

86. **a Child crowned.** This refers to Malcolm, who afterwards became king. The tree in his hand refers to Birnam Wood.

87-8. **round and top.** Referring to the shape and position of the crown, and also to the fact that the crown represents complete authority.

92. The village of Birnam is about seven miles from Perth. Dunsinane hill is about twelve miles from Birnam.

94. **impress.** Force into his service.

95. **bodements.** Prophecies.

98. **the lease of nature.** For the natural term of life.

98-9. **pay his breath, etc.** Die in due time, as all men must.

105. **noise.** Music,—a common use of the word in Shakespeare's time.

A show of eight kings. James I. of England and the Scottish kings who were his ancestors. Those shown in the mirror (glass) were the descendants of James.

116. **the crack of doom.** The burst of thunder announcing the day of judgment.

120. **two-fold balls.** This is supposed to refer to the double coronation of James I., at Scone and in London.

treble sceptres. This probably refers to the fact that James was ruler over three kingdoms, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

122. **blood-bolter'd.** His hair being matted (boltered) with blood.

124-31. This speech was probably not written by Shakespeare.

126. **sprites.** Spirits.

129. **antic round.** 'The grotesque movements of the witches' dance. In these dances they were supposed to do everything in the opposite way from human beings.

131. We gave him a proper welcome, as was our duty.

143. **anticipatest.** Dost prevent, or forestall.

144-5. It was his purpose to murder Macduff, but he has been forced to give up this purpose. The only way to prevent your purpose from escaping you is to carry it out at once.

146-7. The things that I wish for most, shall be done first.