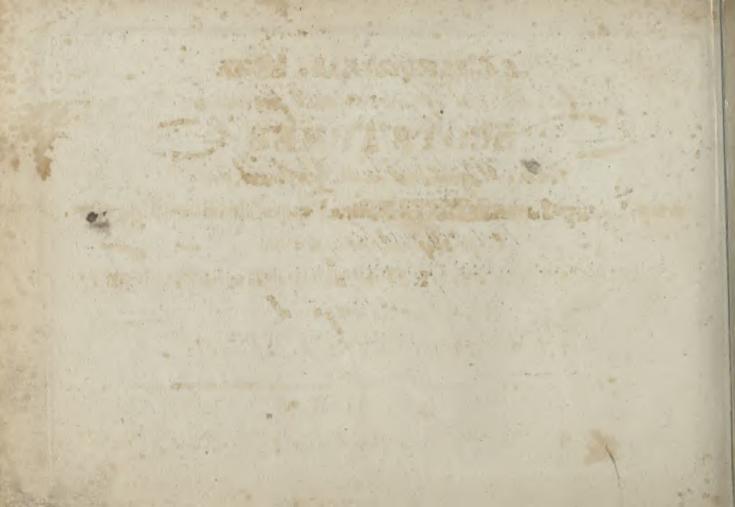


THE CALEDONIAN MUSE. - A Collection of scarce and favourite SCOTS TUNES both Highland and Lowland, vize. Songs, Luments, REELS, Strathspeys, Measures, Jiggs 20 VIOLIN, GERMAN FLUTE, HARPSICHORD & PIANO FORTE : to which is prefixed An ESSAY on SCOTS MUSIC. Price 5. LONDON: Printed for the Editors at their Warehouse No75 1. Pauls Church Yard. Thornhoon



ESSAY on the SCOTS MUSIC.

A S most national Music, and in particular that of the Scots, originated with the BARDS, the prefent Esfay may not improperly commence with some enquiry into the origin and employment of an order of men, once so famous both in Europe and other countries.

The Bards may be traced to Greece, (a) and as high as the time of Homer, (b) to whom (in a lax fenfe, at leaft) the character may be applied. They probably received their origin among fome of the eaftern nations, and might derive their office from that of the Hebrew prophets, whom they firongly refembled. (c)

During many ages, these were the chief cultivators of Poetry, Heraldry, and Music; particularly among the Celtæ, a great and powerful nation, which once flourished in the west of Europe. From these (whether immediately, or by the medium of Ireland, is of no confequence to our present enquiries) the Scots themselves originated; as did likewise their Music, their Poetry, and their Bards; these being spared, by general confent, on the introduction of Christianity, while the Druids, on whom they had been dependent, such with the superfittions and idolatries with which they were connected, (d)

In the Highlands, where the most ancient Scottish Music has been preferved, every Chief formerly maintained a Bard in his family, whole principal bufines was to celebrate, in Lyric strains, his patron's heroism, and the exploits of his ancestors. They generally expressed themselves with the ardour of enthusiasm, and often role to the sublime.

(a) It is remarkable enough to merit an obfervation, that the inhabitants of Peru and Mexico, in South America, and even thole of the Marian Iflands, had among them an order of men fimiliar to the Bards. Encyclop. Brit. (new edition) article Bard.

. (b) Odyff. Book viii.

(c) See the Historical Esfay prefixed to Pfalmodia Evangelica, Vol. II. Page 9.

These Bards were not regarded with the contempt that modern times have befrowed upon their fucceffors, but raifed to the highest honours, and particularly employed in embassies of peace, their perfons being effecemed facred. "Caibar feared," fays Offian, "to fretch forth his "fword to the Bards, though his foul was dark."—"Loofe the Bards," faid his brother Cathmor, "they are the fons of other times. Their voice shall be heard in other ages, when the kings of Temora have failed." (e)

Another confiderable part of their office was to celebrate their deceafed patrons; and of fuch confequence were their elegiac compofitions imagined to be to the departed ghofts, that those who were fo unhappy as to die without this honourable attention were fupposed to "' wander in the thick miss before the reedy lake." (f)

In fucceeding ages, thefe domefic Poets and Muficians very much declined both in character and refpect. Among the various reafons which have been affigned for this event, one of the moft confiderable feems to have been the revival of literature; for " book learning," as an ingenious writer obferves, " has ever proved fatal to unlet-" tered poets." (g)

Although the Bag-pipe is now the favourite infrument of the Highlanders, it does not appear to have been always fo. Giraldus Cambrenfis (b) fpeaks of the Harp as ufed in this country, as well as in Ireland and Wales; and writers of fuperior credit and antiquity deforibe the Harp as the infrument of the most ancient Bards. (i) Offian alfo,

(d) Blair's Crit. Differt. on Offian's Poems, Page 11.

(e) Offian's Poems, Vol. I. Page 263. (f) Blair's Differt. Page 21.

⁽g) Differtation on the Influence of Poetry and Music upon the Highlanders prefixed to M'Donald's Highland Airs.

⁽b) Topograph. Hibern. Lib. II. Cap. xi. (i) Diod Siculus, Amm. Marcellinus, &c.

" tervals, each Bard fat down with his Harp. They raifed the fong, " and touched the firing each to the Chief he loved." (k) The laft performer on this inftrument in the Hebrides was one Morison or Dall, who, in the close of the last century, acted as Bard to the Laird of M'Leod, of Dunvegan Caftle; and, like Demodocus of old, was blind.

To the Harp fucceeded the Bagpipe; which, though not of equal, is certainly of very high antiquity among the northern nations. It is not mentioned in Offian, but it is supposed to be intended in some ancient northern fongs by the appellation of the Soeck Pipe (1) This inftrument, as the Harp had been before, was used to accompany the Corronach, or Dirge, in which, formerly, the deceased was wont to be addreffed in broken extemporary verses, a practice not yet entirely difufed among the Irifh.

