

The Paynters and the Glasiors Playe

Hankin

On wolds have I walked full wild 1
Under bushes my bower to build
From stiff storms my sheep to shield
My seemly whethers to save,
From comely Conwy unto Clyde
In their shelters them to hide
A better shepherd on no side 7
No earthly man may have.

For with walking weary I have me wrought 9
Beside the stream my sheep I sought
My lively tups are in my thought,
Them to save and heal
From the sore and scab it sought
Or the rot, it if were wrought
If the cough had them caught 15
Of it I could them heal.

Lo, here be my herbies safe and sound 17
Wisely wrought for every wound -
That would a whole man bring to ground
Within a little while -
Of henbane, and hoarhound
Tibbie, radish and egremont
Which be my herbs all safe and sound 23
All mingled in a row.

Here be more herbs I tell it you 25
I shall rank them in a row:
Finter, fanter and feverfew
And also pennywort
This is all that I know.

For be it wether or be it ewe
I shall heal them in a row, 31
Clean them from their hurt

Here is tar in a pot 33
To heal them form the rot.
Well I can and well I wot
The tails from them take
And if sworn it were cursed
Yet shall the tail be in my purse
And the sheep never the worse 39
To frolic in the field.

But no fellowship here have I 41
Save myself, in good faith
Therefore for a friend will I cry
But first will I drink, if I may. *He drinks*

Ho, Harvey, Ho 45
Drive thy sheep here below.
Thou may not hear unless I blow *[on my horn]*
As ever I have health

Harvey

Fellow, now be we well met 49
And though methinks us needs
Had we Tudd here by us set
Then might we sit and feed us

Hankin

Yet to feed us friendly i' faith 53
How might we have our service?
Thou must cry loud, by this day;
Tudd is deaf and may not well hear us.

Harvey

How, Tud, come, for thy father's kin! *Shouting*

Hankin

Nay, faith, thy voice is wondrous dim 58
Why, knowest thou not him?
Fie man, for shame!
Call him Tudd, Tibby's son
And then will the fool come
For in good faith it is his wont
To love well his Dame's name. 64

Harvey

How, Tudd, Tibby's son! *Shouting* 65

Tudd

Sir, in faith now I come *Entering up the aisle* 66
For yet have I not all done
That I have to do.
To stew a salve for our sheep
And - lest my wife should it wit -
With great gravel and grit
I scour it out of this old pan 72
Hemlock and hay-riff - hold that - 73
With tar boyste must all be tamed
Pennygrass and butter for fat sheep;
Of this salve I am not ashamed.
Ashamed am I not to show 77
No point pertaining to my craft
No better - that I well know -
In land is nowhere living.
For, good men, this is not unknown 81
To husbands that be here about;
That each man must bow to his wife
And cower for fear of a clout.

Thus for clouts now care I; 85
All is for fear of womankind
Now will I cast my ware hereby
And hie fast till I get to Hankin

Hankin, hold up thy hand and haul me 89
To bring me up on high there by thee

Hankin

Gladly sir, if thou would be by me 91
For loth me is to deny thee

Harvey

Now since God has gathered us together 93
With good heart I thank him of his grace
Welcome be thou: well fair weather
Tudd, shall we shape us to some solace?

Tudd

Solace would best be seen 97
That we shape us to our supper;
For meat and drink, well I deem
To each deed is most dear.

Hankin

Lay forth, each man alike 101
What he hath left of his livery
And I will put forth my piece
With my part, first of all us three.

Harvey

And such store as my wife had 105
In your heart soon shall you see
In the beginning to make us glad
For in good meat there is much glee

Here is bread this day was baken 109
Onions, garlic and leeks
Butter that was bought in Blacon
And green cheese that will grease well your cheeks

Tudd

And here ale of Halton I have 113
And what meat I had to my hire
This pudding shall no man dispraise
And a jannock of Lancashire

Lo, here a sheep's head soused in ale 117
And a grain to lay on the green,
And sour milk. My wife had ordained
A noble supper, as well is seen.

