

T H E
E X P L I C A T I O N
O F , T H E
P R O P H E C I E S
O F

T H O M A S R Y M E R .

W H E R E I N I S C O N T A I N E D ,

Certain Remarks of what is already come to
pass, with some curious Observations on
what is yet to come. Which is carefully
collected and compared with ancient old
Prophecies, and the Book of Arms.

BY THE FAMOUS

M R . A L L A N B O Y D , M . A .



P R I N T E D I N T H E S A L E M A R K E T .

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OLD SCOTTISH PROPHECIES.

- 1 **S**COTLAND be sad now and lament,
thy children whom thou hast lost,
Bereft of Kings, falsly undone,
by thine unkindly host.
- 2 Alas! the free is bound become,
and deceit is thy fall,
The falseshood of the British race,
has brought thee into thrall:
- 3 The grave of the most noble Prince,
to all is great regret,
The subject to law, who doth leave,
the kingdom and estate.
- 4 O anguish great! where every kind,
and ages doth lament:
Whom bitter death has ta'en away,
shall Scotland sore repent.
- 5 Lately a land of rich increase,
a nation stout and true,
Has lost their former dear estate,
which they did hold of due.
- 6 By hard conflict, and by the chance,
of noble Fortune's force,
Thy hap and thy prosperity,
is turned into worse.
- 7 Thou went to win, now art subdu'd,
and come in under yoke;
A stranger reigns, and doth destroy,
what likes him by sword's stroke.

- 8 The English race whom neither thy force,
nor manners do approve,
Woe is to thee ; by guile and slight,
is only won above.
- 9 This mighty nation was to-fore,
invincible and stout,
Has yielded slow to destiny,
great pity is but doubt.
- 10 In former age the Scots renown,
did flourish goodly gay :
But now, alas ! is over clad,
with a great dark decay.
- 11 Then mark and see what is the cause,
of this so wondrous fall,
Contempt of faith, falshood, deceit,
the wrath of God withal.
- 12 Insatiable greed of worldly gain,
oppression, cries of poor,
A perpetual and slanderous race,
no justice put in ure.
- 13 The haughty pride of mighty men,
of former vice chief cause,
The nutriture of wickedness,
an unjust match of laws :
- 14 Therefore this cause the prophets told,
of long time did presage,
As now has happened every point,
into your present age.
- 15 Since fate is so, now Scotland learn,
in patience to abide,
Slanders, great fears, and sudden plagues,
great dolours more beside.

- 16 For out of thee, shall people rise,
with divers happiness;
And yet a pen can scarcely write,
thy hurt, skaith, and distress.
- 17 And yet beware thou not distrust,
altho' o'erwhelm'd with grief,
Thy stroke is not perpetual,
for thou shalt find relief.
- 18 I do suppose, although too late,
old prophecies shall hold;
Ever hope thou in God's goodness,
and mercies manifold.
- 16 For thou that now a patient is,
and seemeth to be bound;
At liberty shall free be fet,
with empire be renown'd.
- 20 From high above shall grace come down,
and thy state Scotland be,
In latter ends more prosperous,
nor former age doth see.
- 21 Old prophecies fortel to thee,
a warlike Heir he's born,
Who shall recover new his right,
advance his kingdom's horn.
- 22 Then shall the Scots sword sweat with blood,
and slaughter which they make,
The King himself revenger shall,
the guilty troops down-wreck.
- 23 The English nation shall invade,
but not escape a plague,
With sword, with thirst, with tears and pest,
with fears and such like ague.

and so darkly that they could not be understood until they came to pass.

This Thomas Lermont or Rymer was born at Erslington, now called Hefelintown on Tweedside, above Kelso. He is reported by historians to be a quiet sober man given to no manner of vice but prone to piety and devotion, a famous monthly prognosticator, concerning the state of the weather and government of the world, by studying the aspects of the planets. He being one day asked by a nobleman what sort of a day they should have to-morrow? To which he answered, That the morrow before high noon, a blast should blow, that Scotland should not overcome the evil thereof for twenty years thereafter. The nobleman and many more being greatly amazed, and giving great attention, looking for the blast all the next day till towards evening, he sent for Thomas to rebuke him for the falshood of his Prophecy, and just as he began to upbraid him, he heard the sound of a post's horn, who came with the woeful news, how the king had been hunting, and had broke his neck over a craig the west side of the town of Kinghorn, from which accident the town derived its name. Now, says Thomas to the Nobleman, the blast is blawn, and for twenty years after there was no peace, but bloody wars in Scotland, on the account of who should be king. Now as to the rest of his propheticall sayings, they are hard to be understood, because they are pointed out by the coats of Arms, which apertain to so many different kingdoms, and persons. Yet we observe how he has pointed out plainly,

many things which has come to pass in our days; such as the extirpation of the noble race of the Stewarts, the revolution, Sheriff-moor, &c. where he says,

That three Ships and a Shield,
That day shall keep the Field;
And be the Antelope's beild.

These three ships and a shield, are in the Duke of Argyle's arms; and even every particular of the rebellion in 1745 and 46, when pointing at, he says, a chieftain unchosen shall choose forth himself and rule the realm as his own, when as King Charles, he calls him a fly fox bird, who would turn to Christ with toads or foxes wyles, meaning his swearing the covenants. When speaking of the battle of Preston-pans in the year 1745, he names the very two neighbouring villages to the spot of ground whereon it was fought, to wit, Goyle-ford green and Seton, saying, Between Seton and the sea, sorrow should be wrought by the light of the moon, which act really came to pass that morning the battle of preston-pans was fought; but how the Lion was hurt at this time and not perceived, is yet a mystery. Some are of opinion, that it is by taking away the power or superiority from the chiefs of the Highland Clans, so that they cannot raise men in such a short time as formerly.

These are a few of the observations we make on things already come to pass, and as what is yet to come there is some remarks will yet happen when the time draws nigh; such as

when Tarbet's Craigs are tumbled into the Sea, and the next season or summer thereafter, great sorrow and bloodshed shall happen to this realm, the chief thereof, especially such as harling on sleds and chopping off heads. This Tarbet stands near the mouth of the river Clyde, but whether its being tumbled in the sea, shall happen by an earthquake, thunder, or by the hands of men, is a mystery unknown. There is also mention made of a Lord with a lucken or double hand, which certainly is of royal blood, and will bread great stir and confusion in Britain. This man is alive in this very present age, and of the Stuarts race, now in Italy: And there is plainly pointed out that in his time, a great battle should be seen in Fife.

Where saddled horses should be seen,
Tyed unto the trees green,

Not only in Fife, but the four chief rivers of the realm, there should be a battle on each of them, that should make the rivers run with blood, to wit, Tweed, Clyde, Forth and Tay, and last of all, a bloody desperate battle in Northumberland, on the river Tyne, also great havock and slaughter about the broad walls of Berwick all these things are yet to come to pass, and when the first appears, the rest will soon follow after.

F I N I S