

DONALD COUPER.

We get a very decisive example of the homely simplicity and rustic baldness of the early popular music of Scotland, in an undoubted favourite lively air of at least the age of the Commonwealth—namely, *Donald Couper*—which has been preserved in Playford's *Dancing Master*, published in 1657. That it was a dancing tune in general esteem then and in the reign of Charles II. is proved, first, by its being thus admitted into a contemporary English collection; and, secondly, by an allusion to it in Cleland's poem on the Highland Host, circa 1679:

‘ Trumpets sounded, skenes were glancing,
Some were *Donald Couper* dancing.’

Nor did this wide popularity soon cease, for in Durfey's *Pills to*

¹ See Wood's *Songs of Scotland*, ii. 120.

gane a - wa' to court a wife, And he's come hame with-

out her!

Donald Couper and his man,
 They've gane to the fair ;
 They've gane to court a bonnie lass ;
 But fient a ane was there.
 Sing hey Donald, how Donald,
 Hey Donald Couper !
 He's gane awa' to court a wife,
 And he's come hame without her !

But he has gotten an auld wife,
 And she's come hirplin' hame ;
 And she's faun o'er the buffet stool,
 And brak her rumple bane !