

Capell 1768 'Macbeth', in Edward Capell (ed.), Mr William Shakespeare his comedies, histories, and tragedies, vol. 4 (London, 1768), sigs. U--2B.

1 sig U

MACBETH.

2

Persons represented.

Duncan, King of Scotland:

Malcolm, and (his Sons:
Donalbain, (

Macbeth, his Cousin, and
General of his Forces.

Seyward, General of the English Forces:

young Seyward, his Son.

Macduff, Banquo, Lenox,)
Rosse, Angus, Cathness, Men-) Noblemen
teth, and another Lord,) of Scotland.

Fleance, Son to Banquo.

Boy, Son to Macduff.

Seyton, an Attendant upon Macbeth.

an English Doctor; a Scottish Doctor.

a Soldier, a Porter, an old Man,

four Attendants, two Messengers,

and three Murtherers, Scotch.

Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macduff.

Gentlewoman, attending Lady Macbeth.

Hecate, and three Witches:

three Apparitions rais'd by them.

Other Witches, and Apparitions;

Lords, Ladies, Officers, Soldiers and Attendants.

Scene, dispers'd; in several Parts of Scotland,
and once in England.

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MACBETH.

ACT I.

SCENE I. A Cross-way.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.

1. W. When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, and in rain?

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

3. W. That will be ere th' set of sun.

1. W. Where the place?

2. W. Upon the heath:

3. W. There to meet with **great** Macbeth.

1. W. I come: -- Grimalkin!

all. Paddock calls: -- Anon. --

Fair is foul, and foul is fair,

Hover through the fog and filthy air. ø

SCENE II. A Camp, near Foris.

Alarums. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm,
Donalbain, Lenox, with attendants;

2 Lightning, or in

4

a Soldier meeting them.

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

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

Sol. Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,
And choak their art. The merciless Macdonel
(Worthy to be a rebel; for, to that,
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him) from the western isles
Of Kernes and Gallow-glasses is supply'd;
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
Shew'd like a rebel's whore: But all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name)
Disdaining fortune, with his brandisht steel,
Which smok'd with bloody execution,
(Like valour's minion) carved out his passage,
'Till he **had** fac'd the slave:
And ne'er shook hands, nor bad farewell to him,
'Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chops,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

Dun. O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman!

Sol. As whence the sun 'gins his reflection
Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders **break;**
So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to come,
Discomfort **wells.** Mark, king of Scotland, mark:
No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,

17 Quarry 24 Which nev'r 29 breaking 31 Discomfort swells

5

Compell'd these skipping Kernes to trust their heels;
But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,
With furbisht arms, and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

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

Sol. Yes;
As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion:
If I say sooth, I must report they were
As cannons over-charg'd with double cracks;
So they doubly redoubl'd strokes **on** the foe:
Except they meant to **bath** in reeking wounds,
Or memorize another Golgotha,
I cannot tell: ---
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

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

[Exeunt Some with the Soldier.]

But who comes here?

Enter Rosse, and Angus.

Mal. The worthy thane of Rosse.

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

Ros. God save the king!

Dun. Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

Ros. From Fife, great king;
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,
And fan our people cold.
Norway, himself with numbers terrible,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict,
'Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapt in proof,

29 terrible numbers

6

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!

Ros. \emptyset Now Sweno, \emptyset Norway's king, craves composition:
Nor would we deign him burial of his men,
'Till he disbursed, at saint Colme's hill,
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

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

Ros. I'll see it done.

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

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III. A Heath.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1. W. Where hast thou been, sister?

2. W. Killing swine.

3. W. Sister, where thou?

1. W. A sailor's wife had chesnuts in her lap,
And mouncht, and mouncht, and mouncht; Give me, quoth I:
Aroint thee, witch, the rump-fed ronyon cries.
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'the tiger:
But in a sive I'll thither sail,
And like a rat without a tail,
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

2. W. I'll give thee a wind.

1. W. Thou'rt kind.

3. W. And I another.

1. W. I myself have all the other,

6 That now Sweno, the Norwayes

7

And the very points they blow,
All the quarters that they know,
I'the ship-man's card.
I'll drain him dry as hay:
Sleep shall, neither night nor day,
Hang upon his pent-house lid;
He shall live a man forbid:
Weary sev'n-nights, nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:
Though his bark cannot be lost,
Yet it shall be tempest-tost.
Look what I have.

2. W. Shew me, shew me.

1. W. Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wreckt, as homeward he did come. [Drum within.]

3. W. A drum, a drum;
Macbeth doth come.

all. The **weird** sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about;
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again, to make up nine:
Peace, the charm's wound up.

Enter Macbeth, and Banquo, journeying;
Soldiers, and Others, at a Distance,

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

Ban. How far is't call'd to **Foris**? --- What are these,
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire;
That look not like the inhabitants o'the earth,
And yet are on't? -- Live you? or are you ought
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her choppy finger laying

1 Ports 27 to Soris?

8

Upon her skinny lips: You should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

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

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

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

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

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

2. W. Hail!

3. W. Hail!

1. W. Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2. W. Not so happy, yet much happier.

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

So, all-hail, Macbeth, and Banquo!

1. 2. 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

9

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 stay'd!

Ban. Were such things here, as we do speak about?
Or have we eaten o' 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?

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

Enter Rosse, and Angus.

Ros. 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 Norweyan ranks;
Nothing afeard of what thyself did'st make,
Strange images of death. As thick as **hail**,
Came post on 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.

26 as Tale | Can post with post

10

Ros. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,

He bad me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!
For it is thine.

Ban. What, can the devil speak true?

Macb. The thane of Cawdor lives; Why do you dress me
In borrow'd robes?

