Seventeenth-century Versions of Christis Kirk on the Grene and The Wyf of Awchtirmwchty

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Among the Laing collection of manuscripts in Edinburgh University Library are versions of two sixteenth-century Scottish poems, Christis Kirk on the Grene and The Wyf of Auchtirmuchty.

The version of Christis Kirk is on folios 45b-46 of the volume La. III. 501, designated on the spine "Scullery Accounts 1628-38." The volume contains on folios 1-43b accounts of the royal scullery for the years 1628-38, followed on folios 44b-45 by a copy of a bond of 1617 by James Arnol and James Dalzell, merchants of Edinburgh, to David Young, servant of the scullery, for a loan by him of 3000 merks. On folio 47b is a copy of a letter of attorney of 1609-10 by Sir Peter Young of Seaton (who was tutor to the young James VI and lived in England after accompanying the king to London in 1603) to David Young "esquire, sergeant of his majesties scullery," to collect and make use of his pension, and the following ten folios contain "the just copie" of the resulting accounts, dated 1613-39. The rest of the volume, folios 58b-75b, contains items of poetry in Scots, English and Latin, copies of two warrants for payments to Sir Peter Young for lodgings, the Last Speech of Sir Walter Raleigh, "Reasons for witch the saruice book urged upon Scotland ought to be refused," other material relating to the Scottish Church, and receipts dated 1639 and 1642. The principal pieces of verse are as follows: eight couplets, beginning "Clois when ere yow do intend To venture at a bosome freind"; five seven-line stanzas, beginning "All the materialls are the same Of beautie and desire"; a long poem by James VI (a version of that printed in S.T.S., III, 26, pp. 82f.); a seven-couplet epitaph beginning "Heir yyes hobenobe our shepherd while ar"; "Ovids Corinna English"; eight couplets entitled "De sabbotho," beginning "Yett give me lesser without offence to borrow At least to day, althogh we meit to morrow"; and ten couplets, beginning "O mores hominum thers nought heere but changes Old courtiers cast off like gloves without fringes."
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All the accounts, the copies of the documents concerning Sir Peter Young or David Young, the political and religious pieces and most of the poems, including Chrissis Kirk, are in the same hand, presumably that of David Young. Some of the poems are written in a different type of script and in a lighter ink, but the hand is still of the seventeenth century, and may well be of the same person. The identity, or even the nationality, of David Young has proved impossible to establish. The published State papers of England and Scotland have shown no mention of a David Young as a royal servant. The scullery accounts contain many English names such as Wilmor, Wheatley, Perrey, Lystone, which indicate a probable residence in England, and the spellings are mainly English, but there are many Scottish forms such as puceing vb.I., moir adv., ane and basp (= hasp). These examples are from the two sides of the first folio. The items in David Young's hand contain in fact sufficient Scottish spellings to allow at least the inference that the writer was a Scotsman.

The only known versions of Chrissis Kirk earlier than the one now published are in the Bannatyne and Maitland Folio manuscripts (1568 and 1570-86 respectively). These two earlier versions resemble each other closely in content and language, although the Bannatyne stanzas 3 to 6 are in Maitland 4, 3, 6, 5 respectively, and the Maitland MS. has one extra stanza, 12. The Laing recension, however, differs greatly from both. It contains 24 stanzas, omitting Bannatyne and Maitland stanza 8 but including Maitland stanza 12, and has two new stanzas, 22 and 23. The stanzas in Laing are not in the same order as in either of the other manuscripts, the 3rd and 4th couplets of stanza 14 are transposed, and the 3rd couplet of stanza 21 is missing. A striking feature is that the "bob and wheel" has been shortened to four syllables, with the omission in every case of the words at chrissis kirk on the grene. There are also a large number of alterations in the text. Many words have been replaced, or the line containing them re-cast, sometimes to the detriment of the sense. Certain other changes appear to be corruptions, owing to lack of understanding at some stage in the history of the version.

