while the earl of Angus did not hesitate, in the extremity of his resentment, to sell himself to England ; and in an ori­ginal writing which yet remains, engaged to “ make unto Henry the oath of allegiance, to recognise him as supreme lord of Scotland, as his prince and sovereign.”@@1

In consequence of these base engagements, war was once more kindled on the borders, and carried on by the Doug­lases and Henry’s captains with such desolating fury, that James was compelled to call out the whole body of the fighting men in the country. These he divided into four armies, to each of which in rotation the defence of the marches was entrusted. The measure effectually checked the power of the English, and there was little prospect of Bothwell fulfilling his threat, of crowning Henry in the ca­pital ; but peace seemed more distant than ever, and nothing could be more deplorable than the picture presented by the country. The flames of villages and granges, the destruc­tion of the fruits, and the cessation of the labour of the hus­bandman, the stoppage put to the enterprise of the merchant, the increase among the people of the spirit of national an­tipathy, the corruption of the nobles by the money of Eng­land, the loss among such pensioned adventurers of all af­fection for the sovereign, and the decay of the healthy feel­ings of national independence ; all these lamentable conse­quences sprung out of the continuance of the war, and made the king desirous of securing peace, even if it should be at some sacrifice. -

This he at length accomplished. James agreed that the Douglases, by which was meant Angus, his brother George, and his uncle Archibald, should remain unmolested in Eng­land, supported by Henry as his subjects, on condition that Edrington castle, the only spot which they held in Scotland, should be surrendered, and reparation made for any expe­dition which they or the English king might hereafter con­duct against Scotland. On these conditions a pacification was concluded, for the period of the lives of Henry and James, and a year after the death of him who first deceased ; and soon after its ratification, the young monarch, whose firmness and talent in the management of his government made him an object of respect to the European princes, re­ceived the Garter from England, the order of St. Michael from France, and the Golden Fleece from the emperor.@@2

James was now in his twenty-second year, and his mar­riage was earnestly desired by the country ; but he had hitherto shewn little inclination to gratify the wishes of his people. With all his good qualities, he unhappily inherit­ed from his father an extreme devotedness to pleasure, which had been rather encouraged than restrained by the Douglases ; and his passions getting the better of his pru­dence and principle, sought their gratification in low in­trigues, carried on in disguise, and in pursuit of which he not unfrequently exposed his life to the attacks and revenge of his rivals. It was now full time that he should renounce these disreputable excesses ; and having evaded an offer made by the Spanish ambassador, of the hand of the prin­cess Mary of Portugal, and declined a similar proposal of Henry the Eighth, who pointed to his daughter the prin­cess Mary, he dispatched an embassy to France, for the pur­pose of concluding a matrimonial alliance with that crown.

It now becomes necessary to attend to a great subject, (the rise of the Reformation in Scotland,) the principles of which had been for some time silently making their pro­gress among the people, but which from this period exer­cised a marked and increasing influence over the history of the government and of the country. It was now nearly six years since Patrick Hamilton, abbot of Ferne, the friend and disciple of Luther and Melanchthon, having renounced the errors of the Roman Catholic church, and embraced the doctrines of these leading reformers, had been delated

of heresy, and condemned to the flames. The cruel sen­tence was carried into effect at St. Andrews in 1528, under the minority of James, and while the supreme power was in the hands of the earl of Angus. On taking the govern­ment into his own hand, James, although decidedly inimi­cal to the principles of Angus in all other things, unhappi­ly followed his determination to persecute those whom he esteemed the enemies of the truth. David Straiten and Norman Gourlay, who were disciples of the reformation, were tried for heresy, condemned, and brought to the stake, on the 27th of August 1534 ; and the intolerant and cruel conduct of the king compelled some who had embraced the same opinions to fly for safety to England.

About this time Henry the Eighth exerted himself to the utmost to prevail upon the Scottish king to imi­tate his own conduct, and shake off the yoke of Rome. He endeavoured to open his eyes to the tyranny of the pope's usurpations, sent to him the treatise entitled the “ Doctrine of a Christian Man,” and dispatched Dr. Barlow and Lord William Howard to request a conference with his royal nephew at York ; but the remembrance of the injuries he had sustained, resentment for Henry’s intrigues with his dis­contented subjects, and an attachment to the faith of his fathers, indisposed James to listen to these overtures; and when Paul the Third deputed his legate Campeggio to vi­sit Scotland, the embassy found it no difficult matter to con­firm the Scottish monarch in his attachment to the Catholic church. At the same time he addressed him by the title of which Henry had proved himself unworthy, Defender of the Faith, and presented to him a cap and sword which had been consecrated by the pope upon the feast of the nati­vity.

A parliament which assembled about this time, made two provisions which deserve attention. The importa­tion of the works of Luther, which had been proscrib­ed by a former act, was again strictly forbidden ; any dis­cussion of his opinions, unless for the purpose of proving their falsehood, was prohibited; and all persons who posses­sed any treatises of the reformer, were enjoined, under the penalty of confiscation and imprisonment, to deliver them up to the ordinary within forty days. The second act, which is well worthy of notice, related to the boroughs, in this dark age the best nurseries of industry and freedom. Hitherto feudal barons had been elected to the offices of magistrates and superintendents over the privileges of these corpora­tions; an unwise practice, by which the provosts, aldermen, or bailies, instead of being industrious citizens, interested in the protection of trade, and the security of property, were little else than idle and factious tyrants, who consumed the substance and invaded the corporate privileges of the bur­gesses. A law was now made, that no person should be elected to fill any office in the magistracy of the borough, but such as themselves were honest and substantial burgesses, and although not immediately or strictly carried into effect, the enactment evinced the dawning of a better spirit.

War still continued between Francis the First and the emperor, a circumstance which induced the French king to continue an amicable correspondence with England; and being aware that Henry the Eighth was intent upon accom­plishing a marriage with Scotland, Francis did not care to disgust this passionate monarch by any very speedy atten­tion to James’s desires to unite himself to a French princess. To obviate this, the Scottish king himself took a voyage to France, and landing at Dieppe, proceeded from thence in disguise to the palace of the duke of Vendôme. Here, being received only as a noble stranger, he saw, for the first time, but did not approve of his affianced bride, Marie de Bourbon, the duke’s daughter, and transferred his affections to Madeleine, the youngest daughter of the French king, to

**@@@, MS. British Museum, Calig. B. I. 128.**

**@@@, Diurnal of Occurrents in Scotland, p. 19.**