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GILLE-CALUM.



“THE dance as well as the words to the ancient tune of “Gille-Calum” are assumed by a witty bard to have been danced and sung by Father Noah when first hilarious under the inspiring effects of his successful distillation from the fruits of his newly-planted vineyard. Gille-Calum was the name of Noah’s piper, and the tune has, with great propriety, continued to be called after him. The dance seems originally to have been over two crossed vine plants—but, swords being of old more abundant plants in Scotland than vines, the Highlanders considered the former good substitutes for the latter—and, indeed, the object of the dance being, as the verses imply, to furnish a method whereby a gentleman in his cups may be distinguished from a boor dead drunk, the swords seem to be, if not the more appropriate, at least the sharper test of the two.”—*Campbell, “The Music of the Highland Clans.”*

GILLIE-CALLUM.

1. I have gotten the wine from the clustering vine
That crowns with luxuriance this vineyard of mine,
Reach down, Gillie Callum, two ancient claymores,
And pipe me your pibroch beloved of yore.
2. And though deluge should menace and elements
frown,
Who but the poltroons will not right gladly own;
That music and wine inspire with good cheer:
They drown every sorrow, defy every fear.
3. And since the ripe vintage doth such joy impart,
Let each quaff a cup to the girl of his heart;
Then dash on the floor two ancient swords,
And dance Gillie Callum's melodious chords.
4. Come, tune up the fiddle and polish the bow,
Forget all our sorrow, our anguish and woe;
Let the fruit of the vineyard replenish the bowl,
And with mirth and music make tranquil the soul.
5. Woe to all the mean scoffers, many or few,
Who would dare soil this cup with their orgies new,
For the worthy alone is the chalice divine
Those who dance like the Gillie of Noah's line.
6. Oh! sons of the Gael, be ye genial and jovial,
Ye pure seed of Noah, be dutiful, social,
Sing ye, for ever the songs o' langsyne,
Drink ye for aye the juice of the vine.

Translated from the Gaelic by J. D.



GILLE-CALUM.

1. Rinn mi fion á brìgh ghallain;
(rinn mi fi-on a bri ghallain)
Dh' fhàs an lios nan dossain fhallain;
(yas an lis nan doss-ayn all-ayn)
C'àite 'm bheil thu Ghillie-Chaluim?
(cayté a bheyl u illi challum)
Nuas da chladheamh 's séid a' phìob!
(nu-as da chlay-ev 's seyd a fi-ob)
2. Ged a mhaoidheadh Dìle eile,
(ged a voy-e dil eyle)
Cò ach leibidean a theireadh
(co ach lebadan a heyre)
Nach dean fion is ceòl gach eagal,
(nach den fi-on is ce-ol gac eg-al)
Bròn is teagamh chur do'n chill!
(bron is teg-av chur don chill)
3. Fhad 's a mhaireas dosain mheara?
(ad sa vayres doss-ayn verra)
Oladhmaid deoch-slàint ar leannain;
(ola mid de-och-slaynt ayr lenn-ayn)
Nuas dà chladheamh cruaidh le deannaibh,
(nu-as da chlay-ev cru-ay le den-ayv)
Is séid gu smearail—suas i phìob!
(is seyd gu smer-ayl-suas i fi-ob)
4. Gleus an fhidheall, sliob am bogha;
(gleys an i-el sleeb am bo-a)
Bròn is tuireadh cuiream fodha;
(bron is tuyre cuyr-em fo-a)
O na rinn mi fion a bhleoghann;
(o na rinn mi fi-on a vle-o-an)
Dannsadh 's meadhail 's iad mo mhiann!
(dansa s me-ayl 's iad mo vi-ann)
5. Bhuainn an diblidh, spideil, ainneamh
(vu-ayn an dib-li spid-eyl ayn-ev)
Bhitheas air sloibhc measg òil is aighear;
(vi-s ayr sloyc mesg oyl is ay-er)
Am fear a dhannas Gille-Calum,
(am fer a yav-sas gillie callum)
'S e mhàin is airidh air an fhion.
(se vayn is ayri ayr an i-on)
6. A chlann nan Gaidheal, fìor-shliochd Noah,
(a chlann nan ga-el fìor lic no-ah)
Bithibh dìleas, càirdeil, còmhrail,
(bi-ev dìles cayrd-eyl co-rayl)
Coibhneil cridheil, dligheach, ceòlar,
(coy-neyl cri-eyl dli-ech ce-o-lar)
Seinnibh òrain 's òlaibh fion.
(seynniv or-ayn s ol-ayv fi-on)

