

Mary Hamilton (173G)

- 1 O MARY HAMILTON to the kirk is gane,
Wi ribbons in her hair;
An the king thocht mair o Marie
Then onie that were there.
- 2 Mary Hamilton 's to the preaching gane, 5
Wi ribbons on her breast;
An the king thocht mair o Marie
Than he thocht o the priest.
- 3 Syne word is thro the palace gane,
I heard it tauld yestreen, 10
The king loes Mary Hamilton
Mair than he loes his queen.
- 4 A sad tale thro the town is gaen,
A sad tale on the morrow;
Oh Mary Hamilton has born a babe, 15
An slain it in her sorrow!
- 5 And down then cam the auld queen,
Goud tassels tied her hair:
'What did ye wi the wee wee bairn
That I heard greet sae sair?' 20
- 6 'There neer was a bairn into my room,
An as little designs to be;
'Twas but a stitch o my sair side,
Cam owre my fair bodie.'
- 7 'Rise up now, Marie,' quo the queen, 25
'Rise up, an come wi me,
For we maun ride to Holyrood,
A gay wedding to see.'
- 8 The queen was drest in scarlet fine,
Her maidens all in green; 30
An every town that they cam thro

Took Marie for the queen.

- 9 But little wist Marie Hamilton,
As she rode oure the lea,
That she was gaun to Edinbro town 35
Her doom to hear and dree.
- 10 When she cam to the Netherbow Port,
She laughed loud laughters three;
But when she reached the gallows-tree,
The tears blinded her ee. 40
- 11 ‘Oh aften have I dressed my queen,
An put gowd in her hair;
The gallows-tree is my reward,
An shame maun be my share!
- 12 ‘Oh aften hae I dressed my queen, 45
An saft saft made her bed;
An now I ’ve got for my reward
The gallows-tree to tread!
- 13 ‘There ’s a health to all gallant sailors,
That sail upon the sea! 50
Oh never let on to my father and mither
The death that I maun dee!
- 14 ‘An I charge ye, all ye mariners,
When ye sail owre the main,
Let neither my father nor mither know 55
But that I ’m comin hame.
- 15 ‘Oh little did my mither ken,
That day she cradled me,
What lands I was to tread in,
Or what death I should dee. 60
- 16 ‘Yestreen the queen had four Maries,
The nicht she ’ll hae but three;
There ’s Marie Seaton, an Marie Beaton,
An Marie Carmichael, an me.’