



UNIVERSITÄTS-
BIBLIOTHEK
PADERBORN

Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

The History Of English Poetry

From The Close of the Eleventh To The Commencement of the Eighteenth
Century

Warton, Thomas

London, 1778

Section XIII. Scotch poets continued. Gawen Douglass. His translation of
the Eneid. His genius for descriptive poetry. His Palice of Honour, and
other pieces.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-51407](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-51407)

S E C T. XIII.

ANother of the distinguished luminaries, that marked the restoration of letters in Scotland at the commencement of the sixteenth century, not only by a general eminence in elegant erudition, but by a cultivation of the vernacular poetry of his country, is Gawen Douglass. He was descended from a noble family, and born in the year 1475^o. According to the practice of that age, especially in Scotland, his education perhaps commenced in a grammar-school of one of the monasteries: there is undoubted proof, that it was finished at the university of Paris. It is probable, as he was intended for the sacred function, that he was sent to Paris for the purpose of studying the canon law: in consequence of a decree promulged by James the first, which tended in some degree to reform the illiteracy of the clergy, as it enjoined, that no ecclesiastic of Scotland should be preferred to a prebend of any value without a competent skill in that science¹. Among other high promotions in the church, which his very singular accomplishments obtained, he was provost of the collegiate church of saint Giles at Edinburgh, abbot of the opulent convent of Abberbrothrock, and bishop of Dunkeld. He appears also to have been nominated by the queen regent to the archbishoprick, either of Glasgow, or of saint Andrew's: but the appointment was repudiated by the pope². In the year 1513, to avoid the persecutions of the duke of Albany, he fled from Scotland into England, and was most graciously received by king Henry the eighth; who, in consideration of his literary merit, al-

¹ Hume, HIST. DOUGL. p. 219.
² Lesh. REB. GEST. SCOT. Lib. ix.

³ Thynne, CONTINUAT. HIST. SCOT.
455.

lowed

lowed him a liberal pension^b. In England he contracted a friendship with Polydore Virgil, one of the classical scholars of Henry's court^c. He died of the plague in London, and was buried in the Savoy church, in the year 1521^d.

In his early years he translated Ovid's ART OF LOVE, the favorite Latin system of the science of gallantry, into Scottish metre, which is now lost^e. In the year 1513, and in the space of sixteen months^f, he translated into Scotch heroics the Eneid of Virgil, with the additional thirteenth book by Mapheus Vegius, at the request of his noble patron Henry earl of Sinclair^g. But it was projected so early as the year 1501. For in one of his poems written that year^h, he promises to Venus a translation of Virgil, in attonement for a ballad he had published against her court: and when the work was finished, he tells Lord Sinclair, that he had now made his peace with Venus, by translating the poem which celebrated the actions of her son Eneasⁱ. No metrical version of a classic had yet appeared in English; except of Boethius, who scarcely deserves that appellation. Virgil was hitherto commonly known, only by Caxton's romance on the subject of the Eneid; which, our author says, no more resembles Virgil, than the devil is like saint Austin^j.

This translation is executed with equal spirit and fidelity: and is a proof, that the lowland Scotch and English languages were now nearly the same. I mean the style of com-

^b Hollinsh. Scot. 307.—iii. 872.

^c Bale, xiv. 58.

^d Weever, FUN. MON. p. 446. And Stillingfl. ORIG. BRIT. p. 54.

^e See edit. Edinb. fol. 1710. p. 483. In the EPISTLE, or EPILOGUE, to Lord Sinclair. I believe the editor's name is ROBERT FREEBAIRN, a Scotchman. This translation was first printed at London, 1553. 4to. bl. lett.

^f Less. RES. GEST. SCOT. lib. ix. p. 379. Rom. 1675.

^g EPILOGUE, ut supr.

^h The PALICE OF HONOUR, ad calcem.

Vol. II.

ⁱ EPIL. ut supr.

^j PROLOGUE to the Translation, p. 5. The manuscript notes written in the margin of a copy of the old quarto edition of this translation, by Patrick Junius, which bishop Nicolson (HIST. LIBR. p. 99.) declares to be excellent, are of no consequence, Bibl. Bodl. ARCHIV. SELD. B. 54. 4to. The same may be said of Junius's Index of obsolete words in this translation, Cod. MSS. Jun. 114. (5225.) See also Mus. Ashmol. *Diverse Scotch words*, &c. Cod. Ashm. 846. 13.

