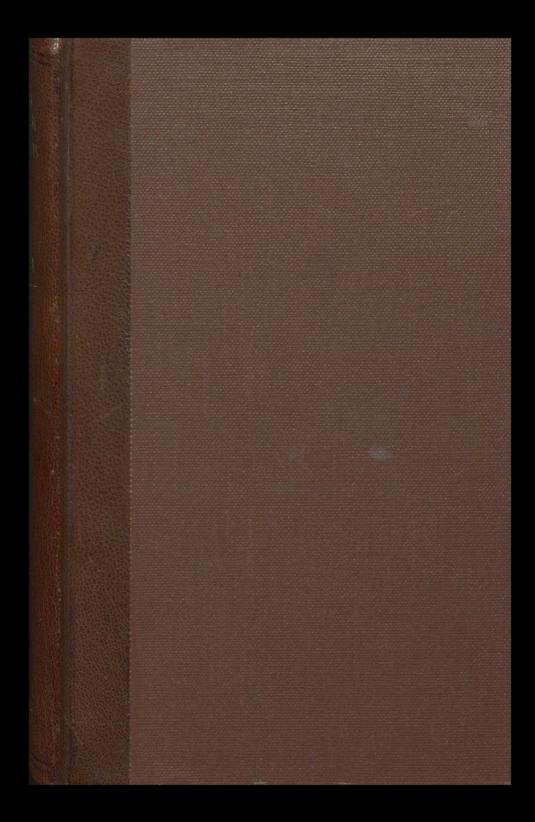
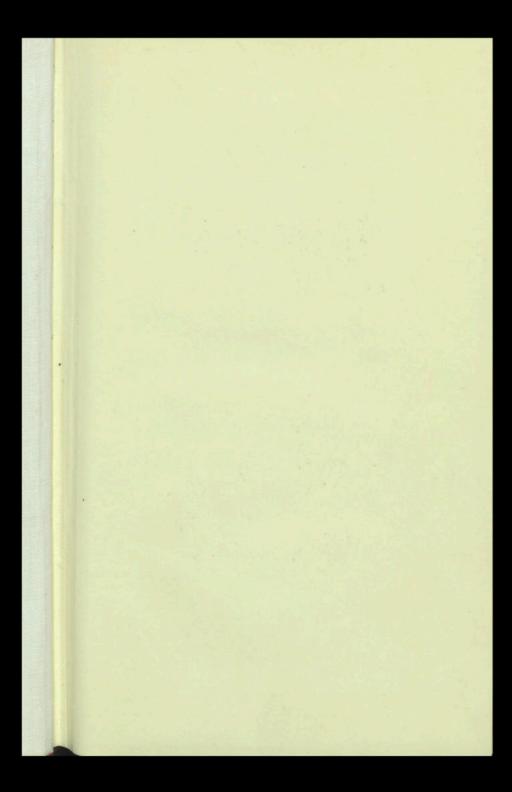
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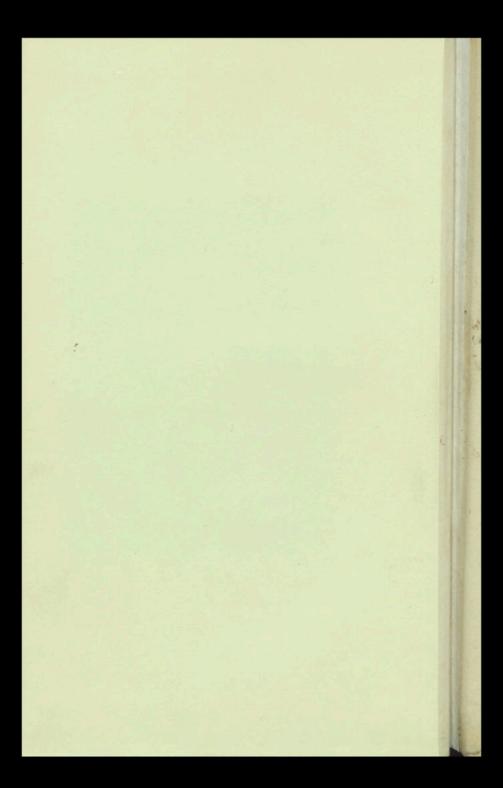
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B. P. B. 1813.13









POETICAL ATTEMPTS,

BY

HUGH POLTER,

A COUNTY OF DOWN

WEAVER,

Then marvel not, if he should stammer, Who never even read a Grammar,

BELFAST:

*RINTED FOR ARCHEOLD AND BUGAN,
BY SIMMS AND M'INTYRE,

Dougall-street.

1813.

POETICAL ATTEMPTS,

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MINISTER OF STREET

DEDICATION.

TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL OF MOIRA, LORD HASTINGS, K.G. K.T.

&c. &c. &c. &c.

WHEN a Patron was sought, to whose protection the Editor should commit these Poetical Attempts, it naturally occurred to him that a weak and tender plant of the County of Down could not thrive in any situation so well as under the fostering shelter of the prime growth of its soil:—the lowly and creeping ivy raises its head and even flourishes when supported by the strength of the majestic oak.

In permitting the following pages to be brought to light under your Lordship's protection, you have manifested a kind and charitable disposition, and have shown a condescension to matters of min r import, while the empire was turning their eyes towards you, as the Statesman who was to deliver, by your counsel, the vessel of the constitution from its perilous situation, or as the Warrior who was to chastise its insolent and ambitious enemy. No expectation of adding to your Lordship's far extended fame has caused the present address; but a desire of seizing an opportunity of publicly acknowledging unmerited favours conferred by your Lordship, on your much obliged and grateful servant,

THE EDITOR.

DEDICATION

To one Root Hose EARL or MOREA LORD HASTINGS, N.G. E.R.

30.00 30.00

W ITTM is Decopy was couple, to whose procertion the Editor should county these Poetical
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APOLOGETICAL ADDRESS

TO THE READER.

As the Editor of the following pages must, he fears, be considered in a light different from any person that has ever undertaken a similar task, he thinks it incumbent on him to explain by what means he has been induced to come before the public in a character so peculiarly awkward as the publisher of his own praise, in which light he appears by editing these poetical attempts.

The Author, a linen weaver, who resides in the parish of which the editor has been thirty-four years minister, was known to him only by name and general character, till about thirteen years since, when the poem which appears first in the collection was presented to him. He could not but perceive marks of genius in the production, and he felt inclined to cultivate an acquaintance with the author. Poem succeeded poem from the same hand; some of these were shown to well known literary characters (among

whom was the RIGHT REV. DR. PERCY, the editor's venerable Diocesan) and the editor was by them encouraged to collect, and to publish for the benefit of the author, the scattered productions of his humble muse: that he should submit to the judgment of that enlightened and highly respected man the late Bishop of Dromore is not wonderful; the literary talents of that esteemed character have been conspicuous for above half a century, but his amiable and social qualities have for the last thirty years been confined chiefly within his diocese; there his worth was known and prized; his liberality towards those who on religious subjects differed from him in sentiment, was in the highest degree conciliating; his philanthropy was so unbounded as to exclude none from a participation in his favours: his attention to merit in every shape and under every appearance was unlimited; not the least spark of genius or moral goodness was suffered to expire under his discerning powers; he fanned into a flame the humblest attempt of the weakest muse, and encouraged the efforts of the deserving in every line .- The editor would not be suspected by those who are acquainted with him, of being a panegyrist, even were the subject of his praise living; but bringing into view some of the traits of the late Bishop's character, he hopes to screen himself from public censure, by observing that he submitted to his Lordship's maturer judgment in laying aside his delicate feelings, and coming forward, after his praiseworthy example, as a protector of modest worth; even a wish expressed by such a man as the Bishop could not fail to have weight with the editor and be prepared to gratify that wish, as he conceived that his Lordship's approbation was a sufficient indication of the author's merit, yet he permitted more than two years to elapse in doubt and irresolution; the prominent part which he himself bore in the productions of HUGH PORTER caused this irresolution; he wished that some other person should have come forward, but that person was not found .- The hopes of the author (now in a nervous state) 'though at first raised very high, became, from the delay, bordering on despair, as may be seen in some of his productions, and the editor began to feel that he was not treating his modest worth as it merited The reader is entreated to consider, that independent of his genius, the author is a very estimable character, that from an increasing weakness of constitution he is disqualified from supporting a wife and children by sufficient manual exertion, and he will acknowledge it became a more imperious duty on the editor not to shrink from the task, but to overcome the reluctance he felt, and to help to exhilarate the evening of the author's life by raising a little fund for that purpose, in a manner the most agreeable to his feelings, by exhibiting the energies and grateful effusions of his own mind Whether this explanation will sufficiently excuse the editor in the eye of the public he cannot say; on the candour of his FRIENDS he can rest; and the number

of distinguished subscribers who have encourage ed the publication, have sanctioned it with their high authority. Sould any incline to censure, he must have recourse to his own feelings which tell him he is right; for if through timidity or delicacy on his part a deserving member of society should suffer in mind or property, his sensations would be more painful than he can express.... In a country where every exertion in behalf of worth or merit is sure to meet with encouragement, the editor of this little work has no fear that his endeavours to rescue from oblivion the well-meant effusions of the untaught and unlettered muse, will be without their reward.-The poetical attempts of a County of Down Weaver are now sent into the world as they came from his own pen, unaltered by the Editor, " with all their imperfections on their head;" should the keen critic count them worthy of his notice, and feel a desire of finding fault with the innocent sallies of his rustic muse, let him be prevailed on to spare the Author, and throw the blame, where it should rest, on

THE EDITOR.

1st. January, 1813.

THE

AUTHOR'S DEDICATION,

TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL OF MOIRA.

My Lord,

AS some weak harmless hame-spun wretch,
Unfit to cope wi' e'en his match,
Yet sees assembling crowds—in strife
Which o' them first will take his life,
Looks round him for some generous friend
That may his innocence defend:

Now, such an one as this he sees—
But though his very vitals freeze
At thoughts of dire approaching blows,
And though his wish'd-for help he know.
To be intent on generous deeds,
Yet fears to ask what most he needs:
So I, in long suspence have stood,
Aw'd by the snarling Critic brood,
Elate with scientific pride;
But now since MOIRA joins my side,
Protected by that sheltering shield,
I'll brave the fiercest on the field,
Repeating still, where e'er I go—
If HE say ay, who dare say no,

THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

READER,

SINCE ye hae gie'n your five an' fi'ppence, For this bit Beuk, that's no worth tippence; Anither page or twa o' paper, Wad mak it aye leuk something cheaper; At least mak mair o't for the money-Say, shall I then impose't upon ye?

- · Yes, if ye please, and after a'
- · Five shillin' will be thrown awa.
- But stop-I think I have enough,
- I b'live owre muckle o' sie stuff;
- · Yet, neither here nor there a leaf is,
- · Come, gie's it in the way o' preface.

First theo, I naething write by rule,

For o' the knowledge taught at school

Mine was a very scanty share,

I only learn'd the letters there:

Yet, by degrees, wi' tentic head,

At leisure hours I came to read;

And thus, by bit an' bit I grew

That I could write a little too,

A willin' mind a deal can do.

And secondly, plain truth to tell,

I made my sangs to please my sel',

My dearest worthy frien's, and ithers

No' just sae dear, but rhymin' brithers

To whom, just as they are, I sent them,

But never for the public meant them.

And thirdly, in the style appears
The accent o' my early years,
Which is nor Scotch nor English either,
But part o' baith mix'd up thegither:
Yet its the sort my neighbours use,
Wha think shoon prettier far than shoes.

But fourthly, for I'm keen to close-

- Do-do-ye'll say-an' do't in prose
 - For flesh an' bluid can bear nae langer,
 - 'This doggerel sang a saint would anger.'
 Content am I, and for the Muse,
 Pm sure she's glad to hear the news.

Then fourthly, as I said before,
(But whist—for I must rhyme no more)

If I be guilty of plagerism, it is only where I am unable to distinguish between the imagination and memory.

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POETICAL ATTEMPTS.

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

For then I could being make a

PARSON'S HILL,

REVEREND SIR,

I would be laith,

Your honour in the least to skaith,

Tho' I repining bend beneath

The want of rare things;

But ye hae wealth and honour baith

An' mony mair things.

Few persons that can wi' you compare
In what the great and worthy share,
Yet och! if I had but the lear
That ye hae gotten,

I would not value a' your gear

An eyeless button.

For then I could baith write and spell,

An' speak, and leuk, grammatical,

An' would sic rhyming blethers tell

'Tween truth and lies,

As Maister Dick, or e'en yoursel',

Might may-be please.

But let us first our tale declare:

Ae Sunday night to banish care,

I to your dwelling-house repair,

Wi' right guid will,

An' if it was for sake o' prayer

That's better still.

I entered in your parlour door,

And as I stalked owre the floor,

I saw—but sic a sight before

A thousand beuks I'm sure, and more,

Surpriz'd my een.

Thought I—if e'er it be my lot

To be a prisoner—here's the spot

Of a' the world I would have got

To be my jail,

Here heart-corroding care should not

My soul assail:

I could spen' mony a cheerfu' summer To crack wi' Virgil, Pope, an' Homer, It raises in my brain a rumour

To hear them talk'd o';
But waes my heart—what fits my humour
I'm often baulk'd o';

While I survey'd this pompous pile,

O' beuks in order, rank and file,

This sweet reflection made me smile

He's condescendin',

An' will, perhaps, for a short while

Vouchsafe to lend ane.

Amang the rest that me attracts

There's ane, of which I hear great cracks,

An' that's the "Elegant Extracts,"

So, if ye hae it, Your humble Rhymer, Sir, expects,

Or hopes ye'll gie it.

I'll read as much o't as I can,

An' what I canna read—maun stan',

Pll keep it clean wi' carefu' han',

Nor tear nor burn it,

An' ony time that you deman',

I will return it.

Now gin your Reverence would please
To grant me this but twa-three days,
I'll teach the lanely burns and braes

The heights an' hollows,
To join wi' me in Scottish lays,

An' sing as follows:

Oh! may your Reverence be blest
Wi' health, an' strength, an' peace, an' rest;
An' may contention ne'er infest

Your social meetings,

But mutual love be aye exprest

In kindly greetings;

An' may ye lang enjoy wi' credit,

The douse black gown, for weel ye set it,

May nane ye wish weel e'er be fretit,

I pray most fervent,

For want of lear, or means to get it

As is your servant,

HUGH PORTER.

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

PARSON'S HILL.

I THANK ye, Sir, for your "Extracts,"

As gratefully as can be,

An' till the golden bowl it brakes

What ance I say I'll stan' by,

Though I'm owre apt mysel' to vex,

I'm sometimes blythe as brandy,

Sometimes I read, an' gather cracks

Frae Larry's "Tristram Shandy."

Sometimes I rake alang a rill,

And ither times I stan' there,

Sometimes I think on Parson's Hill,

But mair upon the Man there,

Wha first indulg'd my tinklin skill

An' took me by the han' there,

An' ca'd me frien' wi' free guid will An' frien'ship firm I fan' there.

I own I dream'd o' sma' success,

Before I was acquainted

Wi' you or your true nobleness,

Yet my request was granted,

I got, I frankly maun confess,

The very thing I wanted,

I sought nae mair—I got nae less,

Right suddenly ye sent it.

For loss o' glory, or o' gear,

I stan' in little danger,

For to the twa I'll frankly swear
I'm still a down-right stranger;

Nae wonner he wad fortune fear
That never friendly finds her,

For she's or deaf, or winna hear,

Or partial passion blinds her.

If I had by some lucky lot,

Been born in sic a station,

Whare I might timeously hae got

A mod'rate education,

And some sequester'd lonely cot

Wi' beuks o' information—

Say, Rector, would I've had or not

A sweeter situation.

