

Oxberry 1821 Macbeth ... marked with the stage business,
and stage directions, as it is performed at the Theatres
Royal (London, 1821).

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Oxberry's Edition.

MACBETH.

A TRAGEDY;

By William Shakspeare.

WITH PREFATORY REMARKS.

THE ONLY EDITION EXISTING WHICH IS FAITHFULLY MARKED
WITH THE STAGE BUSINESS, AND STAGE DIRECTIONS,
AS IT IS PERFORMED AT THE
Theatres Royal.

BY W. OXBERRY, Comedian.

London.

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Remarks.

MACBETH.

Macbeth has long been the most popular of Shakspeare's tragedies;
its beauties are of a more palpable kind, and come more home to the
common apprehension than those of Lear, Hamlet, or Othello, which
are yet perhaps superior, and most assuredly do not yield to it in ex-
cellence. But however we may rank it in the scale with Shakspeare's
other plays, it is at all events a most glorious production, and one
which exalts the poet far above the greatest writers of any time or
any country.

The Witches appear to be the most important point for criticism; no
writer before Schlegel seems to have thoroughly entered into the me-
rits of this subject, for the defence of the poet invariably rested on the

manners of the age, which, though it might prove the fiction to be true, as certainly could not prove it to be sublime; while, on the other hand, the attacks were always founded on a comparison with authorities that Shakspeare did not own, and by which, therefore, he could not decently be tried. Schlegel, perhaps, refines too much, when he says that the witches are mere women when speaking amongst themselves, and when, addressing Macbeth, are under the influence of spirits. We can see nothing of all this; the witches in selling themselves to the powers of darkness, have added nothing to their original state of womanhood, but the tenfold wish and power to work evil; the language of a ploughman does not become more polished or his manners more elegant, because the weapons of death are put into his hands; he will grow more brutal, and his speech may be more violent, but certainly not more refined. Even so it is with the witches; their language is coarse, for where should they have got knowledge? But they are terrible from their power, and hateful from their use of it. If any thing were wanted to prove Shakspeare a sublimer poet than

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Æschylus, or Milton, or Dante, we have it here; their materials were sublime, but Shakspeare has produced as great effects from the lowest and most disgusting objects: nothing can be more awful than the incantation-scene, and yet what more base than the ingredients of the cauldron?

Lady Macbeth is drawn with a masterly hand; her crimes and her sufferings are of grandeur almost supernatural; the partial visitings of remorse too are in perfect keeping. In the awful hour of night and murder, when all nature seems to cry out against the deed, one kindly feeling alone clings to her heart,

---- "Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done it."

This solitary human expression casts a momentary blaze on the scene of horror, only to render the subsequent darkness more tremendous. Let any one read this with the fitting circumstances of time and place, and he will feel its force more fully than by any stage representation. It is not in the blaze of lights and the presence of numbers that the awe of this scene is to be duly estimated; the cricket will not cry, nor the owl shriek to the imagination, unless in loneliness and the doubtful light of a midnight chamber.

Macbeth's character is so beautifully described by his ambitious wife, that it seems like presumption to add a jot to her delineation.

---- "Thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition; but without
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst highly,
That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
And yet wouldst wrongly win; thoudst have, great Glamis,
That which cries, thus thou must do if thou have it;
And that which rather thou dost fear to do.
Than wishest should be undone." Act I, sc. 5.

The heroism of Macbeth is the heroism of a mere soldier, -- of the body, and not of the mind. In the murder-scene he is an absolute coward; with the witches he is desperate, not resolute; it is in the field of battle only that he is a brave man. It has indeed been said that Shakspeare in-

tended to show the inseparable connexion between true courage and morality; but Shakspeare had too much knowledge of human nature to think of any such thing; daily experience shews us that vice is often

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brave, and virtue cowardly. Besides, he has left us a Richard the Third, who was as little to be censured for fear, as praised for goodness. Iago, moreover, was a very approved soldier, and yet he had a very indifferent name for virtue.

The plot deserves the highest praise; the very multitude of its incidents makes the time of its action seem short; it is as if the balance weights had been taken from the clock of time and the wheels ran on with unchecked velocity; three great events take place, and though they must of necessity have happened at very distant periods, yet the poet has so admirably linked them together by minor incidents, that no pause occurs, and consequently the unity of time does not appear to be violated.

Of the alterations nothing can be said, unless to express our wonder at the stupid barbarians, who dared to lay hands on this perfect work with the idea of its improvement. We cannot do better than quote the words of Schlegel, who to the shame of the nation he it said, has more respect for the poet, than the generality of his own countrymen.

"Lag doch niemand Hand an Shakspeare's Werke, um etwas wesentlich daran zu ändern; es bestraft sich immer selbst."

Let no one lay hand on Shakspeare's works to alter any thing essential, it carries its own punishment with it. G. Soane.

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Time of Representation.

The time this piece takes in representation is three hours and twenty minutes. The half-price commences at nine o'clock.

Stage Directions.

By R.H.	is meant	Right Hand.
L.H.		Left Hand.
S.E.		Second Entrance.
U.E.		Upper Entrance.
M.D.		Middle Door.
D.F.		Door in Flat.
R.H.D.		Right Hand Door.
L.H.D.		Left Hand Door.

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Costume.

MACBETH.

First dress. -- Scarlet plaid vest, kelt and tartan, cap, feathers, and breast-plate. -- Second dress. -- Purple robe, white satin vest, and coronet for the head. -- Third dress. -- Kelt, tartan, cap and armour.

MALCOLM.

Scarlet and green plaid vest, kelt, tartan, breast-plate, cap and feathers.

KING.

Crimson velvet robe and vest, richly embroidered.

BANQUO.

Green plaid vest, kelt and tartan, breast-plate and cap.

MACDUFF.

Ibid.

LENOX.

Red and blue, -- ibid.

ROSSE.

Blue and crimson, -- ibid.

SIWARD.

Scarlet velvet doublet, trunks and cloak, breast-plate, hat and feathers.

SEYTON.

Green plaid vest, kelt and tartan, cap and feathers.

PHYSICIAN.

Black velvet doublet, trunks, cloak, &c.

SERJEANT.

Green and red plaid vest, kelt and tartan, cap, &c.

MURDERERS.

Green worsted plaid dresses.

LADY MACBETH.

First dress. -- Black velvet, trimmed with point lace, and plaid sarsnet scarf. -- Second dress. -- White satin, trimmed with silver, and scarlet cloth robe, trimmed with ermine and silver; coronet for the head. -- Third dress. -- White muslin morning wrapper trimmed with lace, and a veil, -- ibid.

GENTLEWOMAN.

Green satin dress, trimmed with silver, and spangled veil.

HECATE.

Blue vest, with stars shaded by blue gauze, Robe of do. and cap ornamented with snakes.

WITCHES

Similar, but varying in colours.

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Persons Represented.

