Insa k. Walker



HARP SICHORD

· by Robert (Bremner,)

The Words by ALLEN RAMSEY

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Tune, Gallowshiels.

A H! the poor 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 check,
O'erspread with rising blushes,
A thousand various ways they speak.
A thousand various wishes.

For oh! that form so 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.

Polwart on the Green.

A T Polwart on the green
If you'll meet me the morn,
Where lasses do conveen
To dance about the thorn,
A kindly welcome you shall meet
Frae her wha likes to view
A Lover and a Lad compleat,
The Lad and Lover you.

Let dorty Dames say 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 nae to be free.

At Polwart on the green,
Among the new mawn hay,
With sangs 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 shall be welcome, my dear Lad,
To take a part of mine.

The Banks of Forth.

E Sylvan Powers that rule the plain,
Where sweetly winding Fortha glides,
Conduct me to her banks again,
Since there my charming Mary bides.
These banks that breathe their vernal sweets,
Where every smiling beauty meets;
Where Mary's charms adorn the plain,
And chear the heart of every swain.

Oft in the thick embowring groves,

Where birds their musick chirp aloud,
Alternately we sung our loves,

And Fortha's fair meanders view'd.

The meadows wore a gen'ral smile,
Love was our banquet all the while;

The lovely prospect charm'd the eye,

To where the ocean met the sky.

Į-,

Once on the graffy bank reclin'd,

Where Forth ran by in murmurs deep,

It was my happy chance to find

The charming Mary lull'd affeep;

My heart then leap'd with inward blifs,

I foftly stoop'd and stole a kis;

She wak'd, she blush'd, and gently blam'd,

Why, Damon I are you not asham'd?

Ye Sylvan Powers, ye Rural Gods,

To whom we Swains our cares impart,
Restore me to these blest abodes,

And ease, oh! ease my love-sick heart:
These happy days again restore,
When Mall and I shall part no more,
When she shall fill these longing arms,
And crown my bliss with all her charms.

Tune, I wish my Love were in a Mire.

BLEST as the immortal gods is he, The youth that fondly sits by thee, And hears and sees thee all the while Softly speak and sweetly smile.

'Twas this bereav'd my soul 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 dimb eyes a darkness hung, My ears with hollow murmurs rung.

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





Dumbarton's Drums.

DUMBARTON's drums beat bonny—O,
When they mind me of my dear Jonny—O.

How happy am I
When my Soldier is by,
While he kisses and blesses his Annie —O?
'Tis a Soldier alone can delight me—O,
For his graceful looks do invite me—O:
While guarded in his arms,
I'll fear no wars 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,
For he shall serve no longer 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 or the King!
For every other care is but flavery – O.

Then I'll be the Captain's Lady—C,

Farewell all my friends and my Daddy—O:

I'll wait no more at home,

But I'll follow with the drum,

And whene'er that beats, I ll be ready—O.

Dumbarton's drums found bonny—O;

They are fprightly, like my dear Jonny—O.

How happy shall I be,

When on my Soldier's knee,

And he kisses and blesses his Annie—O?

Etrick Banks.

At gloaming when the Sheep came hame,
I met my lassy bra' and tight,
While wandring throw the mist her lane.
My heart grew light, I ran, and slang
My arms about her bonny neck;
I kis'd and clap'd her there su' lang,
My words they were na' mony feck.

I said, my Lassy, will you go To Highland hills, the Ersh to learn? And there ye shall have cow and yew, When you come to the brigg of Earn. At Leith, auld meal comes in, (ne'er fash)
An herring at the Broomy law;
Chear up your heart my bonny Lass,
There's gear to win we never faw.

All day, when we ha toil'd enough, When winter's frost and snaw begin, And when the sun goes west the Lock, At night when you fa' fast to spin, I'll screw my drons, and play a spring: And thus the dreary night we'll end, I ill tender kids and lamb time bring Our pleasant summer back again.

