

HEY, NOW THE DAY DAWS!

Dunbar, in one of his poems, ridicules the common minstrels of Edinburgh for having but two tunes :

Your commone menstralis has no tone,
But *Now the Day Daws*, and *Into June*.

This, of course, establishes that there was a popular air, called *Now the Day Daws*, as early as the beginning of the sixteenth century. We have, however, no copy of any tune so named before one which appears in Gordon's manuscript Lute-book, 1627 ; and the earliest song so entitled is one which appears in the works of Alexander Montgomery (died between 1607 and

1611). In the present collection, it has been thought proper to present two of the seven verses of Montgomery's song, as giving some idea of what was thought presentable song-minstrelsy in the reign of James VI.—the refined lays of the lady's bower, in contrast to the rude rants which sprang up among the common people.

Hey, now the day dawis,
 The jolly cock crawis,
 Now shrouds the shawis,
 Through nature anon !
 The thrissle-cock cryis
 On lovers wha lyis ;
 Now skales the skyis ;
 The night is near gone !

The season excellis,
 Through sweetness that smellis ;
 Now Cupid compellis
 Our heartis each one.
 On Venus, wha wakis
 To muse on our maikis,
 Syne sing, for their sakis,
 The night is near gone !

Mr David Laing, in his notes on Johnson's *Museum* (p. 534), has presented the notes of *The Day Dawis* from the Lute-book ; but has failed to observe that it differs from the rhythm of Montgomery's song, so that it is impossible to sing the one to the other. This tune, indeed, is of a tinkling artificial character, full of oddly abrupt transitions, perhaps well adapted for the lute, but utterly unlike the flowing character of those melodies to which the Scottish songs in general are sung. We are, therefore, forced to conjecture that either the air has been incorrectly transcribed from the antiquated notation of the original, or there were two songs of different metrical structure, called *The Day Dawis*.

Mr Stenhouse, seeing the suitability of Montgomery's song for the tune called *Hey Tuttie Taittie!* did not hesitate to assume that the latter was the true ancient tune of *The Day Dawis*, alluded to by the poet Dunbar. For this, however, there is no authority, any more than there is for the 'tradition' reported by Burns, that *Hey Tuttie Taittie* was Bruce's march at Bannockburn. All that we know of this notable melody is, that we find it in connection with a Jacobite song, beginning 'Here's to the king, sir,' and which has been included in our Historical Series.
