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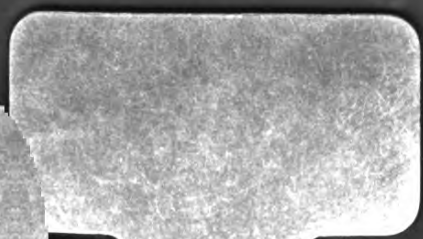


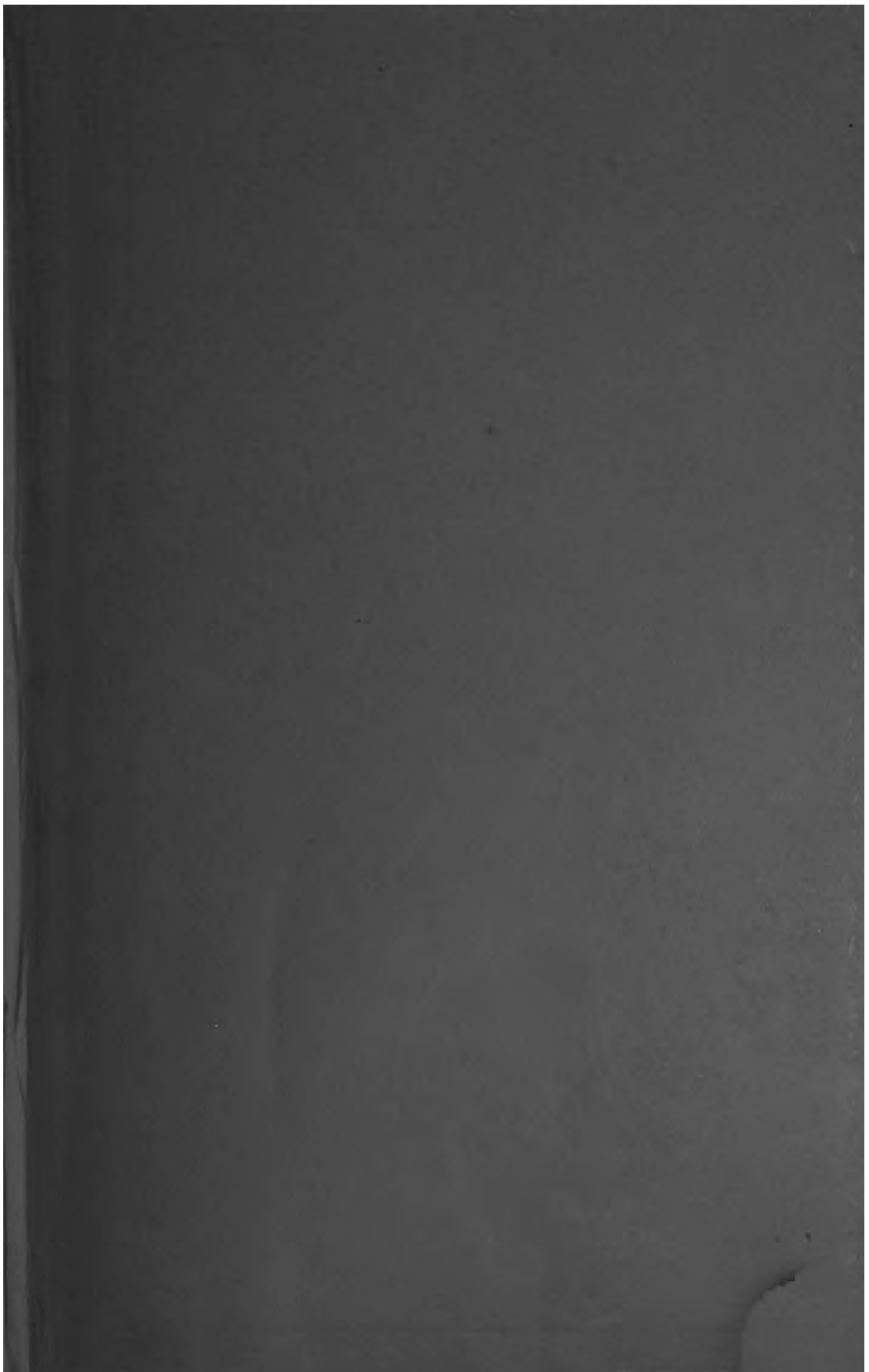
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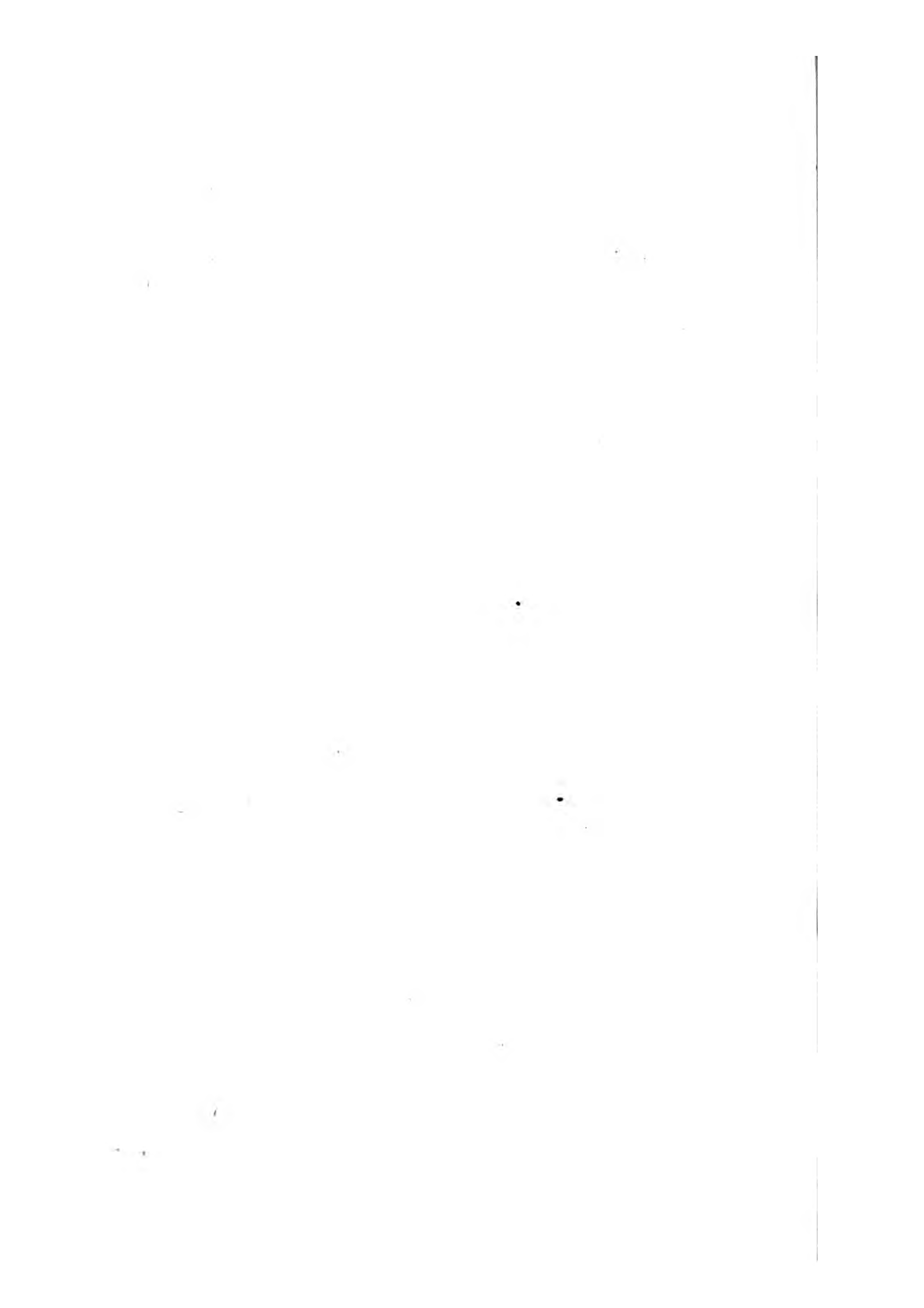




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Sir William Wallace,

THE SCOTTISH HERO:

A Narrative of his Life and Actions,

chiefly as recorded in

THE METRICAL HISTORY OF HENRY THE
MINSTREL,

on the authority of

JOHN BLAIR, WALLACE'S CHAPLAIN,

AND THOMAS GRAY, PRIEST OF LIBBERTON.

BY THE REV. J. S. WATSON, M.A., F.R.S.L.

Invidus antiquo famam qui derogat ævo.

LUCAN.

And the sword that seem'd fit for Archangel to wield,
Was light in his terrible hand.

CAMPBELL.



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PREFATORY REMARKS.

The greater part of what is told in the following narrative is founded on the old Scottish poem of Henry the Minstrel, commonly called Blind Harry, a work which, though popular among Scottish readers of former days, is now scarcely known, on either side of the border, to any but antiquaries.

Concerning Henry little is to be learned. Even his surname has not been discovered. According to Major, in his "Scottish History," he was blind from his birth. From the knowledge which he displays, he may be considered to have received, for the time in which he lived, a fair portion of instruction, and consequently to have been, in all probability, of parentage above the vulgar. He is said by Dempster, in his "Ecclesiastical History of Scotland," to have flourished in 1361, fifty-six years after Wallace's death. Major states that, like Homer, he recited his histories at the houses of the great.

He took his materials, as he himself tells us,

from a History of Wallace written in Latin partly by John Blair, who was Wallace's school-fellow at Dundee, and who afterwards, having studied and taken orders at Paris, became his chaplain, and partly by Thomas Gray, a priest of Libberton, who was in attendance on Wallace at the same time with Blair. This History, he adds, had received the attestation of William Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld, who, if he had lived a little longer, would have presented it to the Pope. Not a fragment of it is now known to be in existence.

He did not, however, depend wholly on this book, but consulted the descendants of persons who had associated with Sir William Wallace, among whom he mentions Wallace of Craigie, and Liddell of Liddell. In the earlier part of his poem he is very attentive to chronology, but in the latter neglectful of it.

As to the present volume, it is requested that it may not be censured for not performing what is not its intent. It is not written for the severe historical inquirer, who demands, at every step, certain proof of what is related. It is a narrative resting chiefly on a poetical history, and those would be but ungenerous, as a poet has remarked, who would restrict poets to simple uncoloured detail. The writer will be content if the story convey to the reader that idea of Wallace which his countrymen have ever loved to cherish.

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The Life of Sir William Wallace.

Book I.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

There have occasionally arisen, in all nations, men whom their contemporaries, and their immediate posterity, have agreed to extol as eminent beyond all others in the qualities with which they were endowed, or the pursuits to which they devoted themselves. Hercules was praised by Greece as the stoutest of her heroes; Timotheus as the greatest of her musicians; and Alfred is celebrated by England as the wisest of her kings.

Nor, on investigation, shall we find reason to think that such encomiums are causelessly bestowed. He whom those of his own time regarded as stand-

ing, in his peculiar department of excellence, far above themselves, and whose name his posterity, for that reason, continue to venerate, may justly be deemed by all men worthy of extraordinary distinction. If there has been any exaggeration of his merits, in narratives oral or written, in subsequent days, it must still be believed that he would never have become such an object of panegyric among his contemporaries, unless he had signally transcended other men. Whoever believes Robin Hood and William Tell, from the traditional testimony concerning them, to have been the best archers of their day, need not fear that he deceives himself in his estimation of their skill.

The Scots have long celebrated William Wallace, and with apparent justice, as their greatest hero. He was a man not only of gigantic strength of body, but of remarkable vigour and energy of mind; not only brave and active, but prudent and sagacious; not only a leader in war, but a champion who sought to fight only in defence of justice. He was truly deserving, as much as any man that ever lived, of the name of patriot, for the great object of his life was the benefit of his country; and it was to his efforts, and the struggles to which he animated his countrymen, that Scotland owed

the preservation of her independence as a kingdom.

Of such a man it is no wonder that his countrymen should love to cherish the memory. The actions of one so meritorious may well be handed down from generation to generation; and if too partial an estimate of his virtues, or admiration of his heroism, should have caused his exploits to be represented as somewhat greater than they were, the hyperbole may kindly be tolerated, for all that is due to an object of praise can hardly be given without giving something more. The worth of such a man should be held in honour, and the honour may reasonably be allowed to be rather too much than too little.

CHAPTER II.

EDWARD I.'S PRETENSIONS TO THE KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND. STATE OF SCOTLAND AT THE TIME WHEN WALLACE AROSE.

In the year 1291, Edward I., King of England, was endeavouring to establish his authority over Scotland, to the sovereignty of which he pretended a right.

About seven years before, Alexander III. of Scotland, who had married the sister of Edward, died suddenly of a fall from his horse, leaving no descendant but a granddaughter named Margaret, the child of Margaret, his daughter, and Eric, king of Norway. Margaret was acknowledged by the Scots as rightful successor to her grandfather, a regency of five guardians being appointed to conduct affairs during her minority, and Edward and Eric undertaking to support her on the throne. Edward, indeed, proposed to marry her to Edward, his eldest son, and thus, as he was now master of

Wales, to unite the whole island under one monarchy.

To the proposal of marriage the Scots readily agreed, but made stipulations for the security of their independence as a nation. They required of Edward that, should the union of their queen to the heir of England take place, they should, notwithstanding, retain all their ancient laws, rights, and customs; that if Edward and Margaret should die without issue, the Scottish crown should pass to the next heir, who should wear it in freedom and independence; that no military retainers of the Scottish king should be obliged to go out of their country to do homage to the king of England; and that all parliaments summoned for Scottish affairs should be held in Scotland. To all these requisitions Edward gave his assent, intimating, however, that the article relating to the independence of the Scottish crown should be understood to mean nothing detrimental *to his former rights*; but as the Scots had heard of no such rights in reference to their own country, they regarded the words as a mere matter of form, or as relating only to England, and offered no objection to the introduction of them into the agreement.

But Margaret died on her passage from Norway

to Scotland, and it became a subject of dispute who was entitled to be her successor. Alexander III. was a lineal descendant of William the Lion, who, in the year 1174, had been taken prisoner by the barons of Yorkshire, whose territory he had invaded to avenge some wrongs that he conceived to have been done him by Henry II., and, having been delivered by the barons into the hands of the king, and having consented to become the liegeman of Henry for Scotland, had been kept prisoner by him for fifteen years, but had been released from confinement, and from his obligations, by Richard I., and restored by him to his throne as an independent sovereign. The line of William being now extinct, a successor was to be sought in that of his brother David, Earl of Huntingdon, of whom there were three descendants surviving, John Baliol, a grandson of his eldest daughter, and Robert Bruce and John Hastings, sons of his second and third daughters. Hastings being set aside as the offspring of the youngest daughter, the contest for the throne lay between Baliol and Bruce, who were so vigorously supported by their respective parties among the barons, that the country was in danger of being convulsed by a civil war.

