

There remains no record by which we can discover whether this treaty was ever made the subject of deliberation in the Scottish Parliament, or even in the privy council; but, fortunately for the peace of the country, it was unknown to the people for many hundred years after the conference. Meanwhile David and his queen remained at the court of Edward, rendered at this time especially brilliant, by the presence of the Kings of France, Cyprus, and Denmark.¹ Amid the splendid entertainments, in which this weak prince endeavoured to forget his kingdom, and to silence and drown reflection, one is worthy of notice. Sir Henry Picard, a wine-merchant, gave a feast, in his own mansion, to his royal master, Edward the Third. He invited, at the same time, the Kings of France, Scotland, Cyprus, and Denmark, with the personal suites of these monarchs, the sons of Edward, and the principal barons of England, who were all welcomed with princely magnificence. Whilst these guests were feasting in the hall, his wife, the Lady Margaret, received, in her own apartments, the princesses and ladies of the court. A simple citizen of London, entertaining five kings in his own house, affords a remarkable picture of the wealth of the capital.

Amid such secret treachery and public rejoicings, the Scottish commissioners continued their negotiations for peace; and, after long debate and delay, re-

¹ Barnes's Edward III. p. 633. *Rotuli Scotiæ*, vol. i. p. 884, 38 Ed. III.

turned to Scotland. David also repaired to his kingdom, and a parliament was summoned to meet at Perth, for the purpose of reporting to the three Estates the result of the deliberations on the projected treaty between the two countries.¹ This great council met accordingly on the 13th of January, 1364, and nothing could be more wise and independent than their conduct. The embarrassment of the nation, resulting from the immense expenditure of public money, and the increasing anxiety caused by the great portion of the king's ransom, which was yet unpaid, are apparent in their deliberations; and they were willing to make every sacrifice in order to extricate the country from the difficulties which surrounded it, to be freed from the payment of the ransom, and to obtain an honourable and lasting peace. For the accomplishment of this end, they declare themselves ready to restore the disinherited lords, meaning by this the Earl of Athole, the Lords Percy, Beaumont, Talbot, Ferrers, Godfrey de Ros, and a few others of inferior note, to the estates which they claimed in Scotland;² and to settle upon the youngest son of the King of England, the lands in Galloway which were the inheritance of Edward Baliol, and the Isle of Man. The annual income of this island is rated at a thousand merks; and it is stipulated, that if the Earl of Salisbury should claim the property of the island, an annuity of one thousand merks sterling should be

¹ Robertson's Parliamentary Records, p. 101.

² Robertson's Parl. Rec. 101. Leland Collect. vol. i. pp. 552, 553.

paid to the prince, until lands of the same value are settled upon him, provided always that he is willing to hold the same as the sworn vassal of the King of Scotland. In the event of such conditions being accepted by England as an equivalent for the ransom, they declare themselves ready to show their sincerity as allies by an invasion of Ireland, conducted by the king in person, and directed against that part of the coast where the landing is likely to be most successful.

The anxiety of the parliament for peace is strongly marked in the next article in their deliberations. If, say they, these conditions, which we are ready to make the basis of our negotiation, are not accepted by England, still, rather than renounce all hopes of a just and lasting peace, we have unanimously agreed that the ransom shall be paid, provided that moderate intervals between each term of payment are allowed; and in the understanding that a perpetual union and alliance takes place between the two nations, if not on terms of a perfect equality of power, at least on such conditions as shall in no degree compromise the freedom and independence of Scotland. In these conditions the Estates declare themselves willing to include the articles regarding the disinherited lords, the provision to the son of the King of England, and the invasion of Ireland, provided the talents and industry of those to whom the negotiation has been intrusted are unsuccessful in obtaining a mitigation of the same. A proportional deduction from the large

¹ Robertson's Parl. Rec. p. 101.

sum of the ransom was of course to be made, if such conditions are accepted by England.

It became, in the next place, a subject of grave consideration with the parliament, what conduct ought to be pursued, if, by such sacrifices, they were yet unable to procure the blessing of peace; and in their deliberations upon this subject, we are introduced to a view of the great efforts which the country was ready to make, and of the mode in which the three Estates proposed to raise money for the payment of the ransom, which is important and instructive.

Of the original sum which had been stipulated, namely, one hundred thousand merks sterling, twenty thousand merks had been already paid; although, owing to the instalments not having been regularly transmitted at the appointed periods, there had been an accumulation of a considerable sum in the form of penalty for non-payment. It was accordingly proposed by the parliament, that England should agree to a truce for twenty-four years, upon which they were ready to pay down annually, during the continuance of that period, five thousand merks sterling, till the sum of a hundred and twenty thousand merks was completed, being the whole accumulated ransom and penalty. Should the English council refuse a cessation on such terms, two other schemes are suggested. The first is the payment of a hundred thousand pounds, at the rate of five thousand merks yearly, exclusive of the twenty thousand merks already received by England; and if this should fail to be accepted, they declare themselves willing, rather than

