

XV.

M A C B E T H.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

DUNCAN, *King of Scotland*;
 MALCOLM, } *his Sons.*
 DONALBAIN, }
 MACBETH, } *Generals of the King's Army.*
 BANQUO, }
 MACDUFF, }
 LENOX, } *Noblemen of Scotland.*
 ROSSE, }
 MENTETH, }
 ANGUS, }
 CATHNESS, }
 FLEANCE, *Son to Banquo.*
 SIWARD, *Earl of Northumberland, General of the English Forces:*

Young SIWARD, *his Son.*
 SEYTON, *an Officer attending on Macbeth.*
 Son to Macduff.
 An English Doctor. A Scotch Doctor.
 A Soldier. A Porter. An old Man.
 LADY MACBETH.
 LADY MACDUFF.
 Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.
 HECATE, *and three Witches.*
 Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers,
 Attendants, *and Messengers.*
 The Ghost of Banquo, *and several other Apparitions.*

SCENE — *in the End of the fourth Act, lies in England; through the Rest of the Play, in Scotland; and, chiefly, at Macbeth's Castle.*

ACT I.

SCENE I. *An open Place.*

Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.

1 *Witch.*

WHEN shall we three meet again,
 In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

2 *Witch.* When the hurlyburly's done, ¹⁾

When the battle's lost and won:

3 *Witch.* That will be ere set of sun. ²⁾

1 *Witch.* Where the place?

2 *Witch.* Upon the heath:

3 *Witch.* There to meet with Macbeth.

1 *Witch.* I come, Graymalkin! ³⁾

All Paddock calls: — Anon. —

Fair is foul, and foul is fair: ⁴⁾

Hover through the fog and filthy air.

[*Witches vanish.*]

SCENE II. *A Camp near Fores.*

Alarm within. Enter King DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENOX, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding Soldier.

Dun. What bloody man is that? He can report,
 As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt
 The newest state.

Mal. This is the sergeant,
 Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought
 'Gainst my captivity: — Hail, brave friend!
 Say to the king the knowledge of the broil,
 As thou didst leave it.

Sold. Doubtfully ⁵⁾ it stood;
 As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,
 And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald
 (Worthy to be a rebel; for, to that, ⁶⁾
 The multiplying villainies of nature

Do swarm upon him,) from the western isles
 Of Kernes and Gallowglasses is supplied; ⁷⁾
 And fortune, on his damned quarrel ⁸⁾ smiling,
 Show'd like a rebel's whore: But all's too weak:
 For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name,)
 Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
 Which smok'd with bloody execution,
 Like valour's minion,
 Carv'd out his passage, till he fac'd the slave;
 And ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
 Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
 And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

Dun. O, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

Sold. As whence the sun 'gins his reflexion ⁹⁾
 Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break;
 So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to come,
 Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:
 No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,
 Compell'd these skipping Kernes to trust their heels:
 But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,
 With furbish'd arms, and new supplies of men,
 Began a fresh assault.

Dun. Dismay'd not this
 Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

Sold. Yes;
 As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion.
 If I say sooth, I must report they were
 As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks;
 So they

Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:
 Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,
 Or memorize another Golgotha,
 I cannot tell: —
 But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

Dun. So well thy words become thee, as thy
 wounds;

They smack of honour both: — Go, get him surgeons.
 [*Exit Soldier, attended.*]

Enter ROSSE.

Who comes here?

Mal. The worthy thane of Rosse.
Len. What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look,
That seems to speak things strange.

Rosse. God save the king!
Dun. Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

Rosse. From Fife, great king,
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,¹⁰
And fan our people cold.
Norway himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, 'gan a dismal conflict:
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,¹¹
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit: And, to conclude,
The victory fell on us; —

Dun. Great happiness!
Rosse. That now

Sweno, the Norway's king, craves composition;
Nor would we deign him burial of his men,
Till he disbursed, at Saint Colmes' inch,¹²
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

Dun. No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our bosom interest: — Go, pronounce his death,¹³
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Rosse. I'll see it done.

Dun. What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

A Heath.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 *Witch.* Where hast thou been, sister?

2 *Witch.* Killing swine.

3 *Witch.* Sister, where thou?

1 *Witch.* A sailor's wife had chesnuts in her lap,
And mounch'd, and mounch'd, and mounch'd: —

Give me, quoth I:

*Aroint thee, witch!*¹⁴ the rump-fed ronyon¹⁵ cries.
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'the Tiger:
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,
And, like a rat without a tail,
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

2 *Witch.* I'll give thee a wind.

1 *Witch.* Thou art kind.

3 *Witch.* And I another.

1 *Witch.* I myself have all the other;

And the very ports they blow,
All the quarters that they know
I'the shipman's card.¹⁶

I will drain him dry as hay:
Sleep shall, neither night nor day,
Hang upon his pent-house lid;
He shall live a man forbid:¹⁷

Weary sev'n-nights, nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:
Though his bark cannot be lost,
Yet it shall be tempest-toss'd.
Look what I have.

2 *Witch.* Show me, show me.

1 *Witch.* Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wreck'd, as homeward he did come. [*Drum within.*]

3 *Witch.* A drum, a drum;

Macbeth doth come.

All. The weird sisters, hand in hand,¹⁸

Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about;
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,

And thrice again, to make up nine:
Peace! the charm's wound up.

Enter MACBETH and BANQUO.

Macb. So foul and fair a day I have not seen.
Ban. How far is't call'd to Fores? — What are these,
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire;
That look not like the inhabitants o'the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her choppy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: — You should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

Macb. Speak, if you can; What are you?
1 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!¹⁹

2 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!²⁰

3 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth! that shalt be king hereafter.

Ban. Good sir, why do you start, and seem to fear
Things that do sound so fair? — I'the name of truth,
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner
You greet with present grace, and great prediction
Of noble having,²² and of royal hope,
That he seems wrapt withal;²³ to me you speak not;
If you can look into the seeds of time,
And say, which grain will grow; and which will not;
Speak then to me, who, neither beg, nor fear,
Your favours, nor your hate.

1 *Witch.* Hail!

2 *Witch.* Hail!

3 *Witch.* Hail!

1 *Witch.* Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2 *Witch.* Not so happy, yet much happier.

3 *Witch.* Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:
So, all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

1 *Witch.* Banquo, and Macbeth, all hail!

Macb. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more;
By Sinel's death,²⁴ I know, I am thane of Glamis;
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,
A prosperous gentleman; and, to be king,
Stands not within the prospect of belief,
No more than to be Cawdor. Say, from whence
You owe this strange intelligence? or why
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way
With such prophetic greeting? — Speak, I charge you.

Ban. The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,
And these are of them: Whither are they vanish'd?

Macb. Into the air: and what seem'd corporal,
melted

As breath into the wind. — 'Would they had stayed!

Ban. Were such things here, as we do speak about?
Or have we eaten of the insane root,²⁵

That takes the reason prisoner?

Macb. Your children shall be kings.

Ban. You shall be king.

Macb. And thane of Cawdor too; went it not so?

Ban. To the self-same tune, and words. Who's here?

Enter ROSSE and ANGUS.

Rosse. The king hath happily receiv'd, Macbeth,
The news of thy success: and when he reads
Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,
His wonders and his praises do contend,
Which should be thine, or his: Silenc'd with that,²⁶
In viewing o'er the rest o'the self-same day,
He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,
Nothing afeard of what thyself didst make,

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SCENE IV.

Fores. A Room in the Palace.

Flourish. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN,
LENOX, and Attendants.

Dun. Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
Those in commission yet return'd?

Mal. My liege,
They are not yet come back. But I have spoke
With one that saw him die: who did report,
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons;
Implor'd your highness' pardon; and set forth
A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him, like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death,
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd,
As 'twere a careless trifle.

Dun. There's no art,
To find the mind's construction in the face:⁴⁰
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust. — O worthiest cousin!

Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSSE, and ANGUS.

The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me: Thou art so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. 'Would thou hadst less deserv'd;
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
Might have been mine! only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

Macb. The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part
Is to receive our duties: and our duties
Are to your throne and state, children, and servants;
Which do but what they should, by doing every thing
Safe toward your love and honour.

Dun. Welcome hither:
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing. — ⁴¹ Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserv'd, nor must be known
No less to have done so, let me infold thee,
And hold thee to my heart.

Ban. There if I grow,
The harvest is your own.

Dun. My plenteous joys,
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow. — Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know,
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm; whom we name hereafter,
The prince of Cumberland: which honour must
Not, unaccompanied, invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars shall shine
On all deservers. — From hence to Inverness,⁴²
And bind us further to you.

Macb. The rest is labour, which is not us'd for you:
I'll be myself the harbinger, and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

Dun. My worthy Cawdor!

Macb. The prince of Cumberland! — ⁴³ That is
a step,

On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap, [*Aside.*
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires!
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand! yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see. [*Exit.*]

Dun. True, worthy Banquo; he is full so valiant:
And in his commendations I am fed;
It is a banquet to me. Let us after him,
Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome:
It is a peerless kinsman. [*Flourish. Exeunt.*]

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Strange images of death. As thick as tale,²⁷
Came post with post; and every one did bear
Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,
And pour'd them down before him.

Ang. We are sent,
To give thee, from our royal master, thanks;
To herald²⁸ thee into his sight, not pay thee.
Rosse. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!
For it is thine.

Ban. What, can the devil speak true?
Macb. The thane of Cawdor lives; Why do you
dress me
In borrow'd robes?

Ang. Who was the thane, lives yet;
But under heavy judgment bears that life
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was²⁹
Combin'd with Norway; or did line the rebel
With hidden help and vantage; or that with both
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not;
But treasons capital, confess'd, and prov'd,
Have overthrown him.

Macb. Glamis, and thane of Cawdor:
The greatest is behind. — Thanks for your pains. —
Do you not hope your children shall be kings,
When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me,
Promis'd no less to them?

Ban. That, trusted home,³⁰
Might yet enkindle³¹ you unto the crown,
Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths;
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
In deepest consequence. —
Cousins, a word, I pray you.

