168. “The grass grows green on the banks of Tweed” (“The Grave of the Poet”), after September 21, MS VIII. Printed PJR, 1:110-11; Works, 2:337.

The poem refers to Scott, who, Ruskin’s editors point out, died at Abbotsford on September 21. Ruskin dated his poem “September 1832.” Untitled in manuscript; entitled by Collingwood.

In draft, Ruskin followed the last word with a four-point ellipsis. He has never used this mark before, so it is impossible to guess what he means by it--whether the poem is left unfinished, deliberately or undeliberately, or whether the mark means anything at all.

The grass grows <[glear(?)]> green on the banks of tweed

The river rolls clear over pebble and weed

Th wave is bright and the foam is <white> light

All in the eddies gurgling <bright> white

Shall the grass grow green on the banks of tweed

When the grave has seized its Lord

Shall the river roll clear over pebble and weed

When he lies neath the cold green sward

Heavily lyeth the sod on his breast

Low is his pillow and long his rest

Cold on his grave may the moonbeam shiver

The soul of the minstrel is parted for ever

Doth he lie on the mountain heath

Where the tempest sings his dirge of death

Or is his shroud

The misty cloud

Clothing the cliffs that are rising proud

Meet were a grave so waste and wild

Meet for the grave of a mountain child

Shall the cloistered pile receive him

Where the ivy round is wreathing

Where shall he be laid

Where his last sad requiem said

For the ivys enwreathing

The <brow of the> harp and the chord

And the worm is entwining

The brow of the bard. . . .

As compared with the edited version in Works, Ruskin’s fair copy in MS VIII is unpunctuated, except for the ellipsis at end; only capitalization, first letters of lines, and “Lord” (line 6).

9, MS VIII lyeth] lieth PJR, Works

21, MS VIII wreathing] weaving PJR, Works

27, MS VIII bard. . . .] bard. PJR, Works