

William, sixth earl of Douglas, in crossing his estates, chances upon a beautiful lady, ohe of the retinue of the French ambassador, who is on his way to Edinburgh. The young earl loses his heart to the fair lady, and, on the point of promising to go with her to the court of the Scottish king, he is forcibly carried away, under cover of a heavy storm, by Malise McKim, the Douglas armorer, and Abbott William Douglas, who think the lady a witch.

William Douglas, who think the lady a witch.

On the following day at the great review of 10,000 Douglas retainers the earl again meets the Lady Sybilia, and at once makes her the Queen of Beauty. Sholto McKim, son of the armorer, distinguishes himself in archery and is made captain of the castle guard. Sholto fails in love with Maud Lindesay, maid of honor to the earl's sister, and, on the first night of his stewardship, proves his valor by wounding a huge animal, which has frightened the young ladies. The next day the French ambassador is suspiciously ill, but Lady Sybilia, accompanied by the three Douglas cousins, rides away to witness the second day's tourney in the precincts of the castle of Thrieve, winning on the way the coveted promise from William to accompany her to Edinburgh. Sholto's archer guards protect the castle halls, wound a servant of the French ambassador and keep Maud Lindesay and her charge imprisoned by mistake all day. On the third day the Douglas cousins enter the lists, as also the French ambassador, who foully easts his spear at the young earl of Douglas and wounds him. In the combat that follows Sholto shows such bravery that he is knighted. On the return to the castle Maud Lindesay playfully bids farewell to the Sholto of old and only appeases his subsequent wrath by assuring a loving penitence.

## CHAPTER XXV.

The Dogs and the Wolf Hold Council. It was a week or two after the date of the great Wappenshaw and tourney at the castle of Thrieve that in the midmost golden haze of a summer's afternoon four men sat talking together about a table in a room of the royal palace of Stirling.

No one of the four was any longer young, and one at least was immoderately fat. This was James, earl of Avondale, granduncle of the earl of Douglas, and save for David, the earl's brother, nearest heir to the title and estates and honors pertaining thereto, with the single exception of the lordship of Galloway.

The other three were Sir Alexander Livingston, the guardian of the king's person, a handsome man with a curled beard who was supposed to stand high in the immediate favor of the queen and who was tutor to his majesty as well as the guardian of his person. Opposite to Livingston and carefully avoiding his eye, sat a man of a thin and foxy aspect, whose smooth face, small, shifty mouth and perilous triangular eyes marked him as a man infinitely more dangerous than either of the former-Sir William Crichton, chancellor of the realm

of Scotland. The fourth was speaking, and his aspect, strange and oftimes terrifying, is already familiar to us. But the pallid, corpselike face, the blue-black beard, the wild [ beast look in the eyes of the Marshal de Retz, ambassador of the king of France, were now more than ever hightened in effect by the studied suavity of demeanor with which he was clothing what he had to say

"I have brought you together after taking am aware, most noble seigneurs that there have been differences between you in the past as to the conduct of the affairs of this great kingdom; but I am obeying both the direct wishes and the express commands of my own king in endeavoring to bring you to an agreement. You will not forget that the dauphin of France is wedded to the Scottish princess nearest the throne and that, therefore he is not unconcerned in the welfare of this realm."

"Now, messleurs, it cannot be hid from you that there is one overriding and insistent peril which ought to put an end to all your misunderstandings. There is a young man in this land, more powerful than you or the king or all the powers legalized and established within the bounds of Scotland."

"Who is above the law, gentlemen? name to you the earl of Douglas, who hath a retinue ten times more magnificent than that with which the king rides forth. The earl of Douglas, who possesses more than half of Scotland, and that part the fairest and richest. Who holds in his hands all the strong castles, is joined by bond of service and manrent with the most powerful nobles of the land-who, but the earl of Douglas, duke of Touraine, warden of the marches, hereditary lieutenant general of the king-

At this point the crafty eyes of Crichten the chancellor, were turned full upon the speaker. His hands tugged nervously at his thin, reddish beard, as if it had been combing the long goat's tuft which grew beneath his smooth chin.

