

Boswell 1821      'Macbeth', in James Boswell (ed.), The plays and poems of William Shakspeare, vol. 11 (London, 1821), 1--316.

1 sig B

MACBETH.

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8

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

Duncan, King of Scotland:

Malcolm,        )  
Donalbain,     ) his Sons.

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

Macduff,       )

Lenox,         )

Rosse,         )  
Menteth,       ) Noblemen of Scotland.

Angus,         )

Cathness,      )

Fleance, Son to Banquo.

Siward, Earl of Northumberland, General of the  
English Forces:

Young Siward, his Son.

Seyton, an Officer attending on Macbeth.

Son to Macduff.

An English Doctor.    A Scotch Doctor.

A Soldier.    A Porter.    An old Man.

Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macduff.

Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

Hecate, and three Witches.

Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers,  
Attendants, and Messengers.

The Ghost of Banquo, and several other Apparitions.

SCENE, in the end of the fourth act, lies in  
England; through the rest of the play, in Scot-  
land; and, chiefly, at Macbeth's Castle.

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11

MACBETH.

ACT I. SCENE I.

An open Place.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.

1 Witch. When shall we three meet again,  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

2 Witch. When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won:

12

3 Witch. That will be ere **the** set of sun.

1 Witch. Where the place?

2 Witch. Upon the heath:

3 Witch. There to meet with Macbeth.

13

1 Witch. I come, Graymalkin!

All. Paddock calls: -- Anon. --

14

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

[Witches vanish.]

15

SCENE II.

A Camp near Fores.

Alarum within. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm,  
Donalbain, Lenox, with Attendants, meeting  
a bleeding Soldier /\*.

Dun. What bloody man is that? He can report,

As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.

Mal.                      This is the sergeant,

/\* First folio, Captain.

16

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

Sold.                      Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald  
(Worthy to be a rebel; for, to that,  
The multiplying villainies of nature  
Do swarm upon him,) from the western isles  
Of Kernes and Gallowglasses is supplied;

17 sig C

And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore: But all's too weak:

18

For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name,)  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,

19

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

20

And fix'd his head upon our battlements.  
Dun. O, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!  
Sold. As whence the sun 'gins his reflexion

21

Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break;  
So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to  
    come,

Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:  
No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,  
Compell'd these skipping Kernes to trust their  
heels;

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

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

Sold. Yes;

22

As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion.  
If I say sooth, I must report they were  
As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks;  
So they  
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:

23

Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,  
Or memorize another Golgotha,  
I cannot tell: ----

But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

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

They smack of honour both: -- Go, get him sur-  
geons. [Exit Soldier, attended.

Enter Rosse.

Who comes here?

24

Mal. The worthythane of Rosse.

Len. What a haste looks through his eyes! So  
should he look,  
That seems to speak things strange.

25

Rosse. God save the king!

Dun. Whence cam'st thou, worthythane?

Rosse. From Fife, great king,  
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,  
And fan our people cold.

26

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,  
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
The thane of Cawdor, 'gan a dismal conflict:  
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,  
Confronted him with self-comparisons,  
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,  
Curbing his lavish spirit: And, to conclude,  
The victory fell on us; ----

Dun. Great happiness!

Rosse. That now

27

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.

Dun. No more that thane of Cawdor shall de-  
ceive

Our bosom interest: -- Go, pronounce his **present**  
death,

And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Rosse. I'll see it done.

Dun. What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath  
won. [Exeunt.]

28

SCENE III.

A Heath.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 Witch. Where hast thou been, sister?

2 Witch. Killing swine.

3 Witch. Sister, where thou?

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

*Give me, quoth I:*

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

29

Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' the Tiger:  
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,

30

And, like a rat without a tail,  
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

31

2 Witch. I'll give thee a wind.  
1 Witch. Thou art kind.

32

3 Witch. And I another.  
1 Witch. I myself have all the other;  
And the very ports they blow,  
All the quarters that they know

33 sig D

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:

34

Weary sev'n-nights, nine times nine,  
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:

35

Though his bark cannot be lost,  
Yet it shall be tempest-toss'd.  
Look what I have.  
2 Witch. Show me, show me.  
1 Witch. Here I have a pilot's thumb,  
Wreck'd, as homeward he did come.  
[Drum within.  
3 Witch. A drum, a drum;  
Macbeth doth come.  
All. The weird sisters, hand in hand,  
Posters of the sea and land,

36

Thus do go about, about;  
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,  
And thrice again, to make up nine:

Peace! -- the charm's wound up.

37

Enter Macbeth and Banquo.

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

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

So wither'd, and so wild in their attire;  
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,  
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught  
That man may question? You seem to under-  
stand me,

By each at once her choppy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lips: -- You should be women,  
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret  
That you are so.

38

Macb. Speak, if you can; -- What are you?

1 Witch. All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee,  
thane of Glamis!

39

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

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

Ban. Good sir, why do you start; and seem to  
fear

Things that do sound so fair? -- I' the name of  
truth,

Are ye fantastical, or that indeed

40

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

1 Witch. Hail!

2 Witch. Hail!

3 Witch. Hail!

41

1 Witch. Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2 Witch. Not so happy, yet much happier.

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

So, all hail, Macbeth, and Banquo!

1 Witch. Banquo, and Macbeth, all hail!

Macb. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me  
more:

By Sinel's death, I know, I am thane of Glamis;

But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,

A prosperous gentleman; and, to be king,

Stands not within the prospect of belief,

No more than to be Cawdor. Say, from whence

You owe this strange intelligence? or why

Upon this blasted heath you stop our way

With such prophetick greeting? -- Speak, I charge  
you. [Witches vanish.

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

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

As breath into the wind. -- 'Would they had staid!

Ban. Were such things here, as we do speak  
about?

42

Or have we eaten of the insane root,

That takes the reason prisoner?

Macb. Your children shall be kings.

Ban. You shall be king.

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

43

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

Enter Rosse and Angus.

Rosse. The king hath happily receiv'd, Macbeth,  
The news of thy success: and when he reads  
Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,



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

44

Came post with post; and every one did bear  
Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,  
And pour'd them down before him.

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

Rosse. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,  
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:  
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!  
For it is thine.

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

Ang. Who was the thane, lives yet;

45

But under heavy judgment bears that life  
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was com-  
bin'd

With those of Norway; or did line the rebel  
With hidden help and vantage; or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not;  
But treasons capital, confess'd, and prov'd,  
Have overthrown him.

