

**THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH
POPULAR BALLADS, IN
FIVE VOLUMES, VOLUME
IV, PART II, PP. 256 - 525**

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The English and Scottish popular ballads, In five Volumes, Volume IV, Part II, pp. 256 - 525 by Francis James Child

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IN FIVE VOLUMES
VOLUME IV
PART II

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LIZIE LINDSAY

- A. 'Lizie Lindsay,' a. Jamieson-Brown MS., Appendix, p. ii. b. Jamieson's Popular Ballads, II, 149.
- B. 'Donald of the Isles,' Kinloch MSS, I, 237. Aytoun's Ballads of Scotland, 1859, I, 277.
- C. 'Donald of the Isles,' Kinloch MSS, I, 253.
- D. 'Lizzy Lindsay,' from a Note-Book of Dr Joseph Robertson, January, 1830, No 6.
- E. 'Bonny Lizie Lindsay,' Buchan's Ballads of the North of Scotland, II, 102.
- F. 'Lizzie Lindsay,' Whitelaw's Book of Scottish Ballads, p. 51. = 1845?
- G. 'Leezie Lindsay,' Notes and Queries, Third Series, I, 463.

OF A a Professor Robert Scott says, in the letter in which it was enclosed: "You will find above, all I have been able to procure in order to replace the lost fragment of 'Lizie Lindsay.' I believe it is not so correct or so complete as what was formerly sent, but there are materials enough to operate upon, and by forcing the memory of the recorder more harm than good might have been done." Jamieson says of b: "Transmitted to the editor by Professor Scott of Aberdeen, as it was taken down from the recitation of an old woman.* It is very popular in the northeast of Scotland, and was familiar to the editor in his early youth; and from the imperfect recollection which he still retains of it he has corrected the text in two or three unimportant passages."

There is nothing to show whether the lost copy was recovered, unless it be the fact that Jamieson prints about twice as many stanzas as there are in a. But Jamieson was not always precise in the account he gave of the changes he made in his texts.

In his preface to B, Kinloch remarks that the ballad is very popular in the North, "and few milk-maids in that quarter but can chaunt it, to a very pleasant tune. Lizie Lindsay," he adds, "according to the tradition of Mearnsshire, is said to have been a daughter

of Lindsay of Edzell; but I have searched in vain for genealogical confirmation of the tradition." Kinloch gave Aytoun a copy of this version, changing a few phrases, and inserting st. 20 of C.

The following stanza, printed as No 434 of the Musical Museum, was sent with the air to Johnson by Burns, who intended to communicate something more. (Museum, 1853, IV, 382):

Will ye go to the Highlands, Leezie Lindsay?
Will ye go to the Highlands wi me?
Will ye go to the Highlands, Leezie Lindsay,
My pride and my darling to be?

Robert Allan added three stanzas to this, Smith's Scottish Minstrel, II, 100, and again, p. 101 of the same, others (in which Lizie Lindsay is, without authority, made 'a pur lassie'). The second stanza of the second "set" is traditional (cf. B 8, C 6, D 6, E 8):

To gang to the Hielands wi you, sir,
I dinna ken how that may be,
For I ken nae the road I am gaeing,
Nor yet wha I'm gaun wi.

Donald MacDonald, heir of Kingcausie, wishes to go to Edinburgh for a wife (or to get Lizie Lindsay for his wife). His mother

* "Leezie Lindsay from a maid-servant in Aberdeen, taken down by Professor Scott:" Jamieson to Scott, November, VOL. IV. 33

1804, Letters addressed to Sir Walter Scott, I, No 117, Abbotsford.

consents, on condition that he shall use no flattery, and shall 'court her in great poverty' (policy, D). He sees many bonny young ladies at Edinburgh, but Lizie Lindsay is above compare with others. He presents himself to her in simple Highland garb; what he can offer is a diet of curds and whey and a bed of green rushes (bracken). Lizie would like to know where she would be going, and with whom. His father is an old shepherd (couper, souter), his mother an old dey, and his name is Donald MacDonald. Lizie's father and mother threaten to have him hanged, which daunts him not in the least. Her maid warmly seconds the suit. Lizie packs up her clothes and sets forth with Donald to foot the steep and dirty ways; she wishes herself back in Edinburgh. They come at last to a shieling, where a woman welcomes Sir Donald; he bids her call him Donald her son, and orders a supper of curds and whey, and a bed of green rushes. Lizie, 'weary with travel,' lies late in the morning, and is roused as if to help at the milking; this makes her repine again. But Donald takes her out of the hut and shows her Kingcausie, where she is to be lady.

Kingcausie is some seven miles from Aberdeen, on the south side of the Dee.

Ballads of this description are peculiarly liable to interpolation and debasement, and there are two passages, each occurring in several versions, which we may, without straining, set down to some plebeian improver.

