

**THE RHYME OF THE
LADY OF THE ROCK
AND HOW IT GREW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649693344

The Rhyme of the Lady of the Rock and How It Grew by Emily Pfeiffer

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ROCK**, and how it grew.

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THE RHYME
OF THE
LADY OF THE ROCK
AND HOW IT GREW

BY

Mrs. EMILY PFEIFFER

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and founded upon, their reverence for the passion, and their
guardianship of the purity, of Love."

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1885

Envoy

TO

C. R. AND M. L.

*Sweet sisters, far away in space, but near
In love, to you this shapen thought I bring
As 'twere a jewel that might clasp or cling,
Well knowing that however it appear
To others poor, your loves will hold it dear;
And all the dearer that the song I sing
Is mine, and verily the only thing
That I can truly give of all my gear.*

*Sisters! None better than we three can know
Where absence tells on love, where tries in vain;
The hearts it cannot quell it worketh eene;
And thus I send o'er land and sea, this chain
To bind your thoughts to me an hour or so
In links that shall be other than of pain.*

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management. The text notes that without reliable records, it is difficult to track the flow of funds and ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights that gathering accurate and timely data can be a complex task, often requiring significant resources and expertise. The text suggests that organizations should invest in robust data management systems and training to overcome these challenges. Additionally, it stresses the importance of ensuring the privacy and security of the data collected, as this is crucial for maintaining trust and compliance with relevant regulations.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in improving operational efficiency. It discusses how digital tools and automation can streamline processes, reduce errors, and enhance communication. The text provides examples of various technologies, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and data analytics, and explains how they can be applied in different contexts. It also notes that while technology offers many benefits, it is important to carefully evaluate the costs and risks associated with implementation, and to ensure that the chosen solutions are scalable and sustainable.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of continuous learning and professional development. It argues that in a rapidly changing environment, individuals and organizations must stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices. The text suggests that this can be achieved through a combination of formal education, on-the-job training, and self-directed learning. It also emphasizes the value of collaboration and knowledge sharing, as these can help to foster a culture of innovation and excellence.

5. The fifth and final part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers some concluding thoughts. It reiterates the importance of transparency, data accuracy, technological innovation, and continuous learning, and encourages organizations to embrace these principles as a means of achieving long-term success and sustainability. The text concludes by noting that while the challenges are significant, the potential benefits are immense, and that a proactive and strategic approach is essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

THE RHYME
OF THE
LADY OF THE ROCK.

IN the autumn of the year 18—, we were tarrying at O'ban, detained against our will by the storm which caused the great Atlantic waves, despite the natural breakwater of Kerrera, and the many protecting headlands of the bay, to come surging almost into the houses of the overgrown Highland village. Looking, from the blurred windows of the Great Western Hotel, upon the wild waste of sea which submerged the garden, we might almost have fancied ourselves where about this time we had counted upon being: on the often turbid waters at the mouth of Loch Linnhe, on our passage to the Island of Mull. We were fain to acknowledge, in hearing of the wind and the waves, that we were in a better place, as, admiring the play of the mighty forces from our safe shelter, we abided our time.

2
THE RHYME OF

It was, perhaps, on the day following the storm, when the shingle, which had turned the high road into a pebbly beach, had been cleared away, when the clean, porous soil of the Western Highlands had left the surface dry, and the sun had made a rift in the retiring storm-clouds, that we ventured abroad, hoping to obtain from Dunolly a glimpse of Castle Duart, the old Norse-built stronghold which formerly made terrible to strangers the entrance to the Sound of Mull, having been long the headquarters of chiefs who exercised a wild sovereignty over the Isles.

Duart Castle, and the low, black, almost sunken rock which lies betwixt it and Lismore Lighthouse, had ever since I first beheld them, on a summer holiday long years ago, possessed a peculiar interest for me, as having been the scenes of a highly dramatic story, the yet unexhausted capacity of which for poetic treatment, had lately been pointed out to me by my friend Professor Blackie. It was at his instigation that I had also got hold of a little-known book by one calling himself a "senachie" of the Clan Maclean, which in its turn introduced me to other curious sources of information; and these several circumstances abetting, my mind had come to set with considerable persistency in the direction of this old robbers' nest, and was busying itself by

night and by day with recalling the life of a time in which, notwithstanding that it was some few years in advance of the battle of Flodden, the annals of this part of Scotland were as wild and bloody as they could have been in the earliest dawn of civilisation.

To our sore disappointment we found on arriving at Dunolly gate that this was a day on which no visitors were admitted to the grounds; and we retired after a short parley, with a peculiar sense of injury, owing to the enclosure to which we were debarred entrance being a bit of the coast, which I suppose presents itself to the natural imagination as a sort of "no man's land," of which it is presumptuous for any individual to claim exclusive possession. Somewhat sulkily turning our steps inland, we gradually recovered our equanimity in mounting the hill, as a pause or two and a backward look showed us the lovely bay broadening itself to the view and allowing us a sight of the several outlets between the islands which hem it in.

We had but just cleared the hill, had passed the green "braes" to the left, and were proceeding, still bent on obtaining if possible a glimpse of Castle Duart, when we saw striding towards us from behind, he also having mounted the hill on his way from the town, a tall, elderly, but not old man, whose steady