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DISSERTATION

ON THE

SCOTTISH MUSIC.

NOSTRAS NEC ERUBUIT SILVAS HABITARE THALIA. Virg.

Nor blush'd the Doric muse to dwell on Scottish plains.

THE genius of the Scots has in nothing shone more conspicuous than in Poetry and Music. Of the first, the Poems of Ossian, composed in an age of rude antiquity, are sufficient proof. The peevish doubt entertained by some of their authenticity, appears to be the utmost refinement of scepticism. As genuine remains of Celtic Poetry, the Poems of Ossian will continue to be admired as long as there shall remain a taste for the sublime and beautiful.

The Scottish Music does no less honour to the genius of the country. The old Scottish songs have always been admired for the wild pathetic sweetness which distinguishes them from the music of every other country. I mean, in this essay, to try to fix the æra of our most ancient melodies, and to trace the history of our music down to modern times. In a path so untrodden, where scarce a track is to be seen to lead the way, the surest guide I have to sollow is the music itself, and a few authorities which our old historians afford us. After all, the utmost I aim at is probability: and, perhaps, by some hints, I may lead others to a more direct road.

From their artless simplicity, it is evident, that the Scottish melodies are derived from very remote antiquity. The vulgar conjecture, that David Rizzio was either the composer or reformer of the Scottish songs has of late been so fully exposed, that I need say very little to consute it. That the science of music was well understood, and that we had great masters, both theorists and performers, above a century before Rizzio came to Scotland, I shall immediately show. He is by no contemporary writer said to have been a composer. He is not even extolled as a great performer; nor does tradition point him out as the author of any one particular song; and, although we should allow him to have had ability, the short time he was in Scotland, scarce three years,

B · was

was too bufy with him to admit of fuch amusement.—Let us endeavour to trace back our music to its origin.

The simplicity and wildness of several of our old Scottish melodies, denote them to be the production of a pastoral age and country, and prior to the use of any musical instrument beyond that of a very limited scale of a few natural notes, and prior to the knowledge of any rules of artificial music. This conjecture, if solid, must carry them up to a high period of antiquity.

The most ancient of the Scottish songs, still preserved, are extremely simple, and void of all They confilt of one measure only, and have no fecond part, as the later or more modern airs have. They must, therefore, have been composed for a very simple instrument, such as the shepherd's reed or pipe, of few notes, and of the plain diatonic scale, without using the semitones. or sharps and flats. The diftinguishing strain of our old melodies is plaintive and melancholy; and what makes them foothing and affecting, to a great degree, is the conftant use of the concordant tones, the third and fifth of the scale, often ending upon the fifth, and some of them on the fixth of the scale. By this artless standard some of our old Scottish melodies may be traced; such as Gil Morice - There cam a ghost to Marg'et's door - O laddie, I man loo' thee - Hap me wi' thy pettycoat - I mean the old fets of these airs, as the last air, which I take to be one of our oldest fongs, is so modernized as scarce to have a trace of its ancient simplicity. The simple original air is still fung by nurses in the country, as a lullaby. It may be faid, that the words of some of these fongs denote them to be of no very ancient date: but it is well known, that many of our old fongs have changed their original names, by being adapted to more modern words. Some old tunes have a fecond part; but it is only a repetition of the first part on the higher octave; and these additions are probably of more modern date than the tunes themselves.

That the science of Music, and the rules of composition, were known amongst us before the fifteenth century, is certain. King James the First of Scotland is celebrated by all the Scottish historians, not only as an excellent performer, but as a great theorist in Music, and a composer of airs to his own verses. "Hic etenim in musica (says Fordun) in artis perfectione, in tympano et choro, in psalterio et organo, ad summae perfectionis magisterium, natura creatrix, ultra humanam aestimationem, ipsum vivaciter decoravit "." Scotichron. vol. 2, lib. 16, cap. 28.— Fordun has a whole chapter, the 29th of his history, on King James's learning and knowledge in the ancient Greek, as well as in the more modern scales of music, which, for its curiosity, is worthy to be read by the modern theorists in music.

The next authority is John Major, who celebrates King James I. as a poet, a composer, and admirable performer of music. Major affirms, that, in his time, the verses and songs of that Prince were esteemed amongst the first of the Scottish melodies. I shall gives the whole passage:

^{*} In music, in the very perfection of the art, on the tabor, the psalter and organ, nature, the author of genius, adorned him with talents beyond human conception.

"In vernacula lingua artificiosissimus compositor; cujus codices plurimi, et cantilenae, memoriter dahuc apud Scotos inter primos habentur.—Artificiosam cantilenam (compositit) Yas sen, &c., et jucundum artificiosumque illum cantum, at Beltayn, quem alii de Dalketh et Gargeil mutare

" studuerunt, quia in arce, aut camera, clausus servabatur, in qua mulier cum matre habitabat *."

It is to be regretted that neither the words nor the music of these celebrated ballads have come down to us. According to the historian, the last must have been full of humour, and extremely popular; his words may imply, that several parodies or imitations of the subject had been made, which time has likewise deprived us of.

Amongst the number of our old Scottish melodies, it is, I think, scarce to be doubted, that many of King James's compositions, which were esteemed amongst the first of the age, are still remaining, and make a part of our finest old melodies; but as no tradition down to our time has ascertained them, they, in all probability, pass undistinguished under other names, and are adapted to modern words. There can be little doubt, however, that most of James's compositions have shared the same fate with many other old airs. Taffoni, the Italian poet, as afterwards mentioned, fays expressly, that "King James composed many facred pieces of vocal music," which are now lost. All our old heroic ballads were undoubtedly fung to chants composed for them, which are now loft. Among those still preserved, are the episodes of Ossian, which are at this day sung in the Highlands. Gil Morice—The Flowers of the Forest—Hero and Leander, &c., are still fung to their original pathetic strains. These, however, are but a few of many old ballads whose airs are now unknown. In the MS. collection of Scottish Poems, made by Banatyne before 1568, the donation of the Earl of Hyndford to the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh, the favourite poem, The Cherry and the Slae, and likewife a poem of Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, father to the famous Secretary Maitland, are entitled, "To be fung to the tune of " the Banks of Helicon." This must have been a well-known tune two hundred years ago, as it was fung to fuch popular words; but it is now loft. It cannot exist under other words, as the metrical stanza of the Cherry and the Slae is so particular, that I know no air at this day that could be adapted to it. We find also, in old books, many names of fongs; yet neither of the verses or tunes do we know any thing at this day. Gavin Douglas, in his prologue to the twelfth Æneid, recites the beginning words of three well-known fongs in his time, 1480, thus :

"The fchip failis over the falt fame,
"Will bring thir merchandis and my leman hame."

—— "I will be blyith and licht,

My hert is lent upon fo gudly wicht."

—— "I come hidder to wow."

^{*} In the language of his country he was a most skilful composer; many of his writings and ballads are still remembered, and in the highest degree of estimation among the Scots. He was the author of the masterly ballad, entitled, Yas Sen, &c., and of the pleasing and skilful song, at Beltayn, which some people wished to change to de Dalketh and Gargeil, because he was imprisoned in the castle, or chamber, where the woman with her mother lived.

And,

And, in the prologue to the thirteenth Æneid,

---- "The jolly day now dawis."

In the same way a great many of King James I.'s poetical pieces are now lost, or, perhaps, as his poem of Christ's Kirk of the Green, may erroneously be ascribed to others.

It may be suspected, from the above high-strained authorities, that his countrymen have rather allowed themselves to be carried too far in displaying the qualifications of their King. I shall, however, produce the testimony of a foreigner, a celebrated author, who does James still more honour than the writers of his own country; and, singular as the proposition may appear, I shall endeavour to prove, that the Scottish melodies, so far from being either invented or improved by an *Italian* master, were made the models of imitation in the finest vocal compositions of one of the greatest masters of composition in Italy.

The celebrated Carlo Gefualdo, Prince of Venosa, formerly Venusium, famous as the place of birth of Horace, flourished about the middle, or towards the end, of the sixteenth century, and died in 1614. Blancanus, in his Chronologia-Mathematicorum, thus distinguishes him: "The most noble Carolus Gesualdus, Prince of Venusium, was the prince of musicians of our age; he having recalled the Rythme into music, introduced such a stile of modulation, that other musicians yielded the preference to him; and all singers and players on stringed instruments, laying aside that of others, every where eagerly embraced his music."—He is also celebrated by Mersennus, Kircher, and almost all the writers of that age, as one of the most learned and greatest composers of vecal music in his time.

To apply this account of the Prince of Venosa to the present subject. — Alessandro Tassoni, in his Pensieri Diversi, lib. 10, thus expresses himself: "We may reckon among us moderns James King of Scotland, who not only composed many facred pieces of vocal music, but also, of himself, invented a new kind of music, plaintive and melancholy, different from all other, in which he has been imitated by Carlo Gesualdo, Prince of Venosa, who, in our age, has improved music with new and admirable inventions *."

* "Noi ancora possiamo connumerar, tra nostri, Jacopo Re di Scozia, che non pur cose facre compose in canto, ma "trova da se slessio, una nuova musica, lamentevole e mesta, disserente da tutte l'altre. Nel che poi e stato imitato da "Carlo Gesualdo, Principe de Venosa, che in questa nostra eta, ha illustrata anch' egli la musica con nuove mirabili in"ventioni." Dieci Libri di Pensieri Diversi, in Carpi Appresso Gerolomo Vaschieri, 1620*.—Let me here do justice to the restorer of this record, who, next to Tassoni, deserves the thanks of every Scotsman; I mean the late Patrick Lord Elibank: for although Tassoni is well known as a poet, particularly by his celebrated La sechia rapita, the first of the modern mock heroic poems, yet his book De Diversi Pensieri, though printed near two centuries ago, and containing a great deal of learned and curious observations, is but little known on this side of the Alps: and the above curious passage, which had so long escaped the notice of every Scotsman, might quietly have slept in the dark repose of great libraries, had not the penetrating research of this learned nobleman, about twenty years ago, produced it to light.

^{*} It is proper to apprize the reader, that in some editions of the Pensieri Diversi the tenth book is wanting.

How perfectly characteristic, this, of the pathetic strains of the old Scottish songs! What an illustrious testimony to their excellency!

Some of the Dilettanti, in the Italian music of the present times, may, perhaps, sneer at being told, that the *Italians*, the restorers of music, owe the improvement of their music to the early introduction of Scottish melody into it: yet nothing is more certain, not only from the candid acknowledgment of Tassoni, but from the testimony of the Italian music itself before the Prince of Venosa's time, as I shall attempt to illustrate.

It is at this day no longer a question, that the art of composition in parts, or what is called barmony, is the invention of the moderns; but by whom invented, or at what particular æra, is not fo clear. As the cultivation of modern music was chiefly among the ecclesiastics, on account of the church fervices daily in use to be fung by them, the rules of harmony undoubtedly took their rise, and were improved among them. Guido d'Arezzo, a Benedictine monk, about the beginning of the eleventh century, is, by many authors, faid to have reformed the scale, by introducing the lines and the notation on them by points, instead of the letters of the alphabet, formerly in use; from which the name of counterpoint, for the art of composition in parts, is derived. From that period, it was by degrees improved, until it was brought to perfection in the golden age of the reftoration of other polite arts and sciences in Italy, the Pontificate of Leo X. At this time flourished the venerable Palestrina, stiled the father of harmony; and in the same century, though later, the Prince of Venosa, mentioned above. As the productions of a harmonist and thorough mafter of the art of counterpoint, the compositions of Palestrina, even at this day, strike us with admiration by their artful fugues, and the full and fublime harmony of their parts. Nothing in the church stile, except the grandeur and lostiness of the choruses of Handel, can exceed them: yet, in one great point, the music of Palestrina is deficient. We may be entertained with the artful contrivance and learning of a well-wrought fugue, or elevated by the harmony of a full choir of voices, yet still melody or air is wanting in the music of the venerable Palestrina. To any person versant in the compositions of the great masters of harmony in Palestrina's time, there will appear the same stile, artful contrivance, and learning, running through every species of their compositions; their massa's, motetti, madrigals, and canons. The harmony is full, but they are deficient in melody *.

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^{*} Although Palestrina is with propriety stilled the father of Harmony in Italy, as, by the solemn grandeur of his harmony, and fine contrivances, he certainly carried the art of counterpoint far beyond any thing known before the age of Leo X. yet is but justice to say, that harmonic composition flourished in several parts of Europe besides Italy, and that there existed several eminent masters, even before the time of Palestrina. Lewis Guicciardin, (nephew of Francis, the historian) who was contemporary with Palestrina, and died before him in 1589, as cited by Abbe du Bos, in his Critical Resections, gives a list of several eminent Flemish composers; and adds, that, in his time, it was the practice in the Netherlands, and had been a custom there of long standing, to surnish Europe with musicians. The old church services, that had long been in use both in England and Scotland, several of which still exist, are solid proofs of the prosound knowledge of

I do not remember to have feen any cantata, or fong for a fingle voice, of the age of Palestrina. The Italian music for private entertainment, at that time, seems to have been the madrigal, usually composed for some favourite stanza or love verses of Petrarcha, Ariosto, or Tasso, commonly in the fugue stile, and of three or four parts. The madrigal, when sung by proper voices, is soothing and pleasant; but, wanting air, soon becomes languid and dull: a certain proof this, that the music of Italy, at the above time, was altogether artificial and harmonic; and that melody, the soul of music, was not then regarded or cultivated. Harmony, and the art of composition in parts, it must be confessed, is one of the noblest of the modern inventions: that a fondness, however, for that only, to almost the total neglect or exclusion of air and melody in music, should have universally prevailed at this time in Italy, is a remarkable sact. We shall farther illustrate this from another historical sact in the annals of music.

The Opera, that noble and elegant species of the musical drama, now so much improved and established in most of the theatres in Europe, and which chiefly consists in airs for a fingle voice, with instrumental accompaniments, was not known in Palestrina's or the Prince of Venosa's time. It was first introduced in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The dramatic poem of Euridice, made by Ottavio Rinuncini, a Florentine poet, was set to music by Jacopo Peri, who, on that occasion, invented the recitativo, or musical discourse. The opera of Euridice was first represented on the theatre at Florence in the year 1600, on occasion of the marriage of Mary of Medicis with King Henry IV. of France. What appears most remarkable, so much was harmonic composition universally established, that, in the above opera, there is not one air or song for a single voice. The whole opera consists of duetti, terzetti, cori, and recitativo.

In the above state of music in Italy, we may suppose the Scottish melodies of King James I. had found their way into that country. Is it then to be wondered at, that such a genius as the Prince of Venosa should be struck with the genuine simplicity of strains which spoke directly to the heart, and that he should imitate and adopt such new and affecting melodies, which he found wanting in the music of his own country? The sweet, natural, and plaintive strains of the old song, Waly waly up the bank—Will ye go to the ewe-bughts, Marion?—Be constant ay—and many

our old composers in counterpoint, before the time of Palestrina. The church services of Marbeck, and of Tallis, who was organist to Henry VIII. are original and learned, and abound in fine harmony. Geminiani, that great musical genius, on hearing Tallis's anthem, "I call and cry," is said to have exclaimed, it rapture, "The man who made this must have been inspired!" No less eminent was Birde, the scholar of Tallis, and several others mentioned by Morley, in his Introduction to Practical Music, in the number of which Morley himself may be ranked. From that time a continued succession of very eminent composers in the church stile, through the reigns of Queen Elisabeth, King James, and Charles I., have flourished.

It is curious to observe, that the state of music in England, at the same period, appears to have been precisely similar to that in Italy, that is, purely *barmonic*, as may be seen from the compositions of Marbeck, Tallis, Birde, &c.; and, after them, of Henry Lawes, Lanere, and Campion, down to the Restoration.

other of our old fongs about that age, must touch the heart of every genius, of whatever country, and might enrich the composition of the greatest foreign master.

Purpureus late qui splendeat unus et alter
Adsuitur pannus.
Hor.

I hope we shall no longer hear the absurd tale, that the Scottish music was either invented or improved by an *Italian*, when we see it proved, by so great an authority as *Tassoni*, that the Scottish melodies, above two centuries ago, and in *his time*, had been adopted into the finest vocal compositions of one of the greatest masters and reformers of Italian music, the *Prince of Venosa*.

It cannot be doubted, that, under fuch a genius in poetry and music as King James I. the national music must have greatly improved. One great step to the improvement of the science of music, was the introduction of organs, by that Prince, into the cathedrals and abbies of Scotland, and, of course, the establishment of a choral service of church music. We have seen, that he had composed several anthems, or vocal pieces of sacred music*, which shews, that his skill in the scientific parts of music must have been very high; and he established a full choir of singers in the church service, which was brought by him to such a degree of perfection, as to fall little short of the English +, who, at that time, were thought to excel all other nations in church musics.

King James is faid to have been a fine performer on the lute and harp, with which he accompanied his own fongs ‡. Playing on these instruments must, by the Prince's example, have become fashionable; and, of course, a more regular and refined modulation in the Scottish songs must have been introduced. The simple scale of the pipe, by the introduction of the stringed instruments, became, in consequence, much enlarged, not only by a greater extent of notes, but by the division of them into semitones.

The great ara of poetry, as of music, in Scotland, I imagine to have been from the beginning of the reign of King James I. down to the end of King James V.'s ||. The old cathedrals and abbeys, those venerable monuments of Gothic grandeur, with the choristers belonging to them,

- * Che cose facre compose in canto. Tassoni.
- + Boeth. Hift. lib. 17.
- ‡ In sono vocis, et in tactu Citharae (natura) dulciter et dilectabiliter illum praedotavit. Fordun, vol. 2, c. 28.
- Within this æra flourished Gavin Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld, whose excellent translation of Virgil's Æneis may compare with Chaucer, the first poet of that age; Bellenden, arch-deacon of Murray; Dunbar, Henryson, Scott, Montgomery, Sir D. Lindsay, and many others, whose fine poems have been preserved in Banatyne's excellent collection, of which several have been published by Allan Ramsay in his Evergreen.

according to the fplendour of their ritual church fervice, were fo many schools or seminaries for the cultivation of music. It must be owned, however, that, altho' the science of harmonic music was cultivated by the church composers, yet as the merit of the church music, at that time, confisted in its harmony only, the fine slights and pathetic expression of our songs could borrow nothing from thence.

This was likewise the æra of chivalry: the feudal system was then in its full vigour.

The Scottish nobility, possessed of great estates, hereditary jurisdictions, and a numerous vasfalage, maintained, in their remote castles, a state and splendour little inferior to the court of their kings. Upon solemn occasions, tilts and tournaments were proclaimed, and festivals held with all the Gothic grandeur and magnificence of chivalry, which drew numbers of knights and dames to these solemnities.

Illumining the vaulted roof,
A thousand torches slam'd aloof,
From massy cups, with golden gleam,
Sparkled the red Metheglin's stream:
To grace the gorgeous festival,
Along the losty windowed hall
The storied tapestry was hung,
With minstrelsy the rasters rung;
Of barps, that, with reslected light,
From the proud gallery glittered bright.
To crown the banquet's solemn close,
Themes of British glory rose;
And, to the strings of various chime,
Attempered the beroic rhime.

WARTON'S ODE on the Grave of King Arthur.

James IV. and V. were both of them magnificent Princes: they kept splendid courts, and were great promoters of those heroic entertainments*. In the family of every chief, or head of a clan, the Bard was a very considerable person: his office, upon solemn feasts, was to sing or rehearse the splendid actions of the heroes, ancestors of the family, which he accompanied with the harp. At this time, too, there were itinerant or strolling minstrels, personmers on the harp, who went about the country, from house to house, upon solemn occasions, reciting heroic ballads, and other popular episodes.

These wandering harpers are mentioned thus by Major: 'In Cithara, Hibernenses et silvestres' Scoti, qui in illa arte praecipui sunt.'— To these sylvan minstrels I imagine we are indebted

for many fine old fongs, which are more varied in their melody, and more regular in their composition, as they approach nearer to modern times, though still retaining 'their wood-notes wild *.'

To the wandering harpers we are certainly indebted for that species of music, which is now scarcely known; I mean the Port. Almost every great family had a Port that went by the name of the family. Of the few that are still preserved are, Port Lennox, Port Gordon, Port Seton, and Port Athole, which are all of them excellent in their kind. The Port is not of the martial strain of the march, as some have conjectured; those above named being all in the plaintive strain, and modulated for the harp.

The *Pibrach*, the march or battle tune of the *Highland Clans*, with the different strains introduced of the *coronich*, &c. is fitted for the *bagpipe* only: Its measure, in the *pas grave* of the *Highland piper*, equipped with his slag and military ensigns, when marching up to battle, is stately and animating, rising often to a degree of sury.

To class the old Scottish songs, according to the several æras in which we may suppose them to have been made, is an attempt which can arise from conjecture only, except as to such of them as carry more certain marks, to be afterwards taken notice of.

* To frame an idea of the heaven-born genius of the ancient minstrel or wandering harper, in a rude age, see Dr. Beattie's fine poem, the Minstrel.

—Song was his favourite, and first pursuit,
The wild harp rang to his adventurous hand,
And languish'd to his breast the plaintive slute;
His infant muse, though artless, was not mute.

Meanwhile, whate'er of beautiful, or new, Sublime, or dreadful, in earth, fea, or fky, By chance or fearch, was offered to his view, He feanned with curious and romantic eye, Whate'er of lore tradition could fupply, From Gothic tale, or fong, or fable old, Rous'd him, ftill keen to liften, and to pry; At laft, though long by penury controll'd And folitude, his foul her graces 'gan unfold.

Minstrel, Part I.

The last of these strolling harpers was Rory or Roderick Dall, who, about sifty years ago, was well known and much caressed by the Highland gentry, whose houses he frequented. His chief residence was about Blair in Athole and Dunkeld. He was esteemed a good composer, and a fine performer on the harp, to which he sung in a pathetic manner. Many of his songs are preserved in that country.

Of our most ancient melodies, I have, in the beginning of this essay, given a few, such as Gil Morice, &c., with what I imagine to be the signatures of their antiquity. To what æra these can be referred, I do not pretend to say: My conjecture, however, is, that, from their artless simplicity, they belong to an age prior to James I. The investigation of other pieces of our oldest music, by the same standard, may be an agreeable amusement to the curious.

From the genius of King James, his profound skill in the principles of music, and great performance on the harp, we may esteem him the inventor and reformer of the Scottish vocal music. Of his age (some of them very probably of his composition) may be reckoned the following simple, plaintive, and antient melodies Jockey and Sandie — Waly waly up the bank — Ab waking Ob!—Be constant ay—Will ye go to the ewe-bughts, Marion?

From these, by an insensible gradation, we are led to what I conjecture may be called the fecond epoch of our fongs, that is, from the beginning of the reign of King James IV. James V. and to the end of that of Queen Mary, within which period may be reckoned the following fongs, the old tragic ballads Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny bride, and Hero and Leander-Willie's rair and Willie's fair-Cromlet's Lilt-The flowers of the Forest-Gilderoy-Balow my boy-The Gaberlunye Man-The bonnie Earle of Murray-Leeder Haughs in Yarrow-Absence will never alter me-Tak' your auld cloak about ye-and the old melody lately revived, called Queen Mary's Lamentation, which, I am well affured, belongs to, and bears the fignatures of that age. In the preceding airs befides a more varied melody, there is likewife an artful degree of modulation, observable in feveral of them, in the introduction of the feventh of the key, as in Waly Waly-The Flowers of the Forest-Queen Mary's Lament-The bonny Earle of Murray. This strain is peculiarly characteristic of the ancient Scottish songs, and has a fine pathetic effect, which must give pleasure to the most refined ear. As, in the foregoing observation, it is remarked by Tassoni, on the newinvented music of King James I., that it ' was plaintive and melancholy, and different from all other " music*,' it may, with probability, be conjectured, from James's skill and masterly performance on the stringed instruments, that this peculiar mode of modulation into the seventh of the key, may have been first invented and introduced into our old music by that Prince.

In the third æra, which comprehends the space of time from Queen Mary to the Restoration, may be classed the following songs, Through the lang muir I followed my Willie—Pinky House—Etrick Banks—I'll never leave thee—The Broom of Cowdenknows—Down the burn Davie—Auld Rob Morris—Where Helen lies—Fie on the wars—Thro' the wood, laddie—Fie let us a' to the wedding—Muirland Willie.

From these we are led to the last æra, that is, from the Restoration, to the Union. Within this period, from their more regular measure and more modern air, we may almost, with cer-

^{*} Il trouva da se stesso, un nuova musica, lamentevole e mesta, differente da tutte l'altre.

tainty, pronounce the following fine fongs to have been made, An' thou wert mine ain thing — O dear minnie, what fal I do—The bush aboun Traquair—The last time I came o'er the moor—Mary Scot, the slower of Yarrow—The bonny boatman—Sae merry as we ha' been—My dearie an' thou die—She rose and let me in—My apron, dearie—Love is the cause of my mourning—Allan water—There's my thumb I'll ne'er beguile thee—The Highland laddie—Bonny fean of Aberdeen—The lass of Patie's mill—The yellow-hair'd laddie—John Hay's bonny lassie—Tweed-side—Lochaber.

We are not, however, to imagine, that, from this last period, the genius of Scottish music had taken slight: that is not the case. Indeed the number of Scottish songs has of late not much increased; it nevertheless is true, that, since that last period, several sine songs have been made, which will stand the test of time. Amongst these are, The birks of Invermay—The banks of Forth—Roslin Castle—The braes of Ballendine. The two last were composed by Oswald, whose taste in the performance of the Scottish music, was natural and pathetic.

In thus claffing the fongs, as above, it is obvious, that no fixed or certain rules can be preferibed. Some of these old songs, it is true, ascertain of themselves the precise æra to which they belong; such as, The flowers of the Forest, composed on the state battle of Flowden, where the gallant James IV. and the flower of the Scottish nobility and gentry sell;—The Souters of Selkirk, composed * on the same occasion;—Gilderoy, made on the death of a samous outlaw hanged by James V.;—Queen Mary's Lament;—The bonny Erle of Marray, slain by Huntlie in 1592. In general, however, in making those arrangements, besides the characters which I have mentioned, as I know of no other distinguishing marks for a fixed standard, the only rule I could follow was to select a few of the most undoubted ancient melodies, such as may be supposed to be the production of the simplest instrument, of the most limited scale, as the shepherd's reed; and thence to trace them gradually downward, to more varied, artful, and regular modulations, the compositions of more polished manners and times, and suitable to instruments of a more extended scale.

If, in following this plan, I have been fuccessful, it will afford entertainment to a musical genius, to trace the simple strains of our rude ancestors through different ages, from King James I., who truly may be stilled the Father of the Scottish songs, so distinguished from the music of every other country, progressively downwards, to modern times. This, to a musical genius, may afford the same amusement it has given to me, in considering the melodies thus selected

^{*} This ballad is founded on the following incident: — Previous to the battle of Flowden, the town clerk of Selkirk conducted a band of eighty fouters, or shoemakers, of that town, who joined the royal army; and the town clerk, in reward of his loyalty, was created a Knight-banneret by that Prince. They fought gallantly, and were most of them cut off. A few who escaped found, on their return, in the forest of Lady-wood edge, the wife of one of their brethren lying dead, and her child sucking her breast. Thence the town of Selkirk obtained, for their arms, a woman sitting upon a farcophagus, holding a child in her arms; in the back ground, a wood; and on the sarcophagus, the arms of Scotland.

and arranged, trying them by the fignatures above pointed out, and adding others to the above number.

A fecond point I also had in view: It was, from the number of our Scottish songs, to select a few of those which I imagine to be the finest, and most distinguished, for originality of air, agreeable modulation, and expression of the subject for which they have been composed. Upon a review of these airs, thus far I may venture to say, that, for genuine slight of sancy, pleasing variety, and originality, they will stand the test of comparison with the music of any country, and afford entertainment to the most refined taste.

I have hinted that our Scottish songs owe nothing to the church-music of the cathedrals and abbeys before the Reformation; for, although music made a considerable part of the ritual church service, yet, from some of their books, which have escaped the rage of the Resormers, we find their music to have consisted entirely of harmonic compositions, of sour, sive, often of six, seven, and eight parts, all in strict counterpoint. Such were perfectly suitable to the solemnity of religious worship; and, when performed by a full choir of voices, accompanied by the organ, must undoubtedly have had a solemn and awful effect upon a mind disposed to devotion. The stile of such composition is to calm the mind, and inspire devotion, suitable to the majesty of that Being to whom it is addressed. Nothing, however, can be more opposite than such harmonic compositions to the genius of love-songs, which consist in the simple melody of one single part.

It is a common tradition, that, in ridicule of the cathedral-fervice, feveral of their hymns were, by the wits among the Reformed, burlefqued, and fung as profane ballads. Of this there is fome remaining evidence. The well-known tunes of John, come kifs me now—Kind Robin lo'es me—and John Anderson my jo—are said to be of that number.

At the establishment of the Reformation, one of the first pious works of the Reformed clergy was, to translate, into Scottish metre, the Psalms of David, and to introduce them into the kirks, to be sung to the old church-tunes. John Knox's book of psalms, called *The Common Tunes*, is still extant, and sung in the churches, and consists of sour parts; a treble, tenor, counter-alt, and bass. The harmony of these tunes is learned and sull, and proves them to be the work of very able masters in the counterpoint.

In order, however, to enlarge the pfalmody, the clergy foon after were at pains to translate, into Scottish metre, several parts of scripture, and some old Latin hymns, and other pieces. At the same time, as they had no objections to the old music, they made an effort to reclaim some of those tunes from the profane ballads into which they had been burlesqued, and sung by the vulgar.

A collection of these pieces was printed at Edinburgh about the year 1590, by Andro Hart, in old Saxon, or black letter, under the title of A compendious book of godly and spiritual songs, collectit

collectit out of fundry parts of the scripture, with sundrie of other ballats changed out of prophaine fanges, for avoiding of finne and harlotrie, &c.

Among these ballads, John come kiss me now makes his appearance; stripped, indeed, of his prophane drefs, which had promoted finne and harlotrie; but, in exchange, so strangely equipped in his penitential habit, as to make a more ridiculous figure than his brother Jack, in the Tale of a Tub. As a curiofity, I shall give two or three of the stanzas of this new-converted godly ballad.

> John come kifs me now, John come kiss me now, John come kifs me by and by, And mak na mair adow.

The Lord thy God I am, That (John) does thee call; John represents man By grace celestial.

My prophets call, my preachers cry, John come kis me now; John come kifs me by and by, And mak na mair adow.

Fo laugh were want of godliness and grace, And to be grave exceeds all power of face.

POPE.

If the other tunes, preserved of the old church-music, were in the same stile of John come kiss me now, our fine old melodies, I think, could borrow nothing from them.

I shall conclude this effay with a few general observations on the Scottish songs.

The Scottish melodies contain strong expression of the passions, particularly of the melancholy kind; in which the air often finely corresponds to the subject of the song. In this, I conjecture, the excellency of the ancient Greek music consisted, of which we are told such wonderful effects. The Greek muficians were also poets, who accompanied their own verses on the harp. Such, likewise, was the Saxon Alfred; and in the same light we may see our James I. who both of them accompanied their own poems on the lute or harp. Terpander is faid to have composed music for the Iliad of Homer; Timotheus played and fung his own lyrical poems; and the poet Simonides his own elegies:

' Quid moestius lacrymis Simonidis!'

exclaims Catullus; and, inspired with the genius of music, in this fine apostrophe, cries out our great poet!

And, O fad Virgin, could thy power But raise Museus from his bower!

Or bid the foul of Orpheus sing,
Such notes as warbled on the string,
Drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek,
And make bell grant what love did seek.

Let us acknowledge the excellency of the Greek music; yet as the principles of harmony, or composition in parts, seem not to have been known to them, at least as far as has yet been discovered, this excellency of their music must have resulted from the natural melody of their airs, expressive of the words to which they were adapted. In this light, therefore, we may run a parallel between the ancient Greek music and our Scottish melodies; and, in spite of the prejudiced fondness which we are apt to conceive in favour of the ancients, it is probable that we do the best of their music no hurt in classing it with our own.

What person of taste can be insensible to the fine airs of, I'll never leave thee—Allan Water—An' thou wer't mine ain thing—The Braes of Ballendine, &c. when sung with taste and feeling!

Love, in its various fituations of *hope*, *fuccefs*, *difappointment*, and *defpair*, is finely expressed in the natural melody of the old Scottish songs. How naturally does the air correspond with the following description of the restless languor of a maid in love!

Ay wa'king oh!

Wa'king ay and wearie;

Sleep I canna get,

For thinking o' my dearie.

When I fleep, I dream;

When I wake, I'm irie*;

Reft I canna get,

For thinking o' my dearie.

The simple melody of the old song Waly! Waly! is the pathetic complaint of a forfaken maid, bemoaning herself along the late-frequented haunts of her and her lover. The old Scottish word waly signifies wail, or heavy forrow, and lamentation.

Waly! waly! up the bank,

And waly, waly! down the brae;

And waly! waly! on yon burn fide,

Where I and my true love did gae.

Thus Petrarch in one of his beautiful fonnets:

Valle, che de lamenti miei se' piena,

Fiume, che spessio del mio pianger cresci.—

Colle che mi piacesti, hor mi rincresci,

Ov' ancor per usanza amor mi mena—

Quinci vedea 'l mio bene!—&c.

^{*} Irie is a Scottish word that has no correspondent term in English. It implies that fort of fear which is excited in a person apprehensive of apparitions.

