

William DUNBAR's Poems Missing from Bawcutt's editions.

?DOST? = not in D.O.S.T.
!obscure! noted thus in Bawcutt

6

Be mery, man, and tak nocht fer in mynd
The wavering of this wrechit vale of sorow.
To God be huimle and to thi frend be kyind,
And with thi nichtbour glaidlie len and borow.
His chance this nicht it may be thine to morow.
Be mery, man, for ony auenture,
For be vismen it has bene said afforow:
Without glaidnes avalis no tresure.

*take nothing for granted?
fickleness*

wisemen

Mak gude cheir of it God the sendis,
For warldis wrak but weiflar nocht avalis.
No thing is thine sauf onlie that thow spendis;
The ramanent of all thow brukis with balis.
Seik to solace quhen saidnes the assalis.
Thy lyfe in dolour ma nocht lang indure,
Quharfor of confurt set vp all thi salis:
Without glaidnes avalis no tresure.

rubbish; without wellbeing

break, breaks; misery

lit. set all sail

Follow pece, flie trubill and debait,
With famous folkis hald thi company.
Be cheritable and huimle of estait,
For warldis honour lestis bot ane cry.
For truble in erd tak no malancole.
Be rich in paciens, gife thoue in gudis be pur,
Quha levis mery, he levis michtely.
'Without glaidnes avalis no tresur.

reputable; keep

lasts but a short while

prosperously

Thow seis the vrechis set with sorow and care,
To gadder gudis all thar liffis spaice,
And quhen thar baggis ar full thar self ar bar
And of thar riches bot the keping hes,
Quhill vthiris cum to spend it that hes grace,
Quhilk of the wyning no labour hed na cur.
Tak thow example, and spend with mirrines:
Without glaidnes awalis no tresure.

misers

hoard

[money] bags ; barren

care

Thocht all the wrak that euir hed leuand wicht
War onlie thine, no mor thi part dois fall
Bot met and clacht, and of the laif ane sicht,
3et to the iuge thow sall mak compt of all.
Ane raknyng richt cummis of ane regimen small.
Be iust and ioyus and do to none iniur,
And treuth sall mak the strang as ony walle:
Without glaidnes awalis no tresure.

even if; man

food and clothing; glimpse?

7

Be 3e ane luvar, think 3e nocht 3e suld
 Be weill adwysit in 3our gouerning?
 Be 3e nocht sa, it will on 3ow be tauld.
 Be war thairwith, for dreid of misdemyng.
 Be nocht a wreche nor skerche in 3our spending,
 Be layth alway to do amis or schame,
 Be rewlit rycht and keip this doctring:
 Be secreit, trew, inccessing of 3our name.

counted against you

*stingy
loath*

Be 3e ane lear, that is werst of all.
 Be 3e ane tratlar, that I hald als ewill.
 Be 3e ane ianglar, and 3e fra vertew fall.
 Be nevir mair on to thir vicis thrill.
 Be now and ay the maistir of 3our will,
 Be nevir he that lesing sall proclame,
 Be nocht of langage quhair 3e suld be still.
 Be secreit, trew, inccessing of 3our name.

liar

*gossip
backbiter*

*telling lies
talking*

Be nocht abasit for no wicket tung,
 Be nocht sa set, as I haif said 3ow heir,
 Be nocht sa lerge vnto thir sawis sung,
 Be nocht our prouwd, thinkand 3e haif no peir.
 Be 3e so wyis that vderis at 3ow leir,
 Be nevir he to sklander nor defame.
 Be of 3our lufe no prechour as a freir,
 Be secreit, trew, inccessing of 3our name.

*inclined
extravagant*

learn from you

?

11

Doverrit with dreime, devysing in my slummer
 How that this realme with nobilis out of nummer
 Gydit, prowyt, so mony 3eiris hes bene,
 And now sic hungir, sic cowartis and sic cummer
 Within this land wes nevir hard nor sene.

drowsy

troubles

Sic pryd with prelettis, so few to preche and pray,
 Sic hant of harlettis with thame baith nycht and
 day,
 That suld haif ay thair God befoir thair ene,
 So nyce array, so strange to thair abbay
 Within this land wes nevir hard nor sene.

habitual harlotry

extravagantly dressed

So mony preistis, cled vp in secular weid,
With blasing breistis casting thair clais on breid
 (It is no neid to tell of quhome I mene),
 Sa few to reid the deirgey and the beid
 Within this land wes nevir hard nor sene.

