

- 'Bout which our herds sae aft hae been
Maist like to fight. shepherds so often
almost
- In days when mankind were but callans
At grammar, logic, an' sic talents, boys
such
They took nae pains their speech to balance,
Or rules to gie,
But spak their thoughts in plain, braid lallans, broad Lowland speech
Like you or me.
- In thae auld times, they thought the moon, those
Just like a sark or pair o' shoon, shirt shoes
Wore by degrees, till her last roon, shred
Gaed past their viewing, went
An' shortly after she was done,
They gat a new one. got
- This past for certain, undisputed;
It ne'er cam' i' their heads to doubt it,
Till chiefls gat up an' wad confute it, fellows got would
An' ca'd it wrang;
An' muckle din there was about it,
Baith loud and lang. both
- Some herds, weel learn'd upo' the beuk, book
Wad threap auld folk the thing misteuk : would maintain mistook
For 'twas the auld moon turn'd a neuk, corner
An' out o' sight,
An' backlins-coming, to the leuk, backwards look
She grew more bright.
- This was denied, it was affirm'd;
The herds an' hirsels were alarm'd; shepherds and flocks
The rev'rend gray-beards rav'd and storm'd,
That beardless laddies
Should think they better were inform'd
Than their auld daddies.
- Frae less to mair it gaed to sticks; went
Frae words an' aiths to clours an' nicks; oaths blows and cuts
An' monie a fallow gat his licks, got a beating
Wi' hearty crunt; bang
An' some, to learn them for their tricks,
Were hang'd an' brunt. burnt
- This game was play'd in monie lands,
An' Auld-light caddies bure sic hands, fellows bore such
That, faith, the youngsters took the sands
Wi' nimble shanks,
Till lairds forbade, by strict commands, land-owners
Sic bluidy prank's. such bloody