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

Ban. That, trusted home,

46

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.  
Macb. Two truths are told,

47

As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen. --

48

This supernatural soliciting  
Cannot be ill; cannot be good: -- If ill,  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I amthane 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:

49 sig E

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.

50

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt.  
Macb. If chance will have me king, why, chance  
may crown me,  
Without my stir.  
Ban. New honours come upon him  
Like our strange garments; cleave not to their  
mould,  
But with the aid of use.  
Macb. Come what come may;  
Time and the hour runs through the roughest  
day.

51

Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your lei-  
sure.  
Macb. 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.  
Ban. Very gladly.  
Macb. Till then, enough. -- Come, friends.  
[Exeunt.]

52

SCENE IV.

Fores. A Room in the Palace.

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

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

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

53

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

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Rosse, and Angus.

The sin of my ingratitude even now  
Was heavy on me: Thou art so far before,  
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow  
To overtake thee. 'Would thou hadst less de-  
serv'd;  
That the proportion both of thanks and payment

Might have been mine! only I have left to say,  
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

54

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

55

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

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

Dun. My plenteous joys,  
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves  
In drops of sorrow. -- Sons, kinsmen, thanes,

56

And you whose places are the nearest, know,  
We will establish our estate upon  
Our eldest, Malcolm; whom we name hereafter,  
The prince of Cumberland: which honour must  
Not, unaccompanied, invest him only,  
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine  
On all deservers. -- From hence to Inverness,  
And bind us further to you.

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

Dun. My worthy Cawdor!

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

57

On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap,  
[Aside.  
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires!  
Let not light see my black and deep desires:

58

The eye wink at the hand! yet let that be,  
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.  
[Exit.

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

59

SCENE V.

Inverness. A Room in Macbeth's Castle.

Enter Lady Macbeth, reading a letter.

Lady M. *They met me in the day of success;  
and I have learned by the perfectest report, they  
have more in them than mortal knowledge. When  
I burned in desire to question them further, they  
made themselves -- air, into which they 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 mightest not lose  
the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what  
greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart,  
and farewell.*

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

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

60

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

61

Enter an Attendant.

Atten. The king comes here to-night.

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

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

62

Lady M. Give him tending,  
He brings great news. The raven himself is hoarse,  
[Exit Attendant.  
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan  
Under my battlements. Come, come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here;

63

And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full  
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood,  
Stop up the access and passage to remorse;  
That no compunctious visitings of nature  
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between  
The effect, and it! Come to my woman's breasts,

64

And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring minis-  
ters,  
Wherever in your sightless substances  
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick  
night,

65 sig F

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,

66

To cry, *Hold, hold!* ---- Great Glamis! worthy  
Cawdor!

67

Enter Macbeth.

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

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

68

Lady M. And when goes hence?  
Macb. To-morrow, -- as he purposes.  
Lady M. O, never  
Shall sun that morrow see!  
Your face, my thane, is as a book, where men  
May read strange matters: -- 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.

69

Macb. We will speak further.  
Lady M. Only look up clear;  
To alter favour ever is to fear:  
Leave all the rest to me. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.

The same. Before the Castle.

Hautboys. Servants of Macbeth attending.

Enter Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Banquo,  
Lenox, Macduff, Rosse, Angus, and Attendants.

Dun. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air

70

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,

71

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.

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

72

Lady M. All our service  
In every point twice done, and then done double,

73





We'd jump the life to come. -- But in these cases,  
We still have judgment here; that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return  
To plague the inventor: This even-handed justice

78

Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues

79

Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off:  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,  
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin, hors'd  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind. -- I have no spur

80

To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself,  
And falls on the other. -- How now, what news?

81 sig G

Enter Lady Macbeth.

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

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

82

Lady M. Know you not, he has?

Macb. We will proceed no further in this business:

He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought  
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,  
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,  
Not cast aside so soon.

Lady M.

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

Macb.

Pr'ythee, peace:

83

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

Lady M.                                What beast was't then,  
That made you break this enterprize to me?  
When you durst do it, then you were a man;  
And, to be more than what you were, you would  
Be so much more the man. Nor time, nor place,  
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:  
They have made themselves, and that their fitness

now

Does unmake you. I have given suck; and know  
How tender 'tis, to love the babe that milks me:  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,

84

And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you  
Have done to this.

Macb.            If we should fail, ----

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

85

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,

86

That memory, the warder of the brain,  
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason

87

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 spongy officers; who shall bear the guilt  
Of our great quell?

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

Lady M. Who dares receive it other,

88

As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar  
Upon his death?

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

89

ACT II. SCENE I.

The Same. Court within the Castle.

Enter Banquo and Fleance, and a Servant, with  
a torch before them.

Ban. How goes the night, boy?

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

Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

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

Ban. Hold, take my sword: -- There's husban-  
dry in heaven,  
Their candles are all out. -- Take thee that too.

90

A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,  
And yet I would not sleep: Merciful powers!

Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature  
Gives way to in repose! -- Give me my sword; --

Enter Macbeth, and a Servant with a torch.

Who's there?

Macb. A friend.

Ban. What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's  
a-bed:

He hath been in unusual pleasure, and  
Sent forth great largess to your **officers**:

91

This diamond he greets your wife withal,  
By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up  
In measureless content.

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

92

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

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

Ban. At your kind'st leisure.

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

93

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

94

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

95

Macb. Good repose, the while!

Ban. Thanks, sir; The like to you!

[Exit Banquo.

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

[Exit Servant.

Is this a dagger, which I see before me,  
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch  
thee: ----

I have thee not; and yet I see thee still.  
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling, as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind; a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I draw.

96

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

97 sig H

The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates  
Pale Hecate's offerings; and wither'd murder,

98

Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,  
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy  
pace,  
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design  
Moves like a ghost. -- Thou sure and firm-set  
earth,

99

Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my where-about,

100

And take the present horror from the time,  
Which now suits with it. -- Whiles I threat, he  
    lives;  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.  
                                    [A bell rings.]

101

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.]

102

SCENE II.

The Same.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

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 bellman,  
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about  
    it:

103

The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms  
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd  
    their possets,  
That death and nature do contend about them,  
Whether they live, or die.

Macb. [Within.] Who's there? -- what, ho!

104

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.

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

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

Did **you not** speak?

Macb. When?

Lady M. Now.

105

Macb. As I descended?

Lady M. Ay.

Macb. Hark!

Who lies i' the second chamber?

