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THE SCOTTISH CHIEFS ; THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM WALLACE

BY MISS JANE PORTER. CHAPTER III.

MURDER OF LADY WALLACE.

ame unworthy of the name of man; and should disgrace my own manhood were ever again to obey the word of such a Halbert returned to the house, and, entering the room into which Marion had withdrawn, beheld her on her kneess praying for the safety of her beloved. " May he, O gracious Lord !" cried she, shall die for this !" "That may be," answered Grimsby, " by the hands of some tyrant like your-self; but no brave man, not the royal self; but no brave man, not the royal " soon return to his home. But if I am to see him here no more, oh ! may it please Thee to grant me to meet him

Edward himself, would do otherwise than acquit his soldier for refusing obedience Halbert persuaded his lady to lie down, that her limbs at least might rest; and she, little suspecting that he meant to do otherwise, retired. Her maids, durto the murderer of an innocent woman.

"Thou canting miscreant!" cried Heselrigge, springing on him, and dart-ing his dagger into his breast. But the hand of the soldier arrested the weapon; and, closing upon the governor, he threw him to the ground. Heselrigge, his dagger being now in his adversary's do otherwise, retired. Her maids, dur-ing the late terror, had dispersed ; and, after their resistance at the gates, had disappeared. Halbert resigned to await the rising of the sun. The morning was yet grey ; and his eyes were arrested by his dagger being now in his adversary's hand, with the most dastardly promises a party of armed men proceeding down the opposite declivity. The platform before the house was already filled with English. Alarmed at the sight, he was implored for life. "Monster !" cried the soldier, rising, "I would not pollute my honest hands with such unnatural blood. Neither, though thy hand had been lifted against ting towards his lady's room, when the hall-door was burst open by a band of soldiers, who rushed forward and seized him. "Tell me, dotard !" cried my life, would I willingly take thine. It is not rebellion against my commander that actuates me, but hatred of the

the leader, " where is the murderer e is Sir William Wallace ? speak or the torture shall force you."

Halbert trembled, but it was for his lady, not for himself. "My lord," said he, "is far from hence." he, " is far " Where ?"

" I know not."

"Thou shalt be made to know, thou hoary-headed villian !" cried the interyour crimes." There was a determination in the noary-neaded vintan i cried the inter-rogator. Where is the assassin's wife? I will confront ye—seek her out." At that word, the soldiers parted right and left; and in a moment three of them apvoice and manner of the soldier that paralysed the governor : he trembled violently, and, repeating his oath of leaving Grimsby unmolested, obtained his permission to return to Lanark. The men had mounted their horses, peared, with shouts, bringing in the un-

h, my lady !" cried Halbert, strugand were now out of sight, having left Hes-elrigge's charger in the courtyard. He gling to approach her, but they held him fast; and he saw her led up to the wretch who had given the orders to have her was approaching it, when the soldier called out, " Stop, sir ! you must walk to Lanark.

Internet trust your word, should you have the power to break it. Leave this horse here; to-morrow you may send for it. I shall then be far away," "Woman," cried he, " I am the governor of Lanark. You now stand before the representative of the great King Edward; and on your allegiance to him, and on the peril of your life, I command Heselrigge saw that remonstrance would be unavailing ; and shaking with fear you to answer me three questions—Where is Sir William Wallace, the murderer of and rage, he turned into the path which after five weary miles, would lead him my nephew? Who is that old Scot for whom my nephew was slain? He and his whole family shall meet my vengeance. nce more to his citadel. The soldier, fully aware that his life And where is that box of treasures which your husband stole from Douglas Castle ? Answer these questions on your life." Lady Wallace remained silent. " Speak, woman !" demanded the gov. would no longer be safe within reach of Heselrigge, resolved to take shelter in the mountains, till he could have an

ernor : " if fear cannot move you, know that I can reward as well as avenge.

turned into the hall; but as he ap proached the bleeding group on the will endow you richly, if you declare the truth. If you persist to refuse, yo Then I die !" replied she.

