

*Ætæon pinxit*

*W. T. Fry sculpit.*

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BARONET.

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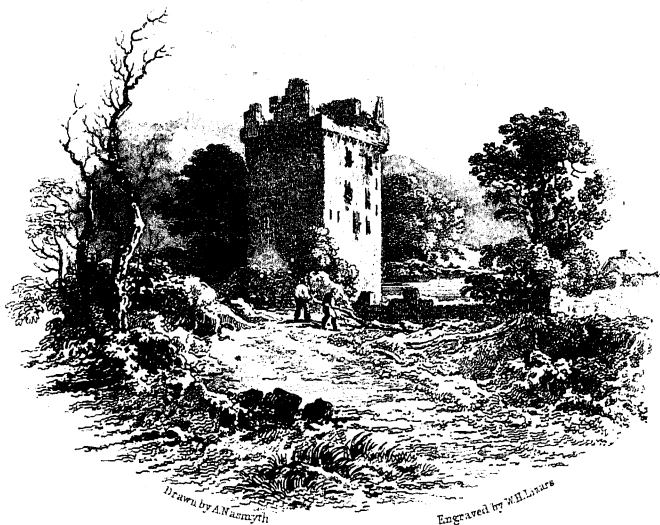
OF

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BARONET.

IN TEN VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

MINSTRELSY



*Drawn by A. Nasmyth*

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# VIGNETTES

TO THE

PRESENT EDITION OF SIR WALTER SCOTT'S POETICAL WORKS.

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- VOL. I.    MINSTRELSY, . . . *Castle of Newark.*  
II.    MINSTRELSY, . . . *Branxholme.*  
III.    MINSTRELSY, . . . *Smallholm Tower.*  
IV.    SIR TRISTREM, . . . *Bridge in the Rhymers's Glen.*  
V.    LAY, BALLADS, &c. . . *Melrose Abbey.*  
VI.    MARMION, . . . . *Linlithgow.*  
VII.    LADY OF THE LAKE, *Stirling Castle.*  
VIII.    ROKEBY, . . . . *Mortham Castle.*  
IX.    LORD OF THE ISLES, *Castle of Artornish.*  
X.    MISCELLANIES, . . . *Abbotsford.*

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MINSTRELSY  
OF THE  
SCOTTISH BORDER :  
CONSISTING OF  
HISTORICAL AND ROMANTIC BALLADS,  
COLLECTED  
IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND ; WITH A FEW  
OF MODERN DATE, FOUNDED UPON  
LOCAL TRADITION.

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The songs, to savage virtue dear,  
That won of yore the public ear,  
Ere Polity, sedate and sage,  
Had quench'd the fires of feudal rage.—WARTON.

TO  
HIS GRACE  
HENRY,  
*DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, &c. &c. &c.*  
THESE TALES,  
WHICH  
IN ELDER TIMES HAVE CELEBRATED THE PROWESS,  
AND  
CHEERED THE HALLS,  
OF  
*HIS GALLANT ANCESTORS,*  
ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED  
BY  
HIS GRACE'S MUCH OBLIGED  
AND  
MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,  
WALTER SCOTT.

## INTRODUCTION.

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**F**ROM the remote period, when the Roman province was contracted by the ramparts of Severus, until the union of the kingdoms, the Borders of Scotland formed the stage, upon which were presented the most memorable conflicts of two gallant nations. The inhabitants, at the commencement of this æra, formed the first wave of the torrent, which assaulted, and finally overwhelmed, the barriers of the Roman power in Britain. The subsequent events, in which they were engaged, tended little to diminish their military hardihood, or to reconcile them to a more civilized state of society. We have no occasion to trace the state of the Borders during the long and obscure period of Scottish history, which preceded the accession of the Stuart family. To illustrate a few ballads, the



earliest of which is hardly coeval with James V., such an enquiry would be equally difficult and vain. If we may trust the Welch bards, in their account of the wars betwixt the Saxons and Danes of Deira  
 570 and the Cumraig, imagination can hardly form any idea of conflicts more desperate, than were maintained, on the Borders, between the ancient British and their Teutonic invaders. Thus, the Gododin describes the waste and devastation of mutual havoc, in colours so glowing, as strongly to recal the words of Tacitus; “ *Et ubi solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant.*”\*

