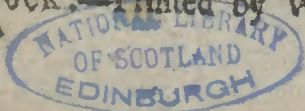



THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF
Sir Wm. Wallace,
GENERAL AND GOVERNOR OF
SCOTLAND.

WITH THE VALIANT EXPLOITS OF
King Robert Bruce.



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THE HISTORY OF
SIR WILLIAM WALLACE

THE history of Sir WILLIAM WALLACE, with the other of the valiant King ROBERT BRUCE, which followeth upon the end of it, and of which this is an abridgment, was written in Latin by Mr. John Blair chaplain to Wallace, and turned into Scots metre by one Blind Harry, in the days of King James IV. and the history of Bruce was written by Mr. John Barbour, archdean of Aberdeen in the days of K. David Bruce and Robert Stewart both together containing a relation of the most famous war that ever fell out in the isle of Britain, fought most valiantly for the space of 40 years, between the two realms of Scotland and England; the one unjustly pursuing; the other constantly defending the liberties of their country.

In the year 1285, Alexander the III. King of Scotland, being suddenly taken away by a fall from his horse, at Kirghorn, without any issue of his body and in him the whole posterity of his father Alexander the II. and grandfather William the Lion being extinct, the right of the crown fell to the heirs of David earl of Huntingdon & Garioch, youngest brother to William the Lion, he had left three daughters; the eldest Margaret, married to Allan Lord of Galloway; the second, Isabel, to Robert Bruce, (surnamed the Noble,) Lord of Annandale and Cleveland; the youngest Ada, married Henry Hastings an Englishman; who having no just title to the crown the contention rested betwixt the posterity of the two eldest

daughters ; for Allan lord of Galloway, leaving no sons by his wife Margaret ; his eldest daughter Dornagilla of Galloway, married John Baliol, a man of great power and lands both in Scotland, England and France, and bare to him John Baliol afterwards King.

Robert Bruce by his wife Isabel of Huntington, had Robert Bruce, who came to be earl of Carrick, by marrying Martha heritrix thereof, and who contended with John Baliol, and died in the time of Wallace's wars. His eldest son, Robert Bruce, succeeded King of Scotland.

Dornagilla of Galloway claimed the crown, as heir to Margaret, eldest daughter to prince David.

Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick, albeit son to Isabel the second daughter yet, contended that in feudal succession, the first male ought to succeed before a woman standing in the same degree, as a son excludeth his sister from succession, altho' she be elder : and therefore he and Dornagilla of Galloway, standing in the same degree from prince David, he ought to be preferred to her ; as for her son John Baliol, he could claim no right but by her, and likewise a degree further off from prince David.

The right of succession being thus made doubtful, the competitors were so powerful that they drew the greatest part of the kingdom into two equal factions ; so that it seemed impossible to settle the controversy at home, without running into a pernicious civil war.

The states of Scotland, to prevent this mischief, thought it fitter to submit the arbitrament of the plea to Edward I surnamed Longshanks, king of England, and that upon divers weighty reasons ; for he and his father K. Henry III, being joined by many alliances

of bands and friendship to the two last kings of Scotland, had lived in great amity and concord with them receiving & interchanging many favours and kind duties.

The two competitors also, Bruce and Baliol, had as great ground in England as in Scotland, so that he and he only, was able to make them stand to reason.

Finally the state of Scotland not being able to determine the plea, there was no prince besides more powerful, and in appearance, more like to compose the controversy, without great blood-shed.

This motion was in secret very greedily embraced by Edward, hoping in, so troublesome a war, to find a gainful fishing, either by drawing the kingdom of Scotland under the direct subjection, or at least under his homage, as lord paramount and superior.

And to make the controversy more fearful he stirred up other 8 competitors besides Bruce and Baliol, Florence earl of Holland (descended from Ada) sister to William the Lyon; Patrick Dunbar, earl of March; Sir Walter Ross; Sir Nicholas Soules; Sir Roger Mandeville; Sir John Cumming of Badenoch (these five were descended of younger daughters of Allan, Lord of Galloway) Sir William Viscie, begotten upon king Alexander II.'s bastard daughter, but pretending to be legitimate; and John Hastings lord Abergavenny, descended of Ada, youngest daughter to prince David Huntington.

