## SCOTLAND'S SKAITH;



## sad effects of Drunkenness,

Céemplified livite historx of

## WILL AND JEAN.

 $O^{\prime} a^{3}$ the ills poor Caledonia Eer yet preed, or e'er will taste, Brew'd in hell's black pandemonia, Whisky's ill will skaith her naist !
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## - HTMATE equANTOOR

## THE HISTORY

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## WHLL 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 fin or wrastle, Throw the sledge or toss the bar ;
Hap what should, he stood a castle Or for safety or for war.

Warm his keart, and mild as manfu', Wi' the batala 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 hér look no tongue can tell!

## 9

Sic was Jean, whan Will first mawing, 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.

Sonn they lood, and soon war buckl'd, Nane took time to think and rue:
Youth, and worth, and beanty 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 plénty, llka 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 wis 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 so'jer e'en, Lasses on the bleachfield hurry, Skelping bacefit on the green:

Labour rang wi' laugh and clatter, Canty hairst was just begin,
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.
Fortune, wha but seldom listens 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, troll Window-broails just painted red; Lown: 'mang trees and braes it reekit, mo') Haflins seen and haflins hiden I 130 LI

Down below, a flowerymeadow , ter o lliv Join'd the burnie's winding line;
Here it was that Howe the widow , wis That same day set up her sign.

Brattling down the brae, and near its 12 . Bottom, Will first marveling sees,
"Porter, Ale, \& British Spirits,",
Painted bright between twa trees. is
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,
[ ill three times in humming liquor, :9 J1\& Ilk lad deeply laid his lugs.
Slockened now, refreshed and talking, iris
In cam' Meg, (weel skilled to plẹase,) Sirs, ye're surely tir'd wi' walking, Ye maun taste my bread and cheeser.)
Thanks, quo' Will, I canna tarry, gst wn\}
Pick mirk night is setting in;
Jean, puir thing's her lane and eery - if iI
1 maun to the road and rin.

Hout, quo Tain? what's ap the hurry? id W? Hame's now scarce a mile o gateCome, isit down, Jean winna we trie : : wo. 1 Hout, I'm sure it's no sae late.

Will o'ercome wi Tam's oration, Baith fell to and ate their fill;
Tam, quö © Will, in mere discretion, We matin ha'e the widow's gill.

Afterae gill cam' anither-
Meg sat cracking 'tween them twa; Bang cam lin Maì Smith and's brither, Geordie Brown and Sandie Shaw.

Neebours wha ne'er thought to meet here, Now sat down wi' double glee, nkigill aye grew sweet and sweeter: Will gat hame 'tween 'twa and three.
Jean, phir thing, had lang been greeting ; Will, neist morning, blamed Tam Lowes. But ere lanis an ow meeting $\cdots$...n Mad Mowe's
Maist things hä 'e a sma' beginning, But wha kens how things will end?
Owkly clubs are nae gereat sinining, Gin foll hace enough to spend.
But nae män of sober thinking,
E'er will'say that things can thrive,
If there's spent in owkty drinking
What keeps wife and weans alive.

# Drink maun aye ha*e conversation, Ios W 

Ilka social soul allows; I wes of log W
But in this reforming nation? ody bodtrill
Wha can speak without the News?
Maggie's clúb,' whá could get nae light
On some things that should be clear,
Found eser lang the fault, and ae night
Club‘d and gat the Gazetteer.
Twice a week to Maggie's cot-house, inf Swith, by post the papers' fled ; ; $n s$ far?
Thoughts spring up like plants in hot-house Every time the news are read owo
llk ane's wiser than anither, -HiWy tod wor?
Things are no gaun right, quo! Tam,
Leti us aftener, meet thegither,
Twice at owk's no worth the gaun.
See them now in grave contention, inif wrid
To mak a things square and even, H
Or at least wi firm contention tol to ba
'To drink sax nights out o'seven.
'Mid this sitting up and drinking', oo srly Gathering a the news that fell,
Will, wha wasna yet past thinking,
Had some battles wi‘ himsel',
On ae:hand drink's deadly poison (I) , IIIW
Bare (ilk firm resolve awa; :anfer of )
On the ither, Jean's condition
Rave his very heart in twa.gt tro fers'

Weel he saw her smothered sorrow; ;inc 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'
Owkly clulis 'mang three or four,
Thought, kind soul, that Will had need o'?
Heartsome hours when wark was wre.
But when now that nightly meetings, 1
Sat and drànk frae sax till twa,
When she found that hard earned gettings
Now on drink was thrown awa;
Saw her Will, what ance sae cheery
Raise ilk morning wi' the lark,
Now grown mauchless, dowf, and sweartaye
To look near his farm or wark;
Saw him tẏne his manly spirit,
Healthy bloom and spritly ee;
And of love and hame grown wearit, Nightly from his family flee.
Wha could blame her heart's complaining;
Wha condemn her furrows meek,
Or the tears that now ilk e'ening Bleeched her lately crimsoned cheek?

