guinity. By both courts their marriage was decided to be void; and thus two ſentences of divorce were pro­nounced.

Bothwel now conducted the queen from Dunbar to her capital. But inſtead of attending her to her pa­lace of Holyrood houſe, his jealouſy and apprehenſions induced him to lodge her in the caſtle of Edinburgh, where he could hold her in ſecurity againſt any at­tempt of his enemies. To give ſatisfaction, however, to her people, and to convince them that ſhe was no longer a priſoner, a public declaration upon her part appeared to be a meaſure of expediency. She preſented herſelf, therefore, in the court of ſeſſion; the lords chancellor and preſident, the judges, and other perlons of diſtinction, being preſent. After obſerving that ſome ſtop had been put to the adminiſtration of juſtice upon account of her being detained at Dunbar againſt her will by the lord Bothwel, ſhe declared, that though ſhe had been highly offended with the outrage offered to her, ſhe was yet inclined to forget it. His courteouſneſs, the ſenſe ſhe entertained of his paſt ſervices to the ſtate, and the hope with which ſhe was impreſſed of his zeal and activity for the future, compelled her to give him and his accomplices in her impriſonment a full and complete pardon. She at the ſame time deſired them to take notice, that ſhe was now at her freedom and liberty; and that ſhe propoſed, in conſideration of his merits, to take an early opportunity of promoting him to new and diſtinguiſhed honours.

It was underſtood that the queen was immediately to advance him to be her huſband. The order was given for the proclamation of the banns; and Mr John Craig, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, was deſired to perform this buſineſs. But though the order was ſubſcribed by the queen, he refuſed abſolutely his com­pliance without the authority of the church. The brethren, after long reaſonings, granted him permiſſion to diſcharge this duty. His ſcruples, notwithſtanding, and delicacy, were not yet removed. He proteſted, that, in obeying their deſire, he ſhould be allowed to ſpeak his own ſentiments concerning the marriage, and that his publiſhing the banns ſhould infer no obligation in him to officiate in the ſolemnſty. In his congregation, accordingly, before a crowded audience, and in the preſence of ſeveral noblemen and privy counſellors, he declared that the marriage of the queen and the earl of Bothwel was unlawful, and that he was prepared to give his reaſons for this opinion to the parties themſelves. He added, that if leave to do this was denied Him, he would either abſtain altogether from proclaim­ing the banns, or take the liberty, after proclaiming them, to inform his people of the cauſes of his diſapprobation of the marriage. He was carried before the lords of the privy-council ; and the earl of Bothwel called upon him to explain his behaviour. He anſwered, that the church had prohibited the marriage of perſons ſeparated for adultery; and that the divorce between him and his wife muſt have been owing to colluſion; ſince the ſentence had been given with precipita­tion, and ſince his new contract was ſo ſudden; and he objected to him the abduction and raviſhment *of* the queen, and the ſuſpicion of his guilt in the king’s murder. This bold language drew no reply from Bothwel that was ſatislactory to Mr Craig, or that could intimidate him. He proclaimed in his church the banns of the marriage; but he told the congrega­tion, that he diſcharged the ſuggeſtions of his conference in pronouncing it to be a deteſtable and ſcandalous en­gagement. He expreſſed the ſorrow he felt for the conduct of the nobility, who ſeemed to approve it from their flattery or ſilence; and addreſſing himſelf to the faithful, he beſought them to pray to the Almighty that he would turn a reſolution intended againſt law, reaſon, and religion, into a comfort and benefit to the church and the kingdom. Theſe freedoms were too great to paſs unnoticed. Mr Craig was ordered anew to attend the privy-council; and he was reprimanded with ſeverity for exceeding the bounds of his commiſſion. He had the courage to defend himſelf. His commiſſion, he ſaid, was founded in the word oſ God, poſitive law, and natural reaſon; and upon the founda­tion of theſe topics he was about to prove that the marriage muſt be univerſally foul and odious, when the earl of Bothwel commanded him to be filent. The privy-council, ſtruck with the vigour of the man, and apprehenſive of the public diſeontents, did not dare to inflict any puniſhment upon him; and this victory, over Bothwel, while it heightened all the ſuſpicions againſt him, ſerved to encourage the enemies of the queen, and to undermine the reſpect of her ſubjects.

Mary, before ſhe rendered her hand to Bothwel, created him duke of Orkney. The ceremony was per­formed in a private manner, after the rules of the Popiſh church; but, to gratify the people, it was likewiſe ſolemnized publicly according to the Proteſtant rites by Adam Bothwel biſhop of Orkney, an eccleſiaſtic who had renounced the Epiſeopal order, for the re­formation. It was celebrated with little pomp and feſtivity. Many of the nobles had retired to their feats in the country; and thoſe who attended were thought­ful and ſad. Du Croc, the French ambaſſador, ſenſιble that the match would be diſpleaſing to his court, refuſed to give his countenance to the lolemnity. There were no acclamations of the common people. Mary herſelf was not inconſcious of the imprudence of the choice ſhe had made, and looked back with ſtupriſe and ſorrow to the train of circumſtances which had conducted her to this fatal event. Forſaken by her nobles, arid impriſoned at Dunbar, ſhe was in ſo peril­ous a ſituation that no remedy could ſave her honour but death. Her marriage was the immediate and neceſſary conſequence of that ſituation @@(s). It was the

@@@(s) "The queen (ſays Melvil) could not but marry him; feeing he had raviſhed her and lain with her againſt her will.’’ Memoirs, p. 159. In the following paſſage, from a writer of great authority, in our hiſtory, this topic is touched with no leſs exactneſs, but with greater delicacy. After Mary had remained a fortnight under the power of a daring profligate adventurer, ſays Lord Haſtes, few foreign princes would have ſolicited her