

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** Began turn is ha't ended  
**A** A blate cat mak's 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 aye crouse on his ain middling  
 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 ne'er made a dear peck  
 A dumb man wins nae law  
 A bird in the hand is worth ten in a hand  
 Ae good turn deserves anither  
 15 Ae ha'f of the world kenna how the ither ha'f live  
 Ae hand wiinna wash the ither for nought  
 Ae hour's could will suck out seven years' heat  
 Ae swallow makes nae summer  
 Ae scabbed sheep will smit the hale herd  
 20 A fool may gie a wise man a counsel  
 A friend in need is a friend indeed  
 Aft conating keeps friends lang the gither  
 Aft times the cautioner pays the debt  
 A fu' purse never lakes friends  
 25 A gi'en horse shoud 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 waur to be twice tald  
 A good name is sooner tint than won  
 30 A good fellow is a costly name  
 A handful of trade is worth a gowpen of gowd  
 A hungry man smells meat far  
 A hungry louse bites fair  
 A hungry man's aye angry  
 35 A lafs that has mony wooers aft wails the warst  
 Ae fellers shoud na be tale tellers  
 A liar shoud 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' Stewarts 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 fifty may be a fool at sixteen  
 A man may be kind, and gie little of his gear  
 A man is well or wae, as he thinks himsel fae  
 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 towpsu' of shame  
 A muffed cat was ne'er a good hunter  
 An auld mason makes a good barrow-man  
 An auld lack craves muckle clouting  
 An auld pock is ave skelting
- 55 An auld dog bites sicker  
 An ill shearer never gat a good hook  
 An ill cow may have a good ca'f  
 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 times by doing good  
 Ane's paid never crav'd  
 Ane's a whore and aye a whore  
 Ane may bind a sack before it be fu'
- 65 Ane is no fae soon heal'd as hurt  
 Ane gets sma' thanks for tining his ain  
 Ane will gar a thousand lie  
 A new belom sweeps clean  
 A nod of an honest man is enough
- 70 A pound of care won't pay an ounce 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 as bottied 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 toulis
- 80 As the auld cock craws the young one learns  
 As the fool thinks the bell clinks

- As ye mak your bed fae ye maun ly down  
 A filleriel's man gangs fast through the market  
 A sorrowful heart's aye 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 sits lang at flame  
 90 A toom purse makes a trailing merchant  
 A toom pantry makes a thrifless goodwife  
 A turn well done is soon done  
 A twapenny 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 fl.ys cowards  
 A willfu' man shou'd be naco wife  
 Au'd men are twice bairns  
 100 Auld sparrows are ill to tame  
 Auld springs gie nae price  
 A yeld'ow was never good to grices

## B

- B**ARE gentry braggand beggars  
 Be a friend to yourself and others will  
 105 Be lang sick that ye may be soon hale  
 Bear wealth well, poortith will bear itself  
 Be guess as the blind man fell'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 aye 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 to be envied than pitied  
 Better to be alane than in ill company  
 Better to be idle than ill employed  
 Better belly burst than good meat spill  
 120 Better buy than barrow  
 Better day the better deed  
 Better find iron than tine filler

Better haud 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 naithing

Better leave to my faes than beg frae my friends

Better rue sit than rue flit

30 Better sit idle than work for naught

Better skaith sav'd than mends made

Better sma' fish than nae fish

Better the ill ken'd than the good unken'd

Better to haud than draw

35 Better unborn than untaught

Better wait on the cook than the doctor

Better wear shoon than sheets

Birds of ae feather flock together

Birch's good but breeding's better

40 Blind men shoud na judge of colours

Blood's thicker than water

Brunt bairns the fire dreads

## C

CADGERS have aye mind of lade saddles

Cast a bane in a deil's teeth

45 Charity begins at hame

Come unca & fits unserv'd

Comes to my hand like the bowl of a pint stoup

Come with the wind and gae with the water

Confess debt and crave days

50 Corn him well he'll work the better

Count again is not forbidden

Count filler after a' your kin

Count like Jews and gree like brethren

Counsel is nae command

55 Credit keeps the crown of the causey

Credit is better than ill luck

Crooked carlin, quoth the carle to his wife

Cut your cloak according to the claith

## D

DAMING and laving is good sure fishing

60 Daughters and dead fish are nae keeping ware

Dawted bairns dow bear little

- Day light will peep through a sma' hole  
 Death and marriage make term-day  
 Death defies the doctor  
 165 Delays are dangerous  
 Do well and dread the 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 thol'd the span

