

**THE HISTORIE OF ANE NOBIL AND  
WAILZEAND SQVYER, WILLIAM  
MELDRUM, VMQVHYLE LAIRD  
OF CLEISCHE AND BYNNIS, PP.  
321-590**

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The Historie of Ane Nobil and Wailzeand Sqvyer, William Meldrum, Vmqvhyle Laird of Cleische and Bynnis, pp. 321-590 by Sir David Lindsay

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**SIR DAVID LINDSAY**

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Early English Text Society.

Sir David Lyndesay's Works, Part III.

The Historie  
OF ANE NOBIL AND WALLBEAND SQVYER,

William Meldrum,

VMQVHYLE LAIRD OF CLEISCHE AND BYNNIS.

COMPYLET BE

Sir David Lyndesay of the Mount,

ALLAS,

Lyon King of Armes.

WITH

The Testament

OF THE SAID

William Meldrum, Squyer,

COMPELET ALSWA BE

Sir David Lyndesay, &c.

EDITED BY F. HALL, ESQ., D.C.L.

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The Historie  
OF ANE NOBIL AND WAILBEAND SQVYER,  
**William Meldrum,**  
VMQVHYLE LAIRD OF CLEISCHE AND BYNNIS.

COMPLIT BE

Sir Daud Lyndesay of the Mont,

ALIAS,

Lpoun King of Armes.

H C

The Testament  
OF THE SAID  
**William Meldrum, Squyer,**  
COMPLIT ALSWA BE  
Sir Daud Lyndesay, Sr.

Cicero, Philip. 14.

Proprium sapientis est grata eorum virtutem memoria prosequi, qui pro Patria vitam protulerunt

Ovid, a. Fast.

Et memorem famam, qui bene gessit habet.

IMPRENTIT AT EDINBURGH,  
**BE HENRIE CHARTERIS.**

ANNO M.D.XCVIII.

Cum Privilegio Regali.





The Historie  
OF ANE NOBIL AND WAILJEAND SQVYER,

William Meldrum,

VMQVHYER LAIRD OF CLHESCKE AND BYFFWIS.

COMPLYT BY

Sir David Lindsay of the Mount,

ALIAS,

Young King of Armes.

H C

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>QVHO that Antique Stories reidis<br/>Consider may the famous deidis<br/>Of our Nobill Progenitouris,<br/>4 Quhilk suld, to vs, be richt mirrouris,<br/>Thair verteous deidis to ensew,<br/>And vicious leuing to eschew.<br/>Sic Men bene put in memorie,<br/>8 That deith suld not confound thair glorie.<br/>Howbeit thair bodie þene absent,<br/>Thair verteous deidis bene present :<br/>Poetis, thair honour to suance,<br/>12 Hes put thame in remembrance.<br/>Sum wryt of preclair Conquerouris ;<br/>And sum, of vailjeand Empriouris ;<br/>And sum, of Nobill Michtie Kingis,<br/>16 That Royallie did reull thair Ringis ;<br/>And sum, of Campicounis and of Knichtis,<br/>That bauldie did defend thair richtis,<br/>Quhilk vailjeandlie did stand in stour,<br/>20 For the defence of thair honour ;</p> | <p>The famous poets<br/>of our nobil<br/>forefathers<br/>instruct us to<br/>enue virtue<br/>and to shun vice.<br/>Such men are<br/>justly memorized.<br/>Their good deeds<br/>survive; and<br/>poets remind us<br/>of them.<br/>Some poets write<br/>of conquerors ;<br/>others, of royal<br/>personages ;<br/>others, of<br/>champions and<br/>knights,<br/>strenuous for<br/>their right and<br/>honour ;</p> |
|---|---|

others, of  
doughty squires;  
others, still, of  
the history of  
lovers,  
With the aid of  
Clio and Minerva,  
I purpose to  
descant of a bold  
squire, whom,  
and his private  
history, I tell of  
from what I  
know.

His youth he  
spent in love,  
pleasantly and  
without reproof.  
Also, he was as  
valiant as many  
another man  
sung by poets.

He should not be  
forgotten, looking  
to what he  
suffered for his  
lady's sake.

