose you a letter, written by Mr. Burns as an addition to the account of Dunscore parish. It contains an account of a small library which he was so good lat my desire), as to set on foot, in the harony of Monkland, or Friar's Care, in this parish. As it is offlitly has been felt, particularly among the younger class of people, I think, that if a similar plan were stablished, in the different parishes of resolutions at the tenancy, trades people, and work people. Mr. Burns was so good as to take the whole charge of this small concern. He was treasurer, bibraion, and ecnsor to was so good as to take the whole charge of this small concern. He was treasurer, librarian, and censor to this little society, who will long have a grateful sense of his public spirit and exertions for their improve-ment and information.

" I have the honour to be, Sir John, "Yours most sineerely, " ROBERT RIDDEL.

To Sir John Sinclair. of Ulbrier, Burt.

LETTERS, 1790.

No. CXXXVII.

TO MR. GILBERT BURNS.

Ellisland, 11th January, 1790.

DYAR BROTHER,

I Mean to take advantage of the frank, through I have not in my present frame of mind much appetite for exertion in writing. My nerves are in a state. I feel that horrid hypochondria pervading every atom of both body and soul. This farm has undone my enjoyment of myself. It is a ruinous affair on all hands. But let it go to . . .! I'll fight it out and be off with it.

We have gotten a set of very decent players here just now. I have seen them an evening or two. David Campbell, in Ayr, wrote to me by the manager of the company, a Mr. Sutherland, who is a man of apparent worth. On New-year-day evening I gave him the following proiogue, which he spouted to his andience with applause.

PROLOGUE.

No song nor dance I bring from you great

That queens it o'er our taste—the more's the

Though, by the bye, 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 deputes me here before 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 suggestion,
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!"

"THINK!"
Ye sprightly youths, quite flush 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 also the constraints

In his sly, dry, sententious, proverb way!
He hids you mind, amid your thoughtless rattle,
That the first blow is eve: half the battle;
That though some by the skirt may try to snatch
him,

Yet by the forelock is the hold to eatch him, That whether doing, suffering, or forbearing, You may do miracles by persevering.

Last, though not least in love, ye youthful fair, Angelie forms, high Heaven's peculiar care! To you old Bald-pate smooths his wrinkled brow,

And humbly begs you'll mind the important-

To crown your happiness, he asks your eave, And offers, bliss to give and to receive.

For our sincere, though haply weak ender-

With grateful pride we own your many favours: And howsoe er our tongues may ill reveal it, Believe our glowing bosoms truly feel it.

I ean no more. If once I was clear of this . . . farm, I should respire more at ease.

No. CXXXVIII.

FROM WILLIAM BURNS, THE POET'S BROTHER.

DEAR BROTHER, Newcastle, 24th Jan. 1790. I waote you about six weeks ago, and I have expected to hear from you every post since, but I suppose your excise business which you hinted at in your last, has prevented you from writing. By the bye, when and how have you got into the excise; and what division have you got about Dumfries? These questions please answer in your next, if more important matter do not occur. But in the mean time let me have the letter to John Murdoch, which Gilbert wrote me you meant to send; enclose it in your's to me, and let me have them as soon as possible, for I intend to sail for London, in a fortnight, or three weeks at farthest.

You promised me when I was intending to go to Edinburgh, to write me some instructions about behaviour in companies rather above my station, to which I might be eventually introduced. As I may be introduced into such companies at Murdoch's, or on his aerount, when I go to London, I wish you would write me some such instructions now: I never had more need of them, for having spent little of my time in company of any sort since I came to Newcastle, I have almost forgot the common civilities of To these instructions pray add some of a moral kind, for though (either through the strength of early impressions, or the frigidity of my constitution), I have hitherto withstood the temptation to those vices, to which young fe? lows of my station and time of life are so much addicted, yet, I do not know if my virtue will be able to withstand the more powerful temptations of the metropolis : yet, through God's assistance and your instructions, I hope to weather the storm.

Give the compliments of the season and my love to my sisters, and all the rest of your family. Tell Gilbert, the first time you write him, that I am well, and that I will write him either when I sail or when I arrive at London.

I am, &c.

No. CXXXIX. TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 25th January, 1790.

Ir has been owing to unremitting hurry of business that I have not written to you, Madam, long ere now. My health is greatly better, and I now begin once more to share in satisfaction and enjoyment with the rest of my fellow-creatures.

Many thanks, my much esteemed friend, for your kind letters; but wly will you make me run the risk of being contemptible and mercenary in my own eyes! When I pique myself on my independent spirit, I hope it is neither opetic license, nor poetic rant; and I am so flattered with the honour you have done me, in making me your compeer in friendship and friendly correspondence, that I cannot without pain, and a degree of mortification, be reminded of the real inequality between our situations.

Most sincerely do I rejoice with you, dear Madam, in the good news of Anthony. Not only your anxiety about his fate, but my own esteem for such a noble, warm-hearted, manly young fellow, in the little I had of his acquaintance, has interested me deeply in his fortunes.

Falconer, the unfortunate author of the Shipwreck, which you so much admire, is no more. After weathering the dreadful catastrophe he so feelingly describes in his poem, and after weathering many hard gales of fortune, he went to the bottom with the Aurora frigate! I forget what part of Scotland had the honour of giving him birth, but he was the son of obscurity and misfortune. He was one of those daring adventurous spirits, which Scotland beyond any other country is remarkable for producing. Little does the fond mother think, as she hangs delighted over the sweet little leech at her bosom, where the poor fellow may hereafter wander, and what may be his fate. I remember a stanza in an old Scottish ballad, which, notwithstanding its rude simplicity, speaks feelingly to the heart .-* Falconer was in early life a sca-boy, to use a word " Little did my mother think, That day she cradled me, What land I was to travel in, Or what death I should die."

Old Scottish songs are, vou know, a favourite study and pursuit of mine; and now I air on that subject, allow me to give you two stanzas of another old simple ballad, which I am sure will please you. The catastrophe of the piece is a poor ruined female, lamenting her fate. She concludes with this pathetie wish:

- " O that my father had ne'er on me smiled;
 - O that my mother had ne'er to me sung! O that my cradle had never been rock'd; But that I had died when I was young !

O that the grave it were my bed; My blankets were my winding sheet; The clocks and the worms my bedfellows a'; And O sae sound as I should sleep !"

I do not remember in all my reading to have met with any thing more truly the language of misery, than the exclamation in the last line. Misery is like love; to speak its language truly, the author must have felt it.

I am every day expecting the doctor to give your little god-son the small-pox. They are rife in the country, and I tremble for his fate. By the way, I cannot help congratulating you on his looks and spirit. Every person who sees him, acknowledges him to be the finest, handsomest child he has ever seen. I am myself delighted with the manly swell of his little cliest, and a certain miniature dignity in the carriage of his head, and glance of his fine black eye, which promise the undaunted gallantry of an independent mind.

I thought to have sent you some rhymes, but time forbids. I promise you poetry until you are tired of it, next time I have the honour of assuring you how truly I am, &c.

No. CXL.

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM.

28th January, 1790.

In some instances it is reckoned unpardonable to quote any one's own words; but the value I have for your friendship, nothing can more truly or more elegantly express, than

" Time but the impression stronger makes, As streams their channels deeper wear."

Having written to you twice without having

CROWEK.

rateoner was in early lite a sca-boy, to use a word of Shakspeare, on board a man-of-war, in which capa-city be attracted the notice of Campbell, the author of the satire on Dr. Johnson, entitled Lexiphanes, then purser of the ship. Campbell took him as his servant, when the light of many literature in the control when

and delighted in giving him instruction; and when Falconer afterwards acquired celebrity, boasted of him

Falconer afterwards acquired celebrity, bosted of him as his scholar. The editor had this information from a surgeon of a man-of-war, in 1777, who knew both Camphell and be knewer, and who himself perished soon after by shipwreek, on the coast of America. Though the death of Falconer happened so lately as 17:0 or 1771, yet in the biography prefixed by Dr. Anderson to his works, in the complete cellidion of the Poets of Cereal Britain, it is said, "Of the family, hittle-place, and education of William Falconer, there are no memorals." On the authority already given, it may be mentioned, that he was a naive of one of the towns on the coast of Fife, and that his parents, who had satisfiered some informace, recoved to one the towns on the coast of Fife, and that his parents, who had sufficed some in fortunes, recoved to one of the sea-ports of England, where they both died, non after, of an epidemic fever, leaving poor Fale coner, then a boy, forform and destitute. In consequence of which he entered on board a man-of-war. These last circumstances are however less certain.—

[·] The br rd's second son, Francia

heard from you, I am apt to think my letters My conjecture is only framed nave miscarried. upon the chapter of accidents turning up against me, as it too often does, in the trivial, and I may with truth add, the more important affairs of life: but I shall continue occasionally to inform you what is going on among the circle of your friends in these parts. In these days of merriment, I have frequently heard your name proclaimed at the jovial hoard-under the roof of our hospitable friend at Stenhouse Mills, there were no

" Lingering moments number'd with care,"

I saw your Address to the New-year in the Dumfries Journal. Of your productions I shall say nothing, but my acquaintance allege that when your name is mentioned, which every man of celebrity must know often happens, I am the champion, the Mendoza, against all snarling crities, and narrow-minded reptiles, of whom a few on this planet do crawl.

With best compliments to your wife, and her black eved sister, I remain, yours, &c.

No. CXLI.

TO MR. PETER HILL.

Ellisland, Feb. 2. 1790.

No! I will not say one word about apologies or excuses for not writing-I am a poor, rascally ganger, condemned to gallop at least 200 miles every week to inspect dirty ponds and yeasty barrels, and where can I find time to write to, or importance to interest any body? The upbraidings of my conscience, nay the upbraidings of my wife, have persecuted me on your account these two or three months past --I wish to God I was a great man, that my correspondence might throw light upon you, to let the world see what you really are; and then I would make your fortune, without putting my hand in my pocket for you, which, like all other great men, I suppose I would avoid as much as possible. What are you doing, and how are you doing? Have you lately seen any of my few friends? What is become of the boxocch What are you doing, and how are you REFORM, or how is the fate of my poor namesake Mademoiselle Burns decided? O man! but for thee and thy selfish appetites, and dishonest artifices, that beauteous form, and that once innocent and still ingenuous mind might have shone conspicuous and lovely in the faith-

does me the honour to mention me so kindly is his works, please give him my best thanks for the copy of his book-I shall write him, my first leisure hour. I like his poetry much, but I think his style in prose quite astonishing.

Your book came safe, and I am going to trouble you with farther commissions. I call it troubling you-because I want only, BOOKS; the cheapest way, the best; so you may have to hunt for them in the evening auctions. I want Smollett's Works, for the sake of his incomparable humour. I have already Roderick Random, and Humphrey Clinker.-Peregrine Pickle, Launcelot Greaves, and Frederick, Count Fathom, I still want; but as I said, the veriest ordinary copies will serve me. I am nice only in the appearance of my pocts. I forget the price of Cowper's Poems, but, I believe, I must have them. I saw the other day, proposals for a publication, entitled, "Banks's new and complet Christian's Family Bible," printed for C. Cooke, Paternoster-row, London. - He promises at least, to give in the work, I think it is three hundred and old engravings, to which he has but the names of the first artists in London. --You will know the character of the performance, as some numbers of it are published; and if it is really what it pretends to be, set me down as a subscriber, and send me the published numbers.

Let me hear from you, your first leisure minute, and trust me, you shall in future have no reason to complain of my silence. The dazzling perplexity of novelty will dissipate and leave me to pursue my course in the quiet path of methodical routine.

No. CXLII.

TO MR. W. NICOLL.

Ellisland, Feb. 9, 1790. MY DEAR SIR, THAT d-mned mare of yours is dead. I would freely have given her price to have saved

· Perhaps no set of men more effectually avail them-• Perhaps no set on men more encertually avail themselves of the casy credit by of the public, film a certain description of Patern-site-row bookselver. Three hundred and odd engravings: —and by the first a list, in London, too! No wonder that Burns was drazled by the special control of the properties of the lateral control of the properties of the lateral control of the properties of the lateral control of ful wife, and the affectionate mother; and shall the unfortunate sacrifice to the pleasures have incocking the Novelid's Jagazine, converted, with incredible dexterity by these Bookselling-Breslaws. I saw lately in a Review, some extracts from a new peem, called The Village Curate; send time. I wat thiewise a cheap copy of The world. Mr. Armstrong, the young poet, who debted as I was to your goodness beyond what I can ever repay, I cagerly grasped at your offer to have the mare with me. That I might at least shew my readiness in wishing to be grateful, I took every care of her in my power. She was never crossed for riding above half a score of times by me or in my keeping. I drew her in the plough, one of three, for one poor week. I refused fifty-five shillings for her, which was the highest bode I could squeeze for her. I fed her up and had her in fine order for Dumsies fair; when four or five days before the fair, one was seized with an unaccountable disorder in the sinews, or somewhere in the bones of the neck; with a weakness or total want of power in her fillets, and in short the whole vertebræ of her spine seemed to be diseased and unhinged, and in eight and forty hours, in spite of the two best farriers in the country, she died and be d-mned to her! The farriers said that she had been quite strained in the fillets beyond cure before you had bought her, and that the poor devil, though she might keep a little flesh, had been juded and quite worn out with fatigue and oppression. While she was with me, she was under my own eye, and I assure you, my much valued friend, every thing was done for her that could be done; and the accident has vexed me to the heart. In fact I could not pluck up spirits to write you, on account of the unfortunate business

There is little new in this country. Our theatrical company, of which you must have heard, leave us in a week. Their merit and character are indeed very great, both on the stage and in private life, not a worthless creature among them; and their encouragement has been aceordingly. Their usual run is from eighteen to twenty-five pounds a night; seldom less than the one, and the house will hold no more than the other. There have been repeated instances of sending away six, and eight, and ten p unds in a night for want of room. A new theatre is to be built by subscription; the first stone is to be laid on Friday first to come . Three hundred guineas have been raised by thirty subscribers, and thirty more might have been got it wanted. The manager, Mr. Sutherland, was introduced to me by a friend from Ayr; and a worthier or eleverer fellow I have rarely met with. Some of our clergy have slipt in by stealth now and then; but they have got up a farce of their own. You must have heard how the Rev. Mr. Lawson of Kirkmahoe, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick of Dunscore, and the rest of that faction, have accused in formal process, the unfortunate and Rev. Mr. Heron of Kirkgunzeon, that in ordaining Mr. Nelson to the cure of souls in Kirkbean, he, the said Heron, feloniously and treasonably

her : she has vexed me beyond description. In- | bound the said Nelsen to the confession of faith, so fur as it was agreeable to reason and the word of God!

Mrs. B. begs to be remembered most gratefully to you. Little Bobby and Frank are charmingly well and healthy. I am jaded to death with fatigue. For these two or three months, on an average, I have not ridden less than two hundred miles per week. I have done little in the poetic way. I have given Mr. Sutherland two Prologues; one of which was delivered last week. I have likewise strung four or five barbarous stanzas, to the tune of Chevy Chase, by way of Elegy on your poor unfortunate mare, beginning,-

" Peg Nicholson was a good Bay-mare,"-(see p. 77.)

My best compliments to Mrs. Nicoll, and little Neddy, and all the family. I hope Ned is a good scholar, and will come out to gather nuts and apples with me next harvest.

No. CXLIII

TO MR, CUNNINGHAM.

Ellisland, 13th February, 1790. I BEG your pardon, my dear and much valued friend, for writing to you on this very unfashionable, unsightly sheet-

" My poverty but not my will consents."

But to make amends, since of modish post I have none, except one poor widowed half sheet of gilt, which hes in my drawer among my plebeian foolscap pages, like the widow of a man of fashion, whom that unpolite scoundrel, Necessity, has driven from Burgundy and Pineapple, to a dish of Bohea, with the scandalbearing help-mate of a village priest; or a glass of whisky-toddy, with the ruby-nosed yokefellow of a foot-padding exciseman-I make a vow to enclose this sheet-full of epistolary fragments in that my only scrap of gilt-paper.

I am indeed your unworthy debtor for three friendly letters. I ought to have written to you long ere now, but it is a hteral fact, I have scarcely a spare moment. It is not that I will not write to you; Miss Burnet is not more dear to her gnardian angel, nor his grace the Duke - to the powers of -—, than my friend Cunningham to me. It is not that I cannot write to you; should you doubt it, take the following fragment which was intended for you some time ago, and be convinced that I can antithesize sentiment, and circumvolute periods, as well as any coiner of phrase in the regions of philology

giving him a rather more resolute look, the plate could port, at a triffing expense, be made to pass for "DA-RIEL IN THE I TON' DER "—CROMEK.

On Friday first to come—a Scotticism.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MY DEAR CUNNINGHAM, Where are you? And what are you doing? Can you be that son of levity, who takes up a data to go upon. One lifting frightens me much; that we are to live for ever, seems too good news like some other of the worthiest fellows in the to be true. That we are to enter into a new world, the victim of indolence, laden with fetters scene of existence, where, exempt from want

of ever-increasing weight.

What strange beings we are! Since we have a portion of conscious existence, equally capable of enjoying pleasure, happiness, and rapture, or of suffering pain, wretchedness, and misery, it 's surely worthy of an inquiry, whether there be not such a thing as a science of life; whether method, economy, and fertility of expedients be not applicable to enjoyment; and whether there oe not a want of dexterity in pleasure, which renders our little scantling of happiness still less; and a profuseness, an intoxication in bliss which leads to satiety, disgust, and self-abhor-There is not a doubt but that health, talents, character, decent competency, respectable friends, are real substantial blessings; and yet do we not daily see those who enjoy many or all of these good things, contrive, notwithstanding, to be as unhappy as others to whose lot few of them have fallen. I believe one great source of this mistake or misconduct is owing to a certain stimulus, with us called ambition, which goads us up the hill of life, not as we ascend other eminences, for the laudable curiosity of viewing an extended landscape, but rather for the dishonest pride of looking down on others of our fellow-creatures, seemingly diminutive, in humble stations, &c. &c.

Sanday, 14th February, 1790. Gop help me! I am now obliged to join

" Night to day, and Sunday to the week."

If there be any truth in the orthodox faith of these churches, I am - past redemption, and what is worse, - to all eternity. I am deeply read in Boston's Fourfold State, Marshall on Sanctification, Gutherie's Trial of a Saving Interest, &c. but " There is no balm in Gilead, there is no physician there," for me; so I shall e'en turn Arminian, and trust to " Sincere, though imperfect obedience."

Tuesday, 16th.

gring arguments against the immortants of them up, second-handed or cheap, copies or

December, 1789. | man; but like electricity, phlogisten, &c. the and pain, we shall enjoy ourselves and our friends without satisfy or separation-how much should I be indebted to any one who could fully assure me that this was certain !

> My time is once more expired. I will write to Mr. Cleghors soon. Ged bless him and all his concerns! And may all the powers that preside over conviviality and friendship, be present with all their kindest influence, when the bearer of this, Mr. Syme, and you meet! I wish I could also make one .- I think we should be .

> Finally, brethren, farewell! Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are gentle, whatsoever things are charitable, whatsoever things are kind, think on these things, and ROBERT BURNS. think on

No. CXLIV

TO MR. PETER HILL.

Ellisland, 2d March, 1790.

Ar a late meeting of the Monkland Friendly Society, it was resolved to augment their library by the following books, which you are to send us as soon as possible: — The Mirror, The Lounger, Man of Feeling, Man of the World, (these for my own sake I wish to have by the first carrier) Knox's History of the Reforma tion ; Rae's Hist ry of the Rebellion in 1715 any good History of the Rebellion in 1745 A Display of the Secession Act and Testimo ny, by Mr. Giba; Hervey's Meditations; 30 reridge's Thoughts; and another copy of Was son's Bedy of Divinity.

I wrote to Mr. A. Misterton three or fore

months ago, to pay some money he owed me into your hands, and lately I wrote to you to the same purpose, but I have heard from nei-

ther one nor other of you.

In addition to the books I commissioned in my last, I want very track, As Index to the Excise Laws, or an abridgment of all the Sta-LUCKILY for me I was prevented from the tutes now in fores, edutive to the Excise, by discussion of the knotty point at which I had Jellinger Symons: I want three copies of this just made a full stop. All my fears and cares book; if it is now to be had, cheap or dear, get are of this world: if there is another, an honest it for me. An honest country neighbour of man has nothing to fear from it. I hate a man mire warts, toc, A Family Bible, the larger that wishes to be a Deist, but I fear, every fair, the better, but second-handed, for he does not unprejudiced inquirer must in some degree be a caose to give above ten shillings for the book, sceptic. It is not that there are any very stag-

BURNS' WORKS.

modern - Macklin, Garrick, Foote, Colman, or French, I much want. matic authors in that language I want also; but comic authors chiefly, though I should wish points of the wind. The encouragement here is to have Ravine, Corneille, and Voltaire too. I am in no hurry for all, or any of these, but if you accidentally meet with them very cheap, get them for me.

And now, to quit the dry walk of business, how do you do, my dear friend? and how is Mrs. Hill? I trust if now and then not so elegantly handsome, at least as amiable, and sings as divinely as ever. My good-wife too has a charming "wood-note wild;" now could we

four-

I am out of all patience with this vile world. for one thing. Mankind are by nature benevolent creatures; except in a few scoundrelly iustances, I do not think that avariee of the good things we chance to have, is born with us; but we are placed here amid so much nakedness, and hunger, and poverty, and want, that we are under a cursed necessity of studying selfishness, in order that we may Exist! Still there are, in every age, a few souls, that all the wants and woes of life cannot debase to seifisliness, or even to the necessary alloy of coution and prodence. If ever I am in danger of vanity, it is when I contemplate myself on this side of my disposition and character. God knows I am no saint; I have a whole host of follies and sins to answer for; but if I could, and I believe I do it as far as I can, I would wipe away all tears from all eyes Adieu!

No. CXLV.

PROM WILLIAM BURNS, THE POET'S BROTHER.

London, 21st March, 1790.

DEAR BROIDER,

I PAVE been here three weeks come Tuesday, and would have written you sooner, but was not settled in a place of work .-- We were ten days on our passage from Shields; the weather being ealm I was not sick, except one day when it blew pretty hard. I got into work the Friday after I came to town, I wrought there only porary place, but I expect to be settled soon in still with a certain regret, that they were so a shop to my mond, although it will be a harder o task than I at first imagined, for there are such ;

Dramatic Works, Ben Jonson's, | swarms of fresh hards just come from the coun-Drynen's Congrere's, Wycherlay's, Vanbrugh's, try that the town is quite overstocked, and ex-Cibber's, or any Dramatic Works of the more cept one is a particularly good workman, (which you know I am not, nor I am afraid ever will Sheridan. A good copy too of Moliere, in be), it is hard to get a place : However, I don't Any other good dra- yet despair to bring up my lee-way, and shall endeavour if possible to sail within three or four not what I expected, wages being very low in proportion to the expense of living, but yet, if I can only lay by the money that is spent by others in my situation in dissipation and riot, I expect soon to return you the money I borrowed of you and five comfortably besides.

> In the mean time I wish you would send up all my best linen shirts to London, which you may easily do by sending them to some of your Edinburgh friends, to be shipped from Leith. Some of them are too little; don't send any but what are good, and I wish one of my sisters could find as much time as to trim my shirts at the breast, for there is no such thing to be seen here as a plain shirt, even for wearing, which is what I want these for. I mean to get one or two new shirts here for Sundays, but I assure you that linen here is a very expensive article. I am going to write to Gilbert to send me an Ayrshire cheese; if he can spare it he will send it to you, and you may send it with the shirts, but I expect to hear from you before that time. The cheese I could get here; but I will have a pride in enting Ayrshire cheese in London, and the expense of sending it will be little, as you are sending the shirts any how.

> I write this by J. Stevenson, in his lodgings, while he is writing to Gilbert. He is well and hearty, which is a blessing to me as well as to him: We were at Covent Garden chapel this forenoon, to hear the Calf preach; he is grown very fat, and is as boisterous as ever. is a whole colony of Kilmarnock people here, so we don't want for acquaintance.

Remember me to my sisters and all the family. I shall give you all the observations I have made on London in my next, when I shall have seen more of it.

I am, dear Brother, yours, &c.

No. CXLVI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 10th April, 1'190.

I HAVE just now, my ever-honoured friend enjoyed a very high luxury, in reading a paper eight days, their job being done. I got work of the Lounger. You know my national preagain in a shop in the Strand, the next day af- judices. I had often read and admired the Specter I left my former master. It is only a tem- tator, Adventurer, Rambler, and World; but

. Pide Poetical Address to the Call.

thoroughly and entirely English. Alas! have I am quite in raptures with them: I should be eften said to myself, what are all the boasted advantiges which my country reaps from the Union, that can counterbalance the annihilation of her independence, and even her very name! I often repeat that couplet of my favourite poet, Goldsmith-

- States of native liberty possest, Though very poor, may yet be very blest."

Nothing can reconcile me to the common terms, " English ambassador, English court," &c. And I am out of all patience to see that equivocal character, Hastings, impeached by impressions more congenial to humanity and "the Commons of England." Tell me, my kindness, generosity and benevolence; in short friend, is this weak prejudice? I believe in my more of all that ennobles the soul to herself, or conscience such ideas, as, " my country; her independence; her honour; the illustrious feeting tale of poor Harley. names that mark the history of my native In fact, a man who could thoroughly controul his vices whenever they interfered with his interest, and who could completely put on the appearance of every virtue as often as it suited his purposes, is, on the Stanhopian plan, the perfect mon; a man to lead nations. But are great abilities, complete without a flaw, and polished cellence? This is certainly the staunch opinion of men of the world; but I call on honour, vir- &c. tue, and worth, to give the Stygian doctrine a fould negative! However, this must be allowed, that, if you abstract from man the idea of an existence beyond the grave, then, the true measure of human conduct is proper and improper: Virtue and vice, as dispositions of the heart, are in that case, of scarcely the import and value to the world at large, as harmony and discord in the modifications of sound; and a delicate sense of honour, like a nice ear for music, though it MY DEAR BURNS, may sometimes give the possessor an ecstasy unout either a good ear or a good heart.

glad to have your opinion of some of the papers, The one I have just read, Lounger, No. 61, has cost me more honest tears than any thing I have read of a long time. M Kenzie has been called the Addison of the Scots, and in my opinion, Addison would not be hurt at the comparison. If he has not Addison's exquisite humour, he as certainly outdoes him in the tender and the pathetic. His Man of Feeling (but I am not coupsel-learned in the laws of criticism), I estimate as the first performance in its kind I ever saw. From what books, moral or ever pious, will the susceptible young mind receive endears her to others-than from the simple af-

Still, with all my admiration of M'Kenzie's land," &c .- I believe these, among your men of writings, I do not know if they are the fittest the world-men who in fact guide for the most reading for a young man who is about to set part and govern our world, are looked on as so out, as the phrase is, to make his way into life, many modifications of wrongheadedness. They Do not you think, Madam, that among the few know the use of bawling out such terms, to favoured of Heaven in the structure of their rouse or lead THE RABBLE; hot for their own minds (for such there certainly are), there may private use, with almost all the able statesmen be a purity, a tenderness, a dignity, an elegance that ever existed, or now exist, when they talk of soul, which are of no use, may, in some deof right and wrong, they only mean proper and gree, absolutety disqualifying for the truly inimproper; and their measure of conduct is, not portant business of making a man's way into what they ought, but what they dake. For life. If I am not much mistaken, my gallant the truth of this I shall not ransack the history young friend, A , is very much under of nations, but ap cal to one of the ablest judges these disqualifications; and for the young feof men, and himself one of the ablest men that males of a family I could mention, well may ever lived—the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield, they excite parental solicitude, for I, a common acquaintance, or as my vanity will have it, an humble friend, have often trembled for a turn of mind which may render them eminently happy -or peculiarly miserable!

I have been manufacturing some verses lately; but as I have got the most hurried season of excise business over, I hope to have more leiwithout a blemish, the standard of human ex- sure to transcribe any thing that may show how much I have the honour to be, Madam, yours,

No. CXLVIL

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Edinburgh, 25th May, 1790.

I AM much indebted to you for your last known to the courser organs of the herd, yet, friendly, elegant existle, and it shall make a considering the harsh gratings, and inharmonic part of the vanity of my composition, to retain jars, in this ill-toned state of being, it is odds your correspondence through life. It was rebet the individual would be as happy, and cer-markable your introducing the name of Misa tainly would be as much respected by the true Burnet, at a time when she was in such ill judges of society, as it would then stand, with- health; and I am sure it will grieve your gentle heart, to hear of her being in the last stage You must know I have just met with the of a consumption. Alas! that so much beauty, Mirror and I ounger for the first time, and I innocence, and virtue, should be nipt in the

she still retains her affection for you, and that you have many of her favours in your possession, which I have not seen. I weary much to

hear from you.

I beseech you do not forget me.

I most sincerely hope all your concerns in life prosper, and that your roof tree enjoys the lessing of good health. All your friends here are well, among whom, and not the least, is your acquaintance, Cleghorn. As for myself, I am well, as far as will let a man be; but with these I am happy.

When you meet with my very agreeable friend J. Syme, give him for me a hearty squeeze, and bid, God bless him.

Is there any probability of your being soon in Edinburgh?

No. CXLVIII.

TO DR. MOORE.

Dumfries, Excise-Office, 14th July, 1790.

COMING into town this morning, to attend my duty in this office, it being collection-day, I met with a gentleman who tells me he is on his way to London; so I take the opportunity of writing to you, as franking is at present under a temporary death. I shall have some snatches tion about it.

two. In fact, you are in some degree blamcable his father's friend. for my neglect. You were pleased to express a wish for my opinion of the work, which so flat- Burns, at Mr. Barber's. Saddler, No. 181, tered me, that nothing less would serve my Strand." I write him by Mr. Kennedy, but over-weening fancy, than a formal criticism on neglected t ask him for your address; so, if you

Hers was the smile of cheerfulness-of the hook. In fact, I have gravely planned consilility, not of allurement; and her elegance comparative view of you, Fielding, Richardson, of manners corresponded with the purity and and Smollett, in your different qualities and me-clevation of her mind. This, I own, betrays my How does your friendly muse? I am sure pridiculous vanity, and I may probably never bring the business to bear; but I am fond ot the spirit young Elihu shows in the book of Job..." And I said, I will also declare my opinion." I have quite disfigured my copy of the book with my annotations. I never take it up without at the same time taking my pencil, and marking with asterisks, parenthesis, &c. wherever I meet with an original thought, a nervous remark on life and manners, a remarkably well-turned period, or a character sketched with uncommon precision.

Though I shall hardly think of fairly writing out my " Comparative View," I shall certainly trouble you with my remarks, such as they are. I have just received from my gentleman, that horrid summons in the book of Revelations-

" That time shall be no more!"

The little collection of sonnets have some charming poetry in them. If indeed I am indebted to the fair author for the book, and not, as I rather suspect, to a celebrated author of the other sex, I should certainly have written to the lady, with my grateful acknowledgments, and my own ideas of the comparative excellence of her pieces. I would do this last, not from any vanity of thinking that my remarks could be of much consequence to Mrs. Smith, but merely from my own feelings as an author, doing as I would be done by.

No. CXLIX.

TO MR. MURDOCH.

TEACHER OF FRENCH, LONDON.

MY DEAR SIR, Ellisland, July 16, 1790.

I RECEIVED a letter from you a long time of leisure through the day, amid our horrid bu- ago, but unfortunately as it was in the time of siness and bustle, and I shall improve them as my peregrinations and journeyings through Scotwell as I can; but let my letter be as stupid as land, I mislaid or lost it, and by consequence . ., as miscellaneous as a news- your direction along with it. Luckily my good paper, as short as a hungry grace-before-meat, star brought me acquainted with Mr. Kennedy, or as long as a law-paper in the Douglas cause who, I understand, is an acquaintance of yours; as ill-spelt as country John's billet-doux, or as and by his means and mediation I hope to reunsightly a serawl as Betty Byremucker's an- place that link which my unfortunate negliswer to it; I hope, considering circumstances, gence had so unluckely broke in the chain of you will forgive it; and as it will put you to no our correspondence. I was the more vexed at expense of postage, I shall have the less reflee- the vile acc dent, as my brother William, a journeyman saddler, has been for some time in Lon-I am sadly ungrateful in not returning you don; and wished above all things for your dimy thanks for your most valuable present, Zerection, that he might have paid his respects to

His last address he sent me was, " Wm.

and a spare half minute, please let my brother know by a card where and when he will find you, and the poor fellow will joyfully wait on you, as one of the few surviving friends of the man whose name, and Christian name too, he DEAR MADAM. has the honou to bear.

The next etter I write you shall be a long one. I have much to tell you of "hair-breadth 'scapes in th' imminent deadly breach, with all the eventful history of a life, the early years of which owed so much to your kind tutorage; but this at an hour of leisure. My kindest compliments to Mrs. Murdoch and family.

I am ever, my dear Sir, Your obliged friend.*

. This letter was communicated to the Editor by a - instruct was communicated to the Editor by a gentleman to whose bleard advice and information he is much indebted, Mr. John Murdoch, the early instructor of the poet; accompanied by the following interesting note:—

London, Hart-Street, Bloomsbury, 28th Dec. 1807.

THE following letter, which I lately found among my papers, I copy for your perusal, partly because it is Burns's, partly because it makes honourable menis nurses, party occause it makes it months are near tion of my rational Christian friend, his father; and likewist because it is rather flattering to myself. I glory in no one thing so much as an i-timacy with good men;—the triendship of others reflects no ho-nour. When I recollect the pleasure, (and I hope be-nelit), I received from the conversation of WILLIAM Benty, especially when or the Lord's day we walked together for about two miles, to the house of pracer, there publicly to adose and praise the Giver of all good, I entertain an ardient hope, that together we shall renew the glorious theme in distant worlds," with powers more adequate to the mighty subject, THE EX-UBERANT BENEFICENCE OF THE GREAT CREATOR. But to the letter :

FROM MR. MURDOCH TO THE BARD, GIVING HIM AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER WILLIAM.

Hart-Street, Boomsbury-Square, London,

My DEAR PRIEND, Sept. 4th, 1790. Vocas of the 16th of July, 1 received on the 26th, in the afternoon, per favour of my friend Mr. Kenneily, and at the same time was informed that your brother was ill. Being engaged in business till late that evening, I set out next morning to see him, and had thought of three or four medical gentlemen of my acquaintime, to one or other of whom I might apply for advice, provided it should be necessary. But when I went to Mr. Barber', to my grea astonishment and heart-cell grife, I found that my young friend had, on Samulay, bi an everfasting ferwell to all sublumary things—I twa about a fortuight before that he had found me out, by Mr. Stevesson's accidentally calling at my shop to bus something. We had only one in-terview, and that wes highly entertaining to me in se-veral respects. He mentioned some increation 1 bod. acquaintan e, to one or other of whom I might apply veral re-pects. He mentioned some instruction I had given him when very young, to which he said he owed, in a great measure, the philanthropy he possessed.—He also book nodec of my exhorting you all, when I wrote, about eight years ago, to the man who, of all mankind that I ever knew, stood highest in my esteem, "not to set go your integrity."—You may ea. silv conceive that such conversation was both pleasing and one waging to me: I anticipated a deal of rational happiness from future conversations .- Vain are our nat happiness from future countersal ones. — valua are our expectations and ones. They are so almost always.—
Perhaps, may, certainly, for our good. Were it not of disappoinced hopes we could hardly spend a thought on another state of existence, or be in any degree reconciled for the quitting off this.

I know of no one source of consolation to those who have lost young relatives, equal to that of their being of a good disposition, and of a promising character. No. CL.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

8th August 1790.

AFTER a long day's toil, plague, and care, sit down to write to you. Ask me not why I have delayed it so long? It was owing to hurry, indolence, and fifty other things; in short, to any thing-but forgetfulness of la plus aimable de son sexe. By the bye, you are indebted your best courtesy to me for this last compliment : as I pay it from sincere conviction of its truth -a quality rather rare in compliments of these grinning, bawing, scraping times.

Well, I hope writing to you, will ease a little my troubled soul. Sorely has it been bruised to-day! A ci-devant friend of mine, and an intimate acquintance of yours, has given my feelings a wound that I perceive will gangrene dangerously ere it cure. He has wounded my pride!

Be assured, my dear friend, that I cordially sym thize with you all, and particularly with Mrs. W. Burns, who is undoubtedly one of the most tender and affectionate mothers that ever lived. Remember me affectionate mothers that ever lived. Remember me to her in the most friendly manner, when you see her, or write.—Please present my best compliments to Mrs. R. Burns, and to your brother and sisters.—There is no occasion for me to exhort you to filial duty, and to use your united endeavours in rendering the evening of life as sounfortable as possible to a mother, who has dedicated so great a part of it in promoting your temporal and spiritual welfare. Your letter to Dr. Moore, I delivered at his house,

Your letter to Dr. Moore, I treavered at his mouse, and shall most likely know your opinion of Zeleuco, the first time I meet with him. I wish and hope for a long letter. Be particular about your mother's health. I hope she is too much a Christian to be afflicted above measure, or to sorrow as those who have no hone.

One of the most pleasing hopes I have is to visit you all; but I am commonly disappointed in what I most ardently wish for.

I am, dear Sir, Yours sincerely, JOHN MURDOCH.

I promised myself a deal of happiness in the conversation of my dear young friend; but my promises of this nature generally prove fallacious. Two visits were the utmost that I received. At one of them, however, he repeated a lesson which I had given him about twenty years before, when he was a mere child, concerning the pity and tenderness due to animals. To that lesson, (which it seems was ! rought to the level of his capacity, he declared himself indebted for almost all the philanthropy he poss seed Let not parents and teachers imagine that it is need-

less to talk -criously to children. They are sooner fit to be reasoned with than is generally thought. Strong and indelible impressions are to be made before the They are sooner fit mind be agitated and ruffled by the numerous train of distracting cares and unruly passions, whereby it is frequently rendered almost unsusceptible of the prin-eiples and precepts of rational religion and sound mo-

But I find myself digressing again. Poor William then in the bloom and vigour of youth, caught a put trid fever, and, in a few days, as real chief mourner I followed his remains to the land of forgetfulness.

70.1 N MURD GCH.

JOI N MURDOCH.

CROWER

BURNS' WORKS.

No. CLL

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Ellisland, 8th August, 1790. Forcive me my once dear, and ever dear

friend, my seeming negligence. You cannot sit down, and fancy the busy life I lead.

I laid down my goose feather to beat my brains for an apt simile, and had some thoughts of a country grannam at a family christening: a bride on the market-day before her marriage;

a tavern-keeper at an election dinner; &c. &c.
—but the resemblance that hits my fance best
is, that blackguard miscreant, Satan, who roams
about like a roaring lion, seeking, searching
whom he may devour. However, tossed about
as I am, if I choose (and who would not choose)
to bind down with the crampets of attention,
the brazen foundation of integrity, I may rear
up the superstructure of Independence, and from
its daring turrets, bid defiance to the storms of
fate. And is not this a "consummation devoutly to be wished?"

"Thy spirit, Independence, let me share; Lord of the lion-heart, and eagle-eye! Thy steps I follow with my bosom bare, Nor heed the storm that howls along the sky!"

Are not these noble verses? They are the introduction of Smollet's Ode to Independence: If you have not seen the poem, I will send it to you. How wretched is the man that hangs on by the favours of the great. To shrink from every dignut, of man, at the approach of a lordly piece of self-consequence, who, amid all his timed glitter, and stately hanteur, is but a creature formed as thou art—and perhaps not so well formed as thou art—came into the world a puling infant as thou didst, and must go out of it as all men must, a naked corse 4, or the stately hand the s

No. CLIL

FROM DR. BLACKLOCK.

Edinburgh, 1st September, 1790. How does my dear friend?—much I languish to hear.

His fortune, relations, and all that are dear;

With love of the Muses so strongly still smitten. I meant this epistle in verse to have written; But from age and infirmity, indolence flows, And this, much I fear, will restore me to prose. Anon to my business I wish to proceed, Dr. Anderson guides and provokes me to speed A man of integrity, genius and worth, Who soon a performance intends to set forth; A work miscellaneous, extensive, and free, Which will weekly appear, by the name of the

Bee,
Of this from himself I enclose you a plap
And hope you will give what assistance you can
Eotangled with business, and haunted with eare,
In which more or less human nature must share,
Some moments of leisure the Muses will claim,
A sacrince due to amusement and fame.
The Bee, which sucks honey from ev'ry gay

The Bee, which sucks honey from ev'ry gay bloom,

With some rays of your genius her work may illume,

Whilst the flower whence her honey spontaneously flows,

As fragrantly smells, and as vig'rously grows.

Now with kind gratulations 'tis time to conclude,

And add, your promotion is here understood; Thus free from the servile employ of excise, Sir, We hope soon to hear you commence supervisor; You then more at leisure, and free from control, May indulge the strong passion that reigns in your soul.

But I, feeble I, must to nature give way; Devoted cold death's and longevity's prey. From verses tho languid my thoughts must unbend.

Tho' still I remain your affectionate friend, THO. BLACKLOCK

No. CLIII.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Edinburgh, 14th October, 1790.

I LATELY received a letter from our friend B——what a charming fellow lost to society—horn to great expectations—with superior abilities, a pure heart and untainted morals, his fate in life has been hard indeel—still I am persuaded he is happy; not like the gallant, the gay Lothario, but in the simplicity of rural enjoyment, unmixed with regret at the remembrance of "the days of other years."

I saw Mr. Dunbar put, under the cover of your newspaper, Mr. Wood's Poem on Thomson. This poem has suggested an idea to me which you alone are capable to execute:— song adapted to each season of the year. The task is difficult, but the theme is charming.

The preceding letter explains the feelings under which this was writen. The strain of indignant invective goes on some time longer in the style which our bard was too api to indige, and of which the wader has already seen somulen.

should you succeed, I will undertake to get new place the capital letters properly; as to the music worthy of the subject. What a fine field punctuation, the printers do that themselves, for your imagination, and who is there alive can draw so many beauties from Nature and pastoral send you by the first opportunity; it is too imagery as yourself? It is, by the way, sur- heavy to send by post. prising that there does not exist, so far as I I heard of Mr. Corhet lately. He, in conknow, a proper song for each season. We have sequence of your recommendation, is most zealsongs on hunting, fishing, skaiting, and one au- ons to serve me. Please favour me soon with tumnal song, Harvest Home. As your muse an account of your good folks; if Mrs. II. is neither spavied nor rusty, you may mount is recovering, and the young gentleman doing the hill of Parnassus, and return with a sonnet well. in your pocket for every season. For my suggestions, if I be rude, correct me; if impertinent, chastise me; if presuming, despise me. But if you blend all my weaknesses, and pound out one grain of insincerity, then am I not thy

Faithful friend, &c.

No. CLIV.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

November, 1790.

" 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 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 indispensably necessary, in my left hand, in the moment of inspiration and rapture; and stride, stride-quick and quicker-out skipt 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.

(See the poem-On the Birth of a Posthumous Child.)

I am much flattered by your approbation of my Tam o' Shanter, which you express in your souls ! former letter, though, by the oye, you load me in that said letter with accusations heavy and favour. That indirect address, that insinuating many; to all which I plead not guilty! Your implication, which, without any positive rebook is, I hear, on the road to reach me. As quest, plainly expresses your wish, is a talent to printing of poetry, when you prepare it for not to be acquired at a plough-tail. Tell m. the press, you have only to spell it right, and then, for you can, in what periphrasis of lan

I have a copy of Tam o' Shanter ready to

No. CLV.

TO CRAUFORD TAIT, Esq. Edinburgs.