Many of the words which have been replaced were still current in seventeenth-century Scots but, according to the NED, were unknown, rare or obsolete in contemporary English. The most important or striking changes are noted here, and are also given with other points as footnotes to the text: stanza 5/line 3 shrill (no quotation with this form is in the collection of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish

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Tongue), 7/2 rugged (doubtless a transference from /4, but drug is last recorded in English in 1601, except in dialect), 10/2 keimd (beynd is obsolete in English by the seventeenth century), /3 tyd (sit exists only in Scots and northern English dialect), /4 seinid (seinid was obsolete), 12/8 cured (cover was not in English after the fifteenth century), 15/5 maid (gar was obsolete in English in this sense), 17/5 meinis, 18/4, 5 bärnis, rair (wane, berner and rorde do not survive into early modern English), 20/2 banfir (branowode is only Scots after the fourteenth century), /4 wereed (maggit and mangit are only Scots), 21/1 gawe (cast is rare in English in this sense). Some other readings are rather less effective than in the Maitland text: 7/6, 10/8, 11/9, 14/5, but in at least one place the altered version has more impact: 10/6, where Maitland reads gif the man was his freynd.

The language of the two interpolated stanzas, 22 and 23, is similar to that of the rest of the version, the forms being in general seventeenth-century Scottish use, but in stanza 23 blink is noteworthy — the first instance of this verb in English (— to turn sour) is in 1616, and it is not recorded in Scots. As a part of the poem, stanza 22 is very much in character, and may well have been part of a traditional text, although absent or omitted from the earlier manuscripts. The origin of stanza 23 is more doubtful. It seems out of place, as the incident belongs to a wedding rather than to the scene at Christis Kirk, which appears to be a fair.

The next known version of Christis Kirk is its first known appearance in print, in the 1643 edition of Patrick Wilson “Upon the Malt-Mercat.” This closely resembles the Laing text, the number and arrangement of stanzas is identical, and it retains the shortened “bob.” In some places it is closer to the Maitland version and obviously less corrupt than Laing, e.g. 2/2 light of laits, 7/2 drugged, 9/1 him neist, 10/4 was tein. Much of the vocabulary is the same as in the Laing MS., with few real deteriorations, notably 6/3 playfoot and 20/4 weared. The readings at 22/8 knocking mell and 23/2 drunk it suggest a better original than, or a more exact copy from an original similar to, that used by David Young.

At its probable date of c 1640, the Laing copy is already the earliest known of this alternative recension of Christis Kirk. Versions similar to the Laing, but with greater and increasing anglicisation and corruption, are used in all the seventeenth-century editions (1643, 1660, 1691) and by Watson in his Choice Collection of 1706, while the sixteenth-century manuscripts were apparently not known to the
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editors of these publications. (The first mention of the Bannatyne manuscript is in Allan Ramsay's edition of Chriostis Kirk in 1718, while the Maitland Folio came to public notice only with the publication of selections from it by John Pinkerton in his Ancient Scotoish Poems in 1786.) On the other hand, leaving aside the spelling forms which are due to seventeenth-century practice, the verbal corruptions in the Laing text would imply a number of successive recensions, and the fact that the Bannatyne and Maitland texts differ somewhat from the Laing does not necessarily imply that the Laing version was not current, in manuscript or oral tradition, during the sixteenth century. The origin of the version now published may, of course, be deduced with more certainty if some further copy comes to light. Variant readings are from the Maitland MS., and from the Bannatyne where the difference is significant. MS. contractions are in italics.

A merry ballad Compyled (as is Propposed) by
King James the ¹ fifth Called kettes kirkle on the grein

1. Was nevar in Scotland hard nor sein
   Sick danceing and deray
   nather at falkland at the greine
   nor pebles at the play
   as was of wooers as I weine
   at Cristis kirk on a day
   for thar cam kitte washine cleine
   in hir new gounue ² of gray
   so gay that day

2. To dance thir damesells thame dicht
   these lasses light as lasses ³
   thar gloves war of the raffall right
   thar shoes war of the ⁴ strates
   thar kirtels var of lincon licht
   weile prest [with] ⁵ many pletes