the lady was not quite dead, he touched her hand, and found it cold. Grimbsy "What " cried the governor, " can so gentle a lady as yourself reject the favor of England, large grants in this country, and perhaps a fine English knight for a husband, when you might shuddered. Again he saw her move, but it was not with her own life, but the re covering senses of her faithful servant On seeing that existence yet struggled in one of these victims, Grimsby raised him from the ground, and poured liquor have all for the trifling service of giving up a traitor to his liege lord, and conout of his ammunition-flask into his mouth. Halbert opened his eyes. sing where his robberies lie concealed? Speak, fair dame; give me this information, and the lands of the wounded chieftain whom Wallace brought here When he fixed them on the rough feat tures and the English helmet oldier, he closed them again with a with the hand of the handsome Sir Gil deep groan. " My hon "My honest Scot," said Grimbsy, trust in me. I am a man like your-

bert Hambledon, shall be your reward. Rich, and a beauty in Edward's court ! Lady, can you refuse to purchase all, by declaring the hiding-place of the traite Wallace ? " It is easier to die."

harper took courage, and again looked at the soldier; but, recollecting what had passed, he turned his eyes towards Fool !" cried Heselrigge. " What Is it easier for these dainty limbs to be hacked to pieces by my soldiers' axes? Is it easier for that fair bosom to be the body of his mistress, and staggering towards it, would have fallen, had not Grimsby supported him. "Oh, what a sight is this !" cried he. "My lady! my lovely lady! see how low she lies, who was once the delight of all eyes, the comforter of all hearts." The vectors trodden under foot by my horses' hoofs and for that beauteous head of thine to decorate my lance ?—Is all this easier than to tell me where to find a murderer comforter of all hearts." The veteran and his gold ?' turned away his face ; a tear dropped

Lady Wallace shudderd : she stretched her hands to Heaven : "Blessed Virgin, to thee I commit myself!" "If there be a man's heart in all Scot-"Speak, once for all !" cried the gov-ernor, drawing his sword. "I am no land, it is not far distant !" cried Hal-bert: "my master lives, and will re-venge this night's murder. You weep, waxen-hearted Hambledon, to be cajoled by your beauty. Declare where Wallace is cancealed, or dread my vengeance." soldier ; and you will not betray what has now escaped me?" "I have fought in Palestine," re-The steel gleamed across the eyes of Marion : unable longer to sustain her turned he; "and a soldier of the cross betrays none who trust in him. Saint self, she sunk on the ground. 'Kneel not to me for mercy," cried wretch ; "I grant none, unless you Mary preserve your master, and conduc you safely to him. We must both hast-"Kneef hot to me for merey, cried the wretch; "I grant none, unless you confess your husband's hiding-place." A momentary strength darted from the heart of Lady Wallace to her voice en hence. Heselrigge will surely send in pursuit of me: he is too vile to for-give the truth I have spoken to him; and, should I fall into his power, I could expect nothing less than death at his Let me assist you to put this lady's remains in some decent. and then, my honest Scot, we must sepbreast. Halbert, who had been held arate. by the soldiers, burst from the which held him, and had thrown back by The soldier, fearing the ill cons quence of further delay, wrapped Lady Wallace in the white garments which hung about her, raised her in his arms, himself on the bleeding Marion before her murderer could strike his second blow. However, it fell and pierced reason. blow. However, it fell and pierced through the neck of the faithful servant. and was conducted by Halbert to a little chapel, in the heart of the neighboring cliff. The old man removed the altar; and Grimsby, laying the body of Marion before it reached her heart. She opened her eyes, and seeing who it was that would have shielded her life, just artiupon its marble platform, covered her with the velvet pall from the holy table culated — "Halbert—my Wallace — to God "—and her soul took its flight. The and laid the crucifix upon her bosom Halbert threw himself on his knees, and old man's heart almost burst ; he sunk offered up a prayer for her departed soul. He then kissed the cross, and went weeping out of the chapel, fol-lowed by the soldier. senseless on her body. A terrible stillness was now in the hall. Not a man spoke ; all stood looking on each other with horror. Heselrigge, dropping his sword, perceived, by the behaviour of his men, that he had Having closed the door, and locked it. Halber. proceeded in silence till he and gone too far ; and, fearful of arousing in-dignation or awakened humanity to some his companion, as they approached the well were startled by a groan. is some one !" cried the soldiers. "Here is some one !" cried the soldiers. "Is it possible he lives ?" exclaimed Hal-bert, bending down to the edge of the well, and calling to the earl. "Yes," act against himself, addressed the soldiers in an unusual accent of condescen-sion : "My friends," said he, "we will now return to Lanark. To-morrow you may come back ; for I reward your ser-vices of this night with the plunder of feebly answered his lordship : "I still exist, but am very faint. If all be safe Ellerslie.' above, I pray remove me from this dis-mal place." Halbert, lowering the " May a curse light on him who first mal place." Halbert, lowering the rope, told him first to tie the iron box

