

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)