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CHAPTER IX.

THE HERMIT'S CELL. Helen had extricated herself from the dead bodies which lay upon her; and, in her eagerness to escape, would have fallen over the precipice, had not the sa e arm which had covered her ravish-er with wounds, caught her as she sprang from the couch. "Fear not, madam," exclaimed a gentle voice: "you are under the protection of a Scot-tish knight."

There was a kindness in the sound that seemed to proclaim the speaker to be of her own kindred; and, dropping her head on his bosom, a shower of grate-ful tears relieved her surcharged heart. Aware that no time was to be lost, he clasped her in his arms, and, leaping from rock to rock, crossed two streams; then, treading with a steady step an alpine bridge of one single tree which arched the cataract he ordered a man, who now approached, to spread his plaid upon a rock. He laid the trembling Helen upon it, and, conjuring her to him, called to his men. In a moment he was surrounded by a number. He directed them to cut away, on their side of the fall, the tree which clasped the other. He thought that the villain had just assailed, should he not be killed, might follow him; therefore he thought it prudent to de-

molish the bridge.

The men obeyed; and, in five minutes, Helen heard the splash of the falling beam in the water. On this being done, the warrior returned to his fair charge. It was raining fast; and, fearful of farther exposing her to the inclemency of the night, he wished to propose leading her to some secure shelter. "There is a hermit's cell," said he, "on the northern side of this mountain. I will conduct you thither, in the morning, as the securest asylum; but, meanwhi'e, you must allow me to seek you a refuge fron this pitiless night."

"Anywhere, sir, with honour for my guide," answered Helen. "You are as safe with me, lady," returned he," as in the arms of the virgin. am a man who can now have no joy in womankind, but when, as a brother, I protect them. Whoever you are, confide in me, and you shall not be betray-

Helen confidently gave him her hand, and strove to rise, but the shackles pierced her ankles, and she sank to the ground. The cold iron on her wrists touched the hand of her preserver He the clank of the chains as he carried her over the bridge. "Who," inquired he, "should do this unmaily deed?"

"The wretch from whom you rescued

me, to prevent my escape from a captiv-

While he spoke he wrenched open the clasps, and threw the chains into the torrent. "Oh, sir!" said she, "if you have wife or sister, should they (for in these terrific times who is secure?) ever fall into the like peril with mine, may Heaven reward your bravery by send

ing them such a preserver!"
The stranger sighed. "Sweet lady," returned he, "I have no wife, no sister. But my kindred is nevertheless very numerous, and I thank thee for thy ' He sighed again, and led her down the declivity. Having proceeded with caution, they descended into a little wooded deli where stood a hut. Here the men lighted a fire; and she reposed, for the night, on a couch made of plaid.

The dawn of morning had penetrated

through the broken lattices of the cot-tage before Lady Helen awoke; but, when she did, she was refreshed; and, opening her eyes, she started, and fixed them upon the knight seated near her. His noble air, and the serene expression of his features struck like a spell she moved; her preserver turned his awake, he rose from the side of the dying embers he had kept alive during her slumber, and, expressing his hopes that she felt revived, she returned him a few them thanks for his care; and soon after he quitted her, to rouse his men for their journey to the hermit's cell.

When he re-entered, he found Helen seated on the bench, braiding up the fine hair which the rain had so lately reduced to a streaming mass. At his approach, she threw back her long ring-lets, and would have risen; but he seated himself on a stone at her feet. "W shall be detained a few minutes longer, said he: "I have ordered my men to make a carriage of cross branches, to bear you on their shoulders; and, as they are not experienced workmen, it may employ them some time. For you to walk, lady," added he, "is impossible. walk, lady, added he, "is impossible. Your delicate limbs will not be equal to the toil of descending these heights to the Glen of Stones. The holy man who inhabits there will protect you, until, by your directions, he can summon your family or your friends to receive his