Ang. Who was the thane, lives yet;
But under heavy judgment bears that life,
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was
Combin'd with \emptyset 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,
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.
[talks with Rosse and Angus apart.]

Macb. Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen. --
This supernatural solliciting

11 with those of Norway

11

Cannot be ill; cannot be good: If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings:
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man, that function
Is smother'd in surmise; and nothing is,
But what is not.

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt.

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 mold,
But with the aid of use.

Macb. Come, what come may:
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

Macb. Give me your favour: my dull brain was wrought
With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains
Are 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.]

12

SCENE IV. Foris. 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 dye: who did report,
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons;
Implor'd your highness' pardon; and set forth
A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him, like the leaving it; he dy'd
As one that had been study'd in his death,
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd
As 'twere a careless trifle.

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

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Rosse,
Angus, and Others.

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

More is thy due than more than all can pay.

Macb. The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part
Is to receive our duties: and our duties

13

Are to your throne and state, children, and servants;
Which do but what they should, by doing every thing
Safe toward your love and honour.

Dun. Welcome hither:

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

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

Dun. My plenteous joys,
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow. -- Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know,
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm; whom we name hereafter,
The prince of Cumberland: which honour must
Not, unaccompany'd, 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,
On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires,
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,

14

Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

Exit **Macbeth**.

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

SCENE V. Inverness. A Room in Macbeth's Castle.
Enter Lady Macbeth, reading.

L. Mb. - - - - - They met me in the day of
success: and I have learn'd by the **perfectest** report, they
have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I
burnt in desire to question them further, they made them-
selves air, into which they vanish'd. Whiles I stood
rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king,
who all-hail'd me, thane of Cawdor; by which title
before these **weird** sisters saluted me, and refer'd me to
the coming on of time, with, Hail, king that shalt be.
This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest
partner of greatness; that thou **mightest** not lose the dues
of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is pro-
mis'd thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promis'd: Yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o'the milk of human kindness,
To catch the nearest way: Thou would'st be great,
Art not without ambition; but without
The illness should attend it: what thou would'st highly,
That would'st thou holily; would'st not play false,
And yet would'st wrongly win: thou'dst have, great Glamis,
That which cries, Thus thou must do, if thou have it;

15

And **that's what** 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

Enter an Attendant.

To have thee crown'd withal. -- What is your tidings?

Att. The king comes here to-night.

L. Mb. Thou'rt mad to say it:

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

Att. 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.

L. Mb. Give him tending,
He brings great news. [Exit Att.] The raven himself is hoarse,
That croaks the fatal **enterance** of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, **all** you spirits,

That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here;
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood,
Stop up the access and passage to remorse;
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect, and **it!** Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murth'ring ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoak of hell!
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes;

1 And that which rather 27 and hit

16

Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry, Hold, hold. -- Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!

Enter Macbeth.

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

Macb. My **dear'st** love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

L. Mb. And when goes hence?

Macb. To-morrow, as he purposes.

L. Mb. 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 dispatch;
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Macb. We will speak further.

L. Mb. 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 with Torches. Enter
Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Macduff, Banquo,
Lenox, Ross, Angus, and Attendants.

Dun. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air

17 sig X

Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle **sense**.

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 **jutting** frieze,
Buttress, nor coigne of vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendant bed, and procreant cradle:
Where they **most** breed, and haunt, I have observ'd,
The air is delicate.

Enter Lady **Macbeth**.

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-ild** us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

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

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

L. Mb. Your servants ever
Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs, in compt;
To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,

2 sences. 4 Barlet 6 Jutty 9 must

18

Still to return your own.

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

SCENE VII. The same. A Room in the Castle.

Hautboys, Torches. Enter, and pass over, a Sewer, and

divers Servants, with Dishes and Service; then
Enter Macbeth.

Macb. If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With his surcease, success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and **shoal** of time,
We'd jump the life to come. But, in these cases,
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: This even-handed justice
Commends the ingredience 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 murtherer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath born his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongu'd, against
The deep damnation of his taking-off:
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherúbin, hors'd

16 and Schoole of

19

Upon the sightless **couriers** of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself,

Enter Lady Macbeth.

And falls on the other ---- How now! what news?

L. Mb. He has almost supt; Why have you left the chamber?

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

L. Mb. 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.

L. Mb. Was the hope drunk,
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time,

Such I account thy love. Art thou **afeard**
To be the same in thine own act and valour,
As thou art in desire? Would'st thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem;
Letting I-dare-not wait upon I-would,
Like the poor cat i'the adage?

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

L. Mb. What beast was't then,
That made you break this enterprize to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;

29 dares no more

20

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 pluckt my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dasht the brains out, had I **but** so sworn
As you have done to this.

Macb. If we should fail?

L. Mb. We fail*

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

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

L. Mb. Who dares receive it other,

* Capell had a sign for 'irony': he uses that sign here.

21

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

Macb. I am settl'd, 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.

∅

ACT II.

SCENE I. The same. Court within the Castle.

Enter Banquo, and Fleance; Servant
with a Torch before them.

Ban. How goes the night, boy?

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

Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

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

Ban. Hold, take my sword: -- There's husbandry in heaven,
Their candles are all out: -- Take thee that too. --
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep: Merciful powers,
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature
Gives way to in repose! -- Give me my sword; --

Enter Macbeth, and ∅ Servant with a Torch.
Who's there?

Macb. A friend.

Ban. What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed:
He hath **to-night** been in unusual pleasure,
And sent ∅ great largesse to your **officers**:
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess, and's shut up
In measureless content.

29 sent forth great Largesse to your Offices

22

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

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

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

Ban. At your kind'st leisure.