*adorned chests lining their
clothes with lamskin ?
office of the dead; prayer [book]*

So mony maisteris, so mony gukkit clerkis,
Sa mony westouris to God and all his werkis,
Sa fyre sparkis of dispyt fro the splene,
Sic losin sarkis, sa mony glengoir merkis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*graduates; foolish
wasters, good-for-nothings
such fiery outbursts of heartfelt
patterned shirts; /rancour
/symptoms of v.d.*

Sa mony lordis, sa mony naturale fulis,
That bettir accordis to play thame at the trulis
Nor seis the dulis that commonis dois sustene,
New tane fra the sculis sa mony anis and mulis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*[obscure] a game?
cease; the suffering; the people
asses and mules*

Sa mekle tresone, sa mony partiall sawis,
Sa littill ressoun to help the commoun caus,
That all the laws ar nocht set by ane prene,
Sic fenzeit flawis, sa mony waistit wawis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

biased judgements

*not worth a pin
feigned; ? ; ??*

Sa mony thevis and mycharis richt weill kend,
So greit releivis of lordis thame to defend,
Becaus thai spend the spreyth all thame betuene,
So few to wend this mischeif to amend
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*pilferers
body of men
plunder, booty
turn the attention to*

This to correct thay schoir with mony crakkis,
Bot littell effect of speir or battell ax,
Quhen curage lakis, the cors that suld mak kene,
Sa mony jakis and brattis on beggaris bakkis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

? ; boasts

*padded leather jerkin worn in
/battle*

Sic vant of vostouris, with hartis in synfull staturis,
Sic brawlaris and bosteris, degenerat fra thair
naturis,

boasts; braggarts; states

And sic regreturis the pur men to prevene,
So mony tratouris, sa mony rubeaturis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*speculators; honest dealers to
/counter?
scoundrels*

Sa mony iugeis and lordis maid now of lait,
Sa small refuge the pure men to debait,
Sa mony estait, for commoun Weill so quhene,
Our all the gait sa mony thevis so taut
Within this land wes neuir herd nor sene.

*recently appointed
protection; defend ?
so many of high rank, so few
concerned for the common good
/active*

Sa mony ane sentence retreitit for to win
Geir or acquentance or kindnes of thair kin,
They think no sin, quhair proffeit cumis betuene,
Sa mony ane gin to haist thame to the pin
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

revoked

cunning ploy ... gallows

Sic knavis and crakkaris to play at cartis and dyce,
Sic halland schekkeris, quhilk at Cokkilbeis gryce
Ar haldin of pryce quhen lymmaris dois convene,
Sic stoir of lyce, so mony wittis vnwyce
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*braggarts
lowlife scroungers
held as worthy; villains*

So mony merchandis, sa monye aythis mensworne,
So pur tennentis, sic cursing evin and morne,
Quhilk slayis the corne and fruct that growis grene,
Sic skaith and scorne, sa monye paitlattis worne
Within this land was nevir hard nor sene.

*perjured oaths
???
"a sort of half-doublet or
petticoat" poss. scruffy*

Sa monye rackattis, sic caicharis and sic gillaris,
Sic ballis, sic knackattis and sic tutivillaris,
And sic evill willaris to speik of king and quene,
Sic pudding fillaris discending doun frome millaris
Within this land was neuir hard nor sene.

*tennis player! ?DOST?
ball boy; ?DOST?
gluttons*

Sic fertingallis with flaggis als fatt as quhaillis,
Facit lyke fulis with hattis that litill availlis
And sic foull taillis to sweip the calsay clene,
Sic dust that scalis, sic fillokis with fuk salis
Within this land wes neuir hard nor sene.

*hooped petticoats; sluts; whales
foolish faces
filthy trains? ; paving
wantons; foresail*

So monye ane kittye drest vp in goldin cheinze,
So litill witty that weill can fabillis feinze,
With apilreinze ay schawand hir semble chene,
At Sathanas seinze syne sic ane vnsell meinze
Within this land was nevir hard nor sene.

*?DOST?
evil crowd;*

12

Four maner of folkis ar evill to pleis:
Ane is that riches hes and eis,
Gold, siluer, cattell, cornis and ky,
And wald haue part fra vtheris by.

*'property' in general
as well*

Ane vther is of land and rent
So great ane lord and ane potent,
That he may nother rewill nor gy,
3et he wald haue fra vtheris by.

guide

Ane is that hes of nobill bluid
Ane lusty lady, fair and guid,
Boith verteous, wyse and womanly,
And 3ett wald haue ane vther by.

has

Ane vther dois so dourlie drink
And aill and wyne within him sink,
Quhill in his wame no roume be dry,
Bot he wald haue fra vtheris by.

resolutely

In earth no wicht I can perseav
Of guid so great aboundance haue
Nor in this world so welthfull wy,
Bot he wald haue frome vtheris by.