Love is the Cause of my Mourning.

BY a murmuring stream a fair Shepherdess lay, Be so kind, O ye Nymphs, I oft 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, Deceive me, for Strephon's cold heart never warms; Yet bring me this Strephon, I'll die in his arms.

Oh Strephon! the cause of my mourning.
But first, said she, let me go
Down to the shades below,
Ere ye let Strephon know
That I have lov'd him so:

Then on my pale cheek no blushes will show. That love is the cause of mourning.

Her eyes were scarce clos'd when Strephon came by;
He thought she'd been sleeping and softly drew nigh;
But finding her breathless, Oh Heaven's! did he cry,
Ah Chlaris! the cause of my mourning.
Restore me, my Chloris, ye Nymphs use your art.
They sighing, reply'd, 'twas yourself shot the dart.

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

That wounded the tender young Shepherdess' heart,

And kill'd the poor Choris with mourning.

Ah then, is Chloris dead,

Wounded by me! he said;
I'll follow thee, chaste maid,
Down to the filent shade.

Then on her cold showy breast leaning his head, Expired the poor Strephon with mourning.

Here awa, there awa.

HERE awa, there awa, here awa Willie; Here awa, there awa, here awa hame; Lang have I sought thee, dear have I bought thee, Now I have gotten my Willie again.

Through the lang muir I have followed my Willie, Through the lang muir I have followed him hame,

Whate'er betide us, nought shall divide us; Love now rewards all my sorrow and pain.

Here awa, there awa, here awa Willie; Here awa, there awa, here awa hame; Come Love, believe me, nothing can grieve me, Ilka thing pleases while Willie's at hame.







Sae Merry as we ha'e been.

A Lass that was leaden'd with care
Sat heavily under you thorn,
I listen'd a while for to hear,
When thus she began for to mourn:
When e'er my dear Shepherd was there,
The birds did melodiously sing,
And cold nipping Winter did wear
A face that resembled the Spring.
Sae merry as we twa h'ae been;
Sae merry as we twa ba'e been;
My beart it is like for to break
When I think on the days we have seen.

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 wou'd 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, &c.

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,

Iset myself under an oak,

And heavily sighed for him.

Sae merry, &c.

Waly, Waly.

O Waly, waly up yon bank,
And waly, waly, down yon brae,
And waly, by yon River's fide,
Were I and my I ove wont to gae:
O waly, waly, Love is bonny,
A little while when it is new;
But when it's auld, it waxes cauld,
And wears away, like morning dew.

I leant my back unto an aik,
I thought it was a trusty tree!
But first it bow'd and fine it brake,
And sae did my fause Love to me.
When cockle-shells turn siller bells,
And mussels grow on ev'ry tree;
When frost and snaw shall warm us a',
Then shall my Love prove true to me.

Now Arthur's feat shall be my bed,
The sheets shall ne'er be fyl'd by me;
St. Anton's well shall be my drink,
Since my True-love's forsaken me.

O Mart'mas wind, when wilt thou blow,
And shake the green leaves off the tree?
O gentle Death, when wilt thou come,
And tak a life that wearies me?

'Tis not the frost that freezes sell,

Nor blawing snaw's inclemency;

'Tis not sic cauld that makes me cry,

But my Love's heart grown cauld to me.

When we came in by Glasgow town,

We were a comely sight to see;

My Love was cled in velvet black

And I mysel in cramasie.

But had I wist before I kis'd

That love had been sae ill to win;
I'd lockt my heart in case of gold,

And pin'd it with a silver pin.

Oh, oh! if my young babe were born,

And set upon the nurse's knee;

And I mysel were dead and gane;

For maid again I'll never be.

. My Deary, if theu die.

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 shall tear the from my breast,

How shall I lonely stray!

In dreary dreams the night Flb waste,

In sighs the filent day.

I ne'er can so much virtue find,

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 sweets impart,
Must all the world engage.

