

**THE POEMS OF  
WILLIAM DUNBAR,  
NOW FIRST COLLECTED**

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The poems of William Dunbar, now first collected by William Dunbar & David Liang

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**WILLIAM DUNBAR & DAVID LIANG**

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THE POEMS  
OF  
WILLIAM DUNBAR:

FIRST COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED  
IN THE YEAR M.DCCC.XXXIV.



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SUPPLEMENT.

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EDINBURGH: M.DCCCLXV.



## CONTENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENT.

	PAGE
ADVERTISEMENT, . . . . .	261
EARLY PROPOSALS FOR THE MARRIAGE OF KING JAMES THE FOURTH, . . . . .	263
DUNBAR IN LONDON, A.D. 1501, . . . . .	272
POEMS BY WILLIAM DUNBAR,	
In Honour of the City of London, . . . . .	277
To the Princess Margaret on her arrival at Holyrood,	280
To the Queen Margaret, . . . . .	281
Ane Ballat of our Lady, . . . . .	283
Of the Passioun of Christ, . . . . .	285
KING JAMES THE FOURTH AT FLODDON, 9th September 1513,	287
ON THE PERIOD OF DUNBAR'S DECEASE, . . . . .	292
WALTER CHEPMAN THE PRINTER, . . . . .	293
NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENT, . . . . .	297
SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS, . . . . .	309
ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF DUNBAR'S POEMS, . . . . .	317

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

THE following pages contain a Supplement to the collected edition of Dunbar's Poetical Remains, in two volumes, which appeared about thirty years ago. During this long interval I continued to entertain a hope that further research or chance might bring to light some undescribed manuscript or unknown fragments from the press of Walter Chepman, or his successors, to enlarge the collection. When these volumes were published, I had no occasion to feel otherwise than gratified with their reception, except in one respect, that the sale of the work, at a price in no way regulated by the actual cost, was so inconsiderable that about one-half of the limited impression remained in the printer's warehouse.<sup>1</sup> After a few years, therefore, I thought it advisable to withdraw the copies from circulation, in order to consider whether it might not be preferable, in the event of any important additions being discovered, to have the entire work reprinted in a somewhat amended form. But time has passed on, and that alternative seems, for the present at least, to be altogether inexpedient.

<sup>1</sup> I regret, for the credit of literature, that here I cannot avoid mentioning a most cool and impudent attempt at appropriation of the contents of these volumes which was published a few years ago, called "The Life and Poems of William Dunbar." I abstain from any remarks on such a compilation.



In order to satisfy the frequent and urgent demand (as the volumes, when they occurred for sale, usually fetched an extravagant price), these reserved copies are now re-issued in their original form, with no other alteration than the addition of the following pages. I sincerely wish that such additions had been more numerous, but I feel glad in being enabled to recover even these two or three poems of Dunbar which had hitherto escaped notice.

Of this Supplement separate copies are provided for the benefit of those who may already possess the work.

DAVID LAING.

EDINBURGH,  
*September 1865.*



### EARLY PROPOSALS FOR THE MARRIAGE OF KING JAMES THE FOURTH.

DUNBAR in one of his importunate solicitations to King James the Fourth for church preferment, or some suitable reward for his long and faithful service, reminds the King that he had been employed not only in France, England, and Ireland, but likewise in Germany, Italy and Spain.<sup>1</sup> This naturally suggests that for some years previously he may have, as clerk or notary, accompanied the ambassadors from the Scottish King to foreign Courts. The recent publication of Calenders of early State Papers throw much new light on many points of history. They do not record Dunbar's name, acting as he did merely in a subordinate capacity, but they serve to illustrate the object of the missions referred to, including schemes for the King's marriage.<sup>2</sup> With Spain, for instance, there were frequent embassies. In February 1489, it appears from the Journals of Roger Machado, that the Snowdown herald, who was sent by James to Castille, was, with others, driven back to Plymouth, and again to Fulmouth, in their voyage. Also in the year 1490,<sup>3</sup> reference is made to the King's daughter Doña Juana,<sup>4</sup> but

<sup>1</sup> "To the King," *supra*, p. 205.

<sup>2</sup> The premature death of James the Third in June 1488 may have interfered with his scheme for the Prince's marriage with one of the daughters of Edward the Fourth.

<sup>3</sup> Gairdner's Memorials of King Henry the Seventh, pp. 159, 330.

<sup>4</sup> Bergenroth's Calendar of Spanish Letters, Despatches, and State Papers, vol. i., No. 41. Lond. 1862, roy. 8vo.

her illegitimacy may have proved an objection. Five years later, in August 1495, Robert Archbishop of Glasgow arrived in Spain as an ambassador; and he was so well received that Ferdinand and Isabella wrote to the Pope asking to make him a cardinal.<sup>1</sup> On the 8th of November that year James addressed a letter to the Spanish Monarchs when sending another embassy to confer about the alliance which he hoped they would condescend to conclude with him.<sup>2</sup> But they still continued to delude the Scottish King with the prospect of his marriage with an Infanta; even on the 26th April 1496, when they write to their ambassador in England,—“But we have no daughter to give to the King of Scots, as you well know. . . You must tell this to the King of England alone. . . We must not deprive the King of Scots of his hope of having our daughter.”<sup>3</sup> The same bad faith is urged in subsequent letters on the 21st of June and 18th of August.<sup>4</sup> Two years later, one of their ambassadors ventured to remark that “he doubts whether Ferdinand and Isabella have treated the affairs of Scotland with their wonted caution. The King of Scots firmly believes that he shall marry one of their daughters. The refusal will most probably offend him. Promises to do his best to influence the King of Scots according to their orders.”<sup>5</sup>

Finding such to be the result, the King's views were directed to Margaret daughter of Maximilian King of the Romans, the widow of the Duke of Savoy; and also to a

<sup>1</sup> Bergenroth's Calendar, vol. i., Nos. 101 and 105.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, No. 112.

<sup>3</sup> *Ib.*, No. 132.

<sup>4</sup> *Ib.*, Nos. 137 and 150.

<sup>5</sup> *Ib.*, No. 210.