

are peculiarly adapted to express pathos and love.

Omitting therefore the Anglicising Scottish Literati, such as Drummond of Hawthornden, we shall close with a glance over the later Scottish Bards. Among these, Allan Ramsay of Lothian stands proudly pre-eminent in this period, as Robert Burns does in the next. Ramsay's "Gentle Shepherd" is one of the most exquisite Pastoral Poems that human language can boast. In its almost naked simplicity and innocence it reminds us of the Book of Ruth. Ramsay wrote many other admirable pieces, as "For Lochaber no more," &c.

About this time arose the two parties called "Covenanters" and "Cavaliers," respectively, and later still arose the Jacobites. Each of these has its own bards. As a specimen of the Cavaliers we may select Sir J. Grahame of Montrose. Like the Cavaliers generally, he Anglicises in his language, but his philosophy is as shallow as his language is fine. For instance, in the song beginning—

"My dear and only love, I pray,
This noble world of thee
Be governed by none other sway
Than Perfect Monarchy."

he claims an Absolute Despotism over his lady. Now let us see how his "Perfect Monarchy" operates. He once compelled his citizens of Montrose to swear to the Covenant. But some time afterwards he came upon them with a bloody horde of Irish assassins, and because they would not break their oath and Covenant at his bidding, he butchered the men of the town and gave up the helpless women, young and old, rich and poor, to the fearful brutality of his cruel cut-throats! Heaven preserve us from the "Perfect Monarchy" of such a monster! The practical meaning of his fine verses is this; that he should win the love of a lady by fine display and fair promises; and then after she had trusted all to him, that he should claim a right to cast her off "and never love her more," whenever he thought she had vexed him. Such Despotism is intolerable. I have seen a man who always refused his wife's advice, however good, "for," said he, "I will be absolute master." Who would not despise

such a heartless churl! Byron indeed writes,

"O all ye lords of ladies intellectual,
Come tell us truly, have they not benpect you
all?"

But Burns with profounder insight writes,

"Wae's me! it often gars me greet
To think how many counsels sweet,
How many prudent sage advices,
The husband frae the wife despises!"

As a specimen of the better class of Cavalier poetry we may here refer to several pieces by Sir Walter Scott. For instance the song, "Up with the bonnets of Bonny Dundee," was written in honor of another cruel Grahame, known by the titles of Dundee and Claverhouse.

William Cleland the brave lieutenant of the Covenanters, who in 1689 with about 800 Cameronians repulsed the Cavalier horde of 5000 insurgents at Dunkeld, has described the host of "bonny Dundee" alias "bloody Clavers" as follows.

"Yea sure such sights might have inclined
A man to nauseate at mankind! . . .
Nought like religion they retain;
Of moral honesty they're clean;
And for a misobbliging word
'She'll lurk her neebour ower the board,'
If any ask them of their thrift,
'Forsooth her naisel lives by theft.'" (theft)

As specimens of the poetry of the Covenanters we may here mention also the "Nithsdale and Galloway Relics," by Allan Cunningham, and the beautiful "Cameronian Dream" by James Hislop.

The poetry of the Covenanters is rich in profound pathos, and sublime in immortal aspirations "to GOD ONLY WISE, ONLY HOLY, ONLY GOOD." The Scottish nation is one of the most reasonable, orderly, generous, and much-enduring peoples that live below the sun; but step in between their conscience and their God, and once they are ready to do or die to prevent such Babylonish sacrilege. The execrable barbarities of the persecuting Stuarts, struggling to force the conscience of this noble people, drove them to desperation, and woe befel the Stuart race. And woe betide the impious wretch who ever tries the like again! May no weapon formed against thee, Land and Church of our fathers, prosper; but vanquish thou thine every foe by growing up into all that is Good and True!