

had remained in the obscurity from which the people of Greyfriars had rescued him, on that ever-memorable day.

11. But Wallace heeded them not, but said within himself "Am I not a law-abiding citizen, and may I not look at my sovereign, her whom my soul loveth to honour.

12. "And shall I be behind my more haughty brethren in my loyalty; nay, for were it necessary my sword should be first drawn, and the last to be sheathed in her defence.

13 "Howbeit I shall go and pay her the honour that is her due, and also do my duty to those who have chosen me, peradventure also, I may find favour in the eyes of my sovereign."

14. So he followed the chief men to the place near the Hill-of-the-Ferry, where the good Queen was accustomed to stay for a short space while they watered her steed.

15. And the multitude cheered him greatly, for they were rejoiced to see him assert his rights, well knowing that he was also asserting theirs, and that he was doing only what the electors of Greyfriars put him in power to do.

16. Now the others who preceded Wallace all entered by a narrow way which had been prepared for them, none daring to challenge them.

17. But when Wallace approached the entrance, behold one of the men in blue stepped

forward and said unto him, "Fellow, what seek ye here?"

18. And Wallace answered and said unto him, "I go to pay my respects to the Queen, in the name and by the authority of those who sent me hither."

19. But Bluecoat answered him, and said, "Nay, but you may not find admittance except ye be a magistrate, or one who writeth tales in cunning caligraphy for the scribes."

20. But Wallace waxed wroth, and remembering the heroic deeds of him whose name he bore, he thrust aside the man in blue, and walked boldly on.

21. But the man followed him, and not daring to lay hands on him, went and communed with his chief; howbeit they took no notice of the matter, for they feared the people.

22. And they said, "Better that we anger them not more, for they are already sore displeased."

23. So Wallace again triumphed over all his enemies; and as the Queen passed, he raised his hat jauntily, and saluted her with a hearty cheer.

24. And many said that she recognised him above them all, and gracefully returned his salutation, to the great mortification of his fellow-rulers.

25. Many also of those who stood near envied him, and wondered if this were a fulfilment of the prophecy that merit shall stand in high