Kerr, a man of ſome conſequence. Two of the chiefs of the Scotch borderers were Cockburn of Kenderlaw, and Adam Scot, commonly called *king oſ the thieves.* Both of them were barons; and had been ſo inured to the practice, that they thought there was no crime in robbing: they therefore appeared publicly in Edin­burgh; where James ordered them to be apprehended, tried, and hanged. He next proceeded with great firmneſs againſt many noblemen and principal gentlemen, who were only ſuſpected oſ being diſaffected to the late peace. All of them had behaved with great loyalty, and ſome of them had done him the moſt important ſervices. Of this number were the earl of Hume, the lord Maxwell, with the barons of Buccleugh, Farniherſt, Polwart, Johnſton, and Mark Kerr. Though we know nothing particularly of what was laid to the charge of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen, yet ſo zealous was James for the impartial adminiſtration of juſtice, that he or­dered them all, with many other chief gentlemen of the borders, to be ſent to priſon; where they lay till they entered into recognizances themſelves, and found bail for their good behaviour.

Of all the party of the Douglaſſes, none of any note excepting Alexander Drummond of Carnock was ſuffered to return home, at the earneſt requeſt of the ambaſſadors and the treaſurer Barton. This lenity was of very little conſequence; for James having appointed the earl oſ Murray to be ſole warden of the Scotch march­es, with power to treat with the earl of Northumber­land, their conferences had broken off on account of freſh violences happening every day; and ſome infor­mation he had received from them, had prevailed with James to impriſon the noblemen and gentlemen we have already mentioned. He now reſolved to attempt in perſen what his predeceſſors and he had ſo often failed in by their deputies. As he was known to be violent­ly addicted to hunting, he ſummoned his nobility, even on the north oſ the Forth, to attend him with their horſes and dogs; which they did in ſuch numbers, that his hunt­ing retinue conſiſted of above 8000 perſons, two-thirds of whom were well armed. This preparation gave no ſuſpicion to the borderers, as great hunting-matches in thoſe days commonly conſiſted of ſome thouſands; and James having ſet out upon his diverſion, is ſaid to have killed 540 deer. Among the other gentlemen who had been ſummoned to attend him, was John Armſtrong of Gilnockhall. He was the head of a numerous clan, who lived with great pomp and ſplendour upon the con­tributions under which they laid the Engliſh on the borders. He was himſelf always attended by twenty- ſix gentlemen on norſeback, well mounted and armed, as his body-guards. Having received the king’s invi­tation, he was fond of diſplaying his magnificence to his ſovereign; and attiring himſelf and his guard more pompouſly than uſual, they preſented themſelves be­fore James, from whom they expected ſome particular mark of diſtinction for their ſervices againſt the Eng­liſh, and for the remarkable protection they had always given to their countrymen the Scots. On their firſt appearance, James, not knowing who he was, returned Armſtrong’s ſalute, imagining him to be ſome great no­

bleman; but upon hearing his name, he ordered him and his followers to be immediately apprehended, and ſentenced them to be hanged upon the ſpot. It is ſaid that James, turning to his attendants, aſked them, point­ing at Armſtrong, "What does that knave want that a king ſhould have, but a crown and a ſword oſ ho­nour?” Armſtrong begged hard for his life; and offer­ed to ſerve the king in the field with forty horſemen, beſides making him large preſents of jewels and money, with many other tempting offers. Finding the king in­exorable, “Fool that I am (ſaid he) to look for warm water under ice, by aſking grace of a graceleſs face and then he and his followers ſubmitted to their fate. Thoſe and ſome other executions of the ſame kind **re**ſtored peace to the borders.

Hitherto we have conſidered only the civil tranſactions of Scotland; but henceforth religion will claim a conſiderable ſhare of the hiſtorian’s attention. The opi­nions of Luther had been propagated in. Britain ſoon after his preaching in 1517. They had for ſome years inſenlibly gained ground; and, at the time the conten­tions began between James and his nobility, were be­come formidable to the eſtabliſhed religion. We have ſeen how James eſcaped from the hands of his nobles by means of the archbiſhop of St. Andrew’s. To the clergy, therefore, he was naturally favourable; and as they of neceſſity oppoſed the reformation, James became a zealous perſecutor of the reformed. On the other hand, the nobility having already oppoſed the king and clergy in civil affairs, did ſo likewiſe in thoſe of religion. The clergy finding themſelves unequal in argument, had recourſe to more violent methods. Rigorous inquiſitions were made after heretics, and fires were everywhere prepared for them.

The firſt perſon who was called upon to ſuffer for the reformed religion was Patrick Hamilton, abbot of Ferne. At an early period of life he had been ap­pointed to this abbacy; and having imbibed a favour­able idea of the doctrines of Luther, he had travelled into Germany, where, becoming acquainted with the moſt eminent reformers, he was fully confirmed in their opinions. Upon his return to Scotland, he ventured to expoſe the corruptions of the church, and to inſiſt oa tire advantages of the tenets which he had embraced. A conduct ſo bold, and the avidity with which his diſcourſes were received by the people, gave an alarm to tha clergy. Under the pretence of a religious and friendly conference, he was ſeduced to St Andrew’s by Alexan­der Campbell, a dominican friar, who was inſtructed to remonſtrate with him on the ſubject of the reformation. The converſations they held only ſerved to eſtabliſh the abbot more firmly in his ſentiments, and to inflame his zeal to propagate them. The archbiſhop of St An­drew’s, the archbiſhop of Glaſgow, and other dignita­ries of the church, conſtituting a court, called him to appear before them.

The abbot neither loſt his courage nor renounced his opinions. He was convicted accordingly of heretical pravity, delivered over to the ſecular arm, and executed in the year 1527 @@**(n).** This reformer had not attained

@@@ (n) His tenets were of the following import, and are enumerated in the ſentence pronounced againſt him.