

THE SOUTERS O' SELKIRK.

At some time, probably in the earlier half of the eighteenth century, the souters or shoemakers of Selkirk—a town noted for that craft—had a competition at football with certain men of the Merse, retainers of the Earl of Hume. The souters won, and their victory was celebrated in a boisterous song and air, the latter of which is sure of permanent preservation.

(It's) up wi' the sou-ters o' Sel - kirk, And
 down wi' the Earl of Hume; But up wi'
 il - ka braw cal - lant That sews the sing - le soled
 shoon. (It's) fy up - on yel - low and yel - low, And
 fy up - on yel - low and green, But up wi' the
 true blue and scar - let, And up wi' the
 sing - le soled shoon.

Up wi' the souters o' Selkirk,
And down wi' the Earl of Hume ;
But up wi' ilka braw callant
That sews the single-soled shoon.
Fy upon yellow and yellow,
And fy upon yellow and green,
But up wi' the true blue and scarlet,
And up wi' the single-soled shoon.

Up wi' the lads o' the Forest,
That ne'er to the Southron wad yield ;
But deil scoup o' Hume and his menyie,
That stood sae abeigh on the field.

Fy on the green and the yellow,¹
The craw-hearted loons o' the Merse ;
But here's to the souters o' Selkirk,
The elshin, the lingle, and birse.

Then up wi' the souters o' Selkirk,
For they are baith trusty and leal ;
And up wi' the lads o' the Forest,
And down wi' the Merse to the deil !

The allusions made to the brave conduct of the souters of Selkirk, and the disaffection popularly but unjustly ascribed to the Lord Hume, at the Battle of Flodden, have led to a supposition that this song relates purely to that conflict. The above account, however, which is that given by the Rev. Mr Robertson in his Statistical Account of Selkirk, seems to be the only one entitled to any respect. In the song, it must be admitted, there is little poetry or common sense ; but the air is one of great merit.

¹ The livery of the Hume family.