

The Gypsy Laddie (Child 200A)

- 1 THE gypsies came to our good lord's gate,
And wow but they sang sweetly!
They sang sae sweet and sae very compleat
That down came the fair lady.
- 2 And she came tripping down the stair, 5
And a' her maids before her;
As soon as they saw her well-far'd face,
They coost the glammer oer her.
- 3 'Gae tak frae me this gay mantile,
And bring to me a plaidie; 10
For if kith and kin and a' had sworn,
I 'll follow the gypsie laddie.
- 4 'Yestreen I lay in a well-made bed,
And my good lord beside me;
This night I 'll ly in a tenant's barn, 15
Whatever shall betide me.'
- 5 'Come to your bed,' says Johny Faa,
'Oh come to your bed, my deary;
For I vow and I swear, by the hilt of my sword,
That your lord shall nae mair come near ye.' 20
- 6 'I 'll go to bed to my Johny Faa,
I 'll go to bed to my deary;
For I vow and I swear, by what past yestreen,
That my lord shall nae mair come near me.
- 7 'I 'll mak a hap to my Johnny Faa, 25

And I 'll mak a hap to my deary;
And he 's get a' the coat gaes round,
And my lord shall nae mair come near me.'

8 And when our lord came hame at een,
And speir'd for his fair lady, 30
The tane she cry'd, and the other reply'd,
'She 's away with the gypsie laddie.'

9 'Gae saddle to me the black, black steed,
Gae saddle and make him ready;
Before that I either eat or sleep, 35
I 'll gae seek my fair lady.'

10 And we were fifteen well-made men,
Altho we were nae bonny;
And we were a' put down for ane,
A fair young wanton lady. 40