[human] being

person

Bot 3itt of all this gold and guid
Or vthir cunzie, to concludis
Quha euir it haue it is not I.
It gois frome me to vtheris by.

*cash
whoever*

And nemlie at this Chrystis mes,
Quhareuir schir Gold maid his regres;
Of him I will no larges cry,
He 3eid fra me till vtheris by.

*Christmas time
[Sir Penny, Dominus Denarius]*

turned from me

Of him I will na larges cry,
He 3eid fra me till vtheris by.

[sic]

13

Fredome, honour and nobilnes,
Meid, manheid, mirth and gentilnes
Ar now in cowrt reput as vyce,
And all for caus of cuvetice.

*merit
court*

All weilfair, welth and wantones
Ar chengit in to wretchitnes,
And play is sett at littill price,
And all for caus of covetyce.

gaiety

Halking, hunting and swift hors rynnng
Ar chengit all in wrangus wynnng;
Thair is no play bot cartis and dyce,
And all for caus of covetyce.

cheating

Honorable houshaldis ar all laid down.
Ane laird hes with him bot a loun,
That leidis him eftir his devyce,
And all for caus of covetyce.

rascally servant

In burghis, to landwart and to sie,
Quhair was plesour and grit plentie,
Vennesoun, wyld fowill, wyne and spyce,
Is now bot cair and covetyce.

i.e. everywhere

Husbandis that grangis had full grete,
Cattell and corne to sell and ete,
Hes now no beist bot cattis and myce,
And all thrucht caus of covettyce.

granaries

Honest zemen in every toun,
War wont to weir baith reid and broun,
Ar now arrayit in raggis with lyce,
And all for caus of covetyce.

yeoman
??

And lairdis in silk harlis to the heill,
For quhilk thair tennents sald somer meill
And leivis on rutis vndir the ryce,
And all for caus of covetyce.

*trailing at heel
oatmeal saved to use in summer
until harvest
subsist on roots; under the
/greenwood*

Quha that dois deidis of petie
And leivis in pece and cheretie
Is haldin a fule, and that full nyce,
And all for caus of covetyce.

weird

And quha can reive vthir menis rowmis
And vpoun peur men gadderis sowmis
Is now ane active man, and wyice,
And all for caus of covetyce.

*estates
sums [of money]
energetic; wise*

Man, Pleis thy makar and be mirry,
And sett not by this world a chirry.
Wirk for the place of paradyce,
For thairin ringis na covettyce.

*deemed worthless – not worth a
fig.*

30

Madam, 3our men said thai wald ryd
And latt this FASTERENNIS EWIN ower slyd,
Bott than thair wyffis cam furth in flockis
And baid tham betteis som abyd
Att haem and lib tham of the pockis.

*depart on horseback
pass unobserved*

*!obscure!
keep them free of the pox*

Nou propois thai, sen 3e dwell still,
Off Wenus feest to fang an fill,
Bott in the fedle preiff thai na cockis.
For till heff riddin hed bein les ill,
Nor latt thair wyffis breid the pockis.

remain

Sum of 3our men sic curage hed,
Dam Venus fyre sa hard tham sted,
Thai brak vp durris and raeff vp lockis,
To get an pamphelet on a pled,
That thai mycht lib tham of the pockis.

*beset, afflicted
tear open
!obscure! !obscure!*

Sum that war ryatous as rammis
Ar nou maid tame lyk ony lammis,
And settin down lyk sarye crockis,
And hes forsaekin all sic gammis
That men callis libbin of the pockis.

*randy
worthles old rams
games
cure*

Sum, thocht tham selffis stark lyk gyandis,
Ar nou maid waek lyk willing wandis,
With schinnis scharp and small lyk rockis,
And gottin thair bak in bayth thair handis,
For over offt libbin of the pockis.

