

A  
COLLECTION

OF

SCOTS PROVERBS,

CONSISTING OF THE

*Wise Sayings and Observations*

OF THE

OLD PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND.

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BY ALLAN RAMSAY,

THE SCOTS POET.

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VOX POPULI VOX DEI.

*That maun be true that a' Men say.*



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# Scots Proverbs.

A

- A Begun turn is half-ended  
 A A blate cat makes a proud mouse  
 A black hen lays a white egg  
 A blythe heart makes a blooming look  
 5 Abundance of law breaks nae law  
 A hungry stomach is aye craving  
 A cock's eye crouse on his ain midding  
 A dog winna yowl if ye fell him wi' a bane  
 A dog's life, meikle ease meikle hunger  
 10 A drink is shorter than a tale  
 A dry simmer ne'er made a dear peck  
 A dumb man wins nae law  
 A bird in the hand is worth ten flicin'  
 Ae good turn deserves another  
 15 Ae ha'f o' the world kenna how the other ha'f  
 Ae hand winna wash the ither for nought  
 Ae hour's cauld will suck out seven year's heat  
 Ae swallow makes nae simmer  
 Ae scabbed sheep will smit the hale hirsfel  
 20 A fool may gie a wise man a counsel  
 A friend in need is a friend indeed  
 Aft counting keeps friends lang the gither  
 Aft times the cautioner pays the debt  
 A fou purse never lakes friends  
 25 A gi'en horse shou'd na be look'd in the mouth  
 A good cow may hae 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 handfu' of trade is worth a gowpen of gowd  
 A hungry man smells at far  
 A hungry louse bites fair  
 A hungry man's eye angry  
 35 A las that has mony woovers aft wails the warft  
 Als sellers shou'd na be tale tellers  
 A liar shou'd hae a good memory  
 A light purse makes a heavy heart  
 A' the coan's na shorn by hempers

- 40 A's no tint that's in hazard  
 A' Stewards 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's well or wae, as he thinks himsel' sae,  
 A man has nae mair goods than he gets good of  
 A misty morn'ing may be a clear day
- 50 A mouthfu' of meat may be a townsn' of shame  
 A muffed cat was ne'er a good hunter  
 An auld mason makes a good barrow-man  
 An auld sack craves muckle clouting  
 An auld pock is aye skelling
- 55 An old dog bites sicker  
 An ill shearer never gat a good hook  
 An ill cow may have a good ca'f  
 An ill plea should 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 erav'd  
 Anes a whore and aye a whore  
 Ane may bind a sack before it be fu'
- 65 Ane is no sae soon heal'd as hurt  
 Ane gets sma' thanks for tining his ain  
 Ane will gar a thousand lie  
 A new besom sweeps clean  
 A nod of an honest man is enough
- 70 A pound of care winna pay an ounce of debt  
 A ragged colt may prove a good gelding  
 A rowing flane gathers nae fog  
 As broken a ship has come to land  
 As brisk as 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 tired as a tike is of lang kail  
 As the sow fills the draff sours
- 80 As the auld cock craws the young one learns  
 As the fool thinks the bell chinks



- 4
- As ye mak your bed sae ye maun ly down  
 A fillerless man gangs fast through the markit  
 A sorrowfu' heart's aye dry  
 85 At open doors dogs gae ben  
 A tarrowing bairn's was never fat  
 A taking hand will never want  
 A tale never tines in the telling  
 A tocherless dame sits lang at hame  
 90 A toom purse makes a prating merchant  
 A toom pantry makes a thriftless gudewife  
 A turn well done is soon done  
 A twape ny cat may look at the 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 wilful man should be uaco wife  
 Auld men are twice bairns  
 100 Auld sparrows are ill to tame  
 Auld springs gie wee price  
 A yald sow was never good to griece

B

- B** Are gentry braggand beggars  
 Be a friend to yoursel and o'ers will  
 105 Be lang sick that ye may be soon hale  
 Bear wealth well: poortith will bear itsel  
 Be guess as the blind man feil'd the dog  
 Beggars shoudna be choosers  
 Better a bit in the morning than fast a' day  
 110 Better a deil than a daw  
 Better a dog fawn on you than bark at you  
 Better a singer aff than aye wagging  
 Better an auld maiden than a young whore  
 Better a toom house than an ill tenant  
 115 Better auld debts than auld fairs  
 Better to be envied than pitied  
 Better to be alane than in ill company  
 Better be idle than ill employed  
 Better belly burst than good meat spill  
 120 Better buy than barrow  
 Better day the better de d  
 Better find iron than tin filler