To prevent this evil, the two candidates and

their partisans agreed to refer their dispute to the decision of Edward, whom they regarded as a friend. Edward's ambition prompted him to take advantage of the opportunity to put forward his claim to a superiority over Scotland. He caused the monasteries to be searched for chronicles written by the monkish historians, from the time of Edward the Elder to his own; but though it was found recorded that the Scottish kings, when worsted in the field, had often made submission to the English monarchs, and had also frequently paid them homage for the lands which they held south of the Tweed, nothing was discovered to show that any Scottish king, except William the Lion, had ever acknowledged himself a liegeman of a king of England.

By this disappointment, however, Edward was not to be deterred from his purpose. He summoned the barons of his northern counties to meet him with bodies of horse and foot at Norham, a castle on the southern side of the Tweed, and desired the nobility and clergy of Scotland to join him there at the same time, that he might decide the question which had been referred to his arbitration, promising that, though they would cross the frontier on this occasion, he would not consider

it a precedent in any future transaction. The Scottish barons were soothed by his professions; and when they were assembled, he opened the proceedings by ordering Roger de Brabazon, his justiciary of England, to inform them that he was resolved to do strict justice according to his judgment, and that he was interested in the welfare of the Scottish kingdom as its lord paramount, or liege lord, a title which he called on them to recognize. He then produced proofs, that he said he had collected, of his right to it; and when the Scots, confounded at his statements, hesitated what to answer, he granted them a delay of three weeks, that they might learn the feelings and opinions of such of their absent countrymen as they might desire to consult.

The place appointed for the second conference was Upsettlington, on the north bank of the Tweed. Before the time of meeting, the Bishop of St. Andrew's, William Fraser, one of the regents of Scotland, had been employed, as an emissary of Edward, to sow dissension among the Scottish nobility. He, being a man of little principle, and a staunch supporter of Baliol, hesitated at no means, however dishonest, to advance his objects, and soon excited in either party a jealousy of the other. Each, accordingly, was anxious, in the

hope of securing success, to be the first to propitiate the monarch by whose decision they had submitted to be governed. Bruce anticipated Baliol in making the required submission, for Baliol absented himself a few days from repugnance to the humiliation.

Edward then proceeded to make arrangements for settling the controversy. He directed that Baliol and his party should choose forty commissioners; Bruce and his supporters forty more; to these he himself added twenty-four Englishmen, and desired these hundred and four commissioners to consider carefully to which of the competitors it was apparent that the crown ought to be given, allowing them till the following year to make their report, and promising then to give his determination. But he required that, in the mean time, all the fortresses in Scotland should be delivered into his hands, in order that he might be in a condition to put the true heir, without difficulty, in possession of the kingdom; and this requisition, extraordinary as it may seem, was obeyed, the governors of all the castles resigning their commands to English officers, except the Earl of Angus, who refused to surrender his charge without the formal permission of the parliament. Still more extraordinary was it, that, before the assembly dispersed,

the whole of the barons and prelates that were present at it, took an oath of allegiance to Edward, who appointed commissioners to receive a like oath from all the nobility and other principal persons in Scotland.

The king then departed for the south to attend to other affairs, leaving the commissioners at Berwick to examine the titles of Baliol and Bruce, while he himself, at the same time, called on the greatest lawyers in Europe to determine which of them had the better claim to the crown. The decisions were unanimously in favour of Baliol, as being descended from the elder sister. To Baliol, accordingly, Edward assigned the royal dignity; and, receiving a renewal of his oath of allegiance, restored to him the possession of the fortresses, and formally recognized him as king.

But Edward seemed resolved that Baliol should not be a king further than in name. He proceeded to act towards him, not as a sovereign, but as a vassal. He invited appeals from the Scottish courts to the English; he summoned Baliol six times, on trivial occasions, to London; he refused him permission to act by deputy, and required him to appear at the bar of the English Parliament like a private individual. His object, in acting thus, may be

thought to have been to exasperate Baliol to resistance, and then, after crushing him with a superior force, to take possession of Scotland as a conquered country. If this was his aim, he was partly successful in it, for Baliol was so provoked with the dishonour cast upon him, that he resolved, as soon as possible, to throw off the English monarch's yoke.

A war between France and England, which arose out of a quarrel between some seamen of the two countries, afforded Baliol a favourable opportunity for his purpose. He formed an alliance with Philip the Fair, King of France, who was then threatening England with an invasion, and had actually made a descent, with some success, upon Dover. Edward, however, as soon as he received intelligence of the treaty, resolved by vigorous measures to put an end to Baliol's attempts. He called on the Scottish king to furnish him with troops against the French, required that Berwick, Jedburgh, and other strong places, should be resigned to him as securities during the war, and made other oppressive demands; but finding none of his requisitions regarded, he marched toward Scotland with an army of thirty-five thousand men, to enforce compliance with them. The Scots, distrusting the

firmness of Baliol, elected a council of twelve noblemen to support him, who advanced, with an army about as numerous as that of Edward, to oppose him. But Bruce, the Earls of March and Angus, and some other of the Scottish nobles, fearing that their countrymen were not sufficiently unanimous for a contest, resolved on offering submission to Edward, who, when his enemies were thus weakened, found no difficulty in crossing the Tweed at Coldstream. Baliol, however, who had procured from the Pope, for himself and his nobles, a dispensation from their oaths, sent a message to Edward to renounce his allegiance to him, and to set him at defiance. But words were of little avail against Edward's force; Berwick was speedily taken by assault, and seven thousand of the garrison put to death; and Earl Warrenne, with twelve thousand men, was despatched to lay siege to Dunbar, a strong fortress defended by a numerous garrison.

The nobility of Baliol's party, aware of the importance of the place, advanced to its relief. Warrenne met them in the field, and, as they were deficient in discipline, routed them with a slaughter of twenty thousand men; and not only Dunbar, but Roxburgh, Edinburgh, and Stirling, soon after opened their gates to the English. Baliol then

lost all courage, hastened to express his concern to Edward for his rebellion, and made a solemn resignation of his crown into the English monarch's hands. Edward found no farther opposition, even from the highlanders; he carried away the stone from Scone, on which the Scottish kings sat when they were crowned, and which was regarded as the palladium of the Scottish monarchy; and he caused all records that favoured the memory of Scottish independence, and were adverse to the claims of English superiority, to be destroyed. Baliol himself was carried prisoner to London, and confined for a time in the Tower, but was afterwards left more at large, and was at length allowed to go into voluntary exile in France, in which country he died without making any farther attempt in person for the recovery of his crown.

Warrenne was appointed Governor-general of Scotland, and the chief offices in the country, as far as possible, were filled with Englishmen. But Edward was not fortunate in the choice of his instruments, and allowed them, also, to exercise too much tyranny over the subject nation. Warrenne, in a few months, resigned his office from ill health, and left the conduct of affairs to Ormesby, the chief justice, a man of rigorous and overbearing

disposition, and Cressingham; the lord-treasurer, whose great object was to amass money, by whatever means, for himself. Others, among the Englishmen in power, were but too ready to imitate the example of their superiors, and the Scots, accordingly, were soon made sensible of the oppressiveness of the yoke that Edward intended them to bear. The English monarch required that all land-owners should take an oath of allegiance to him, and all who refused to do so were imprisoned or outlawed; so that the whole Scottish people, high and low, began to conceive every day a stronger hatred of English domination.

CHAPTER III.

WALLACE'S FIRST ADVENTURE.

Under this state of things, the towns of Dundee and Forfar, from the government of which the Earl of Angus had been removed, were garrisoned by English troops under the command of one Selby, the head of a freebooting family in Cumberland; a man of violence and cruelty, who oppressed the Scots of the towns and neighbourhood by every method that he found practicable. He had plenty of his countrymen to support him, for, as Dundee was easily accessible to the English, they flocked thither in great numbers, and spread from thence into the interior of the country, and were all disposed to treat the Scots as a conquered and debased people. Selby had a son, who was well inclined to imitate his father's example, and who conducted himself with insolence and brutality towards all that were too weak or timid to oppose him.

Young Selby was accustomed to go frequently into the market-place at Dundee, when, attended by three or four companions of a character similar to his own, he would challenge the young men of the town to fence, or engage in other sports, and would avail himself of his father's authority, and his influence with the troops, to get the advantage, fairly or unfairly, over any that disputed the will either of himself or his comrades.

He was occupied one day in this manner, when he observed a young Scottish gentleman passing by, who strongly attracted his attention. He was of tall stature, of a vigorous frame, and comely countenance, with a grave and thoughtful air. He was dressed in a suit of bright green, and at his belt hung a short sword in a handsome sheath. He addressed such as spoke to him with great courtesy, and appeared to be altogether a young man of superior breeding.

Young Selby could not see a youth of such apparent distinction advance among the party, of which he himself wished to be the hero, without feeling maliciously disposed towards him, and conceiving a desire to insult and humiliate him; and an opportunity soon offered for making the attempt. A dispute occurred about two quoits,

one thrown by a man of Selby's English party, and the other by one of the townsmen, and each maintained that his own had alighted nearer the mark than that of his adversary. They had recourse to measurement, but so small was the difference in the distances that to assign the advantage to either seemed impossible, yet neither was content to allow his opponent the superiority, or to admit that the casts were equal. Matters were likely, however, to be amicably arranged, when the Scot in the green dress, who had been for some time listening to the contest, observed Selby, in passing from one side of the circle to the other, touch his friend's quoit gently with the side of his foot, so as to drive it a trifle nearer the mark. Just at that moment one of the party, attracted by the respectable appearance of the Scot, proposed to refer the settlement of the question to his arbitration.

Both sides having agreed to this suggestion, "I should have said," remarked the Scot, "that the townsman's quoit was at first the nearer to the mark of the two; but it is, I think, not so now, for I observed the gentleman who takes so prominent a part in your proceedings, touch his comrade's quoit with his foot on the outer side, so

that I consider it to be at present nearer to the mark than the other."

"I touched it not," retorted Selby; "or, if I did, it was but slightly and inadvertently."

"I say not," said the Scot, in a calm tone, "whether you touched it inadvertently or consciously; I say only that you touched it."

"Would you insinuate," asked Selby, sternly, "that I meant to gain my friend the advantage by unfairness?"

"I insinuate nothing," replied the Scot; "I merely state that which I saw."

"Thou art but a presumptuous fellow," returned Selby, provoked by the other's tranquil bearing, "to contradict me, who command here, and who can put down you and all your neighbours in a moment."

"The power of which you boast," said the Scot, "will not make that right which is wrong. Hard words will profit neither thee nor thy friend, in the matter of the quit."

"Thou wouldst make thy speech suit with thy raiment," retorted Selby; "thy speech and thy garments are alike too fine; it would be better for thee to dress thyself more plainly, and to carry a

whittle to cut thy meat rather than that fine-sheathed sword."

As he spoke these words, and was turning away, he brushed rudely against the Scot, and desired one of the officers to take his sword from him.

The Scot exclaimed, "I brook no insult, nor allow any one to use personal violence to me."

"What wilt thou do to prevent it?" asked Selby, laying his hand on his sword.

"I will oppose my short sword to thy longer one," replied the other; and both growing exasperated, a combat ensued, when the Scot, after a few passes, in which he showed extraordinary skill at his weapon, drove his sword with great ease through the body of Selby, who fell down senseless among his comrades.

CHAPTER IV.

A PURSUIT.

The Scot was not without his partisans, as well as Selby, and the adherents of each rushing forward, a fierce contest arose. The Scotchmen maintained their ground, and he in the green dress soon killed or disabled several of his opponents. But as troops quickly came up to support Selby's men, the other party were obliged to give ground, lest they should be overpowered and cut to pieces by superior numbers.

The Scot gradually retreated for a while, keeping his opponents skilfully and bravely at bay, and then, seeing a favourable opportunity, turned his back upon them, and ran towards the suburbs with such speed of foot as defied them to overtake him. He made his way, after some turnings to perplex his pursuers, to a house at a short distance from the town, at the door of which a woman of middle

age was just entering. "Save me!" he cried; "you know me well; you are my uncle's landlady. Let me in to find a hiding-place; I have had a quarrel with the governor's son, and have run him through the body, so that he is, I fear, dead."

"It is an unlucky affair," said the woman, "but make haste in, and I will do my best to conceal you."

As soon as the door was shut, "There is no place of concealment within the house," said she, "where careful searchers might not find you; but I can dress you, I think, in such a way that it will be difficult for the keenest-eyed of them to know you."

Accordingly, she took down from a peg, in great haste, a large full gown of a russet colour which she threw over his green dress; she then placed a tall cap upon his head, with flaps that fell down over his shoulders, tied a broad kerchief round his neck, and telling him to keep his feet from peeping out beneath the skirt, directed him to sit down by a spinning wheel in the darkest part of the room. This disguise, though effected with great quickness, had scarcely been completed, when a noise was heard without, for the pursuers, having lost sight of the Scot, had resolved, being numerous, to

spread themselves in different directions, and a party had been led, by suspicion or by chance, to the house in which he had taken refuge.

“Hast thou a Scottish youth here, in a green jerkin?” cried one of them. “A fellow that has just killed the governor’s son in a quarrel?”

“Nay,” replied she; “I have none here but this woman and myself, whom thou seest before thee, and a lass in the kitchen. Thou mayest search the house from bottom to top if thou wilt.”

“Did no one recently come in at the gate?” said he.

“There are two gates,” replied she; “no one could have entered at the gate nearest the door without my knowledge, but for the other gate I will not be answerable. Thou mayest go round to it and look about, and mayest search, as I told thee, wherever thou wilt.”

The party, in consequence, which consisted of seven or eight, spread themselves through the house, penetrating into every room in it.

The disguised Scot, in the mean time, busied himself with such diligence and dexterity at the wheel, holding his head so as to shade his face without actually concealing it, that no one suspected him to be other than what he seemed.

“ We have found three women,” said the leader of the band ; “ but for the man that we want we must search elsewhere.”

