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## QUEEN ELEANOR'S CONFESSION

- A.** a. 'Queen Eleanor's Confession,' a broadside, London, Printed for C. Bates, at the Sun and Bible in Gilt-spur-street, near Pye-corner, Bagford Ballads, II, No 26, British Museum (1685?). b. Another broadside, Printed for C. Bates in Pye-corner, Bagford Ballads, I, No 33 (1685?). c. Another copy, Printed for C. Bates, in Pye-corner, reprinted in Utterson's Little Book of Ballads, p. 22. d. A Collection of Old Ballads, 1723, I, 18.
- B.** Skene MS., p. 39.
- C.** 'Queen Eleanor's Confession,' Buchan's Gleanings, p. 77.
- D.** 'The Queen of England,' Aytoun, Ballads of Scotland, 1859, I, 196.
- E.** 'Queen Eleanor's Confession,' Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads, p. 247.
- F.** 'Earl Marshall,' Motherwell's Minstrelsy, p. 1.

GIVEN in Percy's Reliques, 1765, II, 145, "from an old printed copy," with some changes by the editor, of which the more important are in stanzas 2–4. F, "recovered from recitation" by Motherwell, repeats Percy's changes in 2, 3, 10<sup>4</sup>, and there is reason to question whether this and the other recited versions are anything more than traditional variations of printed copies. The ballad seems first to have got into print in the latter part of the seventeenth century, but was no doubt circulating orally some time before that, for it is in the truly popular tone. The fact that *two* friars hear the confession would militate against a much earlier date. In E there might appear to be some consciousness of this irregularity; for the Queen sends for a single friar, and the King says he will be "a prelate old" and sit in a dark corner; but none the less does the King take an active part in the shrift.\*

There is a Newcastle copy, "Printed and sold by Robert Marchbank, in the Custom-house-Entry," among the Douce ballads in the Bodleian Library, 3, fol. 80, and in the Rox-

burghe collection, British Museum, III, 634. This is dated in the Museum catalogue 1720?

Eleanor of Aquitaine was married to Henry II of England in 1152, a few weeks after her divorce from Louis VII of France, she being then about thirty and Henry nineteen years of age. "It is needless to observe," says Percy, "that the following ballad is altogether fabulous; whatever gallantries Eleanor encouraged in the time of her first husband, none are imputed to her in that of her second."

In Peele's play of Edward I, 1593, the story of this ballad is transferred from Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine to Edward Longshanks and that model of women and wives, Eleanor of Castile, together with other slanders which might less ridiculously have been invented of Henry II's Eleanor.† Edward's brother Edmund plays the part of the Earl Marshall. The Queen dies; the King bewails his loss in terms of imbecile affection, and orders crosses to be reared at all the stages of the funeral convoy. Peele's Works, ed. Dyce, I, 184 ff.

There are several sets of tales in which a

\* The threat implied in E 3<sup>4</sup> has no motive; and the phrase "haly spark" in 5<sup>4</sup> is an unadvised anticipation.

† Found also in the ballad, A Warning-Piece to England against Pride and Wickedness: Being the Fall of Queen  
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Eleanor, Wife to Edward the First, King of England, who, for her Pride, by God's Judgments, sunk into the Ground at Charing-Cross and rose at Queen-Hithe. A Collection of Old Ballads, I, 97.

husband takes a shrift-father's place and hears his wife's confession. 1. A fabliau "Du chevalier qui fist sa fame confesse," Barbazan et Méon, III, 229; Montaiglon, Recueil Général, I, 178, No 16; Legrand, Fabliaux, etc., 1829, IV, 132, with circumstances added by Legrand. 2. Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles, 1432, No 78; Scala Celi, 1480, fol. 49;\* Mensa Philosophica, cited by Manni, Istoria del Decamerone, p. 476; Doni, Novelle, Lucca, 1852, Nov. xiii; Malespini, Ducento Novelle, No 92, Venice, 1609, I, 248; Kirchhof, Wendunmuth, No 245, Oesterley, II, 535; La Fontaine, "Le Mari Confesseur," Contes, I, No 4. 3. Boccaccio, VII, 5.