Macb. Two truths are told,³²
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. — I thank you, gentlemen. —
This supernatural soliciting³³
Cannot be ill; cannot be good: — If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,
And make my seated³⁴ heart knock at my ribs
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings:
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man,³⁵ that function
Is smother'd in surmise; and nothing is,
But what is not.³⁶

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt.

Macb. If chance will have me king, why, chance
may crown me,
Without my stir.
Ban. New honours come upon him
Like our strange garments; cleave not to their mould,
But with the aid of use.
Macb. Come what come may;
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.³⁷
Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.
Macb. Give me your favour: — ³⁸ my dull brain
was wrought
With things forgotten.³⁹ Kind gentlemen, your pains
Are register'd where every day I turn
The leaf to read them. — Let us toward the king. —
Think upon what hath chanc'd; and, at more time,
The interim having weigh'd it, let us speak
Our free hearts each to other.

Ban. Very gladly.

Macb. Till then, enough. — Come, friends.
[*Exeunt.*]

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

Inverness. *A Room in Macbeth's Castle.*

Enter Lady MACBETH, reading a letter.

Lady M. They met me in the day of success; and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves — air, into which they vanish'd. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-hailed me, Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time, with, Hail, king that shalt be! This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness; that thou mightest not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promis'd: — Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness,
To catch the nearest way: Thou would'st be great;
Art not without ambition; but without
The illness should attend it. What thou would'st
highly,

That would'st thou holily; would'st not play false,
And yet would'st wrongly win: thou'd'st have, great
Glamis,

That which cries, *Thus thou must do, if thou have it:*
And that which rather thou dost fear to do,
Than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;
And chastise with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,
Which fate and metaphysical aid do seem
To have thee crown'd withal. — What is your
tidings?

Enter an Attendant.

Atten. The king comes here to-night.

Lady M. Thou'rt mad to say it:
Is not thy master with him? who, wer't so,
Would have inform'd for preparation.

Atten. So please you, it is true; our thane is coming:
One of my fellows had the speed of him;
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.

Lady M. Give him tending.
He brings great news. The raven himself is hoarse,⁴⁶⁾
[Exit Attendant.]

That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, come, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts,⁴⁷⁾ unsex me here;
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood,
Stop up the access and passage to remorse;⁴⁸⁾
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect, and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
And pall thee⁴⁹⁾ in the dunest smoke of hell!
That my keen knife⁵⁰⁾ see not the wound it makes;
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry, *Hold, hold!* — Great Glamis! worthy
Cawdor!⁵¹⁾

Enter MACBETH.

Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!

Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

Macb. My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

Lady M. And when goes hence?

Macb. To-morrow, — as he purposes.

Lady M. O, never
Shall sun that morrow see!

Your face, my thane, is as a book, where men
May read strange matters; —⁵²⁾ To beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent
flower,

But be the serpent under it. He that's coming
Must be provided for: and you shall put
This night's great business into my despatch;
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Macb. We will speak further.

Lady M. Only look up clear;
To alter favour ever is to fear:⁵³⁾
Leave all the rest to me. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VI.

The same. Before the Castle.

Hautboys. Servants of MACBETH attending.

*Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO,
LENOX, MACDUFF, ROSSE, ANGUS, and At-
tendants.*

Dun. This castle hath a pleasant seat;⁵⁴⁾ the air
Nimble and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

Ban. This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,
By his lov'd mansionry, that the heaven's breath,
Smells wooingly here: no jutty, frieze, buttress,
Nor coigne of vantage,⁵⁵⁾ but this bird hath made
His pendent bed, and procreant cradle: Where they
Most breed and haunt, I have observ'd, the air
Is delicate.

Enter Lady MACBETH.

Dun. See, see! our honour'd hostess!
The love that follows us, sometime is our trouble,
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you,
How you shall bid God yield us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.⁵⁶⁾

Lady M. All our service
In every point twice done, and then done double,
Were poor and single business to contend
Against those honours deep and broad, wherewith
Your majesty loads our house: For those of old,
And the late dignities heap'd up to them,
We rest your hermits.⁵⁷⁾

Dun. Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We cours'd him at the heels, and had a purpose
To be his purveyor: but he rides well;
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him
To his home before us: Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to-night.

Lady M. Your servants ever⁵⁸⁾
Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs, in
compt,

To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,
Still to return your own.

Dun. Give me your hand:
Conduct me to mine host; we love him highly,
And shall continue our graces towards him.

By your leave, hostess. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VII.

The same. A Room in the Castle.

*Hautboys and torches. Enter, and pass over the
stage, a Sewer,⁵⁹⁾ and divers Servants with dishes
and service. Then enter MACBETH.*

Macb. If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: If the assassination⁶⁰⁾
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With his surcease, success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, —
We'd jump the life to come. — But, in these cases,
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: This even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek,⁶¹⁾ hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking-off:
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin, hors'd
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind. — I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself,
And falls on the other. — How now, what news?

Enter Lady⁶²⁾ MACBETH.

Lady M. He has almost supp'd; Why have you
left the chamber?

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

Lady M. Know you not, he has?

Macb. We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

Lady M. Was the hope drunk,
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time,
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour,
As thou art in desire? Would'st thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem;⁶³⁾
Letting I dare not wait upon I would,
Like the poor cat i'the adage?⁶⁴⁾

Macb. Pr'ythee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man:
Who dares do more, is none.

Lady M. What beast was it then,
That made you break this enterprize to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place,
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:

They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you. I have given suck; and know
How tender 'tis, to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.

Macb. If we should fail, — — We fail!
Lady M. But screw your courage to the sticking place,⁶⁵⁾
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep,
(Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
Soundly invite him,) his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassel so convince,⁶⁶⁾
That memory, the warder of the brain,⁶⁷⁾
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason⁶⁸⁾
A limbeck only:⁶⁹⁾ When in swinish sleep
Their drenched natures lie, as in a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
The unguarded Duncan? what not put upon
His spongy officers; who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?⁷⁰⁾

Macb. Bring forth men-children only!
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males. Will it not be receiv'd,
When we have mark'd with blood those sleepy two
Of his own chamber, and us'd their very daggers,
That they have don't?

Lady M. Who dares receive it other,
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
Upon his death?

Macb. I am settled, and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.
*[Exeunt.]*⁷¹⁾

ACT II.

SCENE I.¹⁾ *The same. Court within the Castle.*

*Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE, and a Servant with
a torch before them.*

Ban. How goes the night, boy?
Fle. The moon is down; I have not heard the clock.
Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

Fle. I take't, 'tis later, sir.
Ban. Hold, take my sword: — There's husbandry
in heaven,²⁾

Their candles are all out. — Take thee that too.
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep: Merciful powers!
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature
Gives way to in repose! —³⁾ Give me my sword; —

Enter MACBETH, and a Servant with a torch.

Who's there?
Macb. A friend.

Ban. What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed:
He hath been in unusual pleasure, and
Sent forth great largess to your offices:⁴⁾
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up⁵⁾
In measureless content.

Macb. Being unprepar'd,
Our will became the servant to defect;
Which else should free have wrought.⁶⁾

Ban. All's well.
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:
To you they have show'd some truth.

Macb. I think not of them
Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,
Would spend it in some words upon that business,
If you would grant the time.

Ban. At your kind'st leisure.
Macb. If you shall cleave to my consent, — when 'tis,⁷⁾
It shall make honour for you.

Ban. So I lose none,
In seeking to augment it, but still keep

My bosom franchis'd, and allegiance clear,
I shall be counsel'd.

Macb. Good repose, the while!

Ban. Thanks, sir; The like to you! *[Exit BANQUO.]*
Macb. Go, bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

[Exit Servant.]
Is this a dagger, which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch
thee: —

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible

To feeling, as to sight? or art thou but

A dagger of the mind; a false creation,

Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw.

Thou marshal'st me the way that I was going;

And such an instrument I was to use.

Mine eyes are made the fools o'the other senses,

Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;

And on thy blade, and dudgeon, gouts of blood,⁸⁾

Which was not so before. — There's no such thing:

It is the bloody business, which informs

Thus to mine eyes. — Now o'er the one half world

Nature seems dead,⁹⁾ and wicked dreams abuse

The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates

Pale Hecate's offerings; and wither'd murder,

Alarm'd by his sentinel, the wolf,

Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,

With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design

Moves like a ghost. — Thou sure and firm-set earth,

Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear

Thy very stones prate of my where-about,

And take the present horror from the time,

Which now suits with it. —¹⁰⁾ Whiles I threaten, he lives;

Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.¹¹⁾

[A bell rings.]
Go, and it is done; the bell invites me.

Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell,

That summons thee to heaven, or to hell. *[Exit.]*

SCENE II.

The same.

Enter Lady MACBETH.

Lady M. That which hath made them drunk, hath
made me bold:

What hath quenched them, hath given me fire: —
Hark! — Peace!

It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman,
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:

The doors are open: and the surfeited grooms
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd¹²⁾

their possets,
That death and nature do contend about them,

Whether they live, or die.

Macb. *[Within.]* Who's there? — what, ho?

Lady M. Alack! I am afraid they have awak'd,
And 'tis not done: the attempt, and not the deed,

Confounds us: — Hark! — I laid their daggers ready,
He could not miss them. — Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't. —¹²⁾ My husband?

Enter MACBETH.

Macb. I have done the deed: — Didst thou not
hear a noise?

Lady M. I heard the owl scream, and the crickets
cry.

Did not you speak?

Macb. When?

Lady M. Now.

Macb.

Lady M. Ay.

Macb. Hark! —

Who lies i'the second chamber?

Lady M.

Macb. This is a sorry sight. *[Looking on his hands.]*

Lady M. A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

Macb. There's one did laugh in his sleep, and one
cried, *murder!*

That they did wake each other; I stood and heard
them:

But they did say their prayers, and address'd them
Again to sleep.

Lady M. There are two lodg'd together.

Macb. One cried, *God bless us!* and *Amen,* the
other;

As they had seen me,¹³⁾ with these hangman's hands.

Listening their fear, I could not say, *amen,*

When they did say, *God bless us.*

Lady M. Consider it not so deeply.

Macb. But wherefore could not I pronounce, *amen?*

I had most need of blessing, and *amen*

Stuck in my throat.