Edward having thus prepared matters, came to Berwick and met with the men of Scotland, to whom he promised to decide the controversy according to equity; & that it might seem more likely he brought from France sundry of the most famous lawyers of

that age ; he chose also out of the states of Scotland assembled, twelve of the wisest and most honourable to whom he joined the like number of English, assessors to him in his arbitrament.

At the meeting, by the doubtful answers of lawyers, and the number of new precedents, he made the matter more difficult, and appointed a new convention at Norham, on the border, in the year following.

Difficulties thus increasing, and the earl of Holland having on foot a great army, to take the crown of Scotland by force, (which their own stories affirm, to have landed in Scotland, and to have intercepted some strengths) at the meeting of Norham king Edward dealt secretly, and by fit agents with the states of Scotland, for shuning imminent dangers, to become his subjects ; he, being descended of King David's sister, and so but two degrees farther from the crown of Scotland than Bruce or Baliol were.

This being denied by all, he betook himself to his other design. And first dealt secretly with Robert Bruce, promising to discern in his favour, if he would take the crown of Scotland holden of him, and do him homage for it.

But he stoutly refused to subject a free nation to any over-lord ; whereupon king Edward called for John Baliol, who, knowing that he was not so much favoured of the States of Scotland, easily condescended to king Edward's desire, and was by him declared king of Scotland : the States, desirous of peace, conveyed him to Scoon, where he was crowned, anno 1291, and all, except Bruce, swore obedience to him.

Thereafter Duncan Macduff, earl of Fife, was killed by lord Abernethy, (a man of great power in those

times allied both with the Cummings and Baliol) the earl's brother finding the King partial in the administration of justice summoned him to appear before the King of England in parliament; where being present, and sitting beside King Edward, (after he had done him homage) when he was called upon to answer at the bar. This indignity grieved him greatly, he resolved to free himself of this bondage.

At the same time war breaking out between England and France, king Edward sent ambassadors to the parliament of Scotland to send aid to him, as now being their over lord.

There came also other ambassadors from France, desiring the ancient league to be renewed.

The King and the States of Scotland renewed the league with France, which had remained, inviolably kept, for the space of 500 years before.

The king of England's suit was rejected, because the pretended surrender and homage, was made by John Baliol privately, without the consent of the parliament.

A marriage was also concluded betwixt prince Edward Baliol, and a daughter of Charles, earl of Valois, brother to the French king Philip.

Edward having foreseen all things had drawn Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick, with his friends, (enemies to Baliol) and divers noblemen of Scotland, who held lands of him in England, to bring such forces as they could make, to assist him in the French war: but withal making truce with the French for some months he suddenly turned his forces destined against France, towards Scotland.

His navy was vanquished at Berwick, and 18 of his ships taken.

Yet his land host, by the means of the Bruceian

faction and the Englished Scots nobleman, took the town of Berwick with great slaughter, and shortly thereafter, Dunbar, Edinburgh and Stirling.

In, and about these castles he had killed and taken captives the greatest part of the Scots noblemen; so that crossing Forth, the blow being sudden, he found no preparation for resistance, Baliol surrendered himself to King Edward at Montrose, and was sent by him into England, where he remained captive till such time as by intercession of the Pope, he was set at liberty swearing and giving hostages never to return to Scotland, King Edward came to Scoon, and took upon him the crown of Scotland, as forfeited by the rebellion of his homager Baliol.

He sent for the nobles of Scotland who remained, that they wish such as were his captives might swear homage to him as their leige Lord and King, those who refused, were detained prisoners.