Many learned men have supposed a great part of the old Scottish Mufic, and even their Bards, derived immediately from Ireland; and that king James I. of Scotland, who reigned in the 15th century, both introduced and naturalized them. It is certain that he was a Poet and Musician, (m) particularly a Harper, and there is still extant an ancient Mufical Treatife afcribed to him. An old writer calls him another Orpheus, who exceeded both the Highlanders and the Irifh, the beft Harpers of their time. (n) Buchanan thought him more of a Mufician than a king ought to be; (o) and indeed it must be confessed that few | princes who have endeavoured to diffinguish themselves as practical Muficians, have been equally eminent as good kings. But his mufical fame even reached to Italy; for Taffoni, a celebrated writer of that country, mentions him as the inventor of a new fpecies of plaintive melody. (p)

James V. was another mufical prince, and the reputed author of fome fongs still in being. One of them was composed, it is faid, on occasion

(m) Hawkins's Hiftory of Mufic, Vol. IV. Page 4.

(n) Major de Geft. Scot. Lib. VI.

(0, - " Quam regem vel deceat, vel expediat, &c." Rer. Scot. Hift. Lib. X. § 57. (p) " Ma treud da se stesso una nuova, musica lamenteuole, e mesta differente da tutti l'altro." Penfieri Diverfi, Lib. X. Cap. 23.

if his teftimony may be admitted, fays, "Beneath his own tree, at in- of his having an amour with the daughter of a Highland Cottager, (9) as he was strolling in difguise about the country. This prince's fame likewife extended to Italy, and he is celebrated by the elegant Ariofto, under the name of Zerbino. (r)

> David Rizzio, the unhappy Italian Secretary of Mary queen of Scots, has been formerly afferted to have much refined, and fomewhat Italianized many of the Scottifh tunes ; but the fact has been of late difputed, and with apparent reason. (s) There are a few favourite Scots tunes which tradition afcribes to him, perhaps with more truth. (t) Bar-Janti, however, another Italian, who vifited North Britain in the prefent century, collected and made baffes to a number of favourite Scottifh airs, which at the fame time he might probably modernize and refine, if not improve.

> It is certainly a very curious fact, that the fifter arts of Poetry and Mufic should be so much admired and cultivated as they have been in many nations confidered as barbarous and uncivilized; but it is equally true, that these arts have, in a greater or less degree, contributed to civilize and humanize those very nations. This is particularly remarkable as to the Arcadians, who were naturally very fierce and barbarous, till foftened by the power of Mufic, which they made an effential part of education; but the Cynæthians, a branch of the fame ftock, neglecting this cultivation, were the most ungovernable and ferocious subjects Greece had. (u)

> The wonderful stories related of Amphion and Orpheus are, by the foberer crit.cs, fuppofed to mean no more than that, by the union of Mufic and Poetry, they civilized the first barbarous inhabitants of Greece, reconciled them to live in fociety, and cultivate the ufeful and domestic arts

Policy

wallet at his back ; and according to others, a beggar cloathed in rags and tatters, alluding to the character in which he was difguiled. See Callander's Antient Scottiff Poems, Pages 17 and 79.

(r) Orland. Fur. Cant. XIII.

(s) Hawkins's Hift. IV. 1, &c.

(1) See No. CXXXI, CXXXVI, in the following Collection.

(u) Polybius, vid. Differtation où l'on fait voir, que les merveilleux effets, attribuez (9) No. XVIII. The Gaberlunzie Man; i. e. according to fome, the man with a a la Mufique des Anciens, &c. par M. Burette. Memoires de Liter. Tom. VII.

⁽k) Offian's Poems, Vol. II. Page 112, 113.

⁽¹⁾ Pennant's Tour to the Hebrides, Page 302.

Policy was not, however, the only motive to the cultivation of Mufic among rude nations. In the early ages, many of them tended flocks or herds; and their method of life admitting much leifure, they naturally fought to fill it up by amufements agreeable thereto, of which, Mufic and Poetry were the chief. This was remarkably the cafe of the Arcadians above-mentioned; and fo partial were they to foft and pafforal firains, that even in war, like the Lacedemonians, and fome others, they ufed no mufical inftruments but flutes.

Others, whole manners were less foftened, were more addicted to hunting and petty wars, and this difpolition would neceffirily affect both their Poetry and Mufic; employing a different fet of images in the former, and in the latter accents more wild and malculine.—Thefe remarks are particularly applicable to the ancient Highlanders, who borrow moft of their poetic images from the battle or the chace, (w) and their Poems are full of ideas of felf-importance and ambition, the great incentives to war and rapine.

Self-complacent and ferocious as the ideas of a barbarian Chief may be, an uncivilized flate is always attended with a certain degree of gloom and melancholy. Man was born for fociety and c-nnot be happy in folitude: add to this, that the hunter is not always fuccefsful; and few warriors are conflantly victorious. Thefe reflections, with the conflant ufe of Mufic in funeral obfequies, will fufficiently account for the plaintive and melancholic tincture of a great proportion of ancient Mufic, which has an effect analogous to Mufic in the minor mode; though, frictly fpeaking, the prefent doctrine of modes and keys is entirely modern, and few very ancient airs can be thoroughly accommodated to it. In tunes apparently minor, the 7th was not fharped, even when fometimes the 6th was (x) and the air was permitted to modulate from key to key, (to fpeak in modern terms) with fcarce any other law than that of the compofer's ear. Sometimes a very flort air appears to conclude in a different mode from what it begins in ; (y)

(w) Influence of Poetry, &c. Page 8.
(x) See No. XXVI, XXXV, LXII, &c. in this Collection.
(y) See No. XXXI, XXX, &c.
(x) See No. XXXI, LXI, XCIV, &c.

and at others, concludes in the harmony of the 4th or 5th of the key, inflead of that of the key itfelf. (z)

One of the moft obvious peculiarities of Scottifh Mufic is the affected omiffion of certain notes in the fcale, particularly the 4th and 7th, (a)and almol any other interval. This has been accounted for from the fuppofed contractednefs of antient infruments; it feems, however, too' great a beauty to afcribe to fuch a caufe; and it is fingular enough that the fame peculiarity is not only to be observed in fome Irifh airs, but even in the Chinefe Mufic; (b) and Dr. Burney has conjectured, from a curious paffage in Plutarch's Dialogues, that this was the original enharmonic fcale of the Greeks. (c)

