

Johnson and Steevens 1773 'Macbeth', in Samuel Johnson and George Steevens (eds.), *The plays of William Shakespeare*, vol. 4 (London, 1773), 391--533.

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Ø MACBETH.

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Persons Represented.

DUNCAN, King of Scotland.

Malcolm,)
Donalbain,) Sons to the King.

Macbeth,)
Banquo,) Generals of the King's Army.

Lenox,)

Macduff,)

Rosse,)
Menteth,) Noblemen of Scotland.

Angus,)

Cathness,)

Fleance, Son to Banquo.

Siward, 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 Captain. A Porter. An old Man.

Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macduff.

Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

Hecate, and three Ø 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 *.

Of this play there is no edition more ancient than that of 1623.

Most of the notes which the present editor has subjoined to this play were published by him in a small pamphlet in 1745. Johns.

* I have taken a liberty with this tragedy, which might be prac-

tised with almost equal propriety in respect of a few others, I mean the retrenchment of such stage-directions as are not supplied by the oldest copy. Mr. Rowe had trick'd out Macbeth, like many more of Shakespeare's plays, in all the foppery of the reign of queen Anne. Every change of situation produced notice that the scene lay in an anti-chamber, a royal apartment, or a palace, and even some variations and starts of passion were set down in a manner no less ostentatious and unnecessary. Steevens.

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MACBETH.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.

1 Witch.

When shall we three meet again?

In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

2 Witch. When the hurly-burly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

3 Witch. That will be ere set of sun.

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1 Witch. Where the place?

2 Witch. Upon the heath:

3 Witch. There \emptyset to meet with Macbeth.

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1 Witch. I come: \emptyset ---- Grimalkin! ----

All. Padocke calls: ---- Anon.

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\emptyset Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

[Exeunt.]

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SCENE II.

Alarum within. Enter King, Malcolm, Donalbain,
Lenox, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding Captain.

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

Mal. This is the serjeant,

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.

Cap. Doubtful \emptyset it stood,
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,
And choak their art. The merciless **Macdonel**,
(Worthy to be a rebel; for, to That
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him) from the western isles
Of Kernes and Gallow-glasses was supply'd;

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And Fortune, on his damned **quarry** smiling,
Shew'd like a rebel's whore. But all too weak:
For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name)
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smook'd with bloody execution,
Like Valour's minion, carved out his passage,
'Till he fac'd the slave:
And ne'er shook hands, nor bid farewell to him,
'Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chops,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

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King. Oh, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!
Cap. As whence the sun 'gins his reflexion,

400

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 Norway lord, surveying 'vantage,
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men
Began a fresh assault.

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

Cap. 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;

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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. ----
King. So well thy words become thee, as thy
wounds;
They smack of honour both: -- Go, get him surgeons.

Enter Rosse. ø

ø 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.

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Rosse. God save the King!

King. Whence cam'st thou, worthy Thane?

Rosse. From Fife, great King,
Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky,
And fan our people cold.
Norway, himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict:
'Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapt in proof,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit: and to conclude,
The victory fell on us.

King. Great happiness!

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Rosse. Now Sweno, Norway's King, craves com-
position;
Nor would we deign him burial of his men,
'Till he disbursed, at Saint Colmes' inch,
Ten thousand dollars, to our general use.

King. No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our bosom-interest: -- Go, pronounce his death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Rosse. I'll see it done.

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

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

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 mouncht, and mouncht, and mouncht: -- *Give
me, quoth I.*

Aroint thee, witch! -- the rump-fed ronyon cries.

404

Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'the Tyger:
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.

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And the very points they blow;
All the quarters that they know,
I' the shipman's card. ----
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:
Weary seven-nights, nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, peak and pine:

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Though his bark cannot be lost,
Yet it shall be tempest-tost.
Look, what I have.

2 Witch. Shew me, shew 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,
Posters of the sea and land,

407

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.

408

∅ Enter Macbeth and Banquo. ∅

Mac. So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

Ban. How far is't call'd to Foris? -- What are these,
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire;
That look not like the inhabitants o'the earth,

409

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!

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2 Witch. All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane
of Cawdor!

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 [To the Witches.
Which outwardly ye shew? My noble partner
You greet with present grace, and great prediction
Of noble having, and of royal hope,
That he seems rapt withal; to me you speak not.
If you can look into the seeds of time,

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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!

Mac. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
By Sinel's death, 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 prophetick greeting? -- Speak, I charge
you. [Witches vanish.]

