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THE  
PROPHECIES  
OF  
*THOMAS RYMER,*

THE ANCIENT SCOTS PROPHET.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED

REMARKS

On what has already come to pass;  
with some curious Observations on  
what is yet to come.

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.

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PROPHETIES

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AN ACCOUNT

SIR THOMAS LEARMONT.

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SIR THOMAS LEARMONT, 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 to all the kings of Europe, and what fell out according to his prediction, in his ancient kingdom of Scotland, what is past, present, and to come.

This 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 are extant among the rolls, for the 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 1248 much regarded, and knighted by the king that same year.

The first of his prophecies ever taken to be faithfully observed, was, That there would be a storm on a certain day, that would surprise all Scotland. 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. In an hour an express came to Sir Thomas, from Edinburgh, of the death of Margaret, queen of Alexander III. On receiving the news, Sir Thomas said, that this was the storm, and it would give rise to greater commotion in Scotland.

After the death of Queen Margaret, the King married Isabel, daughter of the Earl of Drnix; 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 fell from his horse at Kinghorn, and broke his neck. Alexander left no heir, except a grandchild, Margaret, daughter of the King of Norway. She, also, soon died. A short time before her death, she was betrothed to Edward, King of England. After this, there were great commotions anent the succession of the crown of Scotland, which occasioned great bloodshed, particularly betwixt Bruce and Baliol, which are recorded in the Scottish history.

The pride of Spain, and the deceitful conduct of the French, as also concerning the Dutch, was foretold. Likewise the battle of Torwood, Bothwel Bridge, Killierankie, Sheriff-muir, Preston, Falkirk, and Culloden.

In forty-five, eighty-two, and three, Sir Thomas' works do certify.

PROPHECIES  
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THOMAS RHYMER.

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As to his prophetic 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 have come to pass in our days; such as the extirpation of the noble race of the Stuarts, the Revolution, Sheriff-muir, where he says, that

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 Argyll's arms.

The rebellion, in 1745, was foretold. 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, that would turn to Christ, with the wiles to toads and foxes," meaning his swearing of the covenants.

When speaking of the battle of Prestonpans, in 1745, he names the two neighbouring villages by the spot of ground whereon it was fought, Goyseford and Seton, saying, 'between Seton and the sea, sorrow shall be wrought by the light of the moon,' which 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 men in such a short time as they did formerly.

These are a few of the 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 shall hap-

pen to this realm, the chief thereof, especially such as hurling on sleds, and chopping off heads." This Tarbe stands near the root of the river Clyde; but whether it being tumbled into the sea shall happen by an earthquake, thunder, or by the hands of men, is an unknown mystery.

There is also mention made of a Lord with a hicken or stable hand which certainly is of royal blood, and will breed great stir and confusion in Britain. This man is alive, at this present age, and of the Stuart's 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, Tied unto the trees greenly.  
 In Fife, and on the four chief rivers of the realm, there would be a battle; that should make the rivers run with blood, viz. Tweed, Clyde, Forth, and Tay.—A bloody battle in Northumberland, on the river Tyne. Also, great havoc, about the 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 RHYMER.

When Hempe is come, and gone,  
 Scotland and England shall be one.  
 Henry Edward Mary Philip Elizabeth  
 VIII. VI. of Spain.

H. E. M. P. E.

Praised be God alone,  
 For Hempe is come and gone,  
 And left us old Albion,  
 By peace joined in one.

The explication of the foregoing prophecy, is fulfilled in the late King William, who came from Holland, which, in old times, was vulgarly called the land of Hempe, and the joining of the two nations signifies the Union.

Those things were foretold by the two Scots prophets, in the reign of King Arthur, by the famous Merling.

Afterwards, these things were foretold by Sir Thomas Learmont. He gave all his prophetic sayings in rhyme and so darkly, they could not be understood until they came to pass.

Of all the prophets that ever were in Scotland, none had attained to such credit as Sir Thomas Learmont because most of his predictions referred to our own country, and were accomplished in the last and present century.

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THOMAS RHYMER'S  
PROPHECIES,

IN VERSE.

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

Though 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 had leave,  
The kingdom and estate.

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

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

By hard conflict, and by the chance  
Of noble fortune's force,  
Thy hope and thy prosperity,  
May turn to the worse.

Though wont to wen, may be subdu'd,  
And come in under yoke,  
Strangers may reign and destroy,  
What likes him by sword's stroke.

A foreign foe, whom neither they force,  
 Nor manners do approve,  
 Woe is to thee by guilt and flight,  
 Will only win above.

This mighty nation was to fore,  
 Invincible and stout,  
 Will yield slowly to destiny,  
 Great pity is but a doubt.

In a former age, the Scots renown  
 Did flourish goodly gaye,  
 But now, alas! will be o'ercome,  
 With a great dark decay.

Then mark and see what is the cause,  
 Of this so wond'rous fall!  
 Contempt of faith, falsehood, deceit,  
 The wrath of God withal.

Unsatiabie greed of worldly gain,  
 Oppression, cries of poor,  
 A perpetual, slanderous race,  
 No justice put in ure.

The haughty pride of mighty men,  
 Of former vice chief cause,  
 The nutrature of wickedness,  
 An unjust match of laws:

Therefore, this cause the prophets  
Of long time did presage,  
And now has happen'd every point,  
Into your present age.

Since fate is so, now Scotland learn  
In patience to abide,  
Slanderers, fear, and sudden plagues,  
And great dolours beside.

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,  
Although o'erwhelm'd with grief,  
Thy stroke is not perpetual,  
For thou shalt find relief.

