

The First Idillion of Theokritus.

Tránslàit into Skottis vers*.

Shep-bird.

SUÈT, suèt, o gyt-hird! is the géntil brèz
 That blàs thro' ghon'er firs, by yon wél-ès.
 But suètir fàr thy pyp!—Not Pán denys
 Thy rival skil; but ghèlds the sècund pryz.
 Gif, thén, a buk wi buttan' horns bè dû
 To him; a tèman' gyt belángs to ghù.
 Or gif a gyt hè klem for his propyn,
 Thén fál a gimmar (nè smà' bèn) bè thyn.

Gyt-bird.

Suèter, o shep-hird! ár the nòts ghù fìng
 Than wàter trinklan' fre ghon rok-born spring!
 Se gin the Mèfcs in a ghou delikht,
 A fát fát lám is thyn undùtit rikht.
 Or gin thei lèvir tchùs to hà' the lám,
 Thén, shep-hird, thén, thy pryz fál bè the dàm.

Shep-bird.

* In the foregoing Eclogue of Virgil, the Edinburgh dialect has been chiefly imitated. In the version from Theocritus, the Buchan dialect (which may be called the Scottish Doric) has been generally preferred.

Shep-bird.

Wult'ù (lát mè by à the nyn intrèt)
 Wult'ù on this brèm-hillok ták thy fèt;
 An' tèn thy fuffil to sum téndir ár?
 Mèn-huyl thy gyts fál bè my speifhal kár.

Gyt-bird.

Nà! shep-hird, nà! 'Tis nù the nèn of dei;
 Huan o' the pyp wè gyt-hirds dát nà plei,
 Kor fèr o Pán; hua tyr't wi' filvan spòrts,
 To sum quìl kòv, to rest himfel', refòrts:
 A kánkirt god hè is—an' gif he shà.
 His àtri fnùt, hè'll fàrli fleig us à.
 Râthir, ò shep-hird—for ghè kán relât
 In miàkles numbirs Dáphnis' wefu' fât—
 Kum! fit wè dùn, aniou this élm's brùn shâd,
 Huàr hirdlik hánds a vérdant bink hà' mád:
 Huar Nymph-devòted springs pérennial flow,
 An' spring-féd àks, árùn, luxùriant grou.
 Kum, fit wè dùn!—An' Thirsis! gif thy strân
 Be si'k as Khromis (of the Libian plân)
 Èrst try'd to mách, but vânlì try'd—To thè
 A gyt, that ilken ghèr brings tuins, y'l gè:
 A gyt, hua, tho' shè fukkìl bèth the twei,
 Sál fill ùtour the milk-kog tuys a' dei.
 An', huat, than gyt Y vâlû mukil me
 A brán-nú kap, 'láng wi' the gyt fál ge;
 Tua-luggit, lárj, wi' wáx wèl léat; ánd
 Evn yit reddòlènt ò' the wárk-mán's hánd.

Arund

Arùnd its lip the mìmik ìvi tuyns ;
 Thrù huilk the goudin heliokhryfus shyns :
 Nèr this a vyn's luxûriant téndrils shèt ;
 And on the tendrils hing the klustir't frèt.
 Within en 'uman fits, divynli fâr ;
 A ròb hir lim's, a fnèd adorns her hâr :
 On either syd, a wèl-kem't spárk is sèn
 Etlan to wun hir smyls an' katch hir èn ;
 Huyl shè, unmevt, at t'en an' t'ither lèrs ;
 An' sèman' bèth to forn. at bèth shè fnèrs.
 Yet, still, thei stryv, wi' lé-lorn lûks to gân
 Hir rùles hârt—but stryv, lyk fèls, in vân.
 A bizi fishir, nishit, groun grei with ghèrs,
 Hàland his net upon a krâg appèrs :
 Si'k wun'rus vigur the àld mán displeis,
 Ghù'd think hè still wur in his ghuthfu' deis :
 Si'k frèsh florefenc fuèls in ilke vein :
 Si'k bràni shino's hè appèrs to strein.
 Ne far fre him, a vynyârd purpil't ò'r
 Wi ryp'nan' bérris, lys aláng the shòr :
 A kállan kèps it—or, at léft fu'd kèp,
 But (hèdles hè) tuá wyli todlins krèp
 Thrù' the thin héj—an', huyl this en distrois
 The joiçi grâps, thát en his ârt implois
 To rob the bág ; nor wil hè cès, Y wèn,
 Until the lád bè léft withùt disjèn.
 Hè, filli sâl, for gráfopirs prepârs
 O rèds an' ráshés wèl-kompákit fnârs ;
 An' neither for the bág nor vyinghard kârs. }
 A ritsh akánthus, shèlan' frum aniou
 Its cirklan' lèvs, sèms, wunnirfu' to grou !

