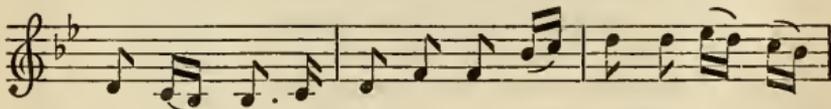


## JOHNNIE'S GRAY BREEKS.

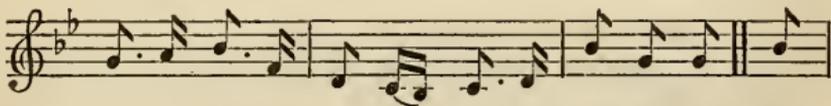
A homely song, entitled *Johnnie's Gray Breeks*, has been long a favourite in Scotland. Its air, one of the finest of the whole series of our sentimental melodies, Mr Stenhouse believed to be the composition of James Oswald. The best song extant to this air, out of many, is the following :



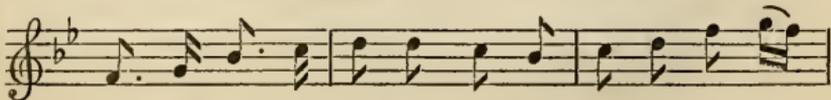
When I was in my se'n - teen year, I



was baith blithe and bon - nie, O; The lads lo'ed me baith



far and near, But I lo'ed nane but John - ie, O: He



gain'd my heart in twa three weeks, He spake sae blithe and



kind - ly, O; And I made him new gray breeks, That



fit - ted him most fine - ly, O.

When I was in my se'nteen year,  
 I was baith blithe and bonnie, O ;  
 The lads lo'ed me baith far and near,  
 But I lo'ed nane but Johnie, O :  
 He gain'd my heart in twa three weeks,  
 He spake sae blithe and kindly, O ;  
 And I made him new gray breeks,  
 That fitted him most finely, O.

He was a handsome fellow ;  
 His humour was baith frank and free ;  
 His bonnie locks sae yellow,  
 Like gowd they glitter'd in my e'e :  
 His dimpled chin and rosy cheeks,  
 And face sae fair and ruddy, O ;  
 And then-a-days his gray breeks  
 Were neither auld nor duddy, O.

But now they're threadbare worn,  
 They're wider than they wont to be ;  
 They're tash'd-like and sair torn,  
 And clouted upon ilka knee.  
 But gin I had a simmer's day,  
 As I ha'e had right monie, O,  
 I'd make a web o' new gray,  
 To be breeks to my Johnie, O.

For he's weel wordy o' them,  
And better, gin I had to gie,  
And I'll tak pains upo' them,  
Frae faults I'll strive to keep them free.  
To cleid him weel shall be my care,  
To please him a' my study, O!  
But he maun wear the auld pair  
A wee, though they be duddy, O.

For when the lad was in his prime,  
Like him there warnna monie, O.  
He ca'd me aye his bonnie thing,  
Sae wha wadna lo'e Johnie, O?  
O, I lo'e Johnie's gray breeks,  
For a' the care they've gi'en me yet,  
And gin we live another year,  
We'll mak them hale between us yet.

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