At these words, which Helen thought were meant to reprove her for not hav-ing revealed herself, she blushed; but fearful of breathing a name under the interdict of the English governors, and of involving her preserver's safety by making him aware of the outlawed creature he had rescued, she paused for a moment: and then she replied, "For your humanity, brave sir, shown this night to a friendless woman, I must be ever grateful ; but not even to the herwith danger to every honest Scot who should know that he protects any one who bears it; and therefore, least of all, noble stranger, would I breathe it to

The knight looked at her intensely, and sighed. "I ask not, madam, to know what you think proper to conceal; my fellow-creatures. Command me and my few faithful followers; and, if it be in the power of such small means to suc-

you sorrows, tell me how they can be relieved, and I will attempt it. I shall make no new enemies by the deed ; for the Southrons and I are at eternal

enmity."
"Alas!" replied she, "ill should I repay such nobleness, were I to involve it in the calamities of my house. No, generous stranger, I must remain unknown. Leave me with the hermit; and from his cell I will send to a near relation of mine, who has not yet been ingulfed in the misfortunes of my family. He will take me thence, and reward the holy man for his care."
"I urge you no more, gentle lady."

"I urge you no more, gentle lady," replied the knight. "Were I at the head of an army, instead of a handful of men, I might then have a better arcument for offering my services; but, as it s, I feel my weakness, and seek to know no further.'

Helen trembled. "Were you at the head of an army, I might then reveal to you the full weight of my anxieties; but Heaven has already been sufficiently gracious to me by your hands, in redeeming me from my cruellest enemy, and, for the rest, I must put my trust in

and, for the rest, I must put my trust in the same overruling Providence."

A man entered, and told the knight that the vehicle was finished, and that his men were ready to march. He turned again towards Helen-" May I conduct you to the rude carriage we have pre-

Helen gathered her mantle about herand the knight throwing his scarf over her head, as it had no other covering, she gave him her hand, and he led her to the side of the bier. It was overlaid with the men's plaids, and made a comfortable vehicle. The knight placed her on it, and the men raising it on their should ers, her deliverer spoke the word, and they took their course down the moun-

They proceeded in silence through the dell, till it opened into a hazardous path along the top of a cliff which overhung a deep loch. This having traversed, and the other side of the cliff descended, they entered a pass, where no trace of human footstep was to be seen. Helen would have shuddered had she not placed implicit confidence in her conductor.

Amongst this chaos of nature, the men who carried Helen with some difficulty found a safe footing. However, after frequent stops and unremitted caution, they extricated themselves from the intricate path, and followed their chief into a less gloomy part of the valley. The knight stopped, and told Helen thep had arrived at the end of their journey 'In the heart of that cliff," said he, " i the hermit's cell-a desolate shelter, b a safe one. Old age and poverty yield no temptation to the enemies of Scot-land." As he spoke, the venerable man, who had heard voices beneath, appeared on the rock. "Bless thee, my son," cried he, as he descended; "what good or evil accident hath returned thee so soon to these solitudes?" The knight replied: "After I left

you yesternight, and had again gained the heights over Hay's cottage, I heard a woman scream. I listened for a mo-ment; the shricks were redoubled. The sound proceeded from the side of the chasm; I remembered having seen a felled tree over it, and rushing across by Heaven's assistance, freed this lady rom a ravisher; and I bring her to you for protection.

Helen stepped off the bier; the bermit took her by the hand, and promised her every service in his power. He then preceded the knight, whose arm supported her up the rock, to the outer apartment of the cell.

"Here, daughter," said the hermit "has one son of persecuted Scotland found a refuge. There is nought allur-ing in these wilds to attract the spoiler. The green herb is all the food afford, and the limpid water the best

beverage."
"Ah!" returned Helen, "I would to upon her; she at once remembered all heaven all who love the freedom of Scotshe had suffered, all that she owed to land were now within this glen! The him. Agitated by anxious thoughts, herb, the stream, would be to them the Seeing she was and hope. My father, his friend "—She betrayed the secrecy she meant to main-The knight gazed at her, and tain. wished to penetrate what she concealed; but delicacy forbade him to urge her again. He spoke not; but the hermit being ignorant of her reluctance to reveal her family, resumed.