All, therefore, withdrew. But many houses did not escape so well ; for numbers of Scots were killed or wounded by the English, wantonly, while they were prosecuting the search, during several hours afterwards, for him of the green dress.

The woman kept him with her all the evening, gave him plenty to eat and drink, and when it grew towards midnight, conducted him by a retired path to the bank of the Dee, over which river he made his escape in safety.

CHAPTER V.

SOME ACCOUNT OF WALLACE.

The evening after this occurrence had taken place in the town of Dundée, George Duncan, one of the burghers of Ayr, who, like most of his class, hated Governor Selby's rule, chanced to meet John Blair, a Scotch student in divinity, a native of the place with whom he had before been casually thrown in contact, and, after some conversation on the events of the day, asked him if he knew anything of the youth that had killed the younger Selby.

"I am aware," said the burgher, "that his name is Wallace, for I have seen him in company with his uncle, a gentleman of that name, with whom I have a slight acquaintance. I think," he added, "that I have also seen you with the young man, in attendance on his uncle."

"You are right," returned Blair. "William

Wallace and I have been friends from early boyhood; we were scholars together at the school of this town."

"He comes, I believe, from Renfrewshire," observed the other, "for I have heard his uncle say, if I mistake not, that he had a brother in that shire."

"Yes," replied Blair; "he is the son of Sir Malcolm Wallace, of Ellerslie, a descendant of a family of very great antiquity, said to have come originally from Normandy, or perhaps rather from Wales. Richard Wallace, more than a century ago, received a grant of land in Kyle, in Ayrshire, and founded on it a place which he called after himself, Richardtown, or Riccartown. The old name, as you doubtless know, is said to have been Galleius, but this Richard, or his son Richard who succeeded him, altered it into Walays, or Wallace. Adam, this young man's grandfather, left his son Malcolm the lands of Ellerslie, and Malcolm married the daughter of Sir Ronald Crawford, formerly sheriff of Ayr."

"Is his father in possession of Ellerslie now?" asked Duncan.

"No," said the ecclesiastic; "when King Edward assumed a superiority over Scotland, and

called on the Scottish nobles to swear allegiance to him, Sir Malcolm refused to take the oath, or to do anything adverse to the independence of his country. Fearing, in consequence, that he would be visited as a recusant, and knowing that his house was too weak to resist the king's troops, he sought refuge with his eldest son in the fastnesses of the Lennox Hills, and put his wife and his second son, our young friend, under the care of a relative at Kilspindie, a place about half-way between this town and Perth. It was in consequence of his mother residing at Kilspindie, that he was sent to the Grammar School here. He has requested leave of his father to join him on the Lennox Hills, but his father, perhaps from unwillingness to expose him prematurely to danger, has refused it. Before he came to the school, he was for some time, during his boyhood, with an uncle at Dunipace, in Stirlingshire, an ecclesiastic, by whom he was well grounded in the rudiments of learning, and who is said to have inspired him with strong notions of the value of liberty, and of the duty of Scotchmen to keep their country independent.

CHAPTER VI.

WALLACE'S CHARACTER.

“His attention to his learning, and progress in it, were very commendable,” continued the student, as he and his companion walked round the square, “and he knows much more than a young man devoted to a military life might be expected to know. For feats of arms he is excellently qualified. He possesses amazing strength, so that not one of his school-fellows, not even the son of Sir Neil Campbell, who was one of the strongest among us, could rival him at wrestling, or lifting weights, or any kind of exercise requiring bodily vigour. Nor is he less distinguished for speed than for force; he would far outstrip the swiftest full-grown man that could be found to try a race with him. His skill at wielding the broad-sword and rapier is surprising; when he was taught to fence, instruction seemed superfluous to him; such was the rapidity with

which he acquired the use of the weapon, that he soon became far more than a match for his master; and when he takes a sword into his hand, and begins to brandish it, he seems to be inspired with might beyond that of mortals. The stoutest ten that could be set against him might quail at the sweep of his weapon; for the event of the contest, I should think, would be very doubtful. Of fear, I believe, he is insensible."

"And how is he as to moral character? Is he equally praiseworthy in that respect?"

"He is a young man of the nicest sense of honour. It is impossible to conceive any human being more trustworthy, or kind hearted, or ready to serve his friends, than William Wallace. With injustice or oppression, he has no patience. He never could endure to see a bigger boy tyrannizing over a smaller, and always interfered in defence of those who could not defend themselves; the younger portion of the school had great cause to mourn when he left it.

"I recollect a conversation which I had with him one day about our prospects and wishes in life. I expressed that inclination which I have always felt, to devote myself to learning; I expatiated on the pleasure of reading all kinds of books; of com-

prehending the minds and characters of all great authors ; of knowing everything that what is called learning can put into our minds ; and of adding perhaps, during a long life of study, something to the common literary stock. He could well understand, he said, the delights of such a life as I had described, and would devote himself to such pursuits if he felt within him less corporeal energy and stimulus to action ; feelings which he thought would make him restless in retirement, and which prompted him to seek an active part on the stage of the world. He cited Sallust, to the effect that he would rather perform what others might narrate, than narrate what others might perform.

“ Young as he is, he sympathizes with his country, and feels concerned for its degraded condition under the pretensions of the English king. He used to wish that some just chief would arise among the Scots, some one fitted by nature and by training for a leader, who would unite his countrymen as one man under him, inspire them with confidence to defy hosts, and lead them on to victory. How readily would he himself, he said, follow such a champion to the field !”

“ Well,” said the other, “ he may yet do some-

thing in the field, whether as follower, or rather perhaps, possessing the qualities which you have specified, as leader. Scotland may not always be in the state in which she is at present; and whoever shall rise in her defence, will have my best wishes, and I have no doubt yours, as well as those of thousands of others, for his success. Resolution and combination are the requisites that we desire."

The two friends then took leave of each other.

CHAPTER VII.

WALLACE AND HIS MOTHER.

While the town of Dundee was still in a state of excitement, and the soldiers continued to search for Wallace in every place where they thought it possible that he might be concealed, Wallace himself had made his way from the banks of the Dee to Kilspindie, where his mother was still residing. The news that he had been engaged in some encounter with an Englishman, and that his life was in danger, had before reached her, and she was in great apprehension that he might have already perished. On seeing him alive, she was transported with joy, and asked him all particulars concerning the occurrence. When he had given her a full account, "Alas! my son," said she, "I fear that your boldness of spirit will be the cause of your death. I know what your feelings towards the English are, and I dread that you will persist in

manifesting them so freely as to draw destruction upon yourself. How, indeed, are you to escape from this peril that you have incurred?"

"Mother," he replied, "I have done only what I felt compelled to do. I cannot keep myself always in retirement, and, when I appear in public, I cannot allow myself to be insulted as young Selby insulted me; nor could I refuse to take the part of any of my countrymen to whom I should see such insolence offered. I am sorry that the youth is slain, but I cannot reproach myself for having slain him rashly or without cause. I was attacked, and I defended myself."

"Would to heaven they were not our masters!" said she; "but as they are, small efforts at resistance will but irritate them more and more. Against you they must be exasperated; and this place is much too near to the scene of strife for you to be safe in it. Parties in search of you will soon be here. We must think of some means for your escape. I have been for some time meditating a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Margaret at Linlithgow; and from thence we may proceed to your uncle's house at Dunipace. You have but to put on a pilgrim's habit, and accompany me, and we can set off to-morrow morning."

“Very well, my dear mother,” said Wallace, “I cannot singly resist a host, and must submit to the ignominy of flight.”

Lady Wallace had her dress ready, and another was soon procured for her son; and they started at daybreak on the following morning. They made their way over the Ochil Hills to Dumfermline, crossed the Frith of Forth at Landors, and from thence proceeded to Linlithgow. If any of the English questioned them respecting their destination, they were, on mentioning the name of St. Margaret, allowed to pass unmolested, for Margaret, who had been the queen of Malcolm Canmore, was of the royal lineage of England.

From Linlithgow they succeeded in reaching Dunipace, where they were kindly received by Wallace's uncle, the ecclesiastic, and entertained for several days, no suspicion arising among the attendants that they were other than their dress indicated.

CHAPTER VIII.

WALLACE'S DISCOURSE WITH HIS UNCLE.

Whilst Wallace resided here, he had several conversations with his uncle about his intentions regarding the future, and the condition of the country under the English. Wallace was of opinion that the Scots might regain their independence, if they would but rise up unanimously against their oppressors, on some appointed day, and put them to death ; or if they had but a leader who would enrol, secretly and gradually, a force that might suddenly take the field at different points, and expel the English from fortress after fortress before they could unite.

“ I see not the possibility at present,” said his uncle, “ of accomplishing what you desire. The English are numerous, and the Scots, I am sorry to say, want union, and, as you observe, a leader or leaders.”

“ Yet with continued efforts,” observed Wallace, “ much might be done. It seems like presumption in me, youth as I am, even to wish that I had the power and influence to gather my countrymen into the battle-field ; for the desire of having such command may seem to imply that I think myself worthy of it ; and I have so little knowledge of war-like matters, that I have no right to feel confidence that I should make an able leader ; yet I may certainly say that if I had the opportunity I would endeavour to do my duty in that capacity. You, my dear uncle, have taught me how right and noble it is for a nation to preserve itself free and independent, and not to bow under the yoke of a neighbouring people. You have made me read, in the great poet of antiquity, that *the day that makes a man a slave, takes away half his worth* ; and it appears to be the same, in that respect, with nations as with individuals. If Scotland would stand proudly forth, as I would fain see her, she must release herself from the bonds which, I grieve to say, she has brought upon herself. Had she resisted, she might have repelled. But Baliol was weak, the nobles jealous of each other, and set at enmity by clandestine influence ; and the consequence is that Scotland is oppressed.

“ But she is not yet,” he continued, “ contented under oppression. There are yet spirits within her who are as eager, I would fain hope, as I am myself, to rise for her delivery whenever fair occasion may present itself. We must wait. I shall do whatever I can to assist or to stimulate, and shall hold myself in readiness to take as prominent a part as I can when the time comes for action.”

When they had stayed a few days at Dunipace, Lady Wallace was anxious to remove to Ellerslie. As she and her son were setting out for that place, they received the sad news that her husband, Sir Malcolm Wallace, had been killed in a skirmish at Kyle, in Ayrshire, whither he had retreated, and where, at the head of a few retainers, he had been encountered by a superior English force under an officer named Fenwick. The same messenger that brought this account related also that young Wallace had been outlawed, and a reward offered for his apprehension.

They proceeded on their way with great sorrow of heart, but had the good fortune, by the aid of their pilgrims' dresses, to reach Ellerslie in safety. Here they were met by Sir Ronald Crawford, of Corsbie, Lady Wallace's brother, who had made submission to Earl Percy, the governor of Ayr,

and was in consequence under his protection, and had been allowed to retain his office of Sheriff of Ayrshire. He received them with great kindness, and offered to do whatever he could to serve them.

She entreated her brother to procure peace for her also, as she was tired of fleeing from place to place, and was anxious to enjoy a little rest. She besought him, too, to endeavour to get the writ of outlawry against her son reversed, on the ground that he had slain Selby, not in cold blood but in the heat of a quarrel, arising from an insult that Selby had offered.

Sir Ronald promised to do everything in his power for these purposes. But Wallace would not wait to see the effect of any representations on his behalf. He had seen his mother lodged in her home, he said, and it was time for him to seek some field of action. He was exasperated against the English on account of his father's death, as well as because of their treatment of himself, and their oppression of his country.

Sir Ronald, indeed, was not anxious to detain him there. He knew the young man's qualities, and was desirous that a life which might some day be of the greatest value to his country, should not be lost. Though he was sheriff, he was conscious

that he could afford him little protection against those that were eager to avenge Selby's death. He therefore recommended him to seek an asylum with his uncle Richard of Riccartoun, where he might remain concealed till some change for the better should occur. To Riccartoun, accordingly, Wallace proceeded, his mother taking leave of him with many tears, and entreating him to be careful of exposing his life to danger.

“ I will be careful, my dear mother,” he replied, “ but not too careful ; I will not promise not to expose my life to danger, but I will promise to defend and preserve it to the utmost of my power, if it should be endangered.”

CHAPTER IX.

WALLACE FISHING.

Sir Richard Wallace, of Riccartoun, had been greatly distinguished for valour and ability in the field of battle, but had lost his sight from the effects of wounds that he had received in an encounter with the English. He was still sound in mind, however, and gave his nephew excellent advice as to what might be done in the present condition of things in Scotland. He had three sons, who happened at this time to be away in a distant part of the country.

Wallace, during his residence at Riccartoun, began to form acquaintance with a number of young men in those parts, many of them of good families, who were grievously discontented under the English rule, and who, being active and intrepid, were ready to take part in any scheme that might promise to assist in throwing off the yoke

which they detested. Several of them had dependents, whom they could easily induce to follow them in any attempt at a rising; and they were likely, if they laid their plans well, to prove a band extremely formidable to their oppressors and extremely beneficial to their friends. They held frequent meetings, and proposed and considered projects and means of communicating with other parts of the country, where they knew that there were spirits restless like their own; but it was long before they could determine on any definite plan of action. Some of them were aware that Wallace was the youth who had killed Selby at Dundee, and others not, but those who knew were quite ready to keep his secret, or to imitate his example.

One day in April, Wallace, to pass the time that occasionally hung heavy on his hands, went out to fish in the neighbouring river Irvine. He had no one with him but a boy to carry his net; and his sword, for lightness, he had left at home. As he was proceeding very successfully with his angling, there rode by, about noon, Earl Percy, the governor of Ayr, with a numerous train, on his way to a fair at Glasgow. Percy stopped for a moment to look on Wallace's proceedings, and then rode on with the majority of his attendants. But

five of them, inclined for some sport with the Scot, lingered behind, and one asked him for *Martyn's fish*, a portion which, under that name, superiors were accustomed to demand from their dependents in the time of Lent. Wallace replied, very civilly, that he was willing to give him a part, and told the boy to hand him out some from the basket.

"I think," said one of the others, dismounting, "that we had better help ourselves; this stingy Scot would give us too little; the whole would not be at all too much for us."

As he spoke, he snatched the basket from the boy, and was preparing to carry it off, when Wallace said, "Nay, my good friend, leave us some part of our capture; we meant them for an aged knight with whom this is a fast day."

"There are more fish in the river," replied the other; "you may continue your sport, and catch your aged knight a further supply; but all that is here shall be ours. If you serve a knight, we serve an earl, and the superior must have the preference."

