

THE BRUCES IN IRELAND.

(Concluded from Vol. 5, page 136.)

The last portion of our memoir of the military adventures of the Bruces in Ireland left the royal brothers in Carrickfergus, after their rapid and ineffectual inroad through the centre of the island; and found their opponent, Roger Mortimer, the celebrated Earl of March, at the head of a strong English and native force, stationed in Dublin. The King of Scots had been foiled in his rush upon the Irish capital, by the sudden capture of his father-in-law, the Earl of Ulster, by the resolute citizens: but he and his gallant brother were too completely masters of the North for Mortimer to venture on attacking them there. Still, there was nothing that could then be achieved worthy of the Lion of Scotland, who presently retired, like a baffled king of beasts of prey, back to his own half-desert kingdom. The flower of the Englishry of Ulster were either slain, or had fled, or were prisoners, or perishing of hunger. Some few that remained rallied under the leading of their hereditary seneschal, Lord Savage; but were utterly routed near the "city of the bridge," (Coleraine,) and many more were chased out of the province.^a Rapine and ravage on all sides, and the consequent suspension of agriculture during more than two years, now aggravated the terrors of war into their climax of absolute famine. Numbers living in slavery under Bruce starved to death, after having been reduced to the horrible extremity of devouring human corpses.^b The summer season of 1318 was remarkable for an extraordinary dearth which was felt throughout the British islands, lasting from April until autumn, and causing innumerable deaths.^c In the English Pale, wheat sold at the enormous rate of 23s. a *cronec*, containing four gallons.^d Friar Clyn, the Kilkenny chronicler, who may himself have seen the smoke of Robert Bruce's conflagrations wafted over the city of St. Canice, dwells upon the extremity of famine which in that year swept off multitudes.

Peace being somewhat restored in the Pale, it was high time for vengeance on some of the treasonable Anglo-Irish. Viceroy Mortimer, indignant at the conduct of his rebellious vassals, the Lacys, summoned them before him; and, on their refusal to obey, sent troops into their country, which was laid waste, many of their men were slain, and all their "nation and cognomen" driven into Connaught, excepting Sir Walter Lacy, who is said to have fled to Carrickfergus to seek aid from

^a Clyn.
^b Campion.

^c Clyn, and the Annals of Ross.
^d Dowling.

Bruce. John Lacy was taken, and pressed to death in a dungeon in the citadel of Trim, by sentence of Mortimer. The traitorous assistance given by this family to the invaders was long unsuspected, having been concealed under specious acts of loyal service; for lords Hugh and Walter Lacy were included in the king's letter, dated 28th April, 1317, of thanks to many of the Anglo-Irish nobility for their services against the Scots: but, on the 20th July, the treason of the Lacys having been discovered, they were proclaimed "seductores et felones Domini Regis, quia vexillum tulerunt contra pacem Domini Regis Angliæ:" their persons were proscribed, and their estates forfeited. A contemporary chronicler states that they fled into Scotland; and it appears that four of this family, Hugh, Walter, Robert, and Amory, were in the ranks of Edward Bruce's army at the final battle, near Dundalk.

Taking in hand again Archdeacon Barbour's metrical history of Robert I., King of Scotland, let us read the close of his episodic narrative of the Bruces' military enterprise in Ireland. Even in the rude archaic verses of the old poet the story reads like a romance. That the Scottish nation, although exhausted by a long and sanguinary contest with England, sent out considerable bands of their bravest defenders to attempt to wrest a great country from subjection to the English, an invasion which was almost certain to renew hostilities against their own country, is one of the many historic proofs of the adventurous intrepidity of their national character. Our archæologic readers cannot but have been pleased with the few passages we have extracted from the archdeacon's curious poem. This almost first fruit of Scottish poetic genius contains, indeed, many a germ of genuine poetry; and although the archdeacon, venerable in rank, was almost so in years at the time he wrote, he describes battle-fields and various stirring incidents with much spirit; and, besides giving numerous traits of manners, is by no means deficient in humour, nor in that which, truly, is more to be admired, heroic sentiment, and pathetic and devotional feeling.

