*of* war, after having ſworn never to bear arms againſt England.

In the mean time, Baliol, by the advice of his par­liament, ſolemnly and openly renounced his allegiance to Edward, ſending the following declaration.

“To the magnificent prince, Edward, by the grace of God, king of England; John, by the ſame grace, king of Scotland.

“Whereas you, and others of your kingdom, you not being ignorant, or having cauſe of ignorance, by your violent power, have notoriouſly and frequently done grievous and intolerable injuries, contempts, grievances, and ſtrange damages againſt us, the liberties of our kingdom, and againſt God and juſtice; citing us, at your pleaſure, upon every flight ſuggeſtion, out of our kingdom; unduly vexing us; ſeizing our caſtles, lands, and poſſeſſions, in your kingdom; unjuſtly, and for no fault of ours, taking the goods of our ſubjects, as well by ſea as land, and carrying them into your kingdom; killing our merchants, and others of our kingdom; carrying away our ſubjects and impriſoning them: For the reformation of which things, we ſent our meſſengers to you, which remain not only unredreſſed, but there is every day an addition of worſe things to them; for now you are come with a great army upon the borders, for the diſinheriting us, and the in­habitants of our kingdom; and, proceeding, have in­humanly committed ſlaughter, burnings, and violent invaſions, as well by ſea as land: We not being able to ſuſtain the ſaid injuries, grievances, and damages any longer, nor to remain in your fealty or homage, extort­ed by your violent oppreſſion, we reſtore them to you, for ourſelf, and all the inhabitants of our kingdom, as well for the lands we hold of you in your kingdom, as for your pretended government over us.”

Edward was preſented with this renunciation by the hands of the intrepid Henry abbot of Aberbrothwick; and as it was favourable to his political views, he re­ceived it rather with contempt than anger. “The fooliſh traitor,” ſaid he to the abbot, “ſince he will not come to us, we will go to him.” The abbot had been perſuaded by his enemies, of whom he had many in Scotland, to preſent this letter, in hopes that Ed­ward would have put him to death; but he had addrefs enough to eſcape ſafe out of his hands, without receiving any other anſwer.

Though this ſcheme of renunciation had been con­certed ſome time before, the declaration was not ſent to Edward till after the taking of Berwick. The fate of Scotland, however, after it, was ſoon decided. The Earl of March had taken part with Edward, but the counteſs betrayed his caſtle of Dunbar into the hands of the Scots. Edward ſent a choſen body of troops to re­cover the place. The whole force of Scotland oppoſed them on the heights above Dunbar; but leaving their advantageous poſt, and pouring down on their enemies in confuſion, they were diſperſed and defeated.

The caſtle of Dunbar ſurrendered at diſcretion; that of Roxburgh followed the ſame example; the caſtle of Edinburgh ſurrendered after a ſhort ſiege; and Stirling was abandoned. The Scots, in the mean time, were guilty of the greateſt extravagances. During the ſhort interval between the loſs of Berwick and the defeat at Dunbar, an order was made for expelling all the Engliſh eccleſiaſtics who held benefices in England; all the partizans of England, and all neutrals, were declared traitors, and their eſtates confiſcated. But the great ſucceſſes of Edward ſoon put an end to theſe impotent acts of fury. Baliol was obliged to implore the mercy, of the conqueror. Diverted of his royal ornaments,and bearing a white rod in his hand, he performed a moſt humiliating penance; confeſſing, that by evil and falſe counſel, and through his own ſimplicity, he had grievoufly offended his liege lord. He recapitulated his various tranſgreſſions, in concluding an alliance with France while at enmity with England; in con­tracting his ſon with the niece of the French king; in renouncing his fealty; in attacking the Engliſh terri­tories, and in reſisting Edward. He acknowledged the juſtice of the Engliſh invaſion and conqueſt; and therefore he, of his own free conſent, reſigned Scotland, its people, and their homage, to his liege-lord Edward, 2d July 1296.

The king of England purſued his conqueſts, the barons everywhere crowding in to ſwear fealty to him, and renounce their allegiance with France. His jour­ney ended at Elgin, from whence he returned ſouth- ward; and, as an evidence of his having made an abſoute conqueſt of Scotland, he carried off from Scone the wooden chair in which the kings were wont to be crowned. This chair had for its bottom the fatal ſtone regarded as the national palladium @@(d). Some of the

@@@(d) "This ſtone is thus deſcribed by W. Hemingford, T. i. p. 37. “Apud monaſterium de Scone poſitus erat lapis pergrandis in eccleſia Dei, juxta magnum altare, concavus quidem *ad modum rotundae cathedrae confectus,*in quo futuri reges loco quaſi coronationis ponebantur ex more. Rege itaque novo in lapide poſito, miſſarum ſolemnia incepta peraguntur, et praeterquam in elevatione facri dominici corporis, semper lapidatus, manſit.” And again, T. i. p. 100. “In redeundo per Scone, praecepit tolli et Londoniis cariari, *lapidem* illum, in quo, ut

supra dictum eſt, Reges Scotorum solebant poni loco coronationis ſuae, *et hoc in signum regni conquesti et resignati”* Walfingham mentions the uſe to which Edward put this ſtone: “Ad Weſtmonaſterium tranſtulit illum, jubens inde fieri celebrantium cathedram ſacerdotum.” This account of *the fatal stone* is here tranſcribed, that it may be compared with the appearance of the ſtone that now bears its name at Weſtminſter.

Fordun has preſerved the ancient rhymes conerning it; L. xi. c. 25.

“Hic rex ſic totam Scotiam fecit ſibi notam,

Qui fine menſura tulit inde jocalia plura,

Et pariter lapidem, Scotorum quem fore federn Regum decrevit fatum; quod ſic inolevit,

Ni fallat fatum, Scoti quocunque locatum Invenient lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem."