The Scottish Text Society

Fergusson's Scottish Proverbs
Fergusson's
Scottish Proverbs
From the Original Print of 1641
Together with a larger Manuscript Collection
of about the same period
hitherto unpublished
EDITED BY
ERSKINE BEVERIDGE, LL.D.

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PREFACE.

Some years ago the late Dr Erskine Beveridge, whose contributions to Scottish history and archaeology are well known, offered to edit these proverbs from Fergusson's original print of 1641 and from an augmented MS. collection of the early seventeenth century in his own possession. He was working on this edition to within a short time of his death in 1920. It was, however, incomplete, and Mrs Beveridge most generously offered to contribute towards the expenses of completion and publication. The revision was entrusted to Mr J. D. Westwood, M.A., of George Heriot's School, who has completed the glossarial notes and vastly extended the list of proverbs traced in earlier Scottish and English works. He has also added the footnotes, which may serve to show the extent to which later collections of Scottish proverbs are indebted to Fergusson. Mr West-
wood's additions are distinguished by being placed within square brackets.

A brief notice of a second MS. collection of Scottish proverbs in the Edinburgh University Library will be found in the Appendix.

BRUCE DICKINS,
General Editor.

11th July 1924.
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INTRODUCTION.

I.

The earliest known collection of Scottish proverbs is that "gathered together" by the Rev. David Fergusson in the latter half of the sixteenth century, although not printed until forty-three years after his death.

It is true that George Mackenzie, in his 'Lives and Characters of the Most Eminent Writers of the Scots Nation,' &c., Vol. III., p. 461 (also quoting Dempster), refers to Archbishop James Beaton of Glasgow—the second of that name, b. 1517, d. 1603, and a nephew of Cardinal Beaton—as having left in MS. "a Collection of the Scots Proverbs: of which there have been several Editions, with Mr Fergusson's Additions to them: The oldest of which, that I have seen, is printed at Edinburgh 1610, in 12mo." But again, ibid., p. 467, we find this contradictory entry: "The Scots Proverbs, in 12mo., 1614, and in divers other Years." Both of these statements would seem, however, to be wholly incorrect, although perhaps bearing some confused reference to Fergusson's own collection, which was first published in 1641.

The birth of David Fergusson can hardly be placed
INTRODUCTION.

later than about 1525, when we consider that in February 1598 (six months before his death) he was described as "the auldest minister that tyme in Scotland." 1 It further seems that he was a native of Dundee, of humble parentage, and that he had been brought up to the trade of a glover. The local connection is generally accepted from the fact that in July 1558 "George Luvell, David Fergusson, and certane utheris personis withtin the burght of Dunde," were summoned to answer "for thair wrangus using and wristing of the Scripture, and for disputting upoun erronius opinionis and eiting of flesche in Lenterone and utheris forbidding tymes." 2

Be this as it may, we have somewhat fuller evidence upon the matter of original occupation: in the first place, from an amusing interlude between Fergusson and King James VI., in which the former won success by means of a very temporary reversion to his early handicraft as a skinner 3; and secondly, from the gibes hurled against him by James Laing, a Roman Catholic controversialist, under the epithets "chirothecarum sutor," 4 &c.

David Fergusson was among the earliest of the Scottish Reformers—one of six, according to his own statement. Although not a graduate of any university, he was in July 1560 appointed minister at Dunfermline by the Committee of Parliament, and retained that position until his death on 23rd August 1598, having also served as Moderator of

1 4 Autobiography and Diary of James Melvill,' Wodrow Soc., p. 437; see also Row's 'Historie of the Kirk of Scotland,' Maitland Club, p. xl.
2 4 Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer,' Vol. X., pp. 369-370; see also M'Crie's 'Life of John Knox,' edn. of 1840, p. 429.
3 Row's 'Historie of the Kirk of Scotland,' Maitland Club, pp. xxxvi-xxxvii, quoting Wodrow's MSS. in the library of Glasgow University.
the General Assembly in March 1573 and October 1578. He was held in the highest esteem, and many anecdotes are recorded in proof of his shrewdness and ready wit. During his lifetime he published two small theological treatises:

'Ane Answer to ane Epistle written by Renat Benedict,' &c., Edin., 1563;

'Ane Sermon preichit befoir the Regent and Nobilitie, vpon a part of the thrid Chapter of the Prophet Malachi,' &c., St Andrews, 1572.

These pamphlets are of extreme rarity, and indeed only two copies of the 'Answer' (both of them imperfect, although fortunately each supplying the other's deficiencies) are known to exist in Scotland—one in the library of Edinburgh University, which also possesses an apparently unique original of the 'Sermon.'¹ This latter was reprinted by Principal Lee (? ca. 1828), and in 1860 both tracts were reproduced in a small volume as a posthumous contribution by him to the Bannatyne Club, with an interesting preface from the pen of David Laing.

Our special concern, however, is here limited to the 'Collection of Scottish Proverbs' by which the Rev. David Fergusson's name is now chiefly held in remembrance, and will doubtless thus continue to be preserved for all time.

Of this work—enumerating only those publications issued in separate form—we are able to chronicle from various sources the following editions, although the list cannot be considered as by any means exhaustive:

¹ The second copy of 'Ane Answer' was gifted to the Carnegie Library, Dunfermline, by the Editor. A third, also slightly imperfect, is in the Cambridge University Library.
INTRODUCTION.

A. Scottish Proverbs: gathered together by David Fergusson sometime Minister at Dunfermline: And put ordine Alphabetico when he departed this life, anno 1598. 4to. Edin., 1641.

44 pp. (including 2 blank).
911 proverbs, not numbered.

B. (? Titled as above.) 1649.

C. Nine hundred and fourty Scottish Proverbs, the greatest part of which were at first gathered together by David Fergusson, &c.

8vo. ? Edin., 1659.

D. Do. Do. Black Letter. 12mo. n.p. 1667.

4 + 44 pp.
Coll., A 8, B 4, C 8, D 4.
The proverbs are numbered to 945, but no doubt there are omissions, as in F of 1692. The last three proverbs are alike in both editions.

E. Do. Do.

8vo. ? Edin., 1675.

4 + 44 pp.
Coll., A-C in 8.
Apparently represented by 1075 K 22 in the British Museum Library; that copy, however, lacking both title-page and last leaf.
Nine hundred and forty

SCOTTISH PROVERBS:

The greatest part of which were at first gathered together

BY

DAVID FERGUSON, sometime Minister at Dumfermline,

And put into an alphabetical order when he departed this life, ANNO 1598.

The rest being since added, were never before printed.

Printed in the Year M. DC. LXVIII.
THE PRINTER
to the merry, judicious,
and discreet Reader.

It is well known, that every Nation hath their own Proverbs, and Proverbial Speeches; yea every Shire, or part of a Nation, hath some Proverbial Speeches, which others have not: so that a man can hardly gather together all such Speeches; yet some are more inclined to such kind of Speeches than others. Therefore many in this Realm that have heard of David Fergusone, sometime Minister at Dumfermline, and of his quick Answers and Speeches, both to great Persons and to others inferiors, and

A 2 have
Scottish Proverbs.

A

1. All things hath a beginning, except God.
2. A good beginning makes a good ending.
3. A rashful man is a beggar's brother.
4. A vaunter and a liar is both one thing.
5. All is not tint that is in peril.
6. All is not in hand that helps.
7. A com-purse makes a bleeft merchant.
8. As long runs the cor as he hath fire.
10. A wight man wanted never a weapon.
11. A twice bolt is six shot.
12. A golden horse should not be look in the teeth.
13. A good asker should have a good nap say.
14. A dear ship stands long in the haven.
15. An oleit mother makes a sweet daughter.
16. A rackless huslie makes many thieves.
17. A liar should have a good memory.
Scottish Proverbs.

1. All things hath a beginning, (God excepted)
2. A good beginning makes a good ending.
3. A slothful man is a beggars brother.
4. A vaunter and a liar is both one thing.
5. All is not tinct that is in peril.
6. All is not in hand that helps.
7. A teem pure makes a bleat merchant.
8. As long runs the Fox as he hath feet.
10. A wight man wanted never a weapon.
11. A fools bolt is soon shot.
12. A given horse should not be lookt in the teeth.
13. A good asker should have a good say.
14. A dear ship stands long in the haven.
15. An old mother makes a sweir daughter.
16. A racklefe huffie makes mony thieves.
17. A lyer should have a good memory.
18. A black shoe makes a blith heart.

A 3

19 A
INTRODUCTION.

F. Nine hundred and forty Scottish Proverbs, the greatest part of which were at first gathered together by David Fergusson, &c. 12mo. n.p. 1692.

36 pp.
Coll., A in 8, B-C in 4, D in 2.
932 proverbs; running to 945, but with 14 numbers omitted and one number duplicated.

G. Do. Do. 12mo. Edin., 1699.

H. Do. Do. 12mo. Edin., 1706.

36 pp.
Coll., A in 8, B-C in 4, D in 2.
931 proverbs; as in F of 1692, except that a fifteenth number is omitted.
This may be the edition noted as of 1705 by Laing in ‘Tracts by David Fergusson,’ 1860, p. xviii.

J. Do. Do. 12mo. Edin., 1709.

K. Do. Do. ? 12 mo. 1716.

L. A Collection of Scotch Proverbs, chiefly selected by Mr David Ferguson. 12mo. Glasgow, 1799

24 pp. (including one blank).
No preface, and only 577 proverbs.
INTRODUCTION.

Of these eleven separate editions at least five can be personally vouched by the present writer, while four others (C, E, G, J) are included upon the authority of a memorandum made for his own use by the late Sir Arthur Mitchell,¹ and the other two (B, K) from notes in William Motherwell's "Introductory Essay," which prefaces Henderson's 'Scottish Proverbs,' Edin., 1832, pp. xviii, xx-xxi, —C, E, G being also given in the last-named volume. Copies of A and H are in the Advocates' Library, and the Signet Library has a copy of A; but strange as it may seem, not one of the eleven is to be found in the University Libraries of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, or St Andrews. The Library of the British Museum contains D (press-mark C 57 aa 44 (5)), and apparently also E (1075 K 22), this latter imperfect as noted above, and queried in the catalogue as of 1675. Fergusson's name is printed with a single "s" in D, F, and L.

In the preface to Rowe's 'Historie,' &c. (Maitland Club, pp. xlvi-xlvii), is quoted from Wodrow's MSS. the very reasonable suggestion that the address "From the Printer to the merrie, judicious and discreet Reader" of these proverbs may in all likelihood have been contributed by the Rev. John Row of Carnock, a son-in-law of Fergusson.

This manuscript—described as M for purposes of reference—was one of thirteen items bound together in a small

¹ As to these items, the following details are given in Sir Arthur Mitchell's list:—

C "Believed to have been printed in Edinburgh. In the Library of Mr Chalmers, and sold with his books." (C is also mentioned in Motherwell's 'Essay' as in the catalogue of the Argyll Library).

E "With the same title-page. In the Laing Collection, believed to have been printed in Edinburgh."

G "Appears in the sale catalogue of Brand's Library as No. 5714."

J "Appears in D. Constable's sale catalogue as No. 2431."
quarto volume (lot 1294) which came from the collection of Mr John Scott, sold in April 1905. Those which are dated range from 1587 to 1651, all being in manuscript except a printed pamphlet of 1640.

The collection of Scots proverbs is in more than one handwriting, although it seems obvious that the whole must be ascribed to some period earlier than 1641, in which year Fergusson's collection was first printed. It consists of 83 pp. of about 33 lines to the full page, including 1656 proverbs, with—at the end—8 pages of short jocular pieces in poetry or prose—six of these in Latin.

A partial collation of A (of 1641) with M (the anonymous manuscript) gives—

For A, under letter A, 150 proverbs, while M has 215

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&c., &c.

Some (but very few) of those in A are not in M, but even when an apparent omission occurs, it is often to be found under a different initial in the latter, as, for instance, "Anes" is represented by "Once," "Earlie" by "Airlie," "Efter" by "After," and so forth. To take a fuller comparison, under the first letter of the alphabet M contains 82 not in A, and A has 17 not in M; but it is noteworthy that 7 of these 17 appear in M under other initial words; while of the remaining 10 (altogether omitted in M) no fewer than 9 are among the last 15 in A. (A similar
remark would also apply to many other letters of the alphabet."

This fact is suggestive of the theory that M represents a much extended version founded upon an unfinished manuscript copy of A, no doubt made before the year 1598, when Fergusson's own collection had presumably been completed.

M includes many repetitions, a fault hardly occurring in A.

In another respect M is noteworthy as containing 13 proverbs in which Scottish place-names occur, 4 of these (viz., Dysart, Falkland, Kirkcaldy, and Seasfield) belonging to Fifeshire, while others (Aldie, Cramond, Crooks of Forth, Falkirk, Ford, and Luncarty) lie at no great distance.

M is very much coarser than A, which indeed deserves little or no blame in this respect, taking into account the more primitive speech of the period. One thing seems evident, that M was not the handiwork of a clergyman.

It must be added that Fergusson's 'Proverbs' have also been borrowed for inclusion with other matter in works of a more miscellaneous character, such as—


and

'A Select Collection of Scots Poems, chiefly in the broad Buchan dialect. To which is added, a Collection of Scots Proverbs: by the Reverend Mr David Fergusson, &c.' Edin., 1777, 1785.
INTRODUCTION.

II.

With regard to the 911 Scottish proverbs "gathered together" by the Rev. David Fergusson, there seems no reason to infer that any one of these was originated by himself. It might even be allowable to feel some disappointment that so very few among them bear the slightest impress of either local or national character. A considerable number could be readily identified as translations of adages borrowed, as already old, by Latin authors, while others have their equivalents in the Greek tongue, and perhaps also in the Hebrew. Aristotle (d. 322 B.C.) made a collection of the proverbs which were current in his time, and indeed, as conveying in a popular, pithy, and often very pungent form the crystallised experience of mankind, such sayings must date back to all but the very earliest stages of primæval life. Reference may here be made to a modest volume—'Proverbs and their Lessons,' by Archbishop Trench, first published in 1853—which the present writer has found most interesting and helpful from various points of view. The edition of 1905, pp. 157-158, quotes nearly twenty examples from 'The Precepts of Ptah-hetep' (ca. 3440 B.C.), transcribed in the Papyrus Prisse,1 "the oldest book in the world," professing to be founded upon the wisdom of authorities still more ancient.

The Proverbs of Solomon (ca. 1000 B.C.) and those con-

1 Professor Flinders Petrie, in his 'History of Egypt,' 4th edn., p. 81, notes the reign of Assa as "signalised by the earliest well-dated papyrus composition, the Proverbs of Ptah-hetep," adding that although the actual copy which we possess (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris), is probably of the twelfth dynasty, there seems no reason to doubt the statement that Ptah-hetep wrote this work in the fifth dynasty.
tained in the Book of Ecclesiastes and Ecclesiasticus (Apocrypha), both perhaps dating ca. 200 B.C., come into quite a different category, being didactic in type and without the leaven of homely humour. Wise as they are, few among them can claim any degree of general adoption for ordinary purposes.

Various indeed have been the opinions expressed regarding the qualities necessary to constitute a proverb. Archbishop Trench, who devotes much attention to this point, insists upon popularity as obviously the first essential, accompanied by conciseness and wisdom, together with—in the choicest cases—a figurative expression, even if veiling truth under the guise of a paradox. Among those definitions which seem to be specially discriminating we may quote—

Erasmus (d. 1536): “Celebre dictum, scitâ quàpiam novitate insigne.”

Cervantes (d. 1616): “No ay refrán que no sea verdadero, porque todas son sentencias sacadas de la misma experiencia, madre de las ciencias todas.”

Thomas Fuller (d. 1661): “Much matter decocted into few words.”

James Howell (d. 1666):
“And what are proverbs but the people’s voice,
Coined first, and current made by common choice?”

(Authority unknown): “The wit of one, and the wisdom of many.”
INTRODUCTION.

III.

Here follow a number of proverbs included by Ferguson which we have been able to trace as also appearing in the works of early vernacular writers, whether Scottish or English:

A 1. [For everything a ginning hath it nede. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' II., 671.]

A 2. God beginning maketh god endynge. Hendyng, St. 2.
   [For qua begin wil ani thing
   [He aght to thinc on the ending. 'Cursor Mundi,'
   l. 4379.]
   [Of a good beginning comth a good end. Heywood, p. 43.]

A 4. [A vauntour and a lyere, al is on. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' III., l. 309.]


A 9. [For hasty man ne wanteth never care. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' IV., ll. 1567-8.]
   [The hastie man never wanteth woe. Heywood, p. 8.]
   [Cf. also Skeat's 'Early English Proverbs,' p. 135.]


A 11. [Sottes bolt is sone i-schote. 'Proverbs of Alfred,' A 421.]
   Sottes bolt is sone shote. Hendyng, St. I.
   A fooleis bolt is soone shot. Heywood, p. 100.]

A 12. [A gyven hors may not be loked in the tethe. Wynkyn de Worde's, 'Vulgaria Stambrigi' (circa 1510.)]
   [No man ought to looke a given horse in the mouth.
   Heywood, p. 22.]

A 20. Sely chyld is sone ylered. Hendyng, St. 9.
   [For seli child is sone ilered. 'Life of Beket' (Percy Society), l. 158.]
   [Fore sely barnis are eith to leire. 'Ratis Raving,' E.E.T.S., 43, p. 94, l. 121.]
   [For sely child wol alday sone lere. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B I. 1702.]

A 21. [A cat may looke on a King. Heywood, p. 122.]

A 24. [A scald head is soone broken. Heywood, p. 103.]
INTRODUCTION.

A 25. A skabbit scheip infeckis All the haill flok. 'Bannatyne MS.,' Pt. III., p. 380, ll. 35-6.
A 26. [Brend child fur dredeth. Hendyng, St. 24.]
   [They that han ben brent, Allas! can they nat flee the fyres hete. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' G 1407-8.]
   [Burnt child fire dredth. Heywood, p. 94.]
A 29. Selde cometh lone lahynde hom. Hendyng, St. 25.
A 33. [An old dog biteth sore. Heywood, p. 130.]
A 34. [A short horse is soon currid. Heywood, p. 39.]
A 36. [ef þu isihst [er] he beo icume his strench[e] is him wel neh binume. 'Owl and Nightingale,' ll. 1225-6.]
   [Halfe warnd, halfe armd. Heywood, p. 132.]
A 40. Pilgrymes and palmers . . . hedden leue to lyzen al heere lyf aftir. 'Piers Plowman,' A (Prologue, ll. 46-9).
A 41. [Cf. One ill woord axeth another. Heywood, p. 37.]
A 42. [Hungree flyes bite sore. Heywood, p. 154.]
A 49. [The still sow eats up all the draffe. Heywood, p. 46.]
A 51. [Oft failyeis the fulis thocht. Barbour, 'Bruce,' I., 582.]
   [But alday falleth thing that foles ne wenden. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' I., l. 217.]
   [Thus alday fayleth thinges that fooles wende. Usk, 'Testament of Love,' II., 8, 122.]
A 63. [The kayes hang not all by one man's girdle. Heywood, p. 65.]
A 66. [So many heads so many wits. Heywood, p. 14.]
A 67. [A blind man can nat juggen wel in hewis. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' II., l. 21.]
   [Blind men should judge no colours. Heywood, p. 127.]
A 68. [The yong cocke croweth as he the old heareth. Heywood, p. 39.]
A 69. [A scald horse is good enough for a scabd squyre. Heywood, p. 71.]
A 75. [Thet coc is kene on his owyne mixenne. 'Ancren Riwle' (Camden Soc.), p. 140.]
   [Every cocke is proud on his owne dunghill. Heywood, p. 53.]
A 80. A fule quhen he hes spokkin He is all done. 'Bannatyne MS.,' III., p. 380, ll. 4-5.
A 84. [An old knave is no childe. Heywood, p. 99.]
A 85. [Cf. A good wife maketh a good husband. Heywood, p. 151.]
INTRODUCTION.

91. [A man may well bring a horse to the water
But he cannot make him drink. Heywood, p. 58.]

A 92. [It makis a perte mowss Ane unhardy catt. 'Bannatyne

A 95. [Cf. The looth stake standeth long. Heywood, p. 104.]

A 98. [Hit is not al gold that glareth. Chaucer, 'Hous of
Fame,' l. 272.]

[But al thing which thet shyneth as the gold
Nis nat gold. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' G 962-3.]

[For every glitering thing is nat gold. Usk, 'Testament
of Love,' II., 3, 47.]

[All things that shineth is not by and by golde,
'Ralph Royster Doyster,' Act V., Sc. I.]

[All is not gold that glisters. Heywood, p. 47.]

A 109. [Old sinne makes newe shame. 'Havelok the Dane,'
l. 2461.]

[Old sennë, newe schame. Gower, 'Confessio Amantis,'
III., 2033.]

Commounly auld syn Makis new schame. 'Bannatyne

A 110. [He that will thrive must ask leave of his wife. Hey-
wood, p. 60.]

A 111. [Children learne to creep ere they can learne to goe. Hey-
wood, p. 66.]

A 123. [For I of lytill wald be fane. Dunbar, Vol. I., p. 229,
l. 87.]

In Icelandic Prose Edda ('Skáldskaparmál,' ch. 43),
Vöggr is described as fattæk (poor); and, later,
Hrolfr Kraki says, "Lítlu verðr Vöggr feginn,
i.e. Vöggr is pleased with a little.

A 133. [Som tym an ende ther is of every dede. Chaucer,
'C. T.,' A l. 2636.]

A 134. [All is well that endes well. Heywood, p. 43.]

A 136. A work weill begon, Hes the bettir end. 'Bannatyne
MS.,' III., p. 380, ll. 22-3.

A 142. [A friend is never known till a man have neede. Hey-
wood, p. 80.]

A 145. [Thy guse is gude, thy gansell sour as gall. Henryson,
Vol. II., p. 26, l. 345.]

A 148. [Timely crooketh the tree that will a good camok bee.
Heywood, p. 159.]

MS. 154. [A soft answer putteth away wrath. Proverbs xv. 1.]

MS. 175. [There is ane old proverb that says that ane herand
damysel and ane spekand castel sal neyrr end with
honour. 'Complaynt of Scotland,' XIII., 108.]

MS. 191. [Of jung sanctis growis auld feyndis but fable. Dunbar,
Vol. I., p. 175, l. 35.]
INTRODUCTION.


A 152. [Cf. For wyse ben by foles harm chastysed. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' III., l. 329.]

A 153. [Cf. Better is half a loaf than no bread. Heywood, p. 66.]

A 154. [Betere is appel y-geve then y-ete. Hendyng, St. 13.]
It is a blessed thing to giue, rather than to receiue. Acts xx. 35.

A 156. [Cf. Ful sooth it is that swich profred servyse Stinketh. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' G 1066-7.]

A 159. [For bet than never is late. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' G 1410.]
Better late than never. Heywood, p. 44.

A 164. [Beter is lysyte to have in ese Than much to have(n) in malese. 'King Alexander,' l. 7365.]

A 172. [Better one byrde in hand than ten in the wood. Heywood, p. 64.]

A 173. [Better spare at brim than at bottom. Heywood, p. 115.]

A 175. [Bettir is gud name Nor evill win geir. 'Bannatyne MS.' III., p. 380, ll. 14-15.]

A 176. [Better eie out then alway ake. Heywood, p. 33.]

A 181. [Better be happie then wise. Heywood, p. 130.]

A 183. [Wit is never good till it be bought. Heywood, p. 31.]

The yerde is bet that bowen wole and winde Than that that brest. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' I., ll. 257-8.]

[Rather to bowe than breke is profitable, Humylite is a thing commendable. 'Morale Proverbs of Cristyne.' Transl. from French by Earl Rivers, and printed by Caxton, 1478.]

[Better to bow then breake. Heywood, p. 37.]

A 186. [Better bairnes weepe then bearded men. Master of Glammis to James VI. See Note.]

A 187. [Better children weepe then old men. Heywood, p. 59.]

A 188. [Cf. I hopping without for a ring of a rush. Heywood, p. 13.]

A 190. [Better sit still than ryse and fall. Heywood, p. 118.]