Our poetic narrator, notwithstanding his previous reflections on the unstable allegiance of the "Irsche kings" to "Schyr Edward, that thair king callit thai," declares that "he was now weil set in gud way to conquer the land halyly; for he had upon his party the Irschery and Ullyster," (meaning the revolted Englishry of the province,) and that he would have gained a kingdom had he been able to govern himself; but that he could not restrain his "outrageous surquedry," (*surcuidance*, or presumption.) Seeing that "Schyr Edward had all the Irschery at bidding," the monarch of Scotland, whose presence was required in his own realm, "buskit hame," leaving, however, the greater number of his hardiest and most chivalrous men to support his brother:—his reason for leaving him to carry on the enterprise being apparently that, while the spirit of the younger brother was hopeful, prudence governed that of the heroic and successful king of Scots; who, being convinced, (as it has been judiciously remarked by the national historian of Ireland,) of the hopelessness of attempting to build up a durable monarchy out of materials so incongruous as the state of this country then afforded, was yet willing that his more sanguine brother should continue to prosecute a war which served to divert the forces of England and Ireland from again attempting to subvert his own newly raised throne.

The "King of Irland" remained inactive for some half a year, not venturing forth from the North; until at last, "he that rest annoyit ay, and wuld in travail be alway"—"took hys way," despite good counsellors, "southwart too far." Yet in point of fact the invaders were compelled by the severity of the famine to make a descent into unwasted lands—an actuating motive beneath the dignity of history, but not unnoticed in the metrical romance. The force which the bold leader could rely on was inconsiderable :—

" For he had not then in that land
Of all men I trow, two thousand,
Owtane" (except) "the kings of Irshery,
That in gret routs raid him by,
Toward Dundalk he tuk the way."

Our poet's estimate of the muster that opposed this irruption may be contrasted with that of native annalists, and then pardoned as a superlative exaggeration, introduced for the purpose of making the scene close with befitting grandeur on the second hero of his poem. When the viceroy, he says, heard that the Scots again threatened the Pale, he assembled "of all Irland of armit men" to the number "of trappit horse 20,000," and an equal amount of pedestrian militants; and, with this splendid army, "held forth northward on his way." Even this formidable array did not daunt Edward Bruce, who audaciously exclaimed he would give battle were the foe six-fold more numerous! In vain did Lords Stewart and Mowbray entreat him to wait until an expected reinforcement came up. The "full tendre counsail" of the Irish kings was equally disregarded. These chiefs briefly reminded him of the accustomed tactics of the Gael, whose flight, as of light horse, archers, and javelin-men, was more formidable (as has also been said of the Parthians) than their attack; besides often drawing their pursuers into dangerous defiles :—

" Our maner of this land
Is to folow and fycht, and fycht fleand;
And not to stand in plane melle
Quhill theta part discomfyt be."

Their imperious "king" replied by telling them to draw their men aside and look on! Their remonstrances and assistance being thus despised, it is not surprising if these chieftains withdrew, and actually did stand aloof, as Barbour declares they did, with their forces, which amounted to "20,000 men." Magnifying all numbers, except those of his own brave countrymen, the bard proceeds to tell how Bruce set his men, "that war not fully twa thousand," in order of battle "stalwartly to stand against 40,000 and ma." The numbers that fought and fell in the action are variously stated. The Scottish force is estimated at 3,000 men in the ancient MS. *Book of Howth*, a compilation in which their numbers would not be underrated. The amount of the opposing array is not mentioned: but Marlebrugh gives it as only 1324; the force being in truth little more than a hasty muster of the armed men of the invaded northern Pale. Several curious and unpublished legendary particulars of the long-remembered battle that ensued are related in the above-mentioned old MS., and as they are credible enough, may be here given.*

* From a transcript in MS. Add. Brit. Mus. 4789.