	Drury-Lane.	Covent-Garden.
Duncan, (King of Scotland.)	Mr. Powell.	Mr. Chapman.
Malcolm.	Mr. Barnard.	Mr. Connor.
Donalbain.	Miss Carr.	Mr. Menage.
Macbeth.	Mr. Kean.	Mr. Macready.
Banquo.	Mr. Bengough.	Mr. Egerton.
Macduff.	Mr. H. Kemble.	Mr. Terry.
Lenox.	Mr. Marshall.	Mr. Jefferies.
Rosse.	Mr. Holland.	Mr. Comer.
Fleance.	Miss A. Carr.	Master C. Parsloe.
Siward.	Mr. R. Phillips.	Mr. Crumpton.
Seyton.	Mr. Ley.	Mr. Claremont.
Physician.	Mr. Maddocks.	Mr. Treby.
Serjeant.	Mr. Coveney.	
Murderers.	(Mr. Cooke.)	Mess. King & Atkins.
	(Mr. Minton.)	
Lady Macbeth.	Mrs. W. West.	Mrs. Faucit.
Gentlewoman.	Miss Tidswell.	Mrs. Connor.
Hecate.	Mr. Smith.	Mr. Taylor.
First Witch.	Mr. Gattie.	Mr. Blanchard.
Second Witch.	Mr. Knight.	Mr. Farley.
Third Witch.	Mr. Watkinson.	Mr. Fawcett.

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MACBETH.

ACT I.

SCENE I. -- The open Country.

Thunder and Lightning. -- Three Witches discovered.

1st. Witch. When shall we three meet again,
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
2d. Witch. When the hurly-burly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.
3d. Witch. That will be ere th' set of sun.
1st. Witch. Where the place?
2d. Witch. Upon the heath.
3d. Witch. There to meet with --
1st. Witch. Whom?
2d. Witch. Macbeth.
1st. Witch. (Noise of a cat.) I come, Gray-mal-
kin.
2d. Witch. (Noise of a toad.) Paddock calls.
All. Fair is foul, and foul is fair:

2

Hover through the fog and filthy air
(Thunder and Lightning.)
[Exeunt; 1st. and 2d. Witch, L.H. 3d. Witch, R.H.]

SCENE II. -- The Palace of Fores.

Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.

Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain,
Lenox, Rosse, and Two Chamberlains, with
keys and wands, L.H. meeting a bleeding Offi-
cer R.H.

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

Mal. (L.H.) 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.

Off. Doubtfully it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,
And choak their art. The merciless Macdowald
From the western isles
Of Kernes and Gallow glasses is supplied;
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name,)
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,

Which smok'd with bloody execution,
Like valour's minion,
Carv'd out his passage, till he fac'd the slave!
And ne'er shook hands nor bade farewell to him,

3

Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

King. O, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

Off. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:

No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,
Compelled these skipping Kernes to trust their heels;
But the Norweyan lord, surveying 'vantage,
With furbish'd arms, and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

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

Off. Yes;

As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion. --
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.

[Exeunt, Officer and Two Attendants, R.H.]

Who comes here?

Mal. The worthy thane of Fife.

Len. (R.H.) What a haste looks through his eyes!

Rosse. (L.H.) So should he look.

That seems to speak things strange.

Enter Macduff, R.H.

Macd. God save the king!

King. Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

Macd. From Fife, great king,

Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,
And fan our people cold.

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, 'gan a dismal conflict;

4

Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd 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!

Macd. That now

Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition;
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.

Macd. I'll see it done.

[Exeunt Macduff and Lenox, R.H.]

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

(Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.)

[Exeunt, L.H.]

SCENE III. -- A Heath, and Bridge in the back
ground, over the Mountains.

(Thunder and Lightning.)

Enter 1st. Witch, R.H.S.E. 2d. Witch, L.H.S.E.

3d. Witch, R.H.

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

2d. Witch. Killing swine.

3d. Witch. Sister, where thou?

1st. Witch. A sailor's wife had chesnuts in her lap,
And mounch'd, and mounch'd, and mounch'd: -- *Give*
me, quoth I.

5

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

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.

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

1st. Witch. Thou art kind.

3d. Witch. And I another.

1st. Witch. I myself have all the other;
And the very ports 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:
Though his bark cannot be lost,

6

Yet it shall be tempest-tost. --
Look what I have.

2d. Witch. Show me, show me.

1st. Witch. Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wreck'd as homeward he did come.

(A March at a distance, L.H.)

3d. Witch. A drum, a drum!

Macbeth doth come.

All. The weird sisters, hand in hand, (They join
hands, and walk mysteriously round.)

Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about.

2d. Witch. Thrice to thine, --

(1st. Witch bows thrice.)

3d. Witch. And thrice to mine, --

(3d. Witch bows thrice.)

1st. Witch. And thrice again, --

(2d. Witch bows thrice.)

All. To make up nine.

1st. Witch. Peace; -- the charm's wound up. (They
stand on R.H. of the stage.)

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, and the Army, over the
Bridge, L.H.U.E.

ORDER OF PASSING THE BRIDGE.

*Standard—Six Guards—Band, (playing a March.)
—Six Officers—Macbeth—Banquo—Three Guards
—Standard, and Three Guards, remain on the
Bridge.*

Mac. Command they make a halt upon the heath.
(Within.) Halt, -- halt, -- halt!

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

Ban. How far is't call'd to Fores? -- What are these,

7

So wither'd and so wild in their attire;
That look not like the inhabitants o'the earth,
And yet are on't? -- Live you, or are you aught

That man may question? (Each Witch lays the fore-
finger of her right hand on her lips, and with
her left hand points to Macbeth.) -- You seem
to understand me,
By each at once her choppy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: (Crosses to them.) you should be
women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

Mac. (On L.H.) Speak, if you can; -- what are you?

1st. Witch. (R.H. -- Each Witch takes her finger
quickly from her lips before she speaks.) All
hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

2d. Witch. (Next to 1st. Witch.) All hail, Mac-
beth! hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

3d. Witch. (Next to 2d. Witch.) All hail, Macbeth!
that shalt be king hereafter. (Each Witch
drops on her knee. They continue to point at
Macbeth, till Banquo adjures them -- "In the
name of truth," -- at which they all start up.)

Ban. Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear
Things that do sound so fair? I'the name of truth,
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner
You greet with present grace, and great prediction
Of noble having, and of royal hope,
That he seems wrapt withal; to me you speak not:
If you can look into the seeds of time,
And say, which grain will grow, and which will not;

8

Speak then to me, who neither beg, nor fear,
Your favours, nor your hate.

1st. Witch. Hail!

2d. Witch. Hail!

3d. Witch. Hail!

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

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

3d. Witch. Thou shalt get kings, though thou be
none.

All. So, all hail, Macbeth and Banquo.

Banquo, and Macbeth, all hail! (Going, R.H.)

Mac. (Crosses hastily over to the Witches.) 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 prophetic greeting? --

[Thunder and Lightning. -- Witches vanish, R.H.
Speak, I charge you.

Ban. The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,
And these are of them: -- whither are they vanished?

Mac. Into the air; and what seem'd 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,
That takes the reason prisoner?

Mac. Your children shall be kings.

Ban. You shall be king.

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

Ban. To the self-same tune, and words. -- (Trumpet
sounds, R.H.) -- Who's here?

Enter Macduff and Lenox, R.H.

Macd. The king hath happily received, Macbeth,

9

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 afeard 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 poured them down before him.