A 192. [Far betere is child unbore thane unbuhsun. 'Proverbs of Alfred,' A 449.]
[Better unborne then untaught. Heywood, p. 42.]
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A 193. [Better be envied than pitied. Heywood, p. 55.]
A 196. [Blacke will take none other hew. Heywood, p. 157.]
A 198. ["Had I wist" is a thyng it seruys of noght. ‘Towneley Plays,’ p. 119, l. 93.]
(Beware of had I wist. Heywood, p. 7.)
A 199. [Better but stryfe to leif allane in le
Than to be machit with ane wickit marrow. Henryson, Vol. II., p. 216, ll. 2917-8.]
MS. 301. [The blinde eate many flyes. Heywood, p. 127.]
A 223. [Cf. Hot love soone colde. Heywood, p. 7.]
A 229. [Bot that how pres do, my sone,
Ryc/it as how wald to the war done. ‘Ratis Raving,’ E.E.T.S., 43, p. 35, ll. 337-8.]
[For swich lawe as man yeveth another wight
He sholde himselfen usen it by right. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ B ll. 43-4.]
[Therefore all things whatsoever ye wolde that men shulde
do to you, even so do ye to them. Matthew vii. 12.]
A 230. [Doe well and have well. Heywood, p. 153.]
MS. 353. [Dwelling hath ofte scathe wrouht. ‘Havelok the Dane,’ l. 1352.]
A 251. [Every man can rule a shrew save he that hath her.
Heywood, p. 130.]
A 252. [Eit and drynk with mesour And defy the leich. ‘Ban-
натyne MS.,’ III., 380, ll. 28-9.
[Feed by measure and defie the phisition. Heywood, p. 140.]
A 254. [Every man basteth the fat hog. Heywood, p. 80.]
A 256. [But I wot best wher wringeth me my sho. Chaucer,
‘C. T.,’ E 1553.]
[Myselfe can tell best where my shooe doth wring mee. Heywood, p. 121.]
MS. 391. [Cf. And why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s
eye and perceivest not the beame that is in thyne
owne eye. St Matt. vii. 3.]
[Ye can see a mote in another man’s eie
But ye cannot see a balke in your owne. Heywood, p. 139.]
A 261. [Fayre woords make fooles fayne. Heywood, p. 119.]
A 264. [A Fredome is a nobill thing. Barbour, ‘Bruce,’ I., l. 225.]
A 268. [Many kisse the child for the nurses sake. Heywood, p. 145.]
A 270. [Cf. For oft tunge brekeþ bon. ‘Proverbs of Alfred,’
B 26, l. 425.]
[Tonge breketh bon. Hending, St. 19.]
[It hurteth not the toung to give faire woordes. Hey-
wood, p. 37.]
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A 271. [Foule water as sone as fayre will quench hot fire. Heywood, p. 22.]


[Sen want of wyse men makis fulis to sit on binkis. Henryson, Vol. III., pp. 170-172, ll. 8, 16, etc.]

A 277. [Follow pleasure and then will pleasure flee;
Flee pleasure, and pleasure will follow thee. Heywood, p. 57.]

MS. 416. [Cf. A 583, and He is liveles, that is faultles. Heywood, p. 62.]

MS. 419. [Ye fysh before the nett. ‘Towneley Plays,’ p. 104, l. 139.]

[It is ill fishing before the net. Heywood, p. 67.]

MS. 422. [For peril is bothë fyr and tow tassemble. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ D 89.]

[To lay fire and tow togethier. Heywood, p. 127.]

A 286. [Ane gude turne for ane uther. Henryson Vol. II., p. 114, l. 1459.]

A 289. [God send’th the cold after clothes. Heywood, p. 17.]

A 293. [God never send’th mouth but he sendeth meat. Heywood, p. 17.]


[Cf. Hunger maketh hard beans sweet. Heywood, p. 50.]

A 304. [He that will not be ruled by his owne dame
Shall be ruled by his step dame. Heywood, p. 157.]

A 305. [He that will be angry without cause
Must be at one, without amendes. Heywood, p. 111.]

A 310. [Vor everich thing that schuniet right
Het luveth thuster and hatiet light. ‘Owl and Nightingale,’ ll. 229-30.]

[For everie man that evill doeth, hateth the light. St John iii. 20.]

A 314. Quha spendis his gud on a hure He hes bayth skayth and schame. ‘Bannatyne MS.‘, III., p. 380, ll. 9-10.

A 315. [Cf. Measure is a merrie meane. Heywood, p. 141.]

A 317. [Ful ofte he heweth up so hihe That chippes fallen in his yhe. Gower, ‘Confessio Amantis,’ ll. 1917-8.]

[He that heweth to hye, with chippes he may lese his sight. Usk, ‘Testament of Love,’ I., 9, 19.]

[Hew not too hie lest the chips fall in thine eye. Heywood, p. 141.]
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A 324. [Cf. He wys is, that ware ys. Robert of Brunne, 'Handlyng Synne,' l. 8085.]

[Avysement is good before the nede. Chaucer, 'T. C., II., 343.]

A 331. [Men seyn 'the suffraunt overcometh' pardee. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' IV., 1584.]

[Cf. He hasteth well that wysly can abyde. 'T. C.,' I., 956.]

A 335. [For wit thou weil, Hal binks ar ay slidder. 'The Priests of Peblis,' 614.]

[Hall benkis ar rycht slidder. Henryson, Vol. II., p. 192, l. 2600.]

A 337. [Him thar nat wene wel that yvel dooth. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' A 4320.]

A 340. [Cf. Whoso shedeth mans blood, by man shal his blood be shed. Gen. ix. 6.]

A 342. [Hwo ne deth hwon he mei, he ne schal nout hwon he wolde. 'Ancren Riule,' p. 296.]

[He pat nul not whon he may Ofte haþ not whon he wol craue. Cato's 'Distichs,' E.E.T.S., 117, p. 608, ll. 615-6.]

[The man that will nocht quhen he may Sall haif nocht quhen he wald. Henryson, III., p. 93, ll. 91-2.]

[He that will not when he may When he would he shall have nay. Heywood, p. 10.]

A 343. [(Wedding is destiny,) And hanging likewise. Heywood, p. 15.]

A 344. [He is a fool that wol foryete himselve. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' V. 98.]

A 345. [Happy man, happy dole. Heywood, p. 15.]

A 350. [Therfor behoveth him a ful long spoon That shall ete with a feend. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' F 602-3.]

[He must have a long spoone shall eat with the devill. Heywood, p. 124.]

A 356. [Reckeners without their host must recken twice. Heywood, p. 32.]

A 358. [Haste maketh waste. Heywood, p. 6.]

A 361. [Who wedth ere he be wise shall die ere he thrive, Heywood, p. 31.]

A 369. [A poore cooke that may not licke his owne fingers. Heywood, p. 151.]

A 372. [Home is homely. Heywood, p. 18.]


MS. 550. [Cf. He which that nothing undertaketh Nothing he acheveth. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' II., ll. 807-8.]
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A 388. [Cf. A 455. Cf. also Man maketh ofte a yerde
With which the maker is himself y-beten. Chaucer,
‘T. C.,’ I., 740-1.]
[But now myne owne yerd
Betith me to sore, ‘Tale of Beryn,’ l. 2324.]
[Beaten with his owne rod. Heywood, p. 8.]
A 392. [Draffe is your errand, but drinke ye wold. Heywood,
p. 54.]
A 399. [All this wind shakes no corne. Heywood, p. 64.]
A 403. [Your heart is in your hose. Heywood, p. 65.]
A 404. [More frayd then hurt. Heywood, p. 18.]
A 409. [Cf. He winketh with the tone eye and looketh with the
tother. Heywood, p. 71.]
A 413. [The moone is made of a greene chese. Heywood,
p. 145.]
A 418. [That thou robbe Petur and gif this robber(i)e to Poule
in the name of Christ. Wycliff, ‘Select Works’
(ed. Arnold, Oxford, 1871), III., 174.]
[To robbe Peter and pay Paule. Heywood, p. 54.]
MS. 596. [An of messagers corbun. ‘Cursor Mundi,’ I. 1892.]
[Schir Corbie Raun wes maid Apparitour. Henryson,
II., p. 86, l. 1152.]
MS. 605. [He that striketh with the sword shall be stricken with
the scabbard. Heywood, p. 133.]
A 428. [Boxome as of beryinge to burgeys And to lordes
And to pore peple han peper in }>e nose. ‘Piers Plow-
man,’ XV., 197.]
[He taketh pepper in the nose. Heywood, p. 111.]
A 432. If even song and morwe song acorde. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’
Prol., l. 830.
A 434. [This hitteth the naile on the hed. Heywood, p. 171.]
A 445. [She thinks her farthing good silver. Heywood,
p. 45.]
A 446. [She maketh so much of her paynted sheath. Heywood,
p. 45.]
A 452. [But manly set the world on sixe and sevene. Chaucer,
‘T. C.,’ IV., 622.]
[Set all at sixe and seven. Heywood, p. 68.]
A 455. [Cf. A 388.]
MS. 647. [Cf. ‘ge ne haveb in hire non galle.’ ‘Mid. Eng.
Bestiary,’ V., 654.]
II., pp. 218-9.
A 461. [Their heads full of bees. Heywood, p. 83.]
A 469. [Beware of false Prophetes, whiche come to you in
shepes clothing, but inwardely they are ravening
wolves. St Matt, vii. 15.]
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A 470. [Cf. Breake my head and then geve me a plaster. Heywood, p. 161.]

MS. 722. [Let not thy left hand knowe what thy right hand doeth. St Matt. vi. 3.]

MS. 769. [Ye stumbled at a straw and leapt over a blocke. Heywood, p. 156.]

A 476. [Cf. The qued (evil) comuth nowher alone. 'King Alisaunder,' 1281.]

A 479. [Ill weede growth fast. Heywood, p. 48.]

A 480. [It will not out of the flesh that is bred in the bone. Heywood, p. 149.]

A 481. [Cf. Gud ma nocht lang lest, That is evill win. 'Bannatyne MS.,' III., p. 380, ll. 21-2.]

A 486. The nek to stoup, quhen it the straik sail get

A 487. [It is merrie in hall when beards wagge all. Heywood, p. 138.]

A 495. [It is dith to cry Yule On ane uder manis coist. 'Bannatyne MS.,' III., 380, ll. 24-5.]

A 497. [He must needes swim that is held up by the chinne. Heywood, p. 20.]

A 501. Dere is boht the hony that is licked of the thorne. Hendyng, St. 31.

A 502. [If God be on our side, who [can be] against us. Romans viii. 31.]

A 507. [Whoso that knew what would be deare
Should neede be a marchant but one yeare. Heywood, p. 3.]

A 508. [All may nocht be leiss That every man sayiss. 'Bannatyne MS.,' III., p. 381, ll. 41-2.]

A 510. [Und eek be war to sporne ageyn an al. Chaucer, 'Truth,' l. 11.]

A 514. [It is nought good a sleping hound to wake. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' III., l. 764.]

A 516. [A man may not wyfe And also thryfe, And all in a yere. 'Towneley Plays,' p. 103, ll. 97-9.]

[It is hard to wive and thrive both in a year. Heywood, p. 61.]
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A 517. [Where the hedge is lowest men may soonest over. Heywood, p. 119.]
[No playing with a straw before an old cat. Heywood, p. 150.]
A 533. [Cf. Wummen wepeð for mod Ofter janne for eni god. ‘Proverbs of Alfred,’ B 25, l. 323.]
A 534. [‘It is weill said but wha will bell the cat’—said by Archd. Douglas in 1482 (Pitscottie).]
[Hang the bell about the cat’s necke. Heywood, p. 68.]
A 537. [As meete as a sow To beare a saddle. Heywood, p. 89-90.]

MS. 908. [It is a deere collup that is cut out of th’ owne flesh. Heywood, p. 49.]
MS. 909. [In love is no lack. Heywood, p. 17.]
[Of little medling commeth great rest. Heywood, p. 99.]
A 571. [Like well to like. Heywood, p. 17.]
A 574. [Let them that be a colde blow at the cole. Heywood, p. 51.]
A 575. [Long standing and small offring Maketh poore Parsons. Heywood, p. 166.]
A 585. See p. xxxvi.
A 586. [Lyht chap, luthere yeldes. Hendyng, St. 30.]
[Cf. Impressiounes lighte Ful lightely been ay redy to the flighte. Chaucer, ‘T. C.,’ II., 1238-9.]
[And lightely as it comth so wol we spende. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ C 781.]
[Light come light goe. Heywood, p. 158.]
A 593. [As I would needes brewe so must I needes drinke. Heywood, p. 31.]
A 598. [Love me little, love me long. Heywood, p. 98.]
MS. 974. [For love covereth the multitude of sinnes. 1 Pet. iv. 8.]
MS. 988. [Look ere ye leape. Heywood, p. 9.]
MS. 992. [Love ne lordshipe Wol noght, his thanks, have no felaweshipe. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ A 1625-6.]
[But the frute of the Spirit is love etc.; against suche there is no Law. Galat. v. 22-23.]
A 602. [Cf. Mani appel is wiðuten grene, Briht on leme And bitter wiðinnen
So is moni wimmen in here [fader] bure. ‘Proverbs of Alfred,’ A 306.]
A 602. [Of his port as meke as is a mayde. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' Prologue, l. 69.]


A 611. [The middel were of mesure is euer guldene. 'Ancren Riwle,' p. 286.]
[And Cf. Skeat's 'Early English Proverbs,' pp. 10-11.]

[Many small make a great. Heywood, p. 65.]

A 616. [They spoken—but they bente never his bowe. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' II., 861.]
[Many a man speaketh of Robin Hood That never shot in his bow. Heywood, p. 130.]

A 618. [Much water goeth by the mill that the miller knoweth not of. Heywood, p. 128.]
It cannot be but some water will pass by the mill that the miller sees not. 'Calendar of State Papers,' Dom. Series, 28 Apr. 1595.]

A 625. ['Homo proponit," quod a poete and Plato he hyght And " Deus disponit " quod he . . . ' Piers Plowman,' XI., 36, 37.]
[The lot is cast into the lappe: but the whole disposition thereof is of the Lord. Prov. xvi. 33. Cf. also Prov. xvi. 9.]

A 630. [Might overcometh right. Heywood, p. 119.]
A 636. Thou shalt not mosel the oxe that treadeth out the corne. Deut. xxv. 4.

MS. 1035. [Cf. Henryson, Vol. II., p. 60, l. 793.]
MS. 1052. [Cf. Wedding is destiny. Heywood, p. 15.]

A 648. [Thus maketh vertu of necessité. Chaucer, 'T. C.,' IV., 1586.]
[To maken vertu of necessitee. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' A 3042.]
[I made vertu of necessitee. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' F 593.]

A 649. [Nede ne hath no lawe. 'Piers Plowman,' XX., l. 10.]
[Neede hath no law. Heywood, p. 43.]
For neid may haif na Law. Henryson, Vol. II., p. 54, l. 723.

A 650. [The nere the cherche, the fyrther fro Gode. 'Handlyng Synne,' l. 9243.]
[The neer to the Church, the further from God. Heywood, p. 35.]

A 658. [Nothing is impossible to a willing hart. Heywood, p. 18.]

MS. 1092. [None is good, save one, even God. Luke xviii. 19.]
MS. 1095. [No man can serve two masters. Matt. vi. 24.]

A 667. [Over-greet homlinesse engendreth dispréysinge Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B 2876.]
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A 668. [Cf. Even reckoning maketh long frendes. Heywood, p. 112.]

MS. 1098. [No peny no Pater noster. Heywood, p. 163.]

A 670. [Fer from eghe fer from herte. Hendyng, St. 27. Out of sight out of mind. Heywood, p. 12.]

A 672. [Of unboht hude men kerveth brod thong. Hendyng, St. 28. Cut large thongs of other mens leather. Heywood, p. 114.]

A 674. [For of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Matt. xii. 34.]

A 684. [Draweth no monkes more unto your in. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B 1632.]

A 693. [Ower prude schale aualle. 'Owl and Nightingale,' l. 1685.]

[For eftyr prid oft folowis schame. 'The Thewis off Gud Women,' E.E.T.S., 43, p. 104, l. 52.]

[Pryde will have a fall. Heywood, p. 46.]

A 694. [Povertie partith fellowship. Heywood, p. 84.]

[If thou be povre, thy brother hateth thee And alle thy freendes fleen fro thee. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B 120-1.]

[And if thy fortune change, that thou were povre, farewel freendsheipe and felaweshipe. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B 2749.]

A 701. [Plentie is no daintie. Heywood, p. 107.]

MS. 1148. [Nether cast ye your pearles before swine. Matt. vii. 6.]

A 708. When the coppe is follest, thenne ber hire feyrest. Hendyng, St. 16.

A 723. [Ther God will helpen nouht ne dereth. 'Havelok the Dane,' l. 648.]


A 737. Rome was not built in one day. Heywood, p. 64.

A 741. [Such lips such lettuce. Heywood, p. 139.]

[Sic lippes, sic lattouce. 'Legend of the Bishop of St Androis Wyfe' (circa 1595) in Scottish Poems of the XVIth Century, Edin., 1801, p. 322.]

A 743. [Sooth pley quaad pley. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' A 4357.]

[Sooth bourd is no bourd. Heywood, p. 150.]


A 747. [Soft fire maketh sweet malt. Heywood, p. 6.]
A 751. [Cf. Hwych so the mon soweth al swuch he schal mowe. 'Prov. of Alfred,' A 82.]
[Cf. Galatians vi. 7.]
A 752. [That that ratheth rypeth roteth most saunest. 'Piers Plowman,' C. XIII., 223.]
[Soone ripe soone rotten. Heywood, p. 47.]
A 754. [Cf. Selfe doe, selfe have. Heywood, p. 33.]
A 758. Dahet habbe that ilke best
That fuleth his owë nest. 'Owl and Nightingale,' ll. 99-100.
[It is a foule bird that fyleth his owne nest. Heywood, p. 123.]
A 759. [To aske my fellow whether I be a theefe. Heywood, p. 126.]
A 760. [Soone gotten soone spent. Heywood, p. 131.]
A 762. [I holde a mouses herte not worth a leek
That hath but oon hole for to stertë to. Chaucer: 'C. T.,' D 572-3.]
A 763. [For ye devoure widdowes houses, even under a colour of long prayers. Matt. xxiii. 14.]
MS. 1246. [The pot so long to the water goth
Till at last it commeth home broken. Heywood, p. 142.]
A 776. Airly sporne late speid. 'Golagros and Gawaine' (? by Huchown, C. 1360.), l. 879.
"Mauvais haste n'est preus," 'Renart le Nouvel,' by Jacquemars Gieleé, at the close of the 13th cent., referred to by Amours in 'Scottish Alliterative Poems,' p. 278.
For lidder speid cumis of airlie spume. Wm. Stewart's 'Buik of the Croniclis of Scotland' (a metrical version of Boece, C. 1531), Vol. II., p. 150.
A 777. [Ay fleeth the tyme it nil no man abyde. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' E 119.]
[The tide tarieth no man. Heywood, p. 11.]
A 784. [Tread a woorme on the tayle, and it must turne agayne. Heywood, p. 111.]
A 786. [The crow thinketh her owne birds fairest in the wood. Heywood, p. 106.]
A 790. [Who is worse shod than a shoemaker's wife. Heywood, p. 70.]
A 795. [Take time when time cometh lest time steale away. Heywood, p. 11.]
A 799. [Ful oft in game a sooth I have herd seye. Chaucer, 'C. T.,' B 3154.]
A 800. [Where there be no receivers there be no thieves. Heywood, p. 84.]
INTRODUCTION.

A 801. ["Hat proverb is nocht trew;
For fair thingis oft tymes ar fowll fakin." Henryson,
Vol. II., p. 278, ll. 57-58.]

A 806. [Cf. How can the foale amble if the horse and mare trot.
Heywood, p. 59.]

A 810. [Cf. That feeld hath eyen and the wode hath eres.
Chaucer, 'C. T.,' A 1522.]

A 816. [There is no foole to the old foole. Heywood, p. 96.]

A 820. [Cf. The weaker hath the woorse. Heywood, p. 39.]

A 823. [Moe maydes but Malkin. Heywood, p. 56.]

A 825. [Two heads are better than one. Heywood, p. 38.]

A 827. [Three may keepe counsayle if two be away. Heywood,
p. 112.]

A 828. [He is fre of hors that ner nade none. Hendyng, St. 29.]

A 829. [The moe the merrier the fewer the better fare. Hey-wood, p. 137.]

A 830. [Who so bold as blinde Bayard is. Heywood, p. 33.]

A 831. [There be more waies to the wood than one. Heywood,
p. 159.]

A 856. [Moe thinges belong then foure bare legges in a bed.
Heywood, p. 32.]

A 857. [The grettest clerkes bee noght the wysest men.
Chaucer, 'C. T.,' A 4054.]

[The grettest Clerkis ar not the wysest men. Henryson,
Vol. II., p. 78, l. 1056.]

[It is treue . . . that the best clerkes ben not the wysest
men. Caxton's 'Reynard the Fox,' ch. 27.]

[The greatest Clerkes be not the wisest men. Heywood,
p. 115.]

A 858. [Tel thou never thy fo that thy fot aketh. Hendyng, St.
12.]

A 860. [Two hungrie meales make the third a glutton. Hey-wood, p. 79.]

MS. 1375. [The blacke ox had not trode on his nor her foote.
Heywood, p. 28.]

MS. 1420. [The rolling stone never gatherth mosse. Heywood,
p. 54.]

A 704. [At E noc\'t seis, hart noc\'t jarnis. 'Thewis off Gud
Women,' E.E.T.S., 43, p. 108, l. 190.]

[Cf. Fer from e\'e, fer from herte, quoth Hendyng.
Heywood, p. 12, note.]

[That the eye seeth not the hart reweth not. Heywood,
p. 135.]

MS. 1437. When Adam dalf and Eve span. John Ball's sermon
during the Peasants Revolt of 1381.

A 707. [When the foxe preacheth then beware your geese.
Heywood, p. 142.]
INTRODUCTION.

A 710. [Cf. When thieves fall out true men come to their good. Heywood, p. 158.]

A 721. [Whyl that ired is hoot, men sholden smyte. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ B 2225.]

[When th’ ired is hot strike. Heywood, p. 11.]


MS. 1444. [When the steed is stolen shut the stable durre. Heywood, p. 44.]

A 870. [Wishes and wolders bee no good housholders. Heywood, p. 56.]

A 877. [With empty hand men may no haukes tulle. Chaucer, ‘C. T.,’ A 4134.]

[With emptie hand na man suld Halkis lure. Henryson, II., p. 172, l. 2327.]

[With empty hands men may no haukes allure. Heywood, p. 111, n.]

A 881. [A wonder last but nyne night never in toune. Chaucer, ‘T. C.,’ IV., 588.]

A 893. [A man shall as soon breake his necke as his fast. Heywood, p. 71.]

A 894. [He is not wyse ageyne the streme that stryueth. Skelton, ‘Garland of Laurel’ (1432).]

[To stryve against the stremes. Heywood, p. 117.]

A 896. ) [To seik het water beneth cauld yce,
A 899. )

Surely it is a gret folie;
I haif asked grace at a graceles face,
But there is nane, for my men and me. ‘Johnie Armstrang,’ st. 22 in ‘English and Scottish Popular Ballads, edited from the collection of Francis James Child,’ p. 417.]

A 904. [Cat lufat visch ac he nele his feth wete. ‘MS. Trin. Coll. Camb. (c. 1250.), C (edit.). Heywood, p. 60, note.]

[For ye be lyk the sweynte cat
That wolde have fish ; but wostow what?
He wolde nothing wete his clowes. Chaucer, ‘Hous of Fame,’ 1783-5.]

The cat would eate fish and would not wet her feete. Heywood, p. 60.

A 905. [For though the bestë harpour upon lyve . . .
Touche ay o streng . . .
It shuldë maken every wight to dulle. Chaucer, ‘T. C.,’ II., ll. 1030-5.]

MS. 1546. [Cf. Yf he cacche hem myghte for couetes of here skynnes. ‘Piers Plowman,’ B. V. 258.]

MS. 1646. [Scarborough warning. Heywood, p. 76.]
THE above examples are not suggested as in any way exhausting the subject, but merely represent all that the writer is in a position to offer—even with outside assistance, which he gratefully acknowledges.

As already noted, Fergusson's collection contains many proverbs traceable to a Greek or Latin source, but to attempt the task of compiling any general list of these would seem unprofitable, if not hopeless, besides demanding a very thorough knowledge of the classics. The following is a list of the chief authors in the works of whom proverbs in Fergusson's collection are found, often with a difference of form. The numbers are those of the edition of 1641, save where "MS." precedes.

**ALFRED.**

11, 192, 270, 533, 602, 751.