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** corporal, melted
As breath, into the wind. -- 'Would they had staid!

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

412

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 rebel's fight,
His wonders and his praises do contend,
Which should be thine, or his. Silenc'd with that,
In viewing o'er the rest o'the self-same day,
He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,
Nothing afraid of what thyself didst make,
Strange images of death. As thick as **tale**,
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,

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To give thee, from our royal master, thanks;
Only to herald 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 ø borrow'd robes?

Ang. Who was the Thane, lives yet;
But under heavy judgment bears that life,
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was
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: ø
The greatest is behind. -- Thanks for your pains. ø
Do you not hope, your children shall be Kings? ø
When those that gave the Thane of Cawdor to me,
Promis'd no less to them?

Ban. That, trusted home,
Might yet enkindle 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.

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Cousins, a word, I pray you. ø

Macb. Two truths are told, ø
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen. -- ø
This supernatural solliciting
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 seated heart knock at my ribs,

Against the use of nature? Present fears

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Are less than horrible imaginings:
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man, that function
Is smother'd in surmise; and nothing is,
But what is not.

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt!

Macb. If chance will have me King, why, chance
may crown me, Ø
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, Ø
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

416

Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

Macb. Give me your favour: -- My dull brain was
wrought
With things **forgotten**. Kind gentlemen, your pains
Are registred where every day I turn Ø
The leaf to read them. -- Let us toward the King. --
Think, upon what hath chanc'd; and, at more time, Ø
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.]

SCENE IV.

Flourish. Enter King, Malcolm, Donalbain, Lenox,
and Attendants.

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

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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 dy'd,
As one, that had been studied in his death,
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd,
As 'twere a careless trifle.

King. There's no art,
To find the mind's construction in the face:
He was a gentleman, on whom I built
An absolute trust.

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Rosse, and Angus.

O worthiest cousin!
The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me. **Thou art** so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompence is slow,

418

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.

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King. Welcome hither:
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing. -- Noble Banquo,
Thou hast no less deserv'd, and must be known
No less to have done so: -- Let me enfold thee,
And hold thee to my heart.

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

King. 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,
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.

King. My worthy Cawdor!

Macb. The prince of Cumberland! -- 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.

King. 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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SCENE V.

Enter Macbeth's wife alone, with a letter.

*Lady. They met me in the day of success; and I have
learn'd by the perfectest report, they have more in
them than mortal knowledge. When I burnt in desire to
question them further, they made themselves -- air, into
which they vanish'd. While I stood wrapt in the wonder
of it, came missives from the King, who all-hail'd me,
Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these weird
sisters saluted me, and referr'd 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 great-
ness; that thou might'st not lose the dues of rejoicing, by
being ignorant of what greatness is promis'd 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: **thoud'st** have, great

Glamis,

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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, doth seem
To have thee crown'd withal. ----

Enter Messenger.

What is your tidings?

Mes. The King comes here to-night.

Lady. Thou'rt mad to say it.

Is not thy master with him? who, wer't so,
Would have inform'd for preparation.

Mes. So please you, it is true: our Thane is coming:
One of my fellows had the speed of him;

422

Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.

Lady. Give him tending,
He brings great news. The raven himself is hoarse,
[Exit Mes.]

That croaks the fatal **enterance** of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, \emptyset you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, 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;
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between

423

The effect, and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murth'ring ministers,
Where-ever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief! -- Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell!
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes;
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry, *hold, hold!*

424

Enter Macbeth.

Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present time, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

Ø

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

Lady. And when goes hence?

Macb. To-morrow, as he purposes.

Lady. Oh, never

425

Shall sun that morrow see! ----
Your face, my Thane, is as a book, where men
May read strange matters. 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 dispatch;
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Macb. We will speak further.

Lady. Only look up clear;
To alter favour, ever, is to fear:
Leave all the rest to me.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.

Hautboys and Torches. Enter King, Malcolm, Donal-
bain, Banquo, Lenox, Macduff, Rosse, Angus, and
Attendants.

King. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

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Ban. This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve
By his lov'd mansionry that heaven's breath

Smells wooingly here. No jutty frieze,
Buttrice, nor coigne of 'vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendant bed, and procreant cradle:
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observ'd,
The air is delicate.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

King. 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 should bid god-yeild us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady. All our service,
In every point twice done, and then done double,
Were poor and single business, to contend

427

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.

King. 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 help him
To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to-night.