But while men of power neglected the public cause of the liberty of Scotland. William Wallace a youth of honourable birth, being son to Malcom Wallace of Elderslie, but of mean powers, having first in private killed many Englishmen of the garrisons as he could overtake them. by these exploits, being so encouraged, (being a man of invincible hardiness, incredible strength of body, and withal very wise and circumspect) that he gathered his friends and neighbours, and by jeopardies and stratagems, divers times cut off great numbers of the enemy; the report thereof drew to him such as affected the liberty and the welfare of their country, and had courage to hazard themselves for vindicating thereof, with their friends and servants; who after some valiant exploits happily atchieved, and an army of 10,000 men led by Thomas earl of Lancaster to the earl of

Warren, defeated by Wallace at Bigger, (holding an assembly at the Forest Kirk) chose Wallace to be warden of Scotland, and viceroy in Baliol's place; in which office he so valiantly behaved himself, that in a short space he recovered all the strength on the border, and brought the south of Scotland to good quiet.

The English fearing the loss of all, subtrilly took truce with Wallace for one year, beginning in February.

In June following, they proclaimed a justice eyre to be held at Glasgow and Air the 18th of that month thinking to entrap Wallace and all his friends and under colour of law, to cut them off at the day appointed.

All landed men according to the custom assembling to this court, the English condemned them for felony, and hanged them presently; amongst the rest, Sir Ronald Crawford, sheriff of Air, uncle to Wallace, Sir Bryce Blair, Sir Neil Montgomery, and many of the barons of Kyle, Cunningham, Carrick and Clydesdale.

Those who escaped advertised Wallace, who changed to come later than the rest.

He assembling such of the country, as detesting so horrible a fact extremely hated the authors thereof, in the beginning of the night, secretly entered into Air, set fire to the place where the Englishmen, after that fact were securely sleeping, and suffered none to escape.

The garrisons of the castle issued forth to quench the fire, and ambush laid for the purpose, entered the house and made it sure. The next morning Wallace came to Glasgow, where the Lord Henry Percy had retired from Air the day before: him he expelled thence with great slaughter.

The victory he so hotly pursued, that immediately

thereafter he took the castle of Stirling, recovered Argyll and Lorn, with the town of St. Johnstoun, and country about; hence he travelled thro' Angus and Mearns taking in all the strength till he came to Aberdeen, which he found forsaken by the English, who had fled by sea, with the lord Henry Beaumont, an English lord, who had married the heritrix of the earldom of Buchan, named Cumming.

Thus all the north country was reduced to the obedience of Wallace, except the castle of Dundee; while he lay at the siege thereof, news came of the approach of the English army led by John earl of Warren and Surry, and Sir Hugh Cressingham with a great number of Northumberland men, and such of the Scots as held with England to the number of 30,000.

Wallace having with him 10,000 men hardened in arms met him beside Stirling, on the north side of the Forth which having no fords at that place, was passible only by a wooden bridge. This he on purpose had caused to be weakened, so that the one half of the host being past, led by Cressingham, the bridge broke with the great weight of their baggage.

Those who were come over, Wallace charged suddenly, before they were put in order, and cut the most part in pieces, with their leader Cressingham, the rest seeking to escape were drowned in the water.

The earl of Warren, and these that escaped, were assailed by earl Malcom Lennox, captain of Stirling castle, and being hotly pursued by Wallace, hardly escaped, himself flying into Dunbar, a castle then belonging to the earl of March.

In this battle fought the 13th of September, 1297, there died no Scotsmen of remark, but Andrew Mur-

ray of Bothwel.

The English garrisons hearing of this discomfiture fled from all places, so that before the last of September, all the strenghts of Scotland, were recovered except Berwick and Roxburgh.

After those victories he held a parliament at St. Johnstoun, as warden of Scotland, and settled the whole country, caused the nobility to swear to be faithful to the state, till such times as they might consider who should be king: Earl Patrick Dunbar refusing to acknowledge the authority of such a parliament, was chased out of Scotland; and because the year by-past the ground had not been manured and great famine threatened the land, Wallace assembled a great host, and entered England, where he remained all the winter and the spring following, living upon the enemy's provisions and enriching his soldiers by their spoil; during which time the English durst never encounter him in open field, only at the first entry, King Edward with a great army of raw soldiers came against him in the plain of Stanmure; but perceiving the discipline & hardy resolution of Wallace's host, before they came nearer than half a mile drew back his army and retired: Wallace, for fear of ambush, kept his soldiers in order, and pursued them not.

