

## ENTRY OF THE MINSTRELS.

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FROM "THE MASQUE OF MINSTRELS."

ARTHUR J. LOCKHART.

THEN came a company of wandering minstrels, without singing robes and garlands, up to the gate of the castle, which was opened readily enough to receive them. They were now only in the court-yard; but they went on—their harps in their hands—strengthened by the countenances of one another, and unabashed by the mighty band who had gone in before them. They were late in coming, and the choir of singers was already full; but of this they thought no ill, and when questioned of their act they answered with a proud humility. They were near the door of the high hall, and in answer to their summons it was thrown open, so that a herald stood before them.

HERALD.

And who be ye?