### PROPHECIES

OF

# Thomas the Rhymer;

THE ANCIENT SCOTCH PROPHET,

Containing the wonderful fulfilment of many of his Predictions; and those not yet accomplished.

Collected, Examined, and now Promulgated
By MR. ALLAN BOYD, F. S. A.
Sub-Deputy Janitor's Clerk in the College of Hayti.

WITH, SUBJOINED, AN ACCOUNT OF THE

# Battle of Bannockburn,

io fatal to Tyranny, and favourable to the Scottish Independence.

ALSO, THE

Cottager's Saturday Night.

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#### SHORT ACCOUNT

Littly 1 to a second

OF

### Sir Thomas Learmant,

THE RHYMER.

Thomas Learmant, commonly called Thomas Rhymer, was born in the east corner of Fife, of a good family. His Prophecies have been more credited than any that were ever recorded in the Scots Chronicle, as they have been well attested, what of them is past, and what they allude to, in this present century and period, and of his dark sayings yet to come.

He told many mystical prophecies anent all the Kings of Europe, and what fell out according to his prediction; in this ancient kingdom of Scotland; what is past, present, and to come.

This brief account is taken from the Records of Cryle, near which place he was born and brought up.

His father was said to be Laird of Balcomie,

and the records of that family is extant in the Rolls, for their assisting at several councils for the honour of Scotland. And Sir Thomas Rhymer's prophecies and sayings are still held in esteem.

He lived in the reign of Alexander III. King of Scotland, in the year one thousand two hundred and forty-eight, much regarded, and knighted by that king that same year.

The first of his prophecies ever taken to be faithfully observed, was, That there should be a storm on a certain day, that would surprise all Scotland. Now, some gentlemen being with him that day, they began to joke him, and said, Sir Thomas, you are now mistaken, and we shall stay and see your mistake, as we have heard so much of your prophecies. He told them to stay an hour longer, and they would see and believe. And in less time than the hour, an express arrived to Sir Thomas, from Edinburgh, of the death of Margaret, Queen to Alexander III. who died that day. Upon receiving the news, Sir Thomas told them that this was the storm, and wit would give rise to greater commotions in Scotudand.

After the death of Queen Margaret, the King married Isabel, daughter to the Earl of Driux; and Sir Thomas told within a few months of an earthquake at Kinghorn, that would make Scotland tremble. An express accordingly came to Clyde to Sir Thomas, that the King had fallen from his horse at Kinghorn, and broke his neck.

After the death of Alexander, he left no heirs except a grandehild, Margaret, daughter to the King of Norway, who also soon died; but a short time before her death, she was betrothed to Edward, king of England. After this there were great commotions anent the succession to the crown of Scotland, which occasioned great bloodshed, particularly betwixt Bruce and Baliol, which you have recorded in the Scottish Histories.

The pride of Spain, and the deceitful conduct of the French, as also concerning the Putch, is all foretold.—Likewise the Scots bottles of Torwood, Bothwelbridge, Malplackie, Killycrankie, Sheriff-muir, Proud Preston, near Glad's-muir, Falkirk, Culloden, and the Camps in Morayshire, and on the Windmill brae at Aberdeen, by General Coap, and at Pumbar.

In forty-five, eighty-two and three, Sir Thomas' Works doth certify.



## PROPHECIES

OF

### Thomas the Rhymer.

AS to his prophetical sayings, they are hard to be understood, because they are pointed out by the Coat of Arms which appertain to so many different kingdoms and persons. Yet we may observe how he has pointed out plainly, many things which have come to pass in our days; such as the extirpation of the noble race of the Stewarts, the Revolution, Sheriff-muir, where he says,

That three Ships and a Shield, That day shall keep the field; And he the Antelope's build.

These three ships and a shield, are in the

Duke of Argyle's arms.

And even every particular of the rebellion in 1745 and 1746. When pointing at it, he says,

A Chieftain unchosen, Shall choose forth himself, And rule the realm as his own. When speaking of King Charles, he calls him 'A sly Fox-bird, who would turn to Christ with the wyles of tods and foxes.' Meaning his swear-

ing of the covenants.