Scotland thus enjoying perfect liberty, Wallace being earnestly requested by the French king, to the end that his special captains might be kept in military exercise during the peace, sailed over to France with 50 of them in his company.

He was encountered on the way by Thomas of Charters, who, with 16 sail infested the seas; but boarding Wallace's ship he was taken by him, and thereafter fought most valiantly under him, and King Robert

Bruce, for the liberty of Scotland.

After Wallace landed in France he was employed in war against the English, who at that time possessed the duchy of Guienne and Bordeaux; then he defeated in several skirmishes.

But in a few days he was called home by some of his friends in Scotland, for King Edward understanding his absence, and pretending he had broken the peace in Guienne, dealt with Robert Bruce earl of Carrick, and his friends, and with such noblemen of Scotland as held lands in England, or envied Wallace's glory, telling that it was a shame for them to suffer Wallace, a mean gentleman, to rule Scotland, while any of the blood royal did remain; so promising his assistance to Robert Bruce, he sent a great army into Scotland and by the help of the Brucean faction, and English noblemen, he easily obtained the greatest strengths of Scotland.

Wallace returned the next summer, and secretly amassing a number of his special followers, who had lurked till his back-coming, on a sudden surprized St. Johnstoun by a stratagem, and pursuing his victory hotly, chased the English out of Fife.

Upon the report hereof, all the rest of his followers came from their lurking holes, by whose assistance he recovered divers strengths.

Lord Wm. Douglas took the castle of Sanquhar by a stratagem, and finding the English captains of the nearest garrisons coming to besiege him, he sent secretly to Wallace, who coming with his power, not only raised the siege, but chased all the English garrisons out of these quarters; from whence he went to the north parts, which he recovered with small difficulty, except the strong castle of Dundee, to which he laid siege.

The King of England grieved at the fortunate success of Wallace, and understanding that he was highly envied by the earl of March, the Cummings, and divers ancient noblemen; he stirred up Robert Bruce elder, and his faction persuading them that Wallace was Bruce's only competitor for the Crown.

Having so made a strong party for himself in the next spring he came with an army of 40,000 men, Scots and English, to Falkirk, six miles from Stirling. The Scots army was very great, being thirty thousand strong, if they had been all of one mind. John Cumming, lord of Cumbernauld, who had an eye to the crown, had persuaded Lord John Stewart, of But, being tutor, and grandfather by the mother, to Lord James Stewart of Renfrew, lately deceased, to contend with Wallace for the leading of the vanguard, alleging that the same belonged to Lord Stewart's house by ancient privilege.

Wallace refusing this, they parted one from another in high chaff, there remaining no more with him than 10,000 of his old soldiers.

Cumming, with 10,000 of his followers, after a small shew of resistance, fled treasonably, leaving the valiant Stewart inclosed by two battalions of the English, by whom, after he had fought valiently for a long time, he was cut off with all his followers.

Wallace with his party defended themselves valiently, until they were safely retired beyond the river Carron, losing (besides some others) the noble Sir John Graham, the most valiant worthy of Scotland, next unto Wallace.

Bruce, whom the King of England had brought with all his friends into the field, pretending to assist him for the recovery of his right from the usurper, Bruce perceiving Wallace on the other side the Carron,

desired to speak with him, and upbraiding him with such a foolish usurpation of the kingdom of Scotland, against so powerful a faction at home, assisted by so mighty a King abroad.— I, answered Wallace, intend never to reign in Scotland, but finding my native country abandoned by you and Baliol, who have the right to the crown, have set myself to defend my friends and neighbours from the unjust tyranny and usurpation of the King of England, who setteth you forth most unnaturally to tear the bowels of your mother with your own hands.

After divers speeches to this purpose, Bruce, perceiving the fraudulent and tyrantous dealing of King Edward, returned to the host.

The next morning Wallace understanding that the English army was weakly entrenched and in great security, amassing with his own army such as had escaped, set upon them in the dawning before they could be arrayed, and killed many: so that the English King returned at that time without any further exploit.

Bruce, remembering what he heard from Wallace, desired King Edward, according to his former promises, to put him in possession of so much of the kingdom of Scotland as then was under his power; to whom he answered in the French tongue, “ have we no more to do but conquer kingdoms for you.”