No nation has ever applied Mufic to a greater variety of ufeful purpofes than the Scots, particularly in the Highlands. The animation they receive from the bagpipe is notorious, and confirmed by a moderal inflance, little fhort of, and better authenticated, than the wonderful flories of the antient Mufic. At the battle of Quebec (1760) whilf the Britift troops were retreating in confufion, the General complained to a field officer of Frafer's Regiment of the bad behaviour of his corps: "Sir," anfwered he, with fome warmth, "you did very wrong in "forbidding the pipers to play this morning; nothing encourages "Highlanders fo much in a day of action; nay, even now, they "would be of ufe" The experiment was tried, and immediately on hearing their national Mufic, they returned and formed with great alacrity in the rear. (d)

The modern Highlanders (as the Greeks of old) accompany almost every kind of work with Music. The fongs used in the Hebrides, and on the western coafts, are called *Luinigs*; they are generally very short and plaintive. "They are sung by the women, not only at their di-" versions, but during almost every kind of work, where more than " one perfon is employed, as milking cows, watching the folds, full-" ing of cloth, grinding of grain with the *quern*, or hand-mill, haymaking,

(a) See No. XIX, XX, XXI, XXV, XXVI, XXX, XLIII, &c.

(b) Burney's Hift. Vol. I. P. 34, and 497.

(c) See the fpec mens in Du Halde's Hift. of China, Vol. III.

(d) Influence of Poetry, &c. Page 13.

" making, and cutting down corn. (e)." At Raafay, Dr Johnson fowl of those parts : "In yonder foa (m) left I the youth whom I found the women reaping (as is their cuftom while the men bind up " loved. But lately he fkipped and bounded from rock to rock. their fheaves) and "the frokes of the fit kle were timed by the mo- " Dexterous was he in making every inftrument the farm required ; "tion of the harveft fong, in which all their voices were united "(f) "diligent in bringing home my tender flocks. You went, O, my The men too have their *iorrums*, or fongs for rowing, (g) to which they "love! upon von havging cliff, but fear measured not thy steps. keep time with their oars, as the women likewife do when their oper-1 " Thy foot only flipt-you fell never m re to rife! Thy blood ations admit of it. When the fime airs are fung in the hours of re- " flained yon floping rocks ; thy brains lay feattered all around ; all laxation, the time is marked by the motion of a napkin, which all the if thy wounds gufted at once. Floating on the furface of the deep, performers lay hold of. In finging, one perfon leads the band; but " the cruel waves tore thee afunder. Thy mother came, her grey in a certain part of the tune he flops to take breath, while the reft is hairs uncovered with the curch : (n) Thy fifter came; we mourned firike in and complete the air, pronouncing to it a chorus of words | " togethe : Thy brother came, he leffened not the cry of Sorrow. and fyllables, generally of no fignification. (b)

4

meals, and the vifitant of an Highland chief is commonly entertained " fupport! Now alas! my fhare of the birds is heard fcreaming in with f_i me national airs while he fits at meat. (i)

though their only mufical inftrument is one of the moft contemptible in being, viz. the Jew's Harp. "The Mufes of St Kilda are as fimple No. II. VIII XVIII. XLI. LVIII LXXXV. in the following Col-" as its inhabitants : At the conclusion of the fishing feafon, when the lection. Of the former of thefe Sir J. Hawkins relates the following " winter's flore of this little commonwealth is fallely deposited in a anecdote: Queen Mary, confort of William III. having a mind one " houfe. called Tigb-a-bharra, its whole members refort thither, as afternoon to be entertained with mufic, fent for Mr. Goffing, a gen-" being the most spacious room in their dominions, and hold a fo- tleman of her chapel; Mrs. Arabella Hunt, who had a fine voice; " lemn affembly. There they fing, with gratitude and joy, one of and Mr. H. Purcell: and after they had performed feveral compoli-" their beft reel-airs, to words importing : What more would we tions of the latter, her Majefty growing weary, afked Mrs. Hunt to " have ? there is flore of cuddies and fayth, of perich and allachan, fing the old Scots Ballad of " Cold and Raw," which fhe did, and ac-" (k) laid up for us in Tigh-a-bharra." (1)

There is also a beautiful fimplicity in the poetry of this island, of which the following specimen may not be unacceptable, it being the elegy of a young woman of St. Kilda, who had loft her hufband by a bafs to a movement in his next Birth-day Ode. (9) fall from the rocks, an accident not unfrequent in catching the wild

(e) Influence of Poetry, &c. Page 10. (f) Journey to the Western Islands, Page 139. (g) See No. XXXIX. in the fubfequent Collection. (b) Influence of Poetry, &c. Page 10. (i) Johnfen's Journey, Page 297, &c. (k) Kinds of fishes.

" Gloomy and fad we all beheld thee from afar. O thou that walt They are likewife very fond of the Bagpipe to accompany their " the feven-fold bleffing of thy friends, the fhiny l'on (o) of their " the clouds ; my fhare of the eggs is already feized on by the ftrong-There is fomething peculiar in the Mufic of the St Kildians, " er party. In yonder foa left I the youth whom I loved" (p)

Among the Lowland Scots Tunes fome of the most antient are companied herfelf upon the Lute, much to the mortification of Purcell, who fat at the harpfichord unemployed; and to let her Majefty know that he remembered it, he made the air of this tune the

There is confiderable difficulty in adjusting the more antient tunes. Frequently

(1) Influence of Poetry, &c. Page o. (m) A fmall rocky Island near St. Kilda. (n) A kerchief. (0) A rope of raw hides-a very valuable article with these people. (p) Influence of poetry, &c. Page 9. (q) Gen. H ft. of Mufic. Vol. IV. p. 6.

were found perfectly alike; and it was not always easy to accertain the most genuine. Some tunes, originally composed to the Harp, may have been confiderably altered to fuit the Bagpige. Others have been dabbled with by modern Muficians, who have perhaps not always improved fo much as they have altered them.