¹ MS. the the fifth.
² M. kirtill.
³ M. of lairris.
⁴ MS. of the of the.
⁵ MS. with om.
thay wer so nice when men night*
thay squealde lik any gaites
    Full loud thar day

3. Of all the madins mild as meid
was nane so gimpe as gilly
as any rose hir rud was reid
hir lyre was lik the lilly
bot yellow yellow was hir haed
and she of love so silly
thogh all hir kine had sworn hir ded
she wold have non bot willy
    allane that day

4. She skorned Jock & skriped at him
    & mvrgeond him with mokes
he wold have loved hir She wod not let him
for all his yellow lockes
he cherist hir she bad go chat him
she counted him not twa clockis
So shamfulle his short Jack² satt him
his legs war lik twa rokis
    or rvngs⁸ that day

5. Tom luttell was thair menstrall meit
good lord how he could lance
he played so shrill⁶ & sang so sweit
while towsie took a trance
old lightfoult that he could forleit
and cunterfouted france
he held him a¹⁰ man discrete
    & vp the morice dance
he took that day

6. Then steine cam steppen in with stends
    na rink might him areist
plattfoot he bobt with many bends

* M. men tham nicht.
⁷ M. schort goun.
⁸ M. sche said.
⁹ M. schill.
²⁰ M. Hei him avysit as, B. He vse him self as.
for mase he mad request
he lap while he lay on his lends
& rising so was prest
while he did host at both the ends
for honor of the feast
    & dance that day

7. then robeine roy begane to rewell
    & rusie to him rugged\textsuperscript{11}
let be (quod Jock) & calt hir jewell
    & by the taile him rugged
then kense cleked him to a kewell
God wait if thay tua jugged\textsuperscript{12}
thay parted hir vpone a nawell
mew said that hair was rugged
    betuene tham twa\textsuperscript{13}

8. With that a frend of his cryd fy
    & furth ane arrow drew
he forged it so forcefully
the bow in flinders flew
sick was the g[r]ace\textsuperscript{14} of God trow I
for had the tre beine trew
mew said who knew his archere
that he had slaine a new
    belive that day

9. A yape young maw that stoid him by\textsuperscript{15}
soon bent his bow\textsuperscript{16} in yre
    & etled the berin in at the breist
the bot flew over the byre
    &\textsuperscript{17} cried fy he had slane a prist
a myle beyond the myre

\textsuperscript{11} M. druggit.
\textsuperscript{12} M. Bot lord than gif thay luggit.
\textsuperscript{13} M. twa om.
\textsuperscript{14} MS. gace.
\textsuperscript{15} M. neist.
\textsuperscript{16} M. lousit of ane schot.
\textsuperscript{17} M. ane.
both bow & bag frome him he keist
& fled as fast as fyre
frome flint that day

10. Ane hasty kinsman18 called harrye
that was an archer keind19
Tyd vp a cudgell20 that was without tary
I trow the man was scind21
I wait not whidder his hand did warie
or his fae22 was his frend
bot he skaped by the nights23 of Marie
as man that na thing 24 meinet
bot good that day

11. then lowrie like a lyon lap
& soon a flane can fedder
he hecht to perce him at the pape
thar on to wad a wedder
he hitt him on the womb a wap
it buft lik any bledder
he skaped sa sick was his hap
his dublet was of ledder
full fyn25 that day

12. the buff so boyestrously abast him
that he to the errth dust downe
the rther man for dead than left him
& fled out of the roune
the wives cam foirth & vp thay reft him
& fund liff in the loune
then with thre routs thay raiest him
& cured26 him out of soune
fra hand that day

18 M. hensour.
19 M. heynd.
20 M. Tit vp ane takill.
21 M. That turment so him teynd.
22 M. gif the man.
23 M. michitis.
24 M. ewill.
25 M. And sauft him.
26 M. coverit.
13. The miller was of manly make 
to met him was na mowes 
that durst na ransom there hime \textsuperscript{27} tak 
so mowed he thare mowes \textsuperscript{28} 
the bushemen hail about him brak 
& bikeed him with bowes 
then tratoursly behind his back 
they hacked him on the howes 
behind that day