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

Lin.

"What !" exclaimed the governor ; raised his eyes to inquire for Sir Wil-how dare you speak thus to your com- liam and the Lady Marion. He started " how dare you speak thus to your com-manding officer? March on before me this instant, or expect to be treated as a when he saw English armour on the man e would have accosted, and demanded Who art thou ?" "I march at your command no more,"

replied the veteran ; " the moment you perpetrated this bloody deed, you be-

" Villain !" cried Heselrigge ; " you

vilest of murderers. I go far from you or your power; but, if you forswear your voluntary faith, and attempt to seek me

opportunity of going beyond sea, to join Edward's troops in the Guienne wars. Full of these thoughts, he re-

"trust in me. I am a man, am no self, and, though a Southron, am no belnlessness." The

loor, he perceived it move.

"An Englishman," answered the soldier: "one who does not, like the monster Heselrigge, disgrace the name. I would assist you, noble Wallace, to fly this spot and after that, I shall seek refuge abroad, and there demonstrate on the fields of Guienne, my fidelity t

my king." Mar looked at him steadily. " Yo Mar looked at him steadily. "Fou mistake; I am not Sir William Wallace." Halbert came up with the water. The earl drank it, and turning to the venerable bearer, he asked whether his venerable bearer, he asked whether his master were safe. "I trust he is," re-plied the old man, "but your lordship must hasten hence. This place, this once dear Ellerslie, is now full of horror a foul murder has been committed her since he left it." "But where is Lady Wallace ?" asked

the earl; if there be such danger, we must not leave her to meet it." "She will never meet danger more!" cried the old man ; "she is in the boson

of the Virgin; and no second assassin' steel can reach her there !" " What !" exclaimed the earl "Is Lady Wallace murdered ?" Halbert an swered only by his tears. "Yes," said the soldier, "and detesta-

tion of so unnatural an outrage provoked me to desert his standard. But we must not lose time in lamentation; for Heselrigge will return ; and, if we would not be sacrificed to his rage, we must hence immediately." The earl, struck dumb at this recital,

out for vengeance, remember that it is a soldier of the cross you pursue; and a dire retributiou shall be demanded by Heaven at a moment you cannot avoid, and with a horror commensurate with gave the soldier time to recount the par-ticulars. When he had done, Lord Mar

seeing the necessity for instant flight, ordered three horses from the stables. Though he had fainted while in his concealment, yet the present shock gave such a tension to his nerves, that he could now ride without difficulty. Halbert went, and re urned with two

Halbert went, and re urned with two horses. As he had only amongst rocks and glens to go, he did not bring one for himself; and begging that the good soldier might attend his lordship to Bothwell, he added, "He will guard you and this box, which Sir William Walla