Lady M. Donalbain.

Macb. This is a sorry sight.

[Looking on his hands.

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

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

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

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

Lady M. There are two lodg'd together.

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

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

Listening their fear, I could not say, amen,

106

When they did say, God bless us.

Lady M. Consider it not so deeply.

Macb. But wherefore could not I pronounce,  
amen?

I had most need of blessing, and amen  
Stuck in my throat.

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

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

*Macbeth does murder sleep, the innocent sleep;  
Sleep, that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,*

107

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





Lady M. My hands are of your colour; but I  
shame

112

To wear a heart so white. [Knock.] I hear a  
knocking

113 sig I

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

114

How easy is it then? Your constancy  
Hath left you unattended. -- [Knocking.] Hark!  
more knocking:  
Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,  
And show us to be watchers: -- Be not lost  
So poorly in your thoughts.  
Macb. To know my deed, -- 'twere best not know  
myself. [Knock.  
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou  
could'st! [Exeunt.

115

SCENE III.

The Same.

Enter a Porter. [Knocking within.

Porter. Here's a knocking, indeed! If a man  
were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turn-  
ing the key. [Knocking.] Knock, knock, knock:  
Who's there, i' the name of Belzebub? Here's a  
farmer, that hanged himself on the expectation of  
plenty: Come in time; have napkins enough about  
you; here you'll sweat for't. [Knocking.] Knock,  
knock: Who's there, i' the other devil's name?  
'Faith, here's an equivocator, that could swear in  
both the scales against either scale; who committed  
treason enough for God's sake, yet could not

116

equivocate to heaven: O, come in, equivocator.

[Knocking.] Knock, knock, knock: Who's there?  
'Faith, here's an English tailor come hither, for  
stealing out of a French hose: Come in, tailor;  
here you may roast your goose. [Knocking.] Knock,  
knock: Never at quiet! What are you? -- But this  
place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no

117

further: I had thought to have let in some of all  
professions, that go the primrose way to the ever-  
lasting bonfire. [Knocking.] Anon, anon; I pray  
you, remember the porter. [Opens the gate.]

Enter Macduff and Lenox.

Macd. Was it so late, friend, ere you went to  
bed,

That you do lie so late?

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

Macd. What three things does drink especially  
provoke?

Port. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine.  
Lechery, sir, it provokes, and unprovokes; it pro-  
vokes the desire, but it takes away the performance:  
Therefore, much drink may be said to be an equi-  
vocator with lechery: it makes him, and it mars  
him; it sets him on, and it takes him off; it per-  
suades him, and disheartens him; makes him stand  
to, and not stand to: in conclusion, equivocates him  
in a sleep, and, giving him the lie, leaves him.

118

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

119

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

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

Enter Macbeth.

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!  
 Macb. Good-morrow, both!  
 Macd. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?  
 Macb. Not yet.  
 Macd. He did command me to call timely on  
       him;  
 I have almost slipp'd the hour.  
 Macb. I'll bring you to him.  
 Macd. I know, this is a joyful trouble to you;  
 But yet, 'tis one.  
 Macb. The labour we delight in, physicks pain.  
 This is the door.

120

Macd. I'll make so bold to call,  
 For 'tis my limited service. [Exit Macduff.  
 Len. Goes the king ø hence to-day?  
 Macb. He does: -- he did appoint so.  
 Len. The night has been unruly: Where we  
       lay,  
 Our chimneys were blown down: and, as they  
       say,  
 Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of  
       death;  
 And prophecying, with accents terrible,  
 Of dire combustion, and confus'd events,  
 New hatch'd to the woeful time. The obscure  
       bird  
 Clamour'd the livelong night: some say, the earth  
 Was feverous, and did shake.

121

Macb. 'Twas a rough night.  
 Len. My young remembrance cannot parallel  
 A fellow to it.

122

Re-enter Macduff.  
 Macd. O horror! horror! horror! Tongue, nor  
       heart,  
 Cannot conceive, nor name thee!  
 Macb. Len. What's the matter?  
 Macd. Confusion now hath made his master-  
       piece!

Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope  
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence  
The life o' the building.

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

Len. Mean you his majesty?

Macd. Approach the chamber, and destroy your  
sight

With a new Gorgon: -- Do not bid me speak;  
See, and then speak yourselves. -- Awake! awake! --

[Exeunt Macbeth and Lenox.]

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

123

The great doom's image! -- Malcolm! Banquo!  
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprights,  
To countenance this horror! [Bell rings.]

Enter Lady Macbeth.

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

Macd. O, gentle lady,  
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:  
The repetition, in a woman's ear,

124

Would murder as it fell. ---- O Banquo! Banquo!

Enter Banquo.

Our royal master's murder'd.

Lady M. Woe, alas!  
What, in our house?

Ban. Too cruel, any where. ----  
Dear Duff, I pr'ythee, contradict thyself,  
And say, it is not so.

Re-enter Macbeth and Lenox.

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

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

125

The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees  
Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter Malcolm and Donalbain.

Don. What is amiss?

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

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. O, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had  
done't:

Their hands and faces were all badg'd with blood,  
So were their daggers, which, unwip'd, we found  
Upon their pillows:

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

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

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

Macb. Who can be wise, amaz'd, temperate, and  
furious,  
Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man:  
The expedition of my violent love  
Out-run the pauser reason. -- Here lay Duncan,  
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;

126

And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature,  
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the mur-  
derers,

127

Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers  
Unmannerly breech'd with gore: Who could re-  
frain,

128

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

Lady M. Help me hence, ho!

Macd. Look to the lady.

Mal. Why do we hold our tongues,

/\* First folio, make's.

129 sig K

That most may claim this argument for ours?

Don. What should be spoken  
Here, where our fate, hid in an augre-hole,  
May rush, and seize us? Let's away; our tears  
Are not yet brew'd.

Mal. Nor our strong sorrow  
Upon the foot of motion.

Ban. Look to the lady: --  
[Lady Macbeth is carried out.  
And when we have our naked frailties hid,  
That suffer in exposure, let us meet,

130

And question this most bloody piece of work,  
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:  
In the great hand of God I stand; and, thence,  
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight  
Of treasonous malice.

Macb. And so do I.

All. So all.

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

All. Well contented.

[Exeunt all but Mal. and Don.

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

To show an unfelt sorrow, is an office  
Which the false man does easy: I'll to England.

