

Straightway he recognized it for the warning cry of the passing of the Lairds of Hepburn, and knew that before the fall of night a doom would have fallen on the House.

There were certain of the villagers who claimed that they too had heard the cry, describing it as much the cry that Andra' Gillray's cur-bitch had given the night Cursty Gillray was away. But, as Robin retorted, not without some shew of reason, it was known that no more than one ever heard the cry, and that being so it was gey and likely the cry would pass over him who had served the House of Hepburn forty-score years and more in favour of them that walked in darkness without the gate.

"And the second sight has been with you since that day?" inquired Cockie earnestly.

"It has so," said the old man. "It is on me now," and closed his eyes.

"What do you see?" asked the other, winking at the assembly.

"I see," said the Seer, "a vision of the damned; and you are there along with most of these gentlemens."

The other rose angrily.

"If you see anything, I do think it will be snakes," he said, and went out, others following.

It is ever thus when Robin tells this tale.