

Singie' Mill. An auld Kirk Precentor ('Singie' Crail). By James Truthful.'

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Singie in 9 cases out o' ten was a
 shoemaker but now - an - again
 a tailor took ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~look~~ sent another
 the pulpit & after announcing
 the psalm time set to work, &
 in a key heich enough for ~~the~~
 a caverock, to praise the Lord a
 find half note in front of the
 congregation. Singie ^{which} ~~was~~ ^{was a}
 type of his class & ^{in his} ~~after~~ ^{main} ~~apre~~ ^{side}, he
 an' find o'er to the New Kirk folk
 had sung the pueris Kirk of
 Auchendown for many a year.
 When the minister had finished
 the reading the psalm Singie ^{will rise} ~~rose~~
 to his place & ^{looking} ~~turning~~ ~~his~~ ~~face~~ to the
 Easterly left ^{with} ~~and~~ slowly
~~after the name of the~~ turned his
 head to the west ~~left~~ ^{as he announced} ~~folk~~ ~~front~~
~~at the name of the~~ time.
 'Should-watter-turnme' was

given out ~~in this~~ with a distinct
ness of ~~enunciation~~ which needed
not repetition & the ~~enunciation~~
was arranged so that the words
lasted the time that Surge
took to turn his head round
the back of his ear to waist.

The musical whine by which
it was accompanied rising
at the 'teer' & quavered on the
'turne' ~~note~~ was in accord-
ance with the musical pro-

But I have
not with the
think alone
that

occasions of his author ~~the~~ ^{on his}
occasions when Rob Roy ^{was doing}
was being performed ^{on Sunday} ~~for the~~ ^{scarcely}

providing ^{the} ~~raising~~ of "coals for the poor"
Surge would ~~unwillingly~~ ^{lie}
the Birk o' Abergeldy ^{escape}
~~note~~ between the acts in a
register that has never been
~~written~~ ^{on a scale which}
had any other ~~more~~ less seek drawn

tried
~~thrappe~~ ~~was~~ and it had
~~being~~ well nigh ~~was~~ hung
~~and~~ a' een skeally diet.

But na content wi seemd
 hand work Suije would fire
 of aff first hand sangs o' his
 main ~~compos~~ makin' &
 tell us. "Malcolm runs
 ootert' the Dunes' or ~~the~~ the
 recount Rithly sangs ~~with~~
~~at the~~ in some such strain
 as the following -

oh! ~~doct~~ ^{sure} ~~the~~ Jack Keest-oot yestreen
 an' the morn' lit' the tairn
 an' I doobt we'll ~~ne'er~~ ^{again} forgette
 Fu he's gane to leave the faim.

~~For~~ oh. it mung a fraicht o' reeks,
 we've put
 an mung a ruck were thair
 an' aple wi the clack sheaf
 the Rithly Non we've ~~decided~~

Single mill was in no hurry
in no hurry to grease the
wheels of time by ~~hurry~~ in
on events & ~~it~~ he was
so swack as he said was
when I took the wife. Was
that he did can look it
out. That was 'the Russia'
but he was ~~backward~~ on a
backward worker & ~~at all~~
he put off the sheerin' for
a day until another
until months grew into years
& years were ^{growing themselves} ~~full~~ ^{up} ~~filling~~
decades in the meantime
He had many gruelins, as he
said he would see to the man
& he enumerated his worldly
possessions till himself until
he had them in his heart.
This the beddest in a sort of

W. J. H. K.
track is.

track & brought out only thing
he could turn into silver.
He ^{had} ~~ventured~~ ⁱⁿ that venturesome
line of the mining business
but his was no gold mine
but a ^{in foreign parts} slate quarry that he
discovered in the hills of O'Connell
meant where he laboured with
his men hard to keep the traffic
open to reach the slaty bed.
It was all done ready & he
only waited purchasers. With
this wealth at hand he thought
now was the time to speak of
Jessie for she would keep home to
him. He went to his friend
& counsellor Willie ~~McDonald~~
McDonald & over a forenoon
huddled & punch he wasn't
warm as to his immediate
business & his chances of success.



Sarge had rehearsed his possessions
untill he had them by heart.