Hankin

Now will I cast off my cloak 121
And put on't part of my livery
Put all that I have in my poke
And a pig's foot, from puddings pure.

Tudd

Abide, fellows, and ye shall see here 125
This hot meat - we serve it here.
Bowls of the best,
A pudding with a prick in the end.

Hankin

My satchel to shake out 129
To shepherds I am not ashamed,
And this tongue pared round about,
With my teeth it shall be tamed
Bid me do gladly, and I thee.
For by God here is good grazing
Come eat with us, God of heaven high 135
But take no heed that here be no housing.

Harvey

Housing enough have we here 137
While we have heaven over our heads
Now to wet our mouths it is the time
This flask will I tame, by your leave.

Tudd

And of this bottle now will I bib 141
For here is bowls of the best.

Hankin

Fellows now our bellies be full 143
Think we on him that keeps our beasts.
Blow thy horn and call after Trowle
And bid him, Son, to share our feast.

Harvey

Well said, Hankin, by my sooth 147
For that shrew I suppose us seeks
My horn to sound I will not cease
Till that lad has some of our leeks

Tudd

Leeks to his livery is liking 151
Such a lad nowhere in land is
Blow a note for that meeting
While that horn now in they hand is

Hankin

With this horn shall I make a “hoo” 155
That he and all Heaven shall hear
Yonder lad that sits on the lea
The loud of this horn shall hear *Blows horn*

Trowle

- Good lord, look on me *Elsewhere on the stage* 159
And my flock here as they fed have
On this wold walk we
Are no men here, that no way.
All is bare, perdi,
Therefore, sheep, we mun go,
No better may be 165
Of beast that blood and bone have.
- Wot I not, day or night 167
What necessities I may need,
Nettle, hemlock and butter I have here
And my good dog Dottynowle
That is never slow to be chiding.
If any man come me by
And would know which way best were 173
My leg I lift up where I lie
And wish him east or west away.
- If I rose when I lay 176
I would think that travail lost.
Nor king, nor Duke, by this day
Rise will I not - but take my rest.
Now here sit down I will,
And pipe at this pot like a Pope.
Would God that I were down, 182
Out of harm's way as I hope.
- No man drink here shall drink 184
Save myself, the devil of the drink.
All this talk I set at little,
Nay, ye lads, I sit not by ye
For you have many a foul fit,
Thou fowle fylth, though thou flit, I defye thee.

Hankin

Trowle, take tent to my talking 190
For thy tooth here is good tugging
While thy wethers go walking
On this loin thou may have good lugging

Trowle

Fie on your loins and your livery 194
Your livers, lights and lungs
Your sausage, souse and saveloy
Your sitting without any songs!

On this hill I hold me here 198
No hope of your hot meat have I
But flit with my fellows in fear
And your sheep all securely save I

Harvey

For thou savest our sheep, 202
Good knave, take keep
Since thou may not sleep
Come eat of this souse.

Trowle

Nay the dirt is so deep, 206
Stubbed therein for to steep
And the maggots on it creep
At home in thy house.

Therefore, meat, if I may 210
Of your cooking today
Will I nought by no way
Till I have my wages.

I would to have been gay 214
But, see, so ragged is mine array;
And penny-pinching is your pay
To any poor page.

Tudd

Trowle, boy, for God's tree 218
Come eat a morsel with me
And then wrestle will we
Here on this wold.

Trowle

That will I never flee! 222
Though it be with all three
To win my livery
That will I hold *He joins the others*
Now comes Trowle the True
A tournament I bid to fight
With my masters. Come on now 228
Come forth - who is most of might?

Hankin

Trowle, better thou never knew; 230
Eat of this, meat for a knight

Trowle

Nay, spare it. If I spew 232
All on your heads will it light

Harvey

How should we suffer this shame 234
Of a shrew thus to be shent?

Tudd

This lad lusts to be lame 236
And lose a limb ere he went.

Trowle

Have done! Begin we this game 238
But ware less your coat be rent.
That were little dole to our dame,
Though in the midst of Dee you were drent.

