

ROBERT BURNS

# GEM SELECTION



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### NOTES

#### Caller Herrin' (p. 1).

The words were written by Caroline, Baroness Nairne, née Oliphant (1766-1845). Born and died at Gask House, Perthshire; married (1806) William Nairne, heir to the attainted title of "Baron Nairne," to which he succeeded in 1824. Lady Nairne in her last years cooperated with Dr. Chalmers in philanthropic work. She was one of the most charming of Scots poetesses. The air was composed by Nathaniel Gow (1766-1831)—son of the great Neil Gow, and father of Neil Gow, jun.-who was born near Dunkeld, attained great skill as a violinist, became one of his Majesty's trumpeters for Scotland (1782) and "leader" of many of the Edinburgh concerts in the early decades of the nineteenth century. He was afterwards a music publisher in the Scots capital, where he died. The air is said to have been suggested to him while listening to the curious harmony amid discord produced by the sound of the bells of St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, mingling with the street cries of the fishwives vending their wares.

#### Annie Laurie (p. 4).

Written by William Douglas of Fingland in honour of Anne, youngest daughter of Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwellton, Dumfries. The date of the song may possibly be assigned to the close of the seventeenth century, owing to the fact that Laurie was not created a baronet until 1685. Mr. Douglas owed several suggestions to an old version of "John Anderson, my Jo," to the tune of which song his own was sometimes sung. The song was later somewhat changed by Lady John Scott, who composed the air to which it is now sung, and re-wrote some of the verses to suit the melody.

#### Logie o' Buchan (p. 6).

George Halket (1690?-1756), schoolmaster of the parish of Rathen, Aberdeenshire, was

the author of the words of this popular song. Halket was a zealous Jacobite, and wrote several satirical lyrics, one of which has been preserved, viz. "Whirry, Whigs, awa', Man." So incensed was the Duke of Cumberland with one of Halket's pieces-"A Dialogue between the Devil and George II."-that he offered £,100 for the body of the song-writer, living or dead. But Halket could take care of himself. As regards the locale of "Logie o' Buchan," it is situated in Crimond, the parish adjoining Rathen, while "Jamie," who to his industry as a delver united skill "on the pipe and the viol sae sma'," was the laird's gardener, James Robertson. The air is said to be adapted from that to which the craftsmen of the Tailors' Corporation were wont to march—"The Tailor fell through the Bed, Thimbles an' a'."

### There was a Lad was Born in Kyle (p. 7).

In this song Burns very aptly describes his own temperament and career, one verse being almost prophetic in its appropriateness to his case, viz. "He'll hae misfortunes great and sma'," &c. The poet was well able to gauge his own greatness, and had too little of the humbug in him to affect ignorance of it, therefore he could write without the faintest suspicion of boasting, "We'll a' be proud o' Robin," and give the date of his birth, 25th January 1759. The air was taken from that of an old pre-Reformation song, "O gin ye were dead, guidman," which John Knox and the Reformers adapted to a popular hymn of the time.

#### Duncan Gray (p. 9).

Words by Robert Burns (1759-96), while the air is traditionally credited to a Glasgow carter bearing the same designation as the hero of the song, Duncan Gray, who is said to have written it early in the eighteenth century. Burns wrote the piece for Thomson's "Collec-

song which he had written while at Mauchline, and which in turn had been suggested to him by the ancient popular "catch":

> "As I cam' in by Aberdeen Hech, hey, the girdin' o't."

#### Mary of Argyle (p. 10).

This exquisite lyric is the work of Mr. Charles Jefferys, author of several well-known songs, "The Rose of Allandale," "Ieannette and Jeannot," &c., and was written about 1850. The melody was composed by Sidney Nelson, a popular musician of that time.

#### Auld Robin Gray (p. 12).

The words of this lyric, undoubtedly one of the most exquisite in the whole range of Scottish verse, are by Lady Ann Barnard, née Lindsay (1750-1825), eldest daughter of the Earl of Balcarres and wife of Sir Andrew Barnard, Secretary to the Governor of the Cape Colony. Her ladyship was so charmed with an old air, "The Bridegroom Greets when the Sun gaes doun," that she wrote her song to be sung to it. For some time it was so sung, until the Rev. W. Leeves (1748-1825), rector of Wrington, Somerset, composed the tune with which it is now generally associated.

#### Comin' thro' the Rye (p. 14).

Of this song only the first four lines are by Burns, the remainder being the work of John Walter, a musician in Edinburgh, who later became a music-seller there, but eventually migrated to London. Burns, as is well known, wrote a complete song under this title, basing it on an old lav, the coarseness of which infected his own strain. Published in Johnson's "Museum," it achieved some measure of popularity, but the humour and sentiment were both so tinged with vulgarity that Burns's version was superseded by Walter's, which some writers even ascribed to Burns. The air was a very ancient one, known as "The Miller's Daughter," but was modified by Walter to suit his words.

### Cam' ye by Athole (p. 15).

Of this song, whose popularity is surpassed by few, the words were written by James Hogg

tion of Scottish Songs," basing it upon an older (1770-1835), the Ettrick Shepherd, being published in an ephemeral publication, "The Border Garland," while the air was the composition of Neil Gow, jun. (1795-1823), the grandson of the great violinist.

### Within a Mile o' Edinburgh Toun

(p. 17).

Singularly enough, though this song seems to smack of Scottish soil, neither the words nor the music are of Scots origin. Of the former. the brilliant humorist and wit, Tom D'Urfey (1630-1723), whose "Pills to Purge Melancholy "still serve to accomplish their somewhat coarsely expressed mission, may be said to be the author, the present form of the piece being an adaptation of his "'Twas within a Furlong of Edinburgh Town," published in Playford's "Wit and Humour" (1798). The air is the work of James Hook (1746-1827), the father of the celebrated wit, novelist, and improvisatore. Theodore Hook.

#### The Flowers o' the Forest (p. 18).

There are two versions of "The Flowers o" the Forest," each referring to different circumstances, or rather disasters. Both are beautiful. though the charm is of a different type in each. Of the version here given, the words were written by Mrs. Cockburn of Ormiston, née Alison Rutherfurd (1710-94), the sentiment being inspired by the financial ruin which had overtaken the families of some neighbouring landed proprietors. The air is a modernised adaptation of an old tune.

#### Afton Water (p. 20).

Few songs are better known or oftener sung than this, of which the words are by Burns (written in 1786) and the melody by Alexander Hume (1811-59). The lady, to whom the lyric was inscribed by our great national singer, was Mrs. General Stewart of Stair and Afton, on whose estate, Afton Lodge (beautifully situated on the stream whence it takes its name. and which is a tributary of the Nith) are located the scenes described in the song. She was the first person to publicly recognise the genius of Burns.

#### Bonnie Dundee (p. 22).

The words of this fine lay were written by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), being intended for his historical melodrama, "The Doom of Devorgoil." published in 1830. The air is anonymous, but the late Sir Herbert Oakeley maintained it must have originated, though perhaps suffering certain later modifications, with the Jacobite rising of 1715. He stated he had evidence to prove it was in existence in 1740. Alas, he has been removed before making public the ground of his belief!

#### Scots Wha Hae (p. 24).

This noble lyric, which may almost be styled the "National Anthem" of Scotland, was written by Burns during a period of great imaginative used as a reel as well as a song. In the MS. exaltation and excitement. In company with Lute-Book of Sir R. Gordon of Straloch (1627) his friend Syme he was riding from Kenmure to Gatehouse-in-Fleet (Galloway) by a moorland road, where the more rugged and gloomier aspects of nature predominated. The sky suddenly became overcast and lowering, the wind moaned across the desolate waste, and a thunder-storm of terrific violence began. Burns really enjoyed the awful spectacle: "The fine frenzy" of the poet came upon him, and amidst the fury of the elements "Scots Wha Hae" came into existence. The air to which the words were originally written was, "Hey, Tuttie Tattie," traditionally stated to be the march which Bruce ordered to be played before Bannockburn to inspire his troops with the hopes of victory. True, Thomson and others have repudiated such an idea, and actually induced the poet to write a second set of verses adapted to the tune "Lewie Gordon," which they considered more akin to the spirit of the piece than "Hey, Tuttie Tattie." One thing is certain, that the latter air is very ancient, having certainly been sung to Alexander Montgomery's (1545-1610) "Hey, now the Day Dawes" in the Gude and Godlie Ballatis, which in turn is said to have been an adaptation of a still earlier song. Later in the history of Scotland the tune was seized upon by the Jacobites as a capital air for their favourite "Here's to the King, Sir," and is printed as such in Hogg's Jacobite Relics (Vol. I. No. lxvi.).

#### Wae's Me for Prince Charlie (p. 25).

Words by William Glen (1789-1826), a Glasgow merchant, while the air, which is entitled

"Johnnie Faa, or The Gypsie Laddie," appeared in Johnson's "Museum" (1789-90), being there set to an ancient ballad recounting an elopement which is alleged to have occurred in the grand old Scots family of Cassillis when the Ladye Jean eloped with "Johnnie Faa, the Gypsie Laddie." The air appears under a modified form in the Skene MS. (1630), being there entitled "Ye Ladye Cassylis Lilte."

#### Green Grow the Rashes O! (p. 26).

Still another song by Burns, while the air is very ancient. It first appears in a mutilated form in Oswald's first Collection (1740), but previous to that it had been long known, being occur the two airs "Grene grews ve Rasses-A Daunce" and "I kist her quhile shee Blusht," which on comparison are found to be almost the same.

#### Jock o' Hazeldean (p. 28).

Words also by Sir Walter Scott, being believed to be founded on the old ballad "Tock o' Hazelgreen." The first verse is a remnant of an older piece, but the succeeding stanzas are all from the mint of the great poet's fancy, and the song as a whole was contributed to Alexander Campbell's (1764-1824) publication, "Albyn's Anthology" (1816). As regards the air it is undoubtedly ancient, appearing in the Leyden MS. (1690) under the title "The Bony Brow," which is to be preferred to "Willie and Annet" upon which the later setting is based.