How

How foothing and plaintive is the lullaby of a forfaken mistress over her child, expressed in Lady Anne Bothwell's Lament! How romantic the melody of the old love-ballad of Hero and Leander! What a melancholy love story is told in the old song of Jockey and Sandy! and what frantic grief expressed in I wish I were where Helen lies!

It were endless to run through the many fine airs expressive of sentiment, and passion, in the number of our Scottish songs, which, when sung in the genuine natural manner, must affect the heart of every person of seeling, whose taste is not vitiated and seduced by fassion and novelty.

As the Scottish songs are the flights of genius, devoid of art, they bid defiance to artificial graces and affected cadences. To a sweet, liquid, flowing voice, capable of swelling a note from the softest to the fullest tone, and what the Italians call a voce di petto, must be joined fensibility and feeling, and a perfect understanding of the subject, and words of the song, so as to know the fignificant word on which to swell or soften the tone, and lay the force of the note. From a want of knowledge of the language, it generally happens, that, to most of the foreign masters, our melodies, at first, must seem wild and uncouth; for which reason, in their performance, they generally fall short of our expectation. We sometimes, however, find a foreign master, who, with a genius for the pathetic, and a knowledge of the subject and words, has afforded very high pleasure in a Scottish song.

It is a common defect in some who pretend to sing, to affect to smother the words, by not articulating them, so as we scarce can find out either the subject or language of their song. This is always a sign of want of feeling, and the mark of a bad singer; particularly of Scottish songs, where there is generally so intimate a correspondence between the air and subject. Indeed there can be no good vocal music without it.

The accompaniment of a Scottish song ought to be performed with delicacy. The fine breathings, those *heart-felt touches*, which *genius* alone can express, in our songs, are lost in a noisy accompaniment of instruments. The full chords of a thorough bass should be used sparingly, and with judgement, not to overpower, but to support and raise the voice at proper pauses.

Where, with a fine voice, is joined fome skill in instrumental music, the air, by way of symphony, or introduction to the song, should always be first played over; and, at the close of every stanza, the last part of the air may be repeated, as a relief to the voice. In this symphonic part, the performer may shew his taste and fancy on the instrument, by varying it ad libitum.

A Scottish fong admits of no cadence; I mean, by this, no fanciful or capricious descant upon the close of the tune. There is one embellishment, however, which a fine finger may easily acquire

quire, that is, an eafy shake. This, while the organs are flexible in a young voice, may, with practice, be eafily attained.

A Scottish fong, thus performed, is among the highest of entertainments to a musical genius. But is this genius to be acquired either in the performer or hearer? It cannot. Genius in music, as in poetry, is the gift of Heaven.

An artist on the violin may display the magic of his fingers in running from the top to the bottom of the finger-board, in various intricate capriccios, which, at most, will only excite surprise: while a very middling performer, of taste and feeling, in a subject that admits of the pathos, will touch the heart in its finest sensations. The finest of the Italian composers, and many of their singers, possess this to an amazing degree. The opera-airs of these great masters, Pergolese, Jomelli, Galuppi, Perez, and many others of the present age, are assonishingly pathetic and moving. Genius, however, and feeling, are not confined to country or climate. A maid at her spinning-wheel, who knew not a note in music, with a sweet voice, and the force of a native genius, has oft drawn tears from my eyes. That gift of Heaven, in short, is not to be defined: It can only be felt.

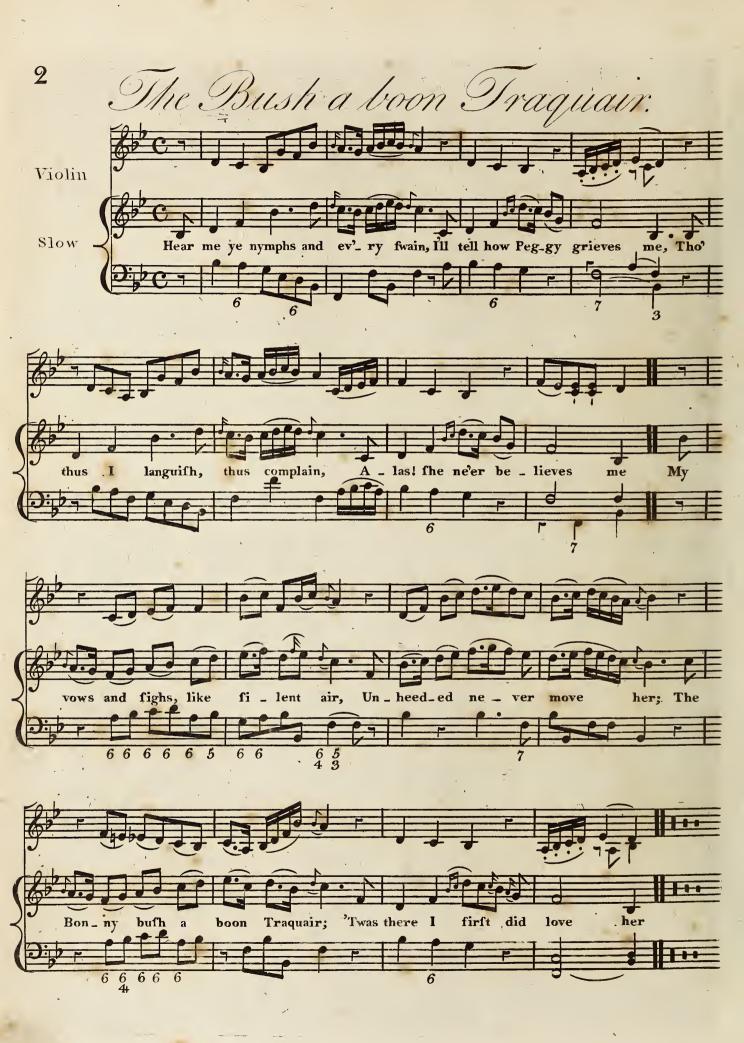
I cannot better conclude this effay, than in the words of one who possessed it in the most exalted degree. Addressing himself to a young composer, he spoke thus: 'Seek not to know what is genius.' If thou hast it, thy seelings will tell thee what it is. If thou hast it not, thou never wilt know it. The genius of the musician subjects the universe to its power. It draws its pictures by sounds. It expresses ideas by feelings, and feelings by accents. We feel in our hearts the force of the passions which it excites. Through the medium of genius, pleasure assumes additional charms, and the grief which it excites breaks forth into cries. But, alas! to those who seel not in themselves the spring of genius, its expressions convey no idea. Its prodigies are unknown to those who cannot imitate them. Wouldst thou know if thou art animated with one spark of that bright fire? Run, sly to Naples, and there listen to the master-pieces of Leo, Durante, Jomelli, Pergolese, If thine eyes are filled with tears, thy heart palpitates, thy whole frame is agitated, and the oppression of transport arises almost to suffocation; take up Metastasio, his genius will inflame thine own, and thou wilt compose after his example. These are the operations of genius, and the tears of others will recompense thee for those which thy masters have caused thee to shed. But, if thou art calm and tranquil amidst the transports of that great

man, that name fublime! What does it import thee to know what thou cast never feel?

art; if thou feelest no delirium, no ecstasy; if thou art only moved with pleasure, at what should transport thee with rapture, dost thou dare to ask what genius is? Profane not, vulgar

^{*} Rouffeau, fous le mot genie.

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THE BUSH ABOON TRAQUAIR:

HEAR me, ye nymphs, and ev'ry fwain,
I'll tell how Peggy grieves me;
Tho' thus I languish, thus complain,
Alas! she ne'er believes me.
My vows and sighs, like silent air,
Unheeded never move her;
At the bonny bush aboon Traquair,
"Twas there 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 slame,

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 slees the plain,
The fields we then frequented;
If e'er we meet, she shews disdain;
She looks as ne'er acquainted.
The bonny bush bloom'd fair in May,
Its sweets I'll aye 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 aboon Traquair,

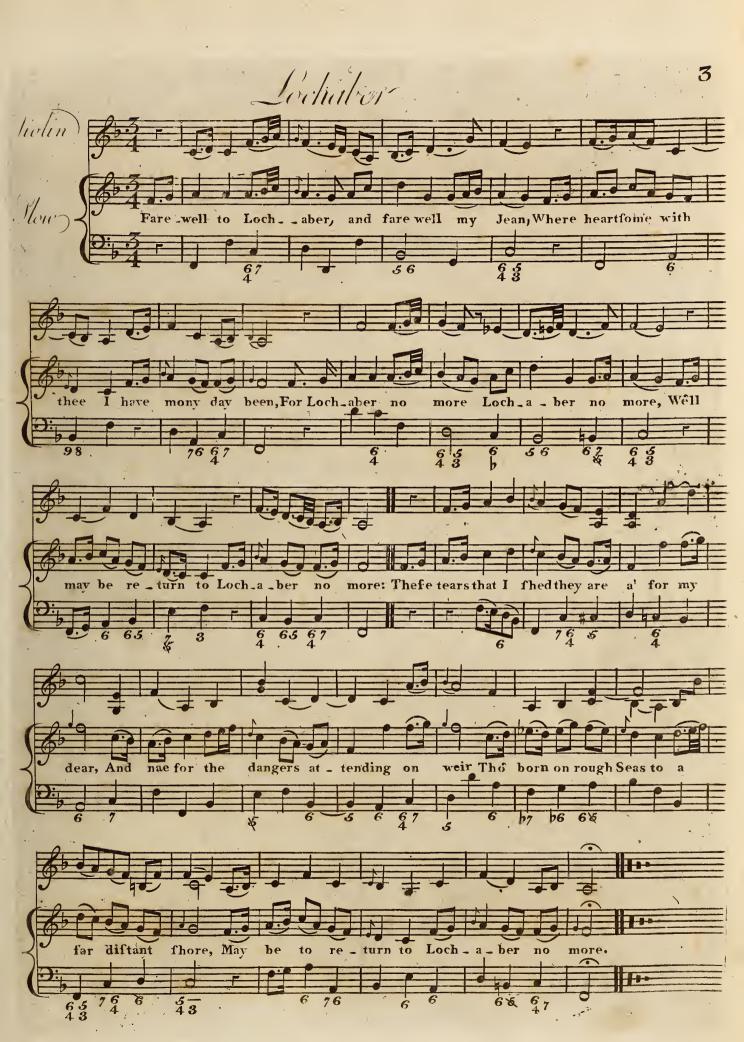
To lonely wilds I'll wander.

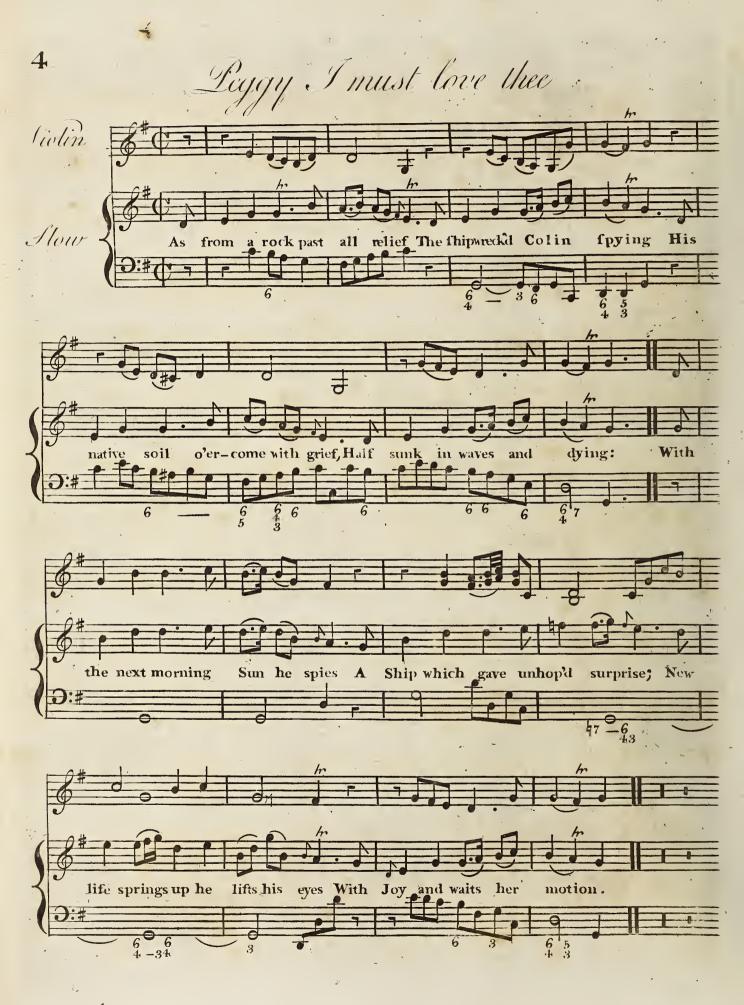
LOCHABER

FAREWEL to Lochaber, and farewel my Jean,
Where heartfome with thee I have mony days been!
For Lochaber no more, Lochaber no more,
Wee'l may he return to Lochaber no more.
These tears that I shed they are a' for my dear,
And no for the dangers attending on war.
Tho' borne on rough seas to a far distant shore,
May be to return to Lochaber no more.

The hurricanes rife, and rife every wind,
They ne'er make a tempest like that in my mind,
Tho' loudest of thunder on louder waves roar,
That's nothing like leaving my love on the shore:
To leave thee behind me my heart is fair pain'd,
By ease that's inglorious no same can be gain'd;
And beauty and love's the reward of the brave,
And I must deserve it before I can crave.

Then glory, my Jenny, maun plead my excuse,
Since honour commands, how can I refuse?
Without it I ne'er can have merit for thee,
And without thy favour I'd better not be:
I gae then, my lass, to win honour and same;
And should I but chance to come gloriously hame,
I'll bring a heart to thee with Love running o'er,
And then I'll leave thee and Lochaber no more.





PEGGY, I MUST LOVE THEE.

As from a rock, past all relief,

The shipwreck'd Colin spying

His native soil, o'ercome with grief,

Half sunk in waves, and dying:

With the next morning sun he spies

A ship, which gives unhop'd surprise:

New life springs up, he lists his eyes

With joy, and waits her motion.

So when by her whom long I lov'd,
I fcorn'd was, and deferted,
Low with defpair my fpirits mov'd,
To be for ever parted;
Thus droop'd I, till diviner grace
I found in Peggy's mind and face;
Ingratitude appear'd then base,
But virtue more engaging.

Then now, since happily I've hit,

I'll have no more delaying:

Let beauty yield to manly wit,

We lose ourselves in staying:

I'll haste dull courtship to a close,

Since marriage can my fears oppose:

Why should we happy minutes lose,

Since, Peggy, I must love thee?

Men may be foolish, if they please,
And deem't a lover's duty
To sigh, and facrifice their ease,
Doating on a proud beauty:
Such was my case for many a year,
Still hope succeeding to my fear,
False Betty's charms now disappear,
Since Peggy's far outshine them.

FOR LACK OF GOLD.

FOR lack of gold she's left me, oh!

And of all that's dear bereft me, oh!

For Athol's Duke she me forsook,

And to endless care has left me, oh!

A star and garter have more art

Than youth, a true and faithful heart;

For empty titles we must part,

And for glitt'ring show she left me, oh!

No cruel fair shall ever move

My injur'd heart again to love;

Thro' distant climates I must rove,

Since feanie she has left me, oh!

Ye Pow'rs above, I to your care

Commit my lovely, charming fair;

Your choicest blessings on her share,

Tho' she's for ever left me, oh!



LADY ANNE BOTHWELL'S LAMENT.

From Pinkerton's Select Scottish Ballads.

BALOW, my babe, lie still and sleip,
It grieves me sair to see thee weip;
If thou'lt be silent, I'll be glad,
Thy maining maks my heart full sad;
Balow, my babe, thy mither's joy,
Thy father breids me great annoy.

Whan he began to feik my luve,
And wi' his fucred words to muve;
His feining fause, and flattering cheir,
To me that time did nocht appeir;
But now I see that cruel he
Cares neither for my babe nor me.

Lye still, my darling, sleip a while,
And whan thou wakest sweitly smile;
But smile nae as thy father did
To cozen maids: nay, God forbid,
What yet I feir, that thou sold leir
'Thy father's heart and face to beir!

Be still, my sad one: spare those teirs,
To weip whan thou hast wit and yeirs;
Thy griefs are gathering to a sum,
God grant thee patience when they cum;
Born to proclaim a mother's shame,
A mother's fall, a bastard's name.

I'LL NEVER LEAVE THEE.

ONE day I heard Mary fay,

How shall I leave thee?

Stay, dearest Adonis, stay;

Why wilt thou grieve me?

Alas! my fond heart will break,

If thou shouldst leave me;

I'll live and die for thy sake,

Yet never leave thee.

Say, lovely Adonis, fay,

Has Mary deceiv'd thee?

Did e'er her young heart betray

New love that has griev'd thee?

My conftant mind ne'er shall stray,

Thou mayst believe me;

I'll love thee, lad, night and day,

And never leave thee.

Adonis, my charming youth,

What can relieve thee?

Can Mary thy anguish sooth?

This breast shall receive thee.

My passion can ne'er decay,

Never deceive thee;

Delight shall drive pain away,

Pleasure revive thee.

But leave thee, leave thee, lad!

How shall I leave thee?

Oh! that thought makes me sad;

I'll never leave thee!

Where would my Adonis sty?

Why does he grieve me?

Alas! my poor heart would die,

If I should leave thee!

Ill never leave thee Mary fay, How shall I leave thee? Stay, dearest A -- DO - NIS stay, Why wilt thou grieve me? A ---las! my fond heart will break, If thou fhould'st leave Ill live & die for thy fake, yet ne ver leave thee g

GILDER ROY.

AH! Chloris, could I now but fit
As unconcern'd as when
Your infant beauty cou'd beget
No happiness or pain.
When I this dawning did admire,
And prais'd the coming day,
I little thought that rising fire
Wou'd take my rest away.

Your charms in harmless childhood lay,
As metals in a mine:
Age from no face takes more away,
Than youth conceal'd in thine.
But as your charms insensibly
To their perfections prest;
So love as unperceiv'd did fly,
And center'd in my breast.

My paffion with your beauty grew,
While Cupid at my heart,
Still as his mother favour'd you,
Threw a new flaming dart.
Each gloried in their wanton part;
To make a lover, he
Employ'd the utmost of his art;
To make a beauty, she.

TWEED SIDE.

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 flow'rs of the field,

Not 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.

Come, let us go forth to 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 asleep?

Tweed's murmurs shou'd lull 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 can compare;

Love's graces all round her do dwell,

She's fairest where thousands are fair.

Say, charmer, where do thy flocks stray?

Ch! tell me at noon where they feed.

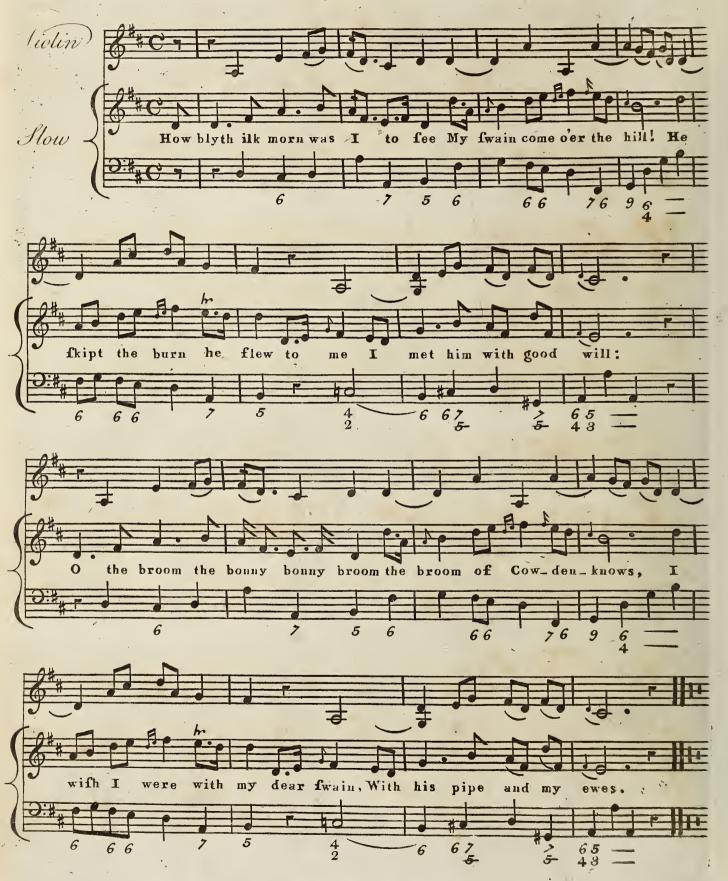
Shall I seek them on sweet-winding Tay,

Or the pleasanter banks of the Tweed?

Tweed Side



The Broom



THE BROOM OF COWDEN KNOWS.

How blyth ilk morn was I to fee
My fwain come o'er the hill!
He skipt the burn, he flew to me:
I met him with good will.

O the broom, the bonny bonny broom, The broom of Cowden knows; I wish I were with my dear swain, With his pipe and my ewes.

I neither wanted ewe nor lamb,
While his flock near me lay:
He gathered in my sheep at night,
And chear'd me a' the day,

O the broom, &c.

He tun'd his pipe and reed fae fweet,
The flocks flood liftening by:
E'en the dull cattle flood and gaz'd,
Charm'd with his melody.
O the broom, &c.

While thus we spent our time by turns,
Betwixt our flocks and play:
I envy'd not the fairest dame,
Tho' ne'er sae rich and gay.
O the broom, &c.

Hard fate that I shou'd banish'd be, Gang heavily and mourn, Because I lov'd the kindest swain That ever yet was born.

O the broom, &c.

He did oblige me every hour,

Cou'd I but faithfu' be?

He staw my heart: Cou'd I refuse

Whate'er he ask'd of me?

O the broom, &c.

My doggie, and my little kit
That held my wee foup whey,
My plaidy, broach, and crooked flick,
May now ly useless by.

O the broom, &c.

Adieu, ye Cowdenknows, adieu,
Farewel a' pleasures there;
Ye gods, restore me to my swain,
Is a' I crave or care.

O the broom, the bonny bonny broom,
The broom of Cowden knows;
I wish I were with my dear swain,
With his pipe and my ewes.

AULD LANG SYNE.

SHOULD auld acquaintance be forgot,
Tho' they return with fcars?
These are the noble hero's lot,
Obtain'd in glorious wars:
Welcome, my Varo, to my breast,
Thy arms about me twine,
And make me once again as blest,
As I was lang syne.

Methinks around us on each bough,
A thousand Cupids play,
Whilst thro' the groves I walk with you,
Each object makes me gay:
Since your return the sun and moon
With brighter beams do shine,
Streams murmur soft notes while they run,
As they did lang syne.

Despise the court and din of state;

Let that to their share fall,

Who can esteem such slav'ry great,

While bounded like a ball:

But sunk in love, upon my arms

Let your brave head recline,

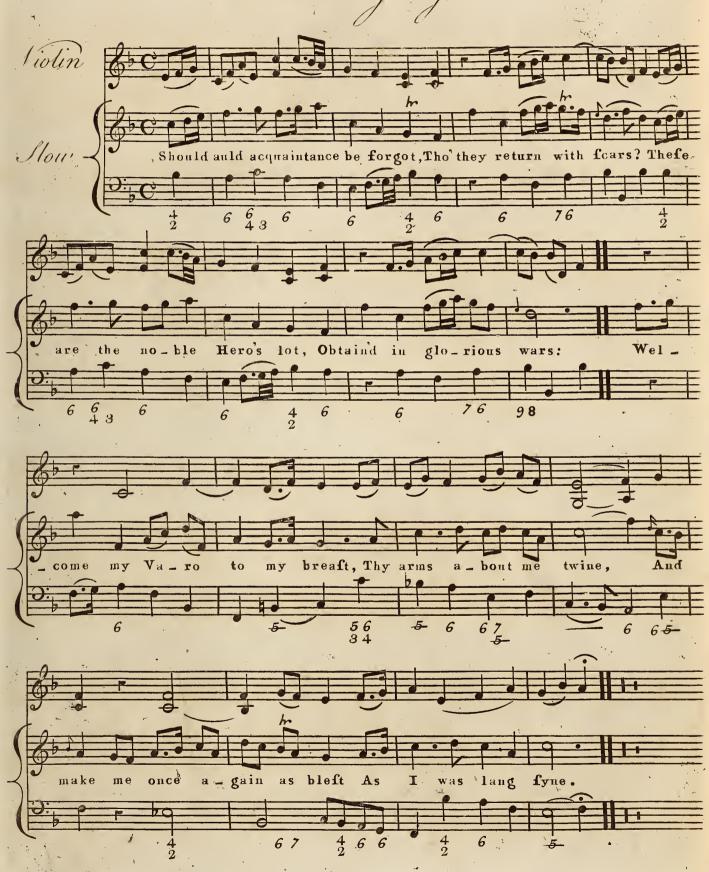
We'll please ourselves with mutual charms,

As we did lang syne.

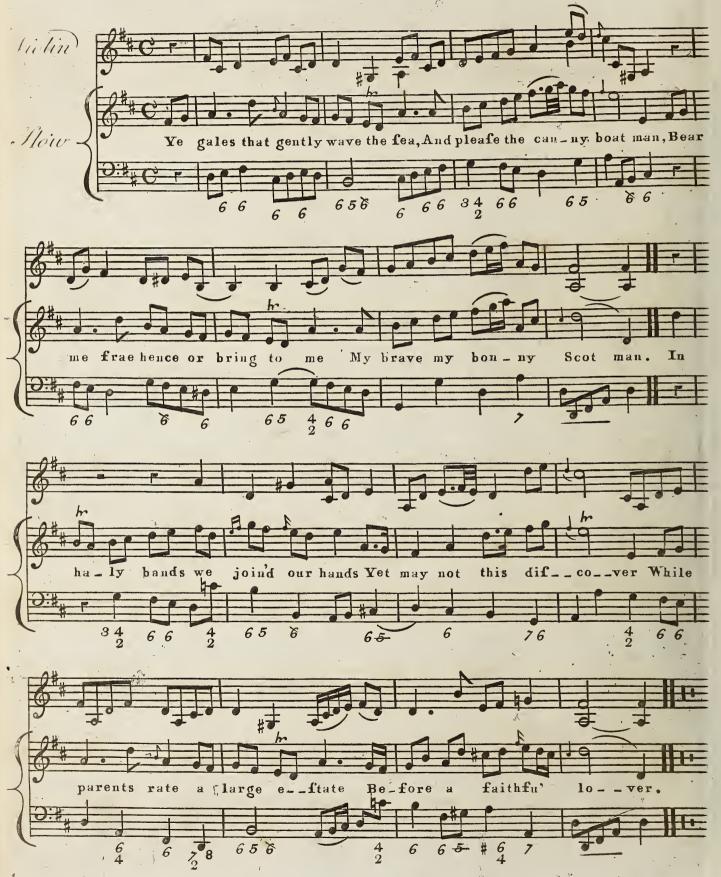
O'er moor and dale, with your gay friend,
You may purfue the chace,
And, after a brifk bottle, end
All cares in my embrace:
And in a vacant rainy day
You shall be wholly mine;
We'll gar the hours glide smooth away,
And laugh at lang syne.

The hero, pleas'd with the fweet air,
And figns of generous love,
Which had been utter'd by the fair,
Bow'd to the pow'rs above:
Next day, with glad confent and hafte,
Th' approach'd the facred fhrine;
Where the good prieft the couple bleft,
And put them out of pine.

Auld lang Syne



The Boatman



THE BOATMAN.

YE gales that gently wave the fea,
And please the canny boat-man,
Bear me frae hence, or bring to me
My brave, my bonny Scot—man;
In haly bands
We join'd our hands,
Yet dar na this discover,
While parents rate
A large estate,
Before a faithfu' lover.

But I loor chuse in Highland glens
To herd the kid and goat—man,
Ere I cou'd for sae little ends
Resuse my bonny Scot—man
Wae worth the man
Wha first began
The base ungenerous fashion,
Frae greedy views
Love's art to use,
While strangers to its passion.

in inches

Frae foreign fields, my lovely youth,

Haste to thy langing lassie,

Who pants to press thy ba'my mouth,

And in her bosom hawse thee.

Love gi'es the word,

Then haste on board,

Fair winds and tenty boat-man,

Wast o'er, wast o'er

Frae yonder shore,

My blyth, my bonny Scot—man.

JOHNY FA.

THE gypfies came to our lord's gate,

And wow but they fang fweetly; sool to the stand factor of the fang factor of the fair lady.

And a' her maids before her:

As foon as they faw her well-far'd face,

They cooft the glamer o'er her.

Gae tak frae me this gay mantile,

And bring to me a plaidie,

For if kith and kin and a' had fworn,

I'll follow the gypsie 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 beside me.

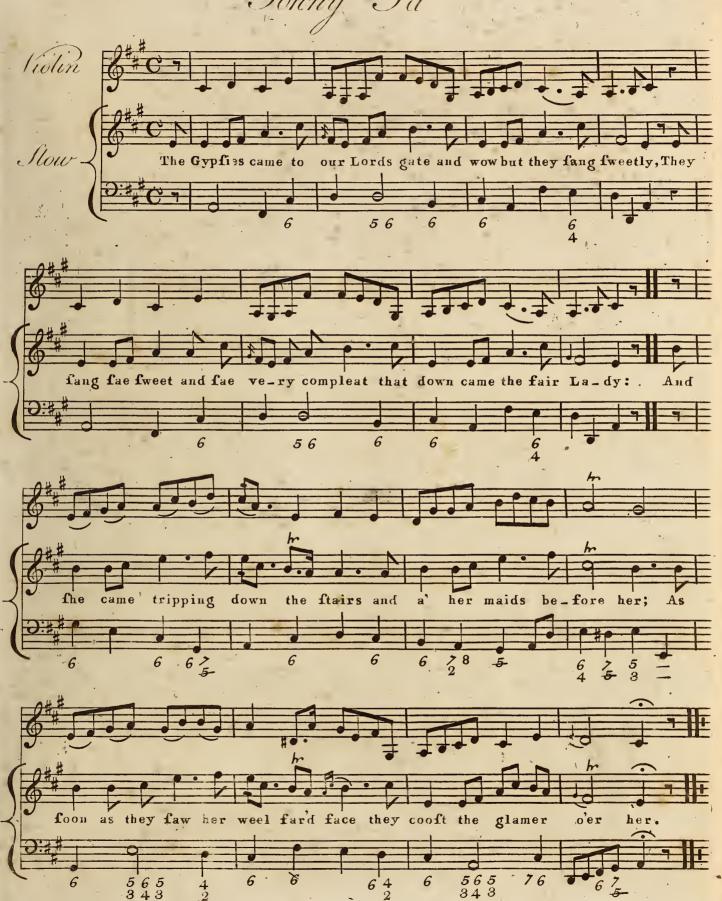
And when our lord came hame at een,

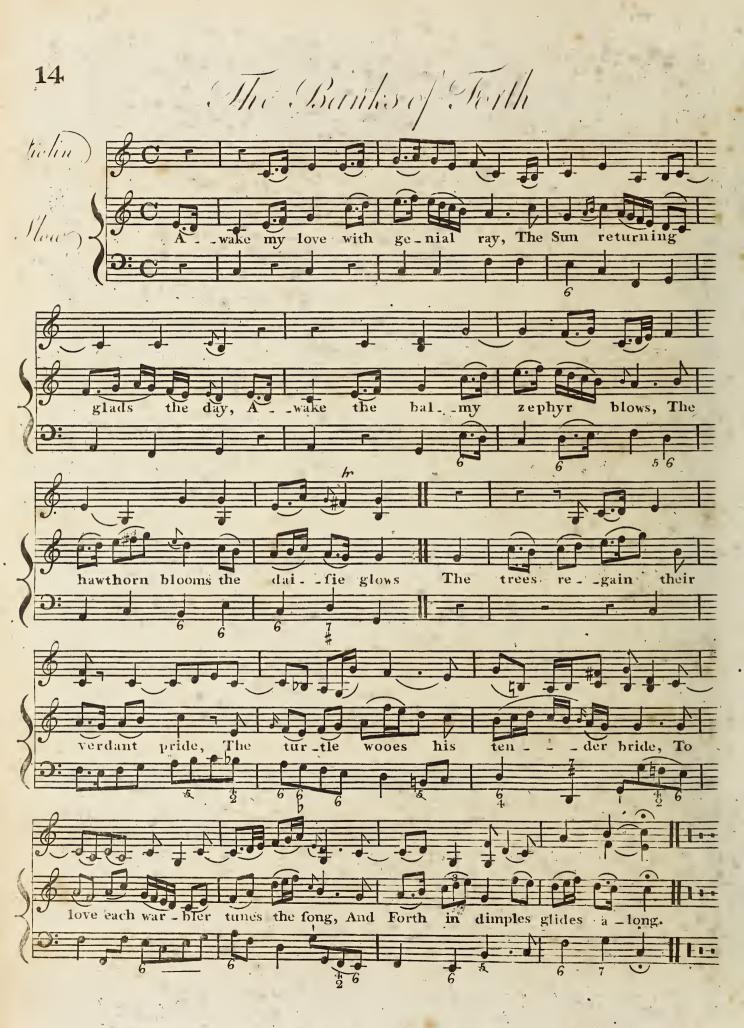
And speir'd for his fair lady,

The tane she cry'd, and the other reply'd,

She's awa with the gypsie laddie.

Johny Ju





THE BANKS OF FORTH.

