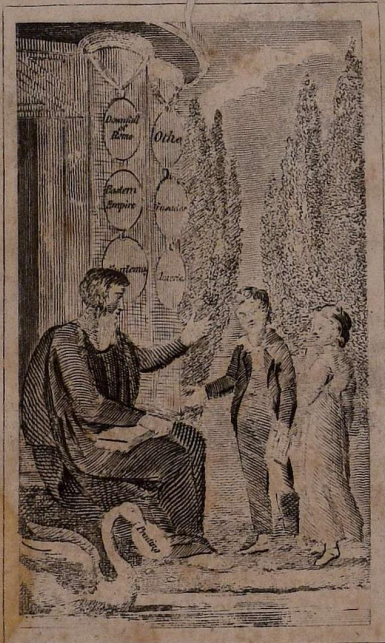




*The Progress of the Arts and Sciences
exemplified in Scottish History.*



Mentor instructing Youth in Modern History

PINNOCK'S CATECHISMS.

A

CATECHISM

OF THE

History of Scotland;

INCLUDING

EVERY IMPORTANT EVENT

RELATING TO THAT COUNTRY.

FROM ITS

INVASION BY AGRICOLA,

TO THE

Present Time.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Catechism of the History of England has long been before the public eye, and has received a more than ordinary share of public approbation. Its limits, however, would not enable the Compiler to embrace a complete view of the History of Great Britain; and the affairs of Scotland are consequently unnoticed. Still the history of this country is admitted to be peculiarly interesting; and hints have been frequently suggested by instructors of Youth, to have it elucidated by an Historical Catechism, on a similar plan to that of England. In acquiescence with these suggestions, and in the hope that he has acquitted himself to their satisfaction, by faithfully representing the principal events of Scottish History, the Compiler submits the following pages to their candid inspection.

CATECHISM

OF THE

HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.

Question. WHAT is Scotland ?

Answer. The modern name of that part of the island of Britain which lies to the north of the Solway Frith* and the river Tweed.

Q. What is its length and breadth ?

A. Scotland is 260 miles long, and 160 broad at the widest part, and contains twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and ninety-three square miles.

Q. How is it divided ?

A. Scotland has been divided into *Highlands* and *Lowlands*; but its more natural division is into northern, middle, and southern parts.†

* A *frith* is an inlet or arm of the sea, running a considerable way into the land.

† The northern part comprehends the counties of Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Cromarty, and Inverness: the southern includes the counties of Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Berwick, Renfrew, Ayr, Wigton, Lanark, Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh, Dumfries, and Kircudbright; and in the midland division are the counties of Argyle, Bute, Nairn, Elgin or Murray, Banff, Aberdeen, Mearns or Kincardine.

Q. What is the general appearance of the country ?

A. It is in general extremely 'mountainous, especially on the northern and western sides, whence these parts have been denominated Highlands ; but the southern parts are agreeably diversified with hill and dale. Numerous rivers intersect the country, and several romantic lakes are seen at the foot of the most remarkable mountains.

Q. Does not Scotland contain many natural curiosities deserving notice ?

A. Yes ; among the most singular may be reckoned the beautiful falls of the Clyde ; the scenery about Loch Lomond ; an immense vaulted cavern in the isle of Arran, cut out of the solid rock ; the cascade of Glamma ; two wonderful caves in the parish of Gaurie in Banffshire, and many other natural curiosities equally calculated to excite the admiration of the beholder.

Q. For what productions is Scotland noted ?

A. For its valuable metals and other minerals, few countries possessing a greater store of subterranean riches. Scotland may also be justly styled the quarry of Britain, as most of the stone that is used in London and other places in England, for paving and building, is brought thence. It also produces various kinds of marble ; and numerous pebbles of agate and onyx stones are frequently found on its coasts.

dine, Angus or Forfar, Perth, Fife, Kinross, Clackmannan, Stirling and Dumbarton. Belonging to Scotland also are three groups of islands, namely, those of Shetland, Orkney, and the Hebrides, and also the isles of Bute and Arran.

CHAP. II.

Of the Original Inhabitants of Scotland.

Q. What was the ancient name of Scotland ?

A. *Caledonia*, which name the Romans gave it from its abounding in forests, and which it continued to bear till the expiration of the Roman power in Britain.

Q. What name did it afterwards receive ?

A. It was afterwards generally known by the name of *Provincia Pictorum*, and the inhabitants were divided into *Picti-Caledonii* and *Picti*.

Q. At what period did it take the name of Scotland ?

A. It was not until the ninth century that this country bore the name of *Scotland* or *Scotia*.

Q. Who were its original inhabitants ?

A. Scotland or (North Britain) was inhabited by people similar in their religion, manners, and customs, to those of England (or South Britain), who originally came from the shores of Gaul, and, landing on the opposite coasts, in course of time extended themselves towards the northern part of the island *

* No point in history has been much more contested than that between Scottish and Irish historians, with respect to their priority of colonization ; the Irish contending that Scotland was first peopled by them. The inhabitants of Ireland were indiscriminately called *Scoti* and *Hiberni* as early as the fourth century, and it is certain that they invaded the country of the Picts, and having eventually conquered them, united both under one monarchy. But the Scotch

Q. What were they called?

A. They were called *Celtæ*, and consisted of various tribes, inhabiting particular districts, and distinguished by particular names.*

Q. What are the first authentic accounts that we have of Scottish history?

A. The earliest accounts on which we can depend, we receive from the Roman historians; for although the Scots carry their pretensions as far back as several centuries previous to the birth of Christ, yet their annals, being derived from the uncertain traditions of their bards, cannot be relied on.

CHAP. III. e

History of the Caledonians during the Existence of the Roman Government in Britain.

Q. When did the Romans first make incursions into Caledonia?

A. In the reign of the emperor Domitian, A. D. 81, the Romans, commanded by Agricola, first carried their arms into Caledonia, which they found was inhabited by a fierce and warlike people, and having succeeded in compelling them to retreat towards the interior, they erected a strong wall

affirm, that the Scoti who invaded their country were of Caledonian extraction.

* The inhabitants of Caledonia were divided into twenty-one distinct tribes, and a portion of territory was assigned to each.

between the friths of Forth and Clyde, and there fixed the boundaries of their empire.

Q. Who was at that time king of the Caledonians.

A. Galgacus, a brave and patriotic prince, who valiantly resisted the Romans in many desperate battles, although he had to contend against a numerous and well disciplined army, led by a brave, prudent, and experienced general.

Q. How far did the Romans penetrate?

A. The Romans continued to advance till they came to the foot of the Grampian mountains, where the Caledonians resolved to make their last stand. This happened in the eighth year of the war, A. D. 88.

Q. What was the result?

A. A desperate engagement ensued, and during the conflict the victory was frequently doubtful; till at length, by the superior skill and coolness of the Romans, the Caledonians were routed with great slaughter, and forced to retreat into the woods, where many of their enemies perished by incautiously pursuing them.

Q. What advantages did the Romans derive from their success?

A. It does not appear that the Romans derived any solid advantage from it? for we find that Agricola, instead of putting an end to the war by the entire subjugation of the country, satisfied himself with receiving hostages from some of the Caledonians; and then ordered part of his fleet to sail round Britain, that they might discover whether it was an island or a continent.

Q. Did the Caledonians long remain tributary to the Romans ?

A. No ; the emperor Domitian, being jealous of Agricola's fame, recalled him from the government of Britain ; and no general of sufficient ability being sent to supply his place, the warlike Galgacus arrested the progress of the Roman arms, demolished the forts they had raised, and dispossessed them of a great part of their conquests.

Q. What important event occurred after the departure of Agricola ?

A. Very little is known of the affairs of Scotland from the time of Agricola to that of Adrian, the fifteenth emperor of Rome, who visited Britain in the year 120, and built a wall between the modern towns of Carlisle and Newcastle, 80 miles long, to protect the Britons from the Caledonians, which he fixed as the northern boundary of the Roman dominions.

Q. Did the Romans afterwards attempt the reduction of the Caledonians ?

A. Yes ; in the reign of Antoninus Pius the proprætor * Lollius Urbicus drove the Caledonians far to the northward, and repaired the chain of forts built by Agricola. But during the reign of Commodus, a more dangerous war broke

* One of the chief magistrates at Rome was called a *prætor* to whose care the government of a province was sometimes entrusted ; they were chosen annually, and when the year of their prætorship expired, if they still continued at the head of their province, they were called *proprætors*.

out than had ever been experienced by the Romans before in that quarter: for the Caledonians having passed the wall, put all the Romans they could meet with to the sword.

Q. How long was it before they received a check from the Romans?

A. A very short time; for the emperor having sent Ulpius Marcellus, a general of great abilities, he soon repulsed them, and drove them into their own territory.

Q. Was not this general shortly afterwards recalled?

A. He was; and during his absence the Roman discipline suffered a total relaxation; but the presence of Clodius Albinus, who was next appointed to the government of Britain, kept the Caledonians in awe, till he left the island to contend with Severus for the empire of Rome.

