

The Laily Worm and the Machrel of the Sea (Child 36)

- 1 'I WAS but seven year auld
When my mither she did die;
My father married the ae warst woman
The warld did ever see.
- 2 'For she has made me the laily worm,
That lies at the fit o the tree,
An my sister Masery she 's made
The machrel of the sea.
- 3 'An every Saturday at noon
The machrel comes to me,
An she takes my laily head
An lays it on her knee,
She kaims it wi a siller kaim,
An washes 't in the sea.
- 4 'Seven knights hae I slain,
Sin I lay at the fit of the tree,
An ye war na my ain father,
The eight ane ye should be.'
- 5 'Sing on your song, ye laily worm,
That ye did sing to me:'
'I never sung that song but what
I would it sing to thee.
- 6 'I was but seven year auld,
When my mither she did die;
My father married the ae warst woman
The warld did ever see.
- 7 'For she changed me to the laily worm,
That lies at the fit o the tree,
And my sister Masery
To the machrel of the sea.
- 8 'And every Saturday at noon
The machrel comes to me,
An she takes my laily head

An lays it on her knee,
An kames it wi a siller kame,
An washes it i the sea.

- 9 'Seven knights hae I slain,
Sin I lay at the fit o the tree,
An ye war na my ain father,
The eighth ane ye shoud be.'
- 10 He sent for his lady,
As fast as send could he:
'Whar is my son that ye sent frae me,
And my daughter, Lady Masery?'
- 11 'Your son is at our king's court,
Serving for meat an fee,
An your daughter 's at our queen's court,
.'
- 12 'Ye lie, ye ill woman,
Sae loud as I hear ye lie;
My son 's the laily worm,
That lies at the fit o the tree,
And my daughter, Lady Masery,
Is the machrel of the sea!'
- 13 She has tane a siller wan,
An gien him strokes three,
And he has started up the bravest knight
That ever your eyes did see.
- 14 She has taen a small horn,
An loud an shrill blew she,
An a' the fish came her untill
But the proud machrel of the sea:
'Ye shapeit me ance an unseemly shape,
An ye 's never mare shape me.'
- 15 He has sent to the wood
For whins and for hawthorn,
An he has taen that gay lady,
An there he did her burn.