*strong as giants
wilting wands
shins; distaffs
I rede ye beware o the ripples!*

I saw coclinkis me besyd
The 3oung men to thair howses gyd,
Had bettir lugget in the stockis.
Sum fra the bordell wald nocht byd
Quhill that thai gatt the Spanzie pockis.

prostitutes

lodged

Thairfoir all 3oung men, I 3ou pray,
Keip 3ou fra harlottis nycht and day
(Thai sall repent quhai with tham 3ockis)
And be war with that perrellous play
That men callis libbin of the pockis.

yoke, couple

cure

31

Man, sen thy lyf is ay in weir,
And deid is sicker drawand neir,
The tyme vnsicker and the place,
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

always uncertain

share your wealth

Thow may to day haue gude to spend
And to morne haistelie fra it wend,
And leif ane vther thy baggis to brais:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

money bags to grasp

Gif it be thyn, thy self it vse,
Gif it be nocht, thow it refuse.
Ane vther of it the profitt hes:
Man, spend thy gud quhill thow hes space.

Quhill thow hes space, se thow dispone,
That for thy gude quhen thow art gone
No wicht ane vther sla nor chas:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

*prepare for the future
/i.e. make a will
chase*

Sum all his dayis dryvis our in vane,
Ay gadderand geir with sorow and pane,
And vtheris ar glayd at 3ule and Pasche:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

spends time

make merry

Syn cummis ane vther glayd of his sorow,
That for him prayit nor evin nor morow,
And fangis it all with mirrey face:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

glad

takes; merry

Sum greit gude gaderis and all it sparis,
And eftir him cummis 3oung airis,
That his auld thrift settis on ane ais:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

*hoards
young heirs gamble away their
patrimony on an ace [1 on dice,
lowest & losing score]*

It is all thyn that thow dispendis,
And nocht all that thow dependis,
Bot his to spend, he that hes grace:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

Luik how the barne dois to the moder,
And tak 3our sampill be ane vther,
That it nocht efter be thy case:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

bairn

Traist nocht ane vther to do the to
It at thy self wald never do,
For gif thow dois, strange is the case:
Man, spend thy gude quhill thow hes space.

thee

33

Musing allone this hinder nicht,
Of mirry day quhen gone was licht,
Within ane garth vndir a tre,
I hard ane voce that said on hicht:
'May na man now vndemit be.

*joyful
enclosed garden
free of censure or criticism*

'For thocht I be ane crownit king,
3it sall I not eschew deming.
Sum callis me guid, sum sayis thai lie,
Sum cravis of God to end my ring.
So sall I not vndemit be.

avoid

reign

'Be I ane lord and not lordlyk,
Than every pelour and purspyk
Sayis, "Land war bettir warit on me".
Thocht he dow not to leid a tyk,
3it can he not lat deming be.

*robber
property; expended
couldn't take a dog for a shit
refrain from censure*

'Be I ane lady fresche and fair,
With gentillmen makand repair,
Than will thay say, baith scho and hie,
That I am iaipit, lait and air.
Thus sall I not vndemit be.

*she and he
seduced; late and early*

'Be I ane courtman or ane knycht,
Honestly cled, that cumis me richt,
Ane prydfull man than call thay me.
Bot God send thame a widdy wicht,
That can not lat sic demyng be.

*becomes me well
hangman's noose; tough*

'Be I bot littill of stature,
Thay call me catyve createure,
And be I grit of quantetie,
Thay call me monstrowis of nature.
Thus can I not vndemit be.

miserable, wretched

'And be I ornat in my speiche,
Than Towsy sayis I am sa streiche,
I speik not lyk thair hous menzie.
Suppois hir mowth misteris a leiche,
3it can scho nocht lat deming be.

name for peasant girl
although her mouth needs a
/leech

'Bot wist thir folkis that vthir demis,
How that thair sawis to vthir semis,
Thair vicious wordis and vanitie,
Thair tratling tungis, that all furth temis,
Sum tyme wald lat thair demyng be.

knew?
sayings, words

'Gude Iames the ferd, our nobill king,
Quhen that he was of 3eiris 3ing,
In sentens said full subillie:
"Do weill and sett not by demyng,
For no man sall vndemit be".

James IV [ferd = fourth]

'And so I sall, with Goddis grace,
Keip his command in to that cace,
Beseiking ay the trinitie,
In hevin that I may haif ane place,
For thair sall no man demit be.'

damned

44

Off every asking followis nocht
Rewaird, bot gif sum caus war wrocht;
And quhair caus is men weill ma sie,
And quhair nane is it wilbe thocht.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

[after]
except if; good reason;
see

Ane fule, quhidder he haif caus or nane,
Cryis, 'Gif me, gif me', in to a rane;
And he that dronis ay as ane bee
Sowld haif ane heirar dull as stane.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

"long string of words" [notes]

hearer; deaf as a stone

Sum askis mair than he deservis,
Sum askis far les than he servis,
Sum schames to ask (and braidis of me)
And all withowt his guardoun stervis.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

deserves
ashamed; resembles me
reward; perishes

To ask but service hurtis gud fame,
To ask for service is not to blame,
To serve and leif in beggartie
To man and maistir is baith schame.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

*without
blameworthy*

[autobiographical!]

