POETRY.

MAGGIE AND ROBIN.

Maggie sits beneath a lime,
Where the bees are ever humming
Maggie's true to trysting time,
Surely Robin must be coming.

tobin, not a mile away,
Keeps beyond the fence demurely;
oth to go, afraid to stay.
Yet his heart is with her, surely.

Maggie plies ker knitting pins, How they flash between her fingers, Pride and anger, mortal sins, Grow apace while Robin lingers.

Rob, unseen, in ambush stands, Wonders who's to wear the stocking Gazes on her busy hands, And the tiny foot a-rocking.

Maggie drops the kuitting down; Crafty Robin hears her sighing, After one indignant frown, Pretty Maggie falls a crying.

"Maggie, I've been over-bold, And you think so, don't deny it; I'll restore you twenty fold." "No, no, Robin; there, be quiet."

The Braes of Yarrow

An Historical Romance of the Sixteenth Century.

Then till't they gaed wi'heart and hand,
The blows fell thick as bickering hail;
And mony a horge ran masterless,
And mony a comely check wha pale.
The Fair Dodnad.

And mony a comely cheek was pale.

'Ding doon Halstane,' was the hoarse, flerce yell of two hundred voices on the banks of Yarrow. On the house of Yarrow. On the house of Yarrow of the house of th

Ettrick through the dull white mist of the morning.

Four months previously—that is to say, the 18th September, 1513—the battle of Floddon had been fought and lost to Scotland; the rashly chivalrous James IV had fallen; his child, not yet two years old, had been declared the fifth King James; and the Queen Dowager Margaret, isster of the Eighth Henry of England, was regent for the nonce. All Scotland was mourning its heavy losses, and the devil-may-care Borderers of both nations who heeded not a bodle which side was uppermost, counted upon a rich harrest, and set to work with a will to gather in their stores from North and South.

The notable rascal, Adam Scott of Tushielaw, was the first to avail binself of the distracted condition of the country. He could not do much business on the opposite ground just at this time, for the army of the poetical of the country of the poetical condition of the land. Wherefore, like a wise pillerer, the furned his efforts to wards the point where profit was most certain. He had been served with a dish of clean spurs, so he buckled on his armon and—daid about him right and left to stock his byre.

He had been acknowledged King of the

tain. He had been served with a dist of clean spurs, so he buckled on his armonr and laid about him right and left to stock his byre.

He had been acknowledged King of the Borders, and accordingly he was bound to support his followers, and to entertain his neighbouring chieftains, royally. This he rarely failed to do, for he had a strong hand, a sinewy body, and a sharp wit to ptan and to carry the plant to successful issue.

As the troop rode up the magnificant Vale of the Yarrow the chief led the way. His muscular frame was covered with a light-shirt of mail, but, as if to shew his hardihood or contempt of death, his head was unprotected save by an ordinary Selkirk bonnet. His principal arms were a long sword of more than average weight, and at his saddle bow a ponderous axe. By his side rode a rubicund visaged but slim-bodied man, whose dress was as much at odds with his position as his face and body were with each other. The face was that of a jovial liver and good cup companion; the body might have been that of a half-starved friar. His dress was a mixture of the mostrooper's and the monk's light boots, a leather jerkin, and over that a somewhat worn friar's gown and covel. The cowl, however, was not in use, as the head was covered by a deerskin cap.

'I would give something to have a grip of the Hangingshaw lade at this minute, for I'm as drouthy as a fish on dry land, said he of the Cowl, looking thirstly in the direction of Hangingshaw, the home of the Murrays, where every comer was treated with a draught of ale from an enormous drinking vessel called the ladle.

'Ye shall have a wait of the best brew in Halstane before long,' responded Sect, laughing hoarsely.

The countenance of the other assumed a sour expression, and he spoke moodily.

'Aby, but we'll have to take a long wut holood first.'

'Hey, Mess Simon, do you grow timorous?

Mess Simon shrugged his shoulders, and

'Ay, but we'll have to take a long watt of blood first.'
'Hey, Mess Simon, do you grow timorous?' Mess Simon shrugged his shoulders, and shook the cowl which hung on his back. 'Not 1, so long as there is fair fighting; but we are making a raid upon a deserted home, where is only the husbandless dame, her daughter, and some old men who were not worth taking to Flodden.'
'Well,' growled Scut, nettled by the suggestion that he was taking an unfair advantage of the misfortunes of Halstane, 'they played us foul in hanging Ding a-doon's brother, and Spen's is our foe to the death.' 'And wow but the leddy's a bomy leddy, sung or rather bellowed a lond coarse voice behind them.

ther, and Spen's is our foe to the death.