Twas this that, like the morning-sun.
Gave joy and life to me;
And when it's destin'd day is done,
With Peggy let me die.

Ye Powers that smile on virtuous love,
And in such pleasure share;
You who it's faithful slames approve,

Wieldwitz view the fair.

You who it's faithful flames approve, "With pity, view the fair:
Restore my Peggy's wonted charms,
Those charms so dear to me;
Oh! never rob them from these arms:
I'm lost, if Peggy die.

Lochaber.

Arewell to Lochaber, and farewell my Jean,
Where heart some with thee I've mony days been;
For Lochaber, no more, Lochaber no more,
We'll may be return to Lochaber no more.
These tears that I shed, they are a' for my Dear,
And no for the dangers attending on weir;
Tho' bore on rough seas to a far bloody shore,
May be to return to Lochaber no more.

Tho' hurricanes rise, and rise ev'ry wind, They'll ne'er make a tempest like that in my mind. Tho' loudest of thunder on louder waves roar, That's naithing like leaving my Love on the shore. To leave thee behind me, my heart is sair pain'd;
By ease that's inglorious, no fame can be gain'd;
And beauty and love's the reward of the brave,
And I must deserve it before I can crave.

Then glory, my Jenny, maun plead my excuse. Since Honour commands me, 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 if I should luck to come gloriously hame, A heart I'll bring thee with love running o'er, And then I'll leave thee and Lochaber no more.





Thro' the Wood Laddie.

O Sandy, why leaves thou thy Nelly to mourn?

Thy presence cou'd ease me,

When naething can please me:

Now dowie I sigh on the banks of the burn,

Or thro' the wood, Laddie, until thou return.

Tho' woods now are right, and mornings so clear,
While lav'rocks are singing,
And primroses springing;
Yet none of them please my eye or my ear,
When thro' the wood, Laddie, ye dinna appear.

That I am forsaken, some spare na to tell:
I'm fash'd wi' their scorning,
Baith evening and morning;
Their jeering gaes aft to my heart wi' a knell,
When thro' the wood, Laddie, I wander mysel.

Then stay, my dear Sandy, nae langer away,
But quick as an arrow,
Haste here to thy marrow,
Wha's living in langour, till that happy day,
When thro' the wood, Laddie, we'll dance, sing and
play.

My Nanny-O.

HILE some for pleasure pawn their health 'Twixt Lais and the Bagnie,
I'll save myself, and without stealth,
Bless and cares my Nanny O.
She bids more fair t'engage a Jove
Then Leda did or Danae O:
Were I to paint the Queen of Love,
None else should sit but Nanny O.

How joyfully my spirits rise,
When dancing she moves finely —O!

I guess what heav'n is by her eyes,
Which sparkle so divinely —O.
Attend my vow, ye Gods, while I
Breathe in the blest Britannia,
None's happiness I shall envy,
As long's ye grant me Nanny—O.

My bonney, bonney, Nanny—O,
My lovely charming Nanny—O;
I care not tho' the whole world know
How dearly I love Nanny—O.

Young Philander.

YOUNG Philander woo'd me lang,
But I was peevish, and forbad him,
I wou'd na tent his loving sang,
But now I wish, I wish I had him;
Ilk morning when I view my glass,
Then I perceive my beauty going;
And when the wrinkles seize the face,
Then we may bid adieu to wooing.

My beauty, anes so much admir'd,

I find it fading fast, and slying;

My cheeks, which coral-like appear'd,

Grow pale, the broken blood decaying:

Ah! we may see ourselves to be

Like summer fruit that is unshaken.

When ripe, they soon fall down and die,

And by corruption quickly taken.

Use then your time, ye virgins fair,
Employ your day before 'tis evil;
Fisteen is a season rare,
But five an twenty is the devil.
Just when ripe, consent unto't,
Hug nae mair your lanely pillow;
Women are like other fruit;
They lose their relish when too mellow.