By this speech the Lord Bruce conceived so great grief and anger, that within few days he departed this life without seeing his eldest son Robert Bruce, afterwards King, he being kept, for assurance of his father's obedience, in Calais Castle in France.

After this unhappy battle, Wallace, striving to recover such castles and strengths as King Edward had intercepted, found such opposition and backward-

ness, by envious emulators, that he returned to St. Johnstoun, and in the assembly of the States, resigned his charge of Warden, and with 13 men passed again into France, according to a promise at his return therefrom.

This fell out at the end of the year 1300— The opposite faction having gained their desire, chose John Cumming as Governor: the rather because King Edward had promised to assist him to the Crown of Scotland: but he found him as great an enemy as he had been to Wallace.

For after seven months truce, obtained by means of the French King, Edward sent Sir Ralph Godfrey with a great army to subdue the Scots, and to put an end to the war, which they expected would be easy, Wallace being now out of the way.

John Cumming, joining with Lord Simon Frazer, making 8 or 9,000 men, came to resist the English, who having wasted the country as far as Roslyn, about five miles from Edinburgh, expecting no resistance, divided themselves into three parties, that they might spoil farther into the country.

The Scots embracing the occasion, set upon the first division, and easily discomfitted them; the second, being stronger by the joining of those who fled, was after a long conflict put to the rout: by this the third division, coming to the revenge, put the Scots to a great strait, as being sorely wounded, wearied, and weakened in the two former battles, and having withstand a fresh enemy, of far greater number: hereupon they were forced to kill the captives, lest they should assist the enemy, and with their weapons to arm the baggage men; and setting forward both with courage and necessity, seeing no escape, after a long and hard fight, they put the enemy to flight.—

This was March 24th, 1302.

King Edward, sore incensed by this evil success, sent for Robert Bruce, younger, out of Calais, whom he persuaded, that he had for a long time, against Wallace, defended his father's right to the Crown of Scotland: that having put Wallace out of the way, he found the Cummings as great enemies: notwithstanding, he intended yet once more to put that enemy out of the way, and to settle him in the kingdom. The young prince believing him caused all his friends and favourers in Scotland, to join with him, and entering the border, spoiled the country and took divers castles as far as Douglas. Some report that the lady Douglas named Ferras, an English woman, betrayed that castle to the Bruce, who took Lord Wm. Douglas captive, with all his children and goods.— The Lord himself was kept prisoner in Berwick, and thereafter in York, where he died. Meantime, King Edward had prepared a mighty army by land and sea, with which he entered Scotland, and subdued all before him while he came to Stirling, kept then by Sir Wm. Oliphant, who, after a long siege, knowing of no relief, yielded the castle upon condition, that, himself and all that were with him, should pass with their lives safe: notwithstanding King Edward kept still all the noblemen, together with the captain Sir William Oliphant, and such as would not swear homage to him, (pretending to be the protector of Robert Bruce's right) he sent prisoners to London.

Having in this castle intercepted divers of John Cumming's friends, he procured them to draw him to a parley with him; in which he so blinded him with the hopes of the kingdom, and with fear of utter undoing, that he joined himself and his friends to the English; who, by this accession, easily passed for-

ward with the course of victory, as far as the utmost bounds of Ross; and in his back coming, carried away with him into England all books, registers, histories, laws and monuments of the kingdom: and among others, the fatal marble chair, whereupon the former Scots Kings used to be crowned at Scoon, on which was engraved a prophecy 'That wherever this chair should be transported, the Scots should command there

He carried also with him all the learned men and professors of Scotland, among others the famous Dr. John Duns, surnamed Scotus, thinking thereby to discourage and effeminate the minds of the Scots, that they should cast off all care of recovering their liberty, the memory thereof being drowned in oblivion.

At his return into England, he left his cousin, Sir Aymer Valance, Earl of Pembroke, viceroy, having fortified all the castles with strong garrisons.

