My thanks I ever on you will bestow,
From embryce 1 you me plucked, the worst of
mortal woe.

#### CXXX.

Hur. I will, it shall be so; ye Dacians, hear,

This Ælla he hath been our foe for aye.

Throughout the battle he did furious tear,

Being the life and head of every fray;

From every Dacian power he won the day,

Magnus he slew, and all our ships ybrente; 2

By his fell arm we now are made to stray,

The spear of Dacia he in pieces shente, 3

When hunted barks unto our land did come,

Ælla the cause they said, and wished him bitter doom.

#### CXXXI.

Ber. Mercy! Hur.

Be still.

But yet he is a foeman good and fair;
When we are spent he soundeth the forloyne;
The captives' chain he tosseth in the air,
Cheereth the wounded both with bread and
wine.

Hath he not unto some of you been digne?<sup>5</sup>
You would have smoked on Wedecestrian field,
But he forbade them pursuit for to cleyne,<sup>6</sup>
Throwing on his wide back his wider spreading shield.

When ye, as captives, in the field did be, He oathed you to be still, and straight did set you free.

1 Adultery. 5 Kind.

2 Burned. 6 Sound. Brake. 4 Retreat.
7 Made you take oaths.

#### CXXXII.

Shall we then slay his wife, because he's brave?

Because he fighteth for his country's gare?

Will he who hath but been this Ælla's slave,
Rob him of what perchance he holdeth dear?

Or shall we men, with manly sprites appear,
Doing him favour for his favour done,
Swift to his palace now this damsel bear,
Explain our case, and to our way be gone?

The last you do approve? so let it be.
Damosel, come away; you safe shall be with me.

#### CXXXIII.

Ber. All blessings may the saints unto you give!

All pleasure may your lengthened livings be!

Ælla, when knowing that by you I live,

Will think too small a gift the land and sea.

O Celmonde! I may deftly read by thee,

What ill-betideth the enfouled kind.

May not thy cross-stone? of thy crime bewree!

May all men know thy valour, few thy mind!

Soldier! for such thou art in noble fray,

I will thy goings 'tend, and do thou lead the way.

#### CXXXIV.

Hur. The morning 'gins along the coast to sheen,
Darkling the light doth on the waters play,
The faint red gleam slow creepeth o'er the green;
To chase the murkiness of night away;
Swift fly the hours that will bring out the day.
The soft dew falleth on the growing grass;

1 Cause.

2 Monument.
3 Declare.

The shepherdess arranging her array,
Scarce sees her visage in the wavy glass.
By the full daylight we shall Ælla see,
Or Bristol's walled town; come, damsel, follow me.

[Execunt.

#### CXXXV.

Scene-Bristol. Enter ÆLLA and Servants.

All. 'Tis now full morn; I thought I by last night Would have been here; my steed hath not my love.

This is my palace; let my hinds alight,
Whilst I go up and wake my sleeping dove.
Stay here, my servants; I shall go above.

Now Bertha will thy look enheal my sprite, Thy smiles unto my wounds a balm will prove,

My leaden body will be set aright.

Egwina, haste, and ope the portal-door,

That I on Bertha's breast may think of war no more.

#### Enter EGWINA.

#### CXXXVI.

Ah! thy countenance to me
Speaketh a legendary tale of woe.

Egw. Bertha is—
What! where! how! say what of she!

Egw. Gone—
Gone! ye gods!

Egw. Alas! it is too true.
Ye saints, he dies away with mickle woe!

Ælla! what? Ælla! oh! he lives again!

All. Call me not Ælla; I am he no moe. 1
Where is she gone away? Ah! speak! how?
when?

Egw. I will.

Æl. Caparison a score of steeds; fly, fly, Where is she? quickly speak, or instant thou shalt die.

#### CXXXVII.

Egw. Still thy loud rage, and hear thou what I know.

All. Oh! speak.

Egw. Like primrose, drooping with the heavy rain,
Last night I left her, drooping with her weere,

Her love the cause that gave her heart such pain.

Æl. Her love? to whom?

Egw.

As is my custom every many to thee her spouse alone.

As is my custom every morn to go,
I went and oped her chamber-door in twain,
But found her not, as I was wont to do.
Then all around the palace I did seere,<sup>3</sup>
But could (to my heart's woe) not find her anywhere.

#### CXXXVIII.

Thou liest, foul hag! thou liest! thou art her aid
To cheer her lust. But no; it cannot be.

Egw. If truth appear not in what I have said,
Draw forth thy sword and quickly then me slea.4

Al. But yet it must, it must be so; I see,
She with some lusty paramour is gone.
It must be so.—Oh, how it racketh me!
My race of love, my race of life, is run.

1 More. 2 Grief. 3 Search, 4 Slay,

Now rage and furious storm and tempest come! Naught living upon earth can now make sweet my doom.

#### CXXXIX.

#### Enter a Servant.

Ser. My lord! I am about the truth to say,

Last night, full late I did return to rest;

As to my chamber I did bend my way,

To Bertha one his name and place addressed;

Down to him came she; but thereof the rest

I know no matter; so, my homage made—

El. Oh! speak no more; my heart flames in its best;

I once was Ælla; now am not his shade.