Hankin

False lad, fie on thy face! 242
On this ground thou shall have a fall

Trowle

And this, sirs, be your solace 244
Hankyn, shepherd, shame thee I shall
Wroth thou art, worse than thou was
Beware lest thou welter here by the wall

They fight and he throws Hankin

Harvey

Boy, lest I break thy bones 248
Kneel down and ask me a boon
Lest I destroy thee here on these stones
Cease, lest I shend thee too soon

Trowle

Go thee to growls and groans! 252
Good were thee thy old rags to save soon
Little doubt of thy moans
Lie there, tyke, for deeds done. *Throws Harvey*

Tudd

Out, alas, he lies on his loins 256
But let me go now to that lad
Shepherds he shames and shends
For last now am I struck dead

Trowle

Both your backs here to me bend; 260
For all your boasts I hold you to bad
Hold your arses and your backsides
Then hope I to have as I have had *Throws Tudd*

Lie there, lither, in the lake 264
My livery now will I take
This curry, this coat and this cake
For ye be cast, now will I catch!
To the devil I you all betake
As traitors to your task
On this wold with this will I walk 270
Over all the world wander and watch *Moves away*

Hankin

Fellows, this a foul case is 272
That we be thus cast of a knave
All against our will he has this
But I must needs hold the harms that I have

Harvey

That I have I needs must hold 276
Of these unhappy harms of hear I
Therefore I will wait on this wold
For better weather, for I am weary

Tudd

If we be weary no wonder 280
What with wrestling and waking
God amend it with his making

The star appears

Hankin

What is all this light here 283
That blazes so bright here
On my black beard?
For to see this light here
A man may be afright here
For I am afeard

Harvey

Feard for a fray now
May we be all now
And yet it is night
Yet seems it day now
Never, soothly to say now
Saw I such a sight.

289

Tudd

Such a sight seeming
And a light gleaming
Lets me to look.
All to my deeming
From a star streaming
It to me struck.

295

Trowle

That star if it stand
To seek will I find
Though my sight it fails me
While I live in land
Why should I not find
If it will avail me?

301

Ah, Goddes might!
In yonder star light is
Of the sun this sight is
As it now seems.

307

Hankin

It seems, as I now see
A bright star to be,
There to abide.
From it we may not flee
But aye glare at the glow
Till it down glide

311

Harvey

Fellows, will we
Kneel down on our knee
After comfort
For the true Trinity
For to lead us to see
Our elders Lord?

317

Tudd

Our Lord will declare
To us through our prayer
Whereto it will apent.
And why on high here
The air is so clear,
Now shall we be kent.

323

Trowle

Lord, of this light
Send us some sight
Why that it is sent
Before this night
Was I never so afright
Of the firmament

329

Hankin

Now fie! By my faith
Now is it nigh day
So was it never.
Therefore I pray
The sooth us to say

335

Angels sing "Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis"

React to Shepherds' misunderstanding throughout the following.

Fellows in fear,
May ye not hear
This music on high?

340

Harvey

In “glore” and in “glere”?
Yet no man was near
Within our sight 343

Tudd

Nay, it was a “Glory” 346

Trowle

Of this strange story 347
Such mirth is merry
I would have more

Hankin

As I then deemed 350
“Selsis” it seemed
That he sang so

Tudd

What song was this, say you 353
That he sang to us all three?
Expounded shall it be
Ere we shall pass
As I am eldest of degree
And also best, as seems me
It was “Glorus Glorus” with a “Glee”
It was neither more nor less.

Trowle

Nay, it was “glorus glarus” with a “glo”
And much of “celsis” was thereto
As ever I have rest or woe
Much he spake of “glas”

Harvey

Nay, it was neither “glas” nor “glye”
Therefore fellows, now stand by

Tudd

By faith he was some spy 367
Our sheep for to steal
Or else he was a man of our craft,
For seemly he was, and wondrous deft.

Trowle

Nay, he came by night - his mind on theft 371
Our tups with tar to seal.

