

FLODDEN FIELD: A TRAGEDY

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Flodden Field: A Tragedy by Alfred Austin

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ALFRED AUSTIN

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BY

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POET LAUREATE

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PERSONAGES

JAMES THE FOURTH . . . *King of Scotland.*
EARL OF SURREY. . . . *Commander of the English
Forces.*
SIR WILLIAM HERON . . . *Lord of Ford Castle.*
SENESCHAL.
DONALD GREY *Captain of the Ford Troop.*
LADY HERON *Wife of Sir William Heron.*
MARGERY *An Orphan adopted by Lady
Heron.*

SERVITORS, ATTENDANTS, ETC.

GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS.

SCENE—Ford Castle.

TIME—9th September 1513.

PRELUDE

[Midnight. A broad parapet, outside the Royal Palace of Linlithgow, on to which JAMES emerges, while MUSIC is being played, and the sound of gay laughter is heard, within. At the open windows, the faces of LADIES at the King's Court appear and disappear.]

JAMES

Good night, fair ladies all! Truce to your charms!
Warm dreams, sound sleep! But, as you know,
in France

They say the silent recollected Night
Brings counsel sage, and I have need of it.
So let the music of your laughter and
Soft-shading eyelids see you to your beds.

But, as you go, be measured in your mirth ;
Wake not the Queen ! Good night ! Good night !
Good night !

[He walks slowly along the parapet. Shortly, as he
turns, he beholds a veiled APPARITION.]

Who mayst thou be ?

APPARITION

The Wisdom of the Night,
Whom you invoked ! Go not to war with Eng-
land !

Or if the hotness of your blood demand
That sanguinary ordeal, beware,
Beware of woman's glamour, woman's wiles !

JAMES

Now I'll be sworn that this is merely one
Of England's crafty emissaries, or