"I do not express wonder, gentle lady, that you speak in terms which tell me that even your tender sex feels the gallchain of Edward. Who is there in tland that does not? The whole Scotland that does not? country groans beneath his oppressions: and the cruelties of his agents make its rivulets run with blood. Six months ago I was abbot of Scone; and because I refused to betray my trust, and resign the Barchives of this kingdom, lodged there by our devout King David, Edward, the profaner of the sanctuary, sent his emissaries to sack the convent, to tear the holy pillar of Jacob from its shrine, and to wrest from my grasp records I refused to deliver. All was done as the usurper commanded. I and my brother were tried out upon the waste. We retired to the monastery of Cambuskenneth; but there the tyrant found us. Cressingham, having seized on other religious ises, determined to make the plunder of this convent swell the hoards of his spoil. In the night his men attacked it: the brethren fled, but not until the wolves had slain several, even at the very foot of the altar. All being dispersed, I knew not whither to go. determined to fly far from the tracks of men, I took my course over the hills, discovered the Valley of Stones, and finding it fit for my purpose, have for two months lived alone in this wilder-

"Unhappy Scotland!" ejaculated Helen. Her eyes had followed the chief, who leaned against the entrance of the cave. His eyes were cast upwards with an expression that made her heart vib-The knight turned towards her, know what you think proper to conceal; but danger has no alarms for me, when by incurring it I can serve those who need a protector. I am the servant of that you and he have a shelter, though a rough one. The hours wear away, and whom you say he once pre erved, and I must tear myself from this tranquility, will hasten to yield my feeble aid to reto scenes better befitting a younger son peat the service."

THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS; cour you or yours, I am ready to answer for their obedience. If the villain from whom I had the happiness to release you, be yet more deeply implicated in guardian; and, since she allows me to serve her no further, I confide her to trayed into the hands of the traitor from

Helen felt unable to answer. But the abbot spoke. "Then I am not to see you any more?"
"That is as Heaven wills." replied he;

"but as it is not likely on this side of the grave, my best pledge of friendship is this lady. To you she may reveal what she has withheld from me; but in either case she is secure in your goodness." Rely on my faith, my son; and may the Almighty's shield hang on your

The knight kissed the reverend man's hand, and turning to Helen, " Farewell, sweet lady!" said he. "My prayers for my own preserver, and for my father's," said she, "shall ever be mingled; and if ever it be safe to remember me-should Heaven arm the patriot's hand, then my father may be proud to known and thank

the brave deliverer of his child." upon her: "Then your father is in arms, and against the tyrant! Tell me where, and you see before you a man who, with his few followers, is ready to join him, earl free!" and lay down his life in the just cause !'

At this declaration, Lady Helen burst into tears. He drew towards her, and continued : " My men, though few, are brave. They are devoted to their country, and are willing, for her sake, to follow me to victory or death. As I am a knight, I am sworn to defend the cause of right; and where shall I so justly find it, as on the side of bleeding Scotland? How shall I so well begin my career as in the defence of her injured sons?
Speak, gentle lady! trust me with your noble father's name, and he shall not have cause to blame the confidence you repose in a true, though wandering

"My father," replied Helen, " is not where your generous services can reach him. Two brave chiefs, one a kinsman of my own, and the other his friend, ar now colleagued to free him. If they fail, my whole house falls in blood; and to add another victim to the destiny which in that case will overwhelm me—the thought is beyond my strength." Faint with agitation, she stopped, and then added, in a suppressed voice-" Fare-

well!"
"Not till you hear me further," replied he. "I repeat, I have now a scanty number of followers; but I leave these mountains to gather more. Tell me where I may join these chiefs you speak of : give me a pledge to them that I come from you: whoever may be your father, be he but a true Scot, I will compass his release, or die in the attempt.'

"Alas! generous stranger," cried You have kindred, you say. have I to dispose of a life that must be the peril that you ask!'

Nothing is perilous to me,"
blied he, "that is to serve
country. I have no interest, no joy, but in her. Give me the only happiness of which I am now capable, and send me to serve her, by free

ng one of her defenders."