In 1, 2, the husband discovers himself after the confession; in 3 he is recognized by the wife before she begins her shrift, which she frames to suit her purposes. In all these, the wife, on being reproached with the infidelity which she had revealed, tells the husband that she knew all the while that he was the confessor, and gives an ingenious turn to her

apparently compromising disclosures which satisfies him of her innocence. All these tales have the cynical Oriental character, and, to a healthy taste, are far surpassed by the innocuous humor of the English ballad.

Oesterley, in his notes to Kirchhof, V, 103, cites a number of German story-books in which the tale may, in some form, be found; also Hans Sachs, 4, 3, 7b.† In Bandello, Parte Prima, No 9, a husband, not disguising himself, prevails upon a priest to let him overhear his wife's confession, and afterwards kills her.

Svend Grundtvig informed me that he had six copies of an evidently recent (and very bad) translation of Percy's ballad, taken down from recitation in different parts of Denmark. In one of these Queen Eleanor is exchanged for a Queen of Norway. Percy's ballad is also translated by Bodmer, II, 40; Ursinus, p. 59; Talvj, Charakteristik, p. 513; Döring, p. 373; Knortz, L. u. R. Alt-Englands, No 51.

## A

a. A broadside, London, Printed for C. Bates, at the Sun & Bible in Gilt-spur-street, near Pye-corner, Bagford Ballads, II, No 26, 1685? b. A broadside, Printed for C. Bates, in Pye-corner, Bagford Ballads, I, No 33, 1685? c. Another copy of b, reprinted in Utterson's Little Book of Ballads, p. 22. d. A Collection of Old Ballads, 1723, I, 18.

1 QUEEN ELENOR was a sick woman,  
And afraid that she should dye;  
Then she sent for two fryars of France,  
For to speak with them speedily.

2 The King calld down his nobles all,  
By one, by two, and by three,  
And sent away for Earl Martial,  
For to speak with him speedily.

3 When that he came before the King,  
He fell on his bended knee;

\* There attributed to Jacques de Vitry, but not found in his *Exempla*. Professor Crane informs me that, though the Scala Celi cites Jacques de Vitry sixty-two times, only fourteen of such *exempla* occur among J. de V.'s.

'A boon, a boon! our gracious king,  
That you sent so hastily.'

4 'I'll pawn my living and my lands,  
My septer and my crown,  
That whatever Queen Elenor says,  
I will not write it down.

5 'Do you put on one fryar's coat,  
And I'll put on another,  
And we will to Queen Elenor go,  
One fryar like another.'

6 Thus both attired then they go;  
When they came to Whitehall,  
The bells they did ring, and the quiristers sing,  
And the torches did light them all.

7 When that they came before the Queen,  
They fell on their bended knee:

† The story does not occur in Doni's *Marmi*, iii, 27, as has been said. What is there found is somewhat after the fashion of 'The Baffled Knight,' No 112.

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- 'A boon, a boon! our gracious queen,  
That you sent so hastily.'
- 8 'Are you two fryars of France?' she said,  
'Which I suppose you be;  
But if you are two English fryars,  
Then hanged shall you be.'
- 9 'We are two fryars of France,' they said,  
'As you suppose we be;  
We have not been at any mass  
Since we came from the sea.'
- 10 'The first vile thing that ere I did  
I will to you unfold;  
Earl Martial had my maidenhead,  
Underneath this cloath of gold.'
- 11 'That is a vile sin,' then said the king,  
'God may forgive it thee!'  
'Amen! Amen!' quoth Earl Martial,  
With a heavy heart then spoke he.
- 12 'The next vile thing that ere I did  
To you I'll not deny;  
I made a box of poyson strong,  
To poyson King Henry.'
- 13 'That is a vile sin,' then said the King,  
'God may forgive it thee!'  
'Amen! Amen!' quoth Earl Martial,  
'And I wish it so may be.'
- 14 'The next vile thing that ere I did  
To you I will discover;
- I poysoned Fair Rosamond,  
All in fair Woodstock bower.'
- 15 'That is a vile sin,' then said the King,  
'God may forgive it thee!'  
'Amen! Amen!' quoth Earl Martial,  
'And I wish it so may be.'
- 16 'Do you see yonders little boy,  
A tossing of that ball?  
That is Earl Martial[s] eldest son,  
And I love him the best of all.'
- 17 'Do you see yonders little boy,  
A catching of the ball?  
That is King Henry's son,' she said,  
'And I love him the worst of all.'
- 18 'His head is like unto a bull,  
His nose is like a boar;'  
'No matter for that,' King Henry said,  
'I love him the better therefore.'
- 19 The King puld of his fryar's coat,  
And appeard all in red;  
She shriekd and she cry'd, she wrong her  
hands,  
And said she was betrayd.
- 20 The King lookd over his left shoulder,  
And a grim look looked he,  
And said, Earl Martial, but for my oath,  
Then hanged shouldst thou be.

