

THE

Wandering Young Gentlewoman,

OR THE

Cat-skins' Garland;

IN FIVE PARTS.

Part 1. How an Esquire's Daughter near London was forced from home by her Father's cruelty, but through her tender Mother, was well educated and clothed in rich array. When she came to understand she was hated by her Father; she made a robe of Cat skins, with which she wandered, carrying rich attire and jewels with her.

Part 2. How one night she went to a Knight's house, where she begged for a night's lodging in the stable, which was granted her.

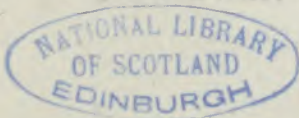
Part 3. A very comical and pleasant passage which passed between Cat-skins and the young Esquire, the Knight's son.

Part 4. In what manner he came to catch Cat-skins in her rich attire and how he fell in love with her, and got his Parents consent; he going to feign himself sick, and made Cat-skins his nurse, with an account their marriage.

Part 5. An account of the death of her Mother and Sister. Her Father drest like a beggar, went to her gate where he cried for charity.

GLASGOW,

PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS.



THE CAT'S-SKIN GARLAND

PART I.

YE Fathers and Mothers and Children also,
Come draw near unto me and soon you shall know
The sense of my ditty for I dare so say,
The like han't been printed many a day.

The subject which to you I am to relate,
It is of a 'Squire's son of a vast estate,
And the first dear infant his wife to him bare,
It was a young daughter of beauty most rare.

He said to his wife, had this child been a boy
'Twould have pleased me better, & increas'd my joy
If the next be of the same sort I declare,
Of what I'm possess'd, she shall have no share.

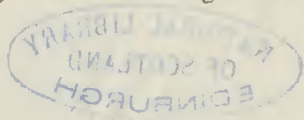
In twelve months thereafter this woman we hear
Had another Daughter of beauty most clear:
And when that her husband knew 'twas a female,
Into a strong bitter passion he fell.

Saying, since this is of the same sort as the first
In my habitation she shall not be nurs't,
Pray let it be sent into the country:
For where I am, truly, this child shall not be.

With tears his dear wife, to him thus did say,
Husband, be content, I'll send her away,
Then unto the coutry with speed did it send,
For to be brought up with one who was a friend.

Although that her father hated her so,
The good education on her did bestow,
And with a golden locket and robes of the best,
This slighted young damsel was commonly drest.

And when into statura this damsel was grown
And found by her Father she had no love shewn
She cry'd before I lie under his frown,
I'm fully resolv'd to range the world round.



PART II.

But now good people the cream of the jest,
 In what sort of manner this lady was drest.
 With Cat-skins she made, for a robe I declare,
 The which for a covering she daily did wear.

Her new rich attir'd, with jewels beside,
 Then up in a bundle by her then were ty'd,
 Now to seek her fortune she wander'd away,
 And when she had travell'd a whole winter day.

In the evening-tide she came to a town,
 When at the Knight's door she sat herself down,
 For to rest herself, who was tir'd to be sure ;
 This noble Knight's Lady she came to the door.

And seeing this creature in such sort of dress,
 The lady unto her these words did express :
 From whence cam'st thou and what will you have,
 She cry'd a night's lodgings in your stable I crave

The Lady said to her, I'll grant thy desire,
 Come into the kitchen, and stand by the fire ;
 Then she thanked the Lady and went in with haste
 Where she was gaz'd on from biggest to least.

And being well warmed, her hunger being great
 They gave her a dish of good meat for to eat ;
 And then to an out-house this creature was led,
 Where she with fresh straw then made her a bed,

And then in the morning that day-light she saw
 Her rich robes and jewels she hid in the straw,
 And being very cold, she then did retire,
 To go to the kitchen, and stand by the fire.

The cook said, my Lady, hath promis'd that thou
 Shall be as a scullion to wait on me now ;
 What sayest thou girl? art thou willing to bide ?
 With all my heart, truly, to him she reply'd.

To work with her needle she could very well,
 And for raising of paste, few could her excel ;
 She being very handy, the cook's heart did win,
 And then she was call'd by the name of Cat-skin.

PART III.

THIS Lady had a son both comely and tall,
 Who often times used to be at a ball,
 A mile out of town in an evening-tide.
 To see the ball acted away he did ride.

Cat skins said to his Mother, Madam let me,
 Go after your Son, this fine ball for to see ;
 With that in a passion, this Lady flew,
 Struck her with a ladle which she broke in two.

And being thus served she then went away,
 And with a rich garment herself did array,
 Then to see this ball with great speed did retire,
 Where she danc'd so rarely, all did her admire.

The sport being done, the young Squire did say
 Young Lady, where do you live, tell me I pray ?
 Her answer was unto him, I will tell,
 At the sign of the broken ladle I dwell.

She being very nimble, got home first tis said,
 And with her Cat-skin robes she soon was array'd,
 And into the kitchen again she did go,
 But where she had been, none of them did know.

Next day the young Squire, himself to content,
 To see the ball acted, away then he went ;
 She said, Pray let me go this ball for to see.
 Then struck her with a skimmer & broke it in three

Then out of doors she ran with heaviness,
 And with her rich garments herself then did dress,
 And to see this ball she ran away with speed,
 And to see her dancing, all wonder'd indeed.

The ball being ended, the young 'Squire then
Said Where do you live? she answer'd again,
Sir, because you ask me, an account I will give,
At the sign of the broken skimmer I live,

Being dark then she lost him & homeward did hie
And with her Cat-skin robe, was drest presently,
And into the kitchen among them she went,
But where she had been they were all innocent.