Q. Did not the next emperor, Severus, find it necessary to come in person to restore order in Britain, and repel the incursions of the Caledonians?

A. Yes; Severus was so apprehensive of losing the whole island, that he collected a far more numerous army than the Romans had ever before had in Britain; and he is said to have penetrated to the most northern extremity of the island, and obliged the Caledonians to yield up their arms. A. D. 208. On his return he built a very strong fortification to secure the frontiers, which in some places coincided with the wall built by Adrian.

Q. To whom did Severus leave the regency of Britain in his absence?

A. To his son Caracalla, whose brutality to the Caledonians induced them again to take up arms ; which Severus no sooner heard of, than he returned with an intention to extirpate the whole nation ; but his death happening shortly after, the execution of this barbarous design was providentially overruled.

Q. Did the Caledonians remain quiet after this ?

A. No ; during the reign of the Roman emperor, Constantius, they made frequent incursions, and were as often repulsed by his legions ; but after his death, which happened in the year 306, they appear to have remained quiet till 343, when a fresh inroad of the Picts * (which name was at this time given to a part of the

* It is generally believed that the Picts were so called from their custom of painting their bodies ; but this opinion is liable to considerable objections, for as this custom prevailed among the other ancient inhabitants of Britain, we cannot account for the reason why the Romans should apply the name of *Picti*, to one tribe more than another. It is well known that the Highlanders of Scotland, who speak the ancient language of Caledonia, express the name of this once famous nation by the term *Pictich*, which means *plunderers* or *plunderers*. This name was probably imposed upon them by their neighbours, at a time when the unguarded state of the Roman province gave them frequent opportunities of making incursions thither, and committing depredations ; or they might have assumed it themselves. Nor was the character of plunderers, in those rude times, attended with any disgrace, provided they made no encroachments on their own tribe or any of its allies. All other nations of antiquity, before they emerged from barbarism, thought in this way, and acted upon the same principle.

Caledonians) is said to have been repelled by Constans.

Q. Are not the Scotch first mentioned by the Roman writers about this time?

A. Yes; we learn that in the year 360, the Scots came over from Ireland to assist their neighbours the Picts; that in 364 they made a very formidable attack on the Roman provincials; and that three years afterwards they advanced as far as London, where they were met by Theodosius, who compelled them to retire.

Q. Does history furnish us with any farther account of these people during the residence of the Romans in England?

A. No; from this time till the year 446, when the Romans finally quitted the island, nothing important occurs in the history of Scotland.

CHAP. IV.

History of the Picts and Scots, from the Decline of the Roman Power in Britain, to the Death of Alpin King of the Scots.

Q. What authentic records have we of the early history of the Picts and Scots?

A. There is no part of history more obscure. From the first appearance of the Scoto-Irish tribes, till their ultimate ascendancy in 843, the history of Scotland is involved in mystery; and the absence of authentic annals has been supplied by absurd fiction.

Q. At what time did a colony from Ireland, called the Dalriadians, make their appearance in North Britain ?

A. The Dalriadians, so called from Cairbre-Riada, the founder of this tribe, landed in Argyle-shire, in the year 503, led by three chiefs, Loarn, Fergus, and Angus, three sons of Erc, the descendant of Cairbre-Riads.

Q. What account do historians give us of the laws and customs of the Scoto-Irish ?

A. First, the succession of their kings and chieftains was so regulated, that the person in the family, who seemed best qualified, by his experience or abilities, was fixed on by the tribe for the vacant throne or chieftainship; and secondly, the head of every family or clan, was answerable for each of his kindred, or tribe, when charged with any crime.

Q. Was not *fosterage* common amongst them ?

A. Yes; by this singular custom, children were mutually given from different families to be nursed and brought up by strangers, and the attachment of those who were thus educated is said to have been greater than that caused by the ties of kindred.

Q. Of what did their wealth consist ?

A. Their wealth principally consisted of their cattle and their bees, and from this circumstance alone, we might learn how little they were advanced in civilization. Their herds of cattle supplied them with meat, and their honey produced an abundance of *mead*, which was their favourite beverage.

Q. Did they cultivate the land ?

A. No; or at least so little of it, that bread

made of corn was scarcely known to them. The flesh of venison, fish, milk, and honey, almost wholly constituted the food of the people.

Q. Had they any domestic comforts?

A. Very few; their houses were built of hurdles, or the small branches of trees twisted together; and what clothing they wore was made of the skins of beasts, to defend their bodies from the inclemency of the weather.

Q. What was their general character?

A. They were courageous in battle, and exercised the most unbounded hospitality to strangers as well as their friends.

Q. Did they know any thing of navigation?

A. Their knowledge in navigation was very confined; their shipping consisted partly of canoes, and partly of a kind of vessels called *cur-rachs*, which were formed by covering a keel of wood and a frame of wicker-work, with skins of cattle.

Q. At what period were the Picts and Scots converted to Christianity?

A. The exact time is not known. It is supposed that the Christian religion was first propagated among the Picts in the fourth century, by St. Ninian, a native of Caledonia, who died on the 16th of September, 432; on which day a festival, in honour of his name, was celebrated in Britain for many ages. The Scots appear to have been converted a short time previous to their emigration from Ireland.

Q. In what way did the Scots conduct themselves towards the Picts?

A. Being of a restless and martial disposition,

they did not long remain satisfied with the peaceable possession of the district which they first inhabited, but gradually encroached on the territories of their neighbours, so that at the accession of their king, Alpin, in 833, we learn that the dominion of the Scots comprehended the Western Islands, with the districts of Argyle, Knapdale, Kyle, Kintyre, Lochabar, and a part of Breadalbane.

Q. Then the Picts were still in possession of by far the greatest part of Scotland ?

A. Yes ; the Picts possessed all the rest of Scotland, and a part of Northumberland ; but as they were inferior in military skill to the Scots, the latter gained repeated advantages over them, and endeavoured to possess themselves of the entire dominion of the kingdom.

Q. Who was at that time king of the Picts ?

A. Brudus, a brave and patriotic prince ; but the throne had been previously filled by two kings, so remarkable for their incapacity and cowardice, that their subjects deposed and put them to death.

Q. What were the first acts of Brudus ?

A. He raised a powerful army, and began by offering terms of peace to the Scots, which Alpin rejected, and insisted on a total surrender of his crown.

Q. What followed ?

A. Brudus marched resolutely against his enemies, and the two armies came to an engagement near Dundee. The superior skill of the Scots, in military affairs, had nearly decided the victory in their favour, when Brudus thought of a stratagem to turn the fortune of the day.

Q. What was that ?

A. He caused all the attendants, and even the women who followed the army, to assemble and shew themselves as a powerful reinforcement coming to the Picts.

Q. Did it have the desired effect ?

A. Yes ; it struck the Scottish troops with such a panic, that all the efforts of Alpin could not recover them, and they were defeated with great slaughter. Alpin himself was taken prisoner, and soon after beheaded by the conqueror.

CHAP. V.

From the Accession of Kenneth the Second to his Death.

Q. Who succeeded Alpin ?

A. His son Kenneth, who, being a brave and enterprising prince, resolved to revenge the death of his father, although the Scots were so dispirited by their late defeat, that they were quite averse to any renewal of the war ; while the Picts, on the contrary, were so much elated, that they enacted a law, by which it was made death for any man to propose peace with the Scots, whom they intended to exterminate.

Q. Did all the Picts agree to this barbarous law ?

A. No ; some of the Pictish nobility opposed it, and the consequence was, that a civil war

broke out amongst them, and a dreadful battle was fought before the Scots had thought of making any farther resistance. Brudus endeavoured in vain to appease this commotion, which so much affected him, that he soon died of grief,

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By his brother Drusken, who also failed in his endeavours to reconcile the opposite parties. This gave the Scots courage, and some of them having entered the Pictish territories, succeeded in carrying off the head of their former monarch, Alpin, which had been kept by the Picts as a trophy of their victory.*

Q. Did not Kenneth make use of a very singular stratagem to urge his people to renew the war ?

A. Yes; having invited his nobility to an entertainment, he introduced, into the hall where they slept, a person clothed in a robe made of the skins of fishes, which made such a luminous appearance in the dark, that he was mistaken for an angel. To add to the terror of those who saw him, he denounced, through a speaking trumpet, the most terrible judgments, if war was not immediately declared against the Picts.

Q. Did this ridiculous stratagem succeed ?

A. Yes; for although in this enlightened age, such a trick would excite contempt, yet in those barbarous times it was really regarded as a celes-

* It is believed that the capital of the Pictish dominions was Abernethy, from whence, it is said, the Scots carried Alpin's head.

tial admonition, and the war was renewed with the greatest vigour.

Q. What was the issue of it?

A. After many sanguinary battles, Kenneth made himself master of all the Pictish provinces, and nearly extirpated the inhabitants. He was then declared sovereign of all the country which now constitutes the kingdom of Scotland, and may be justly considered the true founder of the Scottish monarchy, A. D. 843.

Q. How long did Kenneth reign after the subjugation of the Picts?

A. Sixteen years, and died at Fort Teviot, near Dublin, in Perthshire. He composed a code of laws for the good of his people, and removed the seat of government from Argyleshire to Scone.*

CHAP. VI.

