

## “The Boy of Egremond” by Samuel Rogers

First published 1819. Text: *The Poetical Works of Samuel Rogers*. London: George Bell, 1875. 171-172.

Possibly influenced by William Wordsworth’s poem (published 1815) on the same subject, “The Force of Prayer; or, the Founding of Bolton Priory. A Tradition,” Rogers’ poem may in turn have influenced Gertrude Atherton’s ghastly 1896 short story “The Striding-Place” (first published as “The Twins”).

Double-click underlined words for explanatory notes.

A **LITERARY GOTHIC** etext.

---

"Say, what remains when Hope is fled?"  
She answered, "Endless weeping!"  
For in the herdsman's eye she read  
Who in his shroud lay sleeping.

At Embsay rung the matin-bell,  
The stag was roused on Barden-fell;  
The mingled sounds were swelling, dying,  
And down the Wharfe a hern was flying;  
When near the cabin in the wood,  
In tartan clad and forest-green, 10  
With hound in leash and hawk in hood,  
The Boy of Egremond was seen.

Blithe was his song, a song of yore;  
But where the rock is rent in two,  
And the river rushes through,  
His voice was heard no more!  
'Twas but a step! the gulf he passed;  
But that step---it was his last!  
As through the mist he winged his way,  
(A cloud that hovers night and day.) 20  
The hound hung back, and back he drew  
The Master and his merlin too.  
That narrow place of noise and strife  
Received their little all of Life!

There now the matin-bell is rung;  
The "Miserere!" duly sung;  
And holy men in cowl and hood  
Are wandering up and down the wood.

But what avail they? Ruthless Lord,  
Thou didst not shudder when the sword 30  
Here on the young its fury spent,  
The helpless and the innocent.  
Sit now and answer, groan for groan.  
The child before thee is thy own.  
And she who wildly wanders there,  
The mother in her long despair,  
Shall oft remind thee, waking, sleeping,  
Of those who by the Wharfe were weeping;  
Of those who would not be consoled  
When red with blood the river rolled. 40

---

First published online 10 March 2005  
The Literary Gothic  
[www.litgothic.com](http://www.litgothic.com)