- Better hand by a hair than draw with a tether
- Better hand loose than in an ill tethering
- 25 Better kiss a knave than cast out wi' him
- Better keep well than make well
- Better lang something than soon naething
- Better leave to my faes, than beg frae my friends
- Better rue sit than rue sit
- 30 Better sit idle than work for nought
- Better skaith sauid than mends made
- Better sma' fish than nae fish
- Better the ill ken'd than the good unken'd
- Better to haud than draw
- 5 Better unborn than untaught
- Better wait on the cook than the doctor
- Better wear shoon than sheets
- Birds of ae feather flock together
- Birth's good but breeding's better
- 0 Blind men should na judge of colours
- Blood's thicker than water
- Burnt bairns the fire dreads

C

- C**Adgers have a mind of lade saddles
- Cast a bane in a deil's teeth
- 5 Charity begins at hame
- Come usca'd fits unserved
- Comes to my hand like the bowl of a pint stoup
- Come wi' the wind and gae wi' the water
- Confess debt and crave days
- 0 Corn him well he'll work the better
- Count again is not forbidde
- Count siller after a your kin
- Count like Jews and gree like brethren
- Counsel is nae command
- 5 Credit keeps the crown of the causy
- Credit is better than ill luck
- Crooked carlin, quoth the carle to his wife
- Cur your cloak according to the claith

D

- D**Aming and laving is good sure fishing
- Daughters and dead fish are nae keeping ware
- Dawted bairns do bear little

- Day light will peep through a sma' hole  
 Death and marriage make term-day  
 Death defies the doctors.
- 165 Delays are dangerous  
 Do well and dread nae shame  
 Do well and have well  
 Do what you ought and come what will,  
 Do the likeliest and hope the best
- 170 Do as the lasses do, say no, and take it  
 Double drinks are good for drouth  
 Double charges rive cannons  
 Draff's good enough for swine  
 Drink little that ye may drink lang
- 175 Dree out the inch when ye have thold the spao

## E

- E** Agles catch nae flies  
 Eat well's drink well's brother  
 Eating and drinking wants but a beginnaing  
 Either live or die with honour
- 180 Evening oats are good morning sother  
 Enough's as good as a feast  
 Every ane creeches the fat fox's arse  
 Every one kens best where his ain shoe nips him  
 Every crow thinks its ain bird whitest
- 185 Every dog has his day  
 Every man weats his belt his ain gait  
 Every man's tal e is good till anither's be tauld  
 Every man has his ain draff pock  
 Every thing has an end, and a pudding has two
- 190 Experience teaches fools

## F

- F** Aint heart never won a fair lady  
 Fair heights make fools fain  
 Fair words winna gar the pot play  
 Fair hair may have foul roots
- 195 Fancy kills and cures  
 Fancy flees before the wind  
 Far away fowls have fair feathers  
 Far behind that may na follow  
 Feckless fouk are aye fain of ane anither
- 200 Fiddlers dogs, and flesh flies, come to feasts  
 Fine feathers make fine birds



Wine and water are good servants but bad masters  
 Flaes and a ginning wife are wakerife bed fellows  
 Pleying a bird is not the gate to grip it  
 Fools shou'd na hae chapping sticks  
 Fools make feasts and wise men eat them,  
 The wise make jests, and fools repeat them  
 In fashion's sake as dogs gang to the market  
 Forbid a fool a thing and that he will do  
 Fore-warn'd ha'f armed  
 Foul water stockens fire  
 Friendship canna stand aye on ae side  
 Fresh fish and poor friends grow soon ill far'd  
 Frost and fashood have baith a dirty wa'gang

## G

**G**ear is easier gain'd than guided  
 Gentle paddocks have long taes  
 Giff gaff makes good friends  
 Give a dog an ill name and he'll soon be hang'd  
 Give a man luck and fling him in the sea  
 Give o'er when the play's good  
 Give them tow enough and they'll hang themsels  
 Give you an inch you'll take an ell  
 Glasses and lasses are bruckle ware  
 Good ale needs nae wisp  
 Good barns get broken brows  
 Good fouk are scarce, take care of me  
 Good watch prevents harm  
 Good ware make a quick market  
 Gowd may be dear cost  
 Great barkers are nae biters  
 Greedy fouk have lang arms  
 Gut nae sh till ye get them

## H

**H**and a hank in your ain hand  
 Hae gars a deaf man hear  
 Hair and hair make the earle's beard bare  
 Hame is hame if it were never sae hamely  
 Hand in use is faster of lair  
 Handle the pudding while it is het  
 Hang hunger and drown drouth  
 Had and a halfpenny is get enough  
 Have ye gear have ye nane, tinc heart and a' gane