## B

Skene MS., p. 39.

- 1 OUR queen's sick, an very sick,  
She's sick an like to die;  
She has sent for the friars of France,  
To speak wi her speedilie.
- 2 'I'll put on a friar's robe,  
An ye'll put on anither,  
An we'll go to Madam the Queen,  
Like friars bath thegither.'
- 3 'God forbid,' said Earl Marishall,  
'That ever the like shud be,
- That I beguile Madam the Queen!  
I wad be hangit hie.'
- 4 The King pat on a friar's robe,  
Earl Marishall on anither;  
They're on to the Queen,  
Like friars baith thegither.
- 5 'Gin ye be the friars of France,  
As I trust well ye be —  
But an ye be ony ither men,  
Ye sall be hangit hie.'
- 6 The King he turnd him roun,  
An by his troth sware he,

- We hae na sung messe  
Sin we came frae the sea.
- 7 'The first sin ever I did,  
An a very great sin 't was tee,  
I gae my maidenhead to Earl Marishall,  
Under the greenwood tree.'
- 8 'That was a sin, an a very great sin,  
But pardond it may be ;'  
'Wi mendiment,' said Earl Marishall,  
But a heavy heart had he.
- 9 'The next sin ever I did,  
An a very great sin 't was tee,  
I poisoned Lady Rosamond,  
An the King's darling was she.'
- 10 'That was a sin, an a very great sin,  
But pardond it may be ;'  
'Wi mendiment,' said King Henry,  
But a heavy heart had he.
- 11 'The next sin ever I did,  
An a very great sin 't was tee,  
I keepit poison in my bosom seven years,  
To poison him King Henrie.'
- 12 'That was a sin, an a very great sin,  
But pardond it may be ;'  
'Wi mendiment,' said King Henry,  
But a heavy heart had he.
- 13 'O see na ye yon bonny boys,  
As they play at the ba ?  
An see na ye Lord Marishal's son ?  
I lee him best of a'.
- 14 'But see na ye King Henry's son ?  
He 's headit like a bull, and backit like a boar,  
I like him warst awa :'  
'And by my sooth,' says him King Henry,  
'I like him best o the twa.'
- 15 The King he turned him roun,  
Pat on the coat o goud,  
. . . . .  
The Queen turnd the King to behold.
- 16 . . . . .  
'Gin I hadna sworn by the crown and sceptre  
roun,  
Earl Marishal sud been gart die.'

## C

Buchan's Gleanings, p. 77.

- 1 THE Queen 's faen sick, and very, very sick,  
Sick, and going to die,  
And she 's sent for twa friars of France,  
To speak with her speedilie.
- 2 The King he said to the Earl Marischal,  
To the Earl Marischal said he,  
The Queen she wants twa friars frae France,  
To speak with her presentilie.
- 3 Will ye put on a friar's coat,  
And I'll put on another,  
And we'll go in before the Queen,  
Like friars both together.
- 4 'But O forbid,' said the Earl Marischal,  
'That I this deed should dee !  
For if I beguile Eleanor our queen,  
She will gar hang me hie.'
- 5 The King he turned him round about,  
An angry man was he ;  
He 's sworn by his sceptre and his sword  
Earl Marischal should not die.
- 6 The King has put on a friar's coat,  
Earl Marischal on another,  
And they went in before the Queen,  
Like friars both together.
- 7 'O, if ye be twa friars of France,  
Ye 're dearly welcome to me ;  
But if ye be twa London friars,  
I will gar hang you hie.'
- 8 'Twa friars of France, twa friars of France,  
Twa friars of France are we,  
And we vow we never spoke to a man  
Till we spake to Your Majesty.'
- 9 'The first great sin that eer I did,  
And I'll tell you it presentilie,