Ellisland, Oct. 15, 1790. DEAR SIR,

ALLOW me to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer, Mr. Wm. Duncan, a friend of mine, whom I have long known and long loved. His father, whose only son he is, has a decent little property in Ayrshire, and has bred the young man to the law, in which department he comes up an adventurer to your good town. I shall give you my friend's character in two words: as to his head, he has talents enough, and more than enough for common life; as to his heart, when nature had kneaded the kindly clay that composes it, she said, "I can no more."

You, my good Sir, were born under kinder stars; but your fraternal sympathy, I well know, can enter into the feelings of the young man, who goes into life we . the laudable ambition to do something, and to be something among his fellow creatures; but whom the consciousness of friendless obscurity presses to the earth, and wounds to the soul!

Even the fairest of his virtues are against That independent spirit, and that ingenuous modesty, qualities inseparable from a noble mind, are, with the million, circumstances not a little disqualifying. What pleasure is in the power of the fortunate and the happy, by their notice and patronage, to brighten the countenance and glad the heart of such depressed youth! I am not so angry with mankind for their deaf economy of the purse:-The goods of this world cannot be divided, without being lessened-but why be a niggard of that which bestows bliss on a fellow-creature, yet takes nothing from our own means of enjoyment? We wrap ourselves up in the cloak of our own better-fortune, and turn away our eyes, lest the wants and woes of our brothermortals should disturb the selfish apathy of our

I am the worst hand in the world at asking a

guage, in what circumve ution of phrase, I shall of a sparrow, and satire the pep-gun of a school envelope yet not conceal this plain story .-" My dear Mr. Tait, my friend Mr. Duncan, whom I have the pleasure of introducing to you, is a young lad of your own profession, and a gentleman of much modesty and great worth. Perhaps it may be in your power to assist him in the, to him, important consideration of getting a place; but at all events, your notice and acquaintance will be a very great acquisition to him; and I dare pledge myself that he will ne- trivances to the lowest hell! ver disgrace your favour."

You may possibly be surprised, Sir, at such a letter from me; 'tis, I own, in the usual way of calculating these matters, more than our acquaintance entitles me to; but my answer is short: Of all the men at your time of life, whom I knew in Edinburgh, you are the most accessible on the side on which I have assailed you. You are very much altered indeed from what you were when I knew you, if generosity point the path you will not tread, or humanity call to you in vain.

As to myself, a being to whose interest I believe you are still a well-wisher; I am here, breathing at all times, thinking sometimes, and rhyming now and then. Every situation has its share of the cares and pains of life, and my situation I am persuaded has a full ordinary allowance of its pleasures and enjoyments.

My best compliments to your father and Miss Tait. If you have an opportunity, please remember me in the solenm league and covenant of friendship to Mrs. Lewis Hay. I am a wretch for not writing her; but I am so hackneyed with self-accusation in that way, that my conscience lies in my bosom with scarce the sensibility of an oyster in its shell. Where is Lady M'Kenzie? wherever she is, God bless her! I likewise beg leave to trouble you with compliments to Mr. Wm. Hamilton; Mrs. Hamilton and family; and Mrs. Chalmers, when you are in that country. Should you meet with Miss Nimmo, please remember me kindly to her.

No. CLVI.

то ____

VEAR SIR,

WHETHER in the way of my trade, I can be of any service to the Rev. Doctor, " is I fear very Ajax's shield consisted, I think, of seven bull-hides and a plate of brass, which altogether set Hector's utmost force at defiance. Alas! I am not a Hector, and the worthy Doctor's foes are as securely armed as Ajax was. Ignorance, superstition, bigotry, stapidity, malevolence, self-conceit, envy-all strongly bound in a massy frame of brazen impudence. God, Sir! to such a shield, humour is the peck

. Dr. M'Gill of Ayr.

boy. Creation-disgracing s. elerats such as they God only can mend, and the devil only can punish. In the comprehending way of Caligula, 1 wish they had all but one neck. I feel impotent as a child to the ardonr of my wishes! O for a withering curse to blast the germins of their wicked machinations. O for a poisonous tornado, winged from the torrid zone of Tartarus, to sweep the spreading crop of their villainous con-

LETTERS, 1791.

No. CLVII.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Ellisland, 23d January, 1791. Many happy returns of the season to you, my dear friend! As many of the good things of this life, as is consistent with the usual mixture of good and evil in the cup of Being!

I have just finished a poem, which you will receive enclosed. It is my first essay in the way

of tales.

I have, these several months, been hammer ing at an elegy on the amiable and accomplish ed Miss Burnet. I have got, and can get, no farther than the following fragment, on which, please give me your strictures. In all kinds of poetic composition, I set great store by your opinion; but in sentimental verses, in the poctry of the heart, no Roman Catholic ever set more value on the infallibility of the Holy Father than I do on yours.

I mean the introductory couplets as text ver-

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 Lowery shore; Ye woodland choir that channt your idle loves, Ye cease to charm; Eliza is no more.

Ye heathy wastes inmix'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 camb'rous pride was all their country. But far otherwise is the k of the man

Shall venal lays their pompous exit hail; And thou, sweet excellence ! forsake our earth, And not a muse in honest grief bewail.

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.

Let me hear from you soon. Adieu!

No. CLVIII.

TO MR. PETER HILL.

17th January, 1791. TAKE these two guineas, and place the - account of yours! against that has gagged my mouth these five or six mouths ! I can as little write good things as apologies to the man I owe money to. O the supreme curse of making three guineas do the business of five! Not all the labours of Hercules ; not all the He- DEAR SIR, brews' three centuries of Egyptian bondage were such an insuperable business, such an merits? Oppressed by thee, the venerable anevil, smart equally under thy rod. Owing to which they are exhibited, you display a power dissipation, despised and shunned as a needy ever met with a picture of more horrible fancy wretch, when his follies, as usual, bring him to than the following : want ; and when his unprincipled necessities drive him to dishonest practices, he is abhorred " Coffins stood round like open presses, as a miscreant, and perishes by the justice of his

of family and fortune. His early fellies and extravagance, are spirit and fire; his consequent wants, are the embarrassments of an honest fellow; and when, to remedy the matter, he has gained a legal commission to plunder distant provinces, or massacre peaceful nations, he returns, perhaps, laden with the spoils of rapine and murder; lives wicked and respected, and dies a -- and a lord .- Nay, worst of all, alas for helpless woman! the needy prostitute who has shivered at the corner of the street, waiting to earn the wages of carnal prostitution, is left neglected and insulted, ridden lown by the chariot-wheels of the coroneted RIP, hurrying on to the guilty assignation: she, who, without the same necessities to plead, riots nightly in the same guilty trade. Well! divines may say of it what they please,

but execration is to the mind, what phlebotomy is to the body; the vital sluices of both are wonderfully relieved by their respective evacuations.

No. CLIX.

FROM A. F. TYTLER, Esq.

Edinburgh, 12th March, 1791 Mr. Hill yesterday put into my hands & sheet of Grose's Antiquities, containing a poem task!! Poverty! thou half-sister of death, thou of yours, entitled Tam o' Shanter, a tale. The cousin-german of hell! where shall I find force very high pleasure I have received from the of execuation equal to the amplitude of thy de- perusal of this admirable piece, I feel, demands the warmest acknowledgments. Hill tells me cient, grown hoary in the practice of every virtue, laden with years and wretchedness, imcannot resist therefore putting on paper what I plores a little-little aid to support his exist- must have told you in person, had I met with ence, from a stony-hearted son of Mammon, you after the recent perusal of your tale, which whose sun of prosperity never knew a cloud; is, that I feel I owe you a debt, which, if unand is by him denied and insulted. Oppressed discharged, would reproach me with ingratiby thee, the man of sentiment, whose heart tude. I have seldom in my life tasted of higher glows with independence, and melts with sensi- enjoyment from any work of genius, than I have bility, inly pines under the neglect, or writhes received from this composition; and I am much in bitterness of soul, under the contumely of armistaken, if this poem alone, had you never rogant, unfeeling wealth. Oppressed by thee, written another syllable, would not have been the son of genius, whose ill-starred ambition sufficient to have transmitted your name down plants him at the tables of the fashionable and to posterity with high reputation. In the inpolite, must see, in suffering silence, his remark troductory part, where you paint the character neglected, and his person despised, while shal- of your hero, and exhibit him at the ale-house low greatness, in his idiot attempts at wit, shall | ingle, with his tippling cronics, you have delimeet with countenance and applause. Nor is it neated nature with a humour and naivelé, that only the family of worth that have reason to would do honour to Matthew Prior; but when complain of thee; the children of folly and vice, you describe the unfortunate orgies of the though in common with thee, the offspring of witches' sabbath, and the hellish scenery in thee, the man of unfortunate disposition and ne- of imagination, that Shakspeare bimself could glected education, is condemned as a fool for his not have exceeded. I know not that I have

That showed the dead in their last dresses

And by some devilish cantrip slight, Each in his could hand held a light."

But when I came to the succeeding tines, my blood ran cold within me:

" A knife a father's throat had mangled, Whom his ain son of life bereft: The grey hairs yet stuck to the heft."

And here, after the two following lines, "Wi" mair o' horrible and awfu'," &c. the descriptive part might perhaps have been better closed, than the four lines which succeed, which, though good in themselves, yet as they derive all their merit from the satire they contain, are here rather misplaced among the circumstances of pure horror.* The initiation of the young witch is most happily described—the effect of her charms, exhibited in the dance, on Satan himself-the apostrophe-" Ah, little thought thy reverend grannie !"-the transport of Tam, who forgets his situation, and enters completely into the spirit of the scene, are all features of high merit, in this excellent composition. only fault it possesses, is, that the winding up, or conclusion of the story, is not commensurate to the interest which is excited by the descriptive and characteristic painting of the preceding parts .- The preparation is fine, but the result is not adequate. But for this, perhaps, you have a good apology-you stick to the popular

And now that I have got out my mind, and feel a little relieved of the weight of that debt I owed you, let me end this desultory scroll by an advice :- You have proved your talent for a species of composition, in which but a very few of our own poets have succeeded-Go on -write more tales in the same style; you will eclipse Prior and La Fontaine; for, with equal wit, equal power of numbers, and equal naiveté of expression, you have a bolder, and more vigorous imagination.

I am, dear Sir, with much esteem, Yours, &c.

No. CLX.

TO THE SAME.

NOTHING less than the unfortunate accident I have met with, could have prevented my grateful acknowledgments for your letter. own favourite poem, and that an essay in a walk of the muses entirely new to him, where consequently his hopes and fears were in the most anxious alarm for his success in the attempt; to have that poem so much applauded by one of the first judges, was the most delicious vibration that ever trilled along the heart-

the honour to be, &c. TO MRS. DUNLOP.

strings of a poor poet. However, providence to keep up the proper proportion of evil with the good, which, it seems is necessary in this sublunary state, thought proper to check my exultation by a very serious misfortune. day or two after I received your letter, my horse came down with me and broke my right arm. As this is the first service my arm has done me since its disaster, I find myself unable to do more than just in general terms to thank you for this additional instance of your patronage and friendship. As to the faults you detected in the piece, they are truly there: one of them, the hit at the lawyer and priest, I shall cut out; as to the falling off in the catastrophe, for the reason you justly adduce, it cannot easily be remedied. Your approbation, Sir, has given me such additional spirits to persevere in this species of poetic composition, that I am already revolving two or three stories in my fancy. I can bring these floating ideas to bear any kind of embodied form, it will give me an additional opportunity of assuring you how much I have

No. CLXI.

Ellisland, 7th February, 1791.

WHEN I tell you, Madam, that by a fall, not from my horse, but with my horse, I have been a cripple some time, and that this is the first day my arm and hand have been able to serve me in writing; you will allow that it is too good an apology for my seemingly ungrateful silence. I am now getting better, and am able to rhyme a little, which implies some tolerable ease; as I cannot think that the most poetic genius is able to compose on the rack.

I do not remember if ever I mentioned to you my having an idea of composing an elegy on the late Miss Burnet of Monboddo. I had the honour of being pretty well acquainted with her, and have seldom felt so much at the loss of an acquaintance, as when I heard that so amiable and accomplished a piece of God's works was no more. I have as yet gone no farther than the following fragment, of which please let me have your opinion. You know that elegy is a subject so much exhausted, that any new idea on the business is not to be expected; 'tim well if we can place an old idea in a new light. How far I have succeeded as to this last, you will judge from what follows :- (See p. 347, then this additional verse),

The parent's heart that nestled fond in thee, That heart how sunk, a prey to grief and

So deckt the woodbine sweet you aged tree, So from it ravaged, leaves it bleak and bare.

I have proceeded no further

[·] Our bard profited by Mr. Tytler's criticism, and expunged the four lines accordingly.

CORRESPONDENCE.

brance of your god-son, came safe. This last, Madam, is scarcely what my pride can bear. As to the little fellow, he is, partiality apart, the finest boy I have of a long time seen. He is now seventeen months old, has the small-pox and measles over, has cut several teeth, and yet never had a grain of doctor's drugs in his

I am truly happy to hear that the "little floweret" is blooming so fresh and fair, and that jurious to the honest fame of the former. What-the "mother plant" is rather recovering her ever may be my failings, for failings are a part drooping head. Soon and well may her "cruel of human nature, may they ever be those of a wounds" be healed! I have written thus far generous heart, and an independent mind. It Little abler you shall hear farther from,

Madam, yours, &c.

No. CLXII.

TO LADY W. M. CONSTABLE.

ACKNOWLEDGING A PRESENT OF A VALUABLE SNUFF-BOX, WITH A FINE PICTURE OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, ON THE LID.

MY LADY,

Nothing less than the unlucky accident of having lately broken my right arm, could have prevented me, the moment I received your ladyship's elegant present by Mrs. Miller, from returning you my warmest and most grateful acknowledgments. I assure your ladyship, I shall set it apart; the symbols of religion shall only be more sacred. In the moment of poetic composition, the box shall be my inspiring genius. When I would breathe the comprehensive wish of benevolence for the happiness of others, I shall recollect your ladyship; when I would interest my fancy in the distresses incident to humanity, I shall remember the unfortunate Mary.

No. CLXIII.

TO MRS. GRAHAM, OF FINTRY.

MADAM,

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 esclosed ballad, succeeded beyond my usual poetic success, I know not: but it has pleased me beto you It is true, the purity of my motives to the volume? may be suspected. I am already deeply indebted to Mr. G——'s goodness; and, what in hold to make it. But I have this consolation,

Your kind letter, with your kind remem- importance, Mr. G. can do me service of see utmost importance in time to come. I was born a poor deg; and however I may occasionally pick a better bone than I used to do, I know I must live and die poor; but I will indulge the flattering faith that my poetry will considerably outlive my poverty; and withou any fustain affectation of spirit, I can promise and affirm, that it must be no ordinary eraving o. the latter shall ever make me do any thing inwith a good deal of difficulty. When I get a is no fault of mine that I was born to dependence; nor is it Mr. G _____'s chiefest praise that he can command influence; but it his merit to bestow, not only with the kindness of a brother, but with the politeness of a gentleman; and I trust it shall be mine, to receive with thankfulness and remember with undiminished gratitude.

No. CLXIV.

FROM THE REV. (NOW PRINCIPAL) BAIRD.

London, 5th February, 1791.

I TROUBLE you with this letter, to inform you that I am in hopes of being able very soon to bring to the press a new edition (long since talked of) of Michael Bruce's Poems. The profits of the edition are to go to his mothera woman of eighty years of age-poor and helpless. The poems are to be published by subscription; and it may be possible, I think, to make out a 2s. 6d. or 3s. volume, with the assistance of a few hitherto unpublished verses, which I have got from the mother of the poet.

But the design I have in view in writing to you, is not merely to inform you of these facts, it is to solicit the aid of your name and pen in support of the scheme. The reputation of Bruce is already high with every reader of classical taste, and I shall be anxious to guard against tarnishing his character, by allowing any new poems to appear that may lower it. For this purpose, the MSS. I am in possession of, have been submitted to the revision of some whose critical talents I can trust to, and I mean still to submit them to others.

May I beg to know, therefore, if you will take the trouble of perusing the MSS .- of giving your opinion, and suggesting what curtailments, alterations, or amendments, occur to you youd any effort of my muse for a good while as advisable? And will you allow us to let it be past; on that account I enclose it particularly known, that a few lines by you will be added

the usual wave of men, is of infinitely greater that though you see it proper to refuse it, you

see my apology in the motive.

whose company, from his past appearance, you fellow-creature, just for the selfish purpose or would not, I am convinced, blush to be found; and as I would submit every line of his that should now be published, to your own criticisms, you would be assured that nothing derogatory either to him or you, would be admitted in that appearance he may make in future,

You have already paid an honourable tribute to kindred genius in Fergusson-I fondly hope that the mother of Bruce will experience your

I wish to have the subscription papers circulated by the 14th of March, Bruce's birth-day; which, I understand, some friends in Scotland talk this year of observing-at that time it will be resolved, I imagine, to place a plain, humble stone over his grave. This, at least, I trust

you will agree to do-to furnish, in a few coup-

lets, an inscription for it. On those points may I solicit an answer as early as possible; a short delay might disappoint us in procuring that relief to the mother, which is the object of the whole.

You will be pleased to address for me under cover to the Duke of Athole, London.

P. S .- Have you ever seen an engraving published here some time ago from one of your poems, "O thou Pale Orb." If you have not, I shall have the pleasure of sending it to

No. CLXV.

TO THE REV. G. BAIRD,

IN ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING.

Why did you, my dear Sir, write to me in such a hesitating style, on the business of poor Bruce? Don't I know, and have I not felt, the many ills, the peculiar ills that poetic flesh is heir to? You shall have your choice of all the unpublished poems I have; and had your letter had my direction so as to have reached me sooner (it only came to my hand this moment), I should have directly put you out of suspense on the subject. I only ask, that some prefatory advertisement in the book, as well as the subscription bills, may bear, that the publication is solely for the benefit of Bruce's mother. I would not put it in the power of ignorance to surmise, or malice to insinuate, that I clubbed a share in the work from mercenary motives. Nor need you give me credit for any remarkable generosity in my part of the busi-I have such a host of peccadilloes, failings, follies, and backslidings (any body but myself might perhaps give some of them a worse

will not blame me for having mane. ; you will appellation), that by way of some balance, however trifling, in the account, I am fain to do ang May I just add, that Michael Bruce is one in good that occurs in my very limited power to a clearing a little the vista of retrospection.

No. CLXVI

TO THE REV. ARCH. ALISON.

Ellisland, near Dumfries, 14th Feb. 1791

You must, by this time, have set me down as one of the most ungrateful of men. did me the honour to present me with a book which does honour to science and the intellectual powers of man, and I have not even so much as acknowledged the receipt of it. The fact is, you yourself are to blame for it. Flattered as I was by your telling me that you wished to have my opinion of the work, the old spiritual enemy of mankind, who knows well that vanity is one of the sins that most easily beset me, put it into my head to ponder over the performance with the look-out of a critic, and to draw up for sooth a deep learned digest of strictures on a composition, of which, in fact, until I read the book, I did not even know the first principles. I own, Sir, that at first glance, several of your propositions startled me as paradoxical. the martial clangor of a trumpet had something in it vastly more grand, heroic, and sublime, than the twingle twangle of a Jews' harp; that the delicate flexure of a rose-twig, when the half-blown flower is heavy with the tears of the dawn, was infinitely more beautiful and elegant than the upright stub of a burdock; and that from something innate and independent of all association of ideas ;-these I had set down as irrefragible, orthodox truths, until perusing your book shook my faith.-In short, Sir, except Euclid's Elements of Geometry, which I made a shift to unravel by my father's fire-side, in the winter evening of the first season I held the plough, I never read a book which gave me such a quantum of information, and added so much to my stock of ideas as your "Essays on the Principles of Taste." One thing, Sir, you must forgive my mentioning as an uncommon merit in the work, I mean the language. To clothe abstract philosophy in elegance of style, sounds something like a contradiction in terms; but you have convinced me that they are quite compatible.

I enclose you some poetic bagatelles of my late composition. The one in print is my first essay in the way of telling a tale.

I am, Sir, &c.

No. CLXVII.

TO DR. MOORE.

Ellisland, 28th February, 1791.

I no not know, Sir, whether you are a subscriber to Grose's Antiquities of Scotland. If you are, the enclosed poem will not be altogether new to you. Captain Grose did me the favour to send me a dozen copies of the proofsheet, of which this is one. Should you have read the piece before, still this will answer the principal end I have in view; it will give me another opportunity of thanking you for all your goodness to the rustic bard; and also of showing you, that the abilities you have been pleased to commend and patronize are still employed in the way you wish.

The Elegy on Captain Henderson, is a trihute 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 past that bourne where Whether, after all, either the one or the other good things, and ought to be received and en- | monalty, as the tail o' the gentry. eyed by his creatures with thankful delight. my heart, I am wonderfully pleased with the quence to you; so I shall give you a short poem idea, that I can still keep up a tender inter-course with the dearly beloved friend, or still you how sincerely I have the honour to be, more dearly beloved mistress, who is gone to yours, &c.

the world of spirits. The ballid on Queen Mary was begun while I was busy with Percy's Reliques of English Poetry. By the way, how much is every honest heart, which has a tincture of Caledonian prejudice, obliged to you for your glorious story of Buchanan and Targe. 'Twas an unequivocal proof of your loyal gallantry of soul, giving Targe the victory. I should have been mortified to the ground if you had not.

I have just read over, once more of many times, your Zeluco. I marked with my pencil, as I went along, every passage that pleased me particularly above the rest; and one, or tures, let me have them. For my own part, a two, I think, which, with humble deference, I thing that I have just composed, always appears am disposed to think unequal to the merits of through a double portion of that partial medium the book. I have sometimes thought to tran- in which an author will ever view his own scribe these marked passages, or at least so much works. I believe, in general, novelty has someof them as to point where they are, and send thing in it that inebriates the fancy, and not them to you. Original strokes that strongly unfrequently dissipates and fumes away like depict the human heart, is your and Fielding's other intoxication, and leaves the poor patient, province, beyond any other novelist I have ever as usual, with an aching heart. A striking perused. Richardson indeed might perhaps be instance of this might be adduced, in the revo-

sonæ are beings of some other world; and however they may captivate the unexperienced, romantic fancy of a boy or a girl, they will ever, in proportion as we have made human nature our study, dissatisfy our riper minds.

As to my private concerns, I am going on, a mighty tax-gatherer before the Lord, and have lately had the interest to get myself ranked on the list of excise as a supervisor. I am not yet employed as such, but in a few years I shall fall into the file of supervisorship by seniority. I have had an immense loss in the death of the Eurl of Glencairn; the patron frem whom al. my fame and good fortune took its rise. Independent of my grateful attachment to him, which was indeed so strong that it pervaded my very soul, and was entwined with the thread of my existence; so soon as the prince's friends had got in (and every dog, you know, has his day), my getting forward in the excise would have been an easier business than otherwise it will be. Though this was a consummation devoutly to be wished, yet, thank Heaven, I can all other kindness ceases to be of any avail, live and rhyme as I am; and as to my boys poor little fellows! if I cannot place them on he of any real service to the dead, is, I fear, very problematical; but I am sure they are highly gratifying to the living: and as a very orthodox of events as to see that period, fix them on as text, I forget where in Scripture, says, "what- broad and independent a basis as possible. Asoever is not of faith, is sin;" so say I, what- mong the many wise adages which have been soever is not detrimental to society, and is of treasured up by our Scottish ancestors, this is positive enjoyment, is of God, the giver of all one of the best, Better be the head of the com-

But I am got on a subject, which, however As almost all my religious tenets originate from interesting to me, is of no manner of conse-

(Beauteous Rose-Bud, p. 56.)

No. CLXVIII.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM

12th March, 1791.

IF the foregoing piece be worth your stric excepted; but, unhappily, his drar atis per- lution of many a hymeneal honeymoon. But lest I sink into stupid prose, and so sacrilegious- | which I send you; and God knows you may 'y intrude on the office of my parish priest, I perhaps pay dear enough for it if you read i shall fill up the page in my own way, and give through. Not that this is my own opinion; but you another song of my late composition, which an author, by the time he has composed and as the former.

You must know a beautiful Jacobite air, There'll never be peace till Jamie comes hame. When political combustion ceases to be the object of princes and patriots, it then, you know, becomes the lawful prey of historians and poets.

(See Songs, p. 236).

If you like the air, and if the stanzas hit your fancy, you cannot imagine, my dear friend, how much you would oblige me, if, by the charms of your delightful voice, you would give my honest effusion to "the memory of joys that are past," to the few friends whom you indulge in that pleasure. But I have scribbled on 'till I hear the clock has intimated the near approach

" That hopr o' night's black arch the keystane."-

So good night to you! Sound be your sleep, and delectable your dreams! Apropos, how do you like this thought in a ballad, I have just now on the tapis ?

I look to the west, when I gae to rest, That happy my dreams and my slumbers may be:

For far in the west is he I lo'e best-

The lad that is dear to my baby and me!

Good night, once more, and God bless you!

No. CXLIX.

TO MR. ALEXANDER DALZIEL.*

FACTOR, FINDLAYSTON.

Ellisland, March 19, 1791.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE taken the liberty to frank this letter to you, as it encloses an idle poem of mine,

 This g ntleman, the factor, or steward, of Burne's noble friend, Lord Gleneairn, with a view to encourage a second edition of the poems, laid the volume before his lordship, with such an account of the rustic bard's situation and prospects as from his slender acquaint-ance with him he could turnish. The result, as com-municated to Burns by Mr. Dalziel, is highly creditable

will appear, perhaps, in Johnson's work, as well corrected his work, has quite pored away all his powers of critical discrimination.

I can easily guess from my own heart, what you have felt on a late most melancholy event. God knows what I have suffered, at the loss of my best friend, my first, my dearest patron and benefactor; the man to whom I owe all that I am and have! I am gone into mourning for him, and with more sincerity of grief than I fear some will, who by nature's ties ought to feel on the occasion.

I will be exceedingly obliged to you indeed, to let me know the news of the noble family, how the poor mother and the two sisters support their loss. I had a packet of poetic bagatelles ready to send to Lady Betty, when I saw the fatal tidings in the newspaper. I see by the same channel that the honoured REMAINS of my noble patron, are designed to be brought to the family burial place. Dare I trouble you to let me know privately before the day of interment, that I may cross the country, and steal among the crowd, to pay a tear to the last sight of my ever revered benefactor? It will oblige me beyond expression.

No. CL.

FROM DR. MOORE,

DEAR SIR, London, 29th March, 1791.

Your letter of the 28th of February I received only two days ago, and this day I had the pleasure of waiting on the Rev. Mr. Baird, at the Duke of Athole's, who had been so obliging as to transmit it to me, with the printed verses on Alloway Church, the Elegy on Captain Henderson, and the Epitaph. There are many poetical beauties in the former: what I particularly admire are the three striking similes from

" Or like the snow falls in the river," and the eight lines which begin with

" By this time he was cross the ford ;"

so exquisitely expressive of the superstitions inpressions of the country. And the twenty-two lines from

" Coffins stood round like open presses,"

wishes to be of service to Burns, and desired Mr. Dalwastes to be of service to builts, and deriged in it. Bal-giel to inform him, that in patronizing the book, ush-ering it with effect into the world, or treating with the booksellers, he would most willingly give every aid in his power: adding his request that Burns would take the earliest opportunity of letting him know in what way or manner he could best further his interests. to the character of Lord Glenearn. After reading the what way or manner the could best further his interests book, his lordship declared that its merits greatly ex-book, his lordship declared that its merits greatly ex-bed his lordship declared that its merits greatly ex-ected his expectation, and he took it with im as a listed manuscripts, with a view to establishing his cha-stlerary curiosity to Edinburgh. He repeated his racter with the world.—Cronek.

dients of Shakspeare's cauldron in Macbeth.

As for the Elegy, the chief merit of it consists in the very graphical description of the objects belonging to the country in which the poet writes, and which none but a Scottish poet could have described, and none but a real poet, and a close observer of Nature, could have so described.

There is something original, and to me wonder-

fully pleasing, in the Epitaph.

I remember you once hinted before, what you repeat in your last, that you had made some 'emarks on Zeluco, on the margin. I should be very glad to see them, and regret you did not send them before the last edition, which is just published. Pray transcribe them for me, I sinterely value your opinion very highly, and pray do not suppress one of those in which you centure the sentiment or expression. Trust me it will break no squares between us-I am not skin to the Bishop of Grenada.

I must now mention what has been on my mind for some time: I cannot help thinking you imprudent in scattering abroad so many copies of your verses. It is most natural to give a few to confidential friends, particularly to those who are connected with the subject, or who are perhaps themselves the subject, but this ought to be done under promise not to give other copies. Of the poem you sent me on Queen Mary, I refused every solicitation for copies, but I lately saw it in a newspaper. My motive for cautioning you on this subject is, that I wish to engage you to collect all your fugitive pieces, not already printed, and after they have been re-considered, and polished to the utmost of your power, I would have you publish them by another subscription; in promoting of which I will exert myself with plea-

would use the modern English. You have of the island, when you can command the admiration of the whole.

which, in my opinion, are equal to the ingre- | land, I will let you know, that you may meet me at your own house, or my friend Mrs. Hamilton's, or both.

Adieu, my dear Sir, &c.

No. CLI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Ellisland, 11th April, 1791.

I AM once more able, my honoured friend, to return you, with my own hand, thanks for the many instances of your friendship, and particularly for your kind anxiety in this last disaster that my evil genius had in store for me. ever, life is chequered-joy and sorrow-for on Saturday morning last, Mrs. Burns made me a present of a fine boy; rather stouter but not so handsome as your god-son was at his time of life. Indeed I look on your little namesake to be my chef d'œuvre in that species of manufacture, as I look on Tam o' Shanter to be my standard performance in the poetical line. 'Tie true, both the one and the other discover a spice of roguish waggery, that might, perhaps, be as well spared; but then they also show, in my 3pinion, a force of genius, and a finishing polish, that I despair of ever excelling. Mrs. Burns is getting stout again, and laid as lustily about her to-day at breakfast, as a reaper from the corn-ridge. That is the peculiar privilege and blessing of our hale, sprightly damsels, that are bred among the hay and heather. We cannot hope for that highly polished mind, that charming delicacy of soul, which is found among the female world in the more elevated stations of life, and which is certainly by far the most bewitching charm in the famous cestus of Venus. It is indeed such an inestimable treasure, that where it can be had in its native heavenly pu-In your future compositions, I wish you rity, unstained by some one or other of the many shades of affectation, and unalloyed by shown your powers in Scottish sufficiently, some one or other of the many species of ca-Although in certain subjects it gives additional price, I declare to Heaven, I should think it zest to the humour, yet it is lost to the Eng- cheaply purchased at the expense of every other lish; and why should you write only for a part earthly good! But as this angelic creature is, I am afraid, extremely rare in any station and rank of life, and totally denied to such an hum-If you chance to write to my friend Mrs. ble one as mine; we meaner mortals must put Dunlop of Dunlop, I beg to be affectionately up with the next rank of female excellenceremembered to her. She must not judge of the as fine a figure and face we can produce as any warmth of my sentiments respecting her, by the rank of life whatever; rustic, native grace; unnumber of my letters; I hardly ever write a line affected modesty, and unsullied purity; nature' but on business: and I do not know that I mother-wit, and the rudinents of taste; a simshould have scribbled all this to you, but for the plicity of soul, unsuspicious of, because unacbusiness part, that is, to instigate you to a new quainted with, the crooked ways of a selfish publication; and to tell you that when you interested, disingenuous world;—and the dearthink you have a sufficient number to make a est charm of all the rest, a yielding sweetness volume, you should set your friends on getting of disposition, and a generous warmth of heart, subscriptions. I wish I could have a few hours grateful for love on our part, and ardently glowconversation with you .- I have many things to ing with a more than equal return; these, say which I cannot write. If I ever go to Scot- with a healthy frame, a sound vigorous consti

tution, which your high ranks can scarcely ever wilds of his deserts, rather than in civilized nfe, hope to enjoy, are the charms of lovely woman helplessly to tremble for a subsistence, precari-

in my lumble walk of life.

This is the greatest effort my broken arm has yet made. Do, let me hear by first post, how cher petit Monsieur comes on with his smallpox. May Almighty Goodness preserve and restore him!

No. CLII.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

11th June, 1791.

LET me interest you, my dear Cunningham, in behalf of the gentleman, who waits on you with this. He is a Mr. Clarke, of Moffat, principal schoolmaster there, and is at present suffering severely under the of one or two powerful individuals of his employers. He is accused of harshness to . . .

that were placed under his care. God help the teacher, if a man of sensibility and genius, and such is my friend Clarke, when a booby father presents him with his booby son, and insists on lighting up the rays of science, in a fellow's head whose skull is impervious and inaccessible by any other way than a positive fracture with a cudgel; a tellow whom, in fact, it savours of impirety to attempt making a scholar of, as he has been marked a blockhead in the book of fate, at the almighty flat of his Creator.

The patrons of Moffat school are, the ministers, magistrates, and town-council of Edinburgh, and as the business comes now before them, let me beg my dearest friend to do every thing in his power to serve the interests of a man of genius and worth, and a man whom I particularly respect and esteem. You know some good fellows among the magistracy and particularly, you have much to say with a reverend gentleman to whom you have the honour of being very nearly related, and whom his country and age have had the honour to produce. I need not name the historian of Charles V. I tell him, through the medium of his nephew's influence, that Mr. Clarke is a gentleman who will not disgrace even his patronage. I know the merits of the cause thoroughly, and say it, that my friend is falling a sacrifice to prejudiced ignorance, and . . God help the children of dependence! Hated and persecuted by their enemies, and too

often, alas! almost unexceptionably, received by their friends with disrespect and reproach, under the thin disguise of cold civility and lumiliating advice. O to be a sto by savage, stalking in the pride of his independence, amid the solitary

helplessly to tremble for a subsistence, precarious as the caprice of a fellow-creature! man has his virtues, and no man is without his failings; and curse on that privileged plaindealing of friendship, which in the hour of my calamity, cannot reach forth the helping hand without at the same time pointing out those failings, and apportioning them their share in procuring my present distress. My friends, for such the world calls ye, and such ye think yourselves to be, pass by virtues if you please, but do, also, spare my follies: the first will witness in my breast for themselves, and the last will give pain enough to the ingenuous mind without you. And since deviating more or less from the paths of propriety and rectitude, must be incident to human nature, do thou, fortune, put it in my power, always from myself, and of myself, to bear the consequences of those errors. I do not want to be independent that I may sin, but I want to be independent in my sinning.

To return in this rambling letter to the subper let out with, let me recommend my friend, Mr. Clarke, to your acquaintance and good offices; his worth entitles bim to the one, and his gratitude will merit the other. I long much to hear from you. Adieu.

No. CLIII.

FROM THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

Dryburgh Abbey, 17th June, 1791. LORD BUCHAN has the pleasure to invite Mr Burns to make one at the coronation of the bust of Thomson, on Ednam Hill, on the 22d of September; for which day perhaps his muse may inspire an ode suited to the occasion. Suppose Mr. Burns should, leaving the Nith, go acrose the country, and meet the Tweed at the nearest point from his farm-and, wandering along the pastoral banks of Thomson's pure parent stream, catch inspiration on the devious walk, till he finds Lord Buchan sitting on the ruins of Dryburgh. There the commendator will give him a hearty welcome, and try to light his lamp at the pure flame of native genius, upon the altar of Caledonian virtue. This poetical perambulation of the Tweed, is a thought of the late Sir Gilbert Elliot's and of Lord Minto's, followed out by his acce uplished grandson, the present Sir Gilbert, who, having been with Lord Buchan lately, the project was renewed, and will, they hope, be executed in the manner pro posed.

[·] Dr. Robertson was uncle to Mr. Cunningham.

No. CLIV.

TO THE SAME.

LANGUAGE sinks under the ardour of my feelings, when I would thank your lordship for the honour you have done me in inviting me to make one at the coronation of the bust of Thomson. In my first enthusiasm in reading the card you did me the honour to write me, I overlooked every obstacle, and determined to go; but I fear it will not be in my power. A week or two's absence, in the very middle of my harvest, is what I much doubt I dare not venture

Your lordship hints at an ode for the occasion : but who would write after Collins ? I read over his verses to the memory of Thomson, and despaired .- I got indeed to the length of three or four stanzas, in the way of address to the shade of the bard, on crowning his bust. I shall trouble your lordship, with the subjoined copy of them, which, I am afraid, will be but too convincing a proof how unequal I am to the task. However, it affords me an opportunity of approaching your lordship, and declaring how sincerely and gratefully I have the honour to be, &c.

(See p. 55.)

No. CLV.

TO MR. THOMAS SLOAN,

CARE OF WM. KENNEDY, ESQ. MANCHESTER.

Ellisland, Sept. 1, 1791.

MY DEAR SLOAN,

Suspense is worse than disappointment, for that reason I hurry to tell you that I just now learn that Mr. Ballantine does not choose to interfere more in the business. I am truly sorry for it, but cannot help it.

You blame me for not writing you sooner, but you will please to recollect that you omitted one little necessary piece of information ;-

your address,

However you know equally well, my harried life, indolent temper, and strength of attachment. It must be a longer period than the ongest life "in the world's hale and undegenerate days," that will make me forget so dear a friend as Mr. Sloan. I am prodigal enough at times, but I will not part with such a treaaure as that.

I can easily enter into the embarras of your present situation. You know my favourite quo tation from Young-

-" On Reason build RESOLVE That column of true majesty in man."-

And that other favourite one from Thon.son* Alfred-

" What proves the hero truely GREAT, Is, never, never to despair.'

Or, shall I quote you an author of your acquaintance?

" -Whether DOING, SUFFERING, OF FORBEAR-ING You may do miracles by __PERSEVERING."

I have nothing new to tell you. The few friends we have are going on in the old way. I sold my crop on this day se'night, and sold it very well. A guinea an acre, on an average, above value. But such a scene of drunkenness was hardly ever seen in this country. After the roup was over, about thirty people engaged in a battle, every man for his own hand, and fought it out for three hours. Nor was the scene much better in the house. No fighting, indeed, but folks lying drunk on the floor, and decanting, until both my dogs got so drunk by attending them, that they could not stand. You will easily guess how I enjoyed the scene ; as I was no farther over than you used to see

Mrs. B. and family have been in Ayrshire these many weeks.

Farewell! and God bless you, my dear Friend!

No. CLVI.

FROM THE EARL OF BUCHAN

Dryburgh Abbey, 18th September, 1791.

SIR Your address to the shade of Thomson has been well received by the public; and though I should disapprove of your allowing Pegasus to ride with you off the field of your honourable and useful profession, yet I cannot resist an impulse which I feel at this moment to suggest to your muse, Harvest Home, as an excellent subject for her grateful song, in which the peculiar aspect and manners of our country might furnish an excellent portrait and landscape of Scotland, for the employment of happy moments of leisure and recess, from your more important occupations.

Your Halloween, and Saturday Night, will remain to distant posterity as interesting pietures of rural innocence and happiness in your native country, and were happily written in the dialect of the people; but Harvest Home being suited to descriptive poetry, except where colloquial, may escape disguise of a dialect which admits of no elegance or dignity of expression. Without the assistance of any god or goddess, and without the invocation of any foreign muse, you may convey in epistolary form the descrip

BURNS' WORKS.

Bon of a scene so gladdening and picturesque, with all the concomitant local position, landscape and costume ; contrasting the peace, improvement, and happiness of the borders of the once hostile nations of Britain, with their former oppression and misery, and showing, in lively and beautiful colours, the beauties and joys of a rural life. And as the unvitiated heart is naturally disposed to overflow in gratitude in the moment of prosperity, such a subject would furnish you with an amiable opportunity of perpetuating the names of G. neairn, Miller, and your other eminent benefactors; which from what I know of your spirit, and have seen of your poems and letters, will not deviate from the chastity of praise, that is so uniformly united to true taste and genius.

I am, Sir, &c.

No. CLVII.

TO LADY E. CUNNINGHAM

MY LADY.

I wouth, as usual, have availed myself of the privilege your goodness has allowed me, of sending you any thing I compose in my poetical way; but as I had resolved, so soon as the bock of my irreparable loss would allow me, to Day a tribute to my late benefactor, I determined to make that the first piece I should do myself | Well-I begin to breathe a little, since I began the honour of sending you. Had the wing of my fancy been equal to the ardour of my heart, the enclosed bad 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 good- per ann, better than the rest. My present in The sables I did myself the honour to come, down money, is L.70 per ann. 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 you would be glad to know. it down to his child as a family honour, and a family debt, that my dearest existence I owe to the noble house or 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. *

the poem enclosed, is The tament for James, SIR,

No. CLVIII.

TO MR. AINSLIE.

MY DEAR AINSLIE,

CAN you minister to a mind diseased? Can you, amid the horrors of penitence, regret, remorse, head-ache, nausea, and all the rest of the d-d hounds of hell, that beset a poor wretch, who has been guilty of the sin of drunkennessean you speak peace to a troubled soul?

Miserable perdu that I am, I have tried every thing that used to amuse me, but in vain: here must I sit a monument of the vengeance laid up in store for the wicked, slowly counting every chick of the clock as it slowly-slowly numbers over these lazy scoundrels of hours, who, d-n them, are ranked up before me, every one at his neighbour's backside, and every one with a burthen of anguish on his back, to pour on my devoted head-and there is none to pity me. My wife scolds me! my business torments me, and my sins come staring me in the face, every one telling a more bitter tale than his fellow .-When I tell you even . . . has lost its power to please, you will guess something of my hell within, and all around me-I began Elibanks and Elibraes, but the stanza fell unenjoyed, and unfinished from my listless tongue; at last I leckily thought of reading over an old letter of yours, that lay by me in my book-case, and I felt something for the first time since I opened my eyes, of pleasurable existence.to write you. How are you, and what are you doing? How goes law? Apropos, for connection's sake do not address to me supervisor, for that is an honour I cannot pretend to-I am on the list, as we call it, for a supervisor, and will be called out by and bye to act one; but at present, I am a simple gauger, the tother day I got an appointment to an excise division of L.25

I have one or two good fellows here whom

No. CLIX.

FROM S.R JOHN WHITEFOORD.

Near Maybole, 16th Oct. 1791 ACCEPT of my thanks for your favour with the Lament on the death of my much esteemed friend, and your worthy patron, the perusal of which pleased and affected me much. The lines addressed to me are very flattering.

I have always thought it most natural to supasse, (and a strong argument in favour of a fu ture existence) that when we see an honourable | the discrimination of your herces, and in giving and victuous man labouring under bodily infirnoties, and oppressed by the frowns of fortune in this world, that there was a happier state beyoud the grave; where that worth and honour which were neglected here, would meet with their just reward, and where temporal misfortones would receive an eternal recompense. Let us cherish this hope for our departed friend; and moderate our grief for that loss we have I see not a line or a word in it which I could sustained; knowing that he cannot return to | us, but we may go to him.

Remember me to your wife, and with every good wish for the prosperity of you and your family, believe me at all times,

Your most sincere friend, JOHN WHITEFOORD.

No. CLX.

FROM A. F. TYTLER, Esq.

Edinburgh, 27th Nov. 1791.

You have much reason to blame me for negleeting till now to acknowledge the receipt of a most agreeable packet, containing The Whistle, a ballad; and The Lament; which reached me about six weeks ago in London, from whence I am just returned. Your letter was forwarded to me there from Edinburgh, where, as I observed by the date, it had lain for some days. This was an additional reason for me to have answered it immediately on receiving it; but the truth was, the busile of business, engagements and confusion of one kind or another, in which I found myself immersed all the time I was in London, absolutely put it out of my But to have done with apologies, let me now endeavour to prove myself in some degree deserving of the very flattering compliment you pay me, by giving you at least a frank and candid, if it should not be a judicious criticism on the poems you sent me.