- He brings a staff to break his ain head  
 He comes aftner with the rake than the shool  
 245 He complains early that complains of his kail  
 He cares na whase bairn greet if his laugh  
 He can say Jo and think it no  
 He can hide his meat and seek mair  
 He can see an ineh before his nose  
 250 He does na aye ride when he saddles his horse  
 He fells twa dogs wi ae flane  
 He gat his kail in a riven dish  
 He has gotten the boot and the better beast  
 He has mickle prayer but little devotion  
 255 He has come to good by misguiding  
 He has an eye in his neck  
 He has a bee in his bonnet lug  
 He has gotten a bite o' his ain bridle  
 He has the best end of the string  
 260 He has't of kind, he cost it not  
 He has feather'd his nest, he may flee when he lik  
 He has cowped the mickle dish into the little  
 He has gotten the whip hand of him  
 He has licket the butter aff my bread  
 265 He has a crap for a' corn  
 He kens na a B by a bull's foot  
 He kens whilk side his cake is btuered on  
 He ll no let grass grow at his heels  
 He'll gie you the whistle of your groat  
 270 He'll tell't to nae mair than he meets  
 He'll make an il runner that canna gang  
 He'll wag as the bush wags  
 He ll soon be a beggar that canna say nae  
 He may well swim that has his head hadden up  
 275 He maun be soon up that cheats the tod  
 He made a moon-light flitting  
 He may find faut that canna mend  
 He may laugh that winna  
 He never lies but when the Holin's green  
 280 He rides sicker that never fa's  
 He's a fool that forgets himsel  
 He's gane to the dog-drave  
 He's born deaf on that side of the head  
 He'sauld, and cauld, and ill to lie beside



- 5 He's wife that's timely wary  
 He's as welcome as water in a riven ship  
 He's an Aberdeen man, takes his word again  
 He's no fae daft as he let's on  
 He's fairest dung that's paid with this ain wand  
 5 He's a proud fox that winna scrape his ain hole  
 He's a hawk of a right nest  
 He's a silly chief that can neither do nor say  
 He's the gear that winna traik  
 He's well wordy sorrow that buys it  
 5 He's like the singed cat, better than he's likely  
 He sleeps as dogs do when wives sist meal  
 He that blaws best let him beat the horn  
 He that cheats me apes, shame fa' him;  
 If he cheat me twice, shame fa' me  
 He that clatters to himself talks to a fool  
 5 He that canna mak sport shou'd mat nane  
 He that does you an ill turn will ne'er forgie you  
 He that deals in dirt has aye foul fingers  
 He that gets forgets, but he that wants thinks on't  
 He that has a good crop may thole some thistles  
 5 He that has meikle wad aye hae mair  
 He that has but a wee maun tent that well  
 He that nas a muckle nose thinks ilk ane speaks o't  
 He that's ill to himself will be good to naeboddy  
 He that lends his pot may leethe his kail in his loof  
 5 He laughs at his ain sport spills the sport o't  
 He that lippens to bodden ploughs, his land lies lee  
 He that lives upon hope has a slim diet  
 He that looks to meet, frets follow him  
 He that shaws his purse bribes the thief  
 He that sleeps with dogs maun tise with flass  
 He that fits on a stane is twice tain  
 He that seeks motes get motes  
 He that speers all opinions comes ill speed on  
 He that teaches himself has a fook for his master  
 He that winns when he may, shadna when he wad  
 He that wad eat the kernal maun crack the nut  
 He that winna thole maun sit mony a hole  
 He was the bee that made the honey  
 He wad gang a mile to flit a sowan  
 He winna send you away with a fair heart  
 He wat's nae whilk end o' him's uppermost

He woos me for cake and pudding  
 He wad sail be forward, if he witt how  
 He wad gar you trew that the moon is made of green  
 cheeie

330 Hens are aye free of horse corn  
 His auld brags will buy a new pan  
 His bark is waur than his bite  
 His heart's in his hose  
 His room's better than his company

335 His tongue's nae slander  
 His tongue's no in his pouch  
 Hooly and fair gangs far in a day  
 Hunger is good kitchen  
 Hungry dogs are blythe of bursten puddings

340 Hungry stewards wear mony shoon

I Bake nae bread by your shins  
 I can scarce believe you, ye speak sae fair  
 I canna aff to you both tale and loigs  
 I have gien a stick to break my ain head

345 I have another tow on my rock  
 I have mair ado than a fish to wash  
 I have tane the sheat frae the mare  
 I have bath my meat and my menses  
 I have seen mair than I have eaten

350 I ken by my cog wha milks my cow  
 I'll gie you a meeting as Mungo gie his mither  
 I'll gar his ain garters tye up his ain hose  
 I'll gar him draw his belt to his ribs  
 I'll never dirty the bonnet I'm going to put on

355 I'll never loue sae laigh and lie sae shille  
 I like not to make a coil of pleasure  
 I'm o'er auld a cat to draw a line before  
 I'm no every man a dog that whistles on me  
 I'm no obliged to summer and winter it to you