When speaking of the battle of Prestonpans, in the year 1745, he names the very two neighbouring villages to the spot of ground whereon it was fought, viz. Coyleford-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 Prestonpans was fought. But how the Lion was hurt at this time, and not perceived, is yet a mystery. Some are of opinion, that it was by taking away the power or superiority from the chiefs of the Highland Clans, so that they cannot raise menin such a short time as formerly.

These are a few observations on things already come to pass; and as to what is yet to come, there is some remark 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 happen to this realm, the chief thereof especially; such as harling on sleds, and chopping off heads.' This Tarbet stands near the root of the river Clyde; but whether its being tumbled into 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 locken or double hand, which certainly is of royal

blood, and will breed great stir and confusion in Britain. This man is alive at this very present age, and of the Stewarts' race, now in Italy.

There is plainly pointed out, that in his time, a reat battle should be seen in Fife.

Where saddled horses should be seen, Ty'd unto the trees green.

Not only in Fife, but the four chief rivers of ne realm, there should be a battle on each of nem, that should make the rivers run with blood,

iz. Tweed, Clyde, Forth, and Tay.

Last of all, a bloody desperate battle in Nornumberland, on the river Tyne. Also great avock and slaughter about the broad walls of erwick. All these things are yet to come to ass; and when the first appears, the rest will non follow after.

#### PART II.

When HEMP is come and also gone, Scotland and England shall be one.

Ienry, Edward, Mary, Philip, Elizabeth.
VIII. VI. of Spain,
Q. M's Husb.

#### HEMP.

Praised be God alone,
For HEMP is come and gone,
And left us old Albion,
By peace join'd in one.

The explication of the foregoing prophecy conterning Hemp being come and also gone; leavleaving Scotland and England oined in one, is fulfilled in the late king William, who came out of Molland, which, in old times, was vulgarly called the land of Hemp, and the joining of the two nations together, signifies the union.

These things were foretold by the two Scots Prophets in the reign of King Arthur. First, by the marvellous Merlin, who is said to be got by a devil, who ravished a young woman, his mother, in a wood near Coldstream, in the south of Scotland. Afterwards, to the same purpose, these and many more strange things were foretold by Thomas Lermant, vulgarly called Thomas Rhymer, because he spoke all his prophetical sayings in rhyme, and so darkly that the could not be understood until they came to pass.

But of all the prophets that ever were in Scotland, none of them attained to such credit, because many of his predictions referred to our own country, and were accomplished in the last

and present century.

# Thomas the Rhymer's

# PROPHECIES,

IN VERSE.

1 SCOTLAND be sad now and lament,
For honours thou hast lost,
But yet rejoice in better times,
Which will repay the cost.

2 The unto thraldom you should be.
Brought by your enemies;
You shall have freedom from them all,
And enjoy your liberties.

The grave of the most noble Prince,
To all is great regret,
The subject to law, who doth leave
The kingdom and estate.

O anguish great! where every kind And ages doth lament: Whom bitter death has ta'en away, Shall Scotland sore repent.

Lately a land of rich increase,
A nation stout and true,
Has lost their former dear estate,
Which they did hold of due.

By hard conflict, and by the mance Of noble Fortune's force,
Thy hap and thy prosperity
May turn into worse.

Tho' wont to won, may be subdued, And come in under yoke; Strangers may reign, and you destroy, What likes him by sword's stroke.

A foreign foe whom neither thy force, Nor manners do approve, Woe is to thee, by guile and slight, Will only win above.

- 9 This mighty nation was to-fore, Invincible and stout; Will yield slowly to destiny, Great pity is but doubt.
- 10 In former age the Scots renown Did flourish goodly gay;
  But yet, alas! will be overcome
  With a great dark decay.
- 11 Then mark and see what is the cause Of this so wond'rous fall! Contempt of faith, falsehood, deceit, The wrath of God withal.
- 12 Unsatiable 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
  Of long time did presage;
  And now has happen'd every point
  Into your present age.
- 15 Since fate is so, now Scotland learn
  In patience to abide
  Slanders, great fears, and sudden plagus,
  And great dolours beside.