"And did you yourself come all the way from France to endue him with the duchy of Touraine?" he said. "Doth that look like pulling him down from his high seat?" The marshal moved a politic hand as if asking silence till he had finished his ex-

"Pardon," he said, "permit me

moment, most high chancellor, but have you the left arm whilst he pierces them with a your heart!"

The chancellor nodded appreciation. was a detail of stateceaft well known to on the leaf-shadowed square of green which him, and much practiced by his house in all alone could be seen through the open winperiods of their history.

"Now, my lords," the ambassador con tinued, "you are here all three-the men

such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Giddiness, Fulness after meals, Head-ache, Dizziness, Drowsiness, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite. Costiveness, Blotches on the Skin, Cold Chillis, Dis-turbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations. THE FIRST DOSE WILL GIVE RELIEF

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Beecham's Pills are Without a Rival was an earl of Douglas." "And for this will I deliver into your

his throat and knitting and unknitting his fingers over his stomach. "Being a near kinsman," he said at last, "it is not seemly that I should say aught

young man and his brother are both cut haply in the peace of the hour that is ex-The chancellor and De Retz exchanged

them both as exceedingly natural in the circumstances. "And now, Sir Alexander, what say you?" asked the Sieur de Retz, turning to the king's guardian, who had been caressing the

"I agree," he replied, in a courtly tone "that in the interests of the king and of the noble lady whose care for her child hath led her to such sacrifices, we ought to put a

limit to the pride and insolence of this The chancellor bent over a parchment to

"It is doubtless," said Sir William Crichton, "a sacrifice that the king and his mother should dwell so long within this castle of Stirling, exposed to every rude blast from these barren Grampians. Let her bring him to the mild and equitable climate of Edinburgh, which, as I am sure your excellency must have observed, is peculiarly suited to the rearing of such tender plants."

The marshal bowed, and answered imme diately, "Indeed, it reminds me of the sunniest and most favored part of my native

The tutor of the king looked somewhat uncomfortable at the suggestion, and shook his head. He had no idea of putting the king of Scots within the power of his arch enemy in his strong fortress of Edinburgh. But the Frenchman broke in before the ill effects of the chancellor's speech had time to turn the mind of the king's guardian from the present project against the ear of Douglas.

"But, surely, gentlemen, it should not b difficult for two such henorable men to unite in destroying this curse of the commonweal -and afterward to settle any differences which may in the past have arisen betwee

well. But how are we to bring the earl within our danger. Already I have sent him offers of alliance, and so, I doubt not, hath mine honorable friend, the tutor of the king, You know well what answer the proud chief of Douglas returned."

moved. He seemed to be taking some bitter and nauseous drug of the apothecary.

"Yes. Sir Alexander, I see you have no forgot. The words, 'If dog est dog, what scoff throughout broad Scotland."

repeated to the queen, who, being English, laughed at the wit of the reply. "I would that my boy should grow up

look of a handsome man, whose vanity is wounded in its weakest place.

said the chancellor pertinently. The marshal of France raised his hand from the table as if commanding silence. His suave and courtier-like demeanor had came the gaunt forward thrust of a wolf on the trail into the set of his head. His long

He rose from the table, and going to curtain that concealed the narrow door of an antechamber, he drew it aside and there green, close-fitting and fine, clasped about the waist with the twining belt of snakes, the Lady Sybilla.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

On this summer afternoon the girl's beauty scarlet of her lips lay like twin geranium petals on new fallen snow.

sensation caused by her entrance. "This," he said, "is my lion tamer!"

But the girl never looked at him nor in any way responded to his glances. "Sybilla," said De Retz, holding her with

heard so little of the deep skill and craft of his eyes, "these gentlemen are with us. Louis our most notable dauphin, that you They also are of the enemies of the house know not how he ever embraces men with of Douglas-speak freely that which is in

> ing in a level voice and with her eyes fixed dow, "you have, I doubt not, each declared Douglas. I alone have none. He is a gallant gentleman. France I have traveled, Spain also and Portugal, and explored the had begun to swim on the grass with the utmost east, wherever indeed my lord of wind from off the sea. Retz hath voyaged. But no braver or more chivalrous youth than William Douglas have I say, yet for that which hath been will I and Sir William Crichton ventures to hope deliver him into your hands.

featly uneasy.