Lady. Your servants ever
Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs, in compt,
To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,
Still to return your own.

King. 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.]

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SCENE VII.

Hautboys, torches. Enter **a sewer**, and divers servants
with dishes and service over the stage. Then **enter**
Macbeth.

Macb. If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere
well
It were done quickly: If the assassination

Could **tramel** up the consequence, and catch
With **his** surcease, success; that but this blow
Might be the Be-all and the End-all **here,**

429

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 murth'rer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead, like angels, trumpet-tongu'd, **against**
The deep damnation of his taking off:
And **pity**, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heavens cherubin, hors'd
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye;

430

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 ----

∅ Enter Lady. ∅

How now! what news?

Lady. **He has** almost supp'd: Why have you left
the chamber?

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

Lady. Know you not he has?

Macb. We will proceed no further in this business:

431

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. Was the hope drunk,

Wherein you drest 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 afraid
To be the same in thine own act and valour,
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that,
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem?
Letting *I dare not* wait upon *I would*,
Like the poor cat i' the adage.

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

Lady. What beast **was it** then,
That made you break this enterprize to me?

432

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
Do's 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 but so sworn
As you have done to this.

Macb. If we **shall** fail, ----

Lady. We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking place,
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,

433 sig 2F

That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume; and the receipt of reason
A limbeck only. 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 spungy officers; who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?

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. 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.]

434

ACT II. SCENE I.

Enter Banquo, and Fleance with a torch before him.

Banquo.
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,
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! -- Give me my sword; --

435

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 \emptyset been in unusual pleasure;
 \emptyset Sent forth great largess to your officers:
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up
In measureless content.

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

Ban. All's well.

I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:
To you they have shew'd some truth.

Macb. I think not of them:
Yet, when we can intreat an hour to serve,
We 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,
It shall make honour for you.

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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 Serv.
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;

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And on thy blade, and dudgeon, gouts of blood,
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, and wicked dreams abuse

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The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings; and wither'd Murther,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,

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

439

With Tarquin's ravishing strides, tow'rds 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 horroure from the time,

440

Which now suits with it. -- **While** I threat, he lives --
[A bell rings.
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.
I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.

441

Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell. [Exit.

SCENE II.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady. That which hath made them drunk, hath
made me bold;
What hath quench'd them, hath given me fire: ----
Hark! peace!
It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bell-man,
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'd
their possets,
That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live or die.
Macb. [within] Who's there? -- what, ho!
Lady. 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 'em. -- Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had don't -- My husband!

Enter Macbeth.

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

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

Did not you speak?

Macb. When?

Lady. Now.

Macb. As I descended?

Lady. Ay.

Macb. Hark! ---- Who lies i'the second cham-
ber?

Lady. Donalbain.

Macb. This is a sorry sight. [Looks on his hands.

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

Macb. There's one did laugh **in his** sleep, and one
cry'd, *murther!*

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

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

Lady. There are two lodg'd together.

Macb. One cry'd, *God bless us!* and, *Amen!* the
other;

As they had seen me with these hangman's hands
Listening their fear. I could not say, Amen,
When they did say, God bless us.

Lady. 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. 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 doth murther sleep; the innocent sleep;
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd **sleave** of care,
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. What do you mean?

Macb. Still it cry'd, *sleep no more!* to all the house:
Glamis hath murther'd sleep; and therefore Cawdor
Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!

Lady. Who was it, that thus cry'd? Why, worthy
Thane,

You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brain-sickly of things. -- Go, get some water,

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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. 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.

Knocks within.

Macb. Whence is that knocking? Ø
How is it 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,

445

Making the green, One red ----

Re-enter Lady Macbeth.

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

[Knock.

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. -- Hark, more knocking!

[Knock.

Get on your night-gown, lest occasion call us,
And shew us to be watchers: -- Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

Macb. To know my deed, -- 'Twere best not know
myself. [Knock.

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Wake, Duncan, with **thy** knocking! I would, thou
couldst! [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

Enter a Porter.

[Knocking within.] Port. Here's a knocking, indeed! if a man were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key. [Knock.] Knock, knock, knock. Who's there, i'the name of Belzebub? here's a farmer, that hang'd himself on the expectation of plenty: come in time; have napkins enough about you; here you'll sweat for't. [Knock] 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: oh, come in, equivocator. [Knock] Knock, knock, knock. Who's there? Faith, here's an English taylor come hither for stealing out of a French hose: come in, taylor; here you may roast your goose. [Knock] 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

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everlasting bonfire. [Knock] Anon, anon; I pray you, remember the porter.

