

reel. Shake with the ringing of the bells.

560. motley. Dressed in different colours.

562. morris-dancers. The morris (or *moorish*) dance was a common feature of pageants and processions in former times. Very frequently the dancers represented Robin Hood and his band. (See lines 609-18.)

563. quaint. Odd, old-fashioned.

564. "Every burgh of Scotland of the least note had their solemn *play* or festival, when feats of archery were exhibited, and prizes distributed to those who excelled in wrestling, hurling the bar, and other gymnastic exercises of the period."—(*Scott*).

566. yeoman. A man of the ordinary middle class.

571. play my prize. Contend for the prize.

572. stark. Strong, vigorous.

576. drawbridge. The bridge that crossed the moat which surrounded the castle; so called because when not in use it was drawn up so that the moat could not be crossed.

584. jennet. A small Spanish horse.

saddle-bow. The arch forming the front of the saddle.

587. simperer. One who smiles in a foolish or affected manner.

594. the Commons' King. "From his anxious attention to the interests of the lower and most oppressed class of his subjects, he (James V.) was popularly termed the King of the Commons."—(*Scott*).

597. brooked. Endured.

602. the mean burgher. The nobles looked down upon the joys of the humble townsman.

606. feudal power. Power over their own vassals.

610. checkered. Dressed in various colours.

rout. A noisy crowd.

611. morricers. See note on line 562.

613. butts. The mounds on which the targets are placed.

614-18. Robin Hood. A famous outlaw who is supposed to have lived somewhere about the thirteenth century. With the name of Robin Hood there came to be associated, in the course of time, many stories of adventure which made him a favourite character in British folk-lore. His band consisted of Maid Marian, Little John, Friar Tuck, Scathelock, Mutch, Scarlet, and others. The exhibition of Robin Hood and his band at May-day festivals was a common country pastime.