With regard to the performance of the following airs, it may not be impertinent to observe, that they will produce the best effect on those inftruments most capable of expression, such are the Violin, German Flute, and Piano Forte. In the performance of most national Music, and in particular the Scottifh, there are fome peculiarities which can hardly be expressed in notes; nor must the time be too strictly adhered to, (r) fince, in all probability, the original authors of the more antient airs, knew no more of our laws of time than of harmony. To relifh the beauties of this kind of Music, it is necessary to enter into the spirit of it, and nothing can more contribute to this than the hearing it performed by the natives, who are generally enthufiaftically attached philosophic fludies.

Frequently among feveral copies, all written by the natives, no two to it. The little grace notes, however, which are moftly to be performed with rapidity, may be of fervice to affift a ftranger. The Strathspeys, it should be remembered, must be played confiderably flower than the other Reels.

> It need hardly be added, that the baffes are modern ; many of them the composition of the first masters of the prefent age; and some of the airs, which never appeared with any kind of accompaniment before, were with difficulty made to fubmit to any; and often bid a total defiance to modern rules.

> Should the prefent work meet with public encouragement, it is proposed to be succeeded by a similiar collection of Irifb, and other national, airs; a work which, when complete, may not only entertain the lovers of Mufic, and gratify enquirers into the early state and history of that elegant art; but, from the analogy constantly to be observed between the original manners of a people and their native Mufic, afford ufeful hints to perfons engaged in more ferious and

(r) Burney's Prefent State of Mufic in Germany, Vol. I. p. 254, and M'Donald's Preface, p. 4.

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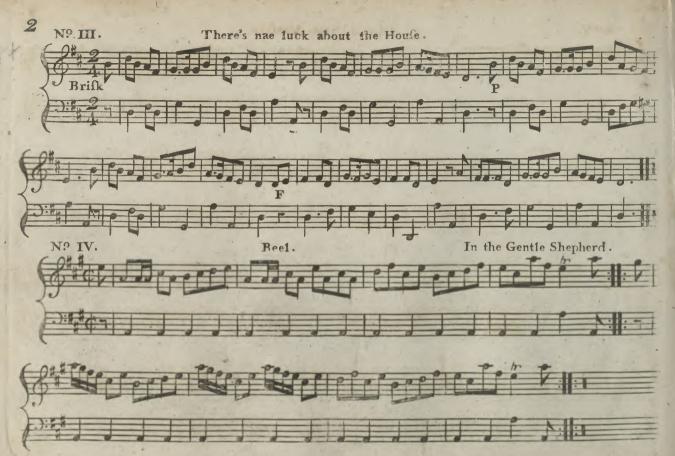
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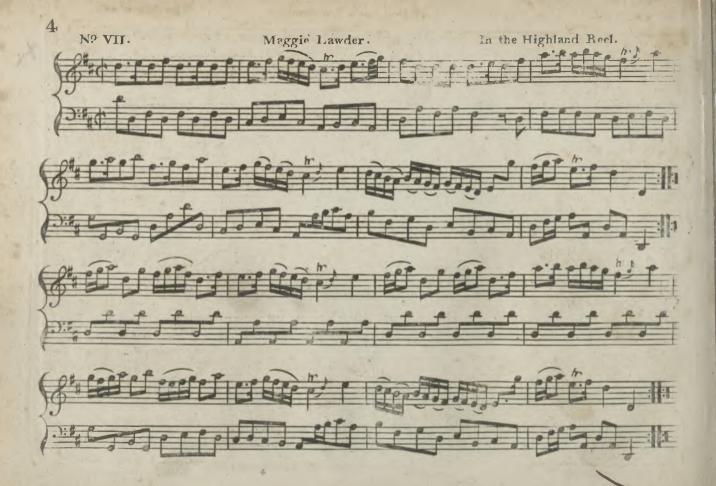




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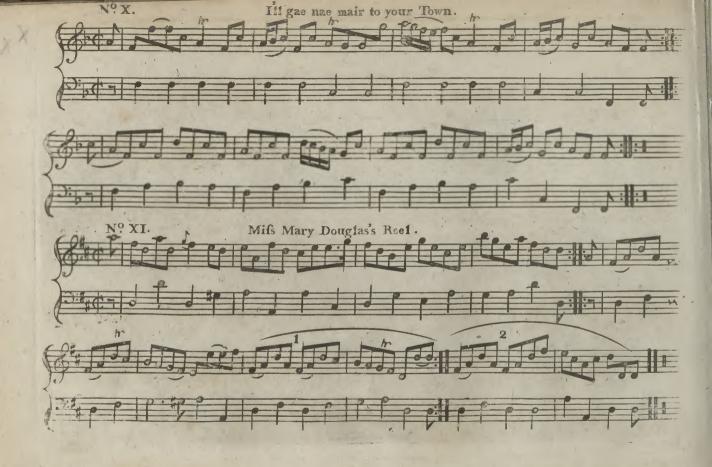


