

MARMION: A TALE OF FLODDEN FIELD

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Marmion: A Tale of Flodden Field by Sir Walter Scott & George B. Alton

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SIR WALTER SCOTT & GEORGE B. ALTON

MARMION: A TALE OF FLODDEN FIELD



SIR WALTER SCOTT.

MARMION

A TALE OF FLODDEN FIELD

BY

SIR WALTER SCOTT

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE usual word may be said to the effect that this edition of *Marmion* has been prepared for the use of students in secondary schools. The notes are intended to aid the student in seeing from Scott's point of view. No attempt has been made at rhetorical analysis. Through the study of such a poem, the student's ear should become sensitive to the pleasure of a word finely chosen, of a thought fitly spoken; the student should become alive also to the pain of a jarring word, of an ignoble expression. But these are delicate processes of feeling rather than of judgment. They must be conducted opportunely or it were better not at all. They must be left to the instructor, while the editor contents himself with helping the student to get the author's thought. Some critics lament that so little is done to give students an idea of proportion and a sense of order in the arrangement of the parts of a composition, but we must plead again that literary structure is the province of the teacher. In fact the only excuse that can be offered for annotation is the difficulty of providing the members of a class with sufficient material for individual reference work. In the present edition no apology is needed for presenting a large part of the notes which Scott added to the last edition which passed under his own eye.

If *Marmion* be read well, the poem will serve as an open door for many a pleasant hour with the other poems and with the novels of Walter Scott. Carlyle says Scott was not a great man. Perhaps not. But he drops into one's library as a neighbor drops in from over the way. In this densely populated world of books we can truly say, though we have many, many callers, we have few old neighbors like Walter Scott.

GEORGE B. AITON.

MINNEAPOLIS, September, 1899.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFATORY NOTE	v
INTRODUCTION	ix
MARMION: A TALE OF FLODDEN FIELD	2
Introduction to Canto I.	3
Canto I. The Castle	14
Introduction to Canto II.	34
Canto II. The Convent	43
Introduction to Canto III.	65
Canto III. The Hostel or Inn	73
Introduction to Canto IV.	95
Canto IV. The Camp	102
Introduction to Canto V.	126
Canto V. The Court	133
Introduction to Canto VI.	167
Canto VI. The Battle	175
L'Envoy	213
MAP TO ILLUSTRATE "MARMION"	215
NOTES	217