**HENDING.**


**CHAUCER.**


**GOWER.**

109, 317.

**HENRYSON.**

8, 10, 70, 145, 152, 199, 273, 286, 335, 342, 379, MS. 596; 486, 519, MS. 1035; 649, 744, 801, 857, 877, 901.

**DUNBAR.**

8, 123, MS. 191; 459, 733.
INTRODUCTION.

Heywood.


The Bible.

MS. 154; 229, MS. 391; 310, 340, 469, MS. 722; 502, 510, MS. 974; MS. 992; 625, 636, MS. 1092; MS. 1095; 674, MS. 1148; 751, 763.

In tracing many of the above, the late Professor Skeat's 'Early English Proverbs' (Oxford, 1910) has been of great service; the quotations from Hending are taken therefrom.

The following are the editions used:—


HENRYSON

DUNBAR

Those of the Scottish Text Society.
INTRODUCTION.


The Bible. The Bible and Holy Scriptures, Printed in Edinburgh by Alexander Arbuthnot, 1579.

The following are the Collections of Proverbs by later writers who may have drawn upon Fergusson (see note (3), p. 4):

Ray. Proverbial Sayings, or a Collection of the best English proverbs, by John Ray.

Allan Ramsay. Scots proverbs, by Allan Ramsay, &c. 16mo. n.p. 1800.


Henderson. Scottish proverbs, collected and arranged by Andrew Henderson. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1832.

Hislop. The proverbs of Scotland, collected and arranged, with notes, by Alexander Hislop. 8vo. Glasgow, 1862.

The following proverbs occur in Fergusson's other works, as given on p. xi. of Introduction:

From Ane Answer to ane Epistle.

"Nor to answer a foole according to his folie." (Prov. xxvi. 4.)

"Reboke the wise and he will love thee." (Prov. ix. 8.)

From Ane Sermon.

"Thay had it be kynd and coft it not." (Cf. MS. 585.)

"We sal find thair schooe (as we use to say) meit aneuch for our fute."

"The woundis of a lufer mair faithfull then the kissis of ane enemie thocht thay be plesat. (Cf. Prov. xxvii. 6.)
INTRODUCTION.

Certain proverbs in the MS. occur more than once, sometimes slightly altered. Cf.:

177 and 371; 375 and 852; 688 and 902; 909, 939, and 992; 1061 and 1082; 977, 1036, and 1091; 286 and 1237; 1368 and 1392; 1267 and 1426; 1412 and 1646.

J. D. W.

IV.

Comparing A (1641) with F (1692) and F with H (1706), we find that A 241, 278, 344, 411, 748, are not in F, while A 567 and 584 are combined in F 588;

and F has additional to A,

F 151, 152, 214, 215, 233, 247, 302, 336, 352, 357, 494, 604, 622, 724, 725, 750, 763, 794, 795, 817, 892, 893, 920, 923, 941, 944, 945,

i.e., A has 6 numbers not in F,

and F has 27 which are not in A, all of these at or near the end of their respective initial letters, thus reconciling the difference between the totals—viz., 911 in A, 932 in F.

It is also to be noted that the following proverbs in A are expanded in F, or are supplemented by a Latin version:

A 97; F 97 adds "and it were a thorn."
A 113; F 113 "but over the water."
A 178; F 180 "fear lest he bite ye."
A 286; F 291 "Manus manum fricat."
A 298; F 305 "Optimum condimentum fames."
A 306; F 313 "Vt quimus quando ut voluimus, non licet."
INTRODUCTION.

A 316; F 323 adds "Verbum sapientia sat est."
A 372; F 391 "though never so seemly."
A 414; F 434 "Perfecte frontis."
A 646; F 668 "Sorbere et flare."
A 605, "Meat and cloaths makes the man," reads in
F 627, "Meat makes, and cloath shapes, but
manners makes a man."
A 628, "Mony kinsfolk, but few friends," reads in
F 650, "Many ants, many eams, many kin and
few friends."

With regard to "Proverbiall Speeches," the headings
in A—

"Of weasters and divers,"
"Of rash persons";
appear respectively in F as—
"Of masters and divers,"
"Of rich persons";
both of these latter evidently in error.

The title-page of H (1706) reverts to "ss" in Fergusson,
and bears the following imprint:—

"Edinburgh, Printed & Sold at the foot of the
Horse-wynd; where are to be had several Sorts of
Pamphlets and Ballads for Chapmen, anno 1706."

The preface occupies only one page, and the texts of
F and H are practically alike, except that H omits one
proverb (F 893), thus containing a total of 931 as against
the 932 in F. H has its own eccentricities of numeration,
bearing evidence of great carelessness in the printing, and
with many single italic letters interspersed. There are
several slight variations in spelling, but the only marked differences are—

F 302, “Go to the devil for his dame sake.”
H 302, “Go to the devil for Gods sake.”

F 889, “The Devil and the Dean begins with a letter: when the Devil hes the Dean, the Kirk will be the better.”
H 889, “The Devil and the Drunkard begins with a letter: when the Devil hes the Drunkard the Countrey will be the better.”

ERSKINE BEVERIDGE.

ST LEONARD’S HILL,
DUNFERMLINE.

Here follows a complete reprint of the first edition (A, Edin., 1641) of Fergusson, with its title-page in facsimile, together with the augmented collection now first printed from the early seventeenth-century MS.
SCOTTISH PROVERBS:
GATHERED TOGETHER
BY
DAVID FERGUSSON
sometime Minister at
DUNFERMLINE:
And put ordine Alphabetico when
he departed this life, ANNO 1598.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by ROBERT BRYSON, and are to be
sold at his Shop at the signe of Jonah 1641.
The Printer to the merrie,
judicious and discreet
Reader.

IT is well known, that everie Nation hath the own Proverbs, and proverbiall speeches, yea everie Shire or part of a Nation hath some proverbiall speeches, which others hath not: so that a man can hardlie gather together all such speeches, yet some are more inclined to such kinde of speeches then others. Therefore manie in this Realme that hath heard of David Fergusson sometime Minister at Dunfermbline, and of his quick answers and speeches, both to great persons, and others inferiours, and hath heard of his Proverbs which hee gathered together in his time, and now are put downe according to the order of the Alphabet: and manie of all ranks of persons being verie desirous to have the saids Proverbs, I have thought good to put them to the presse, for thy better satisfaction. And because many will say, that there are many Proverbs which I have not set down, I have left a blanke at the end of every Letter, that thou may supplie that want,
as everie man thinks good: So shall I bee blamelesse that could print no more then I received the copie of, and thou contented that may set down what Proverbs are inlacking in thy conceit. I know there may be some that will say and marvell that a Minister should have taken pains to gather such Proverbs together: but they that knew his forme of powerfull preaching the Word, and his ordinar talking, ever almost using proverbiall speeches, will not finde fault with this that hee hath done. And whereas there are some old Scottish words not in use now, bear with that, because if ye alter those words, the Proverb will have no grace: And so recommending these proverbs to thy good use, I bid thee farewell.
SCOTTISH
Proverbs.

A

ALL things hath a beginning (God excepted)
A good beginning makes a good ending.
A sloathfull man is a beggers brother.
A vaunter and a lier is both one thing.
All is not tint \(^1\) that is in perrell.
All is not in hand that helps
A toome \(^2\) purse makes a bleat \(^3\) merchant.
As long runs the fox as he feet hath.
A hastie man never wanted woe.
10] A wight \(^4\) man wanted never a weapon.
A foole\(s\) bolt is soon shot.
A given horse should not be lookt in the teeth.
A good asker should have a good naysay.
A dear ship stands long in the haven.
An oleit \(^5\) mother makes a sweir \(^6\) daughter.
16] A racklesse hussie makes monie thieves.

\(^1\) [lost.]
\(^2\) [empty.]
\(^3\) [timid, backward.]
\(^4\) [strong, bold.]
\(^5\) [active, willing.]
\(^6\) [lazy, unwilling.]

[Note: (1) In the original print of A the proverbs are not numbered. (2) The numbers below refer to proverbs in the edition, unless they are prefixed by “MS.”; the asterisk denotes the occurrence of the proverb in an earlier Scots or English writer, for which see Introduction, pp. xxxiv ff. (3) R = Ray, AR = Allan Ramsay, K = Kelly, He = Henderson, H = Hislop; see Introd., pp. xxxvi. (4) Where contractions in the MS. have been expanded, the necessary letters have been printed in italics. (5) Where the MS. is defective, the necessary letters have been added within square brackets.]
Ane Collectioun of Scots proverbs collacted in the order of the Alphabet.

A

All things hes ane begining except G[od]
Ane good begining maks ane good ending
Ane sloothful man, is ane beggers brothe[r]
A vaunter, and a lier, is both one thing
All is not tint that is in perrill
All is not in hand that helps.
Ane toome purse makis ane bl[eat merchant]
Als long runes the fox as he foote hes
Ane hastie man wanted never wae

10] Ane wicht [man want]ed never a wapone
Ane foolis [bolt is s]oone shot
Ane give[n horse soould] not be looked in the teethe
Ane go[od asker soould] haue a good na-sayer
Ane dear ship standis longer into the heaven
Ane oleit mother makis a sueir dochter.

16] Ane rackles hussie makis monie theifs

15. AR K He H.
17] A lyer should have a good memorie.  
   A black shoe makes a blythe heart.  
   A hungrie man sees far.
20] A sillie 1 bairne is eith 2 to lear.  
   A half-pennie cat may look to the King.  
   A greedie man God hates.  
   A proud heart in a poore breast, hes meikle dollour to dree 3  
   A skade 4 mans head is soon broken  
   A skabbit sheep flees 5 all the flock.  
   A burnt bairne, fire dreads.  
   Auld men are twise bairnes.  
   A tratler 6 is worse then a thief.  
   A borrowed len 7 should come laughing hame.
30] A blythe heart makes a blomeand visage.  
   A year a nurish, seven years a da. 8  
   An unhappie 9 mans cairt is eith to tumble.  
   An old hound bytes sair.  
   A fair bryde is soon buskt, 10 and a short horse soone wispt, 11  
As good had as draw.  
   A man that is warned, is half armed.  
   An ill win pennie will cast down a pound.  
   All the corne in the countrey, is not shorne by kempers. 12  
   Ane begger is wae that another be the gate 13 gae.
40] A travelled man hath leave to lie.  
   Ane ill word meets another, and it were at the bridge of  
   London.
42] A hungrie louse bytes sair.

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SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

[MANUSCRIPT]

17] Ane lier sould haue ane good memorie
Ane black shoe makis ane blyth heart
Ane hungrie man sies far

20] A sillie bairne is eith to learne
Ane half-pennie cat may look to the king and so may the cat that cost nothing
Ane gridie man God heatis
Ane pride heart and a poore breast hes mickle dolour to drie
Ane swalled manes head is soone broken
Ane scabbed sheip fylis all the flock
Auld men ar tuyse bairnes
A teal-teller is wors nor a theife
A lend soûld come laùghing home againe
Ane blyth h[eart ma]kis ane bloomand visag

30] Ane year [a nur]ishe seven yearis a da
Ane onha[pie manis cai]rt is eith to tumbeîl
Ane old hund bytis sore.
Ane fair bryd is soone bûsked, and ane short horse soone wisked
Als good hold as draw.
A man that is warned is halfe armed
Ane evill wonne pennie wil cast doune a pound
All the corne in the cuntrie is not shorne be kempe[rs]
Ane begger is woe that one other be the gait g[o]
Ane travilled man hes leaûte to lie

40] Ane evill word meitis ane other and it war at the bridg of Lune

41] Ane hungrie lôûse bytis sore.

23. K He H *24. He H *26. H 27. AR K He H
28. R AR *29. AR K He H 30. AR K He H 31. K He H
32. K *33. AR K He H *34. AR K He H 35. Cf. AR K H
40. K He H *41. *42. K He, cf. H.
43] A gentle horse would not be over sair spurred.
A friends dinner is soon dight.
An ill hooke wald have a good claver.
A good fellow tint never, but at an ill fellows hand.
At open doores, dogs comes in.
A word before, is worth two behinde.
A still sow eats all the draff.

50] A dumme man holds all.
All failes that frooles thinks.
A woole seller kens a woole buyer.
All fellows, Jock and the Laird.
As the sow fils, the draffe soures.
A full heart lied never.
As good merchant tynes as wins.
All the speid is in the spurre.
As sair greets the bairne that is dung afternoon, as he
that is dung before noon.
An ill life, an ill end.

60] Anes wood, never wise.
Anes payit never cravit.
A good ruser, was never a good rider.
All the keys of the countrey hangs not at ane belt.
A dum man wan never land.
As soone comes the lambeskin to the market, as the old sheeps.
As many heads, as many wits.
A blinde man should not judge of colours.

68] As the old cocke crawes, the young cock leares

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1 well bred.  2 [prepared.]  3 youk = the itch; but in F 45 "An ill cook would have a good cleaver."  "Youk" and "clawer," however, seem the more probable readings.  4 [?] clawer = scratcher.  5 [hogwash.]  6 F 55 reads "leill."  7 [beaten.]  8 mad.  9 F 60 reads "say the worse."  10 boaster.  11 [learns.]
42] Ane gentill horse sould not be over sore spured
Ane freindis denner is soone dicht
Ane ill yook wold haue a good clauer
Ane good follow tint never but all ane ill fellouis hand
At open doores dogis cümes in
Ane word befor is wirth tuo behind
Ane still sow eatis all the draff
Ane dümb man holdis all.

50] All failies that fooléis thinkes
Ane woll-seller knaües a wol-buyer
All followes Jock and the laird
As the sow fillës the draf soures
Ane ful heart lied never
Als good merchand tynes as wines
All the speid is in the spurrees
Als sore greitis the bairne that is düng efter-noone as he
that is düng befor-noone
Ane ill lyffe ane ill end
Ane good ruser was never a good rider

60] All the keyes of the countrie hingis not at one belte
Ane dümb man wan never land
Als soone cümes the lambis skine to the mercat as the old
sheipis
Als mony headis als mony wittes
Ane blind man sould not judge of cüßouris.

65] As the old cok croës the yoing cok leiris
69] A skabbed horse is good enough for a skald squir
70] A mirk \(^1\) mirrour is a mans minde.
   As meikle upwith, as meikle down with.
   An ill shearer \(^2\) gat never a good hook.
   A tarrowing \(^3\) bairn was never fat.
   A good cow may have an ill calf.
   A cock is crouse \(^4\) in his own midding.
   A new bissome soupes clean.
   As sair fights wranes as cranes.
   A yeeld \(^5\) sow was never good to gryses.\(^6\)
   As the carle \(^7\) riches he wretches,\(^8\)
80] A foole when he hes spoken hes all done.
   An old seck craves meikle clouting.
   An old seck is ay skailing.\(^9\)
   A fair fire makes a roome \(^10\) flet \(^11\)
   An old knave is na bairne.
   A good yeaman makes a good woman.
   A man hath no more good than he hath good of.
   A foole may give a wise man a counsel.
   A man may speir \(^12\) the gate to Rome.
   As long lives the merrie man as the wretch for all the craft hee can.
90] All wald have all, all wald forgive.
   Ane may lead a horse to the water, but foure and twentie cannot gar him drink.
   A bleat cat makes a proud mouse.
   An ill willy kow should have short bornes.
94] A good peice steil \(^13\) is worth a pennie.

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\(^1\) [dark.] \(^2\) reaper. \(^3\) [delaying, reluctant.] \(^4\) [bold.]
\(^5\) [barren.] \(^6\) [young sucking pigs.] \(^7\) [churl.] \(^8\) grows niggardly.
\(^9\) [spilling, letting out.] \(^10\) [ample.] \(^11\) [inner part of a house.]
\(^12\) [enquire.] \(^13\) [steel point of a pick.]
66] Ane scabbed horse is good enuche for a scalled Squyre
A mirk mirrour is ane other manis [mynd]
Als mikil upwith als mikil doune withe
Ane evill sheirer got never a good hooke

70] Ane tarrowing bairne was never fatte
Ane good cow may haue ane evill calfe
Ane cok is crous in his awne midding
Ane new bissome soupes cleane
Als sor fechtis wrannes as crannes
Ane yeld sow was never good to gryses
As the cairle riches he wrecheis
Ane fool qwhen he hes spoken hes all done
Ane old sack creaves mikil cloutting
Ane old sack is ay skelling

80] A fair fyre makis a rumie flette
Ane old knave is no bairne
Ane good yeaman makis a good woman
A man hes na men gude, nor he hes good of
A fool may give a wyse man a counsell
A man may spear the geat to Rome
Alse long lives the mirrie man
  as the wreche for all the craft he can
Ane may lead ane horse to the water,
    bot four and tuentie cannot gar him drink
Ane bleat cat makis a proud mouse
Ane evil-willie cow sould haue short hornes

90] A good peic steill is worth a pennie
A shored tree stands lang.
A gloved cat was never a good hunter.
A gangand fit is ay getting.¹
All is not gold that glitters.
A swallow makes not summer or spring time.

A man may spit on his hand and do full ill.
An ill servant will never be a good maister.
An hyred horse tyred never.
All the winning is in the first buying.
Anuch is a feast (of bread and chese.)
A horse may snapper² on foure feet.
All thing wytes³ that well not faires.
All things thrives but thrice.
Absence is a shroe.⁴
Auld sinne new shame.

A man cannot thrive except his wife let him.
A bairne mon creep or he gang.⁵
As long as ye serve the tod,⁶ ye man bear up his tail.
All overs⁷ are ill.⁸
A man may wooe where he will, but hee will wed where
his hap is.
A mean⁹ pot plaid never evin.
Among 24 fooles not ane wise man.
Ane mans meat, is another mans poyson.
A foole will not give his bauble¹⁰ for the tower of Lun,¹¹
A foule foot makes a full wombe.

A man is a lyon in his own cause.

¹ F 97 adds "and it were a thorn." ² stumble. ³ is blamed.
"but over the water." ⁹ [held in common or in equal shares.] ¹⁰ [bauble. ] ¹¹ [London. ]
91] A shored tree standis lang
    A gluifed cat was never a good hunter
    Ane gangand fute is ay getting albeit it wer bot ane
    broken toe
    All is not gold that glitteres
    Ane suallow makeis not spring tyme *
    Ane may spitte in his hand and do ful ill
    Ane ill servant wil never be a good maister.
    Ane hyred horse tired never
    All the wining is in the first buying
100] Aneuche is a feast of bread and chise
    Ane horse may snapper on four feit
    All thingis wytis that weill not fairis
    All thingis thryves but thrys
    Absence is a shro
    Auld sine new sheame
    A man cannot thryfe except his wyffe let him
    A bairne most creip er he gang
    Als long as ye serve the tod ye most bear up his teal
    All overes is ill except over the water
110] A man may owe quher he will but he must wed wher his
    hape is
    A mean pot played never even
    Among four and tuentie fooles ther is not a wyse man
    Ane manes meat is ane other manis poysone
    A fool will not give his babill for the toure of Lune
    A fowl fute makis a full womb
116] A man is a lyon in his awne cause

*95. AR K H 96. AR K He H 97. AR K He H
*110. AR K He, cf. R *111. AR K He H 112. AR K He H
EDITION 1641]

121] A heartie hand to give a hungrie meltith.¹
A cumbersome cur in companie, is hated for his miss-
cariage
A poore man is fain of little.
An answer in a word.
A beltlesse bairn cannot lie.
A Zule feast may be quat² at Pasche.³
A good dog never barket but a bone.
A full seck will take a clout on the side
An ill hound comes halting home.

130] All things helps (quod the Wran) when she pished in the
sea.
All crakes,⁴ all beares.
A houndlesse man comes to the best hunting.
All things hes an end, and a pudding hes twa.
All is well that ends well.
As good hads the stirrep, as he that loups on,
A begun work is half ended.
A Scottish man is wise behinde the hand.
A new tout⁵ in an old horne.
As broken a ship hes come to land.

140] As the foole thinkes, ay the bell clinks.
A man may see his friend need, but he will not see him
bleed
A friend is not known but in need.
A friend in court, is better nor a pennie in the purse.

144] All things is good unseyit

¹ [meal.] ² repaid. ³ Easter. ⁴ [?] cracks.] ⁵ [blast.]
117. AR He H 119. K H 120. Cf. AR K He H
A heartlie hand to give a hungrie melteth
Ane cumbersome curr in companie is heated for his mischivousnes
A poore man is faine of litill albet not of nothing

Ane answere in a word
Ane beltles bairne cannot lie
Ane Yul feaste may be quat at Pash.
Ane good dog never barked without ane bone
Ane ful sack will tak ane clout one the syd
Ane new tout in ane old horne
Ane evil hound come halting home
All thingis helpis (quod) the wraune quhen sho pissed in the sea
All crakeis all beareis
Ane hundlesse man cumes to the best hunting

All thingis hes ane end but a pudding hes tuo
All is weill that endis weill
Als good holdes the stirupe as he that loupis on
Airlie maister long knave
Airlie crookis the tree the good kammock sould be
After long mint 1 never Dint
After word cumes weird
After delay cumes ther a lette 2
As ye loue send to the cookeis
Ane reckles youth makes ane goustlie 3 age

Ane mouse and a millar ar two pock-pyckeres ane louse and a lier ar tuo back-byteres, a smith and a sow mak eild things new.

134. R AR K He 135. AR K He H 136. AR K He H
137. AR K He H 138. Cf. K He 139. K He H 140. AR K He H
MS. 136, cf. K; MS. 137 K; MS. 138 K.

1 [aim, attempt.] 2 hindrance. 3 dismal.
A good goose indeed, but she has an ill gansell.\(^1\)
All are not maidens that wears bair hair.
A mache\(^2\) and a horse shoe are both alike.
Airlie crooks the tree, that good cammok\(^3\) should be.
An ounce of mothers wit is worth a pound of clergie.\(^4\)

An inch of a nage\(^5\) is worth the span of an aver.\(^6\)

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**MANUSCRIPT**

Ane wilful man should be verie wise
Ane ill payer maks a sore craver
Ane tuird wil spill ane potfull of bruiss\(^7\)
Ane druken cunt had never ane good dore bar.
Ane sor craver was never ane good payer
Ane peice will till to\(^8\) ane other
Ane word in Tym is worth tuo syne
All the cloths on your back was once clews\(^9\)
A bannok is ane good beast yow may eat the gutis of it on good fryday.