360 In flight bring a better spoken frae than you  
 It may come to break an egg in your pouch  
 I never lik'd a dry bargain  
 I never lo'd about gates, quoth the wifes, when  
 har'd her man o'er the ingle  
 I never lo'd meat that craw'd in my craigie  
 I think mair of your kindness than lit's a worth  
 I wadna fether you for your mack

I wadna eat the king my cousin  
 I wad rather see t' than hear tell o't  
 I winna make fish of ane and flesh of another  
 I wish you readier meat than a running hare  
 I wish you as muckle good o't as dogs get o' grafs  
 If any speir at ye, ge may say, ye dinna ken  
 If and end spills mony a good charter  
 If e'er I find his cart tumbling, I fe gie a put  
 If he make ever a good pudding, I fe eat the prick  
 If I canna kep geese I'll kep gaislins  
 If I canna do't by might I'll do't by flight  
 If I live anither year, I'll ca' this year fernyear  
 If it can be nae better, it is well it is na war  
 If it serves me to wear it may gain you to look to  
 If it winna fells it winna sour  
 If straits be good to gie, they'll be good to get  
 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  
 Ill comes upon the war's back  
 Ill counsel will gar a man stick his mare  
 Ill doers are aye ill dreaded  
 Ill getting hot water frae 'neath cauld ice  
 Ill hearing makes wrang rehearsing  
 Ill laying up makes mony thieves  
 Ill news are aft owre true  
 Ill payers are aye good cravers  
 Ill workers are aye good to-putters  
 Ill-will never spake well  
 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 ganga in at the ae lug and out at the ither  
 It is a good goose that draps aye  
 It is a good game that fills the wame  
 It is a good tongue that says nae ill  
 It is an ill wind that blows naebody good  
 It is an ill cause that the lawyers think shame of  
 It is a mean mouse that has but ae hofe  
 It is a nasty bird that fits its ain nest



- It is a poor kin that has neither whore nor thief in  
 410 It is the sign of a hale heart that rift at the rump  
 It is a fair field where a's slain  
 It is a sooth dream that's seen waking  
 It is a silly flock where the ewe bears the bell  
 It is a silly hen that canna scrape for ae bird  
 415 It is a tight tree that has neither knap nor gaw  
 It is a' tint that is done to auld folk and bairns  
 It is but kindly that the pock sa'r of the herring  
 It is better to sup with a cutty than want a spoon  
 It is by the head that the cow gie's milk  
 420 It is to come to mickle, but 'tis to come to that  
 It is good maut that comes a will  
 It is good gear that pleases the merchant  
 It is good baking beside the meal  
 It is good sleeping in a hale slein  
 425 It is good to be out of harm's gate  
 It is good to be sib to filler  
 It is good to be good in your time, ye kenna ho  
 lang it may last  
 It is hard to sit in Rome and strive with the Pope  
 It is hard to please a' parties  
 430 It is hard baith to have and want  
 It is ill getting breeks aff a bare arse  
 It is ill bringing butt what's no benn  
 It is kittle shooting at corbies and clergy  
 It is kittle to waken sleeping dogs  
 435 It is needless to pour water on a drown'd 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  
 It is well war'd that wasters want  
 540 It is well that our faults are not written on our face  
 It is the best spake in your wheel  
 It keeks his nose at the grindstone  
 It will be a feather out of your wing  
 It was never for naething that the gleg whistled

## K

- 445 **K** EEP something for a fair foot  
**K** Keep your ain fish guts to your ain sea-maw  
 Keep your tongue within you teeth  
 Keep the salt to the feast day

- Keep the staff in your ain hand  
 50 Keep your breath to cool your crowdie  
 Keep your mouth close and your een open  
 Kena souk's nae company  
 Kings and bears aft worry their keepers  
 Kiss a selate stane and that winna slaver you  
 55 Kyth in your ain colours that four may ken you

## L

- L**AITH to bed and laith to rise  
 Lang fasting hains nae meat  
 Lang look'd for comes at last  
 Lang fasting gathers wind  
 60 Lang fraes are nae mots  
 Lang ere ye saddle a foal  
 Law's costlly take a pint and 'gree  
 Law makers shou'dna be law breakers  
 Laugh at leisure ye may greet ere night  
 65 Lay the head of the sow to the tail of grice  
 Leave welcome behind ye  
 Leave aff as lang as the play's good  
 Learn you to an ill use and ye'll ca't custom  
 Letna the plough stand to slay a mouse  
 70 Let bell'd weather break the snaw  
 Let him take a spring on his ain siddle  
 Let him cool in the skin he het in  
 Let his ain wand ding him  
 Let never sorrow come sae near your heart  
 75 Let the horns gang with the hide  
 Let the morn come and the meat wi't  
 Let the kirk stand in the kirkyard  
 Let them laugh that win  
 Let them care that come behind  
 80 Lie for him and he'll swear for you  
 Light burdens break nae banes  
 Lik = Sotsmen, aye wise behind the hand  
 Like the cur in the crub, he'll neither do nor let do  
 Like's an ill mark  
 5 Like a sow playing on a trump  
 Like the wife, that never cried for the laddle, till  
 the pot ran o'er  
 Lippen to me but look to yourself  
 Little kend the left ear'd fat