If opportunity be lost,
You'll find it hard to be regained;
Which now I may tell to my cost,
Tho' but mysel nane can be blamed:
If then your fortune you respect,
Take the occasion when it offers;
Nor a true-lover's suit neglect,
Lest you be scoff'd for being scoffers,

I, by his fond expressions, thought
That in his love he'd ne'er prove changing;
But now, alas! 'tis turn'd to nought,
And, past my hope, he's gane a ranging.
Dear Maidens, then, take my advice,
And let na coyness prove your ruin;
For if ye be o'er foolish nice,
Your suiters will give over wooing.

Then Maidens auld you nam'd will be,

And in that fretful rank be number'd,

As lang as life; and when ye die,

With leading apes be ever cumber'd:

A punishment, and hated brand,

With which we cannot be contented;

Then be not wife behind the hand,

That the mistake may be prevented.

Mary Scot.

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

Ah no! her form's too heav'nly 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 of Yarrow.





The Highland Laddie.

HE Lawland Lads think they are fine;
But O they're vain and wondrous gawdy!
How much unlike that gracefu' mien,
And manly look of my Highland Laddie?
O my bonny bonny Highland Laddie,
O my bandsome Highland Laddie,
When I was sick and like to die,
He row'd me in his Highland Plaidy.

If I were free at will to chuse

To be the wealthiest Lawland Lady,
I'd take young Donald without trews,
With bonnet blew, and belted plaidy.

O my bonny, &c.

The brauest beau in borrows-town,
In a' his airs, with art made ready,
Compar'd to him, he's but a clown;
He's finer far in's Tartan plaidy.

O my bonny, &c.

O'er Benty-hill with him I'll run,
And leave my Lawland kin and dady,

Frae winter's cauld, and summer's sun, He'll screen me with his Highland plaidy. O my bonny, &c.

A painted room, and silken bed,
May please a Lawland Laird and Lady;
But I can kiss, and be as glad
Behind a bush in's Highland 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 beneath his 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.

Busk ye, Busk ye.

Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bride;
Busk ye, busk ye, my winsome marrow;
Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bride,
And let us to the braces of Yarrow;
There will we sport and gather dew,
Dancing while lav'rocks sing i'the morning:
There learn frac turtles to prove true;
O Bell, ne'er yex me with thy scorning.

To westlin breezes Flora yields,
And when the beams are kindly warming,
Blythness appears o'er all the sields,
And nature looks mair fresh and charming.

Learn frae the burns that trace the mead,
Tho' on their banks the roses blossom,
Yet hastylie they flow to Tweed,
And pour their sweetness in his bosom.

Haste ye, haste ye, my bonny Bell,

Haste to my arms, and there I'll guard thee;
With free consent my fears repel;
I'll with my love and care reward thee;
Thus sang I saftly to my fair,
Wha rais'd my hopes with kind relenting.
O queen of smiles, I ask na mair,
Since now my bonny Bell's consenting.

John Hay's Bonny Laisie.

BY smooth winding Tay a swain was reclining,
Aft cry'd he, oh 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 stranger; If she's nae my bride, my days are nae langer: Than I'll take a heart, and try at a venture; May be e'er we part, my vows may content her.

She's fresh as the spring, and sweet as Aurora,
When birds mount and sing, bidding day a goodmorrow:

The sward of the mead, enamell'd with daisies, Look wither'd and dead, when twin'd of her graces.

But if she appear where verdures invite her, The fountains run clear, and flow'rs smell the sweeter:

'Tis Heaven to be by when her wit is a flowing; Her smiles and bright eye set my spirits a glowing.

The mair that I gaze, the deeper I'm wounded; Struck dumb with amaze, my mind is confounded: I'm all in a fire, dear maid, to cares ye; For a' my desire is *Hay's* bonny lassie.

The bonniest Lass in a' the World.