Len. We are sent,
To give thee from our royal master, thanks;
Only to herald thee into his sight,
Not pay thee.

Macd. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,
He bade me, from him call thee, thane of Cawdor:
(Macbeth and Banquo start.)

In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!
For it is thine.

Ban. What! can the devil speak true? (Aside.)

Mac. The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me
In borrow'd robes?

Macd. Who was the thane -- lives yet;
But under heavy judgment bears that life,
Which he deserves to lose;
For treasons capital, confess'd, and prov'd
Have overthrown him.

Mac. Glamis, and thane of Cawdor:
The greatest is behind. -- (Aside.) -- Thanks for your
 pains. -- (To Macd. and Len.)
Do you not hope your children shall be kings,
 (Aside to Banquo.)
When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me,
Promis'd no less to them.

Ban. That, trusted home,

10

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. -- Cousins, a word, I pray you.
 (They converse apart.)

Mac. (Aside.) Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen. --
This supernatural soliciting
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
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.

Mac. (Aside.) If chance will have me king; why,
 chance may crown me,
Without my stir.

Ban. New honours come upon him

11

Like our strange garments; cleave not to their mould
But with the aid of use.

Mac. (Aside.) Come what come may;
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.
Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.
Mac. Give me your favour: -- my dull brain was
wrought
With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains
Are register'd where every day I turn
The leaf to read them. -- Let us toward the king. --
Think upon what hath chanc'd; and at more time,
The interim having weigh'd it, let us speak
Our free hearts each to other. (To Banquo.)
Ban. Very gladly.
Mac. Till then, enough. -- Come, friends. (March.)
[Exeunt, R.H.]

SCENE IV. -- The Palace at Fores.

Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.

Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Rosse,
and two Chamberlains, L.H.

King. Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
Those in commission yet returned?

Mal. (On L.H. of Donal.) My liege,
They are not yet come back.
But I have spoke
With one that saw him die: who did report
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons;
Implor'd your highness' pardon; and set forth
A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him, like the leaving it; he died

12

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

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

Enter Macduff, Macbeth, Banquo, and Lenox, L.H.

O worthiest cousin!
The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me; thou art so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow

To overtake thee. 'Would thou hadst less deserved,
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.

Mac. 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.

King. Welcome hither:
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing. -- (Macbeth crosses
behind to R.H.) -- Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserv'd, nor 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,

13

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: -- (All bow to Malcolm.)
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. (To Macbeth.)

Mac. 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. --

(The King and nobles retire up the stage.)

Mac. (Crosses to R.H.) (Aside.) The Prince of Cum-
berland! -- That is a step,
On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap,
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, R.H.]

King. (Advancing.) 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. [Exeunt, R.H.
(Flourish of trumpets and drums.)

SCENE V. -- Macbeth's Castle at Inverness.

Enter Lady Macbeth, R.H. reading a Letter.

Lady M. -- *They met me in the day of success; and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I*

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burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves -- air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all hailed me Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time with, Hail, king that shalt be! This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness; that thou might not lose the dues of rejoicing by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promised: -- yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness,
To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition; but without
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst

highly,
That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
And yet wouldst wrongly win; thou'dst have, great

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

Enter Seyton, L.H.

What is your tidings?

Sey. The king comes here to-night.

Lady M. Thou'rt mad to say it:

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

Sey. So please you, it is true: our thane is coming:

15

One of my fellows had the speed of him;
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.

Lady M. Give him tending,
He brings great news. [Exit Seyton, L.H.
The raven himself is hoarse,
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, all 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; not keep pace between
The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,
Wherever 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!* --

16

Enter Macbeth, L.H.

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

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

Lady M. And when goes hence?

Mac. To-morrow, as he purposes.

Lady M. O, never
Shall sun that morrow see!
Your face, my thane, is as a book, where men
May read strange matters: -- to beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,

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

Mac. We will speak further.

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

[Exeunt, R.H.]

SCENE VI. -- The Gates of Inverness Castle.

A flourish of trumpets and drums.

Enter King Duncan, Banquo, Malcolm, Donal-
bain, Macduff, Lenox, Rosse, and two Cham-

17

berlains, R.H.S.E. -- (Malcolm, Donalbain, and
Macduff, pass over behind to L.H.)

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

Ban. This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,
By his lov'd mansionry, that the heaven's breath
Smells wooingly here: no jutty frieze,
Buttress, nor coigne of vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendent bed, and procreant cradle:
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed,
The air is delicate.

Enter Lady Macbeth, Seyton, and two Ladies,
through the gate.

King. See, see! our honour'd hostess! --

(All bow to Lady Macbeth.)

The love that follows us, sometime is our trouble,
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you,
How you shall bid heaven yield us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady M. All our service
In every point twice done, and then done double,
Were poor and single business, to contend
Against those honours deep and broad wherewith
Your majesty loads our house: for those of old,

And the late dignities heap'd up to them,
We rest your hermits.

King. Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We coursed him at the heels, and had a purpose
To be his purveyor: but he rides well;
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him

18

To his home before us: fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to night.

Lady M. 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. -- (Takes Lady M.'s hand.)
(Flourish of trumpets and drums.)

[Exeunt through the gate.]

SCENE VII. -- Macbeth's Castle at Inverness.

Enter Macbeth, R.H.

Mac. If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere
well

It were done quickly; if the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With his surcease, success: -- 'that but this blow
Might be the be-all, and the end-all, here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, --
We'd jump the time to come. -- But, in these cases,
We still have judgement here, that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which being taught, return
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. -- He's here in double trust:
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. -- Besides, this Duncan

19

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:
I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself,
And falls on the other -- how now! what news?

Enter Lady Macbeth, R.H.

Lady M. He has almost supped: why have you
left the chamber?

Mac. Hath he asked for me?

Lady M. Know you not, he has?

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

Lady M. Was the hope drunk,
Wherein you dressed 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. -- (Crosses to L.H.) -- Art thou
afeard

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?

Mac. 'Prythee, peace:

I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more, is none.

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

20

When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time, nor place,
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you. I have given suck; and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milk me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn
As you have done to this.

Mac. If we should fail? ----

Lady M. 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,
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?

21

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

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

Mac. 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, R.H.]

END OF THE FIRST ACT.

ACT II.

SCENE I. -- Macbeth's Castle at Inverness. -- The
Gallery.

Enter Banquo and Fleance, with a Torch, R.H.

Ban. How goes the night, boy?

Fle. The moon is down: I have not heard the
clock.

Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

Fle. I take't 'tis later, sir.

Ban. There's husbandry in heaven,
Their candles are all out. --
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,

And yet I would not sleep; merciful powers,

23

Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature
Gives way to in repose!

Enter Seyton with a Torch, and Macbeth, L.H.D.

Who's there?

Mac. A friend.

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

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

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

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

Ban. At your kind'st leisure.

Mac. If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis,
It shall make honour for you.

Ban. So I lose none,
In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchis'd, and allegiance clear,
I shall be counsel'd.

Mac. Good repose the while!

Ban. Thanks, sir: the like to you!

[Exeunt Fleance, and Banquo, L.H.U.E.]

