SCOTLAND'S SKAITH;

YHOOR THE HT

Sad effects of Drunkenness,

EXEMPLIFIED IN THE HISTORY OF

WILL AND JEAN.

Pha in neighbourne town or farm?

O' a' the ills poor Caledonia
E'er yet preed, or e'er will taste,
Brew'd in hell's black pandemonia,
Whisky's ill will skaith her maist!

Hap what should, he stood a castle

Wha was ance like Willie Gairlace.



Had FALKIRK : 100

e was her nature;

PRINTED FOR THE BOOK SELLERS.

SCOTLAND'S SKAITH;

THE HISTORY

Sad effects of Orunkenness,

WILL AND JEAN.

WILL AND JEAN.

Wha was ance like Willie Gairlace, Wha in neighbouring town or farm? Beauty's bloom was in his fair face, Deadly strength was in his arm.

Wha wi' will could rin or wrastle,
Throw the sledge or toss the bar;
Hap what should, he stood a castle
Or for safety or for war.

Warm his heart, and mild as manfu',
Wi' the bauld he bauld could be;
But to friends wha had their handfu',
Purse and service aye war free.

When he first saw Jeanie Miller,
Who wi' Jeanie could compare?
Thousands had mair braws and siller,
But war ony half sae fair?

Kind and gentle was her nature;
At ilk place she bore the bell:
Sic a bloom, and shape, and stature!
But her look no tongue can tell!

Sic was Jean, whan Will first mawing, I Spied her on a thraward beast, Flew like fire, and, just when fa'ing, Kept her on his manly breast.

Light he bare her pale as ashes,

Cross the meadow's fragrant green,
Placed her on the new mawn rashes,
Watching sad her opening een.

Sic was Will, when poor Jean fainting,
Drapt into a lover's arms;
Wakened to his saft lamenting,
Sighed and blushed a thousand charms.

Soon they loo'd, and soon war buckl'd,

Nane took time to think and rue:

Youth, and worth, and beauty coupled,

Luve hal never less to do.

Three short years flew by fu' canty,

Jean and Will thought them but ane;

Ilka day brought joy and plenty,

Ilka year a dainty wean.

Will wrought sair, but aye wi' pleasure;
Jean the hale day span and sang;
Will and weans her constant pleasure;
Blest wi' them nae day seemed lang.

Trig her house, and oh! to busk aye
Ilk sweet bairn was a her pride,
But at this time NEWS and WHISKY
Sprang nae up at ilk road side.

Luckless was the hour, when Willie
Hame returning frae the fair,
O'ertook Tam, a neighbour billie,
Sax miles frae their hame and mair.

Simmer's heat had lost its fury;
Calmly smiled the sober e'en,
Lasses on the bleachfield hurry,
Skelping barefit on the green:

Labour rang wi' laugh and clatter,
Canty hairst was just begun,
And on the mountain, tree, and water,
Glinted saft the setting sun.

Will and Tam, wi' hearts a' louping,
Mark't the hale, but could nae bide;
Far frae hame, nae time for stopping,
Baith wished for their ane fire side.

On they travelled, warm and drouthy,
Cracking owre the news in town;
The mair they crack't the mair ilk youth aye
Prayed for drink to wash news down.

To poor Merit's modest prayer,
And on fools pours needless blessings,
Harkened to our drouthty pair.

In a howm, wha's bonny burnie
Whimpering rowed its cyrst il flood,
Near the road whar travellers turn ay,
Neat and bield a cot-house stood:

White the wa's wi' roof new theekit, moll Window-broads just painted red; mall Lown: 'mang trees and braes it reekit, moll Haffins seen and haffins hid, at tholl
Down below, a flowery meadow reposition of the burnie's winding line; still Here it was that Howe the widow of the That same day set up her sign.
Brattling down the brae, and near its of A Bottom, Will first marveling sees, M "PORTER, ALE, & BRITISH SPIRITS," DUE Painted bright between twa trees.
Huzza, Tam! here's walth for drinking; Wha can this new comer he? Hout, quo' Tam, there's drouth in thinking, Let's in Will, and syne we'll see.
Nae mair time they took to speak, or Think of ought but reaming jugs, Think of ought but reaming liquor, Think ought but reaming liquor, Thin
Slockened now, refreshed and talking, is In cam' Meg, (weel skilled to please,) Sirs, ye're surely tir'd wi' walking,— Ye maun taste my bread and cheese,
Thanks, quo' Will, I canna tarry, and Pick mirk night is setting in; [[w 19 1]] Jean, puir thing's her lane and eery—[4] if mann to the road and ring and tark.

