

Thou jealous, ruthless tyrant! Heaven repay  
 On thee, and on thy children's latest line,  
 The wild caprice of thy despotic sway,  
 The gory bridal bed,<sup>1</sup> the plunder'd shrine,<sup>2</sup> 300  
 The murder'd Surrey's blood, the tears of Geraldine!

## XXI

Both Scots, and Southern cheers, prolong  
 Applauses of Fitztraver's song;  
 These<sup>3</sup> hated Henry's name as death, 305  
 And those<sup>3</sup> still held the ancient faith.—  
 Then, from his seat, with lofty air,  
 Rose Harold, bard of brave St. Clair;<sup>4</sup>  
 St. Clair, who, feasting high at Home,  
 Had with that lord to battle come.  
 Harold was born where restless seas 310  
 Howl round the storm-swept Orcades;<sup>5</sup>  
 Where erst St. Clairs held princely sway  
 O'er isle and islet, strait and bay;—  
 Still nods their palace to its fall,

<sup>1</sup> **Gory bridal bed**—A reference to the marriage of Henry VIII to Jane Seymour, the day after the execution of Anne Boleyn.

<sup>2</sup> **Plundered shrine**—A reference to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

<sup>3</sup> **These—Those**—The Scots hated Henry on account of the defeat at Flodden, and the Howards were of the Catholic faith. Some hold that *these* refers to the English and *those* to the Scots, but the meaning given is the more likely.

<sup>4</sup> **St. Clair**—"The St. Clairs are of Norman extraction, being descended from William de St. Clair, second son of Walderne, Comte de St. Clair, and Margaret, daughter of Richard Duke of Normandy. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Malice Spar, Earl of Orkney and Stratherne, in whose right their son Henry was in 1379 created Earl of Orkney by Haco King of Norway. In exchange for this earldom the castle and domains of Ravenscraig or Ravensheuch were conferred on William St. Clair, Earl of Caithness."—*Scott*.

<sup>5</sup> **Orcades**—The Orkney Islands.