Nae doubt ye'll say, P****, poor deil,

For some self en's is clatt'rin',

But aiblins time might gar you feel

I hae nae thought o' flatt'rin',

When ilka lassie at her wheel,

An' ilka aged matron,

Shall sing, the Reverend Rector chiel

Is now the Rbymer's Patron.

Sud fortune in a fit o' wrath This speech to you deliver, Wi' P*****, Sir, your gear an' graith;

'Ye maun exchange for ever,'

I doubt your honour wad be laith

To knuckle to the niffer;

Yet if the skin were aff us baith

There wad be little differ.

I own that I hae said ill,

But yet I hope ye will forgie

My random written schedule:

For manners ye may plainly see

I learn'd upon the treadle,

An' for my state, my stars an me

Hae squabbl'd frae the cradle.

If my unruly muse haes been

Owre forward, I'll correct her,

An' just before your Reverend een,

Her noddle, here I'll fracture,

For sure the like was never seen

By the most sage inspector:

A frien'liness commenc'd between A Rhymer and a Rector.

Sud ill fate 'mang my barmy brain,

I'll never swing for swervin',

For o' a' ye possess—in plain

Me thinks ye're weel deservin';

A flattrin' lie I winna feign,

Tho' I sud die in starvin',

What I was still, I still remain,

Your rhymin' crack-skull servan',

HUGH PORTER.

September, 1799.

TO REVEREND T. T.

Room b'arrest I

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SOME WEEKS.

Come my auld hide-bound Muse, draw near,
An' welcome hame our Maister dear,
For he it seems, has na been here

This month an' mair;
We'll then salute him wi' this cheer,

Ye're welcome, Sir.

How com'st, my Muse, ye take the gaet
At sic: sober cauld-rife rate,
Resume your wonted, wished-for state,
An' void o' care,

Let ev'ry stanza terminate,

Ye're welcome, Sir.

To tell the truth unfeignedly—
Indeed my heart was somewhat wae
To hear that Master Richard lay
Baith sick an' sair;

But since he's weel—again I say, Ye're welcome, Sir.

Ye hae been i' the royal city,

Amang the wealthy an' the witty,

An' far-fetch'd compliments an' pretty,

Are plenty there;

But this is just a hame-spun ditty,—

Ye're welcome, Sir.

I need na talk about your entry Amang the noble Dublin gentry, 'Twad keep me scribbling near a cent'ry,

This to declare;

I'll just speak for my native country,

Ye're welcome, Sir.

God save the Rector, is a sang

That's learn'd long-syne—dear kens how lang

To greet your lugs as by ye gang;

Whilst I prepare,

To give the echo to the thrang,

Ye're welcome, Sir.

I think, indeed, without a lie,
There's nane of any ac degree

But what will strive to join with me,
Wi' heart sincere;

Nobles, and Squires, and Peasantry,
Ye're welcome, Sir.

While some, wi' slee an' cannie art
Do sing to please ye—for my part,
It was your safe return that gart
My Musie stir,

An' fune this greeting frae the heart,

Ye're welcome, Sir.

At times, when I the Muse invoke I just steal out frae mang the folk; Ye ken the bush beside the rock,

I trow 'twas there, By her directed, thus I spoke,

"Ye're welcome, Sir."

Here often in the blaze of bliss, I meet with the Parnassian Miss, An' there I toy, and court, an' kiss,

An' crack wi' her;

An' there she bid me scribble this, Ye're welcome, Sir.

I'll ne'er forget the sweet wee whiles, I spend wi' her 'mang woodie wilds, Her pretty gleesome dainty smiles

I'll aye revere ;

This oft the tardie time beguiles,
Ye're welcome, Sir.

I make na this rhyming report

For ony ends, but just for sport;
I'll min' December twenty-fort,

For ever mair;

But to make a long story short,
Ye're welcome, Sir.

That Gude may bless you a' your days,

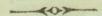
An' grant you meat, an' drink, and claes,

An' aye defend you frae your faes,

Is P*****'s prayer;

An' now to read your Bardie's lays, You're welcome, Sir.

26 December, 1802.



ON THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, 11 FEBRUARY, 1804.

O! But the fountain-head o' day
Shines bright this morn,
The south-east side o' many a brae
His beams adorn;

An' yet lang-headed bodies hae

Baith said and sworn,

E'er ye send forth your noon-tide ray, Ye'll be forlorn.

Oh! but it is a pity ye
Sud thole disgrace,

Or that in masquerade sud be

Methinks that ither orbs to thee
Sud a' gie place,

An' let you always tak' and gie
Your will o' space.

Fy on ye, moon, they say its you

That does this deed,

That fills the kintra, thro' an' thro'
Wi' fellon dread;

Our tim'rous spirits to subdue

Ye strive to cleed

His life invigoratin' hue
In mournin' weed.

Come o' us wretches here what will, Ye dinna care, Gin ye by wiles can keep yoursel

Frae blot and scare;

In brightness, ye would fain excel

A' orbs that are,

But bide some twa-three months, we'll tell What's then your share.

Within this while as mickle skaith

Yoursel has fan',

Your visage was as dark as death,
Whar' ye did stan';

To rip auld sairs, I wad be laith to tak' in han',

But ye hae shawn sae mickle wrath, Owre a' the lan',

Ye ought to be content to shine

In your ain sphere,

An' no to make us mortals dwine

In darkness here;

Since ye in the dependant line,

Get a' your gear,

It fits ye weel, and a' your kin'
To keep the rear.

Ye min' me o' ambitious man

That's never right,

Gin ony ither chap be fan'

To shine mair bright;

He'll mak' his merits, if he can,
As dark as night,

That foremost, he himsel' may stan'

In glorious light.

But frae this time, I warn ye fairly,

To keep awa

Frae aff his suburbs, late and early,

A mile or twa;

For pay your debt, you'll blink but barely

Aboon the ba';

Your fickle face will leuk but queerly,
An' far frae braw.

Whene'er you glorious globe is set,

Then wear the crown;

But at his rise, what power ye get

Ye maun lay down;

Suppose alternately ye're let

Blink there aboon,

I hope, my lass, ye'll no' forget

Ye're but a Moon!

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

We talk o' ha'in' hoards o' treasure,

That we may live a life o' leisure,

An' pass our days in peace an' pleasure,

Void o' vexation;

But seldom do we min' to measure

Their short duration.

E'en frien'ship, that baith was, and is,
Oftimes a pure an' lastin' bliss,
Takes wings like wealth, an' wi' a biz,
Bounds quite away;
I saw a noble proof o' this
The ither day:

A sorry heart I had, to spy

Your Reverence ride the door cheek by,

An' no' to tell the reason why

I was forgotten;

Before I'm sick, I see that I

Am dead an' rotten.

Better to never be respected,

Than afterwards to be rejected,

For instantly we're a' infected,

Heart, head, an' han';

Much war we could na' be afflicted

By mortal man.

'Mang mis'ry's posts, whar I did sit,
My tongue took sic a faltrin' fit,
I thought the wee remains o' wit
I had, was quat me;
Most Noble Rector, what is it
That ails ye at me!

I did na want ye to come in,

Nor much to mind my mither's sin,

Yet ye might said, is sic na ane

Alive or dead;

E 2

+ The Laon

But like a man to save his skin Ye fled wi' speed.

Weel, since my pass-time's at an en',

I'll spill my ink an' burn my pen,

For wha amang the sons o' men

Will ever min' me?

Since Rev'rend T****, my firmest frien',

Has new resign'd me.

How joyfu' was my heart, ere while,
When ye wad meet me wi' a smile,
Ye'd first shake han's, in kindly stile,
An' then hae cracked
As lang as ane could gane a mile
Ye wad na slacked.

'Mang ither things, ye whiles wad say,
What way comes on the Muse the day?
Is she dung dumb, or what's the lay
That's now her care?
Oh! are these glorious scenes away
For ever mair?

But gin they be, I canna men' it,

Tho' deep in darkness, here I pen it,

The deafest lug ye hae shall ken it,

Come next what will;

Therefore, I vow to GRORGE, I'll sen' it To Parson's Hill.

August, 1804.

TO DISAPPOINTMENT.

O THOU! on mischief ever bent,
As far contemn'd, as weel ye're kent;
Few fellows will the loss lament,
When Grumphie gets ye;
It seems ye hae been born in lent,

For a' flesh hates ye.

And O! that ye had never yet

Been born, to keep my heart sae het,

Or had I been endow'd wi' wit

To keep far frae ye;
For sure on earth, there's nane less fit
To wingle wi' ye.

O happy ye! wha daily drudge

Thro' dirt an' dung, without a grudge,

Nor hope, nor fear, can e'er dislodge

Your sluggish pace;
As deaf to honour, on ye trudge,
As to disgrace.

Ye miserable, happy wretches,

Nae canker on your conscience catches—

Nae sic repose the thinker thatches

Frae fear or fright;
But he or weeps, perhaps, or watches
The live-lang night.

Ye're hale an' healthie now, an' therefore,
Nae matter what comes next, or wherefore,
What crams your kits, is a' ye care for
To taste or touch;

An' what we can be wantin' mair for,

Ye marvel much.

Weel, happy be, ye peacefu' pack ye, Happy as blockishness can mak' ye, An' may vexation ne'er owertak' ye,

To gar ye grane,

Nor blasted hopes, like mine, distract ye,

Amen, amen.

TO REVEREND B. W. M.

Dear Reverend Ben,
I'm tauld you mean
To be nae mair amang us,
A new addition to the train
Of ills, that daily thrang us.

This hunted me away yestreen

To Parson's Hill, right speedie,

That I for ance might feast my een

On you, and your fair lady.

But lugs, forsooth, as well as een,
Were bravely entertained,
And a' my secrets, leigh an' clean,
Were openly explained;

This het my heart, tho' it was caul',
An' hard as flint, an' harder,
Whare I stood trembling in the halt,
An' durst na mint nae farder.

I sigh'd, an' said wi' little din,
(The crystal tears they fell tho'),
Be wi' the time I wad been in,
An' sitting at his elbow.

But yet, his Reverence does na' stick
His blessing for to gie us,
To strengthen us anent auld Nick,
Now when he's gaen to lea' us.

Had fortune in the least thee wrang'd,
It wad been grun' for grumblin',
But lumps of dainty luck she whang'd,
And toss'd them to you tumblin'.

So that what lease o' life was gi'en

By fate, ye might hae spent it

Wi' Reverend T****, the man, the frien',

An' dously been contented.

A year, o' ready money,

An' life as lang as Enoch's son,

I'd seek nae ither cronie, as a land a walk.

But here I'm buried up alive,

Wi' crowds o' cares contendin',

Trampled beneath a hatefa' hive A

O' wretches, unbefriendin';

Whar pleasure never gies a blink
On saul or body either;
An' black potatoes, a' the link
That hauds the twa thegither.

So here I sit, misfor une's bairn,

Lamentin', unlamented,

Exertin' a' my powers to learn—

Frien'less, to be contented.

But whether ye or stay, or go,

May nae sic ills betide ye,

An' round you aye, may pleasures flow,

An' round your bonny bridie.

Wi' saut tears tricklin' frae may een,

My last adieu I gie ye—

Fareweel my ever-honour'd frien',

May a' that's gude be wi' ye.

\$1st October, 1805.



A SONG ON MARRIAGE.

The day is come, my bonny bride,

That ye're my ain, and a' that,

Till death, we maun thegither bide:

They say, it is the law that,

The law that, the law that—

It is an unco law that,

The knot that tyes for life, it is

A knot that winna draw, that.

Weel, since it's sae, we'll ne'er complain,

Nor ban our stars, an' a' that,

When love and frien'ship form the chain,

It never gies a ga' that,

For a' that, an' a that,

Our kin'red sauls, an' a' that,

Are baith now souther'd up in ane—

It's love without a flaw, that.

There are o' ilka ae degree,

Would curse our state, an' a' that,

Wha wadna toil to plant the tree,

Would pow the fruit for a that,

For a' that, an' a' that,

They're like the Cat, an' a' that,

"That wadna wat her fit" for fish,

But yet wad eat, for a' that.

They'll swear wi' love, they're like to dee,
But wait a wee, for a' that;
Gie them their will, they'll may be see,
They're no' as ill as a' that,
For a' that, an' a' that,
'They'll deel, an' damn, an' a that,
To ruin some poor orphan thing
That's no' awar o' a' that.

They'll grunt, an' grane, an' greet, an' glower, An' plot, an' scheme, an' a' that, Their chastity to riot owre,

Then fare ye weel, for a' that,

For a' that, an' a' that,

It's lang owre late, for a' that,

Ti' speak about a wadin' day,

Gude faith, they'll keep awa' that.

But let them keep their heart within,
When life's weel worn, an' a' that
An' there they'll find a sting behin',
Will wound their peace for a' that,
For a' that, an' a' that,
Tho' they repent, an' a' that,
Wi' bitter tears, an' sorry hearts,
It winna sair for a' that.

But we, each ither's hearts shall keep
Frae care, an' woe, an' a' that—
Tho' some may think we're ty'd like sheep,
They're far mistain, for a' that,
For a' that, an' a' that;
We're no' sae bun' as a' that:
The ban's are sweet—when love's the law
Its no' like ban's ava, that.

We'll steal thro' life, unknown to time, In innocence, an' a' that, An' if we live without a crime,

"Twill mak' us dee right braw, that,

For a' that, an' a' that,

There is a place an' a' that,

Prepar'd for sic aboon the lift—

The realms of bliss, they ca' that,

Sud death, each ither part us frae,

There's comfort here for a' that;

Full on the verge of perfect day,

We'll meet again, for a' that,

For a' that, an' a' that;

If ye maun flit, an' a' that,

Ye Mammonites, an' quat your cash,

'Twill drive your wits awa, that.

THE BARD.

Bеноld the rustic Bard, O ye!
Wha's fortune, frownin', seldom see,
Wha's coffers daily swell,
See pale-fac'd Age, an' Want arise,
An' daring dance before his eyes,
Meager an' mirk as hell;

Thus hector'd, half his face appears

In rigs an' sheughs already,

Which mak' him aulder than his years,

An' aulder than his daddie;

His sun how its run now,

Far west, ere he's awar';

Now dead is, an' fled his

Meridian summer star.

Whan Winter storms, he stan's aghast,

To hear the desolatin' blast,

Loud thund'rin' thro' the trees,

Which, like himsel', are leafless left,

Direct before the drivin' drift,

To bear each bitter breeze;

Nor is he free frae this assail,

Within his crazy biggin;

For even there, the pond'rous hail

Can thump him thro' the riggin';

Yet there he, can share free

Contentment, in a sense,

For a' we're to ca' gear,

He has it, but the pence.

If in a snawie winter night,
Ye watch the workin's o' the wight,
Ye'll marvel what he's meanin',
Whar he sits nested i' the neuk,
Whiles blinkin', may be, on a beuk,
Whiles on his elbow leanin',
Whiles whan a tunefu' notion comes,
He's scribblin' wi' his pen;
Anon he flings it by, an' hum's
O' Shakespeare, king of men!
Tears thick now, an' quick how
They canter frae his een,
Then sad-like, an' mad-like,
He'll ban his stars in teen.

An' then, if crosses should him crush,
Or trains o' troubles on him rush,
In a promiscuous thrang,
(For sic, nae strangers are to him),
He'll either hail them wi' a hymn,
Or sooth them wi' a sang;
Or should his daily visitant*
About his pillow prance,

Misfortune, a stop on my and

An' there, in frightful form, present as an ill Her iron countenance, all the state of the state of

To smother, an' bother

The melancholy croon,

A sonnet, upon it,

He'll mutter to the Moon.

