

"Unless the Fates are faithless grown,
And prophet's voice be vain,
Where'er is found this sacred stone,
The Scottish race shall reign."

According to national tradition, this stone was the pillow of Jacob at Bethel, and long served for the coronation-seat of the kings of Ireland. It is said to have been brought from Ireland to Iona by Fergus, the son of Erc, then to have been deposited in Dunstaffnage Castle (still standing near Oban), and to have been transported thence to Scone by Kenneth II. in the year 842. Its history from that date is well authenticated, but the rest is of course more or less mythical.

33. *Colme-kill*. "The cell (or chapel) of Columba," now known as Icolmkill, or Iona, a barren islet, about eight miles south of Staffa. Here St. Columba, an Irish Christian preacher, founded a monastery in A.D. 563, and here he died about A.D. 597, or at the time when Augustine landed in Kent to convert the English. From this monastery in Iona Christianity and civilization spread, not only through Scotland, but even to the Orkneys and Iceland. Hence the island came to be considered holy ground, and there was a traditionary belief that it was to be specially favoured at the dissolution of the world. According to the ancient prophecy,

"Seven years before that awful day
When time shall be no more,
A watery deluge shall o'ersweep
Hibernia's mossy shore;
The green-clad Isla, too, shall sink,
While with the great and good,
Columba's happier isle shall rear
Her towers above the flood."

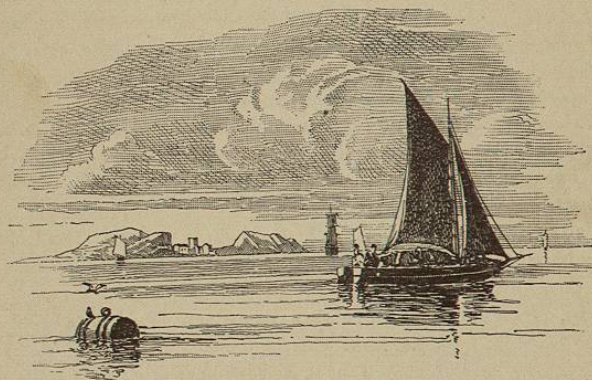
It is not to be wondered at that monarchs desired to be buried in this sacred spot, and that thus it became the cemetery where, as Collins has sung,

"The mighty kings of three fair realms are laid"—

Scotland, Ireland, and Norway. No trace of their tombs now remains, the oldest monuments left on the island being those of Irish ecclesiastics of the 12th century. Besides these there are the ruins of a chapel (of the 11th century), of a nunnery (founded about 1180), and of the cathedral church of St. Mary, built early in the 13th century. Of the three hundred and fifty sculptured stone crosses which formerly adorned the island, only two are still standing. All the others were thrown into the sea, about the year 1560, by order of the anti-Popish Synod of Argyll.

36. *Thither*. That is, to Scone.

40. *Benison*. Cf. *Lear*, i. 1. 268: "our grace, our love, our benison;" *Id.* iv. 6. 229: "The bounty and the benison of heaven."



ST. COLME'S INCH

ACT III

SCENE I. — 7. *Shine*. "Appear with all the *lustre of conspicuous truth*" (Johnson).

10. *Hush, no more.* "These words are in perfect moral keeping with Banquo's previous resolute fightings against evil suggestions" (Clarke). *Sennet* (also written *sennit*, *senet*, *synnet*, *cynet*, *signet*, and *sygnate*) occurs often in the old stage-directions, and seems to indicate a particular set of notes on the trumpet, or cornet, different from a flourish.

13. *All-thing.* Every way. Cf. the adverbial use of *nothing* and *something*.

14. *Solemn.* Ceremonious, formal. Cf. *T. A. v. 2. 115*: "solemn feast" (also in *A. W. ii. 3. 187*); *T. of S. iii. 2. 103*: "our solemn festival," etc.

16. *Command upon me.* "Command upon" is not found elsewhere in S., but in *Per. iii. 1. 3* we have the *noun* similarly used:—

"and thou, that hast
Upon the winds command, bind them in brass."

The which. Not unfrequent in S. Cf. v. 8. 41 below.

21. *Still.* Always, ever; as very often in S. Cf. *M. of V. i. 1. 17, 136*, *Temp. i. 2. 229*, *Rich. II. ii. 1. 22*, etc. *Grave* = weighty, of importance; as in *Rich. III. ii. 3. 20*: "politic grave counsel." *Prosperous* = to our advantage.

25. *Go not my horse*, etc. Cf. *Rich. II. ii. 1. 300*: "Hold out my horse, and I will first be there." *The better* = better than usual, or than I expect he will.

29. *Are bestow'd.* Have betaken themselves. Cf. iii. 6. 24 below; also *Ham. iii. 1. 33, 44*, *Hen. V. iv. 3. 68*, etc.

33. *Therewithal*, etc. That is, we shall have other state matters to discuss along with it. Cf. *Hen. V. i. 1. 45*: "any cause of policy."

38. *Commend.* See on i. 7. 11 above.

42. *The sweeter welcome.* It is doubtful whether *welcome* is a noun or an adjective. In the latter case, *sweeter* is used adverbially. S. uses both *ourself* and *ourselves* in this "regal" sense. Cf.

Rich. II. i. 1. 16: "ourselves will hear;" *Id. i. 4. 42*: "We will ourself in person," etc.

