

Willie Buckthorne Had a Cow

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1.

Willie Buckthorne had a cow,
They ca'd her Killiecrankie;
She fell o'er the auld-bane dyke
And broke her covenantie.

Hinck, spinck, sma' drink
Het yill and brandie;
Round about the haystack
Seeking hochmagandie.

2.

Willie Buck had a coo,
They ca'd her Leddy Pentie,
She fell owre the Brig o' Dee
And bruke her Covenanty;
The King's Covenanty,
The King's Covenee,
And a' the Deuks o' Gordon
Were gaun awa' to flee!

3.

Will Broo hed a coo,
They ca'd her Lady Penty.
She fell ower the Brig o' Dee
And broke her covenantie.
Hey, covenantie! Hey, covenee!
A' the fowk in Aiberdeen
Cam' rinnin' oot tae see.

(1) Thomas Wilkie MS. notebooks (1813-15) in NLS, per Thomas Crawford, *Love, Labour and Liberty* (1976), 17.

(2) Rymour Club Misc. I (1906-11), 172 (4 lines), from Kirriemuir, common 50 years before, i.e. c. 1860; whence SC 48 (no. 45).

(3) Rodger Lang *Strang* (1948), 18.

Hink-skink is a variety of small beer: cf. Chambers PRS (1847), 319, (1870), 392:

There's first guid ale, and syne guid ale,
And second ale, and some,

Hink-skink, and ploughman's drink,
And scour-the-gate, and trim.

Another form is inkie-pinkie [perhaps the same as hickery-pickery, a purgative, originally a corruption of Latin (and Greek) *hiera picra*], reduced to ink, pink, as in a milder version of Wilkie's lines:

Ink, pink, sma' drink,

Het yill and brandy:

Scud about the haystack:

And you'll get sugar-candy.

[SND V.281, quoting R. Wallace's ed. (1899) of James Shaw, *A Country Schoolmaster*, originating in Dumfries, c. 1800, p. 380.]

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