An then,

Then at the summer's sweet return,

Low by the brink o' some bit burn,

Or on some grassy brae,

Reclin'd he lies, wi' up-turn'd ear,
And een half steek'd, intent to hear

The lark's melodious lay;
In this delirium, deep and ween,
Full monie a day he spen's,

Till gray-cy'd glomin' shut the scene Upon him, ere he kens; His heart then, will start when

He hears the wakerife rail;
Devotion's emotions,

O'er all his pow'rs preval'.

Then he can sit nae longer still, But up he gets, an' roun' the hill He steps sedately slow,

Straight to the weel-kent creek he hies,
While trains of bright ideas rise
With many a grateful glow,
There prostrate falls—but O! what tongue,
What language could declare,
What Cowper, Milton, or what Young,
Could paint his powerful prayer?
Then peaceful, an' graceful,
Frae 'mang the blossom'd broom,
He danders, an' wanders
Towards his little home.

Thus spends the peaceful Bard his days,
With gratitude's refulgent rays
Bright beaming in his breast,
Till Morpheus, ever friendly, brings
Sweet solace on his downy wings,
An' lulls him into rest;
Then streekit on his strawy bed,
He lies, an' sleeps as soun'
As royal Geordie ever did
Upon his bed of down:

A stranger to danger,

An' fear of foreign force—

No traitor lies wait, for

To drain an' empty purse.

O ye! wha bask in Fortune's ray,
An' row in rowth, frae day to day,
Wha's path-way, pleasure paves;
How (shame upon ye), can ye stan'
An' heap preferment on a clan
O saucy, senseless knaves?
An' frien'less leave the simple Bard
Amang the rustic boors,
And say his palate's no prepar'd
For dainty bits like yours;
For nature, the creature
Has form'd plebeian, rude—
Not so, we—for lo! we
Are noble, great, an good,

Weel, weel, to let the contest be, Ye're as ye are, and so is he, An' that's nae great affair; Tho' tramp'd beneath your pow'rful paws,

He has an honest heart, whereas—
But I dare say nae mair,

Because I ken, he hasna cash
To qualify his pouch,

Or else, aneath your tinkler snash,
He wadna hae to crouch;

Yet honour, her banner

Might wave aboon his brow,
An' lead him, to freedom,
Tho' he's your vassal now.

But be that matter how it will,

He has a treble comfort still,

That cheers him now an' then,

That is, at death, his cares will quat,

That thoughts are free through life, an' that

His thoughts ye dinna ken:

His daily hope's your daily fear,

His pleasure is your pain;

What least ye doat on, is his gear;

What beets his bliss, your bane;

Ye're bad baith, an' mad baith,

An' sae'l be seen upon ye—

Gude men' ye, an' sen' ye

Mair wit, an' me mair money.

ON SEEING HIS NAME IN
ROBINSON'S BOOK OF POEMS,
WITH "ESQ." ADDED TO IT.

My up-start brethren, ane an' a', Frae Dingle down to Derry wa', Say, if ye ever heard or saw

A thing sae queer,

As next to naebody ava

Become a Squire.*

Ere now, ye scarce wad met my match, Suppose ye had been set to watch, Or clad wi' patch on tap o' patch,

Or buttock bare—

But now, the despicable wretch

Is grown a Squire.

* Vulgarly pronounced Square.

Whare drugget used to scrape my skin,
Now holland sheets, I'll row me in,
Instead o' brogues as hard as tin,

I'll hae a pair
At least—a boot for ilka shin,
Since I'm a Squire.

O, Robinson! may laurel green
Ay blooming on thy brow be seen,
And may nae crabbed critic, keen,
Thy fame besmear;

But for thy bays, I ne'er had been Created Squire.

Now, at a vast prodigious rate, I'll scale the steepest steps of state, There sit secure, and wink at fate,

An' carpin' care;
Thanks to the generous and great,
I'm now a Squire.

For me, the base-born beggar train May pine, oppress'd wi' grief and pain, For the I'm great, my greatness nane
Shall ever share;
See, there its printed, pat an' plain,
That I'm a Squire.

Nor age, nor want, to me need moan,

For a' sic scoundrels I disown—

Silence, I'll say, base vagabon',

What brought ye there?

Perdition seize ye, wretch begone,

Sure I'm a Squire.

An' he that disna quick retreat,

I'll tramp beneath my noble feet,
Oh! but I'll gar him groan an' greet,
Or else forbear,
To mention money, milk, or meat;
Yes, I'm a Squire.

Thus will I manage day by day

And haud the grip o' what I hae,

So by sic means, I may be, may

Make mickle mair,

And force the folk, at length, to say

Most noble Squire.

Then, whan I'll see the wretches stan'
Before me tremblin', hat in han'
O! I'll be big, an' great, an' gran',

An' fat an' fair;

I question if in a' the lan'

There's sic a Squire.

And I thrive on, I'll shortly sit

A royal—noble—what is it?

An Emperor;

Preserve us! was there ever yet

Sae great a Squire!

THE MUSE DISMISSED.

Be hush'd my Muse, ye ken the morn
Begins the shearing o' the corn,
Whar knuckles monie a risk maun run,
An' monie a trophy's lost an' won,
Whar sturdy boys, wi' might an' main
Shall camp, till wrists an' thumbs they strain,

While pithless, pantin' wi' the heat,
They bathe their weazen'd pelts in sweat
To gain a sprig o' fading fame,
Before they taste the dear-bought cream—
But bide ye there, my pens an' papers,
For I maun up, an' to my scrapers—
Yet, min' my lass—ye maun return
The very night we cut the Churn.

A niyal-noble-what is it?

An Eurperor;

Perceive as was there ever yet

See erest a Soul

THE MUSE DISMISSED.

He hash'd my Mass, we ken the morn

Begins the shearing of the carn, was a

What knowldes monle a risk mann rang

An' monin a tropic's last an' won,

What stordy boys, w' might an' main
Shall comp, till wrists an' dambs they crain.

TO THE PRINCE REGENT.

An' what is still a

GREAT sir; for every body owns
They're very great that sit on thrones;
An' rumour commonly agrees,
That they can do what e'er they please;

So ye can spread your royal wing,
As far as ony ither King;
Can stem, at will, the starkest strife,
An' deal about ye, death or life,
As ane wad do a deck o' cards,
Amang baith commoners an' lairds:

Besides, the voice o' fame assures,

That just a single word o' yours,

Can take a booby frac a byre,

An' sen' him forth a gentle 'squire;

An' that wi' you, it's labour light,

Frac naething, to produce a Knight;

Or wi' a sign frac whar ye sit,

Can form a famous Baronet,
Can tak' a common country carl,
An' fashion him into an Earl;
An' what is still a task sublimer,
Can mak' a marquis o' a rhymer,
Or o' a ninny in a neuk,
In twa three minutes mak' a Duke;
In short, ye can do ony thing,
E'en o' a cottier mak' a King.

Now since ye can perform wi' case, Sic famous feats whon e'er ye please, I think, for certain, I'll get soon My next to naething o' a boon, Which is to fill you vacant seat, That Bellingham made i' the state.

As cunning as a Fox I'll sit,

An' deep as the profoundest Pitt.

I hae a body an' a spirit,

Nor do I mutton hate or claret;

What hinders then my exaltation,

Whon I'm sae fit for 'ministration;

Just wink or nod your royal head, An' that will quickly do the deed.

I know that seat has mony seekers;
Wha fish for it, by fine fore-speakers;
But I'll tak' nae near cuts about it;
Be thankit—I can live without it:
I'd rather far expire in fetters
Than cringe to you, or e'en your betters;
Yet ye may b'lieve it as your creed,
I fain wad Perceval succeed,
An' if I do, it's my opinion,
I'll wonners work in your dominion.

Our Marquis in my cause will join,
For he's amaist a frien' o' mine;
The generous Earl will back me too,
An' twa sic charmin' chiels an' you
Whon join'd thegither, quickly can
Mak' o' me just the Gentleman;
That I am almost sure to be,
The instant you this letter see;
But mark my leige, whon you endeavour
To get or keep a great man's favour,

+ Downshin

Ye maunna keep him in suspence,
For at this crying-out offence,
He'll cock his nose an' snort an' snuff—
Ye know my meaning—that's enough—
So fare ye weel;—I hope to boast
An answer, by the morrow's post;
But frank it, for I'm scarce o' money.

THE MAKING OF A MAN.

THE King on a throne, who can set himself down,
Belov'd by the people of country and town,
May say for a certainty, sure of renown,
It's monarchy makes the man.

The Statesman will study to settle such laws,
As may from the house, gain the loudest applause,
For then they will tell him in hearty huzzas,
It's policy makes the man.

The Gallant and Gentleman often combine,
In praise of the comforts of women and wine;
They'll say at assemblies and balls, where they shine,
It's pleasure that makes the man.

The Minister piously preaches and prays,

And bids us be mindful to mend in our ways;

Then nods with his head, and most solemnly says,

Religion still makes the man.

The Scholar, who fondly would feast on the foliage,
That springs from the ever-green branches of knowledge,

Cries as he comes home in a fuss from the college, It's learning that makes the man.

The Poet sits puzzling all night o'er his pen,

Here scribbling a sentence, there blotting out ten;

And if he succeed, as he seldom does, then

It's nature that makes the man.

The Quack, if he visit you, talks about nought,
So much as the wonderful cures he has wrought
He'll bid you of laud'num take daily a draught,

For medicine makes the man.

The Soldier surrounded by foes in a ring,

Can die like a hero, triumphant, and sing,

O death! what art thou to my country and king?

It's honour that makes the man.

The Beau struts about every day in his best;
His soul is well pleased, when his body's well dress'd;
He says, when he looks at his fine silken vest,

It's clothing that makes the man.

The Gamester, who often addresses the ninny, With—sir, you have spirit, you'll play for a guinea; Will shout, when he tricks hint out of his last penny,

It's fortune that makes the man.

The Drunkard who all he can scramble up drinks,
And cares not a farthing what swims or what sinks;
In spite of religion and reason, still thinks,

It's whiskey that makes the man.

The glutton has ever an appetite, able

To equal the best epicure at the table;

He'll tell you that abstinence is but a fable,

It's mutton that makes the man.

The Miser, full fifty feet deep in a delf,
Will plunge for a penny to put to his pelf;
Then joyfully count it, and say to himself,

It's money that makes the man.

Another poor wretch, but I know not his name,
Lives hid in obscurity, shut out from fame,
And thinks that assurance is only a shame
When modesty makes the man—

The Beggar cries as he comes up to the door,
O, Sir, would you lend a relief to the poor?
Its only but lent, for we're all very sure
It's charity makes the man.

The Pick-pocket cries, he is rob'd in the fair,

The Cozener—he's cheated will solemnly swear;

And a Thief will be ever the first to declare

It's honesty makes the man.

But now in conclusion, observe by the way,

If these verses live but a year and a day,

Along with their Author, I'm certain you'll say,

It's nonsense that makes the man.

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF

THE EARL OF MOIRA,

TO BE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND COMMANDER OF THE FORCES IN INDIA.

Monarch of the fearless Britons,

Bid thy choicest sail prepare

For thy choicest friend's admittance;

Choicest seamen tend him there.

Steersman! mind thy task intently;

Bursting billows cease to roar;

Blow propitious gales, blow gently;

Waft him safe to yonder shore.

O Bengal, rejoice for ever;

Strew his steps with flowrets fair;

Moira's equal surely never,

Never breath'd your sultry air.

If your sons be loyal hearted, He is noble, gen'rous, kind; He's the friend that ne'er departed, Leaving worth in want behind.

Disappointed sons of Erin!

Take ye comfort, he's assign'd

A more glorious task;—so herein

Be submissive, be resign'd;

He must fill a nobler station,

He must o'er the Indian deep,

He must bless another nation,

'Tho' he leave his own to weep.

May all happiness betide him;

Heaven defend him from his foes!

May his guardian angel guide him

Safe thro life, where'er he goes;

May thy presence round him hover,

Essence pure of lasting love;

All his brilliant actings over,

Call him to thy court above.

This, and the two preceding Poems have been misplaced by accident,

THE MUSE RETURNS.

TISANDER. Guid morrow to ye, honest woman,

Are ye gawn to, or are ye commin'

Frae Hafiz, Robinson, or Drummon',

Your famous friend?

Or is it Boyd's resistless summon,

Ye now attend?

Muse...........Na, na, an humble course I steer,

For ane Tisander, now I spier:

A very vague, that's void, I hear

O' shame and sense—

A haveril fellow;—am I near

His residence?

Tisander....See there, direct before your een,

The creature's cottage may be seen;

And there's the burn an' slopein' green,

His pastime place;

And here's the wight himsel', I ween

Before your face.

Muse........Forgie me, Sir, I didna know ye;

Far mair respect, I own, I owe ye;

Tune up your harp, and I'll bestow ye

A lyric string,

Besides, a knack, which whon I'll show ye,

Ye'll sweeter sing.

Tisander...Aye, now begin an' mak' pretence
Wi' witchin' wile, an' gleesome glance,
And then, cast up your influence,
An' shrewd assistance;
But I hae yet a sort o' sense;
So keep your distance.

Muse........Why man, ye sought me mony a time, To aid you, makin' up a rhyme; Now, when wi' energy sublime,

I come, I'm treated

As if some past the common crime
I had committed.

TISANDER...A crime! a crime! an' did ye not?

Ye did, I'll prove it on the spot:

Ye plainly dealt a partial lot,

The world may see,

If they but view what Drummond got

Compared wi' me.

Muse......I think ye needna bounce a bit

For that, but soberly submit,

Ye got your favourite sort o' wit;

He got nae mair,

But only he was form'd fit

For twa folks share.

TISANDER...E'en that, shows plainly ye intended
That I should still be less befriended;
Yet like a genius, ye attended
Baith Boyd an' him;
And now, on Fame's wings wide extended,
See how they swim.

Muse.......Swim! aye, an' may they swim an' shine
An' so they should, and a' their kin'.
How few are form'd to feel sae fine?

Scarce ane in ten;
Some feel like sheep, an' some like swine;
But few like men.

TISANDER...,So, what I trembl'd at, is true,

That I'm among the swinish crew,

That what they're bid, dare only do,

Nor ever tire;

But grumphie-like, maun gruble thro'

Baith mud an' mire.

Muse......Ye needna storm, because ye stan'

Amang the ignoramus clan;

As nature taught ye, tell, my man,

The thing ye think,

And I'll be ready at your han'

To mak' it clink.

TISANDER...Ye wadna like to be a dweller,

Deep in a damp unwholsome cellar,

An' wi' a stammerin' story teller,

That scarcely knows
The big A's; yet, a rank repeller
O' pithless prose.

Muse.......Na, sic a place as that, I swear
I hate, an' will for ever mair;
My pupils in the open air
Delight to dwell;
So, if ye would the laurel wear,
Forego the cell.

TISANDER...Ye ken the wab maun be put out
To pay the rent—that's past dispute,
Else Starry, inoffensive brute,
Will be tane up;
Then drammock, dry, (or waur) I doubt,
I'd hae to sup.

Muse......Ye ken what that is, lang ago,

Then let it come to pass, or no',

Here by this brattlin burn, below

This bush o' broom,

We'll pass a pair o' hours, or so,

Let what will come.

Tisander...I'm wearied, therefore, I agree

That ye may cheer me up a wee;

Och! Fortune surely doesna see

My constitution,

Or, some time, she had smil'd on me

In retribution.

Muse.....Tho' forc'd to live in vassallage,

Within your little hermitage;

And tho' misfortune, ramp an' rage,

Ye may defy her;

Ye hae a frien' that can assuage,

Her fiercest ire.

Tisander...Aye, if ye wad but cast an e'e

Across that flowery vale, ye'll see

The mansion of the friend, so free

O' spite an' teen,

That ay the mair ye skaith, he'll be

The mair your frien'.