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- Earl Marischal got my maidenhead,  
 When coming oer the sea.'
- 10 'That was a sin, and a very great sin,  
 But pardoned it may be ;'  
 'All that with amendment,' said Earl Marischal,  
 But a quacking heart had he.
- 11 'The next great sin that eer I did,  
 I'll tell you it presentlie ;  
 I carried a box seven years in my breast,  
 To poison King Henrie.'
- 12 'O that was a sin, and a very great sin,  
 But pardoned it may be ;'  
 'All that with amendment,' said Earl Marischal,  
 But a quacking heart had he.
- 13 'The next great sin that eer I did,  
 I'll tell you it presentlie ;  
 I poisoned the Lady Rosamond,  
 And a very good woman was she.
- 14 'See ye not yon twa bonny boys,  
 As they play at the ba ?  
 The eldest of them is Marischal's son,  
 And I love him best of a' ;  
 The youngest of them is Henrie's son,  
 And I love him none at a'
- 15 'For he is headed like a bull, a bull,  
 He is backed like a boar ;'  
 'Then by my sooth,' King Henrie said,  
 'I love him the better therefor.'
- 16 The King has cast off his friar's coat,  
 Put on a coat of gold ;  
 The Queen she's turned her face about,  
 She could not 's face behold.
- 17 The King then said to Earl Marischal,  
 To the Earl Marischal said he,  
 Were it not for my sceptre and sword,  
 Earl Marischal, ye should die.

## D

Aytoun's Ballads of Scotland, 2d edition, I, 196, from the recitation of a lady residing in Kirkcaldy ; learned of her mother.

- 1 THE queen of England she has fallen sick,  
 Sore sick, and like to die ;  
 And she has sent for twa French priests,  
 To bear her companie.
- 2 The King he has got word o this,  
 And an angry man was he ;  
 And he is on to the Earl-a-Marshall;  
 As fast as he can gae.
- 3 'Now you'll put on a priest's robe,  
 And I'll put on anither,  
 And we will on unto the Queen,  
 Like twa French priests thegither.'
- 4 'No indeed !' said the Earl-a-Marshall,  
 'That winna I do for thee,  
 Except ye swear by your sceptre and crown  
 Ye'll do me nae injurie.'
- 5 The King has sworn by his sceptre and crown  
 He'll do him nae injurie,  
 And they are on unto the Queen,  
 As fast as they can gae.
- 6 'O, if that ye be twa French priests,  
 Ye're welcome unto me ;  
 But if ye be twa Scottish lords,  
 High hanged ye shall be.
- 7 'The first sin that I did sin,  
 And that to you I'll tell,  
 I slept wi the Earl-a-Marshall,  
 Beneath a silken bell.
- 8 'And wasna that a sin, and a very great sin ?  
 And I pray ye pardon me ;'  
 'Amen, and amen !' said the Earl-a-Marshall,  
 And a wearied man was he.
- 9 'The neist sin that I did sin,  
 And that to you I'll tell,  
 I kepted the poison seven years in my bosom,  
 To poison the King himsel.

- 10 'And wasna that a sin, and a very great sin?  
 And I pray ye pardon me ;'  
 'Amen, and amen!' said the Earl-a-Marshall,  
 And a wearied man was he.
- 11 'O see ye there my seven sons,  
 A' playing at the ba?  
 There's but ane o them the King's himsel,  
 And I like him warst of a'.
- 12 'He's high-backed, and low-breasted,  
 And he is bald withal ;'  
 'And by my deed,' and says the King,  
 'I like him best mysel !'
- 13 'O wae betide ye, Earl-a-Marshall,  
 And an ill death may ye die!  
 For if I hadna sworn by my sceptre and crown,  
 High hanged ye should be.'

## E

Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads, p. 247.

