Mairi nighean Alasdair: I heard somebody singing this and thought, oho, that will do. It appears in John MacFadyen’s first book, but I think the timing adopted here better represents the tune. It was made by the poet William MacKenzie following the death of his wife (and childhood sweetheart) Mary MacKay. When eventually he had to emigrate to Canada, he drew one of his teeth and left it in her grave.

Major Mackie: A fiddle tune, typical of the kinds of things that can be played attractively on the pipes, and would routinely have been set a century ago. It was published in Kerr’s Merry Melodies for the Violin vol.4, 1900.