14. then hurcon with an hasile rise 
to red gan throw thame rvmnell 
he mvddled down lik any myse 
he vas na bitte bumble 
while frome his thumbe that flew \textsuperscript{29} a slice 
while he cryed barlfumell 
tho he was wight he was nocht wise 
with sick jutors to juble \textsuperscript{30} 
I am slaine this day

15. When \textit{that} he saw his blood so reid 
to fie might na man lat him 
he trued it had beine for ald feid 
he thought & bad \textsuperscript{31} have at him 
he maid \textsuperscript{32} his feet defend his heid 
the farr fairer it sat him 
While he was past out of thar pleid 
they musst be swift that gat him 
throw speid that day

16. twa that war hedsman of the herd 
they rusht on uther lik rames 
the uther four that war vnferd 
bet on with barrow trames

\textsuperscript{27} M. ten cum him to.
\textsuperscript{28} M. nobbyt he thar nowis.
\textsuperscript{29} M. thay dang.
\textsuperscript{30} M. geummill.
\textsuperscript{31} B. ane cryd.
\textsuperscript{32} M. gart.
and whar thar goges wer vngeird
thay got upon the games
while all the bludburne\textsuperscript{33} was thair berd
as thay had wirried lambes
most lik that day

17. thay girnd & glowred all at aines
eche\textsuperscript{34} gossop uther greved \textsuperscript{34}
sum staikd stings sum gaddeted stanes
sum piled \& sum relived
thair menstrale vsed quiet meines\textsuperscript{35}
that day he wisly preved
for he cam ham with vnbrust banes
whar fechters wer mishewed
full ill that day

18. with forks \& flails than thay lett flaps
\& flew togidder with friges
with bugers of barnes thay part blew caps
while of thar bairnis\textsuperscript{36} thay made brigs
the rair\textsuperscript{37} rais rvdly with thar rapes
when rvnge wer laid on rigs
than wives cam fourth with cries \& craps
sie whar my liking ligges
full low\textsuperscript{38} that day

19. The black suter of bray\textsuperscript{39} was buden
his wif hang by his wast
his body was in bleak\textsuperscript{40} al browden
he girned lik a gast
hir glittering hair that [wes]\textsuperscript{41} so goudine
his love fast for him laist

\textsuperscript{33} M. bludie barkit.
\textsuperscript{34} M. IIk; MS. Altered from grevet.
\textsuperscript{35} M. The menstrale wan within ane (B. twa) wanis.
\textsuperscript{36} M. bairnis.
\textsuperscript{37} M. rede.
\textsuperscript{38} M. quod scho.
\textsuperscript{39} M. The toun soutar in breif (B. greif) was boudin.
\textsuperscript{40} M. blude.
\textsuperscript{41} MS. wes om.
that for her saik he was vnyouden
while he a myle was chaste
and moir that day

20. when thay had bairt lik bated boules
the banfir\textsuperscript{42} burnt in bailes
thay grew\textsuperscript{43} as meik as any mvles
that wereed\textsuperscript{44} wer with mailes
for tyrndes these forfochtine fouales
fell doune lik flachtered failes
fresche mens cam in and haitet that dules
and dang thame doune in dailes
bedeine that day

21. The wifes then gave\textsuperscript{45} an hiddeouse yell
when all these younkcours yocked
as fierce as flags of fyreflaucht fell
freikis to the feild thay flocked\textsuperscript{46}
so rvdly rang the common bell
that all the stipell rocked
for dreid\textsuperscript{47} that day

22. by this tom taylour was in geir
when he hard the common bell
he said he shold mak thame all in steir
When he cum thair him sell
he went to fecht with such an feir
while to the ground he fell
a wife then hit him on the eare
with an great koiking mell
feld him that day

23. The bridgrome brocht a pint of ale
& bad the pyper drink
Drink it (quoth he) & it so stale

\textsuperscript{42} M. and branewode.
\textsuperscript{43} M. wox, B. wer.
\textsuperscript{44} M. maggit, B. mangit.
\textsuperscript{45} M. cast vp.
\textsuperscript{46} MS. Two lines om.
\textsuperscript{47} M. rerde.

