

Robin Shure in Hairst

(Robin reaped the harvest)

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|---|-----------------------|
| Robin shure ¹ in hairst ² , | 1 = reaped |
| I shure ¹ wi' him. | 2 = harvest |
| Fient ³ a heuk ⁴ had I, | 3 = not |
| Yet I stack ⁵ by him | 4 = sickle |
| | 5 = stuck |
| I gaed up to Dunse | 6 = weave |
| To warp ⁶ a wab ⁷ o' plaiden ⁸ | 7 = web |
| At his daddie's yett ⁹ | 8 = plaid or |
| Wha met me but Robin! | course wool |
| | 9 = gate |
| Was na Robin bauld ¹⁰ | |
| Tho' I was a cottar? | 10 = bold |
| Play'd me sic a trick | 11 = elder (of |
| An me the eller's ¹¹ daughter | the Church) |
| Robin promised me | |
| A' my winter vittle ¹² | 12 = winter |
| Fient ¹³ had he but three | food |
| Guse ¹⁴ feathers and a | 13 = nothing |
| whittle. ¹⁵ | 14 = goose |
| | 15 = knife |

This poem relates to some incident in Ainslie's life when he obviously made certain promises to a young lady which he would appear to have failed or been unable to keep and in regard to which Burns, unable to forbear to tease him compiled these lines.

The last line "*feint had he but three guse feathers (quills) and a whittle*" is a reference to Ainslie's employment as a law clerk.

Ainslie like Burns had a number of amours one of which at least resulted in an illegitimate offspring.