



The historie

" misse greater benefits vnto thee, than vnto him, for he
 " shall reigne in deed, but with an vnluckie end: nei-
 " ther shall he leaue any issue behind him to succeed in
 " his place, where contrarily thou in deed shalt not
 " reigne at all, but of thee those shall be borne which
 " shall gouerne the Scottish kingdome by long order
 " of continuall descent. Herewith the foresaid women
 " vanished immediatlie out of their sight. This was
 reputed at the first but some vaine fantastieall illu-
 sion by Macbeth and Banquo, insomuch that Ban-
 quho would call Macbeth in iest, king of Scotland;
 and Macbeth againe would call him in sport like-
 wise, the father of manie kings. But afterwards the
 common opinion was, that these women were ei-
 ther the weird sisters, that is (as ye would say) the
 goddesses of destinie, or else some nymphs or fetries,
 indued with knowledge of prophesie by their necro-
 manticall science, because euery thing came to passe
 as they had spoken. For shortly after, the thane of
 Cowder being condemned at fores of treason a-
 gainst the king committed; his lands, liuings, and
 offices were giuen of the kings liberalitie to Mac-
 beth.

A thing to
 wonder at.

Banquo the
 father of ma-
 ny kings.

The thane of
 Cowder con-
 demned of
 treason.
 Macbeth
 made thane of
 Cowder.

Macbeth
 deuise how
 he might at-
 taine the king-
 dome.

The daugh-
 ter of Siward
 earle of Nor-
 thumberland,
 wife to king
 Duncane.

The same night after, at supper, Banquo iested
 with him and said; Now Macbeth thou hast obtai-
 ned those things which the two former sisters prophe-
 sied, there remaineth onelie for thee to purchase that
 which the third said should come to passe. Whereupon
 Macbeth reuoluing the thing in his mind, began
 enen then to deuise how he might attaine to the
 kingdome: but yet he thought with himselfe that he
 must tarie a time, which should aduance him there-
 to (by the diuine prouidence) as it had come to passe
 in his former preferment. But shortly after it chan-
 ced that king Duncane, hauing two sonnes by his
 wife which was the daughter of Siward earle of
 Northumberland, he made the elder of them called
 Malcolme prince of Cumberland, as it were there-
 by to appoint him his successor in the kingdome, im-