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a schrew me if I think it
the brid hir maidens stood thraby\textsuperscript{48}
& said it was not blinked
and bartagrave the brid so gay
vpon thame fast she winked
    full sone that day

24. when all was done dicker with an axe
Cam furth to fell a fudder
quoth he what is\textsuperscript{19} yon hurston smakes
right now that hurt my brother
his wife bade him ga hame good glaikes
& so did meg his mother
he turnd & gave thame bot ther paikes
for he durst ding non vther
    but thame\textsuperscript{50} that day.

*   *   *

The following version of the \textit{Wyf of Auchtermuchty} exists only in a transcript (La. IV. 28), which was used by David Laing when editing the poem from the Bannatyne manuscript in \textit{Select Remains of the Ancient Popular Poetry of Scotland} (Edinburgh, 1822).

The transcript was apparently made for David Laing in December 1821 by one James Kilgour. Preserved with the transcript is a note from Kilgour to Laing, headed "Reg' House, Edn,'" which reads "I intended to write the whole of this humorous story as well as the first line— but I had something to do at home for a friend & could not get at it till eleven o'clock at night. I believe it is correct. I collated it with Mr Macdonald in the hearing of Mr Jamieson." The likelihood of finding the original is probably slight, if the same document is referred to in a second missive, "Memorandum for Mr D. Laing. Mr Jamieson is very sorry that he cannot possibly find the stall copy of the Wife of Auchtermuchty— It is a poor thing—an attempt to modernize & improve— with a succession of interlaced rhymes, & in a different measure." This note is undated and unsigned, but may also be by Kilgour. The address "D. Laing Esq" is identical on the two notes,

\textsuperscript{a} MS. neir written above thraby.
\textsuperscript{b} M. ar.
\textsuperscript{c} M. men said, B. for feir.

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and although the hand of the second is untidy, unlike the regular script of the transcript and first letter, there are similarities, and some letters of 1819-27 from Kilgour to Laing concerning other transcriptions are in a hand which differs again. The identity or profession of James Kilgour have not been discovered, which is unfortunate, as personal papers might have contained information on his transcripts.

David Laing describes the original of this one as being "in a hand not much later than 1600," and gives readings from it (named "MS. A") in footnotes to his edition. In later editions of the *Select Remains* he states "This copy is now preserved in the Advocates' Library. It was discovered among some old law-papers which had belonged to the family of Skene of Halyard in Fife." However, the staff of the National Library of Scotland (which incorporates the Advocates' Library) can find no trace of it, and it is not among the papers of the Skene of Halyards which are in the Scottish Record Office in H.M. General Register House. A volume of mounted sheets of "Miscellaneous Verses" in the Scottish Record Office was also searched without success. It is not clear in fact from the information relating to this transcript whether the original was in manuscript or print. The phrase "stall copy" implies a broadsheet, and in spite of Laing's remark about the "hand," there is no evidence that he had seen the original, and may simply have assumed that it was a manuscript.

The text of the poem, named here "Kilgour," contains 109 lines, against 120 in the Bannatyne MS., the only other source. While the Bannatyne text is in eight-line stanzas, the Kilgour, which is written without a break, falls into stanzas of four lines, except for two which have six lines and one which has five. In substance the two versions agree, but there are in Kilgour significant transpositions, additions and omissions. The most striking addition is of eight lines, stanzas 16 and 17. On the other hand, Kil. stanza 3 corresponds to eight lines of Bann., Kil. stanza 6 to six lines of a Bann. stanza, while the remaining two lines have been altered and expanded to form Kil. stanza 7. The first line of Kil. stanza 10 comes from an omitted Bann. stanza. Kilgour omits four lines following his stanza 13, two lines from his stanza 19 and four lines between his stanzas 25 and 26. Kilgour stanzas 18 and