A

A Kálidònian seilor fàld it mè :
 A gyt it kost mè, and a kebbak tè.

This káp, as yit unprè'd by mortal mù,
 This káp unèquál't wil Y gè to ghù :
 Gin ghù'l but sing, an' sing wi' wèatit fyr
 The dèr, tho difmal, ditti Y desyr.
 In mè ne mèni jelus rival drèd :
 Huy fu'd ghùr fangs gè wi' ghù to the dèl.

Shep-bird.

Sing, Mèses ! sing the sád bùkòlik strein :
 Thirfis invòks ; lát net his preir bè vein.
 Huàr wur ghè, Nymphs ! huàr, huán th' il-fátit Suân.
 Ghùr dàtit Dáphnis, liàk't o' lè-fik pân ?
 Did Pindus, or did Peneus ghù posèss,
 Huán hè lei ling'rand in s'ik dèp distrefs :
 For, neither huar Anàpus' wàter's glyd,
 Nor huàr gret Etná rers, wi' mukil pryde
 His láfti tap ; nor by suèt Akis' wâv
 Ku'd ghè bè fun', thé unháppi Suân to sâv !

Sing, Mèses ! sing the sád bùkòlik strein,
 Ev'n wùfs an tygirs mùrn't the dìan' Suain, }
 An' lyons in the wu'ds wur hárd to grân. }

Sing, Mèses ! sing the sád bùkòlik strein.
 His fâthfu' nout kum routan' fre the plân ;
 The milk-huyt heifers tèrs o' pìti shéd ;
 The fullan bull hings dùn his lánguid héd ;
 And sportif kâfs, desportif nùr ne me,
 Neglék the uddir, and exprefs their we !

N.n.n.

Sing.

Sing, Mèfes! sing the fád bùkòlik strein.
 The Gods thémself's ku'd pìti Dáphnis peín.
 Frìst géntil Hérmes kám, an' kyn'li feid,
 "Huà kills thè Dáphnis! huát hárd-hàrtit meid?"

Sing, Mèfes! sing the fád bùkòlik strein.
 Nor ku'd Priapus, thokh a wàg, refrein
 Fre pìtian' Dáphnis—"Dáphnis! tél me, huà
 "Has stou'n thy hàrt, an' te'n thy wits awà?
 "Dáft mán! huy duynst'ù? huyl wi' skornfu' glè
 "Shè trips the flùri làn, an' lákhs at thè!"

Se thei: To à' their wurd's the dìan' hýnd
 Mád ne reply, but féd his gréf an' pyn'd.

Sing, Mèfes! sing the fád bùkòlik strein.
 At lénth Dàm Venus kám to fèth his peín:
 Kám smylan'; but hir smyls (the frèt of àrt)
 But ill concèl't hir hiviness of hàrt.
 "Dáphnis, she fád, ghù voustit ens, that ghù
 "Ku'd vinkis lèv—fei, huà has vinkis't nù?"