I do suppose, although too late,  
Old prophecies shall hold;  
Hope in God's goodness evermore,  
And mercies manifold.

For thou that now a patient is,  
And seemeth to be bound,  
At liberty shall free be set,  
And with empire be crowned.

From high above shall grace come down,  
 And thy state, Scotland, be,  
 In latter ends, more prosperous,  
 No former age did see.

Old prophecies foretel to thee  
 A warlike heir—he's born—  
 Who shall recover new your right,  
 Advance this kingdom's horn.

Then shall fair Scotland be advanc'd  
 Above her enemies power,  
 Her cruel foes shall be dispersed,  
 And scatter'd from her bow'r.

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

And after enemies are down,  
 And master'd in a war,  
 Then Scotland, in peace and quietness,  
 Will pass joyful days for ever.

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

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EDWARD II, of England, kept up the same claim on 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 on his father and himself.

In the spring of 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 followed, 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 on the banks of the Carron, and grandson of him who was competitor with Baliol, had, in 1306, been crowned King of Scotland; and being aware of Edward's formidable preparations, he raised an army of 80,000 men 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 swords, 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 met, in the month of June. Soon after, a bloody battle was fought, in which the Scots obtained the most decisive victory in the annals of Scotland.

The English, having marched from Edinburgh, encamped to the northward of Forwood. The Scottish army was posted about a mile south

from the present village of St. Ninnians. On the summit of an eminence, called Brock's Brae, is a stone sunk in the earth, with a hole in it, in which, according to tradition, Robert's standard was fixed. The small river of Bannockburn ran in a narrow valley between the two camps.

The castle of Stirling was in the possession of the English. Edward Bruce, the king's brother, had, in the spring of 1313, laid siege to it, but found himself obliged to abandon the enterprise; and, 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, it should surrender to the Scots.

The day preceding the battle, a strong body of cavalry was detached from the English camp, under the conduct of Lord Clifford, to the relief of Stirling castle. The detachment having marched through some hollow ground, had passed the Scots army before they were observed. The king himself was the first who perceived them;—he desired the Earl of

Murray to look towards the place where they were. Randolph immediately set out after them with a party of 500 horse, and coming up with them in the plain, where the village of Newhouse now stands, a smart action ensued. King Robert, attended by some of his officers, beheld this rencounter from a rising ground. The distress of Randolph being at length evident, Sir James Douglas asked leave of the king to go to his support. Robert assenting, Douglas put his soldiers in motion; observing, however, on the way, that the victory was nigh being won without his assistance, he stopped. The English were entirely defeated. Randolph returned to the camp, amidst acclamations of joy. To perpetuate the memory of the victory, two stones were reared up in the field, and are still to be seen.

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. King Edward, too, 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 ardor of the Scots. A solemn mass was said by the Abbot of Inchaffery; 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 tract of ground called Touchadam. This situation had been previously chosen, because of its advantages. On the right, they had a range of steep rocks, now called Murr-y's Crag; in their front, were the steep banks of the rivulet of Baunockburn; not far behind them, was a wood; on the left was a morass; but, as it was then the middle of summer, it was almost dry. Robert had ordered pits to be dug in this morass, and sharpened stakes to be driven into them, and the whole to be covered over again with green turf. He also scattered crow-feet throughout the mo-

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rass. The same manœuvres were likewise carried on along the front of the left wing. By means of these artifices, joined to the natural strength of the ground, the Scots stood as within an entrenchment; and the invisible pits answered to the concealed batteries of more modern times.

Among 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 on their knees in act of devotion. The enemy, observing them in so uncommon a posture, concluded that they were frightened into submission. But they were soon undeceived, when they saw them rise, and stand to their arms, with steady countenances.

The English began the action by a brisk charge on the left wing of the Scots, commanded by Randolph. A

large body of cavalry advanced to attack him in front; while another fetched a compass to fall on his flank and rear; but before they could come to a close engagement, they fell into the snare that awaited them. The horses were soon disabled by the sharp irons rushing into their feet,—others tumbled into the concealed pits and could not disentangle themselves.

In the beginning of the engagement, an incident occurred, which was rendered important by its consequences. King Robert was mounted on horseback, carrying a battle-ax in his hand, and on his helmet he wore a turban, in the form of a crown. This rendered him very conspicuous, as he rode before the lines. An English knight, named Bohun, came galloping furiously up to him, in order to engage with him in single combat—but the enterprising champion having missed his blow, was instantly struck dead by Robert with the battle-ax. So bold an attack on their king, filled the Scots with sentiments of revenge; and

the heroic achievement performed by him, raised their spirits to the highest pitch.

A singular occurrence, which is represented as an accidental sally of patriotic enthusiasm, suddenly altered the face of affairs. The servants and attendants of the Scottish army, amounting to 20,000, had been ordered, before the battle, to retire behind Murray's drag. Having arranged themselves in martial form, they marched to the top of the hill, and, displaying their banners, moved towards the field of battle, with hideous shouts. The English, conceiving this motely crowd to be a fresh reinforcement, advancing to support the Scots, were siezed with so great a panic, that they began to give way. The Scots pursued, and great was the slaughter among the enemy. King Edward himself escaped with much difficulty; having been closely pursued, for above forty miles, by Sir James Douglas, with a party of light horse. He was on the point of being taken prisoner, when he was received

into the castle of Dunbar, and then conveyed to England, in a small boat. — The Scots lost only 4,000 men, while the loss of the English amounted to above 30,000.

FINIS.