

Turra Mairket

Traditional

This song comes from the town of Turriff, or Turra in the song, in the north east of Scotland. It is a type of Scottish song called a bothy ballad. Bothy ballads were written and sung by farm labourers, and to our ears can often sound comical. The reality is far different: they tell of the very poor living and working conditions in the days before mechanisation on farms. The choruses are often made up of nonsense vocables that have no meaning other than to encourage the audience to join in.

The single men who worked on farms lived together in basic houses called bothies. They were employed by the farmers for six months at a time, at the end of which they would go to their local hiring fair held in the nearest market town seeking new employment. From the story told in Turra Market, I wouldn't want to work for Willie Broon!

As I cam in by Tur-ra mair-ket for tae get a fee____ It's there I met wi'

6 Wil-lie Broon, wi' him I did a - gree Wi ma heuch, how, lan - key doo-dle,

11 lan-key doo-dle day Heuch, how, lan-key doo-dle tow row ay____

Lyrics

As I cam in by Turra mairket for tae get a fee
It's there I met wi' Willie Broon, wi' him I did agree

Chorus:
Wi ma heuch, how, lankey doodle, lankey doodle day
Heuch, how, lankey doodle tow row ay

He took me tae the stable his pairie fir tae view
And och they were a dandy pair a chestnut and a blue

On frosted kail and cabbage he feeds ye like a pig
While he sits doon tae tea and toast and rides oot in his gig

And when it cams tae payin he'll argue o'er a shillin'
An' swear oot lood that sillers scarce, the roosty pooket villain

And noo my sang is ended and I won't sing anymore
An' if ye are offended ye can stan' ootside the door

Words

cam - came
mairket - market
tae - to
fee - job
pairie - pair (of horses)
fir - for
lood - loud
roosty pooket - rusty pockets
sang - song
stan' - stand

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