"Nay," rejoined Wallace, "you do us wrong, and would but tyrannise over us," and took hold of the basket to detain it.

"Ah! Scot," retorted the other, "would you resist?" and immediately drew his sword and began

to flourish it about Wallace's head. Wallace had no weapon at hand but the pole of the net, which he immediately seized, and made his opponent's sword fly out of his hand. Wallace picked up the sword and stood upon his guard, while the rest, who saw that the affair was becoming serious, gathered round him with drawn weapons intent upon mischief. Wallace disposed of the foremost with a blow on the head, springing from the ground and striking with such force that the skull was cloven to the collar bone. The next he hit with such vigour on the right arm, that arm and sword fell to the ground together. The others turned and fled; Wallace, mounting one of the horses, overtook and disabled the hindmost, but allowed the others to go unmolested.

The two that escaped rode forward to Earl Percy, and called on him for help, "for," said they, "three of our number, who stayed behind to take fish from a Scot, are killed or disabled."

"How many were your assailants?" said the Earl.

"We saw but one," replied he, "a desperate fellow who put us all to rout."

"Indeed!" said the Earl with scorn, "I have a brave company of followers, who allow one Scot to

be a match for five of them. It might be supposed that Lucifer himself has been making sport with you, and well you deserve to be delivered into his keeping. I shall not return to seek for your adversary, for, if I were to find him, I should respect him too much to do him harm."

So saying, he ordered his train to proceed, and dismissed his discomfited troopers to the jeers of their companions.

Wallace, in the mean time, left off his fishing, made his boy mount behind him, and rode off to his uncle's. "It was well," said he, "that I had the pole, or I should have come but ill off against five. I am sufficiently admonished not to go out without my sword again."

CHAPTER X.

AN OCCURRENCE AT AYR.

Such was the second serious affray in which Wallace was engaged. When he gave his uncle an account of the occurrence, Sir Richard was of opinion that that part of the country would no longer be a safe residence for him, as there might be many of Earl Percy's followers disposed to avenge the deaths of their comrades.

"Well," said Wallace, "I have a good steed which I have secured from the English fellows, and am prepared to ride in any direction which you may recommend to me."

"You may ride over to Auchintruive," said his uncle, "about two miles on the other side of Ayr, where you may possibly remain unmolested for a while. If you should come in contact with any of Earl Percy's men, they may not, perhaps, when you have made some change in your dress,

recognize you. Should you want any pecuniary supplies whilst you are there, do not hesitate to apply to me." Saying this, he put into his hands a purse of gold.

At Auchintruive dwelt Sir Duncan Wallace, a distant connexion of the family, to whom Sir Richard strongly recommended him. Two of Sir Richard's sons, who had now returned, would gladly have accompanied him, but Wallace was unwilling to lead them into danger, and set out alone. By Sir Duncan he was kindly received and hospitably entertained.

Here a number of the young men whom he had known before, with several others, who were roaming about the country, having been unsettled by the ill treatment of the English, began to gather round Wallace, who, they found, would be likely to prove an able leader in any enterprize that they might undertake. The country abounded in game, and Laglane Wood was near at hand, so that wanderers easily found maintenance and shelter during the summer months, while they were laying plans for future proceedings. They were also greatly favoured and supported by the lower class of people in the neighbourhood; for, however well inclined many of the nobles might be towards

Edward and the English, the poorer sort were ready to favour any attempt to expel the intruders from the country. A prophecy had also been recollected, that a Wallace should drive the English from Scotland, and this supposed prediction made all, especially the humbler and more ignorant, ready to further any undertaking that Wallace might propose.

From hence he made frequent expeditions into various parts of the country, sometimes returning to Auchintruive, and sometimes spending several days and nights with his companions in hills and woods.

On one occasion he was seized with a strong desire to visit the town of Ayr, to ascertain what was the state of things there, and how the people were affected. The adventure was somewhat dangerous, but Wallace, in the ardour of youth, was little disposed to allow peril to be an obstacle to his desires. He put on a dress which he thought would effectually disguise him, and, leaving his horse at the skirts of the wood, about two miles from the suburbs, he took his way to the city unattended except by his page.

As he approached the middle of the town, he saw a great crowd collected, among which were

several of Percy's men, who were boasting that the English were superior to the Scots in strength and feats of arms. One of them, a fellow of sturdy frame, was declaring that he could lift a greater weight than any two Scots that the town or country could produce. He also carried a pole with which he offered, for a groat, to let any Scotchman strike him on the back as hard as he pleased. Wallace was much amused with his vapourings, and offered him three groats for a blow. The fellow eagerly accepted the money, and presented his back for the stroke. Wallace struck, and the boaster fell dead at the feet of his comrades.

The Englishmen, enraged at the death of their champion, drew their swords to take vengeance on his slayer. Wallace defended himself with the pole, and, striking one of his opponents on the head, broke his skull, and stretched him lifeless on the earth. Another he hit on the helmet with such force that he at once dislocated his neck and shivered the pole to pieces. The Englishmen, thinking him disarmed, rushed eagerly forward to overpower him, but felt a diminution of ardour when they saw him draw from under his garment a long sword, a weapon which he used with such

effect, that he soon cleared a way through the multitude, and enabled himself to gain, through his extraordinary speed, the outlets of the city, whence he directed his course to the place where he had left his steed. But two troopers, mounting their horses, pursued and got sight of him, the foremost seeming resolved to attack him, but keeping at a distance, with a view to gain time till support should arrive. Wallace, however, beat down his sword with a blow that divided his skull. The other was making off, when Wallace, overtaking him, pierced his armour with a thrust that sent him lifeless from his saddle. He had now time to regain his horse, and was soon far away among the woods. Many attempted to discover his retreat, but to no purpose.

CHAPTER XI.

WALLACE CAPTURED.

He had escaped for the time ; but he was still inclined to be venturous, and to make expeditions into Ayr. He was ardent, and anxious to be doing something, and could not remain at rest.

Having assumed another disguise, he was making his way through the suburbs of the city, when he saw a servant of his uncle, Sir Ronald, the sheriff of Ayr, carrying from the market some fish which he had bought for his master. As the servant was walking quietly along, a retainer of Earl Percy's accosted him, saying, in an insolent tone, " You Scot, to whom are you carrying that fish ? "

" To my master, the sheriff," replied the youth.

" 'T will be better for me to carry it to my master, the Earl," rejoined the other ; and was proceeding to take it from him, and to ill-treat the stripling, who resisted, when Wallace, in-

dignant at the man's tyranny, entreated him, in mild terms, to let the sheriff's servant alone. The Earl's man was angry at his interference, and, after something more had been uttered on both sides, struck Wallace with a hunting staff that he had in his hand. Wallace repaid the blow by seizing him by the collar, and hurling him to the ground with such violence that he lay as dead.

A number of the English soon gathered round Wallace, who, drawing his sword, ran the foremost through the body, and cut off the leg of the second above the knee. His assailants then kept at a distance from his weapon, but endeavoured to reach him with spears. He had, however, under his disguise, a strong coat of mail which helped to protect him from their violence; and several of their spear-heads he cut off with his sword. Seeing a by-street on his left hand, he darted down it, and sprung up on a low wall, on which he stood with his back against the gable of a house, presenting himself to his opponents like a lion at bay. But a portion of the wall, partly from being unsound, and partly from being shaken by his adversaries, gave way; yet he still continued to defend himself, till, at length, his sword broke off at the hilt. He drew his dagger and killed three

of his enemies, remaining himself still unwounded. But such numbers pressed upon him with spears and other weapons, that he was at last overpowered, and would have been put to death, but that an officer who was present ordered that he should be made prisoner.

He was accordingly seized and bound, and led off to the gaol, where he was kept in strict confinement till it should be known what was Earl Percy's pleasure respecting him.

CHAPTER XII.

AN ESCAPE.

That he who had killed so many of Earl Percy's men should not have been put to death at once, may appear somewhat surprising. But Earl Percy was absent from home, and the officer who was present when Wallace was captured, well knowing the Earl's temper, was afraid to adopt any measures respecting him before the Earl should be consulted. When a messenger was sent to Percy concerning the matter, he returned with strict orders that nothing should be done with the prisoner until he came back. Percy was an admirer of bravery, and was, perhaps, desirous to save Wallace, and to attach him to himself, notwithstanding the mischief that Wallace had done him.

When Wallace's companions heard of his captivity, they were in great concern and anxiety for

the loss of their leader, and proposed and discussed among themselves many schemes for his delivery; but the prison was too strong and too well guarded to allow much chance of success. His uncle and other relatives, in the absence of Earl Percy, could do nothing.

The prisoner himself, meantime, was so much troubled at having brought himself into the power of his enemies by his rashness, that his disquietude, joined to the effects of bad diet and the foul air of the dungeon, soon threw him into a severe fit of sickness, from which, as no medical relief was afforded him by his keepers, he seemed not likely to recover.

He lay moaning in his cell, mourning over his unhappy condition. "It is hard," said he to himself, "to be obliged to quit life at so early an age, for I begin to feel, or at least to dread, that, unless some efficient help is speedily sent me, my pulse will shortly cease to beat. Unhappy was the hour that embroiled me with the followers of Percy in the streets of Ayr; unworthy was the sword that failed me when I most needed its aid! Wretched is the condition of my country, oppressed by English tyrants, who have slain my father and many other honourable and valiant men, whose

deaths I have earnestly hoped one day to assist in avenging; and am I to believe that I have hoped in vain, and to resign myself to utter despair? But if I must now die, may heaven soon raise up leaders to deliver Scotland from foreign domination, and inspire the whole people with resolution to expel invaders from their land!"

As he uttered these lamentations, he fell into a swoon, in which he continued several hours, motionless and insensible. At this time Earl Percy chanced to return, and ordered Wallace to be brought before him; the gaoler reported that he was ill, and, going into his cell while he was in this senseless condition, to see whether he were at all recovered, found him, as he thought, dead. It was accordingly signified to the Earl that he was dead; and the people of the gaol were about to cast him forth into the burial ground, when a woman that had been his nurse came to the gate to solicit admission to him.

"You may have admission to his body," said the gaoler; "his spirit is fled from the earth."

Using great importunity, and supported by some friends in her application, the woman obtained permission to carry off Wallace's supposed corpse in a car to her own house, where she washed

him and put him into a warm bed. After a time, she thought that she perceived a slight motion in his heart, and, increasing the warmth about him as much as possible, saw him, at length, to her great joy, open his eyes.

By careful treatment, and with the assistance of her daughter, the woman gradually succeeded in recovering him, though he continued for a long time extremely weak. They concealed him with great care, and, with the aid of some of Wallace's young friends, performed a fictitious funeral, weeping and assuming a garb of mourning, as for a dead friend.

A trusty messenger was then sent to his mother to inform her of his recovery and escape from prison, at the news of which she was overjoyed. She had not, however, previously known of his illness, having heard only of his imprisonment, and having given up all hope that he would ever be freed from the hands of his enemies. She could not venture to visit him, for fear of betraying the secret of his escape, but she longed for the day when she should once more see him return to her in health.

CHAPTER XIII.

THOMAS THE RHYMER.

Such was the vigour of Wallace's constitution, that, when he began to revive, he soon recovered a large portion of his former strength. As soon as he was in a condition to leave the house of his preserver, he proceeded to Ellerslie to visit his mother, who received him as one risen from the dead. He sent the woman that had saved his life, and her daughter, to reside with his mother at Ellerslie for protection.

It chanced that Thomas the Rhymer, then an old man, was in that year residing at the Monastery of Faile, near Ayr, and having heard of Wallace's exploits against his English opponents, and being secretly informed, also, of his supposed death and escape from prison, came to visit him, and see what sort of person he was who had exhibited such bravery, and experienced such fortune. Finding

that, in spite of the illness which he had recently suffered, his frame still promised great vigour, and that his mind was undaunted and hopeful, he looked on him with eyes beaming pleasure and satisfaction, and observed that it was to the efforts of such heroes that Scotland must trust to free herself from foreign interference.

“If this great object ever be accomplished,” said he, “it will not be effected in all probability without much bloodshed, and the loss of many of our brave countrymen. But may He that rules the course of events befriend us, and mayest thou, my son, live to take part in the deliverance of thy native land, and to see its plains and its fortresses cleared of the traces of the invader !”

Some time afterwards, when this visit of the Rhymer became known, the words which he had spoken, being imperfectly noised abroad, and transmitted with variations from one mouth to another, were gradually magnified into a prophecy, intimating that Wallace should deliver Scotland, with a mighty slaughter of her foes, from English domination.

CHAPTER XIV.

AN ENCOUNTER.

All who had known Wallace, with the exception of a few relatives and intimate friends, believed him dead ; but, while he remained at Ellerslie, he was completely restored to health. He then resolved to visit his uncle Sir Richard, at Riccartoun, who had so liberally promised him aid, and from whom he hoped to procure a horse and warlike equipments, and whatever else he might require for future adventures.

Being obliged to proceed with caution, lest he should be recognized by his enemies, he disguised himself in the garb of a countryman. He had found at Ellerslie an old sword, much rusted, which had never been of the best quality, but which, wielded by a stout arm, might be of considerable service, and, attaching this weapon to his side, he set out for his uncle's residence.

It may seem strange that, though his disguise was not penetrated, he was yet unable to reach Riccartoun without being molested, and being drawn by the insults of an Englishman, and his own resolution to bear no arrogance without resenting it, to engage in a battle. In a by-way communicating with the main road to Ayr, he met a squire named Longcastle returning from Glasgow, accompanied by two yeomen. Wallace stood up at the side of the way, and would have let them quietly pass, but Longcastle, with foolish insolence, reining up his horse, cried,

“Stay, you Scot, why are you lurking about in these by-paths? You can be here with no good purpose, armed with a sword, in such a garb. You are a spy, I suppose, or a thief.”

“Nay, sir,” replied Wallace; “I bear neither of the characters which you impute to me. I am a peaceable man, and disposed to proceed quietly on my way. I did not stop your course, and I beg you to let me pass without farther interference.”

“You are insolent,” returned Longcastle. “It is not for you to throw words at me; you shall go with me to Ayr, that it may be seen whether any one knows you. Mount up behind one of my yeomen.”

As Wallace showed no inclination to obey, Longcastle sprung from his horse, and, drawing his sword, made a pass at him as if he would run him through. Wallace, stepping back, put himself on his guard, and after a few passes struck Longcastle such a blow on the head as stretched him lifeless. His two followers, who anticipated no such termination to the combat, then sprung forward to revenge their master's fall. One of them was soon killed, and the other took to flight, but Wallace, overtaking him, drove his sword through his ribs, and laid him on the earth with the other two.