The ballad of The Whistle is, in my opinion, truly excellent. The old tradition which you have taken up is the best adapted for a Bacchanalian composition of any I have ever met with, and you have done it full justice. In the first place, the strokes of wit arise naturally from the subject, and are uncommonly happy. For example,-

- " The bands grew the tighter the more they were wet.'
- " Cynthia 'rinted she'd first them next morn."
- 'Though Fate said a hero should perish in light, So up rose bright Phæbus and down fell the knight."

each the sentiments and language suitable to his character. And, lastly, you have much ment in the delicacy of the panegyric which you have contrived to throw on each of the dramatis personæ, perfectly appropriate to his character. The compliment to Sir Robert, the blunt soldier, is peculiarly fine. In short, this composition, in my opinion, does you great honour, and wish to be altered.

As to The Lament, I suspect, from some expressions in your letter to me, that you are more doubtful with respect to the merits of this piece than of the other, and I own I think you have reason; for although it contains some beautiful stanzas, as the first, "The wind blew hollow," &c. the fifth, "Ye scatter'd birds;" the thirteenth. " Awake thy last sad voice." &c. it appears to me faulty as a whole, and inferior to several of those you have already published My principal objection lies in the same strain. against the plan of the piece. I think it was unnecessary and improper to put the lamentation in the mouth of a fictitious character, an aged bard .- It had been much better to have lamented your patron in your own person, to have expressed your genuine feelings for his loss, and to have spoken the language of nature rather than that of fiction on the subject. Compare this with your poem of the same title in your printed volume, which begins, O thou pale Orb! and observe what it is that forms the charm of that composition. It is, that it speaks the language of truth and of nature. The change is, in my opinion, injudicious too in this respect, that an aged bard has much less need of a patron and protector than a young one. I have thus given you, with much freedom, my opinion of both the pieces. I should have made a very ill return to the complement you paid me, if I had given you any other than my genuine sen-

It will give me great pleasure to hear from you when you find leisure, and I beg you will believe me ever, dear Sir, yours, &c.

No. CLXI.

TO MISS DAVIES.

Ir is impossible, Madam, that the generous warmth and angelic purity of your youthful mind, can have any dea of that moral disease under which I unnappily must rank as the chief of sinners; I mean a torpitude of the moral powers that may be called, a lethargy of conscience.-In vain remorse rears her horrent crest, and rouses all her snakes; beneath the deadly fixed eye and leaden hand of indolence, their wildest ire is charmed into the torpor of the an the next place, you are singularly happy in but, slumbering out the rigours of winter in the

chink of a roined wall. Nothing less, Madam, could have made me so long neglect your obliging commands. Indeed I had one apology-the bagatelle was not worth presenting. so strongly am I interested in Miss D--'s fate and welfare in the serious business of life, amid its chances and changes; that to make her the subject of a silly ballad, is downright mockery of these ardent feelings; 'tis like an impertment test to a dving friend.

Gracious Heaven! why this disparity between our wishes and our powers? Why is the most generous wish to make others blest, impotent and ineffectual—as the idle breeze that crosses the pathless desert? In my walks of life I have met with a few people to whom how gladly would I have said-"Go, be happy! I know that your hearts have been wounded by face nor apology. the scorn of the proud, whom accident has placed above you-or worse still, in whose hand are, perhaps, placed many of the comforts of your But there! ascend that rock, Independence, and look justly down on their littleness of soul. Make the worthless tremble under your indignation, and the foolish sink before your contempt; and largely impart that happiness to friend, M'Donald's collection of Highland airs others, which, I am certain, will give yourselves so much pleasure to bestow!'

Why, dear Madam, must I wake from this delightful reverie, and find it all a dream? Why, amid my generous enthusiasm, must I find myself poor and powerless, incapable of wiping one tear from the eye of pity, or of adding one comfort to the friend I love !- Ont upon the world ! say I, that its affairs are administered so ill? They talk of reform ;-good Heaven! what a for you. A Dieu je vous commende! reform would I make among the sons, and even the daughters of men !-Down, immediately, should go fools from the high places where misbegotten chance has perked them up, and through life should they skulk, ever haunted by their native insignificance, as the body marches accompanied by its shadow .-- As for a much more formidable class, the knaves, I am at a loss what to do with them : IIad I a world, there should not be a knave in it.

But the hand that could give, I would liberally all; and I would pour delight on the heart that zould kindly forgive, and generously love.

Still the inequalities of his life are, among men, comparatively tolerable-but there is a delicacy, a tenderness, accompanying every view in which we can place lovely Woman, that are grated and shocked at the rude, capricious distinctions of fortune. Woman is the blood-royal of life; let there be slight degrees of precedency emong them-but let them be ALL sacred. Whether this last sentiment be right or wrong, I am not accountable; it is an original compotent feature of my mind.

No. CLX.7.

TO MRS. DUNLOP

Ellisland, 17th December, 1791

MANY thanks to you, Madam, for your good news respecting the little floweret and the mo-ther plant. I hope my poetic prayers have been heard, and will be answered up to the warmest sincerity of their fullest extent; and then Mrs. Henri will find her little darling the representative of his late parent, in every thing but his abridged existence.

I have just finished the following song, which, to a lady the descendant of Wallace, and many heroes of his truly illustrious line, and hersels the mother of several soldiers, needs neither pre.

(Death Song. See p. 230)

The circumstance that gave rise to the foregoing verses was, looking over, with a musica. I was struck with one, an Isle of Skye tune entitled Oran an Aoig, or, The Song of Death to the measure of which I have adapted my stanzas. I have of late composed two or three other little pieces, which ere yon full orbed moon, whose broad impudent face now stares at old mother earth all night, shall have shrunk into a modest crescent, just peeping forth at dewy dawn, I shall find an hour to transcribe

LETTERS, 1792.

No. CLXIII.

TO FRANCIS GROSE, Esq. F.A.S.

1792. I BELLEVE among all our Scots literati you have not met with Professor Dugald Stewart, who fills the moral philosophy chair in the University of Edinburgh. To say that he is a man of the first parts, and what is more, a man o. the first worth, to a gentleman of your general acquaintance, and who so much enjoys the luxury of unencumbered freedom and undisturbed privacy, is not perhaps recommendation enough: -but when I inform you that Mr. Stewart's principal characteristic is your favourite fea ture; that sterling independence of mind, which, though every man's right, so few men have the courage to claim, and fewer still the magnanimity to support :- When I tell you, that unseduced by splendonr, and undisgusted by wretchedness, he appreciates the merits of the various actors in the great drama of life, merely as these

perform their parts-in short, he is a man after your own heart, and I comply with his earnest ly authentic, was as follows :request in letting you know that he wishes above all things to meet with you. His house, er from Carrick, and consequently whose way Catrine, is within less than a mile of Sorn Cas- lay by the very gate of Alloway kirk-yard, in tle, which you proposed visiting; or if you order to cross the river Doon at the old bridge, could transmit him the enclosed, he would with the greatest pleasure, meet you any where in the neighbourhood. I write to Ayrshire to inform Mr. Stewart that I have acquitted myself of my promise. Should your time and spirits permit your meeting with Mr. Stewart, 'tis well; if not, I hope you will forgive this liberty, and I have at least an opportunity of assuring you with what truth and respect,

I am, Sir, Your great admirer, And very humble servant.

No. CLXIV.

TO THE SAME.

AMONG the many witch stories I have heard relating to Alloway kirk, I distinctly remember only two or three.

Upon a stormy night, amid whistling squalls of wind, and bitter blasts of hail; in short, on such a night as the devil would choose to take the air in; a farmer or farmer's servant was plodding and plashing homeward with his plough irons on his shoulder, having been getting some repairs on them at a neighbouring smithy. His way lay by the kirk of Alloway, and being rather on the anxious look out in approaching a place so well known to be a favourite hannt of the devil and the devil's friends and emissaries, he was atrack aghast by discovering through the horrors of the storm and stormy night, a light, which, on his nearer approach, plainly showed itself to proceed from the haunted edifice. Whether he had been fortified from above on his devout supplication, as is customary with people when they suspect the immediate presence of Satan; or whether, according to another custom, he had got courageously drunk at the smithy, I will not pretend to determine; but so it was that he ventured to go up to, nay into the very kirk. As good luck would have it his temerity came off napunished.

The members of the infernal junto were all out on some midnight business or other, and he saw nothing but a kind of kettle or caldron, depending from the roof, over the fire, simmering some heads of unchristened children, limbs of executed malefactors, &c. for the business of the rities give it for Alloway, I shall relate it. night .- It was, in for a penny, in for a pound, with the honest ploughman; so without cereevidence of the truth of the story.

Another story which, can prove to be cqral-

On a market day in the town of Ayr, a farmwhich is about two or three hundred yards further on than the said gate, had been detained by his business, till by the time he reached Alloway is was the wizard hour, between night and morning.

Though he was terrified, with a blaze streaming from the kirk, yet as it is a well-known fact that to turn back on these occasions is running by far the greatest risk of mischief, he prudently advanced on his road. When he had reached the gate of the kirk-vard, he was surprised and entertained, through the ribs and arches of an old gothic window, which still faces the highway, to see a dance of witches merrily footing it round their old sooty blackguard master, who was keeping them all alive with the power of his bagpipe. The farmer stopping his horse to observe them a little, could plainly descry the faces of many old women of his acquaintance and neighbourhood. How the gentleman was dressed, tradition does not say; but the ladies were all in their smocks; and one of them happening unluckily to have a smock which was considerably too short to answer all the purpose of that piece of dress, our farmer was so tickled, that he involuntarily burst out, with a loud laugh, "Weel luppen, Maggy wi' the short sark!" and recollecting himself, instantly spurred his horse to the top of his speed. I need not mention the universally known fact, that no diabolical power can pursue you beyond the middle of a running stream. Lucky it was for the poor farmer that the river Doon was so near, for notwithstanding the speed of his horse, which was a good one, against he reached the middle of the arch of the bridge, and consequently the middle of the stream, the pursuing, vengeful hags, were so close at his heels, that one of them actually sprung to seize him; but it was too late, nothing was on her side of the stream but the horse's tail, which immediately gave way at her infernal grip, as if blasted by a stroke of lightning; but the farmer was beyond her reach. However, the unsightly, tail-less condition ot the vigorous steed was to the last hour of the noble creature's life, an awful warning to the Carrick farmers, not to stay too late in Ayr markets.

The last relation I shall give, though equally true, is not so well identified as the two former. with regard to the scene; but as the best autho-

On a summer's evening, about the time that nature puts on her sables to monrn the expiry mony he unhooked the caldron from off the fire, of the chearful day, a shepherd boy belonging and pouring out the damnable ingredients, in- to a farmer in the immediate neighbourhood of verted on his head, and carried it fairly home, Alloway kirk, had just folded his charge, and where it remained long in the family, a liv ug was returning home. As he passed the kirk in the adjoining field, he fell in with a crew c

men and women, who were busy pulling stems | there is in intrinsic worth, candour, benevoof the plant ragwort. He observed that as each person pulled a ragwort, he or she got astride of it, and called out, "up horsie!" on beings and another. For instance, the amiable which the ragwort flew off, like Pegasus, through the air with its rider. The foolish boy likewise pulled his ragwort, and cried with the rest, "up horsie!" and, strange to tell, away he flew with the company. The first stage at which the cavalcade stopt, was a merchant's wine cellar in Bourdeaux, where, without saying by your leave, they quaffed away at the best tion of an honest man that never offended him, the cellar could afford, until the morning, foe to the imps and works of darkness, threatened to throw light on the matter, and frightened them | cents, turned over to beggary and ruin ! from their carousals.

The poor shepherd lad, being equally a stranger to the scene and the liquor, heedlessly got himselt drunk; and when the rest took horse, he fell asleep, and was found so next day by some of the people belonging to the merchant. Somebody that understood Scotch, asking him what he was, he said he was such-a-one's herd in Alloway, and by some means or other getting home again, he lived long to tell the world the wondrous tale.

I am. &c. &c.

No. CLXV.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

5th January, 1792.

You see my hurried life, Madam: I can only command starts of time; however, I am glad of one thing ; since I finished the other sheet, the political blast that threatened my welfare is overblown. I have corresponded with Commissioner Graham, for the Board had made me the subject of their animadversions; and now I have the pleasure of informing you, that all is set to rights in that quarter. Now, as to these informers, may the devil be let loose to - but bold! I was praying most fervently in my last sheet, and I must not so soon fall a swearing in this.

Alas! how little do the wantonly or idly officious think what mischief they do by their malicious insinuations, indirect impertinence, or thoughtless blabbings. What a difference

lence, generosity, kindness-in all the charities and all the virtues, between one class of human circle I so lately mixed with in the hospitable hall of D--, their generous hearts-their uncontaminated dignified minds-their informed and polished understandings-what a contrast, when compared-if such comparing were not downright sacrilege-with the soul of the miscreant who can deliberately plot the destrucand with a grin of satisfaction see the unfortunate being, his faithful wife, and prattling inno-

Your cup, my dear Madam, arrived safe. had two worthy fellows dining with me the other day, when I, with great formality, produced my whigmelcerie cup, and told them that it had been a family-piece among the descendants of Sir William Wallace, This roused such an enthusiasm, that they insisted on bumpering the punch round in it; and by and bye, never did your great ancestor lay a Southron more completely to rest than for a time did your cup my two friends. Apropos, this is the season of wishing. May God bless you, my dear friend, and bless me the humblest and sincerest of your friends, by granting you yet many returns of the season! May all good things attend you and yours wherever they are scattered over the earth!

No. CLXVI.

TO MR. WILLIAM SMELLIE, PRINTER.

Dumfries, 22d January, 1792.

I sir down, my dear Sir, to introduce a young lady to you, and a lady in the first ranks of fashion too. What a task! to you-who care no more for the herd of animals called young ladies, than you do for the herd of animals called young gentlemen. To you-who despise and detest the groupings and combinations of fashion, as an idiot printer that seems industrious to place staring fools and unprincipled knaves in the foreground of his picture, while men of sense and honesty are too often thrown in the dimmest shades. Mrs. Riddel, who will take this letter to town with her and send it to you, is a character that, even in your own way, as a naturalist and a philosopher, would be an acquisition to your acquaintance. The lady too is a votary of the muses; and as I think myself somewhat of a judge in my own trade, I assure you that her verses, always correct, and often elegant, are much beyond the common run of the lady-poetesses of the day Sho is a great admirer of your book, and hearing me say that I was acquainted with you, she

^{*} This letter was copied from the Census a Literaria, 1786. It was communicated to the editor of that work by Mr. Gilchrist of Stamford, with the following re-

by Mr. Gilchrist of Stanford, with the following re-mark.

"In a decimin of miscellaneous papers of the An-tion of the Stanford of the Stanford of the Stanford Con-trol of the Stanford of the hand; When I premise it was on the second tradition that he afterwards formed the inivitable tale of "Tam O'Shatter," I cannot doubt of its being read with great interest. It were "burning day-light" to point out to a reader, and who is not a reader of Borns') the droughts he afterwards transplanted into the high barra very library very constitution of the Stanford of the Stan

negged to be known to you, as she is just going to pay her first visit to our Caledonian capital. I told her that her best way was to desire her trious ird of Laggan's many hills? As for him, his works are perfect; never did the pen darroch, to have you at his house while she was there; and lest you might think of a lively West | nor the bolt of hatred fly at his dwelling. Indian girl of eighteen, as girls of eighteen too often deserve to be thought of, I should take care to remove that prejudice. To be impartial, however, in appreciating the lady's merits, she has one unlucky failing, a failing which lamp of my glimmerous understanding, purged you will easily discover, as she seems rather from sensual appetites and gross desires, shine pleased with indulging in it; and a failing that like the constellation of thy intellectual powers. you will as easily pardon, as it is a sin which -As for thee, thy thoughts are pure, and thy very much besets yourself ;-where she dislikes lips are holy. Never did the unhallowed breath or despises, she is apt to make no more a secret of it, than where she esteems and respects.

compliments of the season, but I will send you my warmest wishes and most ardent prayers, that FORTUNE may never throw your subsist-ENCE to the mercy of a KNAVE, or set your the tenor of my conversation! then should no CHARACTER on the judgment of a root, but friend fear for my strength, no enemy rejoice in that, upright and erect, you may walk to an my weakness! Then should I lie down and bonest grave, where men of letters shall say, rise up, and none to make me afraid .-- May thy here lies a man who did honour to science; and pity and thy prayer be exercised for, O thou men of worth shall say, here lies a man who did lamp of wisdom and mirror of merality! thy

konour to human nature!

No. CLXVII.

TO MR. W. NICOLL.

20th February, 1792.

O THOU, wisest among the wise, meridian blaze of prodence, full moon of discretion, and chief of many counsellors! How infinitely is thy puddle-headed, rattle-headed, wrong-headed, round-headed slave indebted to thy supereminent goodness, that from the luminous path of thy own right-lined rectitude, thou lookest benignly down on an erring wretch, of whom the zig-zag wanderings defy all the powers of calculation, from the simple copulation of units, up to the hidden mysteries of fluxions! May one feeble ray of that light of wisdom which darts from thy sensorium, straight as the arrow of heaven, and bright as the meteor of inspiration, may it be my portion, so that I may be less unworthy of the face and favour of that father of proverbs and master of maxims, that antipode of fe'ly, and magnet among the sages, the wise and witty Willie Nicoll! Amen! Amen! Yea, so be it!

For me! I am a beast, a reptile, and know nothing! From the cave of my ignorance, amid the fogs of my dulness, and pestilential, fumes of my political heresies, I look up to you with. I lately lost a valuable seal, a prethee, as doth a toad through the iron-barred lucerne of a pestiferous dungeon, to the cloudlucerae of a pesturerous dungeon, to the croud-less glory of a summer sun! Sorely sighing ir bitterness of soul I say, when shall my name! Nicoll's containing good advice.

Thou mirror of purity, when shall the elfine of the powers of darkness, and the pleasures o. darkness, pollute the sacred flame of thy sky-I will not present you with the unmeaning descended and heaven-bound desires; never did the vapours of impurity stain the unclouded serene of thy cerulean imagination. O that like thine were the tenor of my life, like thine devoted slave.+

No. CLXVIII.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

3d March, 1792.

Since I wrote to you the last lugularious sheet, I have not had time to write you farther. When I say that I had not time, that, as usual, means, that the three demons, indolence, business, and ennui, have so completely shared my hours among them, as not to leave me a five minutes fragment to take up a pen in.

Thank heaven, I feel my spirits buoying upwards with the renovating year Now I shall in good earnest take up Thomson's songs. dare say he thinks I have used him unkindly, and I must own with too much appearance of truth. Apropos, do you know the much admired old Highland air called The Sutor's Dochter? It is a first-rate favourite of mine, and 1 have written what I reckon one of my best songs to it. I will send it to you as it was sung with great applause in some fashionable circles by Major Robertson, of Lude, who was here with his corps.

There is one commission that I must trouble

sent from a departed friend, which vexes me | try to give a little musical instruction in a high cent one; and I want to cut my armorial hearing on it; wi' you be so obliging as inquire what will be the expense of such a business? I do not know that my name is matriculated, as the heralds call it, at all; but I have invented arms for myself, so you know I shall be chief of the name; and by courtesy of Scotland, will likewise be entitled to supporters. These, however, I do not intend having on my seal. I am a bit of a herald; and shall give you, secundum artem, my arms. On a field, azure, a holly bush, seeded, proper, in base; a shepherd's pipe and crook, saltierwise, also proper, in chief. On a wreath of the colours, a wood-lark perching on a sprig of bay-tree, proper: for crest, two mottoes, round the top of the crest, Wood-notes wild. At the bottom of the shield, in the usual place, Better a wee bush than nae bield. the shepherd's pipe and crook I do not mean the nonsense of painters of Arcadia; but a Stock and Horn, and a Club, such as you see at the head of Allan Ramsay, in Allan's quarto edition of the Gentle Shepherd. By the bye, do you know Allan? He must be a man of very great genius .- Why is he not more known? -Has he no patrons? or do "Poverty's cold wind and crushing rain beat keen and heavy" on him? I once, and but once, got a glance of that noble edition of the noblest pastoral in the world, and dear as it was, I mean dear as to my pocket, I would have bought it; but I was told that it was printed and engraved for subscribers only. He is the only artist who has hit genuine pastoral costume. What, my dear Cunningham, is there in riches, that they narrow and harden the heart so? I think that were I as rich as the sun, I should be as generous as the day; but as I have no reason to imagine my soul a nobler one than any other man's, I must conclude that wealth imparts a bird-lime quality to the possessor, at which the man, in his native poverty, would have revolted. What has led me to this is the idea of such merit as Mr. Allan possesses, and such riches as a nabob or governor-contractor possesses, and why they do not form a mutual league. Let wealth shelter and cherish unprotected merit, and the gratitude and celebrity of that merit will richly repay it.

No. CLXIX.

TO MR. T. CLARKE, EDINBURGH.

July 16, 1792.

MR. BURNS begs leave to present his most respectful compliments to Mr. Clarke,-Mr. B. some time ago did himself the honour of writing M C. respecting coming out to the coun- them tidings that make their hearts swim in joy

much. I have gotten one of your Highland ly respectable family, where Mr. C. may have pebbles, which I fancy would make a very de- his own terms, and may be as happy as indolence, the Devil, and the gout will permit him. Mr. B. knows well how Mr. C. is engaged with another family; but cannot Mr. C. find two or three weeks to spare to each of them? Mr. B. is deeply impressed with, and awfully conscious of, the high importance of Mr. C's time, whether in the winged moments of symphonious exhibition, at the keys of harmony, while listening Seraphs cease their own less delightful strains; -or in the drowsy hours of slumberous repose, in the arms of his dearly-beloved elbowchair, where the frowsy, but potent power of indolence, circumfuses her vapours round, and sheds her dews on, the head of her darling son. -But half a line conveying half a meaning from Mr. C. would make Mr. B. the very happiest of mortals.

No. CLXX.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Annan Water Foot, 22d August, 1792. Do not blame me for it, Madam-my own conscience, hackneyed and weather-beaten as it is, in watching and reproving my vagaries, fellies, indolence, &c. has continued to blame and pnnish me sufficiently.

Do you think it possible, my dear and hon. oured friend, that I could be so lost to gratitude for many favours; to esteem for much worth, and to the honest, kind, pleasurable tie of, now, old acquaintance, and I hope and am sure of progressive increasing friendship -- as, for a single day, not to think of you-to ask the Fates what they are doing and about to do with my much loved friend and her wide-scattered connexions, and to beg of them to be as kind to you and yours as they possibly can.

Apropos (though how it is apropos, I have not leisure to explain), do you know that I am almost in love with an acquaintance of yours? -Almost! said I-I am in love, souse! over head and ears, deep as the most unfathomable abyss of the boundless ocean; but the word, Love, owing to the intermingledoms of the good and the bad, the pure and the impure, in this world, being rather an equivocal term for expressing one's sentiments and sensations, I must do justice to the sacred purity of my attachment Know then, that the heart-struck awe; he distant humble approach; the delight we should have in gazing upon and listening to a Messenger of Heaven, appearing in all the unspotted purity of his celestial home, among the coarse, polluted, far inferior sons of men, to deliver to and their imaginations soar in transport-such, so delighting, and so pure, were the emotions of my soul on meeting the other day with Miss L-B-, your neighbour at M-. Mr. B. with his two daughters, accompanied by Mr. H. of G. passing through Dumfries a few days ago, calling on me; on which I took my horse (though God knows I could ill spare the time), and accompanied them fourteen or fifteen miles, 'Twas and dined and spent the day with them. ballad beginning with

> " My bonnie Lizzie Baillie I'll row thee in my plaidie," &c.

first copy, "unanointed unannealed," as Hamlet says .- See p. 194.

So much for ballads. I regret that you are gone to the east country, as I am to be in Ayrshire in about a fortnight. This world of ours, notwithstanding it has many good things in it, yet it has ever had this curse, that two or three people who would be the happier the oftener they met togetner, are, almost without exception, always so placed as never to meet but once or twice a-year, which, considering the few years of a man's life, is a very great "evil under the sun," which I do not recollect that Solomon has mentioned in his catalogue of the miseries of man. I hope and believe that there is a state of existence beyond the grave, where the worthy of this life will renew their former intimacies, with this endearing addition, that "we meet to part no more."

" Tell us, ye dead, Will none of you in pity disclose the secret What 'tis you are, and we must shortly be!"

A thousand times have I made this apostrophe to the departed sons of men, but not one of them has ever thought fit to answer the question. "O that some courteons ghost would blab it out !"-but it cannot be ; you and I, my friend, must make the experiment by ourselves and for ourselves. However, I am so convinced that an fancy, pictures, dreafful ao the horrors of unslaken List in the doctrines of religion is not yield hell, and terrible as the wrath of incensed only necessary, by making us better men, but al- Deity!—Come, thou spirit, but not in these so by making us happier men, that I shill take horrid forms; come with the milder, gentle, every care that your little god-son, and every easy inspirations, which thou breathest round little creature that shall call me father, shall be taught them.

So ends this heterogeneous letter, written at my labour of discharging a vessel of rum from Artigua.

No. CLXVII

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Dumfries, 10th September, 1792. No! I will not attempt an apology .- An id on their way to England, did me the honour of all my hurry of business, grinding the face of the publican and the sinner on the merciless wheels of the excise; making ballads, and then drinking, and singing them; and, over and above all, the correcting the press-work of two about nine, I think, when I left them; and rid- different publications; still, still I might have ing home, I composed the following ballad, of stolen five minutes to dedicate to one of the first which you will probably think you have a dear of my friends and fellow-creatures. I might bargain, as it will coast you another groat of have done, as I do at present, snatched an hour postage. You must know that there is an old near "witching time of night"-and scrawled a page or two. I might have congratulated my friend on his marriage; or I might have thanked the Caledonian archers for the honour they have done me (though to do myself justice, I intended to have done buth in rhyme, else I had So I parodied it as follows, which is literally the done both long ere now.) Well, then, here is to your good health! for you must know, I have set a nipperkin of toddy by me, just by way of spell, to keep away the meikle horneo Deil, or any of his subaltern imps who may be on their nightly rounds.

But what shall I write to you ?- " The voice said cry," and I said, "what shall I cry?"-O, thou spirit! whatever thou art, or wherever thou makest thyself visible! be thou a bogle by the eerie side of an auld thorn, in the dreary glen through which the herd callan maun bicker in his gloamin route frae the faulde! Be thou a brownie, set, at dead of night, to thy task by the blazing ingle, or in the solitary barn where the repercussions of thy iron flail affeight thyself, as thou performest the work of twenty of the sons of men, ere the cock-crowing summon thee to thy ample cog of substantial brosc. - Be thou a kelpie, haunting the ford or ferry, in the starless night, mixing thy langhing yell with the howling of the storm, and the roaring of the flood, as thou viewest the perils and miseries of man on the foundering horse, or in the tumb-ling boat !-Or, lastly, be thou a ghost, paying thy nocturnal visits to the hoary ruins of decayed grandeur; or performing thy mystic rites in the shadow of thy time-worn church, while the moon looks, without a cloud, on the sileat, ghastly dwellings of the dead around thee; or taking thy stand by the bedside of the villain, the wig of a prating advocate, or the tete of a tea-sipping gossip, while their tongues run at the light-horse gallop of clishmaclaver for ever this wild place of the world, in the intervals of and ever-come and assist a poor devil who is quite jaded in the attempt to share half an idea among half a hundred words; to fill up four quarto pages, while he has not got one single worth putting pen to paper for.

I feel, I feel the presence of supernatural assistance! circled in the embrace of my elbow- two; Wit, one; Personal Charms, viz. a sweet chair, my breast labours, like the bloated Sybil face, eloquent eyes, fine limbs, graceful carriage, on her three-footed stool, and like her too, la- (I would add a fine waist too, but that is sc bours with Nonsense. - Nonsense, auspicious soon spoilt, you know), all these, one; as for name! Tutor, friend, and finger-post in the the other qualities belonging to, or attending on, my-tic mazes of law; the cadaverous paths of a wife, such as Fortune, Connections, Educaphysic; and particularly in the sightless soar- tion, (I mean education extraordinary), Family ings of school divinity, who, leaving Com- Blood, &c. divide the two remaining degrees mon Sense conformed at his strength of pinion, among them as you please; only, remember Reason delirious with eyeing his giddy flight, and Truth creeping back into the bottom of her well, cursing the hour that ever she offered her scorned alliance to the wizard power-of Theologie Vision-raves abroad on all the winds. "On earth Discord! a gloomy Heaven above, opening her jealous gates to the nineteen thousandth part of the tithe of mankind! and below, an inescapable and inexorable hell, expanding its leviathan jaws for the vast residue of mortals !!!" -O doctrine! comfortable and healing to the of God, in such an unequalled display of their weary, wounded sonl of a man! Ye sons and daughters of affliction, ye pauvies miserables, to ballad on her, of which these two stanzas make whom day brings no pleasure, and night yields a partno rest, be comforted ! " 'Tis but one to nineteen hundred thousand that your situation will mend in this world;" so, alas! the experience of the poor and the needy too often affirms; and 'tis nineteen hundred thousand to one, by the dogmas of --, that you will be dainned eternally in the world to come!

But of all Nonsense, Religious Nonsense is the most nonsensical; so enough, and more than enough of it. Only, by the bye, will you, or can you tell me, my dear Cunningham, why a sectarian turn of mind has always a tendency to narrow and illiberalize the heart? They are orderly; they may be just; nay, I have known them merciful: but still your children of sanetity move among their fellow-creatures with a nostril snuffing putrescence, and a foot spurning filth, in short, with a conceited dignity that your titled or any other of your Scottish lordlings of seven centuries standing, display when they accidentally mix among the many-aproned sons of mechanical life. I remember, in my ploughboy days, I could not conceive it possible that a Amen! noble lord could be a fool, or a godly man could be a knave. - How ignorant are plough-boys !-Nay, I have since discovered that a godly woman may be a ____ !-But hold-Here's t'ye again-this rum is generous Antigua, so a very unfit menstruum for scandal,

Apropos, how do you like, I mean really like the married life! Ah, my friend! matrimony is quite a different thing from what your love-sick vonths and sighing girls take it to be! But I shall never quarrel with any of his institutions. shall give you my ideas of the conjugal state-(an passant, you know I am no Latinist, is not lyoung woman-in a strange, foreign and, and

sentence of recollection, information, or remark | conjugal derived from jugum, a yoke ") Well then, the scale of good-wifeship I divide into ten parts .- Good-nature, four ; Good Sense, that all these minor properties must be expressed by fractions, for there is not any one of them, in the aforesaid scale, entitled to the dignity of an integer.

As for the rest of my fancies and reverieshow I lately met with Miss Lesly Baillie, the most beautiful, elegant woman in the worls -how I accompanied her and her father's family fifteen miles on their journey, out of pure devotion, to admire the loveliness of the works -how, in galloping home at night, I made a

> Thou, bonnie Lesly, art a queen, Thy subjects we before thee; Thou, honnie Lesly, art divine, The hearts o' men adore thee.

The very Deil he could na scaith Whatever wad belang thee! He'd look into thy bonnie face And say, "I canna wrang thee.

-behold all these things are written in the chronicles of my imagination, and shall be read by thee, my dear friend, and by thy beloved spouse, my other dear friend, at a more convenient season.

Now, to thee, and to thy before-designed bosom-companion, be given the precious things brought forth by the sun, and the precious things brought forth by the moon, and the benignest influence of the stars, and the living streams which flow from the fountains of life, and by the tree of life, for ever and ever !-

No. CLXVIII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

Dumfries, 24th September, 1792.

I HAVE this moment, my dear Madam, yours marriage, we are told, is appointed by God, and of the twenty-third. All your other kind reproaches, your news, &c. are out of my head I am a husband of older standing than you, and when I read and think on Mrs. H---'s situation. Good God! a heart-woundel helpless

harrow the human feelings-sick-looking, longing for a comforter, but finding none-a mother's feelings, too-but it is too much: he who wounded (he only can) may He heal !*

I wish the farmer great joy of his new acquisition to his family. I cannot say that I give him joy of his life as a farmer. 'Tis, as a farmer paying a dear, nuconscionable rent, a cursed life! As to a laird

farming his own property; sowing his own corn in hope, and reaping it, in spite of brittle weather, in gladness; knowing that none can say unto him, " what dost thou?"-fattening his herds; shearing his flocks; rejoicing at Christinas; and begetting sons and daughters, unt I he be the venerated, grey-haired leader of a little tribe-'tis a heavenly life! but Devil take the life of reaping the fruits that another

must eat.

Well, your kind wishes will be gratified, as to seeing me when I make my Ayrshire visit. I cannot leave Mrs. B, until her nine months' race is run, which may perhaps be in three or four weeks. She, too, seems determined to make me the patriarchal leader of a band. However, if Heaven will be so obliging as let esteemed friend, have the pleasure of visiting at me have them on the proportion of three boys to one girl, I shall be so much the more pleased. name; but I am not equal to the task of reardevil. He, though two years younger, has comthe mildest, gentlest creature I ever saw. He has a most surprising memory, and is quite the pride of his schoolmaster.

You know how readily we get into prattle upon a subject dear to our beart: you can excuse t. God bless you and yours!

No. CLXIX.

TO THE SAME.

SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ON THE DEATH OF MRS. H, HER DAUGHTER.

I HAD been from home, and did not receive your letter until my return the other day. What shall I say to comfort you, my much-valued, much-afflicted friend! I can but grieve with you; consolation I have none to offer, ex-

that land convulsed with every horror, that can | cept that which religion holds out to the children of afflicion-children of affliction !how just the expression! and like every coher family, they have matters among them which they hear, see, and feel in a serious, all-important manner, of which the world has not, nor cares to have, any idea. The world looks indifferently on, makes the passing remark, and proceeds to the next novel occurrence.

Alas, Madam! who would wish for many years! What is it but to drag existence until our joys gradually expire and leave us in a night of misery; like the gloom which blots out the stars one by one, from the face of night, and leaves us, without a ray of comfort, in the howling waste!

I am interrupted, and must leave off. shall soon hear from me again.

No. CLXX.

TO THE SAME.

Dumfries, 6th December, 1792. I SHALL be in Ayrshire, I think, next week; and if at all possible, I shall certainly, my much-

Dunlop-house.

Alas, Madain! how seldom do we me meet I hope, if I am spared with them, to show a set in this world, that we have reason to congratuof boys that will do honour to my cares and late ourselves on occasions of happiness! I have not passed half the ordinary term of an old man's ing girls. Besides, I am too poor; a girl should life, and yet I scarcely look over the obituary of always have a fortune. Apropos, your little a newspaper, that I do not see some names that god-son is thriving charmingly, but is a very I have known, and which I, and other acquaint ances, little thought to meet with there so soon. pletely mastered his brother. Robert is indeed Every other instance of the mortality of our kind, makes us cast an anxious look into the dreadful abyss of uncertainty, and shudder with apprehensions for our own fate. But of how different an importance are the lives of different individuals? Nay, of what importance is one period of the same life, more than another? A few years ago, I could have lain down in the dust, " careless of the voice of the morning; and now not a few, and these most helpless individuals, would, on lusing me and my exertions, lose both their "staff and shield." the way, these helpless ones have lately got an addition, Mrs. B. having given me a fine girl since I wrote you. There is a charming passage in Thomson's Edward and Eleanora.

> " The valiant, in himself, what can he suffer-Or what need he regard his single woes?" &c.

As I am got in the way of quotations, I shall give you another from the same piece, peculiar. ly, alas! too peculiarly apposite, my dear Madam, to your present frame of mind :

" Who so unworthy but may proudly deck Line With his fair-weather virtue, that exults

This much-lamented ladv was gone to the south of France with her infant son, where she died soon af-

Glad o'er the summer maia? tae tempest | Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention, comes

The rough winds rage aloud; when from the

This virtue shrinks, and in a corner lies, Lamenting-Heavens! if privileged from trial, How cheap a thing were virtue!

I do not remember to have heard you mention Thomson's dramas. I pick up favourite quotations, and store them in my mind as ready armour, offensive, or defensive, amid the struggle of this turbulent existence. Of these is one, a very favourite one, from his Alfred,

Attach thee firmly to the virtuous deeds and offices of life; to life itself, With all its vain and transient joys, sit loose."

Probably I have quoted some of these to you formerly, as indeed when I write from the heart, I am apt to be guilty of such repetitions. compass of the heart, in the musical style of expression, is much more bounded than that of the imagination; so the notes of the former are extremely apt to run into one another; but in return for the paucity of its compass, its few notes are much more sweet. I must still give you another quotation, which I am almost sure I have given you before, but I cannot resist the temptation. The subject is religion—speaking of its importance to mankind, the author says,

"Tis this, my friend, that streaks our morning bright," &c. as in p. 49.

I see you are in for double postage, so I shall e'en scribble out t'other sheet. We in this country here have many alarms of the reforming, or rather the republican spirit of your part of the kingdom. Indeed we are a good deal in commotion ourselves. For me, I am a placeman, you know; a very humble one indeed, Heaven knows, but still so much so as to gag What my private sentiments are, you will find out without an interpreter.

I have taken up the subject in another view; and the other day, for a pretty actress's benefitnight, I wrote an address which I will give you on the other page, called The Rights of Woman.

THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN.

An Occasional Address spoken by Miss Fon-TENELLE 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 produce his plan,

And even children lish the Rights of Man;

The Rights of Woman merit some attentio

First, in the sexes' intermix'd connexion, One sacred Right of Woman is protection. The tender flower that lifts its head, elate, Helpless, must fall before the blast of fate, Sunk to the earth, defaced its lovely form, Unless your shelter ward th' impending storm.

Our second Right's-but needless here is cau-

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 decorum.-There was, indeed, in far less polish'd days, A time, when rough rude nen had naughty ways:

Would swagger, swear, get drunk, kick up a riot,

Nay, even thus invade a lady's quiet .-Now, thank our stars! these Gothic times are fled:

Now, well-bred men-and you are all wellbred-

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

That right to fluttering female hearts the near-

Which even the Rights of Kings in low prostration

Most humbly own-'tis dear, dear admiration In that blest sphere alone we live and move; There taste that life of life-immortal love-Smiles, glances, sighs, tears, fits, flirtations, 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?

But truce with kings, and truce with consti tutions.

With bloody armaments and revolutions; Let majesty your first attention summon, Ah! ca ira! THE MAJESTY OF WOMAN!

I shall have the honour of receiving your criticisms in person at Dunlop.

No. CLXXI.

TO R. GRAHAM, Esq. FINTRY.

December, 1792. I HAVE been surprised, confounded, and distracted, by Mr. Mitchell, the collector, telling me that he has received an order from you:

· Ironical allusion to the saturnalia of the Calear nian Hunt.

biaming me as a person disaffected to Government. Sir, you are a husband-and a father .-You know what you would feel, to see the muchloved wife of your bosom, and your helpless, prattling little ones, turned adrift into the world, degraded and disgraced from a situation in which they had been respectable and respected, and left almost without the necessary support of a miserab'e existence. Alas, Sir! must I think that such, soon, will by my lot! and from the d-mned, dark insinuations of hellish groundless envy too! I believe, Sir, I may aver it, and in the sight of Omniscience, that I would not tell a deliberate falsehood, no, not though even worse horrors, if worse can be, 'han those I have mentioned, hung over my head; and I say, that the allegation, whatever villain has made it, is a lie! To the British Constitution, on revolution principles, next after my God, I am most devoutly attached! You, Sir, have been much and generously my friend .- Heaven knows how warmly I have felt the obligation, and how gratefully I have thanked you .- Fortune, Sir, has made you powerful, and me impotent; has given you patronage, and me dependence.- I would not, for my single self, call on your humanity; were such my insular, unconnected situation, I would despise the tear that now swells in my eye-1 could brave misfortune, I could face ruin; for at the worst, "Death's thousand doors stand open;" but, good God! the tender concerns that I have mentioned, the claims and ties that I see at this moment, and feel around me, how they unnerve Courage, and wither Resolution! To your patronage, as a man of some genius. you have allowed me a claim; and your esteem, as an honest man, I know is my due: To these, Sir, permit me to appeal; by these may I adjure you to save me from that misery which threatens to overwhelm me, and which, with my latest breath I will say it, I have not deserved.

No. CLXXII.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

BEAR MADAM, December 31, 1792. A nukky of business, thrown in heaps by my absence, has until now prevented my returning my grateful acknowledgments to the good family of Dunlep, and you in particular, for that hospitable kindness which rendered the four days I spent under that genial roof, four of the pleasantest I ever enjoyed .- Alas, my dearest hiend! how few and fleeting are those things we call pleasures! On my road to Ayrshire, I spent a night with a friend whom I much valued; a man whose days promised to be many; and on Saturday last we laid him in the dust!

Burd to inquire into my political conduct, and | feel much for your situation. However, I heartily rejoice in your prospect of recovery from that vile jaundice. As to myself, I am better, though not quite free of my complaint,-You must not think, as you seem to insinuate, that in my way of life I want exercise. Of that I have enough; but occasional hard drinking is the devil to me. Against this I have again and again bent my resolution, and have greatly succeeded. Taverns I have totally abandoned: it is the private parties in the family way, among the hard drinking gentleman of the country, that do me the mischief-but even this I have more than half given

Mr. Corbet can be of little service to me at present; at least I should be shy of applying. I cannot possibly be settled as a supervisor, for several years. I must wait the rotation of the list, and there are twenty names before mine. -I might indeed get a job of officiating, where a settled supervisor was ill, or aged; but that hauls me from my family, as I could not remove them on such an uncertainty. Besides, some envious, malicious devil, has raised a little demur on my political principles, and I wish to let that matter settle before I offer myself too much in the eye of my superiors. I have set, henceforth, a seal on my lips, as to these unlucky politics; but to you, I must breathe my sentiments. In this, as in every thing else, I shall show the undisguised emotions of the soul. War I deprecate: misery and ruin to thousands, are in the blast that announces the destructive demon. But

The remainder of this letter has been torn iway by some barbarous hand,

LETTERS, 1793.

No. CLXXIII.

TO MISS B, OF YORK.

21st March, 1793. Among many things for which I envy those hale, long-lived old fellows before the flood, is this in particular, that when they met with any body after their own heart, they had a charming long prospect of many, many happy meet. ings with them in after-life.

Now, in this short, stormy winter day of our fleeting existence, when you now and then, in the Chapter of Accidents, meet an individuawhose acquaintance is a real acquisition, there are all the probabilities against you, that you shall never meet with that valued character more. On the other hand, brief as the miserable being is, it is none of the least of the miseries belonging to it, that if there is any mis-January 2, 1793. creant whom you hate, or creature whom you have just received yours of the 30th, and despise, the ill run of the chances shall be see

against you, that in the overtakings, turnings, pled it is; still there are bright examples to the will not allow your indignation or contempt a man. moment's repose. As I am a sturdy believer in the powers of darkness, I take those to be when you, Sir, came forward to patronise and the doings of that old author of mischief, the befriend a distant obscure stranger, merely bedevil. It is well known that he has some kind of short-hand way of taking down our thoughts, and I make no doubt that he is perfeetly acquainted with my sentiments respecting Miss B--; how much I admired her abilities and valued her worth, and how very fortunate I thought myself in her acquaintance. For this last reason, my dear Madam, I must entertain no hopes of the very great pleasure of meeting with you again.

Miss II-- tells me that she is sending a packet to you, and I beg leave to send you the enclosed sonnet, though to tell you the real truth, the sonnet is a mere pretence, that I may have the opportunity of declaring with how much respectful esteem I have the honour to

be, &c.

No. CLXXIV.

TO PATRICK MILLER, Esq. OF DALSWINTON.

April, 1793.

My poems having just come out in another edition, will you do me the honour to accept of a copy? A mark of my gratitude to you, as a gentleman to whose goodness I have been much indebted; of my respect for you, as a patriot who, in a venal, sliding age, stands forth the champion of the liberties of my country; and of my veneration for you, as a man, whose benevolence of heart does honour to human nature.