- E**AGLES catch the flies  
 Eat well's drink well's brother  
 Eating and drinking wants but a beginning  
 Either live or die with ho'our  
 180 E'ening oats are good morning fodder  
 Enough's as good as a teat  
 Every ane creeshes the fat so' 's arse  
 Every ane kens bell where his ain shoe nips him  
 Every crow thinks its ain bit o' whitest  
 185 Every dog has his day  
 Every man wears his belt his ain gait  
 Every man's tale is good till anither's be tauld  
 Every man has his ain draff poek  
 Every thing has an end, and a pudding has two  
 190 Experience teaches fools

- F**aint heart never won a fair lady  
 Fair heights make fools gain  
 Fair words winna gar the pot play  
 Fair hair may have foul roots  
 195 Fancy kills and cures  
 Fancy flees from the wind  
 Far-away fowls have fair feathers  
 Far behind that may na follow  
 Feckless folk are ye for of ane-anither  
 200 Fiddlers, dogs and fish flies, come to feasts nee'ed  
 Fine feathers make fine birds

- Fire and water are good servants but bad masters  
 Flacs and a girning wife are wakerife bedfellows  
 Fleying a bird is not the gate to grip it  
 05 Fools shou'd na hae chaping sticks  
 Fools make feasts and wise men eat them,  
 The wise make jests, and fools repeat them  
 For fashion's sake dogs gang to the market  
 Forbid a fool a thing and that he will do  
 10 Fore-warn'd ha'f armed  
 Foul water flocks fire  
 Friendship canna stand aye on ae side  
 Fresh fish and poor friends grow soon ill-far'd  
 Frost and f'ashood have baith a dirty wa'gang

## G

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

## H

- 35 **H**AUD a hank in y'ur ain hand  
 Hae, gars a deaf man hear  
 Hair and hair make the carle's beard bare  
 Hame is hame if it were never sae hamely  
 Hand in nse is father of lar  
 Handle the pud. eg while it is het  
 40 Hang hunger and drown drouth  
 Hap and a halfpenny is gear enough

- Have ye gear have ye nane, tine heart and a's gane  
 He brings a staff to break his ain head  
 He comes aftener with the rake than the shool  
 245 He complains early that complains of his kail  
 He cares na whafe 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 inch before his nose  
 250 He does na ave ride when he saddles his horse  
 He fells twa dogs wi' ae stane  
 He gat his kail in a riven dish  
 He has gotten the boot and the best 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 of 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 likes  
 He has cooped 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 Bby a bull's foot  
 He kens whilk side his cake is buttered on  
 He'll no let grafs grow at his heels  
 He'll gie you the whistle of your goat  
 270 He'll tell't to nae mair than he meets  
 He'll make an ill runner that canna gang  
 He'll wag as the bush wags  
 He'll soon be a beggar that canna fae nae  
 He may well swin that has his head badden up  
 275 He maun be soon up that cheats the tod  
 He made a moonlight fitting  
 He may find faut that canna mend  
 He may laugh that wins  
 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-grave  
 He's born deaf on that side of the head  
 He's auld, and cauld, and ill to lie beside