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

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

Macb. Good repose, the while!

Ban. Thanks, sir; The like to you!

[Exeunt Banquo, Fleance, and Servant.]

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.

23

Thou marshal'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o'the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;
And on thy blade, and dudgeon, gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business, which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep: **now** witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecat's **offerings**; and wither'd murther,
Alarum'd by his centinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's ravishing **strides**, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou **sure** and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which **way they** walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my where-about,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. **While** I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

ø [Bell rings.]

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.

SCENE II. The same.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

L. Mb. That which hath made them drunk, hath made me bold;
What hath quench'd them, hath given me fire: --- Hark! --- Peace;
It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bell-man,
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:
The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms

14 sides 15 Thou sowre and 16 which they may walke

24

Do mock their charge with snores: I have drug'd their possets,
That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live, or dye.

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. Who's there? what, ho!

L. Mb. Alack, I am afraid they have awak'd,
And 'tis not done; the attempt, and not the deed,
Confounds us: --- Hark! --- I lay'd their daggers ready,
He could not miss **them**. Had he not resembl'd
My father as he slept, I had don't. -- My husband?

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

L. Mb. I heard the owl scream, and the crickets cry.
Did not you speak?

Macb. When?

L. Mb. Now.

Macb. As I descended?

L. Mb. Ay.

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

L. Mb. Donalbain.

Macb. This is a sorry sight. [looking on his Hands.]

L. Mb. A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

Macb. There's one did laugh in **his** sleep, and one cry'd, murther!
That they did wake each other; I stood and heard them:
But they did say their prayers, and addrest them
Again to sleep.

L. Mb. There are two lodg'd together.

Macb. One cry'd, God bless us! and, Amen, the other;
As they had seen me, with these hangman's hands,
List'ning their fear. I could not say, amen,
When they did say, God bless us.

L. Mb. Consider it not so deeply.

Macb. But wherefore could not I pronounce, amen?

25

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

L. Mb. These deeds must not be thought **on**
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

Macb. Methought, I heard a voice cry, Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murmur sleep, the innocent sleep;
Sleep, that knits up the ravel'd sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast; ---

L. Mb. What do you mean?

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

L. Mb. Who was it, that thus cry'd? Why, worthy thane,
You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brain-sickly of things: Go, get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lye there: Go, carry them; and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.

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

L. Mb. Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers: The sleeping, and the dead,
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood,
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt. [Exit. **Knocking** within.]

Macb. Whence is that knocking!
How is't with me, when every noise appalls me?

26

What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine eyes!
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

Re-enter Lady Macbeth.

L. Mb. My hands are of your colour: but I shame
To wear a heart so white. [Knock.] I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber:
A little water clears us of this deed:

How easy is it then? Your constancy
Hath left you unattended. [Knock.] Hark, more knocking:
Get on your night-gown, lest occasion call us,
And shew us to be watchers: Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

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

Knocking.

Wake, Duncan, with **this** knocking: ø 'Would thou could'st!
[Exeunt.]

SCENE III. The same.

Enter a Porter.

ø

Por. Here's a knocking, indeed! If a man were por-
ter of hell gate, he should have old turning the key.
[Knock.] Knock, knock, knock: Who's there, i'the
name of Belzebub? Here's a farmer, that hang'd himself
on the expectation of plenty: come in time; have nap-
kins **enough** about you, here you'll sweat for't. [Knock.]
Knock, knock: Who's there, i'the other devil's name?
'Faith, here's an equivocator, that could swear in both
the scales against either scale; who committed treason
enough for God's sake, yet could not equivocate to hea-

18 with thy knocking

27

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

Enter Macduff, and Lenox.

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

Por. '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 pro-
voke?

Por. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine. Le-
chery, sir, it provokes, and unprovokes; it provokes the
desire, but it takes away the performance: Therefore,
much drink may be said to be an equivocator with le-

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

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

Por. 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? --

28

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 slipt the hour.

Macb. I'll bring you to him.

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

Macb. The labour we delight in physicks pain. This is the door.

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

Len. Goes the king hence to-day?

Macb. He does: he did appoint so.

Len. The night has been unruly: Where we lay,
Our chimneys were blown down: and, as they say,
Lamentings heard i'the air; strange screams of death;
And prophesying, with accents terrible,
Of dire combustions, and confus'd events,
New hatch'd to the woeful time: The obscure bird
Clamour'd the live-long night: some say, the earth
Was feverous, and did shake.

Macb. 'Twas a rough night.

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

Re-enter Macduff, hastily.

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

Macb. Len. What's the matter?

29

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: [to some Servants, who are entering.]

-- Murther, and treason! --

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

Enter Lady Macbeth.

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

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

Enter Banquo, and Others.

Our royal master's murder'd!

L. Mb. Woe, alas!
What, in our house?

Ban. Too cruel, any where. --
Dear Duff, I pr'ythee, contradict thyself,

30

And say, it is not so.

Re-enter Macbeth, and Lenox. ø

Macb. Had I but dy'd an hour before this chance,
I had liv'd a blessed time; for, from this instant,
There's nothing serious in mortality:
All is but toys: renown, and grace, is dead;
The wine of life is drawn, and the meer 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 stopt; the very source of it is stopt.

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. O, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had don't:
Their hands and faces were all badg'd with blood,
So were their daggers, which, unwip'd, we found
Upon their pillows: they star'd, and were distracted,
As no man's life was to be trusted with them.