All this took place, as it chanced, without any travellers passing to witness it. Wallace took the squire's horse and accoutrements, and rode off with all speed towards Riccartoun, where he arrived without farther interruption. Here he was heartily welcomed by Sir Richard and his three sons, and by his other uncle, Sir Ronald Crawford, who had ridden over from Corsby to visit Sir Richard. His mother, in a few days, came over also to Riccartoun; and Robert Boyd, a valiant and worthy friend of the family, soon after joined the party.

Wallace told them how, by his adventure with Longcastle, he had supplied himself with a horse and warlike equipments; and all rejoiced at his escape from so many deadly perils.

Book II.

CHAPTER I.

WALLACE FINDS ADHERENTS.

Wallace was not inclined to continue long at rest. He had become sensible, by his adventures at Dundee and Ayr, that he was capable of doing something, and was resolved, either as leader or follower, to make some effort, and to support whatever efforts might be made by others, to free the land from English rule. He was fired with indignation as he heard, from time to time, of the atrocities committed by Edward at Berwick and Dunbar, and determined to do whatever should be in his power to exact vengeance for them.

He still retained the same notions as he had expressed in his conversation with his uncle regarding the condition and prospects of his country, believing that much might be done for its deliver-

ance by combination and union among the nobles and gentry, and that the reverses which the Scots had sustained in battle, had been occasioned rather by discord among themselves, than by superiority in valour on the side of their enemies.

The land, in the mean time, was crying grievously for relief from one end to the other. The soldiery were daily advancing in licentiousness, and oppressing, with gross brutality, all that fell under their power ; the dwellings of the inhabitants were constantly invaded, and their domestic sensibility outraged ; the tenure of property was growing more and more insecure ; the exactions of Cressingham, and the license which he allowed his subordinates, put restrictions on the inland trade, and an entire stop to that with foreigners ; and all such of the people, whether noble or plebeian, as showed the least disposition to oppose the tyrannical proceedings of the rulers, were in danger either of falling under the axe of the executioner, or of being doomed to languish out existence in Scottish or English dungeons.

When it became known among Wallace's friends that he was at large, and recovering his vigour, a number of the young men, who had previously been with him at Laglane Wood, and the adjoin-

ing parts, proceeded to collect about him again. Others, too, of greater age and repute, having heard of Wallace's extraordinary prowess in single combats, and being anxious to form acquaintance with a person of such valour, began to come among them. One of these was Sir Robert Boyd, a brave warrior, who had at first made submission to King Edward, but, having been disgusted with his oppressive treatment of Baliol, had subsequently determined on taking part against him. Another was John Kneland, and a third Edward Little, both stout men at arms, and both related to Wallace. The three sons of Sir Richard Wallace, also, Adam, Richard, and Simon, were ready to enrol themselves among Wallace's adherents.

With the aid of these associates, he began to organize a system of co-operation, and to prepare a basis for efforts of a more extensive nature. He trained his followers, by signals on the bugle horn, to assemble or disperse, to seek or quit their retreats, as circumstances might require. This method of discipline he gradually disseminated through a great portion of the Lowlands of Scotland, so that whenever the notes of the bugle were sounded, whether by Wallace or his coadjutors, the adventurers, who heard and understood them,

were ready to act in accordance with the intimation that they conveyed.

Of all the resolute spirits that now gathered around him, none disputed his right to be their leader. Whatever jealousy they might feel of one another, and however ready they might be to disagree on minor points, they were all united in acknowledging that Wallace was fitted, alike mentally and bodily, both to fight at their head and to direct their operations.

CHAPTER II.

A CONVOY SURPRISED.

His mother and uncles, and other friends, had at first tried to dissuade him from entering on so perilous a course of life ; but finding that their remonstrances were of no weight with him, and that he was bent on a career of action, they at length allowed him to take his way, equipping him with whatever they could supply, and earnestly wishing him success. Wallace himself, indeed, considered that, as the writ of outlawry, notwithstanding his supposed death, was still in force, he should be safer among the woods and hills with his adherents within call, than remaining quietly at home where he might at any time be surprised and carried off, at the instigation of any maliciously disposed person, by a party of English troops.

The first enterprise of any account that Wallace and his friends attempted, was an attack on a

party of soldiers that were conveying provisions from Carlisle to the garrison at Ayr; a party under the command of Fenwick, the same officer that had been at the head of the troop by which Wallace's father had been killed. The Scots throughout the country were suffering from famine consequent on the war, but the English were well supplied from their own country. Wallace and fifty of his associates met on Mauchline Muir, and, proceeding from thence, came to a small tavern near Loudon, the owner of which informed them that he had seen a courier riding forward to announce the approach of the main body. The Scots, as it was then evening, took shelter for the night in the neighbouring wood, where, in the following forenoon, they received intelligence from two of their party sent out to watch, that the English were on the road. They then rode forward to Loudon Hill, on which Wallace arranged his men for the attack, their horses being left in the wood, as he thought that, from the nature of the ground, they would assail the enemy with more effect on foot.

Before they entered on the strife they kneeled down and prayed for success. Wallace then said, "We shall now, if we exert ourselves, take vengeance on him who slew my father. I shall

lead you to the charge ; you have but to support me.”

Fenwick, who was at the head of two hundred men, seeing a body of Scots apparently menacing him, but observing that their number was small in comparison with his own, was in no apprehension of danger, but hoped to ride down the Scots at the first onset. He left twenty of his men with the waggons, and drew up the rest in battle array. But, as they rode forward towards the hill, a dry stone wall opposed their progress, and the Scots, taking advantage of the momentary confusion caused by this obstacle, made such a furious charge upon them with their spears as to throw them into complete disorder, and, pursuing their advantage, rushed into the midst of their body, making a fearful slaughter both of horses and men. The English rode round about them, but the Scots, some with their lances, and others with their swords, kept them at a distance, and rendered all their efforts to make an impression on them ineffectual. Wallace thrust his spear through the body of the first Englishman that met him, breaking the shaft in the encounter ; but his sword was immediately drawn and wielded with terrible effect. Both sides fought with the utmost desperation, the English

still hoping to overpower the Scots by their superiority of numbers.

Fenwick, on a tall horse, and covered with glittering armour, was at length marked by Wallace, who, cutting down with his sword all that stood between them, rushed on him with the fury of a lion, and struck him with great force, yet not so effectually as to kill him, but only to dislodge him from his saddle, when Boyd, who was at hand, ran him through the body. Before he was dead, however, the English crowded on with such vigour that Boyd was borne to the ground and nearly killed; but Wallace raised him again, and the two together hewed a clear passage through the thickest of their enemies.

When Fenwick had fallen, a squire named Beaumont, a man of some repute in the field, cheered the English on to fresh efforts, but young Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, advancing to oppose him, struck him such a blow on the helmet as divided his head asunder. Many of the English then dismounted and fought on foot, but Wallace and his band made such unwearied resistance that the enemy at length lost all hope of safety except in flight. Some fled on horseback, and some on foot; and the Scots remained masters of the field. One hundred

of Fenwick's men were left on the ground ; on the side of Wallace were killed only three, two from Kyle, and one from Cunningham, all followers of Boyd.

The whole convoy was the prize of the victors, who became possessed of several waggons, two hundred carriage horses, flour, wine, and other stores, in abundance. Of this booty they gave a portion to the distressed inhabitants of the adjacent parts, and secured the remainder in the forest of Clydesdale, which then extended over a large tract of the country.

CHAPTER III.

PERCY'S PROCEEDINGS. A TRUCE.

The fugitives carried the news of the disaster to the Castle of Ayr. Some of them said that they had recognized the leader as Wallace, who had been imprisoned in the gaol of Ayr for having slain Percy's men, and who had been carried away from thence as dead.

"I have no doubt," said Earl Percy, "that it is he. He that can cope with a score of enemies single-handed, is just the man to defeat two hundred at the head of fifty followers. It was an unlucky day for us when our gaolers were so dull of sight as to mistake a living man for a corpse. It will be difficult now to recapture him, for his success will doubtless attract others who are disaffected towards the English, and who are numerous enough everywhere, to join his force. We shall feel the loss of this convoy heavily, and for

the future, I fear, we must get our provisions by sea; for no train of waggons coming by land will be safe from the attacks of Wallace or some of his adherents. It would be well for King Edward, I conceive, to have him for a friend, rather than an enemy, and I should be glad, from respect for his bravery, if means could be found to draw him over to our side."

The fame of Wallace spread gradually more and more both among the Scots and the English, the one looking to him with hope, the other with apprehension. He remained several days in Clydesdale forest unmolested, his party daily growing stronger, and he himself planning farther schemes for annoying and weakening the enemy.

Percy, at last finding it necessary to do something, called a council of the nobility at Glasgow, to deliberate on the state of affairs in that neighbourhood, and with a view, in particular, to the reduction of Wallace. Much was said by many speakers, but no leader professed himself bold enough to head an attack on Wallace in his fastnesses. At last Sir Aymer de Vallence, a knight who dwelt at Bothwell in Lanarkshire, said,

"I think that the safest method will be to make a truce with Wallace, until we can either bring a

greater force to bear upon him, or consult King Edward how we ought to act."

"I fear," replied Percy, "that we shall find it hard to prevail on him to make a truce with us; for he is evidently wary and sagacious, and resolutely bent, as I hear, and as we may all suppose, on desperate measures against the English, the more especially as his followers are constantly becoming more numerous."

"He may, however, be moved by means of his kindred," said Sir Aymer; "we may call on his uncle, Sir Ronald Crawford, for instance, to induce his nephew to desist from hostilities, for a certain time; threatening, if he refuse to do so, to lay waste Sir Ronald's lands, or accuse him of treason to King Edward. Wallace will hardly suffer any harm to fall on his uncle, who has, I understand, greatly befriended and assisted him."

This advice was approved, and the council was adjourned to another day, when Sir Ronald was brought before them, and enjoined to use every means to effect a truce between his nephew and the English, or his estates should be laid desolate, and he himself sent a prisoner to London.

Sir Ronald replied, "My nephew will do nothing, I fear, for me; I am not able to control his

actions ; the English killed his father and put himself in prison, and he is exasperated against all that bear an English name."

"If, then," returned Sir Aymer, "you do not use your endeavours for this purpose, we shall treat you as we have threatened, and King Edward will bring such a force to bear upon Wallace, and all that adhere to him, as will effectually prevent annoyance from them for the future. Edward is already master, and no Wallace will wrest Scotland from him."

"Yes," said Percy, "our king, whether he be in the right or the wrong, is resolved to maintain possession of his conquest. But Wallace doubtless thinks himself at liberty, as long as he can maintain a force about him, to offer all possible opposition to the peaceful settlement of the English in this country. I am willing, however, to give you a bond, signed and sealed by myself, that Wallace shall receive no injury, for such time as the council may determine, from the English, if you will prevail with Wallace to give a similar bond that he will, for the same time, offer no molestation to us. But if you do not undertake this commission, you must suffer the penalties which we have denounced."

Sir Ronald, perceiving that opposition was useless, suffered the bond to be drawn, promised to confer with his nephew on the subject, and proceeded without delay to his retreat in Clydesdale Wood. Here he found Wallace and his party living in great comfort, with plenty of provisions of various kinds about them. When he had been well entertained for a while, he gave him a full account of what Earl Percy and the council had stated, showed him the bond which he had received from Percy, and advised him to make a truce for a while, as it would indeed be for his own advantage, by allowing him more time to mature his plans for future action. "And consider," said he, "that if you decline to listen to them, they are bent on destroying not only me, but all your family and connexions."

"I should be sorely grieved," returned Wallace, "that evil should fall upon you, uncle, or any other of my kin, for we have suffered enough already; yet I am strongly averse to any agreement with the English. What say you," said he to Boyd and his other leaders, "are you of the same feelings with myself?"

"Before this good knight, who has been so true a friend to us, suffer any harm," replied Boyd, "I would counsel that, however repugnant it be to

our inclinations, we should make a temporary arrangement with the adversary. Percy, I must do him the justice to say, is a true knight; he is fierce in battle, but he is noble-minded and generous of heart. What is the reason that instead of asking others to assail us, he does not lead a body of troops against us himself? Is it from fear? I am not of that opinion; I rather think that he wishes to show consideration for our leader, whose prowess he admires, perhaps with a view to draw him ultimately to King Edward's side."

"That is a wish which he will never accomplish," rejoined Wallace; "but what say the rest of you?"

Kneland agreed in opinion with Boyd, and Adam of Riccartoun expressed himself to the same effect.

"Well," said Wallace, "I must not be more unrelenting than my fellows. But observe that it is only for my uncle's sake that I yield."

A truce was accordingly made for two months; during which time there was a partial separation of Wallace's party. They deposited the remains of the spoil in their houses, or in other places which they thought secure, appointing certain of their number to watch over it by turns; and Wallace himself went to reside with his uncle at Corsbie.

CHAPTER IV.

ANOTHER VISIT TO AYR.

He resided at Corsbie, but was extremely unwilling to remain inactive. He accordingly made various expeditions in different directions, to visit his old friends, and to endeavour to secure new ones; and also to explore the country, and ascertain what parts of it would be most suitable for him as fields of action.

Having employed himself in this way for some time, he became extremely anxious to enter the town of Ayr; and to see how the people of the place were disposed to their rulers, or to himself. One day, in consequence, when his uncle was from home, he put on a disguise which concealed his armour and sword, and taking with him fifteen of his people, disguised like himself, he proceeded towards the city. They left their horses in a place of safety without the town, and made their entries at

different quarters, so as not to attract the notice of the townsmen.

In one of the open parts of the city they found a crowd collected, in the midst of which was an Englishman, a master of the art of fencing, who, armed with sword and buckler, was challenging any one that was willing to encounter him, to a contest. Wallace saw several of his countrymen accept the challenge, and, after being defeated by the superior dexterity of their opponent, derided and insulted by the English soldiery. The challenger, observing that Wallace was very attentive, and that he manifested, by his gestures, concern at the fortune of those defeated, called out to him, in the flush of success, "Dare you not try your skill, Scot?"