43. *While then.* Till then. *While* and *whiles* are occasionally so used. Cf. *T. N. iv. 3. 28*:—

"He shall conceal it
Whiles you are willing it shall come to note."

See also *Rich. II. i. 3. 22*.

God be with you is metrically = "God b' wi' you." Our *good-by* (cf. the Fr. *adieu*) is a contraction of this contraction.

48. *But to be safely thus.* We must assume "is something" in antithesis to "is nothing."

50. *Would be fear'd.* Is to be feared, should be feared.

51. *To.* In addition to. Cf. i. 6. 19.

55. *My Genius*, etc. Cf. *A. and C. ii. 3. 19*:—

"Thy demon, that 's thy spirit which keeps thee, is
Noble, courageous, high, unmatchable,
Where Cæsar's is not; but near him thy angel
Becomes a fear, as being o'erpower'd."

This is from North's *Plutarch*: "For thy demon, said he (that is to say, the good angel and spirit that keepeth thee), is afraid of his; and being courageous and high when he is alone, becometh fearful and timorous when he cometh near unto the other."

62. *With.* By; as *with* is often used with the *agent* or the *cause*.

64. *Fil'd.* Defiled; but not that word contracted. It is used in prose: as in Holland's *Pliny*, xiv. 19: "If the grapes have been filed by any ordure or dung falne from above thereupon."

66. *Vessel.* Often used figuratively by S. Cf. 2 *Hen. IV. iv. 4. 44*, *J. C. v. 5. 13*, *W. T. iii. 3. 21*, etc.

67. *Eternal jewel.* Immortal soul. Cf. *Rich. II. i. 1. 180*:—

"A jewel in a ten-times-barr'd-up chest
Is a bold spirit in a loyal breast."

For the use of *eternal*, cf. *K. John*, iii. 4. 18: "the eternal spirit."

70. *The list*. Elsewhere S. has *lists* in this sense. Cf. *Rich. II.* i. 2. 52, *Id.* i. 3. 32, 38, 43, 1 *Hen. VI.* v. 5. 32, etc. He has *list* several times in the more general sense of boundary, limit; as in *A. W.* ii. 1. 33, 1 *Hen. IV.* iv. 1. 51, *Ham.* iv. 5. 99, etc.

71. *Champion me to the utterance*. Fight with me *à outrance*; often incorrectly printed *à l'outrance*, as in the quotation that follows: "A challenge, or a combat *à l'outrance*, to extremity, was a fixed term in the law of arms, used when the combatants engaged with an *odium internecinum*, an intention to destroy each other, in opposition to trials of skill at festivals, or on other occasions, where the contest was only for reputation or a prize" (Johnson). Cf. *Cymb.* iii. 1. 73: "Behoves me keep at utterance" (that is, defend to the uttermost).

79. *Pass'd in probation with you*. Spent in proving to you. For *probation* = proof, cf. *Oth.* iii. 3. 365, *M. for M.* v. 1. 156, *Cymb.* v. 5. 362, etc.

80. *Borne in hand*. Kept in expectation, flattered with false hopes. Cf. *T. of S.* iv. 2. 3, *Cymb.* v. 5. 43, *Ham.* ii. 2. 67, etc. In 1572, an act was passed against "such as practise abused sciences, whereby they bear the people in hand that they can tell their destinies," etc.

82. *To a notion craz'd*. Even to the most feeble apprehension. Cf. *Lear*, i. 4. 248: "His notion weakens;" *Cor.* v. 6. 107: "his own notion," etc.

87. *Gospell'd*. Governed by gospel precepts. See *Matthew*, v. 44.

88. *To pray*. *As to pray*. See on ii. 3. 35 above.

91. *Ay, in the catalogue*, etc. Yes, in a mere list of men as male human beings you would be reckoned, just as the meanest cur is counted among dogs.

93. *Shoughs*. An obsolete spelling of *shocks*, or rough-coated dogs. *Water-rugs* were "a kind of poodle," and "*demi-wolves*, a cross between dogs and wolves, like the Latin *lycisci*." *Clept* is the participle from *clepe*, to call. Cf. *Ham.* i. 4. 19: "They clepe us drunkards;" *L. L. L.* v. 1. 23: "he clepeth a calf cauf;" *V. and A.*

995: "She clepes him king of graves," etc. *Yclept* is the same participle with the old English prefix. S. uses it in *L. L. L.* i. 1. 42 and v. 2. 602.

94. *The valued file*. The classification according to value or quality, as distinguished from the "catalogue," or "the bill that writes them all alike." Schmidt makes *valued* an adjective; some take it to be the passive participle used in an active sense (= valuing).

96. *Housekeeper*. Watch-dog. In Topsell's *Hist. of Beasts* (1658) the "housekeeper" is enumerated among dogs.

98. *Clos'd*. Enclosed. Cf. *R. and J.* i. 4. 110: "a despised life clos'd in my breast."

99. *Addition*. See on i. 3. 106. *From* = apart from; as often.

105. *Grapples*. On the metaphor, cf. *Ham.* i. 3. 63: "Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel." See also *Hen. V.* iii. prol. 18.

111. *Tugg'd with fortune*. Pulled about in wrestling with fortune. Cf. *W. T.* iv. 4. 508: "Let myself and fortune Tug for the time to come." See also *K. John*, iv. 3. 146, 2 *Hen. VI.* iii. 2. 173, etc.