AWAKE, my love, with genial ray,
The fun returning glads the day;
Awake, the balmy zephyr blows;
The hawthorn blooms, the daify glows;
The trees regain their verdant pride;
The turtle wooes his tender bride;
To love each warbler tunes the fong,
And Forth in dimples glides along.

Oh more than blooming daifies fair!

More fragrant than the vernal air!

More gentle than the turtle dove,

Or Streams that murmur thro' the grove!

Bethink thee all is on the wing,

These pleasures wait on wasting spring;

Then come, the transient blis enjoy,

Nor fear what sleets so fast will cloy.

Tune, I wish my Love were in a Mire.

BLEST as th' immortal gods is he,
The youth who fondly fits by thee,
And hears and fees thee all the while
Softly speak and sweetly smile.

'Twas this bereav'd my foul of rest,

And rais'd such tumults in my breast;

For while I gaz'd, in transport tost,

My breath was gone, my voice was lost!

My bosom glow'd; the subtle slame Ran quick thro' all my vital frame; O'er my dim eyes a darkness hung, My ears with hollow murmurs rung.

In dewy damps my limbs were chill'd,
My blood with gentle horrors thrill'd,
My feeble pulse forgot to play;
I fainted, funk, and dy'd away!



GIL MORICE.

From Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry.

GIL Morice was an erles fon,
His name it waxed wide;
It was nae for his great riches,
Nor zet his mickle pride;
Bot it was for a lady gay,
That liv'd on Carron fide.

Quhair fall I get a bonny boy,
That will win hofe and shoen;
That will gae to lord Barnard's ha',
And bid his lady cum?
And ze maun rin errand Willie;
And ze may rin wi' pride;
Quhen other boys gae on their foot,
On horseback ze fall ride.

O no! Oh no! my mafter dear!
I dare nae for my life;
I'll no gae to the bauld barons,
For to trieft furth his wife.
My bird Willie, my boy Willie;
My dear Willie, he fayd,
How can ze strive against the stream?
For I will be obeyd.

Bot, O my master dear! he cryd,
In grene wod ze're zour lain;
Gi owre sic thochts, I walde ze rede,
For fear ze should be tain.
Haste, haste, I say, gae to the ha',
Bid hir cum here wi' speid:
If ze refuse my heigh command,
I'll gar zour body bleid.

Gae bid hir take this gay mantel,
 'Tis a' gowd bot the hem;
Bid hir cum to the gude grene wode,
 And bring nane bot hir lain:
And there it is, a filken farke,
 Hir ain hand fewd the fleive;
And bid hir cum to Gil Morice,
 Speir nac bauld barons leave.

Yes, I will gae zour black errand,
Thought it be to zour cost;
Sen ze by me will nae be warn'd,
In it ze sall find frost.
The baron he's a man of might,
He neir could bide to taunt,
As ze will see before its nicht,
How sma' ze hae to vaunt.

And fen I maun zour errand rin
Sae fair against my will,
I'se mak a vow and keip it trow,
It sall be done for ill.
And quhen he came to broken brigue,
He bent his bow and swam;
And quhen he came to grass growing,
Set down his feet and ran.

And quhen he came to Barnards ha',
Would neither chap nor ca';
Bot fet his bent bow to his breift,
And lichtly lap the wa'.
He wauld nae tell the man his errand,
Though he flude at the gait;
Bot straiht into the ha' he cam,
Quhair they were fet at meit.

Hail! hail! my gentle fire and dame!
My meffage winna waite;
Dame, ze maun to the gude grene wode
Before that it be late.
Ze're bidden tak this gay mantel,
Tis a' gowd bot the hem:
Zou maun gae to the gude grene wode,
Ev'n by your fale alane.

And there it is, a filken farke,
Your ain hand fewd the fleive;
Ze maun gae speik to Gil Morice;
Speir nac bauld barons leave.
The lady stamped wi' hir soot,
And winked wi' hir ee;
Bot a' that she could say or do,
Forbidden he wad nac bee.

Its furely to my bowr-woman;
It neir could be to me.
I brocht it to lord Barnards lady;
I trow that ze be fhe.
Then up and fpack the wylie nurfe,
(The bairn upon hir knee)
If it be cum frae Gil Morice,
It's deir welcum to mee.

Ze leid, ze leid, ye filthy nurse,
Sae soud's I heire ze lee;
I brocht it to lord Barnards lady;
I trow ze be nae shee.
Then up and spake the bauld baron,
An angry man was hee;
He's tain the table wi' his foot,
Sae has he wi's knee;
Till siller cup and ezar dish
In slinders he gard slee.

Gae bring a robe of zour cliding,
That hings upon the pin;
And I'll gae to the gude grene wode,
And fpeik wi' zour lemman.

O bide at hame, now lord Barnard,
I warde ze bide at hame;
Neir wyte a man for violence,
That neir wate ze wi' nane.

Gil Morice fate in gude grene wode, He whiftled and he fang: O what mean a' the folk coming, My mother tarries lang. His hair was like the threeds of gold, Drawne frae Minervas loome: His lipps like rofes drapping dew, His breath was a' perfume.

His brow was like the mountain fnace
Gilt by the morning beam:
His cheeks like living rofes glow:
His een like azure stream.
The boy was clad in robes of grene,
Sweete as the infant spring:
And like the mavis on the bush,
He gart the vallies ring.

The baron came to the grene wode,
Wi' mickle dule and care,
And there he first spied Gil Morice
Kameing his zellow hair:
That sweetly wav'd around his face,
That face beyond compare;
He sang so sweet it might dispel,
A' rage but fell dispair.

Nae wonder, nae wonder, Gil Morice,
My lady loed thee weel,
The fairest part of my body
Is blacker than thy heel.
Zet neir the less now, Gil Morice,
For a' thy great bewty,
Ze's rew the day ze eir was born;
That head fall gae wi' me.

Now he has drawn his trufty brand,
And flaited on the flrae;
And thro' Gil Morice' fair body
He's gar cauld iron gae.
And he has tain Gill Morice' head
And fet it on a fpeir:
The meanest man in a' his train
Has gotten that head to bear.

And he has tain Gil Morice up,
Laid him acrofs his steid,
And brocht him to his painted bowr
And laid him on a bed,
The lady sat on castil wa',
Beheld baith dale and doun;
And there she saw Gil Morice' head
Cum trailing to the toun.

Far better I loe that bluidy head,
Bot and that zellow hair,
Than lord Barnard, and a' his lands,
As they lig here and thair.
And she has tain hir Gil Morice,
And kifs'd baith mouth and chin:
I was once as fow of Gil Morice,
As the hip is o' the stean.

I got ze in my father's house,
Wi' mickle sin and shame;
I brocht thee up in gude grene wode,
Under the heavy rain:
Oft have I by thy cradel sitten,
And fondly seen thee sleip;
But now I gae about thy grave,
The saut tears for to weip.

And fyne she kissd his bluidy cheik,
And fyne his bluidy chin:
O better I loc my Gil Morice
Than a' my kith and kin!
Away, away, ze ill woman,
And an il deith mait ze dee:
Gin I had kend he'd bin zour son,
He'd neir bin slain for mee.

Obraid me not, my lord Barnard!
Obraid me not for shame!
Wi that saim speir O pierce my heart!
And put me out o' pain.
Since nothing bot Gil Morice head
Thy jelous rage could quell,
Let that saim hand now take hir life,
That neir to thee did ill.

To me nae after days nor nichts
Will eir be faft or kind;
I'll fill the air with heavy fighs,
And greet till I am blind.
Enouch of blood by me's bin fpilt,
Seck not zour death frae mee;
I rather lourd it had been my fel
Than eather him or thee.

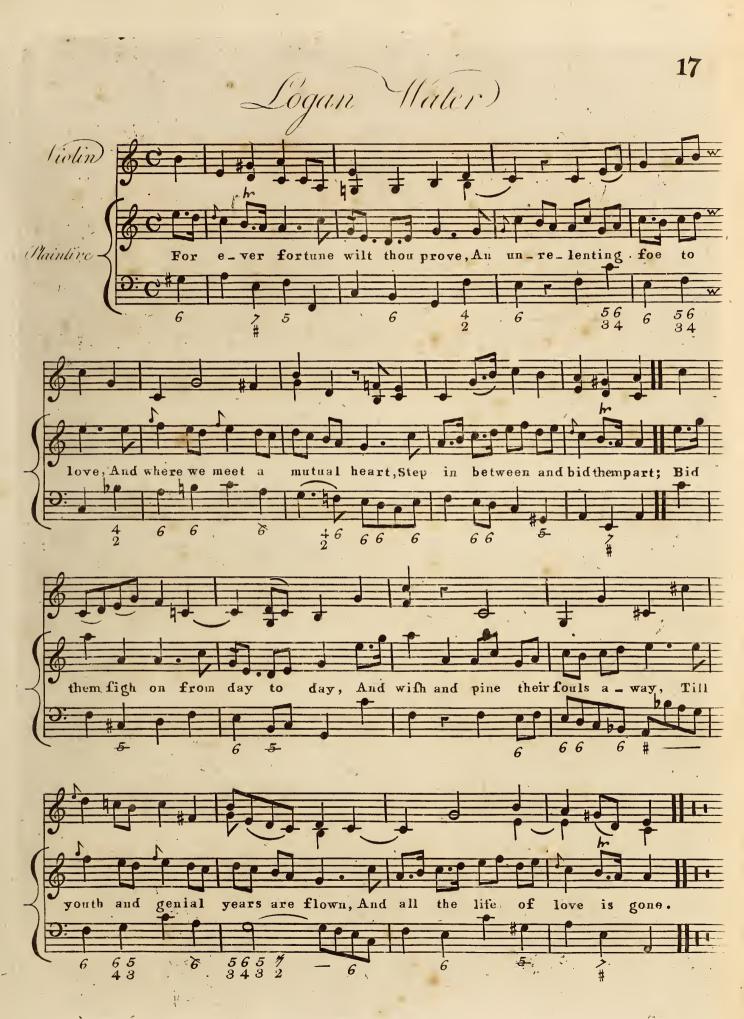
With waefo wae I hear zour plaint Sair, fair I rew the deid,
That eir this curfed hand of mine Had gard his body bleid.
Dry up zour tears, my winfom dame,
Ze neir can heal the wound;
Ze fee his head upon the fpeir,
His heart's blude on the ground.

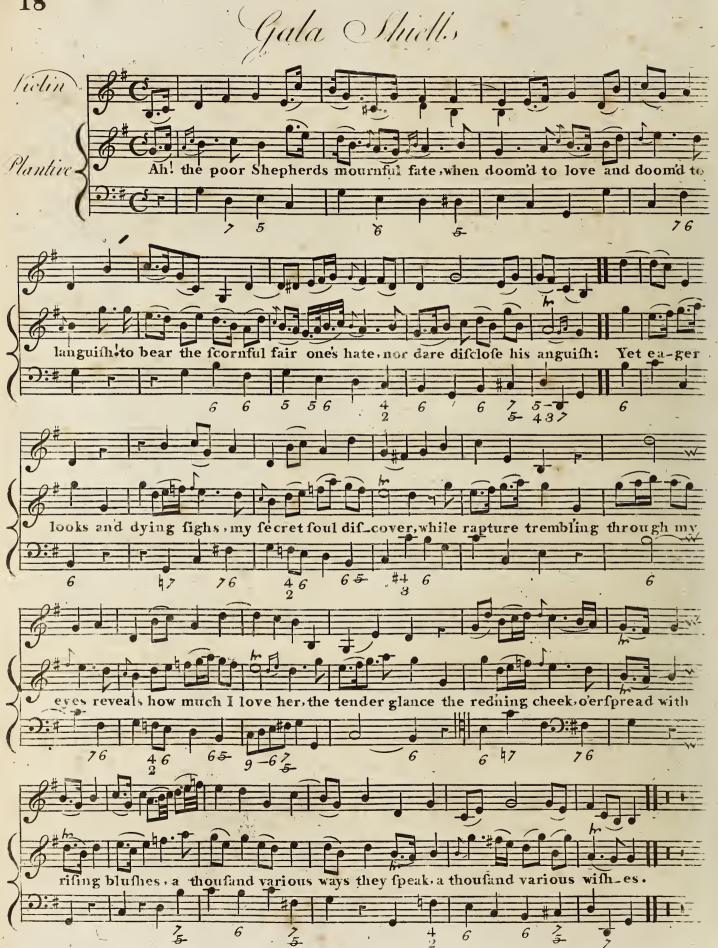
I curfe the hand that did the deid,
The heart that thocht the ill;
The fect that bore me wi' fik fpeid,
The comely zouth to kill.
I'll ay lament for Gil Morice,
As gin he were my ain;
I'll neir forget the driery day
On which the zouth was flain.

LOGAN WATER.

For ever, fortune, wilt thou prove,
An unrelenting foe to love,
And when we meet a mutual heart,
Step in between, and bid them part;
Bid them figh on from day to day,
And wish and pine their souls away,
Till youth and genial years are flown,
And all the life of love is gone.

But bufy, bufy still art thou
To bind the loveless, joyless vow;
The heart from pleasure to delude,
And join the gentle to the rude.
For once, O Fortune! hear my prayer,
And I absolve thy future care;
All other blessings I resign,
Make but the dear Amanda mine.





GALASHIELLS.

AH! the shepherd's mournful fate,

When doom'd to love, and doom'd to languish,

To bear the scornful fair one's hate,

Nor dare disclose his anguish!

Yet eager looks, and dying sighs,

My secret soul discover,

While rapture trembling, thro' mine eyes,

Reveals how much I love her.

The tender glance, the red'ning cheek,

O'erspread with rising blushes,

A thousand various ways they speak,

A thousand various wishes.

For oh! that form fo heavenly fair,

Those languid eyes so sweetly smiling,
That artless blush, and modest air,
So fatally beguiling.

Thy every look, and every grace,
So charm whene'er I view thee;

Till death o'ertake me in the chace,
Still will my hopes pursue thee.

Then when my tedious hours are past,
Be this last blessing given,
Low at thy feet to breathe my last,
And die in sight of heaven.

THE LASS OF PATIE'S MILL.

THE lass of Patie's mill,
So bonny, blyth, and gay,
In spite of all my skill,
Hath 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.

Without the help of art,

Like flowers which grace the wild,

She did her fweets 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 the wealth

Hoptoun's high mountains fill,

Infur'd long life and health,

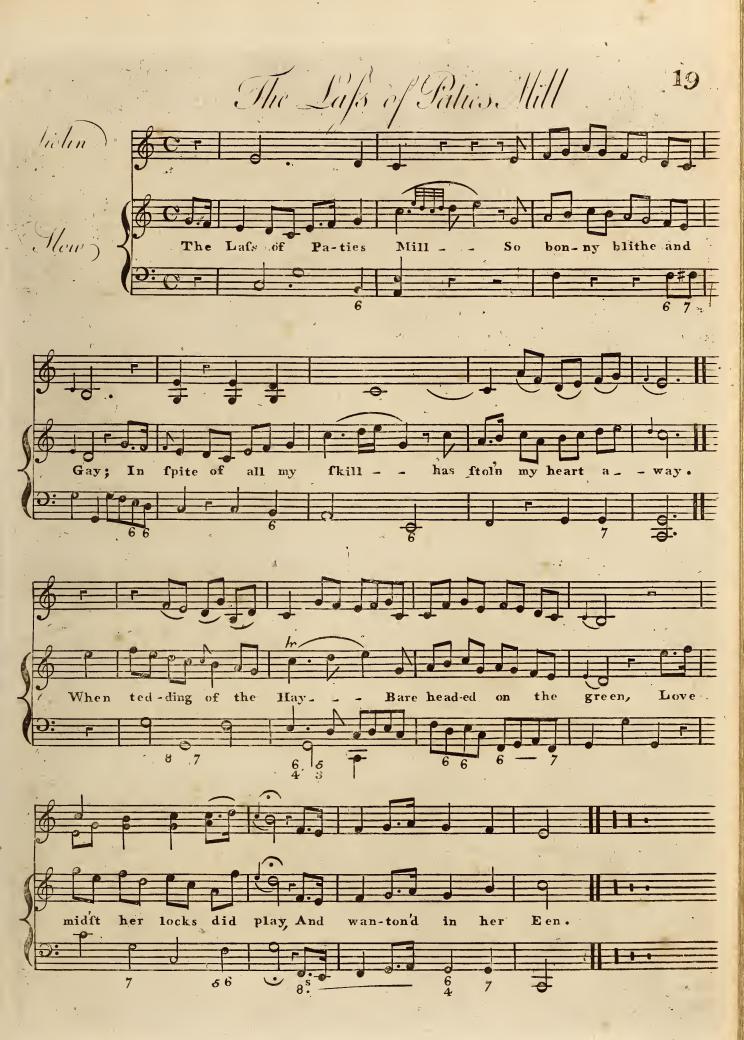
And pleafures at my will;

I'd promife and fulfil,

That nane but bonny fhe,

The lafs of Patie's mill,

Shou'd share the same wi' me.



AULD ROB MORRIS.

MITHER.

THERE's auld Rob Morris that wins in yon glen,
He's the king of good fellows, and wale of auld men,
Has fourfcore of black sheep, and fourfcore too,
And auld Rob Morris is the man ye maun loo.

DOUGHTER.

O had your tongue, mither, and let that abee,

For his eild and my eild will never agree:

They'll never agree, and that will be feen,

For he is fourfcore, and I'm but fifteen.

MITHER:

Then had your tongue, doughter, and lay by your pride,
For he's be the bridegroom, and ye's be the bride;
He shall lye by your side, and kiss you too,
Auld Rob Morris is the man you maun loo.

DOUGHTER.

But auld Rob Morris I never will hae,

His back is fo stiff, and his beard is grown gray;

I had rather die than live wi' him a year,

Sae mair of Rob Morris I never will hear.

THE BRAES OF YARROW.

BUSK ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny bride, Busk ye, busk ye, my wintome marrow, Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny bride, And let us leave the braes of Yarrow.

Where got ye that bonny bonny bride, Where got ye that winfome marrow? I got her where I durst not well be seen, Puing the birks on the braes of Yarrow.

Weep not, weep not, my bonny bonny bride, Weep not, weep not, my winfome marrow, Nor let thy heart lament to leave Puing the birks on the braes of Yarrow.

Why does she weep thy bonny bonny bride? Why does she weep thy winsome marrow? And why dare ye nae mair well be seen, Puing the birks on the braes of Yarrow.

Lang must she weep, lang must she, must she weep, Lang must she weep with dole and forrow, And lang must I nair well be seen Puing the birks on the braes of Yarrow.

For she has tint her lover, lover dear, Her lover dear, the cause of sorrow; And I have slain the comeliest swain, That ever pued birks on the braes of Yarrow.

Why runs thy ftream, O Yarrow, Yarrow, red? Why on thy braes heard the voice of forrow? And why you inelancholious weeds, Hung on the bonny birks of Yarrow?

What's yonder floats on the rueful, rueful flood? What's yonder floats? O dole and forrow. O 'tis the comely fwain I flew Upon the doleful braes of Yarrow.

Wash, O wash his wounds, his wounds in tears, His wounds in tears of dole and forrow, And wrap his limbs in mourning weeds, And lay him on the bracs of Yarrow.

Then build, then build, ye fifters, fifters fad, Ye fifters fad, his tomb with forrow, And weep around in woful wife, His helples fate on the brace of Yarrow.

Curse ye, curse ye, his useless, useless shield, My arm that wrought the deed of forrow, The fatal spear that piere'd his breast, His comely breast on the brases of Yarrow.

Did I not warn thee not to, not to love, And warn from fight? but to my forrow, Too rashly bold, a stronger arm Thou met'st, and fell on the braes of Yarrow.

Sweet finells the birk, green grows, green grows the grafs Yellow on Yarrow's braces the gowan, Fair hangs the apple frae the rock, Sweet the wave of Yarrow flowan.

Flows Yarrow fweet, as fweet, as fweet flows Tweed, As green its grafs, its gowan as yellow, As fweet finells on its braes the birk, The apple from its rocks as mellow.

Fair was thy love, fair, fair indeed thy love, In flow'ry bands thou didft him fetter; Tho' he was fair, and well belov'd again, Than me he never lov'd thee better.

Busk ye, then busk, my bonny bonny bride, Busk ye, then busk, my winsome marrow, Busk ye, and loe me on the banks of Tweed, And think nae mair on the braes of Yarrow.

How can I busk a bonny bonny bride, How can I busk a winfome marrow, How loe him on the banks of Tweed, That slew my love on the brace of Yarrow?

O Yarrow fields, may never, never rain, No dew thy tender bloffoms cover, For there was vilely kill'd my love, My love as he had not been a lover.

The boy put on his robes, his robes of green, His purple vest, 'twas my ain sewing, Ah! wretched me, I little, little knew, He was in these to meet his ruin.

The boy took out his milk-white, milk-white steed, Unheedful of my dole and forrow, But ere the toofal of the night, He lay a corps on the braes of Yarrow.

Much I rejoic'd that woeful, woeful day, I fung, my voice the woods returning, But lang ere night, the spear was flown That slew my love, and left me mourning.

What can my barbarous, barbarous father do, But with his cruel rage purfue me? My lover's blood is on thy fpear; How canst thou, barbarous man, then woo me?

My happy fifters may be, may be proud, With cruel and ungentle fcoffing, May bid me feek on Yarrow's braes My lover nailed in his coffin.

My brother Douglas may upbraid, And strive with threatning words to move me, My lover's blood is on thy spear, How canst thou ever bid me love thee?

Yes, yes, prepare the bed, the bed of love, With bridal fheets my body cover, Unbar, ye bridal maids, the door, Let in the expected husband lover.

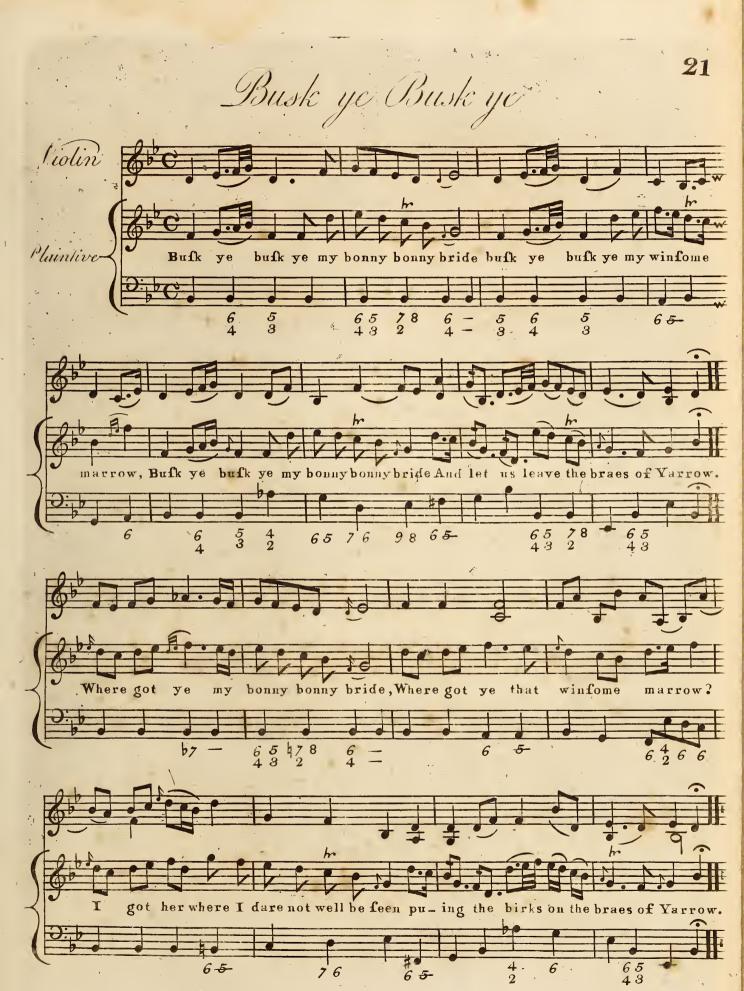
But who the expected hufband, hufband is? His hands, methinks, are bath'd in flaughter, Ah me! what ghastly spectre's yon, Comes, in his pale shroud, bleeding after?

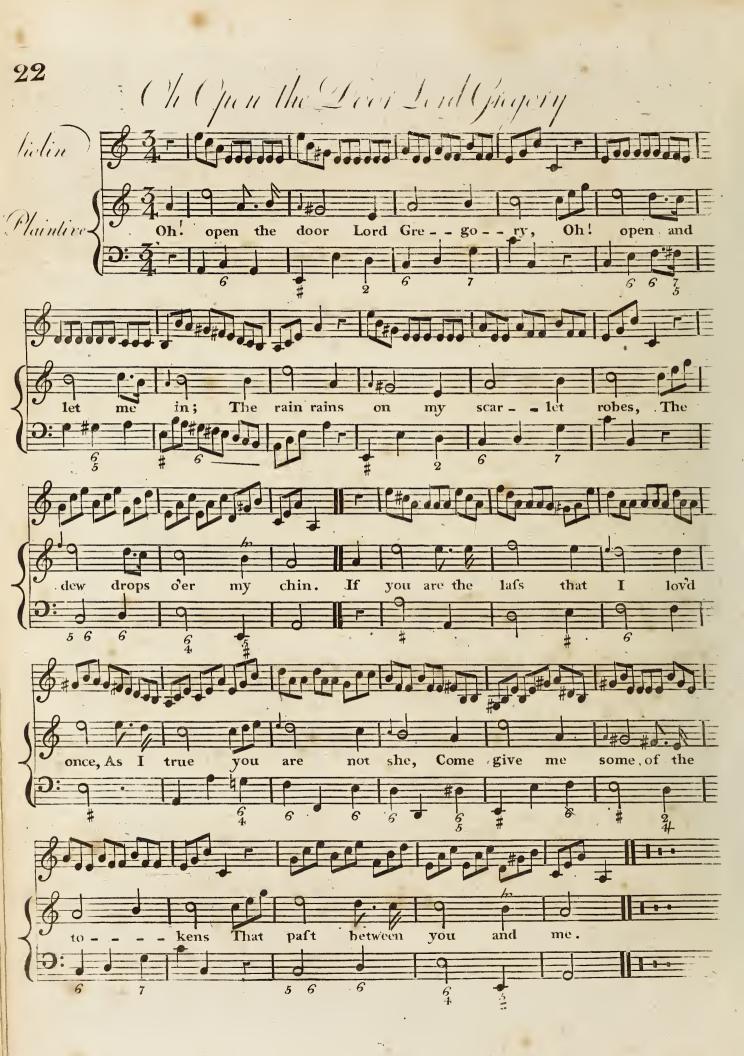
Pale as he is, here lay him, lay him down, O lay his cold head on my pillow; Take aff, take aff these bridal weeds, And crown my careful head with yellow.

Pale the' thou art, yet best, yet best belov'd, O could my warmth to life restore thee; Yet lie all night between my breasts; No youth lay ever there before thee.

Pale, indeed, O lovely, lovely youth! Forgive, forgive so foul a slaughter, And lye all night between my breasts, No youth shall ever lye there after.

Return, return, O mournful, mournful bride, Return and dry thy useless forrow, Thy lover heeds nought of thy sighs, He lies a corps in the braes of Yarrow.





OH! OPEN THE DOOR, LORD GREGORY.

OH! open the door, Lord Gregory,
Oh open and let me in;
The rain rains on my scarlet robes,
The dew drops o'er my chin.

If you are the lass that I lov'd once,
As I true you are not she,
Come give me some of the tokens
That past between you and me.

DOWN THE BURN DAVIE.

WHEN trees did bud, and fields were green,
And broom blom'd fair to fee;
When Mary was compleat fifteen,
And love laugh'd in her eye;
Blyth Davie's blinks her heart did move
To fpeak her mind thus free,
Gang down the burn, Davie, love,
And I will follow thee.

Now Davie did each lad furpass,

That dwelt on this burnside,

And Mary was the bonniest lass,

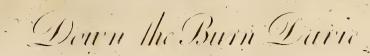
Just meet to be a bride;

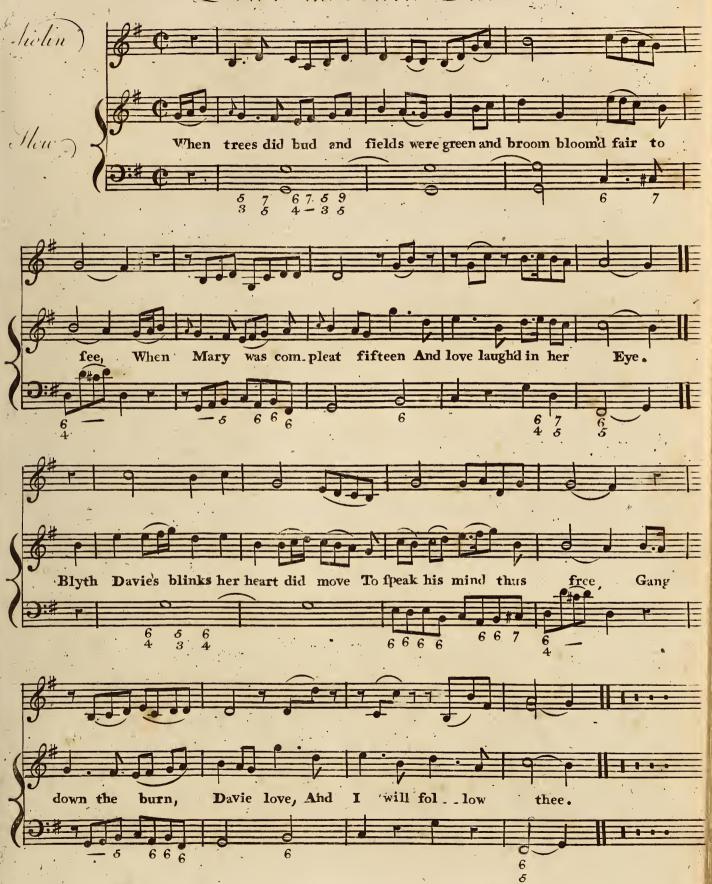
Her cheeks were rosse, red, and white,

Her een were bonny blue;

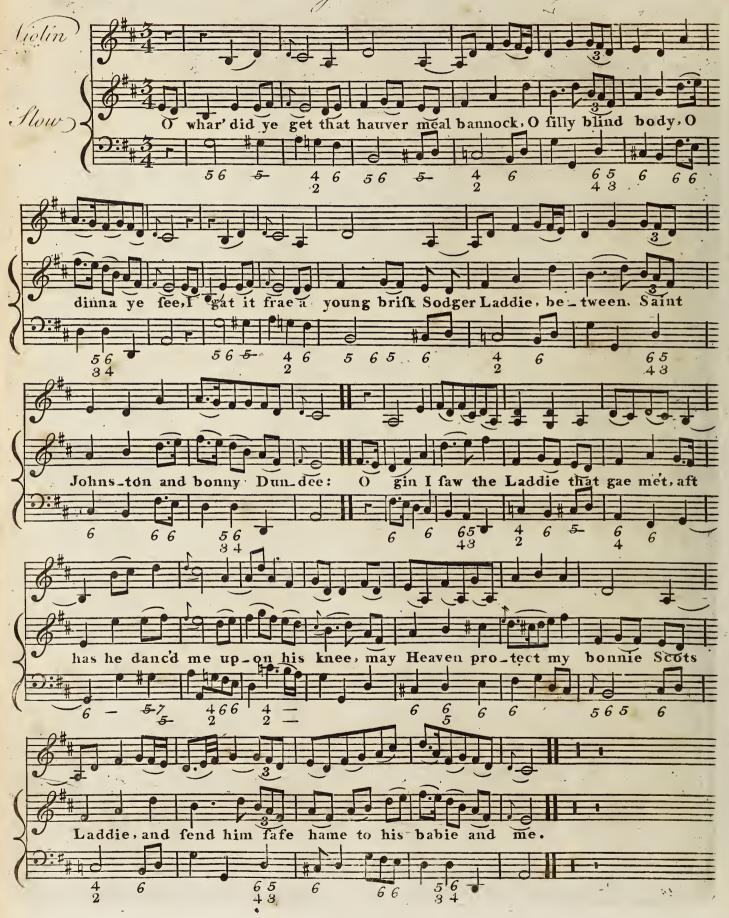
Her looks were like Aurora bright,

Her lips like dropping dew.









BONNY DUNDEE.

O Whar did ye get that hauver-meal bannock?

O filly blind body, O dinna ye fee,

I gat it frae a young brifk fodger laddie,

Between Saint Johnston and bonny Dundee.

O gin I faw the laddie that gae me't!

Aft has he dandl'd me upon his knee;

May Heaven protect my bonny Scots laddie,

And fend him safe hame to his babie and me.

My bleffins upon thy fweet wee lippie!

My bleffins upon thy bonny e'e brie!

Thy fmiles are fae like my blyth fodger laddie,

Thou's ay the dearer and dearer to me!

But I'll big a bow'r on yon bonny banks,

Whare Tay rins wimplin by fae clear;

And I'll cleed thee in the tartan fae fine,

And mak thee a man like thy dadie dear.

NANCY'S TO THE GREEN WOOD GANE.

NANCY's to the Green Wood gane,
To hear the Gowdspink chatt'ring,
And Willie he has follow'd her,
To gain her love by flatt'ring:
But a' that he cou'd say or do,
She geck'd and scorned at him;
And aye when he began to woo,
She bid him mind wha gat him.

