

## STATUE

*(i.m. Douglas Gifford)*

Every person deserves to have a statue.  
Not in the pompous poses waiting their turn  
to be torn down by future angry ages,

but natural, relaxed, like Gaudí on his bench,  
or Cervantes with his book. A figure  
you would sit beside or share a sandwich with.

One such I see, not yet cast or placed within  
its proper Scottish setting, only a dream.  
Behind it rise the moors and hills, where Hogg and Scott

look on. The enigmatic Stones stand round.  
The silver darlings of a northern sea flash  
in the dawn. And the rose grows merry in time.

The statue, smiling and alert, discourses  
to the Land and People about their treasures  
held in books and poems and the scholar's mind.

Would such a statue not deserve to last,  
so much we learned from his abundant store,  
that well he drew our native waters from?

Aye, man, if Dougie was here, he would tell you.

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*(c) The Bottle Imp*