

The Fair Flower of Northumberland (Child 9A)

- 1 IT was a knight in Scotland borne
Follow, my love, come over the strand
Was taken prisoner, and left forlorne,
Even by the good Earle of Northumberland.
- 2 Then was he cast in prison strong,
Where he could not walke nor lie along,
Even by the goode Earle of Northumberland.
- 3 And as in sorrow thus he lay,
The Earle's sweete daughter walkt that way,
And she the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 4 And passing by, like an angell bright,
The prisoner had of her a sight,
And she the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 5 And loud to her this knight did crie,
The salt teares standing in his eye,
And she the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 6 'Faire lady,' he said, 'take pity on me,
And let me not in prison dye,
And you the faire flower of Northumberland.'
- 7 'Faire Sir, how should I take pity on thee,
Thou being a foe to our countrey,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.'
- 8 'Faire lady, I am no foe,' he said,
'Through thy sweet love heere was I stayd,
For thee, the faire flower of Northumberland.'
- 9 'Why shouldst thou come heere for love of me,
Having wife and children in thy countrie?
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.'

- 10 'I swear by the blessed Trinitie,
I have no wife nor children, I,
Nor dwelling at home in merrie Scotland.
- 11 'If curteously you will set me free,
I vow that I will marrie thee,
So soone as I come in faire Scotland.
- 12 'Thou shalt be a lady of castles and towers,
And sit like a queene in princely bowers,
When I am at home in faire Scotland.'
- 13 Then parted hence this lady gay,
And got her father's ring away,
To helpe this sad knight into faire Scotland.
- 14 Likewise much gold she got by sleight,
And all to helpe this forlorne knight
To wend from her father to faire Scotland.
- 15 Two gallant steedes, both good and able,
She likewise tooke out of the stable,
To ride with this knight into faire Scotland.
- 16 And to the jaylor she sent this ring,
The knight from prison forth to bring,
To wend with her into faire Scotland.
- 17 This token set the prisoner free,
Who straight went to this faire lady,
To wend with her into faire Scotland.
- 18 A gallant steede he did bestride,
And with the lady away did ride,
And she the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 19 They rode till they came to a water cleare:
'Good Sir, how should I follow you heere,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland?
- 20 'The water is rough and wonderfull deepe,

- An[d] on my saddle I shall not keepe,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.’
- 21 ‘Feare not the foord, faire lady,’ quoth he,
‘For long I cannot stay for thee,
And thou the faire flower of Northumberland.’
- 22 The lady prickt her wanton steed,
And over the river sworn with speede,
And she the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 23 From top to toe all wet was shee:
‘This have I done for love of thee,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.’
- 24 Thus rode she all one winter’s night,
Till Edenborow they saw in sight,
The chiefest towne in all Scotland.
- 25 ‘Now chuse,’ quoth he, ‘thou wanton flower,
Whe’r thou wilt be my paramour,
Or get thee home to Northumberland.
- 26 ‘For I have wife, and children five,
In Edenborow they be alive;
Then get thee home to faire England.
- 27 ‘This favour shalt thou have to boote,
Ile have thy horse, go thou on foote,
Go, get thee home to Northumberland.’
- 28 ‘O false and faithlesse knight,’ quoth shee,
‘And canst thou deale so bad with me,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland?’
- 29 ‘Dishonour not a ladie’s name,
But draw thy sword and end my shame,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.’
- 30 He tooke her from her stately steed,
And left her there in extreme need,

And she the faire flower of Northumberland.

- 31 Then sate she downe full heavily;
At length two knights came riding by,
Two gallant knights of faire England.
- 32 She fell downe humbly on her knee,
Saying, 'Courteous knights, take pittie on me,
And I the faire flower of Northumberland.
- 33 'I have offended my father deere,
And by a false knight that brought me heere,
From the good Earle of Northumberland.'
- 34 They tooke her up behind them then,
And brought her to her father's againe,
And he the good Earle of Northumberland.
- 35 All you faire maidens be warned by me,
Scots were never true, nor never will be,
To lord, nor lady, nor faire England.