

389. **in closing strife.** Fighting at close quarters.
406. **recreant.** A cowardly wretch.
408. **toil.** Net.
426. **The stream of life's exhausted tide.** The loss of blood.
435. **close.** Struggle at close quarters ; grasp.
- 443-4. Praise is due to Ro lerrick for keeping his word and for fighting valiantly ; but if he dies he cannot hear this praise.
452. **Lincoln green.** See note on I., 464.
461. **palfrey.** A lady's riding horse.
462. **a fairer freight.** Ellen, whom Fitz-James had intended to bring back with him.
- 485-503. The places mentioned in these lines are on the Teith, or near it, between Callander and Stirling.
- 496-7. They see the castle of Keir just show itself for an instant and then disappear. *Glance* and *disappear* are infinitives.
503. **the bulwark of the North.** Stirling, which guarded the north country against attacks from the Highlands.
509. **to his stirrup.** To the side of Fitz-James.
516. **groom.** Fellow.
- 519-20. The exiled Douglas had been so powerful that courtiers such as De Vaux would naturally be both afraid of him and jealous of him.
525. **Saint Serle.** An obscure saint.
526. See Historical Introduction.
532. **postern.** Gate. A private gate at the rear of the castle.
534. **Cambus-kenneth's abbey.** See note on IV., 231.
535. **shelf.** The rocky mountain side.
536. He thought sadly over the condition of affairs.
543. **Abbess.** The lady-superior in charge of the convent.
544. **the bride of Heaven.** A nun.
547. **by.** Past.
550. "The fate of William, eighth Earl of Douglas, whom James II. stabbed in Stirling Castle with his own hand, is familiar to all who read Scottish history."—(*Scott*).
551. **fatal mound.** The hill where criminals were executed.
552. **the Franciscan steeple.** The Greyfriars Church, built in 1594, see IV.