

Proud Lady Margaret (Child 47A)

- 1 'T WAS on a night, an evening bright,
When the dew began to fa,
Lady Margaret was walking up and down,
Looking oer her castle wa.
- 2 She looked east and she looked west, 5
To see what she could spy,
When a gallant knight came in her sight,
And to the gate drew nigh.
- 3 'You seem to be no gentleman,
You wear your boots so wide; 10
But you seem to be some cunning hunter,
You wear the horn so syde.'
- 4 'I am no cunning hunter,' he said,
'Nor neer intend to be;
But I am come to this castle 15
To seek the love of thee.
And if you do not grant me love,
This night for thee I 'll die.'
- 5 'If you should die for me, sir knight,
There 's few for you will meane; 20
For mony a better has died for me,
Whose graves are growing green.
- 6 ['But ye maun read my riddle,' she said,
'And answer my questions three;
And but ye read them right,' she said, 25
'Gae stretch ye out and die.]

- 7 'Now what is the flower, the ae first flower,
Sprints either on moor or dale?
And what is the bird, the bonnie bonnie bird,
Sings on the evening gale?' 30
- 8 'The primrose is the ae first flower
Sprints either on moor or dale,
And the thistlecock is the bonniest bird
Sings on the evening gale.'
- 9 ['But what 's the little coin,' she said, 35
'Wald buy my castle bound?
And what 's the little boat,' she said,
'Can sail the world all round?']
- 10 'O hey, how mony small pennies 40
Make thrice three thousand pound?
Or hey, how mony salt fishes
Swim a' the salt sea round?'
- 11 'I think you maun be my match,' she said,
'My match and something mair;
You are the first eer got the grant 45
Of love frae my father's heir.
- 12 'My father was lord of nine castles,
My mother lady of three;
My father was lord of nine castles,
And there 's nane to heir but me. 50
- 13 'And round about a' thae castles
You may baith plow and saw,
And on the fifteenth day of May
The meadows they will maw.'

- 14 'O hald your tongue, Lady Margaret,' he said, 55
 'For loud I hear you lie;
Your father was lord of nine castles,
 Your mother was lady of three;
Your father was lord of nine castles,
 But ye fa heir to but three. 60
- 15 'And round about a' thae castles
 You may baith plow and saw,
But on the fifteenth day of May
 The meadows will not maw.
- 16 'I am your brother Willie,' he said, 65
 'I trow ye ken na me;
I came to humble your haughty heart,
 Has gard sae mony die.'
- 17 'If ye be my brother Willie,' she said, 70
 'As I trow weel ye be,
This night I 'll neither eat nor drink,
 But gae alang wi thee.'
- 18 'O hold your tongue, Lady Margaret,' he said,
 'Again I hear you lie;
For ye 've unwashen hands and ye 've unwashen feet, 75
 To gae to clay wi me.
- 19 'For the wee worms are my bedfellows,
 And cauld clay is my sheets,
And when the stormy winds do blow,
 My body lies and sleeps.' 80