Wallace was not long in replying, and presented himself to the champion with his sword drawn. "Smite on," cried the Englishman; "I defy you to beat down my guard." The skill and efficiency with which Wallace used his weapon, soon convinced the spectators, as well as the swordsman himself, that a rival had entered the lists far superior to any of those that had preceded him. Having allowed his antagonist to flourish his weapon for a while, and to exhaust his strength in

beating the air, Wallace assailed him in earnest, and at last, with a sweep of his sword that cut through arm, buckler, and skull, laid him dead at his feet.

The English were at once astonished and irritated. They gathered round Wallace in great numbers, and sought to make him prisoner. But Wallace, nothing daunted, showed himself ready to use his broadsword on any that should lay hands upon him. His followers, in the mean time, were hurrying to his support, and the English soldiers, seeing them assemble about him, knew not what number they should have to encounter, and apprehended that their opponents were stronger than they really were. The body of the Scots, drawing back into a narrower piece of ground, kept their enemies effectually at bay, and seemed likely to accomplish their escape, when an additional force from the castle made its appearance. Seven score at least were now threatening sixteen, when Wallace, fearing that his retreat would be cut off if the contest were longer protracted, smote down the foremost of his assailants, and told his men to make the best of their way to the suburbs, while he himself endeavoured to protect their rear. At last, by desperate efforts, they all regained in safety the place where they had left their horses, and

rode off to their fastnesses in Laglane Wood, where none of their pursuers would venture to follow them.

Several of the English were slain in this encounter, and among them three of Earl Percy's own relatives. But Percy, though he easily learned that the leader in the fray was Wallace, would take no advantage of it to break the truce with him, because he found that he had slain the sword-player in fair combat, and that the English soldiery had been in the wrong in molesting him. He therefore contented himself with sending a messenger to his uncle, Sir Ronald Crawford, with a letter requesting him to keep Wallace from exposing himself in the city or neighbourhood, so as to provoke any affrays with the English, until the truce should be expired.

Wallace, after spending some time in the forest, went to pay his respects to Sir Ronald, who showed him the letter that he had received from Earl Percy, and entreated him, for both their sakes, to abstain from all disputes with the English while the truce should last. "Stay with me," said Sir Ronald, "during that time, and you will then be unmolested, and free from all temptation to throw yourself into danger."

“Nay,” said Wallace, “I must be moving about occasionally, but I will keep you acquainted with my proceedings, and will undertake nothing of importance without your consent; and you shall have no cause to complain that I expose myself to unnecessary hazard before the day on which I shall be at liberty to act as I please.”

Thus his uncle and he continued fast friends; but Wallace could rest nowhere, with comfort or satisfaction, as long as he saw the English masters of his country.

CHAPTER V.

WALLACE'S UNCLE ILLTREATED.

In the month of September, in the year 1296, a great council of the English lords, at which the Bishop of Durham presided, was held at Glasgow, for the purpose of making laws for Scotland. As the sheriffs of counties were summoned to attend, Sir Ronald Crawford, as sheriff of Ayr, was obliged to be present. He was escorted on his way, not only by his own retainers, but by Wallace and two of Wallace's adherents, well armed and equipped.

In those days, the hostelries, or lodging-houses, were able to supply little more than mere shelter, and travellers, accordingly, who journeyed in any considerable number, were necessitated to carry with them their own provisions and other requisites. Sir Ronald's party were in consequence followed by sumpter horses bearing whatever they needed for their accommodation.

When they had ridden some distance, Wallace and his two friends chanced to fall behind. In the meantime Sir Ronald and the rest overtook the servants of Earl Percy, who were conveying their master's baggage. One of their sumpter horses having fallen lame, they stopped Sir Ronald and his party, and insisted on having a sumpter horse of theirs to supply its place. Sir Ronald remonstrated, but as they had the power to enforce their demand, his words were of no avail; and one of the men, cutting the straps, let the sheriff's baggage fall to the ground.

When Wallace came up, he was incensed at this affront to his uncle, and declared that ample vengeance should be exacted for it. He would have pursued and overtaken the men at once, had it not been for the truce, and for the promise made to his uncle to forbear from strife with the English. Sir Ronald, in consequence of the inconvenience, was obliged to remain a night longer on the road than he had intended.

Sir Ronald made application to Earl Percy to have his horse restored, and to obtain some redress for the insult that had been put upon him. The Earl promised that ample justice should be done, but whether from his attention being occupied with

other affairs, or from his orders having been given to men who thoughtlessly or wilfully neglected them, nothing was done in the matter.

When the truce was expired, Wallace soon had an opportunity of taking the vengeance which he had meditated. Accompanied by two or three of his men, he met the same party of Percy's retainers bringing back their master's baggage from Glasgow. A contest ensued, in which two of the Earl's men were slain, and a portion of his effects, containing money and other valuables, captured.

CHAPTER VI.

WALLACE WITH THE EARL OF LENNOX.

The truce expired without any communication concerning Wallace having arrived from King Edward. Wallace, after the violence committed on Percy's men, thought it not well to remain in the neighbourhood of Ayr, and, accordingly, proceeded across the Clyde to the Lennox Hills, where he was earnestly welcomed by Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, to whom he was well known, and who had heard much of his exploits. Earl Malcolm had made no submission to the English king, and was determined on maintaining, at the head of his tenantry, a struggle for independence.

Percy, as may be supposed, was extremely enraged when he heard of the loss of his baggage. He conceived a suspicion that Sir Ronald Craw-



ford had abetted or assisted Wallace in the outrage, and had made preparation for the execution of it even before the truce was at an end. He therefore summoned a council at Ayr, and called Sir Ronald before it to be examined concerning the affair; but Sir Ronald, though keenly interrogated, was able to clear himself effectually from all that was alleged or surmised against him, and to prove that he had no knowledge of his nephew's movements on that occasion. He was therefore left at peace, but Percy was resolved to keep a watchful eye on him for the future.

Against Wallace himself an enactment was passed that he should be considered an enemy to the English government, and that every means should be used for his apprehension; and even Sir Ronald himself was obliged to take an oath that he would afford him no shelter or assistance, and was threatened, as before, that if this oath were broken, his lands should be laid waste, and he should be expelled from his home as a disaffected person.

Boyd, Kneland, Little, Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, and others of his friends whom he left behind him in Ayrshire, were greatly concerned at his absence, and feared that some evil had befallen

him. Little went to Annandale, and others, for the present, to other parts of the country.

In the meantime, Wallace was well entertained by the Earl of Lennox, who was so sensible of his merits as a leader, that he offered him the command of all his men, a warlike and formidable troop, provided that he would remain with him for the defence of that part of the country. But Wallace was too eager for larger schemes of action, to be willing to confine his exertions within the limits of a particular district, and, on explaining his views to the Earl, he found no difficulty in gaining his approval of them, and inducing him to promise his co-operation in whatever plans for the deliverance of the country might hereafter appear practicable.

As many came, from time to time, to offer to join them, Wallace began to organize a force to act in that guerilla species of warfare which he had previously meditated. He received all comers that seemed of a trustworthy character, and, with the concurrence of the Earl, and in his presence, called upon them to take an oath of adherence to him as their leader.

Among those who joined him at this time was Stephen of Ireland, a native of Argyleshire, so

called because his forefathers had come from Ireland. He brought with him several men, and afterwards continued a firm and faithful adherent to Wallace throughout all the variety of fortune that attended him. Another that came to him was Mac Fadyan, who had previously taken an oath of allegiance to King Edward. At the same time, Fawdoun, a native of Ireland, offered his services and took the oath; a person of tall stature and stout frame, but of a melancholy temperament and aspect, always gloomy and sad, and never allowing a smile to cross his countenance.

He was also joined by William Ker and Sir Hugh de Gray, both of whom had been with him in the encounter at Loudon Hill.

With this force Wallace acquainted the Earl of Lennox that he was determined to try what could be done to arouse the people of the north.

CHAPTER VII.

THE PEEL OF GARGUNNOCK.

He took leave with every expression of kindness of the worthy Earl, who offered him large gifts, but Wallace would take nothing, as he was very well provided from the valuables found in Percy's baggage, and from the supplies which he had received from his uncle, Sir Ronald. On the contrary, he himself gave many presents at parting to both poor and rich, for he was princely in his generosity, towards all those that showed him friendship, whenever he had the means.

At the head of sixty brave followers, he took his way through the Lennox Hills in the direction of Leckie, near which place he found shelter in a rude and decayed place of defence. The first enterprise which he meditated, was an attack on a small fortress in the neighbourhood, recently

erected by the English, and called, from the parish in which it stood, the Peel of Gargunnoch. It had a numerous garrison, who caused much annoyance to the people of those parts, and was well stored with provisions, and surrounded by a deep ditch. It was at no great distance from Stirling, and the name of its commandant was Captain Thirlwall.

Some of the peasantry, who earnestly wished to see the English expelled from it, gave information to Wallace that the watch was often negligently kept, and the drawbridge sometimes left down during the night, for the purpose of giving entrance early in the morning to the labourers that were employed about the place. Wallace sent two of his men, about the middle of the following night, to see if this intelligence was correct; and they brought back word that they had found the bridge lowered, and the sentinel asleep, but that the door was strongly secured by a ponderous bar.

Wallace immediately led forward his men for an attack. They reached the walls unmolested, but found a bar opposing their entrance, such as the scouts had described; and it seemed no easy matter to dislodge it from the wall. But Wallace, applying his full strength to it, tore it from the

socket in which it rested, and brought down three yards of the masonry with it, while his men stood gazing at the effort in amazement, and declared that he had done more with his own hands, than a score of them could have done together. He then burst in the door with his foot, making the brass and iron fastenings fly on every side. The garrison was soon roused; the porter presented himself to Wallace, and struck at him with a heavy mace, but Wallace wrested it from him in a moment, and felled him with his own weapon. The next person that he met was the captain, who was armed in a similar manner, but was soon cloven to the neck by Wallace's sword. The Scots then easily dealt with the rest of the garrison, twenty-two of whom were put to death. The women and children that were found in the place, among whom were the wife and three children of the commandant, were treated kindly, supplied with provisions, and allowed to depart whithersoever they chose.

Here Wallace and his party remained four days, during which they spoiled the place of everything valuable; and the leader divided a large sum of money, which was found in it, equally among his followers. Such of the spoil as they did not need,

they distributed among the poor people of the country. They then demolished the fortress, and took up their quarters in the neighbouring wood, being animated by this success to further events against the oppressors of their country.

CHAPTER VIII.

WALLACE AT PERTH, AND IN METHUEN WOOD.
KINCLEVEN CASTLE TAKEN.

As it was not easy to traverse the forests on horseback, they proceeded mostly on foot, and kept but few horses with them. Stephen of Ireland, who was well acquainted with the country, was their guide, and led them in the direction of Kincardine. They rested in a wood on the banks of the Teith, when Wallace, seeing numbers of deer, brought down a fine hart with an arrow, and supplied his party with abundance of venison.

Soon after, they crossed the Teith into Strathern, taking covert ways for fear of coming in contact with any large bodies of English troops. They halted in Methuen Wood, whence Wallace, with seven of his best men, of whom Ker was one, resolved on making an expedition to Perth. He gave his staff of steel, a prize which he had carried

off from Gargunnoch, to Ker, and left Stephen of Ireland to command the party till his return, telling him to remain in that place for at least seven days.

As the gates of Perth were under the charge of the mayor, Wallace, on entering, asked to see him. The mayor received him with great courtesy, and inquired his name, and whether he and his followers were all Scots and men of peace. Wallace assured him that they intended him no ill, and said that his name was William Malcolmson, and that he had been living in Ettrick Forest, but was desirous to explore the north country to see whether he could find a residence that would please him better.

“ I do not ask,” said the mayor, “ from any foolish curiosity or evil intention, but because we have received tidings that one Wallace, from the west country, is roaming hither and thither with a band of marauders, and doing whatever mischief he can to King Edward’s men. A truce was made with him awhile ago by Earl Percy, who commands in Ayr, but the term of it has now expired, and he is henceforth to be treated as an outlaw, and captured or slain by any that may be able to master him.”

“ Ah !” replied Wallace, “ I have no news to give you of him. He is, doubtless, anxious enough to prevent you from getting the mastery over him.”

The interview ended by Wallace being allowed to enter the town, and the mayor procured for him accommodation at an inn, where he and his attendants might lodge comfortably together. Ker acted as steward, and obtained for them the best of the provisions that were to be had in the city.

Wallace mingled with the people of the place, both Scotch and English ; and the English would, at times, invite him to drink, but he was not often disposed to accept their invitations, being more inclined to entertain his countrymen than to receive favours from their enemies.

He made acquaintance also with some women of the place, with one of whom he became very intimate, and often met her in the evenings, paying her such attention as a lover pays to a mistress.

His object in visiting Perth, was to ascertain whether it were possible, with the force which he had left in the wood, to surprise the town ; but he found strong walls, a deep fosse, and too numerous a garrison. “ It is worse,” he would say to himself, as he walked along the streets, “ than the

tortures of evil spirits to see these oppressors of our country exulting over it, and enjoying themselves in it at their ease, while we can offer no opposition to them, and may scarcely even venture to look them in the face. My power, I regret to see, is too small to master the place, and in making any attempt to get possession of it, I should but expose myself to peril that could bring no profit. I might set it on fire; but to what purpose? I should but endanger myself and my men, and perhaps bring more harm on my own party than on the enemy. I must therefore remain quiet while I stay, but my stay must soon have an end."

He heard, however, that a party of soldiers were about to leave Perth for Kinclaven, under the command of Sir James Butler, a brave old English knight, who was governor of Kinclaven Castle, and had obtained these troops from Perth for the reinforcement of his garrison. Having ascertained the exact time at which they would leave the city, he took leave of his female friend, and repaired to Methuen Wood, where his men, at the sound of his horn, joyfully gathered around him, expressing their delight at seeing him safe, and asking him questions respecting his adventures. Wallace answered a few of their inquiries, but told them

that he had no time to relate particulars, as they must immediately prepare for action. They were not long in making themselves ready, and marched out of the wood in fair array, and full of hope and spirit, towards the road to Kincleven. Wallace placed them in ambush in a thick wood by the banks of the Tay, and posted scouts to watch the approach of the English, who were soon seen approaching, to the number of ninety, all well armed and mounted. Wallace was pleased that the number, though far superior to that of his own party, was no greater, and led forth his men from their place of concealment. The English were surprised, and wondered what they meant; but quickly perceiving that their intentions were hostile, prepared for an encounter; and, hurling their spears, galloped forward, thinking to ride down the Scots at the first charge. But Wallace and his band of heroes went fearlessly among them, and slew several at the first onset. Wallace struck down the man that met him, but broke his spear in the effort; then, drawing his sword, he cleared a way through the host, men and horses falling disabled one upon another under the lightning-like rapidity of his blows. Sir James Butler alighted, thinking to defend himself better on foot, and, well

supported by his men, who fought desperately, laid several of the Scots dead on the field. Wallace was moved at the sight, and hastened, in wrath, to stop his course. The combat between them was short; the veteran defended himself bravely, but was no match for the strength and agility of his younger adversary, who, at length, springing forward, struck him with such force on the head that the sword passed through helmet and skull, and stretched him lifeless in a moment.