- 285 He's wife that's timidly 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 lets on  
 He's fairest dung that's paid with his ain wand  
 290 He's a proud fox that winna scrape his ain hole  
 He's a hawk of a right nest  
 He's a lilly chief that either do nor say  
 He's the gear that  
 He's well wordy for  
 295 He's like the fringed  
 He sleeps as dogs do when wives sit meal  
 He that blaws daft let him beat the horn  
 He that cheats me ance, shame fa' him;  
 If he cheat me twice, shame fa' me  
 He that clatters to himself talks to a fool  
 300 He that canna make sport, shou d man nare  
 He that does you an ill turn will ne'er forgie you  
 He that deals in dirt has aye foul fingers  
 He that get forgets, but he that wants  
 He that has a good crop may thole some thistles  
 305 He that has meikle wad aye hae mair  
 He that has but ae eye maun tent that well  
 He that has a muckle nose thinks ilk aye speaks o't  
 He that's ill to himself will be good to nae body  
 He that lends his pot may see the his kail in his loof  
 310 He that 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 frets, frets follow him  
 He that shaws his purse bribes the thief  
 315 He that sleeps with dogs maun rise with flaes  
 He that sits on a flane is twice fain  
 He that seeks motes gets motes  
 He that speers all opinions comes ill speed  
 He that teaches himself has a fool for his master  
 320 He that winna when he may, shanna when he wad  
 He that wad eat the kirnal maun crack the nut  
 He that winna thole, maun slit mow a hole  
 He was the bee that made the honey  
 He wad gang a mile to slit a sow  
 125 He winna send you away with a fair heart

He wooes me for cake and pudding  
 He wad fain be forward if he will how  
 He wad gar you trow that the moon is made of  
 green cheefe

- 330 Hens are aye free of horses' corn  
 His auld brags will buy a new pan  
 His bark is war than his bite  
 His heart's in his hose  
 His room's better than his company  
 235 His tongue's nae slender  
 His tongue's no in his pouch  
 Hooly and fair gang's far in a day  
 Hunger is good kitchen  
 Hungry dogs are blythe of barften puddings  
 340 Hungry stewarts wear mony shoon

I

II Bake nae bread by your skills

- I can scarce belief you, you speak sae fair  
 I canna afford you both ta' and lugs  
 I have gien a tick to break my ain head  
 345 I have another tow on my rock  
 I have mair ado than a dish to wash  
 I have ta'en the sheaf frae the mare  
 I have baith my meat and my mense  
 I have seen mair than I have eaten  
 350 I ken by my cog wha milks my cow  
 I'll gie yon a meeting as Mungo gied 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 am going to put on  
 355 I'll never loat sae laigh and lift sae little  
 I like not to make a toil of a pleasure  
 I'm o'er auld a cat to drae a strae before  
 I'm no every man's dog that whistles on me  
 I'm no obliged to summer and winter it to you  
 360 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  
 I never lo'ed 'bout gates, quoth the wife, when she  
 har'd her man o'er the ingle  
 I never lo'ed meat that cra'd in my craigie  
 365 I think mair of your kindness than it is a' worth

- I wadna ca' the king my confin  
 I wad rather see't than hear tell o't  
 I wadna make fish of aye and flesh of anither  
 370 I wish you readier meat than a running hare  
 I wish you as truckle good o't as cogs get of grass  
 If any speir at ye, ye may say, ye wadna  
 If and and spillis mory a good charter  
 He'er I find his cart tith bling, I fe' gie't a put  
 375 If he make ever a good pudding, I fe' eat the prick  
 If I canna kep geit, I'll kep g'issins  
 If I canna do' by might, I'll do't by sight  
 If I live anither year, I'll ca' this year ternyear  
 If it can be nae better, it is well it is nae waur  
 380 If it serves me to wear, it may gain you to look to  
 If it wins, sell it winn' four  
 If fraiks 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  
 385 If ve serve the tod ye mann bear up his tail  
 Ill bairns are best heard at hame  
 Ill beef never made good broo  
 Ill comes upon the war e back  
 Ill counsel will put a man lick his nin mare  
 390 Ill doers aye aye ill dreaders  
 Ill getting het water frae' neath cauld ice  
 Ill heading makes wrang rehearsing  
 Ill laying up makes mory theives  
 Ill yews are aft o'er true  
 395 Ill payers are aye good cravers  
 Ill workere are aye good to-putters  
 Ill will never spake well  
 Joke at leisare, ye kenna' wka may jibe yourfell  
 Jook and let the jaw ga' o'er  
 400 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 aye  
 It is a good game that jills the wame  
 It is a good tongue that says nae ill  
 405 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 moule that has but ae hole  
 It is a rasty bird that files its ain nest