Muse...........Then scorn a lowerin' look to wear;

Contemn that peace-destroyer—care,

Above depression's grovlin' glare,

Arise victorious;

A noble soul delights to dare

Each thought inglorious.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

Attend ye truants, in a trice,

Wha wit sud buy at ony price,

And you, ye learned, great an' wise,

Ye reverend, holy ban',

O! take a friendly fool's advice,

An' place nae trust in Man.

And next, ye lusty lasses a',

Ye buxom blossoms, blythe an' braw,

Put ye nae trust in men ava,

Tho' flatterin'ly they fawn;

But keep them at arms-length, awa',

For Man is, only Man.

And ye to disappointment's lash, As senseless as a tinker's ass, Tho' bless'd beyond the crack-scull class,
Wi' happiness in han',
Ye seldom lose a thought, I guess,
On either Gude or Man.

If ye're a Man o' sober sense,

An' wish for to maintain your mense,

Grow great thro' dint o' diligence,

As quickly as ye can;

Make princes not your confidence;

It's vain to trust in Man!

If ye're in a contented case,

Ye're happy in whatever place,

Despite his lordship an' his grace,

For a' sae great an gran';

If ye enjoy internal peace,

Ye're bless'd, but not by Man.

And you, to your ain lesson lost,

Frae ill to waur, sae prone to post

Ye rhymin' wretches, wretched most

Of a' the wretched clan;

It's you that ken it to your cost,

The faithlessness o' Man.

Since ye're sae bent to break the but,

Sae wretched apt to slip the foot,

Keep close within your wattl'd hut,

'There speechless spen' your span',

And O! be warn'd by me, and put

Nae confidence in Man,

And since, at best, your listless lays

Can scarce procure you palt'ry praise;

Dear brither-heirs o' blasted bays,

While on the stage ye stan',

Mind what the Rector's Rhymer says,

It's vain to trust in Man!

If ye onjoy internal peace,

And your to your ain beaon lost.
Free ill to wair; one prone to post.
Ye rhymla' wretches, wasteleed most
Off a' the provided class.

He you that hen it to your cret,

THE DRUNKARD'S FATE, INSCRIBED TO T. T. ESQ.

I own, Sir, it's odd;—it's absurd to request You to peep at a picture you're known to detest.

Dear Thomas, quat your merry springs,
Your fiddle, an' your fiddle strings;
Gie owre a wee your skips an' flings,
An' tak a' seat,
An' listen while your bardie sings
The Drunkard's fate:

Behold him! how he lurks an' stays
About the ale-house, half his days,
While oaths and horrid blasphemies
Employ his breath.
O, shun his works! an' shun his ways,
As you would death.

See, how he wiles his neighbour in, Wi'— Sir, ye'll tak' a glass o' gin; Damn hell, it's neither shame nor sin,

Let wha will know;

Deil hae them drap we'll taste but ane,

An' then we'll go.'

Then grips him kindly by the han',

An' thus deludes the simple man:

So, in they're gane, an' till't they're fa'n,

Brisk, baith thegither;
The wretch then whispers,—'boy its gran',
We'll hae anither.'

But still the variet's laith to flit,
So, maun hae mair, an' mair o't yet;
Then cries— (tho' he can scarcely sit),
Let him be curs'd,

An' hurled head-long to the pit, That rises first.'

'Do we regard the sons of men?

It's honestly our ain we spen';'

Then to the riggin', wi' a sten

His hat he flings,

An' wi' his social neighbour, then
Shakes hands, an' sings
'We'll drink till we fall, and we'll pay for it all
And who would not drink good liquor, brave boys."

Some leuker-on begins a sneerin';
Frae singin', then he fa's a swearin',
And aff his back, in pieces tearin'
His tatter'd coat.
An' b'lieve me, Sir, he's hard o' hearin'
That hears him not.

His neighbour ne'er had seen before,
Nor heard a human devil roar,
So, tremblin' pays the double score
For peace's sake;
The landlord then, without the door
Soon lands the rake.

Leuk at him now! see how he goes! See how his steekit neeve he shows! Now watch the pavement and his nose

How fast they'll meet,
An' hear him damn his blood, that flows
An' stains the street.

Tho' nane molest him, out he calls—
'Foul play, ye dog,' and up he sprawls;
Then twa-three steps before he falls,
He runs ram-stam,
Then down he goes, and out he bawls
The tither damn.

He strives to rise, an' then he stumbles,
An' thro' the gutter-hole he rumbles,
Till heels owre head at last he tumbles—
'You lie,' he cries,
'It's not a roun',' then fykes an' fumbles,
But canna rise.

So, like a sow, thro' mud an' mire
He wallows, till himsel' he tire,
Then whon he scarcely can respire,
They drag him out,
And in some dirty roofless byre,
They throw the brute.

There like a very beast he lies,

From whence he never more shall rise;—

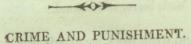
He's dieing now—his reeling eyes

See how the glare!

He breaths his last, his spirit flies—

But where? O! where?

Thus, without either rape or knife
He finishes the mortal strife;
The value o' a virtuous life
Owre late he learns,
So, leaves a broken-hearted wife
An' beggar'd bairns.



TO THE REVEREND I. P.

DEAR SIR, they say that sic as you,
Can read a tale, if it be true;
Weel this ye ken yoursel',
That I had never nae desire
To rank me wi' an arrant liar—
But listen, an' I'll tell:

It was (if I remember right),
Upon a dark December night,
When hail an' rain severe,
Burst from each blast that Boreas blew,
And fire, in flamin' flashes flew
Thick thro' the gloomy air.

While deep resoundin' thunders rattle,
Sonorous as the din of battle,
Where ruin rages round;
This, louder still than that before,
Wild echo, lengthening out the roar,
Made horror still abound.

Now, terror shook her grizzly plume,
Predicting man's approaching doom,
An' time's eternal fall.

I thought I heard the trumpet loud,
I thought I saw th' immortal crowd
Close clustering at the call.

I thought I saw the heavenly band,
In regular succession stand
Around the mighty throne,

And vengeance brandishing her sword,
Impatient waiting for the word,
To seize upon her own.

While thus imagination wrought
In fancy's field, I heard (me thought),
Without the door a din;
Wi' tremblin' hand I lift the latch,
When lo! a weather-beaten wretch,
Half dead, came staggering in.

Wi' care I kittl'd up the coal,

Conscious what houseless wretches thole

Sic nights, when far frae hame.

And soon as he came to himsel',

I speer'd at him, if he could tell

His country and his name;

What bus'ness he had been about,

Or what ill win' had drove him out
In sic wild wasteful weather;
Or why he lodgin' didna get,
When a' the elements were set
To wrastle wi' each ither.

He sigh'd, but little answer made;

At length, he shook his head, and suid,

Vice has it's ain reward,

And often is repaid in kind,

For harden'd hearts not seldom find

Hearts equally as hard.

This, sad experience lets me know,
And this, I think, I'll plainly show,
If ye will lodgin' lend.
I granted that for which he pray'd,
He thank'd me kindly for't, an' said,
Now to my tale attend:

I once possess'd a fair estate,

And had attendants too, to wait

Upon me when I pleas'd;

But, wherefore o' my greatness crack,

When underneath a pediar's pack,

My back maun now be brees'd.

But how I to sic greatness grew, Is what I want to show to you, That ye may see an' shon; I had a confidential pair,

That did my business to a hair—
A servant and a son.

We took a' gaits to gather gear,
My son would lie, my servant swear
What e'er my son would say;
To ane anither's hands we wrought;
I plotted privately, an' thought
Soon to be great an' gay.

About the blue time o' the year,
When scarcity the wretched fear,
An' beggars crowdin' come,
It was my custom every day,
To bid them bolt the gate, an' say
There's nobody at home.

Thus, what we had, we held secure,
Regardless o' baith rich an' poor,
Nor thought on heaven or hell,
Till sic a night as this—alake!
When worlds did seem to reel to wreck,
This incident befell:

A wight bewilder'd, wanders in,
While pendent frae his chitterin' chin,
Drops, frozen snow-drops hung;
His hoary haffet-locks were a'
Close cloted wi' the drivin' snaw,
Whar to his cheek they clung.

He sought to lodge till 'twad be day,
As now, he could not find his way
Thro' darkness so obscure—
Soon was deny'd his humble suit;
My orders were—go, turn him out,
An' quickly bar the door.

But in the morn, how shock'd was I,
To see the out-cast wanderer lie
Quite breathless, stiff an' caul';
Close by the porch he lifeless lay!
We knew not what to do or say;
We were confounded all,

The dropin' eve had wash'd awa

Frae aff his face the meltin' snaw;

O, what a sight to see!

His eyes turn'd up, as he departed,
That look—my guily conscience darted;
He look'd, I thought, at me.

The news like light ning flew an' flam'd;
My zealous servant soon was blam'd,
So was my seckless son;
They had but e'en a ragged name,
False oaths and lies had fil'd their fame;
So they were seiz'd upon.

A perjured villain, swore aff han',

He saw my servant slay the man;

So, in a little time

He strangl'd was upon a tree;

A just reward for perjury,

Which was his greatest crime.

My son was free'd by law, yet still
Was pointed at from every hill;
The worst may be belied,
As greatest liars aften are;
So, being caught in his own snare,
He broke his heart an' died.

These facts eclips'd my prosperous day;

My wealth took wing an' flew away;

Thus, fortune whirl'd the wheel,

An' drove me down whar I maun lie

Below her lash, an' feel what I

Made ithers aften feel;

Which makes me still imagine we
Plain in our punishment may see
Our most prevailing crime;
Then, let's in time, while time we hae,
In an impartial balance weigh
Eternity wi' time.

He ceas'd, but left me deep in thought

How worldly things are sometimes bought,

Dear at the soul's expense;

O! may I ne'er be rich or great,

At so extravagant a rate;

Better be pinch'd o' pence.

He broke his heart an

SONNET TO FRIENDSHIP.

O, LET me still thy sweets imbibe,
Thou darling of the tuneful tribe!
Since I have found thee—where?
E'en where the wretched find thee still,
Adorning peace on Parson's Hill;
Tisander found thee there,
Presiding o'er thy votary's heart
With absolute controul;
There, plying all thy healing art
To cheer Tisander's soul.
So, care then, go where men
Their span in spite, do spend;
Here ever, we sever,
For T*****'s Tisander's friend.
30th January, 1807.

For me offences

AN EPISTLE TO BONAPARTE, ON THE INVASION OF PORTUGAL.

O, Bony! Bony! what's this now?

Has hell possess'd your breast? or how?

Or what? or has the de'il and you

Now faun at odds?

O, scandal! rank affront in view

O' men and gods.

O, man! I thought you wadna been
In sie a dirty action seen;
I tell ye, Sirrah, I'll minteen,

To rob a broken-hearted queen;

O, fye for shame!

What way can ye expect success,
Will follow sic an act as this,
To rive an' wreck, an' dispossess
O' place an' pence,
The widow an' the fatherless,
For nae offence,

Except it was, for being true

To her best friends, and not to you;

Now, fire an' flint, they'll force 'em through,

Till they get at ye;

They'll chace ye to destruction's brow,

Before they'll quat ye.

I'll wad a groat, wha lives to see't,
That Britain's boys will gar ye greet;
For what they gie, they're apt to gie't,

Sae, without slackings,
That e'en the de'il durst scarcely meet
Them, without backings.

Sae, up my lad, and dinna jauk, But quick a moonlight flittin' mak'; And O! take care, for if they track

Ye on the snaw, Ye'll never, never mair get back, But down ye'll fa'.

But if ye scorn th' advice I gie ye, I'll no be farther bother'd by ye, Sae, rin your race, an' de'il gang wi' ye;

Work on your way;

I dinna care, I never see ye,

Ye yex me sae.

'Twould vex auld Nick, to see ye commin'
Like some vile vague, in fury foamin',
Against a simple silly woman
To wreck your rage;
It wad bring credit, Sir, to no man,
Sic war to wage.

Leuk on, ye man—if Moira comes
Wi' a' his fifes, an' a' his drums,
An' a' his bucklers, bayonets, bombs,
In fury fell;
He'll trample down your lofty plumes,

As low as hell.

Ye could as muckle bear his bangs,
As Brueye's could great Nelson's whangs;
Releasin' lambs frae lions' fangs,
Was aye his trade;
He still was good at rightin' wrangs
Whare'er he gaed.

So, keep it secret frae all those

That may the tale to him disclose,

For if ye hae to bear his blows,

My royal frien',

He'll leave ye wi' a bluidy nose,

An' twa black ce'n.

Besides, if this disgraceful tale, Does e'er Sir Sidney's ear assail, He'll just fa' on ye tooth and nail,

Full well ye know;
Ye mind he gart ye turn your tail
No' lang ago.

Sae, hame as hard as ye can lick,

For fear ye get a bain to pick,

Might break your teeth, perhaps, or stick

Within your gullet;

Ye ken, gin Geordie gi'es a kick,

. Or is, or can the ne

Ye canna thole it;

An' if you reach your native isle, Conceal your Bonyship a while, And unbecomin',

And never march anither file

Again' a woman.

24th November, 1807.

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

FORM HIS PONY.

Och! och! what's this I'm hearin' noo,
That like a dagger darts me thro',
Or is, or can the news be true,
That I maun flit?
O Master, Rector, Doctor, do
Not part me yet;

Keep mind that I was steadfast still,

An' true to you as truth it sel',

I never said or did you ill

Sin' I was born,

But was obedient to your will

Baith e'en an' morn.

But since it's sae, that I maun hence,
Sell me to somebody o' sense,
That feelin' haes, an' moderate mence
Towards beast an' man;
I hope, wi' sic, for sake o' pence
Ye winna stan'.

'Tis now full fifteen year, at least,
Since I at first becam' your beast,
An' wha I may belang to neist,

They're wise that know—Be't Duke or Duchess, Pope or Priest,
I needs must go.

Weel might my master dear, ador'd me,
For wha mair frien'ship could afford me,
Then cheerfully he might restor'd me
My rack an' sta',

Whon them I never chang'd a word wi',

Are sorry a'.

E'en there's Tisander, whon he'll hear That ye hae sel't your wee bit meere, Watch, an' ye'll see the gushing tear

Start in his e'e,

For, to his heart she was as dear

As ye're to me.

The Rector may be laith to loss me,
When he laments, that scarcely knows me,
And naething, down-right neathing owes me,

Plain truth to tell,

Nor ever laid a leg across me,

Poor creature! he was doom'd to paddle Thro' clabour since he quat the cradle; He never sat upon a saddle

O' his ain yet,

Na na, a seat-board or a treadle

Wad better fit.

Yet still it made me merry-hearted, When his bit Muse, her skill exerted, For if I only neigh'd, he gart it

Had I been his, we ne'er had parted

Till death had done it.

I b'lieve, we scarcely ever yet

Gade by his little garden fit,

But it produc'd upon the bit

Some rhymin' rant;

Dear save us, but the want o' wit

's a woefu' want.

Noo, after a' the rattle, I

Your kindness never will deny,

For meat or drink, I would defy

The worl' to beat ye,

Yet in some measure, by the bye,

I whiles repaid ye.

Had I like ither brutes been toil'd,

These tidings had na put me doil'd;

Or had I wi' a rung been oil'd,

When pride was buddin',

But like the fellow's peas, I'm spoil'd

For want o' roddin'.

I grew as sleekit as a mouse,
Which proves I got na great abuse,

Tho' mony a time I canter'd cruse

To Mister M——t's,

An' likewise, to the Bishop's house, Tho' ten mile aff it's.

We wad a thought it but a sport,

At five, to lea'e Lord R—n's court,

An' hame to Parson's Hill, unhurt,

By early tea time;

My souple shanks, be thanked for't,

That fail'd me nae time.