#### The Laird o' Cockpen (p. 29).

From the pen of the Baroness Nairne (vide supra, p. v.) came the words of this exceedingly popular lyric of which the charm never seems to fade. The prototype of the "Laird o' Cockpen," who was prood and great, with "his mind ta'en up wi' the things o' the State," was a devoted adherent and bosom friend of Charles II., who accompanied the monarch into exile. At the Restoration, however, he was overlooked, and his estates, of which he had been deprived by Cromwell, seemed lost for ever. But obtaining permission one day to supply the viii

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organist's place in the Chapel Royal, he suddenly introduced, in place of the "Dismission Voluntary," the air "Brose and Butter," of which the king had been very fond in his exile. Charles recognised the tune, called for his old favourite, and reinstated him in his lands. Originally, the song ended with the refusal of the Laird. Miss Ferrier, however, added two stanzas in which she described "Mistress Jean's second Thoughts" and her acceptance of her "canny suitor." The air is very old, having been regarded as ancient even in 1700 when it appeared in the Crockat MS., being set to the seventeenth century song, "When she cam' ben she bobbit."

#### The Land o' the Leal (p. 31).

This is unquestionably the finest lyric in the Scots vernacular, with the exception of one or two of Burns's best. The words are by Lady Nairne, while the air, which is identical with that associated with "Scots Wha Hae," though set in different time, is, as we have seen, very

#### Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon (p. 32).

This is another of Burns's noblest lyrics, being written for Johnson's "Museum" (1790), although there was an older version, "Ye Flowery Banks o' Bonnie Doon," inspired by the sad fate of a young Ayrshire lady who died of a broken heart on being deserted by her lover. Tradition says the air is Irish, but Burns specifically states that it was composed by Mr. James Miller, writer in Edinburgh, under circumstances as extraordinary as they were romantic. (See Burns's "Letters to Thomson.")

#### John Anderson, my Jo (p. 33).

Burns wrote the words, basing them upon an earlier version which appeared in MS. about 1560, "John Anderson" being, as was currently reported, the town-piper of Kelso. The first verse of the older song ran as follows:-

The air is also of considerable antiquity, dating back at least to 1630.

#### The Rowan Tree (p. 35).

Another fine lyric by Lady Nairne, obviously written out of the depths of her own experience in connection with the scenes of her girlhood. It originally formed one of her "Lays of Strathearn." The date of the air is unknown, but some authorities have ascribed it to Corelli.

#### Gloomy Winter's Noo Awa' (p. 36).

The author of the words of this very popular song was Robert Tannahill (1774-1810), the well-known Scottish song-writer, who for tender pathos and the expression of the softer emotions was only excelled by Burns. Born in Paisley, the son of a hand-loom weaver, he received but a scanty education before he was called on to enter the same vocation, at which he laboured until his death at the early age of thirty-six, pursuing poetry with assiduity in his spare hours. The air to which it is customarily sung is styled in Neil Gow's "Fourth Collection of Reels, &c.," "Lord Balgonie's Favourite: a very old Highland tune." This opinion is questioned by Stenhouse in the Notes to Johnson's "Museum" (1787-1803), who states that Mr. Alex. Campbell, editor of "Albyn's Anthology," had asserted it to be of modern origin. It certainly appears in a very scarce publication, "The Countess of Eglinton's Collection," about 1740, but in a slightly different form to what is known to us to-day.

#### Come Under my Plaidie (p. 38).

Of this beautiful song, Hector M'Neill (1746-1818) was the author, a man whose genius was fitted to achieve greater things than he ever accomplished had he but learned the lesson of the conservation and concentration of intellectual force. This song, also written for Johnson's "Museum," presents to us a vivid drama in real life, being founded on incidents coming within the personal knowledge of the poet. The composer of the air was John MacGill, a native of Girvan, Ayrshire, who was celebrated in his day as a violinist of no mean skill. Besides composing the airs of several songs, he wrote reels, strathspeys, &c., which were of note in their day.

#### Robin Adair (p. 40).

Of this song the authorship is unknown, while the tune is claimed respectively by England, Scotland, and Ireland. The claims of Scotland have, however, been favoured by the best-informed critics. As a lyric it is literary and a musical gem.

### The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomon'

(p. 41).

The pathos and charm of this lovely lyric, with its air so suited to the expression of the mournful sentiments it declares, are if anything heightened by the discovery of the fact that we know nothing regarding the composition of either. The origin alike of words and melody is wrapped in obscurity, tradition only venturing the guess that the song referred to the hardships and sufferings endured by the Jacobites after the failure of the Rebellion of 1745.

#### My Nannie's Awa' (p. 43).

Another of Burns's choicest lyrics, instinct with pure grace alike of form and sentiment. It was written in 1794 for the "Collection of Scottish Airs" edited by George Thomson (1757-1851). Of the origin of the exquisite melody with which it is wedded, nothing can be discovered.

#### There's nae Luck about the Hoose (p. 44).

Considerable controversy has been waged regarding the authorship of this song, one set of critics assigning it to William Julius Mickle, of Langholm (1734-88), the author of the ballad of "Cumnor Hall," and the translator from the Portuguese of Camoens' Lusiad; while another section ascribed it to Jean Adams (1710-65), a schoolmistress of Crawford's Dyke, near Greenock. Evidence exists which might cause it justifiably to be assigned to either. It first appeared in Herd's "Collection" (1766), was then sung in the streets as a ballad (cir. 1771), and finally obtained a place in all the collections published towards the close of last century. The words may have been revised by Dr. Beattie, and certainly the sixth is known as "Lady Badenscott's Reel."

stanza proceeds from his pen. The air to which the song is sung was based on an old Jacobite melody, "Up an' waur them a', Willie," which dates back to the Rebellion of 1715. (Hogg's " Jacobite Relics.")

#### Of a' the Airts the Wind can Blaw

(p. 46).

The words of this song are by Burns, being written about 1790 for Johnson's "Museum." Difference of opinion exists as to whether he wrote it all, some critics affirming that he only wrote the first two quatrain stanzas, John Hamilton, the musician and music-seller, being credited with the second pair, and William Reid, bookseller in Glasgow, with the third pair. But Cunningham's theory that Burns wrote the whole poem, while Hamilton and Reid merely revised some of the lines to adapt them to the air, is finding acceptance. Reid, however, did write some verses of his own to sing to the tune, but they are distinct altogether from those given in our text, and begin:-

> "Upon the banks of flowing Clyde The lassies busk them braw."

The air to which Burns wrote his words was an adaptation of "The Lowlands o' Holland" as it appeared in Johnson's "Museum," the adapter being Mr. William Marshall (1748-1833), the Duke of Gordon's house-steward, and was styled by him, "Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspev."

### My Love she's but a Lassie yet

(p. 48).

To the beautiful air associated with this song. no fewer than three sets of words can be sung, viz. those by Burns; second, those by Hogg; and the ballad, "A Famous Man was Robin Hood," based on Wordsworth's well known poem. Hogg's version is by some preferred to Burns's. The first quatrain is:-

> "My love she's but a lassie yet, A lightsome lovely lassie yet; It scarce wad do to sit and woo Down by the stream sae glassy yet."

In the early song and dance books the tune

<sup>&</sup>quot;John Anderson, my jo, cum in as ze gae bye, And ze sall get a sheep's heid, weel baken in a pye, Weel baken in a pye, and the haggis in a pat; John Anderson, my jo, cum in and ze's get that."

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#### Scottish Blue Bells (p. 49).

The author of this song was Charles Doyne Sillery (1807-36), son of a captain in the Royal Artillery, who after failing to obtain entrance to the Royal Artillery, successively turned his attention to a naval career, then to the study of medicine, thereafter to the life of a leave me thus, my Katy?" to it. man of letters, and finally to the Church. He died, however, in his twenty-ninth year, of consumption. He wrote several poems and many songs, some of them of no small promise. The air was composed by George Arthur Barker (1812-76), a vocalist of great repute in his day, who also wrote many songs, the "White Squall" being the best known.

#### Jessie, the Flow'r o' Dunblane (p. 52).

One of the most popular of Scots lyrics, the words of it were written by Tannahill (see p. viii.), while the air was composed by Mr. R. A. Smith (1780-1829), the son of a weaver, and who from being a weaver himself became one of the most admired composers of Scots music of his time, also precentor in the Abbey Church, Paisley, and afterwards musical conductor in St. George's Church, Edinburgh. His chief works were "Anthems for the Organ or Pianoforte" (1819); "Select Melodies" (1827), "The Scottish Minstrel" (1829), and "Sacred Music" (posthumous). It may interest readers to know that "Iessie" never existed outside the poet's fancy, and that Tannahill appended the last verse of his song against the advice of Smith.

#### Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes (p. 54).

Of this song Burns wrote two versions, the earlier seemingly being founded on an old song taken down by the poet from the singing of a clergyman. In a letter to Thomson, Burns said, "When I gave it (the old song) to Johnson, I added some stanzas and amended others, but still it will not do for you. In a solitary walk to-day, I tried my hand on a few pastoral lines sake of the old air. On which I versified them following up the idea of the chorus, which I would preserve. Here it is with all its crudities and imperfections on its head." The result is the exquisite pastoral lyric as we now have it. The melody, which is pre-eminently suitable to the verse, also partakes of the Doric or pastoral character. It was somewhat modified by Burns.

#### Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch (p. 55).

The song is the production of Mrs. Grant, of Carron (1745–1814), but who is not known to have written any other lyric. The air was of old called "The Ruffian's Rant," and was a favourite with Burns, who wrote "Can'st thou

#### The Birks o' Aberfeldy (p. 57).

The words are by Burns, who is said to have written them while visiting the Falls of Moness near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, utilising for his purpose an old tune, "The Birks o' Abergeldie" published in Playford's "Dancing Master" in 1657. Musicians will note the peculiarity in this melody, that throughout, the note fah of the scale is entirely omitted.

#### Mary Morison (p. 58).

Though this song was one of Burns's earliest lyrical efforts and was somewhat undervalued by himself, so competent a critic as William Hazlitt has pronounced the opinion, with which most readers will agree, "that it takes the deepest and most lasting hold on the mind." The air to which it was originally sung was "Bide ve Yet"; but that has been long since exchanged for the one called "The Miller," which appeared in Johnson's "Museum," and is remarkable for the pathetic sweetness of its final cadence.

