

## PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE early establishment of the Royal guard of Scottish Archers in France, the length of time during which they were maintained, and the numerous privileges conferred upon them, render their history curious and interesting. They undoubtedly contributed in no small degree to promote those friendly relations, which subsisted between Scotland and France, from the age of fabulous story, till the independent existence of the former kingdom merged in the British Crown. The nobles and gentlemen of Scotland enrolled themselves in that honourable corps, and were the means of attracting to the French service many of their countrymen, whose glory was sealed at Baugé, Vernemil, and other bloody fields, and of thereby cementing an alliance unparalleled in history.

The documents here introduced have preserved many interesting particulars relating to the Scottish Guard. They are contained in the fiftieth volume of the Demilh MSS. (Adv. Lib. A. 2. 4.) and are six in number. The circumstances to which they refer happened about the years 1611-12, while Mary de Medicis, widow of Henry IV. was regent of France for her son Louis XIII. Numerous innovations upon the privileges of their body, and frequent causes of irritation which had occurred at this time, induced some of the Scottish Archers to lay their case before their own Sovereign, and to seek his mediation at the French Court in their behalf.

For this purpose the Statement, which is the first article subjoined, appears to have been drawn up. It is printed in 6 pp. quarto, and gives an account of the origin and immunities of the Scottish Guard. On the back is written, in a cotemporary hand, “w<sup>th</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Edmond’s lettre dated 1 of Febr. 1611.” That letter follows, printed from the original of Sir Thomas, who seems to have been resident ambassador from James VI. at Paris. It is addressed to Robert Earl of Salisbury, Lord Treasurer of England, and contains particulars of the differences between the Archers and the French Court. There is next another letter of 30th March 1612, detailing the continued exertions of Edmondes in this matter, in concert with Lord Colville; the name “the Duc of Bouillon,” which here occurs, (see p. 20) has been substituted by a different hand for the figures 25 in cypher. The latter part is filled with disputes as to precedence at the marriage of Princess Elizabeth of France to Philip IV. of Spain. The next document exhibits articles of complaint against the Archers, with answers on their part; and may perhaps be the same as the “answeare to the information” mentioned in Sir Thomas Edmondes’ second letter. Lord Colville, having been commissioned by James VI. to act with his ambassador in this affair, reports his diligence to the king in the next letter, of which the original is preserved. The last of the series seems to be the draught of a memorial from James VI. to the French king and council, insisting for the restoration of the Archers to their proper number and privileges; or, should this be refused, discharging them from continuing embodied under the name of the Scottish Company.

The history of the corps of Scottish Archers given in the first of these

documents must be regarded as an *ex parte* statement, and other authorities throw some doubt upon the pretensions to antiquity therein asserted. In Vol. II. p. 5. of *L'Etat de la France*, (Paris, 1727, five volumes, 12mo.) the subject is thus briefly, and not very accurately, discussed. “ Le Roy  
 “ Charles VII retint à sa garde des Ecossois, tirés du nombre de ceux que  
 “ les Comtes de Boucan, Douglas, et autres Seigneurs d'Ecosse, lui amenèrent pour chasser de la France les Anglois. Philippe de Commines  
 “ les appelle Orfaverisés, à cause que leurs Hoquetons étoient couverts de  
 “ papillottes d'argent et d'orfèvrerie. Ils ont eu un Capitaine de leur nation, jusqu'au règne de François I, que Jacques de Lorge, Comte de  
 “ Montgomery, fut pourvû de cette charge. Les Ecossois n'en témoignèrent point de mécontentement, parcequ'ils le regardoient comme Ecossois d'origine; ce Seigneur seprétendant descendu des Comtes d'Egkland,  
 “ [Eglintoun] maison d'Ecosse. Gabriel de Lorge, Comte de Montgomery, son fils, lui succéda. Ce fut lui qui, dans les tournois de la place  
 “ des Tournelles, blessa par malheur le Roy Henri II, qui en mourut. Le Comte pris la fuite; sa charge fut donnée à un Seigneur François, ee  
 “ qui a toujours continué depuis: on y a mis insensiblement des François  
 “ mêlés avec les Ecossois. Enfin cette compagnie, qui avoit encore un  
 “ Lieutenant Ecossois en 1660, est devenue toute Française, conservant  
 “ pourtant son premier nom de Gardes Ecossois, et ayant le pas sur tous  
 “ les autres.” \*

\* One of these gentlemen, the Sieur de Bonair, probably descended from a Scottish family, styles himself “ *Historiographe du Roi, et l'un des xxv Gentilshommes de la Garde Ecossoise,*” in a work which passed through two or three editions, before 1681, entitled “ *Sommaire*

In further illustration of the history of the Scottish Guard, and of the intimate connection which formerly subsisted between France and Scotland, there is added to the documents already mentioned, through the kindness of Mr. D. Laing, a reprint of a work published at Paris in 1608 by A. Honston, containing a short account of the successive alliances between Scotland and France, from the time of Charlemagne and Achaüs in 777, to the reign of James the VI. of Scotland.

This Treatise is dedicated to Henry Prince of Wales, eldest son of James the VI.; and besides alluding to the friendly intercourse between these kingdoms, which gave rise to the many privileges enjoyed by the Scottish nation, it gives a rather minute and interesting detail of the establishment and privileges of the Scottish Guard.