Had all the fury of misfortune's will

Fall'n on my banned head I had been Ælla still.

#### CXL

This only was unarmed, of all my sprite.

My honour, honour, frowned on the soft wind,
That stole upon it! now with rage I'm pight;

A furious storm is my distracted mind.

My honour yet some scanty joy may find,
To the Dane's wounds I will another give.

When thus my happiness and peace is rynde,

It were a cowardice to think to live.

My servants, unto every asker tell,
If nobly Ælla lived, as nobly Ælla fell!

[Stabbeth his breast.

1 Tortured.

2 Ruined.

#### CXLI.

Ser. Ælla is slain; the flower of England's marred!

All. Be still; loud let the churches ring my knell.

Call hither brave Coërnyke; he, as ward

Of this my Bristol castle, will do well.

[Knell ringeth.

#### Enter COERNYKE.

Al. Thee I ordain the ward; so all may tell.

I have but little time to drag this life;

My deadly tale, like to a deadly bell,

Din in the ears of her I wished my wife.

But ah! she may be pure.

Egw.

At ! say not so; that word would Ælla doubly slea. 1

#### CXLII.

#### Enter BERTHA and HURRA.

Ber.

Ah heavens! my Bertha falleth to the ground!

1 Slay.

But yet I am a man, and so will be.

Hur. Ælla! I am a Dane, but yet a friend to thee.

#### CXLIII.

This damosel I found within a wood,
Striving full hard against an armed swain.
I sent him wallowing in my comrades' blood,
Celmonde his name, chief of thy warring train.
This damosel sought to be here again,
The which, albeit foemen, we did will;
So here we brought her with you to remain.

Coer. Ye noble Danes! With gold I will you fill.

El. Bertha, my life! my love! Oh, she is fair:
What faults could Bertha have? what faults could
Ella fear?

#### CXLIV.

Ber. Am I then thine? I cannot blame thy fear,
But now do rest upon my Ælla's breast.
I will to thee detail the woeful gare.
Celmonde did come to me at time of rest,
Begging for me to fly, at your request,
To Watchet town, where you a-dying lay.
I with him fled; through a mirk wood we pressed,
Where he foul love unto my ears did say;
The Danes—

Æl. Oh! I die content.

Ber.
Oh! I will make his grave my virgin spousal bed.
[Bertha fainteth.

1 Meaning "chaste." 2 Cause, affair. (19)

## 290 FREERE OF ORDERYS WHYTE.

#### CXLV.

Coer. What? Ælla dead? and Bertha dying too!
So fall the fairest flowerets of the plain.
Who can unfold the works that heaven can do,
Or who untwist the roll of fate in twain?
Ælla, thy honour was thy only gain,
For it, thy pleasure and thy joy was lost.
Thy countrymen shall rear thee on the plain
A pile of cairns, as any grave can boast:
Further a just reward to thee to be,
In heaven thou sing of God, on earth we'll sing of thee.

### THE FREERE OF ORDERYS WHYTE.2

THERE was a Broder of Orderys Whyte,
Hee songe hys masses yn the nyghte;
Ave Maria, Jesu Maria.
The nounes al slepeynge yn the Dorture,
Thoughte hym of al syngeynge Freeres the Flowre,
Ave Maria, Jesu Maria.

Suster Agnes looved his syngeynge well,
And songe with hem too, the sothen to tell.
Ave Maria, etc.
But be ytte ne sed bie Elde or yynge,
That ever dheye oderwyse dyd synge
Than Ave Maria, etc.

1 Chatterton means "stones."

3 A sleeping-room:

<sup>2</sup> This and the following piece are unchanged.

This Broder was called evrich wheere;
To Kenshamm and to Bristol Nonnere.
Ave Maria, etc.

Botte seyynge of masses dyd wurch hym so lowe, Above hys Skynne hys Bonys did growe. Ave Maria, etc.

He eaten Beefe and Dyshes of Mows, 1
And hontend everych Knyghtys house,
With Ave Maria, etc.
And beynge ance moe in gode lyken,
He songe to the Nones and was poren agen,
With Ave Maria, etc.

#### HEREAUDYN.

A FRAGMENTE.

YNGE HEREAUDYN al bie the grene Wode sate,

Hereynge the swote Chelandrie 2 ande the Oue, 3
Seeinge the kenspecked 4 amaylde 5 flourettes nete,
Ensyngynge to the birds hys Love songe true.

Syrre Preeste camme bie and forthe hys bede-rolle
drewe,

Fyve Aves and a Pater moste be sedde;
Twayne songe: the on hys Songe of Willowe Rue,
The odher one——

Probably a preparation of boiled corn.
 Goldfinch.
 Blackbird.
 Speckled.
 Enamelled.

