charters belonging to the abbey were carried off, and the ſeals torn from others: "which,” ſays Lord Hailes, is the only well-vouched example which I have found of any outrage on private property committed by Ed­ward’s army. It is mentioned in a charter of Robert I. and we may be aſſured that the outrage was not diminiſhed in the relation.”

On the 28th of Auguſt 1296, Edward held a par­liament at Berwick, where he received the fealty of the clergy and laity of Scotland. It is ſaid, that while the Engliſh monarch was employed in the conqueſt of Scotland, he had promiſed the ſovereignty to Robert Bruce, lord of Annandale, in order to ſecure his fideli­ty; but being put in mind of his promiſe, he anſwered, “Have I no other buſineſs but to conquer king­doms for you?” Bruce ſilently retired, and paſſed his days in obſcurity. Among thoſe who profeſſed their allegiance at this parliament was Robert Bruce the younger, earl of Carrick. After this, Edward took the moſt effectual methods of ſecuring his new con­queſt. He ordered the eſtates of the clergy to be reſtored; and having received the fealty of the widows of many of the Scottiſh barons, he put them in poſſeſſion of their jointure-lands, and even made a decent proviſion for the wives of many of his priſoners. Yet, though in every thing he behaved with great modera­tion towards the Scots, he committed the government of certain diſtricts, and of the chief caſtles in the ſouth of Scotland, to his Engliſh ſubjects, of whoſe fidelity and vigilance he thought himſelf assured. In order to conciliate the affections of the clergy, he granted to the Scottiſh biſhops, for ever, the privilege of bequea­thing their effects by will, in the ſame manner as that privilege was enjoyed by the archbiſhops and biſhops of England. In honour of the “glorious Confeſſor St Cuthbeit,” he gave to the monks of Durham an annual penſion of 40 pounds, payable out of the revenues of Scotland, by the tenure of maintaining, before the ſhrine of the ſaint, two wax-tapers of 20 pounds weight each, and of diſtributing twice a-year one penny each to 3000 indigent perſons. At laſt, having ſettled every thing, as he thought, in tranquillity, he departed for England, with all the pride of a conqueror.

The tranquillity eſtabliſhed by Edward, however, was of ſhort duration. The government of Scotland at that time required many qualities which Edward’s vicege­rents had not. Warenne, earl of Surry, who had been appointed governor, took up his abode in England, on pretence of recovering his health. Creſſingham, the treaſurer, was a voluptuous, proud, and ſelfiſh eccleſiaſtic; while Ormeſhy the juſticiary was hated for his ſeverity. Under theſe officers the adminiſtration of Ed­ward became more and more feeble; bands of robbers infeſted the highways, and the Engliſh government was univerſally deſpiſed. At this critical moment aroſe Sir William Wallace, the hero ſo much celebrated in Scot­tiſh fables, and by which indeed his real exploits are ſo much obſcured, that it is difficult to give an authentic relation of them. The moſt probable account is, that

he was the younger ſon of a gentleman (Wallace of Ellerſlie) in the neighbourhood of Paiſley. Having been outlawed for ſome offence (generally ſuppoſed to have been the killing of an Engliſhman), he aſſociated with a few companions, of fortunes equally deſperate with his own. Wallace himſelf was endowed with great ſtrength and courage, and an active and ambitious ſpirit; and by his affability, eloquence, and wiſdom, he maintained an authority over the rude and undiſciplined multitudes who flocked to his ſtandard. In May 1297, he began to infeſt the Engliſh quarters; and being ſucceſsful in his predatory incurſions, his party became more numerous, and he was joined by Sir William Douglas. With their united forces, theſe two allies attempted to ſurpriſe Ormeſhy the juſticiary, while he held his courts at Scone; but he ſaved himſelf by a precipitate flight. After this the Scots roved over the whole country, aſſaulted caſtles, and maſſacred the Engliſh. Their party was joined by many perſons of rank; among whom were Robert Wiſheart biſhop of Glaſgow, the Steward of Scotland and his brother Alexander de Lindſay, Sir Richard Lundin, and Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell. Young Bruce would have been a vaſt acceſſion to the party; for he poſſeſſed all Carrick and Annandale, ſo that his territories reach­ed from the frith of Clyde to Solway. But the war­dens of the weſtern marches of England ſuſpected his fidelity, and ſummoned him to Carliſle. He obeyed, and made oath on the conſecrated hoſt, and on the ſword of Becket, to be faithful and vigilant in the cauſe of Edward; and to prove his ſincerity, he invaded with fire and ſword the eſtate of Sir William Douglas, and carried off his wife and children. However, he inſtantly repented of what he had done: “I truſt (ſaid he), that the pope will abſolve me from an extorted oath;” on which he abandoned Edward, and joined the Scot­tiſh army.

All this time Edward was in France, not in the leaſt ſuſpecting an inſurrection among people whom he ima­gined he had thoroughly ſubdued. As ſoon as he re­ceived the intelligence, he ordered the earl of Surry to ſuppreſs the rebels; but he declining the command of the army himſelf on account of his health, reſigned it to his nephew, Lord Henry Percy. A great army, ſome ſay no fewer than 40,000 men, was now aſſembled, with which Percy marched againſt the Scots. He found them encamped at Irwin, with a lake in their front, and their flanks ſecured by entrenchments, ſo that they could not be attacked without the utmoſt danger. The Scots, however, ruined every thing by their diſſenſions. Wallace was envied on account of his accompliſhments, which had raiſed his reputation above the other officers, whoſe birth and circumſtances were higher than his. His companions accordingly became jealous, and began to ſuggeſt, that an oppoſition to the Engliſh could only be productive of farther national deſtruction. Sir Richard Lundin, an officer of great rank- formed a party againſt Wallace, and went over to Ed­ward with all his followers. He attempted to juſtify

[D cont. ] This was the ſtone which Gathelus ſent from Spain with his ſon when he invaded Ireland, which king Fergus won in Ireland, brought oven with him, and placed at Scone, As the moſt proper authority for a ſtory of this nature, ſee *Acts of Sir William Wallace, by Blind Hurry,* B. i. c. 4.

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