

**THE LAY OF THE  
LAST MINSTREL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649627066

The Lay of the Last Minstrel by Sir Walter Scott & William J. Rolfe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SIR WALTER SCOTT & WILLIAM J. ROLFE**

**THE LAY OF THE  
LAST MINSTREL**





She gazed upon the inner court,  
Which in the tower's tall shadow lay (v. 170).

# THE LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL

BY

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

EDITED WITH NOTES BY

WILLIAM J. ROLFE, Litt. D.

FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS*



BOSTON, NEW YORK, AND CHICAGO  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
The Riverside Press, Cambridge  
1895

## PREFACE.

---

THE *Lay* is here edited on the same plan as its predecessors, the *Lady of the Lake* and *Marmion*; and, as in those, the illustrations are from the publishers' holiday edition of the poem.

The text has been carefully compared with that of the earliest editions I have been able to consult—including the 9th (quarto), the 10th (octavo), that of 1821, and several issues of Lockhart's. The corruptions I have detected are few and unimportant, compared with those in the *Lady of the Lake* and *Marmion*. The readings of the 1st edition I have had to take from Lockhart, who I hope may be more trustworthy in this case than I have found him in others. If I am ever so fortunate as to get hold of a copy of the 1st edition, I shall compare it with the later texts, and, if necessary, revise the notes referring to it.

I have given all of Scott's own notes in full—correcting sundry misprints and corruptions that appear in all the recent reprints—and most of Lockhart's. Of other editions, I have been most indebted to Professor Minto's, as the extracts credited to him will show. I have also taken an occasional note from Mr. J. S. Phillpotts's school edition. As usual, I have found the commentaries "good except on difficult passages," and have done my best to supply the deficiency.

The proof-readers of the University Press are exceedingly keen-eyed and critical, but neither they nor I can lay claim to infallibility. If we have overlooked any errors of the type, I shall be very grateful to the reader who will kindly send me a memorandum of such as he may detect.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 21, 1886.



Thus, starting oft, he journeyed on,  
And deeper in the wood is gone (lil. 177).



•

## CONTENTS.

—

	PAGE
THE LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL . . . . .	11
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	11
CANTO FIRST . . . . .	15
“ SECOND . . . . .	29
“ THIRD . . . . .	47
“ FOURTH . . . . .	64
“ FIFTH . . . . .	88
“ SIXTH . . . . .	107
NOTES . . . . .	131



Taper and host and book they bare,  
And holy banner, flourish'd fair  
With the Redeemer's name (vi. 519).

THE LAY  
OF  
THE LAST MINSTREL.



*Dum relego, scripsisse pudet; quia plurima cerno,  
Me quoque qui feci iudice, digna lini.*