Now, master, let me never sin,
While I'm alive, if I'll gie in
To carry man or mither's sin

Upon my back,

That wadna care a headless pin

To break my neck.

So, if ye canna keep me, send me,
An' either sell, bestow, or lend me
To somebody that will attend me
As weel as Hammy;

Len' him his health, he'll recommend me, Least ill befa' me. But best o' frien's maun part—I see,
An' so maun I wi' thine, an' thee,
Therefore, adicu;—my love ye'll gie
To wee Mageein,
For never was there yet to me
A better bein'.

P.S. They say, a pound o' sorrow yet,

Never has paid an ounce o' debt,

Then, henceforth, I will never fret

What e'er betide:

I'll cock my tail, an' off I'll set.

The world is wide.



TO W. B. Esq.

that type of titing many new

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF
HUGH PORTER,
OF MONETSLAN, MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT it petitioner greatly grieves, That he's perplex'd wi' petty thieves, That this ye needna think a joke, That they're as plenty as the folk; That half his pickle peets they tak', That he has borne upon his back; That if wi' care, he rear a pullet, That same maun grease some glutton's gullet; That if a frien' gies him a hen, That night her life is at an en' That e'en his constant-crowin' cock, That sair'd him nightly for a clock: That cock they stole-may sorrow switch him, That had the heart or han' to touch him; That if his Starry* stolen be, That he expects to never see

That day he could collect th'gither, That which would purchase him anither, That he need never think to waur them, That has nor sword, nor gun to scar them; That he had ance a fowlin'-piece, That lang preserv'd his hens an' geese, That cost him mair than thirty shillin', That he gied up in Castlewellan; That he expected back again That which was lawfully his ain, That he sae hop'd-behold the reason, That he was never blam'd wi' treason; That if she's gane, and nane kens whar, That ye will grant him ane nae waur, That in his morn an' evenin' prayer, That ye may get a sonsie share-That ye may aye be rich-but hush, That is but a superfluous wish; That ye may still be free o' foes; That ye may aye hae rowth o' brose; That far remote the day may stan', That proves ye but a mortal man;

That mod'rately the stroke may fall

That strikes your body frae your saul.

That your Petitioner is a wight,
That's nae way tongue-ty'd day or night,
That tells the truth whon he can hit it;
That he's het-headed an' half-witted;
That he's a ram-stam, chace-grace chiel,
That characters him—Sir, fareweel.

Jan. 1808.

TO J. J.

A BRITHER RHYMER.

Ha! Johnny boy, I'll bang ye now,
The laurel's buddin' on my brow;
Na, that's a lie;—I rue, I rue
That e'er I said it;
'Twas you, stiff-neckit Muse, 'twas you

To mock me, made it.

There never was a laurel leaf Ty'd roun' my temple to my grief, An' to the best o' my belief,

There never will;

The Muse, confound her dumb an' deaf,

She gecks me still.

That self-will'd, head-strong giglet, she
Does ought ava she likes for me,
I might as weel attempt to flee,
As put her fra't,
For when she means to lie, she'd lie

inidmits mil In spite o' fate.

Since miracles she maun be at,

There let her answer for her faut;

But mony a trick as weel as that,

She puts upon me:

I'm proud, I'm ought; but liein's what

I'll never own wi':

It fills me sae wi' spleen an' spite,

That I can neither rhyme nor write;

A something odd, this very night

I was inventin';

But this has put the hizzie hyte,

This talk o' printin'.

O printin'! printin'! cream o' craft!
Ye'll sen' me—whar? alaft, alaft;
Ye'll mak' me—what? I marvel aft,

A-a-a- poet;

O! O! I fear 'twill drive me daft,

Just thinkin' o' it.

An' author! aye, aye, there's the matter
That's better boy, better an' better;—
What am I—no a human creature—

For see! I'm climbin',

Up—up—I'm up, it's past a clatter,
And I'm past rhymin'.

Preserve my heart! whar will I light?
Whar will I end my airy flight?
See, see, I'm soarin' out o' sight,

On Fame's fair feathers.

Fareweel my frien', and O! guid night,

My glorious blethers;

But haud, I'm comin' to my wit,
I'm getin' better o' the fit;

The hale as nonsense, and I'm yet

Your babblin' brither.

24th Feb. 1808.

ON BEING ASKED WHY POETS ARE POOR

AND SELDOM CONTENTED.

ONE reason that Poets are poor,
Misfortunes do often await them;
Another, as solid I'm sure,
They're simple, and most people cheat them.

And that they are seldom content,

I think that this plainly determines;

Twould make a Right Reverend relent,

To dig in a ditch and make sermons.

Besides, my good Sir, you will find
This maxim is true, if you study,
The body was made for the mind,
And not the mind made for the body.

Who ever two masters doth serve,

The one or the other abuses;

So, they of necessity swerve

From Mammon, or else from the Muses.

While ye sleep on soft beds, unsound,

They're snorin' on straw—if ye saw them,

While ye have a benefice, bound,

They scarce have the nails for to claw them.

O! if they could live on the air,

If nature had cloath'd them in feather,

His Grace the gay garland would wear;

He would not go with them to gather.

Poor things! they're still treated with scorn,

And rarely with trust or attention;

I'm alive since before I was born,

And I never knew one get a pension.

Yet something as wild as the wave,

Their lunatic brain so bewitches,

That honour, not riches, they crave,

Yet still they would not despise riches.

Altho' I'm no poet, I wish

That poets and patrons may never
Abandon their title to bliss,

But may they enjoy it for ever.

7th March, 1808.

ON THE SUPPOSED LOSS OF A FRIEND.

00000

Flow, ever flow, my gushing tears,
For oh! my too-well founded fears
Are more than realiz'd!
When will my sick'ning sadness end?
How, how again enjoy the friend?
The friend so highly priz'd;

In whom the very essence dwelt
Of purest tenderness,
Who's sympathetic soul could melt
For e'en a foe's distress;
For him, how I swim now,
Thro' sorrow's swelling seas;
Still stretching and reaching
At hope, which ever flees.
30th March, 1808.

A SOLILOQUY WRITTEN IN A STORM.

O! bless me, what an evening's there—
Blast after blast still more severe,

More shocking still the sound;

The spreading branches from the ash,

Are torn with terrifying crash,

And tumbl'd to the ground.

I'm weather-beaten with the wind;

Yea, I'm out-wrestl'd so,

That in me scarcely can I find

Wherewith to stand or go;

But here's a hawthorn hedge at hand,
In lee of which, a while I'll stand
And hear the tempest rave,
And view you heavy-hanging cloud,
As dark as death's heart-shrinking shroud,
Grim as the gaping grave;
Black emblem of my muddy mind,
Where once the radiant rays
Of hope, without a shadow shin'd
In bright unblended blaze.

But now, the haggard eye of care
Pervades my bosom every where,
And every nook explores
In quest of peace, and if it's found,
It's last remains this hateful hound
Most dev'lishly devours;
Then raging, rankles in my veins,
And drinks my bliss away,
And leaves me in the dull demesnes
Of dark despondency.

Ah, me! my shining summer sun
Of pleasure-yielding youth is gone;
In infancy, I'm old:
Now health decays, desire dies;
Now fortune frowns, and friendship flies;
How dim is grown my gold,
Who once could boast so firm a friend?
As tender and as true
As e'er the sire of souls did send,
O, toil-worn tribe, to you.
Yet, wherefore, should I mourning go?
I've yet a comforter, and O!
What better bliss can be,

Than that the powers are pleas'd to spare,
That she that shudders not to share
A living death with me;
Bereft of this most stedfast stay,
O, world! what could you give?
What could induce me then a day
Beneath the moon to live?

But O, Supreme! want what I may,
Grant with this blessing, grant I pray
Thy glorious gift of grace;
That when I yield my hapless breath,
My safeguard from eternal death,
May be the Prince of Peace!
For who can wrath inrag'd repel,
Almighty wrath? or who
With wild devouring fire can dwell,
And fire eternal too?

Come then, thou infinite I AM,
And with thee, Gilead's blessed balm,
To sooth my sin-sick soul;
Come thou, that everlasting art,

And from thine altar, touch my heart
With an enkindl'd coal;
Come, in thy gospel's chariot, come,
And all my doubts dispel;
Come, rescue me—come, snatch me from
The gorgon gripe of hell.

Yes, thou canst conquer all my care,
Canst vanquish dolor, death, despair;
Yea, hell itself destroy.
Thou giver great, of greatest things,
Who walk'st upon the tempest's wings,
O! grant me to enjoy
Again, the favour of the friend
Of friends the very best,
On whom for life I could depend;
With whom I could be bless'd.



SONNET TO DEATH.

O! TERROR'S monarch! how I fear
To meet thy desolating spear,
Thy dire destructive dart!

Not that alone could shock me, O!

Unfitness for the bitter blow,
Still rings my heavy heart;

Yet if sweet health be mine no more,
Why stand I ling'ring here?

Shiv'ring on dissolution's shore,
Still ent'ring, still in fear,
Still staying, delaying

For that important morn,
When I hence shall fly whence
I never shall return.

AN ADDRESS TO POVERTY.

For proof o' this, the ithre day

O! but ye're an unwelcome guest,
As ever creature's cottage grac'd;
My heart-strings ache to see ye plac'd
In sic a lodgin';
I wad gie a' I'm worth, amaist,
To see you trodgin';

Nor, is it wi' my will I wait

Till ye think fit to take the gaet;

For little, I wad break your pate,

O misery! misery! but I hate

Your ghastly look;

Ye oft bring wi' ye too, a class

That deeper ay make deep distress,

And neathing know o' tenderness

For ane afflicted,

But aften strive to make him less,

And less respected;

For proof o' this, the ither day

I met his honour on the way,

I bow'd, and beg'd that he would stay

A moment wi' me,

But a' that I could do or say

He wadna see me;

Then, presently he was address'd

By just a coof, o' cash possess'd;

And O! what friendship was express'd

Between the twa,

While I was scorn'd—and you, ye pest,

I blame for't a'.

Twa tedious twalmonths now hae pass'd

Since ye fell on me furious fast,

And mony a vengefu' scheme ye've cast

To overcome me;

But now, my boast, my hope, at last

Ye've wrested from me.

Baith late an' early, day and night, I've us'd the utmost o' my might To put your filthy form to flight,

But oh! alas!

I ne'er can banish from my sight

That lang thin face.

I'd rather far that ye would slay me,
Than constantly cohabit wi' me;
For at the last ye're sure to lay me
Sae wretched low,
That I the joy o' gien' frae me,
Shall never know.

O, dear be wi' the time, whon I

Could a' your ruthless rage defy;

Then, then, I wad hae scorn'd fi' lie

Beneath your power,

When glowin' friendship flow'd from Taxara.

Fresh every hour.

An evening then, at P*****'s Hill
Was weekly spent wi' right good will,
Whar I had easy access—still
My hope's foundation
Was this, and under every ill,
My consolation.

But now, my friends, the feeling few
Yield my enfeehl'd frame to you;
Now, desperation darts me thro',
And worse than all,
The generous T**** has left me too,
To stand or fall.

Yet, wherefore, should a wretch like me

Be age complainin', while I see

The worthiest o' the world by thee

Deeply distress'd;

Let beggin' Homer witness be Whom ye oppress'd.

'Gainst Virgil too, your rage ran high,
Whom ye compell'd without to lie;
Cervantes too, by want, to die

In Madrid city;

So Spenser perish'd—fiy, O fiy

Upon your pity!

Nac heart, but either stane or steel, Could ever stan' again' you weel, Your very leuk wad scar the de'il, Or Bonaparte;

Though i' the actions o' the fiel'.

They're baith expert.

But, to conclude, between us twa, I wish the de'il, an' you, an' a' Alang wi' Bonaparte, may fa'

As far as me,

He keep the a fashion to a mil for care ither

But what and ods, sle, the creat facts use place,

Can mak' a tool-follow arout wier or better, as

That ye may never rise ava,

So let it be.

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

DEAR RECTOR, it of to another out I alguest T

A stranger is comin' to see ve, A stranger that twonty lang evenings sat wi' ye, Wha now has lang lang been depriv'd o' that blessin', The best he could ever yet boast of possessin'-But, sir, to speak plainly, like ither plain fellows, Tho' he sud be strung by the neck on a gallows, He can bide nae langer frae what he's sae bent for, So, like the bad weather, he's comin' unsent for; He kens it's a fashion to send for each ither, An' comin' unsent for, ye know's but anither; But what can he do, sir, that's sent for to nae place, It's heartless to bide a' ane's lifetime in ac place, An' waur for a rhymer, than ony ac creature: It hurts his guid name, and it alters his nature, An' mak's him as crabbed as onv crab could be, An' gars him be a' things but just what he should be ; Now, sir, if your counsel, your beakes, or your letter, Can mak' a fool-fellow grow wiser or better, Perhaps in an hour, or may be in less. Ye'll see at your dwellin', the writer of this.

H. P****.

Yet mi' this glorious golden gear, conbail dock

TO ONE WHO DEMANDED INTEREST FOR LENDING FIVE SHILLINGS A FEW DAYS.

An' few will fret, whate'er befa' ye, O MENCELESS miser! greedy grub, Ay for advantage gapin', and subservised' I b'live sincerely, ye wad rob If ye could get escapin'. An' whether gold be there, or gain, Search a' the world, ye wadna fin' mov I A worldlin' to exceed ye and I side to H In daily study, how to grin'w ad on Hay The noses aff the needy. For O, ye had a strange delight You honest? na, ye canna be't, itan al Ye narrow-hearted wretch ye, bluos told Ye say, ye wadna steal or cheat, Yet folk, I b'lieve, sud watch ye'; An' tho' ye're rich as ony Jew, "laib queb al Ye've neither peace nor pleasure, But when ye're sitting thoomin' thro' Your stocking lu's o' treasure;

Yet wi' this glorious golden gear,
Your time might not be lastin',
For ye might flit an' lea'e it here,
Some mornin' fresh an' fastin'.

An' few will fret, whate'er befa' ye,

I think, because I know some

That wadna sigh, suppose they saw ye
In Haran's brither's bosom.

An' whether gold be there, or gain,

I vow, I never kent yet;

But this I know, if there be name,

Ye'll no be weel contentit.

For O, ye had a strange delight
In gatherin' gear thegither,
Nor could ye think to part a mite,
Suppose your very mither

In deep distress, on bended knee,

Sat pleadin' for a penny;

This answer ye were prone to gie;

The devil sen' ye money,

Such kindness ye hae aften shown

To ony that apply'd for't;

But yet your friendship ne'er was known,

Unless ye were weel pay'd for't.

Expiring in a woodie,

There never yet were mair dry e'en

About a diein' body.

A chance if there wad be ava,

A sorry heart behin' ye,

For what the spoon put in, was a'

That ever was within ye.

11th Jan. 1809.

That ye may bide, a hit all pride,

Ye'll fin' ye'll fine the better:

It happen'd ese, the filter day,

Beyont my expectation,

That I did dine, wi' them that shind and

Out own't a the majon.

Such kindness we have aften shown.
To ony that mesh SZIM OT

But yet your friendship ne en was known,

MARIA, fair, as ye grow mair

An' mair a lovely lassie,

Watch roun' ye weel, for fear the deil

Sud tempt ye to grow saucy.

For if he get, the least inlet, and another He'll gaur ye think your graces

Nae less, nor waur, but mair an' far

Aboon the human species;

Then, then I fear, a tumble near a real diff
But listen to my letter,

That ye may bide, a bit aff pride,

Ye'll fin' ye'll fare the better:

It happen'd sae, the ither day,

Beyont my expectation,

That I did dine, wi' them that shine
Out owre a' the nation.

Nae matter wha, ye ken them a'; But I got sae conceited, Sae proud an' vain, I thought again
I was a-new created.