A fyre is ane good flour in winter
A good wyf and a good lyf Concordia

A ill wyf ane ill lyf Discordia

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\(^1\) “OF. ganse aillie, garlic sauce served with goose” (Henryson's Poems, S.T.S., vol. i. p. 9).
\(^2\) Jamieson, vol. iii. p. 244, “Mauch, mach, mauk” = a maggot; quoting this very proverb but as enigmatical. Ibid., p. 208, “maik, make” = a match, mate, or equal. Kelly, p. 34, has instead “A mare's shoe and a horse's shoe are both alike.”
\(^3\) A shiny stick.
\(^4\) [learning.]
\(^5\) [nag.]
\(^6\) an old horse.
\(^7\) [broth.]
\(^8\) “to” added later.
\(^9\) [ball of thread or yarn.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

153] All thingis ar good in May cockelis cuntis & curdis & whey.
Ane gentill ansueir pacifies wrath
At Yule and Pash and hie tymes
A cook wncrabed a sholer \(^1\) wnsocabed \(^2\) ane tailyeor
wunnyce \(^3\) these ar thrie fairlyes \(^4\)
Ane good measar \(^5\) is ane good soul freind.
A lifrent tak \(^6\) should be advysed
Ane open confessione is good for the soul

160] All the verity wold not be told
Ane stiff nego is ane good poyn of law
A leall hairt lyed never.
A tuil3eing \(^7\) tyk comes ay tyrd home
All the knaverie in the world is be sea and land and fresh water riveris
A begun thing is half ended
A bairnes mother bursted never except of sorrow
A good teal may be spilt in the telling
A dame \(^8\) that is long of gathering is soon rune
A good face a good grace

170] Als good love coms as goes
All is fish that coms in the net
A poor man gets a poor mariag
A sword holds ane uther in the scaberd
A tear eyed mayden was ay ters \(^9\) griedy
A speaking castle and ane hearing maiden ar easy wone

176] A kyndly aver wil never be a good horse

\(^1\) Cf. the "scholar wncrabbit" of the Edin. Univ. MS. fastidious, inexact. \(^2\) wonders. \(^3\) [un-
life.] \(^4\) [quarrelling.] \(^5\) [standard.] \(^6\) [lease for
149. AR K, cf. He H
A dish upsetting is a thried out letting
Auld shipis is ay lecking
Ane fair wed naver shamed the maister

Ane eating wed is not good
Ane druken man gaitis ay ane drunken penny
Away wncouth lad I wil not do it with yow
A deams a doghter did never weil
A carlings pet thrav never
A bastardis bastard is a fed lamb to the devill
A haggeis and ane horne spoone
A sheip heid and ane pair of tongs
A widdie and a windie day
A flier wold hav ane follower

Ane ell of blak is worth tuo of whyt
Ane yong saint is ane old devill
Ane yong devil ane old feind
Ane ill lad may be ane good man
Ane ill lad a good hanget man
A turd to pyk your teith withall.
A whum wham to a pair of wakeris sheiris
A melteth of meat is the best gift ever a man gave
A whim wham for a goos brydel
A whoor is worth the bidding and ane honest woman

A peit and nyne horse shoone for a breakfast And
your luk be good
201] Albeit my father wer nikie now,
   and my mother nothing dow
   And myself good be
   quhat hes thow to say to me
Ane ill disposition breidis ill suspition
   mala mens malus animus.
A grauting 1 horse and graining 2 wyf bydis long in a
   manis aught 3
As I cam by the milne of Wobetydyow cald castis 4 on
   thes chaftis 5 bad command them to yow
A maid that loues too soone wil repent too laite
Ane pond of cair payes not ane unce of debt
A freind to reveal is a medicine to releiv.
A man wold hav thought al wold split againe
A womanis heart and her tonge ar not ay relatives

210] A faint heart wil never win a fair lady
   Al his sheepe ar clipt & the wool sold.
   Al his corne is on the floore
   A foul slut under ane blak hat seimes somquhat
   A raiking 6 roke 7 spinis not weil

215] Ane Bed stone 8 wil weir two Einneris 9

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1 [grunting.]
2 [complaining.]
3 [possession.]
4 "To cast the cauld of a thing, to get free from the consequences of any evil or misfortune"; "cauld-casten-to," adj. lifeless, dull, insipid; "cauld be my cast" = cold be my fate (Jamieson, vol. i. pp. 355, 386).
5 jaw-bones.
6 [wandering, quick.]
7 [distaff.]
8 nether-millstone.
9 (?) enner = inferior [here for the upper millstone].

Better sit idle nor work for nought.
Better learn by your neighbors skaith nor by your own.
Better half egge nor toome doupe.¹
Better apple given nor eaten.
Better a dog fan² nor bark on you.
Bodin³ geir⁴ stinkes.
Bourd⁵ neither with me, nor with my honour.
Buy when I bid you.
Better late thrive then never.
Better hand louse nor bound to an ill baikine.⁶
Better lang little nor soon right nought:
Better give nor take.
Better bide the the cookes nor the mediciners.
Better saucht⁷ with little aucht, nor care with many kow.
Bring a kow to the hall, and she will to the byre again.
Bear wealth, povertie will bear it self.
Better goodseal⁸ nor good eall.⁹
Better wooe over midding nor over mosse.
Blaw the winde never so fast it will flowne¹⁰ at the last.
Bind fast, finde fast.
Better auld debts nor auld saires.
Better a fowle in hand nor two flying.

¹ [posterior extremity.]
² [fawn.]
³ (?) borrowed, although Jamieson, vol. i. p. 237, gives equivalent as proffered.
⁴ [goods.]
⁵ jest.
⁶ This proverb is quoted by Jamieson, vol. i. p. 99, with its last word as "bakie" = a stake; but see also "baiken" = a burden.
⁷ [agreement.]
⁸ [good luck.]
⁹ F. 169 reads: "Better good sale
nor good ale. ¹⁰ lower.
216] Better sit Idl nor work for noght
Brunt bairnes fyre dreadis
Better learne be your neighbours skaith nor be your aw[in]
Better half egg nor toome doop

220] Better apl geven nor eaten
Better a dog fan nor bark on yow
Boden gear stinks
Bourd nather with me nor my honour
Buy quhen I bid yow
Better lait thryve nor never
Better hand louse nor bund to ane ill baikie
Better long littill nor soon right noght
Better giv nor tak.
Better byd ye cooks nor the medicineris

230] Better saught with littill aught nor cair with many cow.
Bring a cow to the hall & sho wil run to the byre again
Better a freind in court nor penny in purse
Bear wealth
Better good saill nor good aill
Better ow over the midding nor over the moor
Blow the wind never so fast it will lowien at the last
Bind fast find fast
Better old debtis nor old sores

239] Better ane foul in hand, nor tuo fleing

151. H. 152. He H *153. AR K He H 154. K H
155. AR K He 156. AR K He H 157. R K He H
*159. AR K He H 160. H 161. K He H *162. K H
163. AR K He H *164. K He H 166. K He H 167. K He H
168. AR K He H 169. K H 171. AR K He H *172.
MS. *217. AR K He.
Better spaire at the breird ¹ nor at the bottome.
Binde the seck or it be full.
Better be well loved nor ill won geir.
Better finger off nor ay warkin.²
Better rew sit, nor rew flit.
Bourd not with bawtie.³
Better say, Here it is, nor here it was.

Better playes a full wombe, nor a new coat.
Better be happie nor wise.
Better happie to court, nor good service.
Better a wit coft,⁴ nor twa for nought.
Better bow nor break.
Better two seils,⁵ nor ane sorrow.
Better bairnes greit nor bearded men.⁶
Betwixt twa stooles, the arse falls down.
Better na ring nor the ring of a rashe.
Better hold out nor put out.

Better sit still, nor rise and get a fall.
Better leave nor want.
Better unborne nor untaught.
Better be envyed nor pittied.
Better a little fire that warmes, nor a meikle that burnes.
Be the same thing that thou wald be cald,
Black will be no other hew.
Beautie but bountie availes nought.

Beware of had I wist.

¹ [brim.]
² aching.
³ a watch dog. F 180 adds: “fear lest he bite ye.”
⁴ [bought.]
⁵ happinesses; but F 187 has “skaiths” instead of “seils.”
⁶ Said by the Tutor of Glamis to King James VI. after the Ruthven Raid, 1582.

*173. R K H He  174. K  *176. AR K He H  177. AR K He II
Better spair at the breird nor at the bottom
Bind the sack or it be full
Better be weill loved nor hav evill wone geir
Better wwnwon nor ill waerd
Better finger aff nor ay warking
Better rew sit nor rew flitt
Bourd not with bawtie
Bawtie wil byt yow
Better say heir it is nor heir it was
Better playes a fow womb nor a new coat

Better be happie nor wyse
Better happie to court nor good service
Better ane wit coft nor tuo for noght
Better bow nor break.
Better twa seilis nor ane sorrow
Better bairnes greit nor bairded men
Betuix tuo stülis the airs falis doune
Better no ring nor the ring of a rush
Better hold out nor put out
Better sit still nor rise & gait a fall

Better lend nor want.
Better wnborne nor wntaucht
Better be envied nor pitied
Better a littil fyr that warmes nor ane meikl that burnes
Be the same thing thow wold be called
Black wil be no other hew
Bewtie but bountie availis not

Bewar of had I wist
Better be alone, nor in ill companie.
Better a thigging mother, nor a ryding father.
Before I wein and now I wot.
Bonie silver is soon spendit.
Better never begun nor never endit.
Byting and scarting is Scots folks wooing.
Breads house skaild never.
Bairns mother burst never.
Bannoks is better nor na kin bread.
Better a laying hen nor a lyin crown
Better be dead as out of the fashion.

Better buy as borrow.

Better have a mouse in the pot as no flesh.

Better be alone nor in ill companie
Better ane thigging mother nor ane ryding father
Before I wein & now I wot
Bonnie silver is soon spended
Better never begun nor never ended
Break my head & syn put on my how
Better in clout nor holl out
Bannokis is better nor na kind bread

Better ane eg broth nor ane fold water

1 begging. 2 This appears in MS. 166 as "A bairnes mother bursted never except of sorrow." 3 [head.] 4 [nightcap.] 5 "eg broth" seems to represent "Friar's chicken," viz., chicken-broth with eggs dropped into it; Jamieson, vol. ii. p. 310, quoting 'Guy Mannering' and 'Tales of my Landlord.'
277] Bread and cheise is good to eat quhen men can gait no other meat
   Better misleird ¹ for once nor cummersome
   Better be tuo hours befor tyme nor thrie behind it

280] Bairns forgetis & old men dies
   Better waist ² hous nor ill neighbouris
   Better hav a meer to your mother nor be motherles
   Bourd not with the gallouse
   Bourd not with my bannok
   Better hold be ane Inch nor draw be ane spane
   Byting & scarting is Scotis mens owing
   Bod ³ luck & hav luck
   Byt about is good bartering
   Better hot dirt nor cold

290] Better water rag nor dirt rag
   Beggars can bear no wealth.
   Byt in thir by words sup in the sauce all the dogs in thes town dryt in your hauce ⁴
   Better a three footed stool nor fall in the fyre
   Brav browes ⁵ Bartie ⁶
   Benedicite Bennethesty
   Better weil spairred nor evil waired
   Better ane misheiff nor ane Inconvenience
   Bow wowes is no banning ⁷
   Burgess bedtyme is sutoris ⁸ suppertyme

300] Beggaris forget that ever they caried fardelis ⁹ on footbak

301] Blind folkis eat many flies

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² [desolate, deserted.] ³ [command.] ⁴ [throat.] ⁵ [brews.] ⁶ [the devil.] ⁷ [prohibition.] ⁸ [shoemakers.] ⁹ packs.
Court to the town, and whoore to the window
Cadgers speaks of leadsadles.
Changing of works is lighting of hearts.
Charge your friend or you need.
Cats eats that hussies spares.
Cast not forth the old water while the new come in.
Crabbit was, and cause had.
Comparisons are odious.

Come not to the counsel uncalled.
Condition makes, and condition breaks.
Cut duelles in every town.
Cold cooles the love that kindles over hot.
Cease your snowballes casting.
Come it aire, come it late, in May comes the cowquake.
Courtesie is cumbersome to them that knowes it not.

Calke is na sheares.

Court to the toune & whore to the window
Cadgers speak of laid-sadles
Changing of warks is lightning of hairstis
Chairg your freind or yow hav neid
Catis eatis quhilk hussies spairs
Cast not out the old water till the new com in

1 [pedlars.]  2 [packsaddles.]  3 [bob-tail.]  4 [cowquaker, popular name of quaking-grass.]  5 [Chalk: a tailor's proverb.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

Comparisons are odious

Com not to the counsell uncalled
Condition mak's & condition breaks law
Cut duelis in ilk toune
Cold coolis the lov quhilk kendlis over hote
Ceass your snowballis casting
Come it air com it lait in May coms the cowquake
Courtesie is commersome to them that knawes it not
Counsell is no command
Compt pay & go
Compt ay goes before payment

Calk is no shears
Calk or ye clip
Confes & be hanged
Child wnyce gaid upon the yce, child wilie gaid bye
Cair & sorow mak's ane soon auld like
Can doe is eith borne about
Com kisse me behind my hand is in the dough
Canker'd folks is ay kynd
Canker'd kae that wirried the cat he did never a good turne bot that
Chop on the coll Kirkcaldie men

Chop on the coll and gar it burne cleir
lay a cod on the stool he wil be heir
Cukolds hes ever thirst in thair mouth
Choise is a gridie mans pairt
Cary no more saill nor yow hav wind too

Claukcus quod, the old king quhen the yong king slew a clouke

has "and cause hadna."

1 [depraved, corrupt.] 2 [jackdaw.] 3 [coal.] 4 [silly man, simpleton.]
DAVID FERGUSSON.

EDITION 1641]

D

228] DO in hill as ye wald do in hall.
    Do as ye wald be done to.
230] Do weill and have weill.
    Dame deim 1 warilie.
    Dead 2 and marriage makes tearm-day.
    Draff is good enough for swine.
    Do the likliest, and God will do the best.
    Drive out the inch as thou hast done the span.
    Dead men bytes not.
    Daffing 3 dow nothing.
    Dogs will red 4 swine.
    Dirt parts companie.
240] Drink and drouth comes sindle 5 together.
    Daft talk dow not. 6
    Do well and doubt na man, and do weill and doubt all men.
    Dead at the one dore, and hership 7 at the other.
244] Dummie cannot lie.

MANUSCRIPT]

335] Do in hill as ye wold do in hall
    Do as ye wold be don to
    Do weill & hav weill
338] Dame deim warlye

1 judge.  2 [death.]  3 [jesting.]  4 [clear away.]  5 seldom.
6 not in F.  7 [ravaging.]
339] Dead and mariag makis terme day
340] Draff is good anough for suyne
   Do ye the likliest let God do the best
   Dryv out the Inch as ye hav the spane
   Dead men bytis not
   Daffing dow nothing but in deimings
1
   Dogs wil red swyne
   Dirt pairtis companie
   Drink & drought comes seldom together
   Daft talk dow noght
   Do weill & dount no man
350] Do weill and doubt all man
   Deall small and serv all
   Devill be in his coffer if his best cloak be ind
   Delay is dangerous
   Drink but bread makis all the hous adoe
   Dead & away maried & away
   Dog flesh is good aneugh for hemlok kaill
   Drink les & buy ane
   Dinging is out of play
   Dirten ars dreadis ay
360] Ding not the dog for the bitches fart
   Death at the on dore and heirship at the other
   Dumbie wil not lie
   Damming & laving 2 is sicker fishing
   Dippie dadle that wish the dish and forget the ladle
365] Drink but bread maks all the toune asteir

1 [surmise.]
2 A poaching method of catching fish by damming and diverting the course of a burn, and then laving or throwing out the water. Kelly, p. 90, has "loving," and thus wholly misses the sense of this proverb.
366] Dame al your kin is casten out with yow but God nor my blissing light on yow
Dirt bodds luck
Dochter & ever yow marie any mary ane long hained magister
Double angelis if yow fall
370] Do the right do the wrong chuse thou a campion strong
371] Dish upsetting is no threid outletting

EDITION 1641]

[ Arlie maister, lang knave
Eaten meat is good to pay.
Eeild wald have honour.
Evening ortes is good morning fodder.
Every land hes the lauch, and everie corne hes the caffe.
250] Every man wishes the water to his own mylne.
Everie man can rule an ill wife but he that hes her.
Eat measurelie and defye the mediciners.
Everie man for himself (quoth the Merteine)
Everie man flames the fat sowes arse.
Experience may teach a fool.
Every man wates best where his own shoe bindes him.
Efter lang mint, never dint.
Efter word comes weird.
259] Efter delay comes a lette.

1 [preserved.]
2 age.
3 leavings; F 254 has “oats.”
4 law; but F 255 reads “his laugh” for “the lauch.”
5 bastes; F 260 has “flames.”
MS. 1200 commences with “smeir.”
6 fate.

245. AR K He 246. AR K 247. AR K 248. AR K He H
372] Eatin meat is good to pay
Eild should be honoured
Eving orts is good morning fother
Everie land hes the laugh and every corne hes the chaff
Everie man wishes the water to his awin mill
Everie man can guyd ane ill wyf bot he that hes hir
Eat measurablie & defye the medicineris
Everie man for himself quod Schir Marteine

380] Experienc may teach a fool.
Everie man knawes best quhair his awin sho bindis him
Eating and clawing wantis bot ane beginning
Eat your list & leav the lave
Except Schir Jhon Thornton in all play.
Evening rid & morning gray itis appearanc of a fair day
Even as yow lov me lend me a plack.¹
Evil newes ar oft tymes trewest
Eas slayes the fool.
Easie gear is good gear.

390] Even so and over at the ferrie if ye droun this tym ye shall tyne my kyndnes
Every mote is a beam in his ey.

392] Every storme hath his calme

¹ coin—4d. Scots, ½d. English
260] F Ar fowles hes fair feathears.
   Fair heghts \(^1\) makes fooles fain.
   Foole are fain of flitting.
   Falshood made never a fair hinder end.
   Freedome is a faire thing.
   For tint thing care not.
   Foole haste is no speed.
   Foole sets far trystes.
   For love of the nourish, monie kisses the bairne.
   Follie is a bonne dog.

270] Faire words brake never bane, foule words breaks many ane
   Foule water slokens \(^2\) fire.
   Far sought, and dear bought, is good for Ladies.
   For fault of wise men, foole sits on binks.\(^3\)
   Foole makes feasts, and wise men eats them.
   Foole are fain of right nought.
   Forbid a thing, and that we will do.\(^4\)
   Follow love and it will flee thee, flee love and it will follow thee.
   Fegges after peace.\(^5\)

279] Fooles should have no chappin sticks.

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\(^1\) hecht=a promise ; but F 267 reads "heights."
\(^2\) [extinguishes.]
\(^3\) benches.
\(^4\) F 282 reads "Forbid a fool a thing, and that he will do."
\(^5\) Not in F; MS. 411 has "Pash," Easter (cf. Düringsfeld, ii. 123, "ce sont des figues après Pâques").
393] Far foules hes fair feathers
Fair haichts maks fools fain
Fools ar fain of flitit
Frost & falshood maid never ane fair hinderend
Freedom is a fair thing
For tint thing cair not
Fool haist is na speed

400] Fooles setis far trysts
For lov of the nurice mony kisses the bairne
Follie is a bonie dog
Fair words brak never bone foul words breaks many one.
Foul water slokens fyre
Far sought & deir coft is good for ladies
For fault of wyse men fools sits on books ¹
Fools maks feasts & wise men eats them
Fools ar fain of right noght
Forbid a thing & that we wil do

410] Follow lov and it wil flie the, flie lov & it wil follow the.
Fegges after Pash

412] Fools should hav no chapping stiks

¹ Evidently an anglicisation of "buiks," a misreading of "binks."
280] Friendship stands not in one side.
   Few words sufficeth to a wise man.
   Fire is good for the farcie.¹
   Fidlers dogs and flies comes to feasts uncalled.
284] Fill fow and had fow makes a stark man.

 MANUSCRIPT]

413] Freindship stands not upon on side
   Few words suffices to a wise man
   Firsted ⁴ geir is not forgiven
   Faultles lifles
   Farts in your teith
   Februar fill dyk with a blak or a whyt I shall fill it or I
      go and it war with bare strae
419] Fish not befor the net

 EDITION 1641]

   Giff gaff ³ makes good friends.
   Good wine needs not a wispe.⁴
   Good cheir and good cheap garres ⁵ many haunt the house.
289] God sends men cauld as they have clothes to ⁶

¹ [glanders.] ² [fristed = where respite is granted, where a creditor is
given time for payment.] ³ [mutual help.] ⁴ no bush. ⁵ [causes.]
⁶ F 294, "God sends men cloath as they have cold to."
420] Feid me this yeir Is feid yow the nixt
Fuffie 1 is the first word of owing 2
Fyr & hards 3 is not good together
Fairnes is a fading floure
For somthing the pyet 4 peiped
For chanc of wear no man should mourning mak
Farts in my tydings that angers no man
Fourtie s. & 40 shifts 5 is worth 4 lib. in the yeir
Flesh but bread mak's maids ill hewed
Fob 6 fools in that'ir folly greivs robs 7 God and his glory

430] Fair words oblishes 7 no man
Fuffe let the wind blow
From the pest] flie soone and farr and be long in comming home again 8
Fart in a widdie good fatheris sonne
Faint heart wan never fair lady

435] Faultis in affection ar but slight follies

436] Grace is best for the man
Giff gaff mak's good freinds
Good wine neids not a wisp
Good chear & good cheap gars mony haunt the hous

440] God sends men cold as thay hav cloths to

1 [huffy, touchy.] 2 [wooing.] 3 [tow.] 4 [magpie.]
5 [of work.] 6 [cheat.] 7 [obliges.] 8 [First three words of this proverb are written in the margin in a later hand.]

Gods help is nearer nor the fair even
Give never the wolf the wedder to keep.
Good will should be taken in part of payment.
God sends never the mouth but the meat with it
Girne \(^1\) when ye knit, and laugh when ye louse.
Go to the Devil and bishop you.
Go shoe the geese.

God sends meat, and the devil sends cookes.

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Gods help is nearer nor the fair even
Give never the wolf the wedder to keip
Good wil should be taken in pairt of payment
God sent never the mouth but the meat with it
Girne quhen ye knit & laugh quhen ye louse again
Go to the devil and Bishop yow
Go sho the geiss
Go learne your gooddame to get Bairnes
Go belt a bitch about the Cross

Go clip \(^2\) gait
Go & whinner \(^3\) your good-dame

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\(^1\) [be peevish.]
\(^2\) [shortened.]
\(^3\) box the ears of.

290. K He H
291. AR K H
292. H
*293. K He H
294. K He H
297. K H.
MS. 443. K
455. K
*463. K, cf. He H.
452] Gaines slokens paines
   Good aill is wynes eveinis 1
   Good aill maks good saill
   Gaunting 2 is wil wanting
   God send us better handsell 3 nor fart at the masking 4
   Gar ane devill ding ane other
   God let my honestie never ly on your tongue rootis
   God keip us from gyrcarlings 5 & all long nebbed things

460] Go to your bed your bellie rumbles & ilk ane toورد
   over other tumbles
   Go to your bed god nor yow be dryt it
   God help us all to heaven for ill can we climb
   God let never the well go dry that ilk body trowes 6
   water be in
   God send you a wise goodman 7 els yow wil fill the cuntry
   ful of fools
   Giv it a pavie 8 fly it 9 & lild 10
   God mak al weil as Maister Wm Kellie sayes to his
   sones spurs
   Giv good respect to al fear nather grit nor small
   Go near it
   God let sorow never go so near your heart

470] Grand wind grand treason.11

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1 equal.  2 [yawning, gaping.]  3 [luck.]  4 [mashing (mixing
malt with warm water).]  5 witches.  6 [believes.]  7 [husband.]
8 [shake.]  9 [warm.]  10 drink it off quickly [lill = hang out the
tongue].  11 [This proverb is in a later hand.]
298] H Unger is good kitchine meat.¹  
He that is far from his geir, is neir his skaith.

300] Had I fish, was never good with garlick.  
He mon have leave to speak that cannot had his tongue.  
He that lippins ² to bon ³ plowes, his land will ly ley.⁴  
He rides sicker that fell never.  
He that wil not hear motherhead, shal hear stepmother-head  
He that crabbes ⁵ without cause, should mease ⁶ without mends ⁷  
He that may not as he would, mon do as he may.  
He that spares to speak, spares to speed.  
He is weil easit ⁸ that hes ought of his own, when others goes to the meat.  
He that is welcome, faires weil.

310] He that does ill hates the light.  
He that speaks the thing he should not, hears the things hee would not.  
He that is evil deemd, is half hanged.  
Help thy self, and God will help thee.  
He that spends his geir on a whoore, hes both shame and skaith.  
He that forsakes missour, missour forsakes him.  
Half a tale is enough to a wise man.  
He that hewes over hie, the spaill ⁹ will fall into his eye.

318] He that eats while he last, will be the war while he die.

¹ [relish.] ² [trusts.] ³ [gratuitous.] ⁴ [fallow.] ⁵ [becomes angry.] ⁶ become calm. ⁷ [amends.] ⁸ [entertained.] ⁹ [chip.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

H

471] Hunger is good kitching
He that is far from his gear is near his skaith
Had I fish was never good with garlik
He must hav libertie to speak that cannot hold his tong
He that lippens to bone plews his land wil ly ley
He ryds siker that fell never
He that wil not heir mother-heid shall heir stepmother-heid
He that crabes without a caus wil meise without a mendse
He that may not as he wold must do as he may

480] He that spaires to speak spaires to speed
He is weil eased that hes ought of his awin when others go to meit
He that is welcom faires weil
He that does evil hates the light
He that speaks the thing he should not hears the thing he wold not
He that is evill deimed is half hanged
Help thyself & God wil help the
He that spends his gear upon ane hoore hes both shame & skaith
He that forsaiks measur measur forsaiks him
Half a tail is aneugh to a wyse man

490] He that hewes over hie the spaill wil fall in his ey

*312. Cf. AR  *315. K He  316. H  *317. AR K He H

MS. 471. H.
He is a weak horse that may not bear the saidle.

He that borrows and bigs,\textsuperscript{1} makes feasts and thigs,\textsuperscript{2} drinkes and is not dry, these three are not thirftie.

He is a proud Tod that will not scrape his own hole.

He is wise when he is well, can had him sa.