- 16 For out of thee shall people rise, With divers happiness; And yet a pen can scarcely write, Thy hurt, skaith, and distress.
- And yet beware thou not distrust,
  Aitho' o'erwhelm'd with grief,
  Thy stroke is not perpetual,
  For thou shalt find relief.
- Old prophecies shall hold,
  Hope thou in God's goodness evermore,
  And mercies manifold.
- 19 For thou that now a patient is,
  And seemeth to be bound;
  At liberty shall free be set,
  And with empire be crown'd.
- 20 From high above shall grace come down,
  And thy state, Scotland, be,
  In latter ends, more prosperous
  Than former age did see.
- 21 Old prophecies foretell to thee,
  A warlike heir he's born,
  Who shall recover new your right,
  Advance this kingdom's horn.
- 22 Then shall fair Scotland be advanc'd
  Above her enemies power;
  Her cruel foes shall be dispersed
  And scatter'd from her bower.

23 Fair Scotia's enemies may invade,
But not escape a plague:
With sword, and thirst, and tears, and pest,
With fears, and such like ague.

24 And after enemies thrown down,
And mastered in war,
Then Scotland in peace and quietness,
Pass joyful days for ever,

But that the curious may be more fully informed concerning the aforesaid predictions, with respect to their being exactly fulfilled, they are referred to the Scottish Histories.

: Introduction at .

### AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

### Battle of Bannockburn.

claim upon Scotland, which his father had began; and after several unsuccessful attempts to establish it, he resolved to make a great effort and with one hlow reduce that turbulent nation, which had put so many signal affronts upon his father and himself.

In the spring, 1814, he assembled the most

numerous army that had ever crossed the borders, composed of different nations, amounting to above a hundred thousand effective men, beside a huge multitude of attendants, who came along in hopes of sharing in the plunder of a conquered enemy. At the head of these he marched northward, with an uncommon parade, and in full confidence of victory.

Robert Bruce, the son of that Robert Bruce who held a conference with Wallace upon the panks of the Carron, and grandson to him who had been competitor with Baliol, had, in 1306, been erowned King of Scotland; and being inrined of Edward's formidable preparations, he laised an army of thirty thousand of his subjects, oppose him. This armament bore but a small Proportion to that of Edward's, but it was comlosed of soldiers, who were hardened by long fractice of war, and who now carried upon the oint of their sword, liberty and honour, and very thing that was dear to them. With these Robert took up his station in the neighbourhood Illef Stirling, and waited for Edward's arrival. The two armies came in sight of each other, in he month of June; and soonafter, a bloody bate was fought, in which the Scots obtained a vicbry, the most celebrated of any in the annals of at kingdom. The procedure of this memor-

The English having marched from Edinburgh Folkirk in one day, and upon the morrow, setting out thence towards Stirling, encamped to the orthward of Torwood. About Upper Bannockirn, and backward upon the muir of Plean, in a neighbourhood of the Roman Causeway,

ble event, was as follows:-

pieces of broken pots, and other vessels, have been found; and upon rocks near the surface, marks of fire have been discovered, where it was supposed the soldiers hadmade ready their provisions. Barbour, the author of King Robert Bruce's life, speaks as if their camp had stretched so far northward as to occupy a part of Carse Ground; and so vast a multitude must doubtless have covered

a large tract of the country.

The Scottish army was posted about a mile to the northward, upon several small eminences, south from the present village of St. Ninians. Upon the summit of one of these eminences, now called Broek's-Brae, is a stonesunkinto the earth, with a round hole in it, near three inches in diameter, and much the same in depth, in which, according to tradition, King Robert's standard was fixed, the royal tent having been erected near it. This stone is well known in that neighbourhood by the name of the Bore-stone. The small river of Bannockburn, remarkable for its steep and rugged banks, raminanarrow valley between the two camps.

The Castle of Stirling was still in the hands of the English. Edward Bruce, the King's brother, had, in the spring of the year, laid seige to it, but found himself obliged to abendon the enterprize; only by a treaty between that Prince and Moubray, the Governor, it was agreed, that, if the garrison received no relief from England before a year expired, they should surrender to the Scots.

