Alexander Pennecuik, â??The Trial of the Muir-Cockâ?•

Description

ALEXANDER PENNECUIK

â??The Trial of the Muir-Cockâ?•

Judges, of old, amongst the featherâ??d flock,
A diet held to try this mad muir-cock,
Who stood indicted by a learnâ??d gormaw,
The eagleâ??s advocate and flisk of law:
His crimes were very great and very gross,
Enough to sink the muir, and blast the moss,

INDICTMENT.

Muir-Cock, you stand accusâ??d of being a cheat,
Using bad means to purchase drink and meat;
Though you was early consecrate a priest,
Shamâ??d godly birds, and turnâ??d a drunken beast.
Denyâ??d the eagleâ??s title to the crown;
And from two rich well featherâ??d nests pullâ??d down;
Was stigmatizâ??d before the high sanhedrim,
But their correction made you grow more slim.
Of late you laid a most pernicious plot,
For liquor to your all devouring throat;
By hellish arts your purpose brought about,
Marryâ??d a simple bird to your suspected pout:
Though she were virtuous, still it would be said,
She had a pimping, though a preaching dad:
Which being provâ??d by verdict of assize,
The pannelâ??s either banished or dies.
The jury gave a formidable stroke,
And sentence thus went out against the cock.

THE SENTENCE.

Muir-cock, for this high aggravated crime,
We banish you into a foreign clime.
Gled, take him to the peak of Teneriff,
There nail his foot; and to augment his grief,
Set drink at distance from him for a mock,
Till vultures wonder and devour the COCK.

NOTES:

2 diet â??A day fixed for a particular meeting or assembly (Scottish)â?• (*OED*).

3 *gormaw* â??The cormorantâ?• (*Dictionaries of the Scots Language*).

22 assize â??The jury (Scottish)â?• (*OED*).

23 pannel â??The accusedâ?• (*Dictionaries of the Scots Language*).

29 *Gled* â??The common kiteâ?• (*Dictionaries of the Scots Language*); *the peak of Teneriff* Mt. Teide, a volcano on Tenerife, the largest island of Spainâ??s Canary Islands.

SOURCE: ***A Collection of Scots Poems on Several Occasions*** **(Edinburgh, 1769), pp. 48-49. [Google Books]**

Edited by Daisy Downie