extended not only through the lower ranks, but had per­vaded the higher claſſes alſo. The inhabitants of the borders, indeed, paid very little regard to the orders of their reſpective ſovereigns; so that daily hoſtilities were committed by them upon each other when there was peace between the ſovereigns. The inhabitants of theſe countries had eſtabliſhed with one another certain con­ventions, which have ſince been collected, and go by the name of the *Border laws.* The families of Dou­glas and Percy, whoſe eſtates lay contiguous to one an­other, were at perpetual variance. It had been com­mon for the borderers of both kingdoms, during a truce, to frequent cach others fairs; and a ſervant of the earl of March had been Killed in a fray at that of Roxburgh, which was ſtill in the hands of the Engliſh. Juſtice for this murder was demanded from lord Percy; but he flighted the cornplaint. On this the earl of March, with his brother the earl of Moray, aſſembling their followers, entered the next fair that was held in Roxburgh, plundered and burnt the town, and killed all the English who fell into tlheir hands. The Engliſh borderers were ordered to lay waste the lands of the earl of March; but, in their way thither, deſtroyed the eſtate of Sir John Gordon, a man of great property in the ſouth of Scotland. Sir John in his turn invaded England, from whence he drove off a large booty in cattle, and a number of priſoners. In his retreat he was attacked by a body of freſh troops under Sir John Liſburn, at a place called *Carαrn.* An obſtinate en­counter followed. The Scots were five times repulſed; but at laſt they renewed the charge with such fury, that they made Liſburn, his brother, and ſeveral other perſons of diſtinction, priſoners, together with all their ſurviving ſoldiers. On this lord Percy with 7000 men encamped at Duns, in the ſouth of Scotland; but was obliged to retire, probably for want of ſubſiſtence for his army. In the mean time, Muſgrave, the governor of Berwick, who had been ordered to join Percy with a detachment from the garriſon, was on his march intercepted, defeated, and taken priſoner by Sir John Gordon; after which the border war became general on both ſides. The issue of theſe diſturbances is but little known; however, in 1377, we find them raging with more violence than ever. The fair of Roxburgh was once more the ſcene of action, and the town was again, burnt down by the Scots. Lord Percy, who was now

Haſſenden), William de Copland, and William de Hellebat (q. Elbottle); all the three are placed before *Alder Dapiſer.*

“It has been remarked, "That in thoſe days the title of *stewart* or *dapiſer* was too high a title to be given to the retainer of an earl.' I anſwer, that the Saxon Chronicle, *anno* 1093, ſays, ‘Morael of Boebbahurh was thaes eorles stiward,' i.e. Morel of Bamborough was this earl’s stewart*,* or the ſtewart of Robert Earl of Northumberland. Beſides, to a charter granted by Earl Goſpatrick the Elder, *Lambertus Dapiſer* is a witneſs. If *Lambertus Dapiſer*, in a charter of Goſpatrick the Elder, implies *Lambert the stewart of the family of March,* why ſhould *Aldenas Dapiſer,* in the charters of the son and grandſon of Goſpatrick, imply *the stewart of Scotland?*

"I believe that no defender of the common hypotheſis will anſwer this objection, by pretending that *Lambertus Dapiſer* was indeed stewart *of Scotland.* Such an anſwer would leave no room for Walter ſtewart of Scotland, who is held to have been a diſtinguiſhed perſonage in the reign of Malcolm III.

“It is curious to see upon what flight grounds our antiquaries have eſtabliſhed the connection between *Aldenus Dapiſer* and the houſe of Stewart, *Walterus filius Alani* appears to have flouriſhed in the reign of Da­vid I. In the reign of Malcolm IV. he is termed *Dapiſer.* Hence it has been raſhly concluded, that *Walterus Dapiſer filius Alani* was the ſon of that *Aldenus Dapiſer* who is a witneſs to the charters of Goſpatrick and Waldeve.

“I perſuade myself, that *Alden Dapifer,* and *Alen the father oſ Walter* ſtewart of Scotland, in the reign of Malcolm IV. were different persons; and that they had nothing in common but the Chriſtian name, if indeed they had that in common.

“Some of my readers may demand, ‘*Who* then was Alen, the father of Walter, ſtewart of Scotland in the reign of Malcolm IV.?’

"I can only anſwer this queſtion by demanding, ‘*Who* was the father of Martach Earl of Marre in the reign of Malcolm III.; of Gilchriſt Earl of Angus in the reign of Alexander I.; of Fergus Lord of Galloway in the reign of Malcolm IV.; or of Friſkinus de Moravia, anceſtor of the family of Sutherland, in the reign of William the Lion? Or, to keep in the ſuppoſed line of the royal family of Stewart, '*Who* was the father oſ Banquho Thane of Loehaber?’

“Many anſwers may no doubt be made to this laſt queſtion. Kennedy ſays, that the father of Banquho was one of the ſeven ſons of Corc king of Munster; Sir George M'Kenzie, Of Ferquhard, the ſon of Kenneth III.; and Simpſon, The ſon of Ferquhard Thane of Lochaber, the ſon of Kenneth, the ſon of Murdoch, the ſon of Doir, the ſon of Eth king of Scotland.

“It is remarkable, that Abercrombie relates all thoſe contradictory ſtories, without ever ſuſpecting the natural inference ariſing from them, ‘That if noble perſons are not ſatisfied with a long pedigree, proved by authentic inſtruments, they muſt believe in flattering and ignorant fictions; and that if they ſcorn to wait for the dawn of record to enlighten their deſcent, they muſt bewilder themſelves in dark and fabulous genealogies.’

“In the reign of David I. before the middle of the 12th century, the family of the Stewarts was opulent and powerful. It may therefore have ſubsiſted for many ages previous to that time; but when, and what was its commencement, we cannot determine."