

royal author has been much praised for its "exquisite delicacy, and the chivalrous attributes of purity and grace, the absence of every gross or immodest thought." This is the opinion of so good a judge as Washington Irving. It is modeled on the works of Gower and Chaucer, whom he acknowledged as his masters, and is no more difficult to read than the Canterbury Tales. The version slightly modernized by Mr. Tytler (Lord Woodhouslee) thus describes the King's first sight from the window of his prison of his future queen walking in the gardens below :

"Then, as it hapt, mine eyes I cast below,  
And there I spied, beneath my prison tower,  
Telling her beads in walking to and fro,  
The fairest and the freshest youthful flower  
That ever I beheld before that hour.  
Entranced I gazed, and with the sudden start  
Rushed instant all the blood into my heart.  
\* \* \* \* \* My senses all  
Were so o'ercome with pleasure and delight,  
Only with letting thus mine eyes to fall,  
That instantly mine heart became her thrall  
For ever of free will."

This same James I. was the king who was murdered at Perth, and this same fair English girl, "the fairest and the freshest youthful flower," now a widow, exacted a barbarous vengeance on the assassins.

We have the romantic story of the brave Catherine Douglas placing her arm through the staple of the door, in the absence of the bolt, only to have it ruthlessly broken, in the attempt to save her king, concealed in the vault below. James II. and III. were both slain in battle. James IV., unwarned by the mysterious herald at Edinburgh Cross, ventured to attack his royal brother-in-law. His death at Flodden, with the flower of Scottish chivalry, caused a mourning long and bitter, as it was said not a family of any importance but lost father, husband, brother, or son. James V., that handsome gallant, was, perhaps, the saddest spectacle of all—at the age of thirty-one dying of grief caused by the insubordination of his nobles, and the loss of his army. News was brought on his death-bed of the birth of a daughter; with a sigh he said, "It came with a lass, it will gang with a lass," meaning the Stuart dynasty originating with