

Allison Gross (Child 35)

- 1 O ALLISON GROSS, that lives in yon towr,
The ugliest witch i the north country.
Has trysted me ae day up till her bowr,
An monny fair speech she made to me.
- 2 She stroaked my head, an she kembed my hair, 5
An she set me down saftly on her knee;
Says, Gin ye will be my lemman so true,
Sae monny braw things as I woud you gi.
- 3 She showd me a mantle o red scarlet,
Wi gouden flowrs an fringes fine; 10
Says, Gin ye will be my lemman so true,
This goodly gift it sal be thine.
- 4 ‘Awa, awa, ye ugly witch,
Haud far awa, an lat me be;
I never will be your lemman sae true, 15
An I wish I were out o your company.’
- 5 She neist brought a sark o the saftest silk,
Well wrought wi pearles about the ban;
Says, Gin you will be my ain true love,
This goodly gift you sal comman. 20
- 6 She showd me a cup of the good red gold,
Well set wi jewls sae fair to see;
Says, Gin you will be my lemman sae true,
This goodly gift I will you gi.
- 7 ‘Awa, awa, ye ugly witch, 25
Had far awa, and lat me be;

For I woudna ance kiss your ugly mouth
For a' the gifts that ye could gi.'

- 8 She's turnd her right and roun about,
An thrice she blaw on a grass-green horn, 30
An she sware by the meen and the stars abeen,
That she 'd gar me rue the day I was born.
- 9 Then out has she taen a silver wand,
An she 's turnd her three times roun an roun;
She 's mutterd sich words till my strength it faild, 35
An I fell down senceless upon the groun.
- 10 She 's turnd me into an ugly worm,
And gard me toddle about the tree;
An ay, on ilka Saturdays night,
My sister Maisry came to me, 40
- 11 Wi silver bason an silver kemb,
To kemb my heady upon her knee;
But or I had kissd her ugly mouth,
I 'd rather a toddled about the tree.
- 12 But as it fell out on last Hallow-even, 45
When the seely court was ridin by,
The queen lighted down on a gowany bank,
Nae far frae the tree where I wont to lye.
- 13 She took me up in her milk-white han,
An she 's stroakd me three times oer her knee; 50
She chang'd me again to my ain proper shape,
An I nae mair maun toddle about the tree.