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

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

Macb. Who can be wise, amaz'd, **temperate**, and furious,
Loyal, and neutral, in a moment? No man:
The expedition of my violent love
Out-ran the pauser reason. Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature,
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,
Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers
Unmannerly breech'd with gore: Who could refrain,

31

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

L. Mb. Help me hence, ho! [seeming to faint.

Macd. Look to the lady. [gather about her.

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

Don. What should be spoken here,
Where our fate, hid **within** an augre hole,
May rush, and seize us? Let's away.
Our tears are not yet brew'd.

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

Ban. Look to the lady. -- [L. Macbeth is carry'd out.
And when we have our naked frailties hid,
That suffer in exposure, let us meet,
And question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:
In the great hand of God I stand; and, thence,
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice.

Macd. 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 Macb. Ban. Macd. Len. &c.

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

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

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

32

The nearer bloody.

Mal. This murtherous 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. The same. Without the Castle.

Enter ROSSE, and an old Man.

o. m. Three-score and ten I can remember well:
Within the volume of which time, I have seen
Hours dreadful, and things strange; but this sore night
Hath trifled former knowings.

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

o. m. 'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On tuesday last,
A faulcon, tow'ring in her pride of place,
Was by a mousing owl hawk't at, and kill'd.

Ros. And Duncan's horses, (a thing most strange, and certain)
Beauteous, and swift, the minions of their race,
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would
Make war with **man**.

o. m. 'Tis said, they eat each other.

Ros. They did so; to the amazement of mine eyes,

17 Threatens 30 with Mankinde.

33 sig Y

That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Macduff: --

Enter Macduff.

How goes the world, sir, now?

Macd. Why, see you not?

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

Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

Ros. Alas the day!

What good could they pretend?

Macd. They were **suborn'd**:

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

Ros. 'Gainst nature still:

Thriftless 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.

Ros. Where is Duncan's body?

Macd. Carry'd to Colme-kill;
The sacred store-house of his predecessors,
And guardian of their bones.

Ros. Will you to Scone?

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

Ros. Well, I will thither.

Macd. Well, may you see things well done there; --- Adieu! ---
Lest our old robes sit easier than our new. **[Exit.**

Ros. Farewel, father.

o. m. God's benison go with you, **sir**; and with those
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes!

[Exeunt severally.

14 will raven

34

ACT III.

SCENE I. Foris. 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)
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.

Flourish. Enter Macbeth, as King;

Lady Macbeth, Queen; Rosse, Lenox,
Lords, Ladies, and Attendants.

Macb. Here's our chief guest.

L. Mb. If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And **all things** unbecoming.

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

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

Macb. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. We should have else desir'd your good advice

26 Banq. Let your

35

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

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

Macb. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

Macb. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention: But of that to-morrow;
When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,
Craving us jointly. Hye \emptyset 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.
Farewel. -- [Exit Banquo.

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

[Exeunt **Lady Macbeth, &c.**

Sirrah, a word with you; Attend those men our pleasure?

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

Macb. Bring them before us. [Exit **Att.**] 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,

15 Hye you to

36

He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
To act in safety. There is none, but he,
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
My genius is rebuk'd; as, it is said,
Mark Antony's was by Cæsar. He chid the sisters,
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bad them speak to him; then, prophet-like,
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,
And put a barren scepter in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If **it** be so,
For Banquo's issue have I fil'd my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murther'd;
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
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 Murtherers.

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

[Exit Attendant.]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

Mur. It was, so please your highness.

Macb. Well then, now

Have you consider'd of my speeches? Know,
That it was he, in the times past, which held you
So under fortune; which, you thought, had been,
Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference, past in probation with you;
How you were born in hand; how crost: the instruments;

18 Seedes

37

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. M. 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 gospel'd,
To pray for this good man, and for his issue,
Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,
And beggar'd yours for ever?

1. M. We are men, my liege.

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

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

32 Hath so

38

I do, to spite the world.

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

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

Mur. True, my lord.

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

For sundry weighty reasons.

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

1. M. Though our lives ---

Macb. Your spirits shine through you. Within this hour, at most,
I will advise you where to plant yourselves;
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o'the time,
The moment on't; for 't must be done to-night,
And something from the palace; always thought,
That I require a clearness: And with him,
(To leave no rubs, nor botches, in the work)
Fleance, his son, that keeps him company,
Whose absence is no less material to me
Than is his father's, must embrace the fate

3 wearie with

39

Of that dark hour: Resolve yourselves apart;
I'll come to you anon.

Mur. We are resolv'd, my lord.

Macb. I'll call upon you straight; abide within.

[Exeunt Murtherers.]

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

SCENE II. The same. Another Room.

Enter Lady Macbeth, and an Attendant.

L. Mb. Is Banquo gone from court?

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

L. Mb. Say to the king, I would attend his leisure
For a few words.

Att. Madam, I will. [Exit Attendant.]

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

Enter Macbeth.

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

Macb. We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it,
She'll close, and be herself; whilst our poor malice
Remains in danger of her former tooth.
But let the frame of things disjoint, both the worlds suffer,

Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep
In the affliction of these terrible dreams,
That shake us nightly: Better be with the dead,

26 scorch'd

40

Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,
Than on the torture of the mind to lye
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.

L. Mb. 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.

L. Mb. You must leave this.

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

L. Mb. But in them nature's copy's not etern.

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

L. Mb. What's to be done?

Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,
'Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night,
Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;
And, with thy bloody and invisible hand,

41

Cancel, and tear to pieces, that great bond
Which keeps me pale! Light thickens; and the crow
Makes wing to the rooky wood:
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;
While night's black agents to their preys do rouse.
Thou marvel'st at my words: but hold thee still;

Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill:
So, pr'ythee, go with me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III. The same. A Park: Gate leading to the
Palace. Enter three Murtherers.

