

Rare Willie Drowned in Yarrow, or, The Water o Gamrie  
(Child 215E)

- 1 'O WILLIE is fair, and Willie is rare,  
And Willie is wondrous bonny,  
And Willie says he 'll marry me,  
Gin ever he marry ony.'
- 2 'O ye 'se get James or ye 'se get George, 5  
Or ye 'se get bonny Johnnie;  
Ye 'se get the flower o a' my sons,  
Gin ye 'll forsake my Willie.'
- 3 'O what care I for James or George, 10  
Or yet for bonny Peter?  
I dinna value their love a leek,  
An I getna Willie the writer.
- 4 'O Willie has a bonny hand,  
And dear but it is bonny!  
'He has nae mair for a' his land; 15  
What woud ye do wi Willie?'
- 5 'O Willie has a bonny face,  
And dear but it is bonny!  
'But Willie has nae other grace;  
What woud ye do wi Willie?' 20
- 6 'Willie 's fair, and Willie 's rare,  
And Willie 's wondrous bonny;  
There 's nane wi him that can compare,  
I love him best of ony.'
- 7 On Wednesday, that fatal day, 25  
The people were convening;  
Besides all this, threescore and ten,  
To gang to the bride-steel wi him.

- 8 'Ride on, ride on, my merry men a',  
I've forgot something behind me; 30  
I've forgot to get my mother's blessing,  
To gae to the bride-steel wi me.'
- 9 'Your Peggy she 's but bare fifteen,  
And ye are scarcely twenty;  
The water o Gamery is wide and braid; 35  
My heavy curse gang wi thee!'
- 10 Then they rode on, and further on,  
Till they came on to Gamery;  
The wind was loud, the stream was proud,  
And wi the stream gaed Willie. 40
- 11 Then they rode on, and further on,  
Till they came to the kirk o Gamery;  
And every one on high horse sat,  
But Willie's horse rade toomly.
- 12 When they were settled at that place, 45  
The people fell a mourning,  
And a council held amo them a',  
But sair, sair wept Kinmundy.
- 13 Then out it speaks the bride hersell,  
Says, What means a' this mourning? 50  
Where is the man amo them a'  
That shoud gie me fair wedding?
- 14 Then out it speaks his brother John,  
Says, Meg, I'll tell you plainly;  
The stream was strong, the clerk rade wrong, 55  
And Willie 's drownd in Gamery.
- 15 She put her hand up to her head,  
Where were the ribbons many;  
She rave them a', let them down fa',  
And straightway ran to Gamery. 60

16 She sought it up, she sought it down,  
Till she was wet and weary;  
And in the middle part o it,  
There she got her deary.

17 Then she stroakd back his yellow hair, 65  
And kissd his mou sae comely:  
'My mother's heart's be as wae as thine!  
We 'se baith asleep in the water o Gamery.'