Mac. Go, bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

[Exit Seyton, L.H.]

23

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-oppres'd brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshal'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;
And on thy blade and dudgeon, gouts of blood,
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
The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings; and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
Towards his design
Moves like a ghost. -- Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my where-about,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. (A clock strikes two, R.H.)
I go, and it is done,; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan: for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell. [Exit, R.H.D.
(Thunder and lightning.)

24

Enter Lady Macbeth, L.H.

Lady M. 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.
Mac. (Within, R.H.) Who's there? -- what, ho!
Lady M. Alack! I am afraid they have awak'd,
And 'tis not done: -- the attempt, and not the deed,
Confounds us: hark! -- I laid their daggers ready,
He could not miss them. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't. My husband?

Enter Macbeth, R.H.D. with two bloody daggers.

Mac. I have done the deed: -- didst thou not hear a noise?

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

Did not you speak?

Mac. When?

Lady M. Now.

Mac. As I descended?

Lady M. Ay.

Mac. Hark! -- Who lies i'the second chamber?

Lady M. Donalbain.

Mac. This is a sorry sight. (Looking on his hands.)

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

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

25

That they did wake each other; I stood and heard them;
But they did say their prayers, and address'd them
Again to sleep.

Lady M. There are two lodg'd together.

Mac. One cried, *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 M. Consider it not so deeply.

Mac. But wherefore could not I pronounce, *amen*?
I had most need of blessing, and *amen*
Stuck in my throat.

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

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

To all the house; --

*Glamis hath murdered sleep; and therefore Cawdor
Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!*

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

You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brain-sickly of things: go, get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand. --
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there: go, carry them; and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.

Mac. I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again I dare not.

Lady M. Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers; the sleeping, and the dead,
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood,
That fears a painted devil. -- If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt. [Exit, R.H.D.]

26

Mac. (Knocking within, L.H.) Whence is that knock-
ing?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine eyes!
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green -- one red.

Enter Lady Macbeth, R.H.D.

Lady M. My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white. (Knocking within, L.H.)

I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber:
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it then? Your constancy
Hath left you unattended. (Knocking within, L.H.)

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

Mac. To know my deed, 'twere best not know
myself. (Knocking within, L.H.)
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! Ay, 'would thou
could'st! (Knocking within, L.H.) [Exeunt, R.H.]

Enter Seyton, Macduff, and Lenox, L.H.U.E.

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

Sey. 'Faith, sir, we were carousing till the second
cock.

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

Enter Macbeth, L.H.

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!

27

Mac. Good-morrow, both! [Exit Seyton, L.H.]

Macd. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Mac. Not yet.

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

Mac. I'll bring you to him.

Macd. I know this is a joyful trouble to you;
But yet 'tis one.

Mac. The labour we delight in, physics pain.
This is the door.

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

Len. Goes the king from hence to-day?

Mac. 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,
And prophesying, with accents terrible,
Of dire combustion, 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.

Mac. 'Twas a rough night.

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

Enter Macduff, R.H.D.

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

Mac. 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.

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

28

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

[Exeunt Macbeth and Lenox, R.H.D.]

Awake! awake! --

Ring the alarum-bell: -- Murder! and treason!

Banquo, and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!

Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,

And look on death itself! -- up, up, and see

The great doom's image! ---- Malcolm! Banquo!

As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,

To countenance this horror. (The bell rings out.)

Enter Banquo and Rosse, L.H.U.E.

O, Banquo, Banquo,

Our royal master's murder'd!

Enter Macbeth and Lenox, R.H.D.

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

All is but toys: renown, and grace, is dead;

The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees

Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter Malcolm and Donalbain, R.H.U.E.

Mal. What is amiss?

Mac. You are, and do not know it.

The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood

Is stopp'd: the very source of it is stopp'd.

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. O, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had done't:
Their hands and faces were all badg'd with blood,

29

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.

[Exeunt Donalbain and Malcolm, R.H.D.]

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

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

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

Loyal and neutral in a moment? No man:

The expedition of my violent love

Out-ran the pauser reason. -- Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;
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,
That had a heart to love, and in that heart
Courage, to make his love known?

Ban. Fears and scruples shake us:
In the great hand of heaven I stand; and, thence,
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice.

Mac. And so do I.

All. So all.

Macd. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet i'the hall together;
And question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further.

All. Well contented.

[Exeunt, Mac. and Len. R.H. the rest, L.H.]

SCENE II. -- A Wood on the skirt of a Heath.

(Thunder and Lightning.)

Enter the three Witches, and a chorus of Witches.

1st Witch. Speak, sister, speak; -- is the deed done?

30

2d Witch. Long ago, long ago;
Above twelve glasses since have run.

3d Witch. Ill deeds are seldom slow,
Nor single; following crimes on former wait;
The worst of creatures fastest propagate.

Chor. Many more murders must this one ensue:
Dread horrors still abound,
And every place surround,
As if in death were found
Propagation too.

1st Witch. He must, --

2d Witch. He shall, --

3d Witch. He will spill much more blood,
And become worse, to make his title good.

Chorus. He must, he will spill much more blood,
And become worse, to make his title good.

1st Witch. Now let's dance.

2d Witch. Agreed.

3d Witch. Agreed.

Chor. We should rejoice when good kings bleed.

1st Witch. When cattle die, about we go;

When lightning and dread thunder

Rend stubborn rocks in sunder,

And fill the world with wonder,

What should we do?

Chor. Rejoice, we should rejoice.

2d Witch. When winds and waves are warring,

Earthquakes the mountains tearing,

And monarchs die despairing,

What should we do?

Chor. Rejoice, we should rejoice.

3d Witch. Let's have a dance upon the heath,

We gain more life by Duncan's death.

1st Witch. Sometimes like brinded cats we shew,

Having no music but our mew.

To which we dance in some old mill,

Upon the hopper, stone, or wheel,

To some old saw, or bardish rhyme, --

Chor. Where still the mill-clack does keep time.

2d Witch. Sometimes about a hollow tree,

31

Around, around, around dance we;

Thither the chirping cricket comes,

And beetle singing drowsy hums;

Sometimes we dance o'er fern or furze,

To howls of wolves, or barks of curs;

And when with none of those we meet, --

Chor. We dance, to th' echoes of our feet.

(Thunder, &c.)

3d Witch. At the night-raven's dismal voice,

When others tremble, we rejoice.

Chor. And nimbly, nimbly, dance we still,

To th' echoes from a hollow hill. [Exeunt, severally.]

END OF ACT II.

ACT III.

SCENE I. -- Macbeth's Castle at Inverness.

Enter Macduff, L.H. meeting Lenox, R.H.

Len. How goes the world, sir, now?

Macd. Why, see you not?

Len. Is't known, who did this more than bloody

deed?

Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

Len. 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.

Len. 'Gainst nature still: --

Thriftless ambition, that will ravin up
Thine own life's means! -- Then 'tis most like,
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

32

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

Len. Where is Duncan's body?

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

Len. Will you to Scone?

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

Len. Well, I will thither.

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

Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!

[Exeunt, Macd. R.H. Len. L.H.]

SCENE II. -- The Palace at Fores.