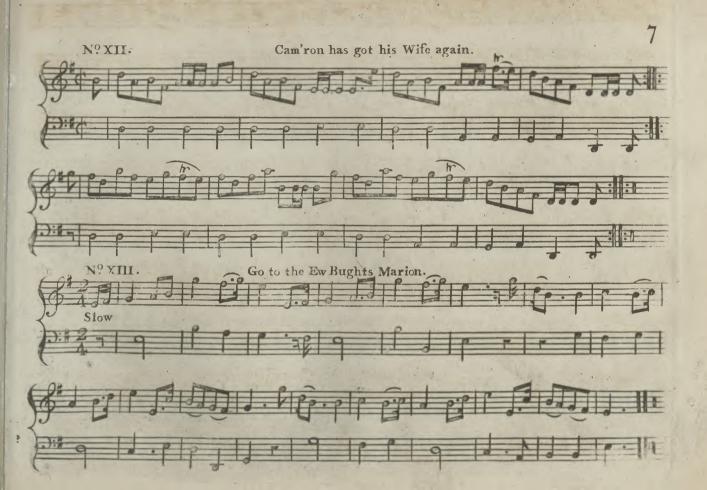
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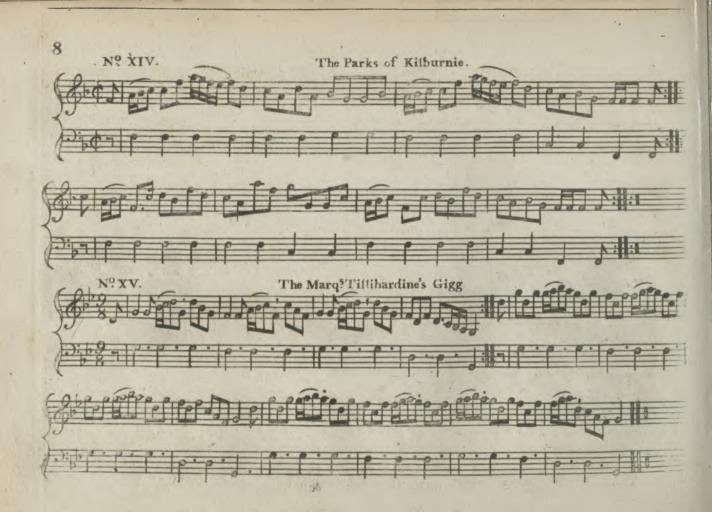


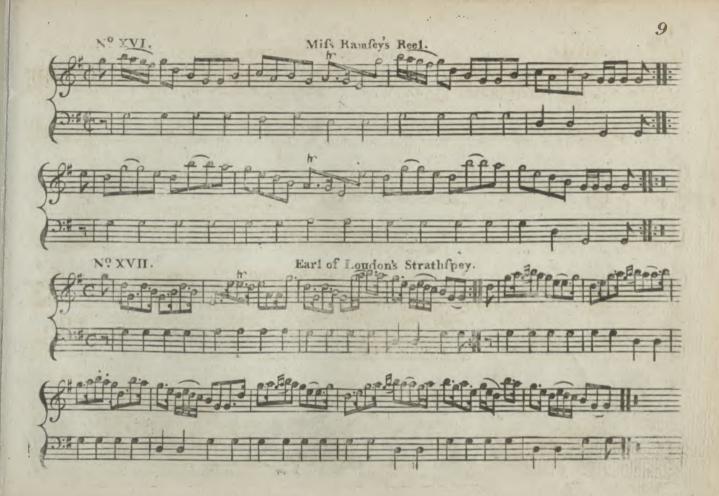


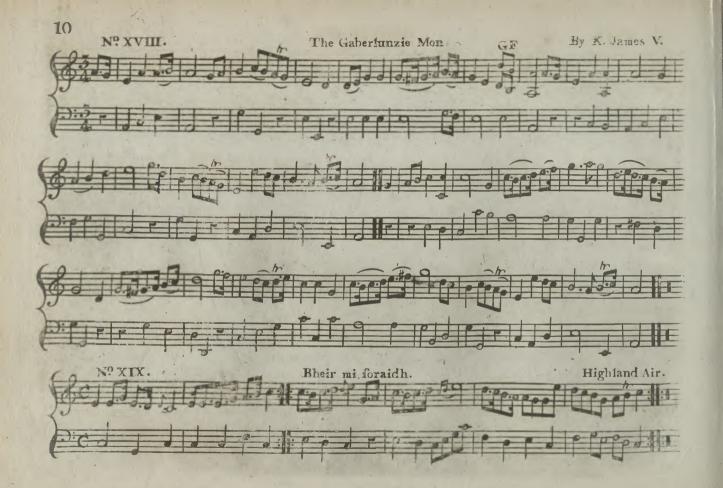
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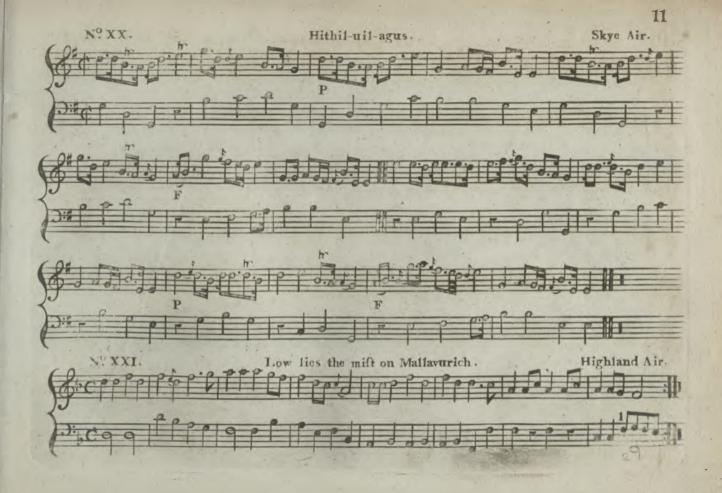