My only fret, was how to get

Enow o' folk to know it;

Guid luck had I, that didna try

Some shameless shift to show it.

I but cam' out, an' blink'd about
Me, here an' there, an yon'er,
Ay thinkin' they wad some whar say—
Your honour, O, your honour!

I thought in plain, that there was nane
O ony rank or station,
But what sud stan', wi' hat in han',
In fremblin' consternation.

Had ye but kent, ye wad hae sent
Or come yoursel' an' watch'd me,
For ne'er a one, I'm sure frae Dan
'To Beersheba, could match'd me.

But hame I go, like ony beau, Possess'd o' pride past tholin', That wadna flinch a fit, an inch For Nickie, nor Napoleon.

It cam' to pass, a little lass

I met, that didna know me;

She sudden stop'd, an' down she drop'd

A courtesy unto me.

Hem, hem, quo' I, and inwardly,

I wish'd the world were near me,

Baith great an' sma, that they might a'

Be there to see an' hear me.

Upon my heel, about I wheel,
An' bigger grew, some inches;
My hat sat snug, on my left lug,
My hauns, upon my hinches.

While govin' thus, the country 'cross,

I owre a stane fell headlang,

An' there I got a mark, will not

Be aff me till I'm dead-lang.

Now ye may guess, I'm in distress, When my condition such is, That if I staun, or go, it maun Be cripple-like, on crutches.

Full mony a loud alas for't;

I rue it sair, for O severe!

I suffer i' the flesh for't.

I see conceit, however great,

Will never change our nature,

Nor mak' us mair than what we are,

Nor better, nor yet greater.

I canna write, nor yet indite

A bit the mair sublimer,

Which lets me see, I'll never be
But just the wretched rhymer.

THE NEXT MORNING AFTER HAVING DINED AND SUPPED WITH THE REV. MESSRS. T. AND B.

Whar is the man, that could compute
What e'en ae night can bring about?
Yestreen, on Parson's Hill, my snoot
I cock'd, like—wha could tell what?
This morn immers'd in smoke an' soot,
I'm like—I ken mysel', that—

Yestreen, sedate I sat beside

My T****, my frien', my country's pride,

An' him wha cross'd the ocean wide,

An' brought us owre fu' cantie,
Upon a smooth castalian tide,
Th' Italic Homer, Dane.

Yestreen, like some great knight or squire,
I loll'd upon a cushion'd chair,
An' fed on rich an' dainty fare,
Whar kindness ay comes gratis;
This morn, I on a stool maun share
A breakfast o' potatoes.

Yestreen the privilege was mine
To drink the rich an' rosy wine
Like ony favourite o' the nine,
And what's a serious matter,
This morn, the produce o' the vine
Is turn'd, wi' me, to water.

Yet, water, for to tell the truth,
Is famous ay for quenchin' drouth;
If we dislike it, in the mouth
We needna let it dally;
Whon past the pallet, then forsooth,
It does a body bra'ly;

But on the hale, I've learn'd to know
There's naething certain here below;
E'en Bonaparte might be laid low,
Wha fain our necks wad tread on,
An' whon he gets the hin'most blow,
Nae matter what he fed on.

TO THE MOST NOBLE

THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE.

My LORD,

WHILE friends an' folk o' fame, Wi' compliments salute ye, I maun contented sit at hame, An' barely think about ye. However ye may end, I'm sure Ye make a braw beginnin', So, may your fame be still as pure And clean as new bleach'd linen. Stan' forth for Erin's honour aye, Whar Downshire's Marquis should stan' By birth, if he would live an' die, A glorious, great, an' good man; And still be humble as ye are, The nation will adore ye-Then far and near, e'en every whare, Ye'll drive the world before ye: For them that scarce dare hope to share The boon your bounty's bringin',

'Twad glad your Lordship's lugs to hear
Them at their supper, singin'
'O may our Marquis happy be,
And healthy, e'en an' morning,
An' live his birth-day feast to see
Twice fifty times returning;
And when the Powers are pleas'd to flit
That generous soul they've given,
May he be handed up to sit
Upon a throne in heaven;'
For me, whate're I may endure
O' plentiness or starvin',
Wi' due respect, my Lord, I'm your
Devoted, humble servan',

H. Passas.

8th October, 1809.



ON THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF A FAVOURITE POINTER.

YE youthfu' sportsmen, far and near,
Wha like a day's divertion dear,
Approach an' see me sittin' here

Wi' grief surrounded,

An' drap a spmpathetic tear—

My Grouse is wounded.

Behold in lamentable case,

The best o' a' the settin' race!

Ah me! before my very face

There pantin', lyin'
In gaspin' anguish—Oh, alas!
My Grouse is dyin'.

There's mony an ill bred bitches' son, Thro' pots an' pans, wad sneakin' run, But he wha's days will soon be done,

Was better bred;

For now he's goin'—O! he's gone!

My Grouse is dead!

Now, flow ye briny fountains, flow,
Sad witness of heart-wrecking wee,
Amidst his wanton gambols, lo!
To ruin hurried;
But hush! let it suffice, to show,
My Grouse is buried.

THE EPITAPH.

But since we can do little else.

American berries before

HARD by this rock, bedeck'd wi' fog,

There lies, a past the common dog,

For reptiles foul, a feast;

Ye'll soon conclude, he wasna bad,

Whon this was a' the fault he had,

That he was born a beast.'

9th Nov. 1809.

TO T. J. T. Esq.

DEAR SIR,
I'm just beginnin' to compose
A rhyme or rather, crack-scull prose,
An' that it may expel your woes
In haste, is his
Desire and earnest wish, that knows
What sufferin' is.

O! but we are a wretched pair,
As ever grappl'd wi' despair,
Greetin an' gowlin' late an' ear'
Wi' pain an' woe;
How ill we're now, how weel we were
Some time ago!

But since we can do little else, Wi' mirth we'll try to sooth oursels; It's better far for monie ills,

Than burning blisters,
An' safer too, than draps or pills,
Vomits, or g——s.

'Tis a' the same I plainly see,
To be o' great or low degree,
When ye're as ill, an' waur than me
Wi' pain offended;

The only odds is, ye can be

Better attended;

We sudna at affliction spurn,

Nor faint, because we're made to mourn,

But kiss the rod, an' to it turn

Wi' full intent, Least wrath, infinite wrath sud burn

Ere we repent;

But blyther scenes wad better fit
Us baith, at this important bit,
Then let us down thegither sit,
An' sing, an' laugh,
An' mix a dose o' mirth an' wit,

Auld Orpheus play'd sic merry strains, He charm'd the very sticks an' stanes;

An' drink it aff.

Then try to charm your aches an' pains,

For ye hae skill;

But I can only bother brains,

Do what I will.

I canna bear to use a treadle,

Nae mair can ye, a chaise or saddle—

Weel, since these pass-times ye were bred till,

Sma' joys impart;

Back-gammon, maybe, or the fiddle

Wad cheer your heart.

And I'll prepare me too, wi's speed, To tune my harp or oaten reed; An' may the Muse her votary lead.

To sic a lay,

As may intice his T**** to read,

An' smile, an say,

Can my Tisander sing so well, In poverty's sequester'd cell? Can he contented daily dwell With care and woe,

Or would he only fain excel In seemin' so? Then tell him, Master Thomas dear,
That acquiescence whiles can cheer
This heart, the achin' aft for fear
O' fell confusion;
But to conclude, at least come near

To a conclusion .-

If whon I strike the tremblin' string,
But antimelody I bring;
My ill-tun'd harp I'll frac me fling,
And you alone
Shall play, and I shall after sing,
By way o' drone.

And may Apollo fan the fire,

Till a' our ailings quite retire;

Then pleas'd, the patron an' the sire

Shall sit observant,

Which is the hope and sole desire

Of, sir, your servant.

H. P####

22d June, 1810.

THE LAST SPEECH, AND DYING LAMENTATION OF BALLYWARD LAKE,
ADDRESSED TO THE REV. T. T. PARSON'S HILL.

O! FRIEND of all that need a friend,
My last lament to you I send,
But mark, it's no your aid I'm wooin',
To snatch me frae impendin' ruin;
Na, na, I know it's lang owre late
For me to think to shun my fate,
But just it does my spirit brace,
To talk wi' ane that kens my case.

Ah! wae is me, the day's at han',
That I maun lea'e my native lan',
To be forgotten quite an' clean,
An' never, never mair be seen;
For Messrs. B—— and B—— hae said it,
An' wha haes bauldness to forbid it,
And English John has mony a slave,
These eight days diggin' at my grave.

Yet still I think, they shudna heed me,
But let me keep what nature gied me;
Yet they're as sick, for that I know,
As Ahab was lang time ago,
Whon he lay dying wi' regard
For honest Naboth's boney yard;
So, they by force, before my face,
Will rob, and drive me to disgrace,
An' maybe tear me spaul frae spaul,
Or if they let me live at all,
'Twill be in banishment, forgot
In ditches deep, to lie and rot.

But, sir, as ye shall plainly see,
They sudna first hae fa'en on me,
For aft I've grac'd the board of those
That are my most inveterate foes,
Wha think it neither sin nor shame,
To change my nature an' my name;
But shortly, they'll by force confess,
'Th' inferiour qualities o' grass;
Tho' sair'd up in a siller bowl,
O! how unlike my fish an' fowl!

Fowl on my very bgsom fed, And fish within my bowels bred : The former, nature has supply'd Wi' wings, that they can flee an' hide; The latter, harmless, helpless things, Hae neither legs, nor arms, nor wings, Nor ought ava for to defend them, So, ony ane that likes, may end them, Or frae my tenderness may tear them, An' quickly to destruction bear them; But twice twelve hours will end it all, For Thursday next-ah me! I fall; The country roun' will a' be here, At my calamities to sneer: Such is the fate o' folk in trouble, They strive to mak' them suffer double,

But yet, the bard beyond the bourn,
I know, at my mishap, will mourn;
For aft he play'd his youthfu' pranks,
An angler on my heathery banks;
But what o' him? he's aye neglected,
An' by the great folk disrespected:

For his epistles, an' petitions, His eclogues, odes, an' exhibitions, If they sud fa' before the great, Wad fare like alm'nack's out of date. E'en tho' the numbers of his lyre Were warm'd by pure poetic fire, They'd prove too chilly to engage The attention of this luke-warm age; Yet watch him, for I understan' He likes to be about your han', An' so he may-but think on me, An' think on him-an' whon you see The torrents tumblin' from his eyes, An' hear him chant my obsequies, Then join wi' him, for ye can feel For e'en a foe-but fare ye weel. 19th Sep. 1810.

ON BEING ALONE IN THE REV. T. T's PARLOUR. 11th October, 1810.

How often have I happy been,
Within these sacred walls!
Where never taunt nor jest obscene,
The modest listener galls.

Here volumes, thousands, at my will,

Diverting lessons lend,

But oh! there's something wanting still—

The cheerful, generous friend.

How "lingering slow," the minutes pass,!

That fleetly flew before,

And yet the time must be, alas!

That he'll be here no more:

But hush ye gloomy thoughts, be still,
Such thoughts affection spurns;
I'll hence, and back to Parson's Hill,
When friendly T**** returns.

TO THE REV. D**** M*****

Thou very reverend, mighty man,
Whilst thou harang'st thy Christian clan,
Or musest on the banks of Ban,
To pass the time,
Wilt thou at my bit Musie's han'
Accept a rhyme?

I'm no designin' for to say,
Ye're past the common every way,
That barefac'd wheedlin' wad display,
Which I detest;
For truth's ay truth, an' flattery

Gin fame or learning be a bliss, Ye've prosper'd baith in that and this, And as for size an' shapeliness, An' finish'd features,

Is praise misplac'd:

Ye're just like Saul, the son of Cis,.
'Mang common creatures.

Ye've Ajax strength and Nestor's wit,
Ulysses' tongue, when ye think fit—
Wi' praise undue the ne'er a bit

I'll e'er be patter ye,
For Stentor's voice is wantin' yet,
Sure that's nae flattery!

"Twad seem to me that ye were made
At first for the heroic trade
Of brandishin' the glitterin' blade
About your pow,
Whar noddin' plumes an' laurels shade

The dauntless brow!

I'd like right weel to see ye lead

An army, at an army's head

Wi' sword in han', your foamin' steed

Bitin' the bit;

Just perfectin' some darin' deed

Unequall'd yet.

O, O, for you an' Wellington,
To join, and on Massena run,
Fierce as Achilles on the son

Of royal Priam;
An' may like fame by you be won
If e'er you try him!

But tho' I talk of war's alarms,
I hate the shricks o' slaughter'd swarms,
Whar' heads an' hans' an' legs an' arms
Are snap'd awa',

Without their leave—but frae sic harms

Dear save us a'.

O sir, gin fortune wad assign
To me, just e'en a pipe o' wine,
And you to shut your fist on mine
In frien'ship fast,
I think I wadna much repine
While it wad last.

But a' that I can say or think 'Bout warlike deeds an' draps o' drink, Can ne'er entice my muse to clink

Poetic time;

So here I vow I'll spill my ink,!

An' quat my rhyme;

Because in scrapin' up a letter,

I thought she might hae manag'd better,

Yet a' my int'rest canna get her

To shew her powers;

So since I canna mend the matter

Farewell, I'm your's.

H. Passas

TO THE REV T**** M*** R***.

mush of Balfrony

Tho' whether I'm alive or dead Is hardly known to Mr. R---, Yet ave a weel-wisher he'll fin' me As lang as there is life within me, And sure as death my days will end, I fain would have him for a friend; No that I'm wantin' muckle frae him, Nor hae I ought ava to gle him, Except a rhyme, if he'll hae that He's get it quickly, 'ere I quat; Sae much for preface-now for matter Wherewith to bungle up a letter, And here I'm fykin' in a fisle, To know whether a pert epistle, Or sang, or satyre, be the maist Congenial to his reverend taste. Some fellows entertain their frien's, Wi' witches, ghaists, an' fairy queens;

One trav'ler firmly has protested, He saw a place which ne'er existed; Anither to our view discloses The spot whar Michael buried Moses: And some their betters to excel, Describe the size an' shape of Hell: Some talk about ethereal wars, And some can easy count the stars; Some say that kingdoms are aboon us, An' tell us a' that in the Moon is, An' if they treat Miss Luna fair, Munchauson kens-for he was there; Some rhymers raise an unco din, Bout consternations they've been in, Hearin' harangues o' learned rats, An' manly mice outwittin' cats; Then whon they labour out their label They'll own forsooth its all a fable.-But if ye will attention gie, Ye'se hear a tale o' truth frae me-Twa fellows ance o' equal fame

Did cach a place o' profit claim, They were alike in birth an' breedin, In leuk alike, alike in cleedin', The tane was as the tither gude, An' baith were form'd o' flesh an' bluid ; In person equally compleat, They differ'd only in estate, And in opinion-wha wad get The place for which they baith were set; So off they gade wi' nimble pace To let the Justice ken the case, Wha had the gi'ein' o' the thing, A man as great as ony king; His honour saw at the first sight They baith had just an equal right, An' so to end the hale dispute He bade them lug their purses out; Wha haes maist cash (quoth he) shall fa' The place by right, for that's the law; So when he did the purses view The tane was toom, the tither fou,-

Then says to him that had the gear,
Ye fairly won, the case is clear,
Ye're fortune's frien' an' shall be mine,
The morrow ye'll come here an' dine;
Then says to him that was rejected,
Sic things ye sudna hae expected,
Gang hame, my frien', an' be at rest,
Folk us'd wi' want can bear it best.—

Now sir, this tale that I hae ended
Is but by verity commended,
Sae if ye dinna like sic bletherin',
Ye'se no be bother'd wi' anither ane,
Yet frae it ony common creature
May see the qualifying nature,
And the prevailin' power o' pelf:
But I beg leave to write myself

Your very humble servant.

