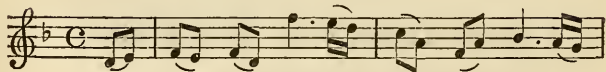
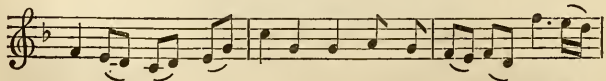


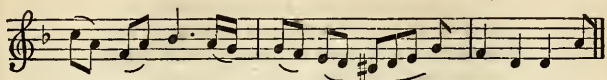
I DO CONFESS THOU'RT SMOOTH AND FAIR.



I do con - fess thou'rt smooth and fair, And



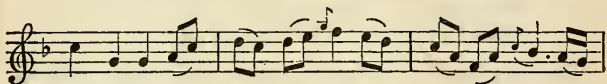
I might have gone near to love thee; Had I not found the



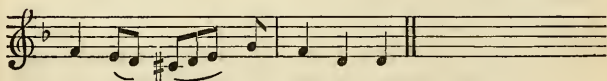
slight - est prayer That lips could speak, had power to move thee:



But I can let thee now a-lone, As wor - thy to be



loved by none. But I can let thee now a - lone, As



wor - thy to be loved by none.

I do confess thou'rt smooth and fair,
 And I might have gone near to love thee ;
 Had I not found the slightest prayer
 That lips could speak, had power to move thee :
 But I can let thee now alone,
 As worthy to be loved by none.

I do confess thou'rt sweet, yet find
 Thee such an unthrift of thy sweets,
 Thy favours are but like the wind,
 That kisses everything it meets.
 And since thou can with more than one,
 Thou'rt worthy to be kiss'd by none.

The morning rose, that untouch'd stands,
Arm'd with her briers, how sweetly smells !
But pluck'd and strain'd through ruder hands,
Her sweets no longer with her dwells ;
But scent and beauty both are gone,
And leaves fall from her, one by one.

Such fate, ere long, will thee betide,
When thou hast handled been a while ;
Like sere flowers to be thrown aside,
And I will sigh, while some will smile,
To see thy love for more than one
Hath brought thee to be loved by none.

This song appears in Playford's *Select Ayres*, 1659, under the title of a '*Song to his Forsaken Mistress*, set to music by Henry Lawes.' Although in no respect a Scotch song, it is usually printed in Scottish collections, and represented as a composition of Sir Robert Ayton, secretary to Queen Anne, the consort of James I. The resemblance of the style of sentiment and diction to *Anne Bothwell's Lament* can scarcely be overlooked. It is also remarkable that the preceding song, *Thou wilt not go*, &c., is included in a collection of Sir Robert's poems, edited by Charles Rogers (Edin. 1844). If Ayton was the author of the two latter songs, he might also have written *Anne Bothwell's Lament*. Sir Robert Ayton, who was a Scotsman by birth, died in London in 1638, aged sixty-eight.