From the Death of Kenneth the Second to the Accession of Constantine.

Q. Who succeeded Kenneth?

A. His brother Donald.

* Nothing shews more clearly the uncivilized state of a people, than the importance which they generally attach to some trifling circumstance or superstitious custom. It was supposed that the palladium (or safeguard) of the Scots, consisted in a famous black stone, and to remove the seat of government from Argyleshire to Scone, it was necessary to transfer this stone thither. It was afterwards carried off by Edward the First, king of England, and lodged in Westminster Abbey.

Q. Where did those Picts, who had been driven out of their own country, seek an asylum?

A. The greater part of them fled to England, which at that time was governed by the Saxons, and they promised to make Scotland tributary to the Saxon power, if they would assist them in reconquering it.

Q. Was this proposal accepted?

A. Yes; the Saxons and Picts invaded Scotland with a powerful army, and took the town of Berwick, but were soon after defeated by Donald, who took their ships and provisions. This capture, however, proved fatal to them; for, some of the ships being laden with wine, the Scots indulged so freely with it, that they became intoxicated; and the Saxons attacked them when they were incapable of defending themselves.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The consequence was, that twenty thousand of Donald's army were killed on the field of battle, the king and many of the nobility were taken prisoners, and all the country, from the Tweed to the Forth, became the property of the conquerors. A peace was afterwards concluded, and the Forth and Clyde were fixed on as the southern boundary of the Scottish dominions.

Q. Did the Saxons make any stipulations in favour of the Picts?

A. No: on the contrary, having grown jealous of their new allies, the Saxons omitted no opportunity of ill treating them; many of the Picts, therefore emigrated to Norway and Denmark,

and those who remained in England were cruelly massacred.

Q. What was the fate of Donald ?

A. Having been dethroned and shut up in prison, he put an end to his own life.

CHAP. VII.

The Reigns of Constantine and Eth.

Q. By whom was Donald succeeded ?

A. By his nephew Constantine ; in whose reign Scotland was first invaded by the Danes who proved such formidable enemies to the English.

Q. What reason is assigned for their invading Scotland ?

A. This invasion is attributed to the influence of some exiled Picts who fled to Denmark, where they prevailed on the king of that country to send his two brothers, Hungar and Hubba, to recover the Pictish dominions from Constantine.

Where did they land, and what was their success ?

A. They landed on the coast of Fife, and committed the most horrid barbarities. Constantine met and defeated one of the Danish armies, commanded by Hubba, near the water of Leven ; but was himself afterwards defeated and taken prisoner by Hungar, who caused him to be beheaded.

Q. When and where did that happen ?

A. In the year 874, at a place since called the Devil's Cave.

A. What was the loss of the Scots on that occasion ?

A. They lost ten thousand men ; but the Danes were likewise so much reduced, that they found it impossible to conquer the country ; and soon after retired to their own, leaving their companions, the Picts, in possession of Fife.

Q. Who was the successor of Constantine ?

A. His brother Eth, surnamed the *Swift-footed*. His reign was very short, and nothing remarkable occurred during it. He was succeeded by Gregory, the son of Dougal.

CHAP. VIII.

The Reign of Gregory the Great.

Q. At what time did Gregory ascend the Scottish throne ?

A. The exact time of his accession is not recorded. Historians inform us that he was contemporary with Alfred, king of England, and that both princes deservedly acquired the name of *Great*.

Q. What account have we of the exploits of Gregory ?

A. His first military expedition was against the Picts, who were left in possession of Fife. He soon drove them into the north of England, which was at that time in possession of their friends the Danes.

Q. Did he obtain any advantages over the Danes ?

A. Yes ; he reduced Berwick, which was garrisoned by Danes and Picts, sparing the lives only of the latter ; he then pursued the Danes into Northumberland, where he defeated them, and afterwards subdued the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland.

Q. Where did he next carry the fame of his arms ?

A. Into Ireland. Gregory engaged in a war with the Irish, to support Donach, an Irish prince, against two rebellious noblemen. In the first engagement, one of the chieftains, named Brian, was killed, with a great number of his adherents. He afterwards reduced Dundalk and Drogheda ; and on his way to Dublin he was opposed by a chieftain, named Corneil, whom he slew, and entirely defeated his army.

Q. What were the other acts of Gregory ?

A. He became guardian of the young prince whom he went to assist, appointed a regency, and obliged them to swear, they would never admit either a Dane or an Englishman into their country without his consent. Having then placed garrisons in the strongest fortresses, he returned to Scotland, and built the city of Aberdeen.

Q. When and where did he die ?

A. He died in the year 892, at his castle of Dundore, in the Garioch.

CHAP. IX.

The Reigns of Donald the Third and Constantine the Third.

Q. Who next ascended the Scottish throne?

A. Donald the Third.

Q. What is there recorded of him?

A. That he lived on good terms with Alfred the Great, and lent him a considerable body of troops, who proved very serviceable to him in his wars with the Danes.

Q. Did he reign long?

A. No; having marched against some robbers (supposed to be Danes) who had invaded and ravaged the counties of Murray and Ross, and defeated them, he was taken ill, and died at Forres, in the year 903.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. By Constantine the Third, son of Eth.

Q. Did any thing of consequence occur in the early part of his reign?

A. Yes; he entered into an alliance with the Danes against the English.

Q. What was his reason for so doing?

A. It is said, that Edward the elder, king of England, finding the Scots in possession of some of the northern counties of England, made such extravagant demands on Constantine, that he was obliged to enter into an alliance with the Danes, in order to defend his dominions.

Q. Did this league long continue?

A. No; the Danes found it more to their interest to be friends with the English, and the

alliance between them and the Scots subsisted only two years.

Q. What measures did Constantine then take to secure his possessions in the North of England?

A. He appointed Malcolm, the presumptive heir to the Scottish crown, prince of the southern counties, on condition that he should defend them against the English, who soon gave the young prince an opportunity of exerting his valour.

Q. Was he successful?

A. No; not behaving with sufficient caution, he was defeated, with the loss of nearly all his army; he himself being carried out of the field wounded.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. Constantine was afterwards obliged to do homage to Edward, for all the possessions he held to the southward of the Scottish boundary.

Q. Did not the Scots, during the reign of Athelstan, Edward's successor, join with the Danes, Irish, and Cumbrians, against the English?

A. Yes; they united their forces, being instigated thereto by the Danish prince Guthred, who had been defeated by the English, and obliged to fly into Scotland. The Scots were commanded by Constantine, the Danes by Froda, the Irish by Anlaf, the brother of Guthred, and the Cumbrians by their own sovereign.

Q. What resulted from this confederacy?

A. The English attacked the confederates,

and after a most obstinate engagement defeated them with a prodigious slaughter. Constantine was in the utmost danger of being killed or taken prisoner, but was rescued by the bravery of his soldiers.

Q. What did the Scots lose by this battle ?

A. They were deprived of all their possessions to the southward of the Forth ; and Constantine being quite dispirited with his misfortunes, resigned the crown to Malcolm, and spent the remainder of his life in a monastery at St. Andrews.

Q. In what year did he die ?

A. Constantine died in the year 943.

CHAP. X.

The Reigns of Malcolm, Indulfus, Duffus, and Culen.

Q. Did the Scots retrieve their affairs under Malcolm.

A. Yes ; the English were so harassed by their wars with the Danes, that they were glad to cultivate the friendship of Malcolm, whom we accordingly find was, in 944, invested with the sovereignty of Northumberland, on condition of his holding it as a fief of the crown of England, and assisting in defence of the northern border. Soon after which he died, and was succeeded by his son Indulfus.

Q. Did not the Danes make war upon the Scots during the reign of Indulfus ?

A. Yes; the Danes being exasperated at the friendship that subsisted between the Scottish and English monarchs, renewed the war against them with great fury, and became extremely formidable by their invasions.

Q. Where did the Danes land ?

A. They first landed in East Lothian, where they were soon expelled; they then crossed over to Fife, but were defeated and driven out there also. The Scots, supposing that their enemies had now retired to their own country, were thrown off their guard, and the Danes on a sudden landed at Cullen, in Banffshire.

Q. What happened there ?

A. Indulfus attacked their camps, and drove them back to their ships; but was killed in an ambuscade, into which he fell while pursuing them.

Q. Who succeeded him ?

A. Duffus, a prince who is represented as possessing many amiable qualities. He reigned only five years, being murdered in the year 965. His successor was Culen, the son of Indulfus.

Q. What character did this monarch bear ?

A. Culen is described as a most degenerate king, who fleeced his subjects to support him in his luxury and extravagance. He was assassinated by Rochard, thane * of Fife, whom he

* An old title of honour in Scotland, equal to that of a baron.—In course of time the title of *thane* was disused, and that of *earl* supplied its place.

had provoked, by basely destroying the honour of his daughter.

CHAP. XI.