And very complacently he smoothed down the lace ruffles which fell from the neck of his silken doublet midway down its front. "The young man is a Douglas," said James the Gross, curtly. "If he were of coward breed we had not needed to come

"It needeth not four butchers to kill a sheep!" said De Retz. "Concerning that we agree. Proceed, my Lady Sybilia." The girl was now breathing more quickly,

"Yet because of those that have been of the house of Douglas before him, shall I have no pity upon William, sixth earl gallant David go with his brother? thereof! And because of two dead dukes ever shall be earl of Douglas will of Toursine, will I deliver to you the third prevent that. Also Augus is for us, and

The vines hung ripe clustered. The olives the least."

All this while the Lady Sybilla had been in the monastery tower, and the cottage in standing motionless, gazing out of the winelain in defense of their own doors. The

The girl paused, and in a low whisper intense as the breathing of the sea, she

hands William of Douglas." Then her voice came again to the ears of the four listeners, in a note low and monotonous, like the wind that goes about the house on autumn evenings.

"There was one who, being but a child, had escaped from that tumult and had found shelter in a white convent with the actly like the one before it. The shadow of the dial finger upon the stone was not cuore peaceful that the holy round of her

vent wall, met her under the shade of the orchard trees, till his soul had power over hers. She followed him by camp and city, fearing no man's scorn, feeling no woman's reproach for his sake. And at last he cast her away, like an empty husk, and sailed over the seas to his own land. She was my mother."

"And for this will I reckon with William, duke of Touraine." She ceased and De Retz began to speak

"Twenty years ago I gave shelter to this girl's mother and she herself hath been to me as a daughter. By me she has been taught the deepest wisdom of the ancients. I have delved deep in the lore of ages that this maiden might be fitted for her task. For I also that am a marshal of France and of kin to my lord duke of Brittany, have a him waiting to take back an answer.

duke, into whose mouth hath hardly yet my Lord Maxwell will move no hand. There come the proper gust of living. This is remains, therefore, only Galloway, and my the ta's I have heard a thousand times: son William will answer for that. I, my-There was in France, it skills not where, a vale quiet as a summer Sabbath day. but this shall be my part, and assuredly not

the dell was safe as the chateau on the hill. dow. De Retz now motioned her away Then came the foreign leader of an army, with an almost imperceptible movement of and lo! in a day, there were a hundred his hand, whereat Sir Alexander Livingdead men in the valley, all honorable men, ston, seeing the girl about to leave the chamber of council, couteously rose to usher flicker of flames broke through the roof in her out. And with the slightest acknowlthe daylight. There was heard the crying edgment of his obelsance, Sybilla de Thouars of women. And the man who wrought this went out and left the four men to their council of treachery and death.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

The Young Lords Ride Away. This was the letter which, with the chan cellor's invitation, came to the hand of the Earl William as he rode forth to the deer hunting one morning from his castle of

"My Lord-If it be not that you have wholly forgotten me and your promise, this comes to inform you that my uncle and I purpose to abide at the castle of Crichton for ten days before finally departing forth of this land. It is known to me that the chancellor, moved thereto by one who desires much to see you, hath invited the earl of Douglas to come thither with what routine is well beseeming to so great a

"But 'tis beyond hope that we should meet in this manner. My lord bath doubtless ere this forgot all that was between us, and hath already seen others more worthy of his courteous regard than the Lady Sybilla. This is as well beseems a mighty lord; who taketh up a cup full and setteth it down empty. But a woman hath naught to do, save only to remember the things that have been and think upon them. Grace be to you, my dear lord, and so for this time and it may be forever, fare you well!" When the earl had read this letter from the Lady Sybilla, he turned himself in his

"Take back the hounds, we will not hund the stag this day." The messenger stood respectfully before

saddle without delay and said:

ite, far more than either her elder son or her little daughter, whom, indeed, she left entirely to the care of Maud Lindesay. My lady of Douglas went slowly dow stairs. The earl, with Shelto by his side was ordering the accourrement of the mounted men-at-arms in the courtyard. "William," she called, in a soft voice which would not have reached him, busied as he was with his work, but that little

Margaret raised her childish treble and called out, "William, our mother desires to speak with you. Do you not hear her?"
The earl turned him about, and seeing his mother, came quickly to her and stood bareheaded before her.