At a later period, the Saxon families, who fled from the exterminating sword of the Conqueror, with many of the Normans themselves, whom discontent and intestine feuds had driven into exile,

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\* In the spirited translation of this poem, by Jones, the following verses are highly descriptive of the exhausted state of the victor army :—

At Madoc's tent the clarion sounds,  
 With rapid clangour hurried far :  
 Each echoing dell the note resounds—  
 But when return the sons of war !  
 Thou, born of stern Necessity,  
 Dull Peace ! the desert yields to thee,  
 And owns thy melancholy sway.

began to rise into eminence upon the Scottish Borders. They brought with them arts, both of peace and of war, unknown in Scotland ; and, among their descendants, we soon number the most powerful Border chiefs. Such, during the reign of the last Alexander, were Patrick, Earl of March, and 1249 Lord Soulis, renowned in tradition ; and such were also the powerful Comyns, who early acquired the principal sway upon the Scottish marches. In the civil wars betwixt Bruce and Baliol, all those power- 1300 ful chieftains espoused the unsuccessful party. They were forfeited and exiled ; and upon their ruins was founded the formidable house of Douglas. The Borders, from sea to sea, were now at the devotion of a succession of mighty chiefs, whose exorbitant power threatened to place a new dynasty upon the Scottish throne. It is not my intention to trace the dazzling career of this race of heroes, whose exploits were alike formidable to the English and to their own sovereign.

The sun of Douglas set in blood. The murders of the sixth Earl, and his brother, in the castle of Edinburgh, were followed by that of their successor, poniarded at Stirling by the hand of

his prince. His brother, Earl James, appears neither to have possessed the abilities nor the ambition of his ancestors. He drew, indeed, against his prince, the formidable sword of Douglas, but with a timid and hesitating hand. Procrastination ruined his cause; and he was deserted, at Abercorn, by the knight of Cadyow, chief of the Hamiltons, and by his most active adherents, after they had ineffectually exhorted him to commit his fate to the issue of a  
1453 battle. The Border chiefs, who longed for independence, shewed little inclination to follow the declining fortunes of Douglas. On the contrary, the most  
1455 powerful clans engaged and defeated him, at Arkinholme, in Annandale, when, after a short residence in England, he again endeavoured to gain a footing in his native country.\* The spoils of Douglas were liberally distributed among his conquerors, and royal grants of his forfeited domains effectually interested them in excluding his return. An  
1457 attempt on the East Borders by "*the Percy and the Douglas, both together,*" was equally unsuccessful.

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\* At the battle of Arkinholme, the Earl of Angus, a near kinsman of Douglas, commanded the royal forces; and the

ful. The Earl, grown old in exile, longed once more to see his native country, and vowed, that, upon Saint Magdalen's day, he would deposit his 1483 offering on the high altar at Lochmaben. Accompanied by the banished Earl of Albany, with his usual fortune, he entered Scotland. The Borderers assembled to oppose him, and he suffered a final defeat at Burnswark, in Dumfries-shire. The aged Earl was taken in the fight, by a son of Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, one of his own vassals. A grant of lands had been offered for his person : " Carry me to the King !" said Douglas to Kirkpatrick : " thou art well entitled to profit by my misfortune ; for thou wast true to me while I was true