- It is a poor kin that has neither whore nor thief in't  
 410 It is a sign of a hale heart to rift at the rump  
 It is a fair field that a's flain  
 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's done to auld fowk and bairns  
 It is but kindly that the pock sa'er 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 maud 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 skin  
 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 how  
 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 brecks aff a bare arse  
 It is ill bringing butt what's no benn  
 It is kittle shooting at gorbies and clergy  
 It is kittle to waken sleeping dogs  
 435 It is needless to pour water on a drown'd mouse  
 It is no tint that a friend gets  
 It is not what is she, but what has she,  
 It is past jouking when the hrad's aff  
 It is ill war'd that walters want  
 510 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 grindstane  
 It will be a feather out of your wing  
 It was never for naithing that the gleg whistled

## K

- 445 **K** EEP 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

- Keep the staff in your ain hand  
 450 Keep your breath to cool your crowdie  
 Keep your mouth close and your een open  
 Kent lark's nae company  
 Kings and bears aft worry their keepers  
 Kiss a slate stane and that wiinna flaver you  
 455 Kyth in your ain colours, that souk may ken you

## L

- L** AITH to bed and laith to rise  
 Lang fasting hains nae meet  
 Lang look'd for comes a last  
 Lang fasting gathers wind  
 460 Lang straes are nae mots  
 Lang ere ye saddle a foal  
 Law's costly, take a pixt and 'gree  
 Law-makers shou dna be law-breakers  
 Laugh at leisure, ye may greet ere night  
 465 Lay the head of the sow to the tail of the grice  
 Leave welcome behind you  
 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 mouie  
 470 Let bell'd weather break the snaw  
 Let him take a spring on his ain fiddle  
 Let him cool in the skin he het in  
 Let his ain wand ding him  
 Let never sorrow come sae near your heart  
 475 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  
 480 Lie for him and he'll swear for you  
 Light burdens break nae banes  
 Like Scotsmen, aye wise behind the hand  
 Like the cur in the crub, he'll neither do nor let do  
 Like's on ill mark  
 485 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 less car'd for

Little odds between a feast and fu' wame

- 490 Loud at 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

**M**AIDENS' hairns are aye well bread

- Mair by luck than good guiding  
 495 Mair haste the waur speed, quoth the tailor to the  
 lang thread

Mair hamely than welcome

Make ae lang step and down ye gae

Make a kirk and a mill o't

Make the best of an il bargain

- 500 Make your hay when the sun shines

Mahce is aye mindfu'

May bees flee not at this time of the year

Meat feeds, and clath cleads, but manners make the  
 man

Meat and mafs hinder 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 cup and the lip

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 bed

Mony a ane serves a thankless master

- 515 Mony wite their wife for their ain thriftlets life

Mony dogs die or ye fa' heir

Mony a ane's gear has hastened his hinderand

Mony aunts, mony eems, mony kin, and few friends

Mony good nights are laith away

- 520 Mony ways to kill a dog tho' ye dinna hang him

Mony cooks ne'er made good kail

Mony a ane speirs the gate they ken fu' well

Must is a king's word

My tongue is so beneath your belt

- 525 My son's my son aye 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**AE fool to an auld fool

Nae friend to a friend in need

Nae great loss but there's some sma' advantage

630 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 his head's in the ambry

Nae safe wading in unco waters

535 Nae wonder to see wasters want

Naething freer than a gift

Naething is balder than a blind mare

Naething to be done in haste but gripping of flaes

Naething to do but draw in your stool and sit down

540 Nane but fools and knaves lay wages

Nane sae well but he hopes to be better

Nane can play the fool sae well as a wise man

Narrow gather'd wide spent

Near's my tack but nearer my skin

545 Neck or naething, the king loos 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

550 Never let on you, but laugh in your ain sleeve

Never put a sword into a madman's hand

Never put the plough before the owfen

Never quat certainty for hope

Never scad your lips in other fouk's kail

555 Never seek a wife till ye ken what to do wish her

Never shaw me the meat but the man

Never shaw your teeth unless ye can bite

Never tell your fae when your foot sleeps

Nineteen nay says of a maiden are ha't a grant

560 Now's now, and yule's in winter

O

**O**'ER mickle of ae thing is good for naething

O'er mickle hameliness spills good courtesy

O'er mickle loose leather about your chafis

O'er sicker o'er loose

565 Of a' sorrow a fou sorrow's best

Of a' meat in the world drink gaes best down

Of twa ill chuse the least  
 On painting and fighting look adreight  
 Open confession is good for the fault  
 570 Out of debt out of danger  
 Oppression will make a man mad  
 Out of fight 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 wife and pound foolish  
 Poor fouks' 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 casks are dear veil  
 585 Quick, for you'll never be cleanly  
 Quick at meat, quick at wark  
 Quick returns mak rich merchants

