

## THE FLOWER OF NORTHUMBERLAND

### Child 9 / Greig-Duncan 1149

Emma learned her version of this 17<sup>th</sup> century ballad from the singing of Gordon McCulloch. It's the story of a naïve young English girl being taken advantage of by a Scotsman.

A provost's ae dochter was waakin her lain  
O but her love it was easy won  
When she heard a Scots prisoner maakin his main  
Aye and she was the floo'er o Northumberland

It's o gin a lassie would borrow a key  
O gin her love it was easy won  
I wid maak her a lady o high degree  
If she'd loose me oot o this prison sae strang

So she's gaen ben tae her faither's bed stock  
O but her love it was easy won  
And she's stolen the keys for many guid locks  
Tae loose him oot o his prison sae strang

Then she's gaen ben tae her faither's stable  
O but her love it was easy won  
And she's stolen a steed that wis baith fleet and able  
Tae cairry them on tae bonnie Scotland

And as they were a-riding across the Scots moor  
He said, O but yer love it was easy won  
Get doon fae my horse, you're a brazen faced whore  
Tho' ye micht be the floo'er o Northumberland

For it's I hae a wife in my ain country  
O but yer love it was easy won  
And I canna dae nithing wi a lassie like thee  
So ye'll need tae gae hame tae Northumberland

It's cook in your kitchen I surely will be  
Although my love it was easy won  
For I canna gae hame tae my ain country  
Though I am the floo'er o Northumberland

It's cook in my kitchen ye cannae well be  
O but yer love it was easy won  
For my lady, she winna hae servants like thee  
So ye'll need tae gae hame tae Northumberland

But laith was he the lassie tae tyne  
O but her love it was easy won  
So he's hired an auld horse and he's hired an auld man  
And he's sent her back hame tae Northumberland

And when she's gaed in, her faither did frown  
And said, o but yer love it was easy won  
Tae gang wi a Scotsman when yer barely fifteen  
O and ye were the floo'er o Northumberland

But when she's gaed in, her mither did smile  
And said, o but yer love it was easy won  
But yer nae the first that the Scots hae beguiled  
And yer welcome back hame tae Northumberland

Ye winna want bread and ye winna want wine  
O but yer love it was easy won  
And ye winna want silver tae buy a man wi  
And you're aye the floo'er o Northumberland

ae = only  
ain = own  
auld = old  
baith = both  
ben = through  
cairry = carry  
canna = can't  
dochter = daughter  
doon = down  
fae = from  
floo'er = flower  
gae = go  
gaed = went  
gaen = gone  
gang = go  
gin = if  
guid = good  
hae = have  
hame = home  
I canna dae nithing = I can do nothing  
laith = regretful  
maak = make  
maakin his main = moaning  
micht = may, might  
nae = not  
oot = out  
sae = so  
strang = strong  
tae = to  
tyne = leave  
waakin her lain = walking alone  
wi = with  
winna = will not