The foreign wars of England, prior to the union of the Crowns, had chiefly for their object the subjugation of Scotland, and the recovery of her lost dominions in France. Exposed to the same dangers, France and Scotland naturally sought the assistance of each other, and formed alliances for mutual defence against the common enemy. It thus became the obvious policy of France to secure the services of Scotland, by giving favour and protection to its subjects, and bestowing on them exclusive privileges; and while it flattered the national vanity, by confiding the safety of its King to a guard composed of Scotchmen, it, at the same time, thereby created a body of soldiers capable of forming their countrymen, sent to assist France, into well disciplined and effective armies.

Royal de l'Histoire de France, continuée depuis Pharamond jusques au Regne d'apresent. Avec les Portraits, Armes, et Devises de tous les Rois."

So early as the reign of Alexander the III. it is mentioned that Louis the IX. made a selection from the Scottish army serving in France of a certain number to remain day and night around his person in quality of guards, but the permanent formation of the Scottish Guard is not properly recognised till 1236.

The motives which led to such close alliance ceased to exist at the union of the crowns, when, it is probable France felt desirous of getting rid of a body of men who could no longer afford effective assistance against England, and hence apparently arose those slights and neglects of which such frequent complaints appear to have been made in the documents now printed. The portrait of one of the Six Scottish Guards who attended the ceremony of consecration of Louis XV. as here given, is engraved from "Le Sacre de Louis XV. Roy de France, et de Navarre dans l'Eglise de Reims le dimanche xxv Octobre MDCCXXII."

A few extracts from the Records of the Privy Council of Scotland are perhaps the last attempts that were made in behalf of the Scottish Guard. These are here printed, and consist of a letter from King Charles I. to the Privy Council, authorising them to appoint some of their number "to deale with those who sall be warranted from our brother the French King," &c. and who accordingly issued their commission to William Earl of Lothian, to proceed to France for the purpose. Unluckily the result of his mission is not known, as the records after November 1643 are defective.

“ *Apud Edinburgh, 3 Novembris 1642.*

“ CHARLES R.

His Majesties  
Missive anent  
the Priviledges  
of the Scots in  
France.

“ Right trustie and right welbelouit Cousins and Counsellers, right trustie and right welbelovit Counsellors, We greit you well. By your letter of the first of this instant you represent to ws the sufferings and losses of our subjects by the infringement of these ancient priviledges and liberteis they formerlie (for verie good and honorable causis) enjoyed in the kingdom of France, We being most willing to have all our subjects of that our kingdome restored to their ancient priveledges, Doe heirby authorise and allow you to appoint such as you sall think most fitt to treat and deale with those who sall be warranted from our brother the Frenche King, that those our subjects of all conditions may be restored to thair saids priviledges, and injoy the same without anie diminutioun in all time coming. So we bid you heartilie farewell, from our Court At Shrewsburie, the 10th of October 1642.”

“ 1 Dec. 1642. Commission to William Earle of Lothian, Lord Newbottle, &c. givand, grantand, and committand to him full power and commission to repaire to the kingdom of France, and there to treat and deale with suche as sall be warranted be the Frenche King anent the restoiring of the subjects of this kingdome, of all conditions, to the priviledges and liberteis formerlie enjoyed be them and their predecessors in the said kingdom of France, and for preserving the same inteir, without anie diminutioun, in all time coming,” &c. &c. &c.

“ 8 Dec. 1642. Precept for the soume of twa thousand pundis sterline money, to be gevin to the said Earle for defraying of his expensis in this imployment,” &c. &c.

“ 9 Nov. 1643. *The Answers of the Counsell of Scotland to the Propositions givin in to them be Monsieur Boisvions from the King of France.*

“ To the first, when the Counsell sall receive ane accompt from the Earle of Lothian of his proceedings in his imployment to France, they will then, according to their power, give such ane respective answer as may shew their willingness to interteane and confirme the ancient alliance betuix the kingdoms of Scotland and France.

“ To the secund, the Counsell can give no other ansuer, then that the conserving of peace betuix the two kingdoms of Scotland and England is remitted be his Majestie and Estaitts of Parliament to a Commission appointed for that effect, and that the late Convention of Estats having receaved some propositions from Commissioners of both houssis of the part of England, for the further securing of religion and peace of their kingdoms, they have entrusted the consideratioun therof to ane Committee of thair owne number, who (the Counsell are confident) will proceed in these affaires as becometh them in dutie and conscience towards God, in loyaltie to the King, and with respect to the good of the kingdoms,” &c.

“ As the Counsell have answered these principall propositions according to their power, and in such sort as can give no just occasioun of offence to the King of France, being willing inviolabile to keep that amitie, quhilk

lies beene so religiouslie observed these manie ages, and are confident that the Queene Regent and those who have the charge of the King of France and his affairs in his nonage, will be better advised then to make these particulars ane occasioun of breach with his ancient allyes, whom his royall predecessors, in their greatest difficulties, have found to be thair readiest and surest freinds; So when anie other proposition shall be made unto them by Monsieur Bousivons, they will returne such ane answer thereto as apperteaneeth."

*"The Propositions (translated out of French in English) which Monsieur Bousivons sent from the Most Christian King is commanded to make to the Lords of Counsell of Scotland.*

"That according to the instructions which the Lords of the Counsell of Scotland hes gevin to my Lord the Earle of Lothian, their depute in France, with consent of the King of Great Britain, the saids Lords (so far as their power doth reach) ar to confirme the ancient alliances betuix France and Scotland.

"That for this effect the Scots, directlie nor indirectlie, enter not in armes in England, whether under pretext of serving the King of Great Britain, or under pretext of serving religion without expresse commission from the King their master; and forasmuch as this article is of present concernment, the most Christiane King desires a punctuall and speedie answer," &c.

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