

## GUID NIGHT, AND JOY BE WI' YOU A'.

The two touching stanzas which follow, are given by Sir Walter Scott in his *Border Minstrelsy*, as those which tradition has preserved of the Good-night or Farewell of one of the Armstrongs, about to be executed for his concern in the murder of Sir John Carmichael of Edrom, warden of the Middle Marches of the Border of Scotland, an incident which happened in June

1600. The tune has long been a favourite in Scotland,<sup>1</sup> being usually played at the breaking up of convivial parties. It was in especial favour with Burns, who says in one of his letters: 'Ballad-making is now as completely my hobby-horse as ever fortification was Uncle Toby's; so I'll e'en canter it away till I come to the limit of my race (God grant that I may take the right side of the winning-post!), and then, cheerfully looking back on the honest folks with whom I have been happy, I shall say or sing, "Sae merry as we a' hae been!" and raising my looks to the whole of the human race, the last words of the voice of Coila shall be, "Good-night, and joy be wi' you a'!"' To this tune the bard wrote his well-known *Farewell to the Brethren of the Mason Lodge, Torbolton*.

O, this is my departing time, For here nae lang - er  
 maun I stay; There's not a friend or foe o' mine But  
 wish - es that I were a-way. What I hae done for  
 lack - o' wit, I nev - er, nev - er can re - ca'! I  
 hope your're a' my friends as yet; Good-  
 night, and joy be wi' you a'.

<sup>1</sup> It appears amongst Playford's Scotch Tunes, 1700.

O, this is my departing time,  
For here nae langer maun I stay ;  
There's not a friend or foe o' mine  
But wishes that I were away.

What I hae done for lack o' wit,  
I never, never can reca' !  
I hope you're a' my friends as yet ;  
Good-night, and joy be wi' you a'.