

THE
Scotch Proverbs,

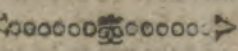
OR
The Wise Sayings

OF THE
OLD PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND.

BY
ALLAN RAMSAY.

VOX POPULI VOX DEI.

That maun be true that a' Men say.



FALKIRK:

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Sir John Sydney
1815.
aphorisms by Miss Porter
with reflexions

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Falmouth Proverbs
18 mo 5 London
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with notes and
Cognate words
to which is
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valuable
of the
Scottish
Proverbs
1721
Bagster
pro London
Hay's
London 1768
Joseph Jay 1705
No sayings - Bagster
London 1702

THE
SCOTS PROVERBS.

- A Begun turn is ha'f ended.
A blate cat makes a proud mouse.
A black hen lays a white egg.
A blyth heart makes a blooming look.
5 Abundance of law breaks nae law.
A braed house never skail'd.
A cock's ay etouse on his ain midding.
A dog winna yowl if ye fell him wi' a bane.
A dog's life, muckle ease muckle hunger.
10 A drink is shorter than a tale.
A dry summer never made a dear peck.
A dumb man wins nae law.
Ae bird in the hand is worth ten flicand.
Ae good turn deserves anither.
15 Ae ha'fo' the warld kenna how the ither ha'f live.
Ae hand winna wash the ither for nought.
Ae hour's cauld will stak out seven years' heat.
Ae swallow makes nae summer.
Ae scabbed sheep will smit the hale hirdfell.
20 A fool may gie a wise man a counsel.
A friend in need is a friend indeed.
Aft counting keeps friends lang together.
Aft times the cautioner pays the debt.
A fou' purse never lates friends.
25 A gi'en horse shou'd na be look'd in the mouth.
A good cow may have an ill ca'f.
A good word is as soon said as an ill.
A good tale is no the war to be twice tald.
A good name is sooner tint than won.
30 A good fellow is a costly name.
A handfou of trade is worth a goupen of gowd.
A hungry man smells meat far.
A hungry louse bites fair.
A hungry man's ay angry.
35 A lais that has mony woovers an weils the warst.
Ale-sellers shou'd na be tale-tellers.

A liar shou'd have a good memory.

A light purse makes a heavy heart.

A' the corn's no shorn by kempers.

40 A's no tint that's in hazard.

A' Stuart's are no sib to the king.

A's well that ends well.

✓ A' things are good untry'd.

A man canna bear a' his kin on his back.

45 A man at five may be a fool at fifteen.

A man may be kind and gie little o' his gear.

A man is well or wae as he thinks himsel sac.

A man has nae mair goods than he gets good of.

A misty morning may be a clear day.

50 A mouthfu' of meat may be a townfu' of shame.

A muffled cat was ne'er a good hunter.

An auld mason makes a good barrow-man.

An auld sack craves muckle clouting.

An auld poek is ay scaling.

55 An auld dog bites sicker.

An ill shearer never gat a good hook.

An ill cow may have a good ca's.

An ill plea shou'd be well pled.

An ill turn is soon done.

60 An ill servant ne'er prov'd a good master.

Ane never tines by doing good.

Anes paid never cray'd.

Anes a whore and ay a whore.

Ane may bind a sick before it be su'.

65 Ane is no sac soon heal'd as hurt.

Ane gets sma' thanks for tining his ain.

Ane will gar a hundred lie.

A new besom sweeps clean.

A nod of an honest man is enough.

70 A pound of care winna pay an cunce of debt.

A ragged colt may prove a good gelding.

A rowing stane gathers nae fog.

As broken a ship has come to land.

As brisk a bottled ale.

75 As lang lives the merry man as the sad.

As ready as the king has an egg in his pouch.

- As fair fight wrens as cranes.
 As tir'd as a tike is of lang kail.
 As the sow fills the draff sowers.
- 80 As the auld cock craws the young cock learns.
 As the fool thinks the bell clinks.
 As ye mak your bed sae ye maun ly down.
 A fillerless man gangs fast thro' the market.
 A sorrowful heart's ay dry.
- 85 At open doors dogs gae benn.
 A tarrowing bairn was never fat.
 A taking hand will never want.
 A tale never tines in the telling.
 A tocherless dame fits lang at hame.
- 90 A toom purse makes a tralling merchant.
 A toom pantry makes a thrifless goodwife.
 A turn well done is soon done.
 A twopenny cat may look at a king.
 A wee bush is better than nae bield.
- 95 A wee mouse can creep under a great corn-stack.
 A wee house has a wide mouth.
 A wee thing fleys cowards.
- A willu' man shou'd be unco wife.
 Auld men are twice bairns.
- 100 Auld sparrows are ill to tame.
 Auld springs gie nae price.
 A yeld sow was never good to grices.