*The reign of Kenneth the Third, A. D. 970,
to 994.*

Q. What character do historians give Kenneth the Third ?

A. That of a wise and valiant prince : and one of the first acts of his reign was a proof of his wisdom and resolution.

Q. What was it ?

A. His determination to relieve the common people from the oppressions of the nobility, who, during the reign of Culen, had become very licentious and overbearing.

Q. How did he effect it ?

A. He invited all his nobility to a splendid entertainment, but many conscious of their demerits did not attend ; however, he so well dissembled his displeasure, that those who came were quite charmed with his affability, and went away highly delighted.

Q. How could this measure tend to ameliorate the condition of his people ?

A. By lulling the suspicions of those who had taken advantage of them, till a more favourable opportunity presented itself. The next year he gave a similar entertainment, and the guilty were then encouraged to attend as well as the

innocent; when the king, who had a number of armed men in readiness to support his authority, informed his guests, that none but those who were guilty had any thing to fear, but that all notorious offenders must submit to whatever the law inflicted on them, and they were taken into custody, tried, and punished, according to the nature of their offences.

Q. Did not the Danes again invade Scotland?

A. Yes; they landed at Montrose, and committed the most dreadful ravages wherever they came. This happened at a time when Kenneth was quite unprepared: however, he soon collected an army, and gave the invaders battle at Loncarty, near Perth, where the Danes fought so desperately, that the Scots began to fly, and would in all probability have suffered a signal defeat, but for the bravery of a countryman and his two sons.

Q. Relate the story.

A. It is said, that a yeoman, of the name of Hay, and his two sons, were plowing in a field near the scene of action, and perceiving that the Scots fled, they loosed their oxen, and made use of the yokes as weapons, with which they attacked their enemies; and having persuaded their countrymen to stand, the fight was renewed with such ardour on the part of the Scots, that the Danes were completely defeated.

Q. How were these brave men rewarded?

A. The king rewarded Hay with the barony of Errol, in the carse of Gowrie, ennobled his family, and gave them an armorial bearing, at-

luding to the rustic weapons with which they had achieved this glorious exploit.

Q. When and where did Kenneth die ?

A. He was murdered, in the year 994, at the instigation of a lady, named Fenella, who had invited him to her castle for the purpose of revenging the death of her son, whom Kenneth had caused to be put to death. His attendants being tired of waiting, and probably suspecting some treachery, broke open the doors, and found their king lifeless; on which they burnt the castle to the ground, but Fenella escaped.

CHAP. XII.

The Reign of Malcolm the Second.

Q. When did Malcolm ascend the throne ?

A. Not till the year 1003, for on the death of Kenneth, his father, the throne was seized by an usurper, named Constantine, who, after reigning a year and a half, was killed in battle. The sovereign power was then assumed by Grime, grandson of Duffus, who was defeated and killed by Malcolm.

Q. Did not their old enemies the Danes disturb the tranquillity of Malcolm's reign ?

A. Yes; they landed at the mouth of the river Spey, where Malcolm went to oppose them with an army much inferior in number; a battle took place, and the Scottish army were almost

all cut to pieces, and the king desperately wounded.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The Danes were so much elated, that they sent for their wives and children to settle in Scotland, and the inhabitants were every where treated as a conquered people, and employed in the most servile offices by their haughty conquerors.

Q. Did the Scots long remain in this degraded state?

A. No; happily for his country, Malcolm recovered from his wounds, and at length raised a powerful army in the southern counties, with which he marched to oppose his enemies.

Q. Where did they meet?

A. The two armies met at Murtloch, near Balveny, where Malcolm attacked the Danes; but having the misfortune to lose three of his generals, he was obliged to retreat. However, the Danish general happening to be killed in the pursuit, the Scots renewed the battle with such vigour, that they finally gained a complete victory.

Q. What followed?

A. The king of Denmark hearing that his forces had been defeated, equipped two fleets, for the purpose of invading Scotland, with another army under the command of Camus, one of his most renowned generals. The coast was so well defended that they made several unsuccessful attempts, but at length effected their purpose at Redhead, in the county of Angus.

Q. What did Malcolm in the mean time?

A. He was ready with his army encamped at a place called Barr, near which both parties prepared to decide the fate of Scotland.

Q. How did it terminate?

A. The engagement was desperate, and so bloody, that the rivulet which proceeds from Loch Tay, is said to have its waters dyed with the blood of the slain; but at last the Danes gave way and fled.*

Q. Did not Sweyn send another army into Scotland?

A. Yes; his son Canute, afterwards king of England, landed at Buchan with a more powerful army than had ever before appeared. A most obstinate battle was fought, and the Danes were routed.

Q. What followed?

A. A treaty of peace was concluded on the following terms: namely, that the Danes should immediately depart from Scotland; that as long as Malcolm and Sweyn lived, neither of them should wage war against the other: or help each

* A young man, of the name of *Keith*, was at that time in Malcolm's army, pursued Camus, and, having overtaken, killed him; but another Scots officer coming up, disputed with Keith the glory of the action. While the dispute lasted, Malcolm arrived, and suffered them to decide it by single combat; in which Keith proved victorious, and killed his antagonist. The dying person confessed the justice of Keith's claim; and Malcolm, dipping his finger in his blood, marked the shield of Keith with three strokes, pronouncing the words *Veritas vincet*, "Truth overcomes," which has ever since been the armorial bearing and motto of the family of Keith.

others enemies; and that the field where the battle was fought should be set apart, and consecrated for the burial of the dead.

Q. What more do we hear of Malcolm?

A. Malcolm, who had performed such glorious exploits, is said to have stained the latter part of his reign with avarice and oppression; in consequence of which, a conspiracy was formed against him, and he was assassinated at the age of 80 years, after having reigned 30, A. D. 1033.

CHAP. XIII.

The Reign of Duncan the First.

Q. Who succeeded Malcolm?

A. Duncan, his grandson.

Q. What is the first circumstance in Duncan's reign deserving of notice?

A. We are informed that a nobleman of great eminence, named Banquo, acted in the capacity of steward to the king, to receive his rents; and being very rigorous in performing the duties of his office, he was way-laid, robbed, and almost murdered. The robbers were summoned to deliver themselves up to justice, but instead of obeying, they killed the king's messenger, and broke out into open rebellion.

Q. Who was sent to quell them?

A. Macbeth, who performed his commission

with such success, that the rebel chief killed himself, and Macbeth sent his head to the king.

Q. Did not the Danes again invade Scotland?

A. Yes; the Danes landed in Fife under the command of Sweyn, king of Norway, who carried on the war with the greatest cruelty, and laid siege to Perth, which was defended by Duncan and Banquo.

Q. What happened while they were there?

A. The Danes were much distressed for want of provisions; and a negociation for peace was artfully begun by Duncan, in order to give him time to destroy the Danes by a barbarous stratagem.

Q. What was it?

A. He contrived to infuse intoxicating herbs into the liquors that were sent along with other provisions into the Danish camp, which had the desired effect; and while the Danes were under their influence, Macbeth and Banquo broke into their camp, and put them nearly all to the sword.

Q. What became of Sweyn?

A. Sweyn with great difficulty made his escape on board, and returned to Norway.

Q. Did the Danes attempt another invasion?

A. Yes; they once more landed in the county of Fife, but were entirely defeated by the two thanes, Macbeth and Banquo.

Q. When Duncan was no longer harassed by the Danes how did he conduct himself?

A. He applied himself to the administration of justice, and exerted himself to reform the

manners of his subjects ; but Macbeth, who had before been so distinguished for his loyalty, now basely plotted the assassination of the king, with an intent to usurp the throne : in which traitorous design he too well succeeded.

Q. Did Duncan leave any family ?

A. Yes ; two sons, Malcolm and Donald, both very young. On the death of their father, Malcolm fled into Cumberland, and Donald to the Western Isles.

CHAP. XIV.

*The Reign of Macbeth.**

Q. In what year did Macbeth usurp the throne ?

A. In the year 1039, immediately after his assassination of Duncan ?

Q. Who was Macduff ?

A. Macduff was the thane of Fife, and at that time the most powerful person in Scotland : for which reason Macbeth determined to destroy him.

Q. Did he accomplish his intention ?

A. No ; Macduff fled to France, and in his

* This period of Scottish history has been immortalized by the genius of Shakespeare ; but, like most other dramatic representations, the tragedy of Macbeth is filled with fable, and many of the principal facts are incorrectly stated. The youthful reader of history should always bear in mind, that a poet may embellish his subject by the aid of fiction, and therefore, that in reading historical plays, as they are termed, he must not expect to find a strict adherence to truth.

absence, the tyrant put his wife and children to death, and seized his estate.

Q. Did not this cruel act stimulate Macduff to seek revenge?

A. Yes; Macduff vowed revenge, and encouraged Malcolm, the young prince, to endeavour to dethrone Macbeth. They accordingly marched against him, and Macbeth opposed them with his whole force, but was defeated, and obliged to take refuge in the most inaccessible places of the Highlands.

Q. Was not Malcolm then declared king?

A. Yes; he was crowned at Scone, and proclaimed king of Scotland; and Macbeth who defended himself for two years after, was at last killed by Macduff, at Lumphanan, on the 5th of December, 1056.