Hout, quo Tam, what's at the hurry? IdW
Hame's now scarce a mile of gate
Come, sit down, Jean winna wearie: Wolf
Hout, I'm sure it's no sae late.

Will o'ercome wi Tam's oration, of awoll Baith fell to and ate their fill; Tam, quo Will, in mere discretion, with the widow's gill.

After a gill cam' anither Meg sat cracking 'tween them twa; Bang cam' in Mat Smith and's brither, Geordie Brown and Sandie Shaw.

Necbours wha ne'er thought to meet here, Now sat down wi' double glee, Ilk gill aye grew sweet and sweeter: Will gat hame 'tween twa and three.

Jean, puir thing, had lang been greeting;
Will, neist morning, blamed Tam Lowes.
But ere lang an owkly meeting

Maist things have a small beginning, and a But what kens how things will end? I Owkly clubs are nae great sinning, Gin folk have enough to spend.

But nae man of sober thinking, up a dad!

E'er will say that things can thrive, if
If there's spent in lowkly drinking up a deel.

What keeps wife and weans alive.

Drink: maumaye hate conversation, d lee W
Ilka social soulcallows; l was ed lee W
But in this reforming nations edu bedrald
.Wha can speak without the News?

Maggie's club, wha could get nae light:

On some things that should be clear,

Found e'er lang the fault, and ae night

Club'd and gat the GAZETTEER.

Twice a week to Maggie's cot-house, sull Swith, by post the papers fled; as start Thoughts spring up like plants in hot-house Every time the news are read to work

Ilk ane's wiser than anither, HiW rad was.
Things are no gaun right, quo's Tam,
Let us aftener, meet thegither, avois wo's
Twice a owk's no worth the gaun.

To mak a things square and even, H
Or at least withirm contention and to but
To drink sax nights out of seven.

Mid this sitting up and drinking up ad W Gathering a the news that fell, ad W Will, wha wasna yet past thinking, add a O Had some battles withinsel; adopted

Weel he saw her smothered sorrow; did Weel he saw her bleaching cheek; Marked the smile she strave to borrow, Whan, poor thing, she couldna speak.

Jean at first took little heed o'd signal.

Owkly clubs 'mang three or four,

Thought, kind soul, that Will had need o'

Heartsome hours when wark was wre.

But when how that nightly meetings, well Sat and drank frae sax till twa, when she found that hard earned gettings Now on drink was thrown awa;

Raise ilk morning wi'the lark, and sweart aye
To look near his farm or wark;

Saw him tyne his manly spirit, a made see Healthy bloom and spritly ee; and of And of love and hame grown wearit, and of lightly from his family flee.

Wha could blame her heart's complaining;
Wha condemn her furrows meek, so
Or the tears that now ilk e'ening and the Bleeched her lately crimsoned cheek?

Will, whatlang had rued and swithered, O (Aye ashamed of past disgrace;) and Marked the roses as they withered and of Fast on Jeanie's lovely face. and swall Marked, and felt wi' inward racking,
A' the wyte lay wi' himsel',
Swore neist night he'd make a breaking—
D—d the club and news to hell!

But, alas! when habits rooted,

Few ha'e pith the root to pu';

Will's resolves were aye nonstited,

Promised aye—but aye got fu'.

Aye at first at the convening, which had a Moralized on what was right; Yet on clavers entertaining, below the Dozed and drank till broad day-light.

Cash rins out—Jean quite unhappy,
Sees that Will is now past mending,
Tynes a' heart, and take a drappy.

Jean, wha lately bare affliction, but should Wi' sae meek and mild an air, sold will Schooled by whisky, learns new tricks soon, Flytes, and storms, and rugs Will's hair.