Helen hesitated. "Fear not, lady," aid the hermit, "that you plunge your leliverer into any extraordinary danger, v involving him in what you might call rebellion against the usurper. He is dready outlawed; and knowing that, ear not to confide your father's fate to

"He, too, outlawed !" exclaimed she wretched indeed is my country, when er noblest spirits are denied the right o live! Unhappy are her children, when every step they take to regain what has been torn from them, only inolves them in deeper ruin."

acquiescence it consents to its own avery. Bonds and death are the utnost of our enemy's malice : the one is an is determined to die or live free and for the other, which of us will think that ruin, which leads us into the blessed freedom of Paradise?'

to look on her cousin, when expressions of virtuous enthusiasm burst from his lips. "You would teach confidence to Despair herself," returned she; again I -for God does not create in You shall know my later, you of generous stranger, let me apprise you of every danger with which that knowledge is surrounded. He is hemmed in by enemies. Alas! how closely are the connected with him! Not the English only are leagued against him, but the most powerful of his own countrymen join in the confederation. My unhappy self is the victim of a coalition between a Southron chief and two rebel Scots, rebels to their country; for they sold ny father to captivity and perhap leath; and I, wretched I, was the price To free him, the noblest of Sco tist knights is now engaged; but such hosts impede him, that hope hardly dares ver over his tremendous path.

"Then," cried the stranger, "send m to him. Let my arm be the second to his in the great achievement. My heart yearns to meet a brother in arms who feels for Scotland what I do; and, with uch a coadjutor as you speak of, I dare romise your father liberty, and that e power of England shall be shaken.

ould not refuse the union of two suc ninds : go then to the remotest part in Cartlane Crags. But, alas! how can direct you? The passes are beset with English; and Heaven knows whether, at this moment, the brave Wallace survives, to be again the deliverer of my

Helen paused. A pale horror overpread her countenance, and she did not remark the surprise which was manifested in the sudden start and rushing colour of the knight, as she pronounced the name of Wallace.

"If Wallace ever had the happiness of serving any that belonged to you," returned the knight, "he has at least one source of pleasure in the remem-brance. Tell me what he can further do. Only say where is that father

"Alas!" replied Helen, "I cannot but repeat my fears, that the bravest of men no longer blesses the earth with his existence. Two days before I was bewhom you rescued me. I saw a messenger from the gallant Wallace, and he inform-

ed me that his master was surrounded in the mountains, and that, if my father did not send forces to elieve him, he must inevitably perish. No forces could my father send: he was then made a prisoner by the Engl sh; his retaine s shared the same fate, and none but my cousin escaped to accompany the hones Scot back to his master. My cousin set forth with a tew followers to join him:

"They are in arms for their country lady," returned the knight, "and a thousand angels guard them; fear no for them! I leave Wallace and ousin to their own valour and your prayers; but for your father, if I his country. Name to me the place of his confinement, and as I have not the his confinement, and as I have he brave deliverer of his child.

The knight looked with animation pion her: "Then your father is in arms, and against the tyrant! Tell me where, and you see before you a man who, with

a few against thousands."

"How!" exclaimed Helen, remember ing that she had not mentioned her father's rank, "do you know his name? Is the misfortune of my father already

far spread ? "Rather say his virtue, noble lady," answered the knight: "no man who watches over the destiny of our devoted country can be ignorant of who are her friends, or of the sufferings of them who

are afflicted for her sake. tre Earl of Mar has made himself a general sacrifice, but I do not know the circumstances; there ore I am yet to 'earn them from you, that I may know where to seek the accomplishment of my yow, to set him at liberty or to die."