Hankin

Nay, on a “glor” and on “glay” and a “gly”
Sang Gabriel when he so gloried.
When he sang I might not be sorry;
Through my breast-bone his bleating bored

Harvey

Nay, by God, it was a “gloria” 377
That Gabriel sang when he said so.
He had a much better voice than I have
As in heaven all Angels have so.

Tudd

Will ye hear how he sang “celsis”? 381
For on that sadly he set him;
Neither sings “sar” nor so well “cis”
Nor “Peace merry maid when she met him.”

Trowle

One time he touched on “tar”, 385
Ad thereto I took good intent;
All heaven might not him hear,
That note on high when he up went.

Hankin

And after a “pax” or a “peace”
Up like a pie he piped.
Such a melody - so clear and sweet,
Never in my life me so liked

Harvey

Upon “hominibus” he muted,
That much marvel to me was
And aye I quaked when he so fluted
I dare not look where that it was

393

Tudd

Yet, yet he sang more than all this
For some word is worthy a pother
For he sang “bonae voluntatis”
That is a thing that passes all other.

397

Trowle

Yet, and yet he sang more too
From my mind it shall not start
He sang also of a “Deo”
Me thought that healed my heart.

401

And that word “terra” he framed,
From which I take good intent
And “pax” also may not be blamed
For that to this song I assent.

405

Hankin

Now pray we go to him with good intent
And sing I will and me unbrace
And he will let us to be kent
And to send us of his grace.

409

Harvey

Now since I have all my will 413
Never in this world so well I was.
Sing we we now, I say you, shrill
A merry song for us to solace.

Trowle

Sing we now; let's see 417
Some song I will assay
All men now sing after me,
For music of me learn ye may.

They sing "Trolly loly loly loo" and dance

Tudd

Now wend we forth to Bethlehem 421
That is best out song to be
For to see the star-gleam
And the fruit of that maiden free.

Hankin

Now follow we the star that shines 425
Till we come to that holy stable
To Bethlehem bend our limbs
Follow we it without any fable.

Harvey

Follow we it and hie full fast 429
Such a friend loath us were to fail
Launch on! I will not be the last
At Mary for to marvel.

Music They go towards Bethlehem and Mary and Joseph position themselves at the screen with the baby and manger.

Tudd

Stint now: go no more steps; 433
For now the star begins to stand

Angel appears still in pulpit

Angel

Shepherds, of this sight 435
Be ye not afright
For this is Goddes might
Take this in mind.
To Bethlehem now right
There shall you see in sight
That Christ is born tonight 441
To redeem all mankind.

Trowle

To Bethlehem take we the way 443
For with you I think to wend
The prince of peace for to pray
Heaven to have at our end.
And singe we all, I rede,
Some mirth to his Majesty
For certain now see we it indeed 449
The King Son of heaven is he.

Hankin

See, See, surely, 451
Here I see Mary
And Jesus Christ hard by
Lapp-ed in hay.

Harvey

Kneel we our knee 455
And pray we him of mercy
And welcome him worthily
So woe does away.

Tudd

Away all our woe is 459
And many men's moe is
Christ, Lord, let us kiss
Thy crib or thy clothes.

Trowle

Solace now to see this 463
Builds in my breast, bliss
Never after to do amiss
Nor things that him loath is.

Hankin

Whatever that old man that here is? 467
Take heed how his head is hoar
His beard is like a bush of briars
With a pound of hair about his mouth and more

Tudd

Why, with his beard though it be rough 471
Right well to her he heeds.
Worthy wight, now we would know
Will you deny us, worthy in weeds?

Mary

Shepherds, soothly I see 475
That my son you hither sent
Through Goddes might in majesty
That in me lit and here is lent
This man married was to me
For no sin in such assent
But to keep my virginity 481
And truly with no other intent.

Joseph

Good men, Moses take in mind 483
As he was made through God All-might
Ordain-ed laws for us to bind
Which that we should keep of right.
Men and women for to bind
Lawfully them both to light
To be fruitful, as men may find 489
That time was wedded every wight.