“At St. Calestis is day, being on Saturday, their a batell was appointed betweene the Scotts and the Englishmen of Ireland, which Englishmen encamped themselves within two miles of the town of Dundalk. Unto the which battaille came owt of Scotland, Edward Bruce, and said that he was King of Ireland; and in his company lord Philip Mowbray, lord Walter de Sulis, lord Alan Steyward, with his three brothers; lord Walter de Lacy, lord Hugh de Lacy, lords Robert and Amorey de Lacy, John Gerondine, Walter White, and to the number of 3,000. At this tyme the counsaile of the realme were of severall opinions who should have the cheftainnes of the English; diverse misfortunes of battaille was reputed to diverse of the nobilitie, and a long time this was debated; and at length, Alexander Bignor, lord justice, said as followeth: ‘By reison of this infirmie that of late hath taken me, my ability serveth not in this worthe enterprize to take in hand; theirfor you shall understand what I think best, and what he is that I would wishe to take upon him this worthe and serviceable service, whereupon the honor of our Prince, and the duritie of this realme resteth upon. Here is among others, lord John Bretingham, a man of great corage, stallworthines, practised and apte in warrs, wise, of a good condition, sober and circumspect, and will doo that may be done, and that cannot be, he will not; therefore I thinke him meete to be cheftaine of this battaile; and tho my predecessors did not well like of him, by reason of evill dishonest counsaillors, more of malice then zcale of justice did informe and impute under my predecessor much inconvenience that of him did insue, or it were by reason that my predecessor could not so easily come by certaine of his desyred purposes, in case the foresaid lord John Bretingham had the place or maisterie of his auncestors, by reson whereof the said lord John Bretingham was put by till now in my tyme. I thought him as meete to be of this counsaile as anie of his auncestors hath beene, and, as the report is, no man worthier in the realme without comparison, tho yt be odious to those that doeth malinge this same as they did before this tyme past. And another great cause moveth me to have the better liking in the said John Bretingham, that all the tyme of this malitius purpose and doinge, he was contented as well to be absent as to be in presse among the hiest. Then he perswaded the magistrates throwe his countenance, and alwaies he answered this his friend with fault found thereat; which in this manner, that he was most beholding and bound to such a lord that purchast to him so much rest and quietnes, and to make suit for my auncestors place and roome I meane it not, for that belongs to other men’s estate that alwaies is desirous to claime for strangnes where they nor ther’s never was. And for me, when that tyme do serve that I shall be in my present state, I shall not think yt strange that was to me of right, considering the premises, and much more which I think it this tyme tedious to trouble your lordships withall: therefore I do condiscend and thinke yt good that he be head and governor of this worthe purpose.’ Whereunto all that there was did agree and consent thereunto.

“The Scots preparing to the battaile afore premised, and the daie appointed, the English host came to south Dundalk and camped.

“The daie before the battaile, lord John Bretingham, the chieftain of the English battaile, was

desirous to see Bruce, the Scots captaine, and apparaild himself in a frier's weed, and came to Bruce, being on his knees at Masse, and his booke of devocion before him, and asked his almes. Bruce, being occupied with his book, did not make answeere, nor did not hold upp his head; the other being desirous of his desired purpose, never gave over of craving; Bruce looked upp and said to those that stood by:—'Serve this sawse and importunat frier with somewhat, he doeth disturbe me in my servis.'—'And ever so dooth I meane, unlesse I have my desired purpose:'—and so departed. After Masse was done, said Bruce, 'I pray you, sirs, where is this bold frier that hath thus disturbed me, for I swere to you since I saw his face my hart was not in quiet.' This frier was sought for, and could not be found. 'No?' said Bruce, 'cannot he be had? my hart telleth me that this frier is Bretingham. Well!' said Bruce, 'we shall meete ere; whereas he shall receive a bitter reward; but it was evell done to suffer him to depart, for then wee easily should winne that which great travail is doubtfull to get.'