## R

**R**ATHER spill your joke than tine your friend  
 Raw dawds make fat lads  
 590 Raw leather rakes  
 Rich fouk have fouth o' friends  
 Ride fair and jap nane  
 Rich mixture makes good mortar  
 Right wrangs nae man  
 595 Rome was not bigged in ae day  
 Roose the fair day at e'en  
 Robin that herds on the height, can be as blythe  
 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 baith in ae garden  
 Rule youth well for eild will rule itself



- 305 **S**AIR cravers are aye ill payers  
 Say well and do well end with ae letter  
 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 up mair  
 Scorn comes commonly with skaith  
 610 Seeing's believing a' world o'er  
 Seethe flanes in butter, the broo will be good  
 Send you to the sea ye'll no get faut water  
 Serve yourfell till your bairns come to age  
 Set that down on the back side of your count bock  
 615 Set a knave to catch a knave  
 Set a stout heart to a stay brae  
 Sharp stomachs makes short graces  
 Shawl waters make maist din  
 She is a wise wife that wat her ain weird  
 620 She looks as if butter would not melt in her mouth  
 She huds 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 you gae sic will ye get  
 625 Silence grips the monie  
 Sic reek as is therein comes out of the loom  
 Slaw at meat slaw at wark  
 Smooth waters run deep  
 Sma' fish are better than nae fish  
 630 Soon enough if well enough  
 Sorrow is soon enough when it comes  
 Sorrow and ill weather comes unfeet fer  
 Some hae handle o' fauts ye're only a ne'er-do well  
 Speak good of pipers your father was a fiddier  
 635 Spilt ale is waur than water  
 Stay and drink of your ain browst  
 Strike the iron as lang's its het  
 Stuffings haud out storms  
 Stown dints are sweetest  
 640 Sudden friendship, sure repentance  
 Sup'd out wort was ne'er good ale  
 Surfeits slae mair than swords  
 Swear by your ain burnt shins  
 Sweer to bed and sweer up in the morning

- 645 **T**AKE it a' and pay the merchant  
 Take the bit and buffet wi't  
 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
- 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 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 a fish
- 660 That's my tale where's yours  
 That's the piece a step-bairn never got  
 The auld aver may die waiting for new grafs  
 The back and the belly hands every ane buly  
 The better day the better deed
- 665 The book of May Bees is very braid  
 The banes of a great estate is worth the piking  
 The cause is good and the word fa' on  
 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 wife made sin a hole in his heart  
 that a' the lave slipt easily through  
 The first fuf of a fat haggis is the baldest  
 The farther in the deeper  
 The feathers bear away the flesh  
 The gray mare may be the best horse
- 675 The greatest clerks are not 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 penny with' sells 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
- 985 The mae the mettier, the fewer the better cheer

- The mair cost the mair honour  
 The mawt is aboon the meal wi' him  
 The mair noble the mair humble  
 The matter's eye makes the horse fat  
 690 The mair mischief the better sport  
 The pains o'ergang's the prophet  
 The poor man's aye put to the warst  
 The poor man pays for a'  
 The poor's man's shilling is but a penny  
 695 The strongest horse l' up the dyke  
 The scholar may want the matter  
 The still sow eats up a' the draff  
 The smith has aye a spark in his hawse  
 The simple man's the beggar's brother  
 700 The thietier like the better foger  
 The thing that's done is no to do  
 The thing that's fristed is not foreign  
 The tod keeps aye his ain hole clean  
 The tod's whalps are ill to tame  
 705 The tod never fares better than when he's ban'd  
 The warst warld that ever was some man wan  
 The worth of a thing is best kend by the want o't  
 The world is bound to mae man  
 The unsonsy fish gets the unlucky bait  
 710 There is naony a true tale tell'd in a jist  
 There is a measure in a' things  
 There is nane sae blind as them that winna see  
 There is naething ill said that's no ill tane  
 There was never a fair word in living  
 715 There was a wife that kept her supper for her  
 breakfast, and she's dead or day  
 There was never a cake 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 sang  
 There is aye life for a living man  
 There is an set in the laird of Grant's court, that no  
 aboon eleven speaks at anes  
 There is mae ways to the wood than ane  
 725 There is mae married than good house hadders  
 There never came ill after good advertisement