Enter Macduff, and Lenox.

Mac. 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: and drink, sir, is a great provoker of three things.

Macd. What three things doth drink especially provoke?

Port. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine. Lechery, sir, it provokes, and unprovokes; it provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance: Therefore much drink may be said to be an equivocator 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 sometime,
yet I made a shift to cast him.

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

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!

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Enter Macbeth.

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 slipt 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, physicks pain.
This is the door.

Macd. I'll make so bold to call,
For 'tis my limited service. [Exit Macduff.]

Len. Goes the King hence to-day?

Macb. **He does:** he did appoint so.

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;

449 sig 2G

And prophesying, with accents terrible
Of dire **combustions**, and confus'd events,
New hatch'd to the woeful time: The obscure bird
Clamour'd the live-long 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! \emptyset Tongue,
nor heart
Cannot conceive, nor name thee! ----

Macb. and Len. What's the matter?

Macd. Confusion now hath made his master-piece:
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!

[Exeunt Macbeth and Lenox.]

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Ring the alarum-bell: -- Murther! 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: ---- **Ring the bell.**

∅ Bell rings. Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady. What's the business,
That such an 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. Woe, alas!
What, in our house? ----

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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 dy'd 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 stopt; the very source of it is stopt.

Macb. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. Oh, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had don'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

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Out-ran the pauser reason. -- Here, lay Duncan,
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;
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: ---- Who could
refrain,

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That had a heart to love, and in that heart
Courage, to **make his** love known?

Lady. Help me hence, ho! ----

ø

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,
May rush, and seize us? Let's away, our tears
Are not yet brew'd.

Mal. Nor our strong sorrow

Upon the foot of motion.

Ban. Look to the lady;
And when we have our naked frailties hid,
That suffer in exposure, let us meet,
And question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:

Ø

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In the great hand of God I stand; and thence,
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice.

Macb. So do I.

All. So, all.

Macb. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet i'the hall together.

All. Well contented. [Exeunt.]

Mal. What will you do? Let's not consort with
them:

To shew 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.

Mal. This murtherous shaft that's shot,

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Hath not yet lighted; 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.

Enter Rosse, with 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 seest, 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 intomb,
When living light should kiss it?

Old M. 'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last,
A falcon, tawring 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)

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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 Mac-
duff: ----

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?

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 ravin up
Thine own life's means. -- Then 'tis most like,

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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;
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. Farewel, father.

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.

Enter Banquo.

Thou hast it now; King, Cawdor, Glamis, all
As the **weïrd** women promis'd; and, I fear,
Thou playd'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,

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And set me up in hope? But, hush; no more.

Senet sounded. Enter Macbeth as King; Lady Macbeth,
Lenox, Rosse, Lords and Attendants.

Macb. Here's our chief guest.

Lady. 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. Lay your highness'
Command upon me; to the which, my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tye
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 it 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?

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Ban. Ay, my good lord: Our time does call up-
on us.

Macb. I wish your horses swift, and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs.

Farewel. ---- [Exit Banquo.

Let every man be master of his time

'Till seven at night: to make society

The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself

'Till supper-time alone: till then, God be with you.

[Exeunt Lady Macbeth, and Lords.

Sirrah, a word with you. Attend those men
Our pleasure?

Ser. They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

Macb. Bring them before us. ---- To be thus, is
nothing, [Exit Servant.

But to be safely thus: -- Our fears in Banquo

Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature

Reigns That, which would be fear'd. 'Tis much he
dares,

And, to 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,

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Mark Anthony'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 my mind;
For them, the gracious Duncan have I murther'd;
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,

461

To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come, Fate, into the list,
And champion me to the utterance! -- Who's there? --

Enter Servant, and two Murderers.

Now go to the door, and stay there, 'till we call.
[Exit Servant.]

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Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

Mur. It was, so please your highness.

Macb. Well then, now

Have you consider'd 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 past in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand; how crost; the in-
struments;

Who wrought with them; and all things else that
might

To half a soul, and to a notion craz'd,

Say, *Thus did Banquo*.

1 Mur. \emptyset 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 gospell'd,
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, mungrels, spaniels, curs,

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Showghes, water-rugs, and demi-wolves are cleped

All by the name of dogs: the valued file
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,
Ø 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, **tug'd** with fortune,

464

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.

Mur. True, my lord.

Macb. So is he mine: and in such bloody distance,
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 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.