#### Flora Macdonald's Lament (p. 60).

James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd (q.v. p. vi.), wrote the words of this exquisite dirge, appending the following note: "I got the original of these verses from my friend Mr. Neil Gow, who told me they were a translation from the Gaelic, but so rude that he could not publish them, which he wished to do on a single sheet for the anew, and made them a great deal better without altering one sentiment." In another note prefixed to the song in "Hogg's Works," in the volume "Songs" (1831), the following intimation is made: "This was composed to an air handed me by the late lamented Neil Gow, jun., who said it was an ancient Skye air, but afterwards told me it was his own."

#### Scotland Yet (p. 62).

To Henry Scott Riddell (1797-1870) we owe the words of this beautiful song. Born at Sorbie in the Vale of Ewes, Dumfriesshire, the son of a shepherd, he too was led to adopt the same calling. His education, therefore, was scanty; but after the death of his father he went to school, then to college, finally becoming a minister of the Church of Scotland at Teviothead. Nine years later, however, illhealth compelled him to retire from active duties, and he became a pensioner of the Duke of Buccleuch, engaging in literary work as he was able. The air was composed by Peter M'Leod (1797-1859), whose volume of "National Melodies" was exceedingly popular in its day, containing as it did songs by Fergusson, Scott, Riddell, Gilfillan, Hogg, Allan, and others, set to music in most cases by M'Leod himself. It may interest our readers to know that this song first appeared as a "broad sheet," upon which were given both the words and music, the intention being to devote the proceeds to enclose the Burns Monument, Edinburgh, with a parapet and railing. This object was amply realised.

#### A Man's a Man for a' That (p. 64).

Few songs written by Burns have attained the lasting popularity of this. It is one of those that laugh at the lapse of years. The French Béranger says of it: "This song is not one for an age, but for an eternity." The more the pity that it was the means of marring the career of Burns in the Revenue Service, for, in those days, to utter sentiments in favour of popular freedom was equivalent to writing oneself down a cut-throat and a French Republican. The air, the origin of which is very ancient, contains features characteristically Scots.

#### The Hundred Pipers (p. 65).

The words of this stirring song are by Lady Nairne, the incidents whereon she based it being as follows. When Prince Charles Edward occupied Carlisle, he marched in preceded by a hundred pipers. The crossing of the Esk took place not on the march into England, but on the retreat from it. The air is evidently an ancient Scottish "catch" adapted by Lady Nairne herself to the requirements of her verse.

#### O Whistle an' I'll come to ye, my Lad (p. 68).

Words by Burns, and singularly enough he wrote two versions of this song, one of which appeared in Johnson's "Museum," and the other in Thomson's "Collection." By many critics the air has been assigned an Irish origin, because set to a song, "Since Love is the Plan, I'll Love if I can," which has a place in the opera "The Poor Soldier," written by John O'Keefe, and produced at Covent Garden (1783). But despite this it was written by a Dumfries violinist, John Bruce, about the year 1750. Burns vouches for its authorship in a letter to Thomson, from Dumfries: "Bruce, who was an honest fellow, though a red wud Highlander, constantly claimed it, and by all the old musical people here he is believed to be the author."

#### Kate Dalrymple (p. 70).

The words were written by William Watt (1793-1859), a somewhat eccentric genius who dabbled in painting, poetry, and music. He wrote many songs—which were so numerous as to be collected in a volume—also psalm tunes, reels, &c., and acted as precentor in East Kilbride Parish Church. Some of his other songs, "Hab o' the Mill," "The Tinkler's Waddin'," "Katie Christie," are still popular. The air, which is of great antiquity, appears in an altered form in Johnson's "Museum," being there set to "I hae been at Crockieden" (to wit, the infernal regions); but prior to that time it was known as "Jinglin' Johnnie."

#### Wandering Willie (p. 72).

The words are written by Robert Burns, and appeared in Thomson's "Collection" (1793), while the air was published in Oswald's "Caledonian Pocket Companion" (1750-55).

#### Kelvin Grove (p. 73).

The song now under consideration was written by Thomas Lyle (1792-1859), born in Paisley, and died in Glasgow, who, amid the "pauses" of a busy existence as a medical man in the Western metropolis, found refreshment and relaxation in cultivating the Muses. A volume of his "Collected Poems and Songs" appeared in 1837, and in that "Kelvin Grove" was published. The melody dates back to the early years of the eighteenth century, when it was sung to words, the title of which even is too coarse for our modern ideas.

#### Thou Bonnie Wood o' Craigielea (p. 74)-

Another lyric by Tannahill, instinct with true pathos and sympathetic tenderness. The music was composed by James Barr, of Tarbolton (1770-1836), upon whom Tannahill wrote the following epigram:—

"There's blithe James Barr from St. Barchan's town, When wit gains a kingdom, he's sure o' the crown."

#### Macgregor's Gathering (p. 76).

Words written by Sir Walter Scott for Alexander Campbell's "Albyn's Anthology" (1816). The subject of the piece was the virtual proscription of the clan Macgregor, by Act of Privy Council (1603), when those bearing the surname were ordered to change it, the pain of death being denounced against any who should call themselves Gregor or MacGregor. By a subsequent Act (1613) death was denounced against any of the tribe formerly called Macgregor, who should presume to assemble in greater numbers than four. The places referred to in the song were the familiar haunts of the clan. The beautiful air to which the words are set was adopted by Alexander Lee (1802-51), a well-known singer and composer of the period, who with his wife were to be found on all the best concert platforms. Lee not only wrote many original pieces, but adapted others. The original of this air was of great antiquity, but was modernised by him.

#### The Boatie Rows (p. 79).

Words written by John Ewen (1741–1821), born at Montrose, went to Aberdeen and engaged in business, amassing eventually a snug fortune, which he left to charities to the exclusion of his only daughter, who, however, got the will set aside. The song appears in Johnson's "Museum," being set to no fewer than three different airs, but only one of these is now sung.

#### Bonnie Wee Thing (p. 81).

Words by Burns, the subject of his praise being Miss Davies, whom the susceptible poet styled "My little idol, the charming lovely Davies." Of her Allan Cunningham also wrote that "her education was superior. . . . She was equally agreeable and witty, her company being much courted in Nithsdale." Burns penned another song in her praise, viz. "Lovely Davies," which appeared in Johnson's "Museum." Alas, through a disappointment in love she died of a broken heart! The air, evidently borrowed from Oswald's "Caledonian Pocket Companion" (1750-55), is probably adapted from the air of the song, "Wo betyd that wearie Bodie," contained in the Straloch MS. (1627-29). See Irving on "Scots Music."

#### Corn Rigs are Bonnie (p. 82).

The words of this song were adapted by Burns from a very old "lilt," which goes back to the early years of the seventeenth century, commencing

"O corn riggs and rye riggs And corn riggs are bonnie."

The air is also ancient, being of English origin, and was composed in 1680 to one of D'Urfey's songs, "Sawney was tall and of noble race." Allan Ramsay (1686–1758) was the next to utilise it, and wrote the lyric in the *Gentle Shepherd*, "My Patie is a Lover gay" (1725). Gay (1688–1732) then chose it for one of the songs in his opera of *Polly* (1729), and finally it finds a place in Adam Craig's "Collection" (1730).

## O Nannie, wilt Thou Gang wi' me? (p. 84).

From the pen of Bishop Percy (1728-1811), of Dromore, the words of this lyric come, therefore it can scarcely be styled a Scots song. Burns, however, considered it the finest ballad in the language. It first appeared in Dodsley's "Miscellany," being printed "O Nancy, wilt thou go with me?" The air was composed by Thomas Carter (1730-1804). Both words and music were in existence prior to 1773, in which year they were sung at Vauxhall by Vernon, the vocalist.

#### The Auld Hoose (p. 86).

Also the work of Lady Nairne, the subject being the "Old House of Gask," where she was born and where she died. It was beautifully situated near the river Earn, and was associated with many episodes in the fortunes of the Jacobite party. The air was composed by Nathaniel Gow, but was unquestionably modified by Lady Nairne, who was an accomplished musician.

# O Willie brewed a Peck o' Maut (p. 87).

The words are by Burns; the three friends were William Nicoll (cir. 1760-97), who was one of the classical masters in the Edinburgh High School, and afterwards laird of Laggan; Allan Masterton (1750-1800), writing-master in the same institution; and the poet himself. The occasion was the "house-warming" of the mansion-house of Laggan (1789), and the composer of the charming air to which the song was sung was Masterton himself. The air in question has been superseded by a more modern one, evidently adapted from the older melody.

#### Will ye no Come Back Again (p. 89).

The words of this, one of the most touching and beautiful of Scots lyrics, were written by Lady Nairne, the theme being the wanderings and final escape of the young chevalier, Prince Charles Edward. From Culloden to Invergarry, from there to South Uist, thence to Skye and to Inverness, exposed to hunger, distress, and deadly peril, with £30,000 put on his head, he nevertheless bore up through all until he was able to embark at Moidart for France. To the last the fidelity of his followers was incorruptible. The air is assigned to Neil Gow, jun., and is admirably adapted to express the profound pathos of the parting scene.

#### O why left I my Hame (p. 90).

The words of this lyric were written by Robert Gilfillan (1798–1850), born in Dunfermline, served apprenticeship to a cooper in Leith, was afterwards clerk in several places of business, and finally was appointed collector of

police rates in Leith (1837). In the year 1831 he published a volume of "Original Songs," from which this song is taken. The air, which was also utilised by Burns in "Of a' the Airts the Wind can Blaw," was composed by Peter MacLeod (1797–1859), and seems to be adapted from "Lowlands of Holland."

#### When the Kye Comes Hame (p. 92).

The words are by Hogg, who somewhat humorously apologises for the grammatical error in associating the plural "kye" with a singular verb. The tune is adapted from the old air of "The Blaithrie o't."

### Gae bring to Me a Pint o' Wine

(p. 94).

Burns gives a very interesting account of the incident which suggested to him the words of this song, viz. on witnessing at Leith pier the farewells exchanged between a young officer and his lady-love on the eve of his embarkation for service abroad. The half of the first stanza is older than Ramsay's "Tea-Table Miscellany." The air is credited to James Oswald in the "Caledonian Pocket Companion," being issued cir. 1742. Burns's edition reads, "Go fetch to me," not "Gae bring."