- There is fey blood in your bed  
 There grows nae grass at the cross  
 There is life in a gussel 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 away  
 They are not a' saints that get holy water  
 They complain early that complain of their kail  
 735 They loome 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 burn you for a witch lose a' their coals  
 They that drink langest live langest  
 740 They that ly down for love shou'd rise for hunger  
 They were scart of bairns that brought you up  
 They wist as well that didna speir  
 They that hound with cats maun count upon scrats  
 They are eith hindered that are not furdensome  
 745 Thistles are a fallad for affs  
 Thole well is good for burning  
 Till iiber tinklers, ill may ve agree  
 Time tint is ne'er to be found  
 Three can keep a secret if twa be away  
 750 Time and thinking tame the strongest grief  
 Time and tide will tarry for nae man  
 Time heart and a's gan  
 Time thimble time thritt  
 Touch a gawd-horse on the back and he'll fling  
 755 True blue will never stain  
 Truth and honesty keep the crown of the causy  
 Try your friend ere you need him  
 Two hungry meals make the third a glutton  
 Two fools in ae houle are a couple o'er mony  
 760 Twa words maun gang to that bargain  
 Twa wits are better than nane

## W

- WANT of wit is waur than want of wealth  
 Wealth is the widow's house, kail but saut  
 Weans maun creep ere they gang  
 995 Welcome is the best dish in the kitchen  
 Well, quoth Willie, when his wife dang him  
 Well is that well doer  
 Were it not for hope, heart wad break

- We'll never ken the worth of water till the well ga'e dry  
 70 We are aye to lear as lang as we live  
 We can poind for debt but no for unkindness  
 We can shape their wylie coat but no their weird  
 We'll never big sandy bonooks together  
 We'll bark ourselfe ere we buy dogs fae dear  
 75 We canna baith sip and blaw  
 We maun live by the living, and no by the dead  
 We are bound to be honest and no to be rich  
 Wha invited you to the roast  
 Wha can haud what will away  
 780 Wha dare bell the cat  
 Wha can help mistack  
 Wha comes aftener and brings less  
 What we first lear we best ken  
 What the eye seesna the heart ruesna  
 785 When ye win at that ye may lick aff a liet girdle  
 What carlins hain cats eat  
 What winna do by might do by slight  
 What's my case the day may be yours the morn  
 What's war than ill luck  
 790 What need a rich man be a thief  
 What canna be cured maun be endured  
 When ae door fleeks anither ane opens  
 When a' men speak nae man hears  
 When drink's in wit's out  
 795 When friends meet hearts warm  
 When my head's down my house is theeked  
 When the cow's in the clout she's soon out  
 When the tod preaches take tent of the lambs  
 When the wame's fu' the banes would be at rest  
 800 When poverty comes in at the door, friendship flies  
 out at the winnock  
 When a' freets fail, fire's good for fearcy  
 When a ewe's drowned she's dead  
 When you are serv'd a' the geese are water'd  
 When wine sink's words swim  
 805 When you're gawn and coming the gate's no toom  
 When he dies for age, ye may quack for fear  
 When ye are well haud yourselfe sae  
 When the well's fu' it will rin o'er  
 When the steed's stown fleck the stable door  
 810 Where the buck's bound there he maun bleet