Ø 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,

465 sig 2H

Acquaint you with the perfect spy o'the time,

The moment on't; for't must be done to-night,
And something from the palace: always thought,
That I require a clearness: 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 a-part,
I'll come to you anon.

Mur. We are resolv'd, my lord.

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

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SCENE II.

Enter Lady Macbeth, and a Servant.

Lady. Is Banquo gone from court?

Serv. Ay, Madam; but returns again to-night.

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

Serv. Madam, I will. [Exit.

Lady. 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 fancies your companions making,
Using those thoughts, which should, indeed, have dy'd
With them they think on? Things without all remedy
Should be without regard: What's done, is done.

Macb. We have scotch'd 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,

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 **exstasy**. -- 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. Come on; gentle my lord,
 Sleek o'er your rugged looks; be bright and jovial
 Among your guests to-night.

Macb. So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you;
 Let your remembrance \emptyset apply to Banquo.
 Present him eminence, both with eye and tongue.
 Unsafe the while, that we must lave our honours
 In these \emptyset flattering streams, and make our faces
 Vizors **to our** hearts, disguising what they are. --

Lady. You must leave this.

Macb. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
 Thou know'st, that Banquo, and his Fleance lives.

Lady. But in them nature's copy's not eternal.

Macb. There's comfort yet, they are assailable;
 Then, be thou jocund. Ere the bat hath flown
 His cloyster'd flight; ere, to black Hecat's sum-
 mons

The shard-born beetle with his drowsy hums
 Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done
 A deed of dreadful note.

Lady. What's to be done?

Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest
 chuck,
 'Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night,
 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 drowze;
While night's black agents to their prey do rouze.
 Thou marvell'st at my words; but hold thee still;
 Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill.
 So, pr'ythee, go with me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

Enter three Murtherers.

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 lated traveller apace,
To gain the timely inn; and near approaches
The subject of our watch.

3 Mur. Hark! I hear horses.

[Banquo within.] Give us a light there, ho!

2 Mur. Then it is he; the rest
That are within the note of expectation,
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 with a torch.

2 Mur. A light, a light.

470

3 Mur. 'Tis he.

1 Mur. Stand to't.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1 Mur. Let it come down. [They assault Banquo.

Ban. Oh, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly,
Thou may'st revenge. Oh slave!

[Dies. Fleance escapes.

3 Mur. Who did strike out the light?

1 Mur. Was't not the way?

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 banquet prepar'd. Enter Macbeth, Lady, 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,

471

And play the humble host.
Our hostess keeps her state; but, in best time
We will require her welcome. Ø
Lady. 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. Ø
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 non-pareil.
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,

472

With twenty trenched gashes 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. [Exit Murderer.
Lady. My royal lord,

You do not give the **cheer**: the feast is sold,
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.

[Enter the ghost of Banquo, and sits in Macbeth's
place.

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

Len. **May it** please your highness sit?

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

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

Macb. The table's full. Ø

473

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

Macb. Where?

Len. Here, my good lord.

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 goary locks at me.

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

Lady. Sit worthy friends: -- My lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth: Pray you, keep seat.

The fit is momentary; **upon** a thought

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? Ø

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

Lady. O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear: Ø

This is the air-drawn-dagger, which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. Oh, these flaws, and starts,

474

(Impostors to true fear,) would well become

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. Pr'ythee, see there!
Behold! look! lo! how say you? ∅
Why, what care I! if thou can'st nod, speak too. --
If charnel-houses and our graves must send
Those, that we bury, back; our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites. ∅

Lady. What! quite unmann'd in folly?

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady. Fie, for shame!

Macb. Blood hath been shed ere now, i'the olden
time,

Ere human statute purg'd the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murthers **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 murthers on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: This is more strange
Than such a murther is.

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

475

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,

Re-enter Ghost.

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

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. 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 tyger,
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 inhabit, then protest me

476

The baby of a girl. Hence, **horrible** shadow!
Unreal mockery, hence! Why, so; -- being gone, \emptyset
I am a man again. -- Pray you sit still. \emptyset

Lady. 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,

477

Without our special wonder? You make me strange
Even to the disposition that I owe,
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. 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. A kind good-night to all. [Exeunt Lords.]

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, have

478

By maggot-pies, and choughs, and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. ---- What is the night?

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

Macb. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies his
person,

At our great bidding?

Lady. 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 feed. I will to-morrow,
(And betimes I will) unto the **weird** sisters;

479

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.