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81 I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Aiken for referring me to the Preface by E. Piper to *Clariotes* (Edinburgh, 1830), which states: "This relique of ancient poetry was conducted through the press by Mr Kilgour of the Register House, whose well-tried skill and fidelity afford a sufficient pledge of the minute and scrupulous accuracy with which the edition has been executed." This happy discovery prompted a search of other prefaces and some subscription lists, but these yielded no further references to Kilgour.
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21 occur earlier in Bannatyne. Many lines are almost identical in the two versions, but in some places Kilgour is padded out with verbiage, the chief effect of which is to upset the scansion, e.g. honest in line 1. One may assume that Kilgour copied accurately, as the letters referred to above show him to be conscientious about adhering to the oldest available reading, and against modernising spelling. The language of the text certainly indicates an origin in the seventeenth century, but without widespread anglicisation of the vocabulary. The interpolations and “improvements” are consonant with the nature of broadsheet poetry, e.g. good fat soup, lock in her lap, good rung, while (= till) the damskday, ill-fard, in bis bosome, little wie low, and the additional lines 2 and 4 of stanza 7. Stanzas 16 and 17 may be late additions or they may have been part of a traditional text, as they fit well with the rest of the story. The failure of the rhyme in stanza 16 may indicate a corruption in the text at some stage. An obvious corruption is late & even, and beikman appears to be another.

The 1822 edition by David Laing was not the first time that a version other than Bannatyne had been heard of. In Blackwood’s Magazine 1. (1817) 67f. the poem is printed below introductory remarks including mention of the two editions from the Bannatyne MS., by Allan Ramsay in Evergreen (1724) and by Lord Hailes (1770). It continues: “The present edition is taken from the same MS. but collated with another, and, apparently, an older copy, in the Advocates’ Library, from which several alterations, and the whole of the 11th stanza have been supplied.” The Blackwood text, which is in eight-line stanzas, like the Bannatyne, is in fact largely a conflation of the Bannatyne and Kilgour texts, and the transposition in Blackwood of the last two couplets of Bann. stanza 4 could be compared with the arrangement in Kilgour stanzas 6 and 7, which have been expanded by two lines. A number of readings do not result from conflation, and correspond to neither of the other texts, e.g. stanza 6/2 maun, maun (B. tall, sall), /6 fyle not the bed (B. drys . .). The Blackwood text of stanzas 16 and 17 is as follows:

He set his foot vpon the spyre
To have gotten the fleshe down to the pat
Bot he fell backward into the fyre,
And cloued his croun on the kemine stock.
He hang the meikle pat on the cruik
And with twa cannis ran to the spout,
Or he wan back againe (alaik)
The fyre brunt all the boddon out.
These changes, reckoned as “improvements” to the text, are perhaps to be attributed to nineteenth-century editorial practice. Another source of the innovations might be found in the Blackwood introduction, namely the possibility that the “other” MS. and the “older copy” may have been two copies of the same text. Although great weight cannot be placed on this anonymous entry in the magazine, such an explanation would also make sense of the phrase “older copy,” one older, that is, than the other (late) manuscript. The seventeenth-century copy would surely not have appeared older than the Bannatyne MS. itself. However, no satisfactory solution is possible in the absence of the seventeenth-century text. Variant readings are from the Bannatyne MS. Contractions are in italics.

The wife of Auchtermuchtie

1. In Auchtermuchtie there wind an honest man\(^2\)
a rach husband I heard men cald
Sa well can tippile vpoun a good can
this man lounes neither hunger nor cald

2. Whill it fell once vpoun a day
he yoked his pleuch vpoun the plaine
If it be trueth I heard men say
it came on a foull day for wind & raine

3. He loosed the pleuch hame at he came
he saw the goodwill sitting baith faire & cleane
Sitting before a good beikman bald\(^3\)
a good fat sowp\(^4\) hir handis beruene

4. Dame where is my horses corne
my cattell hes neither straw nor hay
Dame ye shall go to the pleuch the morne
is gyde the hous als well as I may

5. Goodman quoth sho I’me well content
to gang to the pleuch my day about
A gude husband if ye wold bee
gyde my hous well baith in and out

\(^2\) thair dwelt ane man.