He that dois all thair best servyis
May spill it all with crakkis and cryis,
Be fowll inoportunite.
Few wordis may suffice to the wyis.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

*spoil; boasts and shouts
importunity*

Nocht neidfull is men sowld be dum,
Na thing is gottin but wordis sum;
Nocht sped but diligence, we se,
For nathing it allane will cum.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

*without
more haste less speed*

Asking wald haif convenient place,
Convenient tyme, lasar and space,
But haist, but preis of grit menzie,
But hairt abasisit, but toung rekles.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

*w'out ... w'out
downhearted*

yea

Sum nicht haif 'ze' with littill cure,
That hes oft 'Nay' with grit labour;
All for his tyme not byd can he,
He tynis baith eirand and honour.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

*can't wait for favourable time
errand*

Suppois the servand be lang vnquit,
The lord sumtyme rewaird will it.
Gif he dois not, quhat remedy?
To flytt with Fortoun is no wit.
In asking sowld discretioun be.

unrewarded

quarrel; makes no sense

45

To speik of gift or almous deidis:
Sum gevis for mereit and for meidis,
Sum, worldly honour to vphie,
Gevis to thame that nothing neidis.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*charitable
reward [meed]
acquire*

Sum gevis for pryd and glory vane,
Sum gevis with grugeing and with pane,
Sum gevis, in practik, for supple,
Sum gevis for twyis als gud agane.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

Sum gevis for thank and sum for threit,
Sum gevis money, sum gevis meit,
Sum gevis wordis fair and sle,
Giftis fra sum ma na man treit.
In giving sowld discretioun be.

cunning

Sum is for gift sa lang requyrd,
Quhill that the crevar be so tyrd
That, or the gift deliuerit be,
The thank is frustrat and expyrd.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*supplicant [craver]
before [ere]*

Sum gevis to littill full wretchitly,
That his giftis ar not set by,
And for sic huidpyk haldin is hie
That all the warld cryis on him, fy!
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*valued
skinflint; ?*

Sum in his geving is so large,
That all ourlaidin is his berge.
Than vyce and prodigalite
Thairof his honour dois dischaarge.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

fig.

Sum to the riche gevis geir,
That nicht his giftis veill forbeir;
And thocht the peur for falt sowld de,
His cry nocht enteris in his eir.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

poor; want

Sum givis to strangeris with faces new,
That 3isterday fra Flanderis flew,
And to awld serwandis list not se,
War thay nevir of sa grit vertew.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

won't provide for old servants

Sum gevis to thame can ask and plenzie,
Sum gevis to thame can flattir and fenzie,
Sum gevis to men of honestie
And haldis all ianglaris at disdenzie.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*complain, plead
feign, dissemble*

scandalmongers

Sum gettis giftis and riche arrayis,
To sweir all that his maister sayis,
Thocht all the contrair weill knavis hie.
Ar mony sic now in thir dayis.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*"in return for being a yes man"
knows
nowadays*

Sum gevis to gudmen for thair thewis,
Sum gevis to trumpouris and to schrewis,
Sum gevis to knavis awtoritie,
Bot in thair office gude fundin few is.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

*good qualities, virtuous habits
tricksters; evildoers
power
found?*

Sum givis parrochynniss full wyd,
Kirkis of Sanct Barnard and Sanct Bryd,
To teiche, to rewill and to ouirsie,
To thame na wit hes thame to gyd.
In geving sowld discretioun be.

of Clairveaux; Bridget

46

Eftir geving I speik of taking,
Bot littill of ony gud forsaiking.
Sum takkis our littill awtoritie,
And sum our mekle, and that is glaiking.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

*!obscure! leaving little of
value /behind
folly*

The clerkis takis beneficis with brawlis,
Sum of Sanct Petir and sum of Sanct Pawlis.
Tak he the rentis, no cair hes he,
Suppois the diuill tak all thair sawlis.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

noisy disputes

although

Barronis takis fra the tennentis peure
All fruct that growis on the feure,
In mailis and gersomes rasit ouirhie,
And garris thame beg fra dur to dure.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