Little odds between a feast and fu' wame  
 490 Loud at the loan was ne'er a good milk cow  
 Love's as warm amang cotters as courtiers  
 Love your friend and look to yoursel

## M

**M**Aidens bairns are aye well bred  
 Mair by luck than good guiding  
 495 Mair haste the war speed, quoth the tailor to the  
 lang thread  
 Mair hamely than welcome  
 Make ae lang step and down ye gae  
 Make a kirk or a mill o't  
 Make the best of an ill bargain  
 500 Make your hay when the sun shines  
 Malice is aye mindfu'  
 May-bees flee not at this time of the year  
 Meat feeds, and claith cleeds, but manners make the  
 man  
 Meat and mafs hinders no man  
 505 Men are not to be met by inches  
 Mickle wad aye hae mair  
 Mickle mouth'd fouk have aye hap to their meat  
 Mickle may fa' between the cap and the ship  
 Money makes a man free ilka where  
 510 Mony hands make light wark  
 Mony matters, quoth the paddock to the harrow  
 Mony hounds may soon worry ae hare  
 Mony excuses that pishes the Led  
 Mony a ane serves a thankless master  
 515 Mony wyte their wife for their ain thistleless life  
 Mony dogs die or ye fa' heir  
 Mony a ane's ge has hastened his hinder end  
 Mony aunts mony eems, mony kin and few friends  
 Mony good nights is laith away  
 520 Mony ways to kill a dog though ye dinna hang him  
 Mony joks ne'er made good kail  
 525 Mony a ane speirs the gate they ken fu' well  
 Must is a kings word  
 My tongue is no beneath your belt  
 528 My son's my son aye till he get a wife, my daughter  
 my daughter a' the days of her life  
 My marker's maw, ye may lick a whap shaft



- N**ae fool to an auld fool  
 Nae friend to a friend in need  
 Nae great loss 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 paternoster  
 Nae sooner up than her heads in the ambry  
 Nae safe wading in unco waters  
 Nae wonder to see wasters wast  
 Naething freer than a gift  
 Naething is balder than a blind reare  
 Naething to be done in haste but gripping of flaes  
 Naething to do but draw in your stool and sit down  
 Nane but fools and kaves lay wagers  
 Nane sae weel but he hopes to be better  
 Nane can play the fool sae well as a wise man  
 Narrow gather d widely spent  
 Near's my fark but nearer my skin  
 Neck or naething, the king loes nae cripples  
 Necessity has nae law  
 Neither fish nor flesh nor good red herring  
 New lords have new laws  
 Never do ill that good may come  
 Never let on you, but laugh in your ain sleevo  
 Never put a sword into a madman's hand  
 Never put the plough before the owse  
 Never quat certainty for hope  
 Never lead your lips in other folks kail  
 Never seek a wife till ye ken what to do with her  
 Never shaw me the meat but the man  
 Never shaw your teeth unless you can bite  
 Never tell your fae when your foot sleeps  
 Nineteen nay says of a maiden are half a grant  
 Now's now, and yule's in winter  
**O**'ER mickle of ae thing is good for naething  
 O'er mickle hameliness spillo goal burtey  
 O'er mickle loose leather about your chafts  
 O'er hicker o'er loofe  
 Of a' sorrow a for sorrow's best  
 Of a' men in the world drink gree best

- Of twa ills chuse the least  
 On painting and fighting look adreigh  
 Open confession is good for che saul  
 570 Out of debt out of danger  
 Oppression will make a wise man mad  
 Out of light out of langour

## P

- P**AY him in his ain coin  
 Pith's good in a play  
 575 Play's good while it is play  
 Penny wise and pound fool  
 Poor souks friends soon misken  
 Possession is eleven points of the law  
 Pride and grace dwell never in ae place  
 580 Provision in season makes a bein house  
 Put the saddle on the right horse  
 Put on your spurs and be at your speed

## Q

- Q**uality without quantity is little thought of  
 Quey cass are dear veal  
 585 Quick for you'll never be cleanly  
 Quick at meat quick at wark  
 Quick returns make rich merchants

