

William Soutar

BAIRNRHYMES

Cradle Sang

Fa' owre, fa' owre, my hinny,
There's mony a weary airt;
And nae end tae the traikin,
For man has a hungry hert.

hinny - honey
airt - place
traik - wander

What wud ye hae for ferlie,
And no ken the want o' mair?
The sün for a gowdan aipple:
The müne for a siller pear.

ferlie - wonder

The Greetin Bairnie

Sic a greetin bairnie,
Sic a bruckit face,
Ye maunna be sae girnie
In they bricht, braw days.

girnie - moany

Licht is lowpin owre ye;
Gowks lauch frae the wüd;
Fleurs dance on afore ye;
A' the world is gled.

gowk - cuckoo

Gin the sün were sumphie
They wud aye be nicht:
Gin the müne were grumphie
There wud be nae licht.

sumphie - sullen

Sic a greetin bairnie,
Sic a bruckit face,
Ye maunna be sae girnie
In they bricht, braw days.

Wha wud be a tattie-bogle?

Wha wud be a tattie-bogle
Dringin oot his days:
Wha wud be a tattie-bogle
In castawa claes?

tattie-bogle - scarecrow
dringin - loitering

A wüdden-leg aye on the shoggle:
Airms aye streekit wide:
Wha wud be a tattie-bogle
And thole sic a trade?

thole - suffer

Scowtherie days to gar ye joggle;
Stourie days atween:
Wha wud be a tattie-bogle
Is mair nor I ken.

scowtherie - showery
stourie - dusty

Sang

I wudna be a mowdie
That hiddles frae the licht:
I wudna be a bawkie-bird
That whitters oot at nicht.

mowdie - mole

bawkie-bird - bat

I wudna be a houlit
Aye gowkin at the müne:
I wudna be a puddle-doo
That lowps but canna rin:

houlit - owl

puddle-doo - frog

But I wud be yon gowdan bird
That hings attour the cairn,
Sae far abüne the gallopin deer
And the rory burn.

rory - roaring

A Blowthery Day

Doun frae Ben MacDhui
A blarin, blatterin blowff
Skited aff the chimley-pat
Frae Teenie Tamson's howff.

blowff - burst of wind

Oot breeng'd Teenie Tamson
And yokit on the win':
"Awa! Awa! Ye blunnerin blumf,
D'ye no see what ye've düne?"

yokit - yelled
blumf - twit