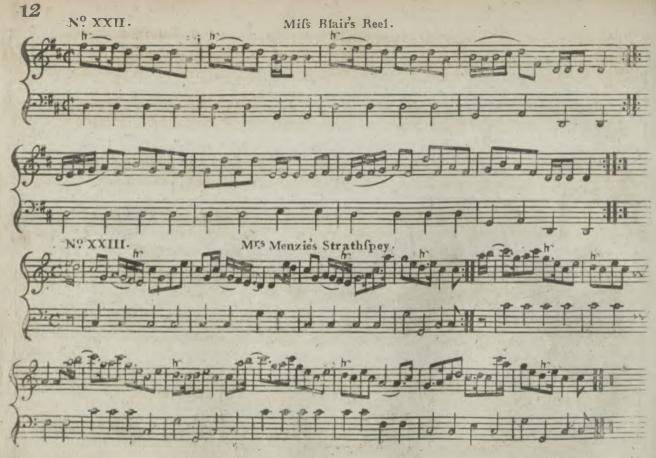




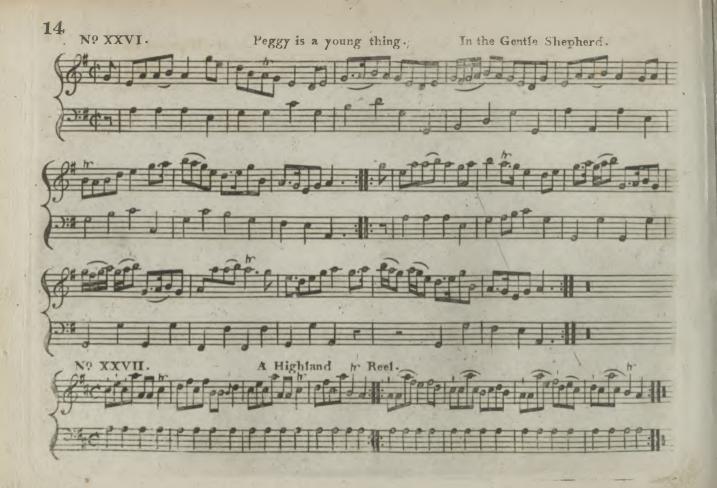






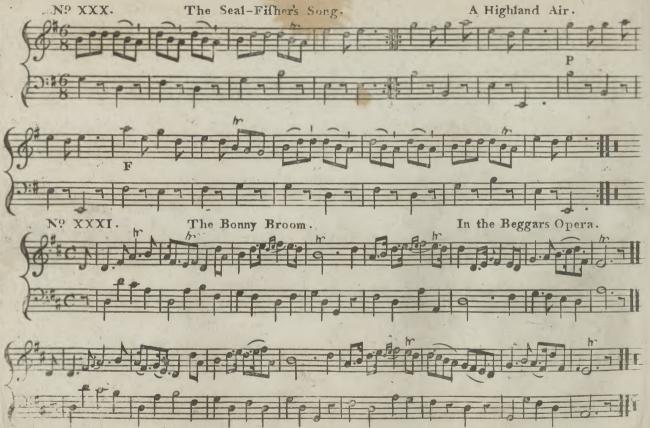


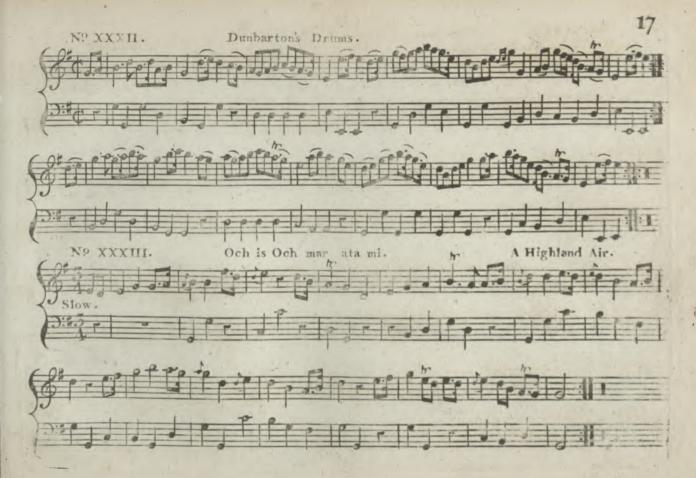




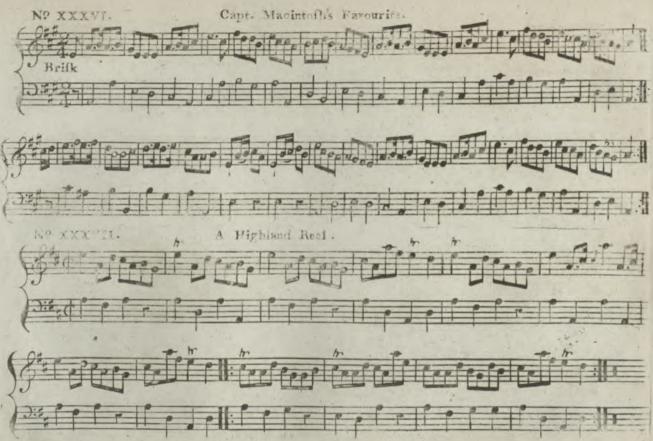


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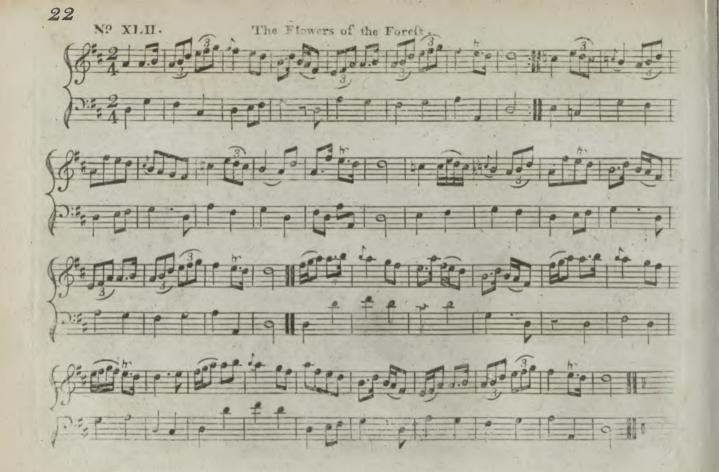




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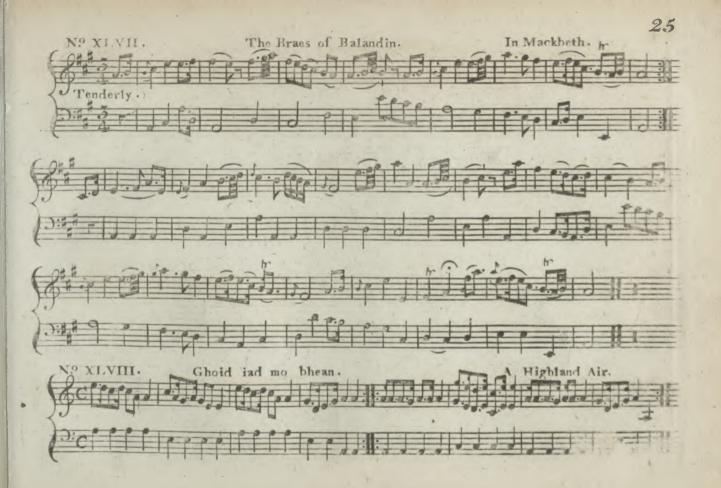