Lady M. These deeds must not be thought
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

Macb. Methought, I heard a voice cry, *Sleep no
more!*

Macbeth does murder sleep, the innocent sleep;

Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care¹⁴⁾

The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,

Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,

Chief nourisher in life's feast!

Lady M. What do you mean?

Macb. Still it cried, *Sleep no more!* to all the house;

Glamis hath murder'd sleep; and therefore Cawdor

Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!¹⁵⁾

Lady M. Who was it that thus cried? Why,
worthy thane,

You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brainsickly of things: — Go, get some water,

And wash this filthy witness from your hand. —
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?

They must lie there: Go, carry them; and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.

Macb. I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;

Look on't again, I dare not.

Lady M. Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers: The sleeping, and the dead,

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood,
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,

I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt.

[Exit. Knocking within.]
Macb. Whence is that knocking?

How is't with me, when every noise appals me?

What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine eyes!

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnardine,¹⁶⁾
Making the green — one red.¹⁷⁾

Re-enter Lady MACBETH.

Lady M. My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white. *[Knock.]* I hear a knocking

At the south entry: — retire we to our chamber:
A little water clears us of this deed:

How easy is it then? Your constancy
Hath left you unattended. — *[Knock.]* Hark! more
knocking:

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion calls us,
And show us to be watchers: — Be not lost

So poorly in your thoughts.

Macb. To know my deed, — 'twere best not know
myself. *[Knock.]*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! Ay, 'would thou
could'st!¹⁸⁾

SCENE III.

The same.

Enter a Porter. *[Knocking within.]*

Porter. Here's a knocking, indeed! If a man were
porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the
key.¹⁹⁾ *[Knocking.]* Knock, knock, knock: Who's
there, i'the name of Beelzebub? Here's a farmer,

that hanged himself on the expectation of plenty:
Come in time; have napkins enough about you;

here you'll sweat for't. *[Knocking.]* Knock, knock:
Who's there, i'the other devil's name? 'Faith here's
an equivocator, that could swear in both the scales

against either scale; who committed treason enough
for God's sake, yet could not equivocate to heaven:

O, come in, equivocator. *[Knocking.]* Knock, knock,
knock: Who's there? 'Faith, here's an English tailor

come hither, for stealing out of a French hose: Come
in, tailor; here you may roast your goose. *[Knocking.]*

Knock, knock: Never at quiet! What are you? —
But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter
it no further: I had thought to have let in some of
all professions, that go the primrose way to the
everlasting bonfire. *[Knocking.]* Anon, anon; I pray
you, remember the porter. *[Opens the gate.]*

Enter MACDUFF and LENOX.

Macd. Was it so late, friend, ere you went to bed,
That you do lie so late?

Port. 'Faith, sir, we were carousing till the second
cock:²⁰⁾ and drink, sir, is a great provoker of three
things.

Macd. What three things does drink especially
provoke?

Port. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine.
Lechery, sir, it provokes, and unprovokes: it pro-
vokes the desire, but it takes away the performance:

Therefore, much drink may be said to be an equi-
vocator with lechery: it makes him and it mars him;

it sets him on, and it takes him off; it persuades
him, and disheartens him; makes him stand to, and
not stand to: in conclusion, equivocates him in a
sleep, and, giving him the lie, leaves him.

Macd. I believe, drink gave thee the lie last night.

Port. That it did, sir, i'the very throat o'me: But
I requited him for his lie; and, I think, being too
strong for him, though he took up my legs some-
time, yet I made a shift to cast him.

Macd. Is thy master stirring? —
Our knocking has awak'd him; here he comes.

Enter MACBETH.

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!

Macb. Good-morrow, both!

Macd. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Macb. Not yet.

Macd. He did command me to call timely on him;
I have almost slipp'd the hour.

Macb. I'll bring you to him.

Macd. I know, this is a joyful trouble to you;

But yet, 'tis one.

Macb. The labour we delight in, physics pain.

This is the door.

Macd. I'll make so bold to call,

For 'tis my limited service.²¹⁾ *[Exit MACDUFF.]*

Len. Goes the king²²⁾

From hence to-day?

Macb. He does: — he did appoint so.²³⁾

Len. The night has been unruly: Where we lay,
Our chimneys were blown down: and, as they say,
Lamentings heard i'the air; strange screams of death;

And prophecying, with accents terrible,
Of dire combustion, and confus'd events,

New hatch'd to the woeful time. The obscure bird
Clamour'd the livelong night: some say, the earth
Was feverous, and did shake.

Macb. 'Twas a rough night.

Len. My young remembrance cannot parallel
A fellow to it.

Re-enter MACDUFF.

Macd. O horror! horror! horror! Tongue, nor heart,
Cannot conceive, nor name thee!

Macb. Len. What's the matter?

Macd. Confusion now hath made his masterpiece!
Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o'the building.

Macb. What is't you say? the life?

Len. Mean you his majesty?

Macd. Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight
With a new Gorgon: — Do not bid me speak;
See, and then speak yourselves. — Awake! awake! —
[Exit MACBETH and LENOX.]

Ring the alarum-bell: — Murder! and treason!
Banquo, and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!

Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,
And look on death itself! — up, up, and see
The great doom's image — — Malcolm! Banquo!
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprights,
To countenance this horror! *[Bell rings.]*

Enter Lady MACBETH.

Lady M. What's the business,
That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley
The sleepers of the house? speak, speak, —

Macd. O, gentle lady,
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:
The repetition, in a woman's ear,
Would murder as it fell. — — O Banquo! Banquo!

Enter BANQUO.

Our royal master's murder'd!

Lady M. Woe, alas!

What, in our house?

Ban. Too cruel, any where. — —

Dear Duff, I pr'ythee, contradict thyself,
And say, it is not so.

Re-enter MACBETH and LENOX.

Macb. Had I but died an hour before this chance,
I had liv'd a blessed time; for, from this instant,
There's nothing serious in mortality:

All is but toys: renown, and grace, is dead!
The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees
Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.

Don. What is amiss?

Macb. You are, and do not know it:
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood
Is stopp'd; the very source of it is stopp'd.

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. O, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had done't:
Their hands and faces were all badg'd with blood,
So were their daggers, which, unwip'd, we found
Upon their pillows:

They star'd, and were distracted: no man's life
Was to be trusted with them.

Macb. O, yet I do repent me of my fury,
That I did kill them.

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

Macb. Who can be wise, amaz'd, temperate, and
furious,

Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man:
The expedition of my violent love

Out-ran the pauser reason. — Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood; ²⁴)
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature,
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,
Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers
Unmannerly breech'd with gore: ²⁵) Who could refrain,
That had a heart to love, and in that heart
Courage, to make his love known?

Lady M. Help me hence, ho!

Macd. Look to the lady.

Mal. Why do we hold our tongues,
That most may claim this argument for ours?

Don. What should be spoken here,
Where our fate, hid within an augre-hole, ²⁶)
May rush, and seize us? Let's away; our tears
Are not yet brew'd.

Mal. Nor our strong sorrow on
The foot of motion. ²⁷)

Ban. Look to the lady: —
[Lady MACBETH is carried out.]

And when we have our naked frailties hid,
That suffer in exposure, ²⁸) let us meet,
And question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:
In the great hand of God I stand; and, thence,
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice. ²⁹)

Macb. And so do I.

All. So all.
Macb. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet i'th' hall together.

All. Well contented. [Exeunt all but MAL. and DON.]

Mal. What will you do? Let's not consort with them:
To show an unfelt sorrow, is an office

Which the false man does easy: I'll to England.

Don. To Ireland, I; our separated fortune
Shall keep us both the safer: where we are,
There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood,
The nearer bloody. ³⁰)

Mal. This murderous shaft that's shot,
Hath not yet lighted; ³¹) and our safest way
Is, to avoid the aim. Therefore, to horse;

And let us not be dainty of leave-taking,
But shift away: There's warrant in that theft
Which steals itself, when there's no mercy left.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

Without the Castle.

Enter ROSSE and an old Man.

Old M. Threescore and ten I can remember well:
Within the volume of which time, I have seen
Hours dreadful, and things strange; but this sore night
Hath trifled former knowings.

Rosse. Ah, good father,
Thou see'st, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:
Is it night's predominance, or the day's shame,
That darkness does the face of earth entomb,
When living light should kiss it?

Old M. 'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last,
A falcon, tow'ring in her pride of place,
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at, and kill'd.

Rosse. And Duncan's horses, (a thing most strange
and certain,)

Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would make
War with mankind.

Old M. 'Tis said, they eat each other.

Rosse. They did so; to the amazement of mine eyes,
That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Macduff: —

Enter MACDUFF.

How goes the world, sir, now?

Macd. Why, see you not?

Rosse. Is't known, who did this more than bloody deed?

Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

Rosse. Alas, the day!

What good could they pretend? ³²)

Macd. They were suborn'd:

Malcolm, and Donalbain, the king's two sons,
Are stol'n away and fled; which puts upon them
Suspicion of the deed.

Rosse. 'Gainst nature still:
Thriftless ambition, that wilt rav'n
Thine own life's means! — Then 'tis most like,
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

Macd. He is already nam'd; and gone to Scone,
To be invested.

Rosse. Where is Duncan's body?

Macd. Carried to Colmes-kill; ³³)
The sacred storehouse of his predecessors,
And guardian of their bones.

Rosse. Will you to Scone?

Macd. No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

Rosse. Well, I will thither.

Macd. Well, may you see things well done there; —
adieu! —

Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!
Rosse. Father, farewell.

Old M. God's benison go with you; and with those
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes!

[Exeunt.]

ACT III.

SCENE I. Fores. A Room in the Palace.

Enter BANQUO.

Ban. Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all
As the weird women promis'd; and, I fear,
Thou play'st most foully for't: yet it was said,
It should not stand in thy posterity;

But that myself should be the root, and father
Of many kings. If there come truth from them,
(As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine,)

Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well,
And set me up in hope? But, hush; no more.

Senet sounded. Enter MACBETH, as King; Lady
MACBETH, as Queen; LENOX, ROSSE, LORDS, La-
dies, and Attendants.

Macb. Here's our chief guest.

Lady M. If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all things unbecoming.

Macb. To-night we hold a solemn supper, sir,
And I'll request your presence.

