

MACBETH.

SCENE IV. *Outside Macbeth's castle.**Enter Ross and an old Man.*

Old Man. Threescore and ten I can remember well :
 Within the volume of which time I have seen
 Hours dreadful and things strange ; but this sore night
 Hath trifled former knowings.

Ross. Ah, good father,
 Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,
 Threaten his bloody stage : by the clock 'tis day,
 And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp :
 Is 't night's predominance, or the day's shame,
 That darkness does the face of earth entomb,
 When living light should kiss it ?

Old Man. 'Tis unnatural, 10
 Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last,
 A falcon, towering in her pride of place,
 Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and killed.

Ross. And Duncan's horses—a thing most strange and
 certain—

Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,
 Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
 Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would make
 War with mankind.

Old Man. 'Tis said they eat each other.

Ross. They did so, *to the amazement of mine eyes*
 That look'd upon 't.

Enter MACDUFF.

Here comes the good Macduff. 20

How goes the world, sir, now ?

Macduff.

Why, see you not ?

Ross. Is 't known who did this more than bloody deed ?

Scene IV. To those who attach no prominence to the character of Ross, this scene must lack motive. It is meant to show Ross skulking about in safety, spying out the turn of events.