***Sir Andrew Moray Represented by***

***(Uncle of Randolph) John Abbott College***

***Scottish War of Independence: Scotland***

I was born in the second half of the 13th century, son of Sir Andrew Moray of Petty and of the daughter of Comyn of Badenoch[[1]](#footnote-1). I have the fortune of being from a prosperous baronial family disposing of an ample political influence. The bountiful lands in the province of Moray in the northeastern of Scotland belong to me and with them the lordship of Petty, the lordship of Avoch and the lordship of Boharm[[2]](#footnote-2). A few years ago, I wed Euphemia Comyn, the sister of John Comyn, Lord of Badenoch[[3]](#footnote-3). I have been raised to take responsibility for an estate, to attend to the welfare of the land and the people under my supervision, and to prize that welfare over my own.

The imbroglio at hand, caused by the death of King Alexander the 3rd of Scotland and of Margaret, Maid of Norway, leaves Scotland without a king; we are now a ship without a captain. As such, it is primordial to tackle the situation so as not to become effete. I am looking forward to a leader having in his heart Scotland and in his mind its progression. However, more than Scotland itself, the Scottish people must be taken into account. Indeed, a Lord is nothing without its tenants, a country is nothing without its people. Therefore, it is primordial to take into account that our people subsist from the land. Consequently, our land would benefit more from water and sunshine than from blood. The successor to be appointed must be an astute and reasoned one. I believe experience as a leader and knowledge in the human soul are prime qualities for a Chief Justiciar. Nevertheless, I do admire the new generation’s vitality and vigour; maybe new ways of doing will allow us to shape our path as a nation. While military abilities are always necessary, what our country most needs right now is diplomacy. As such, we must lead by example and elect a successor by a majoritarian vote. Furthermore, I am of the opinion that a candidate must be nominated by someone else, rather than by himself, so that the very people we praise and hold in high esteem become the ones we follow.

A deft management of the current crisis could either create dissent between our nation and the English one or strengthen our relation as allies. Indeed, Scotland and England must be supporters of one another, but not servant of one another. That path of action correlates to an acrobat walking on a wire: our respect for England must not be confounded for servitude, our independence must not be belligerent. A marriage between Scotland and England has proven itself successful for our departed King Alexander III, this line of action could prove itself fruitful again. Furthermore, a pact of non-aggression accompanied of one of mutual defence could open the door for an entente that includes long-lasting peace. Scotland has much to win from a partnership with England that would establish the two nations as independent parts of a joined unit. Once our political instability is dealt with, Scotland could start expanding its international relationships, notably with Ireland, France as well as Norway and Denmark.

Regarding the royal advice King Edward I offers, I believe it is best not to make idle promises that cannot be fulfilled. Indeed, while I regard with reverence King Edward the 1st of England, I also believe that it is best not seek his advice in the matter of the claims to the crown. To acknowledge him as Overlord of Scotland would be to withhold from our children, from our relatives, from our neighbours the freeness that statehood confers. Indeed, the clause he conflated with his help in the matter, although speaking highly of his interest in the Scottish nation, could also thwart the power and authority of Scotland to preside over its own destiny. I believe in God’s providence and in the valour and hearts of my fellow Scottish kinsmen.

**Reference:**

World Heritage Encyclopedia. “Andrew Moray.” *Schoolebooklibrary.net*, http://www.schoolebooklibrary.net/articles/eng/Andrew\_Moray. Accessed 3 Nov. 2016.

1. World Heritage Encyclopedia. “Andrew Moray.” *Schoolebooklibrary.net*, http://www.schoolebooklibrary.net/articles/eng/Andrew\_Moray. Accessed 3 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Ibid.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-3)