The Braes of Yarrow Historical Tale of the Sixteenth Century.

It was quite dark when Andrew Howie, parched with thirst and faint with loss of blood, wakened from the swoon into which he had failen. A few seconds sufficed to enable him to recollect all that had passed. He had gone for the horses, found that one of them had broken its halter and got away, and he had tarried longer than he had intended trying to recover it. Then he had returned with the single horse, discovered his lady a prisoner, and had been felled in the attempt to rescue her.

I wish they had just kilt me outright, he groaned, 'and no left me here giming wi' pain in body and anguish in soul—for my saul maun be in purgatory thinking that my bonnie mistress is in the grip o' that scoundrel villain again.

His thirst soon became so insupportable that he crawled in spite of the acute suffering the motion caused to a streamlet, and bending his face down to it, lapped the liquid with zare zest. When he raised his head his brow was studded with glistening beads of water, and he felt so much refreshed that he had strength enough to fasten his kerchief across his wound.

Speedily after accomplishing this he crawled as far as the cavern. When he reached this place of shelter, he resigned himself to the conflicting thoughts which the misfortune of his mistress and his own helpless condition inspired,

of his mistress and his own helpless condition inspired,
The fear which he might naturally have
entertained that he had received his death
wound did not afflict him on his own account
at all, but the fact that he was too feeble to
seek assistance for his lady distressed his
faithful nature cruelly.
He was sustained only by the hope that he
might live till Kirsty Hyslop should come to
him, as she had done every night, to give
him the tidings she regularly received from
Hornie as to how things were passing in the
tower.

Hebria as to love angular to the control of the control of suspense flitted by with buter tardiness. By and bye, however, he was relieved from some of his anguish by a species of stupor which the loss of blood produced, and he was not roused from this state until the voice of Kirsty sounded in his ear.

'Are you there Andrew Howie?' the woman repeated several times before any answer was given.

man repeated several times before any au-swer was given.
'Ay, ay,' he moaned, starting to conscious-ness from his semi-trance; 'I am here dame, wae's me.'
'And what for are ye wae,' she exclaimed with some agitation in her usually cold hard

voice.

'Make a fire and look at me; there's flint and steel.' and steel.'
She took the articles, which with his left hand he had drawn from his pouch, and with some twigs and heather she soon kindled a

some twigs and heather she soon kindled a fire.

She was alarmed by his appearance as soon as the light revealed him, and he saw that she had an uneasy expression in her dark eyes, as if something beside his condition afflicted her.

'What is done?' she cried quickly.
'My leddy has been here, and wanted to go to Edinburgh, but Tushielaw has dragged her back till his den. If ye dinna get help for her quick, heaven kens what ill may be done her, for I am not able to stir to her aid.'
The woman clasped her hands wildly.
'No'
She steed durable restrictions.

'Has not Hornie been here?'
'No'
She stood dumbly staring at him for several minutes; then with a harsh cry, as if her heart were being torn—
'Ay, now, I ken why he hasna been wi' me—they has killed my bairn as they killed his father, and as they will kill the leddy o' Halstane. An'! has been helping others to happiness while my ain fash and blood was akirling out for help.'
'Saunts save's, woman, what is't ye mean? Will ye no gang to Selkirk and bid them come to my leddy's rescue.'
'The hour of vengeance is at hand,' she went on with an air of sternly subdued emotion, that indicated at once the strength of the woman's character and the terrible depth of her agony, 'and my bairn shall not die for nought. This nicht, this nicht, 'Adam Scott, the ill that ye hae dune shall be requited. This nicht the fire that has been smouldering I' my breast through lang years o' pain shall vent its ill and burn ye frae the earth root and branch.'
The passion of the woman—all the more weird that it was so sternly controlled, and the incomprehensibility of her words, caused Andrew to gaze with some fear at her.
'What are ye thinking aboot?' he asked hesitatingly.
'Vengeance,' was the sharp retort.
'Ay weel, if Tushielaw be your quarry, doon wi' him to perdition—but for the Lord's sake save my leddy.'
The woman answered him with a strange calmness.
'She shall be saved—Spens lives.'
'The mister alive!' cried Howie, bound-

calmness.

'She shall be saved—Spens lives.'

'The maister alive!' cried Howie, bounding on his haunches, forgetting all pain in his feverish delight. 'Say—say that again, that I may be sure I hear ye richt.'

'Spens lives.'

'The Holy Mother bless ye for the word.'
And the old man sank back exhausted, the gears of joy glistening in his eyes.

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Guelph, 27th Aug, 186 NATHAN TOVELL, Nelson Cresco

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o present the same forthwith for ad-lall parties indebted to said estate ent to the undersigned. GEORGE ELLIOTT, NATHANIEL HIGINBOTHAM, EDWARD BLAKE, v. 6. dwtf £xecutors.

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