

Gillespie, a professor in St. Andrews, Rev. William Gillespie, of Kells, J. Black, of the *Morning Chronicle*, and Grieve and his partner, Scott, who carried on a tailoring establishment in Edinburgh. Following the failure of the *Spy*, the shepherd poet, along with a few others, started a school of oratory, or sort of debating club, conducted on parliamentary lines, and to which the public was admitted for a small fee. As may be presumed this put no money in the pockets of the promoters, and Hogg was reduced to the condition of absolute want, and was supported for about six months by his right loyal friends Grieve and Scott, the tailors. The assistance of these was like the shower to the thirsty blossom, and so we can say of it in the words of Robert Browning:—

“What joy is better than the news of friends  
Whose memories were a solace to me oft,  
As mountain baths to wild fowls in their flight.”

But out of one of these dark days came one of Hogg's greatest gifts to literature. With the assistance of Grieve, our poet gathered up some of the pieces that had appeared in the *Spy* and linked them properly together, with additions, and produced “*The Queen's Wake*.” This was in 1813, when the author was in his 43rd year.

Strange longings came over Hogg at this period to return to his loved Ettrick and Yarrow and enjoy his communion with nature among the hills and in the glens, and to wander once more along the romantic banks of the river. With these feelings rising in his heart he wrote the *Duchess of Buccleuch* in these words: “There is a certain poor bard, who has two old parents, each of them upwards of eighty years of age, and that bard has no house nor home to shelter these poor parents