- 1 THE Queen fell sick, and very, very sick,  
 She was sick, and like to dee,  
 And she sent for a friar oure frae France,  
 Her confessour to be.
- 2 King Henry, when he heard o that,  
 An angry man was he,  
 And he sent to the Earl Marshall,  
 Attendance for to gie.
- 3 'The Queen is sick,' King Henry cried,  
 'And wants to be beshriven ;  
 She has sent for a friar oure frae France ;  
 By the rude, he were better in heaven !'
- 4 'But tak you now a friar's guise,  
 The voice and gesture feign,  
 And when she has the pardon crav'd,  
 Respond to her, Amen !'
- 5 'And I will be a prelate old,  
 And sit in a corner dark,  
 To hear the adventures of my spouse,  
 My spouse, and her haly spark.'
- 6 'My liege, my liege, how can I betray  
 My mistress and my queen?  
 O swear by the rude that no damage  
 From this shall be gotten or gien !'
- 7 'I swear by the rude,' quoth King Henry,  
 'No damage shall be gotten or gien ;  
 Come, let us spare no cure nor care  
 For the conscience o the Queen.'
- \* \* \* \* \*
- 8 'O fathers, O fathers, I'm very, very sick,  
 I'm sick, and like to dee ;  
 Some ghostly comfort to my poor soul  
 O tell if ye can gie !'
- 9 'Confess, confess,' Earl Marshall cried,  
 'And you shall pardoned be ;'  
 'Confess, confess,' the King replied,  
 'And we shall comfort gie.'
- 10 'Oh, how shall I tell the sorry, sorry tale !  
 How can the tale be told !  
 I playd the harlot wi the Earl Marshall,  
 Beneath yon cloth of gold.
- 11 'Oh, wasna that a sin, and a very great sin ?  
 But I hope it will pardoned be ;'  
 'Amen! Amen!' quoth the Earl Marshall,  
 And a very feart heart had he.
- 12 'O down i the forest, in a bower,  
 Beyond yon dark oak-tree,  
 I drew a penknife frae my pocket  
 To kill King Henerie.
- 13 'Oh, wasna that a sin, and a very great sin ?  
 But I hope it will pardoned be ;'  
 'Amen! Amen!' quoth the Earl Marshall,  
 And a very feart heart had he.
- 14 'O do you see yon pretty little boy,  
 That's playing at the ba?  
 He is the Earl Marshall's only son,  
 And I loved him best of a'.
- 15 'Oh, wasna that a sin, and a very great sin ?  
 But I hope it will pardoned be ;'  
 'Amen! Amen!' quoth the Earl Marshall,  
 And a very feart heart had he.

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- 16 'And do you see yon pretty little girl,  
That's a' beclad in green?  
She's a friar's daughter, oure in France,  
And I hoped to see her a queen.
- 17 'Oh, wasna that a sin, and a very great sin?  
But I hope it will pardoned be ;'  
'Amen! Amen!' quoth the Earl Marshall,  
And a feart heart still had he.
- 18 'O do you see yon other little boy,  
That's playing at the ba ?
- He is King Henry's only son,  
And I like him warst of a'.
- 19 'He's headed like a buck,' she said,  
'And backed like a bear ;'  
'Amen!' quoth the King, in the King's ain  
voice,  
'He shall be my only heir.'
- 20 The King lookd over his left shoulder,  
An angry man was he :  
'An it werna for the oath I sware,  
Earl Marshall, thou shouldst dee.'

## F

Motherwell's Minstrelsy, p. 1 ; from recitation.

