

No churchman am I for to rail and to write
Melody - "Prepare, my dear Brethren, to the tavern let's fly"
Robert Burns, 1782

No churchman am I for to rail and to write,
No statesman nor soldier to plot or to fight,
No sly man of business contriving a snare,
For a big-belly'd bottle's the whole of my care.

2. The peer I don't envy, I give him his bow;
I scorn not the peasant, though ever so low;
But a club of good fellows, like those that are here,
And a bottle like this, are my glory and care.

3. Here passes the squire on his brother-his horse;
There centum per centum, the cit with his purse;
But see you the Crown how it waves in the air?
There a big-belly'd bottle still eases my care.

4. The wife of my bosom, alas! she did die;
for sweet consolation to church I did fly;
I found that old Solomon proved it fair,
That a big-belly'd bottle's a cure for all care.

5. I once was persuaded a venture to make;
A letter inform'd me that all was to wreck;
But the pury old landlord just waddl'd upstairs,
With a glorious bottle that ended my cares.

6. "Life's cares they are comforts"-a maxim laid down
By the Bard, what d'ye call him, that wore the black gown;
And faith I agree with th' old prig to a hair,
For a big-belly'd bottle's a heav'n of a care.