"When the battaile was set and redie on both sides to have fought, lord John Bretingham said these words:—'My followers and frendes, you shall understand this; in this hope of battaile it is necessarie to be remembered, forst the cause of the battaile, which on our side is right for us to defend our countreye, for so sayth the Bibill we may; the second is wee are fresh and lustie souldiers, not wried in the warre withe travaile and pesterus spoils, covetinge nothing but to maynten that that is our land, goods, and frends, not desirous of no man's else; wee are to serve a worthie prince our king and maister, which if wee do well not this former talke only to keep and win, but wee shall receive such reward that all our frends shall rejoyce the rest. Nowe, valliant stomachs! set forward in the name of God and our King!'

"All the while that the battaile was a fighting lord Bretingham was riding from one company to another comforting them, and helping those that were in necessitie, with a chosen company of men that was about him in that fight. Wone lord Alanus Steward did the like as John Bretingham did, which Bretingham saw, and mett both together and fought terrably; and at length he slewe the Scots lord, and then the Scots fled. Against whom Englishmen came, the said lord Bretingham, that was chosen captain in the field, lord Richard Tute, lord Myles Verdon, Hue Tro-pentoun, lord Herbert de Sutton, lord John Cusake, lords Edmond and William Bretingham, and the prymat of Ardmagh, which did absolve them all, lord Walter de la Pull, and to the number of xx armed and chosen out of Drogheda, with whom came John Mapas, manfullie did kill the said Bruce verie honorable, whose bodie was found deade lieing upon the bodie of Bruce. The Scots were slain to the number of 1230, and very fewe of them did escape. This battaile was fought betweene Dondalk and Faghard, and the said lord Bretingham tooke Edward Bruce is head unto y^e King of England, for the which he was promised the erldome of Louth, and had the baronie of Atri-Dei given to him and to his heirs. And the said Edward, his armes, quarters, and hart was sent to Dublin, and other men's quarters sent to other places."

In the persuasion that the fall of King Edward Bruce would decide the fate of the day, and ter-

minate his ambitious invasion, the Anglo-Irish leader, Sir John Bermingham, determined, as we have seen, to single him out in the forthcoming *malée*, in the hope of ending a long and destructive war by the might of his own arm; and, as the person of Bruce was unknown to him, on coming up to the Scottish forces, he instantly risked his life to see their leader, so as to be able to recognise him in the field either by his features or by his armour. Disguising himself as a friar, the resolute champion passed into the enemy's camp, and, finding Bruce on his knees, bending devoutly over his mass-book, by repeatedly craving alms made him look up. Bruce ordered his attendants to relieve the importunate monk. But the bent and stern regard of the visitor had "disquieted the heart" of Bruce; and, as soon as Mass was over, he caused search to be made for him, but in vain. This romantic anecdote is somewhat borne out by a passage in the poetic narrative, showing that Bruce was aware he was marked out for death in the coming fray; for—

"Schyr Eduuard that day wold not ta
Hys cot armour: bot Gib Harper
* * * * had on that day
All hale Schyr Eduuard's array."

To ensure his safety further, Lord Alan Stewart acted as general of the field. After a hard contest, the Anglo-Irish Knight, apparently believing that this prominent commander was the veritable "Richard," pressed forward to encounter him, and, in a combat in which both "fought terribly," at length slew the Scottish lord, on whose fall his countrymen turned and fled. According to the Howth chronicle, their loss, few escaping, was 1,230 men. Walsingham's statement is 26 knights bannerets, and 5,800 men; a number increased by Marlburgh to 8,274. There is no account of the loss on the side of the victors. So few of the Anglo-Irish chivalry were present, that the day was declared to have been gained, as at Crecy and Poitiers, by the gallantry of the yeomanry alone, or, in the words of an ancient record, "by the hands of the common people," to which is reverentially subjoined "*et dextram Dei!*" This decisive action was fought on Sunday morning, the 14th October, 1318. According to Barbour, the Anglo-Irish forces made a rapid charge upon the Scots, of whom the most valiant, the flower of the little band, that stood firm, were quickly hewn down, "and the remnant fled till the Irische to succour." Of slain, he only mentions Bruce, Stewart, and Soulis. Pembroke mentions that Hugh and Walter Lacy were "slain"; but it is certain that they escaped, and that the former was afterwards pardoned.^a The ancient annals of Ross state that the battle was won by John Bermingham, "*et alios illius patriæ.*" Davy's says, in his *Discoverie*, that "Bermingham, Verdon, Turpilton, and some other private gentlemen, rose out with the commons of Meth and Uriell; and at Fagher, a fatal place to the enemies of the crowne of England, overthrew a potent army" of invaders. "Et sic," (he continues, quoting from the Red Book of the