Thou brother in heart to the gener ous Wallace!" exclaimed Lady Helen, "my voice is feeble to thank thee." A few tears of grateful agitation fell from her eyes; and the hermit giving her a cup of water and a little fruit, conjured her to refresh herself before she satisfied the inquiries of the knight. She put the cup to her lips, and, turning to the knight, related the design of her father to send succours under the command of his nephew, Lord Andew Murray, to Sir William Wallace; she also described the seizure of Bothwell Castle by Aymer de Valence and the Lord Soulis. "The English lord" continued she, "carried my father and all his family to Dunbarbase stratagem, drew me into thes wilds. ' She then related what had been her cousin intending to apply to his uncle. Sir John Murray, for a few men to lead to the rescue of Wallace. "Proceed, then, to Dunbarton Castle," con-tinued she: "if Heaven have yet spared the lives of these two dear friends, you will meet them before these walls. Meanwhile, I shall seek the protection of Lady Ruthven, my father's sister and from her castle of Alloa, near the Forth, send a courier to Dunbarton to inform my father where I am: I shall then be in safety. Therefore, noble stranger, one bond I must lay upon you; should you come up with my cous not discover that you have met with me He is precipitate in his resentment; and his hatred is so hot against Soulis, that should be know the outrage I have su tained, he would, I fear, run himself and the general cause into great danger, by

seeking immediate vengeance,"

The stranger passed his word to Heler that he would never mention her name that he would never mention her name to any of her family until she herself gave him liberty. "But when your father is restored to his rights," con-tinued he, "in his presence I hope to claim my acquaintance with his lovely

Helea blushed at this compliment. It was not more than any man in his situa-tion might have said, but it confused her, and she answered, "Heaven alone

knows when that will be, for where will be youtlawed parent find a refuge? None will dare yield rights to him who lies under the interdict of Edward." "Fear not, lady!" replied he : sword is now raised in Scotland that car conquered. Where all have suffered, all must be ready to revenge. And when a whole people take up arms in defence

of their right and of all that is dear t

fathers, sons, and husbands, what force of their violators can repel them? "So I felt," returned Helen, "while I had not yet seen the horrors of the contest. While my father commanded in Bothwell Castle, and was calling out his men by hundreds to send as auxiliaries to the patriot chief who struck the first blow for Scotland, I felt nothing but the inspiration which led them on, and saw nothing but the victory which must crown determined valour in a just cause but now, when all whom my father com-manded are slain or carried away by the enemy: when he is bimself a prisoner. and awaiting the sentence of the tyrant he has opposed; when the gallant Wallace, instead of being able to hasten to the rescue, is hemmed in between un numbered hosts—hope almost dies with in me, and I fear that, whoever may be fated to free Scotland, my beloved

first to be made a sacrifice." She turned pale, and the stranger resumed: No, lady; if there be that virtue in Scotland which can alone deserve freedom, it will be achieved. I am ar inconsiderable man; but, relying on the God of justice, I promise you your father's liberty; and let his freedom be a pledge to you for that of your country. I now go to arouse a few brave spirits to arms. Remember, the battle is not to the strong, nor victory with a multitude of hosts. The banner of Saint Andrew was once held out from the heavens, over a little army of Scots, while they discomfited thousands. The same holy arm leads me; and, if need be, I despair not to see it again, like the pillar of fire before the Israelites, consuming the enemies of liberty, even in the fulness of their

father, and those belonging to him, are

might."
While he spoke, the hermit re-entered

then leave me?" cried he: "am I not to

serve my preserver?"

Helen rose in undescribable agitation: there was something in the feeling of the boy that was infectious; and while her own heart beat violently, she looked

attend upon her wishes, as you would upon hine. Be her servant and her guard; and, when we meet again. will then be under the protection of her the arrangement of Wallace respecting tather, if you do not prefer so gentle a this sign, and they decided to follow father, if you do not prefer so gentle a service before the rougher one of war, I him. vill resume you to myself."

but he was gone. The hermit had left the cell with him, and she found herself alone; for the youth had also disap-peared. She threw herself down before the altar, and, giving way to a burst of tears, implored Heaven to protect the knight's life, and to grant, by his means, safety to Wallace, and freedom to her