H. Perses.

ANSWER TO BURNS' " LOVELY JEAN."

My Burns is gane, I'm left alane,

My dearest spouse no more

Shall bless my arms, an' praise my charms,

Au' tell them o'er an' o'er.—

We baith confess'd we baith were bless'd,

But O! transportin' scene,

Too soon ye fled, my Burns is dead,

And I'm no more his Jean!

In summer days whon owre the braes,

The gentle breezes blaw,

The fields wad ring to hear him sing

"My Jenny dings them a';"

Nae lover's lass that ever was,

Nor the most happy Queen

That e'er sat on a royal throne,

Was half sae bless'd as Jean.

How often he wi' sang an' glee,

Has charm'd my ravish'd ear,

and the ackin the .

An' made to glow, this cheek that now Sustains the gushin' tear;

Whon by my side my Burns, my pride, Wad sit him down at e'en,

Few, few could vie wi' mc, for I
Was then his happy Jean.

Nue man alive need ever strive

To gild my bosom's gloom,

No, no, I swear he breathes not air
Shall fill my Robin's room,

Wha's pen could paint each lovely tint That decks the flowery green,

Wha's haun could twine the laurel fine, An' dress it on his Jean.

What raptures thro' my bosom flew
The day he first was mine,

What joys possess'd this pantin' breast, Now left by him behin':

But why complain, departed swain,

A few short months between,

An' then I come to share thy tomb

REFLECTIONS OCCASIONED BY THE ILLNESS OF THE REV. T***** T****,

Muse awake—a scene distressing Claims a melancholy strain, All that made my life a blessing Lies upon a bed of pain.

Weary watching, never sleeping, Doctor's efforts fruitless all, Nothing but the voice of weeping Murmurs thro' the lonely hall,

Weeping sons—the father ever
Marks you with his last regard,
Weep you may—your loss can never,
Never, never be repair'd,

O! ye poor that need protection,

Let your sighs to Heaven ascend,

Mourn ye sons of sad affliction,

Mourn for your afflicted friend;

Mourn with lamentation double,

Thou who dost already bow

Underneath a load of trouble,

Who will share thy sorrows now?

Who will ever soothe thy sadness,
Who will smother all thy smart?
Who will gild thy gloom with gladness,
Who will bind thy broken heart?

None thy lyre will ever listen,

None will cheer thy spirit—no—

None with generous wine will hasten

To alleviate thy woe.—

Woful now be thy existence,

Dormant be thy rhyming skill,

Thou shalt only at a distance

View the groves of Parson's Hill.

O how fleeting, how beguiling

Sweetest scenes of pleasure are!

Now there's none to meet thee smiling,

None to bid thee welcome there.—

But to Heaven's will refer him—

Mercy pities—mercy spares—
O indulgent Maker spare him,

Answer thus a thousand prayers.

Ye who watch the walls of Zion

Pressing forward for the prize,

Ere a bed of death ye lie on

Live like him "and claim the skies."

12th January, 1811.

Latery wester I wistall

Now I'm happy—quite conferred,

Now again he soothes my sorrow

, come, Transley-come to-montons,

ON HIS RECOVERY.

Hush ye sounds of lamentation!*
Social joys again return,
Bringing cordial consolation
To this heart so prone to mourn.—

Discontent now fly forever,

Every trifling care I'll spurn,

Having health and him, I'll never

Be again dispos'd to mourn.—

Lately I my sorrow vented,

Whilst my bleeding heart was torn,

Now I'm happy—quite contented,

Not inclin'd at all to mourn.—

Now again he soothes my sorrow
With his wonted tender turn,
Come, Tisander,—come to-morrow,
Come to me—but not to mourn.

Now the fear of dire disaster

I can conquer—I can scorn,

Now I share the rich repast, where

None had ever cause to mourn.—

May the smiles of bounteous Heaven

Every deed of his adorn!

And may many days be given,

For to comfort those that mourn!

Now may anguish never grieve him,

May he never be forlorn

Till the gates of bliss receive him,

Never never more to mourn.

And we und sie names bu

But misseles are exactly subse

TO THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RATHFRILAND BOOK SOCIETY.

DEAR WORTHY SIRS,

Will ye attend,

None had ever over room

Or as I should say, condescend, and haft

To hear my supplication?

Ye're wi' the truly noble class'd,

And that's the basis where I rest

My hope and expectation.-

O, if I some great something were,
An' had as muckle cash to spare,

As might mak' me a member,

And ye wad sic a wretch admit,

Ye'd see how saucily I'd sit

Amang ye 'ere December.

But miracles are ceas'd, an' so

I sud contented lie below

My cross—without distraction,

Yet such, alas! my passions are, That I as much could tame a bear, As keep them in subjection.

'Tis not for want o' pence, I pine,
Nor want o' pratoes, when I dine—
Worse, far far worse, assails me,
Aye worse, in almost every sense;
But least I keep ye in suspense,
'Tis love,' tis love that ails mes

A Highland lassie, buskit braw,
Wha's face, I'm sure, I never saw,
Tho' very fair her fame is;
O, how I languish for her sake!
The lovely Lady of the Lake,
For that I think her name is.

She lodges, I'm inform'd, wi' you;
So what ye bid, I deem she'll do
Without all hesitation.
O, do not then my suit deny,
That on her matchless beautics, I
May gaze wi' admiration.

Her sire, his approbation gies,
An' so will she, I'm sure, for she's
A courteous, kindly creature,
An' fitted out in every case,
To gratify the human race,
For graces and good nature.

I winna, sirs, upon my honour,
Lea'e an offensive haun' upon her,
Nor nane that would, shall see her;
Na, na, I'd think nae sin to tak'
The rascal's life that would e'en mak'
The sma'est freedom wi' her.

Indeed she sometimes, may be, may
See twa true comrades that I hae,
A preacher*, and a plew-man†;
But they're a chaste an' modest pair,
An' few as famous ever were,
For keekin' clearly through man.

She therefore canna be beguil'd,
'Nor frae your humble servant wil'd
By man, or maid's invention,

e Young. + Burns.

For come o' me, or mine, what will,
While she bides wi' me, she shall still
Command my whole attention.

Now, a' that I desire or seek,
Is just her company a week,
To keep my spirits cheery;
'Twad mak' me happy, I declare,
To corlie wi' a lady fair,
At e'en whon I am weary.

Perhaps, 'tis this much labour lost,

For oh! I ken it to my cost,

I never can command her;

So, I'll put up my quill an' quat,
'Tell her I'm truly hers, an' that

Her lover is

TISANDER,

26th Sep. 1811.

ANSWER FROM THE SOCIETY TO TISANDER.

THE Lady of the Lake, to you Returns her thanks and service due; Nor, tho' the bard of Selkirk sung, In sweeter notes than ever rung Thro' Scotias vales, her deathless praise-Does she disdain Tisander's lays. 'Tis true, she long has left the court Of Kings and Thanes, the proud resort; And cannot plead your humble claims In Stirling's hall, to royal James -True, she has left her favourite island, And now salutes you from Rathfriland: There she on lofty shelf reclines, 'Mongst sages, poets, and divines; And hither, in their name invites Tisander to the pure delights, That virtue, wit, and solid sense, By type and paper can dispense:

There you, with all a poet's wonder,
Upon their various love may ponder,
And rise, perhaps, to loftier lays,
That late posterity may praise,
(If you can gain the nine braw lasses,
That rent out acres on Parnassus,
In fair fee simple, to assign
A rood or twa without a fine),
Then welcome to the bright Divan,
Thrice welcome, bard of Moneyslan!

TO MR. G. A.

Ho Proposed Him as an Honorary Member, lst October, 1811.

PLAIN, honest, downright, Gilbert Adams, (For I'm ill vers'd in sirs an' madams), I hum ye owre my hearty thanks, While here I rest my weary shanks, Within the peet-neuk on a stool, 'Forfoughten sair, wi' spade an' shool, Which aft hae blistered baith my hauns; Yet while this fleshly fabric stauns, An' while fair Phœbus burns aboon me, 1'll min' the honour ye hae doon me.'

Wow! man, but ye hae made me happy;
A bottle o' the stoutest nappy,
That ever yet could boast the birth
O' either anger, wit, or mirth,
Couldna hae made me half sae vauntie,
Or made me 'cock my crest' sae cantie.

The love-lorn wretch, wha lang had born His sweet-heart's insolence an' scorn,

Resolv'd to terminate the strife, By snigin' thro' the thread o' life, To let the crimson current spout, An' carry the infection out, For which dire purpose he doth staur, Wi' grewsome-gully in his haun, Ready to cut his throat-dear bless us! Whon lo! the object o' his wishes, Comes flyin' wi' her heavenly charms, An' clasps him in her yieldin' arms, An' bids him hope, an' have, an' live, And all that honour can, she'll give; E'en he amid this gush of treasure, Could not be mair o'er power'd wi' pleasure Than I was, when your lady fair, In answer to my ardent prayer, Did send and say, ' Tisander, come, Conduct me to your little home; Behold, I'm yours by fate's decree, Deliver'd, sign'd, and seal'd by me,' The Lady of the Lake.

Now, Gilbert, I've nae mair to say,
I'll see you on my nuptial day,
Which ye'll observe is firmly fix'd,
To be sometime December next;
I canna tell the day exac',
For I hae ne'er an almanac;
I'll be beside your frien', the Rector,
May patron, pride, an' benefactor.

For master Sam*, my ither frien',
Pray tell him, Gillie, that I mean
To drink his health in water clear,
For that's the plentiest potion here;
But whon to Parson's Hill I fare,
To mak' my weekly visit there,
I'll toast it round in stuff as stout
As ever gade in glass about;
He may depend on that for ae thing,
For I get plenty there for naething,
* Samuel Murphy, Jun. who seconded, &c.

An' that's the cheapest way o' drinkin'; We'll no dispute on this I am thinkin'.

Tell Rev. B***, the bard of Hillton,
That he's the person I has built on,
To solemnize my marriage rites,
An' licence me for love's delights

An' tell the rest that I'll remember
The hin'most Friday o' September;
While I a couplet can contrive,
An' that I hae a heart alive
To frien'ship, tho' I canna show it;
But that's the fate o' mony a poet.
I'd fain string up their names in rhyme,
But want o' paper an' o' time,
Gaurs me abruptly quat my theme—
I've scarcely room to write my names

TISANDER.

TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE

RIGHT REVEREND THOMAS LORD,

BISHOP OF DROMORE.

O Percy, may the meanest Muse
That ever tun'd the lyre,
Attempt the dirge, when fatal news
Sets every soul on fire!

Apollo, do thou teach me skill,

To swell the solemn sound;

My best friend weeps! can I be still?

Ah no! let tears abound.

Now Robinson, thy Muse alarm'd,

Shall sound from shore to shore:

Him whom thy infant numbers charm'd—

Thy Percy, is no more!

Ye bards of loftiest note and name, Your efforts join in one, And vent your sadness on your theme— Your friend, your patron's gone.

Ye sons of Levi, join the choir,

The general sorrow share;

And every bough about Dromore,

The sable cyprus wear.

O Campbell, be not silent now!

Let all thy powers appear;

O Drummond, Drummond, where art thou!

When anguish calls thee here?

Attend ye worthies—do, ah! do
Produce the funeral song;
I'll chant my little requiem too—
But far behind the throng:

Yes, far—alas! far, far behind

The wailing crowd I'll crawl,

And bid ambitious worldlings mind,

That great men weep, when good men fall!

3d October, 1811.

THE PROFLIGATE.

TO ITS AIN TUNE.

I am a brave jolly brisk boy,
I daily carouse to keep care away;
A bottle's my life and my joy,
And makes a dull moment soon wear away;
Let afterwards do as it may,
I like to have happiness still in han';
If creditors crave me, I'll say,
'Tis hard to get breeks aff a Highlan'man.

I aft gave the shirt aff my back,

The full-flowing bumper to bring again;

Then come on the table a crack,

Till glass and jugs I make ring again;

The landlord then calls for his jink,

I answer, I have not a shillin' man;

And this often pays a good drink,

Tis hard to get breeks aff a Highlan'man.

The miser, a purse full of pelf,

(Perhaps for a spend-thrift), keeps craftily,

But I only care for myself,

And let him take chance that comes after me;

If any to gambling incline,

There never was yet a more willin' man;

But soon my gay game-fellows find,

'Tis hard to get breeks aff a Highlan'man,

Thus, time I pass jovially by;

And mean, while I live, to live merrily;

What tho' I insolvent should die,

The priest or the parish will bury me.

My friends do me daily advise,

But they might as well take the deil in hand;

I want will and power to be wise;

'Tis hard to get breeks aff a Highlan'man.

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF .

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,
Its settled on for certain here,
Ye've got sae mickle gowden gear,
Ye know na how to use it;
In consequence o' sic a talk,
I hae a wee request to mak';
I think ye'll no refuse it:

I know your Grace can easy grant,
The little yearly thing I want—
Five hun'er poun's the hale o't;
A very triflin' sum, it's true,
But comin' frae the like o' you,
A body thinks a deal o't.

Now, whon I hae obtain'd this boon,

(And that, I'm certain, will be soon),

The people will halloo it,
In every public place, I wean;

* Ho! heard ye that his Grace has gi'en
A pension to a poet.'

Ha, ha, but I'll be unco cheerie,
Whon hunners, hunners by the year, ay
Come cannilie unto me.
Whar will I ride, whar will I rin,
This world's owre wee to spen' it in;
O sirs, what will come o' me.

O for a pocketfu' o' purses!

A coach an' fifty pair o' horses

To whip me owre to Lon'on!

Whar I'll grow some uncommon thing;

Dear keep me—it might be a king,

And then I'll sit my throne on.

O bless me, boys, how big I'll be—
I think, I really think I see
Mysel' subduin' Bony;
But haud a wee—I ought to wait,
And no to grow sae glorious great,
Until I get the money.

EPIGRAM TO A LIAR.

O MAN, but ye think much o' truth;
Ye surely hae a hoard o't
Laid up in store—for frae your youth,
Ye seldom spent a word o't;
But falsity, ye mak' a slave,
For every day ye wear it,
While truth, ye like your siller save,
Ay speakin' lies, to spare it.

AN EPITAPH ON A MISER.

HE's flitted, an' whether for waur or for better, We canna weel say, nor it's no muckle matter; But this we can safely assert, without study, A narrower saul never fled frae a body.

ANOTHER.

Has body's buried here,
And how his spirit fares,
I canna say—but this I'll swear:
There's nane that kent him, cares.

ON A SPENDTHRIFT.

Balow this bit slate

He lies lifeless and caul,

That drank an estate,

An' was dry after all.

ON A SLUGGARD.

He's dead, an' he's rotten, and few for him weepin';
He couldna be bother'd wi' breath:
He was so extremely delighted wi' sleepin',
He's lien down to doze here wi' death.

TO A FRIEND IN TROUBLE.

Thy melanchely mind;

O THOU! who's word, who's healing word,
Has often conquer'd care
Within this breast, and joy restor'd,
When grief had fester'd there.

O that I in return, could yield

The blissful balm to thee,

And guide thee thro' the mazy field

Of grief, as thou didst me.

Thou first and best of friends! O say,

What theme could heal thy heart?

Tell me—O tell me, that I may

Pluck thence the deadly dart?

Fain, fain with thee condole;

n';

I fain would yield thee comfort now When anguish wrings thy soul.

O for an angel's tongue, to cheer

Thy melancholy mind;

But ah! what friendly power will hear?

What subject shall I find?

A comfort sure it needs must be,

Amidst a father's fears,

Never to hear the sighs nor see

The tender mother's tears:

It's true, when health is scarce mature,

And feeble is the frame,

A wounded spirit to endure,

Is trouble in extreme;

Yet, on affliction's dreary bed,

I saw thee not repine;

'Tho' hopes of life were almost fled,

Heav'n's will was ever thine.

