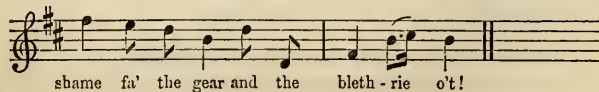
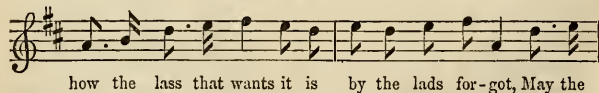
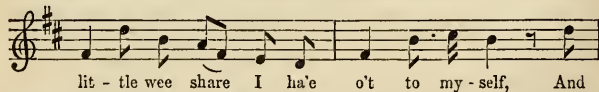
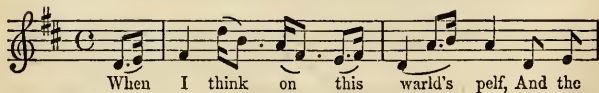


SHAME FA' THE GEAR.



When I think on this warld's pelf,
 And the little wee share I ha'e o't to myself,
 And how the lass that wants it is by the lads forgot,
 May the shame fa' the gear and the blethrie o't!

Jockie was the laddie that held the pleuch,
 But now he's got gowd and gear eneuch,
 He thinks nae mair o' me that wears the plaidin' coat;
 May the shame fa' the gear and the blethrie o't!

Jenny was the lassie that muckit the byre,
 But now she is clad in her silken attire;
 And Jockie says he lo'es her, and me has forgot—
 May the shame fa' the gear and the blethrie o't!

But all this shall never daunton me,
 Sae lang as I keep my fancy free;
 For the lad that's sae inconstant is no worth a groat—
 May the shame fa' the gear and the blethrie o't!

'Shame fa' the gear and the blethrie [that is, the senselessness] o't' is an old Scottish proverb, adduced on any occasion when conduct has been unduly affected by sordid considerations, as when a young woman, for the sake of a good 'down-sitting,' marries an old man. Kelly, in his *Scotch Proverbs*, published in 1721, alludes to a song embodying the idea. There are two versions of such a song: one here given from Johnson's *Museum*; another which appeared in Yair's *Charmer*, 1751, of which the morale is strikingly inferior. It represents a man as reflecting sarcastically on his own poverty, simply in contrast with old companions now well-off, and adding finally a line which hints an ample explanation of his low condition—

While I ha'e the tither penny to pay the tither pot,
 May the shame fa' the gear and the blethrie o't!