Loves and Graces arm her.

A blush dwells glowing on her cheek,
Fair seat of youthful pleasure;

There Love in smiling language speaks,
There spreads the rosy treasure.

O fairest maid, I own thy power;
I gaze, I sigh, and languish;
Yet ever, ever will adore,
And triumph in my anguish.
But ease, O charmer, ease my care,
And let my torments move thee;
As thou art fairest of the fair,
So I the dearest love thee.





Saw ye nae my Peggy.

Saw ye nae my Peggy,
Saw ye nae my Peggy,
Saw ye nae my Peggy,
Coming o'er the lee?
Sure a finer creature
Ne'er was form'd by Nature,
So compleat each feature,
So divine is she.
O! how Peggy charms me!
Ev'ry look still warms me,
Ev'ry thought alarms me,
Lest she love nae me.
Peggy doth discover
Nought but charms all over;
Nature bids me love her;
That's a law to me.

Who would leave a lover, To become a rover? No, I'll ne'er give over, Till I happy be. For fince love inspires me, As her beauty fires me, And her absence tires me, Nought can please but she. When I hope to gain her, Fate seems to detain her; Cou'd I but obtain her, Happy would I be! I'll ly down before her, Bless, sigh, and adore her, With faint looks implore her, Til she pity me.

Bonny Jean.

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 divine art,
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,
Whilst every day he spies some new
Surprizing charms in bonny Jean.

A thousand transports crowd his breast,
He moves as light as sleeting wind,
His former sorrows seem 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 ev'n in summer short'ned seems;
When sunk in downs, 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.

Rosline Castle.

When all things gay and sweet appear,
When all things gay and sweet appear,
That Colin with the morning ray
Arose and sung his rural lay:
Of Nanny's charms the shepherd sung;
The hills and dales with Nanny rung,
While Rosline Costle heard the swain,
And echo'd back the chearful strain,

Awake, sweet muse! the breathing spring With rapture warms; awake and sing; Awake and join the vocal throng, Who hail the morning with a song: To Nanny raise the chearful lay; O! bid her haste and come away; In sweetest smiles herself adorn, And add new graces to the morn.

Ohark, my love! on ev'ry spray,
Each feather'd warbler tunes his lay;
'Tis beauty fires the ravish'd throng;
And love inspires the melting song:
Then let my raptur'd notes arise;
For beauty darts from Nanny's eyes;
And love my rising bosom warms,
And fills my soul with sweet alarms.

O! come, my love! thy Colin's lay
With rapture calls, O come away!
Come, while the muse this wreath shall twine
Around that modest brow of thine;
O! hither haste, and with thee bring
That beauty blooming like the spring,
Those graces that divinely shine,
And charm this ravish'd breast of mine!

Pinky House.

BY Pinky 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 a-new
That gentle turn of mind;
That gracefulness of air, in you,
By Nature's hand design'd;
What beauty, like the blushing rose,
First lighted up this stame;
Which, like the sun, for ever glows
Within my breast the same.

Ye light coquets! ye airy things!

How vain is all your art!

How seldom it a lover brings!

How rarely keeps a heart!

O gather from my Nelly's charms,

That sweet, 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 stame like mine can never die,
While charms, so bright as thine,
So heav'nly fair, both please the eye,
And fill the soul divine!





Alloa House.

HE spring time returns and clothes the green plains;

And Alloa shines more chearful and gay;
The Lark tunes his throat; and the neighbouring
Swains

Sing merrily round me, wherever I stray;
But Sandy no more returns to my view;
No spring time merchears, no music can charm;
He's gone! and, I fear me, for ever adieu!
Adieu ev'ry pleasure this bosom can warm!

Alloa House! how much art thou chang'd!
How silent, 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 Saudy I heard the tales that you told;
Here listened too fond, whenever you sung;
Am I grown less fair, then, that you are turn'd cold?
Or foolish, believ'd a false, slattering tongue?