There was a time, Sir, when I was your dependant: this language then would have been like the vile incense of flattery-I could not have used 't .- Now that connection' is at an end, do me the honour to accept of this honest tribute of respect from, Sir,

Your much indebted humble Servant.

No. CLXXV.

TO JOHN FRANCIS ERSKINE, Esq. † OF MAR.

Dumfries, 13th April, 1793. DECENERATE as human nature is said to be: and in many instances worthless and unprinci-

and justlings of life, pop, at some unlucky cor-ner, eternally comes the wreces upon you, and perior beings, must shed a lustre on the name of

Such an example have I now before me, cause poverty had made him helpless, and his British hardihood of mind had provoked the arbitrary wantonness of power. My much esteemed friend, Mr. Riddel of Glenriddel, has just read me a paragraph of a letter he had from you. Accept, Sir, of the silent throb or gratitude; for words would but mock the emotions of my soul.

You have been misinformed as to my final dismission from the Excise; I am still in the service .- Indeed, but for the exertions of a gentleman who must be known to you, Mr. Graham of Fintray, a gentleman who has ever been my warm and generous friend, I had, without so much as a hearing, or the slightest previous intimation, been turned adrift, with my helpless family, to all the horrors of want. - Had I had any other resource, probably I might have saved them the trouble of a dismission; but the little money I gained by my publication, is almost every guinea embarked, to save from ruin an only brother, who, though one of the worthiest, is by no means one of the most fortunate of

In my defence to their accusations, I said, that whatever might be my sentiments of republics, ancient or modern, as to Britain, I abjured the idea :- That a constitution, which, in its original principles, experience had proved to be every way fitted for our happiness in society, it would be insanity to sacrifice to an untried visionary theory: - That, in consideration of my being situated in a department, however humble, immediately in the hands of people in power, I had forborne taking any active part, either personally, or as an author, in the present business of REFORM. But that, where I must declare my sentiments, I would say there existed a system of corruption between the executive power and the representative part of the leg'slature, which boded no good to our glorious con-STITUTION; and which every patriotic Briton must wish to see amended .- Some such sentiments as these, I stated in a letter to my generous patron Mr. Graham, which he laid before the Board at large; where, it seems, my last remark gave great offence; and one of our su-

allower, tim to lay it before the public.— t is partly printed an Dr. Curric's Edition.

It will be necessary to state, that in consequence of the poet's freedom of remark on public measures, maliciously misrepresented to the Board of Excise. It was represented as a tually dismissed from his office.—This report induced Mr. Erskine to propose a subsection of the board of the board

[•] Alluding to the time when he held the farm of Elisland, as tenant to Mr. M.

• This gentleman, most obligingly favoured the elustomed patho

• thor with a perfect copy of the original letter, and inin.—CAOMEK.

pervisors general, a Mr. Corbet, was instructed bulk; and the titled, tinsel, courtly turong to inquire on the spot, and to document me-"that my business was to act, not to think; ber of those who are elevated enough in life to and that whatever might be men or measures, reason and to reflect; yet low enough to keep it was for me to be silent and obedient."

Mr. Corbet was likewise my steady friend; so between Mr. Graham and him, I have been partly forgiven; only I understand that all hopes of my getting officially forward, are

blasted.

Now, Sir, to the business in which I would more immediately interest you. The partiality of my countrymen, has brought me forward as a man of genius, and has given me a character to support. In the rour I have avowed manly and independent sentiments, which I trust will be found in the MAN. Reasons of no less weight than the support of a wife and family, have pointed out as the eligible, and situated as I was, the only eligible line of life for me, my present occupation. Still my honest fame is my dearest concern; and a thousand times have I trembled at the idea of those degrading epithets that malice or misrepresentation may affix to my name. I have often, in blasting anticipation, listened to some future hackney scribbler, with the heavy malice of savage stopidity, exulting in his hireling paragraphs-" BURNS, notwithstanding the fanfarounde of independence to be found in his works, and after having been held forth to publie view, and to public estimation as a man of some genius, yet, quite destitute of resources within himself to support his borrowed dignity, he dwindled into a paltry exciseman, and slunk out the rest of his insignificant existence in the meanest of pursuits, and among the vilest of mankind,"

In your illustrious hands, Sir, permit me to lodge my disavowal and defiance of these slanderous falsehoods,-Bunns was a poor man from birth, and an exciseman by necessity: but -I will say it! the sterling of his honest worth, no poverty could debase, and his independent British mind, oppression might bend, but could not subdue. Have not I, to me, a more precious stake in my country's welfare, than the richest dakedom in it?-I have a large family of children, and the prospect of many more. have three sons, who, I see already, have brought into the world souls ill qualified to inhabit the bodies of slaves .- Can I look tamely on, and see any machination to wrest from them the birthright of my boys,-the little independent BRITONS, in whose veins ruus my own blood ?-No! I will not! should my heart's blood stream around my attempt to defend it !

Does any mm tell me, that my full efforts can be of no service; and that it does not beleng to my humble station to meddle with the

concern of a nation ?

I can tell him, that it is on such individuals as I, that a nation has to rest, both for the steps over precipices, or into bogs; let the nand of support, and the eye of intelligence. thick-headed Bluoderbuss recollect, that he is The nuinform'd MOB, may swell a nation's not Spunkie :- that

may be its feathered ornament; but the numeclear of the venal contagion of a court ;-these are a nation's strength.

I know not how to apologize for the impertinent length of this epistle; but one small request I must ask of you farther-When you have honoured this letter with a perusal, please to commit it to the flames. Burns, in whose hehalf you have so generously interested yourself, I have here, in his native colours drawn as he is; but should any of the people in whose hands is the very bread he eats, get the least knowledge of the picture, it would ruin the poor BARD for ever !

My poems having just come out in another edition, I beg leave to present you with a copy, as a small mark of that high esteem and ardent gratitude, with which I have the honour to be

Your deeply indebted, And ever devoted humble servast

No. CLXXVI.

TO MR. ROBERT AINSLIE.

April 26, 1793.

I am d-muably out of humour, my dear Ainslie, and that is the reason, why I take up the pen to you. 'tis the nearest way, (probatum

est) to recover my spirits again.

I received your last, and was much entertained with it; but I will not at this time, nor at any other time, answer it, -Answer a letter? I never could answer a letter in my life !- I have written many a letter in return for letters I have received; but then-they were original matter -spurt-away! zg, here; zig, there; as if the Devil that, my grannie (an old woman indeed!) often told me, rode in will-o'-wisp, or, in her more classic phrase, SPUNKIE, were looking over my elbow .- Happy thought that idea has engendered in my head! SPUNKIE-thou shalt henceforth be my symbol, signature, and tutelary genius! Like thee, hap-step-and-lowp, hereawa-there-awa, higglety-pigglety, pell-mell, hither-and-you, ram-stam, happy-go-lucky, up tills-a'-by-the-light-o'-the-moon; has been, is, and shall be, my progress through the mosses and moors of this vile, bleak, barren wilderness of a life of ours.

Come then my guardian spirit! like thee. may I skip away, amusing myself by and at my own light: and if any opaque-souled lubber of mankind complain that my elfine, lambent, glimmerous wanderings have misled his stupid

SPUNKIE's wanderings enuld not copied be ; Amid these perils none durst walk but he .-

I have no doubt but scholareraft may be caught as a Scotsman catches the itch, -by friction. How else can you account for it, that born blockheads, by mere dint of handling books, grow so wise that even they themselves are equally convinced of and surprised at their own I once carried this philosophy to that degree that in a knot of country folks who had a library amongst them, and who, to the honour of their good sense, made me factorum in the business; one of our members, a little, wiselooking, squat, upright, jahbering body of a to be, &c. tailor, I advised him, instead of turning over the leaves, to bind the book on his back - Johnie took the hint; and as our meetings were every fourth Saturday, and Pricklouse having a good Scots mile to walk in coming, and, of course. another in returning, Bodkin was sure to lay his hands on some heavy quarto, or ponderous folio, with, and under which, wrapt up in his MY LADY, grev plaid, he grew wise, as he grew weary, all old musty Hebrew concordance which we had in a present from a neighbouring priest, by mere plaister, between his shoulders, Stitch, in a theology as the said priest had done by forty of Glencairn, Heaven is my witness with wha years perusal of the pages.

Tell me, and tell me truly, what you think of this theory.

Yours, SPUNKIE.

No. CLXXVII.

TO MISS K-

MADAM.

soog as a small though grateful tribute for the countable to your ladyship and family. Little honour of your acquaintance. I have, in these verses, attempted some faint sketches of your portrait in the unembellished simple manner of descriptive TRUTH .- Flattery, I leave to your FOVERS, whose exaggerating fancies may make them imagine you still nearer perfection than tures by calling to remembrance that I am payou really are.

Poets, Madam, of all mankind, feel most forcibly the powers of BEAUTY; as, if they are tening, or the Kirn-night, when my punch-bowl really POETS of nature's making, their feelings is brought from its desty corner and filled up in ready FORTS on nature's making, then becomes a brought from its desty corner and note of must be finer, and their taste more delicate homour of the occasion, I begin with,—The than most of the world—In the cheerful bloom—Countess of Glencuira! My good woman with of SPRING, or the pensive mildness of AUTUMN; the enthusiasm of a grateful heart, next cries, the grandeur of summer, or the heavy majesty by Lord! and so the toast goes on until I end of WINTER; the poet feels a charm unknown to with Lady Harrier's little angel ! whose epi the test of his species. Even the sight of a fine flower, or the company of a fine woman (by Sa. Vinc., Inscribed your ladyship's letter, I

the finest part of God's works below), have sensations for the poetic heart that the HERD of man are strangers to .- On this last account, Madam, I am, as in many other things, indebted to Mr. Hamilton's kindness in introducing me to you. Your lovers may view you with a wish, I look on you with pleasure; their hearts, in your presence, may glow with desire, mine rises with admiration.

That the arrows of misfortune, however they should, as incident to humanity, glance a sligh wound, may never reach your heart-that the snares of villany may never beset you in the road of life-that INNOCENCE may hand you by the path of HONOUR to the dwelling of PEACE, is the sincere wish of him who has the horour

No. CLXXVIII.

TO LADY GLENCAIRN.

THE honour you have done your poor poet, the way home. He carried this so far, that an in writing him so very obliging a letter, and the pleasure the enclosed beautiful verses have given him, came very seasonably to his aid amid the dint of applying it, as doctors do a blistering cheerless gloom and sinking despondency of diseased nerves and December weather (supposed dozen pilgrimages, acquired as much rational December, 1793). As to forgetting the family sincerity I could use those old verses which piease me more in their rude simplicity than the me elegant lines I ever saw.

> If thre Jerusalem I forget, Skill part from my right hand .-

My tongue to my mouth's roof let cleave, If I do thee forget Jerusalem, and thee above My chief joy do not set .-

When I am tempted to do any thing impre P. RMIT me to present you with the enclosed per, I dare not, because I look on mixel as ac and then when I have the honour to be called to the tables of the great, if I happen to meet with any mortification from the stately stupidity of self-sufficient squires, or the luxuriant inso-lence of upstart nabobs, I get above the creatronized by the Noble House of Glencairn; and at gala-times, such as New-year's day, a chris-Venen I received your ladyship's letter, I was

just in the act of transcribing for you some verses | a talent for poetry; none ever sespised it who I have lately composed; and meant to have sent had pretensious to it. The fates and characters them my first leisure hour, and acquainted you with my late change of life. I mentioned to my Those lord, my fears concerning my farm. fears were indeed too true; it is a bargain would have rained me but for the lucky circumstance

of my having an excise commission.

People may talk as they please, of the ignominy of the excise; £50 a year will support my wife and children and keep me independent of the world; and I would much rather have it said that my profession corrowed credit from me, than that I be rowed credit from my profession. Another advantage I have in this business, is the knowledge it gives me of the various shades of human character, consequently assisting me vastly in my poetic pursuits. I had the most ardent enthusiasm for the muses when nobody knew me, but myself, and that ardour is by no means cooled now that my Lord Glencairn's goodness has introduced me to all the world. Not that I am in haste for the press. I have no idea of publishing, else I certainly had consulted my noble generous patron; bur after acting the part of an honest man, and supporting my family, my whole wishes and views are directed o poetic pursuits. I am aware that though I were to give performances to the world superior o my former works, still if they were of the ame kind with those, the comparative reception they would meet with would mortify me. I have turned my thoughts on the drama. I do not mean the stately buskin of the tragic muse.

Does not your lady-hip think that an Edinburgh theatre would be more amused with affectation, folly and whim of true Scottish growth, than manners which by far the greatest part of the audience can only know at second hand?

I have the honour to be Your ladyship's ever devoted And grateful humble servant.

No. CLXXIX.

TO MISS CHALMERS.

August, 1793. MADAM.

Some rather unlooked-for accidents have prevented my doing myself the honour of a second visit to Arbieg and, as I was so ho-pitably invited, and so positively meant to have done .-However, I still hope to have that pleasure before the busy months of harvest begin.

I enclose you two of my late pieces, as some kind return for the pleasure I have received in perusing a certain MS, volume of poems in the possession of C-ptain Riddel. To repay one with an eld song, is a proverb, whose force you, Madam, I know will not allow. What is said of illustrious descent is, I believe, equally true of

of the thyming tribe often employ my thoughts when I am disposed to be melancholy. There is not, among all the martyrologies that ever were penned, so rueful a narrative as the lives of the poets. - In the comparative view of wretches, the criterion is not what they are doomed to suffer, but how they are formed to bear. Take a being of our kind, give him a stronger imagination and a more delicate sensibility, which between them will ever engender a more ungovernable set of passions than are the usual lot of man; implant in him an irresistible impulse to some idle vagary, such as, arranging wild flowers in tintastical nosegays, tracing the grasshopper to his haunt by his chirping song, watching the frisks of the little minnows in the sunny pool, or hunting after the intrigues of butterflies-in short, send him adrift after some pursuit which shall eternally mislead him from the path of lucre, and yet curse him with a keener relish than any man living, for the plasures that lucre can purchase; lastly, fill up the measure of his woes by bestowing on him a spurning sense of his own dignity, and you have created a wight nearly as miserable as a poet. To you, Madam, I need not recount the fairy pleasures the muse bestows to counterbalance this catalogue of evil Bewitching poetry is like bewitching woman she has in all ages been accused of misleading mankind from the counsels of wisdom and the paths of prudence, involving them in difficulties, baiting them with poverty, branding them with infamy, and plunging them in the whirling vortex of ruin; yet where is the man but must own that all happiness on earth is not worthy the name-that even the holy hermit's solitary prospect of paradisaical bliss is but the glitter of a northern sun, rising over a frozen region, compared with the many pleasures, the nameless raptures that we owe to the lovely Queen of the heart of Man !

No. CLXXX.

TO JOHN M'MURDO, Eso.

December, 1793.

It is said that we take the greatest liberties with our greatest friends, and I pay myself a very high compliment in the manner in which I am going to apply the remark. I have owed you money longer than ever I owed it to any man .- Here is Ker's account, and here are six guineas; and now, I don't owe a shilling to man-or woman either. But for these damined dirty, dog's ear'd little pages, ' I had done my self the honour to have waited on you long ago Independent of the obligations your hospitality

[·] Scottish bank-notes,

has laid me under, the consciousous of your su- my dear Madam, let me beg of you to give us, periority in the rank of man and gentleman, of tself was fully as much as I could ever make head against; but to owe you money too, was It ally oblige me by so doing. more than I could face.

I think I once mentioned something of a collection of Scotch songs I have for some years been making: I send you a perusal of what I have got together. I could not conveniently spare them above five or six days, and five or six glances of them will probably more than suffice you. A very few of them are my own. When you are tired of them, please leave them with Mr. Clint, of the King's Arms. There is not another copy of the collection in the world; and I shall be so my that any unfortunate negli gence should deprive me of what has cost me a good deal of pains.

LETTERS, 1794, 1795, 1796.

No. CLXXXI.

TO THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

WITH A COPY OF " BRUCE'S ADDRESS TO HIS TROOPS AT BANNOCKBURN.

Dumfries, 12th Jan, 1794. With your lordship allow me to present you with the enclosed little composition of mine, as a small tribute of gratitude for that acquaintance with which you have been pleased to honour me. Independent of my enthusiasm as a Scotsman, I have rarely met with any thing in nistory which interest 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-during, and greatly-injured people; on the other hand, the desperate relics of a gallant nation, devoting themselves to resene their bleeding country, or perish with her.

Liberry! thou art a prize truly, and indeed invaluable !---tor never canst thou be too dearly bought!

I have the honour to be, &c.

No. CLXXXII.

TO MRS, RIDDEL

WIIG WAS TO BESPEAR A PLAY ONE EVENING AT THE DUMPRIES THEATRE.

I AM thinking to send my Address to some periodical publication, but it has not got your canction, so pray look over it.

The Wonder, a Woman keeps a Secret; to wr h please adc, The Spoiled Child-you will

Ah, what an enviable creature you are; There now, this cursed gloomy blue-devil day, you are going to a party of choice spirits-

" To play the shapes Of frolic fancy, and incessant form Those rapid pictures, that assembled train Of fleet ideas, never join'd before, Where lively wit excites to gay surprise; Or folly, painting humour, grave himself, Calls langliter forth, deep-shaking every nerve.

But as you rejoice with them that do rejoice, do also remember to weep with them that weep, and pity your melancholy friend

No. CLXXXIII.

TO A LADY

IN FAVOUR OF A PLAYER'S BENEFIT.

MADAM,

You were so very good as to promise me to honour my friend with your presence on his benefit-night. That night is fixed for Friday first: the play a most interesting one! The way to keep Him. I have the pleasure to know Mr. G. weli. His merit as an actor is generally acknowledged. He has genius and worth which would do honour to patronage: he is a poor and modest man; claims which, from their very silence, have the more forcible power on the generous heart. Alas, for pity! that, from the indolence of those who have the good things of this life in their gift, too often does brazen-fronted importunity snatch that boon, the rightful due of retiring, humble, want ! Or all the qualities we assign to the author and director of Nature, by far the most enviable isto be able "To wipe away all tears from all eyes." O what insignificant, sordid wretches are they, however chance may have loaded them with wealth, who go to their graves, to their magnificent mausoleams, with hardly the conscionsness of having made one poor honest heart happy!

But I crave your pardon, Madam; I came to beg, not to preach.

No. CLXXXIV.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER

TO MR. -

1794

I AM extremely obliged to you for your kine As to the Tuesday's play, let me beg of you, mention of my interests, in a letter which Mr

- showed me. At present, my situation in life must be in a great measure stationary, at least for two or three years. The statement is this-I am on the supervisor's list; and as we come on there by precedency, in two or three years I shall be at the head of that list, and be appointed of course-then a Friend might be of service to me in getting me into a place of the kingdom which I would like. supervisor's income varies from about a hundred and twenty, to two hundred a-year; but the business is an ince-sant drudgery, and would be nearly a complete bar to every species of literary pursuit. The moment I am appointed supervisor in the common routine, I may be gominated on the collector's list; and this is always a business purely of political patronage. A collectorship varies much, from better than two hundred a-year to near a thousand. They also come forward by precedency on the list, and have, besides a handsome income, a life of complete leisure. A life of literary leisure, with a a decent competence, is the summit of my wish-It would be the prudish affectation of silly pride in me, to say that I do not need or would not be indebted to a political friend; at the same time, Sir, I by no means lay my affairs before you thus, to look my dependent situation on your benevolence. If, in my progress of life, an opening should occur where the good offices of a gentleman of your public character and political consequence might bring me forward, I will petition your goodness with the same frankness and sincerity as I now do myself the honour to subscribe myself, &c.

No. CLXXXV.

TO MRS. RIDDEL.

DEAR MADAM,

I MEANT to have called on you yesternight, hut as I edged up to your box-door, the first object which greeted my view, was one of those lobster-coated puppies, sitting like another dragon, guarding the Hesperian fruit. On the conditions and capitulations you so obligingly offer, I shall certainly make my weather-beaten rustic phiz a part of your box-furniture on Tuerday, when we may arrange the business of the visit.

Among the profusion of idle compliments which insidious craft, or unmeaning folly necessantly offers at your shrine—a shrine, how far sxalted above such adoration—permit me, were t but for rarity's sake, to pay you the honest tribute of a warm heart, and an independent mind; and to assure you, that I am, thou most an able, and most accomplished of thy sea, with the most respectful esteem, and fervent regard, thine, &c.

No. CLXXXVI.

TO THE SAME.

I will wait on you, my ever-valued frie: d but whether in the morning I am not sure. Sunday closes a period of our curst revenue bu siness, and may probably keep me employee with my pen until noon. Fine employment for a poet's pen! There is a species of the human genus that I call the gin-horse class: what enviable dogs they are. Round, and round, and round they go, -Mundell's ox that drives hi. cotton mill, is their exact prototype-without an idea or a wish beyond their circle : fat, sleek, stupid, patient, quiet, and contented; while here I sit, altogether Novemberish, a dmelange of fretfulness and melancholy; not enough of the one to rouse me to passion, nor of the other to repose me in torpor; my soul flouncing and fluttering round her tenement, like a wild finch, caught amid the horrors of winter, and newly thrust into a cage. Well, I am persuaded that it was of me the Hebrew sage prophesied, when he foretold-" And behold, on whatsoever this man doth set his heart. it shall not prosper !" If my resentment is awakened, it is sure to be where it dare not squeak : and if-

Pray that wisdom and bliss be more frequent

R. R.

No. CLXXXVII.

TO THE SAME.

I have this moment got the song from S.—, and I am sorry to see that he has spoilt it a good deal. It shall be a lesson to me how I lend him any thing again.

I have sent you Werter, truly happy to have

any the smallest opportunity of obliging you.

Tis true, Malam, I saw you once since I was at W—; and that once froze the very life-blood of my heart. Your reception of me was such, that a wretch meeting the eye of his judge, about to pronounce sentence of death on him, could only have envied my feelings and situation. But I have the theme, and never more shall write or speak on it.

One thing I shall proudly say, that I can pay Mrs. — a higher tribute of esteem, and appreciate her anniable worth more truly, than any man whom I have seen approach ker. No. CLXXXVIII.

TO THE SAME.

I have often told you, my dear friend, that you had a spice of caprice in your composition, and you have as often disavowed it, even perhaps while your opinions were, at the moment, irrefragably proving it. Could any thing estrange me from a friend such as you?—No! To-morrow I shall have the honour of waiting

Farewell, thou first of friends, and most ac-

caprices!

No. CLXXXIX.

TO THE SAME.

MADAM

I RETURN your common-place book. I have perused it with much pleasure, and would have continued my criticisms, but as it seems the critic has forfeited your esteem, his strictures must lose their value.

If it is true that "offences come only fromthe heart," hefore you I am guiltless. To admire, esteem, and prize you, as the most accomplished of women, and the first of friends—if these are crimes, I am the most offending thing alive.

In a face where I used to meet the kind complacency of friendly confidence, now to find cold neglect, and contemptuous scorn—is a wrench that my heart can ill bear. It is, however, some kind of mis-rable good luck; that while de-land-en-loss sigour may depress an unefficiding wretch to the ground, it has a tendency to rouse a subborn something in his bosom, which, though it cannot heal the wounds of his soul, is at least an opiate to blunt their poignancy.

With the profoundest respect for your abilities; the most sincere esteem, and ardent regard for your gentle heart and amiable manners; and the most fervent wish and prayer for your welfare, peace, and bliss, I have the honour to be, Madam, your most devoted humble servant.

No. CXC.

TO JOHN SYME, Esq.

You know that among other high dignities, you have the honour to be my supreme court of critical judicature, from which there is no appeal. I cenclose you a song which I composed since I saw you, and I am going to give you the history of it. Do you know that among much that I admire in the characters and mani-

ners of those great folks whom I have now the honour to cail my acquaintances, the Ofamily, there is nothing charms me more than than Mr. O's unconcealable attachment to tha incomparable woman. Did you ever, my dear Syme, meet with a man who owed more to the Divine Giver of all good things than Mr. O. . A fine fortune; a pleasing exterior; self-evident amiable dispositions, and an ingenious upright mind, and that informed too, much beyond the usual run of young fellows of his rank and fortune; and to all this, such a woman !- but of her I shall say nothing at all, in despair of saying any thing adequate: in my song, I have en deavoured to do justice to what would be his feelings on seeing, in the scene I have drawn, the habitation of his Lucy. As I am a good deal pleased with my performance, I in my first fervour thought of sending it to Mrs. Obut on second thoughts, perhaps what I offer as the honest incense of genuine respect, might, from the well-known character of poverty and poetry, be construed into some modification or other of that servility which my soul abbors .

CXCI.

TO MISS -

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NOTHING short of a kind of absolute necessity could have made me trouble you with this letter. Except my ardent and just exteem for your sense, taste, and worth, every sentiment arising in my breast, as I put pen to paper to you, is painful. The seenes I have passed with the friend of my soul, and his amiable connexions! The wrench at my heart to think that he is gone, for ever gone from me, never more to meet in the wanderings of a weary world; and the entting reflection of all, that I had most unfortunately, though most undeservedly, lost the confidence of that soul of worth, ere it took its flight.

These, Madam, are sensations of no ordinary anguish.—However, yon, also, may be offended with some imputed improprieties of mine; sensibility you know I possess, and sincerity none

will deny me.

To oppose those prejudices which have been raised against me, is not the business of this letter. Indeed it is a warfare I know not how to wage. The powers of positive vice I can in some degree calculate, and against direct malevolence I can be on my guard; but who can estimate the fathiy of giddy caprice, or ward off the unthinking mischlef of precipitate folly?

I have a favour to request of you, Madam and of your sister Mrs. _____ through your

The song enclosed was the one beginning with "O wat ye wha's in you town.

means. You know, that, at the wish of my late | up, amid the wreck of misfortune and misery friend, I made a collection of all my trifles in The ONE is composed of the different modifica verse which I had ever written. They are maty of them local, some of them puerile, and silvy, and all of them unfit for the public eye. As magnanimity. The other is made up of those I have some little fame at stake, a fame that I feelings and sentiments, which, however the trust may live, when the hate of those who sceptic may deny them, or the enthusiast dis-"watch for my halting," and the contumelions figure them, are yet, I am convinced, original speer of those whom accident has made my su- and component parts of the human soul; those periors, will, with themselves, be gone to the senses of the mind, if I may be allowed the regions of oblivion; I am uneasy now for the expression, which connect us with, and link fate of those manuscripts,-Will Mrs. - have us to, those awful obscure realities - an allthe goodness to destroy them, or return them to powerful and equally beneficent God; and a me? As a pledge of friendship they were be- world to come, beyond death and the grave. stowed; and that circumstance, indeed, was all The first gives the nerve of combat, while a ray their merit. Most unhappily for me, that me- of hope beams on the field ;-the last pours the git they no longer possess, and I hope that Mrs. -'s goodness, which I well know, and ever will revere, will not refuse this favour to a man whom she once held in some degree of estima-

With the sincerest esteem I have the honour to be, Madam, &c.

No. CXCIL

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

A MIND DISEASED.

25th February, 1794.

CAMST thou minister to a mind diseased? Canst thou speak peace and rest to a soul tossed on a sea of troubles, without one friendly star to guide her course, and dreading that the next surge may overwhelm her? Canst thou give to a frame, tremblingly alive to the tortures of suspense, the stability and hardihuod of the rock that braves the blast? If thou canst not do the least of these, why wouldst thou disturb me in my miseries, with thy inquiries after me?

For these two months I have not been able to ate a number of domestic vexations, and some | Thomson.pecuniary share in the ruin of these -- times : losses which, though trifling, were yet what I could ill bear, have so irritated me, that my Are but the varied God .- The rolling year feelings at times could only be envied by a reprobate spirit fistening to the seutence that doons it to perdition. Are you deep in the language of consolation?

I have exhausted in reflection every topic of romfort. A heart at ease would have been delights, and I ask what of the delights among charmed with my sentiments and reasonings; the sons of men are superior, not to say, equa but as to myself, I was like Judas Iscariot preaching the gospel; he might melt and mould the hearts of those around him, but his own her own; and lays hold on them to bring her kept its native incorrigibility.

Still there are two great pillars that bear us and approving God.

balm of comfort into the wounds which time can never cure.

I do not remember, my dear Cunningham, that you and I ever talked on the subject of religion at all. I know some who laugh at it, as the trick of the crafty vew, to lead the undiscerning MANY; or at most as an uncertain obscurity, which mankind can never know any thing of, and with which they are fools if they give themselves much to do. Nor would I quarrel with a man for his irreligion, any more than I would for his want of a musical ear. I would regret that he was shut out from what, to me and to others were such superlative sources of enjoyment. It is in this point of view, and for this reason, that I will deeply imbue the mind of every child of mine with religion. It my son should happen to be a man of feeling, sentiment, and taste, I shall thus add largely to his eujoyments. Let me flatter myself that this sweet little fellow who is just now running about my de-k, will be a man of a melting, ardent, glowing heart; and an imagination, delighted with the painter, and rapt with the poet. Let me figure him, wandering out in a sweet evening, to inhale the halmy gales, and enjoy the growing Inxuriance of the spring; him-elf the while in the blooming youth of life. He looks abroad on all nature, and through nature up to nature's God. His soul, by switt, lift a pen. My constitution and frame were, ab delighting degrees, is wrapt above this sublu-origine, blasted with a deep ineurable taint of nary sphere, until he can be si'ent no longer, Sypochondria, which poisons my existence. Of and bursts out into the glorious enthusiasin of

> "These, as they change, Almighty Father, these Is full of tage."

> And so on, in all the spirit and ardour of that charming hymn.

> These are no ideal pleasures; they are rea to them? And they have this precious, vast addition, that conscious virtue stamps them for self into the presence of a witnessing, judging.

то —

SUPPOSES HIMSELF TO BE WRITING FROM THE DEAD TO THE LIVING.

MADAM

I DARE say this is the first epistic you ever received from this nether world. I write you from the regions of Hell, amid the horrors of the danned. The time and manner of my leaving your earth I do not exactly know; as I took my departure in the heat of a fever of intoxication, contracted at your too hospitable mansion; but on my arrival here, I was fairly tried and sentenced to endure the purgatorial tortures of this infernal confine, for the space of ninety-nine years, eleven months, and twentynine days; and all on account of the impropriety of my conduct yesternight under your roof. Here am I, laid on a bed of pitiless furze, with my aching head reclined on a pillow of everpiercing thorn, while an infernal termenter, wrinkled, and old, and cruel, his name, I think, is Recollection, with a whip of scorpions, forbids peace or rest to approach me, and keeps anguish eternally awake. Still, Madam, if I could in any measure be reinstated in the good opinion of the fair circle whom my conduct last night so much injured, I think it would be an alleviation to my torments. For this reason l trouble you with this letter. To the men of the company I will make no apology .- Your husband, who insisted on my drinking more than I chose, has no right to blame me; and the other gentlemen were partakers of my guilt. But to you, Madam. I have much to apolog ze. Your good opinion I valued as one of the greatest acquisitions I had made on earth, and I was truly a beast to forteit it. There was a Miss - too, a woman of fine sense, gentle and unassuming manners--do make, on my part, a miserable d-d wretch's hest apology to her. A Mrs. G ..., a charming woman, did me the honour to be prejudiced in my favour; this makes me hope that I have not outraged her Leyond all forgiveness .- To all the other ladies please present my humblest contrition for my conduct, and my petition for their gracious pardon. O all ve powers of decency and decorum! whisper to them that my errors, though great, were involuntary-that an intoxicated man is the vilest of beasts-that it was not in my nature to be brutal to any one-that to be rude to a woman, when in my senses, was impossible with me-but-

Regret! Remorse! Shame! ye three hellaounds that ever dog my steps and bay at my heels, spare me! spare me!

Forgive the offences, and pity the perdition of, Madam, your humble slave.

No. CXCIV.

TO THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN

MY LORD,

When you cast your eye on the name at the bottom of this letter, and on the title page of the book I do my elf the honour to send your lordship, a more pleasurable feeling than my vanity tells me, that it must be a name not entire. ly unknown to you. The generous patronage of your late illustrious brother found me in the lowest obscurity : he introduced my rustic mase to the partiality of my country; and to him I owe all. My sense of his goodness, and the anguish of my soul at losing my truly noble protector and friend, I have endeavoured to express in a poem to his memory, which I have now published. This edition i just from the press; and in my gratitude to the dead, and my re-pect for the living (fame belies you, my lord, if you possess not the same dignity of man, which was your noble brother's characteristic feature), I had destined a copy for the Earl of Glencairn. I learnt just now that you are in town :-- allow me to present it to you.

I know, my lord, such is the vife, venal contagion which pervades the world of letters that professions of respect from an author, particularly from a poet, to a lord, are more than my feelings at this moment, as exceptions to the too just conclusion. Exalted as are the honours of your lordship's name, and unn-ted as is the obscurity of mine; with the uprightness of an honest man, I come before your lordship, with an offering, however humble, 'tis all I have to give, of my grateful respect; and to beg of you, my lord,—'tis all I have to ask of you, that you will do me the honour to accept of it.

I have the honour to be. &c. *

No. CXCV.

TO DR. ANDERSON.

AUTHOR OF THE LIVES OF THE POETS.

stR,

I AM much indebted to my worthy friend Dr. Blacklock for introducing me to a geateman of Dr. Anderson's celebrity; but when you do me the honour to ask my assistance in your purposed publication, Alas, Sir! you might well think to cheapen a little honesty at the sign of an Advocate's wig, or huminty under the Geneva band. I am a miserable hurried devil, worn to the marrow in the friction of

The original letter is in the possession of the Honourable Mrs. Colland of Poynings. From a memorandom on the back of the letter, it appears to have been written in May 1794.

holding the noses of the poor publicans to the grindstone of Excise; and like Milton's Satan, for private reasons, am forced

To do what yet the' dam'd I would abhore :"-

and except a couplet or two of honest execuation

No. CXCVI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP

Castle Douglas, 5th June, 1794.

HERE in a solitary inn, in a solitary village, am I set by myself, to amuse my brouding fancy as I may .- Solitary confinement, you know, is Howard's favourite idea of reclaiming sinners; so let me consider by what fatality it happens that I have so long been exceeding sinful as to neglect the correspondence of the most valued To tell you that I have friend I have on earth. been in poor health, will not be excuse enough, though it is true. I am afraid I am about to suffer for the follies of my youth. My medical friends threaten me with a flying gout; but I trust they are mistaken.

I am just going to trouble your critical patience with the first sketch of a stanza I have been framing as I paced along the road. The subject is LIBERTY: You know, my honcured friend, how dear the theme is to me. it an irregular Ode for General Washington's birth-day. After having mentioned the degeneracy of other kingdoms, I come to Scotlano

thus: (See Poems, p. 77.)

You will probably have another scrawl from me in a stage or two.

No. CXCVII.

TO MR. JAMES JOHNSON.

MY DEAR FRIEND.

You should have heard from me long ago; but over and above some vexatious share in the peculiary losses of these accursed times, I have all this winter been plagued with low spirits and brue devils, so that I have almost hung my harp on the willow trees.

I am just now busy correcting a new edition of my poems, and this, with my ordinary business, finds me in full employment. *

I send you by my friend Mr. Willace fortyone songs for your fifth vocame; if we cannot finish it any other way, what would you think of Scots words to some beautiful Irish airs? In the meantime, at your leisure, give a copy of the Museum to my worthy friend Mr. Peter Hill, bookseller, to bind for me, interleaved with blank leaves, exactly as he did the laird of Glenriddel's, that I may insert every anecdote I can learn, together with my own criticisms and remarks on the songs .- A copy of this kind I shall leave with you, the ed tor, to publish at some after period, by way of making the Museum a book famous to the end of time, and you renowned for ever.

I have got an Highland dirk for which I have great veneration; as it once was the dirk of Lord Balmerino. It fell into bad hands, who stripped it of the silver mounting, as well as the knife and fork. I have some thoughts of sending it to your care, to get it mounted anew,

Thank you for the copies of my Volunteer Ballad .- Our friend Clarke has done indeed well! It is chaste and beautiful. I have not met with any thing that has pleased me so much. You know, I am no connoisseur, but that I am an amateur-will be allowed me.

No. CXCVIII.

TO PETER MILLER, JUN. Esq.+ OF DALSWINTON.

DEAR SIR, Dumfries, Nov. 1794.

Your offer is indeed truly generous, and most sincerely do I thank you for it; but in my present situation, I find that I dare not accept it, You well know my political sentiments; and were I an insular individual, unconnected with a wife and a family of children, with the most fervid enthusiasm I would have volunteered my services: I then could and would have despised all consequences that might have ensued.

My prospect in the Excise is something; at least, it is, encumbered as I am with the welfare, the very existence, of near half-a-score of helpless individuals, what I dare not sport with.

In the mean time, they are most welcome to

. This is the manuscript book containing the re-

• This is the manuscript book containing the remarks on Scottish songs and ballads, presented to the public, with considera le additions, in this volume, I ha conversation with his friend Mr. Perry, «the proprietor of "The Morning Chronicle"), Mr. Miller represented to that gentleman the in-utilificiency of Borra's salary to answer the imperious demands of a manuscraus famile. In their symmatric for this misfore.

Born-'s salary to answer the imperious demands of a numerous family. In their sympaths for this misfortunes, and in their repret that his talents were nearly lost to the world of letters, these gentlemen agreed on the plan of settling him in London.

To accomplish this most desirable object, Mr. Perry, very spitfielly, made the post a handsome offer of an annual stipend for the exercise of his talents in his propagate. Humris reasons for refusing this offer are stated in the present letter—CROMER.

[·] Borns's anxiety with regard to the correctness of his mixtures was very great. Being questioned as to his in size of composition, he replied, "All my poetry is the effect of easy composition, but of laborious correction.

my Ode; only, let them insert t as a thing | they have met with by accident and unknown to me .- Nay, if Mr. Perry, whose honour, af- and in my zeal for your well-being, I earnestly ter your character of him I cannot doubt; if press it on you to be diligent in chanting over he will give me an address and channel by which the two enclosed pieces of sacred poesy. My any thing will come safe from those spies with which he may be certain that his correspondence is beset, I will now and then send him any bagatelle that I may write. In the present hurry of Europe, nothing but news and politics will be regarded; but against the days of peace, which Heaven send soon, my little assistance may perhaps fill up an idle column of a Newspaper. I have long had it in my head to try my hand in the way of little prose essays, which I propose sending into the world through the medium of some Newspaper; and should these be worth his while, to these Mr. Perry shall be welcome; and all my reward shall be, his treating me with his paper, which, by the bye, to any body who has the least relish for wit, is a high treat indeed.

With the most grateful esteem, I am ever, Dear Sir, &c.

No. CXCIX.

TO GAVIN HAMILTON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR. Dumfries. Ir is indeed with the highest satisfaction that I congratulate you on the return of "days of ease, and nights of pleasure," after the horrid hours of misery, in which I saw you suffering existence when I was last in Ayrshire. I seldom pray for any body. "I'm baith dead sweer, and wretched ill o't." But most fervently do I besecch the great Director of this world, that you may live long and be happy, but that you may live no longer than while you are happy. It is needless for me to advise you to have a reverend care of your health. I know you will make it a point never, at one time, to drink more than a pint of wine; (I mean an English pint), and that you will never be witness to more than one lowl of punch at a time; and that cold drams you will never more taste. I am well convinced too, that after drinking, perhaps boiling punch, you will never mount your horse and gallop home in a chill, late hour. -Above all things, as I understand you are now in habits of intimacy with that Boanerges of gospel powers, Father Auld, be earnest with him that he will wrestle in prayer for you, that you may see the vanity of vanities in trusting to, or even practising the carnal moral works of charity, husianity, generosity, and f rgiveness; things which you practised so flagrantly that it was evident you delighted in them; neglecting, or perhaps, prophanely despising the wholesome doctrine of " Faith without works, the only anchor of salvation."

A hymn of thanksgiving would, in my one nion, be highly becoming from you at present . best compliments to Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Kennedy.

Yours in the L-d

R. B.

No. CC.

TO MR. SAMUEL CLARKE, JUN. DUMFRIES.

DEAR SIR. Sunday Morning. I was, I know, drunk last night, but I am sober this morning. From the expressions Capt. -, made use of to me, had I had nobody's welfare to care for but my own, we should certainly have come, according to the manners of the world, to the necessity of murdering one another about the business. The words were such as, generally, I believe, end in a brace of pistols; but I am still pleased to think that I did not ruin the peace and welfare of a wife and a family of children in a drunken squabble. Farther you know that the report of certain political opinions being mine, has already once before brought me to the brink of destruction, I dread lest last night's business may be misrepresented in the same way.-You, I beg, will take care to prevent it. I tax your wish for Mrs. Burns's welfare with the task of waiting as soon as possible, on every gentleman who was present, and state this to him, and, as you please, shew him this letter. What, after all, was the obnoxious toast? " May our success in the present war be equal to the justice of our cause."-A toast that the most outrageons frenzy of loyalty cannot object to. I request and beg that this morning you will wait on the parties present at the foolish dispute. I shall only add, that I am truly sorry that a man who stood so high in my estimation as Mr. should use me in the manner in which I con ceive he has done.*

The Loyal Natives' Verses.

Ye sons of sedition give ear to my song, Let Syme, Bunns, and Maxwell, pervade every throng, With, Cracken the attorney, and Mundell the quack Send Willie the monger to hell with a smack

[•] At this period of our Poet's life, when political animosity was made the ground of private quartel, the following fuolish verses were sent as an attack on Burns and his trends for their political epinions. They were written by some member of a club styling themselves the Logal Natives of Dumfries, or rather by the unsted genius of that club, which was more distinguished for drunken loyalty, than either for respectability or poetical talent. The verses were handed over the table to Burns at a convivial meeting, and he instantly indorsed the subjoined reply. · At this period of our Poet's life, when political

No. CCI.

TO MR. ALEXANDER FINDLATER. SUPERVISOR OF EXCISE, DUMFRIES.

ENCLOSED are the two schemes, I would not have troubled you with the collector's one. but for suspicion lest it be not right. Mr. Erskine promised me to make it right, if you will have the goodnes to shew him how. As I have no copy of the scheme for myself, and the alterations being very considerable from what it was formerly, I hope that I shall have access to this scheme I send you, when I come to face up my So much for schemes .- And that no scheme to betray a FRIEND, or mislead a STRANGER; to seduce a Young GIRL, or rob a henroost; to subvert liberty, or bribe an EXCISEMAN; to disturb the GENERAL ASSEM-BLY, or annoy a GOSSIPPING; to overthrow the credit of ORTHODOXY, or the authority of OLD songs; to oppose your wishes, or frustrate my hopes-MAY PROSPER-is the sincere wish and prayer of

ROBT. BURNS.

No. CCIL.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.*

Dumfries.

You will see by your subscribers' list, that I have now been about nine months one of that number.

I am sorry to inform you, that in that time, seven or eight of your papers either have never been sent me, or else have never reached me. To be deprived of any one number of the first newspaper in Great Britain for information,

Burns-extempore.

Ve true " Loyal Natives" attend to my song, In uproar and riot rejoice the night long; From enty and hatred your corps is exempt;
But where is your shield from the darts of contempt?

* This letter owes its origin to the following circumstance. A neighbour of the Poet's at Dumfries, called on him and complained that he was greatly dis called on him and complained that he was greatly dis appointed in the irregular delivery of the Paper of The Morning Chronicle. Burns asked, "Why do not you write to the Editors of the Paper?" Good God, Sir, can I presume to write to the learned Edi-tors of a Newspaper?—Well, if you are afraid of writ-ing to the Editors of a Newspaper I am not; and if you think proper, I'll draw up a sketch of a letter,

The first proper, it arraw up a sketen of a retter, which you may copy.