B

- BARE gentry draggan beggars.
 Be a friend to your sell and others will.
- 105 Be lang sick that ye may be soon hale.
 Bear wealth well, poortith will bear it sell.
 Beguets, as the blind man sell'd the dog.
 Beggars shou'd na be choosers.
 Better a bit in the morning than fast a' day.
- 110 Better a de'il than a daw.
 Better a dog fawn on you than bark at you.
 Better a finger aff than ay wagging.
- Better an auld maiden than a young whore.
 Better a toom house than an ill tenant.
- 115 Better auld debts than auld sairs.

- ✓ Better be envied than pitied. —
 ✓ Better be alane than in ill company. —
 Better be idle than ill employed. —
 Better belly burst than good meat spill:
 120 Better buy than borrow.
 Better day the better deed.
 Better find iron than tine filler.
 Better had by a hair than draw with a tether.
 Better hand-loose than in an ill tethering.
 125 Better kiss a knave than cast out wi' him. —
 Better keep well than make well.
 Better lang something than soon naithing.
 ✓ Better leave to my faes than beg frae my friends. —
 Better rue sit than rue flit.
 130 Better sit idle than work for nought.
 Better skith sav'd than mends made.
 Better sune fish than nae fish.
 Better the ill ken'd than the good unken'd.
 Better to had than draw.
 135 Better wait on the cook than the docter.
 Better wear shoon than sheets.
 Bird's of a feather flock together.
 Birth's good, but breeding's better.
 Blind men shou'd na judge of colours.
 140 Blood's thicker than water.
 Burnt bairns the fire dreads.

C

- CADGERS have ay mind of lude saddles.
 Cast a bane in the de'il's teeth.
 ✓ Charity begins at home. —
 145 Come unca'd sits unserv'd.
 Come to my hand like the bow! of a pint flowr.
 Come with the wind and gae wi' the water.
 Confess debt and crave day.
 Corn him well he'll work the better.
 150 Count again is not forbidden.
 Count siller after a' your kin.
 Count like Jews and gae like brethren.
 ✓ Counsel is nae command.
 Credit keeps the crown of the carseway.

- 1155 Credit is better than ill-won gear.
 Crooked carlin, givna the cripple to his wife.
 Cut your cloak according to your clath.

D

- DAMMING and laving is good sure fishing.
 Daughters and dead fish are nae keeping ware.
 160 Dauted bairns dow bear little.
 Day-light will peep thro' a sma' hole.
 Death and marriage make term-day.
 Death defies the doctors.
 De-lays are dangerous.
 165 Do well and dread nae shame.
 Do what you ought and come what will.
 Do the likeliest and hope the best.
 Do as the lasses do, fae no, tho' ye think nae so.
 Double drinks are good for drouth.
 170 Double charges, rive cannons.
 Draff's good enough for swine.
 Drink little that ye may drink lang.
 Dree out the inch when ye have thol'd the span.

E

- EAGLES catch nae flies.
 175 Eat well's drink well's brother.
 Eating and drinking want but a beginning.
 Either live or die with honour.
 E'ening oats are good morning-fother.
 Enough's as good as a feast.
 180 Every ane creeshes the fat sow's arse.
 Every ane kens best where his ain shoe nips him.
 Every craw thinks its ain bird whitest.
 Every dog has his day.
 Every man wears his belt his ain gait.
 185 Every man's tale is good till anither's be tauld.
 Every man has his ain draff pock.
 Every thing has an end, and a pudding has twa.
 Experience teaches fools.

F

- FAINT heart never won a fair lady.
 190 Fair words winna gar the pot play.

- Fancy kills and fancy cures. —
 Far-away fowls have fair feathers.
 Far behind that may na follow.
 Feeble fowk are ay slain of ane anither.
 195 Fidler's dogs and flesh-flies o' me to feasts unca'd.
 Fine feathers make fine birds.
 Fire and water are good servants but ill masters.
 Fleas and a ginning wife are wakerise bsdfellows.
 Fleying a bird is no the gate to grip it.
 200 Fools shou'd na ha'e chapping sticks.
 Fools shou'd na see wark that's ha'f done.
 Fools make feasts, and wise fowk eat them, —
 The wise make jests, and fools repeat them. —
 For foshion's sake, as dogs gang to the market.
 Forbid a fool a thing, and that he will do.
 205 Fore-warn'd ha'f-arm'd.
 Foul water slickens fire.
 Friendship canna stand ay on ae side. —
 Fresh fish and poor friends grow soon ill-sar'd.
 Frost and fa'shood have baith a dirty wa'-gang.

