[51]

MERRY MAY THE MAID BE.

O! merrry may the maid be, That marries the miller, For foul day and fair day He's ay bringing till her; He's ay a penny in his purfe For dinner and for fupper; And gin she please, a gude fat cheese, And lumps of yellow butter. -0 When Jamie first did woo me, I fpeir'd what was his calling ? Fair maid, fays he, O I come and fee, Ye're welcome to my dwalling: Tho' I was fhy, yet I cou'd fpy The truth of what he told me, And that his house was warm and couth, And room in it to hold me.

Behind the door a bag of meal, And in the kift was plenty
Of gude hard cakes his mither bakes, And bannocks were nae fcanty ;
A gude fat fow, a fleeky cow, Was flandin in the byre;
Whilft lazy poufs, with mealy moufe, Was playing at the fire.

Gude figns are thefe, my mither fays, And bids me tak the miller,
For foul day and fair day He's ay bringing till her ;
For meal nor malt fhe does nae want, Nor any thing that's dainty,
And now and then a keckling hen To lay her eggs in plenty.

In winter, when the wind and rain Blaws o'er the houfe and byre,
He fits befide a clean hearth-ftane Before a roufing fire ;
With nut-brown ale he tells his tale, Which rows him o'er fou nappy,
Who'd be a king—a petty thing, When a miller lives fo happy.

