I LO'E NE'ER A LADDIE BUT ANE.





I lo'e ne'er a laddie but ane,
He lo'es ne'er a lassie but me:
He's promised to mak me his ain,
And his ain I am willing to be.
He coft me a rokelay o' blue,
And a pair o' mittens o' green;
The price was a kiss o' my mou';
And I paid him the debt yestreen.

Let ithers brag weel o' their gear,
Their land, and their lordly degree;
I carena for ought but my dear,
For he's ilka thing lordly to me:

His words are sae sugar'd, sae sweet!

His sense drives ilk fear far awa'!

I listen—poor fool! and I greet;

Yet how sweet are the tears as they fa'!

Yet how sweet are the tears as they fa'!

Dear lassie, he cries wi' a jeer,

Ne'er heed what the auld anes will say;

Though we've little to brag o'—ne'er fear;

What's gowd to a heart that is wae?

Our laird has baith honours and wealth,

Yet see how he's dwining wi' care;

Now we, though we've naething but health,

Are cantie and leal evermair.

O Marion! the heart that is true,
Has something mair costly than gear;
Ilk e'en it has naething to rue—
Ilk morn it has naething to fear.
Ye warldlings, gae hoard up your store,
And tremble for fear ought you tyne;
Guard your treasures wi' lock, bar, and door,
While here in my arms I lock mine!

He ends wi' a kiss and a smile—
Wae's me, can I tak it amiss?
My laddie's unpractised in guile,
He's free aye to daut and to kiss!
Ye lasses wha lo'e to torment
Your wooers wi' fause scorn and strife,
Play your pranks—I ha'e gi'en my consent,
And this night I am Jamie's for life.

The first verse of this song, and another verse not reproduced here, are stated by Ritson to have been composed by 'J. D.;' but Burns ascribes them to Mr John Clunie, minister of Borthwick, Edinburghshire. This reverend gentleman, who is remembered as a good singer of Scotch songs, died on the 13th April 1819, at the age of sixty-two. The remaining verses were the composition of Hector Macneill.