113. *On't*. Of it. Cf. line 130 below, and see on i. 3. 84 above.

115. *Distance*. Alienation. It was a fencing term, denoting the space between antagonists. Cf. *M. W.* ii. 1. 233: "In these times, you stand on distance, your passadoes, stoccadoes, and I know not what;" *Id.* ii. 3. 27: "thy punts, thy stock, thy reverse, thy distance," etc. See also *A. W.* v. 3. 212, *R. and J.* ii. 4. 22, etc.

117. *My near'st of life*. My inmost life. See on ii. 1. 24: "kind'st leisure."

119. *Bid my will avouch it*. Let my will answer for it, own it as an arbitrary act. Cf. *M. N. D.* i. 1. 106, *Hen. V.* v. 1. 77, etc.

120. *For*. Because of, for the sake of.

121. *Loves*. The plural is used because the *love* of several persons is referred to. This use of the plural with abstract nouns is very common in S. Cf. *Rich. II.* iv. 1. 314: "your sights;" *Id.* v. 2. 38: "our calm contents," etc. See also v. 8. 61 below.

122. *Who*. Often used for *whom*. Cf. iii. 4. 42 and iv. 3. 171 below.
 128. *Advise*. Instruct. Cf. *Lear*, i. 3. 23, *Hen. VIII*. i. 2. 107, etc.

129. *The perfect spy o' the time*. The precise time when you may look for him. Various emendations have been suggested. Mr. F. A. Marshall ("Henry Irving" ed.) reads and points thus: "Acquaint you, with a perfect spy, o' the time;" taking *with* as = *by*, and *spy* as referring to the 3d Murderer, whom he intends to send. He quotes iii. 3. 2-4 in support of this view.

130. *On't*. Of the time; or, perhaps, of the deed.

131. *Something from*. At some distance away from. *Always thought*, etc. = it being kept in mind that I must be free from suspicion.

133. *Rubs*. Hindrances, impediments; a term in bowling. See *Rich. II*. iii. 4. 4, *Hen. V*. ii. 2. 188, v. 2. 53, *Cor.* iii. 1. 60, etc.

136. *Embrace*. Undergo, suffer. Cf. *T. G. of V.* v. 4. 126: "Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy death."

137. *Resolve yourselves*. Come to a determination, make up your minds. Cf. *A. and C.* iii. 11. 9, 3 *Hen. VI*. i. 1. 49, *W. T.* v. 3. 86, etc.

140. *It is concluded*. It is settled. Hunter remarks that such negotiations with assassins were not uncommon in the age of Elizabeth. An instance had recently occurred in the neighbourhood of Stratford. Lodowick Grevile, who dwelt at Sesoncote, in Gloucestershire, and at Milcote, in Warwickshire, coveting the estate of one Webb, his tenant, plotted to murder him and get the estate by a forged will. This was successfully accomplished by the aid of two servants whom Grevile engaged to do the deed. Fearing detection, one of the assassins afterwards murdered his comrade. The body was found, and the investigation led to the arrest and conviction of Grevile and his servant, the surviving murderer. Grevile stood mute, and was pressed to death on November 14, 1589. The circumstance must have been well known to S., as the Greviles were at this time patrons of the living of Stratford.

SCENE II.—5. *Content*. Satisfaction. Clarke remarks: "This brief soliloquy allows us to see the deep-seated misery of the murderess, the profound melancholy in which she is secretly steeped; while on the instant that she sees her husband she can rally her forces, assume exterior fortitude, and resume her accustomed hardness of manner, with which to stimulate him by remonstrance almost amounting to reproach."

9. *Sorriest*. See on ii. 2. 20 above.

10. *Using*. Cherishing. S. joins *use* with a great variety of nouns.

11. *Without all remedy*. Beyond all remedy; or *all* = any, as in *Hen. VIII*. iv. 1. 113: "without all doubt;" *Sonn.* 74. 2: "without all bail."

13. *Scotch'd*. Wounded. Cf. *Cor.* iv. 5. 198: "he scotched him and notched him," etc.

16. *Frame of things*. Cf. *Ham.* ii. 2. 310: "This goodly frame, the earth." *Both the worlds* = heaven and earth. Cf. *Ham.* iv. 5. 134, where it means "this world and the next."

20. *To gain our peace*. The later folios have "our place," which is adopted by some editors; but "the repetition of the word *peace* seems very much in S.'s manner; and . . . there is something much higher in the sentiment conveyed by the original word than in that of *place*. In the very contemplation of the murder of Banquo, Macbeth is vainly seeking for peace. Banquo is the object that makes him eat his meal in fear and sleep in terrible dreams" (Knight).

21. *On the torture*, etc. "To lie upon the rack of our own thoughts, in a frenzy of restlessness." *Ecstasy* in S. means "any state of being beside one's self." Cf. iv. 3. 170 below. See also *Temp.* iii. 3. 108, *Much Ado*, ii. 3. 157, etc.

23. *Life's fitful fever*. Cf. *M. for M.* iii. 1. 75: "a feverous life."

27. *Gentle my lord*. Like "Gracious my lord" (v. 5. 30 below), "Good my lord," etc. *Sleek* is not used elsewhere as a verb by S. Cf. Milton, *Comus*, 882: "Sleeking her soft alluring locks."