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

3. M. Macbeth.

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

1. M. 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. M. Hark! I hear horses.

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

2. M. ø 'Tis he; the rest,
That are within the note of expectation,
Already are i'the court.

1. M. His horses go about.

3. M. 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;

Servant, with a Torch, before them.

24 2. Then 'tis

42

2. M. A light, a light!

3. M. 'Tis he.

1. M. Stand to't.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1. M. Let it come down. [assaulting him.]

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

[dies. Fleance, and Servant, fly.]

3. M. Who did strike out the light?

1. M. Was't not the way?

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

2. M. We have lost

Best half of our affair.

1. M. Well, let's away,

And say how much is done. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV. The same. A Hall of State in the Palace.

A Banquet set out. Flourish. Enter Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Rosse, Lenox, Lords, and Attendants.

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

Lor. Thanks to your majesty. [they sit.

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

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

Macb. See, they encounter thee with their hearts' thanks. --
Both sides are even: here I'll sit i'the mid'st:

Enter first Murtherer, to the Door.

Be large in mirth; anon, we'll drink a measure

20 downe: | At first

43

The table round. -- There's blood upon thy face.

1. M. 'Tis Banquo's then.

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

Is he dispatch'd?

1. M. My lord, his throat is cut, that I did for him.

Macb. Thou art the best o'the cut-throats: Yet he's good,
That did the like for Fleance: if thou did'st it,
Thou art the non-pareil.

1. M. 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, crib'd, confin'd, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

1. M. 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 thee ourselves again. [Exit Murtherer.

L. Mb. My royal lord,
You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold,
That is not often vouch'd while 'tis a making;
'Tis given with welcome: to feed, were best at home;
From thence, the sauce to meat is ceremony;

Meeting were bare without it.

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

3 then he within

44

Len. May't please your highness sit?

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.

Ros. His absence, sir,
Lays blame upon his promise. Please't your highness
To grace us with your royal company?

Macb. The table's full. [starting.

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

Macb. Where?

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

Macb. Which of you have done this?

Lor. What, my good lord?

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

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

L. Mb. Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep seat;
The fit is momentary; upon a thought
He will again be well: If much you note him,
You shall offend him, and extend his passion;
Feed, and regard him not. -- Are you a man?

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

L. Mb. 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,
(**Impostures of true fear**) would well become
A woman's story, at a winter's fire,

31 Impostors to true

45

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

Macb. Pr'ythee, see there! behold! look! lo! how say you? --
Why, what care I? If thou 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 vanishes.]

L. Mb. What, quite unman'd in folly?

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

L. Mb. Fie, for shame!

Macb. Blood hath been shed ere now, i'the olden time,
Ere human statute purg'd the **general** weal;
Ay, and since too, murthers have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear: the times **have** been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would dye,
And there an end: but now, they rise again,
With twenty mortal murthers on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: This is more strange
Than such a murder is.

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

Lor. Our duties, and the pledge.

13 the gentle Weale

46

Ghost rises again.

Macb. Avant! 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.

L. Mb. 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 **Hircanian** tiger,
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble: Or, be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling I **inhibit** then, protest me

The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!

[Ghost vanishes.]

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

L. Mb. 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
Even to the disposition that I owe,
When now I think you can behold such sights,
And keep the natural ruby of your cheek,
When mine is blanch'd with fear.

Ros. What sights, my lord?

L. Mb. 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,

11 Hircan 15 inhabit 27 Cheekes,

47

But go at once.

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

L. Mb. A kind good night to all!

[Exeunt Rosse, Lenox, Lords, and Attendants.]

Macb. It will have blood, they say; Blood will have blood:
Stones have been known to move, and trees to speak;
Augurs, that understood relations, have
By mag-pies, and by choughs, and rooks, brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. -- What is the night?

L. Mb. Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

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

L. Mb. Did you send to him, sir?

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

L. Mb. You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

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

Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use:
We are yet but young in deed. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V. The Heath.

Thunder. Enter, from opposite Sides,

8 Augures, and understood 9 Maggot Pyes
16 a one of 18 (And betimes I will) to the 29 indeed

48

Hecate, and the three Witches.

1. W. Why, how now, Hecat? you look angerly.
Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are,
Saucy, and over-bold? 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 shew the glory of our art?
And, which is worse, all you have done
Hath been but for a weyward son,
Spiteful, and wrathful; who, as others do,
Loves for his own ends, not for you.
But make amends now: Get you gone,
And at the pit of Acheron
Meet me i'the morning; thither he
Will come to know his destiny.
Your vessels, and your spells, provide,
Your charms, and every thing beside:
I am for the air; this night I'll spend
Unto a dismal, \emptyset fatal end.
Great business must be wrought ere noon:
Upon the corner of the moon
There hangs a vap'rous 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:

22 dismall, and a Fatall

49 sig Z

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. W. Come, let's make haste, she'll soon be back again.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI. A Room in the Palace.

Enter Lenox, and another Lord.

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

50

Macduff lives in disgrace: Sir, can you tell
Where he bestows himself?

Lor. The **son** of Duncan,
From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth,
Lives in the English court; and is receiv'd
Of the most pious Edward with such grace,
That the malevolence of fortune nothing
Takes from his high respect: Thither Macduff
Is gone; to pray the holy king, **on** his aid
To wake Northumberland, and warlike Seyward:
That, by the help of these, (with Him above,
To ratify the work) we may again
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights;

Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives;
Do faithful homage, and receive free honours,
All which we pine for now: And this report
Hath so exasperate **the** king, that he
Prepares for some attempt. ø

Len. Sent he to Macduff?

