

## SECTION II.

## DISTINCT RACES IN SCOTLAND.

WE come now to the consideration of an important subject; to make a few remarks upon the different races of men which appear originally to have settled in Scotland, and the division of orders and ranks in society into which they came to be separated during this remote era of our history. At the death of Malcolm Canmore, in 1093, four distinct races were discernible in Scotland. There was first the Gaelic or Celtic people, speaking the Erse language, and inhabiting Argyle, Galloway, Inverness, and nearly the whole of Scotland to the north of the Firth of Forth. Beyond them the hardy and warlike Norwegians had seized upon the Western Isles, and colonized the extreme districts of Ross and Caithness. In the richer lowland counties were the Saxons, a Gothic race, from whom Malcolm Canmore had chosen his queen, and whom he highly favoured and encouraged, while the convulsion in the sister country at the great era of the conquest had driven many opulent Normans to desert the service of the conqueror, and to carry their arms and their allegiance to a foreign prince, by whom they were warmly welcomed. During the long interval of a century and a half, which elapsed between the death of Malcolm Canmore and the accession of Alexander the Third, these materials became insensibly blended and mixed into

each other ; but the process was extremely gradual, and during the whole period we can discern distinct marks of the different races.<sup>1</sup> At the death of Malcolm Canmore, an event took place which exhibited in strong colours the animosity of the Gaelic people to the Saxons and Normans. Donald Bane, who had taken refuge in the Hebrides upon the usurpation of Macbeth, having emerged from his northern asylum, seized the throne ; and his first exertion of power was to expel from the country all the foreigners who had intruded into his dominions.<sup>2</sup> The frequent residence of David the First previous to his accession to the Scottish throne at the court of England, and his possession of the large and extensive district of Cumberland, which was exclusively occupied by a Saxon and Norman population, must have contributed to soften the lines of distinction between the different classes of his subjects when he became king. Yet his anxious efforts could not altogether extinguish their jealous animosities, or prevent them from breaking out on most occasions where they were compelled to act together.<sup>3</sup> For example, at the battle of the Standard, Malise Earl of Strathern, a Gaelic chief, remonstrated with the Scottish king against his design of placing his squadrons of Norman soldiers, who were clothed from head to foot in steel, in the front of the battle. “ Why,” said he to the king,

<sup>1</sup> Fordun a Goodal, b. viii. c. 2, 4, and 6, b. ix. c. 34, and c. 47, 48, c. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Chron. Johan. Brompton, p. 990. Chron. Melrose, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup> Rich. Hagulstad, pp. 318, 323. Johan. Hagulstad, p. 262.

“ will you commit yourself so confidently to these Normans? I wear no armour, yet none of them this day will go before me in the battle.” Upon which, David, to prevent a rupture between the two divisions of his army, found himself compelled to give the post of honour to the Galwegians, whom the Norman historians represent as a nation of absolute savages.<sup>1</sup> An attention to the arrangement of the Scottish army in this memorable battle, and to the circumstances under which it was fought, will throw some light upon the various tribes which at this time composed the body of the nation. After the Galwegians, who insisted on forming the first line, and were led by their chiefs Ulric and Donald, came the second body, which was composed of the Norman men-at-arms, the knights and the archers, commanded by Prince Henry, whilst the soldiers of Cumberland and Teviotdale fought in the same line, and beneath the same banner. In the third division were drawn up the men of Lothian, along with the Islanders and Katherans; and the king himself commanded a reserve in which he had placed the Scots and the natives of Moray, with a select body of Saxon and Norman knights, which he kept near him as a body guard.<sup>2</sup> There were at this time in the English army two Norman barons, Robert de Brus, and Bernard Baliol, who possessed estates in Galloway, which they held of David as their liege lord. Before the battle, Bruce, who

<sup>1</sup> Ethelredus de Bello Standardi, pp. 341, 342. Ricardus Hagulstad. Hist. p. 318.

<sup>2</sup> Ethelredus de Bello Standardi, p. 342.

had been an old and dear friend of the Scottish king during his residence in England, requested an interview, and anxiously advised him to desist from further hostilities, and to consent to a peace. In the arguments which he employed, as given by a contemporary historian,<sup>1</sup> the enmity between the Scottish and the Norman race, is strongly insisted upon. He paints the Scots as rejoicing at the opportunity of avenging themselves upon a nation which was odious to them, and accuses the king of extreme folly in making war on that people by whom he had supported his power against the attacks of his Scottish subjects. "Think not," says he, "that one part of these savage tribes will be a sufficient defence against the rest, that the Scots will be barrier enough against the Scots; and raise not your banner for the destruction of those whose faithfulness in your defence has made them to be hated by the Scottish race."

The two races in David's army, thus strikingly described, seem to have been the Galwegians, the Islesmen, the Katherans, on one hand; and the Normans and Saxons, the men of Lothian, of Teviotdale, and of Cumberland, on the other. Nor is it difficult to discover the cause of this animosity. The fact just mentioned, that Bruce and Baliol, two Norman barons, possessed lands in Galloway, will guide us to it. It was the policy of this monarch to encourage the influx of Normans into his dominions, by conferring upon them estates in the districts which his Gaelic

<sup>1</sup> Ethelredus de Bello Standardi, p. 343.







































