O o

position;

position; more especially in the glaring affectation of anglicising Latin words. The several books are introduced with metrical prologues, which are often highly poetical; and shew that Douglas's proper walk was original poetry. In the prologue to the sixth book, he wishes for the Sybill's golden bough, to enable him to follow his master Virgil through the dark and dangerous labyrinth of the infernal regions'. But the most conspicuous of these prologues is a description of May. The greater part of which I will insert'.

As fresche Aurore, to mychty Tithone spous,
 Ischit' of her saffron bed, and euyr^u hous,
 In crammesy^w clad and granite violate,
 With sanguyne cape, the selvage^x purpurate;
 Unschet' the wyndoys of hir large hall,
 Spred all with rosis, and full of balme royall.
 And eik the hevinly portis cristallyne
 Upwarpis brade, the warlde till illumyne.
 The twynkling stremouris^z of the orient
 Sched purpoure sprayngis with gold and afure ment^a.
 Eous the stede, with ruby hammys rede,
 Abouf the seyis listis furth his hede
 Of culloure fore, and somedele broun as bery,
 For to alichtin and glad our emispery;
 The flambe out brastin at the neis thirlis.—
 Q^uhil schortlie, with the blesand^b torche of day,
 Abulzeit^c in his lemand^d fresche array,
 Furth of his palice ryall ischit Phebus,
 With golden croun and vifage glorious,

' In the PROLOGUE to the eighth book, the alliterative manner of Pierce Plowman is adopted.

^a Pag. 400.

^b Issued.

^c Ivory.

^d Crimfon.

^x Edge.

^y Unshut, i. e. opened.

^z Streamers.

^a Streaks mingled with, &c.

^b Blazing.

^c Fr. Habillé. Cloathed.

^d Luminous.

Crisp haris ^o, bricht as chrisfolite or thopas ;
 For quhais hew ^f mycht nane behold his face :
 The firie sparkis braisting from his ene,
 To purge the air, and gilt the tender grene.—
 The auriat phanis ^e of his trone soverane
 With glitterand glance overspred the octiane ^b ;
 The largè fludis, lemand all of licht,
 Bot with ane blenk ⁱ of his supernal sicht,
 For to behald, it was ane glore to se
 The stabillyt ^k wyndis, and the calmyt se ;
 The soft sessoun ^l, the firmament serene ;
 The loune illuminate are ^m, and firth ⁿ amene :
 The silver-scalit fyschis on the grete ^o,
 Ouer thowrt ^p clere stremes sprinckilland ^r for the hete,
 With fynnyis schinand broune as synopare ^s,
 And chesal talis ^t, stourand here and there ^u :
 The new cullour, alichting ^v all the landis,
 Forgane the stanryis schene ^w, and beriall strandis :
 Quhil the reflex of the diurnal bemes
 The bene bonkis ^x kest ful of variant glemes :
 And lustie Flora did her blomes sprede
 Under the fete of Phebus fulzeart ^y stede,
 The swardit soyll enbrode with felkouth hewis ^z,
 Wod and forest obumbrate with bewis ^a,

^o Curled locks.
^f Whose excessive brightness.
^e Fans, or vanes, of gold.
^b Ocean.
ⁱ Only with one glance.
^k Settled, calmed.
^l Season.
^m Air without wind, &c.
ⁿ Frith.
^o Sand, gravel.
^p Athwart, across, through.
^r Gliding swiftly, with a tremulous motion, or vibration, of their tails.

^r Cinnabar.
^s Tails shaped like chiffels.
^t Swimming swiftly, darting hastily.
^u Illuminating.
^v Over, upon, over-against, the bright gravel, or small stones, thrown out on the banks of rivers. Hence, the strands were all of beryl.
^w Pleasant banks.
^x Brilliant, glittering.
^y Bladed with grass, and embroidered with strange colours.
^z Boughs.