What ails ye at my dad, quoth he,
My minny or my aunty?
With crowdy mowdy they fed me,
Lang-kail and ranty-tanty:
With bannocks of good barley-meal,
Of that there was right plenty,
With chapped stocks fou butter'd well;
And was not that right dainty?

Altho' my father was nae laird,
'Tis daffin to be vaunty;
He keep it aye a good kail-yard,
A ha' house and a pantry:
A good blew bonnet on his head,
An owrlay 'bout his cragy;
And aye until the day he died,
He rade on good shanks nagy.

Now wae and wander on your fnout,
Wad ye hae bonny Nancy?
Wad ye compare ye'r fell to me,
A docken till a tanfie?
I have a wooer of my ain,
They ca' him fouple Sandy,
And well I wat his bonny mou'
Is fweet like fugar-candy.

Wow, Nancy, what needs a' this din?

Do I not ken this Sandy?

I'm fure the chief of a' his kin

Was Rab the beggar randy:

His minny Meg upo' her back

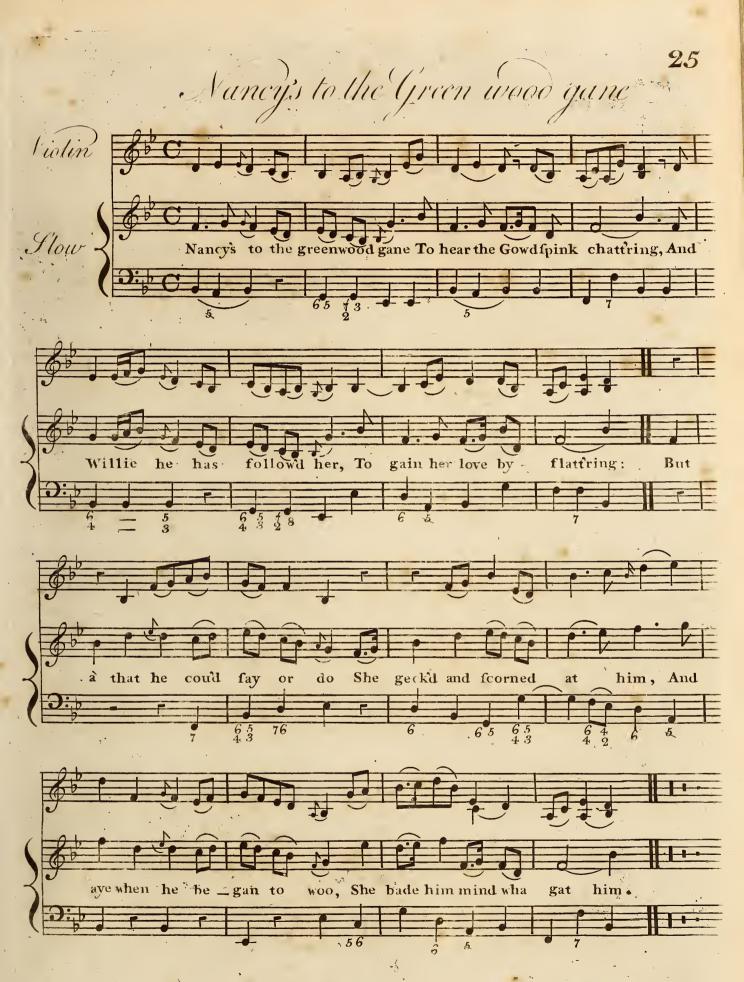
Bare baith him and his billy;

Will ye compare a nafty pack

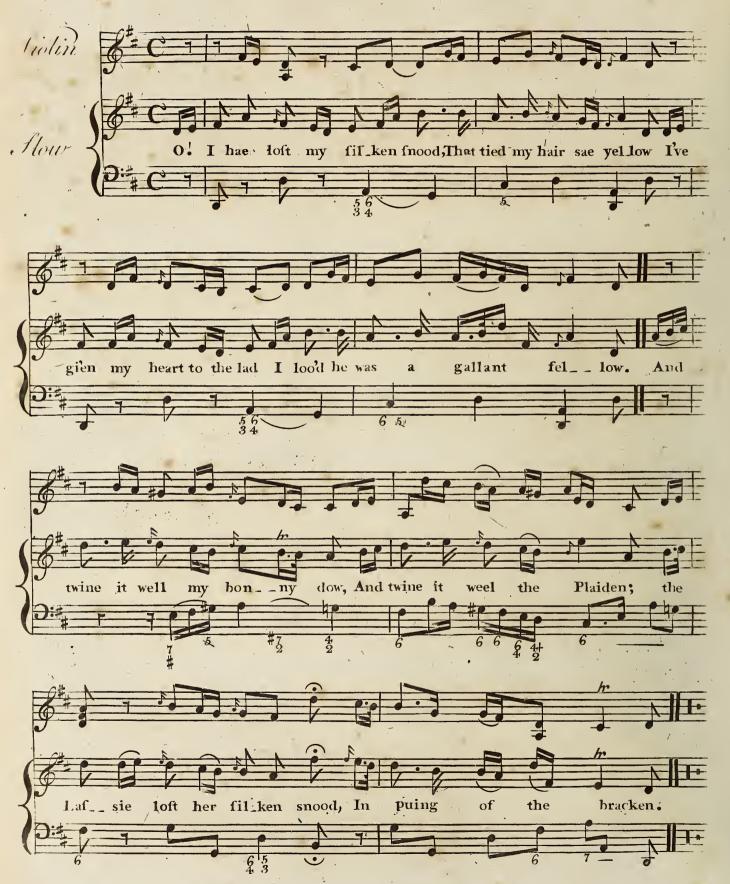
To me your winfome Willie?

My gutcher left a good braid fword,
Tho' it be auld and rufty,
Yet ye may tak it on my word,
It is baith frout and trufty;
And if I can but get it drawn,
Which will be right uneafy,
I shall lay baith my lugs in pawn,
That he shall get a heezy.

Then Nancy turn'd her round about,
And faid, Did Sandy hear ye,
Ye wadna miss to get a clout,
I ken he disna fear ye:
Sae had ye'r tongue and say nae mair,
Set somewhere else your fancy;
For as lang's Sandy's to the fore,
Ye never shall get Nancy.



Twine weet the Maiden



TWINE WEEL THE PLAIDEN.

OH! I hae lost my silken snood,

That tied my hair sae yellow,

I've gi'en my heart to the lad I loo'd;

He was a gallant fellow.

And twine it weel, my bonny dow,

And twine it weel, the plaiden;

The lassic lost her silken snood,

In pu'ing of the bracken.

He prais'd my een fae bonny blue,

Sae lily white my fkin o',

And fyne he prie'd my bonny mou,

And fwore it was nae fin o',

And twine it weel, my bonny dow,

And twine it weel the plaiden;

The lassie lost her silken snood,

In pu'ing of the bracken.

But he has left the lass he loo'd,

His ain true love forsaken,

Which gars me sair to greet the snood,

I lost among the bracken.

And twine it weel, my bonny dow,

And twine it weel, the plaiden;

The lassie lost her silken snood,

In pu'ing of the bracken.

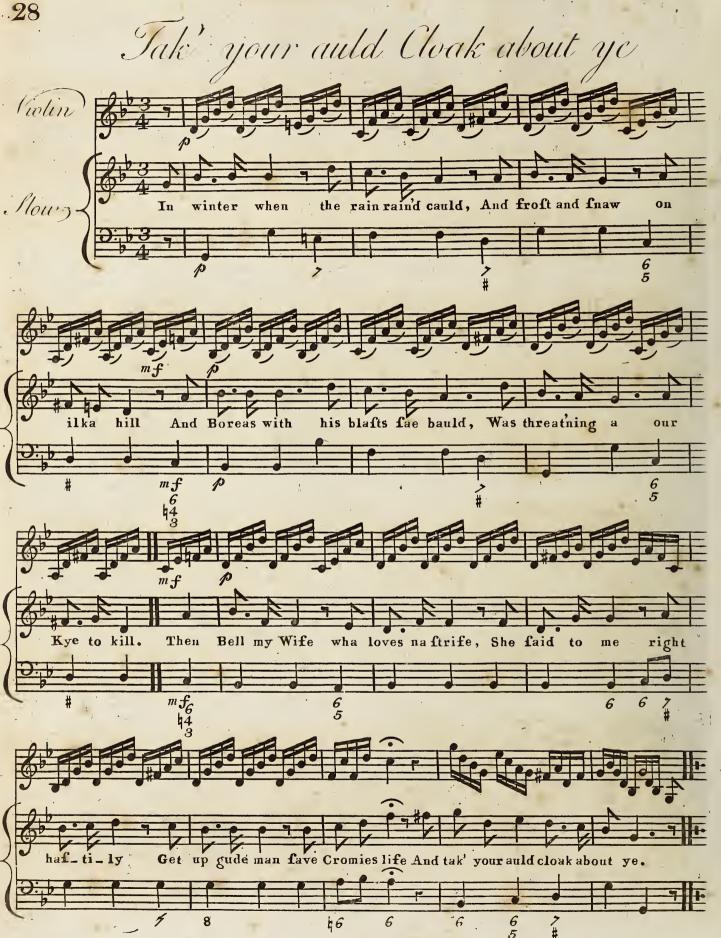
HERE AWA', WILLIE.

HERE awa', there awa', here awa', Willie;
Here awa', there awa', here awa', hame.
Lang have I fought thee, dear have I bought thee,
Now I ha'e gotten my Willie again.
Thro' the lang muir I have follow'd my Willie,
Thro' the lang muir I have follow'd him hame.

Whatever betide us, nought shall divide us,
Love now rewards all my forrow 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 while Willie's at hame.

Here awa Willie)





TAK' YOUR AULD CLOAK ABOUT YE.

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 kye to kill:
Then Bell my wise, wha loves na strife,
She said to me right hastily,
Get up, gudeman, save Cromie's life,
And tak' your auld cloak about yes

My Cromie is an useful cow,

And she is come of a good kyne;

Aft has she wet the bairnies' mou,

And I am laith that she should tyne;

Get up, gudeman, it is fou time,

The sun shines in the lift sae hie;

Sloth never made a gracious end,

Gae 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 feantly worth a groat,
For I have worn't this thirty year;
Let's fpend the gear that we have won,
We little ken the day we'll die:
Then I'll be proud, fince I have fworn
To have a new cloak about me.

In days when our king Robert rang,

His trews they cost but half a crown;

He said they were a groat o'er dear,

And call'd the taylor thief and loun.

He was the king that wore the crown,

And thou a man of laigh degree;

'Tis pride puts a' the country down,

Sae tak' thy auld cloak about thee.

Every land has its ain laigh,

Ilk kind of corn it has its hool.

I think the warld is a' run wrang,

When ilka wife her man wad rule;

Do ye not fee Rob, Jock, and Hab,

As they are girded gallantly,

While I fit hurklen in the aife;

I'll have a new cloak about me.

Gudeman, I wat 'tis thirty years,
Since we did ane anither ken;
And we have had between us twa,
Of lads and bonny laffes ten:
Now they are women grown and men,
I wish and pray well may they be;
And if you'd prove a good husband,
E'en tak' your auld cloak about yes

Bell my wife, she loves na strife;
But she wad guide me, if she can,
And to maintain an easy life,
I aft maun yield, tho' I'm gudeman;
Nought'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.

MY APRON DEARIE.

MY sheep I've forsaken and left my sheep hook, And all the gay haunts of my youth I've forsook; No more for Amynta fresh garlands I wove, For Ambition I said wou'd soon cure me of love.

O what had my youth with ambition to do?

Why left I Amynta? why broke I my vow?

O give me my sheep, and my sheephook restore,

I'll wander from love and Amynta no more.

Through regions remote in vain do I rove,
And bid the wide ocean fecure me from love;
O fool, to imagine that ought can fubdue
A love fo well founded, a passion fo true.

O what had my youth with ambition to do?

Why left I Amynta? why broke I my vow?

O give me my sheep, and my sheephook restore,

I'll wander from love and Amynta no more.

Alas! 'tis too late at thy fate to repine!

Poor shepherd! Amynta no more can be thine;

Thy tears are all fruitless, thy wishes are vain;

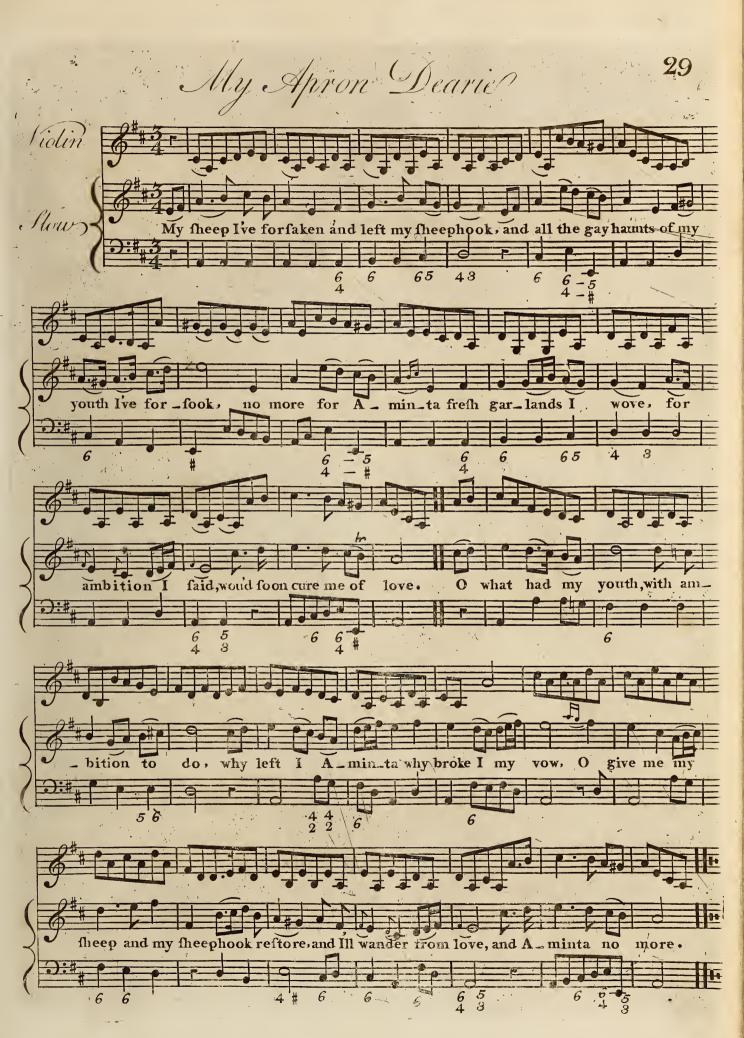
The moments neglected, return not again.

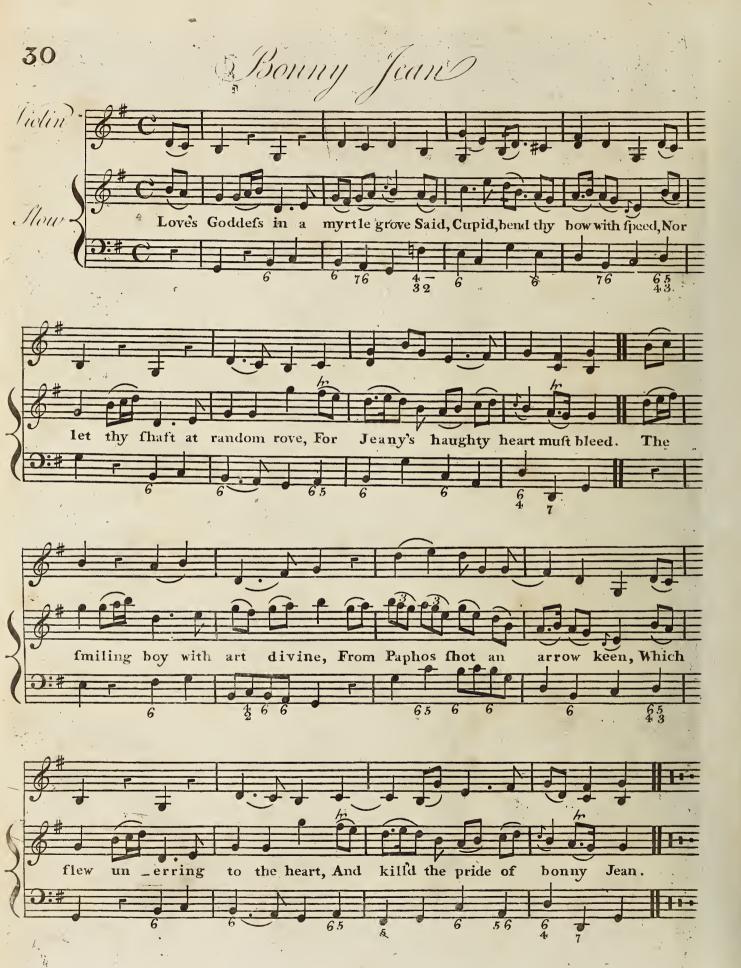
O what had my youth with ambition to do?

Why left I Amynta? why broke I my vow?

O give me my sheep, and my sheephook restore,

I'll wander from love and Amynta no more.





BONNY FEAN.

LOVE's goddess in a myrtle grove,
Said, Cupid, bend thy bow with speed,
Nor let the shaft at random rove,
For Jeany's haughty heart must bleed.
The smiling boy, with art divine,
From Paphos shot an arrow keen,
Which slew, unerring, to the heart,
And kill'd the pride of bonny Jean.

No more the nymph, with haughty air,
Refuses Willy's kind address;
Her yielding blushes shew no care,
But too much fondness to suppress.
No more the youth is sullen now,
But looks the gayest on the green,
While every day he spies some new
Surprising charm in bonny Jean,

A thousand transports crowd his breast,

He moves as light as fleeting wind;

His former forrows feem a jest,

Now when his Jeany is turn'd kind:

Riches he looks on with disdain,

The glorious fields of war look mean;

The chearful hound and horn give pain,

If absent from his bonny Jean.

The day he spends in am'rous gaze,

Which even in summer shorten'd seems;

When sunk in down, with glad amaze,

He wonders at her in his dreams.

All charms disclos'd, she looks more bright

Than Troy's prize, the Spartan queen;

With breaking day he lifts his sight,

And pants to be with bonny Jean.

PINKIE HOUSE.

By Pinkie House oft let me walk,
While circled in my arms,
I hear my Nelly sweetly talk,
And gaze o'er all her charms.
O let me, ever fond, behold
Those graces void of art,
Those chearful smiles that sweetly hold
In willing chains my heart.

O come, my love! and bring anew
That gentle turn of mind;
That gracefulness of air, in you,
By nature's hand design'd;
That beauty, like the blushing rose,
First lighted up this flame;
Which, like the fun, for ever glows
Within my breast the same.

Ye light coquets! ye airy things!

How vain is all yourt art!

How feldom it a lover brings!

How rarely keeps a heart!

O gather from my Nelly's charms,

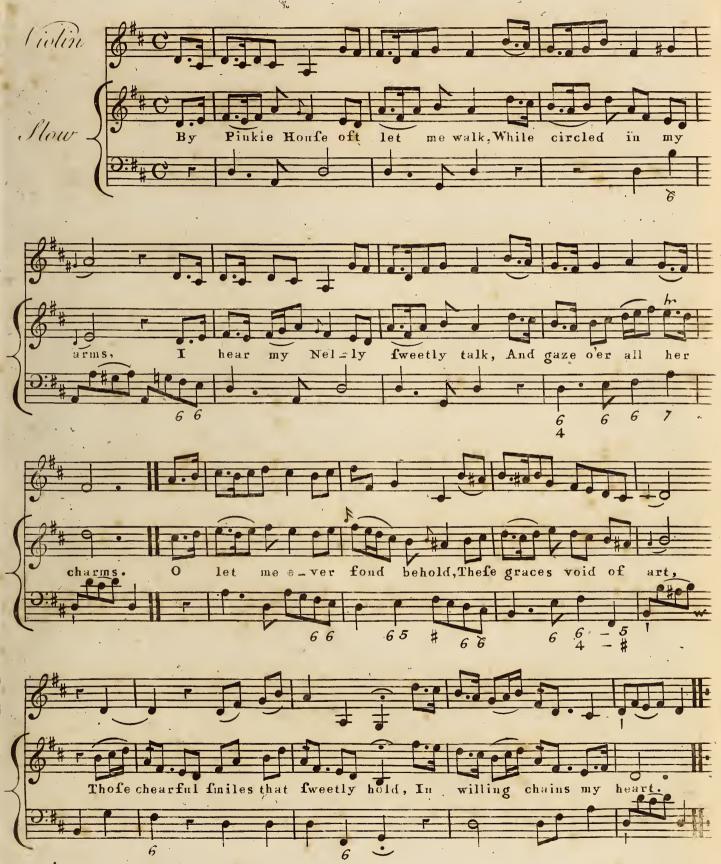
That fweet, that graceful ease;

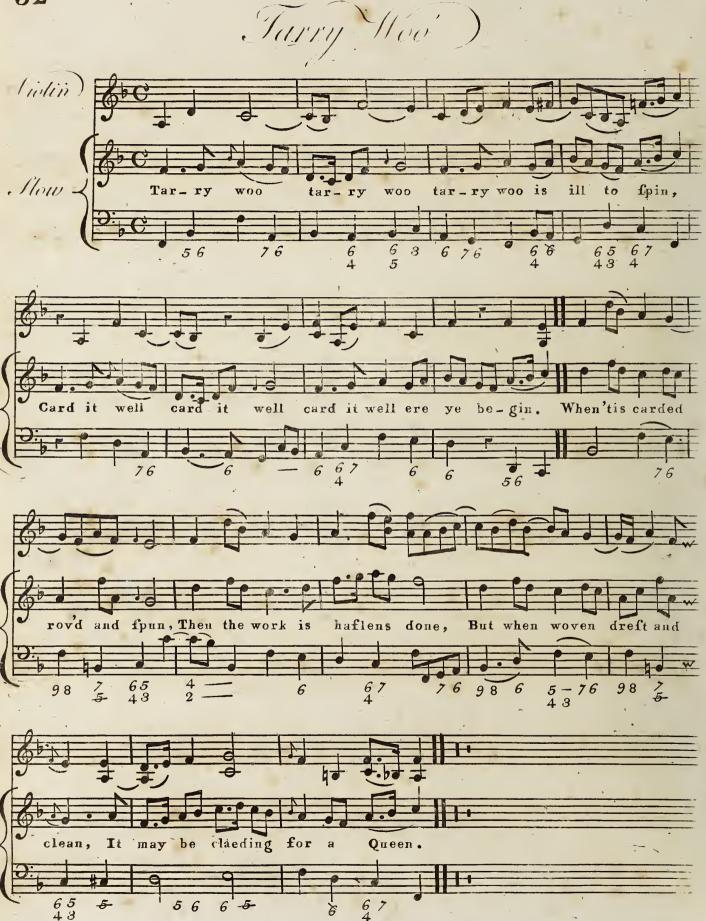
That blushing modesty that warms;

That native art to please!

Come then, my love! O come along,
And feed me with thy charms;
Come, fair inspirer of my song,
O fill my longing arms!
A flame like mine can never die,
While charms, so bright as thine,
So heav'nly fair, both please the eye,
And fill the soul divine!

Pinkie House





TARRY WOO'.

TARRY woo, tarry woo',

Tarry woo' is ill to fpin,

Card it well, card it well,

Card it well ere ye begin.

When 'tis carded, rov'd and fpun,

Then the work is haflens done;

But when woven, dreft, and clean,

It may be cleading for a queen.

Sing my bonny harmless sheep,
That feed upon the mountain's steep,
Bleeting sweetly as ye go
Through the winter's frost and snow.
Hart and hynd, and fallow deer,
Not be haff so useful are;
Frae kings to him that hads the plow,
Are all oblig'd to tarry woo'.

Up, ye shepherds, dance and skip,
O'er the hills and vallies trip,
Sing the praise of tarry woo',
Sing the flocks that bear it too;
Harmless creatures without blame,
That clead the back, and cram the wame,
Keep us warm and hearty fou;
Leese me on the tarry woo'.

How happy is a shepherd's life,
Far frae courts, and free of strife,
While the gimmers bleet 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 too,
Well defend the tarry woo's

He lives content and envies none,
Not even a monarch on his throne,
Tho' he the royal fcepter fways,
Has not fweeter holidays.
Who'd be a king, can ony tell,
When a shepherd sings fae well;
Sings sae well, and pays his due,
With honest heart and tarry woo'?

ROSLIN CASTLE.

'Twas in that feafon of the year,
When all things gay and fweet appear,
That Colin with the morning ray,
Arofe and fung his rural lay:
Of Nanny's charms the shepherd fung,
The hills and dales with Nanny rung,
While Roslin Castle heard the swain,
And echo'd back the chearful strain.

Awake, fweet 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 chearful 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 fpray,

Each feather'd warbler tunes his lay;

'Tis beauty fires the ravish'd throng,

And love inspires the melting song:

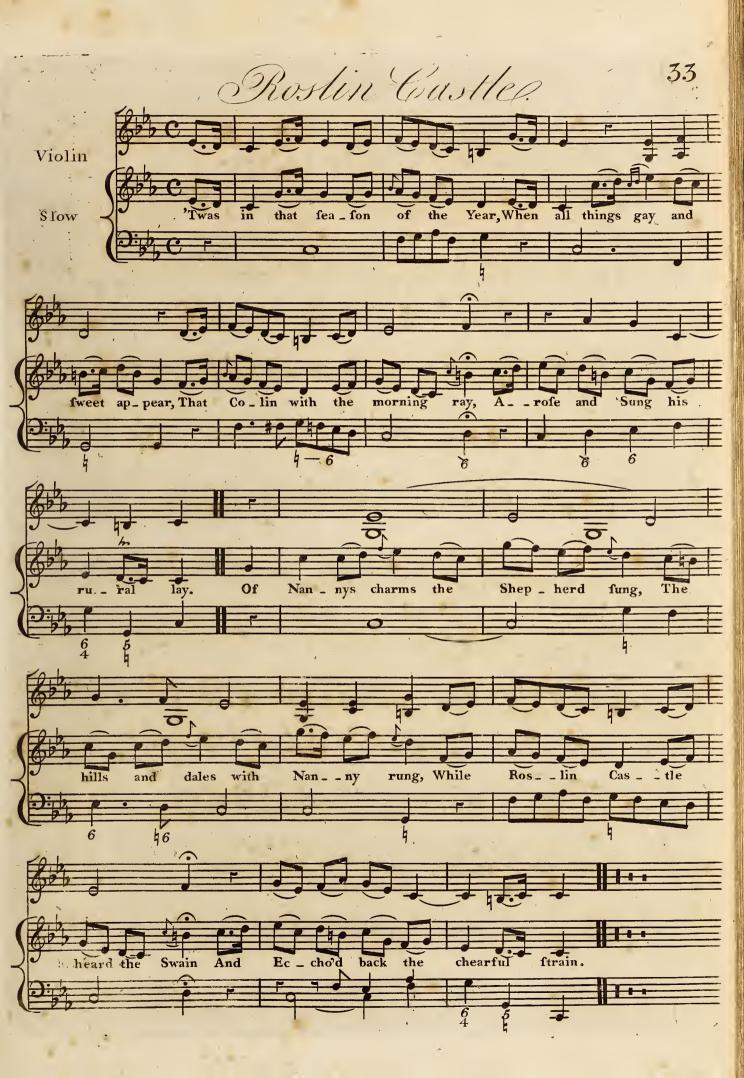
Then let my raptur'd notes arise,

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 haste, and with thee bring
That beauty blooming like the spring,
Those graces that divinely shine,
And charm this ravish'd breast of mine.





AN' THOU WERE MY AIN THING.

AN' thou were my ain thing,

0, I wou'd love thee, I wou'd love thee,

An thou were my ain thing,

How dearly I wou'd love thee!

Then I wou'd clasp thee in my arms,
Then I'd secure thee from all harms,
For above mortal thou hast charms;
How dearly do I love thee!

Of race divine thou needs must be,
Since nothing earthly equals thee;
For Heaven's fake then pity me,
Who only live to love thee.

An' thou were, &c.

The gods one thing peculiar have,

To ruin none whom they can fave;

O, for their fake, fupport a flave,

Who ever on shall love thee.

An' thou were, &c.

To merit I no claim can make,

But that I love, and, for your fake,

What man can name I'll undertake;

So dearly do I love thee.

An' thou were, &c.

My passion, constant as the sun,

Flames stronger still, will ne'er have done,

Till Fate my thread of life hath spun,

Which breathing out I'll love thee.

An' thou were, &c.

SHE ROSE AND LET ME IN.

THE night her filent fable wore,
And gloomy were the fkies;
Of glitt'ring ftars appear'd no more
Than those in Nelly's eyes.
When to her father's door I came,
Where I had often been,
I begg'd my fair, my lovely dame,
To rise and let me in.

But she, with accents all divine,
Did my fond suit reprove;
And while she chid my rash design,
She but inslam'd my love.
Her beauty oft had pleas'd before,
While her bright eyes did roll:
But virtue only had the pow'r
To charm my very soul.

Then who wou'd cruelly deceive,
Or from fuch beauty part!
I lov'd her fo, I could not leave
The charmer of my heart.
My eager fondness I obey'd,
Resolv'd she should be mine,
Till Hymen to my arms convey'd
My treasure so divine.

Now happy in my Nelly's love,

Transporting is my joy;

No greater blessing can I prove;

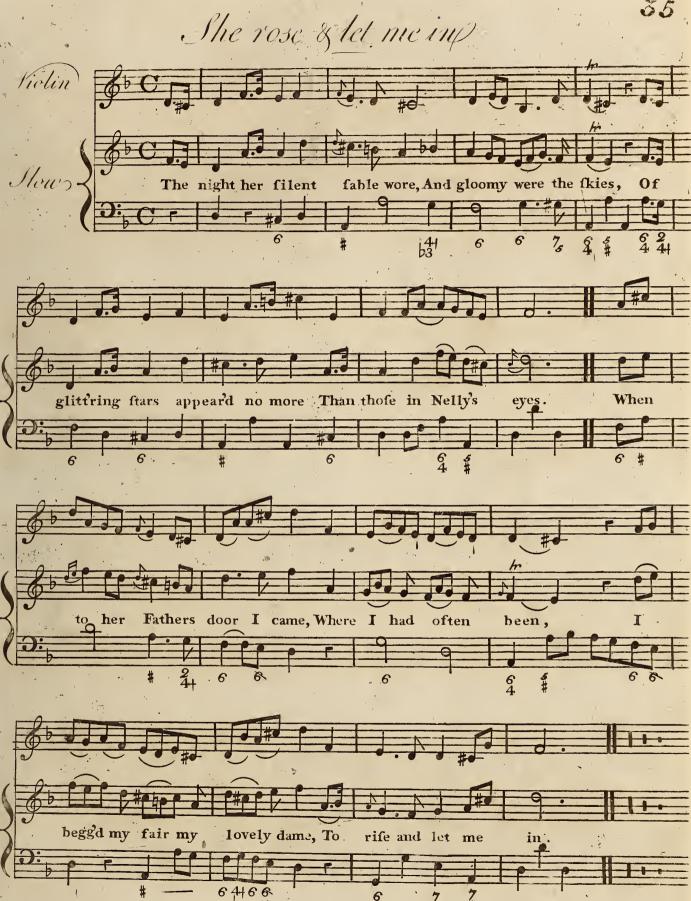
So bless'd a man am I.

For beauty may a while retain

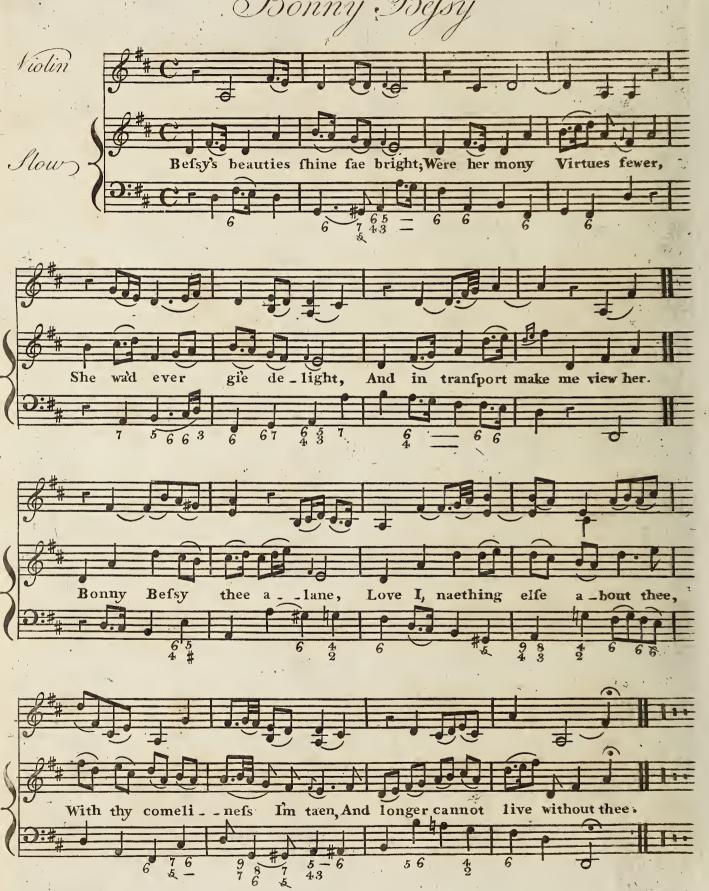
The conquer'd flutt'ring heart,

But virtue only is the chain

Holds never to depart.



Bonny Befsy



BONNY BESSY.