Enter Banquo and Fleance, R.H.

Ban. Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promis'd; and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't; yet it was said,
It should not stand in thy posterity:
But that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings: if there come truth from them, --
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine, --
Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well,
And set me up in hope?

(Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.)

But, hush; no more.

Enter Macbeth, as King; Seyton, Lenox, Rosse,
and Attendants, through the gates.

Mac. Here's our chief guest:
If he had been forgotten,

33

It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all things unbecoming. --
To-night, we hold a solemn supper, sir,
And I'll request your presence.

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

Mac. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

Mac. We should have else desir'd your good
advice --

Which still hath been both grave and prosperous, --
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.
Is't far you ride?

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

Mac. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

Mac. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention: but of that to-morrow;
When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: adieu,
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

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

Mac. I wish your horses swift, and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs.
Farewell. -- [Exeunt Banquo and Fleance, L.H.
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: while then, heaven be with you!

[Exeunt, all but Mac. and Sey. through the castle gates.

34

Sirrah, a word: attend those men our pleasure?

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

Mac. Bring them before us. -- [Exit Seyton, L.H.D.

To be thus, is nothing: --
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,
Mark Antony's was by Cæsar. He chid the sisters,
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him; then, prophet-like,
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,
And put a barren sceptre 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 murder'd;
And mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
To make them kings. -- The seed of Banquo kings! --
Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,
And champion me to the utterance!

35

Enter Seyton, with two Officers, L.H.D.

Now to the door, and stay there till we call. --

[Exit Seyton, L.H.D.]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

1st Off. It was, so please your highness.

Mac. Well then, now

Have you consider'd of my speeches?

Do you find

Your patience so predominant in your nature,
That you can let this go? Are you so gospel'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?

2d Off. 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.

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

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

1st Off. True, my lord.

Mac. 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 barefaced power sweep him from my sight,
And bid my will avouch it; yet I must not,
For sundry weighty reasons.

36

2d Off. We shall, my lord,
Perform what you command us. ----

1st Off. Though our lives ----

Mac. Your spirits shine through you. Within this
hour, at most,
I will advise you where to plant yourselves.
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time,
The moment on't; 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 apart;
I'll come to you anon.

1st Off. We are resolv'd, my lord.

Mac. I'll call upon you straight! abide within.

(Exeunt Officers, L.H.D.)

It is concluded: ---- Banquo, thy soul's flight,
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night. [Exit, R.H.]

Enter Lady Macbeth, as Queen; and Seyton, R.H.

Lady M. Is Banquo gone from court?

Sey. Ay, madam; but returns again to-night.

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

Sey. Madam, I will. [Exit, L.H.D.]

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

Enter Macbeth, L.H.D.

How now, my lord? why do you keep alone,

Of sorriest fancies your companions making? --
Using those thoughts, which should indeed have died
With them they think on? Things without remedy,
Should be without regard; what's done, is done.

Mac. 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 ecstasy. -- 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! (Crosses to R.H.)

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

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

Lady M. But in them nature's copy's not eterne.

Mac. There's comfort yet, they are assailable;
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown
His cloister'd flight; ere to black Hecate's summons,
The shard-borne beetle, with his drowsy hums,
Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done
A deed of dreadful note.

Lady M. What's to be done?

Mac. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest
chuck,
Till thou applaud the deed. -- Come, seeling night,
(Crosses to L.H.)

Skarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;
And, with thy bloody and invisible hand,
Cancel and tear to pieces, that great bond
Which keeps me pale! -- Light thickens; and the
crow

Makes wing to the rooky wood;
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;

Whiles night's black agents to their prey do rouse.
Thou marvel'st at my words: but hold thee still;
Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill.
[Exeunt, L.H.]

SCENE III. -- A Park near the Palace at Fores.

Enter the Two Officers, L.H.

1st. Off. 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.

2d. Off. Hark! I hear horses.

Ban. (Within, R.H.) Give us a light there, ho!

1st. Off. Then it is he; the rest;
That are within the note of expectation,
Already are i'the court.

39

2d. Off. His horses go about.

1st. Off. Almost a mile: but he does usually,
So all men do, from hence to the palace gate,
Make it their walk.

2d. Off. A light, a light!

1st. Off. 'Tis he. (They retire, R.H.)

Enter Fleance, with a torch, and Banquo, R.H.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

(Exeunt Fleance and Banquo, L.H.)

1st. Off. Let it come down. [Exeunt Officers, L.H.]

Ban. (Within.) O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance,
fly, fly, fly; --

Re-enter Fleance, hastily, L.H.

Fle. Murder! murder! murder! [Exit, R.H.]

Ban. (Within.) Thou may'st revenge. -- O slave! --
O, O, O! (Dies.)

Re-enter Officers, pursuing Fleance, L.H.

1st. Off. Why didst strike out the light?

2d. Off. Was't not the way?

1st. Off. There's but one down; the son is fled.

2d. Off. We have lost best half of our affair.

1st. Off. Well, let's away, and say how much is
done. [Exeunt, R.H.]

SCENE IV. -- The Banqueting-room, in the Palace
at Fores.

(Music. -- A Banquet prepared.)

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Rosse, Lenox, Seyton,
Attendants, Guards, &c. discovered.

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ORDER OF THE BANQUET.

Guards—Banner.

Banner—Guards.

Throne.

MARSHAL—KING—QUEEN—SEYTON.

*Gent.
Lady.
Gent.
Lady.
Gent.
Lady.
Rosse.*

Table Decorated.

Table Decorated.

Table Decorated.

*Gent.
Lady.
Gent.
Lady.
Gent.
Lady.
Lenox.
A Chair.*

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

Rosse. Thanks to your majesty.

Mac. Ourselves will mingle with society,
And play the humble host:
Our hostess keeps her state; but, in best time,
We will require her welcome.

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

Mac. 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. --

Enter 1st. Officer, L.H.D. -- Macbeth crosses over
to him, and takes him aside.

There's blood upon thy face.

1st. Off. 'Tis Banquo's then.

41

Mac. Is he despatch'd?

1st. Off. My lord, his throat is cut: that I did for him.

Mac. Thou art the best o'the cut-throats: yet he's good,

That did the like for Fleance.

1st. Off. Most royal sir,
Fleance is 'scap'd.

Mac. 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?

1st. Off. Ay, my good lord; safe in a ditch he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;
The least a death to nature.

Mac. 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 Officer, L.H.D.]

Lady M. 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.

Mac. Sweet remembrancer! (Crosses to centre.)
Now, good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both!

Len. May it please your highness sit?

Mac. Here had we now our country's honour roof'd,

43

Were the grac'd person of our Banquo present;
Whom may I rather challenge for unkindness,
Than pity for mischance!

(Banquo enters, bloody, L.H. and seats himself
in the vacant chair.)

Rosse. His absence, sir,
Lays blames upon his promise. Please it your high-

ness

To grace us with your royal company?

Mac. The table's full.

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

Mac. Where?

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

Mac. Which of you have done this?

Len. What, my good lord?

Mac. Thou canst not say, I did it: never shake
Thy gory locks at me.

