

784. **talisman.** A charm, capable of producing magical effects.
788. He was putting to the test her love for Malcolm Græme.
795. **grace.** Favour or pardon.
819. **Fetters and warder.** Chains and a keeper.
- 821-3. See IV., 220-2.
828. **thy wizard elm.** The wych-elm. See note on I., 2.
- the fountain lending.** Lending to the fountain, etc.
832. **pipe.** Flute.
- housing.** Returning to the hive.
- 835-6. I care little for the sharp criticism which may find fault with my story as being light and trivial.
837. Scott means to say that Scottish poetry (or perhaps the writing of poetry) has cheered him in time of trouble.
- 842-5. The poet here speaks of those strains of Scottish poetry which, he fancies, are more delicate—more spirited or more playful—than his own.

Outline of Canto VI.

1. Early next morning the soldiers in the Court of Guard at Stirling Castle are discussing the "bloody fray" which had been fought in the Trosachs' pass. In the midst of their noise and revelry a soldier named Bertram arrives, with Ellen and Allan-bane. The soldiers are inclined to make light of the old harper and his charge, but when Ellen shows the royal signet-ring, they are received with all respect, and Ellen is conducted to a chamber in the castle.

2. In the meantime Allan begs to be allowed to see his master (the Douglas) in captivity; but John of Brent, thinking that Allan is the servant of Roderick, leads him to the chieftain's cell. Roderick, though dying, is eager to hear how Clan Alpine has fared in the struggle, and at his bidding Allan sings the story of the battle. But even before the song is ended, Roderick has already breathed his last, and Allan pours forth his lament over the dead Chieftain.

3. Ellen in the meantime sits brooding in her chamber, when suddenly she hears the voice of Malcolm singing from a turret of the castle near by. The song is scarcely ended when Fitz-James appears, and offers to guide her to the court of the king.

4. When Ellen seeks the king amid the brilliant throng, she finds that he is none other than Fitz-James himself. Falling at his feet she shows