

13. For as they drowned the martyrs' voices in days of old, by drumbeating and noisy instruments, so did they try to suppress any speech that Wallace might make.

14. The scribes also, who professed to take the part of the weak against the strong, also were against him, nay they would have preferred enlisting sympathy in favour of one who was an atheist and who shocked every decent man's and woman's sense of propriety by the ideas which he made public.

15. But they knew on which side their bread was buttered, and preferred to hold on to the skirts of their party, though they should be dragged to perdition rather than apologise to the man whom they had so maligned.

16. For had it been any one but Wallace they would have termed his behaviour courage in a good cause, but as it was they termed it "cheeky," a quality they seemed to possess in plenty.

17. So Wallace turned him southward and communed with men in high places, who censured his brethren for their undue haste.

18. Commanding him to return to the place from whence he came and assert the authority with which he had been clothed by his fellow-citizens.

19. So he returned and resumed the seat which his fellow-councillors had met to fill, to the great delight of

many of the people, and to the disgust of the rulers.

20. And he essayed to address them, but they made all manner of strange noise for fear that he should be heard.

21. But he repeated the story of his victory, heeding not the unseemly noise which had been more fittingly heard in the hall which is called Grand, than in such an assemblage of the great men of the city.

22. For had any of the lower classes dared to disturb a meeting in the same manner, they would have been lodged in the cold and clammy chambers of the prison under the surveillance of the Chief Watch.

23. Nevertheless he finished his speech, and many lovers of fairplay met him as he retired and did him great honour, also assuring him of their support and pledging themselves to assist him if it should cost them their last shilling.

24. For the tide of popularity was daily setting more and more in his favour owing to the pride and prejudice of his enemies, and many who loved him not came forward with proffers of assistance, many prophesying that were he even now defeated he should ere long return again to the Council in defiance of his enemies, clear even of this slight stain which threatened to debar him of his rights.

25. So great even was his popularity that some of his