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

Lady M. 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. -- (Comes down from the
throne to Macbeth, on R.H. and takes him
apart.) -- Are you a man?

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

Lady M. O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear;
This is the air-drawn dagger, which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws, and starts, --
Impostors to true fear, -- would well become
A woman's story, at a winter's fire,

43

Authoriz'd by her grandam. Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

Mac. 'Pr'ythee, see there! behold! look! lo! -- How
say you? --

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

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

Mac. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady M. Fie, for shame! (Returns to her seat.)

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

Ere human statute purg'd the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,

That, when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end: but now, they rise again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: this is more strange
Than such a murder is. (Apart.)

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

Mac. 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: --
(Seyton pours out the wine, and presents it to
the king.)

I drink to the general joy of the whole table,
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss
'Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,

44

And all to all.

Rosse. Our duties, and the pledge.

Enter Banquo, R.H.

Mac. Avaunt! and quit my sight! Let the earth
hide thee!
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes,
Which thou dost glare with!

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

Mac. What man dare, I dare:
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The arm'd Rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger,
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble; or, be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling, I inhabit, then protest me
The baby of a girl. -- Hence, horrible shadow!
Unreal mockery, hence! -- [Exit Banquo, R.H.
Why, so; -- being gone,
I am a man again.

Lady M. You have displac'd the mirth, broke the
good meeting,
With most admir'd disorder.-- (Comes down from the
throne to Macbeth, on L.H. and speaks to him

apart.)

Mac. Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer's cloud,
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,

45

When mine are blanch'd with fear.

Rosse. What sights, my lord?

Lady M. I pray you, speak not; he grows worse and
worse;

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

[Exeunt, all but the King and Queen, on the
sides nearest to them.]

Mac. 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
By magot-pies, and choughs, and rooks, brought
forth

The secret'st man of blood. -- What is the night?

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

Mac. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies his per-
son.

At our great bidding?

Lady M. Did you send to him, sir?

Mac. I hear it by the way; but I will send:
There's not a one of them, but in his house
I keep a servant fee'd. -- I will to-morrow,
And betimes I will, unto the weird sisters:
More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know,
By the worst means, the worst: for mine own good,
All causes shall give way; I am in blood
Stepp'd in so far, that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.

46

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

Mac. Come, we'll to sleep: my strange and self-
abuse

Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use:
We are yet bur young indeed. [Exeunt, R.H.]

SCENE V. -- The open country.

(Thunder and Lightning.)

Enter the three Witches, L.H. meeting Hecate, R.H.

1st. Witch. Why, how now, Hecate? you look an-
gerly.

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 called to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?
But make amends now: get you gone,
And at the pit of Acheron
Meet me i' the morning; thither he
Will come to know his destiny. --
Your vessels, and your spells, provide,
Your charms, and every thing beside:
I am for the air; this night I'll spend
Unto a dismal-fatal end.

[Exeunt the three Witches, R.H.]

1st. Spirit. (Within, R.H.) Hecate, Hecate, Hecate!
O, come away!

Hec. Hark! I am call'd: -- my little spirit, see,
Sits in a foggy cloud, and waits for me.

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2d Spirit. (Within, R.H.) Hecate, Hecate, Hecate!
O, come away!

Hec. I come, I come, with all the speed I may. --
Where's Stadlin?

3d Spirit. (Within.) Here; --

Hec. Where's Puckle?

4th Spirit. (Within.) Here; --

5th Spirit. (Within.) And Hoppo too, and Hell-
waine too; --

6th Spirit. (Within.) We want but you, we want
but you.

Enter the Chorus of Witches.

Cho. Come away, make up the count.

Hec. With new-fall'n dew,
from church-yard yew,
I will but 'noint, and then I mount.

1st Spirit. Why thou stay'st so long, I muse.

Hec. Tell me, Spirit, tell, what news?

2d Spirit. All goes fair for our delight.

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

(Hecate places herself in her Chair.)

Now I go, and now I fly,
Malkin, my sweet spirit and I.
O, what a dainty pleasure's this,
To sail in the air,
While the moon shines fair!
To sing, to toy, to dance and kiss!
Over woods, high rocks, and mountains,
Over seas, our mistress' fountains,
Over steeples, towers, and turrets,
We fly by night 'mongst troops of spirits.

Cho. We fly by night 'mongst troops of spirits.

[Exeunt Hecate in the air and the Witches, R.H.
and L.H.]

END OF ACT III.

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ACT IV.

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

(Thunder.) The three Witches discovered.

1st Witch. Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.

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2d Witch. R.H. Thrice: and once the hedge-pig
whin'd.

50

3d Witch. L.H. Harper cries; -- 'tis time, 'tis
'time.

1st Witch. Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw. --
Toad, that under the cold stone
Days and nights hast thirty-one,

Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot!

All. (Going round the cauldron.) Double, double
toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron bubble.

2d Witch. Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake:

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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. (Going round the cauldron.) Double, double
toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

3d 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,
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-strangled babe,
Ditch-delivered by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For the ingredients of our cauldron.

All. (Going round the cauldron.) Double, double
toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2d Witch. Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.

Enter Hecate, R.H.U.E.

Hec. O, well done! I commend your pains;

52

And every one shall share i' the gains.
And now about the cauldron sing,
Like elves and fairies in a ring,
Enchanting all that you put in.

Enter Spirits, and the Chorus of Watches, from different parts of the stage.

MUSIC AND SONG.

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

*1st Spirit. Tiffin, Tiffin,
Keep it stiff in.*

*2d Spirit. Firedrake Puckey,
Make it lucky.*

*3d Spirit. Liard Robin,
You must bob in.*

*Cho. Around, around, around, about, about;
All ill come running in, all good keep out!*

4th Spirit. Here's the blood of a bat.

Hec. Put in that, put in that.

5th Spirit. Here's Libbard's brain.

Hec. Put in a grain.

*6th Spirit. Here's juice of toad, and oil of adder;
Those will make the charm grow madder.*

*Hec. Put in all these; 'twill raise a pois'nous
stench!*

Hold -- here's three ounces of a red-hair'd wench.

*Cho. Around, around, around, about, about;
All ill come running in, all good keep out!*

*Hec. By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes: -- (Noise with-
out, L.H.)*

53

Open, locks, whoever knocks.

[Exeunt all but the three Witches, R.H.U.E. and
L.H.U.E.]

Enter Macbeth, L.H.U.E.

Mac. How now, you secret, black, and mid-night
hags?

What is't you do?

All. A deed without a name.

Mac. I conjure you, by that which you profess,
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me
To what I ask you.

1st Witch. Speak.

2d Witch. Demand.

3d Witch. We'll answer.

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

Or from our masters?

Mac. Call them, let me see them.

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

All. Come, high, or low;
Thyself and office, deftly show. (Thunder.)

First Apparition, an armed head, rises from the trap
in the middle of the stage.

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

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

Appa. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware
Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. -- Dismiss me: -- Enough.
(Descends.)

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Mac. Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;
Thou hast harp'd my fear aright; -- but one word
more --

1st Witch. He will not be commanded: here's ano-
ther,
More potent than the first. (Thunder.)

2d Apparition, a bloody child rises.

