

many words which are now quite peculiar to the Scotch are found in old English literature as in Chaucer and Spenser, and Shakespeare. The pronunciation is also conservative. The genius of Burns and Scott has made the Scottish dialect a permanent literary tongue which requires every student of English literature to be acquainted with.

Peculiarities.

I. A free use without any loss of dignity, of the feminine ending in (ie), a freedom enjoyed by Chaucer.

II. A power of forming diminutives to the third degree such as is found in the language of Southern Europe: -

A house

A housie

A bit housie

A wee bit housie

A lass

A lassie

A lassikin

A bit lassikin

A wee bit lassikin

This freedom gives the Scottish dialect a colour of simplicity and tenderness and Burns found in this an excellent medium for his genius.

IV. A dropping of consonantal sounds especially l, v, and final d.

smā' for small

hā' " have

a' " all

oo " wool

The following ^{is} a conversation which may take place between two Scotchmen:

Question. oo?

Answer. ay, oo

" a' oo?

" ay a' oo

" a' ae oo?

" ay a' ae oo

(sc. ae = Eng. o
" aue = " one)

hā'e

gi'e = give

frae = from

lo'e = love

nae = none

do' = dove

ta'en = taken

grun' = ground

Ossian. Among literary forgeries the poems of Ossian accomplished by James Mac Pherson hold a prominent position. Mac Pherson was a contemporary of S. Johnson who considered him a rogue. Ossian was a bard of the Scotch tyrants whose poems Mac Pherson professed to have discovered and translated. Napoleon Bonaparte was very fond of Ossian.

IV. The ou sound shortens into ũ:

ground becomes grun
pound " pund

With some words, however, the reverse is the case:

V. In Scotland we have an approach to the German ü sound: -

Eng. good becomes guit (güt)
" foot " fit (fütt)
" blood " blude (blüdt)

Toom Yabard (Empty court) is now

generally pronounced 'Tim Tabard'
II. The change of long English o into a.
home is hame
bone becomes bane
along " along
sorely soul " sairly

III. The long English a as in make becomes
the long a as in water:
away becomes awa

A hunner pipers in a'
We'll up an' gie them a blaw
Unlike English, the Scotch dialect is not
so deficient in vowel sounds and Burns
found an excellent medium in it to
express his poetical thoughts. Even Milton's
finest lines may be improved by changing
them into Scotch:

Let the bright seraphim in aifu' row
Their lūd uplifted angel trumpets
blaw!

The first word that Sir Patrick Spald,
Sae lūd, lūd lāchit he;

The neist word that Sir Patrick spak'
A tear stood in his e'e

VIII. The use of k for the soft-ch
churn becomes kirn
breeches " breeks
church " kirk
each " ika
stitches " stiek

kirn for churn
sic for such

Robertson of that-ilk (the same)
(the like)

IX ll is sometime represented by
w, as knoll by knowe

X. The frequent use of Scandinavian:

gang for go
gait for road
greet for to shed tears
mair for must
flit for to change a house

XI. A preference for a long or short sound for
the *ou* sound before the consonant:
ou as a terminal sound is a favorite terminal
in the Scotch dialect.

owllet	^h foulet
ground	grun
pound	puund

XII. Many words derived from French:—

asket	port
fonle	tassie
causey	awmry
carbie	pirzie
donce	brulzie
dour	
dulle	
fash	
fashous	
gigot	
glaw	
houlet	
Impisoun	

XIII. Some of the Northern
Shoon for shoe.