Lor. He did: and, with an absolute Sir,--not-I,
The cloudy messenger turns me his back,
And hums; as who should say, You'll rue the time
That clogs me with this answer.

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

Lor. I'll send my prayers with him. [Exeunt.]

3 Sonnes 9 upon his 17 their King 18 attempt of Warre.

51

ACT IV.

SCENE I. A Cavern:

A Cauldron, in the Middle, boiling.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1. W. Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.
2. W. Thrice, and once, the hedge-pig whin'd.
3. W. **Harper** cries, 'tis time, 'tis time.
1. W. Round about the cauldron go;

In the poison'd entrails throw. --

Toad, that under **the** cold stone
Days and nights **hast** thirty one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i'the **charm'd** pot.

all. Double, double, toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2. W. Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake:
Eye of newt, and toe of frog,
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg, and **owlet's** wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

all. Double, double, toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

3. W. Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy; maw, and gulf,
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark;
Root of hemlock, dig'd i' the' dark;

14 has

52

Liver of blaspheming Jew;
Gall of goat; and slips of yew,
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-strangl'd babe,
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tyger's chaudron,
For th' ingredience of our cauldron.
all. Double, double, toil and trouble;
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.
2. W. Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.

Enter Hecate, and \emptyset 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,
Inchanting all that you put in. [Musick.

SONG. Black spirits, &c.

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

Enter Macbeth.

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

all. A deed without a name.

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

53

Though bladed corn be lodg'd, and trees blown down;
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;
Though palaces, and pyramids, do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure
Of nature's **germins** tumble **all together**,

Even 'till destruction sicken, answer me
To what I ask you.

1. W. Speak.

2. W. Demand.

3. W. We'll answer.

1. W. Say, if **thou'dst** rather hear it from our mouths,
Or from our masters'?

Macb. Call **them**, let me see **them**.

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

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

Thunder. **Apparition of an arm'd Head rises.**

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

1. W. He knows thy thought;

Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

App. Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, beware Macduff;
Beware the thane of Fife. -- Dismiss me: Enough. ∅ [descends.

Macb. Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;
Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: But one word more.

1. W. He will not be commanded: Here's another,
More potent than the first.

Thunder. **Apparition of a bloody Child rises.**

App. Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, ---

Macb. Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

5 Germaine,

54

App. Be bloody, bold, and resolute: laugh to scorn
The power of man; for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth. [descends.

Macb. Then live, Macduff; What need I fear of thee?
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;
That I may tell pale-hearted fear, it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder. -- What is this,

Thunder. **Apparition of a Child crown'd,
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. ∅

App. Be lion-mettl'd, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until

Great Birnam wood to Dunsinane high hill
Shall come against him. [descends.]

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

all. Seek to know no more.

Macb. I will be satisfy'd: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you: let me know: ---

18 high Dunsinane 23 dead

55

[Thunder; and the Cauldron sinks. Horrid Musick.
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this? ø

1. W. Shew. 2. W. Shew. 3. W. Shew.

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

Eight Kings appear, and pass over in Order; the last,
with a Glass in his Hand; Banquo following.

Macb. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo; down;
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls: -- And thy hair,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first: --
A third, is like the former: (Filthy hags,
Why do you shew me this?) -- A fourth? -- Start, eyes!
What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom? --
Another yet? -- A seventh? -- I'll see no more:
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass,
Which shews me many more; and some I see,
That twofold balls and treble scepters carry:
Horrible sight! -- **Nay**, now, I see, 'tis true;
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,
And points at them for his. -- What, is this so?

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

[Musick. The Witches dance, and vanish.

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

56

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 by the air whereon they ride;
And damn'd, all those that trust them! -- I did hear
The galloping of horse: Who was't came by?

Len. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word,
Macduff is fled to England?

Macb. Fled to England?

Len. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits:
The flighty purpose never is o'er-took,
Unless the deed go with it: From this moment,
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. And even now
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought, and done:
The castle of Macduff I will surprize;
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o'the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. No boasting, like a fool;
This deed I'll do, before this purpose cool:
But no more sights. -- Where are these gentlemen?
Come, bring me where they are. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II. Fife. A Room in Macduff's Castle.

Enter **Lady Macduff**, her Son, and Rosse.

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

Ros. You must have patience, madam.

L. Md. He had none:

57

His flight was madness: When our actions do not,
Our fears do make us traitors.

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

L. Md. 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.

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

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

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

22 Each way, and move.

58

Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Mb. What, with worms, and flies?

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

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

Son. Why should I, mother?

Poor birds they are not set for: **But** my father's
Not dead, for all your saying.

L. Md. Yes, he is dead:

How wilt thou do **now** for a father?

Son. Nay,

How will you do for a husband?

L. Md. Why, I can buy me
Twenty at any market.

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

L. Md. Thou speak'st **with all thy wit**;
And yet, i'faith, with wit enough for thee.

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Md. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

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

Son. And be all traitors, that do so?

L. Md. Every one, that does so, is a traitor, and must be hang'd.

Son. And must they all be hang'd, that swear and lye?

L. Md. Every one.

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Md. 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.

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L. Md. 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. Md. Poor pratler, how thou talk'st!

Enter a Messenger.

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

L. Md. **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 **certain** Murtherers.

1. M. Where is your husband?

L. Md. I hope, in no place so unsanctify'd, Where such as thou may'st find him.

1. M. He's a traitor.

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

1. M. What, you egg? [stabbing him.
Young fry of treachery?

Son. He has kill'd me, mother;

14 do worse to

60

Run away, I pray you. [Dies. Exit Lady Macduff,
crying Murther; Murtherers pursue her.

