The Chevalier’s Lament

Robert Burns (Scotland)

\( \text{\#} = 80 \)

The small birds rejoice in the green leaves returning,
The murmurings streamlet winds clear thro’ the vale,
The primroses blow in the dews of the morning,
And wild scatter’d cowslips bedeck the green dale:
But what can give pleasure, or what can seem fair,
When the lingering moments are number’d by care?
No flow’rs gaily springing, nor birds sweetly singing,
Can soothe the sad bosom of joyless despair

The deed that I dar’d, could it merit their malice,
A king and a father to place on his throne?
His right are these hills, and his right are those valleys,
Where the wild beasts find shelter, tho I can find none
But ’tis not my suff’rings this wretched, forlorn—
My brave gallant friends,’Tis your ruin I mourn
Your faith prov’d so loyal in hot bloody trial,
Alas can I make it no better return?