*poor
crops: furrow
annual rent; tenant's fees*

Sum takis vthir mens takkis
And on the peure oppressioun makkis,
And nevir remembris that he mon die,
Quhill that the gallowis gar him rax.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

leases [tacks]

stretch

Sum takis be sie and be land
And nevir fra taking can hald his hand,
Quhill he be tit vp to ane tre,
And syne thay gar him vndirstand,
In taking sowld discretioun be.

gallows

Sum wald tak all his nychbouris geir.
Had he of man als littill feir,
As he hes dreid that God him see,
To tak than sowld he nevir forbeir.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

Sum wald tak all this warldis breid,
And not 3it can be satisfeid,
Throw hairt vnsatiabie and gredie.
Sum wald tak littill and can not speid.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

*appetite?
succeed*

Grit men for taking and oppressioun
Ar sett full famous at the Sessioun,
Quhair small takaris ar hangit hie,
Schamit for evir and thair successioun.
In taking sowld discretioun be.

69

Sen that I am a presoneir
Till hir that farest is and best,
I me commend fra 3eir till 3eir
In till hir bandoun for to rest.
I govit on that gudliest:
So lang to luk I tuk laseir,
Quhill I wes tane, withouttin test,
And led furth as a presoneir.

*power
gazed
captured without a struggle*

Hir Sweit Having and Fresche Bewte
Hes wondit me, but swerd or lance.
With thame to go commandit me,
Ontill the castell of pennance.
I said, 'Is this 3our gouirnance,
To tak men for thair lukiing heir?'
Fresche Bewty said, '3a, schir, perchance
3e be my ladeis presoneir.'

behaviour

looking

Thai had me bundin to the 3et,
Quhair Strangenes had bene portar ay,
And in deliuerit me thairat,
And in thir termis can thai say:
'Do wait and lat him nocht away.'
Quo Strangnes vn to the porteir,
'Ontill my lady, I dar lay,
3e be to pure a presoneir.'

*gate
Aloofness*

Keep watch

Thai kest me in a deip dungeoun,
And fetterit me, but lok or cheyne.
The capitane hecht Comparesone
To luke on me he thocht greit deyne.
Thocht I wes wo I durst nocht pleyne,
For he had fetterit mony a feir.
With petous voce thus cuth I sene,
'Wo is a wofull presoneir.'

*fellow lover
say [not seen]*

Thai fyrir the 3ettis deliuerly,
With faggottis, wer grit and huge,
And Strangenes, quhair that he did ly,
Wes brint in to the porter luge.
Lustely thay lakit, bot a iuge,
Sik straikis and stychling wes on steir.
The semeliest wes maid assege,
To quhome that he wes presoneir.

set fire to

*burnt; hut
fought, defended; arbiter
struggling; in action
the prettiest maid was besieged*

Throucht Skornes nos thai put a prik,
This he wes banist and gat a blek.
Comparisone wes erdit quik,
And Langour lap and brak his nek.
Thai sailzeit fast, all the fek.
Lust Chasit my ladeis chalmirleir,
Gud Fame wes drownit in a sek,
Thus ransonit thai the presoneir.

*cattle twitch
thus; black[end reputation]
alive*

*attacked
misspelling of chalmireir =
/chamber attendant
liberated*

Fra Sklandir hard Lust had vndone
His ennemeis, he him aganis
Assemblit ane semely sort full sone
And rais and rowttit all the planis.
His cusing in the court remants,
Bot ialous folkis and geangleiris
And fals Invy, that no thing lanis,
Blew out on luvis presoneir.

*“rode over with an armed
/troup”, routed*

*denounced publicly, put to the
/horn*

Syne Matremony, that nobill king,
Was grevit and gadderit ane grit ost,
And all enermit, without lesing,
Chest Sklander to the west se cost.
Than wes he and his lineage lost,
And Matremony, withowttin weir,
The band of freindschip hes indost
Betuix Bewty and the presoneir.

Be that of eild wes Gud Famis air
And cumyne to continwatioun,
And to the court maid his repair,
Quhair Matremony than woir the crowne.
He gat ane confirmatioun,
All that his modir aucht, but weir,
And baid still, as it wes resone,
With Bewty and the presoneir.

succeeded to his inheritance

always, continually

78 [Bannatyne mss]

This nycht in my sleip I wes agast.
Me thocht the devill wes tempand fast
The peple with aithis of crewaltie,
Sayand as throw the mercat he past:
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

tempting

Me thocht, as he went throw the way,
Ane preist sweirit be God verey,
Quhilk at the alter ressaut he.
'Thow art my clerk,' the devill can say,
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

