

**Killicrankie**  
**In the Pass of Killicranky**  
William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

An Invasion Being Expected, October, 1803

SIX thousand veterans, practised in war's game,  
Tried men, at Killicranky were arrayed  
Against an equal host that wore the plaid,  
Shepherds and herdsmen. Like a whirlwind came  
The Highlanders, the slaughter spread like flame;  
And Garry, thundering down his mountain-road,  
Was stopped, and could not breathe beneath the load  
Of the dead bodies. 'T was a day of shame  
For them whom precept and the pedantry  
Of cold, mechanic battle do enslave.  
O for a single hour of that Dundee,  
Who on that day the word of onset gave!  
Like conquest would the men of England see,  
And her foes find a like inglorious grave.