WF Loudon's feir last of the pride of the plajny on a Ye're welcome to king my lattice, again; of the colf.

But now, if they meddie, they il lin' they re mista'en. Since Maira's come back to said Brin ayrin.

had note my out back to mild I have any

Now value health, thy tears forego,

Let cheerfulness return—

I ask it with a sigh—for O!

I cannot see thee mourn,

Dec. 1811,

THE EARL OF MOIRA,

ON A REPORT OF HIS BEING APPOINTED LORD LIEUTENANT.

Your welcome, my Moira, the chief o' my kin, As dear to my breast, as the heart that's within, Wi' Loudon's fair lassie, the pride o' the plain, Ye're welcome to Erin, my laddie, again.

Ye left me, my Moira, to stan' or to fa',
Wi' nane to defend me frae villains ava;
But now, if they meddle, they'll fin' they're mista'en,
Since Moira's come back to auld Erin again;

I own, I provok'd you, my Moira, to go, Yet blood is ay warmer than water, you know; My Paddies to meet you, will march in a train, And welcome you back to auld Erin again.

Now rule me, my Moira, your will mak' a law; I'll sleep at your biddin', I'll rise at your ca', I'll tell my foes roundly, that Moira's my ain, And welcome you back to auld Erin again.

For glory, my Moira, ye wander'd right wide, An' Loudon's fair lassie, to win for your bride; Now baith ye hae gotten, to pay for your pain, And mak' ye thrice welcome to Erin again.

Frae Britain, her Hastings the laurel may claim;
Her hero abroad, her defender at hame;
A match for my Moira she never nurs'd nane,
Then welcome my laddie to Erin again.

TO THE REVEREND T. T. PARSON'S HILL.

ON THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 1812.

Mx lov'd, my honour'd Patron, say
Wilt thou again give ear?
Wilt thou again indulge the lay,
To hail the youthful year?

Twelve times twelve months have roll'd around,
Since first my simple song
Sought patronage in thee, and found
The friend I look'd for long.

The first seven years of which I spent
Without a careful thought;
Then three, on hopes and fears intent,
And two, with anguish fraught.

But have I anguish felt alone has I to the
Are great minds free? ah ! no.
For my Macenas too has known
Full well the weight of we. Moon and I

A little sorrow more, and shut Will be the scene of strife; Fate soon the silver cord can cut That whirls the wheel of life.

"Tis heaven that has that crisis fix'd; What angel's arm can save? I non'W This moment's ours—but where's the next Perhaps beyond the grave. On Parson's Hill, with three.

How bless'd the hour that sets us free, From such a life, as meets By Fate's unchangeable decree More bitters far than sweets.

Of those few joys this earth can bring, My portion is but small: Bove nothing-scarcely any thing-Th' illiterate, Existence almost all. Of an ignoble bard?

But yet I do not, will not mourn
Tho' heaven has health deny'd;
The little sordid soul I scorn,
That would make gain its guide.

Tho' with each hour's returning wheel,
Returning wants do ask
Exertions great, and tho' I feel

Unequal to the task,

Yet strange! I almost am content
When I recount, with glee,
The many blissful hours I've spent
On Parson's Hill, with thee.

Thy friendship, try'd by time so long,
Brings honour to my side—
'Tis not myself, 'tis not my song—
My patron is my pride.

How few of elevated rank,

But would, with scorn, regard

Th' illiterate, incoherent clank

Of an ignoble bard?

But thou hast often taught this heart

To wander from its wo;

Yea often, often smooth'd the smart

Of many a throb and throe.

Therefore, on prospects fair I gaze,
And hope anon to see
Far better times, far happier days:
Amen—so let it be.

TO WALTER SCOTT, Esq.

ON A REPORT THAT HE WAS TO RECEIVE £3000 FOR THE COPY OF "ROKERY."

Three thousand in a lump—ha, ha;
That wins frae ought I ever saw,
Forby the honour it will draw
Frae every art to thee, Wattie;
Right far the trumpet voice o' fame,
Extends thy glory an' thy name;
But oh! it plays the very shame,
On little bards like me, laddie.

Each bardie now, the ne'er sae keen,
May quat the scribblin' trade, I ween,
For a' the world, wi' earnest een,
Are glowerin' up at thee, Wattie;
Nae poem, now, is worth a groat,
Unless it comes frae Walter Scott;
A' rhymers else are now forgot,
Forgot alang wi' me, laddie,

Full sweetly thou hast Marmion sung,
But sweeter far Lough Cathrine rung;
Now Rokeby sets baith auld and young
A doatin' about thee, Wattie;
O for the gleanings o' thy praise,
To cheer my melancholy days!
But oh! these life-inspiring rays,
Will never blink on me, laddie.

Yet b'lieve this simple truth frae me f
Tho' I should beg 'em on my knee,
I would five golden guineas gie,
For leave to leuk at thee, Wattie;
The laurel's gatherin' every where,
For Selkirk's honour'd bard to wear;
But oh! there's no' a sprig to spare;
No, not a leaf for me, laddie.

Bays lately bloom'd on Burns's brow,
Incircling his immortal pow;
But now the garlands only grow
For Campbell an' for thee, Wattie;

Thy skill in legendary lore,

Has set thee, ilka bard, before;

To be the king o' a' the choir,

Thou'lt get a vote frae me, laddie.

range of Land May and all is land to a Ti

To No not a but low up alreddie

TO THE REVEREND T. T.

6N THE BEATH OF HIS ELDEST SON, LIEUTENANT IN THE 27(1)
REGIMENT, IN SICILY, APRIL, 1812.

A DEEP "indebted Muse," O, T**** I.

Would very humbly join

Thy bitter wailings with a sigh—

Would mix a tear with thine;

Assur'd that thou wilt not repine.

Nor deeply be concern'd;

That heavenly lesson to resign,

Already thou hast learn'd;

'Tis thine to heal the wounds of woe,

That make the wretched mourn;

'Tis thine to feel the friendly glow,

That bids the bosom burn;

And oh! 'tis thine to be forlorn,

Which deeper drives the dart;

For fate a tender tie has torn,

That closely clasp'd thine heart;

I know a very pond'rous part
Of sorrow is thy share;
I know the throbbings of thy heart,
When grief inhabits there: 10 10 011111 1911
Alas! that ever puriful care,
Or sweet paternal peace
Should usher in a pang severe
A youthful son's decease!
Would very humbly join
Upon a foreign shore, alas latina and a la
'Mid strangers to expire! a sim bloo!
Made death itself more dire;
No friend to mitigate the fire
Of dissolution's dread;
Far from a kind indulgent sire,
Life's trembling taper fled!
Thy bard presumes not to forbid
Thy bursing fears to flow; or said: all
He knows thy grief cannot be hid,
So deep thou wad'st in woe;
Yet suffer not that grief to grow,
Nor fortitude to fail:
Heaven blesses those that bless the blow;
"Heaven often wounds to head."

A CONCLUDING ADDRESS TO THE READER.

Now reader, I'm supposin' you

Hae read this bunch o' blethers thro',

And that ye're wond'rin' what he's like,

That's keepin' sic an unco fyke,

About his ill digested jargon,

For which ye made sae blin' a bargain.

Come then, observe, he is a callan

That's ay a foe to strife an' brawlin',

Likes peace an' frien'ship won'er weel,

And hates nae creature but the deil;

Ambitious o' a fair-won fame,

An' gets, I b'lieve, an honest name.

(Honest, ye'll say, he canna be, The scoundrel, for he cheated me; O! but I was a silly gowk, To buy a pig within a poke; But for the time to come, I'll watch him, And if we meet, I'll may-be match him; However, as I dinna know him, Gang on wi' your description o' him); I winna put his faults in rhyme, For that would waste owre muckle time, Besides, if I conjecture right, He'd rather keep them out o' sight: Tho' guidness he has little skill o', He hates to hear guid folk spoke ill o'; And the' he can baith eat an' drink, He's no an epicure I think; O' frien's he has a glorious raw, Right saucy too he's o' them a'; Yet backward ay amang his betters, Because he's no a man o' letters; For learning, there was ne'er a clown, Knew less about a verb or noun;

Then marvel not suppose he stammer,

That never even read a grammar-

He's nae-way stupid, dull, or sour,
But whon folk would him paddle owre;
That he could never weel abide,
His passions were sae ill to guide;
In spite o' reason, care, or craft,
A disappointment drives him daft.

These hints, his inward powers comprise;
Now for his outward shape an' size:
He's midlin' feat, an' pretty straight,
Just ten stane, even-beam, in weight,
In height, exactly five feet seven;
His age twice five an' twice eleven;
No clumsy made nor nicely bred,
Nor brag'd o' or for white or red;
His hair a sort o' sooty pale,
An' tho' his pelt be brown, it's hale;
He's neither strong nor very healthy,
Nor just a beggar, nor yet wealthy;
His daily pratoes he gets fairly,

By workin' ident late an' early;
And if description true be given,
He's neither fit for earth nor heaven,
Nor life, nor death, nor ought I ken o';
But this address to mak' an en' o',
In Monyslan his little hame is,
A wattl'd cottage—an' his name is
HUGH PORTER.

GLOSSARY.

, all Aboon, above Ae, one Aff, off Aiblins, perhaps Ain, own Alang, along Amang, among Amaist, almost An', and Ance, once Ane, one, pronounced yin Aueath, beneath, Anent, against Anither, another Auld, old Ava, at all Awa, away

B

BA' ball, the earth Bairns, children Baith, both Ban, to swear Banes, bones, Bauld, bold Beet, fewel added to fire Befa', befal Beuk, book Biggin, building Bit, nick of time, crisis Blaw, blow Blether, idle talk To blink, to shine by fits Bluid, blood Bony, pretty Braes, declivity, slope of a hill Doiled, stupified

B

Braw, handsome, fine, brave Brattling, hurrying Brees, bruise Brithers, brothers Brose, porridge Bun', bound Burn, water, rivulet Buskit, dressed Byre, cow stable

C

'A', call / Callan, boy Cam' came Camp, to struggle for superiority Canna, cannot Cannie, gentle, dextrous Cantie, merry Carle, old man Cauldrife, chilly or cold Chiel, young fellow Cled, clothed Commin, coming Coof, blockhead Corlie, to talk familiarly Crack, conversation Croon, a hollow moan Crouse, chearful

D

ADDIE, father Daft, giddy Dander, to walk slowly Deil, devil Ding, to worst

Doon, done Donse, sober, wise, prudent Drap, drop Drees, feels Dreigh, tedious Drouth, drought Drummock, meal and water Dung, pushed, driven

E

AR', early E'e, een, eye, eyes Eu', end Enow, enough

F

'A', fall Fan' fan'd, found Fash, to trouble, to care for Faun, fallen Faut, fault Feat, neat, spruce Fin' find Fippence, five pence Fisie, bustle Fit, foot Forfoughten, fatigued forby, beside Forgie, forgive Fother, fodder Fou, full Frae, from Fretit, fretted Frien', friend Fyke, a fuss about trifles

G

A', gall
Gae, went
Gae, go
Gaet, way, manner
Gane, gone
Gang, go
Gar, to make, to force

Gawn, going Gear, riches, goods Geck, to toss the head in scorn Ghaist, ghost Gie, to give Gird, gave Gien, given Gie's, give us Giglet, a young girl Gin, if, against Girts, jerks Gloamin', twilight Glour, stare Goving, gazing Gowd, gold Gowk, cuckow Gowl, to howl Graith, accoutrements Grane, a groan Greet, to weep Grin', grind Grousome, grim Grumphie, a sow Grun', ground Guid, good Gully, a large knife Gude, the Supreme Being

H

AE, have Haffet, temple or side of the head Hale, whole Hame, home Haud, hold Haun, han'-hands, hand Hame, home or dwelling Haverel, half-witted He's, he will Het, hot, made hot Hinches, haunches Hin'most, hindmost Hizzie, hussey Hornie, a name for the Devil Hunner, hundred Hyte, delirious

Jauk, to trifle, dally Ident, diligent lik' or ilka, each, every Ithers, others

K

EEK, to peep Ken, to know Kintra, country Kittle, to tickle Kyte, belly

L

AIGH, low
Lanth, loath
Lanely, lonely
Lang, long
Langer, longer
Lea'e, leave
Lear, learning
Leuk, look
Lift, sky
Lug, ear

M

AIR, more
Mak', make
Mang, to make delirious
Maun, must
Meere, mare
Meu', mend
Mense, good manners
Mint, venture
Mither, mother
Mony, many
Muckle, much

N Nae, not, nor Naethin', nothing Nane, none Nappy, ale Neuk, corner Nieve, fist Niffer, exchange Noo, now

0

O', of Ony, any Ought, any thing Ower, over, too

P

Pickie, small quantity
Plew, or plough
Plumpit, plumped
Pou, to pull
Pow, the head, skull
Prates, potatos
Pun', pound

0

QUAT, to quit

R

AMSTAM, thoughtless, headlong liaw, row Rig, ridge Rin, to run Row, to roll, wrap Rowth, plenty Rung, a cudgel

9

Sale, so Sair, a sore, to serve Sakless, innocent Sang, a song Saul, soul Saut, saft Sel', self 7

Selt, sold Shaw, to show Shough, a ditch, a trench Shool, a shovel. Shoon, shoes Sie, such-siena, such a Siller, silver, money Sin', since Sin, a son Skaith, damage Slee, sly Sleeket, sleek, sly Sma', small Snash, abuse Snaw, snow Snig, cut Sonsie, lucky Souple, supple, swift Souther, solder Spaul, limb Spier, to ask, enquire Sta', stall Stan' or staun, stand Stane, stone Stap, stop Sten, jump Steek, to shut Streak, stretch Sud, should Syne, since, ago, then

TAM, tom
Tak', to take
Tak', to take
Tak', to take
Tak', to take
Tak, top
Tauld or tald, told
Teces, anger
Thegither, together
Thole, to suffer, endure
Thoom, thumb
Thrang, throng
Till, te
Timmer, timber,
Tilk, te
Timker, tinker
Tint, spent
Tippence, two-pence
Tither, the other

T

Toom, empty
Twa, two
Twa three, a few
Twal, twelve
Twonty, twenty

U& V

Vauntie, beasting

W

AB, web of cloth Wad, would-a bet, to bet Waddin', wedding Wadna, would not Wae, woe, sorrowful Wakerife, wakeful Wat, wet-I'wat, I know Wale, to choose Waur, worse Wee, little Weel, well Wha, when-whon, when Whanged, cut off Whare, where Wha'se, whose Whisht, silence, to be silent Whittle, a knife Wi', with Wie, a little time Win' wind Winna, will not Wingle, wrestle Wistna, I know not Withouten, without Wonner, wondrous Woodie, a rope Wrang, wrong

V

Ye's, you will
Yes'reen, yesternight
Yoursel, yourself

N. B. A liberty has ever been taken with the English language byScottish poets, of leaving out the last letter of several words, and not unfrequently a letter even in the middle of some words. This liberty the reader will find has been taken in the foregoing pages.

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The Editor has to apologize for not inserting a great number of subscribers' names that came too late.

NOTES.

Page 35, line 11, "Misery's Posts:" a name given by weavers to the posts of a loom.

56, line 8, the Churn is a parcel of the stalks of corn which are left standing in the field, tied together, after all the rest of the harvest has been cut down; at which the reapers, each in succession, from a given distance throws his reaping hook:—The person who has the good fortune to cut it down carries it home in triumph, and claims an immemorial right to as much of the cream which is in the Churn, ready for churning, as he chooses to drink.

66, line 10, Tisander: a name given to the Author by a gentleman, well-known in the literary world, a neighbour and friend of the Editor.