When the 'Squire came home & found Cat-skin
He was in amaze, and began for to swear, (there,
For two nights at this ball has been a Lady,
The sweetest of beauties that e'er I did see.

She was the best dancer in all the whole place,
And very much like our Cat-skins in the face,
Had she not been drest to that comely degree
I'd sworn it had been Cat-skins bodily.

Next to this ball he did go once more,
Then she asked his Mother to go as before,
And having a bason of water in hand,
She threw it at Cat-skins as I understand.

Shaking her wet ears out of doors she did run,
And dressing herself, when this thing she had done
To see this ball acted, she then went her ways,
To see her fine dancing all gave her the praise.

And having concluded, this young 'Squire he
Said, From whence come you? Pray, lady tell me,
Her answer was, Sir, you soon shall know the same
From the sign of the bason and water I came.

Then homeward she hurry'd as fast as might be
This young 'Squire he then was resolved to see,
Whereto she belong'd; then following Cat-skin,
Into an old straw house he saw her creep in.

He said. O I brave Cat-skins, I find it is true,
 These three nights together have so charmed me;
 Thou art the sweetest creature my eyes e'er beheld
 With joy and contentment my heart it is filled.

Thou art the cook's scullion, but as I have life,
 Grant me but thy love, I'll make thee my wife :
 And you shall have maids to be at your call,
 Sir, that cannot be, I've no portion at all.

Thy beauty is a portion my joy and my dear,
 I prize it far better than thousands a year ;
 And to have my friend's consent, I have got a trick
 I'll go to my bed and feign myself sick ;

There's none shall attend me but thee, I protest
 So one day or other, when in thy rich dress,
 Thou shalt be drest. If my parents come nigh,
 I'll tell them 'tis for thee I'm sick and like to die.

PART IV.

HAVING thus consulted, this couple parted,
 Next day this Squire he took to his bed,
 And when his dear Parents this thing perceiv'd,
 For fear of his death they were heartily griev'd.

To tend him they sent for a nurse presently,
 He said, none but Cat-skins my nurse now shall be
 His Parents said no, Son; he said, but she shall,
 Or else I shall have no nurse at all.

His Parents both wond'ring, to hear him say thus
 That none but Cat-skins must needs be his nurse
 So then his dear parents, their Son to content,
 Up to the chamber poor Cat-skins they sent.

Sweet cordials and other rich things was prepar'd
 Which between this couple were equally shar'd,
 And when they were alone in each others arms,
 Enjoy'd one another in love's pleasant charms.

At length on a time, poor Cat-skins, 'tis said,
 In her rich attire she was array'd:
 And when that his Mother the chamber drew near
 Then much like a goddess Cat-skins did appear.

Which caus'd her to startle, and thus for to say
 What Young Lady is this Son tell me, I pray,
 He said, Why, 'tis Cat-skins, for whom sick I lie,
 And without I have her, with speed I shall die.

His mother ran down then to tell the old knight
 Who ran up to see this amazing great sight,
 He said Why, 'tis Cat-skins, we hold in such scorn
 I ne'er saw a finer dame since I was born.

The old Knight said to her, I pray thee, tell me,
 From whence dost thou come, and of what family
 Then who were her parents, she gave him to know
 And what was the cause of her wandering so.

The 'Squire cry'd, If you will save my life,
 Pray grant this young creature she may be my wife
 His Father reply'd, thy life for to save,
 If you are agreed, my consent you shall have.

Next day with great triumph and joy as we hear
 There was many coaches both far and near;
 Then much like a goddess dress'd in rich array,
 Cat-skins to the 'Squire was marry'd that day.

For several days this great wedding did last,
 Where were many a topping and gallant rich guest;
 And for joy the bells rang over the town,
 And bottles of Canary roll'd merrily around.

When Cat-skin was marry'd her fame for to raise
 To see her modest carriage all gave her the praise
 Thus her charming beauty the 'Squire did win,
 And who lives so great as he and Cat-skin?

and then together in love they did live.

PART V.

NOW in the fifth part I'll endeavour to show,
 How things with her Parents and Sister did go.
 Her Mother and Sister, of life are bereaft,
 And now all alone the old Squire is left

And hearing his daughter was marry'd so brave,
 He said, in my noddle, a fancy I have,
 Dress'd like a poor man, a journey I'll make,
 And see if she on me some pity will take.

Then dress'd like a beggar, he went to her gate
 Where stood his Daughter who appear'd very great
 He cry'd, Noble Lady, a poor man I be,
 And I am now forced to crave your charity.

With a blush she asked him from whence he came
 With that he then told her, and give her his name
 She said, I'm your Daughter, that you slighted so
 Nevertheless to you some kindness I'll show.

Thro' mercy the Lord hath provided for me.
 Pray Father then come in, and sit down, said she;
 Then the best provision the house could afford,
 For to make him welcome was set on the board.

She said, You are welcome, feed heartily I pray
 And if you are willing, with me you shall stay,
 So long as you live; then he made this reply,
 I only am come thy love for to try.

Thro' mercy, my child, I'm rich and not poor,
 I have gold and silver enough now in store,
 And for the love which at thy hand I have found,
 For a portion I'll give thee ten thousand pound

So in a few days after as I understand,
 This man he went home and sold off all his land
 And ten thousand pounds to his Daughter did give
 And then altogether in love they did live.