

THE
PROPHECIES

OF

THOMAS RYMER,

The Ancient Scots Prophet.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED,

Remarks on what is already come to pass:
With some curious Observations on
what is yet to come.

Carefully Collected and Compared with
Ancient Old Prophecies, and the Book
of Arms.

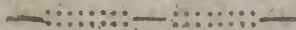
BY THE FAMOUS

MR. ALLAN BOYD, *M. A.*

To which is added,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEMORABLE
BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN,

Fought in the Year 1314.



FALKIRK:

PRINTED BY T. JOHNSTON,

And sold at his Printing-Office in wholesale and retail.

M, DCC, XCVIII.

A
SHORT ACCOUNT
OF
SIR THOMAS LEARMONT,
Commonly called,
THOMAS the RYMER.



SIR THOMAS LEARMONT, commonly called, *Thomas the Rymer*, 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 Rymer'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 surprize 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 it would give rise to greater commotions in Scotland.

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, which happened accordingly. After the death of Alexander, he left no heirs, except a grandchild, 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 was 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 Dutch, is all foretold. Likewise the Scots battles, at Tor-wood, Bothwel-bridge, Malplackie, Shirreff-muir, Proud-Preston, near Gladsmuir, Falkirk, Culloden, and the Camps in Morayshire, and on the Wind-mill-brae at Aberdeen, by General Coup. And at Dunbar.

*In forty-five, eighty-two and three,
Sir Thomas Works doth certifie.*

As to his propheticall sayings, they are hard to be understood, because they are pointed out by the *Coats of Arms*, which appertain to so many different Kingdoms and persons. Yet we may 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, Sherrif-
muir: Where he says,

*Three Ships and a Shield,
That day shall keep the field,
And be 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 46: When pointing at it, he says,

*A Chieftan unchofen
Shall choose forth himself,
And rule the realm as his own.*

When speaking of King Charles, he calls
him, "A fly fox-bird, who would turn to
"Christ, with the wyles of tods and foxes."
Meaning his swearing of 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, viz. Goyseford-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 was 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 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 lucken or double hand, which certainly is of royal blood, and will breed great stir and confusion in Britain. This man is alive in this very present age, and of the Stewart's race, now in Italy. There is plainly pointed out, that in his time, a great battle shall be seen in Fife,

*Where saddled horses should be seen,
Tied 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, viz. Tweed, Clyde, Forth and Tay.

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.

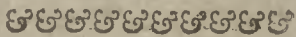
REMARKABLE PREDICTION

OF

THOMAS THE RYMER,

CONCERNING

THE UNION.



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

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

H E M P E.

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

The explication of the above prediction
concerning HEMPE being come, and also gone.

and leaving Scotland and England joined
 one, is fulfilled in the late King William
 who came out of Holland, which in old time
 was vulgarly called the land of Hempe: And
 the joining of the two nations together, fig-
 ures the Union.

These things were foretold by the two
 Scots Prophets, in the reign of King Arthur
 First, by the marvellous Merling, who is said
 to be got by a Devil, who ravished a young
 woman, his mother, in a wood near Col-
 stream, in the South of Scotland. Afterward
 to the same purpose, these and many more
 strange things were foretold by Thomas Le-
 mont, vulgarly called Thomas Rymer, be-
 cause he spoke all his propheticall sayings in rhyme
 and so darkly, that they could not be understood
 until they came to pass.

But of all the Prophets that ever were in
 Scotland, there never was any of them who
 attained to such credit, because many of his
 predictions referred to our own country, and
 were accomplished in the last and present
 century.

*In Scotland many Prophets
 there have been ;
 But none like Thomas Rymer
 e'er was seen !*

Several Other

OLD PROPHECIES

Of THOMAS RYMER,

*Which are either not yet fulfilled, or their
signification not properly discovered.*

—oooooooooooo—

THOMAS the Rymer, coming from the
Skaitraw, near Dunbar, upon June 1210,
looked round him, and said,

Thou Scotland shall lament; for thy kyth
and kin will be taken from thee, and thy
bles banished to foreign lands.

On the sides of the Forth, wonders shall
be seen and heard.

The brave coast of Fife shall mourn; and
the three Lothians shall have a deadly turn.