CHAP. XV.

The Reign of Malcolm the Third.

Q. How did Malcolm begin his reign?

A. By rewarding Macduff for his great services, and by reinstating, in their father's possessions, all the children who had been disinherited by the late tyrant.

Q. Who was king of England at this time?

A. William the Conqueror. In 1066 he came to the throne of England.

Q. Were the English and Scotch on terms of amity?

A. No.

Q. What occasioned a misunderstanding between them?

A. Edgar Atheling, the true heir to the English throne, accompanied by his mother and sisters, and several Anglo-Saxon noblemen, having fled from England after the Norman conquest, were forced by stress of weather into the Frith of Forth, where they met with a hospitable reception from the Scots. Malcolm paid the illustrious exiles a visit, and there fell in love with the princess Margaret. In consequence of this, the chiefs of Edgar's party repaired to the court of Scotland; and as soon as William was made acquainted with it, he demanded that Edgar should be given up, which Malcolm refused, and a war commenced.

Q. What were the leading features of the war?

A. Malcolm engaged the Irish and Danes to assist him, who made many incursions into England, took the city of York, and having acquired considerable booty, they left Malcolm to contend alone with William.

Q. With what success was the war maintained?

A. William being employed in quelling an insurrection in Wales, it gave Malcolm an opportunity of again invading England, A. D. 1071, and he is said to have behaved with the greatest cruelty. Having enriched himself with the plunder he got in Durham, Cumberland, and Yorkshire, he returned in triumph to Scotland, and married the princess Margaret.

Q. How did William retaliate?

A. As soon as William had subdued the Welsh insurgents, he marched at the head of a large army, and in his turn invaded Scotland, and compelled Malcolm to pay him homage.

Q. Was the peace that followed productive of any good to the Scots ;

A. Yes ; as it gave queen Margaret, who was a princess of the most amiable manners, an opportunity of reforming the manners of the people. She began by new-modelling her own court, into which she introduced the offices, furniture, and mode of living common among the more polite nations of Europe. She dismissed from her service all those who were noted for immorality and impiety ; and, in short, set an example worthy of her high rank and station.

Q. Were these alterations agreeable to the Scottish nobles ?

A. No ; they had been accustomed to oppress their inferiors, and they disliked any alteration tending to abridge their power. A dangerous insurrection, therefore, soon took place in the northern counties ; but Malcolm succeeded in quelling it, and punished many of the ringleaders with death.

Q. Did the Scots long remain at peace with the English ;

A. No ; in the year 1079, we learn that Malcolm again invaded England ; and at the accession of William the Second, surnamed Rufus, he once more espoused the cause of Edgar Atheling, and at the head of a powerful army, committed great devastation in England, and returned home with an immense booty.

Q. How did William Rufus prepare to resent this injury ?

A. He equipped great armaments, both by sea and land, for the invasion of Scotland ; but his fleet

was dashed to pieces by storms, and almost all on board perished. Malcolm having laid waste the country through which the English army had to pass, they were so reduced by fatigue and famine, as to be unable to resist the Scots, who were advancing against them in great numbers.

Q. How did Rufus extricate himself from these disasters ?

A. By means of a negotiation for peace, the basis of which was, that he should restore to Malcolm all his southern possessions, and give to Edgar certain estates in England which belonged to him.

Q. Did he abide by the conditions of this treaty ?

A. No ; Rufus looked upon the terms to be so dishonourable, that he resolved not to fulfil them. Edgar went over to Normandy, and Malcolm again prepared for war.

Q. What happened on the recommencement of hostilities ?

A. While Malcolm was besieging Alnwick in Northumberland, he was surprised by earl Mowbray, who defended it, and was slain, together with his eldest son Edward, on the 19th of November, 1093. Queen Margaret, who was at that time lying ill at the castle of Edinburgh, died four days afterwards.

CHAP. XVI.

The Reign of Donald Bane.

Q. Who ascended the throne on the death of Malcolm?

A. The throne was usurped by his brother Donald Bane, and Malcolm's son, Edgar, fled for protection to his uncle Edgar Atheling; who had returned from Normandy to England.

Q. Whose cause did William Rufus espouse?

A. Neither Donald's nor Edgar's. He wished to place on the Scottish throne a natural son of Malcolm, named Duncan, a young man who had served in the English army with great reputation; and accordingly he had him crowned at Scone.

Q. Did the Scots approve of Duncan?

A. No; they felt themselves much distressed at having two usurpers contending for the kingdom, each supported by a foreign army.

Q. Did an opportunity offer for prince Edgar to get possession of the throne?

A. Yes; Duncan was surprised at the castle of Monteath, and killed by the thane of Mearns; and Donald finding the Scots in favour of Edgar, offered the young prince all that part of Scotland which lay southward of the Forth.

Q. Was this proposal accepted?

A. No; Edgar Atheling being at the head of an army to restore his nephew, attacked Donald, and having taken him prisoner, ordered his eyes to be put out, and condemned him to perpetual

banishment. The line of Scoto-Irish kings, which began in 506, terminated with Donald Bane, who was dethroned in 1097.

CHAP. XVII.

The Reigns of Edgar, Alexander the First, David, and Malcolm the Fourth.

Q. What historical events of importance occurred in Edgar's reign?

A. Scarcely any. He was an amiable prince, and paid considerable attention to the internal regulation of his dominions; and having received his education from his mother, who was an Anglo-Saxon princess, he imitated the manners of the English, and lived on good terms with them.

Q. When did he die, and by whom was he succeeded?

A. He died on the 8th of January, 1106, and was succeeded by his brother Alexander the First, surnamed *the Fierce*, from the impetuosity of his temper.

Q. What do we hear respecting him?

A. That he was rigid in the administration of justice, and exerted himself in relieving his people from the oppressions of his nobles.

Q. Is there not one very remarkable instance of this recorded?

A. Yes: He one day met with a widow, who complained that her husband and son had been put to death by the young earl, her superior;

which Alexander finding to be true, he caused the offender to be hanged on the spot.

Q. When did Alexander die ?

A. He died in 1124, after a reign of seventeen years.

Q. Who succeeded him ?

A. His brother David.

Q. What event of importance occurred in his reign ?

A. He twice invaded England, and in 1138 fought the famous *Battle of the Standard*.

Q. Was it so called from any particular kind of standard used there ?

A. Yes ; this standard resembled the mast of a ship, surmounted by a silver cross, and round it were hung the banners of St. Peter, St. John de Beverly, and St. Wilfred. Standards of this kind were common, at that time, on the continent of Europe, and the English troop had such confidence in it, that they thought themselves invincible.

Q. Where was this battle fought, and who were successful ?

A. The armies met at a place called Culton Moor ; after a most desperate conflict the English were victorious, the loss of the Scots being ten thousand men.

Q. When and where did David die ?

A. David died at Carlisle, in the year 1153, after a reign of twenty-nine-years.

Q. Who reigned after him ?

A. Malcolm the Fourth, surnamed *the Maiden*, who was David's grandson. He was a weak and superstitious prince, and died without doing any thing to render his reign memorable. A. D. 1165.

CHAP. XVIII.

The Reign of William the First.

Q. Who succeeded Malcolm the Fourth ?

A. His brother, William the First.

Q. Did not his wars with England prove unfortunate to him ?

A. Yes; at the siege of Alnwick he was surprised by a party of the English who had disguised themselves in Scottish uniforms, taken prisoner, and carried to Richmond castle. He was taken in chains, before Henry, to Northampton, and ordered to be transported to the castle of Falaise, in Normandy.

Q. How did William effect his liberation ?

A. He agreed to pay homage to Henry the Second, king of England, for the kingdom of Scotland, and acknowledge that he held it as a fief of the English crown; and as a security, he was obliged to deliver up to Henry all the principal forts in Scotland.

Q. How long did the Scots remain in subjection to the English ?

A. Till the death of Henry; for his successor, Richard the First, being a man of romantic valour, undertook an expedition into the Holy Land, and wanting money for the undertaking, agreed to release William from the humiliating conditions that had been imposed upon him, on condition that he should pay him ten thousand marks.

Q. When did William die ?

A. He died in the year 1214, after a reign of forty-nine years. *

CHAP. XIX.

The Reigns of Alexander the Second, Alexander the Third, and Margaret.

Q. Who was Alexander the Second ?

A. He was the son of the late king William, and at his accession, only sixteen years old.

A. What occurred in his reign worthy of notice ?

A. The leading feature of his reign is the assistance he gave to the English barons in their struggle with king John, which lasted many years.

Q. When did he die, and who succeeded him ?

A. He died in 1249, and was succeeded by his son Alexander the Third.

Q. What was the first event of importance in the reign of Alexander the Third ?

A. A conspiracy was entered into by several of the Scottish nobility, at the head of which was the family of Cummin, who got possession of the king's person ; and it was with great diffi-

* Before the days of William, none of the Scottish kings assumed a coat armorial. The *Lion rampant* first appears on his seal. It is probable, that, from this circumstance he received the appellation of *The Lion*. From a similar cause it is, that the chief of the heralds in Scotland is termed *Lion King at arms*.

culty that the royalists succeeded in quelling the insurrection and restoring the king.