Je see ~~so~~ ^{forbye} ~~my~~ ^{business} I have 15 bees,
skeeps; an' ~~my~~ ^{good} ~~watcher~~; ~~an'~~ ^{five an'} thirty
sculls; ~~factly~~ ^{factly} to how o' men,
Ta hummer horn' in the Land of
Mucki' han'; beside a fine
curran scatcher, at the scatch
grewy; ~~for~~ ^{a hot howket & dressed} ~~for~~ ^{for} Dod! Mr.
Beetun I' widum he ric a
baf bargain.

not in the Kirk alone however did
Lugia exercise his talent ~~but~~ for
when occasion served a ~~time~~
he came he inclined to secular
~~work~~ performance in the
'Hall' or the 'School House',
When 'Rob Roy' was ^{evening} performed
for providing 'coals for the poor'
in the 'Town Hall'. Lugia would
often 'beak' the 'Bairns' abhorrently and then
the cut in a up in the that he
any ~~other~~ less much drawn
tried ~~unhappy~~ the

An auld Kirk Precentor

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by James Truttfull

Single ~~most~~ Craib occupied the precentor's 'box' beneath the pulpit o' the auld Kirk of Auchendown for near been 50 years. A shoe maker by trade, as the majority of precentors are, he ~~practised~~ ^{practised} 'practice singin' psalms times, and whilst he vrockt (worked), not infrequently collectit a guid curmice (lot) of folk in his shop to ~~practise~~ ^{rehearse} psalmody. For he employed nae artificial means, ~~of~~ ^{to} startin' ~~them~~ ^{them} in the right key, but in a ~~rather~~ ^{minor} ~~key~~ ^{key} led off ~~all the rest of the psalm~~ ^{all the rest of the psalm} in the ~~right~~ ^{right} ~~key~~ ^{key}. If he found the ~~first~~ ^{first} verse pitched over ~~high~~ ^{high} (high) he lowered the second ~~verse~~ ^{verse} but he thoct. was ~~de~~ ^{de} ~~dae~~ ^{dae}; & sometimes the third verse was reached afore he had sattl'd down to the right swing. ~~What~~ ^{When} there was nae hurry in his delivery, & ~~with~~ ^{gave} a long measure time & a satisfactory pitch he single prolonged his notes & gave a quaver or a shake on each ~~note~~ ^{note} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~various~~ ^{various} ~~effects~~ ^{effects}. The long swing

single as
turning
forks, &
frolic's (whistle)
in
see jingling

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of the time notes & time caused him to keep time with his body & he sway backward & forward in harmony with the music scarcely or still more pronounced drawl as the notes as the he finished his drew was finished reluctant finish. The congregation ^{sung with} him lustily that imitated the movement of his body all rocking as the ^{at first} backwards forwards as the put in their heads. (We sing from lead) Sing like all master of his art had favourite tunes & ^{as} he knew some of the congregations at the ^{other} churches but ^{and} the ^{in the} congregation ^{with the} was ^{for payment} with the ^{or his own} his pay was ^{was} partly dependent on the amount of bawbles collected he Singer's remuneration depended in part on the bawble collection as he knew some of the ^{members of the} congregation gave a few a penny or even three bawbles instead of the 3 or 4 bawbles when the favourite tunes were				

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Sing he endeavour as often as he ^{dare} could to do the metre of the psalm a paraphrase allowed to give the favourite. one man age ga' a penny when Strond water was sung & another time & another when 'Salerna' was chosen. Singie kept up the custom of announcing the time ^{just} before he began ^{to sing} the time ^{forward} in ^{to the} right hand side of the Kirk and as he announced the name of the time & crossed his hand round from right to left as he slowly delivered the the name of the time. The then reversed the order of delivery & repeated it from left to right so that all might hear. The words of the "Strond-water-time" ^{were} was given ^{with} a slow quaver on each syllable which left nothing to be desired. In his early days - the early 70s of the century - books in church were not so common as in ^{his} the later days & he followed the custom of reading the psalm a paraphrase line by line before singing it. In the ancient Kirk of Auldendown an evening service was held only in the summer for the very good reason that there was no				

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Lights in the Kirk. Whether the ^{evening} was cloudy the ^{the} cloud by the time the last psalm was done it was frequently impossible to see beyond. Singie used to trust his memory while which people at home played him false. It was all very well when a well known personage ^{personage} such as the the much more than the light flow or a shadowy presence that he had was given me here in the less known it was little worth fyle. Singie one evening was singing the 63 psalm which at the second verse goes "Heigh in the rank me Now at possess' re." But at the second line Singie hesitated but soon supplied words to suit the way of the tune. The Curfew after following his debate High in the rank we now possess of our wonders are new done the adornment of the possessing saint that was ^{has} from his return As down upon the tender herb where living water flows from mountain tops above the hills that about which we have obtained gave hands the sandy shore with water once more				