Jane, sae late the tenderest mither, ding of Fond of ilk dear dauted wean; ill sof Now, hard-heartened a' the gither, o'at oH Skelps them round frae morn till e'en.

Jean, wha, vogie, liked to busk aye In her hame-spun, thrifty wark, Now sells a' her braws for whisky, To her last gown, coat and sark. Rabby Burns, in mony a ditty,
Loudly sings in whisky's praise;
Sweet his sang—the mair's the pity
E'er on it he wared sic lays.

Of a' the ills poor Caledonia

E'er yet preed, or e'er will taste;

Brew'd in hell's black pandemonia,

Whisky's ill will skaith her maist!

See them now! how changed wi' drinking!

A' their youthfu' beauty gane!

Davered, doited, daized, and blinking,

Worn to perfect skin and bane!

In the cauld month of November, a social (Claise and cash, and credit out,) deso Cowering owre a dying ember, which some Wi'ilk face as white's a clout beauty

Bonds and bill, and debts a stoppit, when the land see it was a stoppit, when the bent, and see it was a stoppit, and blankets roupit, and blankets roupit, and blankets roupit, and blankets roupit, and blankets roupit.

No anither hight to lodge here, I sas and No a friend their cause to plead! band He ta'en on to be a sodger, and band wow She wis weans to beg her bread.

lear, wha, vogie, liked to busk aye to her bame-spun, thrifiy wark,. Now sells at her braws for whisky, To her last gown, coat and sark.

THE UPSHOT OF THE HISTORY

banking ince a granty thus, Here and there u contact danatured,
On! that folk wad weel consider
What it is to tyne a name; and accorded
What this worldis a' thegither, ewo beld
If bereft of honest fame! sob mirg and W
Cam' owre ilk sweet bairnie's tace.
Poortith ne'er can bring dishonour,
Hardships ne'er breed sorrows smart, and
If bright conscience taks upon her disc
Daise I she heart bursten grate Thought and felt, but bursten grate
But wi' a' that walth can borrow,
Guilty shame will aye look down;
What maun then shame want and sorrow.
Wandering sad frae town to town town
Jeanie Miller ance sae cheerie,
Ance see hanny duid and fair all Dallost
Left by Will, neist morning drearie dream
Left by Will, neist morning drearie bruost Taks the road of black despair! bruost
Cauld the blast, the day was sleeting; Pouch and purse without a plack, In ilk hand a pairnie greating
And the third tied on her back.
Wan her face! and lean and haggard! Ance sae sonsie, ance sae sweet! What a change!—unhoused and beggard, Starving—without claise or meat.

Far frae ilk kent spot slie wandered, HIT Skulking like a guilty thief;
Here and there uncertain daundered,
Stupified wi' shame and grief.

Tabliagoo loow have along tadd the

But soon shame for bygane errors; tad W Fled ower fast for eato trace; aid tad W Whan grim death, wi? a his terrors; ad II Cam' owre ilk sweet bairnie's face.

Spent wi' toil, and cauld, and hunger, H
Baith down drapt, and down Jean sat! H
Daised and doited, now nae langer de of
Thought and felt, but bursting grat.

Gloaming fast, wi' mirky shadow, Crap o'er distant hill and plain; Markened wood, and glen, and meadow;

Adding fearful thoughts to pain.

Round and round, in wild distraction, A

Jeanie turned her tearful ee, it was the I

Round and round for some protection!

Face nor house she couldna see.

Dark and darker grew the night aye,
Loud and sair the cauld winds thud;
Jean now spied a sma' bit lightie
Blinking through a distant wood.

Up wi frantic haste she started,

Cauld not fear she felt hae mair;

Hope, for ae bright moment darted

Through the gloom of dark despair.

Fast o'er fallowed lea she brattled,

Deep she wade through bog and burn,
Sair wi steep and craig she battled,

Till she reached the hope sojourn.

Proud, 'mang scenes of simple nature, Stately, auld, a mansion stood of simple nature.

On a bank, whase sylvan feature.

Smiled out ower the roaring flood.