30. *Let your remembrance, etc.* "Take care to do all honour to Banquo by looks and words of the deepest respect; though our royalty will never be safe, so long as it is necessary to keep our honours bright by steeping them in flattery" (Moberly). *Remembrance* is here a quadrisyllable; as in *W. T.* iv. 4. 76.

34. *Visards. Masks.* Cf. *M. W.* iv. 4. 70, *L. L. L.* v. 2. 242, 246, 271, 385, 404, etc.

35. *Leave.* Leave off. Cf. "Where did I leave?" in *V. and A.* 715 and *Rich. II.* v. 2. 4; and "Where left we last?" in *T. of S.* iii. 1. 26.

37. *Lives.* See on i. 3. 147.

38. *But in them, etc.* This has been supposed to suggest their murder; but see p. 38 above. *Copy* = copyhold, or terminable tenure of land, as distinguished from freehold.

41. *Cloister'd.* Steevens remarks: "The bats wheeling round the dim cloisters of Queen's College, Cambridge, have frequently impressed on me the singular propriety of this original epithet."

42. *Shard-borne.* The old English name of the horny wing-cases of the beetle was *shards*. Cf. *A. and C.* iii. 2. 20: "They are his shards and he their beetle" (that is, they serve as wings for him); *Cymb.* iii. 3. 20: "the sharded beetle."

44. *Note.* The word is used for "any distinction or eminence." Cf. *A. W.* v. 3. 14: "Offence of mighty note;" *L. C.* 233: "of holiest note," etc.

45. *Chuck.* A term of endearment, corrupted from *chick*. Cf. *Oth.* iii. 4. 49: "What promise, chuck?" and see *Id.* iv. 2. 24, *A. and C.* iv. 4. 2, *Hen. V.* iii. 2. 26, etc.

46. *Seeling.* Blinding; a term in falconry. "To *seel* is to close the eyelids partially or entirely, by passing a fine thread through them; this was done to hawks until they became tractable" (Nares). Cf. *Oth.* i. 3. 270 and iii. 3. 210; also *A. and C.* iii. 13. 112.

49. *Cancel, etc.* Cf. *Rich. III.* iv. 4. 77: "Cancel his bond of life, dear God, I pray;" and *Cymb.* v. 4. 27:—

"take this life,
And cancel these cold bonds."

50. *Light thickens.* Cf. *A. and C.* ii. 3. 27:—

"He beats thee 'gainst the odds; thy lustre thickens
When he shines by."

51. *Rooky.* Rook-haunted, frequented by rooks or crows. Clarke remarks: "The very epithet *rooky* appears to us to caw with the sound of many bedward rooks bustling and croaking to their several roosts."

52. *Drowse.* Used by S. only here and in 1 *Hen. IV.* iii. 2. 81.

53. *Whiles.* See on ii. 1. 60. For the plural *preys* (perhaps = "their several preys"), cf. iii. 1. 121 and v. 8. 61. *Rouse* is used intransitively by S. only here and in v. 5. 12.

56. *Go with me.* "Understand what my meaning is." For *go with* = agree, accord, cf. *Ham.* i. 2. 15, i. 3. 28, i. 5. 49, *Lear*, iv. 7. 5, etc.

SCENE III.—Some critics have thought that the 3d Murderer was Macbeth himself in disguise. See Furness, p. 160 (revised ed. p. 200), and *Notes and Queries* for Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 1869. The theory is sufficiently refuted by Macbeth's talk with the 1st Murderer in iii. 4.

2. *He needs not our mistrust, etc.* "We may trust him, for Macbeth has evidently told him all we have to do. Macbeth's uneasiness makes him reinforce the party with a cleverer hand" (Moberly).

6. *Lated.* Belated. Used by S. only here and in *A. and C.* iii. 11. 3: "I am so lated in the world."

7. *To gain the timely inn.* Probably, to gain the inn betimes; or *timely* = "welcome, opportune."

10. *The note of expectation.* The list of expected guests. For *note*, cf. *M. W.* iv. 2. 64, *T. of S.* i. 2. 145, etc.

14. *Enter Fleance with a torch.* Here again Fleance carries the torch to light his father. The "Servant" of some modern eds. is an interpolation. See on ii. 1. 1.

- SCENE IV. — 1. *At first And last.* Probably = once for all.
3. *Ourselves.* See on iii. 1. 42.
5. *Her state.* Her chair of state at the head of the table. Cf. *T. N.* ii. 5. 50: "Sitting in our state;" 1 *Hen. IV.* ii. 4. 415: "This chair shall be my state;" *Cor.* v. 4. 22: "He sits in his state," etc. *In best time* is used by S. only here, though he often has "in good time."
6. *Require.* Request, ask; not in the stronger sense of "demand." Cf. *Hen. VIII.* ii. 4. 144: "In humblest manner I require your highness;" *A. and C.* iii. 12. 12: —
- "Lord of his fortunes he salutes thee, and
Requires to live in Egypt," etc.
8. *Speaks.* Says. Cf. *Oth.* v. 2. 327 and iv. 3. 154 below.
11. *Large.* Unrestrained. Cf. *A. and C.* iii. 6. 93: "large In his abominations."
- Anon.* Macbeth has just caught sight of the murderer standing at the door, and wishes to dismiss him before pledging the measure On *measure*, cf. *Oth.* ii. 3. 31.
14. *'Tis better*, etc. 'Tis better that the blood should be on thy face than in his body. If we accept this explanation, *he within* = within *him*. Cf. *A. and C.* iii. 13. 98: "So saucy with the hand of she here."
19. *Nonpareil.* S. always uses the definite article with this word, except in *Temp.* iii. 2. 108.
20. *Scap'd.* Not "'scap'd," as often printed. The word is found in prose; as in Bacon, *Adv. of L.* ii. 14. 9: "such as had scaped shipwreck." S. uses it much oftener than *escape*. Cf. the noun in *M. of V.* ii. 2. 174.
23. *Casing.* Surrounding. Cf. *Oth.* iii. 3. 464: "You elements that clip us round about."
25. *Saucy.* Formerly used in a stronger sense than now, and often = insolent, overbearing. Cf. *Oth.* i. 1. 129, *J. C.* i. 3. 12, etc.
27. *Trenched gashes.* Cf. *V. and A.* 1052: —

