

The ascent of Cairnsmoor
by three old men in March 1890.

- (1) It was in March as I have heard,
When the wind was high and stern,
And roared between Beninners head
And Cairnsmore of Carphairn.
- (2) That three old men with staff in hand,
Went up the mountain's side
And on the summit proudly scanned
The storm and misty tide.
- (3) And who are these that thus invade
The mountain in his wrath,
Whom cloud & tempest have not swayed
To take a humbler bath.
- (4) One of the three is Milligan
For years by-gone a strapper,
Who heath Beninners grew a name
A sturdy mountain ranger.

5) Three years beyond the allotted span,
He fares this March weather
Yet light his step where once he ran
A boy among the heather.

6) Another name that Ken well honours
Doth with his brother's marrow,
Whose locks are white with downy hairs
On the Mountains of Coruharrow.

(7) 'Tis Scaton of that ilk I strow
His age is seventy-four. (brow
He climbs the mountains rugged
As days and years before.

8) And who is he that leads the band
His heart devoid of fears,
As stout as any in the land,
That carry four score years.

9) 'Tis Furnieston a man of mark
Between the Deugh & Ken
Far as he walked in light & dark
His doughtiest of men.

(I0) When he was young & morning shous
Upon his manly brow,
His step was fleet & with him none,
Could o'er the moorlands go.

(I1) Now four score years are on his head
And yet his eye is bright,
While the blessings of the poor are shed
Where the almond blossoms white

(I2) A friend of all his kind is he
A standard bearer true
Who for the light & liberty
Is Presbyterian blue.

(I3) Long may he step upon the green
His spreading flocks to view,
And be the man that he has been
For wit & kindness true.

(I4) And when the yearly spring comes round
And the Cuckoo haunts the hill,
While the primrose decks the shady ground
That guards the mountain rill.

15) May those three heroes meet again,
And visit Carnmoore gray,
And may the sun on Deugh & Kinn
Make that a glorious day.

16) When they have climbed the hill of time
And can no farther go,
Upon the but & hoary river
And ages alpine snow.

17) Like Moses from mount Nebo's peak
And Aaron from mount Hor
May they in God their treasure seek
And find Life evermore.

Composed by
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