fend the northern parts of England from the invasions of his enemies, whether they came by sea or by land.”@@1 It is to be remembered, that this transaction was entered into be­tween two independent princes, the one of Saxon, the other of Celtic race, more than a century before the feudal usages or tenures were introduced into England by the Normans ; an observation which might have been deemed unneces­sary, had not some ingenious writers affected to detect in the stipulations of Malcolm the acknowledgment of feudal dependence. In this manner did Cumbria, in the middle of the tenth century, become a portion of the Scottish do­minions.@@3

3. This treaty was followed by the reigns of Indulf, Duf, and Culen, a dark and sanguinary period, occupied by do­mestic war and civil commotion ; but under Kenneth the Third, who came to the throne in 970, occurred another event of no little moment in the history of the country. This was the conquest of the ancient British kingdom of Strath-cluyd by the arms of that monarch. We have seen this in­dependent state arise, in the middle of the fifth century, from a union of the Romanized British tribes, who, on the desertion of the island by the Romans, were drawn together by the ties of common danger and mutual defence. From this time, (446), they had, under various reverses and mul­tiplied attacks, enjoyed a precarious independence for up­wards of five centuries ; nor did they permit themselves to be incorporated in the Scottish monarchy without a deter­mined struggle. The arms and the energy of Kenneth, however, were successful ; and one of those gleams of ro­mantic light, which sometimes soften the gloomy annals of these ages, fell on the ruins of Stratheluyd. Dunwallon, the last of its kings, after exhibiting the utmost courage and resolution in defence of his people, assumed the reli­gious habit, travelled to Rome, and died a monk.@@3

The last prominent feature which marks this period, was the further enlargement of the Scottish dominions, by the acquisition of Lothian, hitherto a part of England. It took place in 1016, under the reign of Malcolm the Second, the son of Kenneth the Third, to whose conquest of Strath­eluyd we have just alluded. It was this same Malcolm whose courage we have seen victorious over the Danes at Mort- lach, and to whose convention with Sweno Scotland owed its freedom from the ravages of the pirate kings. In the beginning of the eleventh century, (1018), this warlike prince engaged in hostilities with Ughtred, earl of Nor­thumberland. Their forces met at Carham, near Wcrk, on the southern bank of the Tweed, and a sanguinary battle was fought, which effectually checked the Scottish prince. Ughtred, however, having been assassinated, was succeeded by his brother Eadulph, a feebler ruler, who, from a dread of a second invasion, was induced to purchase the friendship of Malcolm, by the cession of the whole of Lothian.@@4

Such are the great features which distinguish the early history of Scotland, from the middle of the ninth to the com­mencement of the eleventh century, (843 to 1018), and upon which it is both wiser and easier to fix the mind than to crowd and burden it with lists of barbarous and forgot­ten kings. We see a people, still rude, ignorant, and, ex­cept for the sweetening influences of Christianity, little re­moved from savage life ; but we find them able not only to vindicate their freedom against those incessant and cruel invasions, which broke, and for a time subdued the neigh­bouring country of England, but animated by an ambition which, under successive princes, largely extended their do­minions, by the successive acquisitions of Cumberland, Strathcluyd, and Lothian. Nor is the remaining portion of

the Scottish period, from 1018 to 1097, unmarked by some great events. In 1031, under the reign of Malcolm the Se­cond, Canute, the Danish king of England, invaded Scot­land. This prince, the most powerful monarch of his time, as he possessed not only England, but Denmark and Nor­way, led an army against Malcolm. The cause of the war is involved in much obscurity. It was however connected with some claim or dispute regarding Cumberland, and it terminated in Malcolm retaining the possession of that pro­vince, and performing the conditions upon which it had been transferred to him.@@5

In the historical romance of Boyce, and the classical pages of Buchanan, Malcolm the Second figures as the first and one of the greatest of Scottish legislators. It was referred for the learning and acuteness of Lord Hailes to detect his apocryphal laws as the forgery of a much later age.

Malcolm the Second, whose severe and vigorous reign had been marked by many sanguinary domestic feuds, not necessary to be detailed, was succeeded in 1033 by his grandson Duncan, the “ gracious Duncan” of Shakspeare, whose imperishable drama is founded upon a fictitious nar­rative, which Holinshed copied from Boyce. Let us for a moment, in a spirit rather of homage than of criticism, dis­entangle the dross of fact from the ore of fiction. Lady Macbeth was the Lady Gruoch, and had regal blood in her veins. She was the grand-daughter of Kenneth the Fourth. Her husband, Macbeth, was the son of Finlegh Maormor, or the supreme ruler of Ross. The real wrongs of the Lady Gruoch, the root of her implacable revenge, were even more deep than those of her mighty counterpart. She had seen her grandfather Kenneth dethroned by Malcolm, her brother assassinated, and her husband burned, griefs amply sufficient to turn her milk to gall. Macbeth, on the other hand, had wept a father slain also by Malcolm ; and thus revenge and ambition were equally roused in both their bo­soms. The purpose which had been arrested by the superior vigour and courage of Malcolm, was executed on his more feeble grandson. Duncan, in 1039, was assassinated at Bothgowanan, near Elgin;@@6 and Macbeth seized the san­guinary sceptre, which he held with a vigorous grasp for fifteen years, until he was defeated and slain by Macduff, in 1054.

On his death, a contest for the throne arose between Lulach, the son of the Lady Gruoch, and great-grandson of Kenneth the Fourth, and Malcolm Ceanmore, great-grand- of Malcolm the Second ; and this struggle terminated in son 1057, by the defeat of Lulach, and the accession of his ri­val, Malcolm, who was contemporary with Edward the Con­fessor.

The accession of Malcolm Ceanmore to the Scottish throne was soon afterwards followed by an event, which, although taking place in the sister country, produced the most important effects upon the history of Scotland. This was the invasion and conquest of England by the Normans, and the establish­ment of an entirely new dynasty in that country. The first consequence of this change was favourable to Malcolm, as it led to his marriage with a Saxon princess, whose charac­ter had a marked and favourable influence upon the ruder manners of her husband and his people. This lady was Margaret, who was the sister of Edgar Ætheling. It is impon­ant to trace her lineage. Canute, the Danish king of Eng­land, had banished Edwin and Edward, the children of Ed­mund Ironside, the last of the pure Saxon dynasty, for Ed­ward the Confessor was half a Norman. They found a re­treat in Hungary, where Edwin died ; but from this coun­try Edward, in 1057, was recalled by Edward the Confes

@@@1 Matthew of Westminster, p. 867. Brady's Compleat History of England, p. 120.

@@@! Chalmers’s Caledonia, vol. i. p. 389.

@@@3 Chalmers’s Caledonia, vol. i. p. 389, 393.

@@@4 Ibid. vol. i. p. 402. Simeon of Durham, apud Twysden, vol. i. p. 81.

@@@• Ibid. vol. i. p. 402.

@@@s Ibid. vol. i. p. 405.