- "the wide wound that the boar had trench'd
In his soft flank;"
- and *T. G. of V.* iii. 2. 7: —
- "This weak impress of love is as a figure
Trenched in ice."
29. *Worm.* Frequently used by Elizabethan writers for a serpent. Cf. *M. for M.* iii. 1. 17, *M. N. D.* iii. 2. 71, *A. and C.* v. 2. 243, 256, 261, 268, etc.
32. *We'll hear ourselves again.* We'll talk the matter over again. For *ourselves* = each other, cf. *K. John*, ii. 1. 407: "Make work upon ourselves," etc.
33. *The feast is sold*, etc. It is like selling a feast, not giving it, if you do not often assure your guests that it is given gladly. *The cheer* = the usual welcome.
35. *To feed*, etc. Mere feeding had better be done at home.
36. *From thence.* Away from home. See on iii. 1. 131 above.
38. *Now good digestion*, etc. Cf. *Hen. VIII.* i. 4. 92: —
- "A good digestion to you all; and, once more,
I shower a welcome on ye. Welcome, all."
- Dr. Bucknill calls this "a somewhat physiological grace."
39. *May 't please your highness sit.* That is, *to sit*. Cf. *Hen. VIII.* i. 4. 19, etc. We have the *to* inserted after *please* just below in line 45.
40. *Roof'd.* Under one roof. S. does not use the verb *roof* in its modern sense.
41. *Grac'd.* Honoured, or honourable.
42. *Who.* See on iii. 1. 122. The passage means, "I hope I may have cause to accuse him of unkindness for his absence rather than to pity him for any mischance that may have occasioned it."
- 43-45. *His absence*, etc. Hunter remarks that it is during this speech that the ghost first becomes visible to Macbeth. He had been about to take his seat according to the invitation of Lennox,

but now, full of horror, instead of doing so, he starts back, which leads to the invitation of Ross.

Some critics have thought that it is Duncan's ghost, not Banquo's that first appears. It is said that lines 71-73 cannot apply to Banquo, who had not been buried; but the same objection may be made to the words, "thy bones are marrowless" (94), addressed to the *second* ghost. These are simply Macbeth's vivid expression of the general idea of coming back from the dead, and must not be taken literally. Macbeth was thinking and speaking of Banquo, and it is both natural and dramatically proper that his ghost, if any, should rise at the mention of his name; and the second appearance is in response to Macbeth's renewed reference to him. This view is confirmed by Dr. Forman's testimony (see p. 187).

50. *Thou canst not say I did it.* This proves that the ghost was Banquo's.

55. *Upon a thought.* Used by S. only here. It is = "with a thought," which occurs in *Temp.* iv. 1. 64, *J. C.* v. 3. 19, *A. and C.* iv. 14. 9, 1 *Hen. IV.* ii. 4. 241, etc. Cf. *K. John*, iv. 2. 175: "fly like thought;" *L. L. L.* iv. 3. 330: "as swift as thought," etc.

57. *Extend his passion.* Prolong the fit. *Passion* is used by S. of any violent commotion of the mind. Cf. iv. 3. 114 below.

60. *O proper stuff!* Ironical and contemptuous. *Proper* (= fine, pretty, etc.) is often so used. Cf. 2 *Hen. VI.* i. 1. 132: "A proper jest, and never heard before;" *Hen. VIII.* i. 1. 98: "A proper title of a peace;" *Much Ado*, i. 3. 54: "A proper squire!" On *stuff*, cf. *Temp.* ii. 1. 254: "What stuff is this?" 2 *Hen. IV.* ii. 4. 214: "Here 's goodly stuff toward!" etc.

63. *Flaws.* The word (= gust of wind) is here used figuratively; as in *M. for M.* ii. 3. 11: "the flaws of her own youth," etc.

64. *Impostors to true fear.* Impostors when compared with true fear; a not uncommon use of *to*.

66. *Authoriz'd by.* Given on the authority of. Cf. *L. C.* 104: "His rudeness so with his authoriz'd youth;" and *Sonn.* 35. 6: "Authorizing thy trespass with compare," S. uses the word in

these three places only, and in all with the accent on the second syllable.

72. *Our monuments,* etc. Cf. Spenser, *F. Q.* ii. 8, 16: —

"What herce or steed (said he) should he have dight,
But be entombd in the raven or the kight?"