BESSY's beauties shine sae bright,

Were her mony vertues sewer,

She wad ever gie' delight,

And in transport make me view her.

Bonny Bessy, thee alane

Love I, naething else about thee;

With thy comliness I'm tane,

And langer cannot live without thee.

Beffy's bosom fast and warm,

Milk-white fingers still employ'd,

He who takes her to his arm,

Of her sweets can ne'er be cloy'd.

My dear Beffy, when the roses

Leave thy cheek, as thou grows aulder,

Vertue, which thy mind discloses,

Will keep love frae growing caulder.

Beffy's tocher is but scanty,

Yet her face and soul discovers

These inchanting sweets in plenty

Must intice a thousand lovers.

It's not money, but a woman

Of a temper kind and easy,

That gives happiness uncommon;

Petted things can nought but teaze ye.

ALLAN WATER.

What verse be found to praise my Annie?

What verse be found to praise my Annie?

On her ten thousand graces wait;

Each swain admires, and owns she's bonny.

Since first she trod the happy plain,

She set each youthful heart on fire;

Each nymph does to her swain complain,

That Annie kindles new desire.

This lovely darling dearest care,

This new delight, this charming Annie,
Like summer's dawn, she's fresh and fair,
When Flora's fragrant breezes fan ye.
All the day the am'rous youths conveen,
Joyous they sport and play before her;
All night, when she no more is seen,
In blissful dreams they still adore her.

Among the crowd Amyntor came;

He look'd, he lov'd, he bow'd to Annie;

His rifing fighs express'd his flame,

His words were few, his wishes many.

With smiles the lovely maid reply'd,

Kind shepherd, why should I deceive ye?

Alas! your love must be deny'd,

This destin'd breast can ne'er relieve ye.

Young Damon came with Cupid's art,

His wyles, his fmiles, his charms beguiling;

He stole away my virgin heart;

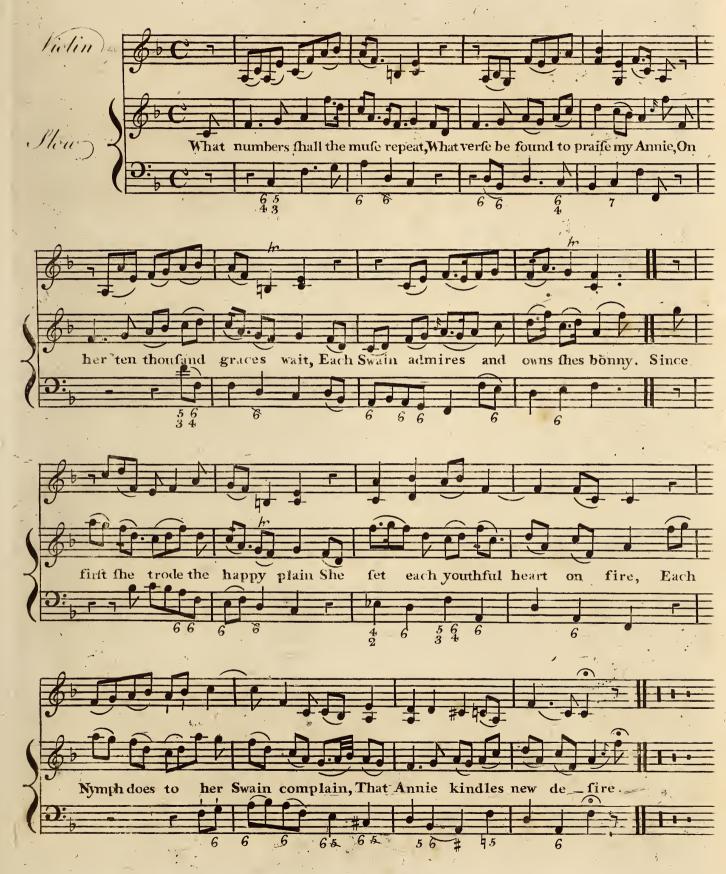
Cease, poor Amyntor, cease bewailing.

Some brighter beauty you may find,

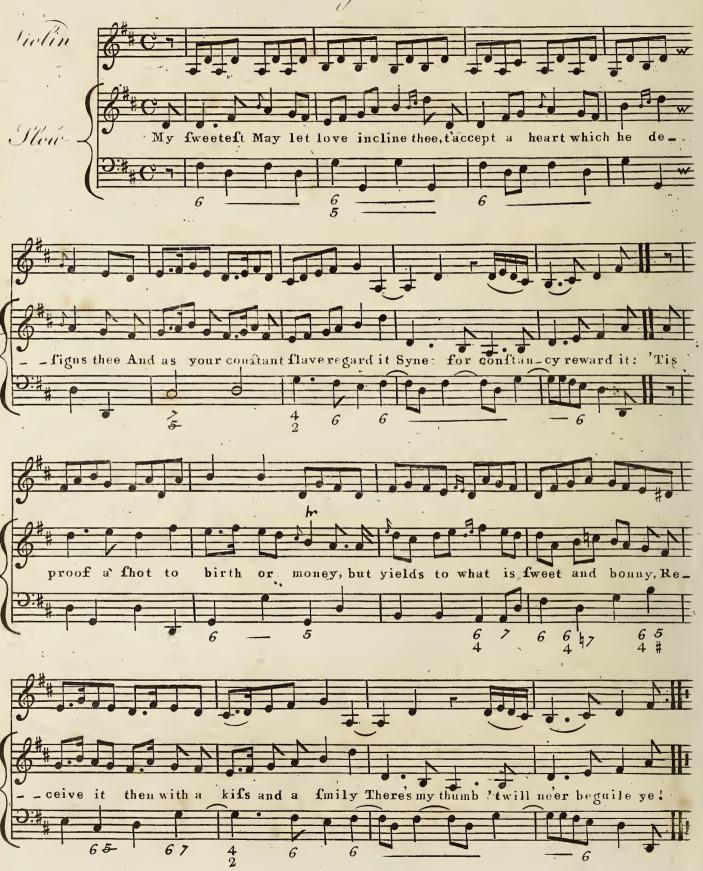
On yonder plain the nymphs are many,

Then chuse some heart that's unconfin'd,

And leave to Damon his own Annie.



Theres my Thuml-



THERE'S MY THUMB, I'LL NE'ER BEGUILE THE.

MY sweetest May, let love incline thee,
T' accept a heart which he designs thee;
And, as your constant slave, regard it,
Syne for its faithfulness reward it:
'Tis proof a' shot to birth or money,
But yields to what is sweet and bonny;
Receive it then with a kiss and a smily,
There's my thumb, it will ne'er beguile ye.

tile of the fond from not to to!:

Alane through flow'ry hows I dander,
Tenting my flocks left they fhould wander;
Gin thou'll gae alang, I'll dawt thee gaily,
And gie my thumb I'll ne'er beguile thee,
O my dear laffie! it is but daffin,
To had thy wooer up ay niff naffin;
That na, na, na, I hate it most vilely:
O say yes! and I'll ne'er beguile thee.

THROUGH THE WOOD, LADDIE.

O Sandy, why leaves thou thy Nelly to mourn?

Thy prefence could ease me,

When naething can please me.

Now dowie I sigh on the banks of the burn,

Or through the wood, laddie, until thou return.

Tho' woods now are bonny, and mornings are clear,

While lav'rocks are finging,

And primrofes springing;

Yet nane of them pleases my eye or my ear,

When through the wood, laddie, you dinna appear.

That I am forfaken, some spare not to tell:

I'm fash'd wi' their scorning,

Baith evening and morning;

Their jeering gaes aft to my heart wi' a knell,

When through the wood, laddie, I wander mysel.

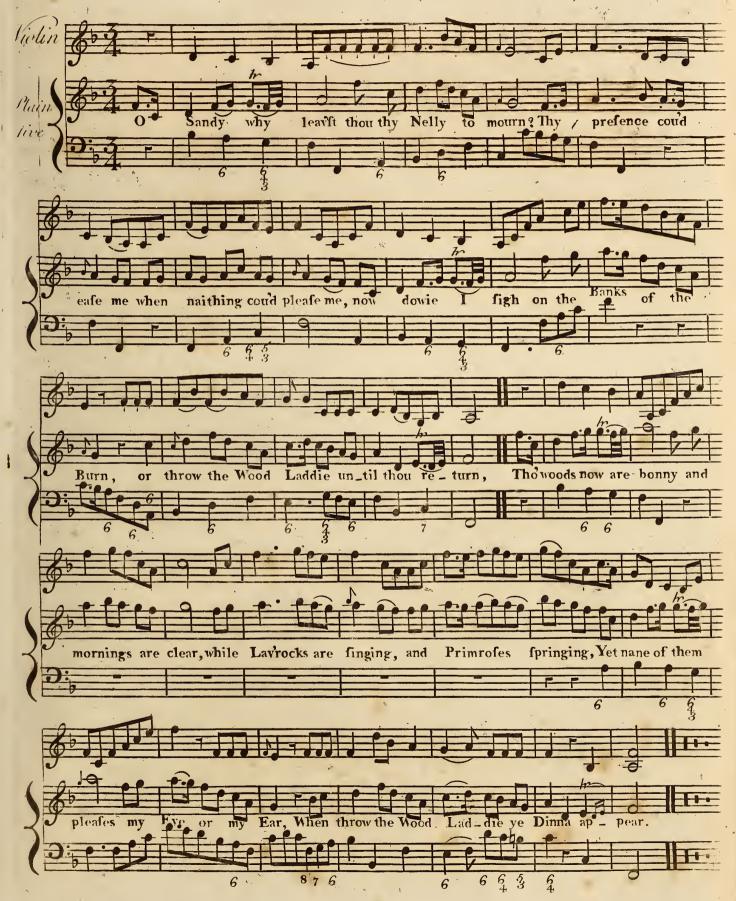
Then stay, my dear Sandy, nae longer away,

But quick as an arrow,

Haste here to thy marrow,

Wha's living in languor, till that happy day,

When thro' the wood, laddie, we'll dance, sing, and play.



40 The Siller Crowns Slow And ye fall walk in filk at hue to fpare, Gin yell con fent to be his Bride, Nor

5 6 7 4 -3 65 67 6 6 7 43 - 66 think o' Do_nald mair. Oh! me a fil ler Crown, Gin frae my Love I pa

THE SILLER CROWN.

And filler hae to spare,

And filler hae to spare,

Gin ye'll consent to be his bride,

Nor think o' Donald mair.

Oh! wha wad buy a filken gown,

Wi' a poor broken heart;

Or what's to me a filler crown,

Gin frae my love I part.

The mind whase every wish is pure,

Far dearer is to me;

And ere I'm forc'd to brake my faith,

I'll lay me down and die.

For I hae pledged my virgin troth,

Brave Donald's fate to share;

And he has gi'en to me his heart,

Wi' a' its virtues rare,

His gentle manners wan my heart,

He gratefu' took the gift;

Cou'd I but think to feek it back,

It wou'd be war than thift.

For langest life can ne'er repay

The love he bears to me;

And ere I'm forc'd to brake my troth,

I'll lay me down and die.

THE GABERLUNZIE MAN.

THE pawky auld carle came o'er the lee,
Wi' mony good e'ens and days to me,
Saying, goodwife, for your courtifie,
Will you lodge a filly poor man?
The night was cauld, the carle was wat,
And down ayont the ingle he fat;
My doughter's shoulders he 'gan to clap,
And cadgily ranted and fang.

O wow! quo' he, were I as free
As first when I saw this country,
How blithe and merry would I be!
And I would never think lang.
He grew canty, and she grew fain;
But little did her auld minny ken
What thir slee twa togither were say'ng,
When wooing they were sae thrang.

Between the twa was made a plot;
They raise a wee before the cock,
And willily they shot the lock,
And fast to the bent are gane.
Up in the morn the auld wife raise,
And at her leisure put on her claise,
Syne to the servants bed she gaes,
To speer for the filly 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,

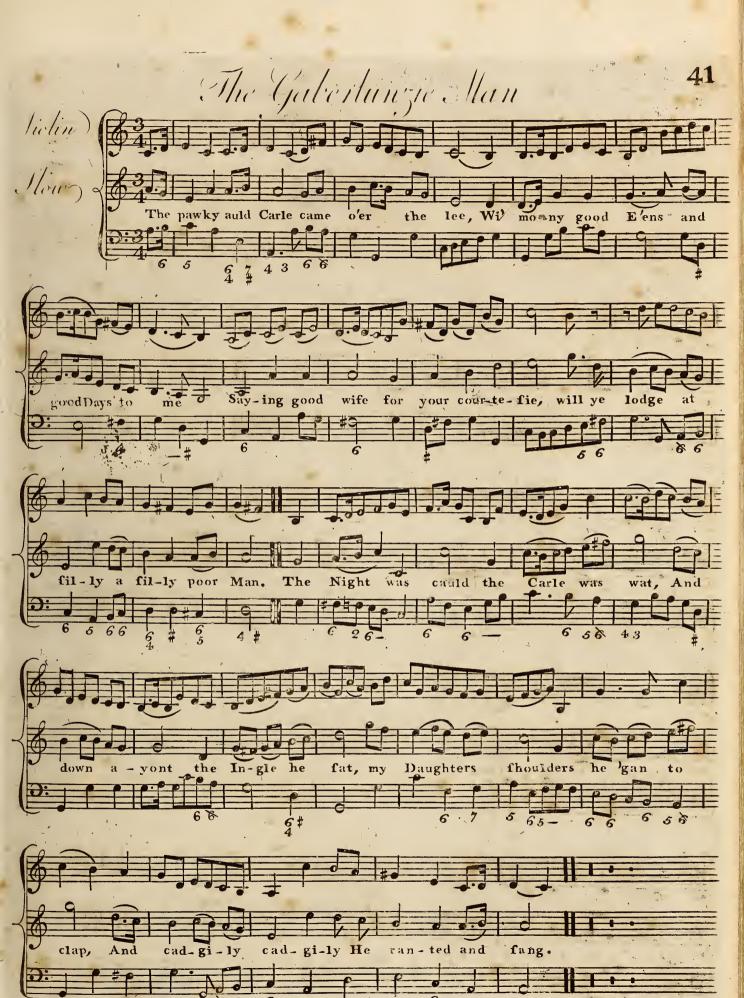
For some of our gear will be gane!

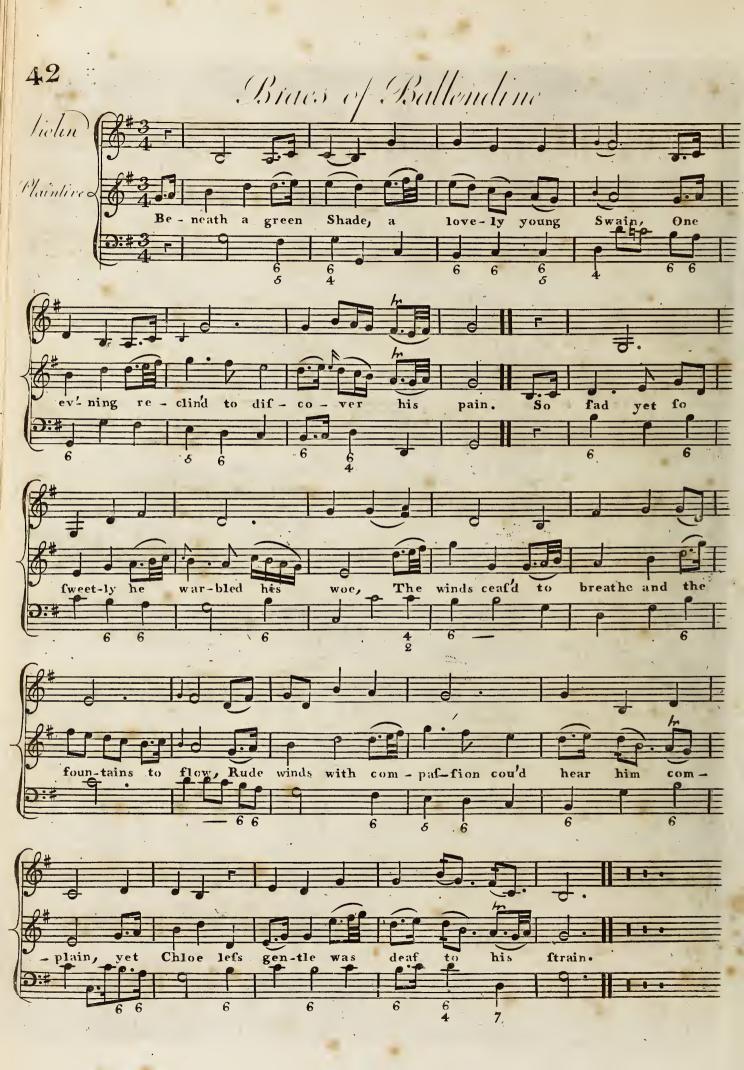
Some ran to coffers and some to kists,
But nought was stown that could be mist;

She danc'd her lane, cry'd, Praise be blest!

I have lodg'd a leal poor man.

Since naething's awa', as we can learn,
The kirn's to kirn, the milk to yern,
Gae but the house, lass, and waken my bairn,
And bid her come quickly ben.
The servant gaed where the doughter lay,
The sheets were cauld, she was away,
And fast to her goodwife did say,
She's aff with the Gaberlunzie man.





BRAES OF BALLENDEN.

BENEATH a green shade, a lovely young swain

One evening reclin'd to discover his pain;

So sad, yet so sweetly, he warbl'd his woe,

The winds ceas'd to breathe, and the fountains to flow;

Rude winds, with compassion, could hear him complain,

Yet Chloe, less gentle, was deaf to his strain.

Thro' 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 sly from too piercing an air:
But love's ardent sever burns always the same,
No Winter can cool it, no Summer instame.

How happy, he cried, my moments once flew,

Ere Chloe's bright charms first flash'd on my view;

Those eyes then, with pleasure, the dawn could survey,

Nor smil'd the fair morning more chearful than they:

Now scenes of distress please only my sight,

I'm tortur'd in pleasure, and languish in light.

But fee the pale moon, all clouded, retires,

The breezes grow cool, not Strephon's defires:

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!

JOHNNY'S GRAY BREEKS.

WHEN I was in my fe'enteenth year,
I was baith blythe and bonny, O;
The lads lo'ed me baith far and near,
But I lo'ed nane but Johnny, O.
He gain'd my heart in twa three weeks,
He spak' fae blythe and kindly, O;
And I made him new gray breeks
That fitted him most finely, O.

He was a handsome fellow—

His humour was baith frank and free,

His bonny locks fae yellow,

Like gou'd they glitter'd in my ee;

His dimpled chin and rosy cheeks,

And face so fair and ruddy, O;

And, then a-day, his gray breeks

Were neither auld nor duddy, O.

But now they are thread-bare worn,

They're wider than they wont to be;
They're tashed like and torn,

And clouted sair on ilka knee.

But gin I had a Summer's day,

As I have had right mony, O,

I'll mak' a web o' new gray,

To be breeks to my Johnny, O.

For he's weel wordy o' them,

And better gin I had to gi'e,

And I'll tak' pains upon them,

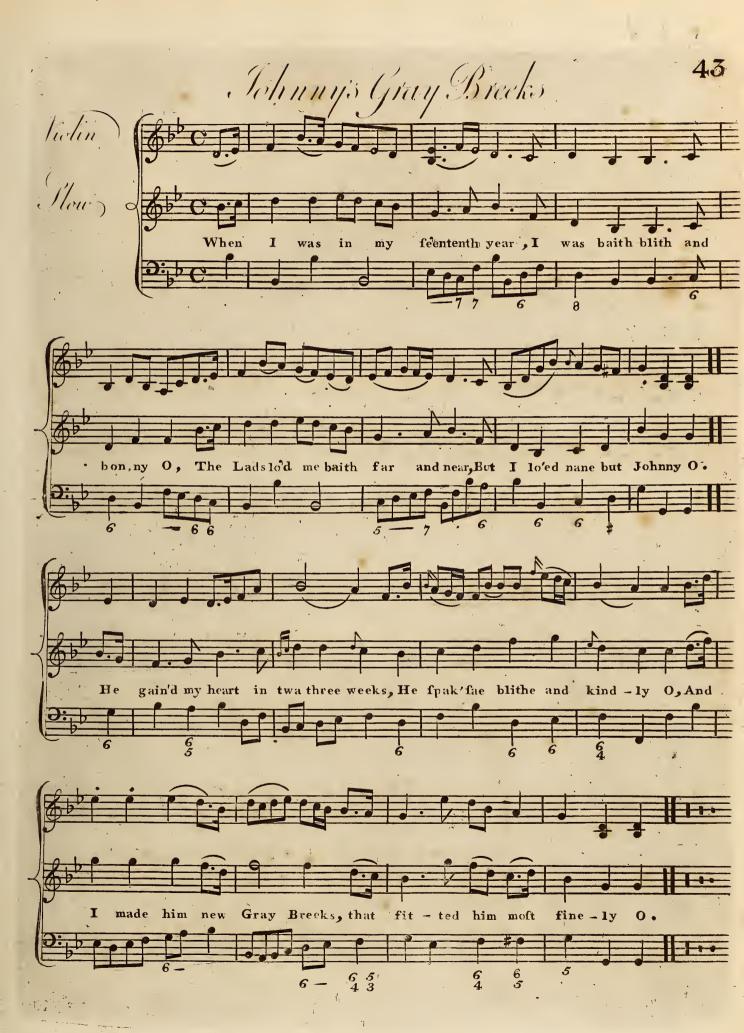
Frae faults I'll strive to keep them free.

To clad him weel shall be my care,

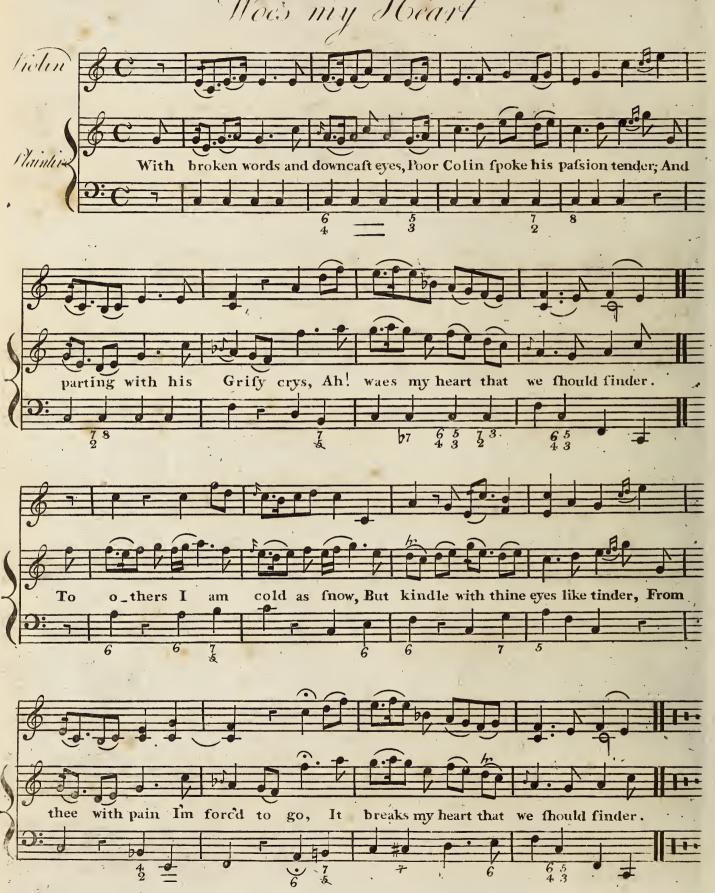
And please him a' my study, O;

But he maun wear the auld pair

A wee, tho' they be duddy, O.







WOE'S MY HEART.

WITH broken words and down-cast eyes,
Poor Colin spoke his passion tender;
And parting with his Grify cries,
Ah! woe's my heart that we should sinder.

To others I am cold as fnow,

But kindle with thine eyes like tinder;

From thee with pain I'm forc'd to go;

It breaks my heart that we should finder.

Chain'd to thy charms, I cannot range,

No beauty new my love shall hinder;

Nor time nor place shall ever change

My vows, tho' we're oblig'd to sinder.

The image of thy graceful air,

And beauties which invite our wonder;

Thy lively wit and prudence rare,

Shall still be present, tho' we finder.

Dear nymph, believe thy fwain in this,
You'll ne'er engage a hear that's kinder;
Then feal a promife with a kifs,
Always to love me, tho' we finder.

Ye gods, take care of my dear lass,

That as I leave her I may find her;

When that bless'd time shall come to pass,

We'll meet and never finder.

M'PHERSON'S FAREWEL.

FAREWEL, ye dungeons dark and strong,
The wretch's destinie!

M'Pherson's time will not be long,
On yonder gallows tree.

Sae rantingly, sae wantonly,
Sae dauntingly gae'd he,
He play'd a spring, and danc'd it round,
Below the gallows tree.

Oh, what is death but parting breath!

On mony a bloody plain

I've dar'd his face, and in this place

I fcorn him yet again!

Sae rantingly, &c.

Untie these bands from off my hands,
And bring to me my sword;
And there's no a man in all Scotland
But I'll brave at a word.

Sae rantingly, &c.

I've liv'd 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 farewel, light, thou funshine bright,
And all beneath the sky!

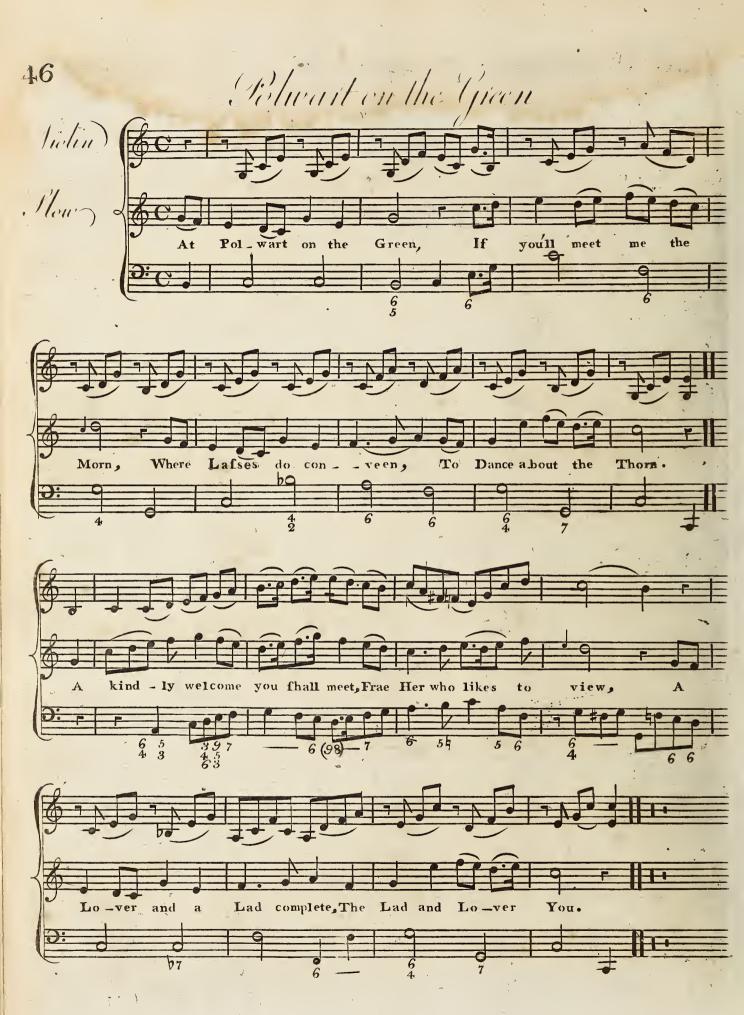
May coward shame distain his name,

The wretch that dares not die!

Sae rantingly, &c.

McPherson's Farewell





POLWART ON THE GREEN.

AT 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

Frae her wha likes to view

A lover and a lad complete,

The lad and lover you.

Let dorty dames fay Na,

As lang as e'er they please,

Seem caulder than the snaw',

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 fangs and dancing keen

We'll pass the heartsome day.

At night, if beds be o'er thrang laid,

And thou be twin'd of thine,

Thou shalt be welcome, my dear lad,

To take a part of mine.

THE BIRKS OF INVERMAY.

THE smiling morn, the breathing Spring,
Invite the tuneful 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 slies;
And in soft raptures waste the day,
Among the Birks of Invermay.

For foon the winter of the year,
And age, life's winter, will appear,
At this thy living bloom will fade,
As that will ftrip the verdant shade:
Our taste of pleasure then is o'er,
The feather'd songsters are no more;
And when they droop, and we decay,
Adieu the Birks of Invermay!

The lavrock now and lintwhite fing,
The rocks around with echoes ring;
The mavis and the blackbird vie,
In tuneful strains to glad the day;
The woods now wear their summer suits;
To mirth all nature now invites:
Let us be blythsome then and gay
Among the Birks of Invermay.

Behold the hills and vales around,
With lowing herds and flocks abound;
The wanton kids and frisking lambs
Gambol and dance about their dams;
The busy bees with humming noise,
And all the reptile kind rejoice:
Let us, like them, then sing and play,
Among the Birks of Invermay.

Hark, how the waters as they fall,

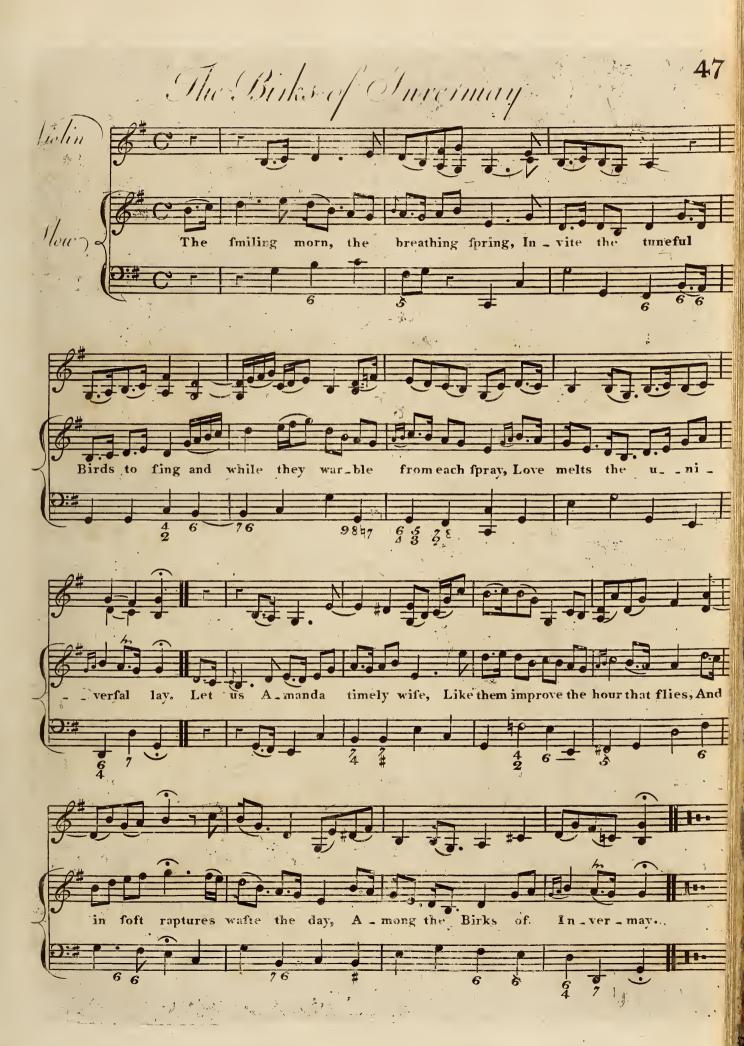
Loudly, my love, to gladness call;

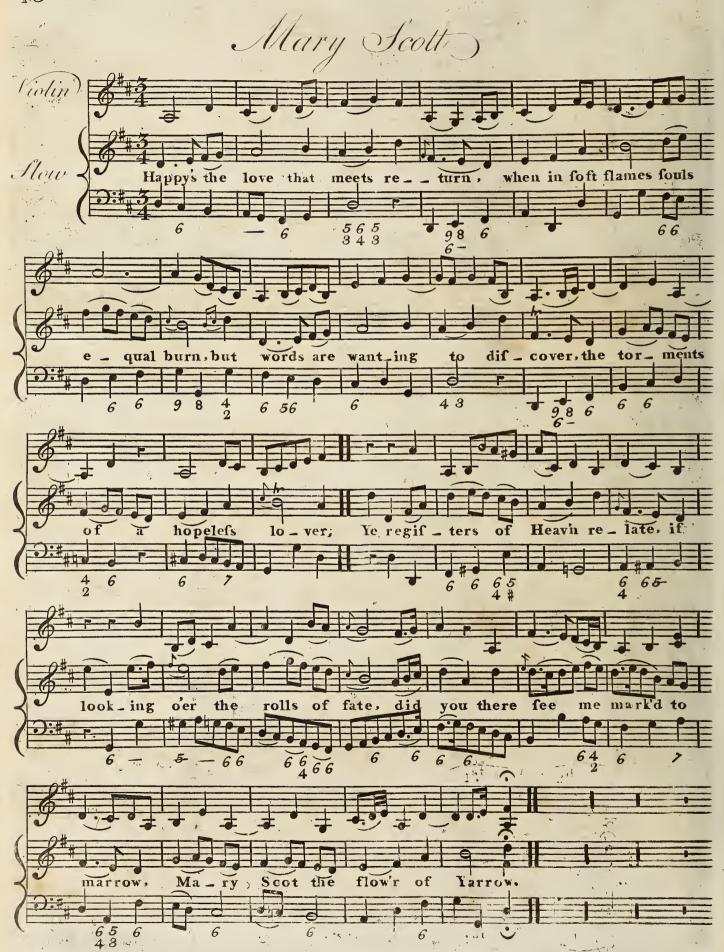
The wanton waves sport in the beams,
And sishes play throughout the streams;

The circling sun does now advance,
And all the planets round him dance:

Let us as jovial be as they,

Among the Birks of Invermay.