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

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

Is the initiate fear that wants hard use. ----

We are yet but young in deed. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches, meeting Hecate.

1 Witch. Why, how now, Hecat'? you look an-
gerly.

480

Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are,
Saucy, and overbold? 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 shew the glory of our art?
And, which is worse, all you have done
Hath been but for a **wayward** son,
Spightful 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 **and** a fatal end;
Great business must be wrought ere noon:
Upon the corner of the moon
There hangs a vaporous drop, profound;
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:
And that distill'd by magic slights,
Shall raise such artificial sprights,

481 sig 2I

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 mortals' chiefest enemy. [Music and a song.
Hark, I am call'd; my little spirit, see,
Sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me.
[Sing within. Come away, come away, &c.
1 Witch. Come, let's make haste, she'll soon be
back again. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.

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 did it grieve Macbeth! did he not straight

482

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 sons 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 upon his aid
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;
Do faithful homage, and receive free honours,

483

All which we pine for now: And this report
Hath so exasperated **the** king, 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. I'll send my prayers with him. [Exeunt.]

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ACT IV. SCENE I.

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 -- 'tis time, 'tis time.

485

1 Witch. Round about the cauldron go,
In the poison'd entrails throw.

Ø

486

Toad, that under the cold stone,
Days and nights **hast** thirty-one,

487

Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i'the charmed pot!
All. Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn; and cauldron bubble.

1 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
Of the **ravin'd** salt sea-shark;
Root of hemlock, digg'd i'the dark;
Liver of blaspheming Jew:
Gall of goat, and slips of yew,

488

Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-strangled babe,
Ditch deliver'd by a drab;
Make the gruel thick, and slab.
Add thereto a tyger's chawdron,
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 other three Witches.

Hec. Oh! 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,
Inchanting all that you put in.

489

Musick and a song.

*Black spirits and white,
Blue 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,
(Howe'er you come to know it) answer me:
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodg'd, and trees blown
down;
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure

490

Of Nature's germins 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'dst** rather hear it from our
mouths,

Or from our masters?

Macb. Call 'em. Let me see 'em.

1 Witch. Pour in sow's blood, that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease, that's sweaten
From the murtherer's gibbet, throw
Into the flame.

All. Come, high, or low;
Thyself, and office, deftly show. [Thunder.]

1st Apparition, ø an armed head. ø

Macb. Tell me, thou unknown power ----

1 Witch. He knows thy thought:
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware
Macduff;
Beware the Thane of Fife. -- Dismiss me: -- Enough.
[Descends.]

Macb. What-e'er thou art, for thy good caution,
thanks:

491

Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: ---- But one word
more --

1 Witch. He will not be commanded: Here's
another
More potent than the first. [Thunder.]

2nd Apparition, ø a bloody child. ø

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! ----

Macb. Had I three ears, I'd heard 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
[Thunders.]

3d Apparition, ø a child crowned, with a tree in his
hand. ø

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.

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

492

Shall come against him. [Descends.

Macb. That will never be:
Who can impress the forest; 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. Ø

Macb. I will be satisfy'd: -- Deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know: --
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this?

[Hautboys.

1 Witch. Shew!

2 Witch. Shew!

3 Witch. Shew!

All. Shew his eyes, and grieve his heart.
Come like shadows, so depart.

[A shew of eight kings, Ø and Banquo the last, with
a glass in his hand.

493

Macb. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo;
Down!

Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls: -- And thy air,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first: --
A third is like the former: -- Filthy hags!
Why do you shew me this? -- A fourth? -- Start, **eyes!**
What! will the line stretch out to the crack of
doom? ----

Another yet? -- A seventh? I'll see no more: ----
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass,

494

Which shews me many more; and some I see,

That twofold balls and treble scepters carry:
Horrible sight! -- Ø Now, I see, 'tis true;
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo 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,
And shew 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. [Musick.

[The witches dance and vanish.

Macb. Where are they? gone? -- Let this pernicious 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?

495

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. Ø Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits;

The flighty purpose never is o'er-took,
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't thought and
done:

The castle of Macduff I will surprize,
Seize upon Fife, give to the edge o'the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. 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.

Enter Macduff's wife, her son, and Rosse.

L. Macd. What had he done, to make him fly the
land?

Rosse. You must have patience, madam.

L. Macd. He had none:

496

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: 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. I dare not speak much fur-
ther:

But cruel are the times, when we are traitors,
And do not know ourselves; when we hold rumour

497 sig 2K

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.

