

21. For they seemed determined to thwart the will of the citizens, no matter how it might be expressed; though none could know better than themselves that they would sooner or later have to account for it.

CHAPTER II.

1. Now were the rulers of the city still in great indignation at the electors of Greyfriars for daring to send one of their number to rule over that part of the city, who did not come up to their standard of respectability.

2. So they determined to leave no stone unturned until they had put the elect of Greyfriars out of the Council of the city.

3. But this was more trouble to them than they would have pleased to acknowledge, howbeit, some of them remembered he once was a bankrupt, which by interpretation means one who has been unsuccessful in business.

5. Now, it was currently reported that this man was a prodigal, and one whom the rest of the Council would not recognise, yet it was marvelous that they could get nothing against him except this failing, and one which all were liable to fall into at any moment.

6. For many of greater pretensions than Wallace had failed, and many even whom it was not safe to mention, had done a deal worse, while

some had never failed, for the simple reason that they had nothing to fail with.

7. Indeed were the times precarious when the very pot upbraided the kettle.

8. Howbeit the rulers met, and as Wallace passed in they were busy reading a document, which was to deprive him of the honourable position which 700 of his fellow-citizens, out of an eighth part of the city, had seen fit to place him in.

9. But Wallace listened calmly to the spiteful, and too hastily got up sentence, which they pronounced on him, moreover, he was even now winning against them, for he controlled his temper at all times, and that was more than could be said of his enemies.

10. For some of them could not bear to hear his praises sung throughout the halls of the city, but turned tail like the patriots of Erin when they hear the "Boyne Water."

11. Howbeit, Wallace bore this insult as he had borne many before, not by returning scoff for scoff and jeer for jeer, as was to be expected from him had he been such a man as they represented him to be, but by simply telling them they were in error, and that the recent law applied not in his case.

12. But they would not let him speak, for they said, peradventure he may convert many, for he speaketh sense, and it were a pity were the people to hear him.