

dinary course of nature could be but a few years distant. From this it will be readily seen that the thane had no strong incentive to murder his King. Additional proof is his encounter with the "Weird Sisters." One dark night as he and Banquo are crossing a dreary plain suddenly these three horrible spectres appear and greet him, first as thane of Cawdor, then of Glamis and lastly "King that shall be," reserving for his companion the salutation of "Father of future Kings." Macbeth cries out he will not believe them unless they give some proof they speak the truth. Within the hour he receives news that the title "Thane of Glamis" has been added to his former one of "Cawdor,"--the spirits have answered his challenge. Their greeting of "King" remains to be verified. For a moment the idea of murdering Duncan enters his mind but he quickly dismisses it. He will think of no foul means; to think of such

"Is a thought,
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs
Against the use of nature."

Clearly this is not a man to be easily led into a course of crime. Briefly and concisely he thus expresses his intended manner of acting :

"If chance will have me King,
Why chance may crown me
Without my stir."

Fortunate indeed would Macbeth have been had he bestowed his affections on a gentle, cheerful woman, on one who could fulfill to him the highest offices of a Christian wife, on one whose influence would calm his troubled mind and draw him nearer his Creator by her own virtuous example.

Unhappily these qualities in Lady Macbeth were overshadowed by her passionate love and uncontrollable ambition. To attain to the highest power in the land ; to know that her will was law to the thousands around her ; to feel that all must pay homage to her with none to question her right--these were the things that spelt happiness to her, that directed her every thought and every deed. In her husband she saw a means which, if rightly employed, might procure this desired end. She knew her great pow-