

**Committee: Scottish War of Independence: England**  
**Character: Archbishop Henry of Newark**

I, Henry of Newark, am the Dean of York, and a loyal and trusted clerk to King Edward I. My devotion to God and the Catholic Church was founded at a young age, as in my childhood I was raised by the Gilbertine order of monks (Henry of Newark). I was educated at Oxford University, and it was shortly after 1270 that I came into the king's service as a clerk (Henry of Newark). In addition to being a member of court, I have remained deeply involved with the Catholic Church, and I am proud to say that my many years of hard work and devotion have resulted in my steady advancement through the ranks of the clergy. In 1278, I was appointed archdeacon of Richmond, and received a prebend in York (Henry of Newark). In 1279, upon the death of the Archbishop Walter Gifford, I was named a guardian of the temporal of York (Henry of Newark), and in 1290 I was installed as dean of York (Greenway). Throughout my life, my service to King Edward I has run parallel to my service to the Church. In 1277, King Edward sent me on a mission to Rome, and in 1281, I arbitrated in a dispute with the subjects of the Count of Holland (Henry of Newark). I was deputed in 1283 to fix the dues owed to the crown by the northern knights, and to collect subsidies in the Diocese of Durham for the Welsh wars (Henry of Newark). In 1290, I was appointed as a joint commissioner in order to treat with the Scottish, and now I have been appointed to be a commissioner at Norham, where King Edward will give judgement among the claimants to the Scottish crown (Henry of Newark). Through my service to the King, I have become practiced in diplomacy, and I have also become skilled at managing the finances of the Kingdom: skills that I expect to employ in dealing with the changing situation in Scotland.

I am concerned with the status of Scotland because it has come into the interest of King Edward I, and it is my duty to protect the interests of the church and country. England has held control over Scotland for almost a century. Under the rule of the English King Henry III and his Scottish counterpart King Alexander III, both kingdoms experienced great prosperity (Mackey 106). Trades improved, revenue increased, law and order were better maintained and education flourished (106). King Alexander worked hard to build a good relationship with England (106), and it is my greatest hope that his work shall be continued by his heirs. I believe that the union of Scotland and England will continue to result in great mutual benefit to both kingdoms as long as Scotland remains a vassal state, and I remain hopeful that this age of friendship will continue under Scotland's new heir.

As a result of the positions I hold within the church and court, as well as my own knowledge and morals, I see it as my personal duty to represent the values of the Catholic Church at court, and to serve and support my King and Country to the best of my capabilities. I support the claim of King Edward as Lord Paramount of Scotland, and I believe that the combined tasks of having his position recognized as such and of selecting a Scottish heir should ideally be accomplished swiftly and with as little conflict as possible. I will be most willing to lend my support to a Scottish heir that has a rightful claim to the throne, upholds the values of England as well as Scotland, bears respect for King Edward I, and is favoured by the Scottish people and court. It is also my policy that the ancient dignity of Scotland, her King, and her peoples should be upheld for so long as they remain loyal to England. We cannot hope to maintain rule over Scotland for long if her people increasingly hold us, the English, with high contempt and anger. While maintaining the necessary firm hand over Scotland, we must not give unwarranted reasons for rebellion against us. As well, we should be careful not to risk compromising the wellbeing of England in pursuit of re-securing Scotland. If the Scottish should put up a strong resistance to our cause, we must take care that England and her peoples do not suffer needlessly as a result. Wars cost the kingdom greatly, and we must recognize the

limitations of our campaigns. If we are not careful, tensions may rise to the point of bloodshed in Scotland. As England is currently still trying to quell the rebellions in Ireland as well as remaining tensions in Wales, while concurrently facing political unease with France, a few mistaken actions could result in England fighting four wars simultaneously. With our finances already strained from previous campaigns, this would be a near impossible feat. We may very well ourselves be conquered, and then all will have been for naught.

There are five primary goals that I, Henry of Newark, would like to accomplish in this committee. They are listed here, in order of importance:

1. That England maintains the values of the Catholic Church and the Pope, and takes no actions that go against our Christian values.
2. That the English Clergy will lend their continued support to King Edward, who is loyal to the Catholic Church and has maintained good relations with Rome throughout his rule. This support must come both in terms of financial subsidies from the dioceses of England and the widespread good faith of the clergy (Henry of Newark).
3. That the loyalty of the Kingdom of Scotland is secured through the rule of her new rightfully chosen King, under the continued sovereign rule of King Edward I and his heirs.
4. That the Scottish King chosen from the contenders has a rightful claim to the Scottish throne, is of the blood of the late King Alexander III, upholds the values of both Scotland and England, and that he swears fealty to King Edward I and his heirs.
5. That this coalition results in the continued mutual benefit of both England and Scotland, in the forms of peace, strengthened trade, and a unified front against foreign enemies.

Throughout our dealings with Scotland, it is vital that England maintains the support of the Catholic Church and the Pope. It is always of benefit to be on good terms with the Pope, and a falling-out between the Church and England would only be demoralizing for our own people, as well as have dire consequences in foreign affairs. Thus, it is important that England remain on good terms with Rome, and seek the blessing of the Pope in all our campaigns. It is also important that the Clergy of England continue in their support of the King and England. The clergy must be prepared to support King Edward with financial aid during his campaigns, so that he may also continue to support the church and shape England into a kingdom in which Christianity may flourish.

Throughout this committee I wish to put forth my best service to my King, Church, and country, and to accomplish the great union of Scotland and England. My hope is that God will look favourably upon our cause, and lead us to victory.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry of Newark". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

### **Works Cited:**

- Greenway. "Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066–1300: Volume 6: York: Deans." British History Online. 9 Nov. 2016 <<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>>.
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- Mackey, James (ed.). *Pocket Scottish History*. Broxburn: Lomond Books Ltd, 2009. Print.