- Where the pig's broken but the sherds by  
 Where drums beat laws are dumb  
 Wee things fly cowards  
 Wilfu' waste makes wae fu' want  
 815 Wiles help weak fowk  
 Will a fool's feather in my cap gar my pot play  
 Will a wit strive wi' ye  
 Winter thunder bodes summer-hunger  
 Wink at wee faults your ain are muckle  
 820 Wise men may be wily'd wi' wiles  
 Wit bought makes fowk wise  
 Wit bought is worth twa for nought  
 Under water dearth, under snaw broad  
 Work for nought makes fowk deead swear  
 825 Woo fellers ken aye woo-buyers  
 Use makes perfytnefs  
 Wrang has nae warrant  
 Wrang count is nae payment

## Y

- 830 **Y**E breed of the cow's tail, ye grow backward  
 Ye breed of foul weather, ye come untent for  
 Ye breed of the chapman, ye're aye to handfell  
 Ye breed of few of the laird's tenants, o'er het  
 Ye breed of good mawt, ye're lang a coming  
 Ye crack crowfly with your bounet on  
 835 Ye cut before the point  
 Ye came a day after the fair  
 Ye cut lang whangs out of other fowk's leather  
 Ye come astener with the rake than the shool  
 Ye canna make a silk purse of a fow's lug  
 840 Ye canna see 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 ain poupit  
 Ye come to the gait's house to thigg woo  
 845 Ye canna do but o'er do  
 Ye dive the plough the before owfen  
 Ye dinna ken wheré the blessing may light  
 Ye drew nae sae well when my mare was in the mire  
 Ye fand it where the Highlandman, fand the tange  
 850 Ye giowr'd at the moon and fell in the midding  
 Ye glowt like a cat out of a whin bush  
 Ye go far about seeking the nearest

Ye have run lang on lit le ground;

Ye have a ready moun for a ripe cherry

855 Ye have o'er soul-feet to come sae far bean

Ye have gotten a rev'd help o't

Ye have a crap for a' corn

Ye have ta'en the measure of his foot

Ye have o'er muckle loose leather about your chafie

860 Ye have lost your ain stomach and fund a tike's

Ye have put a toom spoon in my mouth

Ye have taited leg and worried on a midge

Ye have nothing to do but suck and wag your tail

Ye have tait the tongue of the trump

865 Ye have staid long and brought little wi' you

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

870 Ye live at the lug of the law

Ye'll neither dance nor haud 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

875 Ye'll no heary yourself wi' your ain hands

Ye look liker a thief than a bishop

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

Ye may gang farther, and fare war

Ye may get war bodes or Beltan

880 Ye may be heard where ye're no seen

Ye may dight your neb and fly up

Ye may tak the will for the deed

Ye mete my pease by your ain peck

Ye'll never die on your own affize

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 nane but them that lippens to you

890 Ye'll mend when you grow better

Ye'll never be sae auld with sae muckle honesty

Ye never saw green chiese but your een reel'd

Ye never cost the cat's saut yet

Ye're as daft as ye're day's auld

895 Ye re a good tceker but an ill finder

- Ye're nae chicken for a' your cheeping  
 Ye're like MacKay's mare ye break fairly aff  
 Ye're good enough but ye're no braw new  
 Ye're no sae poor as ye peep  
 900 Ye're well away if we hide, and we're well quat  
 Ye're of sae many minds ye'll never be married  
 Ye're never pleas'd su' nor falling  
 Ye're unco good and ye'll grow fair  
 Ye're fair fash'd hadding naething together  
 905 Ye're no fed on deaf nuts  
 Ye're sick but no sair 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 ye were well cracked  
 Ye're no light where ye lean a'  
 Ye're Davy do naething, and good at naething  
 Ye're come aff the house of Huletillim  
 915 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 pot  
 Ye shape shoon by your ain shackled feet  
 Your tongue's nae slander  
 920 Your tongue runs aye before your wit  
 Ye wad make mickle of me if I were yours  
 Ye watna where a blessing may light  
 Ye were never born at that time of the year  
 Young fowk may die, and auld fowk maun die  
 925 Young ducks 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 yall hen  
 Your wame thinks your wyson's cutted  
 830 Your purse was steeked when that was paid for  
 Your gear will never o'ergang you  
 Your minic's milk's no out of your

FINIS.