

Thomas Campbell (1777-1844)

3 *Gilderoy*

The last, the fatal hour is come,  
That bears my love from me:  
I hear the dead note of the drum,  
I mark the gallows' tree!

The bell has tolled; it shakes my heart; 5  
The trumpet speaks thy name;  
And must my Gilderoy depart  
To bear a death of shame?

No bosom trembles for thy doom;  
No mourner wipes a tear; 10  
The gallows' foot is all thy tomb,  
The sledge is all thy bier.

O, Gilderoy! bethought we then  
So soon, so sad to part,  
When first in Roslin's lovely glen 15  
You triumphed o'er my heart?

Your locks they glittered to the sheen,  
Your hunter garb was trim;  
And graceful was the ribbon green  
That bound your manly limb! 20

Ah! little thought I to deplore  
Those limbs in fetters bound;  
Or hear, upon the scaffold floor,  
The midnight hammer sound.

Ye cruel, cruel, that combined 25  
The guiltless to pursue;  
My Gilderoy was ever kind,  
He could not injure you!

A long adieu! but where shall fly  
Thy widow all forlorn, 30  
When every mean and cruel eye  
Regards my woe with scorn?

Yes! they will mock thy widow's tears,  
And hate thine orphan boy;  
Alas! his infant beauty wears 35  
The form of Gilderoy.

Then will I seek the dreary mound  
That wraps thy mouldering clay,  
And weep and linger on the ground,  
And sigh my heart away. 40

*1799*

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