

Ancient Scottish ballads, recovered from tradition

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1827 Excerpt: ... As the ship sailed, bonnie Annie she swam, And she was at Ireland as soon as them. He made his love a coffin off the Goats of Yerrow, And buried his bonnie love doun in a sea valley. There's fey fowk in our ship, she winna sail for me.--p. 124, v. 3. There is a prevalent belief among sea-faring people, that, if a person who has committed any heinous crime be on ship-board, the vessel, as if conscious of its guilty ourden, becomes unmanageable, and will not sail till the offender be removed: to discover whom, they usually resort to the trial of those on board, by casting lots; and the individual upon whom the lot falls is declared the criminal, it being believed that Divine Providence interposes in this manner to point out the guilty person. He made his love a coffin off the Goats of Yerrow.--p. 126, v. 8. It would be difficult to ascertain where Yerrow is situated; it would seem, however, to be on the seacoast, as "Goats" signifies inlets where the sea enters. THE DUKE OF ATHOL'S NOURICE. As I cam in by Athol's yetts, I heard a fair maid singing;--"I am the Duke o' Athol's nourice, And I wat it weel does set me; And I wad gie a' my half-year's fee, For ae sicht o' my Johnie."--"Keep weel, keep weel, your half-year's fee, For ye'll soon get a sicht o' your Johnie; But anither woman has my heart, And I am sorry for to leave ye." "Ye'll dow ye dounf to yon change-house,:): And drink till the day be dawing; At ilka pint's end ye'll drink the lass' health, That's coming to pay the lawing." Yetts--gates. f Dow ye doun--go your way, Change-house--tavern. § Lowing--tavern bill. He hied him douu to you change-house, And he drank till the day was dawing; And at ilka pint's end he drank the lass' health, That was co...

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