Q. What war was Alexander engaged in soon after?

A. He was engaged in a war with Norway, which arose from the following cause. In the reign of Donald Bane, the isles of Shetland and Orkney were ceded to the king of Norway for assisting Donald; and Haco, who was now king of that country, laid claim also to the islands of Bute and Arran, which Alexander refused to relinquish.

Q. What steps did Haco take to enforce his claim?

A. He landed in Scotland at the head of 20,000 troops, and Alexander prepared to oppose him with all the forces he could collect. They met at Largs, in Ayrshire, where a most obstinate battle was fought, which ended in the total defeat of the Norwegians, sixteen thousand of whom were killed on the spot. The remainder escaped to their ships, but the next day the greater part suffered shipwreck; and Haco, having reached the island of Orkney, soon after died of grief.

Q. When did Alexander die?

A. His death, which was occasioned by his horse rushing down the Black Rock, near Kinghorn, as he was riding, happened in the year 1285.

Q. By whom was Alexander succeeded?

A. Alexander was succeeded by the princess Margaret, his daughter, who was married to Eric, the son of the king of Norway.

Q. What transactions of importance took place in her reign?

A. The reign of Margaret was neither distinguished for military events, nor domestic tranquillity. Edward the First, king of England, had during her reign gained over to his interests a considerable party in Scotland, and he lost no opportunity of increasing his influence in the affairs of that kingdom.

Q. When did queen Margaret die?

A. She died in the year 1290; and leaving no heir to the throne, a number of competitors appeared, the chief of whom were John Baliol and Robert Bruce.

CHAP. XX.

The Reign of Baliol.

Q. Who was declared king at Margaret's death?

A. The election of a king was referred to Edward's decision, and it soon appeared that he had no intention of adjudging the crown to any one who would not acknowledge his superiority. Bruce was the most popular candidate, but Baliol had the preference with respect to hereditary right, and had long attached himself to Edward's party.

Q. Did Edward decide in Baliol's favour?

A. Yes; after much ceremony, Baliol was declared king, and crowned at Scone, A. D. 1292, where he did homage to the king of England for his crown.

Q. How did Edward and Baliol agree?

A. Edward on all occasions exercised his authority over Baliol, and twice summoned him to appear at his court; which state of vassalage Baliol resolved to free himself from, as soon as an opportunity offered.

Q. Did an opportunity soon present itself?

A. Yes; a war having taken place between England and France, the Scots entered into an alliance with the French, and invaded Cumberland; but Edward was too powerful for his opponents, and in his turn carried the war into Scotland; and Baliol was obliged to renounce his crown, and to implore the mercy of the conqueror in the most humiliating manner.

Q. What celebrated Scotchman endeavoured by his valour to rescue his country?

A. Sir William Wallace, a man endowed with great strength and courage, and of an ambitious and active spirit; who, by his wisdom, eloquence, and affability, maintained an authority over the brave but undisciplined multitude that flocked to his standard.

Q. What memorable answer did Wallace give to the English messengers who were sent to him with terms of capitulation?

A. "Return," said Wallace, "and tell your masters, that we came not here to treat but to assert our right, and to set Scotland free. Let them advance, they will find us prepared."

Q. What followed?

A. The English attacked him, but were defeated with great slaughter.

Q. What did Edward to oppose Wallace?

A. He marched into Scotland at the head of

an immense army, and at length attacked the Scots at Falkirk, on the twenty-second of July, 1298. The fight was long and bloody ; but the Scots at length gave way, and their overthrow was complete.

Q. What became of Wallace ?

A. Wallace had lived a free man, and was resolved to die free, and therefore scorned submission. At last, this celebrated patriot was betrayed into the hands of the English, tried at Westminster as a traitor, and condemned to die. He was executed on the twenty-third of August, 1305 ; and in his last moments asserted the independence of his country, for which he had made so arduous a struggle.

CHAP. XXI. °

The Reign of Robert Bruce.

Q. Did any other Scot endeavour to wrest the crown from Edward ?

A. Yes ; Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, the grandson of Bruce, the former competitor for the crown.

Q. Had he many partizans ?

A. Yes ; many of the nobility of Scotland favoured his pretensions, and as he was neither deficient in courage nor ambition, he soon became formidable.

Q. How did Edward act on discovering the intentions of Bruce ?

A. He invaded Scotland with the flower of the English army, and threatened the nation with his direst vengeance. Bruce at first suffered several defeats, and his wife and daughter were taken prisoners; but on the death of Edward the First, which happened in 1307, the affairs of Scotland assumed a more favourable aspect, numerous heroic efforts were made by the Scots, and the English by degrees lost all they had before gained.

Q. When did Robert Bruce die, and what is his character?

A. He died in 1329. He was unquestionably the greatest of all the Scottish monarchs: his private and public virtues were united to an undaunted courage, and a complete knowledge of the military art.

CHAP. XXII.

The Reigns of Edward Baliol and David Bruce.

Q. Who succeeded Robert Bruce?

A. On the death of Robert, his nephew Randolph was appointed regent of the kingdom during the minority of his son David; and he discharged the duties of his administration with the strictest justice. He died in 1332, and at his death the Earl of Marr was appointed to the office.

Q. Did not Edward, the son of John Baliol, assert his pretensions to the crown ?

A. Yes, he did ; and landing at Kinghorn with about 500 armed men, had the temerity to attack the Regent's camp, in which were fifty thousand soldiers.

Q. How did this desperate enterprize succeed ?

A. They came upon the Scots unperceived, while they were abandoning themselves to intemperance and riotous mirth ; and such terrible confusion ensued, that fifteen thousand of their army were slain. Soon after Baliol was crowned king at Scone.

Q. Did the affairs of Baliol continue to flourish ?

A. No ; David's party was too strong to suffer Baliol to remain in quiet possession of the throne, although assisted by the English ; and, after a variety of fortune, it was filled by David, who arrived from France, A. D. 1341.

Q. What were the first acts of David the Second ?

A. He raised a powerful army and invaded England, intending to take ample revenge for what he had suffered. He practised the most dreadful cruelties wherever he came ; but at length his army was defeated, and himself taken prisoner at Durham.

Q. What great calamity befell Scotland about this time ?

A. A dreadful plague, which appeared in the year 1349, and was not completely eradicated till 1352, after destroying one-third of the people.

Q. When did David regain his liberty ?

A. In the year 1358, on condition of paying to the king of England one hundred thousand marks. Baliol died in obscurity ; and nothing of importance afterwards occurred in the reign of David, who, at his death, which happened in 1371; left the kingdom to his nephew, Robert Stewart.

CHAP. XXIII.

The Reigns of Robert the Second and Robert the Third.

Q. Was the reign of Robert Stewart productive of any remarkable events ?

A. During his reign continual wars were carried on between the English and Scotch borderers ;* and the two powerful families of Douglas and Percy, † whose estates joined, were always foremost in them.

Q. When did Robert the Second die ?

A. He died in the year 1390, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, and the nineteenth of his reign ?

Q. Who succeeded him ?

A. His eldest son John, who changed his name to that of Robert.

* Those who lived on the borders or extremities of each country were called borderers.

† The celebrated ballad of Chevy Chace owes its origin to a combat which took place, between Earl Percy and Earl Douglas, and to the battle of Otterburn, in which these warriors were engaged.

Q. Did any events of importance occur in the reign of Robert the Third?

A. His reign was full of domestic broils and wars with the English, in which he was generally unsuccessful. His eldest son had been treacherously murdered, and the youngest was taken prisoner by the English. This last disaster threw the king into such an agony of grief, that he died in three days after the news arrived. A. D. 1405.

CHAP. XXIV.

The Reigns of James the First and James the Second.

Q. Who exercised the office of regent during the captivity of Prince James?

A. The Duke of Albany.

Q. In what state were the affairs of Scotland during his administration?

A. Scotland was invaded by Henry the Fourth, king of England; but a truce was concluded between the two countries, and they remained at peace till the death of Henry. His son, Henry the Fifth, renewed the war, which continued, with various success, till his death.

Q. When did James regain his liberty?

A. In the year 1424.

Q. What were the principal acts of his government?

A. James employed himself in encouraging learning, reforming abuses, and in recovering

the royal estates out of the hands of those who unlawfully held them. This last he executed with such severity, that it created many powerful enemies ; and he was murdered, while at supper, by the Earl of Athol and other conspirators, in the year 1437.

Q. Were the murderers of the king punished ?

A. Yes ; and the most cruel tortures that could be devised were inflicted on them.

Q. Who succeeded him ?

A. His son, James the Second, at that time only seven years old.

Q. For what is his reign remarkable ?

A. The reign of James the Second was one continued scene of turbulence. The most formidable confederacies were entered into against him by the earls of Douglas, Crawford, Moray, and Ross, and before they were finally subdued, the country suffered all the horrors of a civil war.