Quhais blysful branchis, porturate^b on the ground,
 With schaddois schene schew rocchis rubicund:
 Towris, turrettis, kirnallis^c, and pynnakillis hie,
 Of kirkis, castellis, and ilk faire citie,
 Stude payntit, every fane, phioll^d, and stage^e,
 Apoun the playn grounde by thaire awn umbrage^f.
 Of Eolus north blastis havand^g no drede,
 The fulze spred hir brad bosum on brede^h.—
 The cornis croppis, and the bere new-brerdeⁱ,
 With gladsum garment revesting the erde^k.—
 The variant vesture of the venust vale
 Schrowdis the scherand fur^l, and every fale^m
 Ouerfrettⁿ with fulzeis^o, and fyguris ful dyuers,
 The pray^p bysprent with spryngand sproutis dyspers,
 For callour humours on the dewy nycht,
 Rendryng sum place the gyrs pylis thare licht,
 Als fer as catal the lang somerys day
 Had in thare pasture ete and gnyp away:
 And blysful blossoms in the blomyt zard
 Submittis thare hedys in the zoung sonnys safgard:
 Iue leius^q rank ouerspred the barmkyn^r wall,
 The blomit hauthorne cled his pykis all,

^b Portrayed, painted, reflected.

^c Battlements.

^d Round tower.

^e Story.

^f Their own shadow.

^g Having.

^h The soil, the country, spread abroad
her expansive bosom.

ⁱ New-sprung barley.

^k Earth.

^l Furrow.

^m Turf.

ⁿ It is evident our author intends to describe two distinct things, viz. corn-fields, and meadows or pasture-lands: the former in the three first lines; the *variant vesture*,

&c., is plainly arable, and the *fulzeis* and *fyguris* full dyuers, are the various leaves and flowers of the weeds growing among the corn, and making a piece of embroidery. And here the description of corn-fields ends: and that of pasture-lands begins at, *The pray bysprent*, &c. *Pray*, not as the printed glossary says, corruptedly for *spray*, but formed, through the French, from the Lat. *Pratum*, and *Spryngand Sproutis*, rising springs, from the Ital. *spruzzare*, *spruzzare*, *aspargere*.

^o Leaves.

^p Mead.

^q Ivy-leaves.

^r Rampart.

Furth of fresche burgeouns^a the wyne grapis^b zing
 Endlang the trazileys^c dyd on twistis hing,
 The loukit^d buttouns on the gemyt treis
 Ouerspredand leuis of naturis tapestryis.
 Soft gresy verdoure eftir balmy schouris,
 On curland stalkis smyland to thare flowris:
 Behaldand thame sa mony divers hew
 Sum piers^e, sum pale, sum burnet, and sum blew,
 Sum gres, sum gowlis, sum purple, sum sanguane,
 Blanchit or broun, fauch zallow mony anc,
 Sum heuinly colourit in celestial gre,
 Sum^f watty hewit as the haw wally^g se,
 And sum departe in freklis rede and quhyte,
 Sum bricht as gold with aureate leuis lyte.
 The dasy did on^h brede hir crownel smale,
 And euery flour unlappit in the dale,
 In battil gersⁱ burgeouns, the banwart wyld,
 The claur, catcluke, and the cammomylde;
 The^j flourdelyce furth sprede his heuynly hew,
 Floure damas, and columbe blak and blew,
 Sere downis smal on dentilioun^k sprang,
 The zoung grene^l blomit strabery leus amang,
 Gimp jereflouris^m thareon leuis unschet,
 Fresche prymrois, and the pourpour violet,
 The rois knoppis, tetand furth thare hede,
 Gan chyp, and kyth thare vernale lippis rede,
 Crysp skarlet leuis sum scheddand baith at attanis,
 Kestⁿ fragrant smel amynd fra goldin granis^o,

^a Sprigs.
^b Young.
^c Trellises. Espaliers for vines.
^d Locked. Enclosed. Gemmed.
^e Red.
^f Watchet.
^g Blue and wavy.
^h Unbraided.
ⁱ Grass embattelled.

