

"A! fredome is a nobill thing!
 Fredome mayse man to haiff liking!
 Fredome all solace to man giffis:
 He lives at ese that frely livegs!
 A noble heart may haiff nane ese,
 Na ellys nocht that may him please,
 Gyff fredome faillythe: for fre liking
 Is yearnyt our all othir thing
 Na he, that ay hase levyt fre,
 May nocht know weill the propyrte,
 The angyr, na the wrechyt dome,
 That is complot to foule thyrdome.
 But gyff he had assayit it,
 Than all perquer he suld it wyt;
 And suld think fredome mar to pryse
 Than all the gold in world that is."

The author is said to have received by the king's commands, the sum of ten pounds, as a first reward for the poem. This was in the year 1378, and the gift was followed after the interval of a few months, by a grant from the king of a perpetual annuity of twenty shillings. As stated in the *Rotuli Seaccarii*, after Barbour's death, this reward was expressly granted "for compiling the Book of the Acts of the most illustrious prince, King Robert Bruce." Another pension, dated 5th of September, 1388, the grant of which was discovered by Mr. Robertson, the Scottish Historian, allows the poet ten pounds a year as a reward for a poem written by him, entitled *The Stewart*. This poem is now lost. The pension was payable to him in two moities—the one at Whitsuntide, the other at Martimas. The last payment to him is dated Whitsunday, 1394, hence the reason Chambers concludes that he must have died between that date and Whitsuntide,



A CALEDONIAN BARD.

1395. Chambers fixes the date of his death as March 13th of that year, because the poet's anniversary continued to be celebrated on that date in the Cathedral church of St. Machar, at Aberdeen, until the Reformation—"the expense of the service being defrayed from the perpetual annuity granted to the father of Scottish poetry by the first of the Stewart Kings, in 1378." "The Life of Bruce" is in octosyllabic lines, forming rhymed couplets, of which there are seven thousand.

(*To be continued.*)

The Canadian Flag.

At present, when so much interest is being taken in the design for a National Flag for Canada, it is something to know that the Dominion Government has just taken steps which will probably effectually prevent a repetition of the indignities to which the Canadian flag was subjected last winter at Hamilton in Bermuda, where the Canadian ensign on board the Nova Scotia schooner 'Emma S.' was confiscated by order of the colonial authorities, and not even the Imperial officer at the port was in a position to safeguard Dominion interests. The attention of the British Government was drawn to the incident at the time and complaint was made. The naval authorities at Hamilton were not sufficiently acquainted with the Admiralty regulation to be aware that vessels of the Dominion were entitled to fly the Canadian flag in foreign ports. In reply the suggestion was made by the Colonial Office that copies of the Admiralty warrant of Feb. 12, 1892, which gives this authority, should be placed on board all Canadian vessels trading abroad. Accordingly, an order-in-council has been passed intimating to the British Government that this suggestion has been adopted by the Minister of Marine, and that instructions have been issued to have copies of this Admiralty warrant furnished to the master of every Canadian vessel clearing for a foreign port. This action, it is hoped, will prevent the recurrence of such indignities as befel the flag of the Dominion in Bermuda.

Krupp has made over twenty thousand guns of large calibre for the armies of Europe.