Sir Lancelot  
fought no better,  
and in a less  
worthy cause:

for his lady was  
an adulteress; and  
he loved in the  
dark, like an  
owl.

- And sum, of Squyeris douchtie deidis,  
That wondrous wrought in weirlic weidis,  
Sum wryt of deidis amorous;  
24 As Chauceir wrait of Troilus,  
How that he luiffit Cressida;  
Of Iason and of Medea.  
With help of Cleo, I intend,  
28 Sa Minerue wald me Sapience send,  
Ane Nobill Squyer to discryfe,  
Quhais douchtines, during his Lyfe,  
I knaw my self: thair of I wryte;  
32 And all his deidis I dar indyte:  
And secretis, that I did not knaw,  
That Nobill Squyer did me schaw.  
Sa I intend, the best I can,  
36 Descryue the deidis and the Man;  
Quhais youth did occupie in lufe,  
Full plesantlie, without reprove;  
Quhilk did as monie douchtie deidis  
40 As monie ane that men of reidis,  
Quhilkis Poetis puttis in Memorie,  
For the exalting of thair glorie.  
Quhairfoir, I think,—sa God me saif!—  
44 He suld haue place amangis the laif,  
That his hie honour suld not smure,  
Considering quhat he did indure,  
Of times, for his Ladeis sake.  
48 I wait, Sir Lancelote du lake,  
Quhen he did lufe King Arthuris wyfe,  
Faucht neuer better, with sword nor knyfe,  
For his Ladie, in no battell;  
52 Nor had not half so just querrell.  
The veritie quha list declair,  
His Lufe was ane Adulterair;  
And durst not cum into hir sicht,  
56 Bot, lyke ane Houlet, on the nicht.

- With this Squyer it stude not so ;  
 His Ladie luift him, and no mo.  
 Husband nor Lemman had scho none ;  
 60 And so he had hir lufe alone.  
 I think it is no happie lufe,  
 Ane Man to jaip his Maisteris wyfe,  
 As did Lancelote : this I conclude,  
 64 Of sic amour culd cum na gude.  
 Now to my purpois will I pas,  
 And shaw 3ow how the Squyer was :  
 Ane gentilman of Scotland borne ;  
 68 So was his Father him beforne ;  
 Of Nobilnes lineallie descendit,  
 Quhilks thair gude fame hes euer defendit.  
 Gude Williame Meldrum he was namit,—  
 72 Quhilk in his honour was neuer defamit,—  
 Stalwart and stout in euerie stryfe,  
 And borne within the Schyre of Fyfe ,  
 To Cleische and Bynniss richt Heritour,  
 76 Quhilk stude, for Lufe, in monie stour.  
 He was bot twentie 3eiris of age,  
 Quhen he began his Uassalage ;  
 Proportionat weill, of mid stature,  
 80 Feirie, and wicht, and nicht indure ;  
 Quirset' with trauell, both nicht and day ;  
 Richt hardie baith in ernist and play ;  
 Blyith in countenance, richt fair of face,  
 84 And stude weill, ay, in his Ladies grace :  
 For he was wounder amiabill,  
 And, in all deidis, honorabill.  
 And ay his honour did auance,  
 88 In Ingland first, and syne in France.  
 And thair his manheid did assaill,  
 Under the Kingis greit Admirall,  
 Quhen the greit Nauie of Scotland  
 92 Passit to the sey, aganis Ingland.

Our Squyre,  
 contrariwise,  
 was alone loved  
 by his lady.

Unhappy was  
 Launcelot's life ;  
 and no good  
 could come of  
 intrigues like his.

The Squyre was  
 born in Scotland ;  
 gentile, as was his  
 father, and as  
 were his fathers.

He was called  
 William  
 Meldrum ; stout  
 in quarrel ;  
 born in Fifeshire ;  
 and, for love, he  
 fought often.

He began life at  
 twenty, well-  
 built, manly,  
 endurant,

restless,  
 hearty,  
 comely,

and ever  
 favourite with  
 his lady.

He gained  
 repute.

He signalized his  
 prowess, when the  
 Scottish navy set  
 sail against  
 England.