^k Dandelion.
^l Young weeds.
^m Gilliflowers. *Gariophilum*, Lat. *Kα-
 ρυφάλλος*, Gr. The Scotch word is nearer
 the original. Probably the poet wrote
thare awin. See ver. 72. *thare awin un-
 brage*.
ⁿ It is observable, that our Poet
 never once mentions the scent of flowers
 till

Heinlic lyllyis, with lokkerand toppis quhyte,
 Opynnit and schew thare creiftis redemyte ^h,
 The balmy vapour from thare fylkyn croppis
 Distilland halefum fugurat hony droppis,
 And fylver schakeris ^l gan fra leuis hing,
 With chrystal sprayngis on the verdure zing:
 The plane pouderit with femelie seitis sound,
 Bedyit ful of dewy peirlys round;
 So that ilk burgeon, fyon, herbe, or floure,
 Wox all enbalmit of the fresche liquour,
 And baithit hait did in dulce humouris flete,
 Quhareof the beis wrocht thare hony fwete.—
 Swannis ^k fouchis throw out the respand ^l redis,
 Ouer all the lochis ^m and the fludis gray,
 Serfand by kynd ane place quhare they fuld lay;
 Phebus rede foule his curale creift can stere,
 Oft strekand furth his hekkil crawand clere
 Amyd the wortis, and the rutis gent,
 Pickland hys mete in alayis quhare he went,
 His wyffis Toppa and Partolet hym by,
 As bird al tyme that hantis bygamy;

till he comes to the rose, and never at all the scent of any particular flower, except the rose, not even of the lily; for I take it, the words, *from thare fylkyn croppis*, are meant to describe the flowers in general; and *the balmy vapour* to be the same with the *fresche liquour*, and *the dulce humouris quhareof the beis wrocht thare hony fwete*, an exhalation distinct from that which causes the scent. Afterwards *redolent odour*, is general; for he certainly means to clofe his description of the vegetable world, by one uniuersal cloud of fragrance from all nature.

^h Seeds.

^l Redeemed. Released, opened. The glossary says, Decked, Beautiful, from *Redimitus*, Lat.

^l Shakers.

^k That Milton had his eye upon this passage is plain, from his describing the

swan, the cock, and peacock, in this order, and with several of the attributes that our author has given them. See PARAD. L. vii. 438. seq.

— The SWAN with arched neck
 Between her white wings mantling proudly,
 rows

Her state with oary feet; yet oft they quit
 The dank, and rising on stiff pennons, tower
 The mid aereal sky: Others on ground
 Walk'd firm: the crested COCK, whose
 clarion sounds

The silent hours, and th' OTHER, whose
 gay train

Adorns him, color'd with the florid hue
 Of rainbows and starry eyes.—

^l Ruffling.

^m Lakes.

The

The payntit powne ^a payfand with plumys gym,
 Kest up his tale ane proud plesand quhile rym ^b;
 Ischrowdit in his fedderane bricht and schene,
 Schapand the prent of Argois hundreth ene;
 Amang the bronys ^c of the olyue twiftis,
 Sere smale floulis, wirkand crafty nestis,
 Endlang the hedgeis thik, and on rank akis ^d
 Ilk bird reiosand with thare mirthful makis:
 In corneris and clere fenesteris of glas
 Full befely Arachne weuand was,
 To knyt hyr nettis and hyr wobbis fle,
 Tharewith to cauch the lital mige ^e or fle:
 Under the bewis bene in lufely valis,
 Within fermance and parkis clois of palis,
 The bustuous bukkis rakis furth on raw,
 Heirdis of hertis throw the thyck wod schaw,
 The zoung fownys followand the dun days ^f,
 Kiddis skip pand throw ronnyis eftir rais ^g,
 In lesuris ^h and on lewis litill lammes
 Full tait and trig socht bletand to thare dammes.
 On salt stremes wolk Dorida and Thetis,
 By rynnand strandis, nymphs and naiades,
 Sic as we clepe wenschis and damyffellis,
 In gerfy grauis wanderand by spring wellis,
 Of blomed branchis and flouris quhyte and rede
 Plettand their lusty chaplettis for thare hede:
 Sum fang ring fangis, ledis, and roundis,
 With vocis schil, quhil all the dale refoundis.—
 Dame naturis menstralis on that uthyr parte,
 Thare blisful bay intonyng euery arte,

^a Peacock.
^b Wheel-rim.
^c Branches.
^d Oaks.

^e Gnat.
^f Does.
^g Roes.
^h Leafowes.