Sing, Mèfes! sing the fád bùkòlik strein.
 To Venus Dáphnis thus reply'd agein:
 "Ah! krùil Goddes! Hua but ghù's to blám,
 "That kendil't in my brest this sliakles flàm?
 "Odius-to mánkynd!—Lo! hù fèn my sun
 "His rápid cùrs, throu thy vyl àrts is run!
 "The fál of Dáphnis sìnks this veri hùr
 "To héll—fád sampil o' thy murd'ran' pùr!
 "Suyth! to munt Ida, huar, gin fám fei trù,
 "A nout-hird, ens, did—huat wè ken--wi' ghù!"

"Suyth!"

"Suyth! to Ankhifes; and on Sìmois' bánks,
 "Mid cyprus-gròvs, plei our ghùr wèntit pranks.
 "Or to Idálian hills wi' spèd repèr;
 "Ghùr páramùr Adonis weits ghù thèr;
 "Thèr ténds his floks, an' smits the briffli bèr!
 "Syn hy to Diomed, an' boistfu' fei:
 "Y vinkis't Dáphnis—fekht mè, gin ghè mei!"

"Ghè wùfs! ghè bèrs and à' ghè filvan rac
 "Fàrwèl!—Ne me ghùr hànts fál Dáphnis trác."

"Suèt Arethùfa an' ghè fillir rills,
 "That wàter Thimbris fre the nìb'ran' hills,
 "Fàrwèl!—Y'm Dáphnis, hua se ástin dráv
 "His wèl-féd bèvs to drink ghùr kristal wáv."

"O Pan! O Pan! huarè'r ghù hap to ròv;
 "Or on the hill that hállòit is to Jòv;
 "Or on thyn àn Menálian muntin gei;
 "Bák to Sikelian mèds, ah! spèd ghùr wei.
 "Lat thè nor Heliká's intchántan' mein,
 "Nor Menelus' prùd mòmumént detein:
 "Kum! king of hirds!—an' fre a dìan' fuein,
 "The pyp, that erst ghù gâ', recèv agein:
 "The suètist è'r was blà'n by mortal breth
 "Yet kánna tsharm awà' the goblin Deth!"

End, Mèfes! end the fád bùkòlik strein.
 He spák ne me—but, stryk't upon the plein,
 Expyran' lys.—In vein the Quèn o' luv
 Attempts to reis him, an' the Fàts to muv.
 His thrèd is kut; the flouan' flèds o' Deth.
 Quénsh lyf's fânt fyr, an' stap his gaspan' breth:

The Mèses darlin' an the Nymph's delikht ;
Dáphnis is plunj't in ivirlástan' nikht.

Bè nâtur tshanj't !—Let brumils vy'lits bèr ;
An' prikli huins prodûc the joici pèr ;
Lat dáffindillis on the étnagh grou,
An' doui dèrs lèd mastifs in a tou ;
Lat hùlits rival Phìlomèla's àr,
Sin' Dáphnis, luvli Dáphnis, is ne mâr.

End, Mèses ! end the sád bùkòlik strein.
Nù, gè the pryz ; nor lát me sing in vein :
Gè kap an' gyt ; that, milkan' hir, Y mei
A dû libâshon to the Mèses pei.
Hâl, Mèses ! hâl—Gin ghè inspyr, èr lang
Y'll sing a láftier and a suèter sang.

Cyt-hird.

O shep-hird ! mei thy mù bè ivir fil't
Wi fragrant henni fre the kem distil't :
Eigítian figs, and ilka thing that's râr,
Intchantan' fángfir ! bè thy deili fâr.
Hèr, tak the kap ! observ hù wèl it sméls :
Ghù'd think the Hùrs had dipt it in their wéls.
Ge, Kàssitheia ! bring the gyt bedén,
An' milk hir hèr befòr oür Thyrsis' èn.
Mèn-huyl, my gimmirs ! be ghur sports forborn !
Or drèd the mukil buk's mistchivus horn.

Dissertation