He is poore that God hates.

He is wise that is ware in time.

He is wis that can make a friend of a foe.

Hair and hair, makes the cairles head baire:

Hear all parties.

He that is redd\textsuperscript{3} for windlestrawes,\textsuperscript{4} should not sleep in lees.\textsuperscript{5}

He rises over earlie that is hangit or noone.

He is not the foole that the foole is, but he that with the foole deals.

He that tholes\textsuperscript{6} overcomes.

He loves me for little, that hates me for nought.

He that hes twa huirds,\textsuperscript{7} is able to get the third.

He is a sairie begger that may not gae by ane mans doore.

Hall binkes are sliddrie.

He is not the best wright that hewes the maniest speals.

He that evil does, never good weines.

Hooredome and grace, can never byde in one place.

Hee that compts all costes, will never put plough in the eard.

He that slayes, shall be slain.

He that is ill of his harberie,\textsuperscript{8} is good of his way kenning.

He that will not when he may, shall not when he wald.

Hanging ganges be hap.
491] He is a weak hors that may not bear the sadle
He that borrowes & bigges, maks feasts & thiggs,
   drinks and is not dry thir thrie ar not thrifty
He is a proud tod quho wil not scraip his awin holl
He is wyse that quhen he is weil can hold him so
He is poor quhom God hates
He is wise quho can mak a freind of a foe
He is wise quho is war in tyme
Hair and hair maks the carle beld
Heir all pairties

500] He that is feird for winnel stroes should not sleip in leyes
He rises over soone quho is hanged or noone
He is not the fool that the fool is but the fool that with
the fool deals
He that thols overcoms
He loves me littil that hates me for noght
He that hes tuo hoords is able to gait the thrid
He is ane sillie begger quho may not go by one mans
dore
Hall binks ar slidderie
He is not the best wright quho hewes moniest spails
He that evell does never good weins

510] He that counts all costs wil never put pleugh in the
   earth
He that slayes shal be slain
He that is ill of his harberie is good of his away going
He that wil not quhen he may shall not quhen he wold

514] Hanging goes by hap
EDITION 1641]

344] He is a foole that forgets himself.1
   Happie man, happie cavil.2
   He that comes uncald, sits unservd.
   He that comes first to the hill, may sit where he will,
   He that shames, shall be shent.3
   He gangs earlie to steal, that cannot say na.
350] He should have a long shafted spoon that sups kail with
   the devil.
   He sits above that deals aikers.4
   He that ought  the cow, goes nearest her tail.
   He is worth na weill that may not byde na wae,
   He should have a hail pow, that cals his neighbour
   nikkienow.6
   He that hes gold may buy land.
   He that counts but his hoste, counts twise.
   He that looks not or he loup, will fall or he wit of himself
   Haste makes waste,
   Hulie7 and fair, men rides far journeys :
360] He that marries a daw, eats meikle dirt.
   He that marries or he be wise, will die or he thrive.
   Hunting, hawking, and paramours, for ane joy, a hundred
   displeasures.
   Hald in geir, helps well.
   He is twise fain, that sits on a staine.
   He that does his turne in time, sits half idel.
   He plaints early that plaints on his kail.
   He is good that faild never.
368] Half aunch,8 is half fill.

1 not in F.  2 lot.  3 [disgraced.]  4 [acres.]  5 [owned.]
6 [H has "nitty now."]  7 cautiously.  8 [empty.]
*344. K He  *345. K H  346. AR K He H  *347. He H
348. K H  *350. AR K He H  351. K  352. AR K He H
515] He is ane fool that forgets himself
   Happie man happie cavill
   He that coms wncalled sits wnserved
   He that coms first to the hill may sit quhar he wil
   He that shames shall be shent

520] He goes airlie to steal quho cannot say na
   He should hav ane long shafted spoone that sups caill
      with the devill
   He sits abov quho deals aikeris
   He that ought the kow goes nerest the taill
   He is worth no weil quho is worth no wo
   He should hav a haill pow cals his neighbour nikie now
   He that hes gold may by land
   He that compts befor the host counts twyse
   He that looks not or he loup wil fall or he wit of himself
   Haist maks waist

530] Hullie & faire men ryds far
   He that marries a da eats mekl dirt
   He that maries or he be wyse wil die or he thrive
   Hunting, hawking, paramours for ane joy ane hunder displeasurs
   Had in geir helps weil
   He is tuise fain that sits upon a ston
   He that dois his turne in tym is half Idle
   He pleinyses airly quho pleins on his kail
   He is ane good man that falled never

539] Hav is aneugh

*358.  AR He H  359.  AR K H  360.  K He H  *361.  K He H
parritch)  367.  K He H  368.  H.
369] He is a sairie cook that may not lick his own finger.

370] Hunger is hard in a hail maw.

He should wear iron shone that bydes his neighbours deed.

Hame, is hamelie.²

He that is hated of his subjects, cannot be counted a king.

Hap and a half-pennie, is warlds geir enough.

He calls me skabbed, because I will not call him skade.

He is blinde that eats his marrow,³ but far blinder that lets him.

Have God, and have all.

Honestie is na pride.

He that fishes afore the net, lang or he fish get.

380] He tint never a cow, that grate for a needle.

He that hes na geir to tyne, hes shins to pine.

He that takes all his geir fra himself, and gives to his bairns, it were weill ward to take a mell and knock out his harnes.⁴

He sits full still that hes a riven breik.⁵

He that does bidding, serves na dinging.

He that blaws best bears away the horne,

He is weill staikit⁶ thereben, that will neither borrow nor len

Hea will gar a deaf man hear.

He is sairest dung when his awn wand dings him.

389] He hes wit at will, that with angrie heart can hold him stil.

---

¹ poor. ² F 391 adds “though never so seemly.” ³ [companion.]
⁴ brains. ⁵ [torn trousers.] ⁶ [stocked.]

*369. K He 370. K He H 372. AR K He H 374. K He H
540] He is a sarie cook that may not lik his awin fingers
Hunger is hard in a haill maw
He should hav Iron shoon quho byds his neighbors dead
Home is Homly
He that is hated of his subjects cannot be counted a
king
Hap & a halfpenny is worlds geir aneugh
He is blind that eats his marrow bot far blinder that
letis him
He is at his wits end
His hand is in the creil
He needs not a caik of breed at all his kin

550] He that rode never fell never
He that eats quhill he burst wil be the worse quhill he"die
Hav I gear hav I non tyn heart all is gone
Hungry men ar angry
He is a spurgald 1 sporter
He that spears meikle gaits wit of pairte
He is steill to the back
He trowes to com to heaven with whol bones
Hully & fair men corns horn again even
He hes gotten ane fall at the amrie 2 foot

560] He hes the bannok hyve 3
He hes eyn at his belt his stomach in his purs his foot in
his hand
Haistie folk wes never lastie
He looks as his nose war bleeding

564] His heed wold serv a cat in a bowel 8 dayes

385. K H 386. He H 387. [H has "Hae!" for He]
388. K He H 389. K He H
MS. 552. AR K He H 553. AR K He H 555. AR K He
1 [spur galled.] 2 [cupboard.] 3 [corpulence.]
Proverbial speeches of persons given to such vices or vertues as follows.

Of greedie persons it is said,

390] He can hide his meat and seek more.
He will see day light at a little hole.
He comes for drink, though draff be his erand.

Of well skilled persons.

He was born in August.
He sees an inch before his nose.

Of wilfull persons.

He is at his wits end.
He hears not at that ear.
He wald fain be fordwart if he wist how.
He will not give an inch of his will, for a span of his thrift.

Of vousters or new upstarts.

His winde shakes no corne.
400] He thinks himself na payes peir,
He counts himself worthie meikle myce dirt.
402] Henrie Cheike never slew a man while he came to him.
565] Hands off is fair play
  He wil be ane man befor his mother.
  He loves me as well as catis dois mustard
  He that taks mint to the bed wil never gait bairnes
  He that hes nothing tyns nothing

570] He gives him the bit & the buffet with it
  He hes ane defendars pairt
  He is gon to seek his fathers sword
  He hes past the prikes
  He wil temper his fidle quhill the feast be done
  He quho serves God serves a good maister
  He quho serves a good maister craves not his fie
  He hes haddin his dish under many fremd ¹ wyfs ladle
  He hes stramped ² out many a dubs ³ ey
  He thrawes rops of the hand

580] He wil sie his freind neid quho wil not sie him bleed
  He sits full still quho hes a riven breik
  He hes too lookers anew ⁴ quho mowes ⁵ his wyf in the mercat
  He cals salt to Dysart
  He that looks or he loups ⁶ wots quhar he lichts
  He hes it of kynd he coft it not
  He hes gotten his leav for ane auld servant
  His glass is run
  He hes the ball at his foot

589] He that hes ane dog of his awin may go to the kirk with ane clean breast

¹ [foreign.] ² [trampled down.] ³ [pool.] ⁴ enough.
⁵ [mocks.] ⁶ [leaps.]
Of fleyit persons.

403] His heart is in his hose:
He is war fleyit nor he is hurt.
He looks as the wood were full of theeves.
He lookes like the laird of pitie.
He looks like a Lochwhaber axe.

Of false persons.

He will get credit of a house full of unbored milstones.
He lookes up with the one eye, and down with the other.

410] He can lie as weil as a dog can lick a dish.
2 He lies never but when the holen is green.
He bydes as fast as a cat bound with a sacer.4
He walde gar a man trow that the moon is made of green
cheis, or the cat took the heron.

Of misnortured persons.

He hes a brasen face.
He knowes not the doore be the doore bar.
He spits on his own blanket.

Of unprofitable foolish persons.

He harpes ay on ane string.
He robs Peter to pay Paul.
He rives the kirk to theik the quier 6

420] He wags a wand in the water.
421] He that rides or he be ready, wants some of his geir.
590] He trowes al his kin be dead
Hir tongue goes lyk a hand bell.
Hir tong is maid of the clatter-bone of a goose arse
His mothers milk is not out of his nose
He wots not quhair the well savours quhill it go dry
He is good to fetch the devill a preest
He is a corbie messinger
He that hes of his awin needis not to borrow
He is well bodden 2 ther ben that neidis nather borrow nor lend
Hang him that can not lie

600] He that wones a pennie tynes nothing
He is a good fellow hes ay fyve shillings in his purs
Hald your feet for falling
How comes the cow doune the lone
How stands your pisle now
He that dings with the sword wil be payd home with the scabbard
Hang ane theeff for the first fault & scourg him for the nixt
Haistie lov is a sudden vengeance
He is ane ill gairdner quho lackes his awin leeks
He feils a string

610] Hearing much encreases knawledg
He that never did ane thing ill can never do it weill
He invitis a new injurie quho bear the old patiently

613] Have lade & go lad maks ane speidy ladde
Of weillie persons.

422] He can hald the cat to the sun,
    He kens his groats ¹ among other folks kail.
    He neiffers ² for the better.
    He is not so daft as he lets ³ him.

Of angrie persons,

He hes pisht on a nettle.
He hes not gotten the first seat of the midding the day.
He takes pepper in the nose.

Of unconstant persons.

He is like a widder cock.
430] He hes changed his tippet, or his cloak on the other shoulder
    He is like a dog on a cat.
    His evening song and morning song are not both alike.
    He is an Aberdeens man, taking his word again.

Of persons speaking pertinently.

He hes hit the nail on the head.
He hes touched him in the quick.

Of weasters and divers.⁴

He hes not a heal nail to claw him with.
He he hes not a pennie to buy his dog a leaf
438] He is as poore as Job.

¹ [grain.]
² [exchanges.]
³ [behaves, appears.]
⁴ dyvour = a bankrupt.
423. AR K He H 424. He 425. AR K He H 426. K
PROVERBIAL SPEECHES OF PERSONS GIVEN TO SUCH VERTUES AND VICES AS AFTER FOLLOWES

Of skilful persones

614] He wes borne in August he hes a gust of all things
He sies ane Inch befor his nose
He is lyk cook Murgon he can mak nyne measses of a codes taill

Of pertinent speakers

He hes hit the nail upon the head
He hes touched him in the quick

Of good persones

620] as bears hyd\textsuperscript{1} on his face
as any man taks be the hand
as ever picked
as the earth bears
as ever lived a lyf
He is als
as puts his finger vnder a hen tail
as breaths
as lives this day
as sets his croun to the lift\textsuperscript{2}
as belts him in a belt
as ever sucked breist bone

630] as ever sinful woman buir

\textsuperscript{1}[skin.]
\textsuperscript{2}[sky.]
He is as bair as the birk at Zule evin.
He begs at them that borrowit at him.
He hes brought his pack to a fit spead.
He is on the ground.
His hair grows through his hood.
He hes cryed himself diver.

Of proud persons,
He counts his half pennie good silver.
He makes meikle of his painted sheits.
He goes away with born head.\footnote{bornhead (adv.), headlong.}
He spils \footnote{squanders (?).} unspoken to.
He hes not that bachell \footnote{old shoe.} to swear by.

Of untymous persons,
He is as welcome as water in a rivin ship.
He is as welcome as snaw in harvest.

Of rash persons,
He sets all on sex or sevin.
He stumbles at a strea and loupes at a brea.

Of ignorant persons.
He does as the blind man when he casts his staff.
He brings a staff to his own head.
He gars his awn wand ding him.
He is als good a man as treads the grasse doun as speaks with a tongue as bears hands as puts his fute in a blak shoe as ever cold water christned as says yea or na as ever pissed with a pintle As handles suord or knyf as steps as wears sheaps wool as bears hair as casts salt in his teath

Of meik quyet discreet and humble persons

He cannot offend a dog
He is ane illes bodie
He is ane honest Gods man
He is ane sillie Gods gook
He is lyk ane dow he wants a gall.

Of wylie persons

He knowes his groats among other folks caill
He can hold the cat to the sunne
He nifiers for the better.
He is not so daft as he leits him
He hears not on that ear
He hes mo wyls nor wold droune a shipful of geis

449. He 450. He 451. He 452. 453. K
455. AR K He IIe II. 
MS. *647 649. He 651. He.
1 ill-less = harmless. 2 [dove.]


DAVID FERGUSSON.

EDITION 1641]

457] He breads of the gate that casts all down at evin.
He hes good skill of rosted wool, when it stinkes it is enough.

Of effeminate persons.

He is John¹ Thomsones man, coutching² carle.

460] He heares short hose.

Of drunkards.

His head is full of bees.
He may write to his friends.
His hand is in the creill.
He is better fed nor nurtured.
He needs not a cake of bread at all his kin.

Of hypocrites.

He hes meikle prayer, but little devotion.
He runs with the hound and holds with the hair.
He hes a face to God, and another to the devill.
He is a wolfe in a lambs skin.

470] He breaks my head, and syn puts on my how.³
He can say, My jo, and think it not.
He sleeps as dogs does, when wives sifts meal.

473] He will go to hell for the house profit.

¹ "John ought undoubtedly to be Joan" (Jamieson, vol. ii. pp. 702, 703)—a husband ruled by his wife. ² cowardly. ³ [nightcap.]

654] He wold sell us all in a mercat
   He can hold meal in his mouth & blow
   He hes ane ey in his neck.
   He wold sell the cow & sup the milk

   Of greedy persons

   He can eat his meat and ask more
   He wil sic day light at a littl hole

660] He coms for draff but drink is his earand
   He wil go to hell for the houses profit
   He is lyk the hen sho runs to the heap
   He can tak the meat of your foot
   His heart sits in a narrow holl
   He is eatik.¹
   He wald eat ane hors behind the sadell.

   Of wilful persons

   He wil not giv ane Inch of his wil for a span of his thrift

   Of vowsters ² & new startups

   His wind shaiks no corne
   He thinks himself no pages peir

670] He thinks himself worth meikl myse dirt
    He is new com over. he is a new start up a novice

672] He hes scarce seen the lyonis

¹ etick = lean.
² braggarts.
Of flyd persons

673] His heart is in his hose
He is wors flyed nor he is hurt
He looks as the wood wer full of theeves
He looks lyk a Murray man melting brass
He is so flyed he wil never ly quhar he is slayne
He is flyed for a fart & I hav lettin tuentie
He wil stand behind yow till ye be thrise felled.

680] He that is afrayd of every bush wil never proue good huntsman
He that at every blast putis to the lee wil never be good saylour

Of fals persones

He wil gait credit of ane housful of wnbored milstons
He looks up with on ey & doun with the other
He can lie als weill as ane dog can lick ane dish
He lyes never bot quhen the Holin is grein
He playes buck hood 1 in my cood 2
He wil byd als long fast as a cat wil be bound with a blood pudding
He wil gar a man trow that the moon war maid of grein chees
He that a grip of him hes halds a slidderie eill be the taill

690] He can mak a crak 3
His fingers is lyk lyme wands 4
He hes a tong could suck a laverok out of the lift

693] He wold gar ane trow that spaid shafts bears honey plowmes

---

1 hide-and-seek. 2 pillow. 3 [tell a lie.] 4 [lime-rods = twigs with bird-lime.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

Of misnortered persons

694] He knowes not the dure be the dure barr.
He hes ane brasen face
He is better fed nor he is nurtered
He is better stoped ¹ nor he is pricked.

Of feckles foolish persons

He hairpes ay on ane string
He robs Peter to pay Paull

700] He turres ² the kirk to theik the queir
He wages a wand in the water
He spits on his awin blanket
He is head of wit
His head hes meikl wit about it
He spils wnspoken to
He hes eaten raw kaes he is ay clavering
He wots not what trie grots growes on
He is bot ane petie bowy ³ or cow hobby ⁴

Of Angrie persones

He hes pissed on a nettle

710] He taks pepper in his nose
He cannot sie his awin teith for anger
He is als angry as ane hair

Of Inconstant persones

He is lyk ane widder cok in the wind

714] He hes changed his cloak upon his other shoulder

692. Cf. He H
696. K H
*699. AR He
⁴ 710. 714. He.
¹ [stuffed.] ² [strips.] ³ [petty boy.] ⁴ [cowherd.]
He is lyk a dog upon a cat
His evening song & morning song ar not both one
His head is ful of bees
He taks his marks be the moone
He is als vain as a fidler

He is not worth the woll \(^1\) of a dog
He is als vain as a staff
His on hand waits not quhat the other is doing

Of Waisters & Debtors

He hes not ane hail naill to claw him
He hes not a penny to buy his dog a loaff
He is als poor as Job
He is als bair as the birk on Yul even
He begges at them that borrowed at him
He hes broght his pleugh to a foot spaid
He hes broght his pak to a pack pin

He is on the grund
His hair growes throug his hood
He hes cryed himself dyver
His purs goes lyk a linget \(^2\) pock
His back is at the wall
He hes not in goodis & geir so much as fyv schillings
and ane plack he dyvoiris went to saen \(^3\) this

Of Proud persons

He counts his halfpenny good silver
He maks meikl of his painted sheets

He goes away with borne head

\(^1\) [wool.] \(^2\) [linen.] \(^3\) save.
739] He spils wnspoken to
740] He looks lyk ane hen drinking water
    He looks not so laich

Of Wntymous persones
He is als welcom as water in ane riven ship

Of rash persones
He sets all upon sex or seven
He wold fain be fordward if he wist how

Of Ignorant persones
He does as the blind man quhen he casts his staff
He brings a staff to his awin head
He gars his awin wand ding him
He breids of the goat that casts all downe at even &
gives good milk all day
He is lyk the preest that can not say mess of his awin book

Of Effeminat persones
750] He is Jhone Thomsons man
    He is coutch him cairle
    He wears short hose

Of drunkards
He may wryt to his freinds
He needs not a drop of all his kine
755] He is a bon-companion

MANUSCRIPT]

756] He is a teuch taster.
He is weel blinked
He is after caps
He gives it again better cheip nor he boght it
760] He hes put the hemp savour of him
He is bursen all day with bearing timber to the craig
Habet. He hes stollen the Whelp Stourie

Of Hypocrites

He hes much prayer bot littl devotion
He runs with the hound & holds with the hair
He hes ane face to God and ane other to the devill
He is ane wolf in a lambs skin
767] He can say my Jo & think it not

EDITION 1641]

I

474] T is a sairie brewing, that is not good in the newing.\(^1\)
It is tint that is done to childe and auld men.
Ill weids waxes weill
In some mens aught mon the auld horse die.
It is a soothe\(^2\) bourd\(^3\) that men sees wakin.
In space comes grace.
480] It is ill to bring out of the flesh that is bred in the bane.
Ill win, ill warit.
482] It is a sillie flock where the zowe bears the bell.

\(^1\) when it is fresh. \(^2\) honest. \(^3\) dream.
768] He sleeps as dogs does quhen wyfes sifts meall
    He stumbles at ane strae and loups over ane brae
770] He breaks my head & syn puts on my how
    He can giv ane good gooss & ane ill gansell with it

    He let a fart farneyeir¹ and is gon to sie quhat savour it
    hes the yeir
He is not ever seik quhen he is ill hewed.
He that does bidding deserves no dinging
He that dies for ane cunt causs burie him in the arse
He is not worth ane swayn that letis his labour for the
    rain
Humff hamf quod the laird of Bamf.
He is the only swallow of our sommer.
779] He is a neiv

780] It is ane sarrie brewing that is not good in the newing
    It is all tint quhilk is done to child & auld man
    Ill weids waxes weel
    In some manes aught must the auld horse die
    It is a suith boord that men sies waking
    In space comes grace
    It is ill to bring out of the flesh quhilk is bred in the bone
    Ill woon ill waired
788] It is a sillie flok quhar the ew bears the bell

¹ last year.
It is a sin to lye on the devil.
It is eith till, that the awn self will.
It is good mowes that fills the wombe.
It is na time to stoup when the head is aff.
It is fair in hall, where beards wags all.
It will come in an hour that will not come in a year.
If thou do na ill, do na ill like.

If thou steal not my kail, break not my dyke.
If ye may spend meikle, put the more to the fire.
If I can get his cairt at a walter, I shall lend it a put.
If I may not keep goose, I shall keep gesline.
It is kindlie that the poke sare of the hearine.
It is eith to cry zule on another mans cost.
Ilke a man as he loves, let him send to the cooks.
It is eith to swimme where the head is holden up.
It is well warit they have sorrow that buys with their silver.
If ane will not, another will.

It is ill to take a breik off a bair arse.
It is dear bought honey that is lickt off a thorne.
If God be with us, wha will be against us.
It is well warit that wasters want geir,
It is ill to bring butte the thing that is not there benne.
It that lyes not in your gate, breaks not your shinnes.
It is na play where ane greits, and another laughs.
If a man knew what wald be dear, he wald be but merchant for a year.

It is true that all men sayes.
789] It is a sin to lie on the devill
790] Its ill to till quhat thy awinself wil
    Its good mowes that fils the belly
    It is no tyme to stoup quhen the head is off
    Its fair in hall quhair beardis wags all
    It wil com in on hour wil not com in a year
    If thow do no ill do no ill lyk
    If thow steil no my kaill brik no my dyk
    If yow may spend much put the mor to the fyre
    If I can gait his cairt at a waulter I shall lend it a putt
    If I can not kaip goose I sall kep gaisling
800] Its kyndly the pock savour of the herring
    It is eith to cry Yule on ane other mans cost
    It is easie swining quhair the head is borne up
    It is weil wared they hav sorow quho buyes it with ther silver
    If on wil not ane other will
    It is hard to tak a breik off ane bair ars
    It is dear boght honey quhilk is licked off a thorne
    Iff God be with us quho wil be against us
    Its weill waird that waisters want
    Its ill to bring but that is not ther benn
810] It that lyes not in your gait breaks not your toes
    It is no pastyme quhair a greits & ane other laughs
    If a man knew quhat wold be dear he wold be marchand bot ane year
813] It must be trew quhilk al men sayes
509. I have a good bow, but it is in the castle.
510. It is hard to fling at the brod, or kick at the prick.
      Ilk man mend ane, and all will be mendit.
      It is a sairie collope that is tain off a Capone.
      Ill bairnes are best heard at home.
      It is ill to wakin sleeping dogs,
      Ill hirds makes fat wolffs.
      It is hard to wife, and thrive in a year.
      It is good sleeping in a heal skin.
      It is not tint that is done to friends.
      It is ill to draw a strea before an auld cat.
520. It is a paine both to pay and pray.
      It is good fishing in drumling waters.
      It is little of Gods might, to make a poore man a knight.
      It is good baking beside meal.
      It is a good goose that drops ay.
      It is not the habite that makes the monk.
      It is not good to want and to have.
      It hes neither arse nor elbow.
      I shall sit on his skirt.
      It is a bair moore that he goes over and gets not a cow.
530. I shall hold his nose on the grindstone.
      It goes as meikle in his heart as in his heel.
      It goes in at the one ear, and out at the other.
      It is na mair pittie to see a woman greit, nor to see a
goose go bair fit.
      It is weill said, but wha will bell the cat.
535. It is short while seen the louse boore the langelt.
814] It is a pet quhilk wil not cling
   It is hard to fling at the brod
   It is hard to kick at the prick
   Ilkane mend on & al wil be mended
   It is a shamed collop is gotten of a capon
   Ill bairnes ar best hard at home

820] It is ill to waken sleiping dogs
   Ill hirds mak mak fatt wolfs
   It is hard to wyve & thryv in on yeir
   It is good sleeping in a whol skin
   It is not tint that is don to a freind
   It is ill to draw ane strae befor ane old cat
   It is pain both to pay & pray
   It is good fishing in drumly waters
   It is litle of Gods might to mak a poor man a knight
   It is good baiking besyd meall

830] It is ane good goose that drops ay
   It is not the habit mak the monk. Cuculus non facit monachum
   It is not good to want and have
   It is nather erse nor elbow
   I shall sit on his skirt
   It is a bair moor he goes over & gaits not ane kow
   I shall hold his nose in the grindstone
   It goes als much in his hart as his heal
   It goes in at the on ear and out at the other

839] It is short whyl sinc louse boor langelt

\[\text{MS. 830. H} \quad 831. \text{ He.}\]

1 peat.
I have a sliddrie eill by the tail.
   It is as meit as a sow to bear a sadle.
   It is as meet as a thief for the widdie.
   I wald I had as meikle pepper as he compts himself
      worthy myse dirt.

