

Auld Wife

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1.

"Auld wife, auld wife,
Will ye go a-shearing?"
"Speak a little louder, sir,
I'm unco dull o' hearing."

"Auld wife, auld wife,
Wad ye tak a kiss?"
"Yes, indeed, I will, sir;
It wadna be amiss."

2.

"Auld wifie! auld wifie!
Ye maun gang a-shearin'."
"Speak a little looder, sir,
I'm unco dull o' hearin'."

"Auld wifie! auld wifie!
I'm gaun to kiss ye!"
"That's a hantle looder, sir,
May a' the warld bless you!"

(1) Chambers PRS (1847), 290; (1870), 158; Montgomerie SNR (1946), 119 (no. 149). The first stanza to be spoken in a loud voice, the second quite quietly.

(2) Rymour Club Misc. I (1906-11), 178, from Speymouth. (2 couplets.)

A version of st. 1 from Argyll, in Maclagan (1901), 254: Auld wife, auld wife, are you gaun a shearing?/ Speak a wee thing looder, I'm a wee dull o' hearing.

[See Herd MSS, 1776; ODNR 429, No. 536.]

MS