The cruel are generally false. holds as the apple of his eye. What i contains I know not; and none, he says may dare to search into; but you will take care of it, for his sake, till more of God." "Halbert !" cried Sir William, "what peaceful times allow him to reclaim hi

who stood by

wn !" "Fatal box," cried the soldier, "that At this confirmation of a sudden terror was the leading cause which brought Heselrigge to Ellerslie." "How?" inquired the earl. Grimsby

not allow him to acknowledge to him-self, he covered his face with his hands, then related, that, immediately after the return to Lanark of the detachment and fell back with a deep groan. Hal-bert, thinking that he had revealed the worst, went on—"Her latest breath was sent to Ellerslie under the command of Sir Gilbert Hambledon, an officer arrived from Douglas Castle, and told spent in prayer for you. 'My Wallace,' were the last words her angel-spirit the governor that Wallace had taken a quantity of treasure from the castle of Douglas. His report was, that the uttered as it issued from her bleeding

English soldiers, who stood by the Scottish knight when he mounted, had The cry that burst from the heart of Wallace, as he started on his feet, seemed to pierce through all the re-cesses of the glen. Halbert threw his seen an iron box under his arm; but no suspecting its having belonged to Douglas, they thought not of it till they arms round his master's knees. "Hear me, my lord; for the sake of your wife, overheard Sir John Monteith muttering something about gold and a box. To intercept Wallace amongst his native glens, he deemed impracticable, and therefore came immediately to lay the now an angel hovering near you, hea what I have to say." Wallace looked around him with a

wild countenance. "My Marion near me, blessed spirit! oh, my murdered wife, my unborn babe! Who made those information before the governor of Lanark. As the scabbard found in the affair with young Arthur had betrayed wounds? Tell me," cried he, throwing himself on the ground, "tell me, who Wallace, this intimation of his having had the heart to aim a deadly wound at that angel's life ?"

the grasp of Heselrigge the spoil he deemed his own, exasperated the gover-Halbert

nor. Inflamed with revenge and avaria he ordered out a new troop, and placing himself at its head, took the way to ace ; "my wife, my wife, what had she done? Ellerslie, hoping to discover from Lady Wallace both the retreat of her husband and the concealment of the box. One of the servants, whom some of Hambledon's men had seized, confessed to Heselrigge that not only Sir William Wallac in the house when it was attacked, but tion; and, in a deadly rage, before I was aware, he plunged his sword into her breast." Wallace clenched his hands that the person whom he rescued in the streets of Lanark, and who proved to be a wealthy nobleman, was there also. This whetted the eagerness of the over his face, and Halbert went on ;

Halbert took the horn ; and promising to repeat the earl's message, he ex-changed blessings with the honest soldier, and, striking into a deep ravine, took his way towards the caves of Corie

"Thou shalt have it, severed from my

CHAPTER IV. CORIE LIN-LANARK CASTLE-DEATH

HESELRIGGE. The old minstrel traversed many a weary road, and a few berries from the brambles, with a draught of water from the brook, were all the food that offered to revive his enfeebled limbs. Towards stained red to revive his enfeebled limbs. Towards sunset he arrived at the great waterfall near which his master was concealed, and gave the appointed signal, on which Wallace sprung from the innermost re-cess of the cave under the fall, and, dashing through the rushing waters, was at the side of Halbert. "Faithful creature!" cried he, catching him in his arms." how fares my Marion 2" the Earl of Mar. It is all, most likely "I am weary," cried the heart-stricken

old man: "take me within your san ary, and I will tell you all." Giving him act on that conviction, and Scotlan Giving hin is hand, he led him to the brink of the Lin, and then taking him in his arms dashed with him through the water into dashed with him through the water into the cavers. Halbert sunk against its rocky side, and, putting forth his hand to catch some of the water as it fell, drew a few drops to his parched lips. After this he breathed a little, and turned his eyes upon his anxious master. Are you sufficiently recovered, Hal-bert? May I now ask how you left my directs. If I live, you shall see me again

bert? May I now ask now you rere my dearest Marion?" Halbert evaded a direct reply. "I saw your guest in safety before I left Ellerslie. I saw him and the iron box But twilight appr aches : we must away: the sun must not again rise upon Heselrigge !" Wallace drew Halbert up the precipon their way to Bothwell." "What!" inquired Wa inquired Wallace, "were