Simmer there, in varied beauty,

Late her flow'ry mantle spread dpin a sid

Whar auld chesnut, ake, and yew tree, a

Mingling, lent their friendly shadel, and

Blasted now wi' Winter's ravage,
A' their gaudy livery cast,
Wood and glen in wailings savage,
Sung and howled to ilka blast.

Darkness stalked wi' fancy terror,

Mountains moved and castles rocked;

Jean half dead wi' toil and horror,

Reached the door and loudly knocked.

Wha thus rudely wakes the sleeping?
Cry'd a voice wi' angry grane:
Help! oh help! quo' Jeanie, weeping,
Help my infants, or they're gane.

Nipt wi' canld, wi' hunger fainting,
Baith lie speechless on the lea!
Help! quo' Jeanie, loud lamenting,
Help my lammies, or they'll die.

Wha thus travels cauld and hungry,
Wi' young bairns sae late at e'en?
Beggars, cried the voice mair angry,
Beggars wi' their brats, I ween.

Beggars now, als! wha lately have the beggar and the poor. Tye, gudeman, cried ane discreetly, Taunt nae poortith at our door.

Sinn r there, in varied beauty,

A' their gauly livery cast,

Beggar now, alas! wha lately is him how?!
Helpt the beggar and the poor!
Enter, quo' the youth discreetly,
While up flew the opening door.

Beggar, or what else, sad mourner,
Enter without fear or dread;
Here, thank God, there's aye a corner
To defend the houseless head.

For your bairnies cease repining;
If in life, you'll see them soon:
Aff he flew; and brightly shining
Through the dark clouds brak the morn.

it sip my infants, or they're gane.

Here, for ae night's kind protection,
Leave we Jean and weans awhile,
Tracing Will in ilk direction,
Far frae Britain's fostering isle.

Far frae scenes of saftening pleasure, Luve's delights, and beauty's charms; Far frae friendship's social leisure, Plunged in murdering war's alarms.

Is it nature, vice, or folly,
Or ambition's feverish brain,
That sae aft, wi melancholy,
Turns, sweet PEACE! thy joys to pain.

That, wi' a' thy charms enticing
To the e'e and to the heart,
(Ilk endearing bless despising,)
Tempts weak man from thee to part.

Willie Gairlace, without siller, Credit, claes, or ought beside, Leaves his ance loved Jeanie Miller, And sweet bairns to warld wide.

Leaves his native cozy dwelling,
Sheltered haughs and birken braes,
Greenswaird howes and dainty mailing,
Ance his profit, pride, and praise.

Decked wi' scarlet, sword, and musket,
Drunk wi' dreams as fause as vain,
Fleeched and flattered, roosed and buskit,
Wow but Will was wondorous fain.

Rattling, roaring, swearing, drinking,

How could Thought her station keep?

Drams and drumming (faes to thinking,)

Dozed reflection fast asleep.

But when shipt to toils and dangers,
Wi' the cauld grund for his bed—
Compassed round wi' faes and strangers,
Soon Will's dreams of fancy fled.

Led to battle's blood dyed banners

Waving to the widow's moan,

Will saw Glory's boasted honours

End in life's expiring groan.

Round Valenciens' strong walled city,
Thick o'er Dunkirk's fatal plain,
Will, (though dauntless) saw wi' pity,
Britain's valiant sons lie slain.

Fired by freedom's burning fever,
Gallia's rack, death's slaughtering knell,
Frae the Scheldt to Rhine's deep river,
Briton's fought—but Briton's fell.

Fell unaided, though cemented By the faith of friendship's laws;
Fell unpitied—unlamented!
Bluiding in a thankless cause.

In the thrang of comrades deeing,
Fighting foremost of them a',
Swith! l'ate's winged ball cam fleeing,
And took Willie's leg in twa.