498

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 hang'd.
Son. And must they all be hang'd, 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. 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.

Mes. Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,
Though in your state of honour I am perfect.
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,

499

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 Murtherers.

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? Ø
Young fry of treachery?

Son. He'as kill'd me, mother.
Run away, I pray you.

[Exit L. Macduff, crying Murther. Ø

SCENE III.

ENGLAND.

Enter Malcolm and Macduff.

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

500

Macd. Let us rather
Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men,
Bestride our down-faln birthdom. 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 syllables of dolour.

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail;

501

What know, believe; and, what I can redress,
As I shall find the time to friend, 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 wisdom
To offer up 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. **But I shall** crave your pardon;
That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose:
Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell:
Though all things foul would **wear** the brows of
grace,

Yet grace must look still so.

Macd. **I have** lost my hopes.

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

502

Why in that rawness left you wife and children,
(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 --

His title is affear'd! -- 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 yolk;
It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash

Is added to her wounds. I think withal,
There would be hands up-lifted in my right;
And here from gracious England have I offer

503

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 an 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

504

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 **staunchless** 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 seeming lust: and it hath been
The sword of our slain kings: Yet do not fear;
Scotland hath foysons to fill up your will,
Of your mere own. All these are portable,
With other graces weigh'd.

505

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming graces,
As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,
Bounty, perseverance, 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. Oh 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,
Dy'd every day she **lived**. Fare thee well!
These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,
Have banish'd 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: But God above

Deal between thee and me! for even now
I put myself to thy direction, and
Unspeak mine own detraction; here abjure

506

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 **Seyward** with ten thousand war-like men,
All ready at a point, was setting forth.
Now we'll together; and the chance of goodness

507

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
The great assay of art. But, at his touch,
Such sanctity hath Heaven given his hand,
They presently amend. [Exit.

Mal. I thank you, 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 sollicit Heaven,
Himself best knows: but strangely-visited people,
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,
The mere despair of surgery, he cures;
Hanging a golden stamp 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.
 Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.
 Mal. I know him now. Good God betimes remove
 The means that make us strangers!
 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 rend 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 whom; and good men's lives
 Expire before the flowers in their caps,
 Dying, or ere they sicken.
 Macd. Oh, relation
 Too nice, and yet too true!
 Mal. What's 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 **all** 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, and make women fight,
To doff their dire distresses.

Mal. Be't their comfort
We're coming thither. Gracious England hath
Lent us good Seyward 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 catch them.

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

510

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. Hum! 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
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.

511

Macd. He has no children. -- All my pretty ones?
Did you say, all? ø Oh, hell-kite! -- All?

What, all my pretty chickens, and their dam,
At one fell swoop?

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 wrath; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

Macd. Oh, I could play the woman with mine eyes,
And braggart with my tongue! But, gentle Heaven!
Cut short all intermission; front to front,
Bring thou this fiend of Scotland, and myself;
Within my sword's length set him; if he 'scape,
Ø Heaven, forgive him too!

Mal. This tune goes manly.
Come, go we to the King; our power is ready;
Our lack is nothing but our leave: Macbeth

512

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.

Enter a Doctor of physic, and a waiting Gentlewoman.

Doctor.

I have two nights watch'd with you, but can
perceive no truth in your report. When was it
she last walk'd?

Gent. Since his majesty went into the field, I have
seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown up-
on 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 watch-
ing. -- 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;

513 sig 2L

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.

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

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

Lady. 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. Out! damned spot! out, I say! ---- One; two; why then, 'tis time to do't: ---- Hell is murky! -- Fie, my lord, fie! 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. The Thane of Fife had a wife; Where is she now? What, will these hands ne'er be clean? --

514

No more o'that, my lord, no more o'that: you mar all with this starting.

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. 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

charg'd.

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 walk'd in their sleep,
who have died holily in their beds.

Lady. 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. 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.

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,

515

And still keep eyes upon her. -- So, good-night:
My mind **she has** mated, and amaz'd my sight:
I think, but dare not speak.

Gent. Good night, good doctor. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

Drum and Colours. Enter Menteth, Cathness, Angus,
Lenox, and Soldiers.

Ment. The English power is near, led on by
Malcolm,

His uncle **Seyward**, and the good Macduff.
Revenues burn in them: for their dear causes
Would, to the bleeding and the grim alarm
Excite the mortified man.

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 **Seyward's** son

And many unrough youths, 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

516

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?