131

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

Mal. This murderous shaft that's shot,  
Hath not yet lighted; and our safest way  
Is, to avoid the aim. Therefore, to horse;  
And let us not be dainty of leave-taking,  
But shift away: There's warrant in that theft  
Which steals itself, when there's no mercy left.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

Without the Castle.

Enter Rosse and an Old Man.

Old M. Threescore and ten I can remember  
well:  
Within the volume of which time, I have seen

132

Hours dreadful, and things strange; but this sore  
night  
Hath trifled former knowings.  
Rosse. Ah, good father,  
Thou see'st, the heavens, as troubled with man's  
act,  
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,  
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:  
**Is't** night's predominance, or the day's shame,  
That darkness does the face of earth intomb,  
When living light should kiss it?

Old M. 'Tis unnatural,  
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday  
last,  
A falcon, tow'ring in her pride of place,  
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at, and kill'd.  
Rosse. And Duncan's horses, (a thing most  
strange and certain,)

133

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

Old M. 'Tis said, they eat each other.  
Rosse. They did so; to the amazement of mine  
eyes,  
That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Mac-  
duff: ----

Enter Macduff.

How goes the world, sir, now?



Macd. Why, see you not?  
Rosse. Is't known, who did this more than  
bloody deed?  
Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

134

Rosse. Alas, the day!  
What good could they pretend?  
Macd. They were suborn'd:  
Malcolm, and Donalbain, the king's two sons,  
Are stol'n away and fled; which puts upon them  
Suspicion of the deed.  
Rosse. 'Gainst nature still:  
Thrifless ambition, that wilt ravin up  
Thine own life's means! -- Then 'tis most like,  
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.  
Macd. He is already nam'd; and gone to Scone,  
To be invested.  
Rosse. Where is Duncan's body?  
Macd. Carried to Colme-kill;

135

The sacred storehouse of his predecessors,  
And guardian of their bones.  
Rosse. Will you to Scone?  
Macd. No, cousin, I'll to Fife.  
Rosse. Well, I will thither.  
Macd. Well, may you see things well done  
there; -- adieu! ----  
Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!  
Rosse. Farewell, father.  
Old M. God's benison go with you; and with  
those  
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes!  
[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE I.

Fores. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Banquo.

Ban. Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis,  
all,  
As the weird women promis'd; and, I fear,  
Thou play'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,)

136

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

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

Macb. Here's our chief guest.

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

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

Ban. Let your highness  
Command upon me; to the which, my duties

137

Are with a most indissoluble tie  
For ever knit.

Macb. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

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

138

Ban. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time  
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the  
better,

139

I must become a borrower of the night,  
For a dark hour, or twain.

Macb. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

Macb. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd  
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing

Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers  
With strange invention: But of that to-morrow;  
When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,  
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: Adieu,  
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

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

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

140

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, God be with  
you.

[Exeunt Lady Macbeth, Lords, Ladies, &c.  
Sirrah, a word with you: Attend those men  
Our pleasure?

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

Macb. Bring them before us. -- [Exit Atten.]  
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

141

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,

142

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't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I fil'd my mind:

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

143

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

Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers.

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

144

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?  
1 Mur. It was, so please your highness.  
Macb. Well then, now  
Have you consider'd of my speeches? Know,  
That it was he, in the times past, which held  
you  
So under fortune; which, you thought, had been  
Our innocent self: this I made good to you  
In our last conference; pass'd in probation with  
you,  
How you were borne in hand; how cross'd; the  
instruments;

145 sig L

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

1 Mur. You made it known to us.

Macb. I did so; and went further, which is now  
Our point of second meeting. Do you find  
Your patience so predominant in your nature,  
That you can let this go? Are you so gospell'd,  
To pray for this good man, and for his issue,  
Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,  
And beggar'd yours for ever?

1 Mur. We are men, my liege.

Macb. Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;





How now, my lord? why do you keep alone,  
Of sorriest fancies your companions making?

152

Using those thoughts, which should indeed have  
died  
With them they think on? Things without all re-  
medy,  
Should be without regard: what's done, is done.  
Macb. We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd  
it;  
She'll close, and be herself; whilst our poor malice  
Remains in danger of her former tooth.  
But let the frame of things disjoint,  
Both the worlds suffer,  
Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep  
In the affliction of these terrible dreams,  
That shake us nightly: Better be with the  
dead,  
Whom we, to gain our place, have sent to peace,

153

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 domestick, foreign levy, nothing,  
Can touch him further!

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

Macb. So shall I, love;  
And so, I pray, be you: let your remembrance  
Apply to Banquo; present him eminence, both  
With eye and tongue: unsafe the while, that we  
Must lave our honours in these flattering streams;  
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,  
Disguising what they are.

154

Lady M. You must leave this.

Macb. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear  
wife!

Thou know'st, that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

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

155

Macb. There's comfort yet; they are assailable;  
Then be thou jocund: Ere the bat hath flown  
His cloister'd flight; ere, to black Hecate's sum-  
mons,  
The shard-borne beetle, with his drowsy hums,

156

Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be  
done  
A deed of dreadful note.

157

Lady M. What's to be done?  
Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest  
chuck,

158

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

159

Makes wing to the rooky wood:  
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;  
Whiles night's black agents to their preys do  
rouse.

160

Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still;  
Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill:  
So, pr'ythee, go with me. [Exeunt.]

161 sig M

SCENE III.

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



Enter Three Murderers.

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

3 Mur. Macbeth.

2 Mur. He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers

Our offices, and what we have to do,  
To the direction just.

1 Mur. Then stand with us.

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

3 Mur. Hark! I hear horses.

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

2 Mur. Then it is he; the rest

162

That are within the note of expectation,  
Already are i' the court.

1 Mur. His horses go about.

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

Enter Banquo and Fleance, a Servant with a  
torch preceding them.

2 Mur. A light, a light!

3 Mur. 'Tis he.

1 Mur. Stand to't.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1 Mur. Let it come down.

[Assaults Banquo.

Ban. O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly,  
fly;

Thou may'st revenge. -- O slave!

[Dies. Fleance and Servant escape.

163

3 Mur. Who did strike out the light?

1 Mur. Was't not the way?

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

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

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

SCENE IV.

A Room of State in the Palace.

A Banquet prepared. Enter Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Rosse, Lenox, Lords, and Attendants.

Macb. You know your own degrees, sit down:  
at first  
And last, the hearty welcome.  
Lords. Thanks to your majesty.  
Macb. Ourself will mingle with society,  
And play the humble host.

164

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.