The day preceding the battle, a strong body of cavalry, to the number of eight hundred, was detached from the English camp, under the conduct of Lord Clifford, to the relief of that garri-

son. These having marched through some hollow grounds, upon the edge of the Carse, had passed the Scots army before they were observed. The King himself was the first that perceived them, and desiring Thomas Randolph, Earl of Murray, to look towards the place where they were, told him, that a rose had fallen from his chaplet. Randolph considering this as a reproach, because he had the charge of that part through which the Englishhad marched, immediately set out after them with a party of five-hundred horse, and coming up with them in the plain where the same village of New-House now stands, a sharp action ensued; in sight of both armies, and of the garrison of Stirling. It was fought with valour on both sides; and it was for some time ol doubtful where victory should turn. King Robert, attended by some of his officers, beheld this re-encounter from a rising ground, supposed to be the round hill, immediately upon the west of St. Ninians, now called Cock-shot-hill. James Douglas, perceiving the distress of Randolph, who was greatly inferior to the enemy in number, asked leave to go to his support. King Robert at first refused, but afterwards consented. Douglas put his soldiers in motion; obserying, however, as he was on the way, that the victory was upon the point of being won without his assistance, he stopped short, that his friend might have the unrivalled glory of it.—The English were entirely defeated, and many of them slain; and Randolph returned to the campamidst acclamations of universal joy. To perpetuate the memory of this victory, two stones were reared up in the field, and are still to be seen there. They stand in a

spot which has lately been enclosed for a garden at the north end of the village of New-House, and about a quarter of a mile from the

Borough-Port of Stirling

This victory gave new spirits to the whole army, and made them so eafer for the general engagement, that the night, though among the shortest of the year, seemed long to them. At length appeared the dawn of that important day, which was to decide whether Scotland was henceforth to be an independent kingdom, or subject to a foreign yoke. Early all was in motion in both armies; religious sentiments were mingled with the military ardour of the Scots: a solemn mass, in the manner of those times, was said by the Abbot of Inchaffery, a monastry in Strathearn, who also administered the sacrament to the king, and the great officers about him; while inferior pricsts did the seme to the rest of the army. After this, they formed in order of battle, in a track of ground called Nether Touchadam, which lies along the declivity of a gentle rising hill. This situation had been previously chosen, because of its advantages. Upon the right they had a range of steep rocks, now called Murray's Craig, and in their front were steep banks of the rivulet of Bannockburn. Not far behind them was a wood, some vestiges of which still remain. Upon the left was a morass, now called Miltonbog, from its vicinity to a small village of that name; much of this bog is still undrained, and a part of it is at present a mill-dam. As it was then the middle of summer, it was almost quite dry. But King Robert had recourse to a stratageminorder to prevent any attack from that quarer. He had ordered many ditches and pits to be dug in the morass, and stakes sharpened at both ends to be driven into them, and the whole to be covered over again with green turf, so that the ground had still the appearance of being firm. He also caused crow-feet, or sharp-pointed irons o be scattered throughout the morass; some of which have been found there in the memory of eoplestillliving; the same manœuvres were likevise carried on for a little way, along the front If the left wing; for there the banks for about wo hundred yards, being flatter than they are ny where else, it was the only place where the nemies could pass the river in any sort of order. by means of these artificial improvements, johid to the natural strength of the ground, the cotch army stood as within an intrenchment, nd the invisible pits and ditches answered to he concealed batteries of modern times.

Among the other occurrences of this memorable ay, historians mention an incident of a singular ature. As the two armics were about to engage, he Abbot of Inchaffery posting himself before the cots, with a crucifix in his hand, they all fell owa upon their knees in act of devotion. The nemy, observing them in so uncommon aposture bncluded that they were frighted unto submison, and that, by kneeling when they should be eady to fight, they meant to surrender at discreon, and only begged their lives; but they were on deceived, when they saw them arise again, nd stand to their arms with steady countenances. The English began the action by a brisk charge oon the left wing of the Scots, commanded by andolph, near the spot where the bridge is now thrownovertheriver at the small village of Chartershall. Hereabout was the only place where the river could be crossed in any order.—A large body of cavalry advanced to attack him in front, while another fetched a compass to fall upon his flank and rear, but before they could come to a close engagement, they fell into the snare that had been laid for them. Many of their horses were soon disabled by the sharp irons rushing into their feet, others tumbled into the concealed pits, and could not disentangle themselves. Pieces of the harnessing, with bits of broken spears, and other armour, still continue

to be dug up in the bog.

