The Dowie Dens of Yarrow



You scarce would find her marrow She was courted by nine gentlemen And a ploughboy lad in Yarrow.

These nine sat drinking at the wine As oft they'd done before-O And they made a vow among themselves To fight with him on Yarrow.

She's washed his face, she's combed his hair As oft she's done before-O Gave him a brand down by his side To fight for her on Yarrow.

As he came o'er yon high high hill And down the glen so narrow Nine armed men lay waiting him Upon the braes of Yarrow.

It's three he wounded, three withdrew And three he's killed on Yarrow Till her brother John stepped in behind And pierced his body thorough. O father dear, I dreamed a dream I fear it will prove sorrow I dreamed I was pulling heather green On the dowie dens of Yarrow.

O daughter dear I read your dream To you it will prove sorrow Your true love John lies dead and slain On the dowie dens of Yarrow.

As she went o'er yon high high hill And down the glen so narrow Twas there she found her true love John Lying cold and dead on Yarrow.

She washed his face, she combed his hair As she had done before-O And she kissed the blood from off his wounds On the dowie dens of Yarrow.

Her hair it was three quarters long The colour it was yellow She tied it round his middle small And carried him home to Yarrow.

O daughter dear, dry up your tears And weep no more for sorrow I'll wed you to a better man Than the ploughboy lad of Yarrow.

O father dear you've seven sons You may wed them all tomorrow But the fairest flower among them all Was the lad I wooed on Yarrow.