#### The Lea Rig (p. 96).

Words by Burns and entitled "My ain kind Dearie, O," being based on an old ditty bearing the name "The Lea Rig." Of the original only one verse is extant. No fewer than three other song-writers wrote versions of this old lay, viz. Fergusson, William Reid, and Lady Nairne, but that of Burns is the only one that has retained its popularity. The air was published under the title of "The Lea-Rig" in James Oswald's "Caledonian Companion."

### O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast

(p. 97).

The words of this charming lyric are by Burns, and a pathetic interest attaches to them, in that they were penned on his death-bed. To Miss Jessie Lewars, sister of one of the poet's colleagues in the Revenue service, the lyric was

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addressed, and was Burns's only possible recompense to her for her noble and self-denying offices when Mrs. Burns was laid up, in daily expectation of her confinement, and was unable to attend on her dying husband. The song found a place in Thomson's "Collection." The air often associated with the words is styled "Lochiel's awa' to France," but Mendelssohn's setting, which is here given, is now much more popular.

#### My ain Fireside (p. 99).

Words by Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton (1758–1816), authoress of the once popular Scots novel, "The Cottagers of Glenburnie." The air to which it is sung is called "Toddlin' Hame," under which name it appeared in Johnson's "Museum" (1787–1803), though it was also known as "Armstrong's Farewell" and "The Days o' Lang Syne."

#### Ilka Blade o' Grass (p. 100).

The words of this popular lyric are by James Ballantine (see p. 30), who wrote them almost on the spur of the moment, on being told the story of a poor woman who had opened a shop in a certain village, and who, on a neighbour saying he feared there were already too many shops of the kind there, replied: "Ah, but Providence is kind; every blade o' grass carries its ain drap o' dew." The air, which is entitled "Sweet Dawns the Morn," is an old one, and was fitted to the words by Mr. D. R. Hay.

#### Castles in the Air (p. 102).

The words of this song, which was such a favourite of Thomas Carlyle, were written by James Ballantine (1808-77), who, after serving his apprenticeship as a house-painter, devoted himself to the art of painting on glass. To such eminence did he attain, that by public competition he gained the commission to illustrate the windows of the House of Lords. He was also known as a constant contributor to literature, particularly to the publication Whistle-Binkie (1832-53), in which appeared many of his pieces: also he published "The

Gaberlunzie's Wallet," "The Miller of Deanhaugh," and other poems of high merit. The present song is taken from "The Gaberlunzie's Wallet," and the air to which it is sung is a modification of the old melody "Bonnie Jean o' Aberdeen."

#### My Heart is Sair (p. 104).

This plaintive lyric was written by Burns for Johnson's "Museum," adapting to the purpose one of Ramsay's songs in the "Tea-Table Miscellany," entitled "For the Sake of Somebody." The air is old, and was originally adapted to a four-line stanza in place of one of eight lines as here.

#### Highland Mary (p. 105).

Words by Burns. The theme of the piece was his betrothal to Mary Campbell, a girl of great beauty, modesty, and high principle, who lived as a domestic servant near Mauchline. She was a native of Dunoon, her father being one of the sailors on board the revenue cutter stationed at Campbeltown. Allan Cunningham thus writes of her: "Burns soon found she was the lass whom he had long sought but never before found . . . she saw by his looks he was sincere: she put full trust in his love, and used to wander with him among the green knowes and stream banks . . . till the moon rose, talking, dreaming of love and the golden days which awaited them. He was poor, but they resolved to wed, and exchanged vows of constancy and love. They plighted their troth on the Sabbath to render them more sacred; they made them by a burn where they had courted, that open Nature might be a witness; they made them over an open Bible to show they thought of God in this mutual act, and when they had done they both took water in their hand and scattered it in the air, to intimate that as the stream was pure so were their intentions." They then parted, never to meet again. She went to visit her relatives to prepare for her marriage, and died suddenly of fever. She was buried in Greenock West Churchyard. The air, "Catharine Ogie," to which the song is sung, is very old, being known as far back as 1680, when it was sung at a concert at Stationers'

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#### To Mary in Heaven (p. 106).

Words by Burns, the subject being the same as that treated of in "Highland Mary"—the poet's love for Mary Campbell—being written on the anniversary of her death, in September 1789. The air is not much older, if any. It was styled "Donald," and was probably composed towards the close of the eighteenth century, appearing in Shield's opera, "The Highland Reel," in 1788. In Thomson's "Collection" it was set to the song "From Thee, Eliza, I must go," and has also done like service with regard to other lyrics.

#### Lochnagar (p. 108).

The words are by Lord Byron (1788–1824), while the composer of the melody was Mrs. Patrick Gibson (1784–1838), the wife of a well-known Edinburgh artist and art-critic, who published "Etchings of Select Views in Edinburgh" (1818). Mrs. Gibson was connected with Sir Walter Scott.

#### The Bonnie Brier Bush (p. 110).

With regard to this song it is the air which has tempted the song-writers to adapt words to it, not the words attracting the composers. The

melody in its earliest form is undoubtedly very ancient, but it has been frequently adapted. The oldest version of the song is very rude, so much so that Burns largely re-wrote it, and contributed it to Johnson's "Museum" along with the air to which he had adapted the words. Then Lady Nairne, dissatisfied with the ending of Burns's version, still further modified his modification of the old piece, also suiting the words to the melody. Both Tannahill and Robert Gilfillan prepared versions, and Messrs. Parlane, of Paisley, in their "National Choir," published a third, but none of these have attained the popularity of Lady Nairne's adaptation of Burns.

#### Auld Lang Syne (p. 111).

The words, as we have them, may be said to be by Burns. There was an old song, "Auld Lang Syne," dating back to the early seventeenth century, which Ramsay included in his "Tea-Table Miscellany." He first cobbled the lines, then Burns almost wholly re-wrote them in the immortal form in which we now have them. The first two stanzas, however, still show traces of the original. The air now always sung to the lyric was called "I fee'd a lad at Michaelmas," and was associated with it by George Thomson. The two are now indissolubly united.

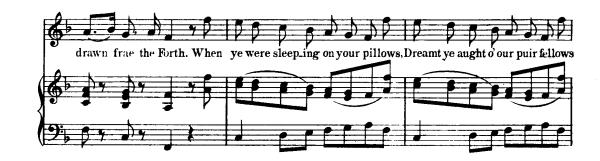
### Caller Herrin'.

Words by LADY NAIRNE.

Music by NATHANIEL GOW.



















### Annie Laurie.





### Logie o' Buchan.

Words by



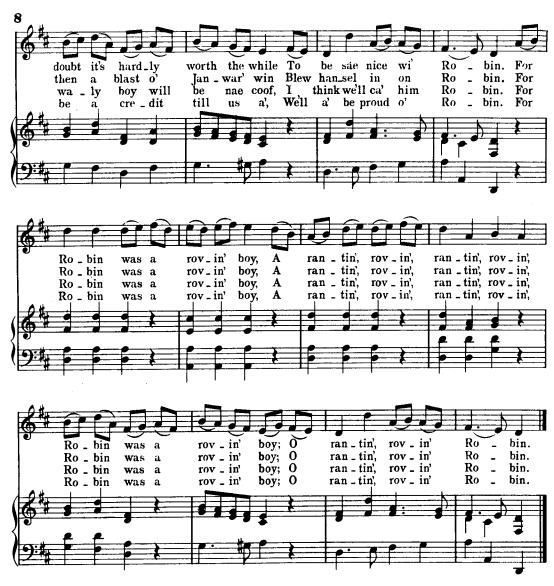


Then haste ye back, Jamie, and bide na awa', Then haste ye back, Jamie, and bide na awa', The simmer is comin', cauld winter's awa', And ve'll come and see me in spite o' them a'. Ye said, Think nae lang, lassie, etc.

### There was a lad was born in Kyle.

BURNS.

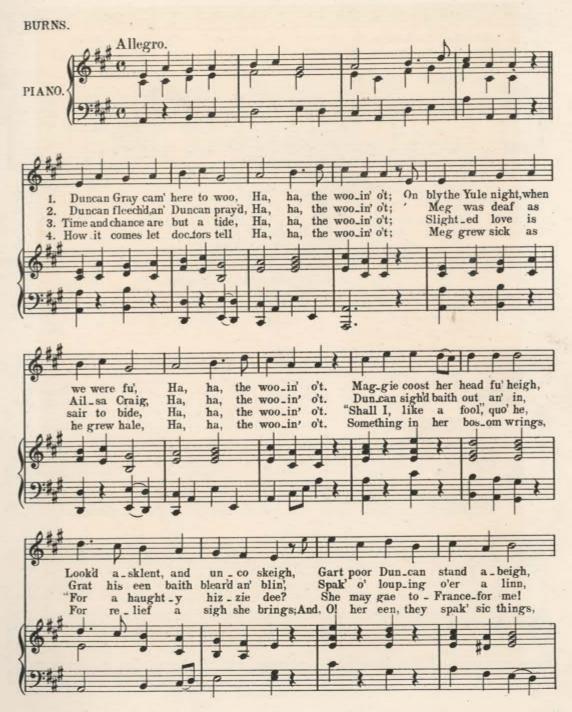




5.
But sure as three times three mak' nine,
I see by ilka score and line,
This chap will dearly like our kin',
So leeze me on thee, Robin.
For Robin was a rovin' boy, etc.

### Duncan Gray.

"Maggie coost her head fu' high."





Duncan was a lad o' grace,
Ha, ha, the wooin' o't;
Maggie's was a piteous case,
Ha, ha, the wooin' o't.
Duncan couldna be her death,
Swelling pity smoor'd his wrath,
Now they're crouse and canty baith,
Ha, ha, the wooin' o't.