- 1 QUEENE ELEANOR was a sick woman,  
And sick just like to die,  
And she has sent for two fryars of France,  
To come to her speedilie.  
And she has sent, etc.
- 2 The King called downe his nobles all,  
By one, by two, by three :  
'Earl Marshall, I'll go shrive the Queene,  
And thou shalt wend with mee.'
- 3 'A boone, a boone!' quoth Earl Marshall,  
And fell on his bended knee,  
'That whatsoever the Queene may say,  
No harm thereof may bee.'
- 4 'O you'll put on a gray-friar's gowne,  
And I'll put on another,  
And we will away to fair London town,  
Like friars both together.'
- 5 'O no, O no, my liege, my king,  
Such things can never bee ;  
For if the Queene hears word of this,  
Hanged she'll cause me to bee.'
- 6 'I swear by the sun, I swear by the moon,  
And by the stars so hie,  
And by my sceptre and my crowne,  
The Earl Marshall shall not die.'
- 7 The King's put on a gray-friar's gowne,  
The Earl Marshall's put on another,
- And they are away to fair London towne,  
Like fryars both together.
- 8 When that they came to fair London towne,  
And came into Whitehall,  
The bells did ring, and the quiristers sing,  
And the torches did light them all.
- 9 And when they came before the Queene,  
They kneeled down on their knee :  
'What matter, what matter, our gracious  
queene,  
You've sent so speedilie?'
- 10 'O, if you are two fryars of France,  
It's you that I wished to see ;  
But if you are two English lords,  
You shall hang on the gallowes-tree.'
- 11 'O we are not two English lords,  
But two fryars of France we bee,  
And we sang the Song of Solomon,  
As we came over the sea.'
- 12 'Oh, the first vile sin I did commit  
Tell it I will to thee ;  
I fell in love with the Earl Marshall,  
As he brought me over the sea.'
- 13 'Oh, that was a great sin,' quoth the King,  
'But pardond it must bee ;'  
'Amen! Amen!' said the Earl Marshall,  
With a heavie heart spake hee.
- 14 'Oh, the next sin that I did commit  
I will to you unfolde ;

- Earl Marshall had my virgin dower,  
 Beneath this cloth of golde.'
- 15 'Oh, that was a vile sin,' said the King,  
 'May God forgive it thee!'  
 'Amen! Amen!' groaned the Earl Marshall,  
 And a very frightened man was hee.
- 16 'Oh, the next sin that I did commit  
 Tell it I will to thee;  
 I poisoned a lady of noble blood,  
 For the sake of King Henrie.'
- 17 'Oh, that was a great sin,' said the King,  
 'But pardoned it shall bee;'  
 'Amen! Amen!' said the Earl Marshall,  
 And still a frightened man was he.
- 18 'Oh, the next sin that ever I did  
 Tell it I will to thee;  
 I have kept strong poison this seven long years,  
 To poison King Henrie.'
- 19 'Oh, that was a great sin,' said the King,  
 'But pardoned it must bee;'  
 'Amen! Amen!' said the Earl Marshall,  
 And still a frightened man was hee.
- 20 'O don't you see two little boys,  
 Playing at the football?  
 O yonder is the Earl Marshall's son,  
 And I like him best of all.
- 21 'O don't you see yon other little boy,  
 Playing at the football?  
 O that one is King Henrie's son,  
 And I like him worst of all.
- 22 'His head is like a black bull's head,  
 His feet are like a bear;'  
 'What matter! what matter!' cried the King,  
 'He's my son, and my only heir.'
- 23 The King plucked off his fryar's gowne,  
 And stood in his scarlet so red;  
 The Queen she turned herself in bed,  
 And cryed that she was betrayde.
- 24 The King lookt oer his left shoulder,  
 And a grim look looked he;  
 'Earl Marshall,' he said, 'but for my oath,  
 Thou hadst swung on the gallowes-tree.'

- A. a. Queen Eleanor's Confession: Shewing how King Henry, with the Earl Martial, in Fryars Habits, came to her, instead of two Fryars from France, which she sent for. To a pleasant New Tune. *Both a and b are dated in the Museum Catalogue 1670? "C. Bates, at Sun & Bible, near St. Sepulchre's Church, in Pye Corner, 1685." Chappell.*
- 10<sup>1</sup>. thta ere. 14<sup>2</sup>. disdover. 17<sup>1</sup>. younders.
- b. *Title the same, except* came to see her.  
 16<sup>3</sup>. Martial's. 17<sup>1</sup>. see then yonders.  
 20<sup>1</sup>. his let.
- c. *Title as in a.* 4<sup>3</sup>. whatsoever. 8<sup>4</sup>. you shall.  
 16<sup>2</sup>. catching of the. 16<sup>3</sup>. Marshal's.  
 17<sup>1</sup>. see then yonders.
- d. Queen Eleanor's Confession to the Two supposed Fryars of France.  
 1<sup>4</sup>. To speak with her. 2<sup>2</sup>. and *wanting*.  
 2<sup>4</sup>. For *wanting*.  
 4<sup>1</sup>. I'll pawn my lands the King then cry'd.  
 4<sup>3</sup>. whatsoere. 5<sup>1</sup>. on a.  
 5<sup>4</sup>. Like fryar and his brother.  
 6<sup>3</sup>. they *wanting*. 7<sup>4</sup>. you. 8<sup>2</sup>. As I.  
 10<sup>4</sup>. Beneath this. 11<sup>1</sup>, 13<sup>1</sup>, 15<sup>1</sup>. That's.  
 11<sup>4</sup>. then *wanting*.  
 16<sup>2</sup>. of the. 16<sup>3</sup>. Marshal's.  
 16<sup>4</sup>, 17<sup>4</sup>. And *wanting*. 18<sup>3</sup>. Henry cry'd.  
 19<sup>3</sup>. shriekd, she cry'd, and wrung.  
 20<sup>4</sup>. Or hanged.
- E. 14<sup>4</sup>. loved; love in *Kinloch's annotated copy*.
- F. 10<sup>1</sup>, 11<sup>1</sup>, 20<sup>1,3</sup>, 21<sup>1,3</sup>. Oh.