In the beginning of the engagement, an incident happened, which though in itself of small moment, was rendered important by its consequences. King Robert was mounted on horse back, carrying a battle-axe in his hand, and upon his helmet he were a high turban, in the form of a crown, by way of distinction. This, together with hisactivity, rendered him very conspicuous ashe rode before the lines. An English Knight named Bohun, who was ranked among the bravest in Edward's army, came galloping furiously up to him, in order to engage with him in single contbat, expecting by so eminent an act of chivalry, at once to put an end to the contest and gain immortal renown to himself, but the enterprising champion, having missed his blow, was immediately struck dead with the battle axe which the King carried in his hand. This was a sort of signal for the charge. So bold an attack upon their King, filled the Scots with sentiments of revenge; and the heroicachievement performed by him before their eyes, raised their spirits to the highest pitch; they rushed furiously upon the enemy,

ho, having by this time passed the river in eat numbers, gave them a warm reception.

A singular occurrence, which some accounts present as an accidental sally of patriotic enusiasm, others as a premeditated stratagem King Robert, suddenly altered the face of fairs, and contributed greatly to the victory. Ill the servants and attendants of the Scottish my, who, are said to have amounted to twenty ousand, had been ordered, before the battle, retire behind Murray's Craig. But having, uring the engagement, arranged themselves in martial form they marched to the top of the Ill, and displaying banners, moved towards e field of battle with hideous shouts. The inglish perceiving this motely crowd, and taing them for a fresh reinforcement advancing support the Scots, were seized with so great panic, that they began to give way in conision. Buchanan says, that the King of Engand was the first who fled; but in this he conadicts all other historians, who affirm that he as among the last in the field. The Scots ursued; and great was the slaughter among ne enemy, especially in passing the river, there they could keep no order, because of the regularity of the ground. King Edward himelf escaped with much difficulty, being closely bursued above forty miles, by Sir James Douglas, ith a party of light horse. He was upon the point of being taken prisoner when he was releived into the Castle of Dunbar by the Earl f March, who conveyed him to England by lea, in a fisher's boat; his immense army being ntirely discomfited. The Scots lost only four housand men; while the loss of the English mounted to above thirty thousand.

# Cottager's Saturday Night

Containing a very pleasing and affecting D scription of the piety and happiness of a Cottager and his Family.

NOVEMBER chill blow loud with angraborow,

The short'ning winter's day is near a close. The miry beasts retreating from the plough;
The black'ning train of crowsseek their repose.

The toil-worn Cottager from labour goes,
This night his weekly toil is at an end,
Collects his spades his mattocks, and his hoes

Hoping the morn in ease and rest to spend And weary o'er the moor his course does home ward bend.

At length his lonely Cot appears in view,
Beneath the shelter of an aged tree;
Th' expectant young onestottering stagger thro?
To meet their Dad with prattling noise and glee.
His little wood-fire sparkling cheerfully,
His clean hearth-stone, his thrifty wife's glad

smile,
The lisping infant prattiing on his knee,

Does all his years environs cares beguild

Does all his weary anxious cares beguile, And makeshim quite forget his labour and his toil. The elder children soon come dropping in,
At service out, among the farmers round;
Some drive the plough, some herd, some careful run

A clever errand, to a neighb'ring town;
Their eldest hope, their Jenny, woman grown,
In youthful bloom, health sparkling in hereye.
Comeshome perhaps, to shew her braw hew gown,
Or else to lay her hard earn'd penny by,
To help her parents dear if they in hardship lie.