Will, whatlang had rued anil swithered, (Aye ashamed of past disgrace ;)
Marked the roses as they withered
Fast on Jeanie's lovely face.

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 nons dited, -
Promised aye - but aye got fu'.
Aye at first at the convening,
Moralized on what was right;
Yet on clavers entertaining,
Dozed and drank till broad day-light.

- Things at length grew near an ending;

Cash rins out-Jean quite urhappy,
Sees that Will is now past mending,
Tynes a' heart, and taks'a drappy.
Jean, wha lately bare affliction,
Wi' sae meek and mild an air,
Schooled by whisky, learns new tricks soon,
Flytes, and storms, and rugs Will's hair.
Jane, sae late the tenderest mither,
Fond of ilk dear dauted wean;
Now, hard-heartened a' the gither,
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.

Rablyy Burns, in mony a ditty,
Loudly sings in whisky's praise ;
Sweet his sang-the mair's the pity
Eer on it he wared sic lays. $\square$
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 wis drinking!
A' their youthfu' beauty gane!
Davered, doited, daized, and blinking,
Worn to perfect skin and bane!
In the cauld month of November;
(Claise and cash, and credit out,) slasi)
Cowering owre a dying ember,
Wi' ilk face as white's a clout!
Bonds and bill, and debts a' stoppit,
llka sheaf selt on the bent.
Cattle, beds, and blankets roupit,
Now, to pay the laird his rent.
No anither night to lodge here,
No a friend their cause to plead!
He ta'en on to be a sodger,
She wi'weans to beg her bread.

## 11

## THE UPSHOT OF THE HISTORY

OH ! that folk wad wee consider
What it is to tyne a name; able moos to ce What this world is a' thegither, wop hill

If bereft of honest fame ! ado mime nosily
Poortith ne'er can bring dishonour,
Hardships ne'er breed sorrows smart; eq
If brigh conscience saks upon her
To shed sunshine round the heart.
But wi' $a^{\prime}$ that walt can borrow,
Guilty shame will aye look down;
What maun then shame, want and sorrow,
Wandering sad frae town to town!
Jeanie Miller ante ae cheerie,
Ance sae happy, grid, and fair, jus most
Left by Will, neist morning dearie
Taks the road of black despair!
Cauld the blast, the day was sleeting;
Pouch and purse without a plack,
In ilk hand a bairnie greeting,
And the third tied on her back.
sniffy
Wan her face! and lean and haggard!
Ance rae sonsie, ance rae sweet!
What a change! -unhoused and beggard,
Starving - without claise or meat.

Far frae ilk kent spotlis wandered, $1 H$ T Skulking like a guilty thief;
Here and there uncertain daunilered, Stupified wi' shame and grief.

But soon shame for bygane errors,
Fled ower fast for ee to trace;
Whan grim death, wi? a' his terrors, od 'II Cam' owre ilk sweet bairnie's face.

Spent wi' toil, and sauld, and hunger,
Baith down drapt, and down Jean'sat!
Daised and doited, now nae langer
Chought and felt, but bursting grat.
Gloaming fast, wi' mirky shadow, Crap o'er distant hiill and plain;
Darkened wood, and glen, and meadow, Adding fearful thoughts to pain.
Round and round, in wild distraction, Jeanie turned her tearful ee,
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 nor fear she felt hae mair; Hope, for ae bright litothent datted Through the glom of dark despair.

## 13

Fast o'er fallowed lea she brattled,
Deep she wade though bog and burn,
Sair wi steep and craig she battled,
Cill she reached the hope sojourn.
Proud, 'mang scenes of simple nature,
Stately, auld, a mansion stood
On a bank, whase sylvan feature
Smiled out ower the roaring flood. is?
Simmer there, in varied beauty,
Late her flow'ry mantle spi ead,
Whar auld chesnut, ake, and yew tree,
Mingling, lent their friendly shade!,
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 wir toil and horror,
Reached the door and loudly knocked.
Wha thus rudely wakes the sleeping?
Cry'd a voice wi' angry grane:
Help! oh hélp! 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, loưd lamenting,
Help my lammies, or they li die.

