

That they did wake each other : I stood and heard them :
But they did say their prayers, and address'd them
Again to sleep.

Lady Macbeth. There are two lodged together.

Macbeth. One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the other;
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands :
Listening their fear, I could not say 'Amen,'
When they did say 'God bless us !'

Lady Macbeth. Consider it not so deeply.

30

Macbeth. But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen' ?
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'
Stuck in my throat.

Lady Macbeth. These deeds must not be thought
After these ways ; so, it will make us mad.

Macbeth. Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more !'
Macbeth doth murder sleep,' the innocent sleep,
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast,—

Lady Macbeth.

What do you mean ? 40

Macbeth. Still it cried 'Sleep no more !' to all the house :
'*Clamnis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor*
Shall sleep to more : Macbeth shall sleep no more.' 43

Lady Macbeth. Who was it that thus cried ? Why, worthy
thane,

You do unbend your noble strength, to think

43. Grant-White says: "These two lines, unless their detailing of Macbeth's titles is the utterance of his distempered fancy, sink into a mere conceit unworthy of the situation." *The titles are detailed in the order of Macbeth's crimes and of the witches' allurements ; they imply that Macbeth realizes now that his criminal career has been a unit against his peace of mind. His unrest began with his first ambition and his crimes. The couplet is a flash of lightning on this gloomy scene.* To an unprejudiced reader the vindication of the power of these two lines must go a long way to prove that Macbeth had been guilty of three crimes instead of one. Every reader must have thought them weak in the old explanation.