

MEMOIRS

CONCERNING

The Ancient Alliance

BETWEEN THE

FRENCH AND SCOTS,

AND

The Privileges of the Scots in France.

FAITHFULLY TRANSLATED

FROM THE

Original Records of the Kingdom of France.

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PRIVILEGES
OF
THE SCOTS IN FRANCE.

AS the privileges of the Scots in France are a consequence of the union and alliance which subsisted so many ages between the two crowns, it is necessary, in the first place, to treat what regards that alliance, in order to come afterwards to the privileges granted by the Kings of France to the Scots.

CHAP. I.

THE ALLIANCE OF FRANCE AND SCOTLAND.

It is the general opinion of all the Scottish historians, that the alliance of the French and Scots is

as ancient as Charlemagne. * Some French historians have related the same fact; and so undoubtedly did it appear in France under Henry II. that in the † contract of marriage between Francis the Dauphin his son, and Mary Queen of Scotland, it is expressly said, that the friendship of the two kingdoms had subsisted eight hundred years; which carries it up to the reign of Charlemagne. And the ancient author of Chronicon Normaniæ, ‡ speaking of Charles the Bald in the year 848, seems to insinuate this alliance in these terms: “*Rex Sctorum ad Carolum, pacis et amicitiae gratia, legatos cum muneribus mittit, &c.*” [The King of Scotland to Charles, for peace and friendship’s sake, sendeth ambassadors with presents, &c.]

David Chamber, one of the lords of council and session at Edinburgh, in his history dedicated to Henry III. King of France, in 1579, produces a series of treaties of alliance between the Kings of France and Scotland, which he pretends to have taken from ancient Scottish historians no longer to be found.

Such are the treaties of alliance between Philip I. King of France, and || Malcolm III. King of Scotland; between Lewis VII. and § Malcolm IV. and between the same Lewis VII. and ¶ William King of Scotland; between Philip II. and ** Alexander II.; between St. Lewis and †† Alexander III.

But whatever be in those first alliances, of which

* Jo. Fordun. lib. 3, cap. 48. Boeth. l. 10. p. 185, &c. Jo. Major. l. 2. c. 13. Paul. Æmil.—† Printed by Leonard.—‡ Chron. Norman. edit. Duchesne, p. 525.—|| David Chamber hist. f. 129.—§ Ib. f. 140.—¶ Ib. f. 141.—** Ib. f. 149.—†† Ib. f. 153.

we can vouch neither certain documents, nor authentic copies, it is unquestionable, that, to begin from Philip the Fair, there runs an uninterrupted train of alliances between the Kings of France and of Scotland, down to Henry IV. and James VI. Even in the year 1326, the treaty of Charles the Fair and Robert I. shows that there had been "a friendship or alliance of long standing between our predecessors Kings of France, and our kingdom, on one part, and the Kings of Scotland, and the said kingdom of Scotland, on the other." These are King Charles's own words in the treaty, which clearly supposes that the alliance between France and Scotland is far more ancient than his time, though we have not now extant any authentic copy of such treaties prior to that of Philip the Fair and John Baliol, in 1295.

Here follows the series of those treaties of which any copies remain, and of which the originals were actually amongst the charters of France in Henry II.'s time, according to an inventory made of them, together with the treaties of France and England, by Mr. Du. Tillet, clerk of parliament, and printed in folio, 1588.

Treaty of alliance between Philip the Fair, * King of France, and John Baliol, King of Scotland, concluded at Paris, the 23d of October, 1295.

Treaty of alliance between Charles IV. surnamed the Fair, King of France, and Robert I. King of Scotland, concluded in 1326.

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of France

* Rymer *foedera Angliæ*, tom. II. p. 680, &c.

and Navarre, to all who shall see and hear these presents, greeting. As amongst other things whereby kings reign, and kingdoms are governed, a meet and necessary thing it is, that princes should ally themselves together by bond of friendship and good-will, in order, the grievances of those who desire to grieve them, more forcibly to restrain; and the tranquillity of them, and of their subjects, more peaceably to secure; we, having this in regard, are willing to renew by treaty the friendship and good-will, which have long subsisted between our predecessors Kings of France and our kingdom, on one part, and the Kings of Scotland and the said kingdom of Scotland on the other, with the noble Prince Robert, by the grace of God, King of Scotland, our special friend, against the King of England, whose predecessors have often laboured to aggrieve the said kingdoms of France and Scotland in many and sundry ways.

And this we do by these envoys, namely, Thomas Ranulph, Earl of Moray, Lord of Walls, Annand, and Man, Mr. James Dun, Archdeacon of St. Andrews, doctor of laws, Adam Moray, doctor in canon law, and Walter Tyntham, canon of Glasgow, all vested with special power in form following: "*Universis præsentibus literis inspecturis, Robertus Dei gratia rex Scotorum, salutem. Noverit universitas, quod nos facimus, constituimus, et per præsentibus ordinamus, dilectos et fideles nostros Thomam Ranulphi comitem Moraviæ, dominum Vallis, Annandi et Manni, nepotem nostrum carissimum, Robertum de Keth marischallum Scotiæ, magistros Jacobum Dun archidiaconum*