Q. How did James meet with his death ?

A. He was accidentally killed by the bursting of a cannon at the siege of Roxburgh, which he had undertaken in favour of Margaret, queen of England, whose cause he had espoused.

CHAP. XXV.

The Reign of James the Third.

Q. By whom was James the Second succeeded ?

A. He was succeeded by his son, James the

Third, a child not quite seven years of age, but during his minority the government of the kingdom devolved on the queen-mother.

Q. Was the reign of James the Third more tranquil than the preceding one ?

A. No ; his reign was full of rebellion, and his own cowardly and superstitious disposition was greatly in favour of those who opposed his authority.

Q. Was not his son prevailed upon to head the rebels ?

A. Yes ; the young prince believing his father had entered into a treaty with Henry the Seventh, king of England, injurious to the liberties of his country, was induced to put himself at the head of the rebel army, and a battle was fought near Torwood, which proved fatal to the king.

Q. What happened to him ?

A. At the beginning of the action he abandoned his army and fled ; but being thrown from his horse and much bruised, he was taken by a miller and his wife into their hovel, where he was discovered by one of his enemies, and treacherously murdered. A. D. 1488.

Q. Did his son express much sorrow on hearing of the king's untimely end ?

A. Yes ; he was fully sensible of the unnatural part he had acted, and was, for a time, inconsolable ; but those who had prompted him to the measure, justified it ; and his remorse appears to have been but of short duration.

CHAP. XXVI.

The Reigns of James the Fourth and James the Fifth.

Q. What were the early events of the reign of James the Fourth?

A. In the year 1503, a firm peace was concluded between Scotland and England, being the first that had taken place for 170 years; and James soon after married Margaret, the eldest daughter of Henry the Seventh.

Q. For what was James the Fourth remarkable?

A. For the magnificence of his court and embassies, his liberality to strangers and learned men, his costly edifices, and particularly his zeal to increase the naval power of Scotland, by building and equipping ships of war.

Q. How long did the peace with England last?

A. The peace lasted ten years, and the cause of its being broken was as follows: Sir Andrew Barton, one of James's captains, having plundered some English vessels, it was resented by Sir Thomas Howard, who fell in with Sir Andrew's ships, and took them both, after an obstinate engagement, in which Sir Andrew was killed.

Q. What circumstance led to the fatal battle of Flodden?

A. The earl of Surrey, who commanded the English, having challenged James to fight a general battle on an appointed day, it was

accepted by him, contrary to the advice of his most experienced generals, who knew the earl of Surrey's situation would be rendered more precarious by delay.

Q. Where was the battle fought, and with what success ?

A. The battle was fought at Flodden, on the ninth of September, 1513. After witnessing the defeat of his army, and the death of his brave officers, James was killed by an unknown hand. The English are said to have lost five thousand men, and the Scotch double that number.

Q. What happened on the death of James the Fourth ?

A. During the young prince's minority the duke of Albany acted as regent, and Scotland was again the scene of much intestine commotion.

Q. How did James the Fifth conduct himself on coming to the throne ?

A. His first care was to punish the freebooters who lived on the borders, which he did with the greatest severity. These men had been so inured to robbing, that they thought it no crime, and on the king's summoning them to appear before him, they came in great pomp, attended by a numerous retinue ; but he behaved with the greatest resolution, and ordered many of them to be apprehended and hanged on the spot.

Q. What great event took place in this reign ?

A. The Reformation was introduced into Scotland, and those who favored its doctrines suffered great persecutions.

Q. When did James die ?

A. He died in the year 1542, leaving his infant daughter, Mary, heir to the throne.

CHAP. XXVII.

The Reign of Mary.

Q. Who was appointed regent of Scotland on the death of James the Fifth?

A. The earl of Arran, who became very popular on account of his attachment to the reformed religion; and, during his regency, the Scriptures were allowed to be read in the vulgar tongue.

Q. Did not the regent afterwards renounce the Protestant religion?

A. Yes; and the management of the kingdom being transferred into the hands of cardinal Beaton, an alliance was entered into with France, and the Protestants were persecuted. The cardinal was however soon after assassinated, and the queen-mother was entrusted with the regency of the kingdom, who held it till the princess married and assumed the government.

Q. To whom was the princess Mary married?

A. The princess Mary was married to Francis the dauphin of France in 1557, who dying in 1560, left her a widow in the nineteenth year of her age.

Q. Whom did she afterwards marry?

A. In 1565, Mary married the earl of Darnley, but lived very unhappily with him; and during the whole of her reign she was rendered miserable

by the contending parties in Scotland, and by the intrigue and jealousies of Elizabeth, queen of England.

Q. Was not the earl of Darnley cruelly murdered?

A. Yes; the house in which the king resided, was, on the 10th of February, 1567, blown up with gunpowder, and his dead body found in an adjoining field.

Q. Who were suspected of being the perpetrators of this foul deed?

A. Several persons were supposed to have participated in the crime, but the earl of Bothwell was accused as being the principal, and he was accordingly tried for the crime.

Q. What was the result of it?

A. His accuser, the earl of Lennox, being intimidated by Bothwell's friends from appearing to substantiate the charge, Bothwell was acquitted, and soon after raised to new honours by the queen, and at length became her husband.

Q. Was this marriage more fortunate than her former ones?

A. No; it naturally excited suspicions that Mary had been privy to her late husband's murder; and a strong confederacy was formed against the queen and Bothwell.

Q. What followed?

A. Bothwell sought his safety in flight, and Mary surrendered herself to the rebellious nobles, by whom she was treated with the greatest indignity, and at length compelled to resign her crown.

CHAP. XXVIII.

The Reign of Mary (continued.)

Q. Who now had the direction of the affairs of Scotland?

A. The earl of Murray, a man conspicuous for his treachery and dissimulation, but who still had the art of making the queen believe that he was her sincere friend.

Q. What became of Bothwell?

A. He escaped on board a ship; but having captured a trading vessel on the coast of Norway, he was chased by two Danish ships, taken as a pirate, and thrown into a dungeon, where he remained ten years, and at last died a melancholy spectacle of guilty ambition.

Q. Were not the servants of Bothwell executed for being accomplices in the murder of Darnley?

A. Yes; and at the place of execution they solemnly declared the queen's innocence, but charged the earls of Murray and Morton with being the contrivers and instigators of the murder.

Q. Did not Mary contrive to escape from the nobles to whom she had surrendered?

A. Yes; and the regent now growing very unpopular, a party was formed in the queen's favour, who soon found herself at the head of a considerable body of troops.

Q. What happened in consequence?

A. A battle was fought at Langside near Glasgow, on the 13th of May, 1568, in which the

regent's army was victorious; and Mary fled into England in the hope of receiving a safe asylum there.

Q. What treatment did she receive from Elizabeth?

A. The most ungenerous that can be imagined. Mary was closely confined, and steps were taken to bring her to trial for being privy to her former husband's murder; her implacable enemy, the earl of Murray, being her accuser.

Q. Was she acquitted?

A. Yes; but Elizabeth still thought proper to treat her as a captive, and Mary was doomed to suffer all the horrors of imprisonment.

Q. What became of the earl of Murray?

A. The regent Murray was assassinated, and was succeeded in his office by the earl of Lennox.

Q. What new troubles awaited the unfortunate queen of Scots?

A. During her captivity she had received the addresses of the duke of Norfolk, who was ambitious of obtaining the hand of the beautiful Mary; but Elizabeth would not consent to their union. The duke afterwards endeavoured to effect her escape, but being discovered, he was tried and condemned, and thus a death-blow was given to the hopes of Mary, who, being implicated in the transaction, now saw that nothing less than the sacrifice of her life was likely to satisfy the unrelenting enmity of Elizabeth.

Q. What was the alleged crime for which the queen of Scots was afterwards tried?

A. She was charged with having conspired with one Babington and others against the life of

Elizabeth, and every art was resorted to by the English ministers to furnish pretexts for her condemnation.

Q. Was she pronounced guilty?

A. Yes; though her defence was calculated to convince every unprejudiced mind of her innocence; but her enemies had long plotted her destruction, and were therefore not deficient in producing the necessary evidence to convict her. She was accordingly beheaded at Fotheringay Castle on the 7th of February, 1587.

Q. How did the queen of Scots behave at the place of execution?

A. She submitted to her fate with the utmost fortitude and composure. After having performed her devotions, she resolutely kneeled before the block, and said, "In thee, O Lord, do I trust, let me never be confounded." Then covering her eyes with a handkerchief, she laid down with the greatest tranquillity, and preparing herself for the fatal stroke, cried out, "Into thy hands, O God! I commit my spirit."

Q. How did Elizabeth attempt to excuse herself for this merciless action?

A. So great was Elizabeth's dissimulation, that although she had signed the warrant for Mary's execution, she pretended to disclaim all knowledge of it; and to make her assertions believed, she prosecuted and fined her Secretary Davison and Lord Burleigh, for the active part they had taken in the death of this unfortunate queen.

CHAP. XXIX.

The Reign of James the Sixth.