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

Beggars now, alts! wha lately
Helpt the beggar and the poor.
Fye, gudeman, cried ane discreetly,
Taunt nae poortith at our door.

Sic a night and tale thegither,
Plead for mair than anger's din:
Rise Jock, cried the pitying mither, Rise and let the wretched in.

Beggar now, alas! wha lately Helpt the beggar ard the poor!
Enter, quo' the youth discreetly, While un 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 liouseless 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.

Here, for ae night's kind protsction, Leave we Jean and weans a while,
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 ambitions feverish brain,
That sae aft, wir melancholy,
Turns, sweet peace! thy joys to pain.
That, wi' $a^{\prime}$ 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 lovel Jeanie Miller, And sweet bairns to warld wide.

Leaves his native cozy dwelling, Sheltered haughs and birken braes, Greenswaird lowes and dainty mailing, Ance his profit, pride, and praise.
Decked wi' scarlet, sword, and musket, Drunk wi' dreams as fause as vain,
Fleeched aud flattered, roosed and buskit, Wow but Will was wondorous faín.

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-
Compasséd round wi' faes and strangels,
Soon Will's dreams of fancy fled.
Led to battle's blood dyed banners
Waving ts 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 ślain.
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! late's winged ball cam fleeng, And took Willie's leg in twa.

Thrice frae aff the grund he started, \& al 'Ihrice to: stand he strave in vain, , 1) Thrice, as tainting strength departed, Sighed-and sank 'mid heaps of slain.

Erskine, wha ne'er slighted merit, Jrmith Mark'd him'mid the bloody fray; Save that gallant daring spirit, Twice he saved my life the day.

Battle fast on battle raging,
Wed our stalwart youths away; llith
Day by day new foes engȧging, Forced the weary back to fa'.

Driven at last frae post to pillar, Left by friends wha ne'er proved true, Tricked by knaves wha pouched our sillew What could worn out valour do!

Myriads dark; like gathering thunder, Bursting, spread o'er land and sea;
Left alane, alas! nae wonder
Britain's sons were forced to flee. 18 I I
Cross the Ware and Yssel frozen,
Deep through bogs and drifted snaw,
Wounded, weak, and spent, our chosen Gallantmen now faint and fa', mom

On, a cart wi' comrades bluiding, Stiff wi' gore, and cauld as clay, Without cover, bed, or bedding,

Five lang nights Will Gairlace lay.

In a sick-house, damp and narrow,
(Left behind, wi hundreds mair,)
See Will neist, in pain and sorrow;
Wasting on a bed of care.
Wounds, and pain, and burning fever,
Doctors cured wi healing art ;
Cured, alas! but never, never.
Cooled the fever at his heart.
For, whan a' were sound and sleeping, Still and on, baith ear and late, Will in briny grief lay steeping, Mourning owre his hapless fate.
$A$ his gowden prospects vanished, A. his dreams of warlike fame, A' his glittering phantoms banished, Will could think of nought but hame.

Think of nonght but rural quiet,
Rural labour, rural ploys;
Far frae carnage, bluid, and riot,
War, and $\imath^{\prime}$ its murderingjoys.
Back to Britain's fertile garden,
Will's returned, (exchanged for faes, ${ }_{\text {; }}$ )
Wi' ae lég, tand no ae farden,
Friend or credit' meat nor claise.
Lang through country, burgh, and city,
Crippling on a wooden leg,
Gathering alms fiae melting pity, See poor Gairlace forced to beg.

Placed at length on Chelseas bounty, Now to langer beg thinks shame,
Dreams ance mair of smiling plenty,
Dreams of former joys and hame.
Hame and a its fond attractions, Fast to Wills warm bosom flee;
While the thoughts of dear connections
Swell his heart and blind his ee.
Monster! wha could ha'e neglected
Three sma' infants and a wife, 2yme')
Naked, starving, unprotected,
Them too dearer ance than life.
Villain! wha wi graceless folly. Ruined her he ought to save!
Changed her joys to melancholy, Beggary and-perhaps a grave.
Starting, wi remorse distracted,

- Crushed wi‘ grief's increasing load,

Up he banged, and 'sair afflicted, Sad and silerit took the roid.