On the return of the hermit, Helen

asked the name of her deliverer. "I know not," returned he: "I never saw

him before yest-rday morning. At the hour of my matin orisons, I was at the entrance of my cell, when I heard a noise, and saw a deer fall headlong. I thousand saw a deer fall headlong. I towards Murray, who recognized him to be Sir Roger Kirkpatrick, of Torthorold. The chief saluted each other; and Lord Andrew pointed to his men. observed that an arrow stuck in his sid when a shout issued from the rocks, and cliff to cliff, till be lit at the head of the wounded deer. Seeing by his bonnet and plaid that he was a Scot, I addressed him with the benediction of the morning. Soon after, his followers appeared, and slew the animal. The chief left ment; and, on my invitation, entered the cell, to share with me a hermit's fare. I told him who I was, and what had driven me to this seclusion. I learned fr m him that it was his design to stimulate the surrounding chiefs to some exertions for their country; but his name he declined revealing to me: it was necessary, he said, to conceal it for the his remaining unknown, they would escape the suspicion of having even been asked. His zeal for Scotland had al ready made him an outlaw. When he told me these particulars, I imparted to him my doubts of the possi-bility of any individual being at le to arouse the slumbering courage of his country; but his language soon filled me with other thoughts. His design is to country; but his language soon nice me with other thoughts. His design is to infuse his own spirit into the bosoms of the chiefs of the numerous clans in this part of the kingdom; by their assistance to seize the fortresses in the Lowlands and so form a strong chain of repulsion against the admission of fresh troops from England. Then, while other chiefs. the Highlands, the Southron garrisons there, being unsupported by supplies, here, being unsupported by supplies, nust become an easy prey, and would yield men of consequence to be ex-

every part of Scotland. This is the knight's plan; and I hope, for your sake, as well as for that of the cause, that the knight may be, may the blessed Saint

hanged for our countrymen who are low prisoners in England. He wished

to be furnished, at present, with troops merely enough to take some castle of

power sufficient to give confidence t

his friends. On his becoming master of such a place, it should be the signal for

once, overwhelm Edward's garrisons in

Andrew at all times guide his arms! "I dare not guess who he is," replied the hermit, "as he thinks fit to conceal imself; but if I dare breathe a thought on the subject, it is that that noble brow

"What!" said Helen starting; "you think that this knight is the royal

"I am at a loss what to think," replied the hermit; "he has a most princely air and there is such an overwhelming o soul towards his country, when he speaks of it, that such love can alone spring from the royal heart which has been created to foster and to bless it. "It is very likely," rejoined Helen; and may Heaven reward his virtue with

the crown of his ancestors!"
"Amen," replied the hermit; "and to that end shall my hands be lifted up in

prayer, day and night."
"My heart, reverend father," said Helen, "has but one wish—the liberty of Scotland, and, with that, the safety of my father and his brave deliverers

"Sir William Wallace I never have een," rejoined the hermit, "but I do not doubt his being a worthy coadjutor of Bruce. However, dear daughter, as it s only a suspicion of ours that the knight is this young prince, we must no let the name escape our lips. Till he reveals his own secret, for us to divulge it would be dishonor." Helen bowed acquiescence; and the hermit led her to recess prepared for her repose.

CHAPTER X.

THE FOREST OF GLENFINLAS. Guided by Ker, Murray led his followers over the Lanark hills by the nost untrodden wilds, till they came to the base of the rock which Wallace had made his fortress. Ker, who expected to see it surrounded by an English army, was amazed to find a death-like solitud place is deserted; my brave friend while he spoke, the nermit re-entered place is deserted; my brave f from the inner cell, leading in a youth, who leaned on him for support. On sight of the knight, he dropped on his knees, and burst into tears. "Do you obliged to surrender." has miraculously escaped; or, what is more probale, compelled by the

"We will ascend and see," was Murray's answer. Ker led round the rock to the most accessible point, and with some difficulty gained Silence pervaded every part, and entering the recess where Wallace used her own heart beat violently, she looked first at his emaciated figure, and then at the noble contour of the knight. His beaming eyes seemed the very fountains of consolation; his cheek was bright with generous emotion; and turning his look from the suppliant boy to Helen, she adversed to the very foundation of escape, he would leave some weapon as a significated days on the suppliant boy to Helen, she adversed to the very foundation of escape, he would leave some weapon as a significated adversed to seek a few minutes' slumber, the moore in several some through the minutes' slumber, the moore in several some through the minutes' slumber, the moore in several some through the minutes' slumber, the moore in several something bright lying in a corner. Ker approached it, recoilecting the moore in the mo vanced a few paces towards him.

