

**THE MASTER OF
BALLANTRAE, A
WINTER'S TALE**

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The master of Ballantrae, a winter's tale by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

**THE MASTER OF
BALLANTRAE, A
WINTER'S TALE**

THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE.

A WINTER'S TALE.

By ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON,

Author of "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," Etc.

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The following table shows the results of the experiment. The first column is the number of trials, the second column is the number of correct responses, and the third column is the percentage of correct responses. The fourth column is the number of errors, and the fifth column is the percentage of errors. The sixth column is the number of omissions, and the seventh column is the percentage of omissions. The eighth column is the number of correct responses per trial, and the ninth column is the percentage of correct responses per trial. The tenth column is the number of errors per trial, and the eleventh column is the percentage of errors per trial. The twelfth column is the number of omissions per trial, and the thirteenth column is the percentage of omissions per trial.

Trial	Correct	Percentage Correct	Errors	Percentage Errors	Omissions	Percentage Omissions	Correct/Trial	Percentage Correct/Trial	Errors/Trial	Percentage Errors/Trial	Omissions/Trial	Percentage Omissions/Trial
1	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
2	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
3	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
4	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
5	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
6	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
7	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
8	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
9	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
10	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
11	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
12	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
13	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
14	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
15	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
16	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
17	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
18	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
19	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
20	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
21	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
22	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
23	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
24	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
25	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
26	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
27	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
28	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
29	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
30	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
31	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
32	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
33	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
34	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
35	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
36	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
37	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
38	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
39	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
40	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
41	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
42	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
43	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
44	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
45	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
46	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
47	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
48	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
49	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
50	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0

TO
SIR PERCY FLORENCE AND LADY SHELLEY.

HERE is a tale which extends over many years and travels into many countries. By a peculiar fitness of circumstance the writer began, continued it, and concluded it among distant and diverse scenes. Above all, he was much upon the sea. The character and fortune of the fraternal enemies, the hall and shrubbery of Durrisdeer, the problem of Mackellar's homespun and how to shape it for superior flights; these were his company on deck in many star-reflecting harbors, ran often in his mind at sea to the tune of slatting canvas, and were dismissed (something of the suddenest) on the approach of squalls. It is my hope that these surroundings of its manufacture may to some degree find favor for my story with seafarers and sea-lovers like yourself.

And at last here is a dedication from a great way off: written by the loud shores of a subtropical island near upon ten thousand miles from Boscombe Chine and Manor; scenes which rise before me as I write, along with the faces and voices of my friends.

Well, I am for the sea once more; no doubt Sir Percy also. Let us make the signal B. R. D. !

R. L. S.

VAIKIKI, *May 17, 1889.*

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THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS DURING THE MASTER'S WANDERINGS.

THE full truth of this odd matter is what the world has long been looking for and public curiosity is sure to welcome. It so befell that I was intimately mingled with the last years and history of the house ; and there does not live one man so able as myself to make these matters plain, or so desirous to narrate them faithfully. I knew the Master ; on many secret steps of his career, I have an authentic memoir in my hand ; I sailed with him on his last voyage almost alone ; I made one upon that winter's journey of which so many tales have gone abroad ; and I was there at the man's death. As for my late Lord Durrisdeer, I served him and loved him near twenty years ; and thought more of him the more I knew of him. Altogether, I think it not fit that so much evidence should perish ; the truth is a debt I owe my lord's memory ; and I think my old years will flow more smoothly, and my white hair lie quieter on the pillow, when the debt is paid.

The Duries of Durrisdeer and Ballantrae were a strong family in the southwest from the days of David First. A rhyme still current in the countryside—

Kittle folk are the Durrisdeers,
They ride wi' ower mony spears—

bears the mark of its antiquity ; and the name appears

in another, which common report attributes to Thomas of Ercildoune himself—I cannot say how truly, and which some have applied—I dare not say with how much justice—to the events of this narration :

Twa Duries in Durrisdeer,
Ane to tie and ane to ride,
An ill day for the groom
And a waur day for the bride.

Authentic history besides is filled with their exploits, which (to our modern eyes) seem not very commendable ; and the family suffered its full share of those ups and downs to which the great houses of Scotland have been ever liable. But all these I pass over, to come to that memorable year 1745, when the foundations of this tragedy were laid.

At that time there dwelt a family of four persons in the house of Durrisdeer, near St. Bride's, on the Solway shore ; a chief hold of their race since the Reformation. My old lord, eighth of the name, was not old in years, but he suffered prematurely from the disabilities of age ; his place was at the chimney side ; there he sat reading, in a lined gown, with few words for any man, and wry words for none : the model of an old retired housekeeper ; and yet his mind very well nourished with study, and reputed in the country to be more cunning than he seemed. The Master of Ballantrae, James in baptism, took from his father the love of serious reading ; some of his tact perhaps as well, but that which was only policy in the father became black dissimulation in the son. The face of his behavior was merely popular and wild : he sat late at wine, later at the cards ; had the name in the country of "an unco man for the lasses" ; and was ever in the front of broils. But for all he was the first to go in, yet it was observed he was invariably the best to come off ; and his partners in mischief were usually alone to pay the piper. This luck or dexterity got him several ill-wishers, but with the rest of the country,