"You are not going to run into danger William?" she said, still softiy. "Nay, mother mine," he answered, smiling, "do not fear, I but ride to visit the

Chancellor Crichton in his castle, and also to bid farewell to the French ambassador who abode here as our guest." A sudden light shone in upon the mind o Maud Lindesay.

"'Tis all that French minx!" she white pered in Sholto's ear, "she hath bewitched him. No one need try to stop him now." His mother went on:

"But you wills not take my little David with you? You will leave me one son here in my loneliness and old age?" The earl seemed about to yield, being

careless whether David went or no. "Mother," cried David, coming running forth from the castle, "you must not persuade William to make me stay at home. I shall never be a man if I am kept among women. There is Sholto MacKim, he is little older than I, and already he hath won the archery and the sword play and hath fought in a tourney and been knighted-while I have done nothing except pull gowans with Maud Lindesay and play chuckle stones with Margaret, there!"

And at that moment Sholto wished that this fate had been his, and the honors David's. He told himself that he would willingly have given up his knighthood that he might abide near that dainty form and witching face. He tortured himself with the thought that Maud would listen to others as she had listened to him, that she would practice on others that heart-breaking slow droop and quick uplift of the eyelashes



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you leave behind you here. Indeed, you care not, so that you are free to wander over the world and taste new pleasures. That is to be a man indeed! Would that I had been born one!"

draw the girl again near him, who kepi him at arm's length by the unyielding strength of hen wrist, "none shall ever come near my heart save Maud Lindesny mione! I would that I could ride away us sure of you as you are of Sholto Mc

of returning spirit, "to that you have no claim. Never have I said that I loved you or indeed thought about you at all."

-I think you will remember me when the lamps are blown out. God speed; I hear the trumpet blow and the horses tramp-

were the earl's guard mustering, and Feggus MacCulloch, the earl's trumpeter, blew an impatient blast. It seemed to

speak to this effect: Hasten ye, hasten ye, come to the riding, Hasten ye, hasten ye, lads of the Dee-Douglasdale come, come Galloway, Annan-

Sholto held out his arms at the stirring sound, and the girl, all her wayward pride failing from her in a moment, came straight into them.

shall rest again on the desire of my

searchingly.

"You are sure you will not forget me.

her family. Maud Lindesay is little better "God keep my little lass!" he said. Fear than a tiremaiden in the house of my not: I have never loved any but you. He was gone. And through her tears Maud Lindesay watched him from the top of the great square keep, as he rode gal-

"In time past I have dreamed," thought to herself, "that I loved this one

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proachfully, "you will forget us, whom

"Nay, Maud," said Sholte, trying to "Indeed," cried the girl, with some show

"It is, true," answered Sholto, "and yet

And out on the green before the castle

dale, Gailoway tisdes are the best of the three.

"Goodbye, my sweetheart," he said stooping to kiss the lips that said him not nay, but which quivered pitifully as he touched them. "God knows when my eyes

Maud looked into his face steadily an

Sholto?" she said; "you will love me as much tomorrow when you are far a vay hold me thus in your arms?".

Before Sholto had time to answer the trumpet rang out again, with a call more instant and imperious than before. Sholto clasped her close to him as the summons shrilled into the air.

lantly behind the earl and his brother.