Enter first Murderer, to the door.

Macb. See, they encounter thee with their hearts'  
thanks: ----  
Both sides are even: Here I'll sit i' the midst:  
Be large in mirth; anon, we'll drink a measure  
The table round. -- There's blood upon thy face.  
Mur. 'Tis Banquo's then.  
Macb. 'Tis better thee without, than he within.  
Is he despatch'd?

165

Mur. My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for  
him.  
Macb. Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: Yet  
he's good,  
That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,  
Thou art the nonpareil.  
Mur. Most royal sir,  
Fleance is 'scap'd.  
Macb. Then comes my fit again: I had else  
been perfect;  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock;  
As broad, and general, as the casing air:

But now, I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in  
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

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

Macb. Thanks for that: ----  
There the grown serpent lies; the worm, that's  
fled,  
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,  
No teeth for the present. -- Get thee gone; to-  
morrow  
We'll hear, ourselves again. [Exit Murderer.  
Lady M. My royal lord,

166

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.

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

Len. May it please your highness sit?  
[The Ghost of Banquo rises, and sits in  
Macbeth's place.

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

167

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

To grace us with your royal company?

Macb. The table's full.

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

Macb. Where?

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

Macb. Which of you have done this?

Lords. What, my good lord?

Macb. Thou 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

168

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

Macb. Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on  
that

Which might appal the devil.

Lady M. O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear:

This is the air-drawn dagger, which, you said,  
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws, and starts,  
(Impostors to true fear,) would well become

A woman's story, at a winter's fire,

Authoriz'd by her grandam. Shame itself!

Why do you make such faces? When all's done,

You look but on a stool.

169

Macb. 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. [Ghost disappears.

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

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady M. Fye, for shame!

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

170

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.

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

Macb.                                      I do forget: --  
Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends;  
I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing  
To those that know me. Come, love and health  
to all;  
Then I'll sit down: ---- Give me some wine, fill  
full: ----  
I drink to the general joy of the whole table,

Ghost rises.

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

171

Lords.                      Our duties, and the pledge.  
Macb. Avaunt! and quit my sight! Let the  
earth hide thee!  
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;  
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes  
Which thou dost glare with!  
Lady M.                      Think of this, good peers,  
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;  
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.  
Macb. What man dare, I dare:  
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,  
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger,  
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves  
Shall never tremble: Or, be alive again,  
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;

172

If trembling I inhibit thee, protest me  
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!  
[Ghost disappears.]

173

Unreal mockery, hence! -- Why, so; -- being gone,  
I am a man again. -- Pray you, sit still.  
Lady M. You have displac'd the mirth, broke

the good meeting,  
With most admir'd disorder.

Macb. Can such things be,  
And overcome us like a summer's cloud,  
Without our special wonder? You make me  
strange

174

Even to the disposition that I owe,  
When now I think you can behold such sights,

175

And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks,  
When mine are blanch'd with fear.

Rosse. What sights, my lord?

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

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

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

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

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

176

Stones have been known to move, and trees to  
speak;  
Augurs, and understood relations, have

177 sig N

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

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

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

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

178

Lady M. Did you send to him, sir?

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

179

Lady M. You lack the season of all natures,  
sleep.  
Macb. Come, we'll to sleep: My strange and  
self-abuse  
Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use: --  
We are yet but young in deed. [Exeunt.]

180

SCENE V.

The Heath.

Thunder. Enter Hecate, meeting the Three  
Witches.

1 Witch. Why, how now, Hecate? you look  
angrily.

181

Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are,  
Saucy, and overbold? How did you dare  
To trade and traffick with Macbeth,  
In riddles, and affairs of death;  
And I, the mistress of your charms,  
The close contriver of all harms,  
Was never call'd to bear my part,  
Or show the glory of our art?  
And, which is worse, all you have done  
Hath been but for a wayward son,

182

Spiteful, and wrathful; who, as others do,

Loves for his own ends, not for you.  
But make amends now: Get you gone,  
And at the pit of Acheron

183

Meet me i' the morning; thither he  
Will come to know his destiny.  
Your vessels, and your spells, provide,  
Your charms, and every thing beside:  
I am for the air; this night I'll spend  
Unto a dismal and a fatal end.  
Great business must be wrought ere noon:  
Upon the corner of the moon

184

There hangs a vaporous drop profound;  
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:  
And that distill'd by magick slights,  
Shall raise such artificial sprights,  
As, by the strength of their illusion,  
Shall draw him on to his confusion:  
He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear  
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear:  
And you all know, security  
Is mortals' chiefest enemy.

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

1 Witch. Come, let's make haste; she'll soon be  
back again. [Exeunt.

185

SCENE VI.

Fores. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Lenox and another Lord.

Len. My former speeches have but hit your  
thoughts,  
Which can interpret further: only, I say,  
Things have been strangely borne: The gracious  
Duncan  
Was pitied of Macbeth: -- marry, he was dead: --  
And the right-valiant Banquo walk'd too late;  
Whom, you may say, if it please you, Fleance







Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing,

194

For a charm of powerful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.  
All. Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.  
3 Witch. Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf;  
Witches' mummy; maw, and gulf,  
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark;  
Root of hemlock, digg'd i' the dark;  
Liver of blaspheming Jew;  
Gall of goat, and slips of yew,  
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;  
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;

195

Finger of birth-strangled babe,  
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,  
Make the gruel thick and slab:  
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,  
For the ingredients of our cauldron.  
All. Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.  
2 Witch. Cool it with a baboon's blood,  
Then the charm is firm and good.

196

Enter Hecate, and the other Three Witches.

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

SONG.

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

197

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

Enter Macbeth.

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

All. A deed without a name.

Macb. I conjure you, by that which you profess,  
(Howe'er you come to know it,) answer me:  
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight  
Against the churches; though the yesty waves

198

Confound and swallow navigation up;  
Though bladed corn be lodg'd, and trees blown  
down;  
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;  
Though palaces, and pyramids, do slope  
Their heads to their foundations; though the trea-  
sure  
Of nature's germins tumble all together,  
Even till destruction sicken, answer me  
To what I ask you.

1 Witch. Speak.

2 Witch. Demand.

3 Witch. We'll answer.

1 Witch. Say, if thoud'st rather hear it from our  
mouths,  
Or from our masters'?

Macb. Call them, let me see them.

199

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

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

Thunder. An Apparition of an armed Head rises.