Ban. Let your highness
Command upon me; to the which, my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

Macb. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. We should have else desir'd your good advice
(Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,)
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.
Is't far you ride?

Ban. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the better,
I must become a borrower of the night,
For a dark hour, or twain.

Macb. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

Macb. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention: But of that to-morrow;

When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: Adieu,
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

Ban. Ay, my good lord: our time does call upon us.

Macb. I wish your horses swift, and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs.
Farewell. — [Exit BANQUO.]

Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night; to make society
The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourselves
Till supper-time alone: while then, God be with you.

[Exeunt Lady MACBETH, LORDS, LADIES, &c.]
Sirrah, a word: ¹) Attend those men our pleasure?
Atten. They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

Macb. Bring them before us. — [Exit Attendant.]

To be thus, is nothing;
But to be safely thus: — Our fears in Banquo
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature ²)
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'Tis much he dares;

And, to ³) that dauntless temper of his mind,
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
To act in safety. There is none, but he
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
My genius is rebuk'd; as, it is said,
Mark Antony's was by Cæsar. He chid the sisters,
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him; then, prophet-like,
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,
And put a barren scepter in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If it be so,
For Banquo's issue have I fil'd ⁴) my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man, ⁵)
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,
And champion me to the utterance! ⁶) — Who's
there? —

Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers.

Now to the door, ⁷) and stay there till we call. [Exit Attendant.]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

1 Mur. It was, so please your highness.

Macb. Well then, now
Have you considered of my speeches? Know,
That it was he, in the times past, which held you
So under fortune; which, you thought, had been
Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference; pass'd in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand; ⁸) how cross'd; the
instruments;

Who wrought with them; and all things else, that might,
To half a soul, and a notion craz'd,
Say, Thus did Banquo.

1 Mur. You made it known to us.

Macb. I did so; and went further, which is now

Our point of second meeting. Do you find
Your patience so predominant in your nature,
That you can let this go? Are you so gossell'd, ⁹)
To pray for this good man, and for his issue,
Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,
And beggar'd yours for ever?

1 Mur. We are men, my liege.

Macb. Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;
As hounds, and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,
Shoughs, ¹⁰) water-rugs, and demi-wolves are cleped
All by the name of dogs: the valued file ¹¹)
Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,
The house-keeper, the hunter, every one
According to the gift which bounteous nature
Hath in him clos'd; whereby he does receive
Particular addition, from the bill
That writes them all alike: and so of men.
Now, if you have a station in the file,
And not in the worst rank of manhood, say it;
And I will put that business in your bosoms,
Whose execution takes your enemy off;
Grapples you to the heart and love of us,
Who wear our health but sickly in his life,
Which in his death were perfect.

2 Mur. I am one, my liege,
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world
Have so incens'd, that I am reckless what
I do, to spite the world.

1 Mur. And I another,
So weary with disasters, tugg'd with fortune,
That I would set my life on any chance,
To mend it, or be rid on't.

Macb. Both of you
Know, Banquo was your enemy.

2 Mur. True, my lord.

Macb. So is he mine; and in such bloody distance, ¹²)
That every minute of his being thrusts
Against my near'st of life: And though I could
With bare-fac'd power sweep him from my sight,
And bid my will avouch it; yet I must not,
For certain friends ¹³) that are both his and mine,
Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall
Whom I myself struck down: and thence it is,
That I to your assistance do make love;
Masking the business from the common eye,
For sundry weighty reasons.

2 Mur. We shall, my lord,
Perform what you command us.

1 Mur. Though our lives — —
Macb. Your spirits shine through you. Within this
hour at most,

I will advise you where to plant yourselves.
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o'the time,
The moment on't; ¹⁴) for't must be done to-night,
And something from the palace; always thought,
That I require a clearness; ¹⁵) And with him,
(To leave no rubs, nor botches, in the work,)
Fleance his son, that keeps him company,
Whose absence is no less material to me
Than is his father's, must embrace the fate
Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart;
I'll come to you anon.

2 Mur. We are resolv'd, my lord.

Macb. I'll call upon you straight; abide within.
It is concluded: — Banquo, thy soul's flight,
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

The same. Another Room.

Enter Lady MACBETH and a Servant.

Lady M. Is Banquo gone from court?

Serv. Ay, madam, but returns again to-night.

Lady M. Say to the king, I would attend his leisure
For a few words.

Serv. Madam, I will.

Lady M. Nought's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content:
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy,
Than by destruction, dwell in doubtful joy.

Enter MACBETH.

How now, my lord? why do you keep alone,
Of sorriest fancies¹⁶ your companions making?
Using those thoughts, which should indeed have died
With them they think on? Things without remedy,¹⁷
Should be without regard: what's done, is done.

Macb. We have scotch'd¹⁸ the snake, not kill'd it;
She'll close, and be herself; whilst our poor malice
Remains in danger of her former tooth.

But let

The frame of things disjoint, both the worlds suffer,¹⁹
Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep
In the affliction of these terrible dreams,
That shake us nightly; Better be with the dead,
Whom we, to gain our place, have sent to peace,
Than on the torture of the mind to lie
In restless ecstasy.²⁰ Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further!

Lady M. Come on;

Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks;
Be bright and jovial 'mong your guests to-night.

Macb. So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:
Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;
Present him eminence,²¹ both with eye and tongue:
Unsafe the while, that we²²
Must lave our honours in these flattering streams;
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.

Lady M. You must leave this.

Macb. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know'st, that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.
Lady M. But in them nature's copy's not eterne.²³
Macb. There's comfort yet; they are assailable;
Then be thou jocund: Ere the bat hath flown
His cloister'd flight; ere, to black Hecate's summons,
The shard-borne beetle,²⁴ with his drowsy hums,
Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done
A deed of dreadful note.

Lady M. What's to be done?

Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,
Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night,²⁵
Skarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;
And, with thy bloody and invisible hand,
Cancel, and tear to pieces, that great bond
Which keeps me pale!—Light thickens; and the crow
Makes wing to the rooky wood:
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;
Whiles night's black agents to their prey do rouse.²⁶
Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still;
Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill:
So, prythee, go with me.

SCENE III.

*The same. A Park or Lawn, with a Gate leading
to the Palace.*

Enter three Murderers.

1 Mur. But who did bid thee join with us?

3 Mur. Macbeth.

2 Mur. He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers
Our offices, and what we have to do,
To the direction just.

1 Mur. Then stand with us.

The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day.
Now spurs the lated²⁷ traveller apace,
To gain the timely inn; and near approaches
The subject of our watch.

3 Mur. Hark! I hear horses.

Ban. [Within.] Give us a light there, ho!

2 Mur. Then it is he; the rest
That are within the note of expectation,²⁸
Already are i'the court.

1 Mur. His horses go about.

3 Mur. Almost a mile: but he does usually,
So all men do, from hence to the palace gate
Make it their walk.

*Enter BANQUO and FLEANCE; a Servant, with
a torch preceding them.*

2 Mur. A light, a light!

3 Mur. 'Tis he.

1 Mur. Stand to't.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1 Mur. Let it come down. [Assaults BANQUO.]

Ban. O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly;
Thou may'st revenge. — O slave!

[Dies. FLEANCE and Servant escape.²⁹]

3 Mur. Who did strike out the light?

1 Mur. Was't not the way?³⁰

3 Mur. There's but one down; the son is fled.

2 Mur. We have lost best half of our affair.

1 Mur. Well, let's away, and say how much is done.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

A Room of State in the Palace.

*A Banquet prepared. Enter MACBETH, Lady MAC-
BETH, ROSSE, LENOX, LORDS, and Attendants.*

Macb. You know your own degrees, sit down: at first
And last, the hearty welcome.

Lords. Thanks to your majesty

Macb. Ourselves will mingle with society,

And play the humble host.

Our hostess keeps her state;³¹ but, in best time,
We will require her welcome.

Lady M. Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends;
For my heart speaks, they are welcome.

Enter first Murderer, to the door.

Macb. See, they encounter thee with their hearts'
thanks: —

Both sides are even: Here I'll sit i'the midst:
Be large in mirth; anon, we'll drink a measure
The table round. — There's blood upon thy face.

Mur. 'Tis Banquo's then.

Macb. 'Tis better thee without, than he within.

Is he dispatch'd?

Mur. My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.

Macb. Thou art the best o'the cut throats: Yet
he's good

That did the like for Fleance: if thou did'st it,
Thou art the nonpareil.

Mur. Most royal sir,

Fleance is 'scap'd.

Macb. Then comes my fit again: I had else been
perfect;

Whole as the marble, founded as the rock;
As broad, and general, as the casing air:
But now, I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

Mur. Ay, my good lord; safe in a ditch he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes³² on his head;
The least a death to nature.

Macb. Thanks for that: —

There the grown serpent lies; the worm, that's fled,
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,
No teeth for the present. — Get thee gone; to-morrow
We'll hear ourselves again.

Lady M. My royal lord,
You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold,³³
That is not often vouch'd, while 'tis a making,
'Tis given with welcome: To feed, were best at home;
From thence, the sauce to meat is ceremony,
Meeting were bare without it.

Macb. Sweet remembrancer! —
Now, good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both!

Len. May it please your highness sit?
[The Ghost of BANQUO rises, and sits in MACBETH'S place.]

Macb. Here had we now our country's honour roof'd,
Were the grac'd person of our Banquo present;
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness,
Than pity for mischance!

Rosse. His absence, sir,
Lays blame upon his promise. Please it your highness
To grace us with your royal company?

Macb. The table's full.

Len. Here's a place reserv'd, sir.

Macb. Where?

Len. Here, my lord.³⁴ What is't that moves
your highness?

Macb. Which of you have done this?

Lords. What, my good lord?

Macb. Thou can'st not say, I did it: never shake
Thy gory locks at me.

Rosse. Gentlemen, rise; his highness is not well.

Lady M. Sir, worthy friends: — my lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth: 'pray you, keep seat;
The fit is momentary; upon a thought³⁵

He will again be well; If much you note him,
You shall offend him, and extend his passion;
Feed, and regard him not. — Are you a man?

Macb. Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.

Lady M. O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear:
This is the air-drawn dagger, which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws, and starts,
(Impostors to true fear) would well become³⁶

A woman's story, at a winter's fire,
Authoriz'd by her grandam. Shame itself!

Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

Macb. Prythee, see there! behold! look! lo! how
say you?

Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too. —
If charnel-houses, and our graves, must send
Those that we bury, back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites. [Ghost disappears.]

Lady M. What! quite unmann'd in folly?

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady M. Fye, for shame!

Macb. Blood hath been shed ere now, i'the olden time,
Ere human statute purg'd the gentle weal;³⁷

Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end: but now, they rise again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: This is more strange
Than such a murder is.

Lady M. My worthy lord,
Your noble friends do lack you.

Macb. I do forget: —
Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends;
I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing
To those that know me. Come, love and health to all;

Then I'll sit down: — Give me some wine, fill
full: —

I drink to the general joy of the whole table

Ghost rises.

And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss;
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,³⁸
And all to all.³⁹

Lords. Our duties and the pledge.

Macb. Avaunt! and quit my sight! Let the earth
hide thee!

Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with!

Lady M. Think of this, good peers,
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

Macb. What man dare, I dare:

Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger,
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble: Or, be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling I inhibit⁴⁰ thee, protest me
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!

[Ghost disappears.]

Unreal mockery, hence! — Why so; — being gone,
I am a man again. — Pray you, sit still.

Lady M. You have displac'd the mirth, broke the
good meeting,

With most admir'd disorder.

Macb. Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer's cloud,
Without our special wonder?⁴¹ You make me strange
Even to the disposition that I owe,⁴²

When now I think you can behold such sights,
And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks,
When mine are blanch'd with fear.

Rosse. What sights, my lord?
Lady M. I pray you, speak not; he grows worse
and worse;

Question enrages him: at once, good night: —
Stand not upon the order of your going,
But go at once.

Len. Good night, and better health
Attend his majesty!

Lady M. A kind good night to all!
[Exeunt Lords and Attendants.]

Macb. It will have blood; they say, blood will
have blood:

Stones have been known to move, and trees to speak,
Augurs, and understood relations,⁴³ have
By magot-pies, and choughs, and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. — What is the night?

Lady M. Almost at odds with morning, which is
which.

Macb. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies his
person,
At our great bidding?⁴⁴

Lady M. Did you send to him, sir?
Macb. I hear it by the way; but I will send:
There's not a one of them, but in his house
I keep a servant fee'd. I will to-morrow,
(Betimes I will,) unto the weird sisters,
More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know,
By the worst means, the worst: for mine own good,
All causes shall give way; I am in blood
Stept in so far, that should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er:
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;
Which must be acted, ere they may be scann'd.⁴⁵

Lady M. You lack the season of all natures, sleep.⁴⁶

Macb. Come, we'll to sleep: My strange and self-abuse

Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use: —
We are yet but young indeed.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

The Heath.

Thunder. Enter HECATE, meeting the three Witches.

1 *Witch.* Why, how now, Hecate? you look angrily.
Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are,
Saucy, and over-bold? How did you dare
To trade and traffic with Macbeth,
In riddles and affairs of death:
And I, the mistress of your charms,
The close contriver of all harms,
Was never call'd to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?
And, which is worse, all you have done,
Hath been but for a wayward son,
Spiteful, and wrathful; who, as others do,
Loves for his own ends, not for you.
But make amends now: Get you gone,
And at the pit of Acheron
Meet me i'the morning; thither he
Will come to know his destiny.
Your vessels, and your spells, provide,
Your charms, and every thing beside:
I am for the air; this night I'll spend
Unto a dismal-fatal end.⁴⁷⁾
Great business must be wrought ere noon:
Upon the corner of the moon
There hangs a vaporous drop profound;⁴⁸⁾
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:
And that, distill'd by magic slights,⁴⁹⁾
Shall raise such artificial sprights,
As, by the strength of their illusion,
Shall draw him on to his confusion:
He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear:
And you all know, security
Is mortal's chiefest enemy.

Song. [Within.] *Come away, come away, &c.*
Hark, I am call'd; my little spirit, see,
Sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me.

[*Exit.*]

1 *Witch.* Come, let's make haste: she'll soon be
back again.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.

Fores. A Room in the Palace.

Enter LENOX, and another Lord.

Len. My former speeches have but hit your thoughts,
Which can interpret further: only, I say,
Things have been strangely borne: The gracious
Duncan
Was pitied of Macbeth: — marry, he was dead: —
And the right valiant Banquo walk'd too late;
Whom, you may say, if it please you, Fleance kill'd,
For Fleance fled. Men must not walk too late.
Who cannot want the thought, how monstrous
It was for Malcolm, and for Donalbain,
To kill their gracious father? damned fact!
How it did grieve Macbeth! did he not straight,
In pious rage, the two delinquents tear,
That were the slaves of drink, and thralls of sleep:
Was not that nobly done? Ay, and wisely too;
For 'twould have anger'd any heart alive,
To hear the men deny it. So that, I say,
He has borne all things well: and I do think,
That, had he Duncan's son under his key,
(As, an't please heaven, he shall not,) they should find
What 'twere to kill a father; so should Fleance.
But, peace! — for from broad words, and 'cause he fail'd

His presence at the tyrant's feast, I hear,
Macduff lives in disgrace: Sir, can you tell
Where he bestows himself?

Lord. The son of Duncan,
From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth,
Lives in the English court; and is receiv'd
Of the most pious Edward with such grace,
That the malevolence of fortune nothing
Takes from his high respect: Thither Macduff
Is gone to pray the holy king, on his aid⁵⁰⁾
To wake Northumberland, and warlike Siward:
That, by the help of these, (with Him above
To ratify the work,) we may again
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights;
Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives;⁵¹⁾
Do faithful homage, and receive free honours,⁵²⁾
All which we pine for now: And this report
Hath so exasperate the king,⁵³⁾ that he
Prepares for some attempt of war.

Len. Sent he to Macduff?
Lord. He did: and with an absolute, *Sir, not I,*
The cloudy messenger turns me his back,
And hums; as who should say, *You'll rue the time
That clogs me with this answer.*

Len. And that well might
Advise him to a caution, to hold what distance
His wisdom can provide. Some holy angel
Fly to the court of England, and unfold
His message ere he come; that a swift blessing
May soon return to this our suffering country
Under a hand accurs'd!

Lord. My prayers with him!⁵⁴⁾ [*Exeunt.*]

ACT IV.

SCENE I. *A dark Cave. In the middle, a
Cauldron boiling.*

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 *Witch.* Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd,
2 *Witch.* Thrice; and once the hedge-pig whin'd.
3 *Witch.* Harper cries: — ¹⁾ 'Tis time, 'tis time.
1 *Witch.* Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw. — —
Toad, that under coldest stone,
Days and nights hast thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i'the charmed pot!
All. Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.
2 *Witch.* Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt, and toe of frog,
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.
All. Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.
3 *Witch.* Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf;
Witches' mummy; maw, and gulf,²⁾
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark;³⁾
Root of hemlock, digg'd i'the dark;
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat, and slips of yew,
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;⁴⁾
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips:⁵⁾
Finger of birth-strangled babe,
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:

Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,⁶⁾
For the ingredients of our cauldron.
All. Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.
2 *Witch.* Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.

Enter HECATE, and the other three Witches.

Hec. O, well done! I commend your pains;
And every one shall share i'the gains.
And now about the cauldron sing,
Like elves and fairies in a ring,
Enchanting all that you put in.

Song.

*Black spirits and white,
Red spirits and grey;
Mingle, mingle, mingle,
You that mingle may.*

2 *Witch.* By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes: —
Open, locks, whoever knocks.

Enter MACBETH.

Macb. How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags?
What is't you do?

All. A deed without a name.
Macb. I conjure you, by that which you profess,
(How'er you come to know it,) answer me:
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches: though the yesty waves⁷⁾
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodg'd⁸⁾ and trees blown down;
Though castles topple⁹⁾ on their warders' heads;
Though palaces, and pyramids, do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure
Of nature's germins¹⁰⁾ tumble all together,
Even till destruction sicken, answer me
To what I ask you.

1 *Witch.* Speak.

2 *Witch.* Demand.

3 *Witch.* We'll answer.

1 *Witch.* Say, if thou'd'st rather hear it from our
mouths,

Or from our masters'?

Macb. Call them, let me see them.
1 *Witch.* Pour in sow's blood, that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease, that's sweaten
From the murderer's gibbet, throw
Into the flame.

All. Come, high, or low;
Thyself, and office, deftly¹¹⁾ show.

Thunder. An Apparition of an armed Head rises.¹²⁾

Macb. Tell me, thou unknown power, — —
1 *Witch.* He knows thy thought;
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Mac-
duff;
Beware the thane of Fife. — Dismiss me: — Enough.

[*Descends.*]

Macb. What-e'er thou art, for thy good caution,
thanks;
Thou hast harp'd¹³⁾ my fear aright: — But one
word more: —

1 *Witch.* He will not be commanded: Here's an-
other,
More potent than the first.

Thunder. An Apparition of a bloody Child rises.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! —
Macb. Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

App. Be bloody, bold,
And resolute; laugh to scorn the power of man,
For none of woman born shall harm Macbeth. [*Descends.*]
Macb. Then live, Macduff; What need I fear of thee?
But yet, I'll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;
That I may tell pale-hearted fear, it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder. — What is this,

*Thunder. An Apparition of a Child crowned,
with a Tree in his Hand, rises.*

That rises like the issue of a king;
And wears upon his baby brow the round
And top of sovereignty?

All. Listen, but speak not.¹⁴⁾
App. Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him. [*Descends.*]

Macb. That will never be;
Who can impress the forest;¹⁵⁾ bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? sweet bodements! good!
Rebellious head, rise never till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and our high-plac'd Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath
To time, and mortal custom. — Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing; Tell me, (if your art
Can tell so much,) shall Banquo's issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?

All. Seek to know no more.

Macb. I will be satisfied: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know: —
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise¹⁶⁾ is
this? [*Hautboys.*]

1 *Witch.* Show! 2 *Witch.* Show! 3 *Witch.* Show!
All. Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;
Come like shadows, so depart.

