During a long courſe of war, the common people had been accustomed to plunder and bloodſhed; and having now no Engliſh enemies to employ them, they robbed and murdered one another. The methods by which Randolph repreſſed theſe crimes were much the ſame with thoſe which have been adopted in latter times; for he made the counties liable for the ſeveral robberies committed within their bounds. He even ordered the farmers and labourers not to houſe the tools employed by them in agriculture during the night-time, that the ſheriff’s officers might be the more vigilant in ſecuring them. He gave orders for ſeverely puniſhing all vaga­bonds, and obliged them to work for their livelihood; making proclamation, that no man ſhould be admitted into a town or borough who could not earn his bread by his labour. Theſe regulations were attended with the moſt ſalutary effects. A fellow who had ſecreted his own plough-irons, pretending that they were ſtolen, being detected by the ſheriſſ’s officers, was inſtantly hanged. A certain man having killed a prieſt, went to Rome, and obtained abſolution from the pope; after which he boldly returned to Scotland. Randolph ordered him to be tried, and, on his conviction, to be executed:: “Becauſe,” ſaid he, “although the pope may grant abſolution from the ſpiritual conſequences of ſin, he cannot ſcreen offenders from civil puniſhment.”

King Robert, juſt before his death, had deſired that his heart might be depoſited in our Saviour’s ſepulchre at Jeruſalem; and on this errand the great commander Douglas was employed, who ſet ſail in June 1530 with a numerous and ſplendid retinue. He anchored off Sluys in Flanders, the great emporium of the low countries, where he expected to find companions in his pilgrimage; but learning that Alphonſus XI. the young king of Leon and Caſtile, was engaged in a war with Oſmyn the Moor, he could not reſiſt the tempta­tion of fighting againſt the enemies of Chriſtianity. He met with an honourable reception at the court of Spain, and readily obtained leave to enter into what was thought the common cauſe oſ Chriſtianity. The Spaniards first came in ſight of their enemy, near The­ba, a caſtle on the frontiers of Andaluſia, towards the kingdom of Granada. The Moors were defeated; but, Douglas, giving way to his impetuous valour, pursued

the enemy too eagerly, and throwing among them the caſket which contained the heart of his ſovereign, cried out, “Now paſs thou onward as thou went wont; Douglas will follow thee or die.” The fugitives ral­lied and ſurrounded Douglas; who, with a few of his followers, was killed in attempting to reſcue Sir Wal­ler St Clair of Roflin. His body was brought back to Scotland, and interred in the church of Douglas. His countrymen perpetuated his memory by beſtowing up­on him the epithet of th*e good Sir James Douglas.* He was one of the greateſt commanders of the age; and is ſaid to have been engaged in 70 Battles, 57 of which he gained, and was defeated in 13. —Of him it is re­ported, that meeting with an officer at the court of Alphonſus, who had his face quite disfigured with fears, the latter ſaid to him, “It aſtoniſhes me, that you, who are ſaid to have ſeen ſo much ſervice, ſhould have no marks of wounds on your face.” “Thank heaven,” anſwered Douglas, “I had always an arm to protect my face.”

In 1331, Edward Baliol began to renew his pretenſions to the crown of Scotland, about the fame time that David II. and his conſort Johanna were crowned at Scone; which ceremony was performed on the 24th of November. Some hiſtorians relate, that he was ex­cited to this attempt by one Twynham Lowriſon, a perſon who had been excommunicated for refusing to do penance for adultery, and afterwards was obliged to fly on account of his having way-laid the official, beat him, and extorted a ſum of money from him. But however this may be, it uncertain, that in this year dif­ferences began to ariſe with England, on the following account. It had been provided by an article of the treaty of Northampton, that “Thomas lord Wake of Ledel, Henry de Beaumont, called *earl of Buchan,* and Henry de Percy, ſhould be reſtored to their eſtates, of which the king of Scots, by reaſon of the war between the two nations, had taken poſſeſſion.” This article had been executed with reſpect to Percy, but not to the other two; and though Edward had repeatedly complained of this neglect, he could not obtain any satisfaction @@(g).

The diſinherited batons now reſolved to invade Scotland, though their force conſiſted of no more than 3000

(g) As this is an important period of hiſtory, we ſhall here transcribe the opinion of lord Hailes concerning the cauſes of this ſtrange delay of executing an article ſeemingly of little importance where a nation was con­cerned. “By the treaty of Northampton," ſays she, “all the claims of the Engliſh Batons to inheritances in Scotland were diſregarded, excepting thoſe of Henry de Percy, Thomas lord Wake of Ledel, and Henry de Beaumont. Percy procured ſatisfaction: but the others did not.

“Henry de Beaumont, in the reign of Edward II. had aſſociated himſelf with the ability againſt the D’Efpenſers, and on that account had ſuffered impriſonment and exile. He aided queen Iſabella in the invaſion which proved the cauſe of the depoſition, captivity, and death of her huſband. Although, under the adminiſtration of Mortimer, he had obtained a ſhare in the partition of the ſpoils of the D’Lſpeaſers, he perſiſted in oppoſing the meaſures of the new favourite; and although his own intereſts were ſecured by the treaty of Northampton, he boldly exclaimed againſt the injuſtice done to the other barons by that treaty. He joined the princes of the blood-royal in their attempt to reſcue the young king from the hands of Iſabella and her minion, and place him in their own; and, on the failure of that ill-adviſed conspiracy, he again took refuge in foreign parts. It ap­pears that lord Wake, having followed the political opinions of Henry de Beaumont, was involved in like calami­ties and diſgrace. While the queen-dowager and Mortimer retained their influence, the claims of thoſe two barons were altogether overlooked: But within forty-eight hours after the. execution of Mortimer, a peremptory demand was made by Edward III. to have their inheritance reſtored.

“The demand was unexpected and alarming. Made at the very moment of the fall of Iſabella and Mortimer,