

I am not convinced that this committee can achieve all 3 of the goals stated; as if King Edward chooses the successor we will have peaceful co-existence but his choice would be someone easily manipulated therefore leaving Scotland without independence. And if the committee chooses their own candidate who is least likely to be manipulated by the English crown we will antagonize the King therefore there will be no peaceful coexistence with England, but Scotland will have independence. This would lead us to war like England has fought and won against Wales in 1276.

### **Goal 1 - Selection of the Royal Succession**

In the event that the committee were to choose their own successor there are few of the 13 contenders that have Scotland's best interest in mind while others would be better suited for this powerful position. One of the people best suited for this role is Sir Robert Keith (review who is better later) who has a strong military background making him a good leader in the event of being attacked by England and has a strong character allowing him to be a good leader. Another option is Robert de Brus the 5th as he is diplomatic as well as a good warrior.

People such as those listed would be better suited as advisors to the successor. William the Hardy, prefers avoid conflict and would be good to find resolutions to problems that may arise, while also believing that coexisting is necessary for Scotland. Isabella MacDuff, has the right to crown newly selected Kings & Queens requiring her to play a big role in the decision of who is best suited for the role as King and she is also a strategist. Bishop Robert Wishart is a trusted advisor to King Alexander III and he is a good listener and would pay close attention to details. Thomas Randolph 1st Earl of Moray, is the most knowledgeable about the laws and customs of Scotland therefore being able to offer fair legal advising to the next King.

### **Goal 2 - Securing Independence**

As we are aware we are required to acknowledge King Edwards suzerainty over us, which I have, but we have the choice whether or not to take his advice or not on who he chooses as a successor. And as mentioned before independence can only be achieved by the committee choosing their own king and this would achieve us independence but not peaceful co-existence. Doing this we risk going to war with England but all for the independence of Scotland. If all of the clans were to come together with the leadership of someone strong we could defeat England together. But if we were to let the King decide who he feels is best fit to lead Scotland our independence would be false, as he will ultimately have power over us through his choice, but we will have peace.

### **Strategy**

We need to earnestly consider ways to build a congenial relationship with the King of England, so as to ensure avenues to allow his inclusion and wise direction; while continuing to take steps towards securing our sovereign Scottish independence. This would require calculated, strategic planning by. May I suggest that having access to the King, someone such as James Stewart, can be utilized in gathering information which will assist us in making our selection and knowing who the King will select. This way we can use James, who is already a

confidant of the King as he is trusted with his finances, to convince the King to choose the candidate we believe is best fit; while making the King believe that this is being done in his best interest.

### **Goal 3 - Peaceful Co-existence**

I believe that there should be a very peaceful co-existence with England in the following years, in order to be successful at achieving our goals. Our history with England consists of them having the upper hand over us. There is no problem in having a relationship with England, as long as King Edward does not claim suzerainty over Scotland. That is why I strongly propose the following act be taken into serious and immediate consideration:

### **Strategy**

As we are well aware, we have a tentative relationship with England and it would be in our best interest to solidify a life-long cordial bond. I put it to you, that we identify a suitable suitor in this committee to wed the King's daughter, Eleanor of England, Countess of Bar. This would symbolize the marriage of the two countries, and secure the peaceful future of the kingdom of Scotland with the kingdom of England.