

Scottish War of Independence - England - Roger Bigod (Earl Marshal)

The post of Earl Marshal of England has become a prominent title in the English Kingdom. As Marshal, I am a high ranking military officer, responsible for the command of the Calvary. I understand what my duties and responsibilities are to the crown, as I believe I have demonstrated my loyalty through assisting in leading expeditions in both Wales and Ireland, becoming a favourite to the King. The goals of the English are simple, the next person to take the throne in Scotland must have a positive view of us. They must do their duty, to do the best of their ability to ease the rising tensions between our two kingdoms and to oversee implementation of various interests by our kingdom, but to do it in a way that will convince the Scottish people that it is the right thing to do. Furthermore, the monarch that we try to implement must have terrible military experience, as well as terrible military advisers, so in the event of the Scottish attempting to rebel against our wishes, we can eliminate them swiftly.

Though I remain a favourite of Edward I, I acknowledge that sometimes the King makes stupid decisions that can lead to English defeat. An example of this can be seen during England's annexation of Wales, which led to our treasury losing an enormous amount of money. The idea of rising taxation to gain additional funds would mean the relationship between the many nobles and the crown would be in jeopardy, and at this time, we do not have the time or resources to deal with an internal rebellion. It is simple, if we cannot implement a monarch with the criteria that has been listed above, the likelihood of the use of military action rises. As Marshal, I will be glad to lead and fight a war against the Scots, but only if all else has failed. The relationship between England and the Church has remained excellent, the Pope and the King have had a mutually beneficial relationship through the crusades the English have pursued. Since our current economic situation is not improving, and the use of taxation should be ruled out due to the possible repercussions, the English government could seek funding from the church, to aid with military operations if we are forced to invade in Scotland.

Through our conquests in the lands of Wales and Ireland, it has led possible issues that will complicate and delay our ability to take Scotland for our own. The situation in Wales is not worrisome because of our effective implementation of nobles and castles throughout the land. Ireland remains a tricky affair, where our government has not been as efficient. I, Roger Bigod believe that at the current moment, the mounting pressure on the British Isle is something that takes precedence over the Irish. Once Scotland is back to normal, having an English vassal as their king, our focus can be shifted on the Irish. Though there remains an increase of hostilities between the French and the English, the increasing of the situation between our northern neighbors has caused tensions to become fluid, meaning that a far with France, simultaneously with the Scots could lead to the demise of our kingdom. This is where the Pope must seek to aid us if the Church cannot help our fight financially, their assistance with diplomatic relations between the English and the French would be greatly appreciated. France, as well as England, hold the Church in high standards, by using a common belief, or a mediator, the Pope can lower

tensions between our two nations, as it is in both our interests to be at peace. It is a crucial element that we turn the intense relationship with the French into something more stable, so we don't need to, in the event of war, fight on two fronts.