## R

- R**Ather spill your joke than tine your friend  
 Raw dawds make fat lads  
 590 Raw leather raxes  
 Rich souk have routh o' friends  
 Ride fair and jip rane  
 Right mixture makes good mortar  
 Right wrangs nae man  
 595 Rome was not bigged in ae day  
 Roose the fair day at e'en  
 Ropin that herds on the height, can be as blyth  
 as Sir Robert the knight  
 Rob Peter to pay Paul  
 Rot him away with butter and eggs  
 600 Royet lads may make sober men  
 Rue and time grew haith at ae garden  
 Rule yonth well for cild will rule itself

- S**AIR cravers are aye ill payers  
 Say well and do well end with ae letter  
 05 Say well's good but do well is better  
 Say still no and ye'll never be married  
 Scant of cheeks makes a long nose  
 Scart the cogue wad sup mair  
 Scorn comes commonly with skaith  
 10 Seeing's believing a' the world o'er  
 Seeth flanes 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  
 Set that down on the back side of your count-book  
 15 Set a knave to catch a knave  
 Set a stout heart to a stay brae  
 Sharp stomachs make short graces  
 Shoal waters make maist din  
 She is a wise wife that wat'her ain weird  
 20 She looks as if butter would not melt in her mou'  
 She had's up her head like a hen drinking water  
 She's not to be made a song of  
 She's better than she's bonny  
 Sic as ye gie sic will ye get  
 25 Silence grips the mouse  
 Sic reek as is therein comes out of the lam  
 Slaw at meat slaw at wark  
 Smooth waters run deep  
 Sma' fish are better than nae fish  
 30 Soon enough if well enough  
 Sorrow is loon enough when it comes  
 Sorrow and ill weather come unsent for  
 Some hae hantle o' fauts ye're only a ne'er-do-well  
 Speak good of pipers your father was a fiddler  
 35 Spik ale is waur than water  
 Stay and drink of your ain browst  
 Strike the iron as lang's its het  
 Stuffing's hauds out storms  
 Stown dints are sweetest  
 40 Sudden friendship, sure repentance  
 Sup'd out wort was ne'er good ale  
 Surfeits flae mair than swords  
 Swear by your burnt shins  
 Sweet to bed and sweer up in the morning



- 645 **T**Ake it a' and pay the merchant  
 Take the bit and buffet we't  
 Take a pint and 'gree, the law's costly  
 Take your ain will, and then ye'll no die of the pe  
 Take your venture as mony a good ship has done
- 650 Take your thanks to feed your cat  
 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'
- 655 Tell nae tales out of the school  
 That's a tale of twa drunks  
 That's but ae docter's opinion  
 That's for the father but no for the son  
 That's for that as butter's for fish
- 660 That's my tale where's your's  
 That's the piece a hee-bairn never got  
 The euld iver may die waiting for new grass  
 The back and the belly haves every one easy  
 The better day the petter deed
- 665 The book of May Be's is very braid  
 The banes of a great estate is worth the piking  
 The cause is good, and the word Fa' ou  
 The cure may be worse than the disease  
 The cow that's first up gets the first of the dew
- 670 The death of his first wite made he a hole in his  
 heart that a' the lave slip easily through  
 The first suf of a fat hager is the haldest  
 The farther in the deeper  
 The feathers bear away the flesh  
 The grey mare may be the best horse
- 675 The greatest clerks are the wisest men  
 The happy man canna be hurried  
 The higher up the greater fa'  
 The King's errand may come in the cadger's gate  
 The langer we live we see the mae fairlies
- 680 The lazy man's the beggar's brother  
 The lucky pennyworth falls soonest  
 The longest day will have an end  
 The laird may be laird and need his hind's help  
 The mair ye greet ye'll pish the less
- 685 The mae the merrier, the fewer the better: cheer

- The mair coft 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  
 660 The mair mischief the better sport  
 The pains o'ergangs the profit  
 The poor man's aye put to the warit  
 The poor man pays for a'  
 The poor man's shilling is but a penay  
 665 The strongest horse louns the diae  
 The schoiar may war the master  
 The still sow eats up a' the draff  
 The smith has aye a spark in his hafe  
 The simple man's the beggar's brother  
 700 The thieser like the better foger  
 The thing that's done is no to do  
 The thing that's fristed is not forgien  
 The tod keeps aye his ain hole clean  
 The tod's whelps are ill to tame  
 705 The tod never fares better than when he's esqu'd  
 The warst world that ever was, some man wan  
 The worth o' a thing is best kend by the want o' it  
 The world is bound to nae man  
 The wis nly fish gets the unlucky bait  
 710 There is mony a true tale tell'd in a jest  
 There is a measure in a' things  
 There is nane sae blind as them that wionna see  
 There is naething ill said that's no ill tane  
 There was never a fair word in flyting  
 715 There was a wife that kept her supper for her  
     breakfast, and she was dead or day  
 There was never a coke but it had its maik  
 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  
 720 There is a great differ amang market days  
 There is an end of an auld lang  
 There is aye life for a living man  
 There is an act in the laird of Craat's court, that no  
     :boon e even speak at anes  
 There is mae ways to the wood than ane  
 725 There is mae married than good liase haddere  
 There never came ill after good advertment