SCENE III. A Room in Edward the Confessor's Palace.
Enter Malcolm, and Macduff.

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

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

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail;
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 discern of him through me: and wisdom,
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb,
To appease an angry god.

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is.
A good and virtuous nature may recoil,
In an imperial charge. But I shall crave your pardon;
That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose:
Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell:
Though all things foul would wear the brows of grace,
Yet grace must still look so.

14 Syllable

61

Macd. I have lost my hopes.

Mal. Perchance, even there, where I did find my doubts.
Why in that rawness left you wife, and children,
(Those precious motives, those strong knots of love)
Without leave-taking? I pray you,
Let not my jealousies be your dishonours,
But mine own safeties: you may be rightly just,

Whatever I shall think.

Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country!
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,
For goodness dare not check thee! wear thou thy wrongs,
The title is **afeard!** -- Fare thee well, lord:
I would not be the villain that thou think'st,
For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp,
And the rich east to boot.

Mal. Be not offended:
I speak not as in absolute fear of you.
I think, our country sinks beneath the yolk;
It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash
Is added to her wounds: I think, withal,
There would be hands 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

62

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 **ills**, to top Macbeth.

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

Macd. Boundless intemperance
In nature is a tyranny: it hath been
The untimely emptying of the happy throne,
And fall of many kings. But fear not yet
To take upon you what is yours: you may

Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,
And yet seem cold; the time you may so hoodwink:
We have willing dames enough; there cannot be
That vultur 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:

63

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

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming graces,
As justice, verity, **temperance**, stableness,
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 untitl'd tyrant bloody-scepter'd,
When shalt thou see thy wholesom days again?
Since that the truest issue of thy throne
By his own interdiction stands **accurst**,
And does blaspheme his breed? -- Thy royal father
Was a most sainted king; the queen, that bore thee,

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

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,
 Child of integrity, hath from my soul
 Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts
 To thy good truth and honour. **Dev'lish** 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 lay'd upon myself,
 For strangers to my nature. I am yet
 Unknown to woman; never was forsworn;
 Scarcely have coveted what was mine own;
 At no time broke my faith; would not betray
 The devil to his fellow; and delight
 No less in truth, than life: my first false-speaking
 Was this upon myself: What I am truly
 Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:
 Whither, indeed, before **thy** here-approach,
 Old Seyward, with ten thousand warlike men,
All ready at a point, was setting forth:
 Now we'll together; And the chance, of goodness,
 Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?

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

Enter a Doctor.

27 Already

65 sig 2A

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

Doc. Ay, sir: there are a crew of wretched souls,
 That stay his cure: their malady convinces
 The great assay of art; but, at his touch,
 (Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand)
 They presently amend.

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 sollicit heaven,
Himself best knows: but strangely-visited people,
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,
The meer despair of surgery, he cures;
Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,
Put on with holy prayers: and 'tis spoken,
To the succeeding royalty he leaves
The healing benediction. With this strange virtue,
He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;
And sundry blessings hang about his throne,
That speak him full of grace.

Enter Rosse.

Macd. See, who comes here?

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

Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

Mal. I know him now: Good God, betimes remove
The means that makes us strangers!

Ros. Sir, amen.

Macd. Stands Scotland where it did?

Ros. Alas, poor country;
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot

66

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 extasy: the dead man's knell
Is there scarce ask'd, for who; and good men's lives
Expire before the flowers in their caps,
Dying, or ere they sicken.

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

Mal. What **is** the newest grief?

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

Macd. How does my wife?

Ros. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?

Ros. Well too.

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

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

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

Ros. When I came hither to transport the tidings,
Which I have heavily born, there ran a rumour
Of many worthy fellows that were out;
Which was to my belief witness'd the rather,

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

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

67

That Christendom gives out.

Ros. '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?

Ros. 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.

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

Macd. Hum! I guess at it.

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

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

Macd. My children too?

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

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

Ros. I have said.

Mal. Be comforted:

68

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

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

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

Mal. Dispute it like a man.

Macd. I shall do so;

But I must also feel it as a man:

I cannot but remember such things were,
That were most precious to me. -- Did heaven look on,
And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,
They were all strook for thee: naught that I am,
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,
Fell slaughter on their souls: Heaven rest them now!

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

Macd. O, I could play the woman with mine eyes,
And braggart with my tongue! -- But, gentle **heaven**,
Cut short all intermission; 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.]

ACT V.

24 This time goes

69

SCENE I. Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

Enter a Doctor of Physick, and a Waiting-Gentlewoman.

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

Gen. Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen
her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown upon her,
unlock her closet, take forth paper, fold it, write upon't,
read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed; yet
all this while in a most fast sleep.

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

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

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

Gen. 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.

Doc. How came she by that light?

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

Doc. You see, her eyes are open.

Gen. Ay, but their sense **is** shut.

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

Gen. It is an accustom'd action with her, to seem thus washing her hands; I have known her continue in this

28 sense are shut

70

a quarter of an hour.

L. Mb. Yet here's a spot.

Doc. Hark, she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, [**taking out his Tables**] to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

L. Mb. Out, damned spot! out, I say! --- One; Two; Why, then 'tis time to do't: Hell is murky. Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and **afeard?** what need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account? Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

Doc. Do you mark that?

L. Mb. 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.

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

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

L. Mb. Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.
O, o, o!

Doc. What a sigh is there? The heart is sorely charg'd.

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

Doc. Well, well, well, ---

Gen. Pray God, it be, sir.

Doc. This disease is beyond my practice: Yet I have known those which have walk'd in their sleep, who have dy'd holily in their beds.

L. Mb. Wash your hands, put on your night-gown;

71

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

Doc. Even so?