### Mary of Argyle.





### Auld Robin Gray.

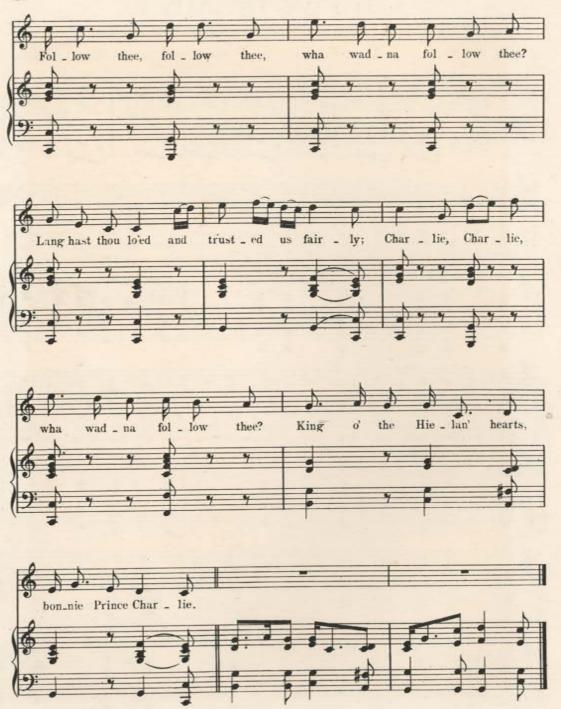
LADY ANN LINDSAY.

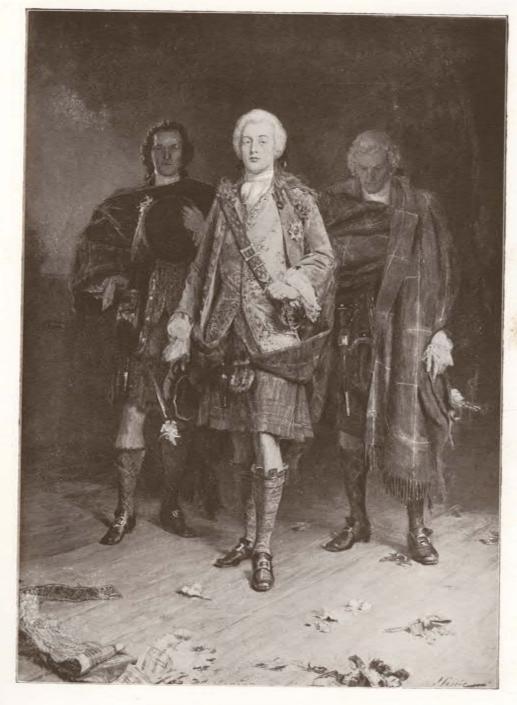












"Cam' ye by Atholl, lad wi' the philabeg, Down by the Tummel or banks o' the Garry."



"Buy my caller herrin", They're bonnie fish and halesome farin'."

# Within a mile o' Edinburgh town."

T. D'URFEY.







### Afton Water.





### Bonnie Dundee.

Words by SIR WALTER SCOTT.

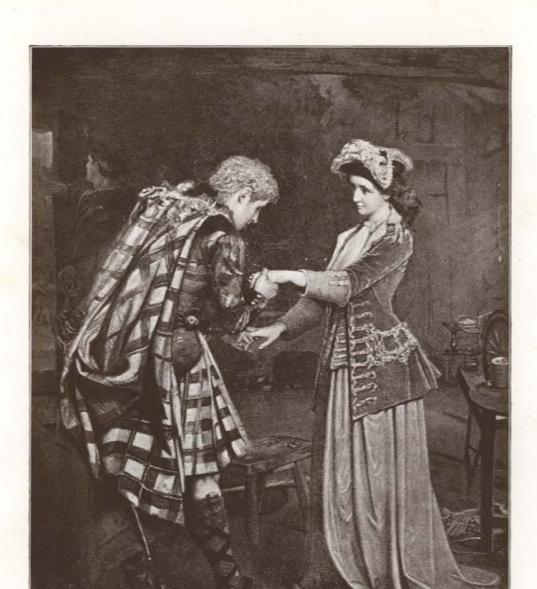




# Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled!

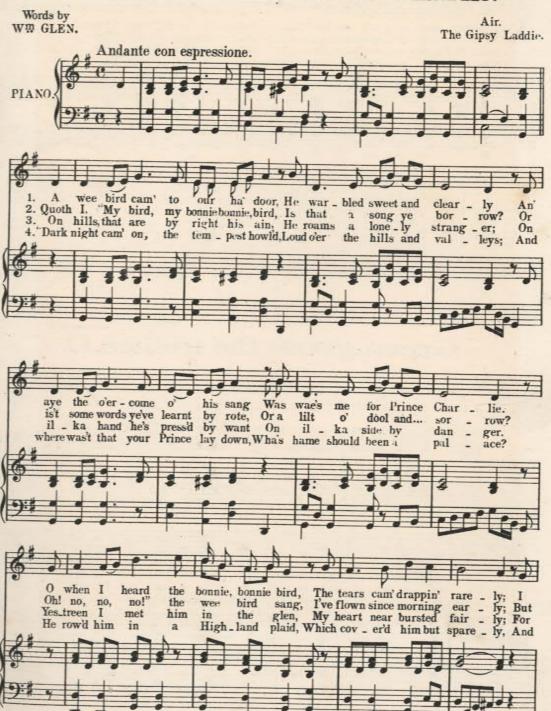
Words by BURNS.





PRINCE CHARLIE TAKING LEAVE OF FLORA MACDONALD
(From a Painting by GEO. W. JOY)

# Wae's me for Prince Charlie.





But noo the bird saw some red coats,
And he shook his wings wi anger:
'O. this is no a land for me,
I'll tarry here no langer.'
A while he hover'd on the wing.
Ere he departed fairly;
But weel I mind the farewe 1 strain
'Twas "Wae's me for Prince Cnarlie".

### Green grow the rashes, O.

Words by BURNS.





Auld Nature swears the lovely dears
Her noblest works she classes, 0:
Her prentice han she tried on man,
An' then she made the lasses, 0.
Green grow the rashes, 0! etc.

### Jock o' Hazeldean.

Words by Sir WALTER SCOTT.





### The Laird o' Cockpen.

Words by LADY NAIRNE.







5. Mistress Jean she was makin' the elder-flower wine "What the deil brings the Laird here at sic a like time?" She put aff her apron, an' on her silk goun, Her mutch wi' red ribbon, an' gaed awa' doun.

An' when she came ben, he bobbit fu' low; An' what was his errand he soon let her know. Amazed was the Laird when the lady said-"Na." An' wi' a laigh curtsic she turned awa'.

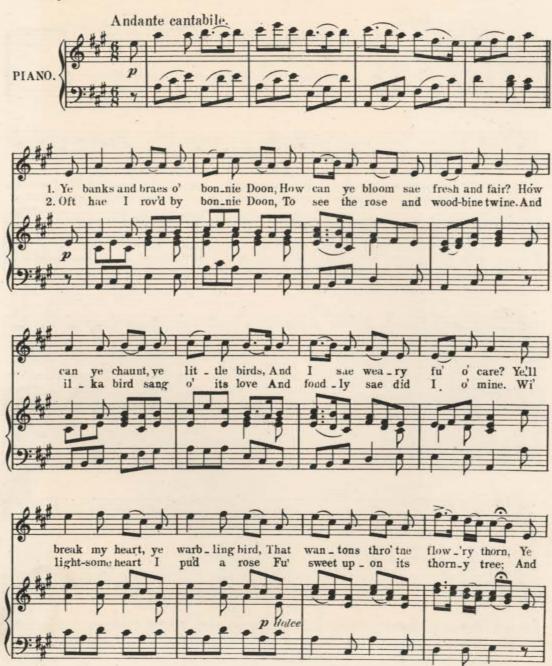
Dumbfounder'd was he—but nae sigh did he gi'e; He mounted his mare, and he rade cannilie; An' aften he thocht, as he gaed through the glen. "She was daft to refuse the Laird o' Cockpen".

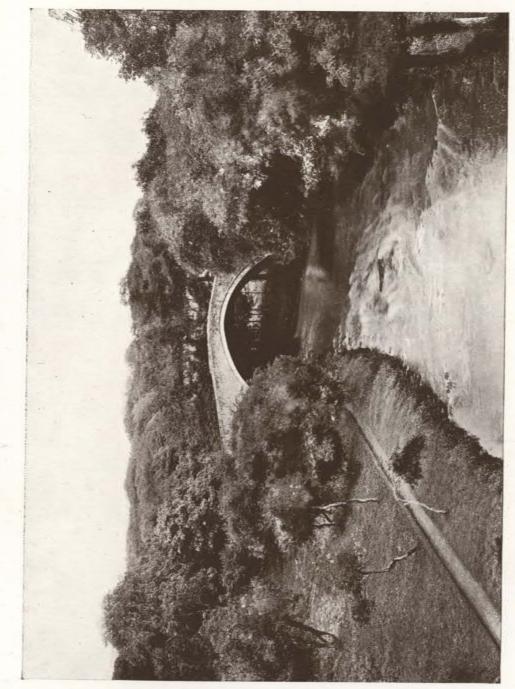
Words by LADY NAIRNE.



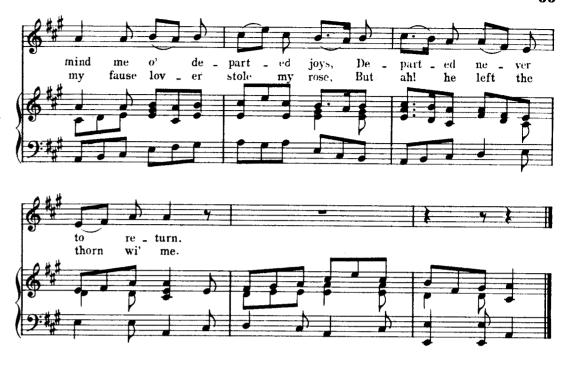
### Ye Banks and Braes o' bonnie Doon.

Words by BURNS.



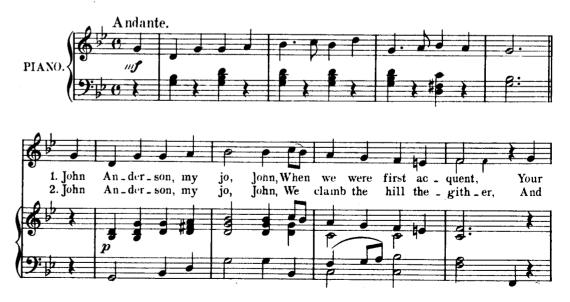


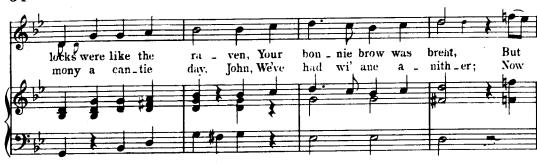
"Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon, How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair,"

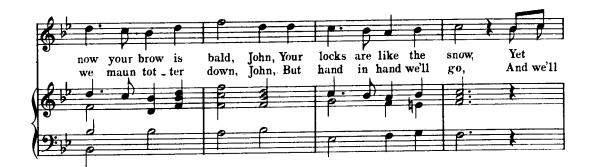


# John Anderson, my Jo.

Words by BURNS.