"Rise," said he to the youth, "and behold, in this lady, the object of the service to which I appoint you. You will asylum is the wilds of Glenfinlass." It upon mine. Be her servant and her this leads us to Glentinlass." He guard; and, when we meet again, as she then explained to Murray what had been

After a toilsome march throng will resume you to myself."

The young man bowing respectfully, acquiesced in his new commission; and Helen uttering some incoherent words of thanks, to hide her agitation turned

After a toilseme march through scenery of the most desolate character, they reached Glenfinlass, where Kerston of thanks, to hide her agitation turned thousand echoes returned the notes: away. The hermit exclaimed, "Again, my son, I beseech Heaven to bless thee!" by a horn from the heights of Craigaa-"And may its guardian care protect all coheilg. At the same moment an armed here!" returned the knight. Helen looked up to bid him a last farewell; "Stephen! It is William Ker who speaks. I come with the Lord Andrew Murray, of Bothwell, to the support our commander, Sir William Wallace.

At these words, Stephen placed his bugle to his mouth; and, in a few minutes, the rock was covered with the members of its little garrison. Women and children appeared, shouting with joy; and the men, descending the side next the glen, hastened to bid their comrades welcome. towards Murray, who recognized him

brave fellows to the aid of Sir William Wallace. Poor as is my offering, I am impatient to express my gratitude for the blessing he preserved to me, the life of my uncle Mar.

Kirkpatrick's answer disappointed the young warrior. "I am sorry, brave Murray, that you have no better knight to receive you than myself. I and the gallant chief have not yet met, but I am in arms for him; and the hour of retribu tion for my injuries, as well as for his, is at hand!

"But where is Sir William Wallace?"

emanded Murray.
"Gone towards the Forth, to rouse "Gone towards the Forth, to rouse that part of sleeping Scotland. If all he meet have my spirit, they will not require a second call. Now is the time to aim the blow; and thanks to the accident which brought me the welcome strike it home!"

He led Murray to a tower, which had nce been a hunting lodge of the great King Fergus. "This," said he, "is the farfamed lodge of the three kings. farfamed lodge of the three kings. Here did our heroic Fergus, attended by his royal allies, Durstus the Pict and Dionethus the Briton, reside during their huntings at Glenfinlass. And here eight hundred years ago, did the sam glorious prince form plans which saved his kingdem from a toreign yoke. the same spot we will lay ours; and, in their completion, rescue Scotland from a yranny more intolerable than that tyranny more intolerable than that which menaced him. Yes, Murray, there is not a stone in this building that has not a voice which calls aloud to us to draw the sword, and free the people for whom that monarch so often

"And, by the ghost of that same Fergus, I swear," exclaimed Murray, "that my honest claymore shall never shroud its head while an invader be left alive in Scotland."

Kirkpatrick caught him in his arms Brave son of the noble Bothwell, thou art after mine own heart! The blew which the dasterd Cressingham durst all to declare themselves, and rising at m at a Scottish chief, still smarts upon my cheek; and rivers of his country-men's blood shall wash out the stain. After I had been persuaded to swear first fortress he gains may be that of fealty to Edward, on the defeat of Dun-Dumbarton: it has always been con-bar, I vainly thought that Scotland had sidered the key of the country."

"May Heaven grant it, holy father," returned Helen, "and, whoever this courts of Stirling, I heard Cressingham propose, to the barons north of the dyke, that they should give their strongest castles into English hands; when I op-posed the measure, with all the indignation of a Scot who saw himself betrayed, he first tried to overturn my ments; and finding that impossible, as I repeated them with redoubled force, he struck me. Powers of earth and heaven what was then the tempest of my soul? I drew my sword, and him dead at my feet, had not my countrymen held my arms, and dragged me from the apartment. Covered with disnonor by a blow I could not avenge, I

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