time when manhoo in the midst of yes

## The Braes of Yarrow

Historical Tale of the Sixteenth Century.

Before the gentlemen of the guard could interpose to save her the self-appointed dele-gates of the people had seized the lady and were dragging her away from the presence of the Queen to whose rein she clung des

befall them. Before these indiguant words of the Queen were half spoken the gentlemen if the guard had rushed upon the people, and with drawa swords beaten them back and had formed a bulwark round the intended victims. On to the Palace, commanded the Queen, and let Mistress Spens go with us. One of the gentlemen of the guard lifted the lady and her child on to his saddle bow, and the royal party moved hastily onward to Holyrood amidst the dissatisfied murmur of the populace.

The unfavourable termination of the moring's ride had not left the Queen in the most amiable mood desirable. She was vexed with the people, vexed with Angus, and perplexed by Lady Spens. So she had her robes changed with unusual speed, and summoned her nobles to attend her in the King's cabinet. She was impatient to have the matter settled, and she had scarcely taken her seat when she spoke brusquely.

"My lords, you can divine the business upon which I have thus hastily summoned you. Speak freely then, for we desire your counsel."

upon which I have thus bassly sammacary you. Speak freely then, for we desire your Younsel.

There was silence. None of those present seemed to be anxious to be the first to offer an opinion. At length, Douglas—

'Since none other will advise your Majesty I must speak. The lady whom your good heart, I see, is disposed to shelter is wife of a man condemned by your lords in council of the blackest treason. First, under his direction Surrey was enabled secretly to obtain the vantage ground which lost to us Flodden, and, second, by his machinations our King has been carried away—murdered, most like. The proof of his guilf have been examined with due care, and upon them sentence has been pronounced. Your Majesty cannot in the despite of their lordships judgment and of the people's voice revoke that sentence.

'I did not seek to know, my lord, what I should not do, but what I should do,' said the Queen sharply.

Angus moderated his tone as if conscious that he had spoken too boldly.

'I desire to help your Majesty to a conclusion that may be in accordance with law and the wishes of your people.'

'I have said the proofs of the guilt of Sir Walter Sheus were so convincing that he was

I have said the proofs of the guilt of S "I have said the proofs of the guilt of Sir Walter Spens were so convincing that he was condemned by the Council, and even those of their lordships who had known the main and regarded him favourably could not gain-say the justice of the sentence. But more than that, there were matters laid before us which implicated this lady in her husband's crime, and orders for arrest have been issued. Upon this your Majesty must see that, as Regent of Scotland and guardian of its laws, you have no other course to follow than to hand this lady over to their lordships to be dealt with by them as they may think just and right."

hand this by them as an earlier with by them as an earlier with by them as an earlier with the said, my liege, what I have thought 'I have said, my liege, what I have thought my duty and my love to you required.'

And the earl powing low withdraw a pace. The Queen turned to Hamilton.

'My lord of Arran, you may help to solve this riddle.'

this riddle.'

this riddle.'

The rival earl inclined his head, and with a blunt honesty of expression—

'Not I, my liege, for in troth I am no reader of riddles even of the plainest sort. I lack

servant to our King, and i for one on he credit the proofs we have of his treachery. I have said.

At a signal from the Queen the door opened and tady Speus was conducted into the chamber by two gentlemen of the guard.

Behind her Majesty stood the dark-eyed Mistress Donglas. Her soft lips were compressed, and she regarded the accused tady with an expression in which was mingled pity and suspicion. The auspicion did not bear upon the question of her complicity in the crime charged against her husband; it seemed, however, to have some association with the tall, well-made gentleman who stood heside Mistress Spens, and who had carried her to the Palace. The gentleman was Gilbert Elliott.

Just as the lady was entering, and whist

who replied with one word and the page retired.

The Queen spoke with dignified calmness
to the kneeling woman.

Margaret Spens you have thrust your sorrows upon my attention when they should
have been carried to those who have the administration of law in their hands. I am
disposed to be merciful, but to the wife of a
condenned traitor, to the man who has been
found guilty of faiselood and treachery to
his master, our sourceign my hasband—
funut be just before I can be priful. Therefore I must deliver you to the safe keeping
of the lords in conneil to be dealt with as
they may deem just!

A low moan of pain escaped from Lady
Spens as she covered her pale face with her
hands.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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Mo Liniment can compare with Jacto's Rheumatic Liqu'd.
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