

## 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.