The Scots who stood for the liberty of their country being forsaken by John Cumming, sent earnest letters to France, to move Wallace to return—he was then making war upon the English in Guienne; but hearing the mischiefs of his country, he obtained leave of the French King to return; and secretly gathering some of his friends, recovering divers castles and towns in the north, and having greatly increased his army, besieged St. Johnstoun, till it surrendered.

But as he proceeded in the course of his victories he was betrayed by his familiar friend, Sir John Monteith to Aymer de Vallance, who sent him to England, where by King Edward's command, he was put to death, and his body quartered, and sent into the principal cities of Scotland, to be set up for a terror to others.

Notwithstanding, this cruelty prevailed little for

the assuring of King Edward's conquest; new enemies arising whence he least expected; for as he returned from his last journey into Scotland John Cumming and Rōbert Bruce meeting together after a long conference on the state of their country, perceived, that notwithstanding he had promised each of them apart his help to obtain the crown of Scotland, yet his intention was only to use their assistance to conquer and secure it to himself, as he well declared by spoiling the country of all monuments, public and private.—Hereupon they agreed that Cumming should quit all his rights to the crown in favour of Bruce, and that Bruce should give him all his lands for his assistance, and this contract was written and sealed by both parties.

Upon this Bruce, watching an opportunity to rise in arms, left his wife and children in Scotland, and went to the court of England.

After his departure, Cumming, (as it is reported) either repenting himself of this agreement, or else endeavouring fraudulently to oppose his co-rival, and so obtain an easier way to the kingdom, revealed their secret combination to Edward; and in evidence of it, he sent him the covenant signed by them both—Upon that, Bruce was impeached as guilty of high treason; he was forbidden to depart the Court, and a private guard set over him, to inspect his words and actions. The King's delay to punish him for a crime so manifest, proceeded from a desire he had to take his brethren too, before they had heard any noise of his execution.

Bruce advertised of his danger by the Earl of Gloucester (some call him the Earl of Montgomery) his old friend who had sent him a pair of sharp spurs, and some crowns of gold, as if he had borrowed the

same, guessing the meaning of the propine, caused by night, shoes three horses backward, and posted away from court with two in his company, and on the fifth day (the way being deep in winter,) arrived at his own castle of Lochmaben, where he found his brother Edward, with Robert Fleeming, James Lindsay, Robert Kilpatrick, and Thomas Charters, who told him how Wallace was betrayed by Sir John Monteith, and the Cumming faction a few days before.

Immediately thereafter they intercepted a messenger with letters from Cumming to King Edward, desiring that Bruce should be dispatched in haste, lest being a nobleman much favoured by the commons he should raise greater stirs.

The treachery of John Cumming, before only suspected, was hereby made manifest, which so incensed the Lord Bruce, that riding to Dumfries, and finding Cumming at the mass of the Grey Friars, after he had shewn him his letters, in impatience, he stabbed him with his dagger; and others who were about him doing the like, not only dispatched him, but also his cousin Sir Edward Cumming, and others who assisted him.

This slaughter fell out on the 9th of February, in the year 1306, as we now account.

The Bruce thus rid of the enemy, found a great number as it were rising out of his ashes, even the whole puissant name of Cumming, with their allies, the earl of March, the Lord of Lorn, the lord of Abernethy, the lord of Brechin, the lord Soules, the most part of the north, and all Galloway followed the Cummings: the earl of March, the Lord William Soules commanded the Merse, with Berwick and the Border; all which they yielded to King Edward.

and maintained against Robert Bruce.

At the same time, his two brothers, Thomas and Alexander Bruce, with Ronald Crawford younger, secretly landing in Galloway, were taken by Duncan Macdougall a great man in Galloway, and sent to King Edward, who caused them all three to be hanged.

On the other side assembled to him, beside these above named; the young lord James Douglas, (who hearing of his Father's death, had returned from France, where he was at school, and staid a time with his kinsman, William Lambertson, bishop of St. Andrews,) earl Malcom Lennox, earl John of Athole, (although of the Cumming blood, yet being father-in-law to Edward Bruce,) Sir Neil Campbell, Sir Gilbert Hay, Sir Christopher Seaten, Sir Thomas Ronald, Sir Hugh Hay, John Sumerville, David Barclay, Alexander and Simon Frazer, Sir Robert Boyd, Sir William Halyburton, with sundry who had stood with Wallace before.

