

Tam Gibb's Soo

(Based on a version of the song sung by Annie Patterson and recorded by Peter Kennedy in 1955)

1. Said Nell me wife the ither day, -
Provisions they are cheap, man,
An' for the trifle it would tak,
A soo we weel might keep, man.
Indeed, says I, me dearest Nell
I've jist been thinkin' so mesel',
And since we're on the notion fell,
I'll jist teen doon tae Matty Broom
This efternoon, and verra soon
Bring hame yin in a rape, man.

2. So in me pootch I pat the rape,
And doon tae Mattie's went, man,
Resolved t' ha'e a good yin wault,
Reflections tae prevent man.
As soon's I entered Mattie's door,
Sheu blithely met me at the floor,
And kindly questions speert a soore,
About mesel', the bairns and Nell,
Nor can I tell whit cracks befell,
Ere-me-errant it wis kent, man.

3. Bit when owld stories all were telt,
And ablins something new, man,
I fund twis time that I should mak'
Some mention o' the soo, man.
When I me errant did unfold,
I fund the young eens were a sold,
Bit if I liked tae tak the old
Wi a' her hert sheu'd send her kert,
She well could spare it, I thanked her fur it;
Bit oot the rape I drew, man.

4. So roond dame grumphy's hindmost leg
The rape I soon did tie, man.
And wae a soople birken twig,
I drove her oot o' the sty, man
Wae Mattie strite I bade good e'en.
And briskly tae the road we teen;
Bit scarcely fifty yards we'd geen,
When "Madam Sow" impatient grew,
And soon I trow, made me tae rue,
That her I chanced tae buy, man.

5. For bein' o' the female breed,
She proved a stubborn jade, man,
Were I tae flay the brute alive,
Sheu'd aye ha'e her own road, man.
I wanted east, bit sheu'd be west,
Or any way sheu lik-ed best,
And did me brains so fairly pest,
Til in me wrath, wae many an oath,
I vowed her off, and keeked her both,
And made her squeak aloud, man.

*** Spoken intermission***

6. But tho pig's flesh it never more,
Should be me lot tae pree, man,
I vow and swear nither soo,
Will niver be bowt by me, man,
As long as there's herrin' in Loch Fine,
I'll niver want kitchen when I dine,
And henceforth bid adieu tae swine;
O' no such gear the price I'll speer,
No stand the sneer and tauntin' jeer,
That I fae neebours hear, man.
It's ill tae bear the tauntin' jeer,
That I fae neeboours hear man.