we mistaken? Was not the earl dead when we looked into the well?" Halnear the objects of his search. He sprung on a high cliff, and blowing his when we howed into the went i that bert replied in the negative, and was proceeding with an account of his recov-ery and departure, when Wallace inter-rupted him. "But what of my wife, Hal-bert? Why tell me of others before ber? another her removed and the second ugle with a few notes of the pibroch of Lanarkshire, was answered by a thou-sand echoes. Men rushed from their fastnesses, and women with their babes eagerly followed, to see whence sprung her? surely she remembers me some

a summons so dear to every Scottish heart. "Scotsmen!" cried Wallace, waving the fatal sword, "behold how message! "Yes, my dear lord," cried Halbert throwing himself on his knees in agony; "she remembers you where best her prayers can be heard. She kneels for the heavens cry aloud to you. I come in the name of all ye hold dear, of your lives, your liberties, and of the wives of her beloved Wallace before the throne

is unsheathed; innocence, age, and in-fancy, fall before it. With this sword, last night, did Heselrigge, the English do you say? My Marion-speak ; tell me, in one word, she lives !" 'In heaven !"

tyrant of Lanark, break into my house, nd murder my wife!" The shriek of horror that burst from imbibed from the ambiguous words of Halbert, and which his fond heart would

every mouth interrupted Wallace. "Vengeance ! Vengeance !" was the cry of the men, while tumultuous laments find the men, while turnitions famenta-tion for the "sweet lady of Ellerslie" filled the air from the women. Wal-lace sprang from the eliff into the midst of his countrymen. "Follow me, then, to strike the first blow." "Lead us forward !" cried a vigorous d man. "I drew this stout claymore counds

old man. "I drew this stout claymore last in the battle of Largs. 'Life and Alexander' was then the word of victory; now, ye accursed Southrons, ye shall find that the slogan of 'Death and Lady Marion !' will be a cry to bring angels down to avenge her blood and free the conntry !'

" Death and Lady Marion !" was now echoed with loud shouts. Every sword was drawn; and those who had none, seized wolf-spears, pick-axes, forks, and scythes. Sixty resolute men now ar-ranged themselves around their chief. Wallace, whose widowed heart turned cold at the slogan of his Marion's name,

iercely grasped his sword, and murmured "The governor of Lanark," replied to himself — "From this hour may Scot-land date her liberty, or Wallace return no more! My faithful friends," cried "How! For what ?" demanded Wal-

he, turning to his men, "let the spirits of your father inspire your souls ! ye go "He came at the head of a band of ruffians, and seizing my lady, commanded her, on the peril of her life, to declare where you and the Earl of Mar, and the o preserve the freedom for which the died. Before the moon sets the tyrant of Lanark shall fall in blood." box of treasure, were concealed. My lady persisted in refusing him informa-

Wallace took it in his hand.

aswer that echoed from the hills. Wallace again sprung on the cliff. His brave peasants followed him; taking their rapid march over the heights and through the defiles of Cartlane Crags,

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rushed upon the guard that held the northern gate of the fortress.

head by this accursed steel," answered Wallace, taking off his bonnet, and let-ting his locks fall on his shoulders Here slept the governor. The few opponents being slain by the first sweep of the Scottish swords, Wallace hastened The few Halbert burst into tea's, for he remem-tered how often it had been the delight of Marion to comb these tresses, and to onward. The noise of the battle was behind him : for the shout of his men had drawn the soldiers half naked to the twist them round her fingers. Wallace looked up, as the old man's sobs became audible, and read his thoughts. "It will spot. He reached the door of the gov. ernor. The sentinel fled. With one never be again, Halbert," cried he; and with a firm grasp of the sword, he cut off a large handful of his hair. The end stroke of his foot, he drove the door from what a sight for the guilty Heselrigge which he separated from his head wa It was the husband of the woman he had nurdered, come in the power of justice "Marion! thy blood hath marked it!" exclaimed he, "and every hair of my head shall be dyed of the same hue, with uplifted arm, and vengean eyes. With a scream of despair, and an outcry for mercy, he fell back into the bed, and sought an unavailing shield be-neath its folds. "Marion! Marion!" cried Wallace, before I sheath this sword upon thy murderers! Here, Halbert, take this to

