

Captain Wedderburn's Courtship

♩ = 120

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 120. The lyrics are: As a duke's fair daughter of Scotland was riding out one day, Two gentlemen from Ireland by chance did come that way. Says one unto the other, "If it wasn't for the law I'd take this fair one in my arms either by stock or wall." The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

As a duke's fair daughter of Scotland was riding out one day,
Two gentlemen from Ireland by chance did come that way.
Says one unto the other, "If it wasn't for the law
I'd take this fair maid in my arms either by stock or wall."

"Hands off, hands off, young man," says she, "hands off to hide all shame
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But the supper bell will shortly ring and I'll be found awa'
And before I'll be found in your arms either by stock or wall."

You must get for me some winter fruit that in the summer grew,
You must get for me a silk made cloak that shuttle never went through,
You must get for me that bonny bird that flies without a gall
And you and I will 'bove the quilt and you must pay for all."

"My father he has winter fruit that in the summer grew,
My mother has a silk made cloak that shuttle never went through,
The dove she is a bonny bird that flies without a gall,
And you and I will 'bove the quilt and you must pay for all."

"O what is rounder than the ring, what's higher than the sky,
And what is worse than a woman, what is deeper than the sea,
What bird sings best, what tree buds first, and where does the dew first fall?
And you and I will 'bove the quilt and you must pay for all."

"The globe is rounder than the ring, heaven's higher than the sky,
The devil is worse than a woman, hell's deeper than the sea,
The thrush sings best, the oak buds first on the earth when the dew first falls,
And you and I will 'bove the quilt and you must pay for all."

"You must get for me a wedding supper, a chicken without bones,
You must get for me a wedding supper, cherries without stones,
A sparrow's horn and a priest unborn to marry us right awa',
Before I will lie in your arms either by stock or wall."

"O chickens when they're in the shell I'm sure they have no bones,
And cherries when they're in the blossom I'm sure they have no stones,
A sparrow's horns are easily found for there's one on every claw,
Now you and I must 'bove the quilt and you must pay for all."