

Sir Henry Taylor (1800-86)

1 “By Wellesbourne and Charlcote ford”

From *Edwin and the Fair*.

By Wellesbourne and Charlcote ford,  
At break of day, I saw a sword.  
Wessex warriors, rank by rank,  
Rose on Avon’s hither bank;  
Mercia’s men, in fair array, 5  
Looked at them from Marraway;  
Close and closer ranged they soon,  
And the battle joined at noon.

By Wellesbourne and Charlcote Lea, 10  
I heard a sound as of the sea;  
Thirty thousand rushing men,  
Twenty thousand met by ten;  
Rang the shield and brake the shaft,  
Tosty yelled, Harcather laughed,  
Thorough Avon’s waters red 15  
Chased by ten the twenty fled.

By Charlcote ford and Wellesbourne,  
I saw the Moon’s pale face forlorn.  
River flowed and rushes sighed,  
Wounded warriors groaned and died. 20  
Ella took his early rest,  
The raven stood on his white breast;  
Hoarsely in the dead man’s ear  
Raven whispered ‘Friend, good cheer!  
Ere the winter pinch the crow, 25  
He that slew thee shall lie low.’

1842

(From *Edwin the Fair: An Historical Drama*. London, 1842)