*Eight Kings appear, and pass over the Stage in
order; the last with a Glass in his Hand;
BANQUO following.*

Macb. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo; down!
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls: — And thy
hair,¹⁷⁾

Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first: —
A third is like the former: — Filthy hags!
Why do you show me this? — A fourth? — Start, eyes!
What! will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?¹⁸⁾
Another yet? — A seventh? — I'll see no more: —
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass,
Which shows me many more; and some I see,
That two-fold balls and treble scepter carry:¹⁹⁾
Horrible sight! — Ay, now,²⁰⁾ I see, 'tis true;
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo²¹⁾ smiles upon me,
And points at them for his. — What, is this so?

1 *Witch.* Ay, sir, all this is so: — But why
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly? —
Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprights,²²⁾
And show the best of our delights;
I'll charm the air to give a sound,
While you perform your antique round:
That this great king may kindly say,
Our duties did his welcome pay.

[*Music. The Witches dance, and vanish.*]

Macb. Where are they? Gone? — Let this per-
nicious hour
Stand aye accursed in the calendar! —
Come in, without there!

Enter LENOX.

Len. What's your grace's will?
Macb. Saw you the weird sisters?

Len. No, my lord.
Macb. Came they not by you?
Len. No, indeed, my lord.
Macb. Infected be the air whereon they ride;
 And damn'd, all those that trust them! — I did hear
 The galloping of horse: Who was't came by?
Len. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word,
 Macduff is fled to England.
Macb. Fled to England?
Len. Ay, my good lord.
Macb. Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits:
 The flighty purpose never is o'ertook,
 Unless the deed go with it: From this moment,
 The very firstlings of my heart shall be
 The firstlings of my hand. And even now
 To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and done:
 The castle of Macduff I will surprise;
 Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o'the sword
 His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
 That trace his line.²³⁾ No boasting like a fool;
 This deed I'll do, before this purpose cool:
 But no more sights! — Where are these gentlemen?
 Come, bring me where they are. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.

Fife. *A Room in Macduff's Castle.**Enter Lady MACDUFF, her Son, and ROSS.**L. Macd.* What had he done, to make him fly the land?*Rosse.* You must have patience, madam.*L. Macd.* He had none:
 His flight was madness: When our actions do not,
 Our fears do make us traitors.*Rosse.* You know not,
 Whether it was his wisdom, or his fear.*L. Macd.* Wisdom! to leave his wife, to leave his babes,

His mansion, and his titles, in a place
 From whence himself does fly? He loves us not;
 He wants the natural touch;²⁴⁾ for the poor wren,
 The most diminutive of birds, will fight,
 Her young ones in her nest, against the owl.
 All is the fear, and nothing is the love;
 As little is the wisdom, where the flight
 So runs against all reason.

Rosse. My dearest coz',
 I pray you, school yourself: But, for your husband,
 He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
 The fits o'the season.²⁵⁾ I dare not speak much further:
 But cruel are the times, when we are traitors,
 And do not know ourselves;²⁶⁾ when we hold rumour²⁷⁾

From what we fear, yet know not what we fear;
 But float upon a wild and violent sea,
 Each way, and move. — I take my leave of you:
 Shall not be long, but I'll be here again:
 Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upward
 To what they were before. — My pretty cousin,
 Blessing upon you!

L. Macd. Father'd he is, and yet he's fatherless.
Rosse. I am so much a fool; should I stay longer,
 It would be my disgrace, and your discomfort:
 I take my leave at once. *[Exit Rosse.]*

L. Macd. Sirrah, your father's dead;
 And what will you do now? How will you live?
Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Macd. What, with worms and flies?
Son. With what I get, I mean, and so do they.

L. Macd. Poor bird! thou'dst never fear the net,
 nor lime,
 The pit-fall, nor the gin.

Son. Why should I, mother? Poor birds they are
 not set for.

My father is not dead, for all your saying.

L. Macd. Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do for
 a father?

Son. Nay, how will you do for a husband?

L. Macd. Why, I can buy me twenty at any market.
Son. Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.

L. Macd. Thou speak'st with all thy wit; and yet
 i'faith,

With wit enough for thee.

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Macd. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

L. Macd. Why, one that swears and lies.

Son. And be all traitors, that do so?

L. Macd. Every one that does so, is a traitor, and
 must be hanged.

Son. And must they all be hanged, that swear and lie?

L. Macd. Every one.

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Macd. Why, the honest men.

Son. Then the liars and swearers are fools: for
 there are liars and swearers enough to beat the
 honest men, and hang up them.

L. Macd. Now God help thee, poor monkey!

But how wilt thou do for a father?

Son. If he were dead, you'd weep for him: if you
 would not, it were a good sign that I should quickly
 have a new father.

L. Macd. Poor prattler! how thou talk'st.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,
 Though in your state of honour I am perfect.²⁸⁾
 I doubt, some danger does approach you nearly:
 If you will take a homely man's advice,
 Be not found here; hence, with your little ones.
 To fright you thus, methinks, I am too savage;
 To do worse to you, were fell cruelty,
 Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you!
 I dare abide no longer. *[Exit Messenger.]*

L. Macd. Whither should I fly?

I have done no harm. But I remember now
 I am in this earthly world; where to do harm,
 Is often laudable; to do good, sometime,
 Accounted dangerous folly: Why then, alas!
 Do I put up that womanly defence,
 To say, I have done no harm? — What are
 these faces?

Enter Murderers.

Mur. Where is your husband?

L. Macd. I hope, in no place so unsanctified,
 Where such as thou may'st find him.

Mur. He's a traitor.

Son. Thou ly'st, thou shag-ear'd villain.

Mur. What, you egg? *[Stabbing him.]*
 Young fry of treachery?

Son. He has killed me, mother;
 Run away, I pray you. *[Dies.]*

*[Exit Lady MACDUFF, crying murder, and pursued
 by the Murderers.]*

SCENE III.

England. *A Room in the King's Palace.**Enter MALCOLM and MACDUFF.*

Mal. Let us seek out some desolate shade, and there
 Weep our sad bosoms empty.

Macd. Let us rather
 Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men,

Bestride our down-fall'n birthdom:²⁹⁾ Each new morn,
 New widows howl; new orphans cry; new sorrows
 Strike heaven on the face, that it resounds
 As if it felt with Scotland, and yell'd out
 Like syllable of dolour.

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail;
 What know, believe; and, what I can redress,
 As I shall find the time to friend,³⁰⁾ I will.
 What you have spoke, it may be so, perchance.
 This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues,
 Was once thought honest: you have lov'd him well;
 He hath not touch'd you yet. I am young, but
 something

You may deserve of him through me; and wisdom³¹⁾
 To offer a weak, poor, innocent lamb,
 To appease an angry God.

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is.

A good and virtuous nature may recoil,
 In an imperial charge.³²⁾ But crave your pardon;³³⁾
 That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose:
 Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell:
 Though all things foul³⁴⁾ would wear the brows
 of grace,

Yet grace must still look so.

Macd. I have lost my hopes.

Mal. Perchance, even there, where I did find my
 doubts.

Why in that rawness³⁵⁾ left you wife, and child,
 (Those precious motives, those strong knots of love,)
 Without leave-taking? — I pray you,
 Let not my jealousies be your dishonours,
 But mine own safeties: — You may be rightly just,
 Whatever I shall think.

Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country!
 Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,
 For goodness dares not check thee! wear thou thy
 wrongs,

Thy title is affeer'd! —³⁶⁾ Fare thee well, lord:
 I would not be the villain that thou think'st
 For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp,
 And the rich East to boot.

Mal. Be not offended:

I speak not as in absolute fear of you.
 I think, our country sinks beneath the yoke;
 It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash
 Is added to her wounds: I think, withal,
 There would be hands uplifted in my right;
 And here, from gracious England, have I offer
 Of goodly thousands: But, for all this,
 When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head,
 Or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country
 Shall have more vices than it had before;
 More suffer, and more sundry ways than ever,
 By him that shall succeed.

Macd. What should he be?

Mal. It is myself I mean: in whom I know
 All the particulars of vice so grafted,
 That, when they shall be open'd, black Macbeth
 Will seem as pure as snow; and the poor state
 Esteem him as a lamb, being compar'd
 With my confineless harms.

Macd. Not in the legions
 Of horrid hell, can come a devil more damn'd
 In evils, to top Macbeth.

Mal. I grant him bloody,
 Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,
 Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin
 That has a name: But there's no bottom, none,
 In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,
 Your matrons, and your maids, could not fill up
 The cistern of my lust; and my desire
 All continent impediments would o'er-bear,

That did oppose my will: Better Macbeth,
 Than such a one to reign.

Macd. Boundless intemperance
 In nature is a tyranny; it hath been
 The untimely emptying of the happy throne,
 And fall of many kings. But fear not yet
 To take upon you what is yours: you may
 Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,
 And yet seem cold, the time you may so hood-wink.
 We have willing dames enough; there cannot be
 That vulture in you, to devour so many
 As will to greatness dedicate themselves,
 Finding it so inclin'd.

Mal. With this, there grows,
 In my most ill-compos'd affection, such
 A stanchless avarice, that, were I king,
 I should cut off the nobles for their lands;
 Desire his jewels, and this other's house:
 And my more-having would be as a sauce
 To make me hunger more; That I should forge
 Quarrels unjust against the good, and loyal,
 Destroying them for wealth.

Macd. This avarice
 Sticks deeper; grows with more pernicious root
 Than summer-seeding lust:³⁷⁾ and it hath been
 The sword of our slain kings: Yet do not fear;
 Scotland hath foysons³⁸⁾ to fill up your will,
 Of your mere own: All these are portable,³⁹⁾
 With other graces weigh'd.

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming graces,
 As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,
 Bounty, persévérance, mercy, lowliness,
 Devotion, patience, courage, fortitude,
 I have no relish of them; but abound
 In the division of each several crime,
 Acting it many ways. Nay, had I power, I should
 Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell,
 Uproar the universal peace, confound
 All unity on earth.

Macd. O Scotland! Scotland!

Mal. If such a one be fit to govern, speak:
 I am as I have spoken.

Macd. Fit to govern!