Than swoir ane courtyour mekle of pryd,
Be Chrystis windis, bludy and wyd,
And be his harmes, wes rent on tre.
Than spak the devill hard him besyd,
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

wounds
probably *harms* rather than *arms*

Ane merchand, his geir as he did sell,
Renuncit his pairt of hevin and hell.
The devill said, 'Welcum mot thow be,
Thow salbe merchand for my sell.
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

myself

Ane goldsmyth said, 'The gold is sa fyne
That all the workmanschip I tyne.
The feind ressaif me, gif I lee'
'Think on,' quod the devill, 'that thow art myne.
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

Ane tail3our said, 'In all this toun
Be thair ane better weilmaid gown,
I gif me to the feynd all fre.'
'Gramercy, tel3our,' said Mahoun,
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

Ane sowttar said, 'In gud effek,
Nor I be hangit be the nek,
Gife bettir butis of ledder ma be.'
'Fy!' quod the feynd, 'thow sairis of blek.
'Ga, clenge the clene and cum to me.'

smell of blacking
cleanse; clean i.e. thoroughly

Ane baxstar sayd, 'I forsaik God,
And all his werkis, evin and od,
Gif fairar stuff neidis to be.'
The dyvill luche and on him cowth nod:
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

all and sundry

laughed; could nod [agree]

Ane fleschour swoir be the sacrament
And be Chrystis blud maist innocent,
Nevir fatter flesch saw man with e.
The devill said, 'Hald on thy intent,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

The maltman sais, 'I God forsaik,
And that the devill of hell me taik,
Gif ony bettir malt may be
And of this kill I haif inlaik.'
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.

[would] that
kiln ; lacking, inferior

Ane browstar swoir, 'The malt wes ill,
Bath reid and reikit on the kill,
That it will be na aill for me.
Ane boll will nocht sex gallonis fill.'
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.

red [?] & smoke-tainted from
/kiln

The [blak]smyth swoir: 'Be rude and raip,
'In till a gallowis mot I gaip,
Gif I ten dayis wan pennyis thre,
For with that craft I can nocht thraip.'
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

[blak not in mss]; cross; rope
thrive

Ane menstrall said, 'The feind me ryfe,
Gif I do ocht bot drynk and swyfe.'
The devill said, 'Hardly mot it be,
Exers that craft in all thy lyfe.
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

rive, tear

Ane dysour said with wirdis of stryfe,
The devill mot Stik him with a knyfe,
Bot he kest vp fair syysis thre.
The devill said, 'Endit is thy lyfe,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

dicer [gambler]
sixes [winning score]

Ane theif said, 'God, that evir I chaip!
Nor ane stark widdy gar me gaip,
Bot I in hell for geir wald be.'
The devill said, 'Welcum in a raip,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.

escape
strong noose

The fische wyffis flett and swoir with granis,
And to the feind, saule, flesch and banis,
Thay gaif thame with ane schowt on hie.
The devill said, 'Welcum all att anis,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.

Me thocht the devillis als blak as pik,
Solistand wer as beis thik,
Ay tempand folk with wayis sle,
Rownand to Robene and to Dik,
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

pitch
soliciting ; ??
Tom, Dick & the Duke of Sussex

Dremand me thocht that I did heir
 The commowne peiple bane and sweir,
 Blasfeimand Godis maiestie,
 The dewill ay rowndand in thair eir,
 'Renunce 3our God and cum to me.'

whispering

The marchand sweiris mony aithe,
 That newer man saw better clayth,
 Na fynnar silk cum ovr the se.
 'To sweir,' quod Sathan, 'be nocht layth,
 To sell my geir I will hawe the.'

loath

The tayl3our sayis, 'In all this toun,
 Be thair ane better schappin gown,
 I gif me to the feind als free'
 'Grant mercy, tayl3our,' quod Mahowne,
 'Renunce 3our God and cum to me.'

The sowter sayis, in gwd effect,
 The devill mot hang him be the nek,
 Gif better butis of ledder may be.
 The feind sayis, 'Fy, thow savris of blek,
 Ga, wysche the weill, syn cum to me.'

*smell of blacking
wash*

The bakstar sayis, 'I forsak God,
 And all his warkis, ewin and od,
 That better breid did na man se.
 The devill said, and on him cowld nod,
 'With thy licht lewis cum wnto me.'