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## GUDE WALLACE

- A.** ‘On an honourable Achievement of Sir William Wallace, near Falkirk,’ a chap-book of Four New Songs and a Prophecy, 1745? Johnson’s Museum, ed. 1853, D. Laing’s additions, IV, 458\*; Maidment’s Scottish Ballads and Songs, 1859, p. 83.
- B.** ‘Sir William Wallace,’ communicated to Percy by Robert Lambe, of Norham, probably in 1768.
- C.** ‘Gude Wallace,’ Johnson’s Museum, p. 498, No 484, communicated by Robert Burns.
- D.** ‘Gude Wallace,’ communicated to Robert Chambers by Elliot Anderson, 1827.
- E.** ‘Willie Wallace,’ communicated to James Telfer by A. Fisher.
- F.** ‘Willie Wallace,’ Buchan’s Gleanings, p. 114.
- G.** ‘Sir William Wallace,’ Alexander Laing’s Thistle of Scotland, p. 100; Motherwell’s MS., p. 487.
- H.** ‘Wallace and his Leman,’ Buchan’s Ballads of the North of Scotland, II, 226.

**C** is reprinted by Finlay, I, 103. It is made the basis of a long ballad by Jamieson, II, 166, and serves as a thread for Cunningham’s ‘Gude Wallace,’ Scottish Songs, I, 262.\* **F** is repeated by Motherwell, Minstrelsy, p. 364, and by Aytoun, I, 54. A copy in the Laing MSS, University of Edinburgh, Div. II, 358, is **C**.

Blind Harry’s Wallace (of about 1460, earlier than 1488) is clearly the source of this ballad. **A-F** are derived from vv 1080–1119 of the Fifth Book. Here Wallace, on his way to a hostelry with a comrade, met a woman, who counselled them to pass by, if Scots, for southrons were there, drinking and talking of Wallace; twenty are there, making great din, but no man of fence. “Wallace went in and bad Benedicite.” The captain said, Thou art a Scot, the devil thy nation quell. Wallace drew, and ran the captain through; “fifteen he straik and fifteen has he slayn;” his comrade killed the other five.

The story of **A-E** is sufficiently represented

\* Cunningham, in his loose way, talks of several fragments which he had endeavored to combine, but can spare room for only one couplet:

Though lame of a leg and blind of an ee,  
You’re as like William Wallace as ever I did see.

But this is the William of ‘The Knight and the Shepherd’s Daughter,’ No 110.

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by that of **A**. Wallace comes upon a woman washing, and asks her for tidings. There are fifteen Englishmen at the hostelry seeking Wallace. Had he money he would go thither. She tells him out twenty shillings (for which he takes off *both* hat and hood, and thanks her reverently). He bows himself over a staff and enters the hostelry, saying, Good ben be here (in **C**, he bad Benedicite, in the words of Blind Harry). The captain asks the crooked carl where he was born, and the carl answers that he is a Scot. The captain offers the carl twenty shillings for a sight of Wallace. The carl wants no better bode, or offer.† He strikes the captain such a blow over the jaws that he will never eat more, and sticks the rest. Then he bids the goodwife get him food, for he has eaten nothing for two days. Ere the meal is ready, fifteen other Englishmen light at the door. These he soon disposes of, sticking five, trampling five in the gutter, and hanging five in the wood.

