

Adam Skirving

arranged

E. T. Sweeting

(1863-1930)

Edward Thomas Sweeting (1863-1930) held positions as organist at St. Mary's Kensington and Rossall School, Lancashire, where he taught the future Sir Thomas Beecham. He was organist and director of the choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, from 1897-1901. He then became Organist and a Master of Music of Winchester College. He was recognized as an accomplished organist, a collector of folk songs, and an arranger of choral pieces, and other vocal works.

The song was written by Adam Skirving (1719-1803) and gives an account of the Battle of Prestonpans from the Jacobite point of view. The battle was a decisive victory for the Jacobites during the Second Jacobite uprising, a series of rebellions in Great Britain between 1688 and 1746. They were attempts to return James VII of Scotland and II of England (or his descendants of the House of Stuart) to the throne of Great Britain after they had been deposed by Parliament. Sir John Cope was the commander of the government troops, and was defeated in a dawn attack by the Jacobites. The song includes several apocryphal incidents, including challenges conveyed by letters between Cope and his rival Bonnie Prince Charlie, as well as exaggerated accounts of Cope's cowardice. It includes an account of him being the messenger of his own defeat, fleeing from the battle all the way back to Berwick, which is unlikely. The tune has become fixed in British culture. It is the regulation pipe call for *Réveillé* in Highland Regiments of the British Army and also the Scots Guards Regiment, in which John Cope served between 1710 and 1712.

Cope sent a letter frae Dunbar: O Charlie, meet me, if ye daur, And I'll learn ye the art of war, Gin ye'll meet me in the morning.

Hey, Johnnie Cope, are ye waukin'yet? Or are your drums a-beatin'yet? If ye were waukin', I wad wait Tae gang tae the couls i'the morning.

When Charlie looked the letter upon, He drew his sword the scabbard from: Come, follow me, my merry men, And we'll meet Cope i' the morning. When Johnnie Cope he heard o' this, He thocht it wadna be amiss To hae a horse in readiness To flee awa' i' the morning.

Fye, Johnnie, now get up and rin, The Highland bag-pipes mak' a din; It's best tae sleep in a hale skin, For 'twill be a bluidy morning.

When Johnnie Cope to Berwick cam', They speer'd at him, "Where's a' your men?" "The deil confound me, gin I ken, For I left them a' i' the morning?"

Adam Skirving (1719-1803)

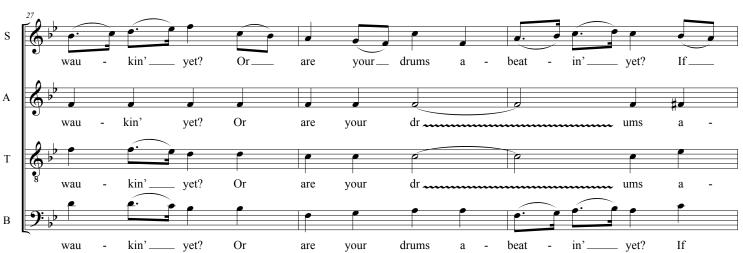






^{*} roll the "r"





7





^{*} To be sung nasally









Novello and Company (1921)

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