^a Grace.

^f The "Faughard" is an artificial mound, raised to the height of sixty feet.—Wright's *Louthiana*. Sir John Davy alludes to the circumstance that Hugh O'Neill,

Earl of Tyrone, had been overthrown in a decisive battle at this place, which, being on the frontier of Ulster, and at the gorge of the difficult passage into the North, was the scene of frequent engagements.

Exchequer,) "per manus communis populi, et dextram Dei, deliberatur populus Dei à servitute machinata et præcogitata."

The fall of Edward Bruce in this battle, on which so much depended, is historically ascribed to the devoted bravery of "Sir John Mapas," who, however, was only an humble but valiant yeoman, and of whom there is a legend that he had entered the Scottish camp in the guise of a juggler, probably from the same motive that influenced Sir John Bermingham. Bruce was evidently aware of an intention to single him out in fight, and had therefore used the precaution of not wearing his own armour; the "whole array" of which, as we have seen, as stated by the poet, was donned by his trusty henchman, Gilbert Harper. Our authority goes on to say:—

After the battle was o'er,
They" (the victors) "soucht Schyr Eduuard, to get hys heid,
Amang the folk that thar was deid,
And fand Gib Harper in hys gear," (gear)
"Thai strak hys heid off, and syne it
Thai haff gert salt into a kist;
And sent it intill England,
Till the King Eduuard in presand.
Johne Maupas till the King had it;
And he resavit it in daynté:
Ryecht blyth off that present was he."

But this assertion, that the Englishry took the henchman's head for his master's, is, doubtless, false. Both Mapas and Bermingham seem to have entered the enemy's camp for the purpose of seeing the man whose fall would end the war, in order to be able to identify him in battle; and, besides these precautions, the features of a man so eminent and remarkable must have been well known. It is noticeable that the poet speaks of John Maupas as having carried off the slain man's head in triumph; because it proves there was a Scottish tradition that this individual was the actual slayer, agreeing with all Irish legends. Our own historian, Moore, thus describes the Curtius-like deed:—

"Under the persuasion that the death of Bruce himself would give victory at once to the English, John Maupas, a brave Anglo-Irish knight, rushed devotedly into the enemy's ranks, to accomplish that object; and when, after the battle, the body of Bruce was discovered, that of John Maupas was found lying stretched across it."

An Anglo-Gaelic chronicler, Thady Dowling, mars the romance of the event by his account;—he calls the chivalrous hero "Mappas," and says he was a butcher, who was one of the party that marched up from Dublin; adding "Mappas, a jugler, knocked him" (Bruce) "with two bullets in a bagg, and killed him," for which service Edward II. conferred four pales of land on him and his heirs. We disbelieve the vulgar legend that Mapas was either a butcher or a juggler. A similar story makes Hussey, baron of Galtrim, who distinguished himself at Athenry, a butcher also. According to the *Book of Howth*, a superior authority, "John Mapas" was one of the Drogheda contingent. There can be little doubt that the ancient Anglo-Irish family of "Mape," of "Mape-

rath," in the shire of Meath, was descended from this distinguished slayer of Edward Bruce. The heiress of John Mapas, Esq., of Rochestown, county Dublin, was married to the late Richard Wogan Talbot, Esq., of Malahide.