G

- 210 GEAR is easier gain'd than guided.
 Gentle padlocks have lang taes.
 Giff-gaff make good friends.
 Give a dog an ill name and he'll soon be hang'd.
 Give a man luck and sling him into the sea. —
 215 Give o'er while the play's good.
 Give them tow enough and they'll hang themselves.
 Give you an inch you'll take an ell.
 Glasses and lassies are bruckle ware.
 Good ale needs nae wisp.
 220 Good bairns ha'e ay broken brows.
 Good fowks are sca ce, take care of ane.
 Good fishing in drumly waters.
 Good ware makes a quick market.
 Gowd may be dear cost.
 225 Great barkers are nae biters.
 Greedy fowk have lang arms.
 Gut nae fish till ye get them. —

II

- 'Haud a haik in your ain laud.
 Hae gars a deaf man hear.
 230 Hair and hair make the carie's beard bare.
 Hame is hame if it were never sae hamely.
 Hand in use is father of lair.
 Handle the pudding while it is het.
 Hang hunger and drown drouth.
 235 Hap and a halfpenny is gear enough.
 Have ye gear have ye name, tinc heart and a's gear.
 He brings a staff to break his ain head.
 He comes astner wi' the rake than the shool.
 He complains airly that complains of his kail.
 240 He cares nae whafe bairn greet if his laugh.
 He can sae So and think it no.
 He can hide his meat and seek mair.
 He can see an inch before his nose.
 He does na ay ride when he saddles his horse.
 245 He sells twa dogs wi' ae stane.
 He gat his kail in a riven dish.
 He has gotten the boot and the better beast.
 He has mickle prayer but little devotion.
 He has come to good by misguiding.
 250 He has an eye in his neck.
 He has a bee in his bonnet lug.
 He has gotten a bite of his ain bridle.
 He has the best end of the string.
 He has't of kind, he coft it not.
 255 He has feather'd his nest, he may flee when he likes.
 He has cowped the meikle dish into the little.
 He has gotten the whip-hand of him.
 He has licket the butter aff my bread.
 He has a crap for a' corn.
 260 He kens na a B by a bull's foot.
 He kens whilk side his cake is butter'd on.
 He'll no let grass grow at his heels.
 He'll gie you the whistle of your groat.
 He'll tel't to nae mair than he meets.
 265 He'll make an ill runner that canna gang.
 He'll wag at the bush wags.

He'll soon be a beggar that canna say nae.
 He may well swim that has his head hadden up.

He maun be soon up that cheats the tod.

270 He made a moon-light flitting.

He may find faut that canna mend.

He may laugh that wins.

He never lies but when the holla's green.

He rides sicker that never fell.

275 He's a fool that forgets himself.

He's gane to the dog-dray.

He's horn-deaf on that side of the head.

He's auld and cauld and ill to lie beside.

He's wife that's timely wary.

280 He's no fae daft as he let's on.

He's fairest dung that's paid wi' his ain wand.

He's a proud fox that winna scrape his ain hole.

He's a silly chiel that can neither do nor say.

He's well wordy of sorrow that buys it.

285 He's like the singed cat, better than he's likely.

He sleeps as dogs do when wives sift meal.

He that blaws best let him bear the horn.

He that cheats me anes, shame fa' him,

If he cheat me twice, shame fa' me.

He that clatters to himself tawks to a fool.

290 He that canna make sport shou'd mar nae.

He that does ye an ill turn will ne'er forgie you.

He that deals in dirt has ay foul fingers.

He that gets forgets, but he that wants think on.

He that has a good crop may thole some thistles.

295 He that has meikle wad ay hae mair.

He that has but ae eye maun tent that well.

He that has a meikle nose thinks ilk ane speaks o't.

He that's ill to himself will be good to nae body.

He that lends his pot may see he his kail in his loof.

300 He that laughs at his ain joke spills the sport o't.

He that lippens to bodden ploughs his land lies lee.

He that lives upon hope has a flim diet.

He that looks to freets, freets follow him.

He that shaws his purses bribes the thief.

305 He that sleeps with dogs maun rise with fleas.

- He that sits on a stane is twice fain.
 He that seeks motes gets motes.
 He that teaches himsell has a fool for his master.
 He that winna when ne may shanna when he wad.
 310 He that wad eat the kernal maun crack the nut.
 He that winna thole, maun slit mony a hole.
 He was the bee that made the honey.
 He wad gang a mile to slit a fow.
 He winna fend you away with a fair heart.
 315 He wats ua whilk end o' him's uppermost.
 He woo's for cake and pudding.
 He wad fain be forward if he wist how.
 He wad gar you trow that the moon's made
 of green cheese.
 Hens are ay free of berse-corn.
 320 His auld brags will buy a new pan.
 His bark is war nor his bite.
 His heart's in his hose.
 His room's better than his company.
 His tongue's nae slander.
 325 His tongue's no in his pouch.
 Hooly and fair gangs far in a day.
 Hunger is good kitchen.
 Hungry dogs are blyth of basteen puddings.
 Hungry stewards wear many shoon.
- I
- 330 I can scarce believe ye, ye speak sae fair.
 I canna afford ye baith tale and lug.
 I have gi'en a stick to break my ain head.
 I have another tow on my rack.
 I have mair ado than a dish to wash.
 335 I have tane the sheaf frae the mare.
 I have seen mair than I have eaten.
 I ken by my cogue wha milks my cow.
 I'll gie you a meeting as Mungo gae his mither.
 I'll gar his ain gartens ty up his ain hose.
 340 I'll gar him draw his belt to his ribs.
 I'll never dirty the bonnet I'm going to put on.
 I'll never lout sae laigh and lift sae little.
 I like not to make a toil of a pleasure.