So spoke the fair Maid; when sorrow's keen pain, And shame, her last falt'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 Pow'r 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.

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 Swain, and lovely as true: Then adieu! to all forrow; what soul is so blind, As not to live happy for ever with you?

Chevy Chace.

OD prosper long our noble king,
Our lives and safeties all,
A woful hunting once there did
In Chewy-chase befal.
To drive the deer with hound and horn,
Earl Piercy took his way:
The child may rue that was unborn,
The hunting of that day.

The stout Earl of Northumberland

A vow to God did make,

His pleasure in the Scottish woods

Three summer days to take;

The choicest harts of Chevy-chace

To kill and bear away.

These tidings to Earl Douglas came,

In Scotland where he lay;

Who sent Earl Piercy present word,

He would prevent the sport.

The English Earl not searing him,

Did to the woods resort,

With twenty hundred bow-men bold,

All chosen men of might,

Who knew full well, in time of need,

To aim their shafts aright.

The gallant grey-hounds swiftly ran,
To chace the fallow deer.
On Monday they began to hunt,
When day-light did appear.;

And long before high noon they had

An hundred fat bucks slain.

Then having din'd, the drovers went

To rouse them up again.

The bow-men muster'd on the hill,
Well able to endure;
Their backsides all with special care,
That day were guarded sure.
The hounds ran swiftly thro' the wood,
The nimble deer to take;
And with their cries the hills and dales
An echo shrill did make.

Earl Piercy to the quarry went,

To view the tender deer;

Quoth he, Earl Douglas promised

This day to meet me here:

But if I thought he would not come,

No longer would I stay.

With that a brave young gentleman

Thus to the Earl did say:

Lo yonder doth Lord Douglas come,

His men in armour bright:
Full fifteen hundred Scottish spears,

All marching in our light;
All pleasant men of Teniot-dale,

Dwell by the river Tweed.

Then cease your sports, Earl Piercy said,

And take your bows with speed.

And now with me, my countrymen,
Your courage to advance;
For there was ne'er a champion yet,
In Scotland or in France,
That ever did on horse-back come,
But if my hap it were,
I durst encounter man for man
With him to break a spear.

I.ord Douglas on a milk white steed,
Most like a baron bold,
Rode foremost of the company,
Whose armour shin'd like gold.
Shew me (said he) whose men you be,
That hunt so boldly here,
That, without my consent, do chace
And kill my fallow deer.

The first man that did answer make,
Was noble Piercy he,
Who said, We list not to declare,
Nor shew whose men we be;
Yet we will spend our dearest blood
The choicest harts to slay.
Then Douglas swore a solemn oath,
And thus in rage did say,

Ere thus I will out-braved be,
One of us two shall die.
I know thee well, an Earl thou art,
Lord Piercy, so am I.

But trust me, Piercy, pity it were,
And great offence to kill
Any of those our hamless men;
For they have done no ill:

And set our men aside.

Accurst be he, said Earl Piercy,

By whom this is denied.

Then steps a gallant Squire forth,

Witherington by name;

Who said, He would not have it told

To Henry, his King, for shame,

That ere my captain fought on foot,
And I flood looking on.
You be two Earls, said Witherington,
And I a Squire alone.
I'll do the best that I may do,
While I have power to stand;
While I have power to wield my sword,
I'll fight with heart and hand.

Our Scottish archers bent their bows,
Their hearts were good and true;
At the first slight of atrows sent,
Full sourscore English slew.
To drive the deer with hound and horn,
Douglas bade on the bent.
A captain mov'd with meikle pride;
The spears in shivers went.

They clos'd full fast on every side,
No slackness there was sound;
And many a gallant gentleman
Lay gasping on the ground.
O but it was a grief to sec,
And likewise for to hear,
The cries of men lying in their gore,
Were scatter'd here and there!