Q. Who was James the Sixth?

A. James the Sixth was the son of Mary, by her second husband, the earl of Darnley.

Q. Did he not resent the death of his mother?

A. When the melancholy event was first communicated to him, he seemed determined to revenge it; but the natural levity and imbecility of his mind, prevented him from acting in any degree as became him.

Q. What events of importance occurred from the death of Mary till James's accession to the crown of England?

A. None. Ever since the expulsion of Mary, Scotland had been reduced to the condition of an English province; and her degenerate son made no efforts to rescue his country from its state of degradation.

Q. When did James ascend the English throne?

A. At the death of Elizabeth, which happened in 1603; since which period England and Scotland have been united under one sovereign.

Q. By what right of inheritance did James succeed to the crown of England?

A. Elizabeth dying without issue, James was the next heir to the English crown, being the great grandson of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry the Seventh, who married James the Fourth of Scotland.

Q. Did any thing of importance occur after James's accession to the crown of England?

A. The affairs of Scotland proceeded in their usual channel, and nothing material occurred. After governing England fourteen years, he revisited his native kingdom, and the most magnificent preparations were made for his reception.

CHAP. XXX.

From the Accession of Charles the First to the Restoration.

Q. What occurrence took place in Scotland on the accession of Charles the First to the English crown?

A. He was crowned king of Scotland as well as of England: the ceremony took place at Holyroodhouse, and his entry into Edinburgh was truly magnificent.

Q. What measure of Charles's was particularly offensive to the Scotch?

A. His determination to establish prelacy, and to introduce the established religion of England there, so offended the whole nation, that no terms of reconciliation would be accepted; and the greater part of the Scots entered into a solemn covenant to resist the royal authority.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. The Scotch covenanters invaded England, and joined Charles's rebellious subjects there; but there was still a party in Scotland faithful to the king, commanded by the gallant duke of

Montrose, whose successful valour served for a time to animate the hopes of the royalists.

Q. What fatal error did Charles now commit ?

A. His affairs being hopeless in England, he ordered his Scottish friends to lay down their arms, and with a blind confidence sought refuge in the midst of that army which was in open rebellion against him.

Q. What followed ?

A. The Scotch covenanted army having the king in their possession, were so lost to all sense of shame and honour, that they entered into a treaty with the English, and delivered him up without stipulating even for the safety of his person.

Q. How did the Scotch act after this faithless conduct ?

A. Filled with remorse at their own treachery, they now endeavoured to atone for it by raising an army to support the royal cause ; but Oliver Cromwell defeated them, and completed his triumph by beheading Charles, and assuming the government of the kingdom himself.

Q. Did not the Scotch endeavour to restore Charles the Second ?

A. Yes ; they raised an army for that purpose, and with the prince at their head, marched into England, but were entirely defeated at the fatal battle of Worcester.

Q. What became of Charles after the battle ?

A. Charles owed his safety to some of his faithful followers, who concealed him in the day-time among the branches of an oak tree in Boscobel wood, and assisted him in his escape to the coast of Normandy.

Q. How did the Scotch behave after the Restoration ?

A. Their parliament was opened with unusual splendour at Edinburgh, and a revenue of forty thousand pounds a-year was settled on the king for life ; and they now endeavoured to vie with each other in acts of loyalty.

CHAP. XXXI.

From the Accession of James the Second to the Union.

Q. Did any thing important transpire in Scotland during the reign of James the Second ?

A. Nothing very material. The fear of having a popish king filled the minds of the Scotch, and they gladly received William for their sovereign on James's abdication.

Q. What was the state of Scotland on the accession of queen Anne ?

A. The kingdom was divided into two parties ; namely, the supporters of the Constitution as established by William, and the friends of the son of king James, known by the name of the *Pretender*.

Q. Were not great pains taken by the English parliament to effect an union between the two countries.

A. Yes ; and after much opposition this measure was carried by a majority of the Scotch parliament, and the succession of the House of Hanover to the crown was also assented to.

Q. When was the act of Union concluded ?

A. The Scottish parliament ratified the act of Union on the 16th of January, 1707, and it soon after received the royal assent. On the 28th of April the Scottish parliament was finally dissolved, and the English and Scots were henceforth to be governed by the same rulers, and to be united as one people.

CHAP. XXXII.

From the Accession of George the First to the present time.

Q. What were the partizans of king James called ?

A. They were called Jacobites, from the Latin word *Jacobus*.

Q. Did the Jacobites in Scotland, make any effort in favour of the Pretender on the accession of George the First ?

A. Yes ; the earl of Marr raised a considerable body of troops, and on the 6th of September, 1715, set up the standard of the *Chevalier de St. George** at Perth, where he was joined by several noblemen and gentlemen.

Q. Who espoused the Pretender's cause in England ?

A. He had many friends in England, the most active of whom was Mr. Forster, a gentle-

* The title assumed by the son of king James ; but he was generally known by the familiar appellation of the *Pretender*, from his pretensions to the crown.

man of property in Northumberland, who placed himself at the head of the rebels.

Q. Were the adherents of the Pretender successful?

A. No; in Scotland they were defeated by the duke of Argyle; and in England they were still more unfortunate, being surrounded at Preston, in Lancashire, by generals Wills and Carpenter, and their whole army taken prisoners.

Q. Did not the Pretender himself arrive in Scotland?

A. Yes; he landed at Peterhead, and was met at Feterose by the earl of Marr and several other noblemen and gentlemen; he then proceeded to Scone, where he intended to have his coronation performed; but seeing the desperate situation of his cause, he again left Scotland for France, accompanied by many of his friends.

Q. What fate awaited the rebels?

A. The earls of Derwentwater and Kenmuir were beheaded on Tower-hill; some of less note were hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Tyburn; twenty-two were executed at Preston and Manchester; and about a thousand were transported to North America.

Q. Was not Scotland invaded in the reign of George the Second, by the son of the late Pretender?

A. Yes; in the year 1745, Charles Edward, called the young *Pretender*, landed in Lochabar, and being joined by some men of distinction, advanced as far as Edinburgh, which city he entered without opposition.

Q. Did he not, soon after, defeat the royal forces?

A. Yes; he attacked a body of the king's troops commanded by Sir John Cope, at Preston Pans, and completely defeated them. This success gave his army so much credit, that they marched a considerable way into England without meeting with any interruption.

Q. What induced him to retreat into Scotland?

A. He was disappointed in his expectations of being joined by a great number of his partizans in England, and he received information that the duke of Cumberland was advancing against him at the head of a large army.

Q. Where did the battle so fatal to the hopes of the young Pretender take place?

A. At Culloden. The duke of Cumberland, with fourteen thousand men, attacked the rebel army, consisting of about eight thousand, and entirely routed them. The field was covered with their killed and wounded; and the young adventurer was thus suddenly reduced from a nominal king, to a distressed and forlorn outcast.

Q. What became of the unfortunate Charles afterwards?

A. He wandered about the country for near six months in the most deplorable condition, seeking refuge in caves and cottages, and depending on the wretched natives, who pitied but could not relieve him; while he was continually pursued by the royal troops, who hoped to get the reward of thirty thousand pounds, offered for his apprehension.

Q. How was he able so long to avoid his pursuers?

A. Although he trusted his life to the fidelity of above fifty individuals, yet pity for his sufferings and veneration for his family, prevailed over the avarice of all who were entrusted with the secret.

Q. Was he not sometimes under the necessity of discovering himself to persons of the opposite party?

A. Yes; at one time in particular we are informed, that having walked from morning to night, he entered a house, the owner of which he well knew was attached to the opposite party; but who nevertheless pitied his distress, and rendered him the assistance he solicited.

Q. In what words did he address the master of the house?

A. On entering the house, he said, "The son of your king comes to beg a little bread, and a few clothes. I know your present attachment to my adversaries, but I believe you have sufficient honour not to abuse my confidence, or to take advantage of my distressed situation. Take these rags, that have been for some time my only covering; you may probably restore them to me one day, when I shall be seated on the throne of Great Britain."

Q. Describe his appearance?

A. He was clad in a short coat of black frieze, thread-bare; over which was a common Highland plaid, girt round him by a belt, from which hung a pistol and dagger. He had worn the same shirt for many weeks; his eyes were hollow, his countenance wan, and his constitution greatly impaired by famine and fatigue.

Q. Did he not make his escape on board a

French vessel which had been sent to him for that purpose by some of his friends?

A. Yes; a privateer of St. Maloes arrived at Lochannach, in which he and some of his adherents embarked and reached France in safety.

Q. What punishment was inflicted on the principal rebels?

A. The earl of Kilmarnock and lord Balmerino were beheaded on Tower-hill, seventeen officers of the rebel army were executed at Kennington Cross, near London, nine at Carlisle, and eleven at York; besides great numbers who were transported to America. Lord Lovat was taken and beheaded some time after.

Q. Has the tranquillity of Great Britain been disturbed by any subsequent rebellion?

A. No; during the present reign all classes of his majesty's subjects have manifested the most loyal disposition. The Scotch and English have now no separate interests, and whatever tends to throw lustre on the natives of one part of Britain is viewed with pride and satisfaction by those of the other.

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