I cannot put him out of my mind, even when I would." As the brothers William and David Douglas crossed the rough bridge of pine thrown over the narrows of the Dee they looked back simultaneously. Their mother stood on the green moat platform of Thrieve, with their little sister, Margaret, holding her dress. She waved not a hand, fluttered no kerchief of farewell, only stood sadiy

travailed as one watches the dear dead borne to their last resting place. "So," she communed, "even thus do the vomen of the Douglas bouse watch their beloveds ride out of sight. And so for many nights they return through the ford at dawn or dusk. But there cometh a time when every one of us watches the gray shallows to the east for those that shall

"See, see!" cried little Margaret. "Look, dear mother, they have taken off their cans and Sholto hath his steel cap in bonnet in his hand. They are bidding us farewell. wonder where she has hidden herself. How surprised she will be to find they are gone." It was a true word that the maid of Galloway spoke, for according to the pretty custom of the young earl the cavalcade had halted ere they plunged into the woods of Kelton. The Dougias lads took their bonnets in their hands. Their dark hair was stirred by the breeze. Sholto also bared his head and looked toward the speck of

"Shall ever her eyelashes rise and fall

For, being a young man in love, these hings were more to him than matins and vensong, king or chancellor, heaven or hell-as, indeed, it was right and wholesome that they should be.

Thankful words written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart of Groton, S. D.: "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs;

a bad cold which settled on my lungs; cough set in and finally terminated in consumption. Four dectors gave me up, saying I could live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth I would meet absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Courts and Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial, took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and, thank God. I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at Kuhn & Co.'s berself, "that I loved this one drug store. Regular size 50c and \$1.00, guar But it was not at all like this. anteed or price refunded.



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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. who need most to end this matter—you, my lord of Avondale, will you deign to deliver your mind upon the matter?" The fat earl hemmed and hawed, clearing

> against the earl of Douglas, but this I know -there will be no peace in Scotland till that sist vs, who taught her to pray and be

glances. The anxiety of the next-to-kin to the title of earl of Douglas for the peace and prosperity of the realm seemed to strike

curls of his beard with his white and signeted hand.

hide a smile at the sacrifices which the queen mother had made for her son.

He appealed to the Sieur de Retz.

France."

themselves. "Good-," said the chancellor, "you speak

The lips of Sir Alexander Livingston

should the lion care?' made us every catiff's "For that he will suffer if God give me speed," said the tutor, for the answer was

such as that Earl Douglas!" said she The tutor stroked his beard faster than ever and there was in his eves the bitter

"But after all, who is to cage the lion? changed into something more natural. There

teeth gleamed and his eyelids closed down upon his eyes till they became mere twinkling points "I have that at hand which hath already

tamed the hon, and is able to lead him into the cage with cords of silk." came forth, clothed in a garment of gold and

seemed more wondrous and magical than ever. Her eyes were purple black like the berries of the deadly nightshade seen in the twilight. Her face was pale, and the

Gilles de Retz followed her with a certa grim and ghastly pride as he marked the

"My lords," said the Lady Sybilla, speak found. I have no grievance against him as land to William, earl of Douglas, greeting

One of the men before her grew mani-"We did not come hither to listen to the praises of the earl of Douglas, even from lips so fair as yours!" sneered Crichton, the ambassador of the king of France ere he set chancellor, lifting his eyes one moment from sail again for his own land." the parchment before him to the girl's face. "He is our enemy," said the tutor of the king, Alexander Livingston, more generously, "but I will never deny that he is a gallant youth. Also of his person proper to

hither!"

might even affect the safety of his majesty's her bosom rising and falling.

"SO I WILL DELIVER WILLIAM DOUGLAS INTO YOUR HANDS." score to settle with William, earl of Douglas-as hath also my master, Louis the asked the earl quickly.