MARY SCOT

HAPPY's the love that meets return,
When in foft flames fouls equal burn;
But words are wanting to discover
The torments of a hopeless lover.
Ye registers of heav'n, relate,
If looking o'er the rolls of fate,
Did you there see me mark'd to marrow
Mary Scot, the flow'r of Yarrow?

Ah, no! her form's too heavenly fair,

Her love the gods above must share;

While mortals with despair explore her,

And at a distance due adore her.

O lovely maid! my 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:
With success crown'd, I'll not envy
The folks who dwell above the sky;
When Mary Scot's become my marrow,
We'll make a paradise in Yarrow.

THE BLATHRIE O'T.

WHEN I think on this warld's pelf,
And the little wee share I hae o't to myself,
And how the lass that wants it, is by the lads forgot;
May the shame fa' the gear, and the blathrie o't.

fockie was the laddie that held the pleugh,
But now he's got gow'd and gear eneugh;
He thinks na meir of me that weirs the plaiden coat:
May the shame fa' the gear, and the blathrie o't.

Jenny was the lassie that mucked the byre,

But now she is clad in her silken attire,

And Jockie says he loes her, and swears he's me forgot;

May the shame sa' the gear, and the blathrie o't.

But all this shall never danton me,

Sae lang as I keep my fancy free:

For the lad that's fae inconstant he is na worth a groat;

May the shame fa' the gear, and the blathrie o't.

CROMLET'S LILT.

SINCE all thy vows, false maid,
Are blown to air,
And my poor heart betray'd
To fad 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 yonder fpreading groves,
Tho' false thou be?
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 fun nor wind
E'er entrance had:
Into that hollow cave,
There I will sigh and rave,
Because thou dost behave
So faithlessly.

Wild fruit shall be my meat,
I'll drink the spring,
Cold earth shall be my feat:
For covering
I'll have the starry sky
My head to canopy,
Until my soul on high
Shall spread its wing.

I'll have no funeral fire,

Nor tears for me:

No grave do I defire,

Nor obsequies:

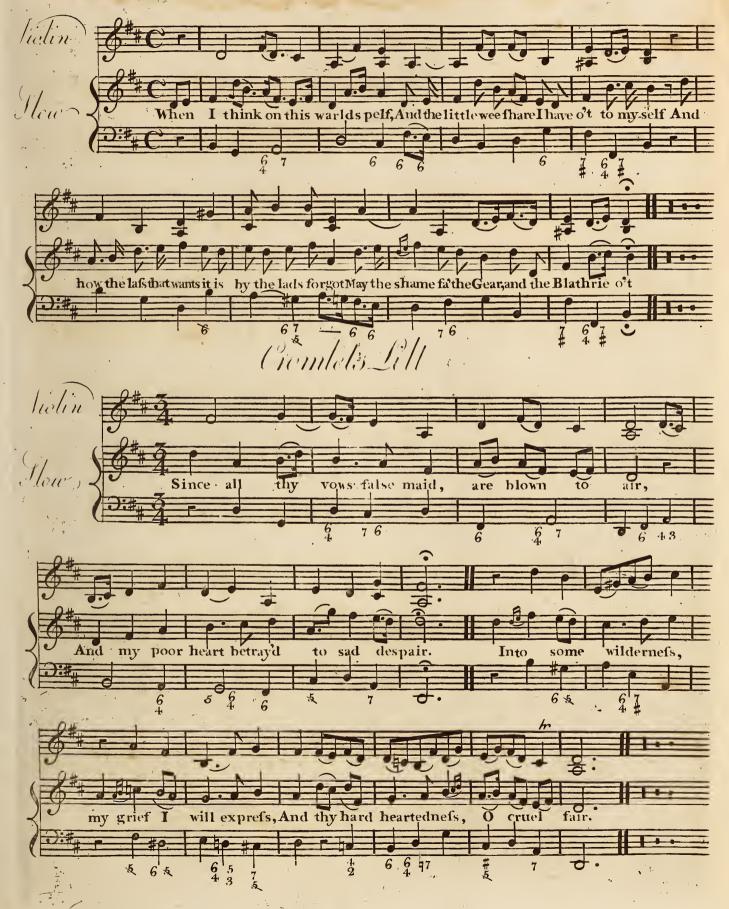
The courteous red-breast he

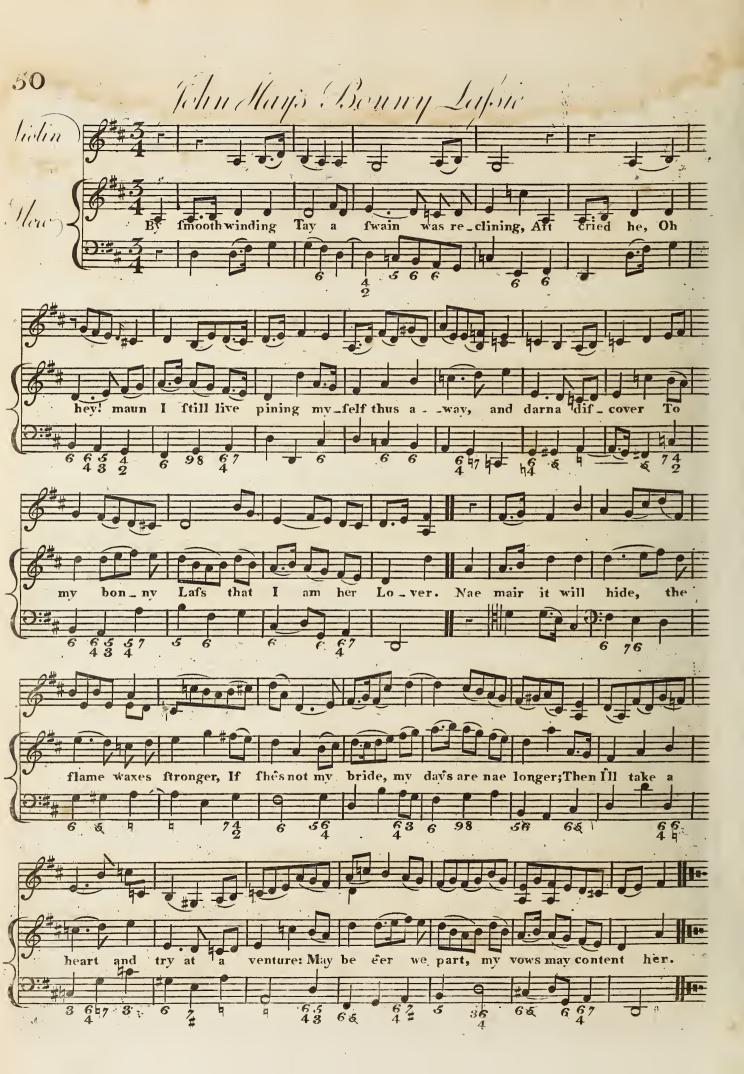
With leavs will cover me,

And fing my elegy

With doleful voice.

And when a ghost I am,
I'll visit thee,
O thou deceitful dame,
Whose cruelty
Has kill'd the kindest heart
That e'er felt Cupid's dart,
And never can desert
From loving thee.





JOHN HAY'S BONNY LASSIE.

By smooth-winding Tay a swain was reclining,
Aft cry'd he, O hey! maun I still live pining
Mysell thus away, and darna discover
To my bonny Lass, that I am her lover!

Nae mair it will hide, the flame waxes stronger, If she's not my bride, my days are nae longer; Then I'll take a heart, and try at a venture, May be 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 good-morrow,
The sward of the mead enamell'd with daisses,
Look wither'd and dead when twin'd of her graces.

But if the appear where verdures invite her,
The fountains run clear, and flowers fmell the fweeter:
'Tis heav'n to be bye, when her wit is a flowing,
Her fmiles and bright eyes fet my fpirits a glowing.

The mair that I gaze, the deeper I'm wounded,

Struck dumb with amaze, my mind is confounded!

I'm all on a fire, dear maid, to carefs ye,

For a' my defire is Hay's bonny laffie.

HAP ME WITH THY PETTICOAT.

O BELL, thy looks have pierc'd my heart,
I pass the day in pain;

When night returns, I feel the fmart,
And wish for thee in vain.

I'm flarving cold, while thou art warm:

Have pity and incline,

And grant me for a hap that charm,

That pettiocat of thine.

My ravish'd fancy in amaze

Still wanders o'er thy charms,

Delufive dreams ten thousand ways

Present thee to my arms.

But waking, think what I endure,
While cruel you decline

Those pleasures, which can only cure

This panting breast of mine.

I faint, I fail, and wildly rove,

Because you still deny

The just reward that's due to love,

And let true passion die.

Oh! turn, and let compassion seize

That lovely breast of thine;

Thy petticoat could give me ease,

If thou and it were mine.

Sure heaven has fitted for delight

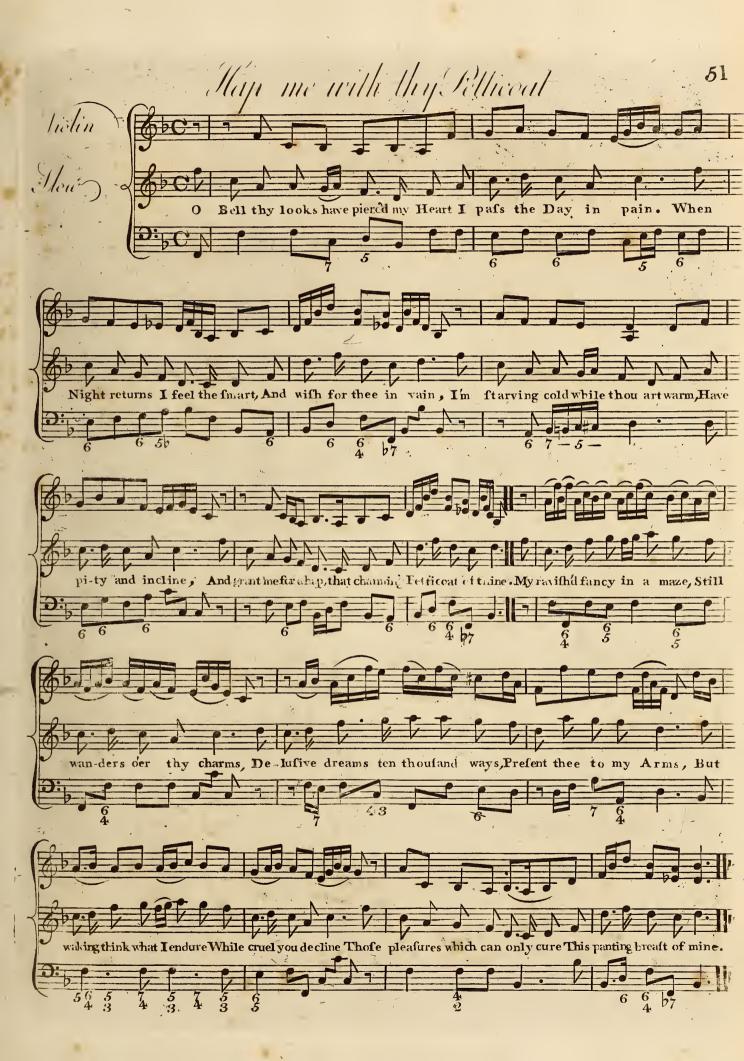
That beauteous form of thine,

And thou'rt too good its law to flight, By hind'ring the defign.

May all the pow'rs of love agree,

At length to make thee mine,

Or loofe my chains, and fet me free From every charm of thine.



Kathirine Cojie



KATH'RINE OGIE.

As walking forth to view the plain,
Upon a morning early,
While May's fweet fcents did cheer my brain,
From flow'rs that grew fo rarely;
I chanc'd to meet a pretty maid,
She shin'd tho' it was fogie;
I ask'd her name: Sweet Sir, she said,
My name is Kath'rine Ogie.

I stood a while and did admire,

To see a nymph so stately;

So brisk an air there did appear,

In a country maid so neatly.

Such natural sweetness she display'd,

Like a lily in a bogie;

Diana's self was ne'er array'd

Like my sweet Kath'rine Ogie.

Thou flow'r of females, Beauty's queen,
Who fees thee fure must prize thee;
Tho' thou art drest in robes but mean,
Yet they cannot disguise thee.
Thy handsome air and graceful look,
Far excel any clownish rogie:
Thou'rt match for laird, or lord, or duke,
My charming Kath'rine Ogie.

Oh! were I but a shepherd swain!

To feed my flocks beside thee,

At bughting time to leave the plain,

In milking to abide thee.

I'd think myself a happier man,

With Kate, my club, and dogie,

Than he that hugs his thousands ten,

Had I but Kath'rine Ogie.

Then I'd despise th' imperial throne,
And statesmen's dang'rous stations;
I'd be no king, I'd wear no crown,
I'd smile at conqu'ring nations.
Might I caress and still possess
This lass of whom I'm vogie;
For these are toys, and still look less,
Compar'd with Kath'rine Ogie.

But I fear the gods have not decree'd

For me so fine a creature,

Whose beauty rare makes her exceed

All other works of nature.

Clouds of despair surround my love,

That are both dark and sogie;

Pity my case, ye Pow'rs above!

Or I die for Kath'rine Ogie.

LEWIE GORDON.

OH! fend Lewie Gordon hame,
And the lad I winna 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!
Wee'l wou'd I my true love ken
Amang ten thousand Highland men.

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! my Highland man!
Oh! my bonny Highland man!
Wee'l wou'd I my true love ken
Amang ten thousand Highland men.

Oh! to fee his tartan-trews,

Bonnet blue, and laigh-heel'd shoes,

Philabeg aboon his knee:

That's the lad that I'll gang wi'.

Oh hon! my Highland man!

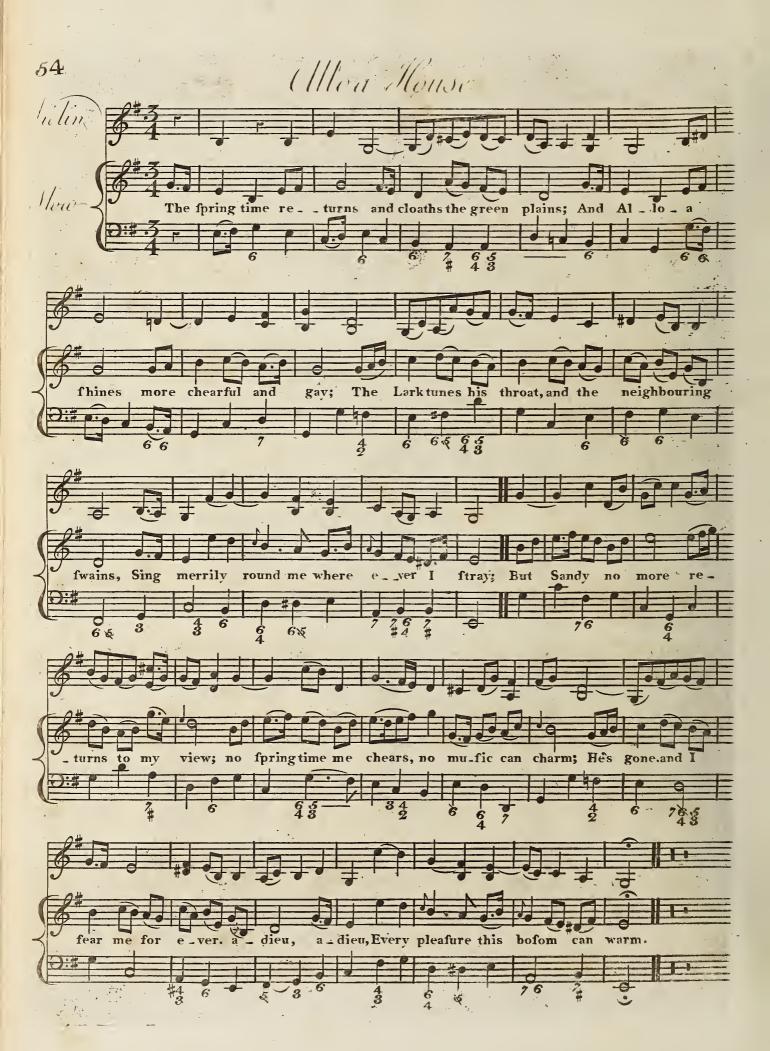
Oh! my bonny Highland man!

Wee'l wou'd I my true love ken

Amang ten thousand Highland men







ALLOA HOUSE.

THE spring time returns and clothes the green plains; So spoke the fair maid: when forrow's keen pain, And Alloa shines more chearful and gay; The lark tunes his throat, and the neighbouring swains Sing merrily round me wherever I ftray: But Sandy no more returns to my view; No spring time me chears, no music can charm; He's gone! and, I fear me, for ever adieu! Adieu ev'ry pleasure this bosom can warm!

And shame, her last fault'ring accents supprest; For fate at that moment brought back her dear swain, Who heard, and with rapture his Nelly addrest: My Nelly! my fair! I come, O my love! No power shall thee tear again from my arms, And, Nelly! no more thy fond shepherd reprove, Who knows thy fair worth, and adores all thy charms.

O Alloa House! how much art thou chang'd! How filent, how dull to me is each grove! Alone I here wander where once we both rang'd, Alas! where to please me my Sandy once strove! Here, Sandy, I heard the tales that you told; Here listen'd too fond, whenever you fung; Am I grown less fair, then, that you are turn'd cold? Or foolish, believ'd a false, flattering tongue?

She heard, and new joy shot thro' her soft frame; And will you, my love, be true? she reply'd: And live I to meet my fond shepherd the same? Or dream I that Sandy will make me his bride? O Nelly! I live to find thee still kind; Still true to thy fwain, and lovely as true: Then adieu to all forrow! what foul is fo blind As not to live happy for ever with you?

THE LAST TIME I CAME O'ER THE MOOR.

THE last time I came o'er the moor,
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.

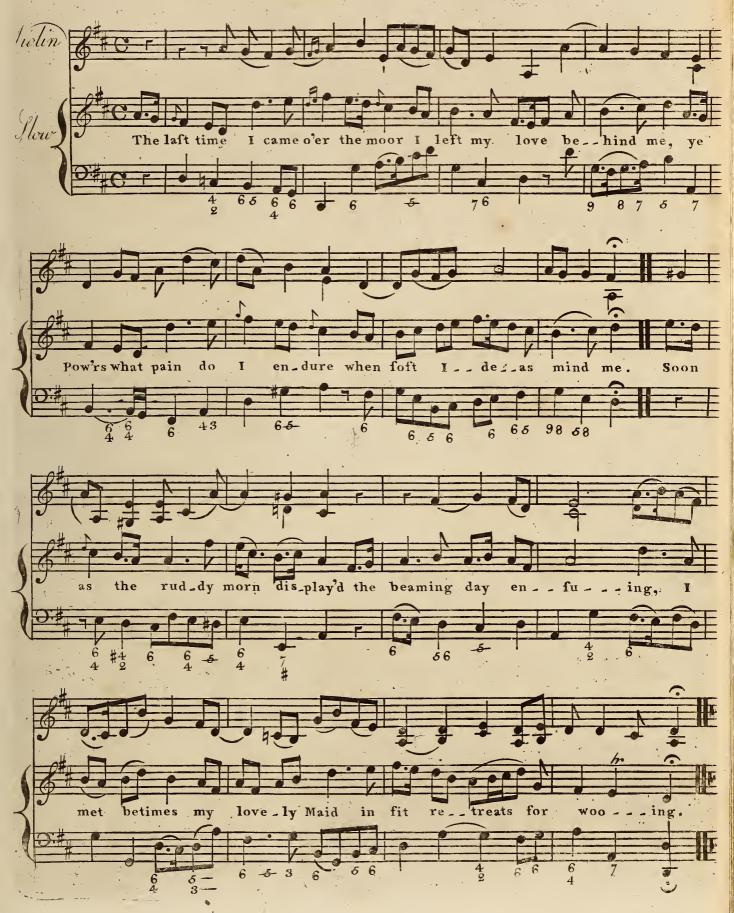
Beneath the cooling shade we lay,
Gazing and chastely sporting;
We kiss'd and promis'd time away,
Till night spread her black curtain.
I pitied all beneath the skies,
Ev'n kings, when she was nigh me;
In raptures I beheld her eyes,
Which cou'd but ill deny me.

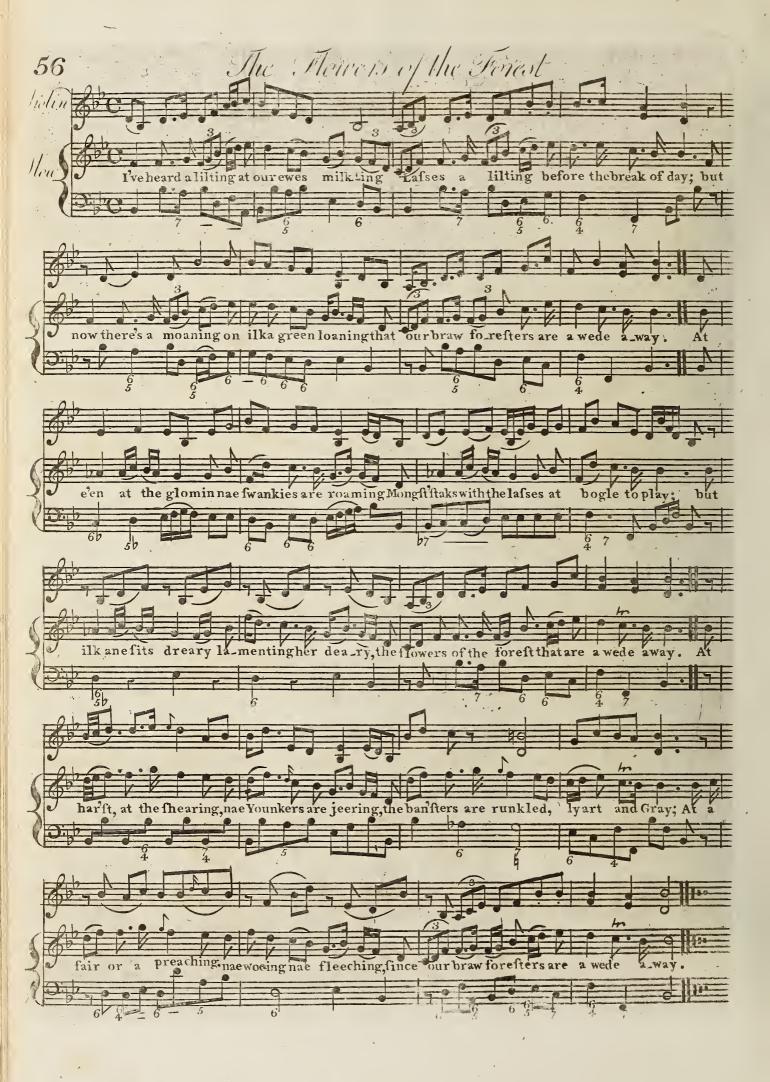
Shou'd I be call'd where cannons roar,
Where mortal steel may wound me,
Or cast upon some foreign shore,
Where dangers may surround me:
Yet hopes again to see my love,
To feast on glowing kisses,
Shall make my care at distance move,
In prospect of such blisses.

In all my foul there's not one place
To let a rival enter;
Since she excels in ev'ry grace,
In her my love shall center.
Sooner the seas shall cease to flow,
Their waves the Alps shall cover,
On Greenland ice shall roses grow,
Before I cease to love her.

The next time I gang o'er the moor,
She shall a lover find me;
And that my faith is firm and pure,
Tho' I left her behind me:
Then Hymen's facred bands shall chain
My heart to her fair bosom;
There, while my being does remain,
My love more fresh shall blossom.

The last time Teame c'er the Moor.





FLOWERS OF THE FOREST.

From Pinkerton's Select Scottish Ballads.

I Have heard o lilting at the ewes milking,

Laffes a lilting eir the break o day;

But now I hear moaning on ilka green loaning,

Sen our bra foresters are a wed away.

At een in the gloming nae swankies are roaming,
'Mang stacks wi the lasses at bogle to play;
For ilk ane sits dreary, lamenting her deary;
The Flowers o the Forest, wha're a wed away.

At bouchts in the morning nae blyth lads are scorning?

The lasses are lonely, dowie, and wae;

Nae dassin, nae gabbing, but siching and sabbing;

Ilk ane lists her leglen and hies her away.

In harsh at the sheiring na yonkers are jeiring;

The bansters are lyart, runkled, and gray;

At fairs nor at preaching, nae wooing nae sleeching,

Sen our bra foresters are a wed away.

O dule for the order fent our lads to the border!

The English for anes by gyle wan the day.

The Flowers o the Forest, wha ay shone the foremost,

The prime o the land lye cauld in the clay!

LOVE IS THE CAUSE OF MY MOURNING.

By a murmuring stream a fair shepherdess lay:
Be so kind, O ye nymphs, I oft-times heard her say,
Tell Strephon I die, if he passes this way,

And that love is the cause of my mourning.

False shepherds that tell me of beauty and charms,

You deceive me, for Strephon's cold heart never warms;

Yet bring me this Strephon, let me die in his arms;

But first, said she, let me go

Down to the shades below,

Ere ye let Strephon know

That I have lov'd him so:

Oh, Strephon! the cause of my mourning.

Then on my pale cheek no blushes will show That love was the cause of my mourning. Her eyes were fcarce closed when Strephon came by,
He thought she'd been sleeping, and foftly drew nigh;
But finding her breathless, oh heavens! did he cry,
Ah, Chloris! the cause of my mourning.

Restore me my Chloris, ye nymphs, use your art!

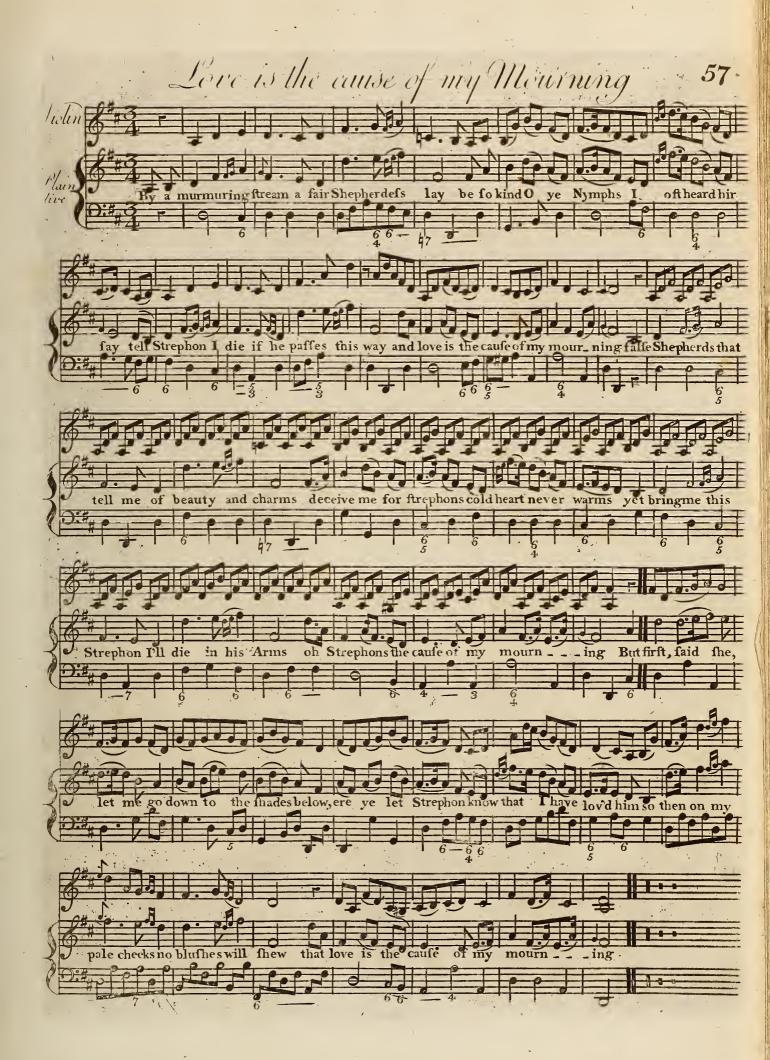
They sighing, reply'd, 'Twas yourself shot the dart,

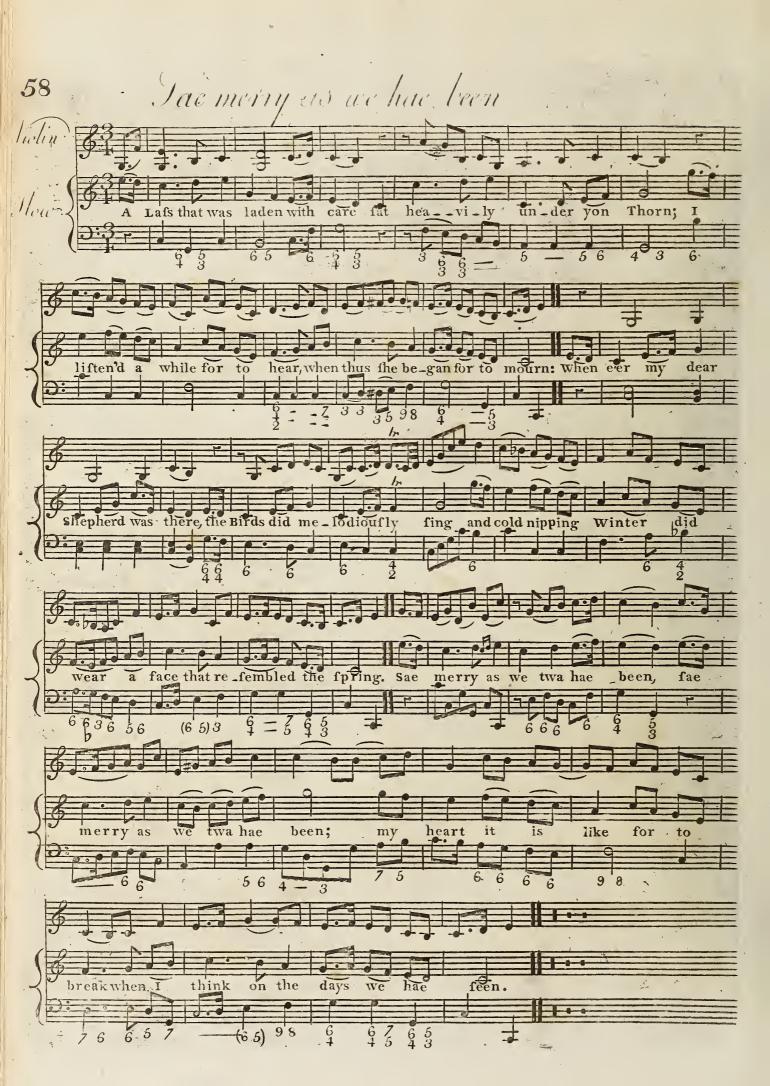
That wounded the tender young shepherdess' heart,

And kill'd poor Chloris with mourning.

Ah! then is Chloris dead,
Wounded by me! he faid;
I'll follow thee, chafte maid,
Down to the filent shade.

Then on her cold snowy breast leaning his head, Expir'd the poor Strephon with mourning.





SAE MERRY AS WE HA'E BEEN.

A LASS that was laden with care
Sat heavily under yon thorn;
I listen'd a while for to hear,
When thus she began for to mourn:
Whene'er my dear shepherd was here,
The birds did melodiously sing,
And cold nipping Winter did wear
A face that resembled the Spring.

Sae merry as we two ha'e been,
Sae merry as we two ha'e been,
My heart it is like for to break

When I think on the days we ha'e feen.

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?

Sae merry as we two ha'e been,

Sae merry as we two ha'e been,

My heart it is like for to break

When I think on the days we ha'e seen.

But now he is far from my fight,

Perhaps 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.

WHEN ABSENT FROM THE NYMPH I LOVE.

WHEN absent from the nymph I love,
I'd fain shake off the chains I wear;
But, whilst I strive these to remove,
More fetters I'm oblig'd to bear.
My captiv'd fancy, day and night,
Fairer and fairer represents
Belinda, form'd for dear delight,
But cruel cause of my complaint.

All day I wander thro' the groves,

And, fighing, hear from ev'ry tree

The happy birds chirping their loves,

Happy, compar'd with lonely me.

When gentle fleep, with balmy wings,

To reft fans ev'ry weary'd wight,

A thousand fears my fancy brings,

That keep me waking all the night.

Sleep flies, while, like the goddess fair,
And all the graces in her train,
With melting smiles, and killing air,
Appears the cause of all my pain.
A while my mind, delighted, flies
O'er all her sweets, with thrilling joy,
Whilst want of worth makes doubt arise
That all my trembling hopes destroy.

Thus, while my thoughts are fix'd on her,

I'm all o'er transport and desire;

My pulse beats high, my cheeks appear

All roses, and mine eyes all fire.