It will be an ill web to bleitch.
   I cannot finde you baith tailes and eares.
   It is ill to make a blowen horne of a tods tail.
   If ever ye make a luckie pudding I shall eat the prick.\[1\]
   It that God will give, the devil can not reave.
   In a good time I say it, in a better I leave it.
   Its a sillie pack that may not pay the custome.
   I have seen as light green.
   Its a cold coal to blow at.
   Its a sair field where all are dung down.

Its a sair dung bairn that dare not greit.
   I wat where my awn shoe bindes me.

If ye wanted me and your meat, ye wald want ane good
   friend.

It is als meit for him as ane sow for ane sadle
   It is als meit for him as ane theef for the widdie
   I wold I had als much pepper as he counts himself
      worth of myse dirt

It wil be ane ill web to bletch
**SCOTTISH PROVERBS.**

844] I can not find yow both teals & ears
   It is hard to mak a blowing horne of a tods taill
   If ever ye mak a luckie pudding I shall eat the prik
   It that God wil give the devill cannot reave
   It is no more pitie to sie a woman greit nor to sie ane
   goose go barefooted on good Yuil even
   It doen a woman no more harme to greit nor a goose to
   go barefooted

850] I can not sit in Rome & stryve with the pope
   I hav ane good bow bot it is in the castel
   Ilk a corne hes the chaff and every land hes the laugh
   It is ill quhilk may not be hard
   I am even steeling throw the world lyk ane webster 1
   I rather hear my awin cow rout 2 in the lown 3
   Iff ye mint 4 Is' lay one
   It is a loss in a land to sie a fair Candlmes day
   I lov not tuo handed fish, tuo lugged aill nor tuo knyfed
   bread
   It wil ather light on gunnie 5 or the gryses

860] It is ane ill faced baime quhilk is goten against the
   fathers will
   I can not both rin & spin & pisse & gather spails
   I wold not hav your fyking 6 for all your eg 7
   It wil melt in your mouth lyk ane mears toord
   If ye brew weil yow wil drink the better
   If I be not welcom to come I am welcome to go
   It is ill buying of oats from a goose

867] It is good to be good all day & not ill at even

---

1 weaver.  2 [bellow.]  3 [quiet.]  4 [intend, aim at.]
5 (?) name for sow.  6 [fidgeting.]  7 (? egging, agitation.]

It is good to be good & duell with God
It was betwixt sex & seven
I will warrant it & that is better nor stealbow
It shall never crow in my crop.
I love not the meat quhilk crowes in my womb
It is fair before the wrans door quhar no man haunts
If that had been ane toord ye had tain abyt of it
Jesu came out of Jhon Allans house & staw all the
bairnes away
It is the fashion in Rome to go barefoot that wants
shoone
Ise' gar yow stot lyk a bonnetmaker
It is a sillie kin ther is nather hoor nor theef in
It is no sham to him to be a theef he is theef faced
It is no tyme to gather kaill quhen the yaird is full of
pintalis
Ise' gar yow sweat at the shill of the forret
Ise' gar yow stand with a trembling face
It's shame to see ane auld horse run away with the
harrowes
I cannot liv on the air I am no Salmond
I am a gentleman my guidschirs grandschiris godfather
was once a lord of the Seat
I gat never a wer foe nor I broght from home
Its ill stealing besyd a theef

1 [quantity of farming stock.]  2 [stole.]  3 [rebound.]  4 [ (?) forest.]
888] I deny it ill & falsly as Caldwell did his Creed
   It is ill bairne borrowing a cats kitling sho is ay mewting for it
890] It runes in a blood
   It is als tender as Seafealde mutton it is 9 tymes tenderer nor a tuird.
   It is long since we saw a mot in your cap
   It is ayther a tod or a fairne busse
   Ise' play yow a Norland
   Ise wynd yow a pirne
   It is good gear quhillk lasts ay
   It is a good feast that lasts ay
   It is a good goose that drops ay
   I am fasting alday except of Sin
900] I loved all the bairnetyme the worse becaus yowr father wold not marie me
   I can not both sup & blow
   I wil cause him trow the moone is made of grein cheiss
   It is ane weil win pennie is haden from the bellie
   I shall causs all yowr dudis wallop
   It is but a tale of a turff or mater for a mattok.
   If yow cannot be trew, learne to be constant
   It is as true as tryed
   It is a neir collop is cut of thy owin flesh.
909] In loue is no lack

---

1 [?] “Fenwick, vere Caldwell, John (1628-1679), jesuit, was born in 1628 in the county of Durham, of protestant parents, who disowned him when on arriving at mature age he embraced the Roman catholic faith.” Dict. of Nat. Biog., vol. xviii., p. 328.
2 [mote.]
3 [bush.]
4 [North Country tune.]
5 [plan trouble for you.]
6 [clothes.]
7 [leap, dance.]
Ame single, kame sair.
Kindnesse comes of will.
Kindnesse will creep where it may not gang.
Kindnesse cannot be bought for geir.
Kail spaires bread.
Kamesters 1 are ay creeshie.2
Knowledge is eith born about.

Kings are out of play.
Kings and Bares oft worries their keepers.
Kings hes long ears.
Kings caff is worth other mens corne.
Kindnesse lyes not ay in ane syde of the house.

Little intermetting makes good friends.
Long tarrying takes all the thank away.
Little 3 good is soon spendit.4
Lang lean 5 makes hameald 6 cattel.
Little wit makes meikle travell.7

1 [wool-comber.] 2 greasy. 3 Original, "Little." 4 A 567 and A 584 are combined in F 588. 5 [alone.] 6 [homely.] 7 [work.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

[MANUSCRIPT]

K

910] Kaime seldome kaime sore
Kindnes comes of wil
Kindnes wil creip quhair it may not gang
Kyndnes may not be boght for gear
Kail spaires bread
Kings ar out of play
Kings & boares ofttyms wirries ther keipers
Kings hes long ears
Kemsters ar creishie
Keik 1 in the kailpot & glowr in the amrie

920] Kiss my ars & I shal claw your elbow
Kisse me the night I wil ryd the morne
Kiss me and I wil claw out your eyne
Kisse a cairle 2 & clap a cairle & tyne a carle
douse 3 a carle and souss 4 a carle and win a carle
Kisses & commands ar theifles chear
Kind passes nurture
Kindnes stands not wpon ane syd or silver spons
Keip yow from the devil and the lairds bairnes

928] Kittok sat in pepper pock pikel pepper Kittock 5

[MANUSCRIPT]

L

929] Little Intrometting mak good freinds
930] Lang tarrying tak al the thanks away
   Little good is soone spended
932] Littl wit mak meikle travell


1 [peep.] 2 [churl.] 3 [plunge vigorously into water.] 4 thrash soundly.
5 In a later hand.
EDITION 1641]

570] Lear ¹ young, lear fair.
Like drawes to like, and a skabbed horse to an ald dyke.
Laith to the bed, laith out of the bed.
Little may an ald horse do, if he may not nye.²
Let them that are cold blow at the coal.
Lang standing, and little offering makes a poore prise.³
Love hes na lack.
Leave the court, or the court leave thee.
Light supper makes long life.
Lykit geir is half bought.

580] Lordships changes manners.
Light winning makes a heavie purse.⁴
Live and let live,
Livelesse, faultlesse.
Little said, soon mendit.
Laith to the drink, and leath fra it.
Lightlie comes, lightly goes.
Last in the bed, best heard.
Lata ⁵ is lang and dreich.⁶
Little waits an ill hussie what a dinner holds in.

590] Laddes will be men.
Lauch and lay down again.
Likelie lies in the myre, and unliklie goes by it.
Let him drink as he hes browin.
Like to die, mends not the kirk yard.

595] Luck and a bone voyage.

¹ [learn.]         ² [neigh.]     ³ Perhaps for "priest," as in K; although F 596 gives "price." [Cf. Fergusson’s complaints re the poverty of his stipend (see p. viii of Introd. Notice to Principal Lee’s Reprint (Edin. 1860) of ‘Ane Answer to Renat Benedict’s Epistle,’ referred to in Introd., p. xi).]
⁴ A 767 duplicates this proverb, but with "small" as the first word.
⁵ Laute, lawta = loyalty, fidelity. ⁶ [tedious.]
933] Learne yong learne fair
Lik drawes to lyk ane scabbed horse to ane old dyk
Loth to the bed loth out of it
Littl may ane old horse do if he may not nie
Let them that ar cold blow at the coll
Long standing & little offering maks soone ane poor preist
Lov hes no lack

940] Leav the court or it leav yow
Light supper long lyf gait airly up and dyne
Lyked gear is half coft
Lordships changes maners
Light winning maks a heavy purs
Liv and let live
Littl said is soon mended
Loath to the drink loth fra the drink
Lightlie coms lightly goes
Last in the bed best hard

950] Lata hes long teeth
Litl wots ane evil hussie quhat a good denner holds in
Lads wil be men
Laugh & lay doun again
Liklie lyes in the myre & wnlikly goes by it
Let him drink as he hes brewen
Like to die mends not the kirk-yaird

957] Luck & a bon voyage

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581. AR K 582. R AR K He 584. R K H 585. K He H

MS. 946. He *948. AR.
DAVID FERGUSSON.

EDITION 1641]

596] Lang or ye cut Falkland wood with a pen knife.
    Love me little, and love me lang.
    Let alone makes mony lurdon.¹
    Little troubles the eye, but far lesse the soul.
600] Little kens the wife that sits by the fire, how the winde
    blowes cold in hurle burle swyre.²

MANUSCRIPT]

958] Lang or ye cut Falkland Wood with a pen knyf
    Lang lend maks hemeld cattell.
960] Lov me little & lov me longer
    Lie as the divel bad yow
    Lov & dirt ar tuo stark things
    Little head muckl wit
    Live not the hie gait for the by rod
    Littl worse nor ill maryed
    Let alon your bauch³ pleyes
    Let me sie your back.
    Let him quho begat the bairne hold the bairne
969] Littl wats the ful sow that lyes in the sty how hungry
    sho is that goes by.

¹ worthless person. ² [Hurly Burly Swire is the name of a place between Nithsdale and Clydesdale.] ³ [sorry.]
970] Lord sav us from the swyn in Ford\(^1\) for thay hav long teeth.
Laugh but your part
Light & giv your mear a bait or doken
Light & lead
Lov covers many Infirmities
Littl lov maks meikl stryfe
Lang & smal lyk the cats elbow
Littl compt littl cair
Littl thrift little grace
Littil good littil ill

980] Leiss me\(^2\) of your laughing face ye look lyk a kisse
Liking is cryed doun tak a shule\(^3\) and shoot in yow.
Leive with good men
Lick\(^4\) quhair yow layed
Let alone macks many ane knave
Littil evil, dois littil hurt
Lett never sorrow go so neir thy hairt
Let the wind blow
Look or yow leap.
Love beg[i]nneth in gold & endeth in beggery.

990] Love without landis is lyk a fyr without fewell.
Love is fyre & water sorrow

992] Love hath no lack, and lov hath no law.

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\(^1\) [Ford, 2 miles S.E. of Coupar-Angus.]
\(^2\) [pleased am I.]
\(^3\) [shovel.]
\(^4\) [strike.]

MS. 959. He 968. AR He H 974. AR He 977. AR K II
Mony yrons in the fire part mon coole.

Maidens should be meek while they be married.

Men may buy gold over dear.
Mony purses holds friends together
Meat and cloath makes the man
Mony hands makes light work.
Make not twa mews of an daughter
Meat is good, but mense is better.
Mony masters, quoth the poddock to the harrow, when everie tind took her a knock,

Mint or ye strike.
Measure, is treasure.
Mony men does lack, that yat wald fain have in their pack.
Misterfull folk mon not be mensfull.
Many smals makes a great.
Maisterie mawes the meadows down.
Mony speaks of Robin Hood, that never shot in his bow.
Mister makes men of craft.
Meikle water runs where the millar sleeps
Meikle mon a good heart tholl.

Mony cares for meal that hes bakin bread enough.
Meikle spoken, part mon spill.
Messengers should neither be headed nor hanged.
Men are blinde in their own cause.

Mony words wald have meikle drink.

---

1 F 627 reads "Meat makes, and cloath shapes, but manners makes a man."
2 maich = son-in-law.
3 [good manners.]
4 a harrow tooth.
5 modest.
6 [necessity, need.]

601. AR K He H 602. AR K He H 604. H 606. AR K He H
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

M

993] Mony Irons in the fyre pairt must coole
Maidens should be meik till they be maried
Men may buy gold over dear
Mony purses holds freinds long together
Meat & cloth maks the man
Mony hands maks light work & namly ¹ at the meat
Meat is good but mens is better

1000] Mony maisters quod the paddok quhen ilk a tynd
took hir a touk
Mint er ye strike
Measur is treasure
Mony men dois lack that quhilk he wold fain hav in
his pack
Misterfull folks must not be mensfull
Mony smals maks a great
Maistrie mawes the midow doune
Mony speaks of good Robin that never shot in his bow
Mister maks men of craft
Much water runs quhen the miller sleeps or much water
runeth by the mill that the miller knawes not of

1010] Meikl must ane good heart tholl
Mony caires for meal quho hes baiken bread eneugh
Meikl caires for meal must spill
Messengers should nather be headed nor hanged
Men ar blind in ther awin causs

1015] Mony words requyrs much drink

¹ [particularly.]
Man propons, but God dispons.
Mony man serves a thanklesse master.
Mony words fils not the furlot.¹
Mony kinsfolk, but few friends.²
Men goes over the dyke at the laichest.

Might, often times overcomes right.
Mends³ is worth misdeeds.
Meikle head, little wit.
Mustard after meat.
Millers takes ay the best multar⁴ with their own hand.
Monie man speirs the gate he knowes full well.
Mussell not the oxens mouth.
Meikle hes, wald ay have mair.
Monie tynes the halfe marke whinger,⁵ for the halfe pennie whange.
Make not meikle of little.

Mony man makes an erand to the hall, to bid the Ladie good-day.
Mony brings the raike but few the shovell.
Make no balkes⁶ of good bear land.
March wisquer⁷ was never a good fisher.

Meat and masse never hindred no man.
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

[MANUSCRIPT]

1016] Men propones bot God dispons
Mony men serves ane thankles maister
Mony words fils not the sack
Mor belongs to a bed nor four bair limmes

1020] Mony kinsfolk, bot few freindis
Men goes over the dyck at the laighest
Might overgangs right
Mends is worth misdeid
Meikle head littil wit
Mustard after meat
Millers gat never ane better mowtar nor they took themselvs
Mony man spears the gait he kens ful weill
Mussill not the ox mouth
Meikl wold hav more

1030] Mony tynes the half merk whinger for the halfpennie thong
Mak not meikl of little
Mony maks ane earand to the hall to bid the Lady good-day
Mony brings the raik bot few the shuill
Mak not tuo mews 1 of on doghter
Mony ar father war few father better
Meikle catle meikl cair
Meikldom 2 is no vertue
Malt spairs meall

1039] Met and measur maks men wise

633. K He 634. K He H 635. AR He *636. 637. K H
644. He H.
1037. K.
1 [male connection by marriage.] 2 [magnitude.]
1040] Men may meet bot montaynes may not
   My shoon is good for colheughes \(^1\) they can draw water
   Myce wants kned \(^2\) water.
   My nose runes lyk a sope wyfes arse.
   My hell wil be welcom if my forfoot wil not
   My cunt had ye not sein if in my bour ye had no bein
   My eyes is gathering straes
   Mell not with them quhom God hes marked
   Many wants a feist for fault of calling
   Mony spils a feast for fault of good shear

1050] My goodschiris grandschiris godfather wore ane hat &
   ye shall call me mistres for that
   Mak not a midwyf of me
   Mariag is maid in heaven
   Mony kisses the mouth wold byt of the nose
   Mony speaks of my grit drinking bot few of my sore
   thirst

1055] Mony goodnights is loth away

EDITION 1641]

645] N Ature passes nurtur.
   Na man can baith sup and blaw at once.
   Nothing enters in a close hand.
   Need makes vertue.

649] Need hes na law.

\(^1\) coal pits. \(^2\) musty.
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

1056] Mony welcoms wold hav many thanks
Many fair face hes a foul taill
Many greitis the yeir at the thing thay leuch fernyeir.
Mony fair words but few of them trew

1060] Many wold eat of the haggeis wold not hav the bag
cawen 1 in ther teith
My coat is near me but my sark is nearer
Muck bods luck dame dryt ye ther ben
Mony gathers stroes & tyns winlings 2
Mel with ane whoore & gait a theiff & ther starts up
ane hanged man
Mend the magnificat
My wild seed is sawin
Much whyt in the ey much fyr in the taill
Many one for ther awin gaitis ther back weel thrawen
Many frost many thow maks many ane rotten yew

1070] Many mailyeis 3 makis ane Habergeon
1071] Many litles makis a meikle

1072] Nature passes nurture
No man can both blaw and sup at once
Nathing enters in a closs hand
Neid maks vertue

1076] Necessity hes no law

---

1 [cast.] 2 windlen, a bundle of straw or hay. 3 scales.
Neirest the Kirk, farrest fra God.
Neirest the King, neirest the widdie.
New lords, new laws.
Na man may puind \textsuperscript{1} for unkindnesse.
Neirest the heart, neirest the mouth.
Never rade,\textsuperscript{2} never fell.
Need gars naked men run, and sorrow gars websters spin.
Neir is the kirtle, but neirer is the sark.
Nothing is difficile to a well willit man.
Na man makes his awn hap.

Na plie\textsuperscript{3} is best.
Nothing comes sooner to light, then that which is long hid.
Na man can play the fool sa weill as the wise man.
Na pennie, na pardon.

Na man can seek his marrow\textsuperscript{4} in the kirne,\textsuperscript{5} sa weill as hee that hes been in it himself.

\textit{Edition 1641]}

\textit{O}

Ver fast, over louse.
Of anuch men leaves.
Over great familiaritie genders despite.
The man can seek his marrow in the kirne, sa weill as hee that hes been in it himself.

\textit{Edition 1641]}

Ver fast, over louse.
Nearest the kirk farthest from God
Nearest the king nearest the widdie
New lords new lawes

Nearest the heart nearest the mouth
Neid gares naked men rūn
Neir is my coat but nearer is my sark.
Nothing is difficult to a willing mynd.
No man can mak his awin fortune
Na pley is best
Nothing comes sooner to light then that whilkis long hid
No man can pley the fool so weil as ane wyse man
Na penny no pardone
Na man can seek his marrow so weil in the kirne as he that hes bein in it himself

Now I am better to speak to nor I wes
No cattell no cair no pennie no wair
Non is good bot God.
Not the gift but the giver
No man can thryve heir for throng
No man can serv tuo maisters
Nevie nevie nak quhilk hand wil yow tak.
No knave to the learned knave

Now I am better to speak to nor I wes
No cattell no cair no pennie no wair
Non is good bot God.
Not the gift but the giver
No man can thryve heir for throng
No man can serv tuo maisters
Nevie nevie nak quhilk hand wil yow tak.
No knave to the learned knave

Over fast over loose
Of eneugh men leaves
Over grit homlynes engenders despyt

Oft compting maks good freinds

1 In a later hand.
EDITION 1641]

669] Over narrow compting culzies ¹ na kindnesse.
670] Out of sight, out of langer.²
Of twa ills choose the least.
Of other mens lether, men takes large whanges.
Over jollie dow not.
Of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks
Of all war, peace is the finall end.
Of ill debtours men takes eattes,³
Of need make vertue.
Of the earth mon the dyke be biggit.
Of ane ill, comes many.
680] Over hote over cold.
Over heigh, over laich.
682] Over meikle of ane thing, is good for nathing.

MANUSCRIPT]

1103] Over narow compting coolies na kyndnes
Of tuo evels choose the least.
Out of sight out of languor
1106] Of other mens lether men takes long thongües

EDITION 1641]

P

683] PEnnie wise, pound foole.
Priests and doves makes foule houses.
Pride and sweirnesse ⁴ wald have meikle uphald.
686] Put your hand na farder nor your sleive may reeke.

¹ gains. ² desire. ³ oaths. ⁴ [unwillingness.]
669. K He H *670. K, cf. He H 671. He H *672. AR K He H
1107] Over jollie dow not
  Of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks
  Of evel debters men taks oats [sic]

1110] Of neid mak vertü
  Of the earth must the dyk be bigged
  Of ane ill coms many
  Over hot over cold
  Over heich over laich
  Once wood 1 never wise
  Once wood ay the worse
  Once payed never craved
  Over meikle of one thing is good for nothing
  Oxen knawes not ther awin strenth

1120] Once about the old kill 2 or the glaid 3 com againe
  Over holy over curst
  Old moon mist dies never of thrist
  Of al the meat in the world drink goes best downe
  Old springs gives no pryce
  Off al tame creatures a flatterer is the worst
  Old things must not be cast away

1127] Often hath it bein sein that Eva’s old kirtl hath maid
  old Adam a pair of new breeches.

1128] Pennie wyse pund fool.
    Preists & dowes makks foül houses

1130] Pryd & plew irones wold hav mümch uphold.

1131] Put your hand no further nor your sleev may reach.
Poor men are fain of little thing.
Play with your peirs.
Pith is good in all playes.

Put twa half pennies in a purse, and they will draw together
Painters and poets have leave to lie.
Possession is worth an ill chartour.
Pryde will have a fall.
Povertie parts good company, and is an enemie to vertue.
Put not your hand betwixt the rind and the tree.
Poore men they say hes na souls.
Patience perforce.
Provision in season, makes a rich meason.
Put that in the next few,

Peter in, and Paul out.
Plentie is na daintie:
Puddings and paramours wald be hotelie handlit.

Q vide W.

Eason band the man.
Ruse the soord as ye finde it.
Ruse the fair day at evin.

Racklesse youth, makes a goustie age.

1 [house.] 2 Praise. 3 miserable.
Play with your peers
Pith is good in all play
Put two pennies in a purse they will always draw together
Painters and poets have a habit to lie
Possession is worth an evil charter
Pride will have an end.
Poverty pairs good company and is an enemy to vertue
Put not your hand between the rent and the tile

Patience perforce
Provision in season makes a rich season
Put that in the next few
Peter in and Paul out
Plenty is dainty
Peace ends all war
Payment and day come seldom together
Pish your part of it
Pearls should not be cast before swine
Promise under blankets does nothing

Prayer will break hard weeds
Puddings and paramours would be hotly handled
Puddings and hagges is a whores banquet
Put not all your offering in on stock

Q vide W.

Reason band the man but the meikl devil could not bind the wyfe
Ruis the foord as ye find it
Ruisse the fair day at even
DAVID FERGUSSON.