Somethreads of antiquarian information respecting this important battle may now be spun together. Edward Bruce, who was as rash as he was brave, is declared to have given battle against all advice, whether of native allies, or of his best officers. "He was slayne by his own wilfulness, that wold not tary for his ful company, that were almost at hand."* The annals of Clonmacnois, compiled by Gaelic writers, give, remarkably enough, the real feelings of the Irish people with respect to this event:—

"Edward Bruise, a destroyer of all Ireland in generall, both English and Irish, was killed by the English in battle, by their valour at Dundalk, the 14th of October, 1318, together with MacRowrie, king of the Islands, and MacDonnel, prince of the Irish" (Gael) "of Scotland, with many other Scottishmen. Edward Bruise seeing the enemies encamped before his face, and fearing his brother, Robert Bruise, king of Scotland, (that came to this kingdom for his assistance,) would acquire and gett the glorie of that victorie, which he made himself believe he would gett, of the Anglo-Irish, which he was sure he was able to overthrow, without the assistance of his said brother, he rashly gave them the assault, and was therein slain himself, as is declared, to the great joye and comfort of the whole kingdome in generall, for there was not a better deed that redounded more to the good of the kingdom since the creation of the world, and since the banishment of the Finè Fomores out of this land, done in Ireland, than the killing of Edward Bruise; for there reigned scarcity of victuals, breach of promises, ill performances of covenants, and the loss of men and women thro'out the whole kingdom for the space of three years and a-half that he bore sway, insomuch that men did commonly eat one another for want of sustenance during his time."

Manifestly, the Gael of Ireland had been by no means generally ready to succumb to and serve the sceptre-sword of the Scottish adventurer. Friar Clyn, indeed, who lived contemporaneously, writes, that during the whole time the Scots were in Ireland, they were adhered to by almost all the Irish of the land, adding "*paucis valde fidem et fidelitatem servantibus.*" The main object of the royal brothers, in their circuitous march through the island, must have been to invite the co-operation of the native chieftains; and, perhaps, the military circuit made by "the King of Ireland" was in imitation of the ancient practice, customary with Milesian monarchs, of making a "progress" through their dominions to receive the homage of provincials. Archdeacon Barbour, however, declares that of all the Irish kings that did homage to their new sovereign, he did not get but "ane or twa bargayns" among them.

The ensuing fragment, entitled "Robert Bruce's advice to the Irish," is entered in the MS. volume of collections made by the chronicler Hanmer; but seems rather to be a prose version of the

* Lodge's Collections, II, 547.

rhythmical military counsel bequeathed by the King of Scots to his subjects, called "Good King Robert's Testament." The system of strategy recommended is so sound and characteristic that we append a transcript of the document:—

"Robert Bruce advised them never to appoint any set battle with the English, nor to jeopard the realme upon the chance of one field; but rather resist and kepe them off from the endangering of their country, by often skirmishing and cutting them off, at straights and places of advantage, to the intent that if *the Scotts* were discumfeyted they might yet have some power reserved to make new resistance. Again, he forbad them in any wise to make peace, unless for their own turn; for naturally men were dull and slothfull by long rest; so that after long peace, through lack of use of arms, men are not able to sustain any great paynes or travail; and therefore he would have the peace but for three or four years at the most."^h

After the defeat of Dundalk, the residue of the Scots fled back to the North, and were actually met by the troops which the King of Scotland had sent over to reinforce his brother. The whole party were frequently assailed, in their flight to Carrickfergus, by bodies of the "Irschery" that had hitherto been either neuter or hostile; yet the Scots, by keeping together, fighting some opponents, and fending off others by gifts of arms and armour, at length reached the sea-port, and sailed away. Edmond Spenser says that Lord Bermingham followed up his victory so hotly that the Scots hardly took breath, or could gather together, until they reached the sea-coast; and declares that in all the way of their return, they, "for very rancour and despight," utterly consumed and wasted whatever they had before left undestroyed; so that in all towns, castles, forts, bridges, and habitations, they left not a stick standing, nor any inhabitants, for the few which survived fled from their fury into the Pale. "Thus was all that goodly country wasted,"—says Spenser; and he then breaks into his beautiful apostrophe in praise of the beauty, richness, and advantages that nature had lavished on Ulster.