will ever see of William Wallace. hould I fall, tell him to look on that, as he threw himself towards the bed, and buried the sword, yet red with her blood, deep into the heart of her murand in my wrongs read the future miseries of Scotland, and remember that God armeth the patriot's hand! Let derer. A fiend-like yell from Hesel-rigge told him his work was done; and Figge told him his work was done; and drawing out the sword, he took the streaming blade in his hand—" Ven-geance is satisfied," cried he; "thus, O God ! do I henceforth divide self from may yet be ree." Halbert placed the lock in his bosom, and repeated his entreaties that his master would accompany him to Both-well Castle, where he would meet with my heart !" As he spoke, he snapt the sword in twain, and, throwing away the every consolation from the good earl's friadship. 'If he indeed love me," rc-turned Wallace, "for my sake let him cherish you. My consolations come frrm a higher hand. I go where it pieces, put back with his hand the weapons of his companions, who, having cleared the passage of their assailants had hurried forward to assist in ridding to assist in ridding their country of so detestable a tyrant. "'Tis done," cried he. As he spoke he drew down the coverlid, and discovered the body of the governor, weltering in

Wallace turned away, and the men exulting in the sight, with a shout of triumph exclaimed — "So fall the ene itous side of the Lin; and then they struck into the defiles, and proceeded till, by the smoke, Wallace saw he was exulting in the sight, with a shout of triumph exclaimed — "So fall the ene-mies of Sir William Wallace ! "Rather so fall the enemies of Scot-land!" cried he. "From this hour, Wal-

lace has neither love nor resentment but for her. Heaven has heard me devote myself to work our country's free-dom or o dic. Who will follow me in so just a cause ?" " All ! With Wallace forever !"

The clamour which their present re-solution excited intimidated a fresh band of soldiers who were marching across the courtyard to intercept their passage. They hastily retreated; and no exertions of their officers could pre-vail on them to advance again, or even your bosoms, and the children now in their arms! The poignard of England to appear in sight of their enemies, when with Wallace at their head they issued from the gate. The English co ers, seeing that their men were struck with a panic which they were the less able to surmount, as the way to the gate was strewn with slain, fell back into the shadow of the towers, and leisurely viewed the departure of the Scots,

CHAPTER V.

CARTLANE CRAGS - BOTHWELL CASTLE. The sun was rising when the victori families lay. Wallace, while he threw himself on a bed of heath, listened to the inquiries of Halbert, and recounted to him the mean of the second to him the success of his enterprise "The assassin," continued he, "has paid with his life the inexpiable crime. He is slain, and with him several of Edward' garrison. My vengeance may be ap-peased ; but what, O Halbert, can bring redress to my widowed heart? All is lost to me. I have nothing to do with this world, but as I am the instrument of good to others. The Scottish sword has now been re-drawn against our foes; and with the blessing of heaven, I swear and with the dessing of heaven, I swear it shall not be sheathed till Scotland be rid of the tyranny which has slain my happiness. This night my gallant Scots have sworn to accomplish my row; and death or illustra much it the death or liberty must be the future fate of Wallace and his friends.

At these words, tears ran over the ye go cheeks of the venerable harper :- " Alas! my too brave master," exclaimed he, what is it you would do? Why rush "Death and Lady Marion !" was the upon certain destruction ? sake of her memory whom you deplorein pity to the worthy Earl of Mar, who will arraign himself as the cause of all these calamities, and of your death, should you fall-retract this desperate splendent k

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carries a stick from its grounds !" ex claimed a veteran.