Appa. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! --

Mac. Had I three ears I'd hear thee.

Appa. Be bloody, bold and resolute; laugh to scorn,
The power of man; for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth. (Descends.)

Mac. 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. (Thunder.)

3d Apparition, a Child crowned, with a bough in his
hand, rises.

What is this,

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 to't.

Appa. Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquished be, until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him. (Descends.)

Mac. That will never be:
Who can impress the forest; bid the tree

55

Unfix his earth-bound root? sweet bodements! good!
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.

Mac. I will be satisfied: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! -- (Thunder. -- The
cauldron sinks.)

Let me know,
Why sinks that cauldron? (Groans without.)
And what noise is this?

1st Witch. Show!

2d Witch. Show!

3d Witch. Show!

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

Apparitions of eight Kings, the last with a glass in
his hand, followed by Banquo, pass across the
stage from R.H.U.E. to L.H.U.E.

Mac. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo; down!
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls: -- and thy hair,
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,
Which shews me many more: --

Banquo enters, -- and the Witches vanish, R.H.

Horrible sight! -- Ay! now, I see, 'tis true!
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,

56

And points at them for his. -- What? is this so? --
Where are they? Gone? -- Let this pernicious hour
Stand aye accursed in the calendar! --
Come in, without there!

Enter Seyton, L.H.U.E.

Sey. What's your grace's will?

Mac. Saw you the weird sisters?

Sey. No, my lord.

Mac. Came they not by you?

Sey. No, indeed, my lord.

Mac. 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?

Sey. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you
word,

Macduff is fled to England.

Mac. Fled to England?

Sey. Ay, my good lord.

Mac. Time, thou anticipat'st my dread ex-
ploits:

The flighty purpose never is o'ertook,
Unless the deed go with it; from this moment,
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand: and even now,
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
done.

The castle of Macduff I will surprise;
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. No boasting, like a fool:
This deed I'll do, before this purpose cool. --
Where are these gentlemen? [Exeunt, R.H.]

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SCENE II. -- The Country, -- in England.

Enter Malcolm and Macduff, L.H.

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

Macd. Let us rather
Hold fast the mortal sword: and, like good men,
Bestride our down-fall'n birthdom: each new morn,
New widows howl; new orphans cry; new sorrows
Strike heaven cm the face, that it resounds
As if it felt with Scotland, and yell'd out
Like syllables of dolour.

Mal. 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 touched you yet.

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is.
A good and virtuous nature may recoil,
In an imperial charge.

Macd. I have lost my hopes.

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

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

Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country!
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,
For goodness dares not check thee! --
Fare thee well, lord:

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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. (Crosses to L.H.)

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

Macd. What should he be?

Mal. It is myself, I mean: in whom I know

All the particulars of vice so grafted,
That, when they shall be opened, 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;
But there's no bottom, none,
In my voluptuousness.
The king-becoming graces,
As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,
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! (Crosses to R.H.)

59

Mal. If such a one be fit to govern, speak.

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 accursed,
And does blaspheme his breed? -- Thy royal father
Was a most sainted king; the queen that bore thee,
Oftener upon her knees than on her feet,
Died every day she lived. Fare thee well!
These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,
Have banished me from Scotland. -- O, my breast,
Thy hope ends here!

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth,
By many of these trains hath sought to win me
Into his power: and modest wisdom plucks me
From over-credulous haste: but heaven above
Deal between thee and me! for even now
I put myself to thy direction, and
Unspeak mine own detraction; here abjure

The taints and blames I laid upon myself,
For strangers to my nature.
What I am truly,
Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:
Whither, indeed, before thy here-approach,
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,
All ready at a point, was setting forth;
Now we'll together; and the chance, of goodness,
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?
Macd. Such welcome and unwelcome things at once
'Tis hard to reconcile. -- See who comes here?
Mal. My countryman; but yet I know him not.

60

Enter Rosse, L.H.

Macd. (Crosses to the centre.) My ever gentle cousin,
welcome hither.

Mal. I know him now. Good heaven, 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 called our mother, but our grave; where nothing,
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;
Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks that rent the air,
Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems
A modern ecstasy; the dead man's knell
Is there scarce asked, for whom, and good men's lives
Expire before the flowers in their caps,
Dying, or ere they sicken.

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

Mal. What is the newest grief?

Rosse. That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker:
Each minute teems a new one.

Macd. How does my wife?

Rosse. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?

Rosse. Well too.

Macd. The tyrant has not batter'd at their peace?

Rosse. No; they were 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,

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For that I saw the tyrant's power a-foot:
Now is the time of help: your eye in Scotland
Would create soldiers, make our women fight,
To doff their dire distresses.

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

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

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

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

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

Rosse. Let not your ears despise my tongue for ever,
Which shall possess them with the heaviest sound,
That ever yet they heard.

Macd. Hum! I guess at it.

Rosse. Your castle is surpris'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'erfraught heart, and bids it break.

Macd. My children too?

62

Rosse. Wife, children, servants, all
That could be found.

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

Rosse. I have said.

Mal. Be comforted:

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

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

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!

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

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

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,
Heaven forgive him too! (Rises.) [Exeunt, R.H.]

END OF ACT IV.

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ACT V.

SCENE I. -- Lady Macbeth's Chamber in the Castle
at Dunsinane.

Enter a Gentlewoman and a Physician, R.H.

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

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

Phy. What, at any time, have you heard her say?

Gent. That, sir, which I will not report after her.

Phy. You may, to me; and 'tis most meet you should.

Gent. Neither to you, nor any one; having no witness to confirm my speech. Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her; stand close.

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a Taper, R.H.

Phy. How came she by that light?

Gent. Why, it stood by her: she has light by her continually; 'tis her command.

Phy. You see, her eyes are open.

Gent. Ay, but their sense is shut.

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

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

Lady M. Yet here's a spot.

Phy. Hark, she speaks.

64

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 afeard? 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?

Phy. Do you mark that?

Lady M. The thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now? -- What, will these hands ne'er be clean? -- No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with this starting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phy. Even so?

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

Phy. Will she go now to bed?

Gent. Directly.

Phy. More needs she the divine than the physician. Look after her; (The Gent. crosses to R.H.)
Remove from her the means of all annoyance,
And still keep eyes upon her. --
Good heaven, forgive us all! [Exeunt, R.H.]

65

SCENE II. — A Hall in the Castle at Dunsinane.

Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.

Enter Macbeth, and Attendants, R.H.

Mac. Bring me no more reports; let them fly
all:

Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know
All mortal consequences have pronounc'd me thus:
*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 2d. Officer, R.H.

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

2d Off. There is ten thousand ----

Mac. Geese, villain?

2d. Off. Soldiers, sir.

Mac. 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?

2d. Off. The English force, so please you.

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Mac. Take thy face hence. [Exit Officer, R.H.]
Seyton! -- I am sick at heart,
When I behold -- Seyton, I say! -- This push
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.
I have liv'd long enough: my way of life
Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf:
And that which should accompany old age,
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,
I must not look to have: but, in their stead,
Curses, not loud, but deep, mouth-honour, breath,
Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not. --
Seyton! --

Enter Seyton, R.H.

