

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, 5
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, 10
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. 15
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, 20
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. 25

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, 30
Set drink at distance from him for a mock,
Till vultures wonder and devour the COCK.

NOTES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edited by Daisy Downie