- There is fey blood in your bed  
 There grows nae grass at the cross  
 There is life in a mussel as lang as she cheeps  
 730 There is little for the rake after the shool  
 There is little to sew when tailors are true  
 They are aye good that are far awa  
 They are not a' saints that get holy water  
 They complain early that complain of their kail  
 735 They lo'e me for little that hate me for nought  
 They mense little the mouth that bite aff the nose  
 They that give you hinder you to buy  
 They that burns you for a witch ldse a' their coals  
 They that drink langest live langest  
 740 They that lie down for love should rise for hunger  
 They were scant of bairns that broguit you up  
 They wist as well that didna speir  
 They that bourd wi' cats maun count upon scarts  
 They are eith hindered that are not furdensome  
 745 Thistles are a sallad for asses  
 Thole well is good for burning  
 Till itner, tinklers, ill may ye 'gree  
 Time tint is ne'er to be found  
 Three can keep a secret if twa be awy  
 750 Time and thinking tame the strongest grief  
 Time and tide will tarry for no man  
 Time heart and a's gane  
 Time thimble time thrift  
 Touch a gawd horse on the back and he'll sing  
 755 True blue will never stain  
 Truth and honesty keep the crown of the causey  
 Try your friend e'er you need him  
 Two hungry meals make the third a glutton  
 Two fools in ae house are a couple o'er moy  
 760 Twa words maun gang to that bargain  
 Twa wits are better than nane

## W

- W**ANT of wit is waur than want of wealth  
 Wealth in the widows house, kail but faut  
 Weans maun creep ere they gang  
 765 Welcome is the best dish in the kitchen  
 Well, quoth Willie, when his wife dang him  
 Well is that well doss



- Were it not for hope, heart wad break  
 We'll never ken the worth o' water till the well gae dry  
 0 We are aye to lear as lang as we live  
 We can point for debt, but no for unkindness  
 We can shape their wyllie coat, but no their weird  
 We'll never big sandy bourocks together  
 We'll bark ourfells ere we buy dogs sae dear  
 5 We canna baith sup and blaw  
 We maun live by the living and no by the dead  
 We are bound to be honest and no to be rich  
 Who invited you to the roast  
 Wha can haud what will awa'  
 0 Wha dare bell the cat  
 Wha can help misluck  
 Wha comes affener and brings less  
 What we first lear we best ken  
 What the eye seesna the heart ruesna  
 15 What ye win at, that ye may lick aff a het girdle  
 What carlins hain cats eat  
 What winsa dæ by might do by slight  
 What's my case the day may be yours the morn  
 What's war than ill luck  
 20 What need a ricia man be a thief  
 What canna be cured maun be endured  
 When ae door steeks anither ane opens  
 When a' men speak nae man hears  
 When drink's in wit's out  
 25 When friends meet hearts warm  
 When my head's down my house is cheeked  
 When the cow's in the clout she's soon out  
 When the tod preaches take tent of the lamb  
 When the warn's fu' the banes would be at rest  
 30 When poverty comes in at the door friendship flies  
 out at the winnock  
 When a' trects fail, 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  
 When wile sinks words swim  
 35 When ye're gawn and coming the gate's no boom  
 When he dies for age ye may quack for fear  
 When ye are well had yoursel sae  
 When the web's fu' it will rin owre

- When the heed's stown, hieck the stable door  
 810 Where the buck's bound, the he-maun bleat  
 Where the pig's broken, let the sherds lie.  
 Where drums beat, laws are dumb  
 Wee things fier cowards  
 Wilfa' waste mak waefu' want  
 815 Wiles help weak folk  
 Will a fool's feather in my cap gar my plot play  
 Will a wit strive with me  
 Winter thunder bodes summer hungry  
 Wink at wee faults, your ain are muckle  
 820 Wise men may be wile'd with wiles  
 Wit bought makes fowk wise  
 Wit bought is worth twa for nought  
 Under water dearth; under snaw broad  
 Work for nought makes fowk dread twear  
 825 Woo-sellers ken aye woo-bayers.  
 Use makes perfytness  
 Wrang has nae warrant  
 Wrang equat is nae payment