Thrice frae aff the grund he started, and Thrice to stand he strave in vain, all) Thrice, as fainting strength departed, sighed—and sank mid heaps of slain.
Erskine, wha ne'er slighted merit, about Wark'd him mid the bloody fray; and Save that gallant daring spirit, and here? Twice he saved my life the day.
Battle fast on battle raging, who nedw no leaved our stalwart youths away; a line Day by day new foes engaging, and at life of Forced the weary back to fa'. House M
Driven at last frae post to pillar, og aid in Left by friends wha ne'er proved true, Tricked by knaves wha pouched our silley What could worn out valour do!
Myriads dark, like gathering thunder, idl Bursting, spread o'er land and sea; Il Left alane, alas hae wonder and sea all Britain's sons were forced to flee.
Cross the Ware and Yssel frozen, of ADAR Deep through bogs and drifted snaw, Wounded, weak, and spent, our chosen Ware Gallant men now, faint and fa', buoir
On a cart wi' comrades bluiding, and sand Stiff wi' gore, and cauld as clay, qui'd Without cover, bed, or bedding, and fairlace lay.

In a sick-house, damp and narrow, sould?
(Left behind, withundreds mair,) and See Will neist, in pain and sorrow, sould?
Wasting on a bedrof care.

Wounds, and pain, and burning fever, hand Doctors cured withealing art; hand Cured, alas! but never, never, never, and control of the fever at his heart.

For, whan a' were sound and sleeping, so Still and on, baith ear and late, o wall will in briny grief lay steeping, so well and Mourning owre his hapless fate.

A his dreams of warlike fame,

A his glittering phantoms banished,

Will could think of nought but hame

Think of mought but rural quiet, believed Rural labour, rural ploys; que against a Far frae carnage, bluid, and riot, sale and War, and a its murdering joys.

Back to Britain's fertile garden, and accommodified will's returned, (exchanged for faes,)
Wi'ae leg, and no ae farden, and accommodified with the second se

Lang through country, burgh, and city, Crippling on a wooden leg, or in the Gathering alms frae melting pity, See poor Gairlace forced to beg.

Placed at length on Chelsea's bounty, in Now to langer beg thinks shame, but Dreams ance mair of smiling plenty, but Dreams of former joys and hame.

Hame and a its fond attractions, its and a large land a large land a large land large l

Monster! who could have neglected allows.

Three small infants and a wife, equal Naked, starving, unprotected, and a mile.

Them too dearer ance than life.

Villain! who wis graceless folly. having will a Ruined ther he ought to save!!) All W. Changed her joys to melancholy, and Beggary and perhaps a grave.

Starting, wi remorse distracted, the sais of Crushed wi grief's increasing load, Up he banged, and sair afflicted, and said and silent took the road.

Sometimes briskly, sometimes flagging,
Sometimes helpit, Will gat forth,
On a cart or in a waggon,
Hirpling aye towards the north.

Tired at e ening stepping hooly, a level Pondering on his thraward fate, will In the bonny month of July, willie heedless tint his gate.

Saft the southland breeze was blawing, and Sweetly sighed the green ake wood, a Loud the din of streams fast faing, and a Strack the ear wi' thundering thud.

Ewes and lambs on braes ran bleeting, and Linties sang on ilka tree; was a first the west the sun, near setting, and Flamed on Roslin's towers sae hie was
Roslin's towers and braes sae bonny, and Craigs and water, woods and glen, T Roslin's banks, unpeered by ony, Save the muses hawthorn den.
Ilka sound and charm delighting, leastly Will, (though hardly fit to gang,) and Wandering on through scenes inviting, at Listening to the mavis' sang.
Faint at length, the day fast closing, it as On a fragrant strawberry steep, (2017) Esk's sweet stream to rest composing, (1) Wearied Nature drapt asleep. has had
Soldier, rise! the dews of e'ening mileuro Gathering fa' wi' deadly scaith homo? Wounded soldier! if complaining and a soldier! see to catch your death.
Traveller, waken inght advancing, Cleeds wi' grey the neighbouring hill; Lambs nae mair on knowes are dancing, A' the woods are mute and still.

What ha'e I, cried Willie, waking,
What ha'e I frae night to dree?
Morn, through clouds in splende rbreaking,
Lights hae bright one to me

Lights nae bright ning hope to me.

House nor hame, nor farm nor stedding, Wife nor bairns have I to see,

House nor hame nor bed nor bedding, What hae I frae night to dree?

