The Braes of Yarrow

An Historical Tale of the Sixteenth Century.

Within the walls of the Priory the lady was a town as the Superior, Mother Ursula; but wishe world she had been known as Mistress likabeth Barras. She sprung from an obseure family in Cumberland, andby a cerain talent for intrigue had pushed her own ray in the world. She had met the Master f Ker (father of Lady Spens), and deemed time worth wedding, having failed to achieve hat object in two or three other directions. The gentleman, however, valued her favours ghilly, and a couple of years after she had tren birth to a son, he wedded a lady of the laxwell family.

sightly, and a couple of years after she had given birth to a son, he wedded a lady of the laxwell family.

Maddened and filled with spleen by this slight, she entered the convent where she turned her intriguing talents to so much account, that she was in a few years appointed prioress of St Margaret, and had something to do with the plots of various scheming prelates, who, since Flodden had left so many fat livings vacant, were moving heaven and earth to advance their own ambitious desires. This was not the least of many movements which disturbed the country and made religion a mockery. Witness the unseemly appeal to arms of the three prelates, Gawin Douglas, the poet Bishop of Dunkeld and unle of Angus, Hepburn, prior of St Andrews, and Forman, Bishop of St Andrews, to prove their title to the Bishoppric of St Andrews, rendered vacant by the death of Elphinstone. But the success which attended the intrigues of the Prioress had not healed her the wound Ker had made in her heart and pride. She nourished a secret rancour, not only against the man who had wronged her, his wife and his daughter, but against the world, and, especially as years advanced, against those who had youth and beauty.

Mother Ursuls and Mistress Douglas recognized each other in that moment of silent examination. The latter felt her blood freeze as it were under the cold rapid glance of the superior; and the prioress, in the DRESS GOODS are pronor the beam of the hemiliation she had endured. Hate entered her breast, and the mission her son thereo Barras had confided to her became one that, setting aside her desire to advance his interest on all occasions, would gratify her to fulfil.

Welcome, my daughter, she said, with a pale smile. 'Your brother, the good Earl Angus, has wisely chosen a retreat for you in

nis interest on all occasions, would gratify ther to fulfil.

'Welcome, my daughter,' she said, with a pale smile. 'Your brother, the good Earl Angus, has wisely chosen a retreat for you in this pious house where the sinful noises of the world penetrate never. Rejoice, my daughter, that you have come here.'

'I would rejoice, madam,' replied Mary haughtily, 'had I come here by my own will. But I have been brought here by treachery, and if I am detained it will be only by force. You can scarcely expect that I will rejoice to find this house a prison, whether it be a pious one or no.'

to find this house a prison, whether it be a pious one or no.

The lips of Ursula were pinched as with a spasm of rage, but she responded softly—
'You are not in a prison; this is a sanctuary devoted to the service of the Sacred Mother, by whom you will be protected. You are young, my daughter, and subject to illusions of the world; but in the profound peace of this mansion you will sear to for get them; and I hope you will soon become one of blessed troop of virgins heaven has confided to my care.

Mary listened to this little discourse with her eyes fixed on those of the speaker. The words were soft enough in their way, but they were spoken from habit not from heart. Although disposed to gaiety, and of a quick passionate nature, Marry was thoroughly sincere in every thought and act; so that false-hood under the cloak of religion was to herdoubly repugnant.

She could not conceal her impression, and She could not conceal her impression, and

hood under the cloak of religion was to her doubly repugnant.

She could not conceal her impression, and the frown wheh flitted across the brow of the Prioress, together with a shade of palor, denoted that she observed the effect of her words. At the same time she comprehended the spirit she had to deal with in her prisoner, her own spirit of aversion was pricked to vigour, and she resolved to subdue the haughty jade.

* Indee due value in your kindness med.

haughty jade.

I place due value in your kindness, madam, said Mary calmly, 'but I will never become one of your order.'

The Holy Mother will accomplish your

'I cannot. You have been committed to me by your natural protector, the Earl of An-gus, who is, believe me, wiser in your be-half than yourself, and you must be taught submission.

submission."

I understand, then, that I am a prisoner.'
She was beginning to beat the floor with
ther pretty foot—always a sign with her that
ther passion was getting beyond control.

That is a hard name to the kindness of
those who esteem you, my daughter,' rejoined the Prioress, still in her cold methodic
tone.

one.

'Tush, woman, I am no child or fool to wallow poison as a plum because it is sugard. Do you refuse to let me go hence.'

'I must.'

Then I must seek a way without your

The I must seek a way without your leave.'

The Prioress rose hastily from her seat. 'I grieve, my daughter, to see that the world has so strong a hold of you. I will peay for your conversion.'

There was rancour in her tone and manner, and swept out of the room as it afraid to trust herself longer with one who had already her mail of cold self command.

Many looked after her with passionate scornful eyes. Then finding herself alone, she hastily examined the room. The door was fast; she ran up to each of the windows, and found them guarded by iron gratings. It was indeed a prison to which she had been entrapped.

Defined in secry attemnt to discover a loop.

Baffled in every attempt to discover a loop-bole for egress, she was standing vexedly gazing around her, when the door re-opened and a black veiled sister carrying a light ap-Flowers

Feathers

and a black veiled sister carrying a light appeared.

Madam, I come to take you to your chamber,' said the sister in a low pleasing tone.

Mary, eyeing the speaker curiously, nod-ded for reply, and followed through a lengthy corridor, up a narrow staircase, through another corridor to the door of a chamber in the north angle of the building.

On the way she had carefully examined the passage and counted the doors on either side. Size was confident that she could find the way back again.

'This is your chamber, sister,' said the guide, opening the door; 'good night.'

Good night,'

Mary entered; the door was closed and locked.

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version.' Never to that end. But pray you, madifithis house be not a prison for me, will open the doors and let me go freely the?'

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