Stephen of Ireland, meanwhile, was exerting himself to the utmost in support of his chief; and Ker, with his steel mace, was doing fearful execution on all that opposed him. At last the English, seeing their leader fallen, and finding that they could make no impression on their fierce assailants, lost heart, and took to flight, leaving sixty of their number dead on the field.

The fugitives sped rapidly towards Kincleven, and the Scots followed them with equal expedition. A few men at arms had been left to guard the fortress, who eagerly let down the bridge and set open the gates to admit their friends, but were so closely followed by the Scots that the pursued and the pursuers entered the place together. The resistance which the English attempted to make

was useless, and the whole of the inhabitants, with the exception of two priests and some women and children, were put to the sword.

The Scots then buried the dead, among whom were five of their own number, and took precautions against surprise. They continued in the castle seven days, and found in it a rich booty of gold and silver, with stores of provisions and other necessaries, a large portion of which they conveyed by night to Shortwood Shaw, a wood at no great distance, and deposited in places of concealment as resources against future need.

At the end of the seven days, when they had taken all that they thought proper, they sent away the women and children, and other prisoners, and treated the fort as they had treated that of Gargunnoch, burning everything combustible, rending stone from stone, and levelling the whole as far as was possible with the ground.

CHAPTER IX.

WALLACE ATTACKED BY THE ENGLISH.

The smoke of the burning castle was the first intimation, to the people of the country at a distance, that the Scots were masters of the place, for Wallace, after having gained the victory, had carried on his proceedings with such caution, and had been so well screened by his adherents in the immediate neighbourhood, that, though it was known in most quarters that there had been a battle, it had reached the ears of but few that the fortress had changed its inhabitants.

Had the Scottish leader had a sufficient number of followers, he would doubtless have preferred to leave garrisons in such fortresses as those of Gargunock and Kincleven instead of destroying them; but, as he was unable to part with any portion of his force, he prudently resolved to demolish, as far as he could, whatever places were

likely to prove strongholds for the enemy. He and his men were so hardy by nature, and so well inured to inclemency of weather, that they cared little for other shelter than that which they could find in the woods, where they could sleep in summer under trees, and in winter in caverns of the rocks. They now retired to Shortwood Shaw, and found a strong position, where, under Wallace's direction, they constructed five strong defences of timber, in the form of squares, with a sixth of larger dimensions, from which were made passages communicating with all the others.

Captain Thirlwall's wife carried a full account of what had occurred at Kincleven to Sir Gerald Heron, the governor of Perth; who, fired with indignation, and having no doubt that Wallace was the perpetrator of the outrage, drew out the whole force of the garrison, amounting to a thousand men, under the command of himself, Sir John Butler, the son of the deceased Sir James, and Sir William de Lorayne, his nephew, an officer of reputation, to attack and capture the outlaw.

Sir John Butler entered the wood with two hundred men, eager to take vengeance for the death of his father. Wallace had not completed his defences when he saw the English approaching;

and, in order to gain time, advanced with a few of his followers to the skirts of the wood, leaving the rest, under Stephen of Ireland, to finish the arrangement of the timber. At the point to which he proceeded, he found a hollow, which he was able partially to fortify by throwing trees across it, and from the one side of which he and his men could issue forth into the plain, or from the other into the wood, as circumstances might render eligible. He had with him only twenty archers to oppose one hundred and forty English, who were supported by eighty spearmen; but the English were ignorant of the number of their adversaries, and advanced as if to attack a large host, pouring their arrows into the thicket in such multitudes, that the Scots would have been utterly destroyed, but for the success with which they contrived to shelter themselves behind the trees. Wallace himself had a bow of great strength, which no arm but his own could draw, and from which he discharged long and sharp arrows among the English with deadly effect. His men also shot, but with less execution than their chief, for the Scottish archers in general were inferior to the English, as they seldom applied steadily and patiently to archery practice, preferring to

acquire skill at the more active exercise of the broadsword and target. Notwithstanding their care, too, several of the Scots were wounded; and at last Wallace himself was shot in the neck, through his collar of steel, by a skilful bowman who caught a favourable opportunity for taking aim, as the leader put out his head at an opening to reconnoitre the enemy. Wallace watched the man who had hit him, and, springing out at the side of the hollow, cut him down with his sword before he could release himself from the bushes, in which, thinking more of his bow than of his heels, he had got himself entangled.

Wallace had now killed fifteen with his own hand, but the arrows of the Scots were beginning to fail, while the English archers were well supplied. He saw that he must make some desperate effort, or be ultimately surrounded and cut to pieces. Sir William Lorayne, with three hundred men, was keeping watch on one side of the wood, while Sir Gerald Heron, who, as being older and less active than the other commanders, had remained with a body of reserve without the wood, was now sending Sir John Butler with five hundred men into the midst of it to ascertain the defences and the number of the enemy. To oppose

these, Wallace had only fifty men in all, a few of whom were wounded by arrows. But he was determined to defy the whole host single-handed, rather than be taken alive. His first move was towards the squares of timber, where he had left Stephen of Ireland and his other men. Here, however, the English began to gather round them in great numbers, and must have overwhelmed them, but that their wooden defences were of great service in protecting them, and that their chief displayed his utmost valour, and animated them to resistance by his exhortations and his example. Seeing Butler advancing, he burst forth on him like a thunderbolt, and struck him to the ground with a blow that would have rendered him lifeless, had not a branch of a tree partially intercepted it, when his men, rushing forward, withdrew him from his assailant before another stroke could be given. Wallace continued to spread, at every sweep of his sword, destruction among his adversaries; and Sir William Lorayne, angry at the protracted resistance, and the loss of men, urged forward his followers on the flank of the Scots, but Wallace, who, from time to time, cast his eyes warily around, perceived his coming through the trees, and, retiring a space, and

springing out at the side of his fortification, was upon him before he was aware, and taught him that his steel gorget was but a slight defence against a ponderous broadsword wielded by an arm of gigantic might. Metal and bone were at once cloven through, and Sir William fell dead among his men that were coming to support him. This being done, Wallace withdrew to the back of his entrenchment, and sounded on his horn a blast that rung through the whole wood. The notes so startled the English, who feared that it might be a signal for an advance of strength to their enemies, that their officers thought it best to retreat for a while, and hold a council with Sir Gerald as to what was best to be done.

Though the English were much dispirited by the loss of one of their leaders, and the disablement of the other, the result of their deliberations was that they would make a new effort, and assail the defences of the Scots simultaneously on all sides. During the discussion, however, Wallace and his companions withdrew by the opposite side of the forest, and effected their retreat, without farther molestation, to Cargill Wood, a position which afforded them many natural advantages for shelter and security.

A hundred and twenty of the English were left dead on the scene of the struggle. Of the Scots several were wounded, but, from the efficiency of their defences and shelter, only seven were killed. Wallace's hurt was but of slight consequence.

CHAPTER X.

WALLACE IN DANGER AT PERTH.

The English, finding that the objects of their attack had vanished, proceeded to search the wood from end to end for the money and other spoil that had been carried off from Kinclaven Castle; but so well had the Scots concealed their prey that they found nothing except Sir James Butler's horse, which Wallace had been obliged to leave behind. Discomfited and disappointed, they returned in sad plight to Perth.

The second night after the battle, a party of the Scots ventured back again to Shortwood Shaw, and took away their hidden stores. They then removed to Methuen Wood, where they remained two days, and in the following night withdrew to Elcho Park, which Wallace thought an eligible position, and in which he intended to remain some days to allow his men an opportunity of recruiting their strength and recovering from their wounds.

After a short rest, growing weary of inaction, he resolved on making an expedition to Perth, to visit the woman with whom he had made acquaintance during his previous stay in that city. Among the spoil that had been brought from Kincleven, he found the entire robes of a priest, in which he contrived skilfully to disguise himself; and, pursuing his way with his usual fearlessness, yet with great wariness and caution, he succeeded in entering Perth without obstruction.

He reached the woman's house about noon, and stayed there till the evening, when he took his leave, making an appointment to visit her again on the third day after. But he was not so fortunate in quitting the city as he had been in going into it, for he chanced to be noticed on the road near the city, by a person who bore him no good-will, and who, though it was dusk, thought he could not be mistaken in conceiving that he saw the form and features of Wallace. He accordingly went to Sir Gerald Heron, and to Sir John Butler, and told them that the Scottish chief had been in the city, and had but recently left it.

Their thoughts immediately reverted to the woman with whom he was known to be acquainted, and for the sake of visiting whom they considered

it likely that he might have ventured into the city. They therefore caused her to be brought before them, and charged her with harbouring their mortal enemy. She persisted, for a long time, in denying all knowledge of Wallace, but being threatened with torture if she continued to use concealment, and promised wealth and honour if she disclosed what she knew, her fears and her cupidity were so excited, that she at length confessed to them that she expected him again to visit her, not, however telling them on what day, but promising to let them know when he came. Overjoyed at this information, they kept an extraordinary number of sentinels at the gates, the bravest men that they could select, and hoped for the destruction of their great enemy.

Wallace, on the day appointed, entered the city in the same disguise as before, without being questioned. When the woman saw him, she was so pleased with his manner towards her, that she began half to repent of her promised treachery. Yet, resolving to persist, she asked Wallace whether it would not be better for him to stay in the city all night, than to trust himself on the road during the darkness.

“No,” said Wallace; “my men will expect

me in the evening, and will be alarmed if I do not join them; and, besides, I have affairs to arrange with them."

"Woe is me," cried she, bursting into tears, "that ever I was born! I shall be the accursed cause of destruction to the best man that is on the face of the earth. How could I be so weak to engage in anything so disgraceful? Would that I could bring the whole mischance upon myself! I deserve to be put to death with the severest of tortures."

Wallace, seeing her in this distress, and being unable to understand to what she alluded, began to question and try to comfort her. "Surely," said he, "I have done nothing to afflict you. Tell me if I have done anything to cause you the least trouble."

"No," said she, "it is only I that have acted foolishly and wickedly. I have been beguiled by your enemies to acquaint them when you came; I shall be forced to keep my word, or be put to death, and you will be seized and slain." She then told him the history of her temptation and treachery from beginning to end. "How I repent now!" said she; "gladly would I be burnt to

death, if I could but save you and regain your esteem !”

“ Well,” said Wallace, “ you have acted wrong, but I must endeavour to do the best for myself that is practicable in the case. If you will withhold information of my coming from the authorities, I will at once try to make my escape.”

“ You must not go in this priest’s dress, then,” said she, “ for they are aware in what disguise you come. You must take a portion of my apparel, and disguise yourself as a woman.”

“ It will be difficult,” said Wallace, “ for I am somewhat large to personate a female. But we must see what can be done. If I get free, I forgive you, and may you never be guilty of treachery again ! Nothing can be a keener source of regret to any mind than the consciousness of having betrayed a friend.”

It was with some difficulty that he concealed his long sword, his never-failing companion, under the woman’s garb. But having at last, by lengthening the skirts, made her garments reach his feet, and having enveloped the upper part of his person in an ample plaid, taking, at the same time, a stick, and stooping as much like an old woman as possible, he directed his way, by the back of

the woman's house, to the south gate, and telling the men who were posted there, as he went out, to make haste to the woman's dwelling if they wished to catch Wallace, he passed through without delay, rejoicing exceedingly when he found himself on the outside. The great strides which he took, however, when he was a short distance from the walls, and had raised his back from its stooping posture, startled two of the soldiers that were nearest him, and who saw that he had suddenly grown into a very tall woman, so much that they at once started in pursuit of him; but Wallace, hearing their steps behind him, and having had time to disengage his sword from beneath his dress, turned about, and mowed down his two pursuers with two sweeps of his weapon, and then started into the country with his usual unrivalled speed.

CHAPTER XI.

WALLACE PURSUED. HE PUTS FAWDOUN TO
DEATH. SIR GERALD HERON KILLED.

When it was discovered that the woman had allowed Wallace to escape, the indignation of Sir Gerald Heron and Sir John Butler against her was fierce and inextinguishable; they led a party of soldiers to her house, and burst it open, with an intent to take her prisoner, but she contrived, amid the crowd that gathered round the spot, to elude their search.

As they learned, however, from the direction in which the dead bodies of the men killed by Wallace were found, that he had fled towards Elcho Park, they led out a body of troops, to the number of not less than six hundred, towards that stronghold, taking with them a blood-hound of a famous breed from Gillsland, and accustomed to coursing in Liddesdale and on the Esk. When

they came to the wood, Sir Gerald, as before, took post on the outside, with half their force, and Sir John Butler proceeded into the interior, with the other half, to destroy or drive out the enemy.

Wallace and his men would gladly have retreated, but found no outlet, so that they were obliged to prepare themselves for combat, forty against three hundred. They resolved upon making a sally, and such was the vigour and spirit with which they charged their opponents—Wallace opening a wide passage among them—that forty were killed in the first struggle, while they lost fifteen of their own number. By this disastrous attack, Butler's men were thrown into such disorder, that the Scots made their way, in spite of all efforts to prevent them, to the bank of the river Tay, which they would have crossed, but that the water was too deep to wade, and half of them could not swim; so that Wallace resolved rather to make another effort for defence, than to leave a portion of his men to be cut to pieces by the enemy.

Both sides, accordingly, prepared anew for the fight; Butler put his men in the best possible array, and determined on attempting to crush Wallace with one overwhelming charge, while the

Scots, on their side, were resolved to repel their enemies or die in the attempt. Wallace exerted his whole strength and activity, and endeavoured, as the readiest way of ending the encounter, to cut down Butler, who, however, was in such a position under an oak, that a fair pass could not be obtained at him; yet the Scottish leader, making a dash forward at the head of his whole force, succeeded in gaining a passage through the wood that led him clear of his English enemies. Sixty of Butler's men were killed in this second engagement, and nine of the Scots. Stephen of Ireland and Ker had supported their leader with undaunted bravery.