## Y

- 830 **Y**E bi'd of the oow's tail, ye grow backward  
 Ye breed of foul weather, ye come unsent for  
 Ye're breed of the chapman, ye're aye to handsell  
 Ye breed o' few of the laird's tenants, o'er her  
 Ye breed of gude mawt, ye're lang a coming  
 Ye crack croufely wi' your bonnet on  
 835 Ye cut before the point  
 Ye cam a day after the fair  
 Ye cut lang whangs out o' ither fowk's leather  
 Ye canna make a silk purse of a fow's lug  
 840 Ye canna lie the wood for trees  
 Ye can never fare well but ye cry, roast meat  
 Ye come a clipping time  
 Ye canna preach out of your poupit  
 Ye come to the gait's house to thigg' woo  
 845 Ye canna do but ye o'er-do  
 Ye drive the plough before the owfen  
 Ye dinna ken where the blessing may light  
 Ye drew nae fae well when my mare was in the mill  
 Ye fand it where the Highlanders fand the tange

- 850 Ye glaw'r'd at the moon, and fell on the midding  
 Ye glaw'r like a wild cat out of a whin bush  
 Ye go far about seeking the nearest  
 Ye have run lang on little ground  
 Ye have a ready mouth for a ripe cherry  
 855 Ye have ower foul feet to come far ben  
 Ye have gotten a ravel'd hest o't  
 Ye have a clap for a corn  
 Ye have ta'en the measure of his foot  
 Ye have ower meikle loose leather about your chafts  
 860 Ye have tint your ain stomach and fun' a tike's  
 Ye have put a toom spoon in my mouth  
 Ye have failed lang and worried on a midge  
 Ye have nothing to do but suck and wag your tail  
 Ye have tint the tongue of the trump  
 865 Ye have staid lang and brought little wi' you  
 Ye have ta'e't upon you as the wile did the dancing  
 Ye have the wrang sow by the lag  
 Ye ken what drinkers dice  
 Ye kenna wat may cool your ain kail yet  
 870 Ye live at the lug of the law  
 Ye'll neither dance nor hand the candle  
 Ye'll get nae hair of the cat but the skin  
 Ye'll no sell your hen in a rainy day  
 Ye'll ne'er cast taut on his tail  
 875 Ye'll no herry yoursel with your ain hands  
 Ye look liker a thief than a bushup  
 Ye'll let little gae by you unless it be the swallow  
 Ye may gang farther and fare ware  
 Ye may get wa' bodies or Beltan  
 880 Ye may be heard where ye re no seen  
 Ye may dight your neb and fl up  
 Ye may tak the will for the deed  
 Ye méte my pease by your ain peck  
 Ye'll never die on your ain aize  
 885 Ye'll drink before me  
 Ye'll find him where ye left him  
 Ye may take the head for the washing  
 Ye'll get the cat wi' the twa tails  
 Ye'll beguile name but them that happens to you  
 890 Ye'll merr when ye grow better  
 Ye'll never be far auld wib' ye meikle donelly



- Ye never saw grier cheele but your oca rec'd
- Ye never cost the cat's fault yet
- Ye're as daft as ye're day's auld
- 893 Ye're a good secker but an ill finder
- Ye're nae chicken for a' your cheeping
- Ye're like Mackay's mare ye brake fairlyaff
- Ye're good enough but ye're no brow enough
- Ye're no sae poor as ye peep
- 900 Ye're well away if ye bide, and we're well quat
- Ye're of sae mony minds ye'll never be married
- Ye're never pleas'd fu' nor fasting
- Ye're uncō good and ye'il grow fair
- Ye're sair fash'd hadding naething together
- 905 Ye're no fed on deaf nuts
- Ye're sick but no fair handled
- Ye're busy seeking the thing that's no tint
- Ye're like the hens ye rin aye to the heap
- Ye're fear'd for the day ye never saw
- 910 Ye're best when ye're sleeping
- Ye're a sweet nut if you were well cracked
- Ye're no light where ye lean a'
- Ye're Davy do naething, and good at naething
- Ye're corse aff the house of Harlettillhim
- 615 Ye're het yet and your belt's hale
- Ye soon weary of well doing
- Ye'se get your brose out of the lee side of the p
- Ye shape shoon by your ain shackled feet
- Your tongue's nae slander
- 920 Your tongue rin's aye before your wit
- Ye wad make mickle of me if I were yours
- Ye watna where a blessing may light
- Ye was never horn at that time of the year
- Young folk may die, but auld folk maun die
- 925 Young duck's may be auld geese
- Your meal's a deagh
- Your head will never fill your father's bonnet
- Your thrift's as good as the profit of a yell hen
- Your wame thinks your wysen's cutted
- 930 Your purse was steeked when that was paid for
- Your gear will never o'er gang you
- Your minnies milk is no out of your nose yet