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,	
I heard a sound as of the sea;	10
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)