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

2 Witch. He knows thy thought;

Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

200

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware  
Macduff;  
Beware the thane of Fife. -- Dismiss me: --  
Enough. [Descends.  
Macb. What-e'er thou art, for thy good caution,  
thanks;  
Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: -- But one word  
more: --  
1 Witch. He will not be commanded: Here's  
another,  
More potent than the first.

Thunder. An Apparition of a bloody Child rises.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! --  
Macb. Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.  
App. Be bloody, bold,  
And resolute: laugh to scorn the power of man,

201

For none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.  
[Descends.  
Macb. Then live, Macduff; What need I fear of  
thee?  
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,  
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;  
That I may tell pale-hearted fear, it lies,  
And sleep in spite of thunder. -- What is this,

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

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

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

202



206

For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,  
And points at them for his. -- What, is this so?

207

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

[Musick. The Witches dance, and vanish.

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

208

Enter Lenox.

Len.                               What's your grace's will?  
Macb. Saw you the weird sisters?  
Len.                               No, my lord.  
Macb. Came they not by you?  
Len.                               No, indeed, my lord.  
Macb. Infected be the air whereon they ride;  
And damn'd, all those that trust them! -- I did  
    hear  
The galloping of horse: Who was't came by?  
Len. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you  
    word,  
Macduff is fled to England.  
Macb.                               Fled to England?  
Len. Ay, my good lord.  
Macb. Time, thou anticipat'st my dread 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

209 sig P

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:  
But no more sights! -- Where are these gentle-  
men?  
Come, bring me where they are. [Exeunt.]

210

SCENE II.

Fife. A Room in Macduff's Castle.

Enter Lady Macduff, her Son, and Rosse.

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

Rosse. You must have patience, madam.

L. Macd. He had none:  
His flight was madness: When our actions do not,  
Our fears do make us traitors.

Rosse. You know not,  
Whether it was his wisdom, or his fear.

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

211

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



But float upon a wild and violent sea,  
 Each way, and move. -- I take my leave of you:  
 Shall not be long but I'll be here again:  
 Things at the worst will cease, or else climb up-  
     ward

To what they were before. -- My pretty cousin,  
 Blessing upon you!

L. Macd. Father'd he is, and yet he's fatherless.

Rosse. I am so much a fool, should I stay longer,  
 It would be my disgrace, and your discomfort:  
 I take my leave at once. [Exit Rosse.

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

Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Macd. What, with worms and flies?

Son. With what I get, I mean; and so do they.

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

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

My father is not dead, for all your saying.

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

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

L. Macd. Why, I can buy me twenty at any  
     market.

Son. Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.

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

With wit enough for thee.

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Macd. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

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

Son. And be all traitors, that do so?

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

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

L. Macd. Every one.

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Macd. Why, the honest men.

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

L. Macd. Now God help thee, poor monkey! But how wilt thou do for a father?

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

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

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,

214

Though in your state of honour I am perfect. I doubt, some danger does approach you nearly: If you will take a homely man's advice, Be not found here; hence, with your little ones. To fright you thus, methinks, I am too savage; To do worse to you, were fell cruelty, Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you!

I dare abide no longer. [Exit Messenger.

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

Enter Murderers.

Mur. Where is your husband?

215

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

Mur. He's a traitor.

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

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

Son. He has killed me, mother: Run away, I pray you. [Dies.

[Exit Lady Macduff, crying murder,  
and pursued by the Murderers.

216

SCENE III.

England. A Room in the King's Palace.

Enter Malcolm and Macduff.

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

217

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

218

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

219

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail;  
What know, believe; and, what I can redress,  
As I shall find the time to friend, I will.  
What you have spoke, it may be so, perchance.  
This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues,  
Was once thought honest: you have lov'd him  
well;  
He hath not touch'd you yet. I am young; but  
something  
You may deserve of him through me: and wis-  
dom  
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb,  
To appease an angry god.

220

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is.

A good and virtuous nature may recoil,  
In an imperial charge. But **I shall crave** your  
pardon;  
That which you are, my thoughts cannot trans-  
pose:  
Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell:  
Though all things foul would wear the brows of  
grace,  
Yet grace must still look so.  
Macd. I have lost my hopes.  
Mal. Perchance, even there, where I did find  
my doubts.  
Why in that 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,

221

But mine own safeties: -- You may be rightly just,  
Whatever I shall think.  
Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country!  
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,  
For goodness dares not check thee! wear thou  
thy wrongs,  
Thy title is affeer'd! -- Fare thee well, lord:

222

I would not be the villain that thou think'st  
For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp,  
And the rich East to boot.

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

Macd. What should he be?

Mal. It is myself I mean: in whom I know  
All the particulars of vice so grafted,

That, when they shall be open'd, black Macbeth  
Will seem as pure as snow; and the poor state  
Esteem him as a lamb, being compar'd  
With my confineless harms.

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

Mal. I grant him bloody,  
Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,  
Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin  
That has a name: But there's no bottom, none,  
In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,  
Your matrons, and your maids, could not fill up

## 223

The cistern of my lust; and my desire  
All continent impediments would o'er-bear,  
That did oppose my will: Better Macbeth,  
Than such a one to reign.

Macd. Boundless intemperance  
In nature is a tyranny; it hath been  
The untimely emptying of the happy throne,  
And fall of many kings. But fear not yet  
To take upon you what is yours: you may  
Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,  
And yet seem cold, the time you may so hood-  
wink.

We have willing dames enough; there cannot be  
That vulture in you, to devour so many  
As will to greatness dedicate themselves,  
Finding it so inclin'd.

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

Macd. This avarice  
Sticks deeper; grows with more pernicious root  
Than **summer-seeming** lust: and it hath been

## 224

The sword of our slain kings: Yet do not fear;  
Scotland hath foysons to fill up your will,

Of your mere own: All these are portable,  
With other graces weigh'd.

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming  
graces,  
As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,

225 sig Q

Bounty, perséverance, mercy, lowliness,  
Devotion, patience, courage, fortitude,  
I have no relish of them; but abound  
In the division of each several crime,  
Acting it many ways. Nay, had I power, I should  
Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell,  
Uproar the universal peace, confound  
All unity on earth.

Macd. O Scotland! Scotland!

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

Macd. Fit to govern?  
No, not to live. -- O nation miserable,  
With an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter'd,  
When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again?  
Since that the truest issue of thy throne  
By his own interdiction stands accurs'd,  
And does blaspheme his breed? -- Thy royal father  
Was a most sainted king; the queen, that bore  
thee,

226

Oftner upon her knees than on her feet,  
Died every day she lived. Fare thee well!  
These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,  
Have banish'd me from Scotland. -- O, my breast,  
Thy hope ends here.

