

Willie's Lady (6A)

1 WILLIE has taen him oer the fame,
He 's woo'd a wife and brought her hame.

2 He 's woo'd her for her yellow hair,
But his mother wrought her mickle care.

3 And mickle dolour gard her dree,
For lighter she can never be.

4 But in her bower she sits wi pain,
And Willie mourns oer her in vain.

5 And to his mother he has gone,
That vile rank witch of vilest kind.

6 He says: 'My ladie has a cup,
Wi gowd and silver set about.

7 'This goodlie gift shall be your ain,
And let her be lighter o her young bairn.'

8 'Of her young bairn she 'll neer be lighter,
Nor in her bower to shine the brighter.

9 'But she shall die and turn to clay,
And you shall wed another may.'

10 'Another may I 'll never wed,
Another may I 'll neer bring home.'

11 But sighing says that weary wight,
'I wish my life were at an end.'

- 12 'Ye doe [ye] unto your mother again,
That vile rank witch of vilest kind.
- 13 'And say your ladie has a steed,
The like o 'm 's no in the lands of Leed.
- 14 'For he [i]s golden shod before,
And he [i]s golden shod behind.
- 15 'And at ilka tet of that horse's main,
There 's a golden chess and a bell ringing.
- 16 'This goodlie gift shall be your ain,
And let me be lighter of my young bairn.'
- 17 'O her young bairn she 'll neer be lighter,
Nor in her bower to shine the brighter.
- 18 'But she shall die and turn to clay,
And ye shall wed another may.'
- 19 'Another may I ['ll] never wed,
Another may I ['ll] neer bring hame.'
- 20 But sighing said that weary wight,
'I wish my life were at an end.'
- 21 'Ye doe [ye] unto your mother again,
That vile rank witch of vilest kind.
- 22 'And say your ladie has a girdle,
It 's red gowd unto the middle.
- 23 'And ay at every silver hem,
Hangs fifty silver bells and ten.

- 24 'That goodlie gift has be her ain,
And let me be lighter of my young bairn.'
- 25 'O her young bairn she 's neer be lighter,
Nor in her bower to shine the brighter.
- 26 'But she shall die and turn to clay,
And you shall wed another may.'
- 27 'Another may I 'll never wed,
Another may I 'll neer bring hame.'
- 28 But sighing says that weary wight,
'I wish my life were at an end.'
- 29 Then out and spake the Belly Blind;
He spake aye in good time.
- 30 'Ye doe ye to the market place,
And there ye buy a loaf o wax.
- 31 'Ye shape it bairn and bairnly like,
And in twa glassen een ye pit;
- 32 'And bid her come to your boy's christening;
Then notice weel what she shall do.
- 33 'And do you stand a little fore bye,
And listen weel what she shall say.'
- 34 'Oh wha has loosed the nine witch knots
That was amo that ladie's locks?
- 35 'And wha has taen out the kaims of care
That hangs amo that ladie's hair?

- 36 'And wha 's taen down the bush o woodbine
That hang atween her bower and mine?
- 37 'And wha has killd the master kid
That ran beneath that ladie's bed?
- 38 'And wha has loosed her left-foot shee,
And lotten that ladie lighter be?'
- 39 O Willie has loosed the nine witch knots
That was amo that ladie's locks.
- 40 And Willie 's taen out the kaims o care
That hang amo that ladie's hair.
- 41 And Willie 's taen down the bush o woodbine
That hang atween her bower and thine.
- 42 And Willie has killed the master kid
That ran beneath that ladie's bed.
- 43 And Willie has loosed her left-foot shee,
And letten his ladie lighter be.
- 44 And now he's gotten a bonny young son,
And mickle grace be him upon.