76. *Human.* It is "humane" in the folios, in which the modern "human" is nowhere found. The accent is always on the first syllable, unless *W. T.* iii. 2. 166 is an exception. In Milton, the modern distinction, in meaning and accent, between *humane* and *human* is recognized. In S. it is sometimes difficult to determine which of the two senses best fits the word. *Gentle* is proleptic. Cf. i. 6. 3.

80. *There an end.* Cf. *Rich. II.* v. 1. 69.

81. *Mortal.* See on i. 5. 41; and cf. iv. 3. 3.

84. *Lack.* Miss; as in *Cor.* iv. 1. 15, *A. Y. L.* iv. 1. 182, *A. and C.* ii. 2. 172, etc.

85. *Muse.* Wonder. Cf. *T. G. of V.* i. 3. 64: "Muse not that I thus suddenly proceed," etc.

91. *To all and him,* etc. I long to drink his health and that of all; and to wish every one all good. Cf. *J. C.* iv. 3. 160, *Hen. VIII.* i. 4. 38, etc.

95. *Speculation.* Sight; or, perhaps, intelligent vision, that of a living person. Cf. *T. and C.* iii. 3. 109. The eyes are called "speculative instruments" in *Oth.* i. 3. 271.

100. *Russian bear.* Cf. *Hen. V.* iii. 7. 154.

101. *Arm'd.* "Armoured;" to use a word applied nowadays to ironclad ships of war. For *the Hyrcan tiger*, cf. 3 *Hen. VI.* i. 4. 155: "tigers of Hyrcania," and *Ham.* ii. 2. 472: "the Hyrcanian beast." In *M. of V.* ii. 7. 41, we have "Hyrcanian deserts." Hyrcania was a district south and southeast of the Caspian Sea. It has been said that English poets probably derived their ideas of Hyrcania and the tigers from Pliny's *Natural History*, but not through Holland's translation, which was not published till 1601.

It seems to me quite as likely that they had in mind Virgil's mention of the beasts in *Æn.* iv. 367: "Hyrcaenaeque admorunt ubera tigris."

104. *Dare me to the desert*, etc. Cf. *Rich.* II. i. 1. 62-66.

105. *If trembling I inhabit then*. This is the great *crux* of the play, and space would fail for enumerating the various emendations and explanations that the critics have suggested. Grant White remarks that the use of *inhabit* is "highly figurative and exceedingly rare, but neither illogical nor without example." Cf. *Psalms*, xxii. 3: "O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Steevens thinks that *inhabit* may mean "stay within doors," and cites *A. Y. L.* iii. 3. 10: "O knowledge, ill-inhabited! worse than Jove in thatched house!" (that is, ill-lodged).

106. *The baby of a girl*. A babyish girl; or, perhaps, *baby* = doll; a meaning found in Sidney, Jonson, and other writers of the time. Walker quotes Sidney, *Arcadia*: "young babes think babies [dolls] of wondrous excellency, and yet the babies are but babies;" and *Astrophel and Stella*: "Sweet babes must babies have, but shrewd [bad] girls must be beaten."

107. *Mockery*. Mimicry, delusive imitation. Cf. *Rich.* II. iv. 1. 260 and *Hen.* V. iv. prol. 53.

109. *Displac'd*. Banished. S. uses *broke* as the participle oftener than *broken*.

110. *Admir'd*. To be wondered at, strange; if it be not used ironically = admirable.

111. *Overcome*. Spread over, overshadow. Cf. Spenser, *F. Q.* iii. 7. 4: "All coverd with thick woodes that quite it overcame."

112, 113. *You make me strange*, etc. "You render me a stranger to, or forgetful of, the brave disposition which I know I possess, and make me fancy myself a coward, when I perceive that I am terrified by a sight that has not in the least alarmed you" (Malone). So Schmidt makes *disposition* here = "natural constitution of the mind." For *owe* = own, possess, see i. 3. 76, i. 4. 10, etc.

116. *Mine*. Possibly, as some explain it, referring to *ruby*, not

to *cheeks*; but S. did not always trouble himself to make his pronouns agree in number with their antecedents. He very often has a singular *relative* (or at least one used as the subject of a singular verb) with a plural antecedent; as in *Cymb.* i. 6. 117: "your graces that charms."

119. *Stand not*, etc. That is, do not be particular about retiring in the order of your rank (as court etiquette required). Cf. the first line of this scene.

123. *Stones*, etc. Mr. Paton (*Notes and Queries*, Nov. 6, 1869, cited by Furness) suggests that there may be an allusion "to the rocking stones, or 'stones of judgment,' by which it was thought the Druids tested the guilt or innocence of accused persons." There was one of these stones near Glamis Castle, and if S. visited Scotland (which is, on the whole, improbable) he may have seen it.

124. *Augurs*, etc. It is doubtful whether the word means *augurs* or *auguries*, but the latter is more probable. For *augur* in our modern sense he uses *augurer* in *J. C.* ii. 1. 200 and 2. 37, *Cor.* ii. 1. 1, *A. and C.* iv. 12. 4 and v. 2. 337. *Augur* occurs only in *Sonn.* 107. 6: "And the sad augurs mock their own presage;" and in *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, 7: "Augur of the fever's end."

125. *Magot-pies*. Magpies. Minsheu and Cotgrave both have *maggatapie*, and Middleton *magot o' pie*. Chough, according to Schmidt, is the *Corvus monedula*. Cf. *Temp.* ii. 1. 266: "I myself could make A chough of as deep chat," etc.