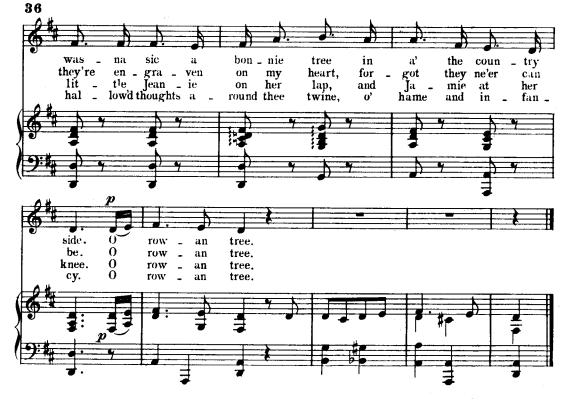




Words by LADY NAIRNE.



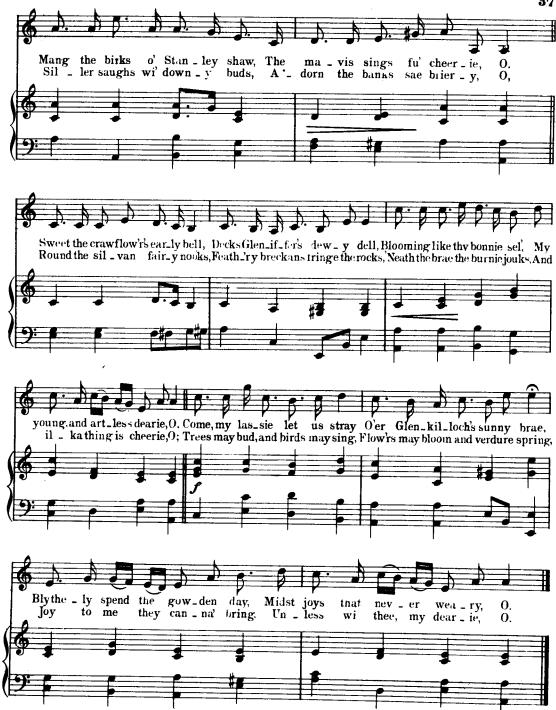




## Gloomy winter's noo awa'.

Words by TANNAHILL.





### Come under my plaidie.

Words by HECTOR MACNEIL.





And, thowless, he tint his gate 'mang the deep snaw; The howlett was screamin' while Johnnie cried, "Women Wad marry auld Nick, if he'd keep them aye braw."

6. 0! the deil's in the lasses! they gang now sae braw, They tak' up wi' auld men o' fourscore and twa; The hale o' their marriage, is gowd and a carriage, Plain love is the cauldest blast now, that can blaw. Auld dotards, be wary! tak' tent wha you marry, Young wives, wi' their coaches, they'll whup and they'll ca, Till they meet wi some Johnnie, that's youthfu and bonnie, When, they'll wish that their auld men were dead and awa'.

### Robin Adair.



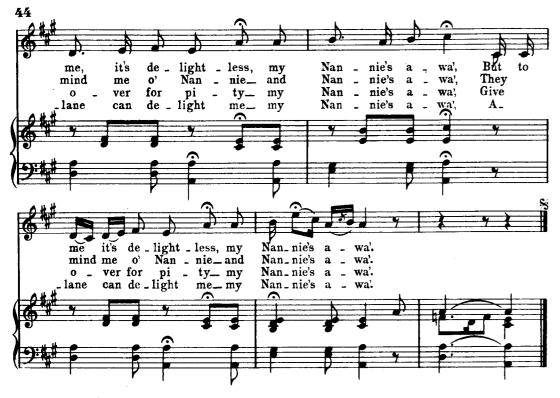
"The wee birdies sing, and the wild flow'rs spring And in sunshine the waters are sleepin',"

# The Bonnie, Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomon'.

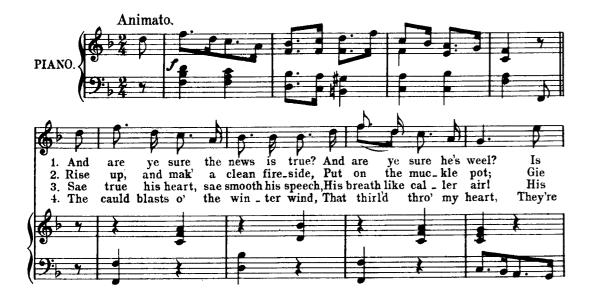








#### There's nae Luck about the House.





# Of a' the airts the wind can blaw.



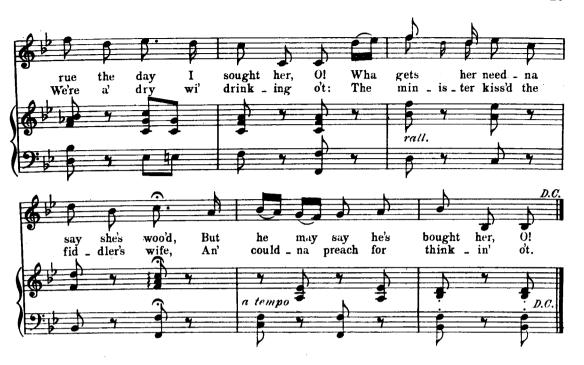


### <sup>48</sup> My Love she's but a Lassie.

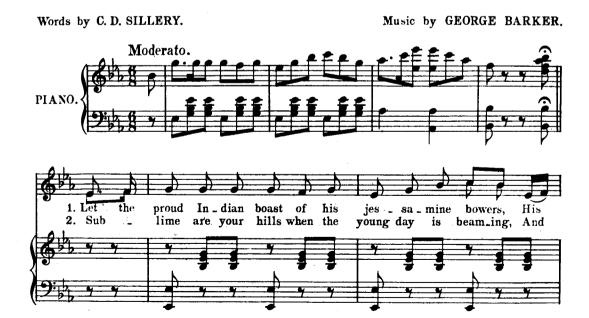




"My love she's but a lassie."



#### The Scottish Blue Bells.







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#### Jessie the flower o' Dunblane.

Words by TANNAHILL.





# "Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes."

Words by BURNS.



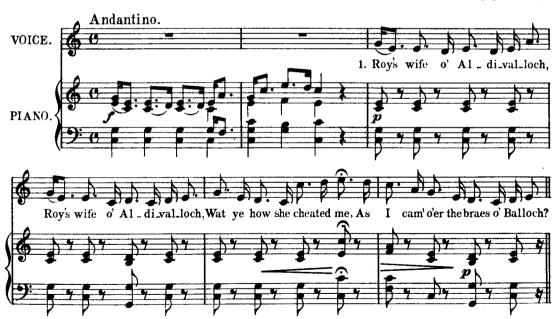


Fair and lovely as thou art,
Thou hast stown my very heart;
I can die, but canna part,
My bonnie dearie.

#### Roy's Wife o' Aldivalloch.

Words by MES GRANT of Carron.

Old Strathspey Melody,

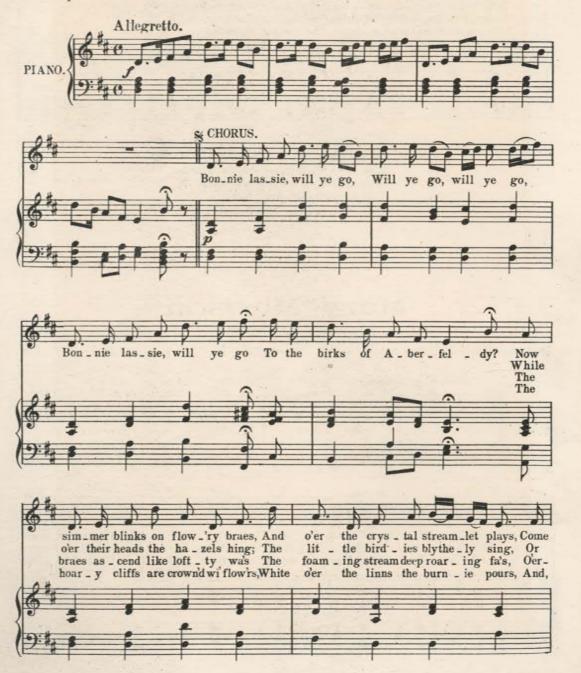


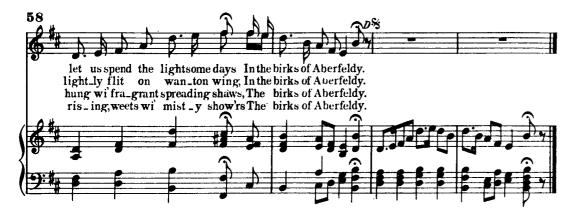




"Now simmer blinks on flowery braes, And o'er the crystal streamlet plays."

### The Birks of Aberfeldy.

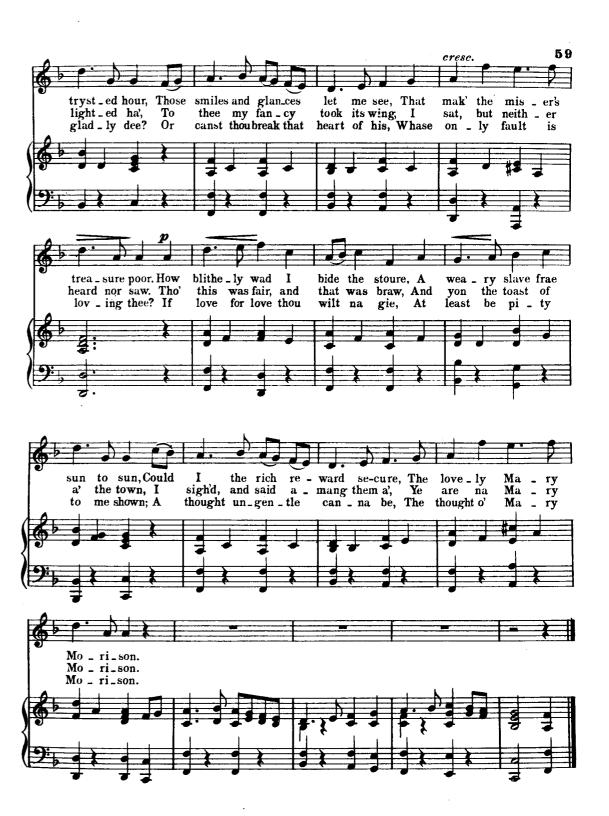




Let fortune's gifts at random flee,
They ne'er shall draw a wish frae me,
Supremely blest wi' love and thee
In the birks of Aberfeldy.
Bonnie lassic, etc.