Let us now consider the effects of this famous invasion in the fourteenth century. One of the first was to elevate the power of those native dynasties of the O'Neills, to reduce which, in Elizabeth's reign, required all the available force in Ireland, backed by frequent armaments from England. Immediately after the battle near Dundalk, the clan of "Yellow-Hugh" joined the English in expelling O'Neill-more, (the patriotic and brave chieftain, Donnell) from his territory. He, however, soon reassumed his petty kingship, and transmitted the principality to a long line of succeeding chieftains, who grew every generation more capable of defending their country against the Saxon. Certainly, the O'Neills of Tyrone presented, in that determined defence during three centuries, no ignoble spectacle. And, when the religious sympathies of the Continent were aroused and exerted in their favour, the contest for Ulster assumed European importance. Some idea of the deadly nature of this great feud, and of the mortal antipathy that raged in the breasts of Irishmen

^h State Paper Office, vol. I, p. 754.

towards the English, may be obtained from the indignant letter addressed by Donnell O'Neill and his brother chieftains to the Roman Pontiff. The historian Thierry gives it entire; let us read the concluding passage, the *ultimatum* of the Irish Gael in their passionate address. Having expatiated upon the heavy wrongs they had sustained from the invaders, they declare their inveterate hatred, and deep resolution of revenge:—

“These grievances, added to the difference of language and of manners which exists between them and us, destroy every hope of our ever enjoying peace or truce in this world; so great on their side is the desire to rule, so great on ours the legitimate and natural desire to throw off an insupportable servitude, and to recover the inheritance of our ancestors. * * Without regret or remorse, so long as we shall live, we shall fight in defence of our rights; ceasing only to combat and injure them when they themselves, through want of power, shall cease to do us evil, or when the Supreme Judge shall take vengeance on their crimes, which we firmly hope will happen sooner or later. Until then, we will, for the recovery of that independence which is our natural right, make war upon them to the death, constrained as we are thereto by necessity, and preferring to confront the peril as brave men rather than to languish amidst insult and outrage.”

Commenting on this remarkable document, Thierry finds its spirit guiding the subsequent struggles of the Irish, and concludes his remarks in these words:—“This indomitable pertinacity, this faculty of preserving through centuries of misery the remembrance of their lost liberty, and of never despairing of a cause always defeated, always fatal to those who have dared to defend it, is perhaps the strongest and the noblest example ever given by any nation.”

The desolation of Eastern Ulster, consequent on three years' ravage and famine, permitted the Gaelic clans to reconquer the country; and, by changing the remnant of the Teutonic families, descended from the first conqueror-colonists, into subordinate septa, effected a revolution from English to Irish rule, which lasted for three centuries. After the fall of the great feudal Earl of Ulster, his barons assumed an almost complete independence. Remote from the seat of government and from England, and supported by the Hebridean Scots, the revolted lords assumed the port and habits of the Irish chieftains, and set the Crown at defiance. Similar results were produced, throughout the entire kingdom, by this shattering invasion. Those magnate peers who had recently led their ravaging legions into Scotland, were almost ruined; and, the native chiefs having been inspired to assert independence, not only were multitudes of the Gael detached from under the banners of the Anglo-Irish lords, but became such formidable enemies that those flags never floated again over Scottish soil. On the whole, this raid into Ireland by the Bruces has certainly the appearance of a daring exploit of romance, rather than of an act of sound policy; but, if we may believe that its effects were foreseen by the monarch who directed and led it, they amply prove his sagacity.

HERBERT F. HOBE.

It may be interesting to many of our readers to know that several branches of a family, lineally descended from that of King Robert Bruce, still exist in the North of Ireland.

