

However, incomparably the finest Irish ballad of the period, 1698-1701, is "*Éamonn An Cnuic*," or "*Ned of the Hill*," written in memory of Edmond Ryan, who was an outlaw under King William. Poor Ned Ryan, the scion of an old family, the O'Ryan's of Kilmellogurty, County Tipperary, was forced to become a Rapparee, and to do a man's part in spoiling the spoiler. After many vicissitudes he died in 1724, and was buried near Fail an Chluig, in the parish of Toem, in the upper half barony of Kilmemanagh, County Tipperary. Perhaps in the whole range of Irish minstrelsy no melody has been so transformed as "*Éamonn an Cnuic*." Though the air dates from the close of the sixteenth century,<sup>[5]</sup> it underwent various modifications between the years 1600 and 1760, and it may be found under a score of different titles, *e.g.*, "The Young Man's Dream," "The Green Woods of Truagh," "Colonel O'Gara," "The Groves of Blarney," "Castle Hyde," "Lady Jefferie's Delight," etc. Beethoven adapted this beautiful melody to words commencing, "Sad and luckless was the season," but from a corrupt version, and it was worked into a fantasia by Mendelssohn in 1829, as Op. 15, from Moore's setting "*'Tis the last Rose of Summer*," published in December, 1813. Flotow introduced it into his opera of "Martha," and was much enamoured of it.<sup>[6]</sup>

The subjoined version is the earliest yet discovered, taken from a manuscript of the year 1726, of which a variant was printed by Bartlett Cooke in 1794:--