EDITION 1641]

734] Ryme spares na man.
    Reavers should not be rewers.
    Rule youth weil, and eild will rule the sell.
737] Rome was not biggit on the first day.

MANUSCRIPT]

ii57] Rythme spaires no man
    Reavers should not be Rewars
    Rewl yowth weil & eild wil rewl the self
ii60] Rome was not built upon the first day

EDITION 1641]

738] Sike man, sike master.
    Seldome rides, tynes the spurres.
740] Shod in the cradle, hairfoot in the stubble,
    Sike lippes, sike latace. 1
    Sike a man as thou wald be, draw thee to sik companie.
    Soothe bourd is na bourd.
    Seldome lyes the devil dead by the dyke side
    Saying goes good cheap.
    Spit on the stane, it will be wet at the last.
    Soft fire makes sweet malt.
    Sorrows gars websters spin.
    Sturt 2 payes na debt.
750] Sillie bairns are eith to lear.

1 lettuce. 2 anger.

1161] Right compt hinders no payment
     Rew & thyme growes both in one gardein
     Racabimus quoth the laird of Braco quhen he brak ane
             bear caik on his brythel day
     Rost upon runges
     Ryse up in the morning kep a glaik or the leav ryse
     Ryse up in the morning & piss in the riddle warme
             water beines loomes
     Rags in honestie may compair with rags
     Rickard & Robert and al fernyears.
     Riches ar but lent
1170] Ryde fair

1171] Such man such maister.
     Seldom ryders tynes ther spüres
     Schodd in the creddle barfooted in the stible
     Such ane man as thow wold be draw the too such com-
             panie
     Suith bourd is no bourd
     Seldome lyes the divel dead by ane dycksyd
     Saying goes good cheap
     Such lips such lettüs
     Spit on the stone it wil be weit at the last.
1180] Soft fyr mak sweit malt
     Sorrow gars websters spin
1182] Sturt payes no debt
EDITION 1641]

751] Saw thin, and maw thin.
    Soon rype, soon rotten.
    Send and fetch.
    Self deed, self fa.
    Shame shall fall them that shame thinks, to do themselves a good turn.
    Sike father, sike son, &c.
    Seill comes not while sorrow be gone.
    Shees a foule bird that fyles her own nest.
    Speir at Jock thief my marrow, if I be a leal man.

760] Soon gotten, soon spendit.
    Sike priest, sike offering.
    Shee is a sairie mouse that has but ane hole.
    Surfeit slayes mae nor the sword.
    Seik your sauce where you get your ail.
    Sokand 1 seall is best.
    Sike answer as a man gives, sike will he get.
    Small winning makes a heavie purse.
    Shame is past the shedd of your haire.
    Send him to the sea and he will not get water.

770] Saine 2 you weill fra the devill and the Lairds bairns.
    She that takes gifts her self, she sels, and shee that gives, does not ells.
    Shroe 3 the ghast that the house is the war of.
    Shew me the man, and I shall shew you the law.
    Swear by your burnt shines.

775] Sairie be your meil poke, and ay your neive 4 in the nook of it.

---

1 Slackening. Dr Charles Mackay, in his 'Dictionary of Lowland Scotch,' p. 204, gives this proverb as "Sokand seil is best," with Dean Ramsay's explanation, "The plough and happiness is the best lot," and his own amendment, "Labouring happiness, or the happiness that results from labour, is the best." It may be noted, however, that "sok=ploough" does not
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

[MANUSCRIPT]

II83] Saw thinne and maw thinne
Soone ryp soone rotten
Shame fall them who thinks shaime to do themselfs ane
good turne
Seill comes not till sorrow be gone
Sho is a foul burd quho fylis hir awin nest.
Speir at Jock theeff my marrow if I be ane leall man.
Soone gotten soone spended

II90] Such preist such offering
She is but ane sarie mous quho hes but on holl
Surfet slayes mo nor the sword
Seek your sauce wher ye gait your aill
Soking saill is good saill
Such ansuir as a man gives such wil he gait
Shame is past the shed of your hair
Send him to the sea & he wil not gait water
Saine yow weil frome the devil & the lairdes bairnes
Self deid self foe

I200] Smeir the fat sowes ars
Sho taks gifts, hirself sho sels and sho that gives does
not els
Send and fetch
Scho is better nor sho is bonnie
Selling maks 'telling
Set ane stoùt hart to ane stay 5 brae
Schame fall them (quoth the webster hes maist of the
web

I207] Speir 6 & spair no

elsewhere seem to occur as a verb. F 789 has "soking sale." 2 keep.
3 [curse.] 4 [fist.] 5 [steep.] 6 [enquire.]
92  DAVID FERGUSSON.

MANUSCRIPT]

1208] Sup with your heed the horner 1 is dead
     Scheits to the swyne & clewes to the midding
1210] Sit doine upon your knees & giv your debters to the
devill
     Schoot a theef out at the bak dore
     Say weil is good but do weil is better
     Scorne & skaith comes commonly together
     Spit & giv it over
     Sorrow be in that house he is beguyld in
     Sorrow be in that house quhair maydens bears maist
     book
     Shame fall the cuple quod the crow to hir feet
     Scots vessel holds not heap
     Spair sail & tak in a head
1220] Silk schir Reverence
     Sutars super tymes is burges bed tyme
     Spinning wold hav no rainning
     Sighing wil not mak it
     Sick folkes ar ay cankered
     Stand chanlers 2 if ye fall ye wil clatter
     Schame fall Jhon Arnots tyk he was hanged for
     flatterie
     Skitters 3 begins to scoup 4
1228] Scho hes mair nor hir Paternoster

---

1 [maker of horn spoons.]
2 [candlesticks.]
3 [thin excrement.]
4 [caper, skip.]

MS. 1208. K  1212. KH  1213. KH  1216. He
1229] Salt beiff is suir $^1$ geir

1230] Sticking goes not be strenth
Sillie be your meal pock & ay be yow licking
Slow hounds mak a speedy hair
Send a fool to the mercat & a fool coms home againe
Schytting $^2$ & shynning $^3$ is good March weather
Straik doune your breist
Sco is a sarie whore that is not worth the asking
Scarting & byting is Scots men owing
Seldom sick sore sick.
Suppose yow war a talyor of velvet begaried $^4$ with gold.

1240] Somthing or other must be the avers death.
Som say I & som say no but few the truth as yit do know.
Sho may go to the merkat of cotteris sho wil sel for
dane shamlach $^5$ kow (of ane old whore
Soone pakis $^6$ the trie that wil prove a thorne
Sho hes a quiver for every woodmanis arrow
Sinnes ünseen ar half pardoned

1246] So long went the pot to the wel that at last it cam broken home

---


1[Sure.]
2[skye = a sudden shower.]
3[sunshine.]
4[streaked, striped.]
5[A cow that has not calved for two years.]
6[departs.]
He mair haste, the war speid.
Tyde bydes na man.
Twa daughters and a back door, are three stark theeves.
There was never a cake but it had a make.¹

There came never a large fart forth of a Wrans arse.
Toome bagges rattles.
The thing that is fristed,² is not forgiven.
Take part of the pelf, when the pack is a dealing.
Tread on a worme, and she will steir her tail.
They are lightlie herrite ³ that hes their awn.
The Craw thinks her awn bird fairest.
There is little to the rake to get after the bissome.
They buy good cheap that brings nathing hame.
Throw ⁴ the wand while it is green.

The Sowters ⁵ wife is worst shod.
The worst warld that ever was, some man wan.
They will know by a half pennie if a priest wil take offering.
Tyme tryes the truth.
The weeds overgaes the corne.
Take tyme while time is, for time will away.
The piper wants meikle that wants the nether chafts.
They are welcome that brings.
The langer we live, the mae farlies ⁶ we see.
There are many soothe words spoken in bourding.

There is na thief without a resetter.⁷
Tyde byds no man
Tua doghters & ane backdore is thrie stark theeves
Thair was never ane kaik but it had a maik

The mair haist the war speed
Ther cam never a larg fart out of a wranes ars
Toome bags rattles
Tak pairt of the pelf quhen the pack is in dealing
Tramp on a worme & sho wil steir hir taill
Thay ar lightlie herried hes ther awin
The crow thinks hir awin bird whytest
Thair is littil to the raik to gait after the bissome
Thay buy good cheip who brings nothing home
Thay tint never ane cow quho grat for ane needle

Thraw the wand quhill it is greein betuix three & threttein
The sowters wyfe is worst shoed
The worst world that ever was som man wan
Thay wil knaw be ane halfpenny if ane preist wil tak offering
Tyme tryes the treuth
The weids overgangs the corne
Tak tyme quhen tym is for tym wil away
The pyper wants meikl that wants the nether chafts
Thay ar ay welcom that brings
The longer we liv the mo fairlyes we sie

Thair ar many sooth words spoken in bourding

Thair is not a theef without a resett
There is many fair thing full false.
There came never ill of a good advisement.
There is na man sa deaf, as he that will not hear.
There was never a fair word in flyting.
The mouth that lyes, slayes the soul.
Trot mother, trot father, how can the foal amble.
They were never fain that fidget.
Twa wolfs may worrie ane sheep.
Twa fooles in ane house is over many.

The day hes eyne, the night hes ears.
The tree falls not at the first straik.
The mair ye tramp in a turde, it growes the breader.
There is none without a fault.
The devil is a busie bishop in his awn diocie.
There is no friend to a friend in mister.
There is na foole to an auld fool.
Touch a good horse in the back, and he will fling.
There is remeid for all things but stark deid.
There is na medicine for fear.

The weakest goes to the wals.
That which hussies spares, cats eats.
Thow wilt get na mair of the cat but the skin,
There mae madines ¹ nor makine.²
They laugh ay that winnes,
Twa wits is better nor ane.
They put ³ at the cairt that is ay gangand.
Three may keep counsel if twa be away.
They are good willie ⁴ of their horse that hes nane.

The mae the merrier, the fewer the better chear.

¹ [maidens.] ² [Maud or Matilda.] ³ [push.] ⁴ [generous.]
1272] Thair ar many fair things full fals
Thair cam never evel of ane good advisment
Thair is no man so deaff as he that wil not hear
Thair war never ane fair word in flying
Thair is lairds as ther is lyce pairt grit pairt small.
The mouth that lies slayes the saul
Trot father Trot mother how can the foll hamble
Thay war never fain that fidded

1280] Tua wolfs may wirrie on sheep
Tua fools in ane house is overmanie
The day hes eyn the night hes ears
The trie fals not at the first strok
The more ye stramp on a tuird it is the broader
Thair is none without a fault
Thair is no freend to ane freend in mister
Thair is no fool to ane auld fool
Touch ane gauld horse in the back & he wil fling
Thair is no remeid for all things but stark deed

1290] Thair is no remeed for fear
The waikest goes to the walls
Thair is mo maidens nor Makine
Thay laugh quh o wins
Tuo wits ar better nor ane
Thay put at the cairt is ay gangand
Three may keip counsel if tuo be away
Thay ar good willie of thair horse quho hes none

1298] The moe the mirrier the fewer the better cheer
830] The blinde horse is hardiest.¹

There mae wayes to the wood nor ane
There is meikle between word and deed.
They that speirs meikle, wil get wot of part.
The lesse play the better.
The mair cost, the mair honour.
There is nothing more precious nor time.
True love kyths ² in time of need.
There are many fair words in the marriage making, but
few in the to chargood ³ paying.
The higher up, the greater fall.

840] The mother of mischief is na mair nor a midge wing.
Tarrowing bairns were never fat.
There little sap in dry peis hooles.⁴
This bolt came never out of your bag.
Thy tongue is na slander.
Take him up there with his 5 eggs, and 4 of them rotten.
The next time ye daunce, wit whom ye take by the hand.
The goose pan is above the rost.
Thy thumbe is under my belt.
There is a dog in the well.

850] The malt is above the beir.
Touch me not on the sair heel.
The shots overgaes the ald swine.
Take a man by his word, and a cow by her horne.
There meikle hid meat in a goose eye.
They had never an ill day that had a good evening.
There belongs mair to a bed nor foure bair legs.

857] The greatest clarks are not the wisest men.

¹ [rashest.]
² [shows itself.]
³ [property given as dower.]
⁴ pease-pods.
The blind horse is hardiest

Thair is no wayes to the wood nor one
The kings chaff is worth other mens corne
Thair is much betuix word & dead
Thay that speirs meikl gaits wit of pairt
The les pley the better
The more cost the mor honour
Thair is nothing mor precious nor tyme
Trew lov kyths in tyme of need
Thair ar many fair words in the meriag making but few in the tocher good paying
The higher up the gritter fall

The mother of mischeef is no mor nor a midges wing
Ther is littl sop in dry peas hools
That bolt cam never out of your bag
Thy tongue is no slaunder
Tak him up thair with his four egs & fyve of them rotten
The nixt tyme ye dance wit quham ye tak be the hand
The goos pan is abov the rost.
Thy thomb is wnder my belt
Thair is a dog in the well.
The malt is abov the meall.

Touch me not vpon the sore heall
Ther is a holl in the house
Tak up the laird of Aldie now.
The shots overgangs the old swyne
Tak a man be his word & a cow be the horne

That is trew quoth the tod dame quhair sits your hens
Thou should not tell thy foe when thy fit slides
The grace of God is geir enough.
Twa hungrie meltits makes the third a glutton
This warld will not last ay.
The Devil and the Dean begins with a letter, when the
Devil hes the Dean, the kirk will be the better.
They are as wise that speir not.
There is nothing so crouse as a new washen louce.

MANUSCRIPT]

Thuo wil bring in the thrid
They grie lyk tyks & swyne
This is a French convoy
Ther is no corne but chaff nor gold but dross
Tell the veritie & shaime the devill
The Crookes of Forth is worth ane earldom in the north
The beginning of a feast & the end of ane play is best
That quhilk is good for the caill is ill for the petts
That quhilk is good for the head is ill for the craig & shoulders
That is better nor a whin ston vpon the chafts
That is better said nor banned
Thay ar away quho coms never again
Tak welcom for good cheer
That hes nather tap taill nor main

The fashion of Falkirk ye bar the dor with your heals

1 [peats.] 2 [throat.] 3 [principal part.]

858. AR He H 859. H 860. K H 864. AR K He H.
The best daughter is himnest
The bastard ourgangs the bow kaill
Tish tash puddings is no flesh
That quhilk wil not be ane good shoe let it go doun in the heels
The pock savours of the herring
The thing that ye wait of is bursten in the pot
Ther is a heat in our kitching the cook is wirried on a wilk
Thair is a pet in the creill
Thair is nothing betuix a bursten body and a hungered

That nest is flowen
That quhilk coms with the wind goes with the water.
That is no article of my beleef
The cripl leeds the blind
That is bot a shour bink.
This wind wil hav weit
The hen crowes befor the cok.
The cok is crouce in thair awin midding
Tak ane hair of the dog quhilk bait yow yisternight
That is a good cuff whilk brings home tuo

That is ane good bourd quhilk all men laughs at
That is a sore feeld quhair all goes to
The thing that is don is not to do
The thing that we first learn we best can
Thay that wil not pay quhen they hav wil never quhen thay want

The water wil never reave the widdie

1351. K
1355. He H.
1 weeds,  2 cabbage.
2 shower.  3 [bench or outhouse for protection against a shower.]
4 [blow.] 5 rob.
The kirk is greedie
The earth is hungrie
Ther is tymes to gley & tyms to look even
Thay that goes to the well against ther will ather pig must brik or the water spill

Thay war never ful that clew ther womb
The words coms out of my mouth lyk wimblshafts
Tak to yow is no stealing
Thair is caill in cuts womb
Tak the scheaff fra the mear
The blak ox hes not tramped on his foot
Ther was never such a sillie Jockie but he gat als sillie a Jennie
Thay that begins with needl & spoone taks horned neat or they hav done
The nearer the fyr the heater
The nearer the even the moe beggars

Thank gart the cock die
Trie or ye trust
The worst world that ever wes the maltman wil gait his seck again
Thay wil say dar behind the dore
Twyn to yow
That is a reason with a rag about the foot of it
The awfullest beast is a bearded king
The devil rignes in his coble horne that cannot count his awin kinsch

The day wil com that wil pay for all
1389] Tua dogs stryves for on bone in coms the thrid & taks it from them both.

1390] The hen is away that layd the grit egg
Ther is a tym of yeir quhen blind folk sies no weil
Ther is tyms to gley and tyms to look even
Thay ar all mother that meat gives
The mothers end is sueit
The grasse growes grein betuix us
That is as quho wold stryk butter in a Flemings mouth
That is the hairs laughter quhilk sho leught quhair sho hang at the sadle bow
That quhilk wil not wash wil not wring
The thing that wil not be at ane tym wil be at ane other

1400] Thay that gaits forgets
Tak tym in tym for tym wil away
Tak ye no mor cair nor your head war in the fyr
Ther was never a grit glut but after cam a grit gysing
Ther is good steel in my needl ey
Thay say tuo wil not think on thing
Thay that eats the kings geass wil wirrie on the feathers
Ther is meekl hid meat in a goos ey
Thair was never a grit loss without som small vantag
The cow that is loudest in the lou gives not ay most milk

1410] The devil maid soutars shipmen that can nather steir nor row

1411] Trittl tratil trow low

---

1 [merrymaking].

That is Scarrsbrugh warning
Tua knaves needs not a broker
The whyt devil is worse nor the black
Ther was never a slut but sho had a slit
Tuo wyves in on house & tuo catis about ane mouse
wil never agrie
Ther is nothing ill spoken but that is evil taken
Tak up the laird of Aldie and half ane cup pil of gentil-
men with him
The laird of Lunkartie his hows

The rowlling stone gathereth littil mosse
They agrie lyk harp & harrow.

To a Red man read thy Reade.
Of the

cullouris
of men.

that is

The Red is wise, the Broun trusty
The pale envyous, & the black lusty

The nigher kinne the farrer inne—a proverb of the
jelous Italianis quho ar even jealous of ther neirest
friendis with ther wives

EDITION 1641]

Q

Quhair the Deer is slain, some bloud will lye.
Quhen the eye sees it saw not, the heart will
think it thought not.

Quhen wine is in, wit is out.

This (as also No. 1646) may be explained from the taking of Scarborough
by surprise in 1557—see Ray, edn. of 1670, p. 255.

an appliance for
sifting grain.

[kinsmen.]
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

1424] Fair & foolish, litil & loud
Long & lusty, black & proud.

Of the Fat & merry, lean & sad

culloris Pale & pettish, Red & bad

of High cullour (in a woman) choler showes;

women. And shee’s unholsome that lyk sorrell growes.

Nought ar the peeuish, proud, malitious,
But worst of all the Red shrill, jealous.

They hav honey at ther mouth & a razer at ther girdles

The pyper wantis much that wantis the nether chaftis.

They haue ther labor for ther travel

They haue ther toyl for ther heat, ther painis for ther

sueat.

The old goose can spy the gosling wink

1430] The evil that the ey sees not the hairst rues not.
Thow sittes far besyd the cuschion:
Thow art in a wrong box
The grittest spring tyd hath the grittest eb.

An Italian proverb or facetious satyre

1434] The Dukes & Erles of Germany, the Dons of Spain,
the Monseuris of France, the Bischops of Italy,
the Nobility of Hungary, the Lairdis of Scotland
the Knightis of Naples & the Squyr brethren of
England mak a poor company.

1435] When the sheip sleips the woll creips
What wyt had the kid quhat the auld goat did

1437] When Adam delved & Eva span quhair was all thir
gentils then

1422. He  1424 (part). K H  1437. He.

[MANUSCRIPT]
706] Quhen the steed is stowne, steik the stable doore.
Quhen the Tod preaches, beware of the hens.
Quhen the cup is fullest, bear it evinest.
Quhat better is the house that the da rises in the morning.

710] Quhen theeves reckons, leall men comes to their geir.
Quhen I am dead, make me caddell.¹
Quhiles the hawk hes, and whiles he hunger hes.
Quhen the craw flees, her tail follows.
Quhen the play is best, it is best to leave.
Quha may wooe but cost.
Quhiles thou, whiles I, so goes the bailleri.²
Quhen a man is full of lust, his womb is full of leesings.³
Quha may hold that will away.
Quhen taylours are true, there little good to shew.

720] Quhen thy neighbours house is on fire, take tent to thy awn.
Quhen the iron is hot, it is time to strike.
Quhen the bellie is full, the bones wald have rest.
Quhom God will help, na man can hinder.
Quhen all men speaks, na man hears.
Quhen the good man is fra hame, the boardcleaths tint.
Quhair stands your great horse.
Quhair the pig breaks, let the shells ly.
Quhen friends meets, hearts warmes.

729] Quhen the well is full, it will run over.

¹ [disturbance.] ² [office of a bailiff.] ³ [lees of wine.]

Whair ther is gentils ther is offallings
Whairfor serves dirt if it stink not
Whair meikl is spoken pairt must spill
Whair the deir is slain pairt of the blood wil ly
When the ey sies it saw not the heart wil think it
thought not
When wyn is in wit is out.
When the steid is stollen steik the stabl dore
When the tod preiches bewar of the hens
When the cup is fullest bear it eveniest
What better is the house that the da ryses in the
morning
When thees rekons leel men coms to ther geir
When I am dead mak no caddell.
Whyls the haulk hes & whyls he hunger hes
When the crow flies hir taill followes
When the play is best it is best to leave
Wha may ow but cost
Whyls thow whyls I so gois the balyerie.
When ones prik stands his womb is ful of leisings
Wha may hold that wil away
When tailyeors ar trew ther is littil good to shew
When thy neighbours hous is in fyr tak tent to thy
awin
When the Iron is hot it is tym to stryk
When the bellie is full the bones wold hav rest
Whom God wil help no man can hinder
When al men speaks no man hears

    Will hes that weill is.
    Well done, soon done.
    Weapons bodes peace.
    Wiles helps weak folk.
870] Wishers, and walders are poore householders,
    Words are but wind, but dunts are the devil.
    Wark bears witnesse wha weill does.
    Wealth gars wit waver.
    Weill bydes, weill betydes,
    Wrang compt, is na paiment.
    Wrang hears, wrang answer gives.
    With emptie hand, na man should hawkes allure.
    Weill wats the mouse, the cats out of the house.
    We ill 1 worth aw, that gars the plough draw.
880] We hounds slew the hair, quoth the messoun. 2
    Wonder lasts but nine nights in a town,
    Women and bairns keeps counsel of that they know not.
    Wont beguilt the Ladie.
    Waken not sleeping dogs.
    We have a craw to pluck.
    Well good mother daughter.
    Wood in wildernesse, and strength in a fool.
    Wit in a poore mans head, mosse in a mountain availes nothing.
    Weils him and wooes him that hes a bishop in his kin.
890] Use makes perfectnesse.
    Unskild mediciners, and horsemarshels, slayes both man and beast.
892] Whatrax 3 of the feed, when the friendship dow nought.