To

To bete thare amouris of thare nychtis bale,
 The merle, the mauys, and the nyctingale,
 With mirry notis myrthfully furth brist,
 Enforſing thaxm quha nicht do clink it beſt:
 The kowſchot^w croudis and pykkis on the ryſe,
 The ſtirling changis diuers ſteuynnys nyſe^x,
 The ſparrow chirmis in the wallis clyft,
 Goldſpink and lintquhite fordynnand the lyft^y,
 The gukkow galis^z, and ſo quhitteris the quale,
 Quhil ryveris reirdit^a, ſchawis, and euey dale,
 And tendir twiſtis trymblit on the treis,
 For birdis fang, and bemyng of the beis,
 In werblis dulce of heuinlie armonyis,
 The larkis loude releiſchand^b in the ſkyis,
 Louis thare lege^c with tonys curious;
 Bayth to dame Natur, and the freſche Venus,
 Rendring hie laudis in thare obſeruance,
 Quhais ſuggourit throttis^d made glade hartis dance,
 And al ſmal foulis fingis on the ſpray;
 Welcum the lord of licht, and lampe of day,
 Welcum foſterare of tendir herbis grene,
 Welcum quhikkynnar of fluriſt flouris ſchene,
 Welcum ſupport of euey rute and vane,
 Welcum confort of al kind frute and grane,
 Welcum the birdis beild^e apoun the brere,
 Welcum maifter and reulare of the zere,
 Welcum welefare of husbandis at the plewis^f,
 Welcum reparare of woddis, treis, and bewis,

^w Dove.^x Fine tunes.^y Firmament.^z Cries. So Chaucer of the nyctingale.
COUR. L. v. 1357.

But DOMINE LABIA gan he crie and GALE.

So the Friar is ſaid to gale, WIFE OF
B. PROL. v. 832.^a Refounded.^b Mounting.^c Praiſed their Lady NATURE.^d Sugared Throats.^e Who build. ^f Ploughs.

Welcum

Welcum depaynter of the blomyt medis,
 Welcum the lyffe of euery thing that spredis,
 Welcum storare ² of all kynd bestial,
 Welcum be thy bricht bemes gladand al.

The poetical beauties of this specimen will be relished by every reader who is fond of lively touches of fancy, and rural imagery. But the verses will have another merit with those critics who love to contemplate the progress of composition, and to mark the original workings of genuine nature; as they are the effusion of a mind not overlaid by the descriptions of other poets, but operating, by its own force and bias, in the delineation of a vernal landscape, on such objects as really occurred. On this account, they deserve to be better understood: and I have therefore translated them into plain modern English prose. In the mean time, this experiment will serve to prove their native excellence. Divested of poetic numbers and expression, they still retain their poetry; and, to use the comparison of an elegant writer on a like occasion, appear like Ulysses, still a king and conqueror, although disguised like a peasant, and lodged in the cottage of the herdsman Eumæus.

“ Fresh Aurora, the wife of Tithonus, issued from her
 “ saffron bed, and ivory house. She was cloathed in a robe
 “ of crimson and violet-colour; the cape vermilion, and the
 “ border purple: she opened the windows of her ample
 “ hall, overspread with roses, and filled with balm, or nard.
 “ At the same time, the crystal gates of heaven were thrown
 “ open, to illumine the world. The glittering streamers of
 “ the orient diffused purple streaks mingled with gold and
 “ azure.—The steeds of the sun, in red harness of rubies,
 “ of colour brown as the berry, lifted their heads above the
 “ sea, to glad our hemisphere: the flames burst from their

² Restorer.

VOL. II.

P p

“ nostrils;