Largie-law shall want a master; the Tod
shall come and spoil Crile; St. Andrews, the
sacred, shall run to ruin; and thou Cupar,
thy rights shall grow old and diminish.

Falkland shall lose, and her sanctuary shall
not be regarded, and be of no use.

Kennoway shall be ruined with religious
persecution, and her Clettyden a nest of thieves,
and shall lose its inhabitants.

Dyfart shall be smoke, and be undermined.
And the Wymse shall decay.

Kirkcaldy shall be enlarged, but not by riches: Their Abbot-Hall shall be ruined and their salt and coal shall fail.

Kinghorn, thy royal Master shall lose his life near thy border. But,

*Thy horse and ferry shall never fail,
As sure as this is Rymer's tale.*

Burntisland, thy port shall flourish; but thy religious disputes shall do thee much hurt. There shall rise a Hoboy, which shall turn thee to music: but take care of that instrument, for it will vex thee for a season; but its rotten heart will moulder off.

*Thou Inverkeithing by the brae,
Antient for thy liberty.*

But thou shalt forfeit thy rights, and shall be perplexed for a season: Trade and commerce in thee shall fail. But if thou repent, there is yet a sure friend, which will relieve thee.

Dunfermline, thou town of old antiquity who hast kings lying in thy urns; look, and behold the days will come, when strangers will tear to see and behold thy ruinous situation. Religious discords will rent thee; but there will be trafect still within thy borders.

Look upward, and behold Culrofs, who King David's time got their Charter.

Go straight foreward, and see Alloa, wylkyth and kin left them; and they shall grow under oppressors, and never shall be among the number of thy royal brothers.

Thou Stirling, the centre of all mischief in
Scotland, thy king will brand thee: But the
birth and baptism of a royal Son, whose name
shall be Henry, this stands for thy glory.

*The gloomy day, the year fifteen,
At Stirling-bridge it shall be seen
That troops chase hard on others heels,
When true Scots sons lost all their feils.*

At Falkirk and Bannockburn, on these fields
shall be seen thousands of English sculs. The
proud English shall strive to conquer, but all
in vain: it will be until an agreement shall
be made, which will be little profit to Scot-
land, and make broils at home and abroad.

And thou Linlithgow, a Burgh of once re-
nowned fame, shall be brought low by bribery
and corruption: Thy universal Measure and
Standard for Scotland, shall be in no esteem:
But thy Wells of Water will still remain, and
be much admired by strangers.

Likewise thou Borrowstounness, thy trade
shall revive for a time; but Glasgow, thy
support, will fail thee. There shall be a stream
of water, on which thy Barks shall sail to the
Hyde, will much damage thee.

O Edinburgh! once the glory of the Forth,
thy Castle shall be inhabited often by strangers,
and the country round will dread thy judges.
Thy Courts shall be called in question by those
who once made their nation tremble.

Thou Dalkeith and Leith, famous, the one
for a Cromwell, and the other for a Monk:

thy Forts shall be brought low and desolate
 Leith shall be brought to servitude, Dalkeith
 to poverty; only they shall reserve a day in
 the week, to spend what they gain the rest of
 the days. Pharisees shall build altars in thee
 and broils will continue for a time in thee
 But there shall rise a noble Buck, whose fami-
 ly will be had in great esteem; their kyth and
 kin shall be much honoured.

Musselburgh of old hath been recorded, and
 to its honour it may be said,

*Musselburgh it was a Burgh,
 when Edinburgh was none:
 And Musselburgh will be a Burgh,
 when Edinburgh is done.*

As for Preston, thy fields shall run with
 blood; and the day will come, when thy in-
 habitants shall dig for their living in the bowels
 of the earth: And likewise thou shalt make
 clay thy principal trade; and thy salt shall be
 well taxed, thy store-houses keys shall be kept
 out of thy possession.

Port-Seton by the sea,
 Heirless shall thy lands be,
 And Winton-house shall not be free
 Of ruins, caus'd by perjury.
 That noble family yet will bloom,
 When tyranny has got its doom.

North-Berwick and its ancient Law,
 A land-mark at the sea I saw:

I heard of thee, and do declare,

Thou's be planted with an Orkney heir.