I'm o'er auid a cat to draw a firae before.

345 I'm no every man's dog that whistles on me.

I'm no oblig'd to summer and winter it to you.

I might bring a better speaker frae hame than you.

I may come to break an egg in your pouch.

I never lik'd a dry bargain.

350 I never loo'd boat gates, quoth the wife when she
har'd her man o'er the ingle.

I never loo'd meat that craw'd in my crapie.

I think mair of your kindness than it is a' worth.

I wad na fother you for your muck.

I wadna ca' the king my cousin.

355 I wad rather see't than hear tell o't.

I winna make fish of ane and flesh of anither.

I wish you readier meat than a maning hare.

I wish you as muckle good o't as dogs get of grass.

If any spear at ye, ye may say ye wadna.

4 360 If and and spills mony a good charter.

If e'er I find his cart tumbling I se gie' a put.

If he make ever a good pudding I se eat the prick.

If I canna kep geese I ll-kep gairlins.

If I canna do't by mighs I'll do't by sliglit.

365 If I live anither year, I'll ca this year fernyear.

If it can be nae better, it is well it is nae warfe.

If it serve me to wear, it may gain you to look to.

If it winna sell it winna fower.

If straits be good to gie, they'll be good to get.

370 If ye brew well ye'll drink the better.

If ye do wrang make amends.

If ye serve the tod ye maun bear up his tail.

Ill bairns are best heard at hame.

Ill beef never made good broo.

375 Ill comes upon war's back.

Ill counsel will gar a man slick his ain mare.

Ill doers are ay ill dreaders.

Ill getting het water frae 'neath cauld ice.

Ill hearing makes wrang rehearsing.

380 Ill laying up makes mony thieves.

Ill news are aft' o'er true.

Ill payers are ay good cravers.

- Ill workers are ay good to-putters.
 Ill-will never spake well.
- 385 Joke at leisure, ye kenna wha may jybe yoursell.
 Jouk and let the jaw gae o'er.
 It came with the wind, let it gang with the water.
 It gangs in at the ae lug and out at the other.
 It is a good goose that draps ay.
- 390 It is a good game that fills the wame.
 It is a good tongue that says nae ill.
 It is an ill wind that blaws nae body good.
 It is an ill cause that the lawyers think shame of.
 It is a mean mouse that has but ae hole.
- 395 It is a nasty bird that files its ain nest.
 It is a poor kin that has neither whore nor thief in't.
 It is a sign of a hale heart to rift at the rumpel.
 It is a sair battle where a's slain.
 It is a silly flock where the ewe hears the bell.
- 400 It is a sairy hen that canna serape for ae bird.
 It is a tight tree that has neither knap nor gaw.
 It is a' tint that's done to auld fowk and bairns.
 It is but kindly that the poek sa'r of the herring.
 It is better to sup with a cutty than want a spoon.
- 405 It is by the head that the cow gie's milk.
 It is come to mickle, but 'tis no come to that.
 It is good mawt that comes a-will.
 It is good gear that pleases the merchant.
 It is good baking beside meal.
- 410 It is good sleeping in a hale skin.
 It is good to be out of harm's gate.
 It is good to be sib to siller.
 It is good to be good in your time, ye kenna
 how lang it may last.
- 415 It is hard to sit in Rome and strive with the Pope.
 It is hard to please a' parties.
 It is hard baitn to have and want.
 It is ill getting breeks aff a bare arse.
 It is ill bringing but what's no the benn.
 It is kittle shooting at corbies and clergy.
- 420 It is kittle to waken sleeping dogs.
 It is needless to pour water on a dr'ward mouse.

- It is not tint that a friend gets.
 It is not what is she, but what has she.
 It is past jouking when the head s aff.
 425 It is well war'd, that wasters want.
 It is well that our fauts are not written on our face.
 It is the best spake in your wheel.
 It keeps his nose at the grind-stane.
 It will be a feather out of your wing.
 430 It was never for naithing that the gled whistled.