Sometimes briskly, sometimes' flagging,
Sometimes helpit, Will gat forth,
On a cart or in a waggon,
Hirpling aye towards the north.
Tired at e éening stepping hooly,
Pondering on his thraward fate,
In the bonny month of July,
Willie heedless tint his gate.

Saft the southland breeze was blawing, sics Sweetly sighed the green ake wood, Loud the din of streams fast fa'ing, Strack the ear wi' thuntlering thud. (l

Ewes and lambs on oraes ran bleeting, $H$
Linties sang on ilka tree;
Frae the west the sun, near setting,
Ilamed on Roslin's towers sae hie.
Roslin's towers and braes sae bonny, ( Xraigs and water, woods and glen, 1 Th Roslin's banks, unpeered by ony; Save the muses hawthorn den.
llka sound and charm delighting,
Will, (though hardly fit to gang,)
Wandering on through scenes inviting, il)
Listening to the mavis' sang.
Faint at length, the day fast closing,
On a fragrant strawberry steep,
Esk's sweet stream to rest; composing,
Wearied Nature drapt asleep.
Soldier, rise! the dews of e'ening
Gathering fa' wi' deadls scaith!
Wounded soldier! if complaining,
Slecp naa here to catch your death.
Traveller, waken!-uight advancing,
Cleeds wil grey the neighbouring hill;
Lambs nae mair on knowes are dancing,
A' the woods are mute and still.

## 21

What ha'e I, cried Willie, waking, What ha e I frae liight to dree?
Morn, throush clouds in splende rbreaking,
Lights nae bright ning hope to me.
House nor hame, nor farm nor sted ding,
Wife nor bairns ha'e i to see,
House nor hame nor bed nor bedding,
What hae 1 fiae night to ctree ?
Sair, alas! and sad and many
Are the ills poor mortals share;
Yet, though hame nor'bed ye ha'e nae, Yield nae, Soldier, to despair:

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

There, though walth and waste ne'er riot Himbler 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 affiction Bright'ning joys will aften shine; Virtue aye claims beaven's protection, Trust to procidence divine!

Sweet as Rosebank's woods and river, Cool when summer's sunbeams dart, Cam' ifk word, and cooled the fever.

That lang burned at Willie's heart.
Silent stept he ph; 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 murnuring back the sound.
Melville's towers, sae white and stately, Dim by gloaming glint to view;
"'hro 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 bedFaint, waes me! ye seem, and weary, Pale's your cheek, sae lately red.

## 23

Changed. I am, sighed Willie till her,
Changed, nae doubt, as changed can be: Yet, alas, does Jeanie Miller,

Nought of Willie Gairlace see?
Ha'e ye marked the dews of morning
Glittering in the sunny ray,
Quickls fa', whan, without warning,
Rough blasts cam' and shook the spray.
Ha'e you seen the bird fast fleeing
Drap, when pierced by death mair fleet?
'Then see Jean,' wi' colour deeing,
Senseless drap at Willie's feet.
After chree lang years' affliction,
( $A^{\prime}$ their waes now hushed to rest,)
Jean ance mair, in fond affection;
Clasps her Willie to her breast.
Tells him a' her sad, sad sufferings,
How she wandering, starving, poor, Gleaning Pity's scanty offerings,

W' $i^{\prime}$ three bairns frae door to door.
How she served-and toiled-and fevered,
Lost her I ealth 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 ;
Till at last an angel's bounty
Brought her seuses back again.

Gae her meat-and claise and-siller;
Gae her barnies wark and lair ;
Lustly, 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, wlia's this angel, Jeanie; Wha, quo! Jeanie, but Buccleugh!

Here, supported-cheered-and cherished,
Nine blessed months I've livell an mair; Seen these infan̨ts clad and nourished, Dried my tears and tint despair:
Some times serving, some times spinning,
Jight the lanesome hours gae round; Lightly too, ilk quarter rimning,

Brings your angel's he!ping 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 slock a farm.
There ance nair to thrive by ploughing, Freed frae a' that peace destroys; Idle waste and drucken ruin,

War, and a'its murdering joys!
-Thrice he kissed his lang lost treasure; Thrice ilk bairn-but could nae speak; Tears of luve, and hope, arid pleasure, Streamed in silence down his cheek.