There shall a judge live near to thee,
 Who shall not justice do to thee :
 There will be swirls in thy Law,
 Thy judge will take thy corn and straw ;
 My meaning will be understood
 When double taxes will stand good.
 Upon those lands oppressive men
 Shall turn all mad, and we will gain.
 Thus far I knew, and sure it's leal ;
 So fix your minds on Rymer's tale.

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

A CURIOUS ANECDOTE

OF RYMER'S BEING

Robbed by a Cobler in Kirkcaldy.

IN the year 1262, when Scotland was long afflicted with a severe famine, Rymer returning from a summer's evening walk, accompanied with only a page, was accosted by a man, who presented his pistol, and in a manner far from hardened resolution, asked him for his money. Rymer observing that he came to the wrong person, and that he could obtain

but little from him, said, "I have but three shillings, which are not worth a scuffle; so much good may they do you; but, as a friend, let me tell you, you are going on in a very bad way." The robber took them, and without asking him for more, walked away, with an air of dejection and terror.

The fellow was no sooner gone, than Thomas ordered his page to follow the robber, to observe where he went, and to bring him an account of all he should discover. The boy obeyed, pursued him through several obscure streets, and at length, saw him enter a baker's shop, where he observed him change one of the shillings, and buy a large brown loaf.— With this salutary purchase the robber went a few doors further, and, entering an alley, ascended several pair of stairs. The boy crept up after him to the topmost story, where he saw him go into a room, which was no otherwise illuminated than by the friendly light of the moon; and peeping through a crevice, he perceived the wretched man cast the loaf on the floor, and, bursting into tears, cry out, "There, eat your fill; this is the dearest loaf I ever bought: I have robbed a gentleman of three shillings; let us husband them well, and let me have no more teazings; for soon or late these doings must bring me to ruin." The expostulations were answered by those of the whole family: and his wife, having at length calmed the agony of his mind, took up the loaf,

and cutting it, gave four pieces to four poor starving children.—The page having thus performed his commission, returned home, and gave his master an account of all he had seen and heard.—Satisfied with this account, Rymer ascended to the Shoe-maker's lodging, and knocked at the door: It was opened by the unhappy man himself; who knowing him at first sight to be the gentleman whom he had robbed, prostrated himself at his feet. Rymer desired him to make no noise, assuring him that he had not the least intention to hurt him.—“ You have a good character, said he, among your neighbours; but you must expect your life will be cut short, if you are so wicked as to continue the freedoms you took with me. Hold your hand, here are 30 shillings to buy leather; husband it well, and set your children a laudable example.” Well done Thomas.

Scotland be sad now, and lament,
 for honours thou hast lost,
 But yet rejoice in better times,
 which will repay the cost.

Fair Scotia's en'mies may invade,
 but not escape a plague;
 With sword & thirst, & tears & pest,
 with fears and such-like ague.

AN

A C C O U N T

of the

BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.

.....

KING Edward II. of England having kept up the same claim upon Scotland, which his father had begun; after several unsuccessful attempts to establish it, he resolved to make a great effort, and with one blow reduce that turbulent nation, which had put so many signal affronts upon his father and himself.

In the spring 1314, he assembled the most numerous army that had ever crossed the borders, composed of different nations, and amounting to above 100,000 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 banks of the Carron, and grandson to him who had been competitor with Baloil, had, in 1306, been crowned King of Scotland; and being informed of Edward's formidable preparations, he raised an army of 30,000. of his subjects,

to oppose him. This armament bore but a small proportion to that of Edward's; but it was composed of soldiers who were hardened by long practice of war, and who now carried upon the point of their sword, liberty and honour, and every thing that was dear to them. With these Robert took up his station in the neighbourhood of Stirling, and waited for Edward's arrival.

The two armies came in sight of each other in the month of June, and soon after a bloody battle was fought, in which the Scots obtained a victory, the most celebrated of any in the annals of that kingdom. The procedure of this memorable event was as follows.