“ nostrils:— While shortly, appalled in his luminous
“ array, Phebus, bearing the blazing torch of day, issued
“ from his royal palace; with a golden crown, glorious
“ visage, curled locks bright as the chrysolite or topaz, and
“ with a radiance intolerable.—The fiery sparks, bursting
“ from his eyes, purged the air, and gilded the new ver-
“ dure.—The golden vanes of his throne covered the ocean
“ with a glittering glance, and the broad waters were all in
“ a blaze, at the first glimpse of his appearance. It was
“ glorious to see the winds appeased, the sea becalmed, the
“ soft season, the serene firmament, the still air, and the
“ beauty of the watery scene. The silver-scaled fishes, on
“ the gravel, gliding hastily, as it were from the heat or sun,
“ through clear streams, with fins shining brown as cinna-
“ bar, and chissel-tails, darted here and there. The new
“ lustre, enlightening all the land, beamed on the small
“ pebbles on the sides of rivers, and on the strands, which
“ looked like beryl: while the reflection of the rays played
“ on the banks in variegated gleams; and Flora threw forth
“ her blooms under the feet of the sun’s brilliant horses.
“ The bladed foil was embroidered with various hues. Both
“ wood and forest were darkened with boughs; which, re-
“ flected from the ground, gave a shadowy lustre to the red
“ rocks. Towers, turrets, battlements, and high pinnacles,
“ of churches, castles, and every fair city, seemed to be
“ painted; and, together with every bastion and story, ex-
“ pressed their own shape on the plains. The glebe, fearless
“ of the northern blasts, spread her broad bosom.—The
“ corn-crops, and the new-sprung barley, reclothed the
“ earth with a gladfome garment.—The variegated vesture
“ of the valley covered the cloven furrow; and the barley-
“ lands were diversified with flowery weeds. The meadow
“ was besprinkled with rivulets: and the fresh moisture of
“ the dewy night restored the herbage which the cattle had
“ cropped in the day. The blossoms in the blowing garden
“ trusted

" trusted their heads to the protection of the young sun.
 " Rank ivy-leaves overspread the wall of the rampart. The
 " blooming hawthorn cloathed all his thorns in flowers. The
 " budding clusters of the tender grapes hung end-long, by
 " their tendrils, from the trellises. The gems of the trees
 " unlocking, expanded themselves into the foliage of Na-
 " ture's tapestry. There was a soft verdure after balmy
 " showers. The flowers smiled in various colours on the
 " bending stalks. Some red, &c. Others, watchet, like the
 " blue and wavy sea; speckled with red and white; or,
 " bright as gold. The daisy unbraided her little coronet.
 " The grafs stood embattelled, with banewort, &c. The
 " seeded down flew from the dandelion. Young weeds ap-
 " peared among the leaves of the strawberries. Gay gilli-
 " flowers, &c. The rose buds, putting forth, offered their
 " *red vernal lips* to be kissed; and diffused fragrance from the
 " crisp scarlet that surrounded their golden seeds. Lilies,
 " with white curling tops, shewed their crests open. The
 " odorous vapour moistened the silver webs that hung
 " from the leaves. The plain was powdered with round
 " dewy pearls. From every bud, scyon, herb, and flower,
 " bathed in liquid fragrance, the bee sucked sweet honey.—
 " The swans clamoured amid the rustling reeds; and search-
 " ed all the lakes and gray rivers where to build their nests.
 " The red bird of the sun lifted his coral crest, crowing
 " clear among the plants and *rutis gent*, picking his food
 " from every path, and attended by his wives Toppa and
 " Partlet. The painted peacock with gaudy plumes, un-
 " folded his tail like a bright wheel, inshrouded in his
 " shining feathers, resembling the marks of the hundred
 " eyes of Argus. Among the boughs of the twisted olive,
 " the small birds framed their artful nests, or along the
 " thick hedges, or rejoiced with their merry mates on the
 " tall oaks. In the secret nook, or in the clear windows of
 " glass, the spider full busily wove her fly net, to ensnare

" the little gnat or fly. Under the boughs that screen the
 " valley, or within the pale-inclosed park, the nimble deer
 " trooped in ranks, the harts wandered through the thick
 " woody shaws, and the young fawns followed the dap-
 " pled does. Kids skipped through the briers after the roes;
 " and in the pastures and leas, the lambs, *full tight and trig*,
 " bleated to their dams. Doris and Thetis walked on the
 " salt ocean; and Nymphs and Naiads, wandering by spring-
 " wells in the grassy groves, plaited lusty chaplets for their
 " hair, of blooming branches, or of flowers red and white.
 " They sung, and danced, &c. — Meantime, dame Nature's
 " minstrels raise their amorous notes, the ring-dove coos
 " and pitches on the tall copse, the starling whistles her
 " varied descant, the sparrow chirps in the clefted wall; the
 " goldfinch and linnet filled the skies, the cuckow cried, the
 " quail twittered; while rivers, shaws, and every dale re-
 " sounded; and the tender branches trembled on the trees,
 " at the song of the birds, and the buzzing of the bees, &c."

This Landscape may be finely contrasted with a description of WINTER, from the Prologue to the seventh book^b, a part of which I will give in literal prose.