K

- KEEP something for a fair foot.
 Keep your ain fish-guts to your ain sea-maws.
 Keep your tongue within your teeth.
 Keep the feast to the feast-day.
 435 Keep the staff in your ain hand.
 Keep your breath to cool your crowdie.
 Keep your mouth close and your een open.
 Kend fowk's nae company.
 Kings and bears aft worry their keepers.
 440 Kifs a selate-stane, and that winna slaver you.
 Kyth in your ain colours, that fowk may ken ye.

L

- LAITH to bed, and laith to rise.
 Lang fasting hains nae meat.
 Lang look'd-for comes at last.
 445 Lang fasting gathes wind.
 Lang straes are, nae motes.
 Lang or ye, saddle a foal.
 Law's cosily, tak a pint and 'gree.
 Law-makers shou'd na be law-breakers.
 450 Laugh at leisure, ye may greet ere night.
 Lay the head of the sow to the tail of the grice.
 Leave welcome behind ye.
 Leave aff as lang's the play's good.
 Learn you to an use and ye'll ca't custom.
 455 Letna the plough stand to slay a mouse.
 Let bell'd wathers break the snaw.
 Let him tak a spring on his ain fiddle.
 Let him cool in the skin he het in.
 Let his ain wand ding him.

- 460 Let never sorrow come sae near your heart.
 Let the horns gang with the hide.
 Let the morn come and the meat wist.
 Let the kirk stand in the kirk-yard.
 Let them laugh that win.
- 465 Let them care that come behind.
 Lie for him and he'll swear for you.
 Light burdens break nae banes.
- ✓ Like Scotsmen, ay wise behind the hand.
 Like the cur in the crib, he'll neither do nor let do.
- 470 Like's an ill mark.
 Like a fow playing on a trump
 Like the wife, that never cries for the ladle till
 the pot rins o'er.
 Dippen to me but look to yoursel.
 Little kend the less car'd for.
- 475 Little odds between a feast and a fou wame.
 Loud on the loan was ne'er a good milk cow.
 Love's as warm among cotters as courtiers.
- ✓ Love your friend and look to yoursel.

M

- MAIDENS' bairns are ay well bred.
- 480 Mair by luek than good guiding.
 Mair haste the war speed, quoth the tailor to
 the lang thread.
 Mair barely than welcome.
 Make ae wrang step and down ye gae.
 Make a kirk and a mill o't.
- 485 Make the best of an ill bargain.
 Make your hay when the sun shines.
 Malice is ay mindfu.
 May-bees flee not at this time of the year.
 Meat feeds, and claith cleads, but manners make
 the man.
- 490 Meat and mafs hinder nae man.
 Men are not to be met by inches.
 Mickle wad ay hae mair.
 Miickle-mouth'd fowk have ay hap to their meat.
 Mickle may sa' between the eap and the lip.
- 495 Money makes a man free ilka where.

Mony hands make light werk.
Mony masters quoth the paddock to the harrow.
Mony heunds may soon worry ae hare.
Mony excuses pishes the bed.

300 Mony a ane serves a thankless master.
Mony wite their wife for their ain thristless life.
Mony dogs die or ye fa' heir.
Mony a ane's gear has hastened his hinderend.
Mony aunts mony eams, mony kin and few frien's. †
305 Mony good nights is laith away.
Mony ways to kill a dog tho' ye dinna hang him.
Mony cooks never made good kail.
Mony a ane spiers the gate they ken su' well.
Must is a king's word.

510 My tongue is no beneath your belt.
My son's my son ay till he get a wife, my daughter's
my daughter a' the days of her life.
My market's made, ye may lick a whip-shaft.

N

Nae fool to an auld fool.
Nae friend like friend in need.

515 Nae great losf but there's some sma' advantage.
Nae man has a tack of his life.
Nae man can thrive unless his wife let him.
Nae penny nae Pater noster.
Nae sooner up than her head's in the ambry.

320 Nae wonder to see wasters want.
Naething freer than a gift.
Naithing to be done in haste but gripping of flae.
Naething to do but draw in your stool and sit down.
Nane but fools and knaves lay wagers.

525 Nane fae well but he hopes to be better.
Nane can play the fool fae well as a wise man.
Narrow gather'd widely spent.
Near's my fark but nearer my fen.
Neck or naithing, the king lo'es na cripple.

530 Necessity has nae law.
Neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring.
New lords have new law.
Never jaw water on a drown'd mouse.

- Never let on you, but laugh in your ain sleeve.
- 535 Never put a sword in a daft man's hand.
Never put the plough before the owfen.
Never quat certainty for hope.
Never lead your lips in other fowks kail.
- ✓ Never seek a wife till ye ken what to do wi' her.
- 540 Never shaw me the meat bat the man.
Nineteen nay-says of a maiden are ha'f a grant.
Now's now, and yule's in winter.