Sey. What is your gracious pleasure?

Mac. What news more?

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

Mac. I'll fight, till from my bones my flesh be
hack'd. --

Give me my armour.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Mac. I'll put it on. --

Enter the Physician, L.H.

Send out more horses, skirr the country round:
Hang those that talk of fear. -- [Exit Seyton, R.H.]
How does your patient, doctor?

Phy. Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

Mac. Cure her of that:
Can'st 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 foul bosom of that perilous stuff,

67

Which weighs upon the heart?

Phy. Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

Enter Seyton, with the King's Truncheon, and a
Marshal with his Armour, R.H.

Mac. Throw physic to the dogs, I'll none of it. --

Give me my staff: --

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

If thou couldst, 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. --

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

Phy. Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation
Makes us hear something.

Mac. Bring it after me. --
I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.

(Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.)

[Exeunt, R.H.]

SCENE III. -- Birnam Forest.

(A March.)

Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, Lenox,
Rosse, and Soldiers, L.H.U.E.

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

Macd. (R.H.) We doubt it nothing.

Siw. (L.H.) What wood is this before us?

Len. (Next to Mal. L.H.) The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,

68

And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow
The numbers of our host, and make discovery
Err in report of us.

Len. It shall be done.

Rosse. (Next to Mal. R.H.) We learn no other, but
the confident tyrant
Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure
Our setting down before't.

Macd. 'Tis his main hope:
For where there is advantage to be gone,
Both more and less hath given him the revolt;
And none serve with him but constrained things,
Whose hearts are absent too.

Siw. Let our just censures

Attend the true event, and put we on
Industrious soldiership.

Macd. 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.

[March. -- Exeunt into the Wood, R.H.]

SCENE IV. -- The Ramparts of the Castle at
Dunsinane.

Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.

Enter Macbeth, Seyton, Marshal, and Attendants,
L.H.

Mac. 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,

69

We might have met them d careful, beard to beard,
And beat them backward home.

(A cry within, of women, L.H.)

What is that noise?

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

[Exit, L.H.]

Mac. 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 rouse, and stir
As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaught'rous thoughts,
Cannot once start me.

Re-enter Seyton, L.H.

Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Mac. She should have died hereafter;

(Crosses to L.H.)

There would have been a time for such a word. --
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and -- to-morrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,

To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
(Crosses to R.H.)

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 First Officer, R.H.

Thou com'st to use thy tongue; thy story quickly.
1st Off. Gracious my lord,

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

Mac. Well, say, sir.

1st Off. As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,
The wood began to move.

Mac. Liar and slave!

1st Off. Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so:
Within this three mile may you see it coming;
I say, a moving grove.

Mac. 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
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 no flying hence, nor tarrying here.
I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun,
And wish the estate o'the world were now undone! --
Ring the alarum bell: -- blow, wind! come, wrack!
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

(Flourish of Trumpets and Drums.)

[Exeunt, R.H.]

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SCENE V. -- A Plain before the Castle at Dunsinane.

(Flourish of trumpets and drums.)

Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, Lenox, Rosse, and
Soldiers, with boughs, discovered.

Mal. Now near enough; your leafy screens throw
down,
And show like those you are: -- you, worthy uncle,
Shall, with my cousin, your right noble son,
Lead our first battle: worthy Macduff and we
Shall take upon us what else remains to do,
According to our order.

Len. This way, my lord, the castle's best ap-
proach'd.

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

Macd. Make all our trumpets speak; give them all
breath,
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

(Alarums.)

[Exeunt; Mal. Macd. Len. Scotch Banner, and
Six Guards, R.H. -- Siw. Rosse, English Ban-
ner, and Six Guards, L.H.]

SCENE VI. -- A Court in the Castle at Dunsinane.

(Alarums.)

Enter Macbeth, R.H.

Mac. They have tied me to a stake: I cannot fly,
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. -- What's he
That was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none. -- (Alarums.) [Exit, R.H.]

Enter Macduff, L.H.

Macd. That way the noise is: -- tyrant, shew thy face;

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If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.
I cannot strike at wretched kernes, whose arms
Are hir'd to bear their staves; either thou, Macbeth,
Or else my sword, with an unbatter'd edge,
I sheath again undeeded.
Let me find him, fortune! and
More I beg not. (Alarums.) [Exit, L.H.]

SCENE VII. -- The gates of the Castle at Dunsinane. -- (Alarums.)

Enter Macbeth, from L.H. through the gates.

Mac. Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword? whiles I see lives, the gashes
Do better upon them. (Going to R.H.)

Enter Macduff, through the gates, and coming
down, R.H.

Macd. Turn, hell-hound, turn.

Mac. 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. -- Alarums.)

Mac. Thou lovest labour:
As easy may'st thou the entrenchant 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,

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Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

Mac. Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
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 show and gaze o' the time.
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole; and under-writ,
Here you may see the tyrant.

Mac. 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: --
 Lay on, Macduff;
 And damn'd be him that first cries, *Hold! enough!*
 [Alarums. -- They fight. -- Macbeth falls and dies.
 (Flourish of trumpets and drums -- shout, &c.)

Enter Malcolm, Rosse, Lenox, Siward, Gentle-
 men and Soldiers, through the gate.

Macd. Hail, King! for so thou art: the time is
 free:

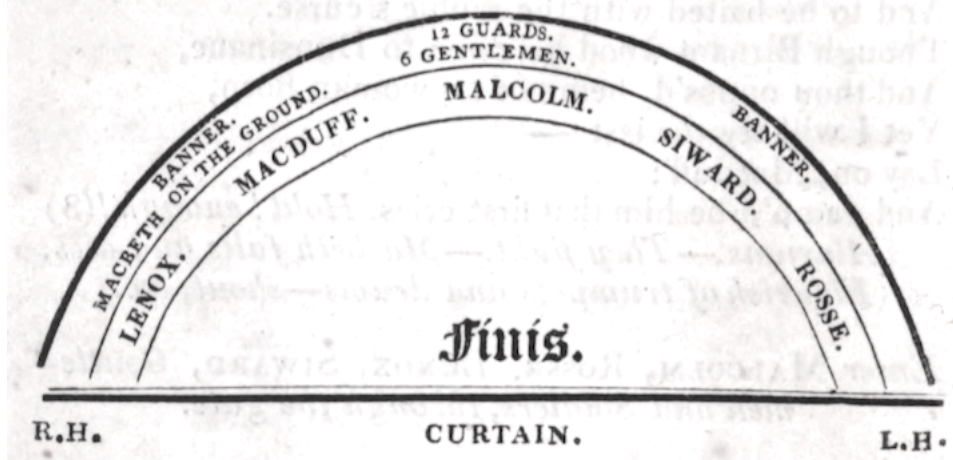
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl,
 That speak my salutation in their minds:
 Whose voices I desire aloud with mine, --
 Hail, King of Scotland!

All. King of Scotland, hail!
 (Flourish of trumpets and drums.)

74

Mal. We shall not spend a large expense of time,
 Before we reckon with your several loves,
 And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,
 Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland
 In such an honour nam'd. What's more to do,
 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 of Trumpets and Drums.)

Disposition of the Characters when the Curtain falls.



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