126. *Secret'st*. See on *kind'st*, ii. 1. 24. *What* = "in what state, how far advanced."

127. *At odds*. At variance, contesting; as in *M. W.* iii. 1. 54, *Rich.* III. ii. 1. 70, etc.

128. *How say'st thou*, etc. "What do you think of this circumstance, that Macduff refuses to come," etc. Cf. *T. G. of V.* ii. 5. 43 and *M. of V.* i. 2. 58. On *deny* = refuse, cf. *Temp.* i. 2. 80, *M. of V.* iii. 3. 26, *Rich.* II. ii. 1. 204, etc. See also iv. 1. 104 below.

130. *By the way*. Indirectly, casually.

136. *I am in blood*, etc. For the repetition of *in*, cf. *Cor.* ii. 1. 18: "In what enormity is Marcius poor in?" and *A. Y. L.* ii. 7. 139: "The scene wherein we play in." For the figure, cf. *M. N. D.* iii. 2. 47-49.

138. *As go o'er*. As to go over.

140. *Scann'd*. Examined carefully. Cf. *Ham.* iii. 3. 75 and *Oth.* iii. 3. 245.

141. *The season of all natures*. That which keeps them fresh; a figure taken from the use of salt for preserving meat, and a favourite one with S. Cf. *Much Ado*, iv. 1. 144, *T. N.* i. 1. 30, *R. and J.* ii. 3. 72, etc.

142. *Self-abuse*. Self-deception. See on ii. 1. 50.

143. *The initiate fear*. The fear of a novice, or of one who has not had "hard use" (hardening experience) in crime.

SCENE V.—This scene, in my opinion, is certainly an interpolation. See Appendix.

1. *Hecate*. For the pronunciation, see on ii. 1. 52. It is a trisyllable in 1 *Hen. VI.* iii. 2. 64. Milton makes it a dissyllable in *Comus*, 135, but a trisyllable in *Comus*, 535, the only other instance in which he uses the word.

Angerly. Angrily. Cf. *K. John*, iv. 1. 82.

7. *Close*. Secret. Cf. *R. and J.* i. 1. 155, *Cymb.* iii. 5. 86, etc.

13. *Loves*. Macbeth has not made love to the Witches; and this reference to his having done so would of itself be sufficient to prove that S. did not write the scene.

23. *The corner of the moon*. Cf. Milton, *Comus*, 1016:—

"And from thence can soar as soon
To the corners of the moon."

24. *Profound*. "Having deep or hidden qualities" (Johnson); but probably the writer used the word for the sake of the rhyme, with slight regard to the meaning.

26. *Sleights*. Artifices. The word occurs also in 3 *Hen. VI.* iv. 2. 20.

27. *Artificial*. Produced by art, or made visible by art. The word is used in the active sense (artful, working artistically) in *M. N. D.* iii. 2. 203: "like two artificial gods."

29. *Confusion*. Destruction. See on ii. 3. 50.

32. *Security*. Carelessness. Cf. *Rich. II.* iii. 2. 34, etc.

33. The folio has the stage direction, "*Sing within. Come away, come away, &c.*" It undoubtedly refers to the following "Song" in *The Witch* of Middleton:—

"Song above.

Come away, come away,

Hecate, Hecate, come away!

Hec.

I come, I come, I come, I come,

With all the speed I may,

With all the speed I may.

Where 's Stadlin?

[*Voice above.*] Here.

Hec. Where 's Puckle?

[*Voice above.*] Here;

And Hoppo too, and Hellwain too;

We lack but you, we lack but you;

Come away, make up the count.

Hec.

I will but 'noint, and then I mount.

[*A Spirit like a cat descends.*

[*Voice above.*] There 's one comes down to fetch his dues,

A kiss, a coll, a sip of blood;

And why thou stay'st so long

I muse, I muse,

Since the air 's so sweet and good.

Hec. O, art thou come?

What news, what news?

Spirit. All goes still to our delight:

Either come, or else

Refuse, refuse.

Hec. Now I 'm furnish'd for the flight.

Fire. Hark, hark, the cat sings a brave treble in her own language.

Hec. [*going up.*] Now I go, now I fly,
 Malkin my sweet spirit and I.
 O, what a dainty pleasure 't is
 To ride in the air
 When the moon shines fair,
 And sing and dance, and toy and kiss!
 Over woods, high rocks, and mountains,
 Over seas, our mistress' fountains,
 Over steep¹ towers and turrets,
 We fly by night, 'mongst troops of spirits:
 No ring of bells to our ears sounds,
 No howls of wolves, no yelps of hounds;
 No, not the noise of water's breach,
 Or cannon's throat our height can reach.

[*Voices above.*] No ring of bells," etc.

In Davenant's version of *Macbeth*, this passage is inserted, with some variations, and until the MS. of *The Witch* was discovered it was supposed to be his composition.

SCENE VI. — 1. *Have but hit your thoughts.* Have only confirmed (or agreed with) your suspicions.

2. *Only I say.* I only say. *Only* is often thus misplaced. Cf. *J. C.* v. 4. 12: "Only I yield to die," etc.

3. *Borne.* Managed, conducted. Cf. line 17 below; also 2 *Hen. IV.* iv. 4. 88, *Cor.* v. 3. 4, etc.