O

- O'ER mickle of ae thing is good for naithing.
O'er mickle loofe leather about your chafts.
- 545 O'er sicker o'er loofe.
Of a' sorrow a fou sorrow's best.
✓ Of a' meat in the warld drink gaes best down.
Of twa ills chuse the least.
Out of debt out of danger.
- 550 Oppression will make a wise man mad.

P

- PAY him in his ain coin.
Pith's good in a' play.
Play's good while it is play.
Penny wise and pound fool.
- 555 Poor fuk's friends soon misken them.
Possession is eleven points of the law.
Pride and grace dwell never in ae place.
Provision in season makes a bien house.
Put the saddle on the right horse.
- 560 Put on your spurs and be at your speed.

Q

- QUALITY without quantity is little thought of.
Quey caifs are dear veal.
Quick for you'll never be cleanly.
- ✓ Quick at meat quick at wark.
- 565 Quick returns make rich merchants.

R

- ✓ RATHER spilt your joke than tine your friend.
Raw dawds make fat lads.
Raw leather raxes.
Rich fouk have rowth of friends.

- 570 Ride fair and jape nane.
 Right wrangs nae man.
 Rome was not bigged in ae day.
 Roose the fair-day at e'en.
 Robin that herds on the height, can be as blyth
 as Sir Robert the Knight.
- 575 Rob Peter to pay Paul.
 Rot him away with butter and eggs.
 Royet lads make sober men.
 Rue and time grow baith in ae garden.
 Rule youth well, for eild will rule it sell.
- S
- 580 SAIR cravers are ay ill payers.
 Say well and do well end with a letter.
 Say well's good, but do well is better.
 Say still no and ye'll never be married.
 Scant of cheeks makes a lang nose.
 585 Scart the cogue wad sup mair.
 Seein'g's believing a' the warid over.
 Soothe stanes in butter the broo will be good.
 Send you to the sea ye'll no get saut water.
 Serve yoursell till your bairns come to age.
- 590 Set that down on the back side of your count book.
 Set a knave to grip a knave.
 Set a stout heart to a stay brae.
 Sharp stomachs make short graces.
 Shawl waters make maist din.
- 595 She is a wise wife that wats her ain wierd.
 She looks as if butter would not melt in her mou.
 She hauds her head like a hen drinking water.
 She's not to be made a song of.
 She's better than she's bonny.
- 600 Slaw at meat slaw at wark.
 Smooth waters run deep.
 Sma fish are better than nae fish.
 Sorrow and ill weather come unsent for.
 Some hate a hantlasants, ye're only a ne'er-dowett.
- 605 Speak good of pipers, your father was a sidler.
 Spilt ale is war than water.
 Stay and drink of your ain browst.

Strike the iron as long as it is hot.

Stuffing huds out storms.

610 Sudden friendship suae repentance.

Sup'd out wort was never good ale.

Swear by your burnt shins.

Sweer to bed and sweer up in the morning.

T

TAKE it a' and pay the merchant.

615 Take the bit and the buffet wi'r.

Take a pint and 'gree, the law's costly.

Take your ain will and then ye'll no die of the pet.

Take your venture as mony a good ship has done.

Take your thanks to feed your cat.

620 Take part of the pelf when the pack's a dealing.

Take a man by his word and a cow by her horn.

Take a hair of the dog that bit you.

Take me not up before I fa'.

Tell nae tales out of the school.

625 That's a tale of twa drinks.

That's but ae doctor's opinion.

That's for the father but no for the son.

That's for that, as butter's for fish.

That's my tale where's your's.

630 That's the piece a step hain never gat.

The auld aver may die waiting for a new graf.

The back and the belly huds every ane busy.

The better day the better deed.

The book of Maybees is very braid.

635 The banes of a great estate is worth the piking.

The cause is good, and the word sa' on.

The cure may be warse than the disease.

The cow that's first up gets the first of the dew.

The death of the first wife made sic a hole in his
heart that a' the lave slip easily through.

640 The first suf of a fat haggise is the baldest.

The farther in the deeper.

The feathers bear away the flesh.

The grey mare may be the best horse.

The greatest clerks are not the wisest men.