\(^3\) at ane fyre beikand (= warming) bawld.

\(^4\) ane fat sowp.
6. A good husband if ye wold be
   first ye must sifte then ye man knead
   And ay as ye go out and in
   keip well the gazlines fra the gled
   And ay as ye go but & ben
   see that the bairnes misse not the bed

7. And a good husband at ye wold bee
   some spottis in the house ye man out spy
   We have a deare ken to pay to the ladie
   see that the calfes sowk not the ky

8. The goodwife sho sat vp ouer late & even sho made hir self right well for to fair
   Sho kirnd the kirne and scome it clen
   and left the goodman the blaidie baire

9. The goodwife gat vp soone in the morning
   vpon hir heart laid a fyne disjune
   Sho preind mair to Jock in hir lap nor wold have senved three honest men at noone

10. Now the goodman gat vp soone in the morning
    to caw the gazlines to the grass
    There wes but seuenssome of them aw
    and by there come the greedie glaidis
    And cleiked vp fyve & left the goodman but tua

11. The goodman ran forth in a great anger
    soone ever as he heard the gazlines cry
    Ere he came in what thought ye of that
    the calfes brake lous & souked all the ky

12. The goodman gat a good rung intill his hand
    and ran amang the ky to red
    And by there came an ill willie key
    and brodit his butrock they say whill it bled

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13. Yit he gate the kirne staff in his hand
    and fast he jumbled and fast he saat
    And wold he haue jumbled while the dunsday
    sorrow a bit butter that ever he gat
14. And in there came the greedie sow
    the goodman he kund hir little thank
    And in shoo shot hir ill fard mow
    and ay shoo winkit and ay shoo drank
15. The goodman he gat a good rung in his hand
    to haue taine the sow vpon the snout
    The tua gazlines that the glaidis had chaped
    he chaunced to ding baith their harnes out
16. He gat his foot vpon the spyre
to haue gotten the flesh doune to the pat
    He fell backward into the fyre
    and brack his head on the keming stock
17. Yit he gat the meikle pat vpon the fyre
    and gat tua cannes & ran to the spout
    Er he came in qubat thought ye of that
    the fyre brunt aw the pat ars out
18. He gat the rock soone in his bosome
    he thought well to have begun his spinning
    But alace he leand ouer neir hand the low
    alace (quo) this wark hes a hard beginning
19. He gat to the chamer intill a race
    till haue gotten the bairnes baith fair & cleane
    The first that he gat in his armes
    they were misyved half gait to the cyne
The feind receaue their fingers syne (quo)
    that filled yow half so full yestrein

  60 wmlit at it quhill he swatt.
  61 quhen he had wmlit a full lang houre.
  62 meikle.
  63 = chimney - post.
  64 = the stock or support to which carding-combs were fixed.
  65 Than hame he ran to ane rok of tow.
  66 bedirtin to the ene.
20. He gat the sheites into the burne
    he began to wash them vpon a broad stone
The burne came doune sa rude a floode
    and fra the goodman the sheites hes tane

21. He laid a wisp into the kill
    and sho set quicklie vp into a little wie low
What euer he heard qubat euer he saw
    that day he had na will to mow

22. Yit he gat vp vpon a know
    vpon the goodwife he cryed mony good shout
Sho heard him but sho heard him nought
    and stoutlie sho steird the storis about

23. Sho draue the day unto the end
    sho loosed the pleuch and hame sho came
Sho saw some wrang that sould haue bene right
    lord gin the goodman thought meikle shame

24. Dame Ile ge ouer my hussiesskep
    for all the day forsooth of my life
For I think Ile make an honest hous bare
    gin I be twentie dayes goodwife

25. God giue yow good of your hussieskep
    for good man I think I sall neuer accept it
Deill receuaue the lieres lipes
    but dame ye may be blyth to gett it

26. I think quhen I forsook my pleuch
    I think that I forsook my seill
For I will vnto my pleuch agane
    goodwife your hous I will nere doe well.

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*7 in ane low.
*8 stottis.