The historie

misgreate benefite into this, than unto him; for he
shall reigne in deed, but with an unlyckie end: neith-
ther shall he leave ante issue behind him to succeed in
his place, where contrarye thou in deed shalt not
reigne at all, but of the three 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 baine fantastical illus-
tion by Macbeth and Banquo, insomuch that Ban-
quho would call Macbeth in jest, king of Scotland;
and Macbeth againe would call him in sport like-
wise, the father of mancke kings. But afterwards the
common opinion was, that these women were ei-
ther the weid sisters, that is (as ye would say) the
goddesses of destynie, or else some nymphs or furies,
indued with knowledge of prophetye by their necro-
manyticall science, bicaule everie thing came to passe
as they had spoked. For shortlie after, the thanne of
Cawder being condemned at Fazes of treason ag-
gainst the king committed; his lands, livings, and
offices were given of the kings liberalitie to Mac-
beth.

The same night after, at supper, Banquo setted
with him and said: How Macbeth thou hast obte-
ined those things which the two former sisters pro-
phesied, there remaineth onely for thee to purchase that
which the third said should come to passe. Whereupon
Macbeth revoluing the thing in his mind, began
even then to devise how he might attaine to the
kingdome: but yet he thought with himselfe that he
must tarie a time, which should advance him there-
to (by the divine providence) as it had come to passe
in his former preserment. But shortlie after it chan-
ced that king Duncane, having two sonsnes by his
wife which was the daughter of Siward earle of
Northumberland, he made the elder of them called
Malcolm prince of Cumberland, as it were there-
by to appoint him his successor in the kingdome, im-