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,  
Child of integrity, hath from my soul  
Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts  
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth  
By many of these trains hath sought to win me  
Into his power; and modest wisdom plucks me  
From over-credulous haste: But God above  
Deal between thee and me! for even now  
I put myself to thy direction, and  
Unspeak mine own detraction; here abjure  
The taints and blames I laid upon myself,  
For strangers to my nature. I am yet  
Unknown to woman; never was forsworn;

Scarcely have coveted what was mine own;  
At no time broke my faith; would not betray  
The devil to his fellow; and delight  
No less in truth, than life: my first false speaking  
Was this upon myself: What I am truly,  
Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:  
Whither, indeed, before thy here-approach,  
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,

227

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 si-  
lent?

Macd. Such welcome and unwelcome things at  
once,  
'Tis hard to reconcile.

Enter a Doctor.

Mal. Well; more anon. -- Comes the king forth,  
I pray you?

Doct. Ay, sir: there are a crew of wretched  
souls,

/\* First folio, Already.

228

That stay his cure: their malady convinces  
The great assay of art; but, at his touch,  
Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand,  
They presently amend.

Mal. I thank you, doctor.  
[Exit Doctor.]

Macd. What's the disease he means?

Mal. 'Tis call'd the evil:  
A most miraculous work in this good king;  
Which often, since my here remain in England,  
I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven,  
Himself best knows: but strangely-visited people,  
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,  
The mere despair of surgery, he cures;  
Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,

229

Put on with holy prayers: and 'tis spoken,

To the succeeding royalty he leaves  
The healing benediction. With this strange vir-  
tue,  
He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;  
And sundry blessings hang about his throne,  
That speak him full of grace.

230

Enter Rosse.

Macd. See, who comes here?

Mal. My countryman; but yet I know him  
not.

Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

Mal. I know him now: Good God, betimes re-  
move

The means that make us strangers!

Rosse. Sir, Amen.

Macd. Stands Scotland where it did?

Rosse. Alas, poor country;  
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot  
Be call'd our mother, but our grave: where nothing,  
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;  
Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks that rent the  
air,  
Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems  
A modern ecstasy: the dead man's knell

231

Is there scarce ask'd, for who; and good men's  
lives

Expire before the flowers in their caps,  
Dying, or ere they sicken.

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

Mal. What is the newest grief?

Rosse. That of an hour's age doth hiss the  
speaker;

Each minute teems a new one.

Macd. How does my wife?

Rosse. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?

Rosse. Well too.

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

Rosse. No; they were well at peace, when I did  
leave them.



Macd. Be not a niggard of your speech; How  
goes it?  
Rosse. When I came hither to transport the  
tidings,  
Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumour  
Of many worthy fellows that were out;

232

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

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

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

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

233

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

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

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

Macd. Humph! I guess at it.

Rosse. Your castle is surpriz'd; your wife, and  
babes,  
Savagely slaughter'd: to relate the manner,  
Were, on the quarry of these murder'd deer,  
To add the death of you.

Mal. Merciful heaven! --  
What, man! ne'er pull your hat upon your brows;

234

Give sorrow words: the grief, that does not speak,  
Whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it break.

Macd. My children too?

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

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

Rosse. I have said.

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

Macd. He has no children. -- All my pretty  
ones?

235

Did you say, all? -- O, hell-kite! -- All?  
What, all my pretty chickens, and their dam,  
At one fell swoop?

236

Mal. Dispute it like a man.

Macd. I shall do so;  
But I must also feel it as a man:  
I cannot but remember such things were,  
That were most precious to me. -- Did heaven look  
on,  
And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,  
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,  
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,  
Fell slaughter on their souls: Heaven rest them  
now!

Mal. Be this the whetstone of your sword: let  
grief

237

Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, en-  
rage it.

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

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!

Mal. This tune goes manly.

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

238

ACT V. SCENE I.

Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

Enter a Doctor of Physick, and a waiting Gentle-  
woman.

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

Gent. Since his majesty went into the field, I

239

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

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

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

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

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

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a Taper.

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

Doct. How came she by that light?

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

Doct. You see, her eyes are open.

240

Gent. Ay, but their sense **are** shut.

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

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

Lady M. Yet here's a spot.

Doct. Hark, she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

Lady M. Out, damned spot! out, I say! --  
One; Two; Why, then 'tis time to do't: ----

241 sig R

Hell is murky! -- Fye, my lord, fye! a soldier, and afear'd? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account? -- Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

Doct. Do you mark that?

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

242

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

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

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

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

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

Doct. Well, well, well, --

Gent. 'Pray God, it be, sir.

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

Lady M. Wash your hands, put on your night-

gown; look not so pale: -- I tell you yet again,  
Banquo's buried; he cannot come out of his grave.

Doct. Even so?

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

Doct. Will she go now to bed?

Gent. Directly.

Doct. Foul whisperings are abroad: Unnatural  
deeds

Do breed unnatural troubles: Infected minds  
To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets.  
More needs she the divine, than the physician. --  
God, God, forgive us all! Look after her;

243

Remove from her the means of all annoyance,  
And still keep eyes upon her: -- So, good night:  
My mind she has mated, and amaz'd my sight:  
I think, but dare not speak.

Gent. Good night, good doctor.  
[Exeunt.

244

SCENE II.

The Country near Dunsinane.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, Menteth, Cath-  
ness, Angus, Lenox, and Soldiers.

Ment. The English power is near, led on by  
Malcolm,  
His uncle Siward, and the good Macduff.  
Revenge burn in them: for their dear causes  
Would, to the bleeding, and the grim alarm,  
Excite the mortified man.

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

Cath. Who knows, if Donalbain be with his  
brother?

Len. For certain, sir, he is not: I have a file

245

Of all the gentry; there is Siward's son,  
And many unrough youths, that even now  
Protest their first of manhood.

Ment. What does the tyrant?

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

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

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

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

246

And with him pour we, in our country's purge,  
Each drop of us.

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

[Exeunt, marching.]

SCENE III.

Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

Enter Macbeth, Doctor, and Attendants.

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

Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,  
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?  
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know  
All mortal **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,

247

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.

248

Enter a Servant.

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

Serv. There is ten thousand ----

Macb. Geese, villain?

Serv. Soldiers, sir.

