

ROY'S WIFE OF ALDIVALLOCH.

This pretty, lively song was the composition of a lady of



Mrs Grant of Carron.

family, named Grant, born at Aberlour on Speyside, Banffshire,
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about 1745—who married in succession her cousin, Mr Grant of Carron, near Elchies, and a Dr Murray, physician in Bath, where she died about 1814. A portrait of her, representing her as a handsome middle-aged lady in a beautiful dress of the last century, was brought forward in the remarkable museum of local antiquities and other objects of interest which graced the meeting of the British Association at Aberdeen in 1859.

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, As

I cam o'er the braes o' Bal - loch.

She vowed, she swore, she wad be mine, She

said she lo'ed me best of on - y; But

oh! the fic - kle, faith - less quean, She's

ta'en the carle, and left her John - ic.

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, As

I cam o'er the braes o' Bal - loch.

Roy's wife of Aldivalloch,
 Roy's wife of Aldivalloch,
 Wat ye how she cheated me,
 As I cam o'er the braes o' Balloch.

She vowed, she swore, she wad be mine,
 She said she lo'ed me best of ony ;
 But oh ! the fickle, faithless quean,
 She's ta'en the carle, and left her Johnie.
 Roy's wife of Aldivalloch, &c.

O, she was a canty quean,
 Weel could she dance the Highland walloch ;
 How happy I had she been mine,
 Or I been Roy of Aldivalloch !
 Roy's wife of Aldivalloch, &c.

Her face sae fair, her een sae clear,
 Her wee bit mou' sae sweet and bonnie ;
 To me she ever will be dear,
 Though she's for ever left her Johnie.
 Roy's wife of Aldivalloch, &c.

It is one of the cases where a kind of immortality has been achieved by the writing of one successful song—for no other composition of Mrs Grant has ever come before the world. It is also one of those cases where a person of refinement has taken up and successfully purified an old vulgar song. It appears that there was a real Roy of Aldivalloch. 'On the 21st February 1727, John Roy, lawful son to Thomas Roy in Aldivalloch, was married to Isabel daughter of Alister Stewart, sometime resident in Cabrach [Highlands of Aberdeenshire].'¹ It is to be feared that the marriage was not a fitting or a happy one, for Mr Peter Buchan has preserved a homely ballad, from which it can be gathered that Roy was an old man, and that 'Tibbie' on one occasion was induced to leave her husband's house with a certain 'Davie Gordon in Kirktown,' but was pursued by Roy, and brought back, after an escape over the braes of Balloch.

Silly body, Aldivalloch,
 Puir body, Aldivalloch ;
 He lost his hose and baith his shoon,
 Coming through the braes of Balloch.²

On the basis of this rough rustic ditty, Mrs Grant of Elchies produced the canzonet of disappointed love here for the hundredth time printed.

¹ Robert Carruthers in *Inverness Courier*. The *Banffshire Journal*, in January 1860, recorded the death of Margaret Roy, aged seventy-four, at Aldivalloch, in the Cabrach, Banffshire, the last descendant of the Roys of Aldivalloch.

² The entire ballad is presented in Mackay's *Book of Scottish Songs*, p. 65. The *Banffshire Journal*, in recording the death of Margaret Roy, states that an old lady who died in the Cabrach some years ago recollected the Roy of the ballad, which she said was the composition of a shoemaker residing in the neighbourhood of Aldivalloch.