

Of that Sea-Snake,<sup>1</sup> tremendous curl'd,  
 Whose monstrous circle girds the world;  
 Of those dread Maids,<sup>2</sup> whose hideous yell  
 Maddens the battle's bloody swell;  
 Of Chiefs,<sup>3</sup> who, guided through the gloom 340  
 By the pale death-lights of the tomb,  
 Ransack'd the graves of warriors old,  
 Their falchions wrench'd from corpses' hold,  
 Waked the deaf tomb with war's alarms,  
 And bade the dead arise to arms! 345

With war and wonder all on flame,  
 To Roslin's<sup>4</sup> bowers young Harold came,  
 Where, by sweet glen and greenwood tree,  
 He learn'd a milder minstrelsy;  
 Yet something of the Northern spell 350  
 Mix'd with the softer numbers well.

<sup>1</sup> **Sea-Snake**—The Midgard Serpent, a huge snake that encircles the earth with its body. At the last great fight between Odin and the Powers of Darkness, the serpent will fight with the latter, but will be slain by the war-god, Thor, who will himself be slain by the venom which the serpent pours forth.

<sup>2</sup> **Dread Maids**—The Valkyries, sent forth to every battlefield to choose the heroes who were carried to Valhalla. Though dead on earth the warriors still live in Odin's Hali, where they are trained to fight in order that they may be ready to support the gods in the day of the great conflict with the powers of evil.

<sup>3</sup> **Chiefs**—"The Northern warriors were usually entombed with their arms and their other treasures.... Their ghosts were not wont tamely to suffer their tombs to be plundered; and hence the mortal heroes had an additional temptation to attempt such adventures; for they held nothing more worthy of their valour than to encounter supernatural beings."—*Scott*.

<sup>4</sup> **Roslin**—A castle on the Firth of Forth.