"Amen !" murmured all the soldiers and they disappeared one by one, leaving Heselrigge alone with the old soldier,

who stood, learing on his sword, looking on the murdered lady. "Grimsby ! why stand you there !" demanded Heselrigge ; " follow me." " Never," returned the soldier.

Hoping

of the

to it, and then himself. This done, with the assistance of the soldier, who ex-pected to see the husband of Lady Walpected to see the husband of Lady Wal-lace emerge to the knowledge of his loss, they effected the earl's release. For a few seconds, he supported himself on his countryman's shoulder, and asked for a draught of water. Halbert went to bring it, and Lord Mar

"Before he aimed a second blow, I had broken from the men who held me, and thrown myself on her bosom, but all could not save her: through my neck the villian's sword penetrated her governor to reach Ellerslie; and expecting to get a rich booty, without the most distant idea of the horrors he was going to perpetrate, a large detachment of men followed him. "To extort money from you, my lord," continued the soldier, "and to obtain that fatal box, heart." "Great God !" exclaimed Wallace.

the victor to have been Sir Willia

been the instrument of wresting fro

springing on his feet; " dost Thou hear this murder?" His hands were stretched towards heaven; then falling on his were his main objects. But disappoint-ed in his darling passion of avarice, he forgot he was a man, and the blood of kneee, "Give me tower, Almighty Judge," cried he, "to assert Thy justice. Let me avenge this angel's blood, and innocence glutted his barbarous

wengeance." "Hateful gold!" cried Lord Mar, "Hateful gold!" cried Lord Mar, spurning the box with his foot; "it can-not he for itself that the noble Wallace "here is the fatal sword with which the cruel governor killed my lady. The blood on it is sacred, and I brought it to "I believe it was," returned Halbert,

for the enjoined my lady to preserve it for the sake of his honor. Take care of it, then my lord, for the same sacred you.

The blade was hardly yet dry, and the The Englishman made no objection to

The Englishman mate to objection to accompany the earl; and changing his English armour for a Scottish bonnet and cloak, which Halbert brought from the house, he was putting them on, "is it thine? Does thy blood stain my lips?" He paused for a moment, leaning his burning forehead against the fatal blade; then looking up with a terrific smile, "Beloved of my soul, never shall this sword leave my hand till it has drunk the life-blood of thy murwhen the earl observed that the poor old harper stood with a blood-stained sword in his hand. "Whence came that derer!

"It is my lady's blood," replied Hal-bert; "I found it where she lay in the "What is it you intend, my lord ?" ried Halbert. "What can you do? cried Halbert. hall, and I will carry it to my master, Was not every drop of her blood dear to him; and here are many." "England shall hear more of this!" your single arm "-"I am not single-God is with me.

am his avenger. Now tremble tyranny; I have come to hurl thee down!" At Fingland shall hear more of this : cried Mar, as he threw himself across his horse. "Give me that fatal box, and I will buckle it to my saddle-bow. Inadequate will be my utmost care of the word, he sprang from the cavern's mouth, and had already reached the utmost cliff, when the cries of Halbert re-called him to recollection. Returning it, to repay the vast sorrows its preser to his faithful servant, he now tried to vation and mine have brought upon th

to his faithful servant, he now tried to soothe his fears, and spoke in a composed though determined tone. "I will lead you to the mountains, where the shep-herds of Ellerslie are tending their flocks. With them you will find a refuge, till you have strength to reach Bothwell head of my deliverer." The Englishman in silence mounted his horse, and Halbert opening a gate that led to the hills which lay between Ellerslie and Bothwell Castle, Lord Mar till you have strength to reach Bothwell Castle. Lord Mar will protect you for took a golden-trophied bugle from his breast. "Give this to your master, and My sake." Halbert now remembered the bugle

tell him that, by whatever hands he sends it, the sight of it shall always with which the earl had entrusted him command the services of Donald Mar and, putting 't into his master's hand with and, putting 't into his master's hand with the message, he asked for some testimony in return, that the earl might know he had delivered it safely: "Even a lock of your precious hair, my beloved master, will be sufficient." I go to Bothwell, in expectation that he will join me there. In making it his home he will render me happy, for my friendship is now bound to him by bonds which only death can sever."