Vith joy unfeign'd, brothers and sisters meet,
And each for other's welfare kind inquires;
'he social hours, swift-wing'd, unnotic'd fleet;
Each tells the news that he sees or hears;
'he Parents' partial eye their hopeful years;
Anticipation forward points the view!
he mother with her needle and her shears,
Makes old clothes look almost as well as new,
he Pather mixes all with admonition due.

heir Master's and their Mistress's command;
The Youngers all are warned to obey;
nd mind their labours with a careful hand,
And ne'er, tho' out of sight, to lurk or play;
And O! be sure to fear the Lord alway!
And mind your duty, duly, morn and night,
est in Temptation's path ye go astray,
Implore his counsel and assisting might;
whey never sought in vain, that sought the Lord
aright.'

t hark! a rap comes gently to the door; Jenny, who knows the meaning of the same

Tells how a neighbour lad came o'er the moor, To do some errands, and convoy her home, The cautious Mother marks the conscious flame, Sparkle in Jenny's eye, and flush her cheek; Withheart-struckanxious care, inquires his name, While Jenny hesitates afraid to speak; Well-pleas'd the Mother hears, it's no wild

werthless rake.
With kindly welcome, Jenny brings him in;
A comely youth: her joy the Mother shews;
Blythe Jenny sees the visit's no ill ta'en;
The Father talks of horses, fields, and cows,
The Youngster's artless hearto'erflows with joy,
But dash'd and bashful scarce can well behave.
The Mother, with a woman's wiles can spy,
What makes the Youth sobashful and so grave,
Well-pleas'd to think her Child such suitor's
like to have.

O happy Love! where Love like this is found? O heart-felt pleasure! bliss beyond compare I've paced much this weary, mortal round, And sage experience, bids me thus declare—'If Earth a draught of true delight can share. One cordial in this melancholy Vale, 'Tis when a Youthful, loving, modest Pair, With hearts sincere breathe out the tender tale Walking o'er fragrant fields that scent the ev'ning gale.'

Is there in human form, that bears a heart—A Wretch! a Villain! lost to love and truth That can, with studied, sly, ensnaring art, Betray sweet Jenny's unsuspecting youth! Woe to his perjur'd arts! dissembling, smooth Are Honour, Virtue, Conscience, all exil'd?

Is there no Pity, no relenting truth,
Points to the Parents fondling o'er their Child?
Then paints the ruin'd Maid, and their destruction wild!

But now the Supper crowns their simple board, The oatmeal parridge cheap and wholesome food, The milk their only cow does well afford, That in the orchard peaceful chews her cud; The Dame brings forth in complimental mood, To please the Lad, the cheeseshe would not sell, And oft he's prest, and oft he calls it good; The frugal housewife, talkative will tell how 'twas a twelvemonth old, since flax was in the bell.

The cheerful Supper done with serious face, They round the embers form a circle wide; the Sire turns o'er with Patriarchial grace, the huge big Bible, oace his Father's pride, I hat is reverently laid aside, I hat is reverently laid aside, I hat is reverently laid aside, I have locks growing so thin and bare: 'rom strains that once did sweet in Zion glide, I have a portion with judicious care; and 'Let us worship God!' he says, with solemn air.

hen kneeling down to Heaven's Eternal King, the Saint, the Father, and the Husband prays; tope 'springs exulting on triumphant wing,' that thus they all shall meet in future days: here ever dwell in uncreated rays, o more to sigh, or shed the bitter tear, ogether hymning their Redeemer's praise, such society, yet still more dear; while circling Time, moves round in an eternal sphere.

Compar'd with this, how poor Religion's pride, In all the pomp of method, and of art,

When men display to congregations wide,

Devotion's ev'ry grace except the heart! The power incens'd, the pageant will desert, The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole;

But haply, in some Cottage far apart,

May hear, well-pleas'd, the language of the

And in his Book of Life, the inmates poor enrol

Then bomeward all take off their sev'ral way, The Youngling Cottagers retire to rest; The parent-pair then secret homage pay

And offer up to heaven the warm request That he who stills the raven's clam'rous nest, And deck's the lily fair in flow'ry pride:

Would in the way His wisdom sees the best, For them and for their little ones provide; But chiefly in their hearts, with Grace Divine

reside

O BRITAIN! my most dear, my native soil! For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent!

Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil,

Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content!

And oh! may Heaven their simple lives prevent From Luxury's contagion weak and vile!

And from each Cot, may pray'r and praise be sent To God's high throne, that He may deign to smile,

And like a wall of fire surround our much lov'd Isle.

FINIS.