Burns tore a leaf from his excise book and instantly rootsteed the sketch which I have transcribed, and which is here printed. The poor man thanked him, and took fite letter home. However, that caution which the watchfulness of his nermes laid taught him. who are warentumes of his enemies had taught him to exercise, prompted him to the prudence of begging a friend to wait on the person for whom it was written, and repest the favour to have it returned. This request was complied with, and the paper never appeared in which was the paper never appeared in the pap

ability and independence, is what I can ill brook and bear; but to be deprived of that most admirable oration of the Marquis of Lansdowne, when he made the great, though ineffectual attempt, (in the language of the poet, I fear too true,) "to save a SINKING STATE"-this was a loss which I neither can, nor will forgive you. -That paper, Gentlemen, never reached me; but I demand it of you. I am a briton; and must be interested in the cause of LIBERTY: I am a MAN; and the RIGHTS OF HUMAN NA-TURE cannot be indifferent to me. However, do nut let me mislead you : I am not a man in that situation of life, which, as your subscriber, can be of any consequence to you, in the eyes of those to whom SITUATION OF LIFE ALONE is the criterion of MAN .- I am but a plain tradesman, in this distant, obscure country town: but that humble domicile in which I shelter my wife and children, is the CASTELLUM of a BRITON; and that seanty, Lard-earned income which supports them, is as truly my property, as the most magnificent fortune, of the most puissant member of your house of

These, Gentlemen, are my sentiments; and to them I subscribe my name: and were I a man of ability and consequence enough to address the PUBLIC, with that name should they appear.

I am, &c.

No. CCIII.

TO COL. W. DUNBAR

I AM not gone to Elysium, most noble Colonel, but am still here in this sublunary world, serving my God by propagating his image, and hononring my king by begetting him loyal subjects. Many happy returns of the season await my friend! May the thorns of care never beset his path! May peace be an inmate of his bosom, and rapture a frequent visitor of his soul! May the blood-hounds of misfortune never trace his steps, nor the screech-owl of sorrow alarm his dwelling! May enjoyment tell thy hours, and pleasure number thy days, thou friend of the Bard! Blessed be he that blesseth thee, and cursed be he that curseth thee!

No. CCIV.

TO MISS FONTENELLE,

ACCOMPANYING A PROLOGUE TO BE SPOKEN FOR HER BENEFIT.

In such a bad world as ours, those who add to the scanty sum of our pleasures, are positively our benefactors. To you, Madam, on | our humble Dumfries boards, I have been more indebted for entertainment than ever I was in prouder theatres. Your charins as a woman would insure applause to the most indifferent Who long with jiltish arts and sirs hast strove; actress, and your theatrical talents would insure admiration to the plainest figure. This, Madam, is not the unmeaning, or insidious compliment of the frivolous or interested; I pay it from the same honest impulse that the sublime of nature excites my admiration, or her beauties give me delight.

Will the foregoing lines be of any service to you on your approaching benefit night? If they will, I shall be prouder of my muse than ever. They are nearly extempore: I know they have no great merit; but though they should add but little to the entertainment of the evening, they give me the happiness of an opportunity to declare how much I have the honour to be, &c.

ADDRESS.

Spoken by Miss Fontenelle on her benefitnight, Dec. 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, I would 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 slily hinted,-"Ma'am, let me tell you," quoth my mau 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

I could no more-askance the creature eveing, 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 life 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, though you can't be rich

Thou other man of care, the wretch in love. Measur'st in desperate thought-a rope-the neck-

Or, where the heetling cliff o'erhangs the deep, Peerest to meditate the healing leap: Would'st thou be cured, thou silly, moping elf, Laugh at heir follies-laugh e'en at thyself : Learn to despise those frowns now so terrific, And love a kinder-that's your grand speci-

To sum up all, be merry, I advise. And as we're merry, may we still be wise.

No. CCV.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

MY DEAR FRIEND, 15th December, 1794.

As I am in a complete Decembrish humour gloomy, sullen, stupid, as even the deity of Dulness herself should wish, I shall not drawl out a heavy letter with a number of heavier apologies, for my late silence. Only one I shall mention, because I know you will sympathize in it : these four months, a sweet little girl, my youngest child, has been so ill, that every day, a week or less threatened to terminate her existence. There had much need be many pleasures annexed to the states of husband and father, for God knows, they have many peculiar cares. I cannot describe to you the anxious, sleepless hours these ties frequently give me. I see a train of helpless little folks; me and my exertions all their stay; and on what a brittle thread does the life of man hang! If I am nipt off at the command of fate; even in all the vigour of manhood as I am, such things happen every day-gracious God! what would become of my little flock ! 'Tis here that I envy your people of fortune .- A father on his death-bed, taking an everlasting leave of his children, has indeed woe enough; but the man of competent fortune leaves his sons and daughters independency and friends; while I-but I shall run distracted if I think any longer on the

To leave talking of the matter so grave y, . shall sing with the old Scots ballad-

" O that I had ne'er been married, I would never had nae care; Now I've gotten wife and bairns, They cry, crowdie, evermair.

Crowdie! ance; crowdie! twice; Crowdie! three times in a day: An ye crowdie ony mair, Ye'll crowdie a' my meal away."-

CORRESPONDENCE.

December 24th.

We have had a brilliant theatre here, this sea- try. son; only, as all other business has, it experiences a stagnation of trade from the epidemical of character, the utter dereliction of all princicomplaint of the country, want of cash. I men- ple, in a profligate junto which has not only tion our theatre merely to lug in an occasional outraged virtue, but violated common decency, one of the actresses, and which is as follows :-

(See Address, p. 381.)

25th, Christmas, Morning.

Tuts, my much-loved friend, is a morning of wishes: accept mine-so Heaven hear me as they are sincere! that blessings may attend your steps, and affliction know you not! In the charming words of my favourite author, The Man of Feeling, " May the great spirit bear up the weight of thy grey hairs; and blunt the arrow that brings them rest!

Now that I talk of authors, how do you like Cowper? is not the Task a glorious poem? The religion of the Task, bating a few scraps of Calvinistic divinity, is the religion of God and Nature : the religion that exalts, that ennobles man. Were not you to send me your Zeluco in return for mine? Tell me how you like my marks and notes through the book. I would not give a farthing for a book, unless I were at liberty to hlot it with my criticisms.

I have lately collected, for a friend's perusal, all my letters; I mean those which I first sketched, in a rough draught, and afterwards wrote out fair. On looking over some old musty papers, which from time to time I had parcelled by, as trash that were scarce worth preserving, and which yet, at the same time, I did not care to destroy, I discovered many of those rude sketches, and have written, and am writing them out, in a bound MS. for my friend's library. wrote always to you the rhapsody of the moment, I cannot find a single scroll to you, except one, about the commencement of our acquaintance. If there were any possible conveyance, I would send you a perusal of my book.

No. CCVI.

TO MR. HERON, OF HERON.

1794, or 1795.

I ENCLOSE you some copies of a couple of political ballads; one of which, I believe, you have never seen. Would to Heaven I could make you master of as many votes in the Stewartry. But-

" Who does the utmost that he can, Does well, acts nobly, angels could no more."

In order to bring my humble efforts to bear with more effect on the foe, I have privately printed a good man; cooles of both ballads, and

| have sent them among friends all about the cour-

To pillory on Parnassus the rank reprobation Address, which I wrote for the benefit-night of which, spurning even hypocrisy as piltry iniquity below their daring ;----co namask their flagitiousness to the broadest day-to deliver such over to their merited fite, is surely not merely innocent, but laudable; is not only propriety, but virtue. - You have already, as your auxiliary, the sober detestation of mankind on the heads of your opponents; and I swear by the lyre of Thalia to muster on your side all the votaries of honest laughter, and fair, candid ridicale!

> I am extremely obliged to you for your kind mention of my interests in a letter which Mr. Syme newed me. At present, my situation in life must be in a great measure stationary, at least for two or three years. The statement is this-I am on the supervisors' list, and as we come on there by precedency, in two or three years I shall be at the head of that list, and be appointed, of course. Then a FRIEND might be of service to me in getting me into a place of the kingdom which I would like. A supervisor's income varies from about a hundred and twenty, to two hundred a year; but the business is an incessent drudgery, and would be nearly a complete bar to every species of literary pursuit. The moment I am appointed supervisor, in the common routine, I may be nominated on the collector's list; and this is always a business purely of political patronage. A collectorship varies much, from better than two hundred a year to near a thousand. also come forward by precedency on the list; and have besides a handsome income, a life of complete leisure. A life of literary leisure with a decent competence, is the summit of my wishes. It would be the prudish affectation of silly pride in me to say that I do not need, or would not be indebted to a political friend; at the same time, Sir, I by no means lay my affairs before you thus, to hook my dependant situation on your benevolence. If, in my progress of 'ife, an opening should occur where the good offices of a gentleman of your public character and political consequence might bring me forward, shall petition your goodness with the same frankness as I now do myself the Louour to subscribe myself, &c ..

[.] Part of this letter appears it Dr Curris's est von ii. p. 430.

No. CCVII.

ADDRESS OF THE SCOTS DISTILLERS,

THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT.

WHILE pursy burgesses crowd your gate, sweating under the weight of heavy addresses, permit us, the quondam distillers in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, to approach you, not with venal approbation, but with fraternal condolence; not as what you are just now, or for some time have been; but as what, in all probability, you will shortly be. -We shall nave the merit of not deserting our friends in the day of their calamity, and you will have the satisfaction of pernsing at least one honest address. You are well acquainted with the dissection of human nature; nor do you need the assistance of a fellow-creature's bosom to inform you, that man is always a selfish, often a perfidions being .- This assertion, however the hasty conclusions of superficial observation may doubt of it, or the raw inexperience of youth may deny it, those who make the fatal experiment we have done, will feel. You are a statesman, and these corporation compliments .- The little great ancient enemies. man who drives the borough to market, and the very great man who buys the borough in that market, they two do the whole business; and you well know, they, likewise, have their price. ry away from your approaching hour,

mistaken, you are about to make your exit from the face of day .- On the contrary, our enemies, that world where the sun of gladness gilds the to complete our overthrow, contrived to make paths of prosperous men: permit us, great Sir, their guilt appear the villainy of a nation .with the sympathy of fellow-feeling to hail your Your downfal only drags with you your pri-

passage to the realms of ruin.

Whether the sentiment proceed from the selbut to point out to a child of misfortune those degree of positive enjoyment. In this light, Sir, to the lowest hind. our downfal may be again useful to you :-

clime of political faith and manners, flocked to your branches; and the beasts of the field, (the lordly possessors of hills and vallies,) crowded under your shade. " But behold a watcher, a hely one came down from heaven, and cried aloud, and said thus: Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches; shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit; let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches!" A blow from an unthought-of quarter, one of those terrible accidents which peculiarly mark the hand of Omnipotence, overset your career, and laid all your fancied honours in the dust. But turn your eyes, Sir, to the tragic scenes of our fate. - An ancient pation that for many ages had gallantly maintained the unequal struggle for independence with her much more powerful neighbour, at last agrees to a union which should ever after make them one people. In consideration of certain circumstances, it was covenanted that the former should enjoy a stipulated alleviation in her share of the public burdens, particularly in that branch of the revenue called the Excise. This just privilege has of late given great umbrage to some interested, powerful individuals of the more potent part of the empire, and they have spared no wicked pains, under insidious pretexts, to subvert what they dared not openly to attack, from the dread consequently are not ignorant of the traffic of which they yet entertained of the spirit of their

In this conspiracy we fell; nor did we alone suffer, our country was deeply wounded. number of (we will say) respectable individuals, largely engaged in trade, where we were not -With that sullen disdain which you can so only useful but absolutely necessary to our connwell assume, rise, illustrious Sir, and spurn try in her dearest interest; we, with all that these hireling efforts of venal stupidity. At best was near and dear to us, were sacrificed withthey are the compliments of a man's friends on out remorse, to the infernal deity of political ex-the morning of his execution: They take a de-pediency! We fell to gratify the wishes of dark cent farewell; resign you to your fate; and hur- envy, and the views of unprincipled ambition! Your foes, Sir, were avowed; were too brave If fame say true, and omens be not very much to take an ungenerous advantage; you fell in vate friends and partizans: In our misery are more or less involved the most numerous, and fishness or cowardice of mankind is immaterial; most valuable part of the community -all those who immediately depend on the cultivation of who are still more unhappy, is to give him some the soil, from the landlord of a province, down

Allow us, Sir, yet farther, just to hint at an-Though not exactly in the same way, it is not other rich vein of comfort in the dreary regions perhaps the first time it has gratified your feel- of adversity ;-the gratulations of an approving ings. It is true, the triumph of your evil star conscience. In a certain great assembly, of is exceedingly despiteful.-At an age when which you are a distinguished member, paneothers are the votaries of pleasure, or underlings gyrics on your private virtues have so often m business, you had attained the highest wish wounded your delicacy, that we shall not disof a British Statesman; and with the ordinary tress you with any thing on the subject. There date of human life, what a prospect was before is, however, one part of your public conduct you. Deeply roo ed in Royal Favour, you which our feelings will not permit us to pass overshadowed the and. The birds of passage, in silence; our gratitude must trespass on your which follow ministerial sunshine through every modescy we mean, worthy Sir, your whole

behaviour to the Scots Distil ers .- In evil hours. when obtrusive recollection presses bitterly on the sense, let that, Sir, come like a healing angel, and speak the peace to your soul which the world can neither give nor take away.

We have the honour to be, Sir. Your sympathizing fellow-sufferers, And grateful humble Servants. JOHN BARLEYCORN-Preses.

No. CCVIII.

TO THE HON, THE PROVOST, BAIL-IES, AND TOWN-COUNCIL OF DUM-FRIES.

OFNTLEMEN,

THE literary taste and liberal spirit of your good town has so ably filled the various departments of your schools, as to make it a very great object for a parent to have his children educated in them. Still, to me, a stranger, with my large family, and very stinted income, to give my young ones that education I wish, at the high school-fees which a stranger pays, will bear hard upon me.

Some years ago your good town did me the honour of making me an honorary burgess .-Will you allow me to request that this mark of distinction may extend so far, as to put me on the footing of a real freeman of the town, in the schools?

If you are so very kind as to grant my request,* it will certainly be a constant incentive to me to strain every nerve where I can officially serve you; and will, if possible, increase that grateful respect with which I have the honour to be.

> Gentlemen, Your devoted humble Servant.

No. CCIX.

TO MRS. DUNLOP, IN LONDON.

Dumfries, 20th December, 1795. I HAVE been prodigiously disappointed in this London journey of yours. In the first place, when your last to me reached Dumfries, I was in the country, and did not return until too late to answer your letter; in the next place, I thought you would certainly take this route; and now I know not what is become of you, or whether this may reach you at all. God grant that it may find you and yours in prospering health and good spirits. Do let me hear from you the soonest possible.

As I hope to get a frank from my friend Captain Miller, I shall, every leisure hour, take up the pen, and gossip away whatever comes first, prose or poesy, sermon or song. In this last article, I have abounded of late. often mentioned to you a superh publication of Scottish songs which is making its appearance in your great metropolis, and where I have the honour to preside over the Scottish verse, as no less a personage than Peter Pindar does over the English. I wrote the following for a favourite air.

December 29.

SINCE I began this letter I have been appointed to act in the capacity of supervisor here, and I assure you, what with the load of business, and what with that business being new to me, I could searcely have commanded ten minutes to have spoken to you, had you been in town, much less to have written you an epistle. This appointment is only temporary, and during the illness of the present incumbent; but I look forward to an early period when I shall be appointed in full form: a consummation devouty to be wished! My political sins seem to be forgiven me.

This is the season (New-year's-day is now my date) of wishing! and mine are most fer vently offered up for you! May life to you be a positive blessing while it lasts, for your own sake; and that it may yet be greatly prolonged, is my wish for my own sake, and for the sake of the rest of your friends! What a transient business is life! Very lately I was a boy; but t'other day I was a young man; and I already begin to feel the rigid fibre and stiffening joints of old age coming fast o'er my frame. all my follies of youth, and, I fear, a few vices of manhood, still I congratulate myself on having had, in early days, religion strongly impressed on my mind. I have nothing to say to any one as to which sect he belongs to, or what creed he believes; but I look on the man who is firmly persuaded of infinite wisdom and goodness, superintending and directing every circumstance that can happen in his let-I felicitate such a man as having a solid foundation for his mental enjoyment; a firm prop and sure stay, in the hour of difficulty, trouble, and distress; and a never-failing anchor of hope, when he looks beyond the grave.

January 12.

You will have seen our worthy and ingenious frient, the Doctor, long ere this. I hope

[·] This request was immediately complied with.

he is well, and beg to be remembered to him. | scarcely begun to recover from that shock, when I have just been reading over again, I dare say I became myself the victim of a most severe for the hundred and fiftieth time, his View of rheumatic fever, and long the die spun doubtful for the hundred and fiftieth time, his View of Society and Manners; and still I read it with until after many weeks of a sick-bed, it seems delight. His humour is perfectly original-it to have turned up life, and I am beginning to is neither the humour of Addison, nor Swift, crawl across my room, and once indeed have nor Sterne, nor of any body but Dr. Moore, been before my own door in the street. By the bye, you have deprived me of Zeluco; remember that, when you are disposed to rake up the sins of my neglect from among the ashes

He has paid me a pretty compliment, by quoting me in his last publication.

No. CCX.

TO MRS. RIDDEL.

20th January, 1796.

I CANNOT express my gratitude to you for allowing me a longer perusal of Anacharsis. In fact, I never met with a book that bewitched me so much; and I, as a member of the library, must warmly feel the obligation you have laid us under. Indeed to me the obligation is stronger than to any other individual of our society; as Anacharsis is an indispensable desideratum to a son of the muses.

The health you wished me in your morning's card, is, I think, flown from me for ever. have not been able to leave my bed to-day till about an hour ago. These wickedly unlucky advertisements I lent (I did wrong) to a friend, and I am ill able to go in quest of him.

The muses have not quite forsaken me. The following detached stanzas I intend to interweave n some disastrous tale of a shepherd.

No. CCXI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

31st January, 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 The autumn robbed me of my only affliction. 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 the duties to her, I had

When pleasure fascinates the mental sight, Affliction purifies the visual ray, Religion hails the drear, the untried night,

That shnts, for ever shuts! life's doubtfui

CCXII.

TO MRS. RIDDEL,

WHO HAD DESIRED HIM TO GO TO THE BIRTH DAY ASSEMBLY ON THAT DAY TO SHEW HIS LOYALTY.

4th June, 1796.

I AM in such miserable health as to be utterly incapable of showing my loyalty in any way. Racked as I am with rheumatisms, I meet every face with a greeting like that of Balak to Balaam-" Come curse me Jacob; and come defy me Israel !" So say I--Come curse me that east wind; and come, defy me the north! Would you have me, in such circumstances, to copy you out a love song?

I may perhaps see you on Saturday, but I will not be at the ball .- Why should I? " man delights not me, nor woman either !" Can you supply me with the song, Let us all be unhappy together?-do if you can, and oblige le pauvre miserable

No. CCXIII.

TO MR. JAMES JOHNSON, EDINBURGH.

Dumfries, July 4, 1796.

How are you, my dear friend, and how comes on your fifth volume? You may probably think that for some time past I have neglected you and your work; but, alas! the hand of pain, and surrow, and care, has these many months lain heavy on me! Personal and domestic affliction have almost entirely banished that alaerity and life with which I used to won the rural muse of Scotia-

You are a good, worthy, honest fellow, and have a good right to live in this world-because 7on deserve it. Many a merry meeting this publication has given us, and possible it may give us more, though, alas! I far it. This pratracting, slow, consuming illness which hangs over me, will, I doubt much, my ever dear friend, arrest my sun before he has well reached his middle career, and will turn over the poet to far other and 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 sherish it as well as I can.

Let me hear from you as soon as convenient.

—Your work is a great one; and now that it is near finished. I see, if we were to begin again, two or three things that might be mended; yet I will venture to prophecy, that to future ages your publication will be the text-book and standard of Scottish song and music.

I am ashamed to ask another favour of you, because you have been so very good already; but my wife has a very particular friend of hers, a young lady who sings well, to whom she wishes to present the Scots Musical Museum.

If you have a spare copy, will you be so obliging as to send it by the very first Fly, as I am **Mxxious to have it soon.

Yours ever, ROBERT BURNS.

No. CCXIV.

TO MR. CUNNINGHAM.

Brow, Sea-bathing Quarters, 7th July, 1796.
MY DEAR CUNNINGHAM.

I RECEIVED yours here this moment, and am indeed highly flattered with the approbation of the literary circle you mention; a literary circle inferior to none in the two kingdoms. Alas my friend, I fear the voice of the bard will soon be heard among you no more! for these eight or ten months I have been ailing, sometimes bedfast and sometimes not; but these last three month. I have been tortured with an exeruciating rheumatism, which has reduced me to nearly the last stage. You actually would not know me if you saw me. Pale, emariated, and so feeble, as occasionally to need help from my chair -my spirits fled! fled!-but I can no more on the subject-only the medical folks tell me that my last and only chance is bathing and country

quarters, and riding. The dence of the matter is this; when an exciseman is off duty, his salary is reduced to £35 instead of £50—What way, in the name of thrift, shall I maintain myself and keep a horse in country quarters—with a wife and five children at home, on £35? mention this, because I had intended to beg your utmost interest, and that of all the friends you can muster, to move our Commissoners of £xcise to grant me the full salary. I dare say you know them all personally. If they do not grant it me, I must by my account with an exit truly en poete—II I die not of disease, I must perish with hunger.

I have sent you one of the songs; the other my memory does not serve me with, and I have no copy here; but I shall be at home soon, when I will send it you. Apropos to being at home, Mrs. Burns threatens in a week or two to add one more to my paternal charge, which, if of the right gender, I intend shall be introduced to the world by the respectable designation of Alexander Canningham Burns: My last was James Gleneairn; so you can have no objection to the company of nobility. Farewell

No. CCXV

TO MRS BURNS.

MY DEAREST LOVE, Brow, Thursday.

I DELAYED writing until I could tell you what effect sea-bathing was likely to produce. It would be injustice to deuy that it has eased my pains, and I think has strengthened me; but my appetite is still extremely bad. No flesh nor fish can I swallow; porridge and milk are the only thing I can taste. I am very happy to hear, by Mrss Jess Lewars, that you are well. My very best and kindest compliments to her and to all the children. I will see you on Sunday. Your affectionate husband, R. B.

CCXVI.

TO MRS. DUNLOP.

M PAM, 12th July, 1796.

HAVE written you so often, without receiving any answer, that I would not trouble you again, but for the circumstances in which I am. An illness which has long hung about me, in all probability will specify send me beyond that burne whence no traveller returns. Your friendship, with which for many years you honoured me, was a friendship dearest to my soul. Your conversation, and especially your correspondence, were at once highly entertaining and instructive. With what pleasure did I use to weak up the seal! The remembrance yet adds

[•] In this humble and delicate manner did poor Jurns ask for a copy of a work of which he was principally the founder, and to which he had contributed, gradult usig, not less than 181 original, altered, and collected songst. The Editor has seen 180 transcribed by his own hand, for the Museum.
This letter was we'ten on the 4th of July,—the poet died on the 21st. No other letters of this wiveresting.

This letter was written on the 4th of July,—the poot died on the 21st. No other letters of rhis inveresting period have been discovered, except one addressed to Mrs. Dunlop, of the 12th of July, which Dr. Currie very property supposes to be the last production of the Aynel bard.—Crowve.

BURNS' WORKS.

Larewell!!!

R. B.

THE above a supposed to be the last producon of Rosert Burns, who died on the 21st of the mouth, nine days afterwards. He had, ment that will be felt, that a few of this excelhowever, the pleasure of receiving a satisfactory lent lady's have not served to enrich and accept explanation of his friend's silence, and an assurance of the comitmance of her friendship to his

one pulse more to my poor palpitating heart. | widow and children; an assurance that has been amply fulfilled.

It is probable that the greater part of her letters to him were destroyed by our bard abou the time that this last was written. He did not foresee that his own letters to her were 13

THE POET'S CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

MR. GEORGE THOMSON.

THE Foet, besides his ample contributions to the Musical Museum, published by Johnson, eagaged in the somewhat similar, but far more extended undertaking of Mr. George Thomson, entitled Select Melodies of Scotland,-a Work more systematically planned, and scientifically executed, as to the Music-and more chastened in the composition and sentiment of the Songs, than any of its precursors; and which still maintains its superiority over all other collections as the National Repertory of Scottish Song, both as to the poetry and music. The following Correspondence shows the rise and progress, with much of the interesting details of our Poet's contributions to Mr. Thomson's Work :-

No. L.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

SOLICITING HIS CO-OPERATION.

Edinburgh, September 1792.

For some years past, I have, with a friend or two, employed many feisure hours in selecting and collating the most favourite of our national melodies for publication. We have engaged Pleyel, the most agreeable composer living, to put accompaniments to these, and also to compose an instrumental prelude and conclusion to each air, the better to fit them for concerts, both public and private. To render this work perfeet, we are desirous to have the poetry improved, wherever it seems unworthy of the music; and that it is so in many instances, is allowed by every one conversant with our musical col-The editors of these seem in general to have depended on the music proving an excuse for the verses; and hence, some charming melodies are united to mere nonsense and doggrel, while others are accommodated with rhymes so loose and indelicate, as cannot be sung in decent company. To remove this reproach, would be an easy task to the author of The Cotter's Saturday Night; and, for the honour of Caledonia, I would fain hope he may be induced to take up the pen. If so, we shall be enabled to present the public with a collection infinitely more interesting than any that has yet appeared, and acceptable to all persons of taste, whe- | sin, ther they wish for correct melodies, delicate ac-

will esteem your poetical assistance a particular favour, besides paying any reasonable price you shall please to demand for it. Profit is quite a secondary consideration with us, and we are resolved to spare neither pains nor expense on the publication. Tell me frankly, then, whether you will devote your leisure to writing twenty or twenty-five songs, suited to the particular melodies which I am prepared to send you. A few songs, exceptionable only in some of their verses, I will likewise submit to your consideration; leaving it to you, either to mend these, or make new songs in their stead. It is superfluous to assure you that I have no intention to displace any of the sterling old sungs; those only will be removed, which appear quite silly, or absolutely indecent. Even these shall all be examined by Mr. Burns, and if he is of opinion that any of them are deserving of the music, in such cases no divorce shall take place.

Relying on the letter accompanying this to be forgiven for the liberty I have taken in addressing you, I am, with great esteem, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

G. THOMSON

No. II.

THE POET'S ANSWER.

Dumfries, 16th Sept. 1792. I HAVE just this moment got your letter. At companiments, or tharacteristic verses .- We the request you make to me will positively add

BURNS' WORKS.

to my enjoyments in complying with it, I shall ! onter into your undertaking with all the small portion of abilities I have, strained to their utmost exertion by the impulse of enthusiasm. Only, don't hun y me: " Deil tak the hindgrost" is by no means the cri de guerre of my Will you, as I am inferior to none of you in enthusiastic attachment to the poetry and music of old Caledonia, and, since you request it, have cheerfully promised my mite of assistance-will you let me have a list of your airs, with the first line of the printed verses you intend for them, that I may have an opportunity of suggesting any alteration that may occur to You know 'tis in the way of my trade; still leaving you, gentlemen, the undoubted right of publishers, to approve, or reject, at your pleasure, for your awn pedication Apropos! if you are for Englis, erses, here as on my part, an end of the matter. Wheth the splicity of the ballad, or the pathos of the song, I can only hope to please myself in being allowed at least a sprinkling of our native tongue. English verses, particularly the works of Scotsmen, that have merit, are certainly very eligible. Tweedside; Ah the poor shepherd's mournful fate! Ah Chloris, could I now but sit, &c. you cannot mend: But such insipid stuff as, To Fanny fair could I impart, &c. usually set to The Mill, Mill O, is a disgrace to the collections in which it has already appeared, and would doubly disgrace a collection that will have the very superior merit of yours. But more of this in the farther prosecution of the business, if I am called on for my strictures and amendments-I say, amendments; for I will not alter except where I myself at least think that I amend.

As to any remuneration, you may think my songs either above or below price; for they shail absolutely ne the one or the other. In the honest enthusiasm with which I embark in your undertaking, to talk of money, wages, fee, hire, &c. would be downright prostitution of soul! A proof of each of the songs that I compose or amend, I shall receive as a favour. In the rustic phrase of the season, 6 Gude speed the wark!"

I am, Sir, your very humble Servant,

R. BURNS.

P. S.—I have some particular reasons for wishing my interference to be known as little as possible.

No. III.

MR. THOMSON IN REPLY.

PEAN SIR, Edinburgh, 13th Oct. 1792.

I RECEIVED, with much satisfaction, your pleasant and obliging letter, and I return my

warmest acknowledgments for the enthusiasm with which you have entered into our undertaking. We have now no doubt of being able to produce a collection, highly deserving of public attention, in all respects.

I agree with you in thinking English verses, that have merit, very eligible, wherever new verses are necessary; because the English becomes every year, more and more, the language of Scotland; but, if you mean that no English verses, except those by Scottish authors, ought to be admitted, I am half inclined to differ from you. I should consider it unpardonable to sacrifice one good so, in the Scottish dialect, to make room for English reises; but, if we can select a few excellent ones suited to the unprovided or ill-provided airs, would it not be the very bigotry of literary patriotism to reject such inciely because the authors were born south of the Tweed? Our sweet air, My Nannie O. which in the collections is joined to the poorest stuff that Allan Ramsay ever wrote, beginning While some for pleasure pawn their health, answers so finely to Dr. Percy's beautiful song O Nancy wilt thou go with me, that one would think he wrote it on purpose for the air. However, it is not at all our wish to confine you to English verses: you shall freely be allowed a sprinkling of your native tongue, as you elegantly express it; and moreover, we will patiently wait your own time. One thing only I beg, which is, that however gay and sportive the muse may be, she may always be decent. Let her not write what beauty would blush to speak. nor wound that charming delicacy which forms the most precious dowry of our daughters. I do not conceive the song to be the most proper vehicle for witty and brilliant conceits: simplicity, I believe, should be its prominent feature; but, in some of our songs, the writers have confounded simplicity with coarseness and vulgarity; although, between the one and the other, as Dr. Beattie well observes, there is as great a difference as between a plain suit of clothes and a bundle of rags. The humorous ballad, or pathetic complaint, is best suited to our artless melodies; and more interesting indeed in all songs than the most pointed wit, dazzling descriptions, and flowery fancies.

With these trite observations, I send you eleven of the songs, for which it is my wish to substitute others of your writing. I shall soon trans mit the rest, and, at the same time, a prospectus of the whole collection; and you may believe we will receive any hars that you are so kind as to give for improving the work, with the greatest pleasure and thankfulness.

I remain, Dear Sir, &c.

No. IV.

THE POST TO MR. THOMSON, WITH " THE LEA- RIG."

MY DEAR SIR.

Let me tell you that you are too fistidious in your ideas of songs and ballads. I own that your criticisms are just; the songs you specify in your list have all but one the faults you remark in them; but who shall mend the matter? Who shall rise up and say-Go to, I will make a better? For instance, on reading over The Lea-rig. I immediately set about trying my hand on it, and, after all, I could make nothing more of it than the following, which, Heaven knows, is poor enough:

(See p. 244.)

Your observation as to the aptitude of Dr. Percy's ballad to the air Nannie O, is just. is besides, perhaps, the most beautiful ballad in the English language. But let me remark to you, that, in the sentiment and style of our Scottish airs, there is a pastoral simplicity, a something that one may call the Doric style and dialect of vocal music, to which a dash of our native tongue and manners is particularly, nay peculiarly, apposite. For this reason, and, upon my honour, for this reason alone, I am of opinion (but, as I told you before, my opinion is yours, freely yours, to approve, or reject, as you please), that my ballad of Nannie O might perhaps do for one set of verses to the time. Now don't let it enter into your head, that you are under any necessity of taking my verses. I have long ago made up my mind as to my own reputation in the business of authorship; and have nothing to be pleased or offended at, in your adoption or rejection of my verses. Though you should reject one half of what I give you, I shall be pleased with your adopting the other half, and shall continue to serve you with the same assiduity.

In the printed copy of my Nannie O, the name of the river is horridly prosaic. I will alter it.

"Behind you hills where Lugar flows."

Girvan is the name of the river that suits the idea of the stanza best, but Lugar is the most agreeable modulation of syllables.

I will soon give you a great many more remarks on this business; but I have just now an opportunity of conveying you this scrawl, free of postage, an expense that it is ill able to pay : so, with my best complements to honest Allan, Good be wi' ye, &c.

Friday night.

Saturday Morning. As I find I have still ar hour to spare this morning before my conveyance goes away, I will give you Nannie O at length.

(See p. 213.)

Your remarks on Ewe-bughts, Marion, ge just: still it has obtained a place among our more classical Scottish songs; and what with many beauties in its composition, and more prejudices in its favour, you will not find it easy to supplant it.

In my very early years, when I was thinking of going to the West ladies, I took the following farewell of a dear girl. It is quite trifling, and has nothing of the merits of Ewe-bughts, but it will fill up this page. You must know that all my earlier love-songs were the breathings of ardent passion, and though it might have been easy in after-times to have given them a polish, yet that polish, to me, whose they were, and who perhaps alone cared for them, would have defaced the legend of my heart, which was so faithfully inscribed on them. couth simplicity was, as they say of wines, their

(Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary, p. 243.

Gala Woter and Auld Rob Morris, I think, will most probably be the next subject of my musings. However, even on my verses, speak out your criticisms with equal frankness. wish is, not to stand aloof, the uncomplying bigot of opiniatrete, but cordially to join issue with you in the furtherance of the work.

No. V.

THE POET TO MR THOMSON.

November 8th, 1792

Ir you mean, my dear Sir, that all the songs in your collection shall be poerry of the first merit, I am afraid you will find more difficulty in the undertaking than you are aware of. 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 po t, and lay him under almost insuperable difficulties. For instance, in the air, My wife's a wanton were 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 farther study, I might give you something more profound, yet it might not suit the light-horse gallop of the air so well as this raudom clink.

(My wife's a winsome wee thing. p. 214.)

I have just been looking over the Colliss

bonny Dochter; and if the following rhapsody, which I composed the other day, on a charming Ayrshire girl, Miss -, as she passed through ing; so that, if the singer stops at the end of this place to England, will suit your taste better than the Collier Lassie, fall on and wel- possessed. come.

(O saw ye bonnie Lesslie, p. 194.)

I have hitherto deferred the sublimer, more pathetic airs, until more leisure, as they will take, and deserve, a greater effort. However, they are all put into your hands, as clay into the hands of the potter, to make one vessel to honout, and another to dishonour. Farewell, &c.

No. VI.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

Ye hanks, and braes, and streams around, The castle o' Montgomerv. (See p. 203.

14th November, 1792. MY DEAR SIR.

I AGREE with you that the song, Katherine Ogie, is very poor stuff, and unworthy, altogether unworthy, of so heautiful an air. I tried to mend it, but the awkward sound Ogie recurring so often in the rhyme, spoils every attempt at introducing sentiment into the piece. The oregoing song pleases myself; I think it is in any 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 insure celebrity. Perhaps, after all, 'tis the still glowing prejudice of my heart, that throws a borrowed lustre over the merits of the composition.

I have partly taken your idea of Auld Rob I have adopted the two first verses, and am going on with the song on a new plan, which promises pretty well. I take up one or which promises pretty well. another, just as the bee of the moment buzzes in my bonnet-lug; and do you, sans ceremonie, make what use you choose of the productions. Adieu! &s.

No. VII.

MR. THOMPSON TO THE POET,

Edinburgh, Nov. 1792. DEAR SIR.

I was just going to write to you, that on meeting with your Nannie I had fallen violently in love with her. I thank you, therefore, for sending the charming rustic to me, in the dress you wish her to appear before the public. does you great cirdit, and will soon be admitted unto the best company.

I regret that your song for the Lea-rig is se short; the air is easy, soon sung, and very pleas two stanzas, it is a pleasure lost ere it is well

Although a dash of our native tongue and manners is doubtless peculiarly congenial, and appropriate to our melodies, yet I shall be able to present a considerable number of the very Flowers of English Song, well adapted to those meionies, which in England at least will be the means of recommending them to still greater attention than they have procured there. But you will oliserve, my plan is, that every air shall in the first place have verses wholly by Scottish poets; and that those of English writers shal. follow as additional songs, for the choice of the singer.

What you say of the Ewe-bughts is just ;] admire it, and never meant to supplant it. All I requested was, that you would try your hand on some of the inferior stanzas, which are apparently no part of the original song; but this I do not urge, because the song is of sufficient length though those inferior stanzas be omitted, as they will be by the singer of taste. You must not think I expect all the songs to be of superlative merit; that were an unreasonable expecta tion. I am sensible that no poet can sit down doggedly to pen verses, and succeed well at all times.

I am highly pleased with your humorous and amorous rhapsody on Bonnie Lesslie; it is a thousand times better than the Collier's Lassie. " The deil he cou'dna scaith thee," &c. is an eccentric and happy thought. Do you not think, however, that the names of such old heroes as Alexander, sound rather queer, unless in pompous or mere burlesque verse? Instead of the line "And never made anither," I would hum-Instead of the bly suggest, "And ne'er made sic anither;" and I would fain have you substitute some other line for "Return to Caledonie," in the last verse, because I think this alteration of the orthography, and of the sound of Caledonia, disfigures the word, and renders it Hudibrastic.

Of the other song, My wife's a winsome wee thing, I think the first eight lines very good : but I do not admire the other eight, because four of them are a bare repetition of the first verse. I have been trying to spin a stanza, but could make nothing better than the following: do you mend it, or, as Yorick did with the love-letter,

whip it up in your own way.

O leeze me on my wee thing, My honnie blythsome wee thing ; Sae lang's I hae niv wee thing. I'll think my lot divine. Tho' warld's care we share o't, And may see meickle mair o't, Wi' her I'll blythly bear it, And ne'er a word repine.

You perceive my dear Sir I avail myself of

the liberty which you condescend to allow me, | Gie me the hour a' gloamin grey, by speaking freely what I think. Be assured, it is not my disposition to pick cut the faults of To meet thee on the lea-rig, any poem or picture I see: my first and chief object is to discover and be delighted with the neanties of the piece. If I sit down to examine critically, and at leisure, what perhaps you have written in haste, I may happen to observe careless lines, the re-perusal of which might lead you to improve them. The wren will often see what has been overlooked by the eagle.

I remain yours faithfully, &c.

P. S. Your verses upon Highland Mary, are just come to hand: they breathe the genuine spirit of poetry, and, like the music, will last for ever. Such verses united to such an air, with the delicate harmony of Pleyel superadded, might form a treat worthy of being presented to Apollo himself. I have heard the sad story of your Mary: you always seem inspired when you write of her

No. VIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

Dumfries, 1st December, 1792.

Your alterations of my Nannie O are perfeetly right. So are those of "My wife's a wanton wee thing." Your alteration of the second stanza is a positive improvement. Now, my dear Sir, with the freedom which characterises our correspondence, I must not, cannot alter " Bonnie Les-lie." You are right, the word " Alexander" makes the line a little uncouth, but I think the thought is pretty. Of Alexander, beyond all other heroes, it may be said, in the sublime language of scripture, that " he went forth conquering and to conquer."

" For nature made her what she is, And never made anither," (such a person as she is.)

This is in my opinion more poetical than " Ne'er made sic anither." However, it is immaterial: Make it either way. " Caledonie." I agree with you, is not so good a word as could be wished, though it is sanctioned in three or four instances by Allan Ramsay; but I cannot help it. In short, that species of stanza is the most difficult that I have ever tried.

The "Lea-rig" is as follows. (Here the poet gives the two first stanzas as before, p. 214, with the following in addition.)

The hunter loe's the morning sun, To rouse the mountain deer, my jo; At noon the fisher seeks the glen, Along the burn to steer, my jo;

It mak's my heart sae cheery, O My ain kind dearie, O.

I am interrupted. Yours, &c.

No. IX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

(Auld Rob Morris, p. 192.) (Duncan Gray, p. 199.)

4th December, 1792.

THE foregoing I submit, my dear Sir, to your better judgment. Acquit them or condema 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.

No. X.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON

(Poortith Cauld, p. 222.) (Galla Water, p. 201.)

January 1793.

Many returns of the season to you, my dear Sir. How comes on your publication? will these two foregoing be of any service to you? I should like to know what songs you print to each tone, besides the verses to which it is set. In short, I would wish to give you my opinion on all the poetry you publish. You know it is my trade, and a man in the way of his trade may suggest useful hints, that escape men o' much superior parts and endowments in other things.

If you meet with my dear and much valued C. greet him in my name, with the compliments of the season.

Yours, &c.

No XI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET,

WITH A POSTSCRIPT FROM THE HON. A. ERSKING.

Edinburgh, January 20th, 1793. You make me happy, my dear Sir, and thou-

sands will be happy to see the charmings songs you have sent me. Many merry returns of the season to you, and may you long continue among the sons and daughters of Caledonia, to delight them, and to honour yourself.

me, viz. Auld R.b Morris, Duncan Gray, from him, being for the fine air "Lord Gre-Galla Water, and Cauld Kail, are admirable. Duncan is indeed a lad of grace, and his humour are taken from the middle of an old ballad, callwill endear him to every body.

The distracted lover in Auld Rob, and the cappy shepherdess in Galla Water, exhibit an creditor of yours. Many of the Jacobite songs excellent contrast; they speak from genuine are replete with wit and humour; might not feeling, and powerfully touch the heart.

The number of songs which I had originally in view was limited, but I now resolve to include every Scotch air and song worth singing, leaving none behind but mere gleanings, to which the publishers of or vegatherum are I would rather be the editor of a collection from which nothing could be taken away, than of one to which nothing could be added. We intend presenting the subscribers with two beautiful stroke engravings; the one characteristic of the plaintive, and the other of the lively songs; and I have Dr. Beattie's promi-e of an essay upon the subject of our national music, if his health will permit him to write it. As a number of our songs have doubtless been called forth by particular events, or by the charms of peerless damsels, there must be many curious anecdotes relating to them.

The late Mr. Tytler of Woodhouselee, I believe, knew more of this than any body, for he joined to the pursuits of an antiquary, a taste for poetry, besides being a man of the world, and possessing an enthusiasm for music beyond most of his contemporaries. He was quite pleased with this plan of mine, for I may say, it has been solely managed by me, and we had several long conversations about it, when it was in embryo. If I could simply mention the name of the heroine of each song, and the incident which occasioned the verses, it would be gratifying. Pray, will you send me any information of this sort, as well with regard to your own songs, as the old ones?

To all the favourite songs of the plaintive or pastoral kind, will be joined the delicate accompaniments, &c. of Pleyel. To those of the comie or humorous class, I think accompaniments scarcely necessary; they are chiefly fitted for the conviviality of the festive board, and a tunepropose adding has accompaniments, because ecdotes, &c. of our Scots songs. than one set of ver-es

ting for the airs I sent to him, because of the Scotch muse. peculiarity of their measure, and the trammels

The foar last songs with which you favoured for your perusal the only one I have yet got gory." The Scots verses printed with that air, ed, The Lass of Lochroyan, which I do not admire. I have set down the air therefore as a the best of these be included in our volume of comic songs?

POSTSCRIPT.

FROM THE HON. A. ERSKINE.

Mr. Thomson has been so obliging as to give me a perusal of your songs. Highland Mary is most enchantingly pathetic, and Duncan Gray possesses native genuine humour: " spak o' lowpin o'er a linn," is a line of itself that should make you immortal. I sometimes hear of you from our mutual friend C., who is a most excellent fellow, and possesses, above all men I know, the charm of a most obliging disposition. You kindly promised me, about a year ago, a collection of your unpublished productions, religious and amorous; I know from experience how irksome it is to copy. If you will get any trusty person in Dumfcies to write them over fair, I will give Peter Hill whatever money ne asks for his trouble; and I certainly shall not betray your confidence.