#### Mary Morison.





#### Flora Macdonald's Lament.



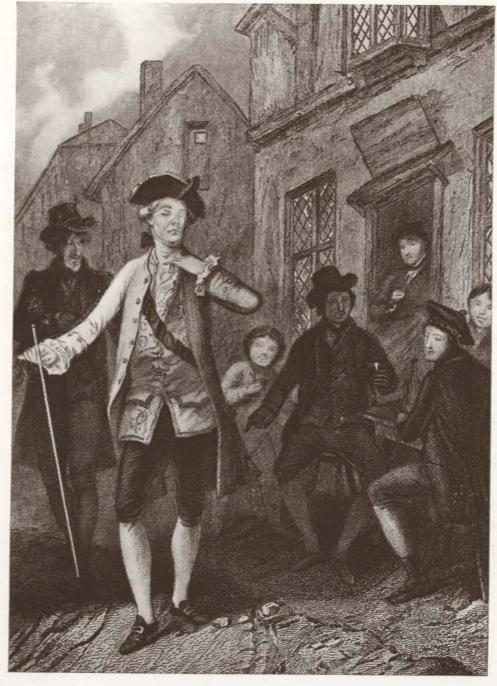


#### Scotland Yet.









"Ye see yon birkie ca'd a lord, Wha struts, and stares, and a' that."

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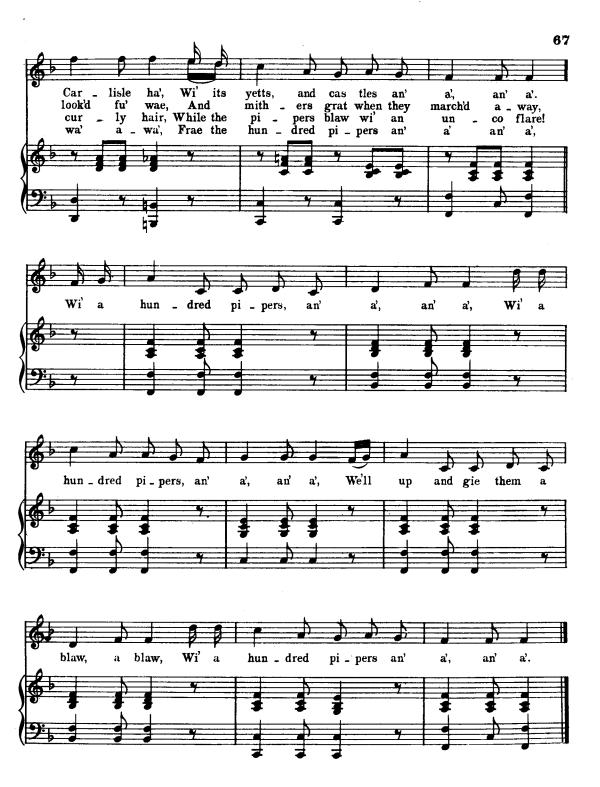


### The Hundred Pipers.

Words by LADY NAIRNE.







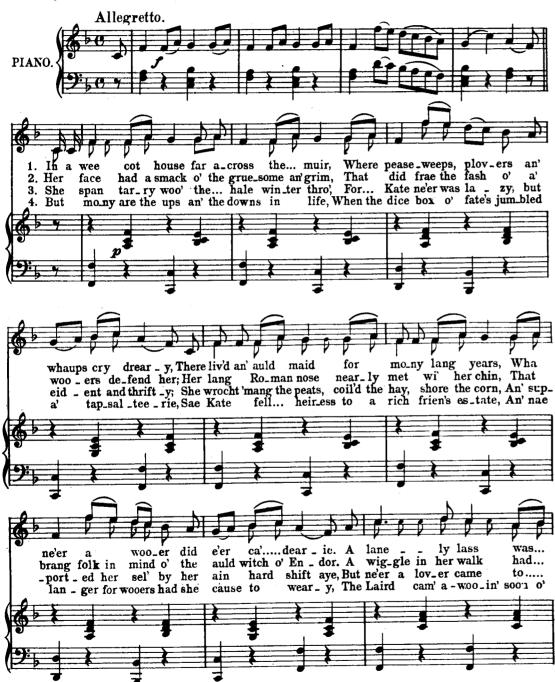
### <sup>68</sup>Oh! Whistle and I'll Come to You.





#### Kate Dalrymple.

Words by WILLIAM WATT.





She often times thocht when she dwelt by hersel, She could wed Willie Speedyspool, the sarkin' weaver; An' noo unto Will she the secret did tell Wha for love or for interest did kindly receive her. He flung by his beddles soon for Kate Dalrymple, He brent a' his treddles doon for Kate Dalrymple; Tho' his richt e'e doth skellie an' his left leg doth limp ill, He's won the heart an' got the hand o' Kate Dalrymple.

#### Wandering Willie.

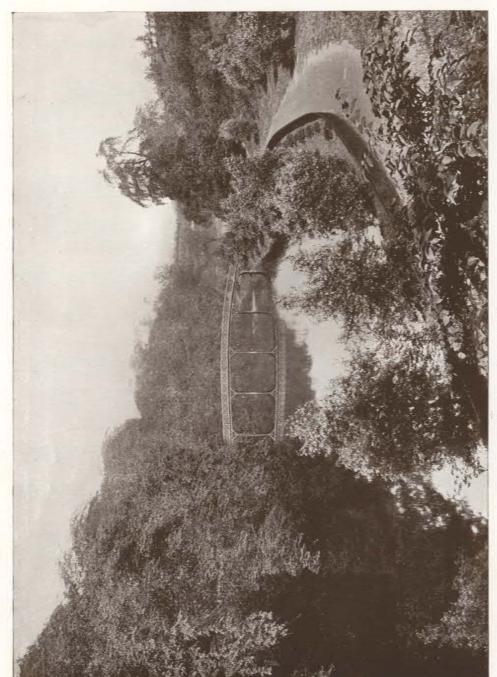


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#### Kelvin Grove.

Words by LYLE.





Then farewell to Kelvin Grove,
Bonnie lassie, O,
To the river winding clear,
To the fragrant scented brier,
Ev'n to thee, of all most dear,
Ramia lassie, O."



- But the frowns of fortune lour, bonnie lassie, O,
   On thy lover at this hour, bonnie lassie, O,
   Ere you golden orb of day
   Wake the warblers on the spray,
   From this land I must away, bonnie lassie, O.
- 6. Then farewell to Kelvin grove, bonnie lassie, 0,
  And adieu to all I love, bonnie lassie, 0,
  To the river winding clear,
  To the fragrant scented brier,
  Even to thee of all most dear, bonnie lassie, 0,
- 7. When upon a foreign shore, bonnie lassie, O, Should I fall midst battle's roar, bonnie lassie, O Then, Helen, should'st thou hear Of thy lover on his bier, To his memory shed a tear, bonnie lassie, O.

#### Thou Bonnie Wood o' Craigielea.

Words by TANNAHILL.

Music by JAMES BARR.





Though fate should drag me south the line,
Or o'er the wide Atlantic sea,
The happy hours I'll ever min',
That I in youth hae spent in thee.
Thou bonnie wood, etc.

### Macgregor's Gathering.

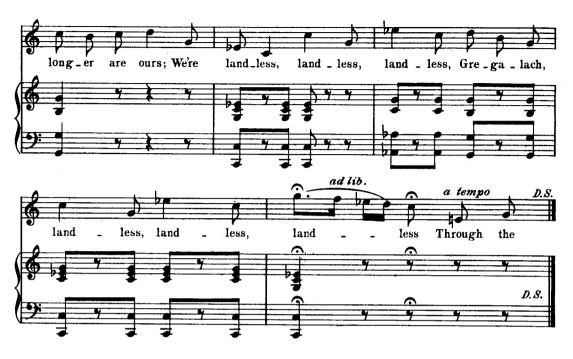
Words by Sir WALTER SCOTT.

Music by ALEXANDER LEE.









The Boatie Rows.







5.
My kertch I put upon my head,
And dress'd mysel' fu braw,
I trow my heart was douff and wae
When Jamie gaed awa'
But weel may the boatie row,
And lucky be her part;
And lightsome be the lassie's care,
That yields an honest heart.

When Sandy. Jock and Janetie,
Are up, and gotten lear,
They'll help to gar the boatie row,
And lighten a' our care.
The boatie rows, the boatie rows,
The boatie rows fu' weel;
And lightsome be the heart that bears
The murlain and the creel.



" Weel may the boatic row, That wins the bairnies' bread."

### Bonnie Wee Thing.



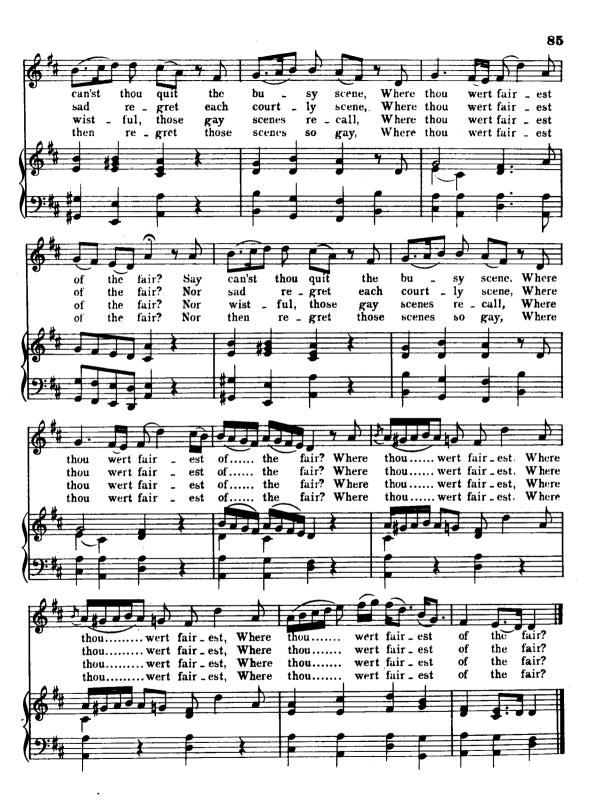
#### Corn Rigs.