In B 10, D 10, E 19, Lizie Lindsay, not quite ready to go with Donald, makes him an offer of five or ten guineas if he will stay long enough for her to take his picture, 'to keep her from thinking long.' In F 11 Donald makes the same offer for her picture. In E 10, F 6, Lizie tells Donald, who has asked where she lives, that if he will call at the Canon-gate Port, she will drink a bottle of sherry with him, and in the next stanza she is as good as her word. This convivial way of the young ladies of Edinburgh is, owing to an injury to the text, not perceptible in D 14, where Donald seems to be inviting Lizie's mother to bring a bottle of sherry with her in case she should call on him at the Canon-gate Port.

A b is translated by Grundtvig, *Engelske og skotske Folkeviser*, p. 122; by Rosa Warrens, *Schottische Volkslieder der Vorzeit*, p. 125, with deficient verses supplied from F. Knortz, *Lieder u. Romanzen Alt-Englands*, p. 158, translates Allingham's ballad.

A

a. Jamieson-Brown MS., Appendix, p. ii, as sent Jamieson by Professor Scott of Aberdeen, June 9, 1805. b. Jamieson's *Popular Ballads*, 1806, II, 149, "transmitted to the editor by Professor Scott of Aberdeen, as it was taken down from the recitation of an old woman," but "corrected" from Jamieson's recollection in two or three passages.

* * * * *

- 1 Out it spake Lizee Linzee,
The tear blinket in her ee;
How can I leave father and mother,
Along with young Donald to gae!
- 2 Out spoke Lizee's young handmaid,
A bonny young lassie was she;

Said, Were I herest to a kingdom,
Along with young Donald I'd ga.

- 3 'O say ye so to me, Nelly?
O say ye so to me?
Must I leave Edinburgh city,
To the high Highland to gae?'
- 4 Out spoke Lizie's own mother,
A good old lady was she;
If you speak such a word to my dochter,
I'll gar hang [you] hi.
- 5 'Keep well your dochter from me, madam,
Keep well your dochter fa me;
For I care as little for your dochter
As ye can care for me.'

6 The road grew wetty and dubby,
And Lizee began to think lang;
Said, I wish had staid with my mother,
And nae wi young Donald had gane.

7 'You'r welcome hame, Sir Donald,
You'r thrice welcome to me;
You'r welcome hame, Sir Donald,
And your young lady you wi.'

8
.

'Ye call na me Sir Donald,
But ca me Donald your son.'

9 'Rise up, Lizee Linzee,
You [have] lain too long in the day;
Ye might have helped my mother
To milch her goats and her kie.'

10 Out it spake Lizee Linzee,
The tear blinket in her eye;
'The lads of Edinburgh city,
They neither milch goats nor kie.'

B

Kinloch MSS, I, 237, from Miss Catherine Beattie,
Mearnsshire.

1 Ir's of a young lord o the Hielands,
A bonnie braw castle had he,
And he says to his lady mither,
'My boon ye will grant to me:
Sall I gae to Edinbruch city,
And fesh hame a lady wi me?'

2 'Ye may gae to Edinbruch city,
And fesh hame a lady wi thee,
But see that ye bring her but flattrie,
And court her in grit povertie.'

3 'My coat, mither, sall be o the plaiden,
A tartan kilt oure my knee,
Wi hosens and brogues and the bonnet;
I'll court her wi nae flattrie.'

4 Whan he cam to Edinbruch city,
He playd at the ring and the ba,
And saw monie a bonnie young ladie,
But Lizie Lindsay was first o them a'.

5 Syne, dressd in his Hieland grey plaiden,
His bonnet abune his ee-bree,
He called on fair Lizie Lindsay;
Says, Lizie, will ye fancy me?

6 'And gae to the Hielands, my lassie,
And gae, gae wi me?
O gae to the Hielands, Lizie Lindsay,
I'll feed ye on curds and green whey.'

7 'And ye'se get a bed o green bracken,
My plaidie will hap thee and me;

Ye'se lie in my arms, bonnie Lizie,
If ye'll gae to the Hielands wi me.'

8 'O how can I gae to the Hielands,
Or how can I gae wi thee,
Whan I dinna ken where I'm gaing,
Nor wha I hae to gae wi?'

9 'My father, he is an auld shepherd,
My mither, she is an auld dey;
My name it is Donald Macdonald,
My name I'll never deny.'

10 'O Donald, I'll gie ye five guineas
To sit ae hour in my room,
Till I tak aff your ruddy picture;
Whan I hae't, I'll never think lang.'

11 'I dinna care for your five guineas;
It's ye that's the jewel to me;
I've plenty o kye in the Hielands,
To feed ye wi curds and green whey.'

12 'And ye'se get a bonnie blue plaidie,
Wi red and green strips thro it a';
And I'll be the lord o your dwelling,
And that's the best picture ava.'

13 'And I am laird o a' my possessions;
The king canna boast o na mair;
And ye'se hae my true heart in keeping,
There'll be na ither een hae a share.'

14 'Sae gae to the Hielands, my lassie,
O gae awa happy wi me;
O gae to the Hielands, Lizie Lindsay,
And hird the wee lammies wi me.'