

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

16 *Proud Maisie*

Proud Maisie is in the wood,
Walking so early;
Sweet Robin sits on the bush,
Singing so rarely.

“Tell me, thou bonny bird, 5
When shall I marry me?” —
“When six brae gentlemen
Kirkward shall carry ye.”

“Who makes the bridal bed,
Birdie, say truly?” — 10
“The grey-headed sexton
That delves the grave duly.

“The glow-worm o’er grave and stone
Shall light thee steady.
The owl from the steeple sing, 15
‘Welcome, proud lady.’”

1818

(From *The Poetical Works of Sir Walter Scott*. Ed. J.
G. Lockhart. Edinburgh: Robert Cadell, 1841)