Some authors tell us, that at the acceſſion of Ro­bert II. his title was diſputed by William earl of Dou­glas. If any ſuch claim was preferred, an aſſembly of the States ſet it aſide, and it was reſolved that Robert ſhould be crowned at Scone; and to take away for the future all diſputes concerning the ſucceſſion, a particu­lar act was framed, by which the kingdom was ſecured to Robert and his heirs.

The new king being thus eſtabliſhed on the throne, endeavoured to renew the war with the Engliſh, in or­der to recover from them the town of Berwick, and ſome other places on the borders. In this, however, he failed; and as 56,000 pounds of David’s ranſom ſtill remained unpaid, Robert bound himſelf to diſcharge it at the rate of 4000 marks every midſummer. He then propoſed an alliance with France; but the terms demanded by that kingdom being, that Scotland ſhould be obliged to make war with England whenever France ſhould require it, Robert could not by any means be induced to conſent to ſuch a requiſition, which would have obliged him to break through the most ſolemn treaties, whenever the king of France ſhould think proper to break with England. A new treaty,

therefore, was entered into, by which it was provided, that neither Scotland nor France ſhould be obliged to make war with England; and by another clauſe, that the diſpenſation or authority even of the pope himſelf ſhould never free the kings or kingdoms of France and Scotland from the obligations they lay under to aſſiſt one another, as often as required, in oppoſition to the kingdom of England. In cafe of a competition for the crown of Scotland, the king of France and his heirs were to take care that no Engliſh influence was uſed; but that the matter being by the greateſt and beſt part of the nation decided conformably to the laws and eſtabliſhment of Scotland, he ſhould with all his power defend and aſſiſt the perſon ſo eſtabliſhed. Lastly, it was agreed that no Frenchman ſhould ever hence­forth ſerve for wages, or otherwiſe, againſt Scotland, nor any Scotſman againſt France.

This laſt article occasioned a recal of all the Scots from the Engliſh armies, which Edward looked upon to be a prelude to an invaſion. He accordingly iſſued writs for aſſembling all the militia in the north of England. At this time an invincible hatred ſubſiſted be­tween the neighbouring people of both nations, which

“According to one account, the genealogies of their families ſtand thus:

Siward earl of Northumberland\*.

Emma= Alan earl of Brittany. Another daughters Duncan king of Scots.

Chriſtina=Walter the Stewart. Malcolm III.

“Thus Walter the Stewart and Malcolm III. were couſins-german.

"According to another account, the genealogy of their families stands thus:

Siward Earl of Northumberland. His sister *=* wife of Duncan.

Emma=Alan Earl of Brittany. Malcolm III.

∣

Chriſtina=Walter the Stewart.

"Thus the mother of Walter the Stewart and Malcolm III. were couſins-german.

“It is ſaid, ‘That Walter the Stewart had a ſon, Alan, alſo Stewart of Scotland.’ The evidence of this is to be found in a charter granted by Earl Goſpatrick, and in another charter granted by his ſon Waldeve Earl of March, at Dunbar. In them Alden, or Aldan Dapifer, is mentioned as a witneſs; that is, ſay our antiquaries, *Allan, the stewart of Scotland.*

"This is the fundamental propoſition on which the genealogy of the houſe of Stuart, as it is commonly underſtood, may be ſaid to reſt. It will be remarked, that this hypotheſis takes it for granted, that *Alden* or *Aldan,* and *Alan,* are the ſame; upon what authority I know not. The Alden mentioned in the two charters ſeems to have been the ſtewart of Earl Goſpatrick, and oſ Earl Waldeve, not the ſtewart of Scotland.

To the charter by Earl Goſpatrick, there are eight witneſſes: ‘Andrew the arch-deacon; Adam his brother; Nigel the chaplain; Ketel the ſon oſ Dolphin; Ernald; *Alden the Stewart* (Dapifer); Adam the ſon of Al­den; Adam, the ſon of Goſpatrick.’ Is it poſſible for credulity itſelf to believe, that the *Alden* placed ſo low in ſuch company, was the *high stewart oſ Scotland,* a man at leaſt as honourable as Goſpatrick himſelf? I can have no doubt, that the witneſſes to this charter were the dependents or houſehold-ſervants of Earl Goſpatrick; and that if we interpret *Nigellus Capellanus* to be *Nigel the earl's chaplain,* we mult interpret *Aldenus Dapiſer* to be *Alden the earl's stewart.*

“To the charter granted by Earl Waldeve, there are nine witneſſes. *Alden Dapiſer* is the ſeventh in order. There are only three among them who ſeem to have been landed men: 'Elias de Hadeſtandena (probably Hoffenden),

\* There was a certain princeſs of Denmark who brought forth a ſon to a bear. This ſon was called Bern, and, natural enough like, had cars like a bear. He was the father of Siward earl of Northumberland. Brompton, p. 915. ap. Twiſden.