

In the meantime, Douglas dispatched the Lord Hamilton into England, where, in a meeting with the Yorkists, an immediate supply of money and of troops was promised,¹ upon the condition that the conspirators should give a pledge of the sincerity of their intentions, by taking the oath of homage to the English crown,—a piece of treachery to which Hamilton would not consent, although there is reason to believe it met with few scruples in the convenient conscience of Douglas. Before, however, this test had been taken, the royal vengeance burst upon the principal conspirator with a violence and a rapidity for which he appears to have been little prepared. James, at the head of a force which defied all resistance, attacked and stormed his castle of Inviravon, and, after having razed it to the ground, pressed forward without an instant's check, to Glasgow, where he collected the whole strength of the western counties, and a large force of the Highlanders and Islesmen. With this army he marched to Lanark, invaded Douglasdale and Avondale, which he wasted with all the fury of military execution ; and, after delivering up to fire and sword the estates belonging to Lord Hamilton, passed on to Edinburgh ; from thence, without delay, at the head of a new force, chiefly of Lowlanders, he invaded the forests of Selkirk and Ettrick, and compelled all the barons and landed gentlemen of whom he entertained any suspicion, to renew their allegiance, and join the royal banner, under the penalty of having their castles levelled with the ground, and their estates

¹ Auchinleck Chronicle, p. 53.

