

THE

# PROPHECIES

OF

THOMAS RYMER,

The Ancient Scots Prophet.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED,

Remarks on what is already come  
to pass: With some curious Obser-  
vations on what is yet to come.

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

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BY THE FAMOUS

Mr. ALLAN BOYD, M. A.

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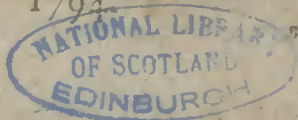
To which is added,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEMORABLE  
BATTLE of BANNOCKBURN,  
Fought in the Year 1314.

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PRINTED IN THE YEAR,

1794.



## SHORT ACCOUNT

OF

SIR THOMAS LEARMANT,

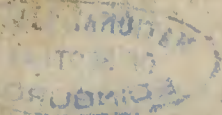
ALLIAS RYMER.

\* † † † \*

**S**IR THOMAS LEARMANT, commonly called, *Thomas 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 Balmorie; 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 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 it would give rise to greater commotions in Scotland.

After the death of Queen Margaret, the King married Isobel, daughter to the Earl of Driux; and Sir Thomas told with-

in a few months of an earthquake at Kinghorn, that would make Scotland tremble. An exprefs accordingly came to Cryle 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 Torwood, Bothwelbridge, Malplackie, Killakrankie, Shirreff-quair, Proud Preſton, near Gladſmair, Falkirk, Culloden, and the Camps in Moraythire, and on the Windmill-brae at Aberdeen, by General Coup, and at Dunbar,

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

THE  
PROPHECIES

OF

Thomas Rymer.

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AS to his propheticall 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 has come to pass in our days; such as the extirpation of the noble race of the Stewarts, the revolution, Sheriffmuir: 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 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 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

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 Stewarts race, now in Italy. 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, 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.

OLD

Scottish Prophecies,

BY

THOMAS RYMER,

PART II.

\*+\*+\*

*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 lett us old Albion,  
By peace join'd in one.*

THE



THE explication of the foregoing prophecy, concerning HEMPE being come, and also gone, and leaving Scotland and England joined in one, is fulfilled in the late King William, who came out of Holland, which in old times was vulgarly called the land of Hempe: 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 Merling, who is said to be got by a Devil, who ravished a young Woman, his mother, in a wood near Goldstream, in the South of Scotland. Afterwards, to the same purpose, these and many more strange things were foretold by Thomas Lermion, vulgarly called, *Thomas Rymor*, because 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.

THOMAS RYMER'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 Tho' into thraldom you should be  
brought by your enemies,  
You shall have freedom from them all;  
and enjoy your liberties.
- 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 fore 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  
 may turn unto worie.
- 7 Tho' wont to won, may be subdu'd,  
 and come in under yoke;  
 Strangers may reign, and you destroy,  
 what likes him by sword's stroke.
- 8 A foreign foe, whom neither thy force  
 nor manners do approve,  
 Woe is to thee, by guile and flight,  
 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, falshood, deceit,  
 the wrath of God withal.

- 12 Unsatiable greed of worldly gain,  
 oppression, cries of poor,  
 A perpetual and slanderous race,  
 no justice but 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,  
 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, & sudden plagues,  
 and 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, altho' too late,  
 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,  
nor former age did see.
- 21 Old prophecies foretel 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 en'mies power;  
Her cruel foes shall be dispers'd  
and scatter'd from her bow'r.
- 23 Fair Scotia's en'mies may invade,  
but not escape a plague;  
With sword, & thirst, & tears & pest,  
with fears and such like ague.
- 24 And after en'mies thrown down,  
and mastered by war,  
Then Scotland in peace and quietness,  
pats joyful days for ever.

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

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN.

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EDWARD II. of England, kept up the same claim upon Scotland, which his father had begun; and 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.

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 Baliol, 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,

burn, and backward upon the Muir of Plean, in the neighbourhood of the ancient Roman Calway, 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 eminences, 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



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 Mowbray, 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 Carle, 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 thro' 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

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. Ninians, 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 New-house, and about a quarter of a mile from the Borough-port of Stirling.

This

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 cal-

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 prevent 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 flatter 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 improvements, 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

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 Scots, with a crucifix in his hand, they all fell down upon their knees in act of devotion. The enemy observing them in an 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. Thereabout 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 pikes rushing into their feet, others tumbled

led 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, raised their spirits to the high-

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 rally 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

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 horie: 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 30,000.

F I N I S.

