The Making of Scotland. Lectures on the War of Independence Delivered in the University of Glasgow. By the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart. New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. xiv, 242. $1.50.

Sir Herbert Maxwell makes no appeal to students of Scottish history in publishing his Glasgow University lectures for 1910, for the volume makes its appearance without an index, and, beyond the mention of half a dozen authorities in his brief preface, with no bibliography or list of sources. It is, therefore, unnecessary to give a critical estimate of the book as an addition to the history of Scotland in the thirteenth and

fourteenth centuries. As an interesting and entertaining narrative of the heroic achievements of Wallace and Bruce, and a vivid picture of border warfare between the English and the Lowland Scots, Sir H. Maxwell's little book may well find a wide circle of readers; and undoubtedly the book helps to an understanding of Scottish nationality, and also of the long continued poverty and backwardness of Northern Britain. Perhaps the greatest contribution that Sir Herbert Maxwell makes in this volume is his elucidation of the reasons for the continuance for three centuries of what was practically civil war. He describes it as the chief sport of the nobility in which they stood to lose if they were beaten or taken prisoners; but in which their lives were usually quite safe, and if they were successful and took their opponents captive, the prize was great. It was only the peasantry that suffered, and the peasants mattered little more to these feudal lords than do the hunted deer or pheasants to their descendants of modern times.

"In mediæval warfare, before the invention of gunpowder, the common soldiers and the farmers and peasants who followed their lords to the field counted only as pawns in the game. The object was to kill as many of them as possible, prisoners being costly and troublesome. But the barons, knights and esquires were regarded very differently. They rode into battle with charmed lives, and it was only in exceptional disasters, such as Bannockburn on the one side, or Flodden on the other, that any large numbers were slain. The great object was to take these gentlemen of coat-armor prisoners, and hold them to ransom. A landed proprietor's farms might be burned and the live-stock driven off; his ruined tenants might be unable to pay any rent; but let him have the good fortune to capture some person of distinction on the other side, and he would recoup himself for all loss. That, as well as the love of adventure, was what kept the game of war so long alive between the two nations, which subsequent history has shown are well able to dwell together in amity. It was a huge gambling transaction, with all the excitement of high play, plus that of brigandage and military glory. But you will see how cruelly it pressed on the peasantry who had nothing to gain but all to lose. Gunpowder, which at first seemed likely to make war more horrible than before, was really a merciful invention; it not only rendered battles less bloody, but it cured the barons and knights of their intense passion for war, because a bullet was as likely to find a billet in the carcase of a noble as in that of a churl."