The English having marched from Edinburgh to Falkirk in one day, and upon the morrow, setting out from thence towards Stirling, encamped to the northward of the Torwood. About Upper-Bannockburn, and backward upon the Muir of Plain, in the neighbourhood of the ancient Roman-Casway, 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 had made 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 eminencies, south from the present village of St. Ninians. Upon the summit of one of these eminencies, now called Brock's-brae, is a stone sunk into 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, ran in a narrow 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 this year, laid siege to it, but found himself obliged to abandon 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 800, was detached from the English camp, under the conduct of Lord Clifford, to the relief of that garrison. 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 English had marched, immediately set out after them with a party of 500 horse, and coming up with them, in the plain where the small 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 doubtful where victory should turn. King Robert, attended by some of his officers, beheld this rencounter from rising ground, supposed to be the round hill immediately upon the west of St. Ninian's, now called Cock-shot-hill. James Douglas perceiving the distress of Randolph, who was greatly inferior to the enemy in numbers, asked leave to go to his support. This King Robert at first refused, but afterwards consented. Douglas put his soldiers in motion: observing, 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 camp amidst 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 Newhouse, 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 eager for the general engagement, that the night, though among the shortest of the year, seemed long to them. Edward too, exasperated at the defeat of his detachment, was determined to bring on the battle on the morrow.

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 these times, was said by the Abbot of Inchaffery, a monastery in Strathearn, who also administered the Sacrament to the King, and the great officers about him, while inferior priests did the same 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 Milton-bog, 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 stratagem, in order to pre-
 vent any attack from that quarter. He had
 ordered many ditches and pits to be digged in
 the morafs, 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
 to be scattered throughout the morafs; some of
 which have been found there, in the memory
 of people still living : the same manœuvres
 were likewise carried on for a little way along
 the front of the left wing; for there the banks
 for about two hundred yards, being flater than
 they are any-where else, it was the only place
 where the enemy could pass the river in any
 sort of order. By means of these artificial im-
 provements, joined to the natural strength of
 the ground, the Scotch army stood as within
 an entrenchment, and the invisible pits and
 ditches answered to the concealed batteries
 of more modern times. Amongst the other
 occurrences of this memorable day, historians
 mention an incident of a singular nature.—
 As the two armies were about to engage, the
 Abbot of Inchaffery posting himself before the
 cots, with a crucifix in his hand, they all
 fell down upon their knees in act of devotion.

The enemy observing them in so uncommon a posture, concluded that they were frightened into submission; and that, by kneeling, when they should be ready to fight, they meant to surrender at discretion, and only begged their lives; but they were soon undeceived, when they saw them rise again, and stand to their arms with steady countenance.

The English began the action, by a brisk charge upon the left wing of the Scots, commanded by Randolph, near the spot where the bridge is now thrown over the river, at the small village of Charterhall. 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 horseback, carrying a battle-ax in his hand, and upon his helmet he wore a high turban in the form of a crown, by way of distinction.

This, together with his activity, rendered him very conspicuous, as he 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 combat, 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 first blow, was immediately struck dead with the battle-ax 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 heroic achievement performed by him before their eyes, the royal exploit raised their spirits to the highest pitch. They rushed furiously upon the enemy, who, having by this time passed the river in great numbers, gave them a warm reception.—A singular occurrence, which some accounts represent as an accidental sally of patriotic enthusiasm, others as a premeditated stratagem of King Robert, suddenly altered the face of affairs, and contributed greatly to the victory: All the servants and attendants of the Scottish army, who are said to have amounted to twenty thousand, had been ordered, before the battle, to retire behind Murray's Craig. But having, during the engagement, arranged themselves in a martial form, they marched to the top of the hill, and displaying

white sheets fixed upon poles, instead of banners, moved towards the field of battle with hideous shouts. The English perceiving this motely crowd, and taking them for a fresh reinforcement advancing to support the Scots, were seized with so great a panic, that they began to give way in confusion. Buchanan says, that the King of England was the first who fled; but in this he contradicts all other historians, who affirm that he was among the last in the field.

The Scots pursued, and great was the slaughter among the enemy, especially in passing the river, where they could keep no order because of the irregularity of the ground.

King Edward himself escaped with much difficulty, being closely pursued for above forty miles by Sir James Douglas, with a party of light horse. He was upon the point of being taken prisoner, when he was received into the Castle of Dunbar by the Earl of March, who conveyed him to England by sea in a fisher's boat, his immense army being entirely discomfited.

The Scots lost only four thousand men, while the loss of the English amounted to above thirty thousand.

F I N I S.