

*To give thee, from our royal master, thanks;
Only to herald thee i'to his sight,
Not pay thee.* 101
102

*Ross. And for an earnest of a greater honour,
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!
For it is thine.* 103
104
105
106

Banquo. (Aside.) What, can the devil speak true? 107

confirmation of it, fill him with surprise; for, so far as he knows (or *recollects*, shall we say?) the thane of Cawdor lives, a prosperous gentleman."

Now what are the facts about these inconsistent speeches? Angus heard Ross deliver a confused and ambiguous account of the battle to Duncan and heard Duncan pronounce the fate of Cawdor. Angus did not interpret the "*him*" of line 55 Sc. 2. as referring to Cawdor but to Norway, (in which he differed from Duncan, and from Johnson and Daniel), hence we may suppose he inquired of Ross what Cawdor had done that Ross should have alluded to him (52-53 Sc. 2.) as a traitor. Ross had satisfied the stupid Angus by telling him that Cawdor had been guilty of treasons capital, confessed and proved; but he had not completely satisfied him for he tells Macbeth that he does not know what wrong Cawdor had done.

It is before this same Angus that Ross must now deliver an account of that same speech to Duncan and in such words as shall not make Macbeth and Banquo exclaim that Cawdor is innocent. Some of the ambiguities of his words may be seen below:

(a) He gives Macbeth the impression for the moment that he was not himself the messenger to Duncan: but he does this so carefully that Angus does not suspect it.

(b) "Thy personal venture in the rebel's fight" alludes to Macdonwald as Macbeth and Banquo understand it (and as the sergeant would have understood it) while to Angus it brings a confused notion of Norway and Cawdor.

(c) "Silenced with that" to Macbeth means, that Duncan was overcome with wonder and admiration by the story of the awful duel with Macdonwald: to Angus it means that Duncan was so taken up with anger at Cawdor's guilt that he paid no attention to the news of the battle.

100-103. How can Angus say "*we are sent*," if he was not present in Scene 2? The slow but manly Angus expresses a dislike of Ross' flattering speeches. He cannot understand why Ross comes so slowly to the point.

104-107. Ross allows Macbeth to feel the sweetness of being called Thane of Cawdor. When Macbeth has got this new title Ross lets Angus explain that it involves the ruin of Cawdor. Will Macbeth save Cawdor and drop the new title? No, *he is only anxious now that Banquo shall say nothing to save Cawdor!*

107. Banquo thinks of the witches' predictions.