chancellor, who had listened to the reci al Crichton, and come from his new castle in of the Lady Sybilla with manifest impa-"It is the old story-the sins of tience. the father are upon the children. And this young man must suffer for those that went before him. They drank of the full cup and so he hath come to the drains. skills not why we desire to make an end of

him. We are agreed on the fact. The question is how." It was the voice of De Retz which re-

plied, the deep silence of afternoon resting like a weight on the others. come to the castle of Edinburgh he will as- at his castle in the Lothians. suredly not come, but if we first entertain, with open courtesy, at one of your castles on the way, where you put yourself wholly There, when all his suspicions are lulled, he

shall meet the Lady Sybilia. It will rest with her to bring him to Edinburgh." The chancellor had been busily writing on was speaking. Presently he held up his

hand, and read aloud that which he had "To the most noble William, earl Douglas and duke of Touraine, greeting! In earl's short rejoinder, "you have my orders." the name of King James the Second, whom God preserve, and in order that the realm may have peace, Sir William Crichton, chancellor of Scotland, and Sir Alexander Livngston, governor of the king's person, do invite and humbly entreat the earl of Douglas to come to the city of Edinburgh, with such following as shall seem good to him, in order that he may be duly invested with the office of lieutenant general of the kinglom, which office was his father's before him. So shall the realm abide in peace, and evil-doers be put down, the peaceable prevented with power and the earl of Douglas

stand in the honorable place of his fore-The chancellor finished his reading and looked around for approbation. James of Avondale was nodding gravely. De Retz, with a ghastly smile on his face, seemed to be weighing the phrases. Livingston, with a self-eatisfied smile, was admiring the pinkish lights upon his finger nails, and the girl, your grievance against William, earl of with a steady aspect, was gazing, as before, out of the window into the green close wherein the leaves stirred and the shadows

"To this I would add as followeth," continued Crichton. "The chancellor of Scotthat the earl of Douglas will do him the great honor to come to his new castle of Crichton, there to be entertained as beseemeth his dignity, to the healing of all ancient enmities, and also to do honor to the

"It is a worthy epistle," said James, the Gross, who, being sleepy, wished for an end to be made. "There is, at least, in it no lack of the 'chancellor of Scotland,' sneered Living-

ston, covertly.

"Gently, gently, great sire," interposed De Retz, as the chancellor looked up with anger in his eye, "have out your quarrels as you will after the snapping of the trap. Remember that this which we do is a matter of life or death." "But the Douglases will wash us off the face of Scotland if we so much as lay a

hand on the earl," objected Livingston,

James the Gross laughed a low and looked at Crichton.
"Perhaps," he said, "but what if

"Nay," said the youth, "let it please your when the guards were set of new in the "It is enough," interjected Crichton, the greatness, I am a servant of my lord of corridors of Thrieve?

"Doth the chancellor abide there at this present?" asked the earl. "He came two days ago with but one at tendant, and bade us make ready for a a man's pleasures and chance a man's dangreat company who were to arrive there gers like the rest." this very day. Then he gave me these two

"Sholto," cried the young lord, "summon the guard and men-at-arms. Take all that can be spared from the defense of the castle and make ready to follow me. I ride im-

It was Sholto's duty to obey, but his heart sank within him, both at the thought of the earl thus venturing among his enemies, and one of them but a youth, and the other no in his hands, he will suspect nothing, also because he must leave behind him Maud Lindesay, on whose willful, wayward

"My lord," he stammered, "permit me one word. Were it not better to wait till a barndoor fowl who by chance has reached the parchment before him whilst De Retz following of knights and gentlemen beseeming the earl of Douglas should be brought together to accompany you on such a jour-"Do as I bid you, sir captain," was the

"O, that the abbot were here," though Sholto as he moved heavily to do his master's business, "he might reason with the earl with some hope of success.' On his way to summon the guard he met Maud Lindesay going out to twine gowans with the maid on the meadows about the mains of Relton, for as Margaret Douglas complained, "all ours on the isle were trod-

den down by the men who came to the again. "Whither away so gloomy, sir knight?" cried Maud, all her winsome face alight

with joy in the bright day, and the excellent

joy of living.

"On a most gloomy errand," said Sho'to, "my lord rides with a small company into the very stronghold of his enemy-and will hear no word from any!" "And do you go with him?" cried Maud her bright color leaving her face.