to their prey

The women, and the men who were too aged to engage in so desperate an enterprise, now thronged around Halbert to ask a circumstantial account of the disaster which had filled them with the disaster which had filed them with so much horror. Many were the tears which followed his recital. Wallace and his little army rapidly pursued their march to the cliffs which overhung the vale of Ellerslie. At the moment before he mounted the intervening height, a soldier in English armour crossed the path, and was seized by his

men. An uplifted axe was levelled at the man's neck. Wallace turned the weapon : "Hold, Scot !" cried he, " you are not a Southron, to strike the defend

less. This man has no sword." The terrified wretch, who had expected He nothing less than immediate death, joy-fully recognizing the voice of Wallace, fell on his knees, exclaiming, "Surely it gazed at it, touched it, and kissed it. ensanguined hue came off upon the pres-sure. "Marion! Marion!" cried he, is my lord ! it is Sir William Wallace, who has saved my life a second time !" "Who are you?" asked Wallace, "That bassinet can cover no friend of

"Iam your servant Dugald." returned the man; he whom your brave arm saved from the battle axe of Arthur Hesel-

"I cannot now ask you how you came by that dress ; but if you be yet faithful, throw it off, and follow me." "Not to Ellerslie, my lord !" cried he

"it has been this day sacked and set in flames by the command of the governor of Lanark."

"Then," exclaimed Wallace, "are the mains of my beloved Marion forever emains ravished from my eyes ? Insatiate onster ?" "Too long he lives to curse the earth,'

my lord, in mercy to markind !" Wallace had now mounted the crag

which overlooked Ellerslie. His once happy home lay a heap of ashes. He hastened from the sight, and directing the point of his sword towards Lanark, re-echoed, "Forward !" With the rapidity of lightning, his little host fley ed the cliffs which divided he hills, reache them from the town, and leaped down before the outward trench of the castle. In a moment Wallace sprung so feeble a barrier, and with a shout of death, in In a moment Wallace sprung so feeble a barrier, and with a shout of death, in which the slogan of his men joined, he

"No, my good Halbert," returned Wallace, "I am neither desperate nor inefficient; and you, my faithful creature, shall have no cause to mourn this night's resolution. Go to Lord Mar, and tell him what are my resolves. I have nothing now that binds me to life but my country; and henceforth she shall be to me as mistress, wife, and shah be to me as mistress, wife, and child. Would you deprive me of this tie, Halbert? Would you, by persuad-ing me to resign my interest in her, de-vote me to a hermit's seclusion amongst these rocks ? for I will never again appear in the tracks of men, if it as the defender of her rights."

"But where, my master, shall we find you, should the earl choose to join you with his followers?"

"In this wilderness, whence I shall In this wilderness, whence I shall not remove rashly; for my purpose is to save my countrymen, not to sacrifice them in needless dangers." Halbert, oppressed with sorrow, bowed his head, and leaving Wallace to rest, retired to the mouth of the cavern.

It was noon before the chief awaked. He opened his eyes languidly; and when the sight of his rocky apartment forced on him the recollection of his miseries, he uttered a groan. That sad sound struck the ear of Halbert, who had pre-permission to set out for Bothwell. "On my knees," added he, "will I implore the earl to send you succours.

"He needs not prayers for that," re-turned Wallace ; " but depart, dear Halbert ; it will comfort me to know you are in safety ; and, whithersoever you go, you carry my thanks and blessings with

Halbert's tears flowed profusely. Half persuaded that a superior Being did in-deed call his beloved master to some extraordinary exertions for Scotland, he took his leave, first of him, and then of the companions of his destiny. A few of them led him on his way as far as the western declivity of the hills ; and then bidding them farewell, he took the remainder of his journey alone. After traversing many a weary mile, he reached Bothwell Castle, and was led into a