Sair, alas! and sad and many
Are the ills poor mortals share;
Yet, though hame nor bed ye have nae,
Yield nae, Soldier, to despair:

What's this life sae wae and wearie,
If Hope's bright'ning beams should fail?
See, though night comes, dark and eerie,
You sma' cot light cheers the dale.

There, though walth and waste ne'er riot
Humbler joys their comforts shed.
Labour—health—content and quiet—
Mourner, there ye'se get a bed.

Wife 'tis true wi' bairnie; smiling,
There, alas! ye needna seek---Yet there bairns' ilk care beguiling,
Paint wi' smiles a mither's cheek.

A' her earthly pride and pleasure

Left to cheer her widow'd lot

A' her warldly walth and treasure,

To adorn her lanely cot.

Cheer then, Soldier, 'midst affliction Bright'ning joys will aften shine; Virtue aye claims heaven's protection, — Trust to providence divine!

Sweet as Rosebank's woods and river,
Cool, when summer's sunbeams dart,
Cam' ilk word, and cooled the fever
That lang burned at Willie's heart.

Silent stept he ou, poor fallow,
Listening to his guide before,
Owre green knowe and gowany hallow,
Till he reached the cot-house.

Laigh it was, yet sweet, though humble,
Deck'd wi' hinnysuckle round;
Clear below Esk's waters rumble,
Deep glens murmuring back the sound.

Melville's towers, sae white and stately,
Dim by gloaming glint to view;
Thro' Lasswade's dark woods keek sweetly
Skies sae red and lift sae blue!

Entering now, in transport mingle

Mither fond and happy wean,

Smiling round a happy ingle,

Blessing on a clean hearth-stone:

Soldier, welcome!—come be cheery—

Here ye'se rest, and take your bed—

Faint, waes me! ye seem, and weary,

Pale's your cheek, sae lately red.

Changed I am, sighed Willie till her, at Changed, nae doubt, as changed can be: Yet, alas, does Jeanie Miller to another Nought of Willie Gairlace see?

Ha'e ye marked the dews of morning (C)
Glittering in the sunny ray, do not to the Quickly fa'; whan, without warning, TV
Rough blasts cam' and shook the spray.

Ha'e you seen the bird fast fleeing his Drap, when pierced by death mair fleet? Then see Jean, wi'colour deeing, but Senseless drap at Willie's feet.

After three lang years' affliction, togical (A' their was now hushed to rest,) and Jean lance mair, in fond affection, and Clasps her Willie to her breast.

Tells him a' her sad, sad sufferings,
How she wandering, starving, poor,
Gleaning Pity's scanty offerings,
Wi' three bairns frae door to door.

How she served—and toiled—and fevered,
Lost her lealth and syne her bread;
How that grief, when scarce recovered,
Took her brain, and turned her head.

How she wandered round the country, Mony a live lang night her lane; 2000 Till at last an langel's bountyn hamsen's Brought her senses back again.

Gae her meat—and claise and—siller;
Gae her bairnies wark and lair;
Lastly, ga'e this cot-house till her,
Wi' four sterling pounds a year.

Willie, hark'ning, wiped his een aye;

Oh! what sins ha'e I to rue!

But, say, wha's this angel, Jeanie;

Wha, quo' Jeanie, but Buccleugh!

Here, supported—cheered—and cherished,
Nine blessed months I've lived an mair;
Seen these infants clad and nourished,
Dried my tears and tint despair:

Some times serving, some times spinning,
Jight the lanesome hours gae round;
Lightly too, lik quarter rinning, land A
Brings your angel's helping pound!

Eight pounds mair, cried Willie, fondly, Eight pounds mair, will do nae harm, And, O Jean, gin friends were kindly, Eight pounds soon might stock a farm.

There ance mair to thrive by ploughing,

Freed frae a' that peace destroys; well

Idle waste and drucken ruin, I and tank

War, and a' its murdering joys! drwell

Thrice he kissed his lang lost treasure;
Thrice ilk bairn—but could nae speak;
Tears of luve, and hope, and pleasure,
Streamed in silence down his cheek.

Brought a er es lack again.