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difference of their complexion occasioned the saying, " that the *Black Douglas* had put down the *Red*." The Maxwells, the Johnstones, and the Scotts, composed his army. Archibald, Earl of Murray, brother to Douglas, was slain in the action ; and Hugh, Earl of Ormond, his second brother, was taken and executed. His captors, Lord Carlisle, and the Baron of Johnstone, were rewarded with a grant of the lands of Pittinane, upon Clyde.—*Godscroft*, vol. I. p. 375.—*Balfour's MS. in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh*.—*Abercrombie's Achievements*, vol. II. p. 361. *folio Edition*.—The other chiefs were also distinguished by royal favour. By a charter, upon record, dated 25th February, 1548, the king grants to Walter Scott of Kirkurd, ancestor of the house of Buccleuch, the lands of Abingtoun, Pharcholm, and Glentonan craig, in

to myself." The young man wept bitterly, and offered to fly with the Earl into England. But Douglas, weary of exile, refused his proffered liberty, and only requested, that Kirkpatrick would not deliver him to the king, till he had secured his own reward.\* Kirkpatrick did more: he stipu-

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Lanarkshire, "*Pro suo fideli servitio nobis impenso et pro quod interfuit in conflictu de Arkinholme in occisione et captione nostrorum rebellium quondam Archibaldi et Hugonis de Douglas olim comitum Moraviæ et de Ormond et aliorum rebellium nostrorum in eorum comitivis existen: ibidem captorum et interfectorum.*" Similar grants of land were made to Finart and Arran, the two branches of the house of Hamilton; to the chiefs of the Battisons; but above all, to the Earl of Angus, who obtained from royal favour a donation of the Lordship of Douglas, and many other lands, now held by Lord Douglas, as his representative. There appears, however, to be some doubt, whether, in this division, the Earl of Angus received more than his natural right. Our historians, indeed, say, that William I. Earl of Douglas, had three sons; 1. James, the 2d Earl, who died in the field of Otterburn; 2. Archibald the Grim, 3d Earl; and 3. George, in right of his mother, Earl of Angus. Whether, however, this Archibald was actually the son of William seems very doubtful; and Sir David Dalrymple has strenuously maintained the contrary. Now, if Archibald the Grim intruded into the earldom of Douglas, without being a son of that family, it follows that the house of Angus, being kept out of their just rights for more than a century, were only restored to them after the battle of Arkinholme. Perhaps this may help to account for the eager interest taken by the Earl of Angus against his kinsman — *Remarks on History of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1773, p. 121.

\* A grant of the king, dated 2d October, 1484, bestowed

lated for the personal safety of his old master. His generous intercession prevailed ; and the last of the Douglasses was permitted to die, in monastic seclusion, in the Abbey of Lindores.

After the fall of the house of Douglas, no one chieftain appears to have enjoyed the same extensive supremacy over the Scottish Borders. The various barons, who had partaken of the spoil, combined in resisting a succession of uncontrouled domination. The Earl of Angus alone seems to have taken rapid steps in the same course of ambition, which had been pursued by his kinsmen and rivals, the Earls of Douglas. Archibald, sixth Earl of Angus, called *Bell-the-Cat*, was, at once, warden of the East and Middle Marches, Lord of Liddisdale, and Jedwood forest, and possessed of the strong castles of Douglas, Hermitage, and Tantallon. Highly esteemed by the ancient nobility, a faction which he headed shook the throne of the feeble James III., whose person they restrained, and whose minions

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upon Kirkpatrick, for this acceptable service, the lands of Kirkmichael.

they led to an ignominious death. The King failed not to shew his sense of these insults, though unable effectually to avenge them. This hastened his fate : and the field of Bannockburn, once the scene of a more glorious conflict, beheld the combined chieftains of the Border counties arrayed against their sovereign, under the banners of his own son. The King was supported by almost all the barons of the north ; but the tumultuous ranks of the Highlanders were ill able to endure the steady and rapid charge of the men of Annandale and Liddisdale, who bare spears two ells longer than were used by the rest of their countrymen. The yells with which they accompanied their onset, caused the heart of James to quail within him. He deserted his host, and fled towards Stirling ; but, falling from his horse, he was murdered by the pursuers.

James IV., a monarch of a vigorous and energetic character, was well aware of the danger which his ancestors had experienced from the preponderance of one overgrown family. He is supposed to have smiled internally, when the Border and Highland champions bled and died in the savage sports