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

249

Serv. The English force, so please you.

Macb. Take thy face hence. -- Seyton! -- I am  
sick at heart,  
When I behold -- Seyton, I say! -- This push  
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.  
I have liv'd long enough: my way of life

250

Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf:  
And that which should accompany old age,

251

As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,  
I must not look to have; but, in their stead,

252

Curses, not loud, but deep, mouth-honour, breath,  
Which the poor heart would fain deny, but dare  
not.  
Seyton! ----

253

Enter Seyton.

Sey. What is your gracious pleasure?

Macb. What news more?

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

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

Give me my armour.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

254

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

How does your patient, doctor?

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

Macb. Cure her of that:  
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd;  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;  
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,

255

Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff,  
Which weighs upon the heart?

256

Doct. Therein the patient  
Must minister to himself.

Macb. Throw physick to the dogs, I'll none of it. --

Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff: --  
Seyton, send out. -- Doctor, the thanes fly from me: --

Come, sir, despatch: -- If thou could'st, doctor, cast  
The water of my land, find her disease,  
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,  
I would applaud thee to the very echo,  
That should applaud again. -- Pull't off, I say. --

257 sig S



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

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

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

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

#### SCENE IV.

Country near Dunsinane: A Wood in view.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, Malcolm, old  
Siward and his Son, Macduff, Menteth, Cath-  
ness, Angus, Lenox, Rosse, and Soldiers march-  
ing.

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

Ment. We doubt it nothing.

Siw. What wood is this before us?

Ment. The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,

258

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

Sold. It shall be done.

Siw. We learn no other, but the confident tyrant  
Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure  
Our setting down before't.

Mal. 'Tis his main hope:  
For where there is advantage to be given,  
Both more and less have given him the revolt;

259

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

Macd. Let our just censures  
Attend the true event, and put we on  
Industrious soldiership.

Siw. The time approaches,  
That will with due decision make us know

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

260

Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate;  
But certain issue strokes must arbitrate:  
Towards which, advance the war.

[Exeunt, marching.]

SCENE V.

Dunsinane. Within the Castle.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, Macbeth, Seyton,  
and Soldiers.

Macb. Hang out our banners on the outward  
walls;

The cry is still, *They come*: Our castle's strength  
Will laugh a siege to scorn: here let them lie,  
Till famine, and the ague, eat them up:  
Were they not forc'd with those that should be ours,

261

We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,  
And beat them backward home. What is that  
noise? [A cry within, of Women.]

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

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:  
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd  
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair

262

Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir  
As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors;  
Direness, familiar to my **slaughterous** thoughts,  
Cannot once start me. -- Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word. --

263

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!

264

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing. ----

Enter a Messenger.

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

Mess. Gracious my lord,  
I shall report that which I say I saw,  
But know not how to do it.

Macb. Well, say, sir.

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

Macb. Liar, and slave!

[Striking him.]

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

Macb. If thou speak'st false,

265

Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,  
Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,

266

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

267

Comes toward Dunsinane. -- Arm, arm, and out! --  
If this, which he avouches, does appear,  
There is nor flying hence, nor tarrying here.  
I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun,  
And wish the estate o' the world were now un-  
done. --  
Ring the alarum bell: -- Blow, wind! come, wrack!

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

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.

The Same. A Plain before the Castle.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, Malcolm, old Siward, Macduff, &c. and their Army, with Boughs.

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

Siw.                               Fare you well. --

/\* First folio, upon's.

268

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.  
    [Exeunt. Alarums continued.]

SCENE VII.

The Same. Another Part of the Plain.

Enter Macbeth.

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

Enter young Siward.

Yo. Siw. What is thy name?

Macb.                               Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

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

name  
Than any is in hell.  
Macb. My name's Macbeth.  
Yo. Siw. The devil himself could not pronounce  
a title  
More hateful to mine ear.  
Macb. No, nor more fearful.

269

Yo. Siw. Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my  
sword  
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.  
[They fight, and young Siward is slain.  
Macb. Thou wast born of woman. --  
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,  
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born. [Exit.

Alarums. Enter Macduff.

Macd. That way the noise is: -- Tyrant, show  
thy face:  
If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,  
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.  
I cannot strike at wretched kernes, whose arms  
Are hir'd to bear their staves; either thou, Macbeth,  
Or else my sword, with an unbatter'd edge,  
I sheathe again undeeded. There thou should'st be;  
By this great clatter, one of greatest note  
Seems bruited: Let me find him, fortune!  
And more I beg not. [Exit. Alarum.

270

Enter Malcolm and old Siward.

Siw. This way, my lord; -- the castle's gently  
render'd:  
The tyrant's people on both sides do fight;  
The noble thanes do bravely in the war;  
The day almost itself professes yours,  
And little is to do.  
Mal. We have met with foes  
That strike beside us.  
Siw. Enter, sir, the castle.  
[Exeunt. Alarum.

Re-enter Macbeth.

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

Re-enter Macduff.

Macd. Turn, hell-hound, turn.  
Macb. Of all men else I have avoided thee:  
But get thee back, my soul is too much charg'd  
With blood of thine already.  
Macd. I have no words,  
My voice is in my sword; thou bloodier villain  
Than terms can give thee out! [They fight.  
Macb. Thou lovest labour:

271

As easy may'st thou the intrenchant air  
With thy keen sword impress, as make me bleed:  
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;  
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield  
To one of woman born.

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

Macb. Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,

272

For it hath cow'd my better part of man:  
And be these juggling fiends no more believ'd,  
That palter with us in a double sense;  
That keep the word of promise to our ear,  
And break it to our hope. -- I'll not fight with thee.

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

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

[Exeunt, fighting.]

273 sig T

Retreat. Flourish. Re-enter, with Drum and Colours, Malcolm, old Siward, Rosse, Lenox, Angus, Cathness, Menteth, and Soldiers.

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

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

Mal. Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

Rosse. Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt:

He only liv'd but till he was a man;  
The which no sooner had his prowess confirm'd  
In the unshrinking station where he fought,  
But like a man he died.

Siw. Then he is dead?

Rosse. Ay, and brought off the field: your cause of sorrow  
Must not be measur'd by his worth, for then  
It hath no end.

Siw. Had he his hurts before?

Rosse. Ay, on the front.

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

274

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

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

Re-enter Macduff, with Macbeth's Head on a Pole.

Macd. Hail, king! for so thou art: Behold,  
where stands  
The usurper's cursed head: the time is free:  
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl,

275