'And wow but the leddy's a bonny leddy,'sung or rather bellowed a loud coarse voice behind them.

The voice indeed was almost equal to the roar of a bull in loudness; and this became a matter of marvel when the hearer recognized the owner of the tremendous voice in a creature scarcely four feet high, and whose legs were barely long enough to cross the back of the horse which he rode. What he lacked in height, however, Gilpin Horner, the manikin, made up for in breadth and in the size of his head. He owned a body equal to that of Falstaff hinself, and his head with its busby red hair was as large as any two average sized heads of men rolled together. His arms were long enough to reach his knees, his mouth was bug enough to take in a large apple whole, his eyes were of bovine size and expression ordinarily. But when in a passion they were capable of expressing almost a fiendish malice. His eyebrows were theck and lowering; and his nose big and hooked like a Jew s.

It will be admitted that the appearance of this personage was even more peculiar than that of Mess Simon. To the superstitious minds of the clan there was a sufficient air of the uncamy about him to obtain for him an amount of fear which evered in the place of respect or reverence, and gave him more freedom of action and speech than any man among them dare claim except the chief, and the pirces, these Simon, who had cast his lot with theirs for reasons known only to himself.

In answer to the dwarf's interruption the

with theirs for reasons known only to himself.

In answer to the dwarf's interruption the chieftain looked round angrily, growling.

Take care that tongue of yours do not wag too fast for the safety of your head.

If law, hav, 'roared the dwarf, laugding and shaking his sides as if he had discovered some excellent joke.

'Stop your noise, muttered a giant looking fellow who rote beside Horner, but whose wo se was quite drowned in the thundering guffaws of the fatter.

The chief frowined, and touching the sides of his horse lightly rode up to the top of the hill before his men.

He drew rein ca the summit as the tower of Halstane was in sight. He suddenly raised his hand as if giving a signal, and the two hundred borderers came to an abrupt sland on the broom the corresponding to the contract of the cont

THE SPRING TRADE

loster brother of the chief. The gigantic proportions of this worthy, and his numerous feats of strength, had obtained to him the significant title of Ding-a-doon.

The chief rejoined them.

'Our approach has been discovered.—When I reached the hill top I saw a knave galloping helter skelter to the tower. We must be ready for a tussle. Advance.

With a loud shout the mostroopers put their horses in motion, and keeping well together galloped over the hill and across the plain, approaching like one dark cloud the tower of Halstane.

The ancestral home of Sir Walter Spens stood upon a craggy foundation. A fosse of some depth surrounded it and held water enough to make it unfordable. The tower itself was tall, square and strong; and fifty men might have held it in despite of an enemy of double the strength of 'Scott had they been sufficiently provisioned.

But at present there were not more than twenty men in the tower, and they were mostly old and feeble, They had received intimation of their approaching danger in time enough to drive the cattle into the court, to rise the narrow bridge which crossed the ford, and to close the entrance gate. These indications, however, of a resolution to fight could only mean that the ancient vassals of the house of Spens preferred death in defending the home, the wife, and daughter of their absent chief to mercy at the hands of the king of the Borders.

'Curse them,' muttered Scott, 'if they mean to fight they shall have it hot enough, I warrant. Hither Hornie—ride up and tell the

AT STEWART'S

absent chief to mercy at the hands of the King of the Borders.

'Curse them,' muttered Scott, 'if they mean to fight they shall have it hot enough, I warrant. Hither Hornie—ride up and tell the Lady Spens what I have come tar.'

Raising a little white flag which he carried at his saddle bow, and striking his horse vigorously with the lance he carried, the dwarf rode from the place where the raiders had halted up to the tower.

Waving his white flag, and raising his voice to Houdest pitch, he cried—
'Ho there, ye who keep the tower of Spens, as the herald of Tushielaw, our right true and mighty. King of the Borders, I charge ye answer.'

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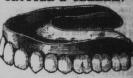
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