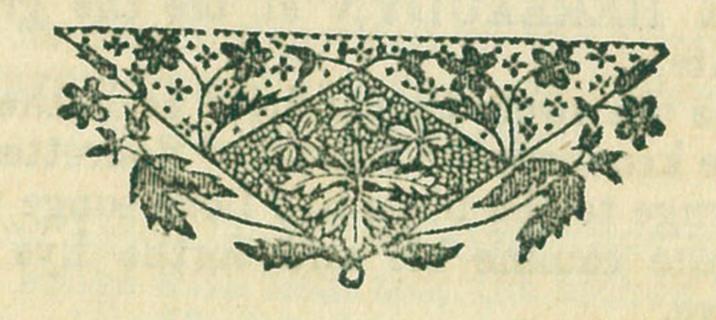
# THE ACCOUNTE OF W. CANYNGE'S FEAST.

The ealdermenne doe sytte arounde,
Ande snoffelle 3 oppe the cheorte 4 steeme.

Lyche asses wylde ynne desart waste,
Swotelye the morneynge ayre doe taste.

Syke keene thie ate; the minstrels plaie,
The dynne of angelles doe theie keepe;
Heie stylle the guests ha ne to saie,
Butte nodde yer thankes and falle aslape.
Thus echone daie bee I to deene,
Gyf Rowley, Iscamm, or Tyb. Gorges be ne seene.

<sup>1</sup> Fair welcome. <sup>2</sup> Become. <sup>3</sup> Snuff up. <sup>4</sup> Savoury.



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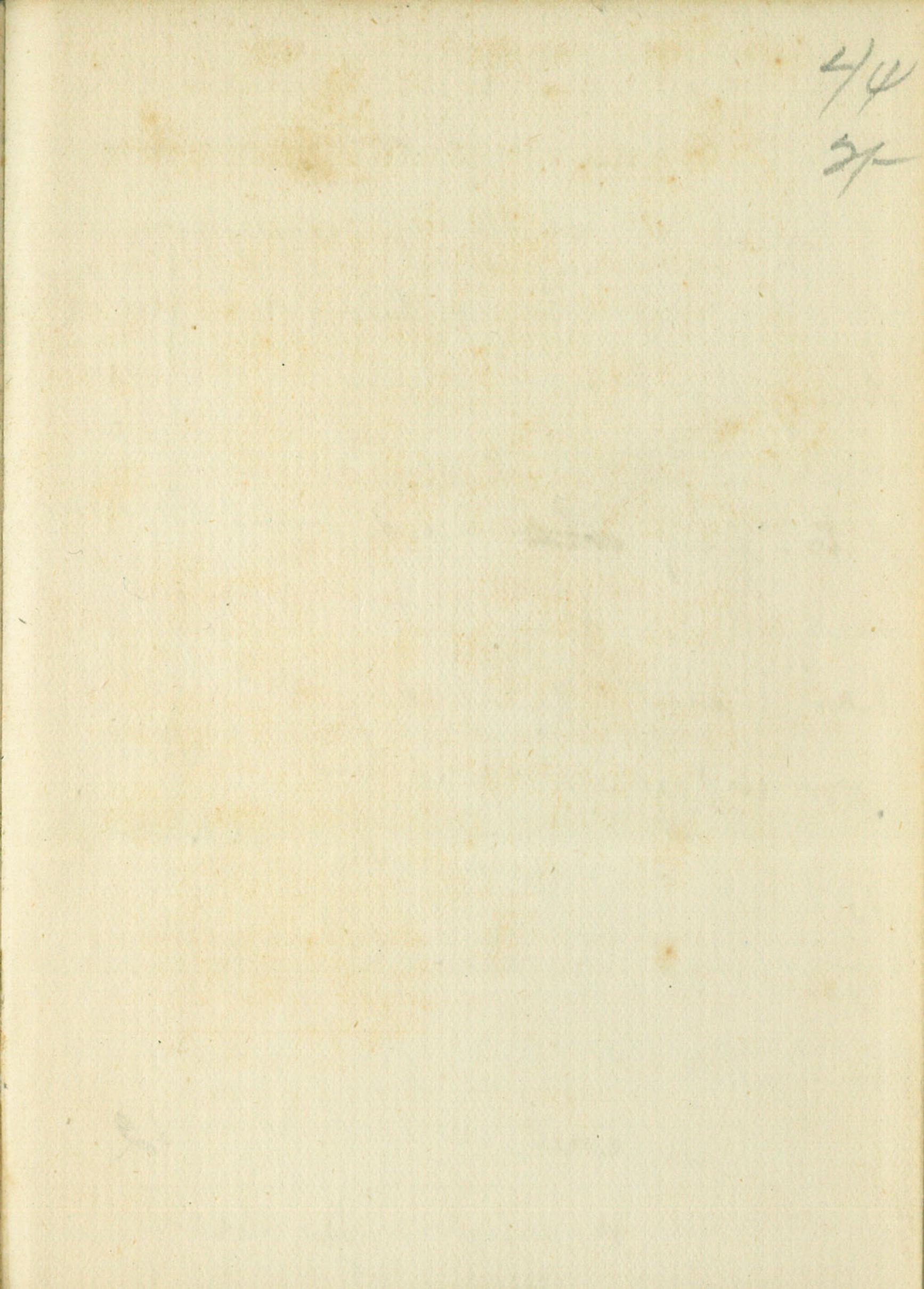
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Thorium to show to him the natural paths
of poetical, genius.

