sor. This prince had three children, a son, Edgar, com­monly called Edgar Ætheling, the heir of the Saxon line, and two daughters, Margaret and Christian. On the con­quest of England, the nobles of Northumberland, who were principally of Danish origin, led by two chiefs, named Maer- leswegen and Gospatric, becoming disgusted at the Norman tyranny, fled to the court of Malcolm, taking with them Ed­gar and his two sisters. Edgar was weak, almost to imbe­cility ; and in the event of his dying, or being found inca­pable of filling the throne, his claims as heir of the Saxon line descended to his sister. She was beautiful, accom­plished, and pious ; and a union which perhaps, at a dis­tance, had been suggested to Malcolm by ambition, on a nearer view was perfected by love.

The marriage of the Scottish monarch was soon followed by an invasion of England, in which Malcolm mercilessly ravaged the bishopric of Durham. The manner in which this predatory inroad was conducted marks the ferocity of the times. Malcolm and his subjects were Christians ; yet even the churches were destroyed and burnt, while the un­happy persons who had fled to them for sanctuary were mas­sacred, or consumed in the flames. During the occurrence of these savage scenes in England, Gospatric, one of the most powerful of the Northumbrian barons, whose assistance William the Conqueror had secured, swept through Mal­colm’s territory of Cumberland, and laid waste the country in a miserable manner, upon which the Scottish prince re­turned home, leading captive, says an English historian, such a multitude of young men and maidens, “ that for many years they were to be found in every Scottish village, nay, even in every Scottish hovel.”@@\*

There seems to be little doubt that this expedition of Malcolm was intimately connected with the determined stand made against William the Conqueror by the Northumbrian earls who had carried Edgar Ætheling into Scotland. Combin­ing in 1069 with their brethren, the Danes, who brought a powerful fleet to their assistance, they advanced as far as York, where they put the Norman garrison to the sword ; and here it is probable they expected to be joined by Mal­colm, but being disappointed in their hope, they made peace with William, who had the address to dissolve the confede­racy. Malcolm alone continued faithful to the cause of the Saxon prince ; and, though deserted by his confederates, yet by invading England fulfilled his agreement.

This inroad led to a dreadful retaliation on the part of William. “To punish the revolt,” we use the words of Lord Hailes, “ and to oppose a wilderness to the invasions of the Danes, he laid entirely waste the fertile country which lies between the Humber and the Tees.” “ At this time,” says William of Malmesbury, “ there were destroyed such splen­did towns, such lofty castles, such beautiful pastures, that had a stranger viewed the scene he might have been moved to compassion, and had one inhabitant been left alive, he would not have recollected the country.” Of this fine dis­trict the inhabitants seem to have been almost wholly exter­minated. Many who escaped the sword died of famine, many sold themselves for slaves, while those of higher qua­lity, Norman as well as Saxon, sought an asylum in Scot­land, and found at the court of Malcolm a favourable re­ception.

William having secured peace at home, prepared an ar­mament against Scotland, and in 1072 he invaded that coun­try, both by sea and by land. Malcolm wisely met superior power by an offer of submission. He sought and obtained peace, gave hostages, and performed homage. So far all is certain ; but a question arises, for what was this homage performed ? The answer may be given in the words of one

of the most able inquirers upon the subject : “ According to the general and most probable opinion, this homage was done by Malcolm for the lands which he held in England.”@@\*

We have already met with Gospatric, the powerful Nor­thumbrian earl who fled from the Conqueror to the court of Malcolm, bringing with him the heir of the Saxon line, with his sisters. Proving treacherous to Malcolm, Gos­patric obtained from William the government of Northum­berland ; but on his return from his successful expedition against Malcolm, the Norman conqueror, from jealousy or disgust, degraded his Northumbrian ally, who once more fled to the Scottish king. Malcolm, on his part, not only forgave him, but presented him with the lands and castle of Dunbar, and the castle of Cockburnspath. He who held these estates, lying on the borders between the two countries, might be said to have the keys of Scotland at his girdle ; and the circumstance is worthy of remem­brance, not only as marking the origin of a potent fami­ly, destined to act a leading part in the future history of the country, but as indicating the policy of Malcolm, who, conscious of the inferiority of his own Celtic race, manifest­ed a wise anxiety to prevail on strangers, whether Nor­mans, Danes, or Saxons, to settle in his dominions.

The remaining portion **of** the reign of this energetic prince (1079-1093), is chiefly distinguished by a struggle with William Rufus, who, upon the death of the Conqueror, had succeeded to the English throne. This prince appears to have withheld from Malcolm part of the English posses­sions to which he claimed a right ; and with the view of compelling a surrender of them, the Scottish king invaded England, and penetrated as far as Chester, on the Were. Rufus led against him a superior force ; and Malcolm, aware of his approach, prudently declined a contest, and by a time­ly retreat, secured his plunder and his captives.

This appears to have taken place in May 1091 ; and in the autumn of the same year, the Norman prince, having equipped a fleet, and levied a numerous land force, led his army in person against Scotland. He continued his march to the shores of the Forth ; but here his progress was stayed, in consequence of his receiving intelligence that his fleet had been destroyed by a tempest. There were no vessels to transport his troops across the Forth. The Scots, with a policy which they early learned, and repeatedly practised, had driven away their cattle, and cleared the country of its provisions ; and at this crisis, when his soldiers were perishing from famine, Mal­colm led his army against the English, crossed the Forth, and advanced into Lothian; a territory originally, as we have seen, acquired from the Angles, and therefore esteemed a part of England, although now subject to the Scottish king. Here having chosen a strong position, he encamped, and avoiding a battle, harassed the enemy, proposing to cut off his supplies, and expel him by famine. While both parties were thus situated, Edgar Ætheling, now with Rufus, and Ro­bert, the king’s brother, exerted themselves to conciliate a peace. The English monarch, notwithstanding his fiery temper, knew how to bend his fury to his interest ; and Malcolm, perceiving that he could obtain his purpose by treaty, wisely preferred this to the risk of a battle. It is important to mark the conditions of the agreement. Wil­liam Rufus, we find, consented to restore to Malcolm twelve manors, which the Scottish prince had held under the Con­queror, and to make an annual payment to him of twelve marks of gold.@@3 Malcolm, on his part, consented to do homage to William, and to hold his lands under the same tenure of feudal service and obedience to him, as he had formerly paid to his father the Conqueror.

Here pausing for a moment upon a subject which has

@@@1 Simeon of Durham, 201. Translated by Lord Hailes, vol. i. p. 1.

@@@’ Hailes’s Annals, vol. 1. p. 13.

**@@@3 Simeon Dunelm., apud Twysden, vol. i. p. 216.**