No, not to live. — O nation miserable,
 With an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter'd,
 When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again?
 Since that the truest issue of thy throne
 By his own interdiction stands accurs'd,
 And does blaspheme his breed? — Thy royal father
 Was a most sainted king: the queen, that bore thee,
 Oftner upon her knees than on her feet,
 Died every day she lived. Fare thee well!
 These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,
 Have banished me from Scotland. — O, my breast,
 Thy hope ends here!

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,
 Child of integrity, hath from my soul
 Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts
 To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth
 By many of these trains hath sought to win me
 Into his power; and modest wisdom plucks me
 From over-credulous haste:⁴⁰⁾ But God above
 Deal between thee and me! for even now
 I put myself to thy direction, and
 Unspeak mine own detraction; here abjure
 The taints and blames I laid upon myself,
 For strangers to my nature. I am yet
 Unknown to woman; never was forsworn;
 Scarcely have coveted what was mine own;
 At no time broke my faith; would not betray
 The devil to his fellow; and delight
 No less in truth, than life: my first false speaking
 Was this upon myself: What I am truly,

Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:
Whither, indeed, before thy here-approach,
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,
All ready at a point, was setting forth:
Now we'll together; and the chance, of goodness,
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?
Macd. Such welcome and unwelcome things at once,
'Tis hard to reconcile.

Enter a Doctor.

Mal. Well; more anon. — Comes the king forth,
I pray you?
Doct. Ay, sir; there are a crew of wretched souls,
That stay his cure: their malady convinces ⁴¹⁾
The great assay of art; but, at his touch,
Such sanctity hath heaven given in his hand,
They presently amend.

Mal. I thank you, doctor. [*Exit Doctor.*]
Macd. What's the disease he means?

Mal. 'Tis call'd the evil:
A most miraculous work in this good king:
Which often, since my here-remain in England,
I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven,
Himself best knows: but strangely-visited people,
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,
The mere despair of surgery, he cures; ⁴²⁾
Hanging a golden stamp ⁴³⁾ about their necks,
Put on with holy prayers: and 'tis spoken,
To the succeeding royalty he leaves
The healing benediction. With this strange virtue,
He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;
And sundry blessings hang about his throne,
That speak him full of grace.

Enter Rosse.

Macd. See, who comes here?
Mal. My countryman; but yet I know him not. ⁴⁴⁾
Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.
Mal. I know him now: Good God, betimes remove
The means that make us stranger!

Rosse. Sir, Amen.
Macd. Stands Scotland where it did?
Rosse. Alas, poor country;
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot
Be call'd our mother, but our grave: where nothing,
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;
Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks that rent
the air,
Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems
A modern ecstasy; the dead man's knell
Is there scarce ask'd, for who; and good men's lives
Expire before the flowers in their caps,
Dying, or ere they sicken.

Macd. O, relation,
Too nice, and yet too true!

Mal. What is the newest grief?
Rosse. That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker;
Each minute teems a new one.

Macd. How does my wife?
Rosse. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?
Rosse. Well too.

Macd. The tyrant has not batter'd at their peace?
Rosse. No; they were well at peace, when I did leave
them.

Macd. Be not a niggard of your speech; How
goes it?

Rosse. When I came hither to transport the tidings,
Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumour
Of many worthy fellows that were out;
Which was to my belief witness'd the rather,
For that I saw the tyrant's power a-foot:

Now is the time of help; your eye in Scotland
Would create soldiers, make our women fight,
To doff their dire distresses.

Mal. Be it their comfort,
We are coming thither: gracious England hath
Lent us good Siward, and ten thousand men;
An older, and a better soldier, none
That Christendom gives out.

Rosse. 'Would I could answer
This comfort with the like! But I have words,
That would be howl'd out in the desert air,
Where hearing should not latch them. ⁴⁵⁾

Macd. What concern they?
The general cause? or is it a fee-grief, ⁴⁶⁾
Due to some single breast?

Rosse. No mind, that's honest,
But in it shares some woe; though the main part
Pertains to you alone.

Macd. If it be mine,
Keep it not from me, quickly let me have it.

Rosse. Let not your ears despise my tongue for
ever,

Which shall possess them with the heaviest sound,
That ever yet they heard.

Macd. Humph! I guess at it.
Rosse. Your castle is surpriz'd; your wife, and
babes,

Savagely slaughter'd: to relate the manner,
Were, on the quarry of these murder'd deer, ⁴⁷⁾
To add the death of you.

Mal. Merciful heaven!
What, man! ne'er pull your hat upon your brows;
Give sorrow words: the grief, that does not speak,
Whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it break.

Macd. My children too?
Rosse. Wife, children, servants, all
That could be found.

Macd. And I must be from thence!
My wife kill'd too?

Rosse. I have said.

Mal. Be comforted:
Let's make us med'cines of our great revenge,
To cure this deadly grief.

Macd. He has no children. — All my pretty ones?
Did you say, all? — O, hell-kite! — All?
What, all my pretty chickens, and their dam,
At one fell swoop? ⁴⁸⁾

Mal. Dispute it like a man.
Macd. I shall do so;
But I must also feel it as a man:
I cannot but remember such things were
That were most precious to me. — Did heaven
look on,

And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,
Fell slaughter on their souls: Heaven rest them now!

Mal. Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief
Convert to anger: blunt not the heart, enrage it.

Macd. O, I could play the woman with mine eyes,
And braggart with my tongue! — — But, gentle
heaven,

Cut short all intermission; ⁴⁹⁾ front to front,
Bring thou this fiend of Scotland, and myself;
Within my sword's length set him: if he 'scape,
Heaven forgive him too! ⁵⁰⁾

Mal. This tune goes manly.
Come, go we to the king; our power is ready;
Our lack is nothing but our leave: Macbeth
Is ripe for shaking, and the powers above
Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you may;
The night is long, that never finds the day. [*Exeunt.*]

ACT V.

SCENE I. Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

*Enter a Doctor of Physic, and a waiting
Gentlewoman.*

Doct. I have two nights watched with you, but
can perceive no truth in your report. When was
it she last walked?

Gent. Since his majesty went into the field, ¹⁾ I
have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-
gown upon her, unlock her closet, take forth paper,
fold it, write upon it, read it, afterwards seal it,
and again return to bed; yet all this while in a
most fast sleep.

Doct. A great perturbation in nature! to receive
at once the benefit of sleep, and do the effects of
watching. — In this slumbry agitation, besides her
walking, and other actual performances, what, at
any time, have you heard her say?

Gent. That, sir, which I will not report after her.
Doct. You may, to me; and 'tis most meet you should.

Gent. Neither to you, nor any one; having no
witness to confirm my speech.

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a taper.

Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and,
upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her: stand close.

Doct. How came she by that light?
Gent. Why, it stood by her: she has light by her
continually; 'tis her command.

Doct. You see, her eyes are open.
Gent. Ay, but their sense is shut. ²⁾

Doct. What is it she does now? Look, how she
rubs her hands.

Gent. It is an accustomed action with her, to seem
thus washing her hands; I have known her continue
in this a quarter of an hour.

Lady M. Yet here's a spot.
Doct. Hark, she speaks: I will set down what
comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more
strongly.

Lady M. Out, damned spot! out, I say! — One;
Two; Why, then 'tis time to do't: — — Hell is
murky! — ³⁾ Fye, my lord, fye! a soldier, and
afraid? What need we fear who knows it, when
none can call our power to account? — Yet who
would have thought the old man to have had so
much blood in him?

Doct. Do you mark that?
Lady M. The thane of Fife had a wife; Where is
she now? — — What, will these hands ne'er be
clean? — No more o'that, my lord, no more o'that:
you mar all with this starting. ⁴⁾

Doct. Go to, go to; you have known what you
should not.

Gent. She has spoke what she should not, I am
sure of that: Heaven knows what she has known.

Lady M. Here's the smell of the blood still: all
the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little
hand. Oh! oh! oh!

Doct. What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely
charged.

Gent. I would not have such a heart in my bosom,
for the dignity of the whole body.

Doct. Well, well, well, —
Gent. 'Pray, God, it be, sir.

Doct. This disease is beyond my practice: Yet I
have known those which have walked in their sleep,
who have died holily in their beds.

Lady M. Wash your hands, put on your night-
gown; look not so pale: — I tell you yet again,
Banquo's buried; he cannot come out of his grave.

Doct. Even so?

Lady M. To bed, to bed; there's knocking at the
gate. Come, come, come, come, give me your hand;
What's done, cannot be undone: To bed, to bed,
to bed. [*Exit Lady Macbeth.*]

Doct. Will she go now to bed?
Gent. Directly.

Doct. Foul whisperings are abroad: Unnatural deeds
Do breed unnatural troubles: Infected minds
To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets.
More needs she the divine, than the physician. —
God, God, forgive us all! Look after her;
Remove from her the means of all annoyance,
And still keep eyes upon her: — So, good night:
My mind she has mated, ⁵⁾ and amaz'd my sight:
I think, but dare not speak.

Gent. Good night, good doctor. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

The Country near Dunsinane.

*Enter, with Drum and Colours, MENTETH, CATH-
NESS, ANGUS, LENOX, and Soldiers.*

Ment. The English power is near, led on by Mal-
colm,

His uncle Siward, and the good Macduff.
Revenge burn in them: for their dear causes
Would, to the bleeding, and the grim alarm,
Excite the mortified man. ⁶⁾

Ang. Near Birnam wood
Shall we well meet them; that way are they coming.

Cath. Who knows, if Donalbain be with his brother?
Len. For certain, sir, he is not: I have a file
Of all the gentry; there is Siward's son,
And many unrough youths, ⁷⁾ that even now
Protest their first of manhood.

Ment. What does the tyrant?
Cath. Great Dunsinane he strongly fortifies:
Some say, he's mad, others, that lesser hate him,
Do call it valiant fury: but, for certain,
He cannot buckle his distemper'd cause
Within the belt of rule.

Ang. Now does he feel
His secret murders sticking on his hands;
Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach;
Those he commands, move only in command,
Nothing in love: now does he feel his title
Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe
Upon a dwarfish thief.

Ment. Who then shall blame
His pester'd senses to recoil, and start,
When all that is within him does condemn
Itself for being there? ⁸⁾

Cath. Well, march we on,
To give obedience where 'tis truly ow'd:
Meet we the medecin ⁹⁾ of the sickly veal:
And with him pour we, in our country's purge,
Each drop of us.