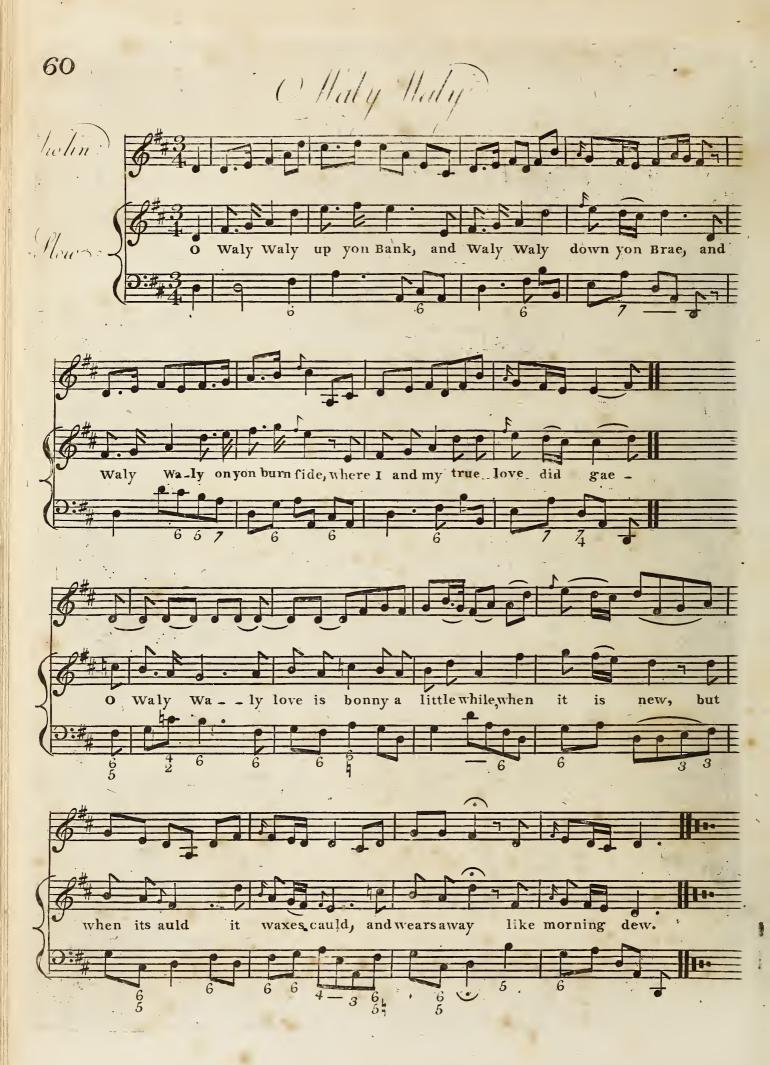
When to myself I turn my view,

My veins grow chill, my cheeks look wan:

Thus, whilst my fears my pains renew,

I scarcely look, or move a man.





O WALY, WALY.

O WALY, waly up the bank,
And waly, waly down the brae;
And waly, waly on yon burn fide,
Where I and my true love did gae.
I lean'd my back unto an aik,
I thought it was a trufty tree,
But first it bow'd, and fyne it brak;
Sae my true love did lightly me.

O waly, waly, love is bonny,

A little while when it is new;
But when 'tis auld it waxeth cauld,
And wears awa' like morning dew.

Oh! wherefore shou'd I busk my head?

Oh! wherefore shou'd I kame my hair?

For my true love has me forsook,
And says he'll never lo'e me mair.

Now Arthur-Seat shall be my bed,

The bridal bed I ne'er shall see;

St. Anton's well shall be my drink,

Since my true love has forsaken me.

Oh, Martin's wind, when wilt thou blaw,

And shake the sear leaves aff the tree?

Oh, gentle death! when wilt thou come,

And take a life that wearies me?

THE EWE BUGHTS.

WILL you go to the ewe bughts, Marian,
And wear in the sheep wi' me?
The sun shines sweet, my Marian,
But nae half sae sweet as thee.

O Marian's a bonny lass,

And the blyth blinks in her eye;

And fain wad I marry Marian,

Gin Marian wad marry me.

I've nine milk ewes, my Marian,
A cow and brawny quey,
I'll gie them a' to my Marian,
Just on her bridal day.

And ye's get a green-fay apron,

And waiftcoat of London brown,

And wow but ye will be vap'ring,

When ye gang to the town.

I'm young and stout, my Marian,

Nane dances like me on the green;

And gin ye forsake me, Marian,

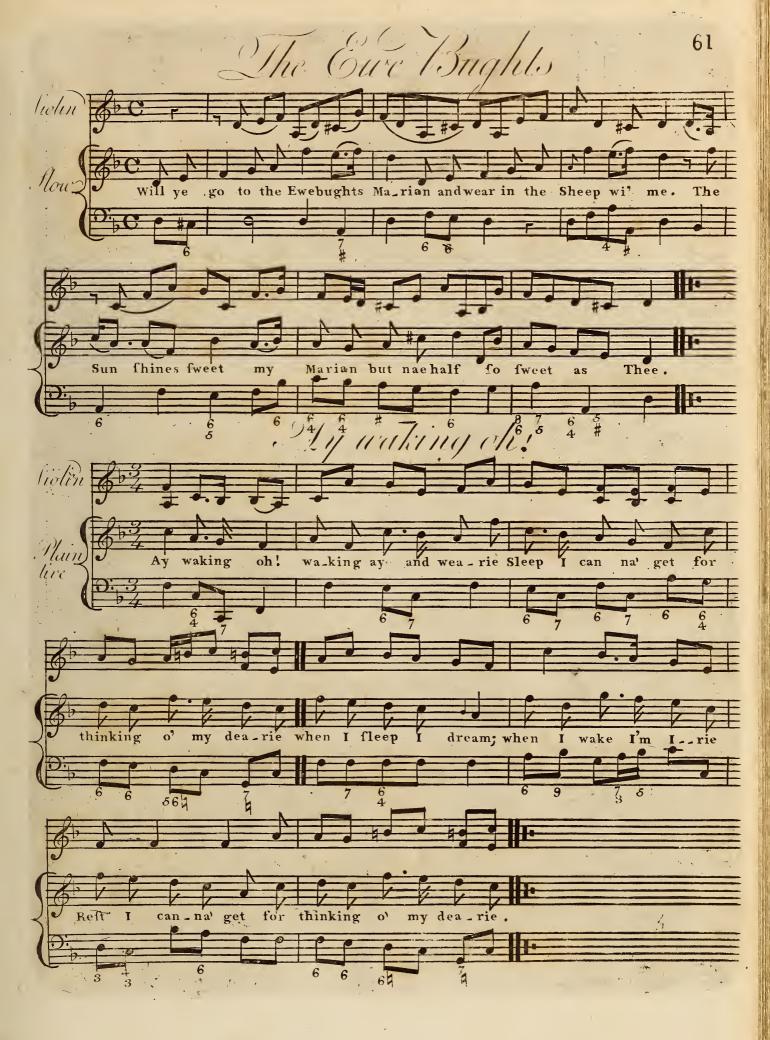
I'll e'en gae draw up wi' Jean.

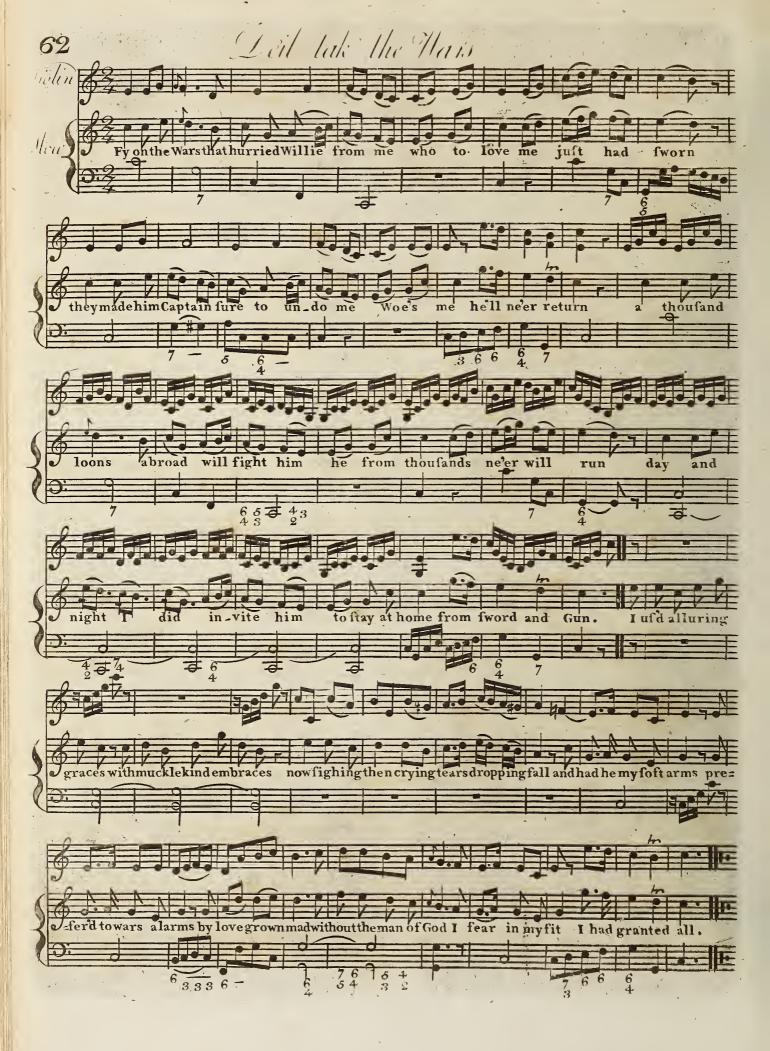
Sea put on your pearlins, Marian,

And kirtle of cramasie,

And soon as my chin has nae hair on,

I shall come west and see thee.





DE'IL TAK' THE WARS.

Fy on the wars that hurried Willy from me;
Who to love me just had sworn;
They made him Captain sure to undo me:
Woe's me he'll ne'er return.
A thousand loons abroad will sight him,
He from thousands ne'er will run,
Day and night I did invite him,
To stay at home from sword and gun.
I us'd alluring graces,
With meikle kind embraces,
Now sighing, then crying, tears dropping fall;
And had he my soft arms,
Preferr'd to war's alarms,
My love grown mad, without the man of God
I fear in my fit I had granted all.

I wash'd and I patch'd, to mak' me look provoking,
Snares that they told me would catch the men,
And on my head a huge commode fat poking,
Which made me shew as tall again;
For a new gown too I paid muckle money,
Which with golden flow'rs did shine;
My love well might think me gay and bonny,
No Scots lass was e'er so fine:
My petticoat I spotted,
Fringe too with thread I knotted,
Lace shoes, and silk hose, garter'd o'er the knee;
But oh! the fatal thought,
To Willy these are nought;
Who rode to town, and risted with dragoons,
When he, silly loon, might have plundered me.

AULD ROBIN GRAY.

WHEN thesheep are in the fauld, and the kyeathame, My heart it said na, I look'd for Jamie back; And a' this weary world to fleep are gane; The waes of my heart fa' in show'rs frae my ee, When my gudeman lyes found by me.

But the wind it blew high, and the ship it was a wreck. The ship it was a wreck, why didna' Jamie die? And why do I live to fay, ah waes me?

Young Jamie loo'd me weel, and he fought me for his bride, But faving a crown he had naething befide; To mak' his crown a poun', my Jamie gaid to fea, And the crown and the poun' were baith for me.

Auld Robin argued fair, 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 on the fea; And auld Robin Gray is gudeman to me.

He had na' been gane a week but only twa' When my mither she fell sick, and the cow was stoun awa'; My father brak' his arm, and my Jamie at the fea, And auld Robin Gray came a courting me.

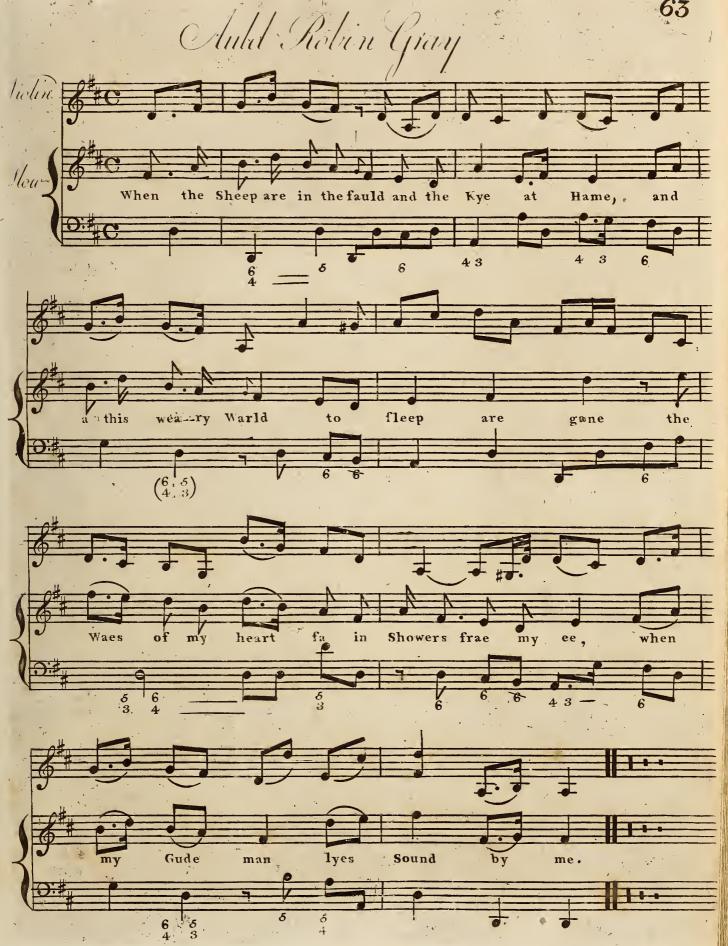
I hadna' been a wife a week but only four, When fitting fae mournfully at mine ain door, I faw my Jamie's wraeth, for I coudna' think it he, Till he faid, I'm come back, love, to marry thee.

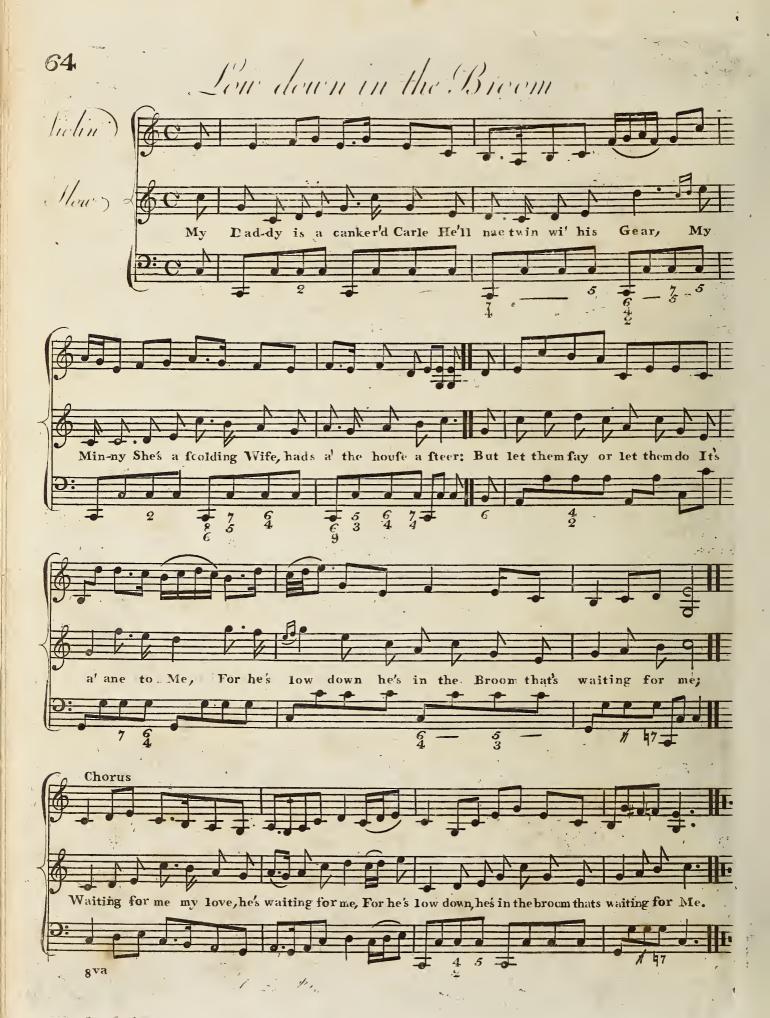
My father coudna' work, and my mither coudna' spin, I toil'd day and night, but their bread I coudna' win; Auld Rob maintain'd them baith, and with tears in his ee, Said, Jenny, for their fakes, oh marry me.

O fair did we greet; and little cou'd we fay; We took but ae kifs, and we tore ourselves away. I wish I were déad; but I'm nae like to die; And why do I live to fay, ah, waes me?

I gang like a ghaift, and I carena' to spin; I darena' think on Jamie; for that wou'd be a fin; But I'll do my best a gude wife to be, For auld Robin Gray is kind to me.







LOW DOWN IN THE BROOM.

My daddy is a canker'd carle,

He'll nae twin wi' his gear;

My minny she's a scaldin wise,

Hads a' the house afteer;

But let them say, or let them do,

It's a' ane to me;

For he's low down, he's in the broom

That's waiting for me;

Waiting for me, my love,

He's waiting for me;

For he's low down, he's in the broom

That's waiting for me.

My aunty Kate fits at her wheel,
And fair she lightlies me;
But weel keen I it's a' envy;
For ne'er a Jo has she.

But let them fay, &c.

My cousin Nell was fair beguil'd

Wi Johnnie in the glen;

And aye since syne, she cries, beware

Of false deluding men.

But let her say, &c.

Gley'd Sandy he came wast ae night,

And speer'd when I saw Pate,

And aye since syne the neighbours round

They jeer me air and late.

But let them say, &c.

FAIR HELEN.

I WISH I were where Helen lies,
Who night and day upon me cries,
Who night and day upon me cries;
I wish I were where Helen lies,
On fair Kirkonnel Lee.

O Helen fair, O Helen chafte,

If I were with thee I were bleft;

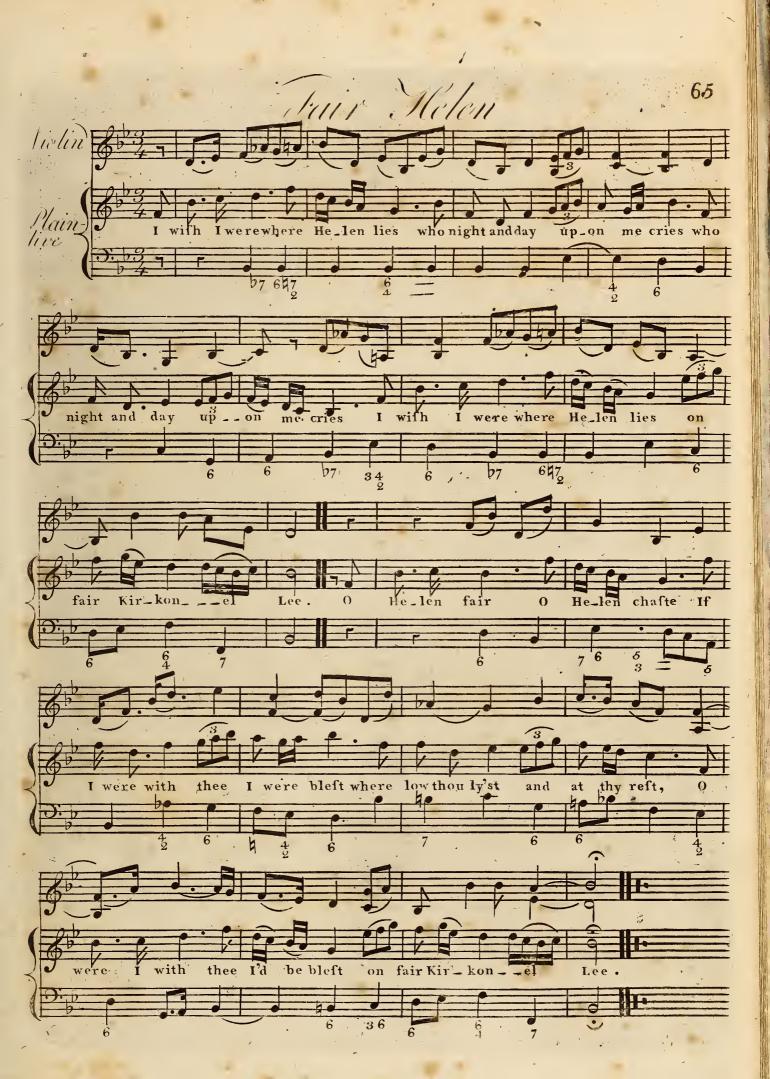
Where low thou lieft, and at thy reft,

Oh! were I with thee I'd be bleft,

On fair Kirkonnel Lee.

I wish my grave were growing green,
And winding sheet put o'er my een,
And winding sheet put o'er my een;
I wish my grave were growing green,
On fair Kirkonnel Lee.

Wae to the heart that fram'd the thought,
And curst the hand that fir'd the shot,
And curst the hand that fir'd the shot,
When in my arms my Helen dropt,
And died for love of me.



66 The Yellow Haired Luddie In A-pril when Prim-ro-fes paint the Sweet plain and

Out of the first the f Sum_mer ap proach ing re joi ceth the Swain. The yel - low hair'd lad - die wou'd of - ten - times go, to O: $\begin{pmatrix} 6 & \delta \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 6 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ deep glens where the Haw-thorn trees gro

THE YELLOW-HAIR'D LADDIE,

IN April, when primrofes paint the fweet plain,
And Summer, approaching, rejoiceth the fwain,
The yellow-hair'd Laddie wou'd often times go
To wilds and deep glens, where the hawthorn trees grow.

The shepherd thus sung: Tho' young Mary be fair,
Her beauty is dash'd with a scornfu' proud air:
But Susie was handsome, and sweetly cou'd sing;
Her breath like the breezes persum'd in the spring.

There, under the shade of an old facred thorn,
With freedom he sung his loves evining and morn:
He sang with so fast and enchanting a sound,
That sylvans and sairies unseen danc'd around.

That Maddie, in all the gay bloom of her youth,
Like the moon was inconftant, and never spoke truth?
But Susie was faithful, good humour'd, and free,
And fair as the goddess who sprung from the sea.

That mama's fine daughter, with all her great dow'r, Was aukwardly airy, and frequently four; Then fighing, he wished, would parents agree—
The witty sweet Susie his mistress might be.

MY DEARY, IF YOU DIE.

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 deary, if thou die.

If fate should tear thee from my breast,

How shall I, lonely, stray?

In dreary dreams the night I'll waste,

In sighs the silent day.

I ne'er can so much virtue sind,

Nor such perfection see:

Then I'll renounce all woman-kind,

My Peggy, after thee.

No new-blown beauty fires my heart

With Cupid's raving rage,

But thine which can fuch fweets impart,

Must all the world engage.

'Twas this that, like the morning fun,

Gave joy and life to me;

And when its destin'd day is done,

With Peggy let me die!

Ye powers that smile on virtuous love,

And in such pleasure share;

Ye who its faithful slames approve,

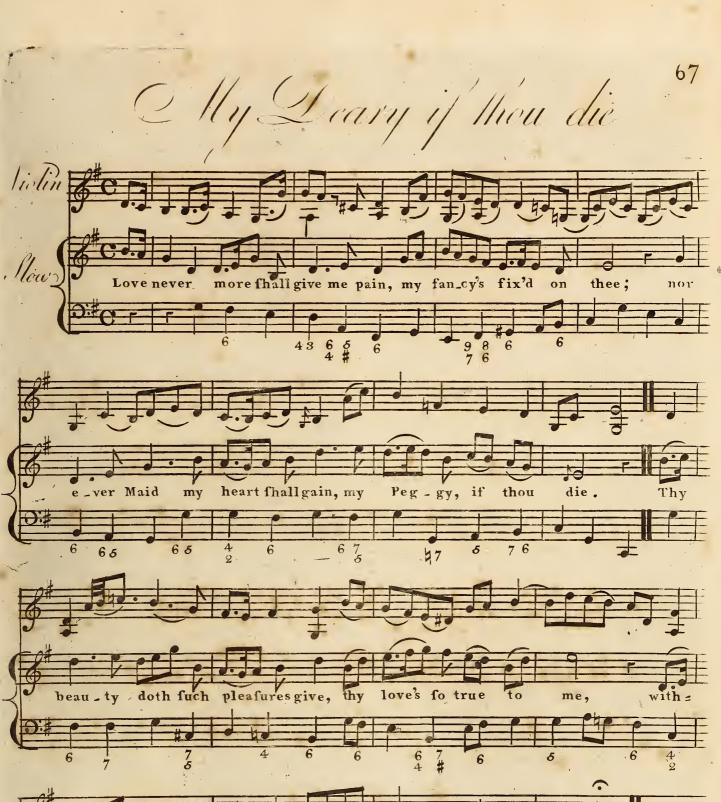
With pity view the fair!

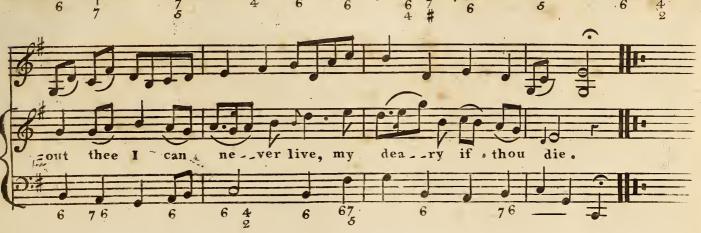
Restore my Peggy's wonted charms,

Those charms so dear to me:

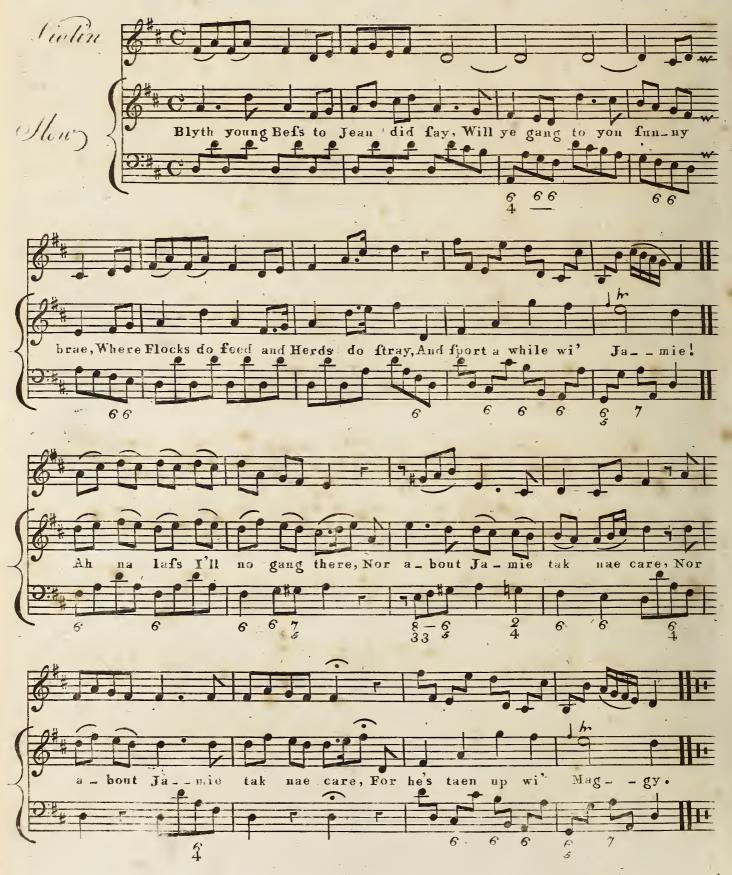
Oh! never tear them from those arms:

I'm lost, if Peggy die,





Bef.s the Gunrhie



BESS THE GAWKIE.

BLYTH young Bess to Jean did say,
Will ye gang to yon funny brae,
Where slocks do feed, and herds do stray,
And sport a while wi' Jamie?
Ah na, lass! I'll ne'er gang there,
Nor about Jamie tak nae care,
For he's tane up wi' Maggy.

For hark! and I will tell you, lass:

Did I not see your Jamie pass,

Wi' mickle 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 smack, pleas'd her wi' this,

That Bess was but a gawkie.

For whene'er a civil kifs I feek,

She turns her head and thraws her cheek,

And for an hour fhe'll fcarcely fpeak;

Who'd not call her a gawkie?

But fure my Maggy has mair fenfe,

She'll gie a fcore without offence;

Now gi'e me ane unto the menfe,

And ye shall be my dawtie.

O Jamie, ye hae 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,

Sic thoughts as these are far frae me,

Or ony thy sweet face that see,

E'er to think thee a gawkie.

But, wisht, nae mair of this we'll speak,
For yonder Jamie does us meet;
Instead of Meg, he kist 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 ye may gang the gate you came,
And tell it to your dawtie.
The guilt appear'd in Jamie's cheek,
He cry'd, Oh cruel maid, but fweet!
If I fhould gang another gate,
I ne'er cou'd meet my dawtie.

LEANDER ON THE BAY.

Of Hellespont all naked stood,
Impatient of delay,
He leapt into the fatal flood,
The raging seas,
Whom none can please,
'Gainst him their malice show:
The heav'n's lowr'd,
The rain down pour'd,
And loud the winds did blow.

Then casting round his eyes,

Thus of his fate he did complain:

Ye cruel rocks and skies!

Ye stormy winds, and angry main!

What 'tis to miss

The lover's bliss,

Alas! ye do not know;

Make me your wreck

As I come back,

But spare me as I go.

Lo! yonder stands the tower

Where my beloved Hero lyes,

And this is the appointed hour

Which sets to watch her longing eyes.

To his fond suit

The gods were mute;

The billows answer, no:

Up to the skies

The surges rise,

But sunk the youth as low.

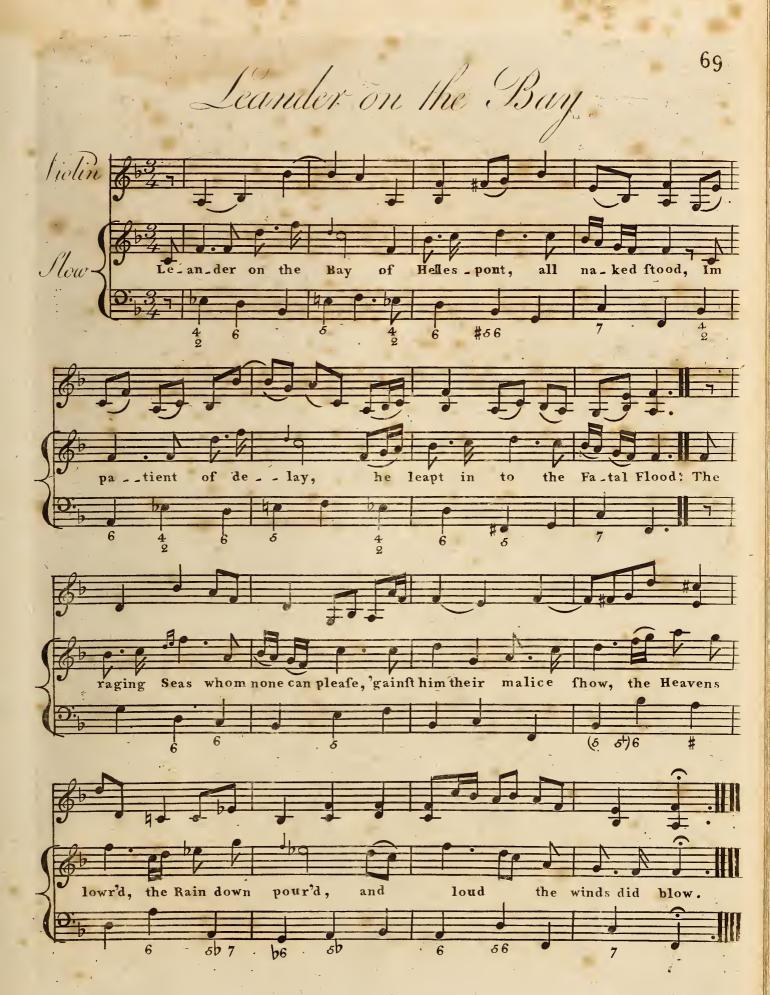
Mean while the wishing maid,
Divided 'twixt her care and love,'
Now does his stay upbraid;
Now dreads he shou'd the passage prove:
O fate! said she,
Nor heav'n, nor thee,
Our vows shall e'er divide;
I'd leap this wall,
Cou'd I but sall
By my Leander's side.