645 The happy man canna be herried.

- The higher up the greater fa'.
 The king's errand may come in the cadger's gate.
 ✓ The langer we live we see the mair fairlies.
 The lazy man's the beggar's brother.
 650 The lucky pennyworth sells soonest.
 The langest day will have an end.
 The laird may be laiad and need his hind's help.
 The mair ye greet ye'll pish the less.
 The mair the merrier, the fewer the better cheer.
 655 The mair cost the mair honour.
 The mawt is aboon the meal wi' him.
 The mair noble the mair humble.
 The master's eye makes the horse fat.
 The mair mischief the better sport.
 660 The pains o'ergaugs the profit.
 The poor man's ay put to the warft.
 The poor man pays for a'.
 ✓ The poor man's shilling is but a penny.
 The strongest horse louns the dike.
 665 The scholar may war the master.
 The still sow eats up a' the draff.
 The smith has ay a spark in his hawse.
 The simple man's the beggar's brother.
 The thing that's doxe is no to do.
 670 The tod keeps ay his ain hole clean.
 The tod's whelps are ill to tame.
 The worth of a thing is best kend by the want o't.
 ✓ The world is bound to no man.
 The unlucky fish gets ay the unlucky bait.
 675 There is mony a true tale tald in a jest.
 There is a measure in a' things.
 There is nane sae blind as them that wienna see.
 ✓ There is naething ill said that's no ill tane.
 There was never a fair word in flyting.
 680 There was a wise wife that kept her supper for
 her breakfast and she was dead or day.
 There was never enough where naething was left.
 There is skill in gruel-making.
 ✓ There is a time to gley and a time to look even.
 There is a great differ amang market-days.

- 685 There is ay life for a living man.
 There is an act in the laird of Grant's court
 that no aboon eleven speak at anes.
 There are mac ways to the wood than ane.
 There are mac married than good house-hadders.
 There never came ill after goed advisement.
- 690 There grows nae grass at the cross.
 There is life in a mussel as lang as she cheeps.
 There is little fir the rake after the shool.
 There is little to sew when tailers are true.
 They are ay good that are far away.
- 695 They are not a' saints that get holy water.
 They complain early that complain of their kail.
 They lo'e me for little that hate me for nought.
 They that give you hinder you to buy.
 They that burn you for a witch lo'e a' their coals.
- 700 They that drink laigest live laigest.
 They that ly down for love shou'd rise for hunger.
 They were scant of bairns that brought you up.
 Thole well is good for burning.
 Till ithor tinklers, ill may ye 'gree.
- 705 Time tint is ne'er to be found.
 Three can keep a secret if twa be away.
 Time and tide will terry for nae man.
 Tine heart and a' gane.
 Touch a gaw'd horse on the back and he'll ring.
- 710 True blue will never stain.
 Try your friend or you need him.
 Twa hungry meals make the third a glutton.
 Twa fools in a house are a couple o'er mony.
 Twa words maun gang to that bargain.
- 715 Twa wits are better than ane.

W

- WELL, quoth Willy when his wife dang him,
 Weanes maun creep ere they gang. (gae dry.
 We'll never ken the worth of water till the well
 We are ay to lear as lang as we live.
- 720 We'll bark oursel's ere we buy dogs so dear.
 We canna baith sup and blaw.
 We are bound to be honest but no to be rich.

Wha invited you to the roast?

Wha can hand what will away?

725 Wha dare bell the cat?

Wha can help misluck.

Wha comes astener and brings less.

What ye win at that ye may lick aff a het girdle.

What winna do by might do by slicht.

730 What's my case the day may be yours the morn.

What's war than ill luck?

What need a rich man be a thief?

What canna be cured maun be endured.

When ae door steeks anither opens.

735 When a' men speak nae man hears.

When drink's in wit's out.

When friends meet hearts warm.

When my head's down my house is thecked.

When the tod preaches take care of the lambs.

740 When the wume's fou the banes wad be at rest.

When poverty comes in at the door, friendship
flies out at the winnock.

When a' frets sail, fire's good for the fearcy.

When a ewe's drown'd she's dead.

When you are serv'd a' the geese are water'd.

745 When ye're gawn and coming the gates no toom.

When ye are well had yoursell sae.

When the well's fou it will rin o'er.

When the steed's stown steek the stable door.

Where the buck's bound there he maun bleet.

750 Where the pig's broken let the sherds ly.

Where drums beat laws are dumb.

Wie things fley cowards.

Wilso waste makes waesfu want.

Wiies help weak fowk.

755 Will a fool's feather in my cap gar my pot play.

Will and wit strive wi' ye.

Winter thunder bodes summer hunger.

Wink at wie fauts your ain are muckle.

Wise men may be whilly'd with wiies.

760 Wit bought makes fowk wise.

Wit bought is better than for naught.

Under water dearth, under snaw bread.
 Work for nought makes fowk dead swear.
 Woo-fellers ken ay woo-buyers.

- 765 Use makes hard wark easy.
 Wrang has nae warrant.
 Wrang count is nae payment.