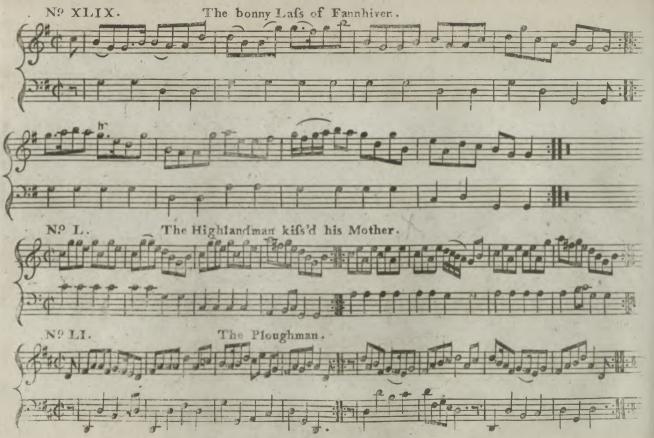














28 Nº LIV. Let's to the Ard. A Strathfpey. The Fyket. Addie Berede Brede Herede Hit

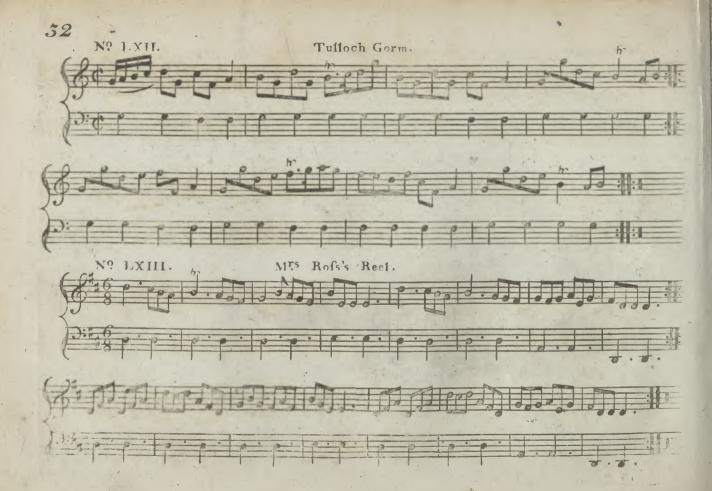
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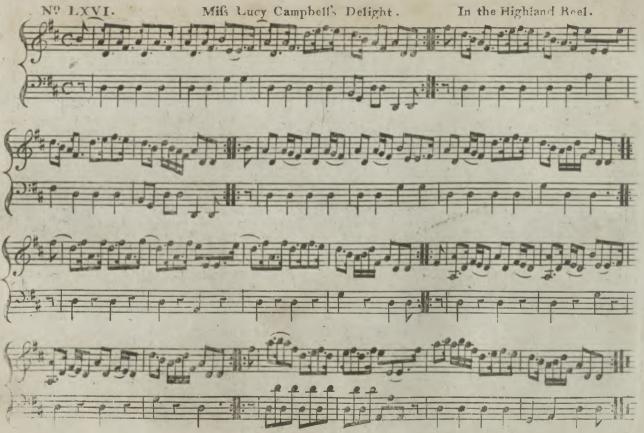








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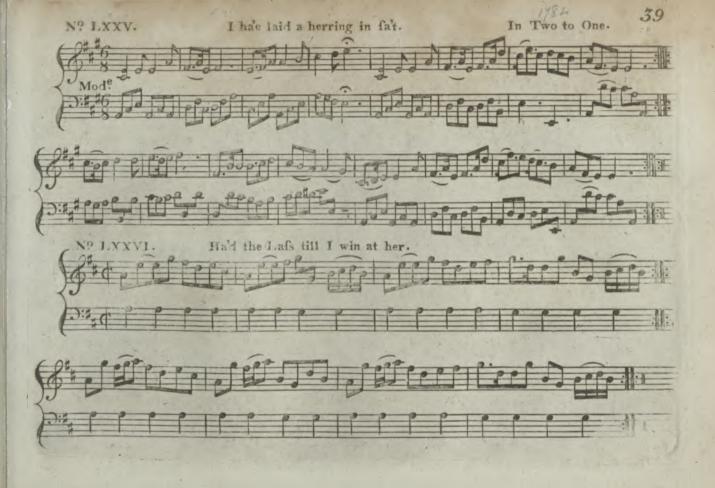
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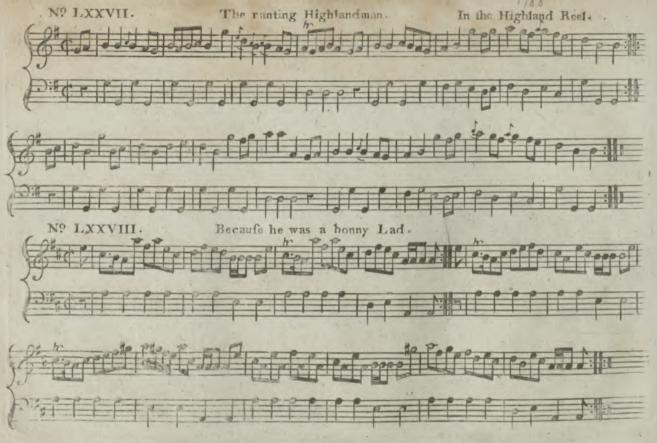








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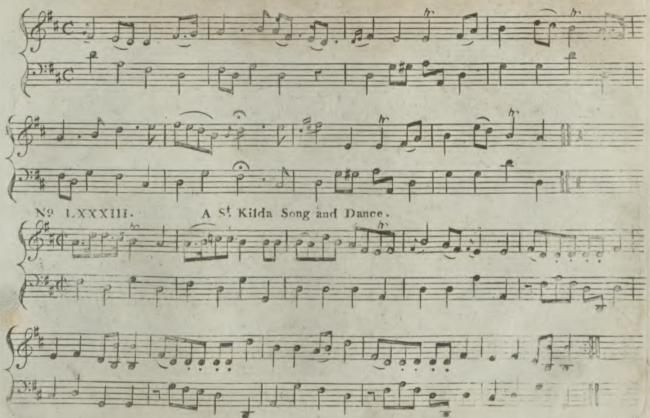






Nº LXXXII.

