

CHAP. II.

JOHN BALIOL.

 CONTEMPORARY PRINCES.

King of England.
Edward I.

| *King of France.*
Phillip IV.

| *Popes.*
Celestinus V.
Boniface VIII.

EDWARD'S scheme for the subjugation of Scotland was not yet completed, but all had hitherto succeeded to his wishes. He had contrived to fabricate a claim of superiority over that kingdom, which, if Baliol should refuse to become the willing creature of his ambition, gave him a specious title to compel obedience as Lord Paramount. By holding out the prospect of a crown to the various competitors, and by many rich grants of estates and of salaries to the prelates and the nobility, he had succeeded in securing them to his interest ;¹ and if any feelings of indigna-

¹ This appears from the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, 19 Edw. I. and *passim*, 24. He gave the Bishop of Glasgow an obligation to bestow on him lands to the annual value of L.100. To James, the steward, lands of the same annual value.

tion, any spirit of ancient freedom and resistance, remained, the apparent hopelessness of fighting for a country which seemed to have deserted itself, and against a prince of so great a military genius as Edward, effectually stifled it for the present.

Baliol had scarce taken possession of his kingdom, when an event occurred which recalled him to a sense of his miserable subjection, and brought out the character of Edward in all its severity. It had been a special provision of the treaty of Brigham, that no Scottish subject was to be compelled to answer in any criminal or civil suit, out of the bounds of the kingdom of Scotland; but, in the face of this provision, Roger Bartholomew, a citizen of Berwick, entered an appeal to the court of the King of England, from a judgment of those regents whom he had appointed in Scotland during the interregnum. Ba-

Annual value.

To Patrick, Earl of Dunbar,	Lands of L.100.
To John de Soulis,	Lands of 100 marks.
To William Sinclair,	Lands of 100 marks.
To Patrick de Graham,	Lands of 100 marks.
To William de Soulis,	Lands of L.100, annual value.

All these persons were to have lands of the subjoined value, "Si contingat Regnum Regi et heredibus suis remanere." Edward afterwards changed his plan, and gave these barons and prelates gratifications in money, or other value. But to John Comyn, the King of England gave the enormous sum of L.1563, 14s. 6½d.—Rotul. Scotiæ, 24 Edw. I. m. 4. 6th January, 1292. He took care, however, to reimburse himself by keeping the wards, marriages, and other items of the revenue, which had fallen to the Scottish crown during the interregnum, as may be seen from many places in the Rotuli Scotiæ.

liol was not slow to remind Edward of his solemn promise, to observe the laws and usages of Scotland, and he earnestly protested against withdrawing any pleas from that kingdom to the courts of England.¹ To this Edward replied, that he had in every article religiously observed his promise, but that when complaints were brought against his own ministers, who held their commissions from him as Sovereign Lord of Scotland, it was he alone who could have cognizance of them, nor had his subjects therein any right to interpose. He then, with that air of apparent justice and impartiality which he often threw over his worst aggressions, required the opinion of some of the ablest Scottish prelates and judges, with regard to the law and custom of their kingdom in one of the cases brought before him, and commanded his council to decide according to the judgment which they delivered.² Irritated, however, by his being reminded of the treaty of Brigham, he openly declared, by his justiciary Brabason, that although during the vacancy of the kingdom of Scotland, he had been induced to make promises which suited the time, now when the nation was ruled by a king, he did not intend to be bound by them, to the effect of excluding complaints brought before him from that kingdom, or of preventing him from dispensing justice, and exercising the rights of his sovereign dominion, according to his power and pleasure. To give the greater

¹ Rymer, vol. ii. p. 596.

² Ryley's Placita, p. 145.

weight to this imperious announcement, the King of England summoned Baliol and his principal prelates and nobles into his privy chamber at Newcastle, and there made Brabason repeat his resolutions upon the matter in question ; after which, Edward himself rose up, and, in the French language, spoke to the same tenor. " These are my firm determinations," said he, " with regard to all complaints or appeals brought before me from Scotland ; nor will I be bound by any former promises or concessions made to the contrary. I am little careful by what deeds or instruments they may be ratified ; I shall exercise that superiority and direct dominion which I hold over the kingdom of Scotland, when and where I please ; nor will I hesitate, if necessary, to summon the King of Scotland himself into my presence within the kingdom of England." ¹

Baliol's spirit sunk under this declaration, and he and the Scottish nobility who were then in his train, pusillanimously consented to buy their peace with Edward, by a renunciation of all those stipulations and promises regarding the laws and liberties of Scotland, which had been made in the treaty of Brigham, and which, so long as they continued in force, convicted the King of England of a flagrant disregard of his oath solemnly pledged to Scotland. On this being agreed to, Edward ordered the public records and ancient historical muniments of the kingdom, which had formerly been transmitted from Edin-

¹ Rymer, Fœd. vol. ii. p. 597. Tyrrel's England, vol. iii. p. 74.