Y

- Ye are like the cow's tail, ye grow backward.
 Ye are like the foul weather, ye come unsent for.
 770 Ye are like the chapman, ye're ay to handsell.
 Ye are like few of the laird's tennants, o'er het.
 Ye are like good mawt, ye're lang a coming.
 Ye crack crowfly wi' your bonnet on.
 Ye cut before the point.
 775 Ye come a day after the fair.
 Ye cut lang whang out of other fowk's leather.
 Ye come astener with the rake than the shool.
 Ye canna make a silk purse of a sow's lug.
 Ye canna see the wood for trees.
 780 Ye can never fare well but ye cry roast meat.
 Ye came a clipping time.
 Ye canna preach out of your ain poupit.
 Ye come to the gait's house to thig woo.
 Ye canna do but ye o'erdo.
 785 Ye drive the plow before the owfen.
 Ye dinna ken where a blessing may light.
 Ye drew nae sae well when my mare was in the mire.
 Ye fand it where the highland-man fand the tang.
 Ye glowr'd at the moon and fell on the midding.
 790 Ye glowr like a wild cat out of a whin-bush.
 Ye gae far about seeking the nearest.
 Ye have run lang on little ground.
 Ye have a ready mouth for a ripe cherry.
 Ye have o'er foul feet to come sae far benn.
 795 Ye have gotten a revel'd hesp o't.
 Ye have a crap for a' corn.
 Ye have tane the measure of his foot.
 Ye have o'er muckle loose leather about your chasts.
 Ye have tint your ain stomach and found a tike's.
 800 Ye have put a toom spoon in my mouth.

Ye have fasted lang and worried on a midge.

Ye have naething to do but sock and wag your tail.

Ye have tint the tongue of the trump.

Ye have staid lang and brought little wi' ye.

805 Ye have tane't upon you as the wife did the dancing.

Ye have the wrang sow by the lug.

Ye ken what drinkers dree.

Ye kenna wha may cool your kail yet.

Ye live at the lug of the law.

810 Ye'll neither dance nor had the candle.

Ye'll get nae mair of the cat but the skin.

Ye'll no sell your hen in a rainy day.

Ye'll ne'er cast saut on his tail.

Ye'll no herry your sell with your ain hands.

815 Ye look liker a thief than a bishop.

Ye'll let little gae by you unless it be the swallow.

Ye may gang farther and fare warse.

Ye may get war bodes or Beltan.

Ye may be heard where ye're no seen.

820 Ye may dight your neb and fly up.

Ye maun take the will for the deed.

Ye mete my pease by your ain peck.

Ye'll never die on your ain affize.

Ye'll drink before me.

825 Ye'll find him where ye left him.

Ye may take the head for the washing.

Ye'll get the cat with the twa tails.

Ye'll beguile nane but them that lippens to you.

Ye'll mend when ye grow better.

830 Ye'll never be sae auld with sae mickle honesty.

Ye never saw green cheese but your een reel'd.

Ye never cost the cat's saut yet.

Ye're as daft as ye're days auld.

Ye're a good secker but an ill finder.

835 Ye're nae chicken for a' your cheeping.

Ye're like Macky's mare, ye brake fairly aff.

Ye're good enough but ye're no bra new.

Ye're no sae poor as ye peep.

Ye're well awa' if ye bide, and we're well quat.

840 Ye're of sae mony minds ye'll never be married.

- Ye're never pleas'd fou nor fasting.
 Ye're unco-good and ye'll grow fair.
 Ye're fair fash'd hadding naithing together.
 Ye're no fed with deaf nuts.
 843 Ye're busy seeking the thing that's no tint.
 Ye're like the liens ye rin ay to the heap.
 Ye're fear'd for the day ye never saw.
 Ye're best when ye're sleeping.
 Ye're a sweet nut if you were well cracked.
 850 Ye're no light where ye lean a'.
 Ye're Davy do a' thing, and good at naething.
 Ye're come aff the house of Harletil'lim.
 Ye're het yet and your belt's hale.
 Ye' soon weary of well-doing.
 855 Ye'se get your brose out of the lee side of the pot.
 Ye're ay right till anither tell his tale.
 Ye're no sure of that yet.
 Ye're ay wise behind time.
 Ye sick but no fair handled.
 860 Ye shape shoon by your ain thachled feet.
 Your tongue's nae ilander.
 Your tongue runs ay before your wit.
 Ye wad make mickle of me if I were yours.
 Ye was never born at that time of the year.
 865 Young fowk may die, but auld fowk maun die.
 Young ducks may be auld geese.
 Your meal's a' deagh.
 Your geese are a' swinn.
 Your head will never fill your father's bonnet.
 870 Your thrift's as good as the profit of a yield hen.
 Your wame thinks your wyson's cutted.
 Your purse was fleeked when that was paid for.
 Your gear will ne'er o'er gang you.
 Your manie's milk is no out of your nose yet.
 875 Your teeth's langer than your beard.
 You may bark, but you darena bite.
 You'll drink before me, I was gaun to say that.