With his company he passed into Scoon, and took upon him the crown of Scotland, in April 1309. After this he gathered an army minding to besiege St. Johnstoun.

But finding his power too weak, he retired to Methven, where he was unexpectedly assaulted and discomfited by Sir Aymer de Vallance, but with small loss of men, except some who were taken at Randal, Barclay, Frazer, Inchmartine, Somerville, & Sir Hugh Hay, who were constrained to swear homage to King Edward.

The commons discouraged with this hard success fearing the English, forsook the new king who had a small company of gentlemen about him, with whom he traveled towards Argyll meaning to lurk for a time

with his brother-in-law, Sir Neil Campbell, but he was encountered by the way, by John of Lorn, cousin to John Cumming, and constrained to flee, albeit with small slaughter of his own folk.

After this second discomfiture, he sent his Queen (being daughter to Gratney earl of Mar,) with his brother Sir Neil Bruce, and John earl of Athole, to the castle of Kildrimmy, in Mar.

The King of England sent his son prince Edward with a mightier host, to beseege this castle.

The Queen hearing this, fled to the Firth of Fain in Ross: but the earl of Ross, took her and her daughter, and sent them captives into England.

The castle of Kildrimmy was traitorously burnt by one of the garrison: all that were therein taken and hanged, at the command of the English King.

Robert seeing winter approaching, and finding no retreat in the main land, retired with his most entire friends, to his old friend Angus lord of the isles with whom he stayed a short time in Kintyre, and hereafter sailed over into the isle of Raughline, where he lurked all the winter; every man supposing him to be dead.

The next spring he landed quietly in Carrick, and on a sudden intercepted his own castle of Turnbury. The Lord Piercy flying home out of it to his own country.

Sir James Douglas departing thence secretly, came into Douglas-dale, and by means of Thomas Dickson an old servant of his father's he recovered his own castle of Douglas and cast it down once and again: thereafter he returned to King Robert to Cumnock, shewing him that Aymer de Vallance, and John of Lorn, with an army, were coming against him.

The King with 500 valiant men kept themselves

in a strong place, waiting while Sir Aymer would invade: but took no heed to John of Lorn, who fetching a compass, set upon his back with 800 highland-men, and had well nigh inclosed them about.

The king perceiving the danger divided his men in three: and appointing where they should meet at night, fled three sundry ways.

John of Lorn having a sloth hound pursued the king; who putting away all who were in his company, save one man, fled into the next wood, and, with great difficulty escaped the sloth hound.

Sir Aymer, disappointed of his enterprise, shortly thereafter with 1500 chosen men, very near surprised the king in Glentole wood; but the King with his men taking courage, resolutely defended the place, which was very strong, and killing divers of the first who assaulted them, the rest fled back.

Therefore, with more courage, he went into the fields reduced Kyle and Cunningham to his obedience. Sir James Douglas also, with 60 men lying in an ambush at a strait place in Cunningham called the Netherford: where Sir Phillip Moubray was passing, with 1,000 men against the King being then in Kyle, killed many of them and put the rest to flight.

On May the 10th following, Sir Aymer with 3,000 men came against the king, then lying in Galston in Kyle: King Robert hearing of his coming, albiet he exceeded not 600 men, came forth against him at a place under Loudon hill, which he so fortified on every hand with dykes fosses, that the enemy could not inclose him on both sides; and so by the stout & resolute of a few, Sir Aymer was put to flight, which he took so sore to heart that he retired into England, and gave over his office of warden or viceroy, John of Britain earl of Richmond being sent into Scotland in his place.

King Robert after this passed into the north, leaving Sir James Douglas on the borders, who, taking his own castle of Douglas by a stratagem, razed it to the ground, and in a few days chased all the English out of Douglas-dale, Ettrick forest, and Jedburgh forest, and took Sir Thomas Randal the King's sister's son, (who had followed the English ever since the captivity,) and Sir Alexander Stewart of Bunkle.

