

The Lay of the Last Minstrel.

BY SIR WALTER SCOTT,

Canto IV., Cap. X., (omitted in some or all U. S. reprints.)

Scots of Esk Dale, a stalwart band, Came trooping down the Todshawhill; By the sword they won their land, And by the sword they hold it still. Hearken, Ladye to the tale, How thy sires won fair Esk Dale. Earl Morton was Lord of that valley fair, The Beattison's were his vassals there. The Earl was gentle, and mild of mood, The vassals were warlike, and fierce and rude; High of heart, and haughty of word, Little they recked of a tame Liege Lord. The Earl to his lands in Esk Dale came, Homage and seignoury to claim: Of Gilbert the Galliard a Heriot he sought, Saying, "Give thy best steed, as a vassal ought!" "Dear to me is my bonny white steed," "Oft has he helped me at time of need!" "Lord and Earl tho' thou be, I trow" "I can rein Buckfoot better than thou." Word on word gave fuel to fire, Till so highly blazed the Beattison's ire, But that the Earl the fight had ta'en, The vassals there their Lord had slain. Sore he pled both whip and spur, As he urged his steed through Esk Dale Muir; And it fell down, a weary weight, Just on the threshold of Branscholm gate, The Earl was a wrathful man to see; Full fain avenged would he be. In haste to Branscholm's Lord he spoke, Saying, "Take these traitors to thy yoke!" "For a cast of Hawks and a purse of gold," "All Esk Dale I'll sell thee to have and to hold."

"Beshrew thy heart, of the Beattison clan!" "If thou leave on Esk Dale a landed man!" "But spare Woodherrick's lands alone," "For he lent me his horse to escape upon." A glad man then was Branscholm bold; Down he flung him the hawks and the gold. To Esk Dale soon he spurred again; And with him five hundred men in his train, He left his men in the mist of the hill, And bade them hold them close and still; And alone he wended to the plain, To meet with the Galliard and all his train. To Gilbert the Galliard thus he said, "Know thou me for thy Liege Lord and Head!" "Deal not with me as with Morton tame!" "We Scots play best at the roughest game!" "Give me in peace my Heriot due," "Thy bonny white steed, or thou shalt rue." "If my horn I three times wind," "Esk Dale shall long have the sound in mind."

Lonely the Beattison laughed in scorn; "Little care we for thy wined horn." "Ne'er shall it be the Galliard's lot" "To yield his steed to a haughty Scot." "Wend thou to Branscholm back on foot," "With rusty spur and mirry boot!" Then Branscholm's bugle blew loud and hoarse; The dim deer started a fair Craig Cross; It blew again, so loud and so clear, Through the grey mountain mist there did lances appear; And the third blast rang with such a din That the echoes replied from Penton Linn, And all the Scot riders came lightly in. Then had you seen a gallant shock, When saddles were emptied and lances broke. For each sorrowful word the Galliard had said, A Beattison there on the field lay dead, His own good sword the Chieftain drew, And bore the Galliard through and through: Where the Beattison's blood mixed with the Bill. "The Galliard's Haugh," men call it still, The Scots have scattered the Beattison clan, Woodherrick they left as one landed man; The Valley of Eske, from mouth to source, Was lost and won for that bonny white horse!

English books are frequently reprinted and republished in the United States of America. Whether many, or any, of such reprints are genuine and correct representations of original works, I do not know; but some of them certainly are not so. "The Lay of the last Minstrel," a well known poem, by Sir Walter Scott, contains a long paragraph which has been totally omitted in two American editions or reprints. It describes the process of a medieval dextrant and ejectionment for rent, doubtless very displeasing to Agrarian ears. Rent, in those days, generally meant "suit and service," rather than cash payment. On changing of holding, by death, a fine, as the law still terms it, was paid by the incoming tenant as an acknowledgement of the liege lord's title; this fine was, in many cases, the best horse of the tenant, in the name of Heriot or Herzeid. Lands in England, especially in Kent and Sussex, the strongholds of Saxon descendants, have still many suit-holdings or tenures. In Scotland, if the vassal ran short of "provaunt," he and his family would, as a matter of course, take their places "below the salt" at the table of their liege lord; if he, on the other hand, ran short, or if a friend came unexpectedly when the larder was low, a white table cloth, hoisted by way of signal, on the castle flagstaff, would bring scores of willing hands, with "what-e'er cometh," as we may read in "what-older and better history." I need only add that "Galliard" means a brisk, sharp, or smart man, in modern phraseology; and that Tod means a foe, while haugh is the name given to what would in England be termed a rough piece of sloping land bearing copwood.

VICH DEONNUL NAN ORD.

The correspondent of the Times at Dublin reports that the general condition of Ireland is decidedly improved, although severe distress is still felt in many places there is reason to believe the whole aspect of the country is improved, and that the relief measures have proved equal to the emergency. The subscription received by the Dublin Mansion House Committee, up to Saturday, was sixty-three thousand pounds, and the grants to date, twenty-eight thousand pounds. The thanks of the Committee were voted to James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Relief Committee, and Richard O'Gorman, of New York. The Duchess of Marlborough, in a letter to the Lord Mayor, says the danger of famine appears to be over, if the public charity continues to be exercised. No person in Ireland need be allowed to die for lack of food, but the Committee, in order to bring their labor to a successful close, must send over forty thousand pounds per week for the next six weeks or more.

Mr. Tennyson is described in an interesting fashion by a clever correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle. "Nobody," says the writer, "would suspect him for a poet now. His face is strong, and his eyes have a certain brightness but he is seamed rather than wrinkled, from forehead to chin; he appears to be puffy; he is partially bald; he stoops and shuffles; dresses ordinarily and carelessly and has a generally rustic mien and denotement. He does not affect, and never has affected, general society, and the fact shows in his bearing and slovenly raiment." The correspondent adds that Mr. Tennyson has made such wise investment of his large literary earnings that his entire property is probably worth one million dollars—a remarkable fortune for a poet.

ACCIDENT.—Mr. John Wall, of Somerset, met with a serious accident on his way from County Line Station, on the night of the 18th inst. He was met by a party of pusillanimous ruffians driving in a disorderly manner, who ran him of the road, capsizing his horse and sleigh, breaking the sleigh and injuring himself bodily. The horse, which was valued at \$100, was badly sprained and is, it is feared, crippled for life. The occupants of the sleigh were unknown to Mr. Wall; but rumor has it that they belong to Graham's Road.

Weather Bulletin.

Probabilities for the next 24 hours for the Maritime Provinces.

TORONTO, Feb. 20, 10 a. m.

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J. QUIRK.

Jan. 2, 1880—91 eod, li ne 3w



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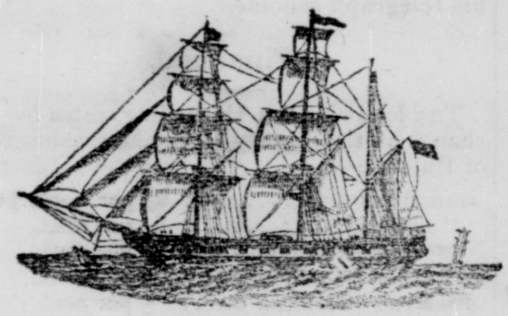
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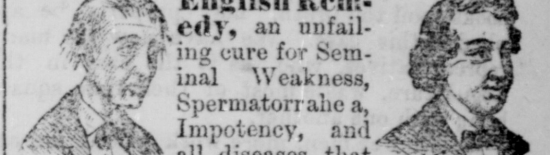
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