I am your hearty admirer, ANDREW ERSKINE.

No. XII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON,

26th January, 1793.

I APPROVE greatly, my dear Sir, of your plans, Dr. Beattie's Essay will of itself be a treasure. ful voice, with a proper delivery of the words, On my part, I mean to draw up an appendix to renders them perfect. Nevertheless, to these I the Dector's Essay, containing my stock of anthen they are fitted either for singing, or for in- Mr. Tytler's aneedotes I have by me, taken stromental performance, when there happens to down in the course of my acquaintance with be no singer. I mean to employ our right him from his own mouth. I am such an entrusty friend Mr Clarke to set the bass to these, thusiast, that in the course of my several pere-which he assures me he will do, com amore, and grinations through Scotland. I made a pilgriwith much greater attention than he ever be- mage to the individual spot from which every stowed on any thing of the kind. But for this song took its rise, "Lochaber," and the "Braes last class of airs, I will not attempt to find more; of Ballenden," excepted. So far as the locality either from the title of the air, or the tenor of That eccentric bard Peter Pindar, has started the song, could be ascertained, I have paid my I know not how many difficulties, about wri- devotions at the particular shrine of every

I do not doubt but you might make a very bey impose on his flying Pegusus. I subjoin valuable collection of Jacobite songs-but would it give no offence? In the mean time, do not | think it very remarkable, either for its merits, you think that some of them, particularly "The or demerits. It is impossible (at least I feel it Sow's tail to Geordie," as an air, with other so in my stinted powers), to be always original, words, might be well worth a place in your entertaining, and witty.

collection of lively songs?

which the notes ought to be set. There is a cordingly; and I will not, cannot bear rivalship naivete, a pastoral simplicity, in a slight inter- from you, nor any body else, mixture of Scots words and phraseology, which is more in unison (at least to my taste, and I will add, to every genuine Calcdonian taste), with the simple pathos, or rustic sprightliness of our native music, than any English verses whatever.

The very name of Peter Pindar, is an acquisition to your work. His "Gregory" is beantiful. I have tried to give you a set of stanzas in Scots, on the same subject, which are at your service. Not that I intend to enter the lists with Peter; that would be presumption indeed. My song, though much inferior in poetic merit, has I think more of the ballad simplicity in it.

(Lord Gregory, p. 209.)

My most respectful compliments to the honourable gentleman who favoured me with a postscript in your last. He shall hear from me and receive his MSS, soon.

No. XIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

(Mary Morison, p. 211.)

MY DEAR SIR, 20th March, 1793. THE song prefixed is one of my juverile works. I leave it in your hands.

. The song of Dr. Walcott on the same subject is as follows:

An ope, Lord Gregory, thy door, A midnight wanderer sighs; Hard rush the raits, the tempests roar, And lightnings cleave the skies.

Who comes with woe at this drear night— A pilgrim of the gloom? If she whose leve did once delight, My cot shall yield her room,

Alas! thou heard'st a pilgrim mourn, That once was priz'd by thee: Think of the ring by yonder burn Thou gav'st to love and me,

But should'st thou not poor Marian know, I'll turn my feet and part;
And think the storms that round me blow. Far kinder than thy heart.

It is but doing justice to Dr. Walcott to mention, that his song is the original Mr. Burns saw it, liked it, and immediately wrote the other on the same subject, which is derived from an old Scottish ballad of treertain origin.

What is become of the list, &c. of your songs? If it were possible to procure songs of merit, I shall be out of all temper with you by and by it would be proper to have one set of Scots I have always looked on myself as the prince of words to every air, and that the set of words to

No. XIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Wandering Willie, p. 240.)

March, 1793.

I leave it to you, my dear Sir, to determine whether the above, or the old "Through the lang Muir," be the best.

No. XV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Open the Door to Me, O, p. 219.

I do not know whether this song be really mended.

No. XVI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(True-hearted was he, p. 240.)

No. XVII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, 2d April, 1795. I with not recognise the title you give your self, "the prince of indolent correspondents;" but if the adjective were taken away, I think the title would then fit you exactly. It gives me pleasure to find you can furnish anecdotes with respect to most of the songs; these will be a literary curiosity.

I now send you my list of the songs, which I believe will be found nearly complete. I have put down the first lines of all the English songs, which I propose giving in addition to the Scotch verses. If any others occur to you, better adapted to the character of the airs pray mention

upon every thing else relating to the work.

songs, with his symphonies and accompaniments divine air. I shall try to make, or mend. For I wish you were here, that I might serve up some of them to you with your own verses, by way of dessert after dinner. There is so much delightful fancy in the symphonies, and such a delicate simplicity in the accompaniments: they are indeed beyond all praise.

I am very much pleased with the several last productions of your muse: your Lord Gregory, in my estimation, is more interesting than Peter's, beautiful as his is! Your Here Awa Willie must undergo some alterations to suit the air. Mr. Erskine and I have been conning it over: he will suggest what is necessary to

make them a fit match.

The gentleman I have mentioned, whose fine taste you are no stranger to, is so well pleased both with the musical and poetical part of our work, that he has volunteered his assistance, and has already written four songs for it, which, by his own desire, I send for your perusal.

No. XVIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

(The Soldier's Return, p. 235.) (Meg o' the Mill. p. 211.)

No. XIX.

THL FOET TO MR. THOMSON.

7th April, 1793.

THANK you, my dear Sir, for your packet. You cannot imagine how much this business of composing for your publication has added to my enjoyments. What with my early attachment to ballads, your book, &c. ballad-making is now as completely my hobby-horse, as ever fortification was Uncle Toby's; so I'll e'en canter it away till I come to the limit of my race, (God grant that I may take the right side of the winning-post!) and then cheerfully looking back on the honest folks with whom I have been happy, I shall say, or sing, " Sae merry as we a hae been!" and raising my last looks to the whole human race, the last words of the voice of Coila shall be "Good night and joy be wi' you a'!" So much for my last words: now for a few present remarks, as they have occurred at random, on looking over your list.

The first lines of The last time I came o'er

them, when you favour me with your strictures the moor, and several other lines in it, are beantiful: but in my opinion-pardon me, revered Pleyel has lately sent me a number of the shade of Ramsay! the song is unworthy of the ever, Fortune wilt thou prove, is a charming song ; but Logan burn and Logan braes, are sweetly susceptible of rural imagery: I'll try that likewise, and if I succeed, the other song may class among the English ones. I remember the two last last lines of a verse in some of the old songs of Logan water, (for I know a good many different ones) which I think pretty :

> " Now my dear lad maun face his faes, Far, far frae me and Logan braes.

My Patie is a lover gay, is unequal. "His mind is never muddy," is a muddy expression indeed.

Then I'll resign and marry Pate, And syne my cockernony.

This is surely far unworthy of Ramsay, or your book. My song, Rigs of barley, to the same tune, does not altogether please me; but it I can mend it, and thrash a few loose sentiments out of it, I will submit it to your consideration. The lass o' Putie's mill is one of Ramsay's best songs; but there is one loose sentiment in it, which my much-valued friend, Mr. Erskine, will take into his critical consideration. In Sir J. Sinclair's Statistical volumes are two claims, one, I think, from Aberdeenshiie, and the other from Ayrshire, for the honour of this song. The following anecdote, which I had from the present Sir William Cunningham, of Robertland, who had it of the late John Earl of Loudon, I can on such authorities believe.

Allan Ramsay was residing at London Castle with the then Earl, father to Earl John; and one forenoon, riding, or walking out together, his Lordship and Allan passed a sweet romantic spot on Irvine water, still called " Patie's Mill," where a bonnie lass was "tedding hay, bareheaded on the green." My Lord observed to Allan, that it would be a fine theme for a Ramsay took the hint, and lingering behind, he composed the first sketch of 't, which

he produced at dinner.

One day I heard I fary say, Is a fine song; but for consistency's sake alter the name " Adonis." Was there ever such banns published, as a purpose of marriage between Adonis and Mary? I agree with you that my song, There's nought but eare on every hand, is much superior to Poortith could. The original song, The mill, mill O, though excellent, is, on account of delicacy, inadmissible; still I like the title, and think a Scottish song would suit the notes best; and let your chosen song, which is very pretty, follow, as an English set. The banks of the Dee is, you know, literally Langolee to slow time. The song is well enough, but has some false imagery it it : for instance,

The gentleman alluded to was Mr. Andrew Ers-kine. The poet a lopted part of the alterations, and rejected the rest.

In the first place, the nightingale sings in a ow hush, but never from a tree; and in the second place, there never was a nightingale seen or heard on the hanks of the Dee, or on the Sanks of any other river in Scotland. Exotic rural imagery is always comparatively flat. If I could hit on another stanza equal to The small birds rejoice, &c. 1 do myself honestly avow that I think it a superior song. John Anderson my jo-the song to this tone in Johnson's Museum, is my composition, and I think it not my worst : If it suit you, take it and welcome. Your collection of sentimental and pathetic songs, is, in my opinion, very complete; but not so your comic ones. Where are Tullochgorum, Lumps o' puddin, Tibbic Fowler, and several others, which, in my humble judgment, are well worthy of preservation? There is also one sentimeotal song of mine in the Museum, which never was known out of the immediate neighbourhood, until I got it taken down from a country girl's singing. It is called Craigieburn wood; and in the opinion of Mr. Clarke, is one of our sweetest Scottish songs. He is quite an enthusiast about it; and I would take his taste in Scottish music against the taste of most connoisseurs.

You are quite right in inserting the last five in your list, though they are certainly Irish. Shepherds I have lost my love, is to me a heaverily air-what would you think of a set of Scottish verses to it? I have made one to it a good while ago, which I think

. . but in its original state is not quite a I enclose an altered, not amendtady's song ed copy for you, if you choose to set the tune to it, and let the Irish verses follow.

Mr. Erskine's songs are all pretty, but his Lone vale is divine. Yours, &c.

Let me know just how you like these random

No. XX.

MR, THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, April, 1793. I REJOICE to find, my dear Sir, that balladmaking continues to be your hobby-horse. Great pity 'twould he were it otherwise. hope you will amble it away for many a year, and "witch the world with your horseman-

I know there are a good many lively songs f merit that I have not put down in the list on you; but I have them all in my eye. My are is a lover gay, though a little unequal, is natural and very pleasing song, and I humbly Mr. Borns refers to severa, of these observations. of merit that I have not put down in the list sent you; but I have them all in my eye. My Patie is a lover gay, though a little unequal, is

And sweetly the nightingale sung from the ithink we ought not to displace or alter it, ex cept the last stanga."

No. XXI.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

April, 1793.

I HAVE yours, my dear Sir, this moment. 1 shall answer it and your former letter, in my desultory way of saying whatever comes upper-

The business of many of our tunes wanting at the beginning what fiddlers call a startingnote, is often a rub to us poor rhymers.

"There's braw, braw lads on Yarrow brace, That wander thro' the blooming heather '

You may alter to

" Braw, braw lads on Yarrow braes, Ye wander," &e.

My song, Here awa, there awa, as amended by Mr. Erskine, I entirely approve of, and return you.

Give me leave to criticise your taste in the only thing in which it is in my opinion repre You know I ought to know somehensible. thing of my own trade. Of pathos, sentiment, and point, you are a complete judge; but there is a quality more necessary than either, in a song, and which is the very essence of a ballad, I mean simplicity: now, if I mistake not, this last feature you are a little apt to sacrifice to the foregoing.

Ramsay, as every other poet, has not been always equally happy in his pieces: still I cannot approve of taking such liberties with an author as Mr. W. proposes doing with The last time I came o'er the Moor. Let a poet, if he chooses, take up the idea of another, and work it into a piece of his own; but to mangle the works of the poor bard, whose tuneful tongue is now mute for ever, in the dark and narrow house-by Heaven 'twould be sacrilege! I grant that Mr. W's version is an improvement; but I know Mr. W. well, and esteem him much ; let him mend the soog, as the Highlander mended his gun :- he gave it a new stock, and a new lock, and a new birrel.

I do not, by this, object to leaving out improper stanzas, where that can be done without spoiling the whole. One stanza in The lass o' Patie's mill, must be left out: the song will be nothing worse for it. I am not sure if we

BURNS' WORKS.

can take the same liberty with Corn rigs are bonnie. Perhaps it might want the last stanza, and be the better for it. Cauld kail in Aberdeen, you must leave with me yet a while. have vowed to have a song to that air, on the lady whom I attempted to celebrate in the verses, Poortith could and restless love. At any rate, my other song, Green grow the rashes, will never suit. That song is current in Scotland under the old title, and to the merry old tune of that name; which of course would mar the progress of your song to celebrity. Your book will be the standard of Scots songs for the future : let this idea ever keep your judgment on the alarm.

I send a song, on a celebrated toast in this country, to suit Bonnie Dundee. I send you

also a ballad to the Mill, mill O. The last time I came o'er the moor, I would fain attempt to make a Scots song for, and let Ramsay's be the English set. You shall hear from me soon. When you go to London on this business, can you come by Dumfries? have still several MS. Scots airs by me which country lasses. They please me vastly; but your learned lugs would perhaps be displeased with the very feature for which I like them. I call them simple; you would pronounce them silly. Do you know a fine air called Jackie Hume's lament? I have a song of considerable merit to that air. I'll enclose you both the song and tune, as I had them ready to send to Johnson's Museum. I send you likewise, to me, a beautiful little air, which I had taken down from viva voce.

Adien!

No. XXII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

April, 1793. MY DEAR SIR, I HAD searcely put my last letter into the post-office, when I took up the subject of The last time I came o'er the moor, and ere I slept drew the outlines of the foregoing. How far I have succeeded, I leave on this, as on every other occasion, to you to decide. I own my vanity is flattered, when you give my songs a place in your elegant and superb work; but to I have often told you. I do not in a single instance wish you, out of compliment to me, to insert any thing of mine. One hint let me give you-whatever Mr. Pleyel does, let him not aler one iota of the original Scottish airs; I mean, in the song department; but let our national music preserve its native features. They are, own, frequently wild and irreducible to the more modern rules; but on that very eccentri-

city, perhaps, depends a great part of their ef

No. XXIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, 26th April, 1793. I HEARTILY thank you, my dear Sir, for your last two letters, and the songs which accompanied them. I am always both instructed in. entertained by your observations; and the frank ness with which you speak out your mind, is t: me highly agreeable. It is very possible I may not have the true idea of sunplicity in composi tion. I confess there are se cral songs of Allan Ramsay's, for example, that I think sifly enough which another person, more conversant than have been with country people, would perhaps call simple and natural. But the lowest scenes of simple nature will not please generally, if copied precisely as they are. The poet, like the painter, must select what will form an agreeable as well as a natural picture. On this subject it were easy to enlarge; but at present suffice it to say, that I consider simplicity, rightly understood, as a most essential quality in composition, I have picked up, mostly from the singing of and the ground-work of heauty in all the arts. I will gladly appropriate your most interesting new ballad, When wild war's deadly blast, &c. to the Mill, mill, O, as well as the two other songs to their respective airs; but the third and fourth line of the first verse must undergo some little alteration in order to suit the music. Pleyel does not alter a single note of the songs. That would be absurd indeed! With the airs which he introduces into the sonatas, I allow him to take such liberties as he pleases; but that has nothing to do with the songs,

> P. S .- I wish you would do as you proposed with your Rigs o' barley. If the loose sentiments are thrushed out of it, I will find an air for it; but as to this there is no hurry.

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No. XXIV.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

June, 1793.

WHEN I tell you, my dear Sir, that a friend of mine, in whom I am much interested, has be of service to the work is my first wish. As fallen a sacrifice to these accursed times, you will easily allow that it might unhinge me for doing any good among ballads. My own loss, as to pecuniary matters, is trifling; but the total ruin of a much-loved friend, is a loss indeed, Pardon my seeming inattention to your last commands.

I cannot alter the disputed lines in the Mill, mill, O. What you think a defect I esteem as a positive beauty: so you see how doctors differ. I shall now, with as much alacrity as can muster, go on with your commands,

CORRESPONDENCE.

You know Fraser, the hautboy player in! Edinburgh-he is here instructing a band of quite, so far as I know, original. It is too music for a fencible corps quartered in this short for a song, else I would for-wear you alcountry. Among many of his airs that please me, there is one well known as a reel by the name of The Quaker's Wife; and which I remember a grand aunt of mine used to sing, by the name of Liggeram cosh, my bonny wee lass. Mr. Fraser plays it slow, and with an expression that quite charms me. I became such an enthusiast about it, that I made a song for it, which I here subjoin; and enclose Fraser's set of the tune. If they hit your fancy, they are his best thoughts for a concluding stroke. at your service; if not, return me the tune, and I will put it in Johnson's Museum. I t link the song is not in my worst manner.

(Blythe hae I been on you Hill, p. 193.)

I should wish to hear how this pleases you.

No. XXV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

25th June, 1793.

HAVE you ever, my dear Sir, felt your bosom ready to burst with indignation on reading or those mighty villains who divide kingdom against kingdom, desolate provinces, and lay nations waste out of the wantonness of ambition, or often from still more ignoble passions? In a mood of this kind to-day, I recollected the air of Logan water; and it occurred to me that its querulous melody probably had its origin from the plaintive indignation of some swelling, suffering heart, fired at the tyrannic strides of some public destroyer; and overwhelmed with private distress, the consequence of a country's ruin. If I have done any thing at all like justice to my feelings, the following song, composed in three quarters of an hour's meditation in my elbow chair, ought to have some merit.

(Logan Braes, p. 209.)

Do you know the following beautiful little fragment in Witherspoon's Collection of Scots Songs?

Tune-" Hughie Graham,"

- " O gin my love were you 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 heauty a' the night;
- Seal'd on her slik-sait faulds to rest.
 - " Till fley'd awa by Pnœbus' light."

This thought is inexpressibly bea. tiful; and together, unless you gave it a place. often tried to eke a stanza to it, but in vain. After balancing myself for a musing five minutes on the hind-legs of my elbow chair, I produced the following.

The verses are far inferior to the foregoing, I frankly confess; but if worthy of insertion at all, they might be first in place; as every poet, who knows any thing of his trade, will husband

O were my love you 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 renew'd.

No. XXVI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Monday, 1st July, 1793 I am extremely sorry, my good Sir, that any thing should happen to unhinge you. The times are terribly out of tune, and when harmony will

be restored, heaven knows. The first book of songs, just published, will be despatched to you along with this. Let me be favoured with your opinion of it frankly and freely.

I shall certainly give a place to the song you have written for the Quaker's wife; it is qui'e enchanting. Pray, wall you return the list of songs, with such airs added to it as you think ought to be included. The business now rests entirely on myself, the gentleman who originally agreed to join the speculation having requested to be off. No matter; a loser I cannot be. The superior excellence of the work will create a general demand for it, as soon as it is properly known. And were the sale even slowe than it promises to be, I should be somewhat compensated for my labour, by the pleasure I shall receive from the music. I cannot express how much I am obliged to you for the exquisite new songs you are sending me; but thanks, my friend, are a poor return for what you have done : as I shall be benefited by the publication, you must suffer me to enclose a small mark of my gratitude", and to repert it afterwards when I find it convenient. Do not return it, for, by heaven, if you do, our correspondence is at an end: and though this would be no loss to you, it would mar the publication,

which, under your auspices, cannot fail to be respectable and interesting.

dense of mind will, I trust, long outlive any of
spectable and interesting.

Wednesday Morning.

I thank you for your delicate additional verses to the old fragment, and for your excellent song to Logan water: Thomson's truly elegant one will follow for the English singer. Your apostrophe to statesmen is admirable. You not sure if it is quite suitable to the supposed gentle character of the fair mourner who speaks it.

No. XXVII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

MY DEAR SIR, July 2, 1793.

I MAVE just finished the following ballad, and at I do think it in my best style, I send it you. Mr. Clarke, who wrote down the air from Mrs. Burns' wood-note wild, is very fond of it; and has given it a celebrity by teaching it to some young ladies of the first fashion here. If you do not like the air enough to give it a place in your collection, please return it. The song you may keep, as I remember it.

(Bonnie Jean, p. 194.)

I have some thoughts of inserting in your index, or in my notes, the names of the fair ones, the themes of my songs. I do not mean the name at full; but dashes or asterisms, so as ingenuity may find them out.

The heroine of the foregoing is Miss M. daughter to Mr. M. of D., one of your subscribers. I have not painted her in the rank which she holds in life, but in the dress and character of a cottager.

No. XXVIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

July, 1793.

I Assure you, my dear Sir, that you truly hurt me with your pecuniary pareel. It degrades me in my own eyes. However, to return it would savour of affectation; but as to any more traffic of that debtor and creditor kind, I swear by that Honoux which crowns the upright statue of Robert Burns' Interestry—on the least motion of it, I will indignantly spurn the by-past transaction, and from that moment commence entire stranger to you! Burns' effect for gener sity of sontiment and independent

dence of mind will, I trust, long outlive any of his wants, which the cold unfeeling ore can supply: at least, I will take care that such a character he shall deserve.

Thank you for my copy of your publication. Never did my eyes behold, in any musical work, such elegance and correctness. Your preface, too, is admirably written; only, your partiality to me has made you say too much; however, it will bind me down to double every effort in the future progress of the work. The following are a few remarks on the songs in the list you sent me. I never copy what I write to you, so I may be often tautological, or perhaps contradictory.

The flowers of the forest is charming as a poem; and should be, and must be, set to the notes; but, though out of your rule, the three stanzas, beginning,

" I hae seen the smiling o' fortune beguiling,"

are worthy of a place, were it but to immortalize the author of them, who is an old lady of my acquaintance, and at this moment living in Edinburgh. She is a Mrs. Cockburn: I forget of what place; but from Roxburghshire. What a charming apostrophe is

" O fickle fortune, why this cruel sporting, Why, why torment us—poor sons of a day!"

The old ballad, I wish I were where Helen lics, is silly, to contemptibility. My alteration of it, in Johnson's, is not much hetter. Mr. Pinkerton, ia his, what he calls, Ancient Ballads (many of them notorious, though beautiful enough forgeries) has the best set. It is foll of his own interpolations—but no matter.

In my next, I will suggest to your consideration, a few songs which may have escaped your hurried notice. In the mentime, allow me to congratulate you now, as a brother of the quill. You have committed your character and fame; which will now be tried, for ages to come, by the illustrious jury of the Sons and DAUGHTERS of TASTE—all whom poesy can please, or music charm.

Being a hard of nature, I have some pretension to second sight; and I am warranted by the spirit to foretel and affirm, that your greatgrandchild will hold up your volumes, and say, with honest pride, "This so much admired selection was the work of my ancestor."

[•] There is a copy of this ballad given in the account of the parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleming, (which contains the tomb of Fair Helen Irvine,) in the satistics of Sir John Sinelair, Vol. XIII. p. 275, to whice this character is certainly not applicable.

No. XXIX.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, 1st August, 1793. I HAD the pleasure of receiving your last two

etters, and am happy to find you are quite pleased with the appearance of the first book. When you come to hear the songs sung and accompanied, you will be charmed with them.

The bonnie brucket Lassie, certainly deserves better verses, and I hope you will match her-Cauld kail in Aberdeen, Let me in this ae night, and several of the livelier airs, wait the muse's leisure: these are peculiarly worthy of her choice gifts: besides, you'll notice that in airs of this sort, the singer can always do greater justice to the poet, than in the slower airs of The Bush aboon Traquair, Lord Gregory, and the like; for in the manner the latter are frequently sung, you must be contented with the sound, without the sense. Indeed both the airs and words are disguised by the very slow, languid, psalin-singing style in which they are too often performed: they lose animation and expression altogether, and instead of speaking to the mind, or touching the heart, they cloy upon the ear, and set us a yawn-

Your ballad, There was a lass and she was fair, is simple and beautiful, and shall undoubtedly grace my collection.

No. XXX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

MY DEAR THOMSON, August, 1793.

I noun the pen for our friend Clarke, who at present is studying the music of the spheres at my elbow. The Georgium Sidus he thinks is rather out of tune; so until he rectify that matter, he cannot stoop to terrestrial affairs.

He sends you six of the Rondeau subjects, and if more are wanted, he says you shall have bem.

> Confound your long stairs! S. CLARKE.

No. XXXI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

August, 1793.

Your objection, my dear sir, to the passages in my song of Logan Water, is right in one inI will. The other passage you object to does not appear in the same light to me.

I have tried my hand on Robin Adair, and you will probably think, with little success; but it is such a cursed, cramp, out of the way measure, that I despair of doing any thing better to it.

(Phillis the fair, p. 222.)

So much for namby-pamby. I may, after all, try my hand on it in Scots verse. There I always find myself most at home.

I have just put the last hand to the song I meant for Cauld Kail in Aberdeen. If it suits you to insert it, I shall be pleased, as the heroine is a favourite of mine: if not, I shall also be pleased; because I wish, and will be glad, to see you act decidedly on the business. a tribute as a man of taste, and as an editor which you owe yourself.

No. XXXII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY GOOD SIR, August, 1793. I CONSIDER it one of the most agreeable cir-

cumstances attending this publication of mine, that it has procured me so many of your much valued epistles. Pray make my acknowledgments to St. Stephen for the tunes; tell him I admit the justness of his complaint on my staircase, conveyed in his laconic postscript to your jeu d'esprit; which I perused more than once, without discovering exactly whether your discussion was music, astronomy, or politics; though a sagacious friend, acquainted with the convivial habits of the poet and the musician, offered me a bet of two to one, you were just drowning care together; that an empty bowl was the only thing that would deeply affect you, and the only matter you could then study how to remedy!

I shall be glad to see you give Robin Adair a Scottish dress. Peter is furnishing him with an English suit for a change, and you are well matched together. Robin's air is excellent, though he certainly has an out of the way measure as ever poor Parnassian wight was plagned with. I wish you would invoke the muse for a single elegant stanza to be substituted for the concluding objectionable verses of Down the burn Davie, so that this most exquisite song may no longer be excluded from good company.

Mr. Allan has made an inimitable drawing from your John Anderson my Jo, which I am to have engraved, as a frontispiece to the humorous class of songs; you will be quite charmed with it, I promise you. The old comple are stance; but it is difficult to mend it: If I can, seated by the fireside. Mrs. Anderson, in great

while he smiles and looks at her with such glee, as to show that he fully recollects the pleasant days and nights when they were first acquent. The drawing would do honour to the pencil of Teniers.

No. XXXIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

August, 1793.

THAT crinkum-crankum tune, Robin Adair, as run so in my head, and I succeeded so ill in my last attempt, that I have ventured, in this morning's walk, one essay more. You, niy dear Sir, will remember an unfortunate part of our worthy friend C.'s story, which happened about three years ago. That struck my fancy, and I endeavoured to do the idea justice, as follows.

(Had I a cave, p. 203.)

By the way, I have met with a musical Highlander, in Breadalbane's fencibles, which are quartered here, who assures me that he well remembers his mother's singing Gaelic songs to both Robin Adair and Gramachree. certainly have more of the Scotch than Irish taste in them.

This man comes from the vicinity of Inverness; so it could not be any intercourse with Ireland that could bring them ;-except, what I shrewdly suspect to be the case, the wandering minstrels, harpers, and pipers, used to go frequently errant through the wilds both of Scotland and Ireland, and so some favourite airs might be common to both .- A case in point-They have lately, in Ireland, published an Irish air, as they say, called Caun du delish. The fact is, in a publication of Corri's, a great while ago, you will find the same air, called a Highland one, with a Gaelic song set to it. name there, I think, is Oran Guoil, and a fine air it is. Do ask honest Allan, or the Rev. Gaelic parson, about these matters.

No. XXXIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

August, 1793. Let me in this ae night, I will recorsider. I am glad you are pleased with my song, Had I a cave, &c. as I liked it myself.

I walked out yesterday evening with a vosume of the Museum in my hand; when, turn- hear from me, the very first grist I get from ing up Allan Water, "What numbers shall my thyming mill.

good humour, is clapping John's shoulders, the muse repeat," &6 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 Tea-table, where the modern song first appeared, the ancient name of the tune, Allan says, is Allan Water, or, My love Annie's very bonnie. last has certainly been a line of the origina. 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 t'.e cut of your fancy.

> (By Allan streams I chanced to rove, While Phabus sank beyond Benleddi, p. 190 1

> Bravo! say I; it is a good song. Should you think so too, (not else) you can set the music to it, and let the other follow as English

> Autumn is my propitious season. I make more verses in it than in all the year else. God bless you!

No. XXXV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

August, 1793.

Is Whistle and I'll come to you, my lud, one of your airs? I admire it much; and yesterday I set the following verses to it. Urbani, whom I met with here, begged them of me, as he admires the air much; but as I understand that he looks with rather an evil eye on your work, I did not choose to comply. However, if the song does not suit your taste, I may possibly send it him. The set of the air which I had in my eye, is in Johnson's Museum.

(O whistle and I'll come to you, my lad, p. 242.)

Another favourite air of mine is, The muckin o' Geordie's byre. When sung slow, with expression, I have wished that it had had better poetry : that I have endeavoured to supply, at tollows :-

(Phillis the Fair, p. 222.)

Mr. Clarke begs you to give Miss Phillis a corner in your book, as she is a particular flair e of his. She is a Miss P. M., sister to bonnie Jean. They are both pupils of his. You shall

our island.

No. XXXVI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

August, 1793. THAT tune, Cauld Kail, is such a favourite of yours, that I once more roved out yesterday for a gloamin-shot at the muses; when the muse that presides o'er the shores of Nith, or rather my old inspiring dearest nymph Coila, whispered me the following. I have two reasons for thinking that it was my early, sweet, simple inspirer that was by my elbow, "smooth giding without step," and pouring the song on my glowing fancy. In the first place, since I left Coila's native haunts, not a fragment of a poet has arisen to cheer her solitary musings, by catching inspiration from her; so I more than suspect that she has followed me hither, or at least makes me occasional visits; secondly, the last stanza of this song I send you in the very words that Coila taught me many years ago, and which I set to an old Scots reel in Johnson's Museum.

(Come let me take thee to my breast, p. 197.)

If you think the above will suit your idea of your favourite air, I shall be highly pleased. The last time I came o'r the Mon, I cannot medde with, as to mending it: and the musical world have been so long accustomed to Ramsay's words, that a different song, though positively superior, would not be so well received. I an not fond of choruses to songs, so I have no xade one for the foregoing.

No. XXXVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Dainty Davie, p. 198.)

August, 1793.

So much for Davie. The chorus, you know, s to the low part of the tune. See Clarke's set of it in the Museum.

N. B. In the Museum they have drawled out the time to twelve lines of poetry, which is ——nonsense. Four lines of song, and four of chorus, is the way.

No. XXXVIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 1st Sept. 1793. Since writing you last, I have received half a dozen songs, with which I am delighted beyond expression. The humour and fancy of Whistle and I'll come to you, my lad, will render it nearly as great a favourite as Duncan Gray. Come let me take thee to my breast, Adown winding Nith, and By Allan stream, &c. are full of imagination and feeling, and sweetly suit the airs for which they are intended. Had 1 a cave on some wild distant shore, is a striking and affecting composition. Our friend, to whose story it refers, read it with a swelling heart, I assure you. The union we are now forming, I think, can never be broken; these songs of yours will descend with the music to the latest posterity, and will be fondly cherished so long as genius, taste, and sensibility exist in

While the muse seems so propitious, I think it right to enclose a list of all the favours I have to ask of her, no fewer than twenty and three! I have burdened the pleasant Peter with as many as it is probable he will attend to: most of the remaining airs would puzzle the English poet not a little; they are of that peculiar measure and rhytlm, that they must be familiar to him who writes for them.

No. XXXIX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

Sept. 1793.

You may readily trust, my dear \$ir, tnat any exertion in my power is heartily at your service. But one thing I must hint to you; the very name of Peter Pindar is of great service to your publication, so get a verse from him now and then; though I have no objection, as well as I can, to bear the burden of the business.

You know that my pretensions to musical taste are merely a few of nature's instincts, untaught and untutored by art. For this reason. many musical compositions, particularly where much of the merit lies in counterpoint; however they may transport and ravish the cars of you connissears, affect my simple lug no otherwise than merely as melodious din. On the other hand, by way of amends, I am delighted with many little melodies, which the learned musician despises as silly and insipid. I de not know whether the old air Hey tuttie taitie may rank among this number; but well I know that, with Fraser's hauthoy, it has often filled my eyes with tears. There is a tradition, which I have met with in many places of Scotland, that it was Robert Bruce's march at the battle

Gloamin—twilight, properly from glooming. A feasitful po treal word which ought to be adopted in England. A gloamin-shot, a twilight interview.

of Bannockburn. This thought, in my solitary greatest modesty is the sure attendant of the wanderings, warmed me to a pitch of enthusiasm on the theme of Liberty and Independence, which I threw into a kind of Scorrish you speak of them as if they were ordinary proode, fitted to the air that one might suppose to ductions! Your heroic ode is to me the noblest be the gallant ROYAL Scor's address to his heroic followers on that eventful morning

(Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled, p. 195.)

So may God ever defend the cause of Truth and Liberty, as he did that day !-- Amen.

P. S.—I showed the air to Urbani, who was highly pleased with it, and begged me to make soft verses for it; but I had no idea of giving myself any trouble on the subject, till the accidental recollection of that glorious struggle for freedom, associated with the glowing ideas of some other struggles of the same nature, not quite so ancient, roused my rhyming mania. Clarke's set of the tune, with his bass, you will find in the Museum; though I am afraid that the air is not what will entitle it to a place in your elegant selection

No. XL.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Sept. 1793.

I dare say, my dear S'r, that you will begin to think my correspondence is persecution. No matter, I can't help it; a ballad is my hobby-horse; which, though otherwise a simple sort of harmless, idiotical beast enough, has yet this blessed headstrong property, that when once it has fairly made off with a hapless wight, it gets so enamoured with the tinkle-gingle, tinkle-gingle of its own belis, that it is sure to run poor pilgarlick, the bedlam jockey, quite he-yond any useful point or post in the common race of man.

The following song I have compused for Oran-guoil, the Highland air that, you tell me in your last, you have resolved to give a place to in your book. I have this moment finished the song; so you have it glowing from the mint. It it suit you, well! if not, 'tis also well!

Behold the hour the boat arrives, p. 193.)

No. XLI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, 5th Sept. 1793.

1 BELIEVE it is generally allowed that the

greatest modesty is the sure attendant of the greatest merit. While you are sending me verset that even Shakspeare might be proud to own you speak of them as if they were ordinary productions! Your heroic ode is to me the noblest composition of the kind in the Scottish language. I happened to dine yesterday with a party of your friends, to whom I read it. They were all charmfed with it, entreated me to find out a suitable air for it, and reprobated the idea of giving it a tune so totally devoid of interest or grandeur as Hey tuttle taitle. Assuredly your partiality for this tune must arise from the ideas associated in your mind by the tradition concerning it, for I never heard any person,—and I have conversed again and again with the greatest enthusiasts for Scottish airs,—I say I never heard any one speak of it as worthy of notice.

I have been running over the whole hundred airs, of which I lately sent you the list; and I think Lewie Gordon is most happily adapted to your ode; at least with a very slight variation of the fourth line, which I shall presently submit to you. There is in Lewie Gordon more of the grand than the plaintive, particularly when it is sung with a degree of spirit. which your words would oblige the singer to give it. I would have no scruple about substituting your ode in the room of Lewie Gordon, which has neither the interest, the grandeur, nor the poetry that characterise your verses. Now, the variation I have to suggest upon the last line of each verse, the only line too short for the air, is as follows :-

Verse 1st, Or to glorious victorie.

2d, Chains-chains and slaverie.

3d, Let him, let him turn and flie.

4th, Let him bravely follow me.

5th, But they shall, they shall be free.

6th, Let us, let us do, or die!

If you connect each line with its own verse, I do n t think you will find that either the sentiment or the expression loses any of its energy. The only line which I dislike in the whole of the song is, "Welcome to your gory bed.' Would not another word be preferable to welcome? In your next I will expect to be in formed whether you agree to what I have proposed. These little alterations I submit with the greatest deference.

The beauty of the verses you have made for Oran-gaoil will insure celebrity to the air.

No. XLII.

THE FOET TO MR. THOMSON.

September, 1793.

I HAVE received your list, my dear Sir, and here go my observations on it.

Down the burn Davic. I have this moment tried an alteration, leaving out the last half of the third stanza, and the first half of the last stanza, thus:—

As down the burn they took their way, And thro' the flowery dale; His check 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." †

Thro' the wood laddie—I am decidedly of opinion, that both in this, and There'll never be peace till Jamie comes hame, the second or high part of the time being a repetition of the first part an octave higher, is only for instrumental music, and would be much better omitted in singing.

Cowden-knowes. Remember in your index that the sone in oure English to this tune, beginning

"When summer comes, the swains on Tweed,"

is the production of Crawford : Robert was his

Christian name. Laddie lie near me, must lie by me for some time. I do not know the air; and until I am complete master of a tune, in my own singing, (such as it is), I can never compose for it. 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 ont, sit down, and then look out for objects in nature around 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 verses 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 hind legs of my elbow-chair, by way of calling forth my own critical strictures, as my pen goes on. Seriously, this, at

What cursed egotism!

home, is almost invariably my way.

 Mr. Thomson's list of songs for his publication. In his remarks, the bard proceeds in order, and goes through the whole; but on many of them he merely signifies his approbation. All his remarks of any importance are piecetifed to the reader.

portained are presented to the reader.

1 This alteration Mr. Thomson has adopted, (or at least intended to adopt), instead of the last stanza of the original song, which is objectionable in point of deficiency.

Gill Morice I am for leaving out. Us a plaguey length; the air itself is never sung; and its place can well be supplied by one or two songs for fine airs that are not in your list. For instance, Craigieburn-wood and Roy's Fir. The first, beside its intrinsic merit, has novelty; and the last has high merit, as well as great celebrity. I have the original words of a song for the last air, in the hand-writing of the lady who composed it; and they are superror to any edition of the song which the public has yet seen.

Highland Laddie. The old set will please a mere Scotch ear best; and the new an Italianized one. There is a third, and what Oswald calls the old Highland Laddie, which pleases me more than either of them. It is sumetimes called Ginglan Johnnie; it being the air of an old lummons tawdry song of that name. You will find it in the Museum, I have been at Crookir-den, &c. I would advise you, in this musical quandary, to offer up your prayers to the muses for inspiring direction; and in the meantime, waiting for this direction, best a libation to Barchus; and there is not a doubt but you will hit on a judicious choice. Probatom est.

And Sir Simon, I must beg you to leave out, and put in its place, The Quaker's wife.

Blythe hae I been o'er the hill, is one of the finest songs ever I made in my life; and hesides, is composed on a young lady, positively the most beautiful, lovely woman in the world. As I purpose giving you the names and designations of all my heroines, to appear in some future edition of your work, perhaps half a century hence, you must certainly include the bonniest lass in a' the world in your collection.

Daintie Davie, I have heard sung, nineteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine times and always with the chorns to the low part of the time; and nothing has surprised me so much as your opinion on this subject. If it will not suit, as I propused, we will lay two of the stanzas together, and then make the chorus follow.

Fee him futher-I enclose you Fraser's set of this tune when he plays it slow; in fact, he makes it the language of despair. 1 shall here give you two stanzas in that style; merely to try if it will be any improvement. Were it possible, in singing, to give it half the pathos which Fraser gives it in playing, it would make an admirable pathetic song. I do not give these verses for any merit they have. I composed them at the time in which Patie Allan's mither died, that was about the back o' midnight; and by the leeside of a bowl of punch, which had overset every mortal in company, excepthe hautbois and the muse.

(Thou hast left me ever Jamie, p. 239.)

Joekie and Jenny I would diseard, and in its place would put There's nue luck about

he house, worch has a very pheasant air; and which is positively the finest love-ballad in that style in the Scottish, or perhaps in any other anguage. When she cam ben she bobbet, as an air, is more beautiful than exther, and in the andante way, would unite with a charming sentimental ballad.

Saw ye my fattler, is one of my greatest favourites. The evening before last, I wandered out, and began a tender song; in what I think is its native style. I must premise, that the old way, and the way to give most effect, is to have un starting note, as the fiddlers call it, but to burst at once into the pathos. Even country girl sings—Saw ye my father, &c.

My song is but just begun; and I should like, before I proceed, to know your opinion of it. I have sprinkled it with the Scottish diaect, but it may be easily turned into correct Linglish.—(p. 242.)

Tollin' home. Urbani mentioned an idea of his, which has long been mine; that this air is highly susceptible of pathos; accordingly, you will soon hear him, at your concert, try it to a song of mine in the Museum, Ye banks and braves o' bounte. Doon.—One song more and I have done: Auld long syne. The air is hit medicare; but the following song, the old song of the olden times, and which has

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.

(Auld lang syne, p. 191.)

Now, I suppose I have tired your patience fairly. You must, after all is over, have a number of ballads, properly so called. Gill Moriec, Tranent Muir, M. Pherson's Farewell, Battle of Sheriff-ninir, or We ran and they ran, (I know the author of this charming ballad, and his history), Hardyknute, Barbara Allan, (I can furnish a finer set of this tune than any thing that has yet appeared); and besides, do you know that I really have the old tune to which The Cherry and the Slae was sung; and which is mentioned as a well known air in Scotland's Complaint, a book published before poor Mary's days. It was then called The banks o' lielicon; an old poem which Pinker-You will see all this ton has brought to light. in Tytler's History of Scottish Music. The tune, to a learned ear, may have no great merit; but it is a great enriosity. I have a good many original things of this kind.

No. XI. II.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON

September, 1793.

I Am happy, my dear sir, that my ode pleaset you so much. Your idea, "henour's bed," is, though a beautiful, a hackneyed idea; so, if you please, we will let the line stand as it is. I have altered the song as follows:—

(Bannock-burn, p. 195.)

N. B.—I have borrowed the last stanza from the common stall edition of Wallace.

" A false usurper sinks in every foe,
And liberty returns with every blow."

A couplet worthy of Homer. Yesterday you had enough of my correspondence. The post goes, and my head aches miserably. One comfort; I suffer so much, just now, in this world, for last night's joviality, that I shall escape scotfree for it in the world to come. Amen

No. XLIV.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

12th September, 1793.

A THOUSAND thanks to you, my dear Sirf for your observations on the list of my songs. I am happy to find your ideas so much in unison with my own respecting the generality of the airs, as well as the verses. About some of them we differ, but there is no disputing about holby horses. I shall not fail to profit by the remarks you make; and to re-consider the whole with attention.

Daintie Davie must be sung, two stanzas together, and then the chorus - tis the proper way. I agree with you, that there may be something of pathos, or tenderness at least, in the air of Fce him, futher, when performed with feeling; but a tender cast may be given almost to any lively air, if you sing it very slow. ly, expressively, and with serious words. however, clearly and invariably for retaining the cheerful tunes joined to their own humorous verses, wherever the verses are passable. But the sweet song for Fee him, father, which you began about the back of midnight, I will publish as an additional one. Mr. James Baltour, the king of good fellows, and the best singer of the lively Scottish ballads that ever existed, has charmed thousands of companies with Fre him, father, and with Todlin hame also, to the old words, which never should be disanited from either of these airs. Some Bacchanals I would wish to diseard. Fy let us a' to the bridal, for instance, is so coarse and vulgar, that I think it fit only to be sung in a company of drunken col-

CORRESPONDENCE.

flers; and Saw ye my father appears to me [(Where are the joys I have met in the morning both indelicate and sally.