4. *Marry.* A corruption of *Mary*, and originally a mode of swearing by the Virgin. It is often, as here, equivalent to a monosyllable. On *of* = *by*, cf. 27 below.

8. *Who cannot want*, etc. The sense, as Malone pointed out, seems to require *can* instead of *cannot*; but it is a peculiar form of "double negative," occasionally used by S. Cf. *M. of V.* iv. 1. 161: "Let his lack of years," etc. See also *A. Y. L.* ii. 3. 12,

¹ Davenant gives "Over steeples, towers, and turrets," which is probably the true reading. In another part of the play, Hecate says "In moonlight nights, on steeple-tops," etc.

W. T. iii. 2. 55, *Cymb.* i. 4. 23, etc. *Monstrous* (which Capell printed "monstrous") is metrically a trisyllable.

10. *Fact.* Delius points out that S. uses this word only in a bad sense = an evil deed; never in the sense of reality as opposed to fiction. The only meaning Schmidt gives for the word is "evil deed, crime." It occurs in S. fourteen times: *R. of L.* 239, 349; *M. for M.* iv. 2. 141, v. 1. 439; *A. W.* iii. 7. 47; *W. T.* iii. 2. 86; 1 *Hen. VI.* iv. 1. 30; 2 *Hen. VI.* i. 3. 176, ii. 1. 173; *T. A.* iv. 1. 39; *T. of A.* iii. 5. 16; *Cymb.* iii. 2. 17; *Per.* iv. 3. 12, and the present passage. If it is a mere coincidence that the word always has this bad sense, it is curious enough to be worth noting.

13. *Thralls.* Slaves, bondmen. S. uses the noun six times, and always in this sense except in *P. P.* 266 (quite certainly not his), where it means slavery. Cf. 1 *Hen. VI.* i. 2. 117, ii. 3. 36, *Rich. III.* iv. 1. 46, and *Sonn.* 154. 12.

21. *From.* In consequence of, on account of. Cf. *Hen. VIII.* i. 2. 152, *Ham.* ii. 2. 580, etc. *Broad* = free, unrestrained. Cf. *Ham.* iii. 4. 2: "his pranks have been too broad to bear with;" *T. of A.* iii. 4. 64: "Who can speak broader than he that has no house to put his head in? Such may rail against great buildings." See also iii. 4. 23 above. *Fai'd His presence* = failed to be present. Cf. iii. 1. 27: "Fail not our feast;" *Lear*, ii. 4. 144: "Would fail her obligation," etc.

24. *Bestows himself.* See on iii. 1. 29 above.

25. *Holds.* Withholds; as in *K. John*, ii. 1. 282, *Hen. V.* ii. 4. 94, etc.

27. *The most pious Edward.* Edward the Confessor. On *of*, cf. 4 above.

30. On *upon* = "for the purpose of," cf. *Oth.* i. 1. 100, etc.

35. *Free.* Remove, do away with. Cf. *Cymb.* iii. 6. 80: "Would I could free 't!" Malone made the plausible suggestion that the line originally stood, "Our feasts and banquets free from bloody knives."

36. *Free honours.* "Either honours freely bestowed, not pur-

chased by crimes; or honours *without slavery*, without dread of a tyrant" (Johnson).

38. *Exasperate*. Cf. *T. and C.* v. i. 34: "Why art thou then exasperate?" So "consecrate" (*T. A.* i. i. 14, *M. N. D.* v. i. 422), "create" (*M. N. D.* v. i. 412), and sundry other words directly derived from Latin perfect participles. Cf. Milton, *P. L.* iii. 6: "Bright effluence of bright essence increate;" *Id.* iii. 208: "But to destruction sacred and devote," etc. Examples might be added from the poets of our own time.

41. *Cloudy*. Frowning; or, perhaps, gloomy, sullen. Cf. 2 *Hen. VI.* iii. i. 155: "cloudy brow." Sometimes it means "under a cloud," sorrowing; as in *Rich. III.* ii. 2. 112: "You cloudy princes and heart-sorrowing peers;" *R. of L.* 1084: "But cloudy Lucrece shames herself to see," etc. On the expletive use of *me*, cf. *M. of V.* i. 3. 85, ii. 2. 15, etc.

42. *As who should say*. Cf. *M. of V.* i. 2. 45, *Rich. II.* v. 4. 8, etc.

48, 49. *Our suffering country*, etc. That is, our country suffering under, etc. Cf. *Hen. VIII.* iii. i. 134: "a constant woman to her husband;" *Rich. II.* iii. i. 9: "A happy gentleman in blood and lineaments," etc. See also v. 8. 7 below: —

"thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out."



IN BIRNAM WOOD

ACT IV

SCENE I. — The *Hecate* part of this scene is doubtless spurious, as in iii. 5 above.

1. *Brinded*. Meaning the same as *brindled*, which is a "diminutive" of it. *S.* uses it only here. Milton has it twice (*P. L.* vii. 466 and *Comus*, 443), in both cases applied to the lion.

2. *Hedge-pig*. Krauth (quoted by Furness) remarks: "The urchin, or hedgehog, is nocturnal in its habits, weird in its movements; plants wither where it works, for it cuts off their roots. Fairies of one class were supposed to assume its form. *Urchin* came to mean *fairy* without reference to the hedgehog shape;