

John Stuart Blackie (1809-95)

1 *The Emigrant Lassie*

As I came wandering down Glen Spean  
Where the braes are green and grassy,  
With my light step I overtook  
A weary-footed lassie.

She had one bundle on her back, 5  
Another in her hand,  
And she walked as one who was full loath  
To travel from the land.

Quoth I, 'My bonnie lass!' — for she 10  
Had hair of flowing gold,  
And dark brown eyes, and dainty limbs,  
Right pleasant to behold —

'My bonnie lass, what aileth thee,  
On this bright summer day,  
To travel sad and shoeless thus 15  
Upon the stony way?

'I'm fresh and strong, and stoutly shod,  
And thou art burdened so;  
March lightly now, and let me bear  
The bundles as we go.' 20

'No, no!' she said, 'that may not be;  
What's mine is mine to bear;  
Of good or ill, as God may will,  
I take my portioned share.'

'But you have two, and I have none; 25  
One burden give to me;  
I'll take that bundle from thy back  
That heavier seems to be.'

