

*the conspirators, armed with the hasty command of the king, put him to death with complete injustice.*

Of course this is a grave departure from orthodox explanation: but it must be obvious that orthodox explanation confesses its failure to account for each and every one of the points in question, and that it rather lies with the orthodox to upset this hypothesis, which accounts for all the facts, than with the hypothesis to prove its complete right to belief.

The subsequent career of Ross is briefly this: having put Macbeth under obligation to him by his intrigue against Cawdor he follows the new Thane of Cawdor to Inverness. He does not appear in the castle on the morning of the murder of Duncan, but shortly after the removal of Duncan's body he is found in the neighbourhood. He tells Macduff that he means to join Macbeth at Scone. He next appears at Macbeth's court evidently as chief minister of that council of which Macbeth speaks to Banquo. He is jealous of Banquo who is the only courtier able to be his rival as first adviser of Macbeth. He is the actual assassin of Banquo. At the banquet he does all that a skilful intriguer can to assist Lady Macbeth in protecting Macbeth in his aberration. Later on he becomes the agent of Macbeth in the murder of the Macduffs. At this time he sees Macbeth's power on the wane and deserts him, solely on that account. He goes to England and finds Macduff and Malcolm: *after assuring himself that Malcolm has influence enough to overcome Macbeth* he tells Macduff of his murdered family, and throws in his lot with the cause he rejected in Sc. 4 of Act II., (when Macduff remained loyal toward Malcolm). He returns with the Prince, sees Macbeth defeated, and as a reward of endless treachery is made an earl, escaping immediate punishment that the Fates may torture him later, in which he resembles Iago, whom he also resembles in many other respects.

It is freely admitted that much of this outline is not cap-