"Not only I but all that can be spared of

the men-at-arms and of the archer guard!"

answered Sholto. Maud Lindesny turned about and took the little girl's hand. "Margaret," she said, "let us go to my lady. Perhaps she will be able to keep my Lord William at home." So they went back to the chamber of my

lady of Douglas. Now, the countess had never been of great inuffence with her son even in her husband's lifetime, and had certainly none with him since. Still, it was possible that William Douglas might at least listen to advice and delay his setting out till a suitable retinue could be brought together to protect him. Maud and Margaret found the lady of Douglas busily embroidering a vestment of silk and gold for the abbot. She laid aside her work and listened with gentle patience to the hasty tale

told by Maud Lindesay.

of Douglas, they come and they go, recking no will but their own. And even so wil my son William." "But he is taking David with him also!" cried Margaret. "I met him even now on the stair, wild in haste to put on his shirt of mail and the sword with the golden hilt, which the ambassador of France gave him." A quick flush colored the pale countenance

"I will speak with William," she answered

for aught that his mother can say. He

softly, "but I know well he will go his own

is his father's son, and the men of the house

of the lady countess. "Nay, but one is enough to meet the chancellor. David shall not go. He is but a lad and knows nothing of these things." For this boy was ever his mother's favor-

which he knew so well. Who might not be at hand to aid her to blow out her lamp "Mother," the earl answered, "David man or a Douglas if he is to bide here

into the world of men and women and taste "But are you certain that you will bring letters and set my head on the safe delivery him safe again to me?" said his mother wistfully. "Remember, he is so young and

within this warded isle. He must go forth

eke so restless!" cried David, eagerly, "I am no "Nay." younger than my cousin James was when he fought the strongest man in Scotland "If we write him a letter inviting him to mediately to visit the chancellor of Scotland and I warrant I could ride a course as well as Hughle Douglas, though William chose him for the tourney and left me at home. The lady sighed and looked at her sons

more than a boy. "Was there ever a Douglas yet who would take any advice but his own desire?" she said, looking down at them like a douce a pair of eaglets. "Lads, ye are over strong for your mother. But I will not sleep not eat till I have my David back again, and can see him riding his horse homeward

### through the ford." CHAPTER XXVIII.

On the Castle Roof. Maud Lindesay parted from Sholto upon the roof of the keep. She had gone up hither to watch the cavalcade ride off, where none could see her, and Sholto, noting the flutter of something white by the battlements, ran up thither, pretending that he had forgotten something, though he was in-

Maud Lindesay was leaning over the battlements of the castle, and hearing a step behind her, she looked about with a start of apparent surprise. The after dew of recent tears still glori-

"O. Sholto," she cried, "I thought you

were gone. I was watching for you to ride

"Maud," he said, his utterance quick an

hoarse, "we go into the house of our

enemies. Thirty knights and no more ac-

deed fully armed and ready to mount and

away. I thought-" But Sholto, seeing her disorder and hav ing little time to waste, came quickly forward and took her in his arms without apology or prelude, as is wisest in such

company my lord, who might have ridden out with 3,000 in his train." "'Tis all that witch woman," cried th girl. "Can you not advise him?" "The earl of Douglas did not ask my advice," said Sholto, a little dryly, being eager to turn the conversation upon his own matters and to his own advantage. "And moreover, if he rides into danger for the

sake of love-why, I think the more of him

"But for such a creature," objected Maud

Lindesay. "For any true maid it were most right. Where is there a noble lady in Scotland who would not have been proud to listen to him-yet he must needs run after this mongrel French woman!" "Even Mistress Maud Lindesay?" Sholto, somewhat bitterly, releasing ber. "Maud Lindesay is no great lady, though

the daughter of a poor baron of the north,

and much bound to my Lord Douglas by

gratitude for that which he hath done for

lord." "Nay," said Sholto, "I crave your parden meant it not. I am hasty of words, and the time is short. Will you pardon me, and bid me farewell, for the horses are being led from the stall and I cannot keep my lord waiting."

watching the sons with whom she had

return no more."

summit of the frowning keep. again for me and shall I see the pout waver alternately petulant and tender upon her lips?

white which he could just discern on the

(To be Continued.)