Len. Or so much as it needs,
To dew the sovereign flower, and drown the weeds.
Make we our march towards Birnam.

[*Exeunt, marching.*]

SCENE III.

Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

Enter Macbeth, Doctor, and Attendants.

Macb. Bring me no more reports; let them fly all;
Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know
All mortal consequents, pronounc'd me thus: ¹⁰⁾

Fear not, Macbeth; no man, that's born of woman, Shall e'er have power on thee.¹¹⁾ Then fly, false thanes,

And mingle with the English epicures;
The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear,
Shall never sagg with doubt,¹²⁾ nor shake with fear.

Enter a Servant.

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-fac'd loon!¹³⁾
Where got'st thou that goose look?

Serv. There is ten thousand —

Macb. Geese, villain?

Serv. Soldiers, sir.

Macb. Go, prick thy face, and over-red thy fear,
Thou lily-liver'd boy. What soldiers, patch?
Death of thy soul! those linen cheeks of thine
Are counsellors to fear. What soldiers, why-face?

Serv. The English force, so please you.

Macb. Take thy face hence. — Seyton! — I am sick at heart,

When I behold — Seyton, I say! — This push
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.

I have liv'd long enough: my way of life¹⁴⁾

Is fall'n into the sear,¹⁵⁾ the yellow leaf:

And that which should accompany old age,
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,
I must not look to have; but, in their stead,
Curses, not loud, but deep, mouth-honour, breath,
Which the poor heart would fain deny, but dare not.

Seyton!

Enter SEYTON.

Sey. What is your gracious pleasure?

Macb. What news more?

Sey. All is confirm'd, my lord, which was reported.

Macb. I'll fight, till from my bones my flesh be

hack'd.

Sey. Give me my armour.
Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

Send out more horses, skirr the country round;¹⁶⁾

Hang those that talk of fear. — Give me mine armour. —

How does your patient, doctor?

Doct. Not so sick, my lord,

As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

Macb. Cure her of that:

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd;

Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;

Raze out the written troubles of the brain;

And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff,
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doct. Therein the patient

Must minister to himself.

Macb. Throw physic to the dogs, I'll none of it. —

Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff: —

Seyton, send out. — Doctor, the thanes fly from me: —

Come, sir, despatch: — If thou could'st, doctor, cast

The water of my land,¹⁷⁾ find her disease,
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,
I would applaud thee to the very echo,
That should applaud again. — Pull't off, I say. —

What rhubarb, senna, or what purgative drug,
Would scour these English hence? — Hearest thou
of them?

Doct. Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation

Makes us hear something.

Macb. Bring it after me. —

I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane. [Exit.]

Doct. Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,
Profit again should hardly draw me here. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.

Country near Dunsinane. A Wood in view.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, MALCOLM, old SIWARD and his SON, MACDUFF, MENTETH, CATHNESS, ANGUS, LENOX, ROSSE, and Soldiers marching.

Mal. Cousins, I hope, the days are near at hand,
That chambers will be safe.

Ment. We doubt it nothing.

Siw. What wood is this before us?

Ment. The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow

The numbers of our host, and make discovery

Err in report of us.

Sold. It shall be done.

Siw. We learn no other, but the confident tyrant

Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure

Our setting down before't.

Mal. 'Tis his main hope:

For where there is advantage to be given,
Both more and less have given him the revolt;

And none serve with him but constrained things,
Whose hearts are absent too.

Macd. Let our just censures

Attend the true event, and put we on

Industrious soldiership.

Siw. The time approaches,

That will with due decision make us know

What we shall say we have, and what we owe.

Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate;

But certain issues strokes must arbitrate:¹⁸⁾

Towards which, advance the war. [Exit, marching.]

SCENE V.

Dunsinane. Within the Castle.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, MACBETH, SEYTON, and Soldiers.

Macb. Hang out our banners on the outward walls;

The cry is still, *They come*: Our castle's strength

Will laugh a siege to scorn: here let them lie,

Till famine, and the ague, eat them up:

Were they not forc'd with those that should be ours,
We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,
And beat them backward home. What is that noise?

[A cry within, of women.]

Sey. It is the cry of women, my good lord.

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:

The time has been, my senses would have cool'd

To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair¹⁹⁾

Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir

As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors;

Direness, familiar to my slaughter'd thoughts,
Cannot once start me. — Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have died hereafter;

There would have been a time for such a word. —

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing. —

Enter a Messenger.

Thou com'st to use thy tongue; thy story quickly.

Mess. Gracious my lord,

I shall report that which I say I saw,
But know not how to do it.²⁰⁾

Macb. Well, say, sir.

Mess. As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,
The wood began to move.

Macb. Liar, and slave! [Striking him.]

Mess. Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so:
Within this three mile may you see it coming;

I say, a moving grove.

Macb. If thou speak'st false,

Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling thee:²¹⁾ if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much. —

I pull in resolution; and begin

To doubt the equivocation of the fiend,
That lies like truth: *Fear not till Birnam wood*

Do come to Dunsinane; — and now a wood

Comes toward Dunsinane. — Arm, arm, and out! —

If this, which he avouches, does appear,
There is nor flying hence, nor tarrying here.

I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun,

And wish the estate o'the world were now undone. —

Ring the alarum bell: — Blow, wind! come, wrack!

At least we'll die with harness on our back. [Exit.]

SCENE VI.

The same. A Plain before the Castle.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, MALCOLM, old SIWARD, MACDUFF, &c. and their Army, with Boughs.

Mal. Now near enough; your leavy screens throw
down,

And show like those you are: — You, worthy uncle,

Shall, with my cousin, your right-noble son,
Lead our first battle: worthy Macduff, and we,

Shall take upon us what else remains to do,
According to our order.

Siw. Fare you well. —

Do we but find the tyrant's power to-night,
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.

Macd. Make all our trumpets speak; give them all
breath,

Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

[Exit. Alarums continued.]

SCENE VII.

The same. Another part of the Plain.

Enter MACBETH.

Macb. They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. — What's he,
That was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none.

Enter young SIWARD.

Yo. Siw. What is thy name?

Macb. Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

Yo. Siw. No; though thou call'st thyself a hotter
name

Than any is in hell.

Macb. My name's Macbeth.

Yo. Siw. The devil himself could not pronounce a
title

More hateful to mine ear.

Macb. No, nor more fearful.

Yo. Siw. Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my sword
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

[They fight, and young SIWARD is slain.]

Macb. Thou wast born of woman. —
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born. [Exit.]

Alarums. Enter MACDUFF.

Macd. That way the noise is: — Tyrant, show
thy face:

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.

I cannot strike at wretched kernes, whose arms
Are hir'd to bear their staves; either thou, Macbeth,
Or else my sword, with an unbatter'd edge,
I sheathe again unneeded. There thou should'st be;

By this great clatter, one of greatest note
Seems bruted.²²⁾ Let me find him, fortune!

And more I beg not. [Exit. Alarum.]

Enter MALCOLM and old SIWARD.

Siw. This way, my lord; — the castle's gently
render'd:

The tyrant's people on both sides do fight;

The noble thanes do bravely in the war;

The day almost itself professes yours,
And little is to do.

Mal. We have met with foes
That strike beside us.

Siw. Enter, sir, the castle. [Exit. Alarum.]

Re-enter MACBETH.

Macb. Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword? whiles I see lives, the gashes
Do better upon them.

Re-enter MACDUFF.

Macd. Turn, hell-hotund, turn.

Macb. Of all men else I have avoided thee:
But get thee back, my soul is too much charg'd
With blood of thine already.

Macd. I have no words,
My voice is in my sword; thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out! [They fight.]

Macb. Thou loest labour:

As easy may'st thou the intrenchant air²³⁾

With thy keen sword impress, as make me bleed:
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;

I bear a charmed life, which must not yield
To one of woman born.

Macd. Despair thy charm,
And let the angel, whom thou still hast serv'd,
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

Macb. Accurs'd be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believ'd,
That palter with us in a double sense;²⁴⁾
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. — I'll not fight with thee.

Macd. Then yield thee, coward,
And live to be the show and gaze o'the time.
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole; and underwrit,
Here may you see the tyrant.

Macb. I'll not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.
Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou oppos'd, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last: Before my body
I throw my warlike shield: lay on, Macduff;
And damn'd be him that first cries, *Hold, enough.*

[Exit, fighting.]

Retreat. Flourish. Re-enter with Drum and Colours,

MALCOLM, old SIWARD, ROSSE, LENOX, ANGUS,

CATHNESS, MENTETH, and Soldiers.

Mal. I would, the friends we miss were safe ar-
riv'd.

Siw. Some must go off; and yet, by these I see,
So great a day as this is cheaply bought.

Mal. Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

Rosse. Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt;
He only liv'd but till he was a man;
The which no sooner had his prowess confirm'd
In the unshrinking station where he fought,
But like a man he died.

Siw. Then he is dead?

Rosse. Ay, and brought off the field: your cause
of sorrow

Must not be measur'd by his worth, for then
It hath no end.

Siw. Had he his hurts before?

Rosse. Ay, on the front.

Siw. Why then, God's soldier be he!
Had I as many sons as I have hairs,
I would not wish them to a fairer death:
And so his knell is knoll'd.

Mal. He's worth more sorrow,
And that I'll spend for him.

Siw. He's worth no more;

They say, he parted well, and paid his score:
So, ²⁵ God be with him! — Here comes newer
comfort.

Re-enter MACDUFF, with MACBETH'S Head on a Pole.

Macd. Hail, king! for so thou art: Behold where stands
The usurper's cursed head: the time is free:
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl, ²⁶)
That speak my salutation in their minds;
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine, —
Hail, king of Scotland!

All. King of Scotland, hail! ²⁷) [*Flourish.*

Mal. We shall not spend a large expence of time,
Before we reckon with your several loves,
And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,
Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland
In such an honour nam'd. What's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time, —
As calling home our exil'd friends abroad,
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny;
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher, and his fiend-like queen;
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life; — This, and what needful else
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,
We will perform in measure, time, and place:
So thanks to all at once and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone.

[*Flourish. Exeunt.*