

The noble country of Annandale, as we have already stated, was presented by Baliol to Henry Percy; but its mountains and fastnesses had given refuge to many brave men who obstinately refused to submit themselves to the English king. On the first intelligence that the Steward had displayed open banner against the English, these fugitives, says an ancient historian, came suddenly, like a swarm of hornets, from the rocks and woods, and warred against the common enemy. The chief of these was William de Carruthers, who since the success of Baliol had preferred a life of extremity and hardship, as a fugitive in the woods, to the ignominy of acknowledging the English yoke. He now left his strongholds, and with a considerable force united himself to the Steward.¹ Thomas Bruce, with the men of Kyle, next joined the confederacy; and soon after Randolph, Earl of Moray, who had escaped to France after the defeat at Halidon Hill, returned to his native country, and, with the hereditary valour of his house, began instantly to act against the English. Strengthened by such important accessions, the Steward in a short time reduced the lower division of Clydesdale; compelled the English Governor of Ayr to acknowledge King David Bruce; and expelled the

“Amang the Brandanis all
The Batayle Dormang they it call.”

“The battle Dormang is evidently,” Macpherson remarks, “a corruption of the Batail nan dornaig.” Dorneag being a round stone: A proof that, in Bute, the Gaelic was then the common language. Winton, vol. ii. p. 186. Fordun a Goodal, vol. ii. p. 316.

¹ Fordun a Goodal, vol. ii. p. 316.

adherents of Baliol and Edward from the districts of Renfrew, Carrick, and Cunningham.

The Scottish nobles of the party of David Bruce now assembled, and preferred this young patriot and the Earl of Moray to the office of joint regents under their exiled king. The choice was in every respect judicious. The Steward, although now only in his nineteenth year, had early shown great talents for war; he was the grandson of Robert the First, and had been already declared by Parliament the next heir to the crown: Moray, again, was the son of the great Randolph; so that the names of the new governors were associated with the most heroic period of Scottish history,—a circumstance of no trivial importance at a period when the liberties of the country were threatened with an utter overthrow. About the same time, the spirits of the party were cheered by the arrival of a large vessel loaded with arms, besides wines and merchandize, in the Port of Dumbarton;—a circumstance which Edward considered of so much importance, that he directed his writs to the Magistrates of Bristol and Liverpool, commanding them to fit out some ships of war to intercept her on her return.²

The first enterprise of the regents was against the Earl of Athole, who proudly lorded it over the hereditary estates of the Steward, and whose immense possessions, both in Scotland and England, rendered him by far the most formidable of their enemies.² Moray,

¹ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. i. p. 320. ² Douglas' Peerage, vol. i. p. 133.

by a rapid march into the north, attacked the Earl before he had time to assemble any considerable force, drove him into the wild district of Lochaber, and compelled him to surrender. Thus, by the overthrow of Beaumont, Talbot, and Athole, the most powerful branch in the confederacy of the disinherited barons was entirely destroyed; and Baliol, once more a fugitive, passed into England, and implored the protection and assistance of Edward.

On being informed of the revolution in Scotland, the English king, although it was now the middle of November, determined upon a winter campaign, and issued writs for the attendance of his military vassals. The expedition, however, proved so unpopular, that no less than fifty-seven of the barons who owed suit and service, absented themselves;¹ and, with an army enfeebled by desertion, Edward made his progress into Lothian, where, without meeting with an enemy, if we except some obscure malefactors who were taken and executed, he ruled over a country which the Scots, following the advice of Bruce, abandoned for the time to his undisturbed dominion.² Baliol, as usual, accompanied Edward, and with a portion of his army ravaged Avondale, and laid waste the districts of Carrick and Cunningham. The vassal king then passed to Renfrew, and affected a royal state in his Christmas festivities, distributing lands and castles to his retainers, and committing the chief management of his affairs to William Ballock, a warlike ecclesiastic, whom he created

¹ *Rotuli Scotiæ*, 8. Ed. III. vol. i. p. 293.

² Hemingford, vol. ii. p. 277.

chamberlain of Scotland, and governor of the important fortresses of St Andrews and Cupar.¹ Such castles as he had possession of were garrisoned with English soldiers; and John de Strivelin, with a large force, commenced the siege of Lochleven, which was then in the hands of the friends of David Bruce. From its insular situation this proved a matter of difficulty. A fort however was built in the churchyard of Kinross, on a neck of land nearest to the castle, and from this frequent boat attacks were made, in all of which the besiegers were repulsed. At last Alan Vipont, the Scottish governor, seizing the opportunity when Strivelin was absent on a religious pilgrimage to the shrine of St Margaret at Dunfermline, attacked and carried the fort, put part of the English garrison to the sword, and raised the siege. He then returned to the castle with his boats laden with arblasts, bows, and other instruments of war,² besides much booty, and many prisoners.

Encouraged by this success, and anxious to engage in a systematic plan of military operations, the Scottish regents summoned a parliament to meet at Dairsay. It was attended by Sir Andrew Moray, the Earl of Athole, the Knight of Liddesdale, lately returned from captivity, the Earl of March, who had embraced the party of David Bruce, and renounced his allegiance to Edward, Alexander de

¹ Winton, vol. ii. p. 177.

² Winton, b. 8. c. 29. vol. ii. p. 183. I have rejected the story of the attempt to drown the garrison by damming up the lake, as physically absurd, and unnoticed by Winton. See Macpherson's Notes on Winton, vol. ii. p. 507.