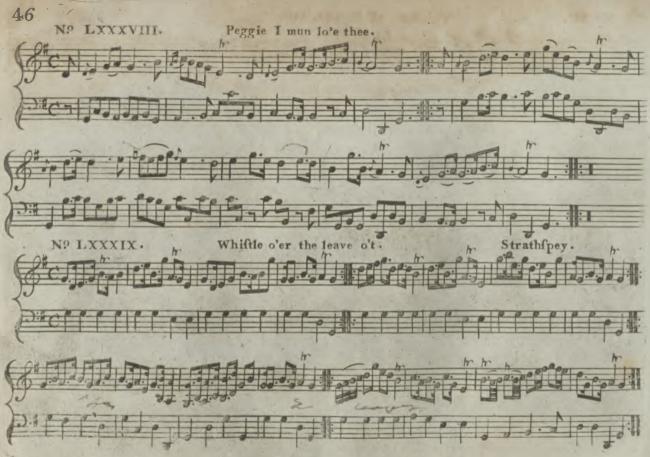
The filken-fnooded Lafsie.



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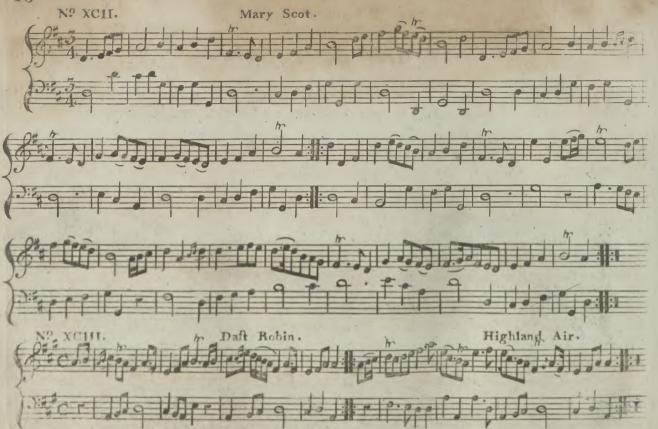






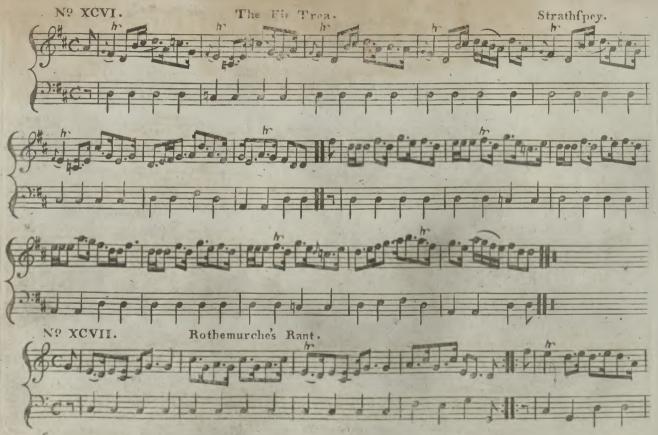
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Nº XC. The Lafs of Peattie's Mill. Differ q d d q q d d r d q f q q q q q i Preire proverse de la presentatione de la pres 999 J J = p f p p J d def g g Highland Air. Nº XCL.



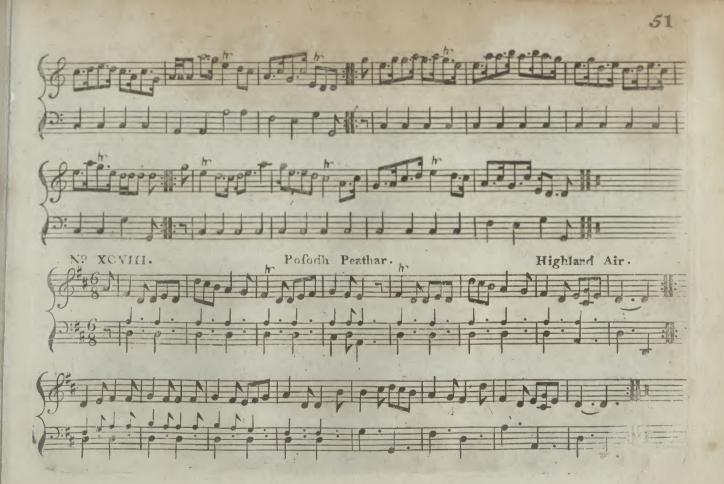


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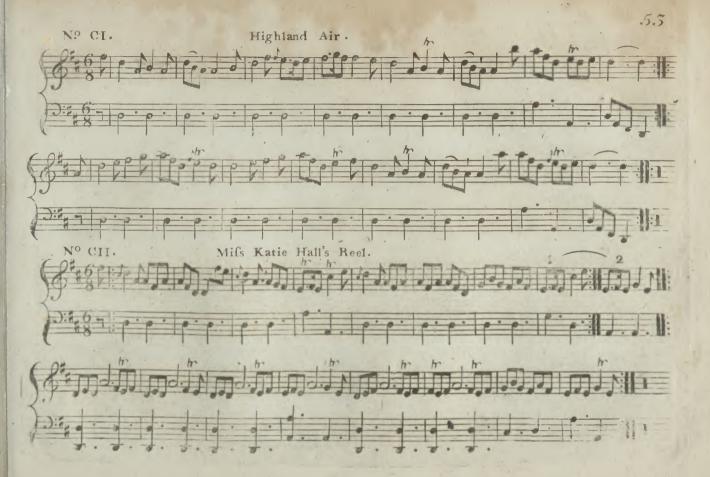


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66 Nº CXXVIII. The laft time I came o'er the Moor e for the 1:1 0 Auld Robin Gray. Nº CXXIX. m 一般 CT-IF. stol tel "rea