1 Sc. Good luck to all. Cf. MS. 1480. 2 [lap-dog.] 3 What matters it.
1463] When the goodman is from home the boordcloth is tint
Wher stands your grit horse
Wher the pigs breaks let the shels 1 ly
Wil hes that weil hes
Wrang hes no warrand
Weil don soon done
Weapons bods peace

1470] Wyls helps weak folk
Wishers & wolders ar poor housholders
Words is but wind but dunts is the devill
Wark bears witnes quho so best does
Wealth gars wit waver
Weil byds weil betyds
Wrong compt is no payment
Wrong hearing maks wrong rehearsing
With emptie hand no man should haulks alluir
Weil waits the mous the cat is out of the hous

1480] Weill worth aw it gars the pleugh draw
We hounds slew the hair quoth the messone
Wonder lasts but nyne nights in ane toune
Work for noght maks folk dead sueir
Women & bairnes can keip counsell weil of that
  quhilk they knew not
Wint [sic] beguyled the Lady
Waken not sleeping dogs
We hav ane crow to pluk
Wow good mother doghter
Wood in a wildernes & streth in a fool

1490] Wit in a poor mans head & mess in a montain
  avails nothing

873. AR K He H  875. K He H  *877. K He H  878. K
890. AR H.
1 potsberds.
Wse maks perfytnes
Wnskilful mediciners & horse marshels\(^1\) slayes both
man & beast
Weils him & wo is him that hes a Bishop in his kin
Who wil bell the cat
We may poind for debt but no for wnkyndnes
Whordom & grace can never byd in ane place
Wher ther is elling\(^2\) ther is telling
Websters and tailyeors quhen thay run thay rest
Websters taks bot quhat is broght to them

Weil worth even brings all men home
Word is gon to the worlds end that Peters wyf wil
never mend
What ye leav leiv of the ill caill
Womb yow & giv the hous a good word
Wnsspoken dois no ill
Willie Willie Wastel I am in my castell all the dogs in
the town dar not ding me doune
Willie Buists horse bait
Wedding is wilfulnes & tyning of mens gear
We may not speak a word in mowse\(^3\) but it is taken in
earnest quoth the Tod
Why should not letters Intertein\(^4\) love

Wnkend wnknowin
Wash them quho eats them
Wher gat we yow and the dore steeked

Wow dey, minnie wold mird\(^5\)

---

\(^1\) farrier.  \(^2\) eldning = jealousy.  \(^3\) jest.  \(^4\) maintain.  \(^5\) meddle.
1514] Wealth in the widdowes house quhen thay bar the dor with the tailyeors
Wealth in the widowes house quhen all the vessels ar full
Walla wa ¹ fa the holl of your ars it is ane eventur ² if ever yow sie it
Wallie fa ³ yow if yow fart not quod Fairlie to his fair wyf
What is this my fidle sayses
Wash the pot or ye put in the bear

1520] Who may do as ye may do to mow & gait no bairnes
Weil said quoth Jhon Gellie) if ye want malt ye wil gait again
Weill remembred Marion
We ar all chapmen quod the good wyf quhen sho gat a turd on hir back.
Wo is the womb hes ane wilful maister.
Weill wits the mous the cat is out of the house
Wand a W. weil, sho wil neid no spurs
Who wryts to him that dois not wryt again he is ane fool or need doth him constrain
Who dryves ane asse & leads ane whore hes toyl & sorrow for evermore
Wher the flee drownes sho dies

1530] When beggeris hes baikin then the fyr is best
Verdjuyce & oatmeal good for a parrot
Want breakis amity

1533] What the heart thinketh the tounge claiketh.

¹ alas.  ² chance.  ³ May good fortune befall.
*1494. H  1495. K He H  1496. K.
Ye will break your neck and your fast alike in his house
Ye strive against the stream
Youth never casts for perrill.
Ye seek hot water under cold yce.
Ye drive a snail to Rome.
Ye ride a bootlesse erand.
Ye seek grace at a gracelesse face.

Ye learn your father to get bairns.
Ye may not sit in Rome and strive with the Pope.
Youth and age will never agree.
Ye may puind for debt, but not for unkindnesse.
Ye breid of the cat, ye wald fain eat fish, but yee have na
will to weet your feet,
We [sic] breid of the gouk, ye have not a ryme but ane.
Ye should be a king of your word.
Ye will get war bods 1 or Belten. 2
Ye may drink of the burn, but not byte of the brae.
Ye wald do little for God an the devil were dead.

Ye have a readie mouth for a ripe cherrie.
Ye breed of the millers dog, ye lick your mouth or the
pok be open.

FINIS.

MANUSCRIPT]

Y vel Z

Ye wil break your neck & fast alyk in his house
Ye stryve against the stream

Youth cast for no perrils

1 [offers.] 2 [May r.]
902. K *904. AR H *905. K He H 907. AR K He H
1537] Ye seik hot water vnder cold Ice
Ye dryv a snaill to Rome
Ye ryde ane bootles earand

1540] Ye seek grace at ane gracies face
Youth and eild wil never aggrie
Ye breid of the cat sho wald fain fish eat but hes not
will hir feet to weet
Ye call me scabbitt becaus I wil not call yow scald
Ye hav not that bacchill to swear by
Ye hav good skill of rosted wool *quhen* it stinks it is
enough
Ye wil gait no more of the cat but the skin
Ye trow beggars hes no lyce & then thay ar swarming
full
Ye wold causs tuo paps fecht vpon ane breist bone
Ye breid of netl caill ye wold fain hav meekl service

1550] Ye have gotten ane hunters bait
Ye sit over bein ye breid of few of the lairds tenents
Ye breid of the gowk 1 sho hes not a raim 2 but ane
Ye ar sib 3 to a pudding ye ar com of a blood
Ye ar sib to my auld shoone ye grow ay war and
war
Ye crav your debts but *quhen* ye ar full
Ye breid of ill weather yow com vnsent for
Ye breid of ane galled meir
Ye breid of bourtrie 4 ye ar all heart
Ye look lyk the toyt 5 of o tyred yad 6

1560] Ye scad your lips in other folks kaill

1561] Your kynd heart wil be your dead

---

1 [cuckoo.]
2 [cry.]
3 [kin.]
4 [elder tree.]
5 tottering.

*MS. 1546. He H 1549. He 1556. K 1560. Cf. He H.*
6 old mare.
Ye ar sib to Cramond oysters & puiter vessel ye ar ay clattering
Ye ar snak \(^1\) in the head yow ar good to kep \(^2\) midges & flies
Ye ar a good bairne if your heid wer in a pot & your feet in a pan yow wold be ane good bairne then
Ye ar lyk ane old maden ye look aloft
Ye may deny your creid if yow pleas\(\)s
Ye ar lyk a goos ye ar ay claiking
Ye ar als busie as the beggars in the noontyde
Ye ar sib to tinklars

Ye ar to proud a hen for such a poor cok.
Ye ar all gon to sleiff & that is hingand be a tak
Ye ar al tint for fault of a pig to piss in
Ye ar als gimp \(^3\) as Pet Keins wyfes petticoat it wold not com on till the sark was off
Ye ar no goos I knew be your ey.
Ye wil not sell your hen upon ane rainy day
Ye ar a dog befor all mens dor
Ye tak the teall \(^4\) or it com to yow
Your scorne skai\(\)ths not
Ye ar punded ye hav bein in the peass

Ye ar as vain as the back of my hand
Ye ar as vain as the back of my sark it cannot go to the dore except I be with it
Ye ar als vain as a staff
Ye mak long harvest of littl corne
Ye run long on littill grund

Ye breid of a cleu\(\) ye ar ay rowing

\(\)\(^1\) quick. \(\)\(^2\) [catch.] \(\)\(^3\) tight, short. \(\)\(^4\) [blame.]

MS. 1575. He 1576. H 1583. K.
1586] Ye eat all & dryts all & harles the barrow at your ars
   Ye breid of the tinklars tyk ye hav not wil to be out of good companie
   Ye have eaten a peic of Kittie Fleichours bannok
   Ye ar my Lord Boyds man

1590] Ye look lyk a sow slacking a poynt
   Ye ar lyk a mouss vnder a firlet
   Ye breid of a tyks taill ye grow ay backward
   Ye ar als wanton as a bit of a reap
   Ye ar as wanton as a May calf
   Ye skip lyk a new clippit dinmont ¹
   Ye breid of the four and tuentie order of knaves ye tell your earand or ye gang
   Ye wold hav your ey full or your ers wer full
   Ye ar all bell mettall.
   Ye ar steil to the bak

1600] Ye ar as soupl as a gluif
   Ye trow I am a dyce maker
   Ye hav a ill youk I wold yow war in a freinds hous to look yow
   Ye ar ill beholden to your freinds yow stink abov the earth
   Ye wil not wit quhairof the water savours quhill the well go dry
   Ye’are fool faced I wold ye war daft
   Ye ar fleyed for the day yow saw never
   Ye look lyk the farr end of a fidle

1608] Ye hav over foul feet to com so farr ben

¹ a wedder in the second year.
Ye ar all dirt and I wil be stain about yow
Ye wil to the pape again
Ye wil to the water pitcher again
Ye ar better about the houss nor a blind catt
Ye may spain 1 hir soon sho wil suck tuyse
Ye neid no lyon heraulds to sound your prais
Ye ar nather borne to draw pleuch nor harrow bot to
mow quhair ye may hav your marrow
Ye ar all cunts bennisone
Ye saw never grein cheiss but your eyn reild
Ye ar ane gleyed gunner
Your head hes worn tu ou bouks 2
Ye wil be ane tong to ane trie bell
Ye hav mo craks nor corne staks
Ye wold mak meikl of a tuo pennie loaff if yow had it
Ye ar stout throw kynd ye brak your finger clawing
your arse
Ye ar stout throw kynd your goodschir drew a sword
to a plaintful of pottag
Ye ar ane man of ane gruellie 3 spreit
Ye ar my bird for als blak as ye ar
Ye weir the King of France his armes ye hav ane holl
in ilkane elbow
Ye hav lyen in your skabert as many good sword dois
Ye ar als dowed 4 as ane haddok
as cuddie his leg
Ye ar als stiff as he quho died in the fortnight
as a staff or a trie

---

1 [wean.] 2 [bodies.] 3 disagreeable. 4 rigorous, good.
MS. 1617. K 1628. K.
1633] Ye will follow him long or 5s. fall from him
Ye wil be short whyl fool of fyve shillings
as a key
Ye ar als cold as lead
as yce
Ye ar a lick the widdie or pin
Ye ar as sharp as a shell
1640] Ye ar sharp & wise ye breid of small drink
Ye ar sib to a singet catt ye ar better nor ye ar likly
Ye looked to me as Wat did to the worme
Ye cannot sleip and the cat out of the houss
Ye should not call me to the rost and ding me with the speet
Ye ar ane good goos if yow had a nest
Ye giv me Skairsbrugh warning
Ye ar long & small lyk a cates elbow
Ye wil not trow ane scalled man till ye sie his harnes
Yow ar ane sueit nut the devill crak yow
1650] Yow ar weary the day with bearing tries to the craig
i.e. with drinking.
Yow may pray for the old King
Ye wold wyle the devil from ane blait body
Yow hav bein gotten in the forenight you ar so rash
Yow ar bot ane gowk for al your clergy
Yow stryv against the stream
1656] Ye ar lyk the deer ye feid against the wind.

1 'Ane stark Gallows, a widdy and a pin," in Kennedy's 'Answer to Dunbar,' Ramsay's Evergreen 1724 edn., vol. ii. p. 69.
Against Swearing

In older tyms an ancient custome was
To suear in waigty materis by the masse
But quhen the messe went down (as old men not
They suear then by the Crose of this sam grote
And quhen the Crose was lykwyse held in scorne
Then by ther faith the common oth was sworne
Last having sworne away al faith & troth
Only God damn them is ther Common oth
Thus custom keip decorum by gradation
That losing masse, Crosse, faith, they find damnatio(n.)

A lawer having speared at ane dyvine quhar Lazarus soull
was quhill his body was four dayes in the grave the divyn
desyred him first to ansueir him if Lazarus & his son did
fall into stryf whose should the land be quhen he cam back
to lyf

One having saluted B. Boner once B. of London ¹ thus
Good morrow Bishop quondam he replyed
Adeu knave semper

Of Drinking

But tell me is't not a most foolish trik
to drink to otheris health till thow be sick

Erat quidam Homo

(Ther was a certain man)

Ther was (not certane when a certain preacher
That never learned & yit becam a teacher
Who having read in Latin thus a text

¹ Edmund Bonner, deprived in 1549 and again in 1559.
Of erat quidam homo, much perplext
He seemed the sam with study great to scan
In English thus ther was a certain man
But now (quoth he) good peopl not yow this
He saith ther was, he doth not say ther is
For in thes dayes of ouris it is most certain
Of promise, oath, word, deed no man is certain
Yit by my text yow sie it com to passe
That surly once a certain man ther was
But yit I think in al your Bible no man
Can find this text—ther was a certain woman

To ane certain lord wishing that al cuckoldis wer in Thames
On quikly replyed I hop your L. hav learned to swime

To on deploring the stait of the church & saying the
learned men and pilleris of the church wer decayed on
replyed no

Godis feeld hath narroweris stil his church hath
pillaris mening the material kirk.

Abstinet æger, egens, cupidus, gula, simia, virtus.

A Rul for Play

Lay down your staik at play lay down your passion
A griedy gamster hath stil som mishap
To chaff at play proceedis of foolish fashion
No man throwes stil the dyce in fortunes lap.

Of ane lady that consented to a pedler for som ellis of
lawn & quho after returning & in hir husbandis presence
requyring his money sho gives him back his cloth bot
folds in ane tobacco pyp within it kindled which brunt the
pack.
In Simoniacos

Nec populo infenso, nec ruptis legibus ullis,
Lalus noster habet pingue sacerdotium.
Vnde sed hoc venit, venit tibi personet eccho
Eccho, mi sodes, dicit au emit emit
Ilia ducentem, fractumque senilibus annis
illi patronus vendit avarus equum,
Aurea pro vetulo dat bis centena caballo
Cui nec Turca pater nec patria Italia est
Ergo sacerdotium regina pecunia donat
Magno equitat pretio, praedicat exiguo

Poor Lalus got a benefice of late
Without assent of peopl church or state
Yea but ask Eccho how he did com by it
Com Buy it? No with oths he wil deny it
He nothing gav direct or Indirectly
Fie, Lalus, now yow tell us a direct lie
Did not your patron for ane hundred pound
Sel yow a horse was neyther yong nor sound
No Turk, no Courser Barbary nor Jennit?
Simony? no but I see money in it
Wel if it wer but so the case is clear
The benefic was cheap the horse was dear.

Of a Drunken Smith

I heard that Smug the smith for ale & spyce
Sold al his toolis & yit he keipt his vice

To ane glutton quho sayd he had lost his Stomack ane
replyed
God forbid ane poor man find it it wil vndo him

1 The second "emit" apparently added later to complete pentameter.
SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

1670] IN CORNUTUM

A Thais? No Diana thow didst wed:
For sche hath given to the Acteonis heed

A husband swear by the Candl that he dreamed on told
him his wyf was not honest Scho swear by the Bread on the
Tabl he did lie, then sayd he that I may beleev yow eat the
Bread No saith sho since yow sware first eat first the Candle

Ane gentelman desyring another in the morning to go
seek ane hare answered Let them seek ane that lost ane for
I lost none

Ane fellow for perjury condemned to lose his earis quhen
the jaylour cam to cut them of he could not find them therfor
sayd he wold complain to the lordis the other ansueired
Why so said he? ther order me doth bind
To lose myne ears not yow myn ears to find

On Bragging that in his youth he wold leap schoot etc. so
farr another replyed yow say well yow Wold do so if yow
had bein able but wil not say Could

A poor man coming to ane lawer to be advysed of ane
action having gotten advyse sayd to him that he had no
money but if he pleased he should giv him ane hare quho
saying he wold accept of it the other ansueered then schir
yow must run faster then I for sho did overrun me already.

A Judge asking ane pleasant lawer after the pleyes had
been ended & the day not neeir spent if he wold hav ane
motion the other ansueered yea that ther may be ane call
of clyentis as ther is often of serjantis.
A ferryman being in ane boat with two ladies quhatrof on loved him but he loved the other quho hated him a storme arising a voice cryes that he wold drown on of the ladies to sav his lyf in which perplexity he drowned hir that loved him to win favoor of the other

A SCOTTISH VERSICLE

Rob, Wil and Davy
Keip weil thar paternoster and the ave
And if thow wil the better speid
Gang no furthe then thy Creed
Say weil & do non ill
And keip thyself in safty still

Ane Comparison of ane book with cheeiss
Old Haywood ¹ wrytis & proves in som degrees
That one ² may weil compare ² a book with chees
At every merket some buy cheese to feed on
At every mart som men buy books to read ² on
Al sortis eat ² cheese but how ? ther is the question
The poor for food, the rich for good digestion
All sortis read books but why ? wil yow discerne ?
The fool to laugh the wyser sort to learne
The sight, taste, ² scent ² of cheeiss to som is hateful ²
The sight, tast, scent ² of Books to soms vngratfull
No cheeiss ther was that ever pleased al feederis
No book ther is that ever lykt al readeris.

On dying having thrie sones advysed them to tak thes 3 profession the 1 to be ane lawer becaus he wes sure ther should ever be stryf the 2 to be ane Chanon becaus quhen others shood weep he wold sing the 3 to be ane phisitian becaus the earth did smother al ther faultis

¹ John Heywood, court jester and dramatist, d. 1565. A volume of Proverbs and Epigrams collected by him was published, London, 1576.
To ane old suter ane yong maid answeired Good schir
Yow shal not thatch my new hous with old straw

Ane aged gentilman dying his fool cam to him desyring that he wold remember him in his legacy the other gav him his staffe & bidis keip it till he should meet with ane fool gritter nor himself. Death approching the fool coms to his maister hearing that he called for a preacher to prepar him for God quhairvpon the fool coms & sayes hav maister your staff for I think I shal never met with ane gritter fool then yourself quho hav lived thes 90 yeiris & did never was prepared for God befor

A Spanyard in Flanderis comming to ane poor mans house that had a prety wyf at night coms & lyes down in the sam Bed with them the goodman finding him familiar with his wyf desyred hir to bid him go away why sayes sho yow knaw I hav no Spanish but go for the sexton he hes som Whil he is gon furth about the sexton he dois his busnes & goes away The goodman returning and asking quhen he went away said was I not wyse sayes for if I should been to hasty it might hav cost me my lif

Pyrocles princ of Tyr priklous the princes talyour.¹ a poor musitian.

Why Adam put out of paradic, for knavrie I warrant yow.

1685] OF A PEACABLE WOMAN & A CURST SHROW.

A slow soft tongue betokenis modesty.
But quik and loud signis of inconstancy.
Wordis mor then swordis the inward heart do wound
And glib'd tongued women seldom chast ar found

¹ "Just as a taylor hunts a louse"; see "The Dominie Depos'd," in A Select Collection of Scots Poems, &c. Edin., 1777, p. 42.
Much tongue in wiues is bad in maidis farr worse
A long tongued maid is right the divelis dry nurse
He roaris aloud she scoldeth shrill lyk bell.
Both worse then feindis, both fit to liv in Hell.

OF WOMEN.

Women to men ar equall every way.
And lyk infirmityes in both do stay.
Wee men ar women, women ar wee-men.
What differenc is tuixt us & women then?

ANOTHER

Women ar dainty vesselis fyne, yit tender weak & soft.
The must somtymes be borne withall, since they do bear so oft.
Then let us not thes creaturis sweet, disgrace scorne or disdaine
When trouth to say we cam from them & they from us first came.

OF LOVE.

Love backward spelld (put I for O) is Evil
Adde D befor the same & 'tis the Devil.
A Devil 'tis & mischeiff such doth work.
As never yit did Pagan Jew nor Turk

Non Amor antiquo fuerat, sed amaror, ab æuo
Dicendus cum sit nil nisi amarus AMOR.

Proverbiall Speeches of Sundry Nations
Englished.

Of Italians

Italians say thes things to be requyred in a traveller the ey
of ane Hawk to sie farr, The ears of ane Ass to hear the least
whispering The face of ane Ape to be ready to laught in
soothing The mouth of ane Sow to eat quhatsoever is set befor him, The back of ane Camel to bear burthens patiently The Legg of ane hart to flie from danger A hug great purse topfull of gold becauss he that hes mony is called Lord

In England thay say thay that travel to Rome must hav the back of ane Ass the belly of ane Swyne and a conscienc as broad as the kings highway

Italians advise a travellier that he should meat & dress his hors lik a freind & ryd him lyk ane enemy

Thay say from ane new host & ane old harlot God delive(r) us

Of sleip thay say
  A traveller fyve hours doth crav
  For sleip, a student seven wil hav
  And nyne sleips every idl knave

Women in Italy ar Magpyes at the doore, Saintis in the chur[ch] Goatis in the garden, devilis in the hous Angelis in the street & Syrens at the window.

Curia Rom(a)na ¹ non quærit ovem sine lana  S.P.Q.R. Stul[tus] populus quærit Romam

Roma vale, vidi, satis est vidisse revertar
  Cum leno mæchus scurra cynædus ero

The French men reproach the Normans by this faigned word fla-v[an]-gou-la-men as if thay wold call him flateur, vanteur, goula, larron, menteur that is flatterer, bragger, glutton, theiff, lyer

The Italians say of the French that thay use not to speak as they wil do not to read as thay wryt not to sing as thay talk

¹ The restoration of the “-na” of “Romana,” over which “non” has been written, gives a poor leonine hexameter.
England is said to be a hel for horses a purgatorie for servantis ane paradice for wemen

The Londiners pronounce wo to him that buyes ane hors in Smithfeeld that taks a servant in Paulis Church that marries ane wyf out of Westminster. Londiners & al within the sound of Bowbel ar in reproch called Cockneyes.

The Kentish men of old wer said to hav tails becauss traffick-ing in the Low Cuntries thay never payed ful payment of what thay did ow but stil left som pairt unpayed Lankashyre eg pyes & to be wonne with ane aple with ane reid syd Norfolk wyls, Essex stylys, Kentish myls Northumberland horsmen Lincolinschyr belis & bagpyps Devonshyr whytpotis Teuksberry mustard Banberry cakes Kings Norten cheiss Scheffeld knyves Darby ale.

In France the kings theasaurer & in Ingland Dukes ar fatally misfortunat

Somno Itali, cantu Galli vinoque Alemanni
Scæna Angli, planctu mæsti recreantur Hiberi
Gallus amat celerem pede non remerante puellam
Qua leuis est Certis et satis apta modis
Hispano magis illa placet, cui forma benigna est
Cui Venus ex oculis semper amica nitet
Italus at timidæ lætatur amore puellæ
Dulcia quæ veneris prælia saepe fugit
Virgo sed audaci quæ provocat ore magistrum
illa est Germano dulcis amica viro

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1 See Ray, edn. of 1670, p. 257.
2 Cf. G. Neilson, *Candatus Anglicus*.
3 P. 86.
APPENDIX.

THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY MS. COLLECTION OF SCOTTISH PROVERBS.

A few days ago, while I was looking over the shelves of the Strong Room in the Edinburgh University Library, I came upon a second MS. collection of Scottish proverbs. Its pressmark is Dc. 6. 78, and its provenance is unknown. It measures 8\(\frac{3}{4}\)" \(\times\) 5\(\frac{3}{4}\)", and consists of thirty-eight closely written pages (with a good many erasures) in a difficult hand (or hands), which Mr Angus of the Register House agrees to belong to the first half of the seventeenth century. It is therefore roughly contemporary with Dr Beveridge's MS., which has been printed above.

A considerable number of Fergusson's proverbs appear also in this Edinburgh University MS., which, however, from its contents and more strictly alphabetical arrangement, would seem to be an independent compilation. Neither time nor space will allow of a complete collation or discussion, but the twelve proverbs beginning with the letter R are given as a specimen:

- Raggit men sould gang far fra the wallis
- Rakles youth maks goustlie age.
- Racles hussies maks manie theives/ Rash doun Robin & rest ye
- Raplow\(^2\) werk, raplow payment womam wyfe.\(^3\)
- Reason band the man, but the devill could never bind the
- Reason wald that reasoun sould reule the congregation
- Reivers sould not be rewars.
- Ryde the yow quha will, the lamb salbe myne.
- Ruse the fuird as 3e find it
- Ruse the fair day at evin
- Ryme spares na man

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1 If, as seems doubtful, the reference at p. 9 to "Martini Delrii Soc. Jesu Adagialia Sacra veteris et novi testamenti, luiduni apud Horatium Cardon in 4, 1612, Tomus secundus, ibid. 1613," is in the same hand as the body of the work, we have a superior limit for the MS. But even if there be two scribes in the case, the types of handwriting belong to the same period.

2 Rough, coarse (raploch). This proverb was crowded into the space between "Racles . . ." and "Reason band . . ."

3 "Woman wyfe" belongs to the proverb below.
It will be noted that of these proverbs 8, 10, 11, and 12 are common to all three collections; that 2 occurs in the edition of 1641, but not in the Beveridge MS.; and that 6 agrees with the Beveridge MS. as against the 1641 edition; while the remaining six—half of the total number—are to be found in neither of the collections printed above.

The Edinburgh University MS. differs in other respects from Fergusson’s collection. In a number of cases the Scots proverb is followed by its equivalent in Latin—e.g., at page 1. “A cock is ay crouse on his awin midden” is followed by “Gallus in suo sterquilinio plurimum potest.” Again at the end of letter A (p. 5) there is a batch of scriptural proverbs not arranged in alphabetical order, and distinct in language from the rest of the collection. These twelve proverbs, written in English with occasional lapses into Scots orthography, are taken from the Genevan version of ‘The Proverbs of Solomon.’ They differ only in a few unimportant details of orthography from the text of the first Bible printed in Scotland—the Bassandyne Bible of 1579,—which is, except for the preliminary matter, a mere reprint of the Genevan version.

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Bruce Dickins.

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The Scottish Text Society.

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