First Scottish War of Independence

Otto de Grandson

England

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SSUNS 2016

Background on Topic:

Scotland was made up of four major peoples at the time, the Picts, Scots, Angles, and Britons. The Picts were the first race to strive in Scotland, and they were from Celtic descent. While the Scots originated from Irish tribes. The Angles first came to assist the Roman Empire as auxiliaries. However they decided to stay in Scotland and expand their kingdom. Kenneth McAlpin made himself king of Scotland in 810, but the Angles still had control over the south and the Vikings were running the north and the Islands. The Picts were vulnerable due to the constant Viking raids that crippled their military power. After McAlpin came Donald II, also known as Domnal mac Caustantin. He tried to combat the Viking raids during his time as king, but he died in 900 AD. His cousin Constatin II, took over and approached the feud with the Vikings in a more peaceful manner. He used his daughter as a peace offering and had her married of to the Viking King of Dublin. They were able to form an alliance, however they failed at the attempt of taking over Aethelstan’s kingdom. Constatin II stepped down from the throne in 943 AD and later died in 952 AD. Between the death of Constantin II and Alexander III’s death, Scotland became known as the Kingdom of Alba. Under the rules of different kings over the years, Scotland was able to gain Lothians, Strathclyde, and Moray as part of Scotland. England in the early 1200’s was under the reign of King John. John at one point was excommunicated because he was able cooperate with the Pope about who should be the successor. King John was readmitted later when he made his kingdom a papal fief. While in power, England lost the Battle of Bouvines. The battle costed him Normandy, Anjou and Brittany, and other England territories. King John also was in power during a rebellion led by the northern barons. The conflict was put to rest when King John met with the leaders and signed the Magna Carta. It was compilation of all the injustices, such as taxation, that the barons wanted to limit the King’s power on. However the Magna Carta was not proven successful do the French aiding the rebel barons. The French finally withdrew because of the death of King John. This sudden lost left Henry III to become the next King of England. With King John out of power, many went back to siding with the Crown rather than the rebels. The led to the defeat of France that had invaded earlier, however they would not leave until they were paid to by England. King Henry was able to accomplish the Treaty of York between England and Scotland. The treaty was repaired the Anglo-Scottish border, except for the town of Berwick. It is a constant battle for control between England and Scotland. Like his father, King Henry III did not have good relations with the barons. The barons made a council to help assist King Henry III but was not affective, because he was able to liberate himself from the Provisions. King Henry III carried out the Treaty of Paris, between France and England and was able to keep ownership of the Channel Islands and Gascony under the circumstances that the French would stop supporting the rebel barons and were allowed to keep the territories t King John lost previously. After King Henry III’s death in the battle of Evesham, his son Edward succeeds him. King Edward I annexed Wales when he defeated Welsh leaders. This key point proves that England is rising up to power. During the time of Alexander III and his father Alexander II, Scotland was practicing feudalism. In Scotland, the wealthy and noble residents of Scotland would receive parts Scottish land in exchange for military force. The owners of these plots of land became known as barons and they had rule of the barony which was the land given to them. The Scottish War of Independence started from the unexpected death of Alexander III. Alexander III was the previous king of Scotland. Unfortunately, he died from an accident riding his horse on the way to Fife. He also had no living heirs except for his granddaughter Margaret, most commonly known as the Maid of Norway.

Background of Character:

Otto de Grandson, also known as Sir Ortho de Grandison was born in France and move to England when his father took on the role as household knight. His father was also a dependent of Peter of Savoy. He was a close correspondent of King Edward I, and he trusts the King’s judgements on the situation. This was due to the fact they grew up together and were even knighted together. Otto proved to be more help diplomatically than military even though he did go accompany Edward I on his crusades. He also fought in both Welsh wars. Once the second one ended, Otto de Grandson was given the title justifier of north Whales. King Edward I granted Otto de Grandson the Wardenship of the Channel Islands in 1275. Otto de Grandson also had strong ties to the Pope because he put his wealth into religious purposes. This allowed him to become a benefactor of Vale Royal. Vale Royal was based on an Edwardian foundation. He was also considered a benefactor of Saint Jean de Grandison too.

Solutions:

Grandson believes the top priority should be to focus on selecting a new heir to the throne. Otto de Grandson would like England to maintain good relations with Scotland, and believes this can be accomplished through regular meetings with both leaders to talk about what has happened in the past month and how England can be of assistance when transferring rule to a new person. Grandson also believes it is imperative to pick a new ruler that has the intentions of continuing to build on the Scotland-England relationship. This can be ensured by setting an arranged marriage between Margaret, Maid of Norway, and one of Edward I’s son. This will leave Scotland happy to have someone they know in charge. However this will have to be executed in the long term due to the young age of Alexander III’s granddaughter. It would be in England’s best interest to intercede while they are at a weak point. Grandson would like to send an ambassador or a representative to Scotland to assess the situation and see where England can help out in the process. England needs to assert dominance though and prove to Scotland that they need them or else they will be weak and on the road to a collapse. This can be done by building up England’s defense with even more soldiers. By doing this, England will show France how strong they have gotten since they last invaded. As a representative of the Pope, Otto de Grandson would also like to further strengthen King Edward I’s bond to the church. This will only let Scotland see how England is and why they are needed. While the relationship England has with the Pope is healthy as he blesses the troops before war, Grandson would like to ensure it continues to prosper due to the large role the Church plays in England.

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