Therefore wedded to her I was 491
As law would have; her for to cheer
From noise and slander and trespass
And through that deed the Devil to dare
As told me Gabriel, full of grace
When I had trussed up all my gear
To have fled and never seen her face, 497
By him was I arrested there

For he said to me sleeping 499
That she guiltless was of sin.
And when I heard that tokening
From her durst I no way turn.
Therefore, go forth and preach this thing
All together and not in twain
That you have seen your heavenly king 505
Who has come all mankind to win.

Hankin

Great God, sitting on they throne 507
That made all thing of nought
Now we may thank thee each one
This is he we have sought.

Harvey

Go we near anon 511
With such as we have brought
Ring, brooch, or precious stone -
Let's see whether we have aught to proffer.

Tudd

Let us do him homage. 515

Hankin

Who shall go first? The page? 516

Harvey

Nay, ye be father in age. 517
Therefore ye must first offer

Hankin

Hail, King of heaven so high 519
Borne in a crib
Mankind unto thee
Thou hast made full sib.

Hail, king, born in a maiden's bower 523
Prophets did tell thou should be our succour
This clerks do say,
Lo, I bring thee a bell;
I pray thee save me from hell
So that I may with thee dwell
And serve thee for aye. 529

Harvey

Hail, the Emperor of hell 530
And of heaven also
The fiend shalt thou fell
That hath ever been false.

Hail, the maker of the star 534
That stood us before
Hail, the blessedest Baron
That ever was born.
Lo, son, I bring thee a bowl
Thereby hangs a spoon,
For to eat they pottage with at noon, 540
As I myself full often-times have done.
With my heart I pray thee to take it.

Tudd

Hail, prince withouten any peer, 543
That mankind shall relieve
Hail the foe of Lucifer
The which beguil-ed Eve.

Hail the granter of hopes, 547
For on earth now thou dwells
Lo, son I bring thee a cap,
For I have nothing else.

This gift, son, that I give thee is but small; 551
And though I come the hindmost of all
When thou shalt men to thy bliss call,
Good Lord, think yet on me.

Trowle

My dear, with devotion unto thee I me dress 555
My state in fellowship that I do not lose;
And for to save me from all sickness,
I offer thee a pair of my wife's old hose.

For other jewels, my son, 559
Have I none for to give
That is worth anything at all,
But my good heart, while I live
And my prayers till death doth me call.

Hankin

Now, farewell mother and maid 564
For of sin nought thou wottest .
Thou has brought forth this day
God's Son of might most.

Wherefore men shall say 568
"Blessed in every coast and place
Be he, a memorial for us all."
And that we may from sin fall
And stand ever in his grace
Our Lord God be with thee

Harvey

Brethren, let us walk all three 574
Singing walk homewardly
Unkind will I never in no case be
But preach all that I can and know,
As Gabriel taught me by his grace.
Singing "Away Heathen" will I.

Tudd

Over sea, if God grant grace 580
I will gang and go about now
To preach this thing in every place;
And sheep will I keep no more now. *Lays down crook*

Trowle

I rede we us agree 584
For our misdeeds amends to make
For so now will I;
And to the child I wholly me betake
For aye securely.
Shepherd's craft I here forsake, *Lays down crook*
And as an anchorite hereby 590
I will in my prayers watch and wake.

Hankin

And I a hermit, 592
To praise God, to pray,
To walk by stile and by street,
In wilderness to walk for aye.
And no man living shall I meet
But for my living I shall him pray,
Barefoot on my feet. *Removing sandals* 598
And thus will I live ever and aye.

For aye, ever and always 600
This world I fully refuse
My amiss to amend with moans.
Turn to thy fellows, and kiss.

I yield, for in youth 604
We have been friends, iwys.
Therefore lend me your mouth
And friendly let us kiss.

Harvey

From London to Lowth 608
Such another shepherd I wot ne're is.
Both friend and colleague
God grant you all his bliss.

Tudd

To that bliss bring you 612
Great God, if that thy will be.
Amen, all sing you;
Good men, farewell ye.

Trowle

Well for to fare, each friend 616
God of his might grant you;
For here we make an end
Farewell, for we from you now go.

*Harvey raises up crooks in the shape of a cross. Tableau. **Music***