

"He's no greedy; and as for no caring for me, it near broke his heart to give me up. There was tears on his face when we parted."

"Havers! what was there to keep him frae buying the ring if he wanted it?"

"His superstitiousness."

"What is there superstitious about a ring?"

"It wasna the ring; it was the hiccup did it."

"Ay, I heard there was a hiccup in the story, but I didna fash about it."

"Jeames did though, and it was a very queery thing, I can tell ye, though I didna put the wecht on it that he did. As many a one kens forby me, he walked straight to Peter Lambie's shop to buy the ring, and just as he had his hand on the door he took the hiccup. Ye ken what a superstitious man Jeames is."

"If I wanted a wife it's no hiccup would stand in the road."

"Because you're ower ignorant to be superstitious. And Jeames didna give in at the first try. He was back at the shop the next night, and there he took the hiccup again. Then he came to me and said in terrible disappointment as it would be wicked to marry in the face of