

1. Johnnie Armstrang

sung by Willie Beattie, Caulside, Canonbie



Some spea - kis o lords, some spea - kis o —



lairds, An sic - like men o high — de -



- gree. O a gen - tle - man I sing a



sang, Some - time — called Laird o Gil - no - ckie.

2. The king has written a loving letter
Wi his ain hand sae tenderlie.
He has sent it to Johnnie Armstrang
To come an speak wi him speedilie.
3. The Elliots and Armstrangs did convene;
They were a gallant companie.
“We’ll gan an meet our royal king
An bring him safe to Gilnockie.”
4. “Mak kinnen an capon ready then
And venison in great plentie.
We’ll welcome hame our royal king,
I hope he’ll dine at Gilnockie.”
5. When Johnnie came before the king
Wi aa his **men sae** brave tae see,
The king **has movit** his bonnet tae him:
He weened **he wis** a king as well as he.
6. “May I find grace, my sovereign liege,
Grace for my loyal men an me,
For my name is Johnnie Armstrang
And subject of yours, my liege,” says he.
7. “Away, away, thou traitor strang,
Out of my sight thou mayst sune be;
I granted never a traitor’s life
And now I’ll not begin wi thee.”
8. “Grant me my life, my liege, my king,
And a bonny gift I’ll gie tae thee:
Full four and twenty milk-white steeds
Were aa foaled in a year tae me.”
9. “Away, away, thou traitor strang,
Out of my sight thou mayst sune be;
I granted never a traitor’s life
And now I’ll not begin wi thee.”
10. “Grant me my life, my liege, my king,
And a brave gift I’ll gie tae thee:
All between here and Newcastle town
Shall pay their yearly rent tae thee.”
11. “Away, away, thou traitor strang,
Out of my sight thou mayst sune be;
I granted never a traitor’s life
And now I’ll not begin wi thee.”
12. “Tae seek het water aneth cauld ice -
Surely it is a great folie.
For I have asked grace of a graceless face,
But there is nane for my men an me.
13. “Had I my horse an harness guid
And riding as I wont tae be,
It shall hae been tauld this hundred year,
The meeting of my king an me.
14. “Fareweel, thou bonny Gilnock Hall,
Where on Eskside thou standest stout.
Gin I had but seven mair years,
I wad hae gilit it round about.”
15. John murdered was at Carlin Rigg
Wi aa his gallant companie,
But Scotland’s hert was ne’er sae wae
Tae see sae mony brave men dee.
16. Because they saved their countrie dear
Fae Englishmen: nane were sae bauld
When Johnnie lived on the Borderside,
Nane o them daur come near his hauld.