King Robert Bruce was succeeded by his son David, who left no family. On his death, Sir Robert de Bruce, knight, succeeded as heir-male of the Bruces. His son Edward was the ancestor of the Rev. Robert Bruce, who crowned the Queen of James VI. of Scotland. Some curious letters to him from King James and Chancellor Maitland are printed in the *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, communicated by the late Rev. W. Bruce, D.D., from originals in his possession, and accompanied with a memoir on King James. His son, the Rev. Michael Bruce, was the next of the family that was connected with Ireland. He was settled in Killinichy, county of Down, in 1651, from which he was ejected in the reign of Charles II. and afterwards imprisoned in Scotland for preaching without license, and for this offence was banished to Tangiers. In process of carrying this sentence into execution he was transmitted to the Gatehouse, at Westminster. While here he had a petition presented to the King, by his wife, in 1668; and, at the intercession of one of Charles's mistresses, who was attracted to the prison by the fame of his preaching, he was allowed to choose the place of his exile, when he named the "wild woods of Killinichy," his former parish. A copy of his petition is given in the original, in the papers referred to. His son James was minister of Killinichy, county Down, and his son Michael was minister of Holywood, in the same county. He was one of the founders of the Antrim Presbytery, and there have been seven Presbyterian ministers in lineal succession, from the Rev. Robert Bruce, in King James's time, to the present day. The Rev. Patrick Bruce, younger brother of Michael, of Holywood, was grandfather to Sir Henry Harvey Aston Bruce, of Downhill, county Derry. There was another brother, William, who had a principal hand in establishing the fund for the widows of Presbyterian ministers; was an intimate friend of Abernethy, Duchat,

Mr. Stewart, the ancestor of the Londonderry family, and others; and was held in high estimation for his public spirit and moral worth—of whom an interesting notice was written by the late Dr. Hinks, and printed, but not published. The Rev. William Bruce of Belfast is the present representative of the family.

We subjoin the

GENEALOGY OF KING ROBERT BRUCE.—1. He was son of Robert de Bruce, Lord of Annandale, and Earl of Carrick, by right of his wife, Margaret, daughter of Earl of Carrick; 2. son of Robert de Brus, Lord of Annandale, and competitor for the Crown of Scotland, and Isabel, his wife, daughter of Earl of Gloucester; 3. son of Robert de Brus, Lord of Annandale, and Isabel, dr. of David Earl of Huntingdon, and niece of William King of Scotland; 4. son of William de Brus, who sat in the parliament of King John; 5. son of Robert de Bruce, and Isabel, daughter of William the Lion, King of Scotland; 6. son of Robert de Bruce, Lord of Annandale, by right of his wife Agnes, daughter and heiress of De Annan, Lord of Annandale; 7. son of Robert de Bruce, Lord of Skelton, and Agnes, daughter of Fulk Pagnell, a great baron; 8. son of Robert de Bruce, or Brus, of Skelton castle, in Cleveland, a noble Norman knight, and Agnes daughter of Waltheg, Earl of St. Clair; 9. son of Robert de Bruce, who built the castle of La Bruceé, in Normandy, and Emma, daughter of Earl of Bretagne; 10. son of Regenwald and Arlogia, daughter of Waldamar duke of Russia; 11. son of Brucee, Earl of Caithness, and Ostrida; 12. son of Sygurt, Earl of the Orkneys, and Alice daughter of Malcolm II., King of Scotland; 13. son of Lother, Earl of the Orkneys, and Alfrica daughter of the Prince of Argyll and Lord of the Isles; 14. son of Torfin, Earl of the Orkneys, and Shetland Isles, and Gailcota, daughter of the Earl of Caithness; 15. son of Eynor, Earl of the Orkneys; 16. son of Regenwald, a Danish Earl; 17. son of Euslin; 18. son of Thebotaw, Duke of Sleswick and Stomasch, who was living in A.D. 721.

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