" The fern withered on the miry fallows: the brown
 " moors assumed a barren mossy hue: banks, sides of hills,
 " and bottoms, grew white and bare: the cattle looked
 " hoary from the dank weather: the wind made the red
 " weed waver on the dike: From crags and the foreheads of
 " the yellow rocks hung great icicles, in length like a spear:
 " the soil was dusky and gray, bereft of flowers, herbs, and
 " grass: in every holt and forest, the woods were stripped
 " of their array. Boreas blew his bugle horn so loud, that
 " the solitary deer withdrew to the dales: the small birds
 " flocked to the thick briers, shunning the tempestuous
 " blast, and changing their loud notes to chirping: the cata-

^b P. 200. fol. edit.

" racts roared, and every linden-tree whistled and *brayed* to
 " the founding of the wind. The poor labourers *went wet*
 " *and weary, draggled in the fen.* The sheep and shepherds
 " lurked under the hanging banks, or wild broom.—Warm
 " from the chimney-side, and refreshed with generous cheer,
 " I stole to my bed, and laid down to sleep; when I saw the
 " moon, shed through the windows her twinkling glances,
 " and watery light: I heard the horned bird, the night-
 " owl, shrieking horribly with crooked bill from her cavern:
 " I heard the wild-geese, with screaming cries, fly over the
 " city through the silent night. I was soon lulled asleep;
 " till the cock clapping his wings crowed thrice, and the
 " day peeped. I waked and saw the moon disappear, and
 " heard the jack-daws cackle on the roof of the house. The
 " cranes, prognosticating tempests, in a firm phalanx,
 " pierced the air with voices founding like a trumpet. The
 " kite, perched on an old tree, fast by my chamber, cried
 " lamentably, a sign of the dawning day. I rose, and half-
 " opening my window, perceived the morning, livid, wan,
 " and hoary; the air overwhelmed with vapour and cloud;
 " the ground stiff, gray, and rough; the branches rattling;
 " the sides of the hills looking black and hard with the
 " driving blasts; the dew-drops congealed on the stubble
 " and rind of trees; the sharp hail-stones, deadly-cold, *hop-*
 " *ping* on the thatch and the neighbouring causeway, &c."

Bale, whose titles of English books are often obscured by
 being put into Latin, recites among Gawin Douglass's po-
 etical works, his *Narrationes aureæ*, and *Comædiæ aliquot sacræ*¹.
 Of his NARRATIONES AUREÆ, our author seems to speak
 in the EPILOGUE to VIRGIL, addressed to his patron lord
 Sinclair².

I have also a strange command [comment] compyld,
 To expone strange hystories and termes wild.

¹ xiv. 58.

² Ut supr. p. 483.

Perhaps

Perhaps these tales were the fictions of antient mythology. Whether the COMOEDIÆ were sacred interludes, or MYSTERIES, for the stage, or only sacred narratives, I cannot determine. Another of his original poems is the PALICE OF HONOUR, a moral vision, written in the year 1501, planned on the design of the TABLET of Cebes, and imitated in the elegant Latin dialogue *De Tranquillitate Animi* of his countryman Florence Wilson, or Florentius Volufenus¹. It was first printed at London, in 1553^m. The object of this allegory, is to shew the instability and insufficiency of worldly pomp; and to prove, that a constant and undeviating habit of virtue is the only way to true Honour and Happiness, who reside in a magnificent palace, situated on the summit of a high and inaccessible mountain. The allegory is illustrated by a variety of examples of illustrious personages; not only of those, who by a regular perseverance in honourable deeds gained admittance into this splendid habitation, but of those, who were excluded from it, by debasing the dignity of their eminent stations with a vicious and unmanly behaviour. It is addressed, as an apologue for the conduct of a king, to James the fourth; is adorned with many pleasing incidents and adventures, and abounds with genius and learning.

¹ Lugd. apud Seb. Gryph. 1543. 4to.

^m In quarto. Again, Edinb. 1579. 4to.
 "When pale Aurora with face lamentable."
 Douglas's also wrote a small Latin History of Scotland. See also a DIALOGUE concerning a theological subject to be debated

between, *duos famatos viros*, G. Douglas provost of saint Giles, and master David Cranstoun bachelour of divinity, prefixed to John Major's COMMENTARII *in prim. Sentent.* Paris. 1519. fol.

SECT.