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No doubt the metric was all right for
Singer's purpose ~~last~~ and the compensation
~~seems~~ ~~accepted~~ as ~~most~~ compensation ^{must do}
the wheeler the work without ever stopping
to think what they meant.

return home
to the village.

are ~~se~~ ^{from seeing a friend} Saturday night when Singer was coming
home ~~from seeing a friend~~ ^{he fell out} ~~he fell out~~
to a deep dry well just past a home the
carder mill. How he was not killed instantly
was a marvel but he was evidently preserved
for some good purpose. He tried to scramble up
the side but failed, he called loudly but all
was ~~silence~~ ^{silence} for several hours until a child
came home with a dog, ~~from seeing a friend~~
and happened to pass near the well
when he was scared to hear some muffled
from the bottom. He ~~at~~ ^{cautiously} approached
thinking the noise was coming ~~from the~~
sat and waiting to hear he became angry
with Singer's plight. There was no ready means

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at hand to get him out + the good Samaritan
 proceeded to the village to get a ladder. But it
 was too late for him to get out the wall & he had to wait
 a few more & to perform a heathen's clapping as you
 he could make lucky Cameron hear. When he
 did so he had to tell her that "Sarge" said and
 passed on into the day well & he wanted her
 ladder to get him out. Well lucky Cameron had
 a ladder and Mrs. Kemp used the ladder of the
 women's need to get her. It turned out that Mrs.
 Kemp had lent it to Mrs. Anderson & it was
 not until the illness home was worse that the
 ladder was got & Sarge rescued from the air and
 brought. Next morning was the last talk & the
 folk in the Kirk & church had the last of Sarge
 well thought out before they died in. ~~It was~~
~~was then~~ ~~the~~ with the episode of the singing
 with the one can singing then ~~most~~
 smooth with when the Minister gave out
 & Sarge had to repeat the Psalm which commu

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He took me from the fearful pit And from the miry clay And on a rock he set my feet Establishing my way. Singie was set on my feet afore he thought on marriage. Mac that he hid a woman cooked for. Many lovers John & Chris had been through for some time but Singie was in Mac Muddy & put off the happy moment I'm after I'm until he was in the study side of forty & the sweetheart was also getting on. Singie was was a general merchant a rather clever the had a vein of speculation in him for he contemplated great things from a slate quarry he had discovered on the hill above Keithmore. The quarry slate however were not of a very quality except for small capital at Singie's command he had another & could get no money to put into it. However like many another man dabbler in mining, there he had hope. He delayed				

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askin many to be his acin until the means of the
 quarry was assured. As that was evidently a work of
 time & years were at stake, Sirge ^{consulted the father} consulted a friend
 as to the expediency of his proposal to many being
 accepted. He told his friend to say see Mr.
 went to the father of the ~~to~~ prospective bride &
 pushed his claims there. He said Mr. Jordan
 I have a score of watches, 25 bees scaps (beehives)
 50 ^{small} skulls (turnip baskets) 20 bowls of meal (bowl of
 meal) a manna & 5 month foal, ~~bees~~
~~for~~ ^{for} the hundred pome with the Lord o' Bunch
 hands for by a fine curran slate (slates) at
 the slate quarry. Doo Mr. Jordan I would be
 Sir a bad bargain. Mr. Jordan excellently
 liked so too for many soon after became
 his acin. The writer remembers Sirge only ~~is~~
~~to~~ when he was with the ~~eyes~~ but can remem-
 ber Sirge's scene upon the floor of Anichendone
 when he appeared at the Anichendone theatrical
 when between the acts of Rob Roy's swiftness

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found the defeat ^{Snipe} and <u>Malcolm</u> his the strong descriptive very exactly, when he old snipe gun "Then Malcolm ramshooter the Dances" a ramshooter it certainly was and a complete ramshooter to boot for by the victory of Britain was for ever free of the Danish pirates other sewage domes Dear old Snipe at ^{near} the New wing of O the kirk which was built by Malcolm in the year 1066. to commemorate the fact that without gun the ramshooter the Dances were finished. Snipe				



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