**F** makes Wallace change clothes with a

† **A** 15, **B** 12, **D** 12, are somewhat corrupted. In **F** 14 Wallace says he never *had* a better bode. In **E** 10 Wallace’s reply is, Pay down, for if your answer be not good you shall have the downfall of Robin Hood; and in **G** 30, Tell down, and ye shall see William Wallace with the down-come of Robin Hood; that is, I suppose, you shall be knocked down as if by Robin Hood.

beggar, and ask charity at the inn. He kills his thirty men between eight and four, and then returning to the North-Inch (a common lying along the Tay, near Perth) finds the maid who was washing her lillie hands in st. 3 still “washing tenderlie.” He pulls out twenty of the fifty pounds which he got from the captain, and hands them over to the maid for the good luck of her half-crown.

G has the change of clothes with the beggar, found in F, and prefixes to the story of the other versions another adventure of Wallace, taken from the Fourth Book of Blind Harry, vv 704–87. Wallace’s enemies have seen him leaving his mistress’s house. They seize her, threaten to burn her unless she ‘tells,’ and promise to marry her to a knight if she will help to bring the rebel down. Wallace returns, and she seeks to detain him, but he says he must go back to his men. Hereupon she falls to weeping, and ends with confessing her treason. He asks her if she repents; she says that to mend the miss she would burn on a hill, and is forgiven. Wallace puts on her gown and curches, hiding his sword under his weed, tells the armed men who are watching for him that Wallace is locked in, and makes good speed out of the gate. Two men follow him, for he seems to be a stalwart quean; Wallace turns on them and kills them. This is Blind

Harry’s story, and it will be observed to be followed closely in the ballad, with the addition of a pitcher in each hand to complete the female disguise, and two more southrons to follow and be killed. The first half of this version is plainly a late piece of work, very possibly of this century, much later than the other, which itself need not be very old. But the portions of Blind Harry’s poem out of which these ballads were made were perhaps themselves composed from older ballads, and the restitution of the lyrical form may have given us something not altogether unlike what was sung in the fifteenth, or even the fourteenth, century. The fragment H is, as far as it goes, a repetition of G.

Bower (1444–49) says that after the battle of Roslyn, 1298, Wallace took ship and went to France, distinguishing himself by his valor against pirates on the sea and against the English on the continent, as ballads both in France and Scotland testify.\* A fragment of a ballad relating to Wallace is preserved in Constable’s MS. Cantus: Leyden’s Complaynt of Scotland, p. 226.

Wallace parted his men in three  
 And sundrie gaits are gone.

G is translated by Arndt, *Blütenlese*, p. 198; F by Knortz, *Schottische Balladen*, p. 69, No 22.

## A

A chap-book of Four New Songs and a Prophecy, 1745? The Scots Musical Museum, 1853, D. Laing’s additions, IV, 458\*; Maidment, *Scottish Ballads and Songs*, 1859, p. 83.

1 ‘HAD we a king,’ said Wallace then,  
 ‘That our kind Scots might live by their  
 own!  
 But betwixt me and the English blood  
 I think there is an ill seed sown.’

2 Wallace him over a river lap,  
 He lookd low down to a linn;

\* Post enim conflictum de Roslyn, Wallace, ascensa navi, Franciam petit, ubi quanta probitate refulsit, tam super mare a piratis quam in Francia ab Anglis perpressus est dis-

He was war of a gay lady  
 Was even at the well washing.

3 ‘Well mot ye fare, fair madam,’ he said,  
 ‘And ay well mot ye fare and see!  
 Have ye any tidings me to tell,  
 I pray you ’ll show them unto me.’

4 ‘I have no tidings you to tell,  
 Nor yet no tidings you to ken;  
 But into that hostler’s house  
 There ’s fifteen of your Englishmen.

crimina, et viriliter se habuit, nonnulla carmina, tam in ipsa Francia quam Scotia, attestantur. *Scotichronicon*, Goodall, II, 176, note.