### O, Nannie wilt thou gang wi' Me.

Music by THOMAS CARTER. Words by BISHOP PERCY. Andante. PIANO. Nan\_nie wilt thou gang wi' me, Nor sigh to leave the flaunting town? Can Nan\_nie when thou'rt far a \_ way, Wilt thou not cast a look be hind? Say, Nan\_nie can'st thou love so true, Thro' per \_ ils keen wi' me to go? Or 4. And when at last thy love shall die, Wilt thou re\_ceive his part\_ing breath, Wilt si - lent glens have charms for thee, The low-ly cot, and rus set gown? No can'st thou face the parch ing ray, Nor shrink be fore the win try wind? O, when thy swain mis - hap shall rue, To share with him the pang of woe? And thou re\_press each strug\_gling sigh, And cheer with smiles the bed of death? And silk en sheen, No long er deckd with jew els rare, Say, long er dress'd in gen \_ tle mien, Se \_ ver \_ est hard-ships learn to bear, Nor pains be\_fall, Wilt thou as\_sume the nur\_ses care, Nor, when in \_ vad \_ ing breath\_less clay, Strewflow'rs, and drop the ten\_der tear; Nor wilt thou o'er



#### The Auld House.

Words by LADY NAIRNE.

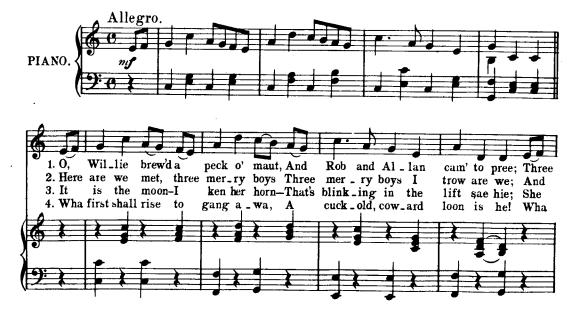




For they are a' wide scatter'd noo! Some to the Indies gane; And ane alas! to her lang hame; Not here we'll meet again\_ The kirkyard, the kirkyard Wi' flowers o' every hue; Is sheltered by the holly's shade An' the dark sombre yew.

The setting sun, the setting sun! How glorious it gaed doun! The cloudy splendour rais'd our hearts To cloudless skies aboon! The auld dial, the auld dial! It told how time did pass; The wintry winds ha'e dang it down, Now hid 'mang weeds and grass.

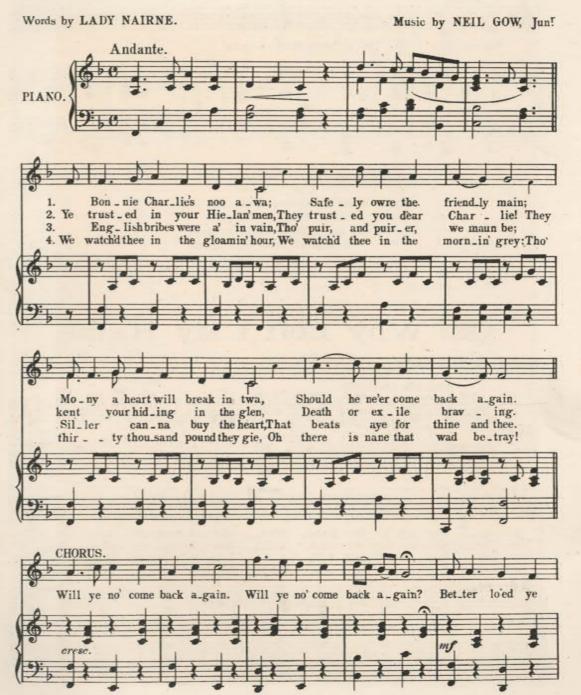
### O, Willie Brew'd a Peck o' Maut.





### Will ye no' come back again?

"Bonnie Charlie's noo awa',
Safely o'er the friendly main;
Mony a heart will break in twa
Should he ne'er come back agair





Sweet the laverock's note and lang,
Liltin' wildly up the glen;
But aye to me he sings ae sang,
Will ye no' come back again?
Will ye no' come, etc.

#### Oh! Why Left I My Hame.

Words by R. GILFILLAN.





### When the kye comes hame.

JAMES HOGG.





Awa' wi' fame and fortune—what comfort can they gie?

And a' the arts that prey upon man's life and libertie!

Gie me the highest joy that the heart o' man can frame,

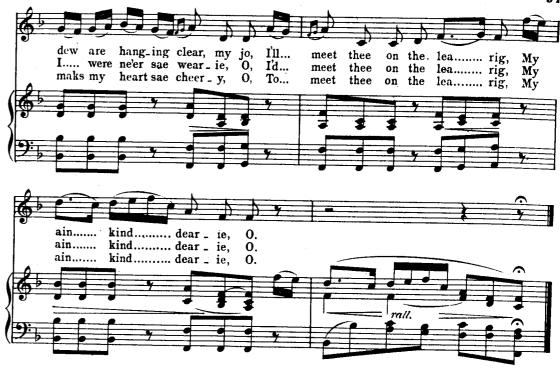
My bonnie, bonnie lassie when the kye comes hame.

When the kye comes hame, etc.

### Gae bring to me a Pint o' Wine.

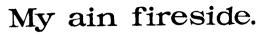






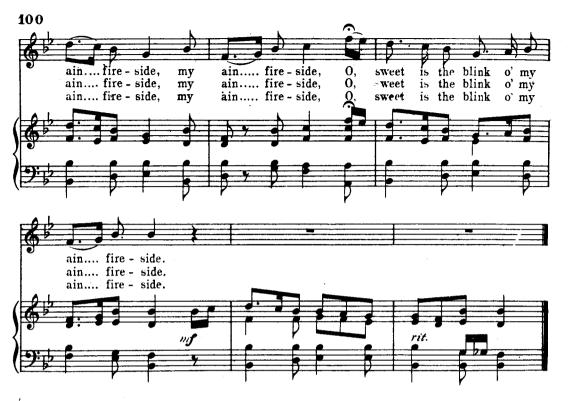
### O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast.





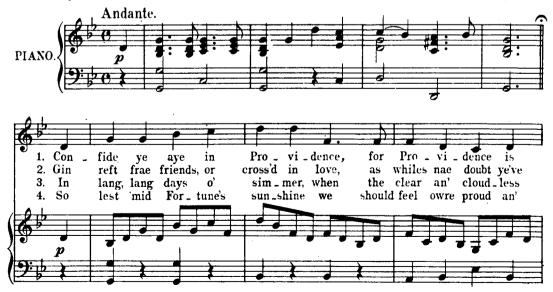






#### Ilka Blade o' Grass.

Words by JAMES BALLANTINE.





#### Castles in the Air.

Words by JAMES BALLANTINE.





### My heart is sair.



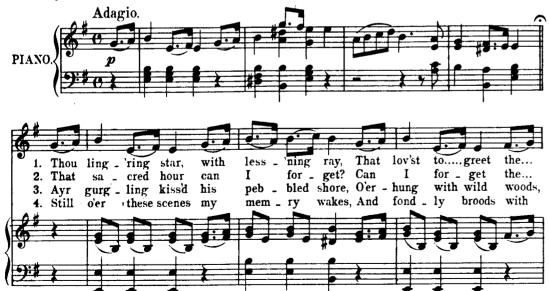
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#### Highland Mary.





To Mary in Heaven.





#### Lochnagar.

Words by LORD BYRON.





# There grows a Bonnie Brier Bush.



#### Auld Lang Syne.

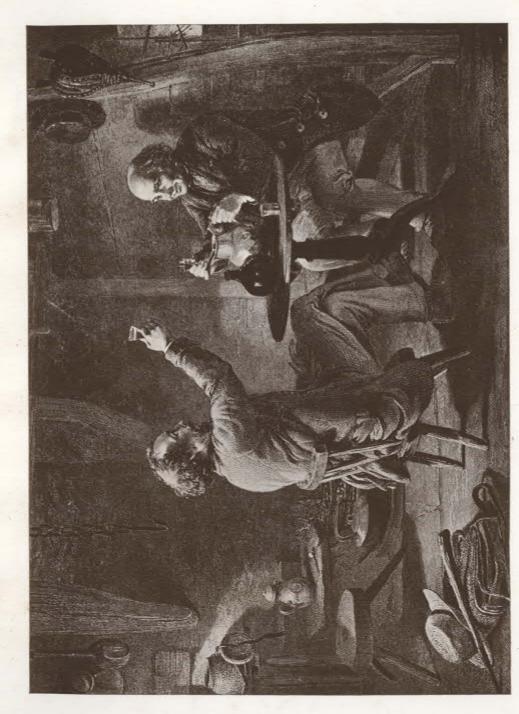
Words by BURNS. Moderato. PIANO. 1. Should auld ac-quain\_tance be for got, And nev er brought to min'? Should 2. We two hae run a bout the braes, And pu'd the gow ans fine; But we've 3. We two hae paid 1't in the burn, Frae morn ing sun till dine; But 4. And there's a hand, my trust y frien, And gie's a hand o' And we'll days o' lang .... syne? for\_got, And ac\_quain\_tance auld..... lang.... syne. wea - ry foot, Sin' wan \_ der'd mo\_nv a For braid hae roard, Sin' be tween us auld..... lang.... syne. wil \_ ly-waught, For auld.... lang... syne. a right gude We ll auld lang..... syne, my dear, For lang.... auld



5

And surely ye'll be your pint stoup
As surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

Chorus. For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.



"For auld lang syne."