L. Mb. 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.]

Doc. Will she go now to bed?

Gen. Directly.

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

Gen. Good night, good doctor. [Exeunt severally.]

SCENE II. Country near Dunsinane.

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

Men. The English power is near, led on by Malcolm, His uncle Seyward, and the good Macduff. Revenges burn in them: for their dear causes Would, to the bleeding, and the grim alarm, Excite the mortify'd man.

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

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

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

72

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

Men. What does the tyrant?

Cat. 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.

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

Cat. Well, march we on,
To give obedience where 'tis truly ow'd:
Meet we the med'cin of the sickly weal;
And with him pour we, in our country's purge,
Each drop of us.

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

SCENE III. Dunsinane. A Room in the Castle.

Enter Macbeth; Doctor, and Others, attending.

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

73

'Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?
Was he not born of woman? Ø Spirits, that know
All mortal consequences, have pronounc'd me, Ø
Fear not, Macbeth; no man, that's born of woman,
Shall e'er have power upon thee. Then fly, false thanes,
And mingle with the English epicures:
The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear,
Shall never sag with doubt, nor shake with fear.

Enter an Attendant, hastily.

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

Att. There is ten thousand.

Macb. Geese, villain?

Att. Soldiers, sir.

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

Att. The English force, so please you.

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

Enter Seyton.

3 v. Note.

74

Sey. What **is** your gracious pleasure?

Macb. What news more?

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

Macb. I'll fight, till from my bones my flesh be hack'd. --
Give me my armour.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

Send out **more** horses, skirr the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. -- Give me mine armour. --
How does your patient, doctor?

Doc. Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubl'd 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;
'**Rase** out the written troubles of the brain;
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doc. 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, dispatch: -- If thou could'st, doctor, cast
The water of my land, find her disease,
And purge it to a sound and **pristine** health,
I would applaud thee to the very echo,
That should applaud again. -- Pull't off, I say. --
What rhubarb, **senna**, or what purgative drug,

Would scour these English hence? Hearest thou of them?

75

Doc. 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.

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

SCENE IV. Plains leading to Dunsinane; a Wood adjacent.
Enter, with Drum and Colours, Malcolm; old Seyward,
and his Son; Macduff, Menteth, and the other Thanes,
and Soldiers, marching.

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

Men. We doubt it nothing.

o. S. What wood is this before us?

Men. The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow
The numbers of our host, and make discovery
Err in report of us.

Sol. It shall be done.

o. S. We learn no other, but the confident tyrant
Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure
Our setting down before it.

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

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

27 to be given,

76

Industrious soldiership.

o. S. The time approaches,
That will with due decision make us know
What we shall say we have, and what we owe.
Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate;
But certain issue strokes must arbitrate:
Towards which, advance the war. [Exeunt marching.]

SCENE V. Dunsinane. A Plat-form within the Castle.

Enter, with Drum 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 lye,
'Till famine, and the ague, eat them up:
Were they not 'forc'd with those that should be ours,
We might have met them dareful beard to beard,
And beat them backward home. What is that noise?

[a Cry within, of Women.

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

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir
As life were in't: I have supt full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaught'rous thoughts,
Cannot once start me. -- Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have dy'd hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word. --
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,

77

To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to **study** death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an ideot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing. --

Enter a Messenger.

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

Mes. Gracious my lord,
I should report that which I'd say I saw,
But know not how to do't.

Macb. Well, say **it**, sir.

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

Macb. Liar, and slave! [striking him.

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

I say, a moving grove.

Macb. If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shall thou hang alive,
'Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much. --
I pull in resolution; and begin
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend,
That lies like truth: Fear not, 'till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane; and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. -- Arm, arm, and out! --
If this, which he avouches, does appear,
There is nor flying hence, nor tarrying here.

78

I 'gin to be aweary of the sun,
And wish the estate o'the world were now undone. --
Ring the alarum bell: -- Blow, wind! come, wrack!
At least we'll dye with harness on our back. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI. The same. Plain before the Castle.
Enter, with Drum and Colours, Malcolm, old
Seyward, Macduff, &c. and Forces, with Boughs.

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

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

Macd. Make all our trumpets speak, give them all breath,
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death. [Exeunt. ø]

SCENE VII. The same. Another Part of the Plain.
Alarums, as of a Battle join'd. Skirmishings.
Enter Macbeth.

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

Enter young Seyward.

y. S. What is thy name?

Macb. Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

y. S. No: though thou call'st thyself a hotter name
Than any is in hell.

Macb. My name's Macbeth.

y. S. The devil himself could not pronounce a title
More hateful to mine ear.

Macb. No, nor more fearful.

y. S. Thou ly'st, abhorred tyrant; with my sword
I'll prove the lye thou speak'st.

[fight; and young Seyward 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, shew 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 sheath 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. Alarums.

Enter Malcolm, and old Seyward.

o. S. 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.

o. S. Enter, sir, the castle. [Exeunt. Alarums.

Re-enter Macbeth.

Macb. Why should I play the Roman fool, and dye

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! [fight. ø

Macb. Thou lovest labour:

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 ript.

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

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

Macb. I will not yield,

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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 ø

Retreat. ø Flourish.

Re-enter, with Drum and Colours,
Malcolm, and old Seyward, with Rosse,
the other Thanes, Soldiers, &c.

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

o. S. 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.

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

o. S. Then he is dead?

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

o. S. Had he his hurts before?

Ros. Ay, on the front.

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

Mal. He's worth more sorrow,

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And that I'll spend for him.

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

Re-enter Macduff, with Macbeth's Head.

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

all. Hail, king of Scotland! [Flourish.

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

Flourish.

[Exeunt. ø