Cath. Well, march we on,
To give obedience where 'tis truly ow'd.
Meet we the **medecin** of the sickly weal;
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.

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? Spirits, that know
All mortal consequences, have pronounc'd **me thus**:

517

*Fear not, Macbeth; no man, that's born of woman,
Shall e'er have power upon thee. -- Then fly, false Thanes,
And mingle with the English Epicures.
The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear,
Shall never sag with doubt, nor shake with fear.*

Enter a Servant.

The devil damn thee black, thou creamfac'd loon!
Where got'st thou that goose-look?

Ser. There **is** ten thousand ----

Macb. Geese, villain?

Ser. 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, whey-face?

Ser. 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

518

Will cheer me ever, or **dis-seat** me now.
I have liv'd long enough: my way of life
Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf;

519

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, and 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. ----

Give me my armour.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

Send out more horses, skirr the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. ---- Give me mine ar-
mour. ----

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 unto himself.

Macb. Throw physick 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, dispatch: ---- If thou could'st, doctor,
 cast

The water of my land, 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 rubarb, 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.

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

SCENE IV.

Drum and Colours. Enter Malcolm, **Seyward**, Macduff,
Seyward's Son, Menteth, Cathness, Angus, and Sol-
 diers marching.

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

Ment. We doubt it nothing.

Sey. 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.

Sey. 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,

522

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.

Sey. 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 issue strokes must arbitrate:
Towards which, advance the war. [Exeunt, marching.

SCENE V.

Enter Macbeth, Seyton, and Soldiers with drums
and colours.

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.

523

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 hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouze and stir,
As life were in't. I have supt full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaught'rous thoughts,
Cannot once start me. Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have dy'd hereafter;

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

524

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.

Mes. My gracious lord,

525

I should report that which, I say I saw,
But know not how to do't.

Macb. Well, say it, sir.

Mes. 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.

Mes. 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; if thy speech be sooth,
I care not, if thou dost for me as much. ----
-- I pull in resolution, and begin

526

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 un-
done. --

Ring the alarum bell. -- Blow, wind! come, wrack!
At least, we'll die with harness on our back.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.

Drum and colours. Enter Malcolm, Seyward, Macduff,
and their Army with Boughs.

Mal. Now, near enough: ---- Your leavy screens
throw down,
And shew 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.

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

527

Macd. Make all **your** trumpets speak; give them
all breath,
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.
[Exeunt. Alarums continued.]

SCENE VII.

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. **They have** ty'd 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 Seyward.

Yo. **Sey.** What is thy name?
Macb. Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.
Yo. **Sey.** No, though thou call'st thyself a hotter
name,
Than any is in hell.
Macb. My name's Macbeth.
Yo. **Sey.** The devil himself could not pronounce a
title
More hateful to mine ear.
Macb. No, nor more fearful.
Yo. **Sey.** Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my

sword

I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

[Fight, and young Seyward's 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, shew thy
face;
If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.

528

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 sheath again undeeded. There thou should'st be: --
By this great clatter, one of greatest note
Seems bruted. Let me find him, fortune! and
More I beg not. [Exit. Alarum.

Enter Malcolm and Seyward.

Sey. This way, my lord: -- The castle's gently ren-
der'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.

Sey. Enter, sir, the castle. [Exeunt. Alarum.

Re-enter Macbeth.

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

∅ Enter Macduff.

Macd. Turn, hell-hound, 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. [Fight. Alarum.
Macb. Thou lovest labour:

529 sig 2M

As easy may'st thou the intrenchant air
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;
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 shew, and gaze o'the time.
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole; and under-writ,

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Here may you see the tyrant.

Macb. I will 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.*
[Exeunt, fighting. Alarums.]

Re-enter fighting, and Macbeth is slain.

∅ Retreat and flourish. Enter with Drum and Colours,
Malcolm, Old Seyward, Rosse, Thanos, and Soldiers.

Mal. I would the friends we miss, were safe arriv'd.
Sey. 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 dy'd.

Sey. 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.

Sey. Had he his hurts before?

Rosse. Ay, on the front.

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Sey. 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.

Sey. He's worth no more;
They say, he parted well, and paid his score.
And, God be with him! -- Here comes newer comfort.

Enter Macduff with Macbeth's head.

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 **pearls,**
That speak my salutation in their minds;
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine, ----
Hail, King of Scotland!

All. Hail, King of Scotland! [Flourish.]

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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 kins-
men,
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. 0