Sir Alexander and Simon Frazer meeting king Robert in the north, shewed him how John Cumming earl of Buchan, David lord Brechin, Sir John Moubray, and the rest of the Cumming faction, were gathering an army against him.

Mean while, by the assistance of his friends in these quarters on a sudden, he surprized the castle of Inverness, the fame of which victory caused many other strengths to yield: all which he overthrew and greatly increased the number of his friends.

In his return taking sickness at Inverary, Cumming set upon him.

The King, after his friends had for a time defended him, recovering somewhat, went out to the field and hardly assaulted his enemy at Old Meldrum, tho' altho' their number was far greater, yet they took their flight.

With the like success he set upon the King, in Glenask in Angus, where, being shamefully put to flight, he fled into England, with Sir John Moubray and died there shortly after.

Lord David Brechin fortified his own castle, but David earl of Athel, forced him to yield it and himself to the King.

Mean time, Philip Frazer took the castle of Forfar and the King pursuing his victories, reduced all the north to his obedience, and joining with the Lord Douglas, returning from the south with his two cap-

tives, he took St. Johnstoun by surprizal; from that he passed into Lorn, the Lord whereof had ambushed two thousand men, on the side of a steep hill, where the king behoved to enter thro' a narrow passage: but Sir James Douglas, with Sir Alexander Frazer and Sir Andrew Gray climbing the hill came suddenly on their backs and put them to flight. John of Lorn fled into England by sea: his father Lord Alexander McDougal, yielded himself and the castle of Dunstaffnage to the king. By these means, all the north side of Forth was reduced to obedience; Sir Edward, his brother, in the meantime, who by long and hard fighting, had conquered Galloway, James Douglas, by a stratagem surprised the strong castle of Roxburgh on the Fasten's, even while all the garrison (after the custom of the time were feasting and playing the riot.

The report whereof so whetted the valiant T. Randall, newly restored to his uncle's favour and made earl of Murray that having besieged the castle of Edinburgh for some months, he set himself by all means to carry the same, which he obtained by a narrow passage up thro' the rock, discovered by him: by which he and sundry stout gentlemen secretly passed up, and scaling the wall, after long and dangerous fighting, made themselves masters of the place.

The garrisons of Rutherglen, Lanerk, Dumfries, Air, Dundee and Eute hearing this, yielded up these castles, which were all razed.

The isle of Man, also returned to the obedience of the crown of Scotland. Sir Edward Bruce, having besieged Stirling castle three months, agreed with the captain, Sir Philip Moubray, that if the King of England did not rescue him within twelve months thereafter, the castle should be yielded to king Robert.

Albeit this seemed a rash provocation of so mighty a King as Edward Longshanks: (but far degene-

gate from his valour) having not only England and Ireland, and many Englished Scots, with the duchy of Guienne, Bourdeaux, and other parts of France subject to him, but also the low countries strictly confederate with him, yet King Robert prepared himself to encounter him in the fields, and gathered 35,000 men, few, but valiant.

The king of England had above 100,000 foot, and 10,000 horse: with which multitude intending to destroy the inhabitants of Scotland, and to divide the land to his followers he came to Bannockburn, (two miles from Stirling) where on June 21st, 1314, he was encountered by the Scots. and after long & hard fighting, his great army put to the rout: himself and a small company fleeing into Dunbar, was sent by the Earl of March into England in a fisher boat, leaving 200 noblemen and gentlemen killed by the Scots, & as many taken: the number of the commons slain & taken was incredible.

Of Scots were slain two gentlemen of note Sir William Wepont, and Sir Walter Ross with 4000 common soldiers.

After this victory, Stirling being yielded, & Dumbarton gotten by composition, the earl of March, the Lord Soules, and Abernethy, and others of the Cummings allies were reconciled to the King, who past into the Isles, and brought them to obedience, taking John of Lorn captive, who died in prison in Buchleven.

Thus Scotland was freed of the bondage of England, except Berwick which was recovered four years thereafter, 1318, and the Scots making divers incursions into England, under the leading of earl Thomas Randal, and James lord Douglas, requitted the arms received from them before, and enriched themselves with their spoil.

FINIS