*could nod [agree]
light [underweight] loaves*

The fleschour sweiris be Godis woundis:
 'Come newer sic beif into thir bowndis,
 Na fattar mottoune can nocht be.'
 'Fals,' quod the feind and till him rowndis,
 'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

whispers

'Be Goddis blud,' quod the tauernneir,
 'Thair is sic wyine in my selleir,
 Hes newer come in this cuntrie.'
 '3it,' quod the dewill, 'thow sellis our deir.
 With thy fals met cum downe to me.'

false measure

The menstrall sayis, 'That ewer I thryve,
 Gif I do oucht bot drink and swyve.'
 The dewill sais than, 'I counsall the,
 Excers that craft in all thy lyve,
 Syn cum and play ane spring to me.'

The fische wyffis flet and swore thair menis,
And to the feind gaif flesche and banis,
Sa did the hukstaris haillellie.
The dewill said, 'Welcum all at anis,
Renunce 3our God and cum to me.'

flyt ; ??

petty traders ; wholly

The rest of craftis grit ethis swair,
Thair wark and craft had na compair,
Ilk ane into thar qualitie.
The dewill sayis thane, withouttin mair,
'Renunce 3our God and cum to me.'

The thief sayis, 'That ewer I scaip!
Na ane stark widdie gar me gaip,
Bot I in hell for geir wald be.'
The dewill sayis, 'Welcum in a raip,
Renunce 3our God and cum to me.'

The cowrt man did grit aithis sweir,
He wald serve Sathan for sewin 3eir,
For fair claythis and gold plaintie.
The dewill said, 'Thair is sum for geir,
Wald renunce God and duell with me.'

To bane and sweir na staittis stud a,
Man or woman, grit or sma,
Ryche and pwr, nor the clargie.
The dewill said than, 'Of commown la
All mensworne folk man cum to me.'

unrestrained regardless of rank

law

forsworn, perjured

Ane thief said, 'God, that evir I chaip!
Nor ane stark widdy gar me gaip,
Bot I in hell for geir wald be.'
The dewill said, 'Welcum in a raip,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

escape

strong, cruel ; noose

money

rope

The fische wyffis flett and swoir with granis,
And to the feind, saule, flesch and banis,
Thay gaif thame with ane schowt on hie.
The dewill said, 'Welcum all att anis,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

flyt, bicker ; groans

Me thocht the dewillis als blak as pik,
Solistand wer as beis thik,
Ay tempand folk with wayis sle,
Rownand to Robene and to Dik,
'Renunce thy God and cum to me.'

pitch

soliciting ; ??

*whispering ; Tom, Dick and the
Duke of Sussex*

Thow that in hewin for our saluatioun
 Maid iustice, mercie and pietie to aggre,
 And Gabriell send with the salutatioun
 On to the mayd of maist humilite,
 And maid thy sone to tak humanite,
 For our demeritis to be of Marie borne,
 Haue of ws pietie and our protectour be:
 For but thy help this kynrik is forlorne.

to be in harmony

assume human form

O hie supernale father of sapience,
 Quhilk of thy vertew dois everie folie chais,
 Ane spark of thy hie excellent prudence
 Gif ws that nowther wit nor ressoun hes,
 In quhais hertis no prudence can tak place,
 Exemple nor experience of beforne.
 To ws synnaris ane drop send of thy grace:
 For but thy help this kynrik is forlorne.

foolishness

We ar so bestlie, dull and ignorant,
 Our rudnes may nocht lichtlie be correctit.
 Bot thow that art, of mercy, militant,
 Thy vengeance seis on ws, to syn subiectit,
 And gar thy iustice be with reuth correctit,
For quyt away so wyld fra ws is worne,
 And in folie we ar so fer infectit,
 At but thy help thys kingrik is forlorne.

*thou that art warlike out of
 /mercy*

*for peace, having gone astray, is
 departed from us*

Thow that on rude ws ransounit and redemit,
 Rew on our syn befor thy sicht decydit,
 Spair our trespas, quhilk may nocht be expremit,
Fra breif of iustice, for we may nocht abyd it.
 Help this pure realme, in partiis all devydit,
 Ws succour send, that war the croun of thorne,
 That with the gift of grace it may be gydit:
 For but thy help this kinrik is forlorne.

!obscure!

*which are too great to be put
 in /words*

Lord, hald thy hand that strikin hes so soir,
 Haue of ws pietie eftir our punytioun,
 And gif ws grace the to greif no moir,
 And gar ws mend with pennance and contritioun,
 And to thy vengeance mak non additioun,
As thow that of micht is may to morne.
 Fra cair to confort thow mak restitutioun:
 For but thy help this kinrik is forlorn.

*As thou that art powerful may do
 tomorrow*