

CAULD KAIL IN ABERDEEN.

The favourite air, *Cauld Kail in Aberdeen*, does not appear in any collection before that of Johnson (volume ii., published in 1788), where it was associated with an erotic effusion of Alexander fourth Duke of Gordon. It would appear, however, that the

melody took its origin early in the last century, and most probably in connection with a rude country ditty, which ran as follows :

Cauld kail in Aberdeen,
And castocks in Stra'bogie !
But yet I fear they'll cook o'er soon,
And never warm the cogie.

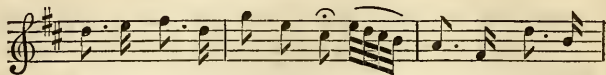
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Wow, Aberdeen, what did you mean,
Sae young a maid to woo, sir !
I'm sure it was nae [joke] to her,
Whate'er it was to you, sir. &c.¹

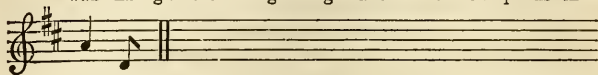
It would appear that these verses relate to some incident in the life of the first Earl of Aberdeen, who died in 1720, at the age of eighty-three, after being some years a widower. If this conjecture be right, the cauld kail of Aberdeen was no mess connected with the ancient city, but a metaphorical allusion to the faded love-fervours of an aged nobleman, who, spite of years, was presuming to pay his addresses to a young lady.

There's cauld kail in A - ber - deen, And cas - tocks in Stra -
bo - gie, Where il - ka man maun hae his lass, But
I maun hae my co - gie. I maun hae my
co - gie, sirs, I can - na want my co - gie; I

¹ The entire song was published in Herd, 1776.



wad - na gie the three-gir'd cog For a' the queans in



Bo - gie.

There's cauld kail in Aberdeen,
 And castocks in Strabogie,
 Where ilka man maun hae his lass,
 But I maun hae my cogie.
 I maun hae my cogie, sirs,
 I canna want my cogie ;
 I wadna gie the three-gir'd cog
 For a' the queans in Bogie.

There's Johnie Smith has got a wife,
 Wha scrimps him o' his cogie ;
 If she were mine, upon my life,
 I'd douk her in a bogie.

Mr Stenhouse states that this song (which extends to two more verses, but of indifferent humour as well as morality) was published in Dale's *Collection of Songs*, before the days of Burns.