

❧ 'TIS WELL THAT'S NOT WORSE ❧

A MORAL TALE

THE nights were lang, the frost was snell,
 The snaw wreaths deep on ilka fell,
 When trav'lers Sandy, Tam and Pate
 Met at ane inn when it was late. 5
 The beds were a' tane up but ane
 And not ae guest was laid alane.
 On which these three maun do their best
 To pigg together in ae nest.
 Slee Sandy, he contrived it sae
 To get the midst between the twae, 10
 As warmest place, he thought, 'till dawn,
 To what-e'er side the claiths were drawn.
 Now past his first and soundest sleep,
 He fand dificulty to keep 15
 Himsell frae rising to the pot,
 Or setting a' the bed on flote.
 He doughtna think of ganging forth,
 Lest he shou'd tine his cosie birth,
 But rather chuse by way of jest
 To stroan upon his nighbour neist. 20
 Who wak'ning with the hovan glow
 That frae his neck to heels did flow,
 Crys, "Damn ye, brock, I'm a' bepisht!"

1 **lang:** long **snell:** bitter

2 **snaw wreaths:** snow drifts **ilka:** every

5 **tane up:** occupied ("taken up")

6 **alane:** alone

7 **On which:** whereupon **maun:** had to

8 **pigg:** lie like pigs **ae:** one

9 **Slee:** sly **sae:** so

10 **twae:** two

12 **claiths:** bedclothes

14 **fand:** found

16 **on flote:** afloat

17 **doughtna:** dared not **ganging forth:**

getting up ("going away")

18 **tine:** lose

19 **chuse:** chose

20 **stroan:** piss **neist:** close by

21 **hovan:** spouting

23 **brock:** fool **a' bepisht:** soaked in piss

Says Sandy, “Be advis’d to whisht,
Ye’re right well off, sae never mind me,
I’m shyting on the chiel behind me.”

25

THE MORALL

THUS others view in more distress
Than us, makes ours appear the less.

Ed^r 1745

24 whisht: be silent

25 right well off: you’re just fine **sae**

never mind me: so don’t let me bother
you

26 chiel: fellow

27 others view: seeing others

28 ours: our own (distress)

Ed^r: Edinburgh