At last, these two sout Earls did meet,
Like chiestains of great might;
Like lions mov'd, they seard no lord,
And made a cruel sight.

They sought until they both did sweat,
With swords of temp'red steel,
Until the blood, like drops of rain,
They trickling down did seel.

Yield thee, Lord Piercy, Douglas said;
In faith I will thee bring
Where thou shall high advanced be
By James, our Scottish King.
Thy ransom I will freely give,
And this report of thee,
Thou art the most courageous knight
That ever I did see.

No, Douglas, quoth Lord Piercy then,
Thy proffer I do scorn.

J will not yield to any Scot
That ever yet was born.

With that there came an arrow keen,
Out of an English bow,
Which struck bord Douglas to the heart
A deep and deadly blow:

Who never spake more words than these,

Fight on my merry men all:

For why, my life is at an end:

Lord Piercy sees me fall.

Then leaving life, Lord Piercy took

The dead men by the hand.

And said, Lord Douglas, for thy life

Would I had lost my land.

Oh the my very beast doth bleed

With forrow for thy fake;

For fure a more renowned knight

Mischance did never take.

A knight among the Score chere was,

Which saw Earl Douglas die;

Who straight, in wrath, did vow revenge

Upon the Earl Piercy.

Who, with a spear full bright,

Well mounted on a gallant steed,

Ran siercely thro' the sight.

He pass'd the English archers all,

Without all dread or fear,

And through Earl Piercy's body then,

He thrust his hateful spear:

With such a vehement sorce and might,
It did his body goze,
The spear ran through the other side,
A large cloth yard and more.
So thus did both these nobles die,
Whose courage none could stain.
An English archer then perceiv'd
His noble Lord was stain;

He had a bow bent in his hand,
'Made of a trusty tree,
An arrow of a cloth yard's length.
Unto the head drew he;
Against Sir Hagh Montgomery then,
So right his shaft he set,
The grey goose-wing that was thereon,
In his heart-blood was wet.

This fight did last from break of day
Till setting of the sun;
For when they rang the evening bell,
The battle scarce was done.
With the Lord Piercy there was siain
Sir John of Ogerton,
Sir Robert Ratcliff and Sir John,
Sir James that bold baron;

Sir George, and also good Sir Hugh,
Both knights of good account;
Good Sir Ralph Rely there was flain,
Whose prowess did surmount.

For Witherington I needs must wall,

As one in doleful dumps;

For when his legs were imitten off,

He fought still on his stumps.

And with Earl Douglas there was slain

Sir Hugh Montgomery;

Sir Charles Marray, that from the field,

One foot would never sty;

Sir Charles Murray of Rascliff too,
His sister's son was he;
Sir David Lamb so well esteem'd,
Yet saved could not be;
And the Lord Maxwell in likewise
Did with Earl Douglas die.
Of fifteen hundred Scottish spears
Went home but sifty-three.

Scarce fifty five did flee:
The rest were sain at Chevy chace,
Under the green-wood tree.
Next day did many widows come,
Their husbands to bewail;
They wash'd their wounds inbrinish tears;
But all could not prevail.

Their bedies, bath'd in purple blood,
They bore with them away:
They kis'd them dead a thousand times,
When they were cold as clay.
The news were brought to Edinburgh,
Where Scotland's King did reign,
That brave Earl Douglas suddenly
Was with an arrow slain.

Now God be with him, said our King,
Sith 'twill no better be:
I trust I have in my reasm
Five hundred as good as he.
Like tidings to King Henry came,
Within as short a space,
That Piercy of Northumberland
Was slain in Cherry-chace.

England can witness be,
I have not any captain more,
Of such account as he.
Now of the rest of small account,
Did many hundreds die.
Thus ended the hunting of Chevy-chace,
Made by the Earl Piercy.

With planty, joy and peace;
And grant henceforth, that foul debates
"Twixt hoblemen may-ceafe.