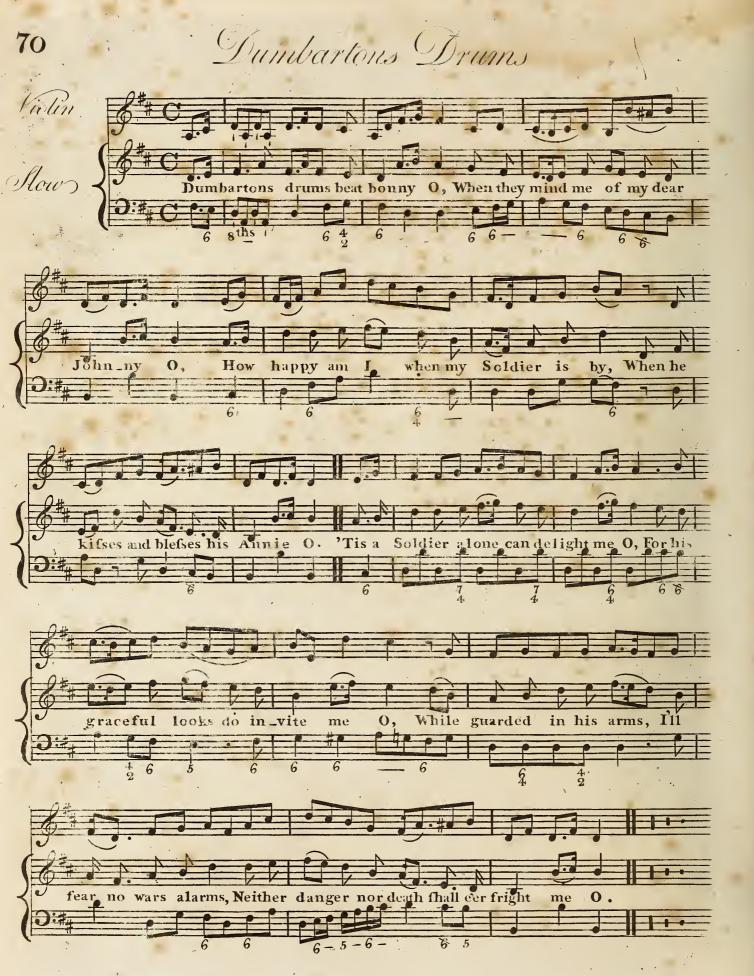
At length the rifing fun

Did to her fight reveal, too late,
That Hero was undone;

Not by Leander's fault, but fate.
Said fhe, I'll fhew,
Tho' we are two,
Our loves were ever one:
This proof I'll give,
I will not live,
Nor fhall he die alone.

Down from the wall she leapt
Into the raging seas to him,
Courting each wave she met,
To teach her wearied arms to swim:
To sea-gods wept,
Nor longer kept
Her from her lover's side:
When join'd, at last,
She grasp'd him fast,
Then sigh'd, embrac'd, and died.





DUMBARTON DRUMS.

Dumbarton's drums beat bonny—O,
When they mind me of my dear Johnny—O.
How happy am I,
When my foldier is by,
When he kiffes and bleffes his Annie—O!
'Tis a foldier 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 soppish nor gaudy—O:

Tho' commissions are dear,

Yet I'll buy him one this year;

He shall no longer serve as a cadie—O.

A soldier has honour and bravery—O,

Unacquainted with rogues and their knavery—O;

He minds no other thing

But the ladies and the king;

For every other care is but flavery—O.

Then I'll be the Captain's lady—O;

Farewel all my friends and daddy—O;

I'll ftay no more at home,

But I'll follow with the drum,

And whenever it beats, I'll be ready—O.

Dumbarton's drums found bonny—O,

They are fprightly, like my dear Johnny—O;

How happy fhall I be,

When on my foldier's knee,

And he kiffes and bleffes his Annie—O!

THE COLLIER'S BONNY LASSIE.

THE collier has a daughter,
And, oh, she's wond'rous bonny!
A laird he was that fought 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 can its depth discover?

He had the art to please ye,
And was by a' respected;
His air fat round him easy,
Genteel, but unaffected.
The collier's bonny lassie,
Fair as the new-blown lilie,
Ay sweet, and never faucy,
Secur'd the heart of Willie.

He lov'd beyond expression

The charms that were about her,
And panted for possession,
His life was dull without her.

After nature resolving,
Close to his breast he held her,
In saftest slames dissolving,
He tenderly thus tell'd her:

My bonny collier's daughter,

Let naething discompose ye,

'Tis no your scanty tocher

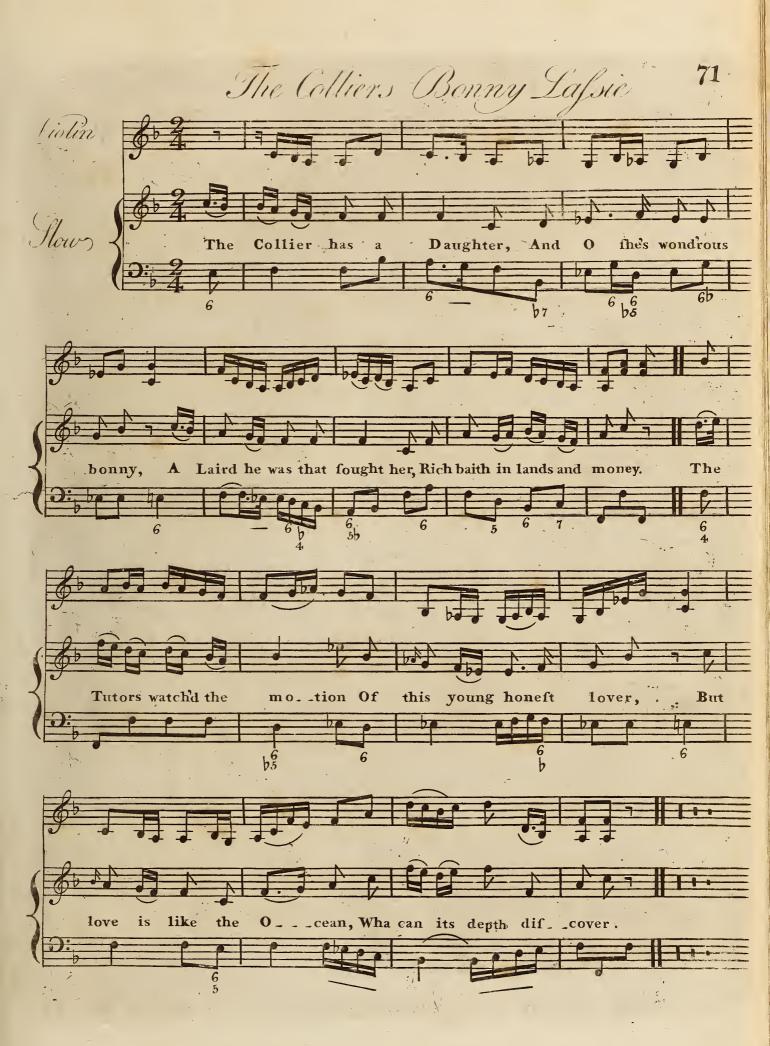
Shall ever gar me lose ye:

For I have gear in plenty,

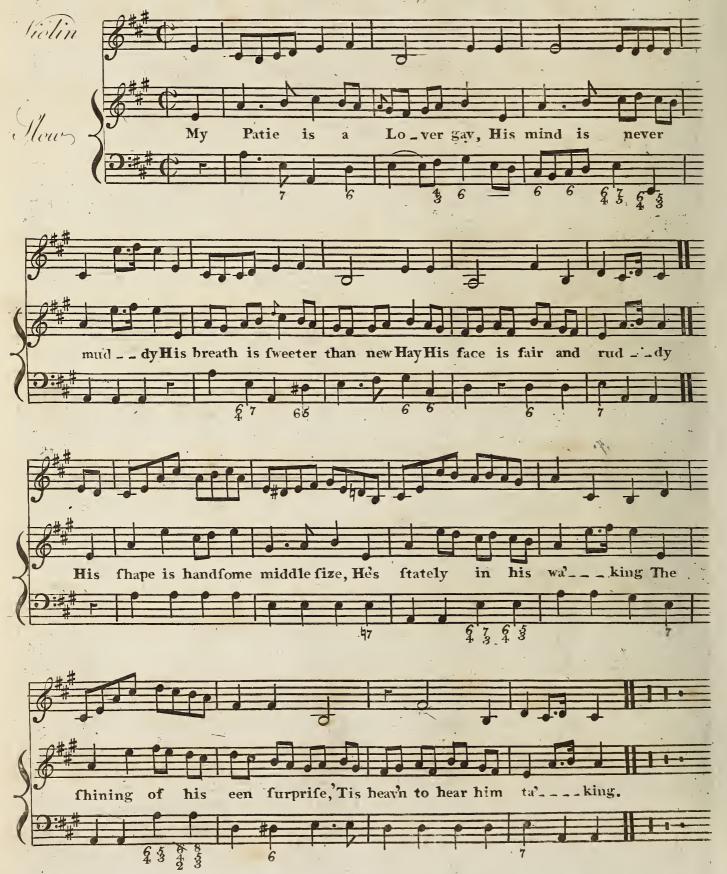
And love says, 'tis my duty

To ware what Heav'n has lent me

Upon your wit and beauty.



Corn Riggs



CORN-RIGGS ARE BONNY.

My Patie is a lover gay,

His mind is never muddy,

His breath is fweeter than new hay,

Her face is fair and ruddy.

His shape is handsome, middle size;

He's stately in his wa'king;

The shining of his een surprize;

'Tis heav'n to hear him ta'king.

Last night I met him on a bawk,

Where yellow corn is growing,

There mony a kindly word he spake,

'That set my heart a-glowing.

He kiss'd and vow'd he wad be mine,

And loo'd me best of ony;

'That gars me like to sing sinsyne,

O corn-riggs are bonny.

Let maidens of a filly 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 syne my cockernony

He's free to kiss me air or late,

Where corn-riggs are bonny.

THE BONNIE EARL OF MURRAY.

From Pinkerton's Select Scotch Ballads.

YE Hielands and ye Lawlands,
O whar hae ye been?
They have flain the Earl of Murray,
And laid him on the green!

- ' Now wae be to you, Huntly!
 - " O wharfore did he fae?
- ' I bad you bring him wi' you;
 - "But forbad you him to flay."

He was a bra galant,

And he rid at the ring;

The bonnie Earl of Murray,

He micht ha' been a king.

He was a bra galant,

And he play'd at the ba;

The bonnie Earl of Murray

Was the flower amang them a.

He was a bra galant,

And he play'd at the gluve;

The bonnie Earl of Murray,

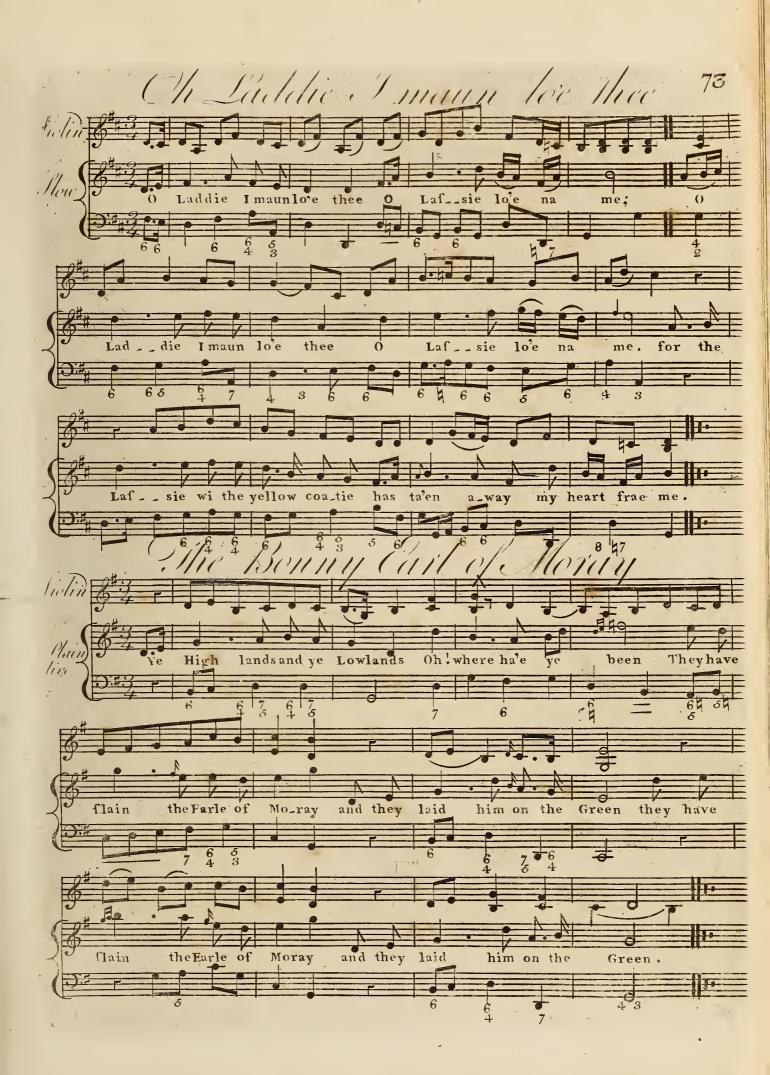
He was the queen's luve.

O lang will his lady

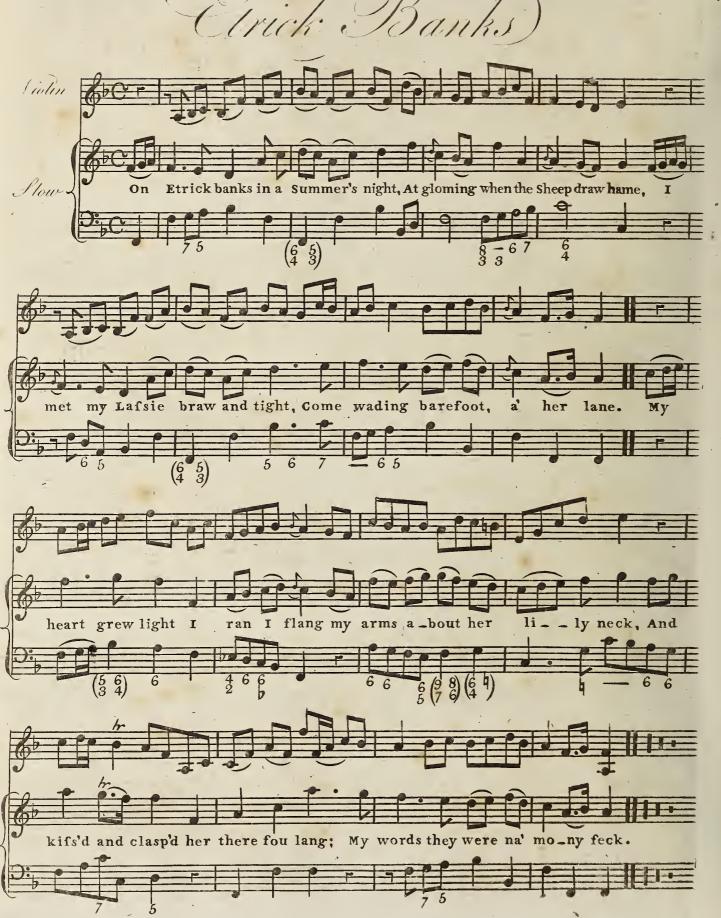
Look owr the castle downe,

Ere she see the Earl of Murray

Cum sounding through the toun!







ETRICK BANKS.

ON Etrick Banks, in a fummer's night,
At glowming when the sheep draw hame,
I met my lassie, braw and tight,
Came wading, barefoot, a her lane:
My heart grew light; I ran, I slang
My arms about her lily neck,
And kiss'd and class'd her there fow lang:
My words they were nae mony feck.

I faid, my lassie, will ye go

To the Highland hills, the Earse to learn?

I'll baith gi'e thee a cow and ewe,

Whenye come to the brigg of Earn.

At Leith auld meal comes in, ne'er fash,

And herrings at the Broomy law;

Cheer up your heart, my bonny lass,

There's geer to win we never saw.

All day when we have wrought enough,
When winter, frosts and snaw, begin,
Soon as the sun 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,
Till the tender kid and lamb time bring
Our pleasant summer back again.

Syne when the trees are in their bloom,

And gowans glent o'er ilka field,

I'll meet my lass amang 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 HIGHLAND LADDIE.

THE Lawland lads think they are fine;
But, oh, they're vain and idly gawdy!
How much unlike the gracefu' mien,
And manly looks of my Highland laddie?
O my bonny, bonny Highland laddie,
My handfome charming Highland laddie;
May Heaven still guard, and love reward.
Our Lawland lass, and her Highland laddie.

O'er benty hill with him I'll run,

And leave my Lawland kin and dady:

Frae Winter's cauld, and Summer's fun,

He'll hap me with his Highland plaidy:

O my bonny, &c.

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 all his airs, with art made ready,

Compar'd to him, he's but a clown,

He's finer far in his tartan plaidy.

O my bonny, &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 his tartan plaidy.

O my bonny, &c.

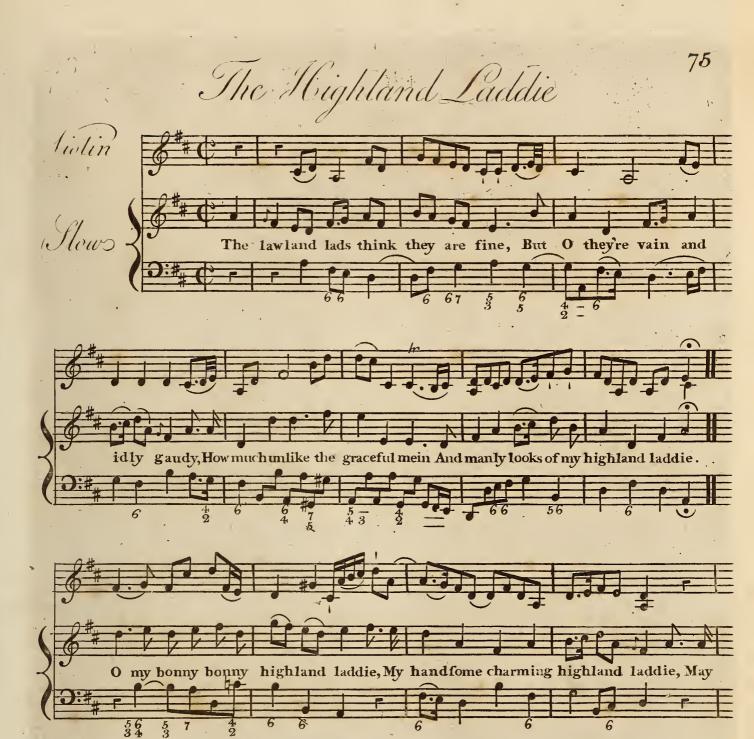
Nae greater joy I'll e'er pretend,

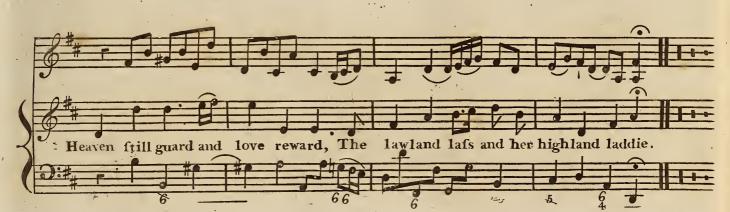
Than that his love prove true and steady,

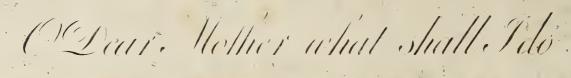
Like mine to him, which ne'er shall end,

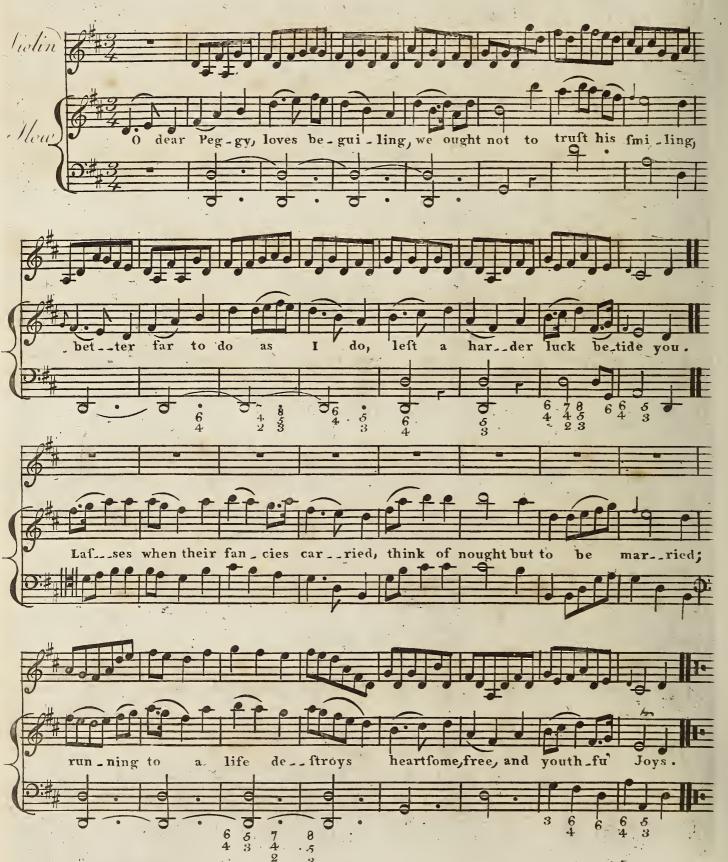
While Heaven preserves my Highland laddie.

O my bonny, &c.









O DEAR MOTHER, WHAT SHALL I DO?

O Dear Peggy, love's beguiling;
We ought not to trust his similing;
Better far to do as I do,
Lest a harder luck betide you.

Laffes, when their fancy's carried,
Think of nought but to be married;
Running to a life destroys
Heartsome, free, and youthfu' joys.

THERE CAME A GHAIST TO MARG'RET'S DOOR.

THERE came a ghaift to Marg'ret's door,
With many a grievous groan;
And, ay, he tirled at the pin,
But answer made she none.

or is't my brother John?
Or is't my true love Willy,
From Scotland new come home?

'Tis not thy father Philip,

Nor yet thy brother John;

But 'tis thy true love Willy,

From Scotland new come home.

Oh, fweet Marg'ret! oh, dear Marg'ret!
I pray thee fpeak to me;
Give me my faith and troth, Marg'ret,
As I gave it to thee.

Thy faith and troth thoust never get,
We twa will never twin,
Till that thou come within my bower,
And kiss my cheek and chin.

If I shou'd come within thy bower,
I am no earthly man;
And shou'd I kiss thy rosy lips,
Thy days will not be lang.

Oh, fweet Marg'ret! oh, dear Marg'ret!

I pray thee fpeak to me;

Give me my faith and troth, Marg'ret,

As I gave it to thee.

Thy faith and troth thoust never get,
We twa will never twin,
Till you take me to you kirk yard,
And wed me with a ring.

My bones are buried in yon kirk yard,
Afar beyond the fea;
And it is but my fpirit, Marg'ret,
That's now speaking to thee.

She stretched out her lily-white hand,
And for to do her best;
Hae, there's your faith and troth, Willy;
God send your soul good rest.

Now she has kilted her robes of green
A piece below her knee,
And a' the live-lang winter night
The dear corpse follow'd she.

Is there any room at your head, Willy?

Or any room at your feet?

Or any room at your fide, Willy,

Wherein that I may creep?

There's no room at my head, Marg'ret;
There's no room at my feet;
There's no room at my fide, Marg'ret,
My coffin's made fo meet.

Then up and crew the red, red cock,
And up then crew the gray;
'Tis time, 'tis time, my dear Marg'ret,
That you were going away.

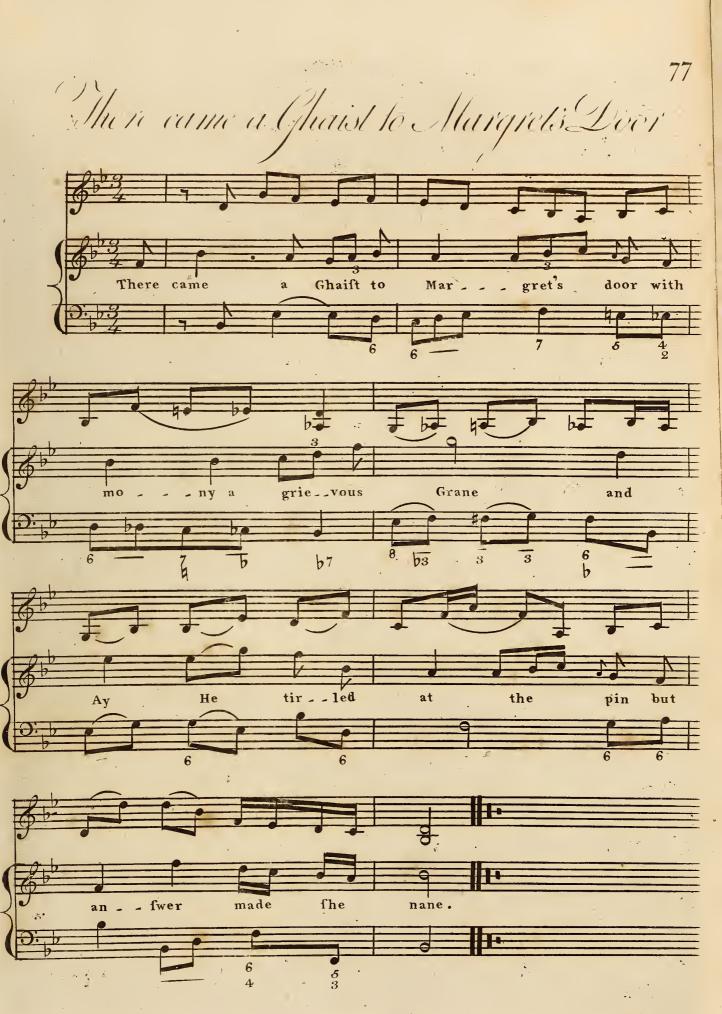
No more the ghaift to Marg'ret faid, But with a grievous groan, Evanish'd in a cloud of mist, And left her all alone.

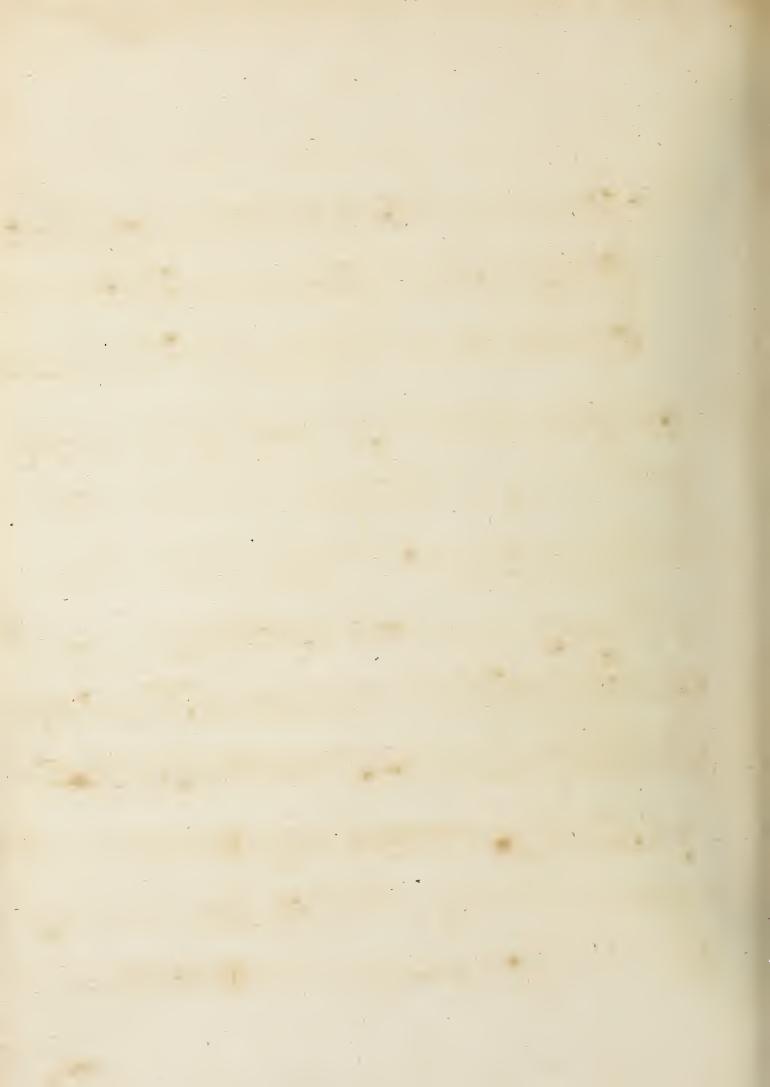
Oh, stay, my only true love, stay,

The constant Marg'ret cry'd:

Wan grew her cheeks, she clos'd her een,

Stretch'd her soft limbs, and dy'd.





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GLOSSARY.

A, all Aboon, above Ae, one Aff, off Aften, often Aik, oak Ain, own Alane, alone Amaist, almost Ane, one Anes, once Anither, another Ase, ashes Afteer, in stir, incommotion Awa, away Auld, old Ay, aye, ever, always Ayont, beyond

D

Ba', ball Baith, both Bald, Bauld, bold Bane, bone Bannocks, bread baked on a stone, or gridiron Baubie, halfpenny Bent, open fields Birks, birch Big, Bigg, build Billy, brother Blate, bashful Blathrie, abuse Blink, glance of the eye Bracken, fern Brae, acclivity, or declivity Braid, broad Braw, brave, finely dreffed Breeks, breeches Broach, a kind of buckle Bught, Sheep-fold Burn, rivulet Busk, prepare, deck Byer, corv-house

C

Ca' call Cadgily, jovially Canna, cannot Canker'd, peevish Canny, skilful, prudent Canty, mirthful Cauld, cold Chap, to knock Claiths, cloaths Cleeding, clyding, cloathing Cleed, clothed Cockernony, the hair bound up Coggie, little cag Coost, cast Craig, neck, also rock Cramasie, crimson Crowdy-mowdy, a fort of gruel Crummy, a cow's name

D

Daddie, father Daffin, fooling, waggery Dander, to waste time idly, to Saunter Danton, daunt Dawt, fondle, caress Deil, devil Dinna, do not Difna, does not Docken, dock weed Doggie, little dog Dorty, scornful Dow, dove, also can Dowy, pining, drooping Drumly, muddy Dud, rag Dule, pain, grief

E

Earn, yern, curdle Ee, een, eye, eyes Eild, age Ezer, azure \mathbf{F}'

Fa', fall
Fae, foe
Fain, fond
Fash, trouble
Fauld, fold
Feck, faith
Flinders, fplinters
Frae, from
Fou, or fu', full

G

Gaberlunzie, a wallet, that carries a wallet Gae, gave Gae, gang, go Gane, gone Gar, cause Gawky, foolish Gear, goods, riches Geck, flout, jeer Gimmer, a ewe of two years old Gin, gif, if Gleid, gleed, squinting, blin of an eye Glen, a hollow between hills Gloming, twilight Gowan, wild daify Gowd, gold Gowdspink, goldfinch Greet, weep Gude, guid, gooa Gutcher, grandfather

H

Ha', hall
Had, hold
Hae, have
Haf, half
Haflins, by half
Hame, home
Hap, cover
Hauver-meal, made of meal of two forts

Hawfe, embrace
Heeze, hoist
Heezy, 'a hoist
Hie, high
Hip, the berry of the wild rose
Hows, hollows

I

Ilk, ilka, each, every Ingle, fire Irie, afraid of ghosts Ise, I shall Ither, other

J

Jo, Joe, sweetheart

K

Kail, coleworts, broth of coleworts

Kame, comb

Ken, know

Kirn, churn

Kifts, chefts

Knows, heights

Ky, kine

Kyth and kin, friends and relations

L

Laigh, low
Lane, alone
Lang, long
Lavrocks, larks
Lee, fallow ground
Leeze me, loves me, a phrase
of endearment
Leil, leal, true, faithful
Lift, the firmament
Lig, to lie
Lightly, to slight
Loe, loo, to love
Loon, loun, rogue
Loor, lourd, rather

M

Mak', make
Mair, more
Maift, must
Marrow, mate, match
Maun, must
Mavis, thrush
Meit, may, might
Mikle, meikle, muckle, much
Minny, mither, mother
Mony, many
Mou, mouth

Muck, dung, to clean out dung

N

Na', nae, no, not Nane, none Neist, next Niss-nassin, undetermined

0

Ony, any Ow'r, over Ow'rly, a cravat.

P

Pat, put
Pauky, pawkey, cunning
Pearlins, a woman's cap
Philabeg, a Highlander's full
dreps
Pine, pain
Plaiden, coarfe blanketing
Pleugh, plough
Pu', pull

Q

Quey, a young heifer Quhen, when Quheir, where

R

Rang, reigned
Ranty-tanty, a Scots dish
Rede, advise, counsel
Riggs, ridges
Rin, run
Row, roll

7

Sae, so Saft, foft Sair, fore Sall, *shall* Sarke, shirt Sell, fale, *felf* Sen, sin, syne, since, then Shanna, *Shall not* Shaw, Sherv Shoo, Shoe Shoon, Shoes Sic, fuch Siller, filver, money Sinsyne, fince that time Slaited, wheted, wiped Sma', fmall Snaw, Inae, Inow Snood, a head-band Sodger, foldier Soup, small quantity of liquor Speer, speir, ask

Spring, a lively air Staw, ftole Stane, stean, stone Stown, stolen Sturt, wrath

T

Tak', take
Tald, told
Tane, taken
T'ane, the one
Tauk, talk
Tedding, laying new-moven
grafs in rows
Tenty, cautious
Tine, lofe
Tint, loft
Tocher, dowry
Tofall of night, twilight
Trews, trowfers
Trifte, appoint, entice
Twa, two
Twin, to part from

V

Vaunty, vain-glorious

W

Wa', wall Wad, would Wae, woe Wale, choice Wander, wonder Ware, bestow Wee, little Weel, well Weelfar'd, well-favoured Wha, who Whist, 'hist Wi', with Wimpling, twisting, meandring Win, won, dwell Winna, will not Winsome, bandsome Wist, known Wite, blame Woo, wool Wow, rounderful! ah! Wreath, ghost

Y

Yern, earn, curdle Yese, ye shall Yestreen, yesternight

Ze, ye Zou, you