

tish nobleman enters and assures them of the success of Duncan's army over the troops of the Norwegian King and his assistant the thane of Cawdor.

Again we are led to a heath where the three witches are narrating their adventures to one another amid thunder and lightening. This scene gives us a idea of these preternatural beings and their powers and charms. Macbeth and Banquo then enter for the first time and after discussing the unsettled condition of the weather, they are almost stricken with fear at the sight of the three weird sisters. Banquo was the first to address these ominous creatures and afterwards Macbeth petitioned them to speak if it was within their power. Then the witches reveal to Macbeth the fact that he will be made thane of Cawdor and finally king, and to Banquo that he will become the sire of a line of kings. After this brief but all important meeting the witches disappear and Ross and Angus enter. These two gentlemen partly confirm the assertion of the witches by telling Macbeth that for his gallant services the king wishes to make him thane of Cawdor. When Macbeth hears this he places belief in the witches' prophecy, and ambition leads him to long for the kingship, although the bloody thought of how this was to come about causes him much mental trouble.

In the fourth scene Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain and Lennox enter the palace at Forres and soon after them Macbeth, Banquo, Ross and Angus enter. The object of this meeting, as the King announced, is to confer the thaneship of Cawdor on Macbeth and to create Malcolm the Prince of Cumberland. This last named business was an obstacle in the way of Macbeth's becoming king and he does not fail to notice it since he says:

"The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step,
On which I must fall down or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires!
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see?"

Then we come to a scene which takes place at Inverness in Macbeth's castle. Lady Macbeth enters reading a letter from her husband which conveys to her his encounter with the witches and the fact that he was made thane of Cawdor. From Lady Macbeth's speech we are assured of her ambitions and cruel na-