One word more with regard to your heroic ode. I think, with great deference to the poet, that a pendent general would avoid saying any thing to his soldiers which might tend to make death more frightful than it is. Gory presents a disagreeable image to the mind; and to tell them, "Welcome to your gory bed," seems rather a discouraging address, notwithstanding the alternative which follows. I have shown the song to three friends of excellent taste, and each of them objected to this line, which emboldens me to use the fre dom of bringing it again under your notice. I would suggest,

> " Now prepare for honour's bed. Or for glorious victorie."

No. XLV.

THE POET TO ME. THOMSON.

September, 1793.

" Wito shall decide when doctors disagree?" My ode pleases me so much that I cannot alter Your proposed alterations would, in my opinion, make it tame. I am exceedingly obliged to you for putting me on re-considering it; as I think I have much improved it. Instead of "sodger! hero!" I will have it "Caledopian! on wi' me!"

I have scrutinized it over and over; and to he world some way or other it shall go as it is, At the some time it will not in the least hurt me should you leave it out altogether and adhere to your first intention of adopting Logan's verses.

I have finished my song to Saw ye my futther; and in English, as you will see. That there is a syllable too much for the expression of the air, is true; but allow me to say, that the were dividing of a dotted crotchet into a crotchet and a quaver, is not a great matter: however, in that I have no pretensions to cope in judgment with you. Of the poetry I speak with confidence; but the music is a business where I hint my ideas with the utmost diffidence.

The old verses have merit, though unequal, and are popular; my advice is to set the air to the old words, and let mine follow as English verses. Here they are-

• Mr. homson has very properly adopted this song if it to any be so called) as the bard presented it to him. He has attached it to the air of Lewe to dom, and perhaps among the existing airs he sould not find a better; but the poetry is surfed to a much higher strain of muce, and max employ the genus of some seotish Handel, it any such should in Intereasing. The reader will have observed, that Borns adopted the alterations proposed by his friend and correspondent in former inproposed to the remaining ordesponded in former in-fedience with great readiness; perhaps, in feel, on all indefficient on asons. In the present instance, however, he rejected them, though repeatedly algod, with deter-nanced resolution. p. 242.)

Adien, my dear Sir! The post goes, so I slall defer some other remarks until mort leisure.

No. XLVI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

September, 1792.

I have been turning over some volumes of songs, to find verses whose measures would suit the airs for which you have allotted me to find English songs.

For Muirland Willie, you have, in Ramsay's Tea-table, an excellent song, beginning "Ah, why those tears in Nelly's eyes?" As for The As for The Collier's Dochter, take the following old Bacchanal.

(Deluded Swain, p. 199.)

The faulty line in Logan-water, I mend thus:

" How can your flinty hearts enjoy The widow's tears, the orphau's cry?"

The song, otherwise, will pass. As to Mi-Gregoira-Rua-Ruth, you will see a song of mine to it, with a set of the air superior to yours, in the Museum, Vol. ii. p. 181. The song begins,

"Raving winds around her blowing,"

Your Lish airs are pretty but they are downright Irish. If they were like the Banks of Banna, for instance, though really Irish, yet in the Scottish taste, you might adopt them. Since you are so fond of Irish music, what say you to twenty-five of them in an additional number? We could easily find this quantity of charming airs; I will take care that you shall not want songs; and I assure you that you will find it the most sa'cable of the whole. If you do not approve of Roy's wife, for the nusic's sake, we shall not insert it. Deil tak' the wars, is a charming song; so is, Saw ye my Peggy? There's nae luck about the house, well deserves a place; I cannot say that O'er the hills and far awa strikes me as equal to your selection. This is no my ain house is a great favourite air of mine; and if you send me your set of it, I will task my muse to her kighest effort. What is your opinion of I hae laid a herrin in sawt? I like it much. Your Jacobite airs are pretty; and there are many others of the same kind, pretty-but you have not room for them. You cannot, I think, insert, Fy let us a' to the bridle. to any other words than its own.

rusts you as ludicrous and low. For this reason, that will answer as English songs to the airs yet Fye, gie me my coggie, sirs-Fye, let us a' to unprovided. the bridal, with several others of that cast, are, to me, highly pleasing ; while, Saw ye my father, er saw ye my Mother, delights me with its discriptive simple pathos. Thus, my song, Ken ye what Meg o' the mill has gotten? pleases myself so much, that I cannot try my hand at another song to the air; so I shall not attempt it. I know you will laugh at all this; but, " ilka man wears his belt his ain gait."

No. XLVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

October, 1793.

Your last letter, my dear Thomson, was indeed laden with heavy news. Alas, poor Erskine! The recollection that he was a coadjutor in your publication, has, till now, scared me MY DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 17th April, 1794. from writing to you, or turning my thoughts on compesing for you.

I am pleased that you are reconciled to the air of the Quaker's Wife, though, by the bye, an old Highland gentleman, and a deep antiquarian, tells me it is a Gaelic air, and known by the name of Leiger 'm choss. The following verses I hope will please you, as an English song to the air :

Thine am I, my faithful fair, Thioe, my lovely Nancy. (p. 214.)

The rest of your letter I shall answer at some other opportunity.

No. XLVIIL

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

7th November, 1793. MY GOOD SIR,

AFTER so long a silence, it gives me peculiar pleasure to recognize your well known hand, for I had begun to be apprehensive that all was not well with you. I am happy to find however, that your silence did not proceed from that cause, and that you have got among the ballads once more.

I have to thank you for your English song to Leiger 'm choss, which I think extremly good, although the colouring is warm. Your friend

What pleases me, as simple and naive, dis- | his manuscripts, I hope you may find our some

No. XLIX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

December, 1793.

Tell me how you like the following verses to the tune of Jo Janet.

(Husband, husband, cease your strife, p. 213.) (Wilt thou be my dearie? p. 242.)

No L.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Owing to the distress of our friend for the loss of his child, at the time of his receiving your admirable but melancholy letter, I had not an opportunity 'till lately of perusing it. * How sorry am I to find Burns saying, " Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased?" while he is delighting others from one end of the island to the other. Like the hypochondriac who went to consult a physician upon his case: Go, says the doctor, and see the famous Carlini, who keeps all Paris in good humour. Sir, replied the patient, I am that nnhappy Carlini !

Your plan for our meeting together pleases me greatly, and I trust that by some means or other it will soon take place; but your Bacchanalian challenge almost frightens nic, for I am a miserable weak frinker!

Allan is much gratified by your good opinion of his talents. He has just begun a sketch from your Cotter's Saturday Night, and if it pleases himself in the design, he will probably etch or engrave it. In subjects of the pastoral or humorous kind, he is perhaps unrivalled by any artist living. He fails a little in giving beauty and grace to his females, and his colouring is sombre, otherwise his paintings and drawings would be in greater request.

I like the music of the Sutor's Dochter, and will consider whether it shall be added to the last volume; your verses to it are pretty; but your humorous English song, to suit Jo Janet, is inimitable. What think you of the air, "Within a mile of Edinburgh?" It has always Mr. Turnbull's songs have doubtless consider- struck me as a modern English imitation; but able merit; and as you have the command of is said to be Oswald's, and is so much liked, that I believe I must include it. The verses are lit-

^{*} The Honourable A. Erskine, brother to Lord Kel-by, where inclaneloid ideals Mr. Thomson had commu-rated in an excellent little, which he has suppressed, in p. 572.

CORRESPONDENCE.

tle better than namby pamby. eider it worth a stanza or two?

No. LI.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

MY DEAR SIR, May, 1794.

I RETURN you the plates, with which I am highly pleased; I would humbly propose, instead of the younker knitting stockings, to put a stock and horn into his hands. A friend of mine, who is positively the ablest judge on the subject I have ever met with, and though an unknown, is yet a superior artist with the Burin, is quite charmed with Allan's manner. I got him a peep of the Gentle Shepherd; and he pronounces Allan a most original artist of great excellence.

For my part, I look on Mr. Allan's choosing my favourite poem for his subject, to be one of the highest compliments I have ever received.

I am quite vexed at Plevel's being cooped up in France, as it will put an entire stop to our work. Now, and for six or seven months, I shall be quite in song, as you shall see by and by. I got an air, pretty enough, composed by Lady Elizabeth Heron of Heron, which she calls The Banks of Cree. Cree is a beautiful comunitie stream: and as her Ladyship is a parcular friend of mine, I have written the folswing song to it.

(The Banks of Cree, p. 226.)

No. LIL

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

July 1794.

Is there no news yet of Pleyel? Or is your work to be at a dead stop, until the allies set our modern Orpheus at liberty from the savage thruldom of democratic discords? Alas the day! And woe's me! That auspicions period, pregnant with the happiness of mil-

I have presented a copy of your songs to the daughter of a much-valued, and much-honoured ther it be worth a critique. We have many friend of mine, Mr. Graham of Fintry. I wrote, er the blank side of the title page, the following address to the young lady.

. A portion of this le ter has been left out, for reaons that was be easily imagined.-CURRIE.

Do you con | HERE, where the Scottish muse immortal lives. In sacred strains and twoeful numbers join d, Accept the gift; though 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 scraph 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.

No. LIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 10th Aug. 1794. I owe you an apology for having so long delayed to acknowledge the favour of your last. I fear it will be as you say, I shall have no more songs from Pleyel till France and we are friends; but, nevertheless, I am very desirous to be prepared with the poetry, and as the season approaches in which your nuse of Coila visits you, I trust I shall, as formerly, be frequently gratified with the result of your amorous and tender interviews!

No. LIV.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

30th August, 1794.

THE last evening, as I was straying out and thinking of, O'er the hills and far avea, I spun the following stanza for it; but whether my spinning will deserve to be laid up in store like the precious thread of the silk-worm, or brushed to the devil, like the vile manufacture of the spider, I leave, my dear Sir, to your usu n candid criticism I was pleased with several lines in it at first; but I own, that now, it appears rather a flimsy business

This is just a hasty sketch, until I see whe sailor songs; but, as far as I at present recollect, they are mostly the effusions of the jorial sailor, not the waitings of his love-lorn mistress. I must here make one sweet exception -Swert Annie frae the Sea-beach came

Now for the song.

(On the seas and far away, p. 219.)

I give you leave a abuse this song, but do it | in the spirit of christian meckness.

No. LV.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Edinburgh, 16th Sept. 1794. SIT DEAR SIR,

You have anticipated my opinion of, On the seas and far away; I do not think it one of your very happy productions, though it certainly contains stanzas that are worthy of all ac-

ceptation.

The second is the least to my liking, parti-Concutarly "Bullets, spare my only joy." Confound the hullets! It might perhaps be objected to the third verse, "At the starless midnight hour," that it has too much grandeur of better to have mediocre verses to a favourite imagery, and that greater simplicity of thought air, than none at all. On this principle I have would have better suited the character of a sai- all along proceeded in the Scots Musical Mulor's sweetheart. The tune, it must be remembered, is of the brisk, cheerful kind. Upon the whole, therefore, in my humble opinion, the song would be better adapted to the tune, if it consisted only of the first and last verses, with be pleased to have verses to it that you can sing the chorusses.

No. LVI.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

Sept. 1794.

I SHALL withdraw my, On the seas and far away, altogether: it is unequal, and unworthy the work. Making a poem is like begetting a son: you cannot know whether you have a wise man or a fool, until you produce him to the world and try him.

my brain, ab rtions and all; and, as such, pray give me the most exquisite enjoyment, where look over them, and forgive them, and burn them. I am flattered at your acopting, Ca' the yowes to the knowes, as it was owing to me ing verses for Rothemurche's Rant, an air that ever it saw the light. About seven years which puts me in raptures; and in fact, unless ago I was well acquainted with a worthy little I be pleased with the tune, I never can make follow of a clergyman, a Mr. Clunie, who sung verses to it. Here I have Clarke on my side, techarming y; and, at my request, Mr. Clarke who is a judge that I will pit against any or took it down from his sing ng. When I gave you, "Rothemarche," he says, "is an air to Johnson, I added some stanzas to the song- and mended others, but still it will not do for mendation I have taken the first part of the you. In a solitary stroll which I took to-day, tune for a chorus, and the fourth or last part I tried my | and on a few pastoral lines, follow- for the song. I am but two stanzas deep in the ing up the idea of the chorus, which I would preserve. Here it is, with all its crudities and imperfections on its head.

(Ca' the yowes to the knowes, p. 195

I shall give you my spinion of your other newly adopted songs my first scribbling fit.

No. LVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

September, 1794.

Do you know a blackguard Irish song, called Onagh's water-fall? The air is charming, and I have often regretted the want of decent verses to it. It is too much, at least for my humble rustic muse, to expect that every effort of hers shall have merit; still I think that it is seum, and as that publication is in its last volume, I intend the following song, to the air above mentioned, for that work.

If it does not suit you as an editor, you may before ladies.

(Sae flaxen were her ringlets, p. 223.)

Not to compare small things with great, my taste in music is like the mighty Frederick of Prussia's taste in painting: we are told that he frequently admired what the connoisseurs decried, and always without any hypocrisy contessed his admiration. I am sensible that my taste in music must be inclegant and vulgar, because people of undisputed and cultivated taste can find no merit in my favourite tunes. Sti., because I am cheaply pleased, is that any reason why I should deny myself that pleasure? For that reason I end you the off-pring of Many of our strathspeys, ancient and modern, you and other judges would probably be showing disgust. For instance, I am just now makwork, and possibly you may think, and justly, that the poetry is as little worth your attention as the music.

I have begun anew, Let me in this ae night, Do you think that we ought to retain the old chorus? I think we must tetain both the old

[•] This Vergilian order of the poet should, I think, be disolved with respect to the song in question, the second samza excepted.—Note by Mr. Thination. Dictions differ. The objection to the second stanza does not strike the Editor.—Custure.

[•] In the original follow here two stanzas of the song "Lassie wi' the lint white nocks."

chorus and the first stanza of the old song do not altogether like the third line of the first make the other Jamie, or any other that sounds stanza, but cannot alter it to please myself. I agreeably. am just three stanzas deep in it. Would you have the denonement to be successful or otherwise ?-should she " let him in" or not.

Did you not once propose The Sow's tail to Geordie, as an air for your work? I am quite delighted with it; but I acknowledge that is no mark of its real excellence. I once set about verses for it, which I meant to be in the alternate way of a lover and his mistress chanting together. I have not the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Thomson's Christian name, and yours, 1 am afraid, is rather burlesque for sentiment, else I had meant to have made you the hero and heroine of the little piece.

How do you like the following epigram. which I wrote the other day on a lovely young girl's recovery from a fever? Doctor Maxwell was the physician who seemingly saved her from the grave; and to him I address the fol-

lowing :-

TO DR. MAXWELL,

ON MISS JESSY STAIG'S RECOVERY.

MAXWELL, if merit here you crave, That merit I deny : You save fair Jessy from the grave ! An angel could not die!

God grant you patience with this stupid epistle !

No. LVIII.

MR, THOMSON TO THE POET.

I PERCEIVE the sprightly muse is now attendant upon her favourite poet, whose woodnotes wild are become as enchanting as ever. She says she lives me best o' a', is one of the pleasantest table songs I have seen, and henceforth shall be mine when the song is going round. I'll give Cunningham a copy; he can more powerfully proclaim its merit. I am far from undervaluing your taste for the strathspey music; on the contrary, I think it highly animating and agreeable, and that some of the say on the subject is curious, and evinces great strathspeys, when graced with such verses as reading and research, but does not decide the yours, will make very pleasing songs, in the question as to the origin of our melodies; same way that rough Christians are tempered though he shows clearly that Mr. Tytler, in his and softened by lovely woman, without whom, you know, they had been brutes.

I am e'ear for having the Sow's tail, particutarly as you proposed verses to it are so extremely promising. Geordie, as you observe, is a name only fit for burlesque composition. Mes. Thomson's name (Katharine) is not at cast about for a subject

I all poetical. Retain Jeanie, therefore, and

Your Ca' the yewes, is a precious little mor ceau. Indeed I am perfectly astonished and charmed with the eudl ss variety of your fancy. Here let me ask you, wnether you never seriously turned your thoughts upon dramatic writing? That is a field worthy of your genius, in which it might shine forth in all its splendour. One or two successful pieces upon the London stage would make your fortune. The rage at present is for musical dramas; few or none of tho-e which have appeared since the Duenna, possess much poetical merit: there is little in the conduct of the fable, or in the dialogue, to interest the andience. They are chiefly vehicles for music and pageantry. I think you might produce a comic opera in three acts, which would live by the poetry, at the same time that it would be proper to take every assistance from her tunefol sister. Part of the songs of course would be to our favourite Scottish airs; the rest might be left with the London composer-Storace for Drury-lane, or Shield for Covent-garden; both of them very able and popular musicians. I believe that interest and manœuvring are often necessary to have a drama brought on: so it mey be with the namby pamby tribe of flowery scribblers; but were you to address Mr. Sheridan himself by letter, and send him a dramatic piece, I am persuaded he would, for the honour of genius, give it a fair and candid trial. Excase me for obtrading these hints upon your consideration. *

No. LIX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Edinburgh, 14th October, 1794. THE last eight days have been devoted to the re-examination of the Scottish collections. 1 have read, and sung, and fiddled, and consider. ed, till I am half bl nd and wholly stupid. The few airs I have added, are enclosed.

Peter Pindar has at length sent me all the songs I expected from him, which are in general elegant and beautiful. Have you heard of a London collection of Scottish airs and songs, just published by Mr. Ritson, an Englishman. I shall send you a copy. His introductory esingenious dissertation, has adduced no sort of proof of the hypothesis he wished to establish: and that his classification of the airs, according

[•] Our bard had before received the same advice, and certainly took it so far into consideration, as to have

fancy and conjecture. On John Pinkerton, Esq. he has no mercy; but consigns him to damnation! He snarls at my publication, on the score of Pindar being engaged to write songs for it; uncandidly and unjustly leaving it to be inferred, that the songs of Scottish writers had been sent a-packing to make room for Peter's! Of you he epeaks with some respect, but gives you a passing hit or two, for daring to dress up a little some old foolish songs for the Museum. His sets of the Scottish airs are taken, he says, from the oldest collections and the best authorities: many of them, however, have such a strange aspeet, and are so unlike the sets which are sung by every person of taste, old or young, in town or country, that we can scarcely recognize the features of our favourites. By going to the oldest collections of our music, it does not follow that we find the melodies in their original state. These melodies had been preserved, we know not how long, by oral communication, before being collected and printed; and as different persons sing the same air very differently, according to their accurate or confused recollection of it, so even supposing the first collectors to have possessed the industry, the taste and discernment to choose the best they could hear, (which is far from certain), still it must evidently be a chance, whether the collections exhibit any of the melodies in the state they were first composed. In selecting the melodies for my own collection, I have been as much guided by the living as by the dead. Where these differed, I preferred the sets that appeared to me the most simple and beautiful, and the most generally approved; and, without meaning any compliment to my own capability of choosing, or speaking of the pains I have taken, I flatter myself that my sets will be found equally freed from vulgar errors on the one hand, and affected graces on the other.

No. LX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

19th October, 1794. MY DZAR FRIEND, By this morning's post I have your list, and, in general, I highly approve of it. I shall, at more leisure, give you a critique on the whole. Clarke goes to vonr town by to-day's fly, and I wish you would call on him and take his opipion in general: you know his taste is a stand-He will return here again in a week or two; so, please do not miss asking for him. One take a look at the tune again, and tell me if you thing I hope he will do, persuade you to a- do not think it is the original from which Rosdopt my favourite, Craigie-burn-wood, in your lin Castle is composed. The second part, in selection: It is as great a favourite of his as of particular, for the first two or three bars, is exmine. The lady on whom it was made is one actly the old air. Strathallan's Lament is of the finest women in Scotland; and, in fact, mine; the music is by our right-trusty and decorre nous) is in a manner to me what Sterne's servedly well-beloved, Allan Masterton. Do-Eliza was to him-a mistress, a friend, or what nocht-head, is not mine: I would give ten you will, in the guildless simplicity of Platonic pounds it were. It appeared first in the Edin-

to the eras when they were composed, is mere love. (Now ton t put any of our squinting constructions on this, or have an clishmaclaiver about it among our acquaintances.) I assure you that to my lovely friend you are incepted for many of your best songs of mine. Do you think that the sober gin horse routine of existence, could inspire a man with life, and love, and joy -could fire him with enthusiasm, or melt him with pathos, equal to the genius of your book? -No! no !-- Whenever I want to be more than ordinary in song: to be in some degree equal to your diviner airs-do you imagine I fast and pray for the celestial emanation? Tout au contraire! I have a glorious recipe; the very one that for his own use was invented by the divinity of healing and poetry, when erst he piped to the flocks of Admetus. I put myself in a regimen of admiring a fine woman; and in proportion to the adorability of her charms, in proportion you are delighted with my verses. The lightning of her eye is the godhead of Parnassus, and the witchery of her smile the divinity of Helicon!

To descend to business; if you like my idea of, When she cam ben she bobbit, the following stanzas of mine, altered a little from what they were formerly when set to another air, may per haps do instead of worse stanzas.

SAW YE MY PHELY.

(Quasi dicat Phillis.)

Tune-" When she came ben she bobbit."

O saw ve my dear, my Phely? O saw ye my dear, my Phely? She's down i' the grove, wi' a new love, She winna come hame to her Wilhe.

What says she, n v 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 Willie.

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's fair, Thou's broken the heart o' thy Willie.

Now for a few miscellaneous remarks. Poste (in the Museum), is my composition : the air was taken down from Mrs. Burns voice. It is well known in the West Country, but the old words are trash. By the bye,

burgh Herald; and came to the Editor of that | Clarke has set a bass to it, and I intend pro paper with the Newcastle post-mark on it. ting it into the Musical Museum. Here fol-Whistle o'er the lave o't is mine; the music low the verses I intend for it. said to be by a John Bruce, a celebrated violin player in Dumfries, about the beginning of this century. This I know, Bruce, who was an honest man, though a red-wnd Highlandman, constantly claimed it; and by all the old musi- cure me a sight of Ritson's collection of Eng-

which this is set in the Museum, is mine; and that as speedily as you please: whether this was composed on Miss Euphemia Murray, of miserable drawling hotch-potch epistle has not

Flower of Strathmore.

How long and dreary is the night. I met with some such words in a collection of songs somewhere, which I altered and enlarged; and to please you, and to suit your favourite air, I have taken a stride or two across my room, and have arranged it anew, as you will find on the other page.

(How long and dreary is the night, p. 205.)

Tell me how you like this. I differ from your idea of the expression of the tune. There is, to me, a great deal of tenderness in it. You cannot, in my opinion, dispense with a bass to your addenda airs. A lady of my acquaintance. a noted performer, plays and sings at the same time so charmingly, that I shall never bear to see any of her songs sent into the world as naked as Mr. What-d'ye-call-um has done in his London collection.

These English songs gravel me to death. have not that command of the language that I have of my native tongue. I have been at Duncan Gray, to dress it in English, but all I can do is deplerably stupid. For instance ;

(Let not woman e'er complain, p. 209.)

Since the above, I have been out in the country taking a dinner with a friend, where I met with the lady whom I mentioned in the second page in this odds-and-ends of a letter. As usual, I got into song; and returning home, I composed the following.

(Sleep'st thou, or wak'st thou, fairest creature, p. 235.)

If you honour my verses by setting the air to them, I will vamp up the old song, and make it English enough to be understood.

I enclose you a musical carosity, an East Indian air, which you would swear was a Scottish one. I know the authenticity of it, as the gentleman who brought it over is a particular acquaintarce of mine. Do preserve me the copy I send you, as it is the only one I have.

(The auld man, p. 225.)

I would be obliged to you if you would procal people here, is believed to be the author of it. lish songs, which you mention in your letter. Andrew and his cutty gun. The song to I will thank you for another information, and Lintrose, commonly and deservedly called the completely tired you of my correspondence?

No. LXI.

MR, THOMSON TO THE POET

Edinburgh, 27th October, 1794.

I AM sensible, my dear friend, that a genuine poet can no more exist without his mistress than his meat. I wish I knew the adorable she, whose bright eyes and witching smiles have so often enraptured the Scottish bard! that I might drink her sweet health when the toast is going round. Craigie-burn-wood, must certainly be adopted into my family, since she is the object of the song; but in the name of decency, I must beg a new chorns verse from you. O to be lying beyond thee, dearie, is perhaps a consummation to be wished, but will not do for singing in the company of ladies. The songs in your last will do you lasting credit, and suit the respective airs charmingly. I am perfectly of your opinion with respect to the additional airs. The idea of sending them into the world naked as they were born was ungenerous. They must all be clothed and made decent by our friend Clarke.

I find I am anticipated by the friendly Cunningham, in sending your Ritson's Scottish collection. Permit me, therefore, to present you with his English collection, which you will receive by the coach. I do not find his historica essay on Scottish song interesting. Your ancedotes and miscellaneous remarks will, I am sure, be much more so. Allan has just sketched a charming design from Maggie Lauder. She is dancing with such spirit as to electrify the piper, who seems almost dancing too, while he is playing with the most exquisite glee.

I am much inclined to get a small copy, and to have it engraved in the style of Ritson's

P. S .- Pray, what do your anecdotes say concerning Maggie Lauder? was she a real personage, and of what rank? You would surely spier for her if you ca'd at Austruther

The reader will be currous to see this poem so Yet a praised by Burns See p. 151.
 Mr. Ritson.

No. LXII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

November, 1794.

Many thanks to you, any dear Sir, for your present: it is a book of the utmost importance to me. I have vesterday began my anecdotes, &c. for your work. I intend drawing it up in the form of a letter to you, which will save me from the tedious dull business of systematic arrangement. Indeed, as all I have to say consists of unconnected remarks, anecdotes, scraps of old songs, &c. it would be impossible to give the work a beginning, a middle, and an end; which the critics insist to be ab-olutely necessary in a work. In my last, I told you my objections to the song you had selected for My ledging is on the cold ground. 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, in my return from the visit, wrought into the following song :-

(Chloris, p. 197.)

How do you like the simplicity and tenderness of this pastoral? I think it pretty well.

I like you for entering so candidly and so kindly into the story of Ma there Amie. I assure you, I was never more in earnest in my life, than in the account of that affair which I sent you in my last. Conjugal love is a passion which I deeply feel and highly venerate; but, somehow, it does not make such a figure in possy as that other species of the passion of

" Where Love is liberty, and Nature law."

Musically speaking, the first is an instrument of which the gamut is scanty and confined, but the tones inexpressibly sweet; while the last has powers equal to all the intellectual modulations of the human soul. Still, I am a very pact in my enthusiasm of the passion. The welfare and happiness of the beloved object is the first and involate sentiment that pervades my soul; and whatever pleasures I might wish for, or whatever might be the raptures that first principle, it is having these pleasures at a dishomest price; and justice forbids, and generosity distains the purchase!

Despairing of my own powers to give you variety enough in English songs, I have been turning over old collections, to pick out songs of which the measure is something similar to what I want; and with a little alteration, so as so suit the rhyme of the air exactly, to give you shem for your work. Where the songs have slitents been but little notized, nor have ever

been set to music, I think the shift a fair one. A song, which, under the same irst verse, yor will find in Ramsay's Tea-Tab': Miscellany. I have cut down for an English dress to your Dainty Davie, as follows.—

(Chloe, p. 196)

You may think meanly of this, but take a look at the bombast original, and you will be surprised that I have made so much of it. I have finished my song to Rothemurche's Runt; and you have Charke to consult, as to the set of the air for singing.

(Lassie wi' the lint-white locks, p. 208.)

This piece has at least the merit of being a regular pastoral: the vernal morn, the summer noon, the autumnal evening, and the winter night, are regularly rounded. If you like it, well: if not, I will insert it in the Museum.

I am out of temper that you should set so sweet, so tender an air, as Deil tak the wars, to the foolish old verses. You talk of the silliness of Saw ne my father; by heavens, the olds is, gold to brass! Besides, the old song, though now pretty well modernized into the Scottish language, is originally, and in the early editions, a bungling low imitation of the Scottish manner, by that genins Tom D'Urfey; so has no pretensions to be a Scottish production. There is a pretty English song by Sheridan in the Duenna, to this air, which is out of sight superior to D'Urfey's. It begins,

"When sable night each drooping plant restoring."

The air, if I understand the expression of it properly, is the very native language of simplicity, tenderness, and love. I have again gone over my song to the tune as follows.*

Now for my English song to Nancy's to the Greenwood, &c.

(Maria's Dwelling, p. 260.)

There is an air, The Caledonian Hunt's delight, to which I wrote a song that you wit find in Johnson. Ye banks and brues o' bonnodon; this air, I think, might find a place among your hundred, as Lear says of his knights. Do you know the history of the air? It is entious enough. A good many years ago, Mr James Miller, writer in your good town, a gentleman whom possibly you know, was in company with our friend Clarke; and talking o. Scottish music, Miller expressed an ardent ambition to be able to compose a Scott air. Mr

[.] See the song in its first and best dress in p 175

Clarke, partly by way of joke, told him to keep more Barchanalian than amorous in its nature, to the black keys of the harpsichord, and pre- and recommends it to you to match the air acserve some kind of rhyme; and he would in- cordingly. Pray did it ever occur to you how fallibly compose a Scots air. Certain it is that, peculiarly well the Scottish airs are adapted for in a few days, Mr. Miller produced the rudi- verses in the form of a dialogue? The first ments of an air, which Mr. Clarke, with some part of the air is generally low, and suited for touches and corrections, fashioned into the tune a man's voice, and the second part in many inin question. Ritson, you know, has the same stances cannot be sung, at concert pitch, but by story of the Black Keys; but this account a female voice. A song thus performed makes which I have just given you, Mr. Clarke informed me of, several years ago. Now to shew you how difficult it is to trace the origin of our airs, I have heard it repeatedly asserted that this was an Irish air; nay, I met with an Irish gentleman who affirmed he had heard it in Ireland among the old women; while, on the other hand, a Countess informed me, that the first person who introduced the air into this country, was a baronet's lady of her acquaintance, who took down the notes from an itinerant piper in the Isle of Man. How difficult then to ascertain the truth respecting our poesy and music ! I, myself, have lately seen a couple of ballads sung through the streets of Dumfries, with my name at the head of them as the author, though it was the first time I had ever seen them.

I thank you for admitting Craigie-burnwood; and I shall take care to furnish you with a new chorus. In fact, the chorus was not my work, but a part of some old verses to the air. If I can catch myself in a more than ordinarily propitious moment, I shall write a new Craigieburn-wood altogether. My heart is much in the theme.

I am ashamed, my dear fellow, to make the request; 'tis dunning your generosity; but in a moment, when I had forgotten whether I was rich or poor, I promised Chloris a copy of your It wrings my honest pride to write you this; but an ungracious request is doubly so by a tedious apology. To make you some amends, as soon as I have extracted the necessary information out of them, I will return you Ritson's volumes.

The lady is not a little proud that she is to make so distinguished a figure in your collection, and I am not a little proud that I have it in my power to please her so much. Lucky it is for your patience that my paper is done, for when I am in a scribbling humour, I know not when to give over.

No. LXIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

15th November, 1794. Since receiving your last, I have had another interview with Mr. Clarke, and a long con-

an agreeable variety, but few of ours are written in this form ; I wish you would think of it in some of those that remain. The only one of the kind you have sent me, is admirable, and will be an universal favourite.

Your verses for Rothemurche are so sweetly pastoral, and your serenade to Chloris, for Deil tak the wars, so passionately tender, that I have sung myself into raptures with them. Your song for My lodging is on the cold ground, is likewise a diamond of the first water; I am quite dazzled and delighted by it. Some of your Chlorises I suppose have flaxen hair, from your partiality for this colour; else we differ about it; for I should searcely conceive a woman to be a beauty, on reading that she had lint-white

locks !

Farewell thou stream that winding flows, I think excellent, but it is much too serious to come after Nancy: at least it would seem an incongruity to provide the same air with merry Scottish and melancholy English verses! The more that the two sets of verses resemble each other in their general character, the better. Those you have manufactured for Dainty Davie, will answer charmingly. I am happy to find you have begun your anecdotes: I care not how long they be, for it is impossible that any thing from your pen can be tedious. me beseech you not to use ceremony in telling me when you wish to present any of your friends with the sungs: the next carrier will bring you three copies, and you are as welcome to twenty as to a pinch of snuff.

No. LXIV.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

19th November, 1791.

You see, my dear Sir, what a punctual correspondent I am; though indeed you may thank yourself for the tedium of my letters, as you have so flattered me on my horsemanship with my favourite hobby, and have praised the grace of his ambling so much, that I am scarcely ever off his back. For instance, this morning, though a keen blowing frost, in my walk before breakfast, I finished my duet which you were pleased to praise so much. Whether I have uniformly succeeded, I will not say; but sultation. He thinks the Caledonian Hunt is here it is for you, though it is not an hour old.

(OPhilly, happy be that day, p. 220.)

Tell me honestly how you like it; and point out whatever you think faulty.

out whatever you think faulty.

I am much pleased with your idea of singing our songs in alternate stanzas, and regret that you did not hint it to me sooner. In those that remain, I shall have it in my eye. I remember your objections to the name Philly; but it is the common abbreviation of Phillis. Sally, the only other name that suits, has, to my ear, a vulgarity about it, which unfits it for any thing except burlesque. The legion of Scottish poetasters of the day, whom your brother editor, Mr. Ritson, racks with me, as my coevals, have always mistaken vulgarity for simplicity; whereas, simplicity is as much elogate from vulgarity

on the one hand, as from affected point and puer-

ile, conceit on the other. I agree with you as to the air, Craigie-burnwood, that a chorus would in some degree spoil the effect, and shall certainly have none in my projected song to it. It is not however a case in point with Rothiemurchie; there, as in Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch, a chorus goes, to my taste, well enough. As to the chorus going first, that is the case with Roy's Wife, as well as Rothiemurchie. In fact, in the first part of both tunes, the rhyme is so peculiar and irregular, and on that irregularity depends so much of their beauty, that we must e'en take them with all their wildness, and humour the verse accordingly. Leaving out the starting note, in both tunes, has, I think, an effect that no regularity could counterbalance the want of.

 $\begin{array}{ll} Try & \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{O Roy's wife of Aldivalloch.} \\ \text{O lassie wi' the lint-white locks.} \\ \end{array} \right. \\ & \left. \begin{array}{ll} \text{Compare} \\ \text{with} \end{array} \right. \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Roy's wife of Aldivalloch.} \\ \text{Lassie wi' the lint-white locks.} \end{array} \right. \\ \end{array}$

Does not the tameness of the prefixed syllable strike you? In the last case, with the true furor of genius, you strike at once into the wild originality of the air; whereas in the first insipid method, it is like the grating screw of the pins before the fiddle is brought into tune. This is my taste; if I am wrong, I beg pardon of the composecuti.

The Caledonian Hunt is so charming, that it would make any subject in a song go down, but pathos is certainly its native tongue. Scottish Bacchanalians we certainly want, though the few we have are excellent. For instance, Todlin hame is, for wit and humour, an unparalleled composition; and Andrew and his cutty gan is the work of a master. By the way, are you not quite vexed to think that those men of genius, for such they certainly were, who composed our fine Scottish lyrics, should be unknown! It has given me many a heart-ache. Apropos to Bacchanalian songs in Scottish; I composed one yesterday for an air I like much—Lumps o' pud wing.

(Contented wi' little, and cantre we mair, p
197.)

Since yesterday's penmanship, I have framea a couple of English Stanzas, by way of an English song to Roy's wife. You will allow me that in this instance, my English corresponds in sentiment with the Scottish.

(Canst thou leave me thus, my Katy? p. 196.)

Well! I think this, to be done in two or three turns across my room, and with two or three pinches of Irish Blackguard, is not so far amiss, You see I am determined to have my quantum of applause from somebody.

Tell my friend Allan (for I am sure that we only want the trifling circumstance of being known to one another, to be the best friends on carth), that I much suspect he has, in his plates, mistaken the figure of the stock and horn, I have, at last, gotten one; but it is a very rude instrument. It is composed of three parts; the stock, which is the hinder thigh-bone of a sheep, such as you see in a mutton-ham; the horn, which is a common Highland cow's horn, cut off at the smaller end, until the aperture be large enough to admit the stock to be pushed up through the horn, until it be held by the thicker end of the thigh-bone; and lastly, an oaten reed exactly cut and notched like that which you see every shepherd-boy have, when the corn stems are green and full-grown. The reed is not made fast in the bone, but is held by the lips, and plays loose in the smaller end of the stock; while the stock, with the horn hanging on its larger end, is held by the hands in playing. The stock has six or seven ventiges on the upper side, and one back-ventige, like the common flute. This of mine was made by a man from the braes of Athole, and is exactly what the shepherds wont to use in that country,

However, either it is not quite properly bored in the holes, or else we have not the art of blowing it rightly; for we can make little of lit. If Mr. Allan chooses, I will send him a sight of mine; as I look on myself to be a kind of brother-brush with him. "Pride in Poets is nag sin," and, I will say it, that I look on Mr. Allan and Mr. Burns to be the outly genuine and real painters of Scottish costume in the world

No. LXV.

MF THOMSON TO THE POET.

28th November, 1794.

I ACKNOWLEDGE, my dear Sir, you are not only the most punctual, but the most delectable correspondent I ever met with. To attempt fattering you never entered my head; the truth is, I look back with surprise at my impulence, in so frequently nibhling at lines and couplets | Jacobite song, in the Museum, to There'll never of your incomparable lyrics, for which, perhaps, be peace till Jamie comes hame, would not so if you had served me right, you would have well consort with Peter Pindar's excellent loveent me to the devil. On the contrary, how- song to that air, I have just fiamed for you the ever, you have all along condescended to invite following : my criticism with so much courtesy, that it ceases to be wonderful, if I have sometimes given myself the airs of a reviewer. Your last budget demands unqualified praise : all the songs are charming, but the duet is a chief d'auvre, of time for the expression, in your proposed my family dishes; you have cooked it so capitally, that it will please all palates. Do give dubiety and suspense, taking possession of her us a few more of this cast, when you find yourself in good spirits: these convivial songs are a mixture of roguish playfulness in his, strike more wanted than those of the amorous kind, me, as things of which a master will make a of which we have great choice. Besides, one great deal. In great haste, but in great trush, does not often meet with a singer capable of yours. giving the proper effect to the latter, while the former are easily sung, and acceptable to every body. I participate in your regret that the authors of some of our best songs are unknown; it is provoking to every admirer of genius.

I mean to have a picture painted from your beautiful ballad, The Soldier's return, to be engraved for one of my frontispieces. The most interesting point of time appears to me, when she first recognizes her ain dear Willy, " She gaz'd, she redden'd like a rose." The three lines immediately following, are no doubt more impressive on the reader's feelings; but were the painter to fix on these, then you'll observe the animation and anxiety of her countenance is gone, and he could only represent her fainting in the soldier's arms. But I submit the matter

to you, and beg your opinion.

Allan desires me to thank you for your accurate description of the stock and horn, and for the very gratifying compliment you pay him in considering him worthy of standing in a niche by the side of Burns in the Scottish Pantheon, He has seen the rude instrument you describe, so does not want you to send it; but wishes to know whether you believe it to have ever been generally used as a musical pipe by the Scottish shepherds, and when, and in what part of the country chiefly. I doubt much if it was capable of any thing but routing and roaring. A friend of mine says, he remembers to have heard one in his younger days (made of wood instead of your bone), and that the sound was abominable.

Do not, I beseech you, return any books.

No. LXVI.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

December, 1794. It is, I assure you, the pride of my heart to

(My Nannie's awa, p. 212.)

How does this please you? As to the point Lumps of pudding shall certainly make one of print from my Sodger's return : It must cercountenance; and the gushing fondness, with

No. LXVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

January, 1795.

I FEAR for my songs: however, a few may please, yet originality is a coy feature in composition, and in a multiplicity of efforts in the same style, disappears altogether. For these three thousand years, we poetic folks have been describing the spring, for instance; and as the spring continues the same, there must soon be a sameness in the imagery, &c. of these said rhyming folks.

A great critic, Aiken on songs, says, that love and wine are the exclusive themes for song writing. The following is on neither subject, and consequently is no song; but will be allowed, I think, to be two or three pretty good prose thoughts, inverted into rhyme.

(A man's a man for a' that, p. 67.)

I do not give you the foregoing song for your book, but merely by way of vive la bagatelle; for the piece is not really poetry. How will the following do for Craigie-burn-wood?

(Sweet fa's the eve on Craigie-burn, p. 224.)

Farewell! God bless you.

No. LXVIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 30th Jan. 1795 I THANK you heartily for Nannie's awa, as do any thing to forward, or add to the value of well as for Craigie-burn, which I think a very your book : and as I agree with you that the correly pair. Your observation on the difficul-

ty of original writing in a number of efforts, in] the same style, strikes me very forcibly; and it has again and again excited my wonder to find you continually surmounting this difficulty, in the many delightful songs you have sent me. Your rive la bagatelle song, For a' that, shall andoubtedly be included in my list.

No. LXIX.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

February, 1795. HERE is another trial at your favourite air.

(O let me in this ae night, and Answer, p. 217.)

I do not know whether it will do.

No. J.XX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Ecclefechan, 7th Feb. 1795.

MY DEAR THOMSON,

You cannot have any idea of the predicament in which I write to you. In the course of my duty as supervisor (in which capacity I have acted of late) I came vesternight to this unfortunate, wicked, little village. I have gone forward, but snows of ten feet deep have impeded my progress: I have tried to " gae back the gate I cam again," but the same obstacle has shut me up within insuperable bars. To add to my misfortune, since dinner, a scraper has been torturing catgut, in sounds that would have insulted the dying agonies of a sow, under the hands of a butcher, and thinks himself, on that very account, exceeding good company. In fact, I have been in a dilemma, either to get drunk, to forget these miseries; or to hang myself, to get rid of them: like a prudent man, (a character congenial to my every thought, word, and deed), I, of two evils have chosen the least, and am very drunk, at your service !.

I wrote you yesterday from Dumfries. I had not time then to tell you all I wanted to say; and heaven knows, at present, I have not capacity.

Do you know an air-I am sure you must know it, We'll gang nae mair to you town : I think, in slowish time, it would make an excel-I am highly delighted with it; and lent song. if you should think it worthy of your attention, I have a fair dame in my eye to whom I would consecrate it.

As I am just going to bed, I wish you a good night.

No. LXXI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

25th February, 1795.

I have to thank you, my dear Sir, for two epistles, one containing Let me in this ae night ; and the other from Ecclefechan, proving, that drunk or sober, your " mind is never muddy." You have displayed great address in the above song. Her answer is excellent, and at the same time takes away the indelicacy that otherwise would have attached to his entreaties. I like the song as it now stands very much.

I had hopes you would be arrested some days at Ecclefechan, and be obliged to beguile the tedious forenouns by song making. It will give me pleasure to receive the verses you intend for, O wat ye wha's in you town ?

No. LXXIL

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

May, 1795.

(The Woodlark, p, 237.)

Let me know your very first leisure how you like this song.

(Long, long the night, p. 207)

How do you like the foregoing? The Irish air, Humours of Glen, is a great favourite o. mine. and as, except the silly stuff in the Poor Soldier, there are not any decent verses for it, I have written for it as follows :-

(Their groves o' sweet myrtle let foreign lands reckon, p 195.)

('Twas na her bonnie blue e'e was my ruin, p. 237.)

Let me hear from you.

No. LXXIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

You must not think, my good Sir, that I • The bard must have been tipsy indeed, to shuse You must not think, my good Sir, that I sweet Ecc techan at this rate.

worthy artist, that the design and execution of is making the felonious attempt on the cat's tail The Cotter's Saturday Night is, in my opinion, one of the happiest productions of Allan's pencil. I shall be grievously disappointed if you are not quite pleased with it.

The figure intended for your portrait, I think strikingly like you, as far as I can remember your phiz. This should make the piece interesting to your family every way. Tell me whether Mrs. Burns finds you out among the shall be nameless.

figures.

