

1. Chevy Chase is the corruption of ^{the} old French word chevanchie which means a raid over the enemy's land. At the time when the incident happened (1388) Scotland was closely connected with France and consequently the word was familiar to the people.

The reason for ~~this~~ this corruption may be accounted for as follows. There are Chiviot hills both in Otterburn and Northumberland. The former is the district in which the battle between Douglas and Percy was fought in 1388; the latter is the estate of Lord Percy.

2. The battle of Otterburn was fought in 1388 as has been said above. At this time Robert II was the King of Scotland and Richard II. ^{of England} Henry IV did not actually come to the English throne until 1399.

So was James I not on the Scottish throne at this time. These are two anachronisms which the ballad contains.

3. (a) Bowmen skirmished over the coarse grass of hills.

Bicker = to make a noise
bent = sandy hills

(b) For these worthy warriors were very glad to close in fight

Fukes = warriors

(c) Till the blood gushed out of their helmets as if it were hail or rain

barnet = helmet, covering for head.

(d) Back and bourn my version does not contain this phrase.

"merry men" is the common term of encouragement for a captain used towards his men

(e) But and - if ^{besides} or both!
here both your three babies

(f) mudie men = brave men. This is also not contained in my version

(g) makis = mate. To fetch off their husbands.

(h) The march-parti = border side

(i) In fight did stand. Stour = battle

This is also not contained in my version

4. The Douglas is perhaps the noblest family in Scotland, closely allied to the Scottish royal family. Owing to the ambitious scheme of a member, the family was expelled out of court. This event is referred to in Scott's "The Lady of the Lake". Two branches of the Douglas are distinguished - the Black and the Red.

The Minstrel of Jametz

Percy is a English family in the border land. The Earl of Northumberland represent this family.

5. The reign of Richard I was the time of minstrelsy. It has also a special interest as regards the minstrel. When Richard was put in custody in Austria on his way home from Palestine, his minstrel went in search of him. This minstrel wandered about chanting a song which was familiar to the King. When he approached a castle singing the song, the fytte was continued within the castle by an inmate there. Thus the presence of Richard was immediately recognised & he was secretly brought back safe to England. Though this story is now supposed

fictions, yet it is an ample evidence of what important part the minstrel played then and how the king loved & encouraged that order of men who united the arts of poetry & music, & sang the song of their own composing & the harp accompanied with mimicry & actions, as were much admired in those rude times.

6. In 1575, a grand entertainment was given by the Earl of Leicester to the virgin queen in his castle of Kenilworth. To one of the diversions, which the Earl provided for the queen, there was the harp playing of the minstrels. Sir Walter Scott gives in his novel Kenilworth gives us a lively description of the minstrel who appeared before the festival to amuse the knights & ladies. He wore a long gown of Kendal green, a gold chain round his necks in right of his being a saucy minstrel. The sleeves of his doublet was black, his gloves were yellow, his sword was of the field; his harp was dependent ^{that} before him.