I cannot express the feeling of admiration with which I have read your pathetic Address to the Woodlark, your elegant Panegyric on Caledonia, and your affecting verses on Chloris' illness. Every repeated perusal of these gives new delight. The other song to Laddie Diron. lie near me, though not equal to these, is very pleasing.

No. LXXIV.

THE POFT TO MR. THOMSON.

(How cruel are the parents, p. 204.) (Mark yonder pomp of costly fashion, p. 211.)

Well! this is not amiss. You see how I answer your orders: your tailor could not be more punctual. I am just now in a high fit of poetizing, provided that the strait-jacket of criticism don't cure me. If you can in a post or two administer a little of the intoxicating potion of your applause, it will raise your humble servant's phrenzy to any height you want, I am at this moment "holding high converse" with the Muses, and have not a word to throw away on such a prosaic dog as you are.

No. LXXV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May, 1795.

TEN thousand thanks for your elegant present; though I am ashamed of the value of it, being bestowed on a man who has not by any means merited such an instance of kindness. have shown it to two or three judges of the first abilities here, and they all agree with me in classing it as a first-rate production. My phiz is " sae kenspeckle," that the very joiner's apprentice whom Mrs. Burns employed to break up the parcel (I was out of town that day) knew it at once. My most grateful compli-

gift, when I say, in justice to the ingenious and strange coincidence is, that the little one who is the most striking likeness of an "ill-deedle, d-n'd, wee, rumble-garie, urchin" of mine, whom, from that propensity to witty wickedness and manfu' mischief, which, even at twa days auld, I foresaw would form the striking features of his disposition, I named Willie Nicoll, after a certain friend of mine, who is one of the masters of a grammar-school in a city which

Give the enclosed epigram to my muchvalued friend Cunningham, and tell him that on Wednesday I go to visit a friend of his, to whom his friendly partiality in speaking of me, in a manner introduced me-I mean a well known military and literary character, Colonel

You do not tell me how you liked my two last songs. Are they condemned?

No. LXXVI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

13th May, 1795

It gives me great pleasure to find that you are all so well satisfied with Mr. Allan's production. The chance resemblance of your little fellow, whose promising disposition appeared so very early, and suggested whom he should be named after, is curious enough. I am acquainted with that person, who is a prodigy of learning and genius, and a pleasant fellow, though no saint.

You really make me blush when you tell me yon have not merited the drawing from me. I do not think I can ever repay you, or sufficiently estrem and respect you for the liberal and kind manuer in which you have entered into the spirit of my undertaking, which could not have been perfected without you : So I beg you would not make a fool of me again, by speaking of obligation.

I like your two last songs very much, and am happy to find you are in such a high fit of poetizing. Long may it last. Clarke has made a fine pathetic air to Mallet's superlative ballad of William and Margaret, and is to give it to me, to be enrolled among the elect.

No. LXXVII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

Ist Whistle and I'll come to ye, my lad, the ments to Allan, who has honoured my rustic iteration of that line is tiresome to my east use so much with his masterly pencil. One Here goes what I think is an improvement.

O whistle, and I'll come to ye, my lad; O whistle, and I'll come to ye, my lad; Tho' father, and mother, and a' should gae mad, Thy Jeany will venture wi' ye my lad.

In fact, a fair dame at whose shrine I, the Priest of the Nine, offer up the incense of Parnassus; a dame whom the Graces have attired in witcheraft, and whom the Loves have armed with lightning, a Fair One, herself the heroine of the song, insists on the amendment; and dispute her commands if you dare!

(O this is no my ain lassie, p. 238.)

Do you know that you have roused the torpidity of Clarke at last? He has requested me to write three or four songs for him, which he is to set to music himself. The enclosed sheet contains two songs for him, which please to present to my valued friend Conningham.

I enclose the sheet open, both for your inspection, and that you may copy the song, O bonnie was von rosie brier. I do not know whether I am right; but that song pleases me, and as it is extremely probable that Clarke's newly roosed celestial spark will soon be smothered in the fogs of indolence, if you like the song, it may go as Scottish verses, to the air of, I wish my love was in a mire; and poor Erskine's English lines may follow.

I enclose you For a' that and a' that, which was rever in print: it is a much superior song to mine. I have been told that it was com-

posed by a lady.

(Now Spring has clad the grove in green, p. 214.)

(O bonnie was you rosy brier, p. 216.)

Written on the blank leaf of a copy of the last edition of my poems, presented to the lady, whom, in so many fictitious reveries of passion, but with the most ardent sentiments of real friendship, I have so often sung under the name of Chloris:

'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'ereast, Chill came the tempest's lour; (And ne'er misfortune's eastern blast Did nip a fairer flower).

Since life's gay seenes must charm no more, Still much is left belinad;

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 refined of sense and taste, With every muse to rove; And doubly were the poet blest These joys could he improve.

Une bagatelle de l'amitie.

No. LXXVIII.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY DEAR SIR, Edinburgh, 3d Aug. 1795. This will be delivered to you by a Dr. Brianton, who has read your works, and pants for the honour of your acquaintance. I do no know the gentleman, but his friend, who applied to me for this introduction, being an excellent young man, I have no doubt he is worthy of all acceptation.

My eyes have just been gladdened, and my mind feasted, with your last packet-full of pleasant things indeed. What an imagination is yours! It is superfluous to tell you that I am delighted with all the three songs, as well as with your elegant and tender verses to Chloris.

I am sorry you should be induced to alter O whistle and I'll come to ye, my lad, to the prosaic line, Thy Jeany, will venture wi' ye m ; lad. I must be permitted to say, that I do not think the latter either reads or sings so well as the former. I wish, therefore, you would in my name petition the charming Jeany, whoever she be, to let the line remain unaltered.

I should be happy to see Mr. Clarke produce a few airs to be joined to your verses. Every body regrets his writing so very little, as every body acknowledges his ability to write well. Pray, was the resolution formed coolly before dinner, or was it a midnight vow made over a bowl of punch with the bard?

I shall not fail to give Mr. Cunningham what you have sent him.

P. S .- The lady's For a' that and a' that is sensible enough, but no more to be compared to yours than I to Hercules.

[.] The Editor, who has heard the heroine of this song sing it herself in the very spirit of arch simplicity that it requires, thinks Mr. Thomson's petition unreason able—Cukrie.

No. LXXIX

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

ENGLISH SONG

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.

> 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 had of hope and joy;
And shelter, shade, nor home have I,
Save in these 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 nine, 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.

How do you like the foregoing? I have written it within this hour: so much for the speed of my Pegasus; but what say you to his bottom?

No. LXXX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Last May a braw w oer cam down the lang glen, p. 206.)

FRAGMENT.

Twne-" 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, raptured, slumbers, Chloris, Chloris all the theme, Why, why wouldst thou, cruel, Wake thy lover from his dream. Such is the peculiarity of the rhysac of tans air, that I find it impossible to make another stanza to suit it.

I am at present quite occupied with the charming sensations of the toothache, so have not a word to spare.

No. LXXXI.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your English verses to Let me in this as night, are tender and beautiful; and your ballad to the "Lothian lassie" is a master-piece for its humour and naiveté. The fragment for the Caledonian Hunt is quite suited to the original measure of the air, and, as it plagmes you so, the fragment must content it. I would rather, as I said before, have had Bacchanalian words, had it so pleased the puct; but, nevertheless, for what we have received, Lord make us thankful!

No. LXXXII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

5th Feb. 1796.
O Robby Burns are ye skeeping yet?
Or are ye wauking, I would wit?

THE pause you have made, my dear Sir, is awful! Am I never to hear from you again? I know and I lament how much you have been afflicted of late, but I trust that returning health and spirits will now enable you to resume the pen, and delight us with your musings. I have still about a dozen Scotch and Irish airs that I wish "married to immortal verse." We have several true born Irishmen on the Scottish list; but they are now naturalized, and reckoned our own good subjects. Indeed we have none bet-I believe I before told you that I have been much urged by some friends to publish a collection of all our favourite airs and songs in octavo, embellished with a number of etchings by our ingenious friend Allan; what is your opinion of this?

No. LXXXIII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

February, 1796.

Many thanks, my dear Sir. for your handsome, elegant present to Mrs. B.—. and for

my remaining vol. of P. P.zdar.—Peter is a delightful fellow, and a first favourite of mine. I am much pleased with your idea of publishing a collection of our songs in octavo with stchings. I am extremely willing to lend every assistance in my power. The Irish airs I shall cheerfully undertake the task of finding process for

I have already, you know, equipt three with words, and the other day I strong up a kind of rhapsody to another Hibernian melody, which I admire nuch.

(Hey for a lass wi' a tocher, p. 239.)

If this will do, you have now four of my lish engagement. In my hy-past songs, I dislike one thing; the name Chloris—I meant it as the fictitious name of a certain lady; but, on second thoughts, it is a high incongruity to have a Greek appellation to a Scottish pasteral ballad.—Of this, and some things else, in my next: I have more amendments to propose.—What you once mentioned of "flaxen lock," is just: they cannot enter into an elegant description of beauty. Of this also again—God bless von; "

No. LXXXIV.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET.

Your Hey for a lnss wi' a tocher, is a most excellent song, and with you the subject is something new indeed. It is the first time I have seen you debasing the god of soft desire, into an amateur of acres and guineas.—

I am happy to find yea approve of my proposed octavo edition. Allan has designed and teched about twenty places, and I am to have my choice of them for that work. Independently of the Hogarthian humour with which they abound, they exhibit the character and costome of the Scottish peasantry with inminishible felicity. In this respect, he hinself says, they will far exceed the aquatinta plates he did for the Gentle Shepherd, because in the etching he sees clearly what he is doing, but not so with the aquatinta, which he could not manage to his mind.

The Dutch hoors of Ostade are scarcely more characteristic and natural than the Scottish figures in those etchings.

No. LXXXV.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

April, 1796.

Alas, my dear Thomson, I fear it will be some time ere I tune my lyre again! "Box be Babel streams I have sat and wept," almost ever since I wrote you last: I have only known existence by the pressure of the heavy hand of sickness, and have counted time by the repercussions of pain! Rheumatism, cold, and fever have formed to me a terrible combination. I close my eyes in misery, and open them without hope. I look on the vernal day, and say, with pour Ferguson—

" Say wherefore has an all-indulgent Heaven "Light to the comfortless and wretched given?"

This will be delivered to you by a Mrs. Hy. slop landlady of the Globe Tavern here, which for these many years has been my howff, and where our friend Clarke and I have had many a merry squeeze. I am highly delighted with Mr. Allan's etchings. Woo'd and married and a' is admirable! The grouping is beyond all praise. The expression of the figures, conformable to the story in the ball id, is absolutely faultless perfection. I next admire Turnimspike. What I like least is, Jenny said to Jocky. Besides the female being in her appearance . . . if you take her stooping into the account, she is at least two inches taller than her lover. Poor Cleghorn! I sincerely sympathize with him! Happy I am to think that he yet has a well-grounded hope of health and enjoyment in this world. As for me-hut that is a iect !

No LXXXVI

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET

4th May, 1796.

I NEED not tell you, my good Sir, what concern the rece pt of your last gave me, and how much I sympathize in your sufferings. But do not, I be-each you, give yourself up to despondency, nor speak the language of despair. The vigour of your constitution I trust will soon set you or your feet again; and then it is to be hoped you will see the wisdom and the necessity of taking due care of a life so vahable to your family, to your friends, and to the world.

Trusting that your next will bring agreeable accounts of your convolescence, and returning good spirits, I remain, with sincere regard yours.

P. S. Mrs. Histop I doubt not delivered the gold seal to you in good condition.

Our Poet never explained what name he would have substituted for Chloris.—Note by Mr. Thomson.

No. LXXXVII.

THE POET TO MR. THOMSON.

MY DEAR SIR.

I once mentioned to you an air which I have ong admired-Here's a health to them that's awa, hiney, but I forget if you took any notice of it. I have just been trying to suit it with verses; and I beg leave to recommend the air to your attention once more. I have only begun it.

(Here's a health to ane I lo'e dear, p. 204.)

No. LXXXVIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

This will be delivered by a Mr. Lewars, a young fellow of uncommon merit. As he will be a day or two in town, you will have leisure, MY DEAR SIR, if you choose, to write me by him; and if you have a spare half hour to spend with him, I you have complete leisure, I will thank you for fending your independent spirit, checked my re set me to rights, but as yet I cannot boast of returning health. I have now reason to believe for your sake. that my complaint is a flying gout: a sad busiacss!

Do let me know how Cleghorn is, and remember me to him.

This should have been delivered to you a month ago. I am still very poorly, but should ake much to hear from you.

No. LXXXIX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Brow, on the Solway frith, 12th Jun, 1796. AFTER all my boasted independence, curst accessity compels me to implore you for five

A cruel of a Laberdasher, pounds. to whom I owe an account, taking it into his head that I am dying, has commenced a process, and will intallably put me into jail. Do, for God's sake, send me that sum, and that by return of post. Forgive me this carnestness, but the horrors of a jail have made me had distracted. I do not ask all this gratuitously; for, npon returning health, I hereby promise and engage to furnish you with five pounds worth of the neatest song genius you have seen. I tried my band on "Rothiemme .. e" this morning. The measure is so difficult, that it is impossible to infuse much genius into the lines; they are on the other side. Forgive, forgive me!

(Fairest maid on Povon Banks, p. 200.)

No. XC.

MR. THOMSON TO THE POET

14th July, 1796.

EVER since I received your melancholy letter by Mrs. Hyslop, I have been ruminating in shall place your kindness to my account. I what manner I could endeavour to alleviate have no copies of the songs I have sent you, your sufferings. Again and again I thought of and I have taken a fancy to review them all, a pecuniary offer, but the recollection of one of and possibly may mend some of them; so when your letters on this subject, and the fear of of either the originals, or copies. I had rather solution. I thank you heartily, therefore, for be the author of five well-written songs than of the frankness of your letter of the 12th, and ten otherwise. I have great hopes that the general influence of the approaching summer will sum I proposed sending. Would I were the Chancellor of the Exchequer but for one day,

Pray, my good Sir, is it not possible for you to muster a volume of poetry? If too much trouble to you in the present state of your health, some literary friend might be found here, who would select and arrange from your manuscripts, and take upon him the task of Editor. In the meantime it could be advertised to be published by subscription. Do not shan this mode of obtaining the value of your labour; remember Pope published the Iliad by subscription. Think of this, my dear Burns, and do not reckon me intrusive with my advice. You are too well convinced of the respect and friendship I bear you, to impute any thing I say to an unworthy motive.

The verses to "Rotmemurchie" will answer finely. I am happy to see you can still tune

[.] It is needless to say, that this revisal Burns did your lyre not live to prionn.



GLOSSARY.

The ch and gh have always the guttural sound. The sound of the E glish diphthong ω_0 , a commonly spelled ω_0 . The French v_0 a sound which often occurs in the Scottish language, is marked ω_0 , or ω_0 . The a in genuine Scottish words, except when forming a diphthong, or followed by an c mute after a single consonant, sounds generally like the broad English a in xall. The Scottish diphthong a, always, and aa, very often, sound like the French a masculine. The Scottish diphthong a, always, sounds like the Latin a.

A

A', All Aback, away, aloot Abeigh, at a shy distance Aboon, above, up Abread, abroad, in sight Abreed, in breadth Addle, putrid water, &c. Ae, one. Aff, off: Aff loof, unpremeditated Afore, before Aft, oft Aften, often Agley, off the right line; wrong Ablins, perhaps Ain, own Airle-penny, Airles, earnest money Airn, iron Aith, an oath Aits, oats Aiver, an old horse Aizle, a hot cinder Alake, alas Alane, alone Akwart, awkward Amaist, almost Amang, among An', and; if Ance, once Ane, one; and Anent, over against Anither, another Ase, ashes Asklent, asquint; aslant Asteer, abroad; stirring Athart, athwart Aught, possession; as, In a' my aught, in all Belyve, by and by my possession Auld lang syne, olden time, days of other years Auld, old Auldfarran, or, suld farrant, sagacious, cun-

Ava, at all Awa', away Awfu', awful Awn, the beard of barley, oats, &c. Awnie, bearded Ayont, beyond

BA', ball Backets, ash boards Backlins, coming; coming back, returning Back, returning Bad, did bid Baide, endured. did stay Baggie, the belly Bainie, having large bones, stout Bairn, a child Bairntime, 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 Ben, into the spence or parlour; a spence Benlomond, a noted mountain in Dumbartor. shire Bethankit, grace after meat

Bicker, a kind of wooden dish; a short race

Beuk, a book

ning, prudent

GLOSSARY.

Bic, 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 any thing; to slap Blaw, to blow, to boast Bleerit, bleared, sore with rheum Bleerit 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 Pluid, blood Bluntie, a sniveller, a stupid person Blype, a shredt, a large piece Bock, to vomit, to gush intermittently Bocked, gushed, vomited Bodle, a small gold coin Bogles, spirits, hobgotlins 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 precipiece; the slope of a Caff, chaff hill Braid, broad Braindg't, reeled forward Braik, a kind of harrow Braindge, to run rashly forward Brak, broke, made insolvent Branks, a kind of wooden curb for horses Beash, a sudden illness Brattle, a short race; hurry; fury Braw, fine, hardsome Brawly, or brawlie, very well! finely; heartily Carl, an old man Braxie, a morbid sheep Breastie, diminutive of breast Breasut, 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 Brunstane, brimstone 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 weddings who shall first reach the bridegrooms's house on returning from church Browster-wives, ale-house wives Brugh, a burgh Bruilzie, a broil, a combustion 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 Buirdly, 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 blacksmith Burnie, diminutive of burn Buskie, bushy Buskit, dressed Busks, dresses Bussle, a bustle; to bustle Buss, shelter But, bot, with; without But an' ben, the country kitchen and parlous 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 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 Cantrip, a charm, a spell Cape-stane, cope-stone ; kcy-stone. Careerin, cheerfully Carlin, a stout old woman Cartes, cards Caudron, a cauldron Cauk an' keel, chalk and red clay

Cauld, cold Cove, a cave 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 Cowt, a colt Checkit, checked Cozie, snug Cheep, a chirp; to chirp Chiel, or cheel, a young fellow Cozily, snugly 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 husbandry) Chuffie, fat-faced Clachan, a small village about a church; a hamlet grel verses Claise, or claes, clothes Claith, cloth Claithing, clothing Crap, a crop; to crop 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 Creeshie, greasy Crood, or croud, to coo as a dove 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 (lockin, hatching Cloot, the hoof of a cow, sheep, &c.

Clootie, 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 (og, a wooden dish

Coggie, diminutive of cog Colla, 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 ankle or foot

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 cot-

Couthie, kind, ving

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

Crabbit, crabbed, fretful

Crack, conversation; to converse

Crackin', conversing Craft, or croft, a field near a house (in old

Craiks, cries or calls incessantly; a bird Crambo-clink, or crambo-jingle, rhymes, dog

Crank, the noise of an ungreased wheel

Crankous, fretful, captious Cranreuch, the hoar frost

Craw, a crow of a cock; a rook

Creel, a basket; to have one's wits in a crea,

to be crazed; to be fascinated Creepie-stool, the same as cutty-stool

Croon, a hollow and continued moan; to make a noise like the continued roar of a bull; to

hum a tune Crooning, humming Crouchie, crook-backed Croose, cheerful; ccurageous

Crousely, cheerfolly; courageously Crowdie, a composition of out-meal and boil-

ed 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

Curlie, curled, whose hair falls naturally in ringlets Curling, a well known game on the ice

Curniurring, murmuring; a slight runbling noise

Curpin, the crupper Cushat, the dove, or wood-pigeon

utty, short; a spoon broken in the middle utty-stool, the stool of repentance

DADDIE, a father Daffin, merriment; foolishness Daft, merry, giddy; foolish

Cootie, a wooden kitchen dish:-also, those Daimen, rare, now and then ; Maimen-icker an car of corn now and then.

Dainty, pleasant, good humoured, agreeable Daise, daez, to stupify

Dales, plains, valleys Darklins, darkling

Daud, to thrash, to abuse

Danr, to dare

Daurg, or daurk, a day's labour
Davoc, David
Dawd, a large piece
Dawtit, or dawtet, fondled, caressed
Dearies, diminutive of dears
Dearthiu', dear
Deave, to deafen
Deil-ma-care! no matter! for all that!
Delecrit, delirions
Deserve, 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

Dolt, stupmed, crazeu
Donsie, unlucky
Dool, sorrow; to sing dool, to lament,
niourn
Doos, doves

Fairin, a fairing; a present
Fallow, fellow
Fand, did find

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

Doup-skeller, one that strikes the tail Dour and din, sullen and shallow Doure, stout, durable; sullen, stubborn Dow, am or are able, can Dowff, pithless, wanting force Dowie, worn with grief, fatigue, &c. half a-

sleep
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

Draunting, drawling; of a slow Dreep, to ooze, to drop Dreigh, tedious, long about it Dribble, drizzling; slaver Drit, a drove

Droddum, the breech Drone, part of a bagpipe Droop-rumpl't, that droops at the crupper Droukit, wet

Drounting, drawling Drouth, thirst, drought Drucken, drunken Drumly, muddy

Drummock, meal and water reixed in a rest

Drunt, pet, sour humour Dub, a small pond Duds, rags, clothes Dudde, ragged

Dung, worsted; pushed, driven Dunted, beaten, boxed Dosh, to push as a ram, &c. Dusht, pushed by a ram, ox, &c.

E

E'E, the eye E'en the eyes E'ening, evening Eerie, frighted, dreading spirits Eild, old age Elhuck, the elbow Elhuck, the elbow Eller, an elder, or church officer En'r, end Enbrugh, Edinburgh-Eneugh, enough Especial, especially Eule, to try, to attempt Eydent, diligent

F

FA', fall; lot; to fall Fa's does fall; water-falls Faddon't, fathomed Fae, a foe Feam, 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

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, frighted
Feat, neat, spruce
Fecht, to fight

Fechtin', fighting Feck, many, plenty Fecket, an under waistcoat with sleeves Feckfu', large, brawny, stout

Feckfu', large, brawny, stout Feckless, puny, weak, silly Feckly, weakly Feg, a fig

Feide, feud, enmity
Feirrie, stout, vigorous, healthy
Fell keen hitings the flesh im

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
Fende, or ferley, to wonder; a wonder; a term

of contempt
Fetch, to pull by fits
Fetch't, pulled intermittently

Field, pulled intermittently Fidge, to fidget Fiel, soft, smooth

Fient, fiend, a petty oath Fier, sound, healthy; a brother: a friend Fissle, to make a rustling noise; to fidget;

bustle Fit, a foot Fittie-lan', the nearer horse of the hindmost pair in the plough

Fizz, to make a hissing noise, like fermentation

Flainen, flannel

Fleech: to supplicate in a flattering manner Fleech'd, supplicated Fleechin', supplicating Fleesh, a fleece

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GLOSSARY. Fleg, a kick, a random stroke Flether, to decoy by fair words Fletherin', flattering Flev, to scare, to frighten Flitcher, to flutter, as young nestlings when their dam approaches Flinders, shreds, broken pieces, splinters Flingin'-tree, a piece of timber hung by way of partition between two horses in a stable; a flail Flisk, to fret at the voke Flisket, fretted Flitter, to vibrate like the win s of small birds Flittering, fluttering, vibrating Flunkie, a servant in livery Fodgel, squat and plump Foord, a ford Forbears, forefathers Forbye, besides Forfairn, distressed; worn out, jaded Fortoughten, fatigued Forgather, to meet, to encounter with Forgie, to forgive Forjesket, jaded with fatigue Fother, 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 Freath, froth Frien', friend Fu', full Fuel, 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 triffes Fyle, to soil, to 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 Gand, 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, nea:

Get, a child, a young one Ghaist, a ghost Gie, to give ; gied, gave ; gien, given Giftie, diminutive of gift Oiglets, 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 Gipsey, a young girl Girn, to grin, to twist the features in rage, agony, &c. Girning, grinning O'zz, 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 a side, 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 daisies 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

Graining, groaning Grain, a pronged instrument used for cleaning stables Graith, accountements, furniture, dress, gear

Grannie, grandmother Grape, to grope Grapit, 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, catched, seized

Groat, to get the whistle of one's groat, to rlay a losing game Grousome, loathsomely grim

Grozet, a gooseberry
Grumph, a grunt; to grunt
Grumphie, a sow
Grun', ground
Grun', ground
Grunstane, a grindstone
Gruntle, the phiz; a grunting noise

Geordie, a guinea

Grunzie, mouth Grushie, thick; of thriving growth Gude, the Supreme Being Guid, good Guid-mornin', good morrow Guid-e'en, good evening Guidman and guidwife, the master and mistress of the house; young guidman, a man newly married Guid-willie, liberal; cordial Guidfather, guidmother, father-in-law, and mother-in-law Gully, or gullie, a large knife Gumlie, muddy Gusty, tasteful П HA', hall
Ha'-Bible, the great bible that lies in the Hirsel, so many cattle as one person can attend hall Hae, to have Haen, had, the participle Haet, fint haet, a petty oath of negation; 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 stomuch 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 Haly, holy Hame, home Hallun, a particular partition-wall in a cottage, or more properly a seat of turf at the

outside Hallowmas, Hallow-eve, the 31st of October Hamely, homely, affable

Han', or haun', hand

Hap, an outer garment, mantle, plaid, &c. to wrap, to cover; to hop

Happer, a hopper Happin', 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

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 Heapit, heaped

Healsome, healthful, wholesome Hearse, hoarse

Hear't, hear it Heather, heath

Hech! oh! strange! Hecht, promised; to foretell something that is to be got or given; foretold; the thing fore-told; offered

Heckle, a board, in which are fixed a number lingine, genius, ingenuity

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, or any

sort Het, hot

Heugh, a crag, a coalpit Hilch, a hobble; to halt Hilchin, halting Himsel, himself

Hiney, honey Hing, to hang Hirple, to walk crazily, to creep

Hastie, dry; chapped; barren

Hitch, a loop, a knot

Ilizzie, a hussy, a young girl Hoddin, the motion of a sage countryman rid-ing on a cart-horse; humble Hog-score, a kind of distance-line, in curling,

drawn across the rink Hog-shouther, a kind of horse-play, by just

ling 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, turn'd topsyturvy; blended, mixed

Houghmagandie, fornication Houlet, an owl Housie, diminutive of house

Hove, to heave, to swell Hoved, heaved, swelled Howdie, a midwifa

llowe, 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

Howkit, digged Howkin, digging Howlet, an owl Hoy, to urge Hoy't, urged Hoyse, to pull upwards

Hoyte, to amble crazily Hughoc, diminutive of Hugh Hurcheon, a hedgehog

Hardies, the loins : the grupper

Hushion, a cushion

I

I', in lcker, an ear of corn

Ier-oe, a great-grandchild Ilk, or ilka, each, every Ill-willie, ill-natured, malicious, niggardly

Ingle, fire; fire-place Ise, I shall or will lther, other; one another

JAD, jade; also a familiar term among country folks for a giddy young girl Jank, to dally, to triffe

Jaukin', trifling, dallying

Jaup, a jerk of water ; to jerk as agitated wa-

Jaw, coarse raillery; to pour out; to shut, to jerk as water

Jerkinet, a jerkin, or short grown

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

Jocteleg, 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 justle

KAE, a daw

Kail, colewort; a kind of broth Kail-runt, the stem of colewort Kain, fowls, &c. paid as rent by a farmer

Kebbuck, 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, any thing that eats with bread; to

serve for soup, gravy, &c. Kith, kindred

Kittle, to tickle; ticklish; lively, apt

Kittlin, a young cat Kiutile, to cuddle

Knuttlin, cuddling Knaggie, like knags, or points of rocks

Knap, to strike smartly, a smart blow Knappin-hammer, a hammer used for break-

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ing stones Knowe, a small round hillock

Knurl, a dwarf rive, 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 sottom of a wooden dish Laigh, low

Lairing, wading, and sirking in snow, mad, άc.

Laith, loath

Laithfu', bashful, sheepish Lallans, the Scottish dialect of the English

language Lambie, diminutive of lamb

Lampit, a kind of shell-fish, a limpit

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 endear-ment; I am happy in thee, or proud or thee

Leister, a three-prong'd dart for striking fish Leugh, did laugh

Leuk, a look ; to look Libbet, gelded

Litt, 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 preciplece 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', Haming

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

Lunua', smoking Lyart, of a mixed colour, gray

M

MAE, more Mair, more Maist, most, almost Maistly, mortly Mak, to make Makin', making Mailen, a farm Mallie, Molly Mang, among

Manse, the parsonage house, where the minister lives

Manteele, a mantle Mark, marks. (This and several other nouns which in English require an s to form the plaral, 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 Mclvie, to soil with meal Men', to mend

Mense, good manners, decorum Menseless, ill-bred, rude, impuden:

Messin, a small dog Midden, a dunghill

Midden-hole, a gutter at the bottom of a dunghill

Mim, prim, affectedly meck Min', mind; resemblance Mind't, mind it; resolved, intending Minnie, mother, dam Mirk, mirkest, dark, darkest

Misca', to abused Misca'd, abused Mislear'd, mischievous, unmannerly

Misteuk, mistook Mither, a mother

Mixtie-maxtie, confusedly mixed Moistify, to mois.en

Mony, or monie, many Mools, dust, earth, the earth of the grave; to Pechan, the crop, the stomach rake i' the mools; to lay in the dust Peclin' peeling, the rind of fruit

Moop, to nibble as a sheep Moorlan', of or belonging to moors Morn, the next day, to-morrow

Mou, the mouth Moudiwort, a mole Mousic, diminutive of mouse

Muckle, or mickle, great, big, much Music, diminutive of niuse Muslin-kail, broth, composed simply of water,

slielled barley, and greens Mutchkin, an English pint Mysel, myself

N

NA, no, not, nor Nae, no, not any Naething, or naithing, nothing

Naig, a horse Nane, none

Nappy, ale; to be tipsy Negleckit, neglected Nenk, a nook Niest, next

Nieve, the fist Nievefu', handful

Niffer, an exchange; to exchange, to barter Niger, a negro

Nine-tail'd-cat, a hangman's whip Nit, a nut

Norland, of or belonging to the north Notic't, noticed Nowte, black cattle

0

Ochils, name of a range of mountains in Clack mannon and Kinross-shires

O haith, O faith! an oath 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 Ontlers, cattle not housed

Owre, over; too

Owrc-hip, a way of fetching a blow with the hamner over the arm

PACK, intimate, familiar; twelve stone of wool

Painch, panneh Paitrick, a partridge Pang, to cram Parle, speech

Parritch, an 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

Pet, a u mesticated sheep, &c.

Pettle, to cherish; a plough-staff Philabegs, short petticoats worn by the High-

landmen

Phraise, fair speehes, flattery; to flatter Phraisin', flattery Pibroch, Highland war music adapted to the

bagpipe Pickle, a small quantity Pine, pain, uneasiness Pit, to put

Placard, public proclamation

Place, an old Scotch coin, the third part of a Restricked restricted Scotch penny, twelve of which make an English penny Plackless, pennyless, without money Platic, 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 Powthery, like powder Pow, the head, the skull Pownie, a little horse Powther, or pouther, powder Preen, a pin Prent, to print; print Prie, to taste Prie'd, tasted Pricf, proof Prig, to cheapen; to dispute Priggin, cheapening Primsie, demure, precise Propone, to lay down, to propose Provoses, provosts Puddock-stool, a musheroom, fungus Pund, pound; pounds Pyle,—a pyle o' caff, a single grain of chaff

QUAT, to quit Quak, to quake Quey, a cow from one to two years old

 \mathbf{R}

RAGWEED, the herb ragwort Raible, to rattle nonsense Rair, to roar Raize, to madden, to inflame Ram-feezl'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 Rede, counsel; to counsel Rod-wat-shod, walking in blood over the shoeteps Red-wull, stark mad Ree, half drunk, fuddled Reck, smoke Reekin', smoking Reckit, smoked; smoky Remead, rem. dy Requite, requited Rest, to stand restive Restit, stood restive stunted; withered

Rew, to rejent, to compassionate Rief, reef, plenty Rief randies, sturdy beggars Rig, a ridge

Rigwiddie, rigwoodie, the rope or chain tha 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 unthrashed 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 sclvage Roose, to praise, to commend

Roosty, rusty Roun', round, in the circle of neighbourhood Roupet, hoarse, as with a cold Routhie, plentiful

Row, to roll, to wrap Row't, rolled, wrapped Rowte, to low, to bellow Routh, or routh, plenty Rowtin', lowing Rozet, rosin Rung, a cudgel Runkled, wrinkled

Runt, the stem of colewort or cabbage Ruth, a woman's name; the book so called sorrow

Ryke, to reach

S

SAE, so Salt, soft Sair, to serve: a sore Sairly, or sairlie, sorely Sair't, served Sark, a shirt; a shift Sarkit, provided in shirts Saugh, the willow Saul, 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, upt to be scared Scawl, a scold; a termagant Scon, a cake of bread Sconner, a loathing; to loathe Scraich, to scream as a hen, partridge, &c. Screed, to tear : a rent Scrieve, to glide swiftly along Scrievin, gleesomely; swittly 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 Sent', I, &c. sent, or did send it; send it

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Servan', servant Settlin', settling; to get a settlin', to be fright-Snash, abuse, Billingsgate ed into quietness Sets, sets off, goes away Shachled, distorted; shapeless Shaird, a shred, a shard Sneck, snick, the latch of a door Shangan, a stick cleft at one end for putting Sned, to lop, to cut off the tail of a dog, &c. into, by way of mis-chief, or to frighten him away Shaver, a humorous wag; a barber Shaw, to show; a small wood in a hollow Sheen, bright, shining Sheep-shank; to think one's self nae sheepshank, to be conceited Sherra-moor, sheriff-moor, the famous battle fought in the rebellion, A.D. 1715 Sheugh, a ditch, a trench, a sluice Shiel, a ditch, a trench, a sluice Shiel, a shed Shill, shrill Shog, a shock; a push off at one side Shool, a shovel Shoon, shoes Shore, to offer, to threaten Shor'd, offered Shouther, the shoulder Shure, did shear, shore Sic, such Sicker, sure, steady Sidelms, sidelong, slanting Siller, silver; money Simmer, summer Sin. a son Sin', since

Skaith, see scaith Skellum, a worthless fellow Skelp, to strike, to sap; to walk with a smart Spaviet, having the spavin tripping step; a smart stroke Skelpie-limnier, a reproachful term in female

scolding Skelpin', stepping, walking Skiegh, or skeigh, proud, nice, highmettled Skinklin, a small portion

Skirl, to shrick, to cry shrilly Skirling, shricking, crying

Skirl't, shrieked

Sklent, slant; to run aslant, to deviate from Sklented, ran, or hit, in an oblique direction Skouth, freedom to converse without restraint;

range, scope Skriegh, a scream; to scream Skyrin', shining; making a great show Skyte, force, very forcible motion

Slac, a sloc 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 Sliddry, slippery Siype, to fall over, as a wet furrow from the

plough Slypet, fell Sma', small Smeddum, dust, powder; mettle, sense

Snuddy, a smithy Smoor, to smother Smoor'd, smothered

Smoutie, smutty, obscene, ugly

Survivie. a numer us collection of small indi-

vidaals

Snaw, snow; to snow Snaw-broo, melted snow Snawie, snowy

Sneeshin, snuff Sneeshin-mill, a snuff-box Snell, bitter, biting

Snick-drawing, trick-contriving, crafty Snirtle, to laugh restrainedly

Snood, a ribbon for binding the hair Snool, one whose spirit is broken with oppres-

sive slavery; to submit tamely, to sneak Snoove, to go smoothly and constantly; te sneak

Snowk, to scent or snuff, as a dog, &c. Snowkit, scented, snuffed

Sonsie, having sweet, engaging looks; lucky iolly

Soon, to swim Sooth, truth, a petty oath

Sough, a heavy sigh, a sound dying on the ear

Souple, flexible; swift Souter, a shoemaker

Sowens, a dish made of oatmeal; the seeds o oatmeal soured, &c. flummery Sewp, a spoonful, a small quantity of an

thing liquid Sowth, to try over a tune with a low whistle Sowther, solder; to solder, to cement

Spac, to prophesy, to divine Spaul, a limb

Spairge, to dash, to soil, as with mire

Spean, spane, to wean Speat, or spate, a sweeping torrent, after ain or thaw

Speel, to climb Spence, the country perlour Spier, to ask, to inquire

Spier't, inquired Splatter, a splutter, to splutter Spleughan, a tobacco-pouch

Splore, a frolic; a noise, rlot Sprackle, sprachle, to clamber Sprattle, to scramble

Spreckled, spotted, speckled Spring, a quick air in music; a Scottish reel Sprit, a tough-rooted plant, something like

rushes Sprittie, full of spirits

Spunk, fire, mettle ; wit Spunkie, mettlesome, fiery; will-o'wisp, or ig-

nis fatuus Spurtle, a stick, used in making oatmeal pud

ding or porridge Squad, a crew, a party

Squatter, to flutter in water as a wild duck

Squattle, to sprawl

Squeel, a scream, a screech; to scream Stacher, to stagger

Stack, a rick of corn, hay, &c. Staggie, 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 water

Stap, stop Stark, stout

Startle, to run as cattle stung by the gad-fly | Sweaten, sweating Staumrel, a blockhead; half-witted Staw, did steal; to surfeit Stech, to cram the belly Stechin, Cramming Steek, to shut; a suitch Steer, to molest; to stir Steeve, firm, compacted Stell, still Sten, to rear as a horse Sten't, reared Steats, 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 Stimpart, the eighth part of a Winchester bushel Stirk, a cow or bullock a year old Stock, a plant or root of colewort, cabbage, & e Stockin, a stocking; Throwing the stockin, 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 Stooked, made up in shocks as corn Stoor, sounding hollow, strong, and hourse Stot, an ox Stoup, or stowp, a kind of jug or dish with a handle Stour, dust, more particularly dust in motion Stowlins, by stealth Stown, stolen Stoyte, to stumble Strack, did strike Strae, straw; to die a fair strae heath, to die in bed Straik, did strike Straikit, stroked Strappin', tall and handsome Straught, straight, to straighten Streek, stretched tight; to stretch Striddle, to straddle Stroan, to spout, to piss Studdie, an anvil Stumple, diminutive of stump Strunt, spiritnous liquor of any kind; to walk sturdily; huff, sullenness Stuff, corn or pulse of any kind Sturt, trouble; to molest Sturtin, frighted Sucker, sugar Sud, should Sugh, the continued rushing noise of wind or water Southron, southern; an old name for the English nation

Swaird, sward

Swall'd, swelled

fellow or girl

Swat, did sweat

Swatch, a sample

Swank, stately, jolly

Swap, an exchange; to barter

Swarf, to swoon; a swoon

Swats, drink; good ale

Swankie, or swanker, a tight strapping young

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Sweer, lazy, averse; dead-sweer, extremely 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 irresolute wavering in choice Syne, since, ago; then TACKETS, a kind of nails for driving into the heals 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-breeks, a sailor Tauld, or tald, told Taupie, a foolish, thoughtless young person Tanted, or tautie, matted together; spoken of hair or wool Tawie, that allows itself peaceably to be handled; spoken of a horse, cow, &c. Teat, a small quanti y Teen, to provoke; I ovocation Tedding, spreading, fter the mower Ten-hours bite, a slight feed to the 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 Teugh, tough Thack, thatch; thack an' rape, clothing necessaries Thae, these Thairms, small guts; fiddle-strings Thankit, thanked Theekit, thatched Theguher, together Themsel, themselves Thick, intimate, familiar Thieveless, cold, dry, spited; spoken of a person's demeanour Thir, these Thirl, thrill Thirl d, thrilled, vibrated Thole, to suffer, to endure Thowe, a thaw; to thaw Thowless, slack, lazy Thrang, throng ; a crowd Thrappie, throat, windpipe Thrave, twenty-four sheaves or two shocks or corn; a considerable number 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

Through, to go on with; to make out

Thristle, thistle

Throuther, pell-mell, confusedly Thud, to make a loud intermittent noise

Thumpit, thamped Thysel, thyself

Till't, to it Timmer, timber

Tine, to lose; tint, lost Tinkler, a tinker

Tint the gate, lost the way

Tip, a ram

Tippence, twopence Tirl, to make as light 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 handet; a farm-house

Tout, the blast of a horn or trumpet: to blow a horn, &c.

Tow, a rope

I owmond, 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 Cryste, an appointment ; a fair

Trysted, appointed; To tryste, to make an appointment

Try't, tried

Tug, raw mile, of which in old times ploughtraces were frequently made Tulzie, a quarrel; to quarrel, of gli

Twa, two

Twa-three, a few 'Twad, it would

Twal, twelve; twal-pennie worth, a small

quantity, a penny-worth
N.B. One penny English is 12d Scotch

Twin, to part Tyke, a dog

UNCO, strange, uncouth; very, very great,

prodigious Uncos, news

Unkeun'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 column, &c. Vittle, corn of all kinds, food

w

WA', wall; wa's, walls

Wabster, a weaver Wad, would; to bet; a bet, a pledge

Wadna, would not Wae, wo; sorrowful

Waefu', woful, sorrowful, wailing

Waesucks! or waes me! alas! O the pity Waft, the cross thread that goes from the shut tle through the web; woof

Wair, to lay out, to expend Wale, choice; to choose Waled, chose, chosen

Walie, ample, large, jolly; also an interjec tion of distress

Wame, the belly Wametu', a belly-full 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 Warstl'd or warsl'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, but-

ter, &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 Wersor weasand Wzavir, the stocking. See Stocking

Wee, unie; Wee things, little ones; Wee bit, a small matter

Weel, well; Werlfare, welfare

Weet, rain, wetness Weird, fate We'se, we shall

Wha, who Whaizle, to wheeze Whalpit, whelped

Whang, a leathern string; a piece of eneese, bread, &c., to give the strappado Whare, where; Whare'er, wherever

Wheep, to fly nimbly, jerk; penny-wheep, small beer

Whase, whose

Whatreck, nevertheless Whid, the motion of a hare, running but not

frighted; a lie

Whiddin running as a hare or cony Whigmeteeries, whims, fancies, crotchets Whingin', crying, complaining, fretting Whirtigrapitas, uscless ornaments, triking ap-

pendages Whissle, a whistle; to whistle

Waisk, to sweep, to lash Whiskit, lashed Whitter, a hearty draught of liquor Whun-stane, a whin-stone Whyles, whiles, sometimes
Wi', with
Wight, 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 whirlpoel

Wifie, a diminutive or endearing term for wife Wilvart, bashful and reserved; avoiding so-

ciety or appearing awkward in it, wild, timid, strange Wimple, to meander

Winipl't, meandered Winiplin', 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 Withouten, without

Wizen'd, hide-bound, dried, shrunk Wonner, a wonder; a contemptuous appella-

tion Wons, dwells Woo', wool

Woo, to court, to make love to Woodie, a rope, more properly one made of

withes or willows Woor-bab, the garter knotted below the knos with a couple of loops

(13)

Wordy, worthy Worset, worsted

Wow, an exclamation of pleasure in wonder

Wrack, to teaze, to ver

Wraith, a spirit, or ghost; an apparition exactly like a living person, whose appeara is said to forbode the person's approach. death

Wrang, wrong; to wrong Wreeth, a drifted heap of snow Wud, mad, distracted Wumble, a wimble Wyle, to beguile Wylicot, a flannel vest Wyte, blame; to blame

YAD, an old mare; a worn out horse Ye; this pronoun is frequently used for Yearns, longs much Yearlings, born in the same year, coevals Year is used both for singular and plural Yearn, earn, an eagle, an ospray 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 ca into a farm-yard or field Yill, ale Yird, earth Yokin', yoking; a bout Yout, beyond Yoursel' yourself Yowe, a ewe Yowie, diminutive of yows Yule, Christmas





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