Wallace had now only sixteen men left of all that he had brought from the Lennox Hills, and with these he purposed to direct his course towards Gask Wood, but the English followed so close upon them, that he thought it better, after a while, to choose another route towards a station about two miles distant; to which, as night was coming on, they had great hopes of securing their retreat. But, as they drew near the place, the Irishman, Fawdoun, who, as has been said, was of a sullen and unaccommodating disposition, sat down, and, on pretence of being exhausted, refused to proceed

further. Wallace, suspecting him of an intention to betray him to the enemy, was unwilling to leave him behind, and urged him to proceed, telling him that the stronghold to which they were going was at no great distance. But he obstinately persisted in remaining behind, and, as he appeared no more fatigued than the rest of the party, Wallace, convinced that he meditated treachery, and determined that neither his own life nor those of others should be sacrificed to it, struck off his head with his sword.

This was stern and sudden vengeance ; but the followers of Wallace were satisfied that it was just, and beheld the infliction of it without a murmur, for they had previously felt assured that Fawdoun was not to be trusted. Wallace was of too humane and considerate a disposition to have put one of his party to death without being fully persuaded that he deserved it.

As the night had now set in, Stephen and Ker, having no apprehension of being surprised by the enemy, loitered a little behind Wallace, without his knowledge, and, while they did so, the hound, which the English had still kept with them, came up to the body of Fawdoun, and stopped at it, nor would it proceed farther. A crowd of English

quickly came up to the spot, among whom was Sir Gerald Heron. Stephen and Ker, who had not lost sight of the place, mingled, under favour of the darkness, with the English; and, as Sir Gerald was stooping to examine Fawdoun's body, Ker, watching an opportunity, wounded him, with an upward sweep of his sword, in the neck. The cry of "Treason" was raised among the English, but Stephen and Ker, in the confusion, escaped among the surrounding brushwood, and, having lost, by this delay, the direction of Wallace's route, made their way towards Loch Earne, on the woody and rugged banks of which they hoped to find security for the night.

CHAPTER XII.

WALLACE AT GASK CASTLE. HIS DREAM. DEATH
OF BUTLER. WALLACE GAINS THE TORWOOD.

Forty men conveyed the dead body of Sir Gerald Heron back to Perth. Butler was grieved for his death ; “ But,” said he, “ Wallace cannot be far off, and these woods can afford him but little concealment or defence ; so that, in order to capture him, we have but to keep the ground constantly beset.” Parties were posted accordingly for the night at Dalreoch and Dupplin.

Wallace, in the mean time, after seeking as long and as far as he could venture, for his two associates, fearing that they were taken or killed, made his way, with a heavy heart, to Gask Castle, where, as it was free from enemies, he and his party, now only thirteen, proceeded to take up their quarters for a time, and, with two sheep caught from a neighbouring fold, contrived to pre-

pare a repast, of which they were greatly in need.

When their hunger was appeased, they began to think of taking repose, and arranged that two of their number, in turn, should watch while the others rested, settling by lot who should be the sentinels. Wallace was one of those to whom it first fell to sleep. As he lay down, his mind was filled with melancholy thoughts ; he reflected that his little band was almost brought to nothing ; that two of his staunchest adherents had disappeared ; that he had little prospect of collecting fresh forces ; and that, consequently, he could entertain but small hope of realizing his plans for the deliverance of his country. Overwhelmed with these gloomy considerations, he thought, after he fell asleep, that he heard horns in the neighbouring wood ; that he sent out his men, one after the other, to ascertain the cause of the noise, and that none of them returned ; and that, as he remained alone, there suddenly rose before him the form of a human body, bearing in its hand its own head, which, after attentively considering the features, he recognized as that of Fawdoun, when the figure slowly raised its hand, and hurled the head at him. The action awoke him ; he started up, and resolved

to make his way out from the building, which he accordingly quitted by a side staircase, leaving his men in the hall. To his other anxious reflections, as he wandered through the wood, was added grief that he had been obliged to put Fawdoun to death, but he consoled himself with the consciousness that he had done what he thought right in the emergency.

In the morning, as he reached the banks of the Earne, he fell in with Sir John Butler, who, eager for Wallace's capture, had ridden forth early, and alone, to explore the fords of the river. As he did not know Wallace personally, he asked him who he was.

"I am a true man," replied Wallace, "and am pursuing my way towards Doune, the dwelling of Sir John Stewart."

"I doubt thy truth," retorted Butler, "and suspect that thou art one of Wallace's followers, the marauding outlaw. I make thee my prisoner," added he, and was going to lay hands on the chief, when Wallace, drawing his sword, struck him on the thigh, severing the limb in two, and then, seizing his bridle, swept his head from his shoulders.

At this instant one of Butler's men, who had

also ridden out to explore, came up, and, seeing Butler's fall, galloped towards Wallace with his spear in rest; but Wallace snatched the spear from his hand, and, springing on Butler's swift horse, rode off before the man could make a second attack on him with his sword.

Believing, however, that it was Wallace with whom he had encountered, he returned to his party, and raised a hue and cry after the fugitive. Pursuers were spread in all directions, and, though his horse was strong, and he was well acquainted with the country, yet he was greatly afraid of being surprised before he could gain a place of safety. He alighted at the Black Ford, and allowed his horse to rest a while. Just as he was remounting, a party of his enemies, who had been directed to the point, came hotly upon him, but he was enabled to make a stand in a place where he could not be surrounded, and, having slain the foremost of his assailants, again rode off ahead of them. Coming to a moss, his horse sank, and he was obliged to abandon him, when, pursuing his way on foot, and occasionally concealing himself among the long heather, he struck off towards the Forth, and, knowing that Stirling Bridge was guarded by the enemy, took the direction of Cam-

buskenneth, where he swam safely across the river.

Nearly exhausted with fatigue and hunger, he reached, by dawn on the following morning, the house of a widow, whom he knew, in the Torwood, an extensive forest in Stirlingshire. Here he was gladly received and sheltered, and found that rest and food of which he stood so much in need.

Book III.

CHAPTER I.

WALLACE IN CONCEALMENT. HE HAS ANOTHER
CONVERSATION WITH HIS UNCLE.

When Wallace was sufficiently refreshed, he began to feel solicitous about his men, and despatched a messenger to Gask Castle to ascertain if they were still there.

The widow could hardly venture, for fear of the English who traversed the country, to keep Wallace constantly in her house, and he was accordingly concealed at times, when any danger was apprehended, in an obscure part of the wood, and frequently in the cavity of an old oak which was at no great distance from the widow's residence. The widow had three sons, all ready to serve him; two of whom kept watch about his retreat, while

the third went to Dunipace to inform his uncle, the ecclesiastic, of his arrival in the Torwood.

His uncle immediately came to visit him. When he reached the widow's cottage, Wallace was asleep in his retreat, to which the two young men conducted him.

“Alas!” said he to himself, as he contemplated him sleeping, “here is a young man, who hopes, by the might of his arm, to repress the whole power of England; he is now, by the ill favour of fortune, left without a single follower; and a woman might kill him with a potsherd, as Abimelech was slain of old.”

A rustling which his uncle made in passing through the trees, awoke Wallace, and they took a walk in the wood together.

“Art thou not wearied,” inquired his uncle, “with thy expeditions through the country, and thy encounters with enemies so much stronger than thyself?”

“I am indeed nearly exhausted, my dear uncle,” replied Wallace; “I had almost given up hope of escaping with life. But Fortune, though she has not been very favourable, cannot have been altogether hostile to me, or I should never have made my way from Perth hither. All that I have done and

suffered before, is nothing to what I have attempted and experienced on this last occasion. I am bruised with strokes received in combat; I have suffered from loss of blood; I was obliged to plunge into cold water when I was warm; and I have been surrounded with perils as scarcely ever man was before. But I have been less concerned at my own sufferings and dangers than at the loss of my men, who, by adhering to me, have either encountered death, or are still in jeopardy."

"And does not your present condition, my dear nephew," said the ecclesiastic, "convince you that it is hopeless to persevere in the career on which you have entered? You are without supporters, and, even if you could gather a force about you, and make head against the stranger for a time, do you not suppose that Edward would still find means to put a stop to your progress, and that, rather than allow you to establish yourself in power, he would throw the whole force of his kingdom on our country to overwhelm us? Will it not be wiser and better for you to make submission to him as others have done? He may then (for, being brave himself, he doubtless admires bravery in others) grant you an honourable settlement, perhaps a barony, and you may in such a position,

with your talents and energy, render yourself one of the most powerful adherents to his crown."

"It is in vain," replied Wallace, "to urge me with such arguments. I like better to combat with the English who slew my father than receive the highest favour from their king. I regret that I have had no better success, and that I have lost so many faithful and noble-spirited followers; but I will still continue the struggle; I will aid in the delivery of my country from unprincipled oppression, or perish in repeated efforts in her cause. I reminded you once before, my dear uncle, of the impressions which you gave me, in my boyhood, of the value of liberty; and I must ask you again whether what you said is not as just now as it was then. Would it not be better for Scotland to have her own sovereign, and to hold up her head as an independent kingdom, than to groan under the tyrannical yoke of a usurper? Shall we make no efforts to bring about such a state of things? Shall we forget all that Greek and Roman history has taught us of patriotism? Is anything necessary for our restoration but union among our powerful ones? Have we not arms to act effectually, if we but act in concert?"

The ecclesiastic saw that it was in vain to oppose

resolutions and principles so fixed in his nephew's mind, and, therefore, determined on leaving him to take his own course.

As the dialogue concluded, Wallace was cheered and encouraged by the arrival of Ker and Stephen of Ireland, who were delighted at rejoining their chief. They told him of the death of Sir Gerald Heron, of their wanderings through the country in search of their leader, and of the end which was put to their perplexity by the offer of a true Scot to guide them to Dunipace, whither they were going when they chanced to light on Wallace in his present retreat.

At this time the messenger returned that Wallace had sent to Gask Castle, and brought word that he had found the castle in good condition; that he had seen no marks of fighting within the walls, though he had observed many on the outside, as well as the dead body of Wallace's horse on the road; but that he could gain no tidings of the men whom Wallace had left.

CHAPTER II.

WALLACE MEETS WITH SIR JOHN GRAHAME.

Wallace soon resolved upon quitting the forest, and engaging in new scenes of action. He was furnished with a supply of money by his uncle, and some of his other relations with whom he had found means to communicate ; the two elder sons of the widow were ready to accompany him ; and, attended by them, with Ker and Stephen of Ireland, he proceeded towards the west, where he hoped to find the Scotch more ready to support him than he had found them in the neighbourhood of Perth.

The first place at which he made any stay, in his way towards Clydesdale, was Dundaff Castle, which, with the lands of Strathblane and Strathcarron, was held by Sir John Grahame, an old knight, who had distinguished himself at the battle of Largs, and who, though he had not taken the

oath of allegiance to Edward, had yet found it necessary, for the peace of his declining days, to remain quiet, and pay tribute to the ruling power. He had a son, also named John, who had been knighted, when he was little more than a boy, at Berwick, for his bravery in an encounter on the borders with the Percys of Northumberland. Here Wallace was entertained, for three days and nights, with the most liberal hospitality, and the old chief, whose heart was with Wallace in his aspirations for the delivery of Scotland, saw, with the greatest pleasure, that he and his son John regarded each other with the sincerest feelings of esteem and affection, and were fast entering into a warm and close friendship. These sentiments the father encouraged and cherished with such effect, that, before Wallace's departure, the two young men took an oath of mutual fidelity over a shield, in the old man's presence, promising to be true shields or defenders one to the other to the end of their lives.

When Wallace was about to take his leave, Sir John the younger would have accompanied him, but Wallace, from better experience of the state of things, counselled him to make for the present no open demonstration of his intentions, but to remain

with his father until he himself should have ascertained what force he was likely to muster among his friends in Clydesdale; and to this proposal Grahame at last assented, promising to be ready for action, at the head of his father's vassals, whenever he should receive intelligence that his co-operation was desired.

On quitting Dundaff, Wallace and his four adherents proceeded to Bothwell, where he lodged at the house of a man named Crawford, from whom he gained much information as to the condition of the country. He then went forward to Gilbank, where another of his uncles, commonly called Auchinleck, brother to the Sheriff of Ayr, resided. From hence he dispatched Ker, to find, if possible, his old friend Robert Boyd, and to acquaint Sir Ronald of Corsbie, Sir Bryce Blair, and Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, with his condition and views, and to arrange means of communication with them. In the promotion of these objects, John Blair the priest, his old school-fellow, was confidentially and frequently employed.

In the mean time news had spread among the English of the burning of Kinclaven Castle, the deaths of Sir Gerald Heron and Butler at Perth, and the slaughters in the skirmishes at Shortwood

Shaw, and the parts adjacent. This intelligence created some consternation, but as Wallace had not been seen by any of the English after his departure from Gask Castle, it was generally supposed that he must have been drowned in attempting to cross the Forth. Another report, arising probably from the occurrences attendant on the death of Fawdoun, stated that he had been slain in a mutiny of his followers. On the whole it was commonly believed by the English that their great enemy must have perished. But Percy, the governor of Ayr, who made all possible inquiries to ascertain the truth, was of a different opinion, having no doubt that Wallace's sagacity and energy had rescued him from his perils, and that he would appear again to make farther attempts on those whom he chose to have for adversaries.

“Would he but be King Edward's liegeman,” said he, “instead of his foe, our rule over Scotland might have a better chance of being established in security.”

Sir John Stewart was appointed Governor of Perth in the room of Sir James Butler.

CHAPTER III.

MARIAN BRAIDFOOT.

Wallace remained at Gilbank till after Christmas, and, as it was at no great distance from Lanark, he often made expeditions thither, sometimes alone, and sometimes with his associates, for amusement.

The Sheriff or Governor of Lanarkshire, in those days, was an Englishman named Hazelrigg, resident in Lanark, a man of little moral principle, and of a tyrannical disposition, who had made himself much feared and hated by the people.

There lived in Lanark, at that time, a young woman of great beauty and amiableness, a daughter of Hugh Braidfoot of Lamington, who, as well as his wife, had been some time dead, but who was remembered with much respect, as a man of integrity and honour, by the people of the neighbourhood. She inherited her father's property, and

had purchased protection of the English by paying an annual tribute. Hazelrigg, the Governor, had acted ill towards her ; he had occasioned the death of her brother, who should have been his father's heir ; he exacted from her more taxes than it was just for her to pay ; and it was believed that he thought of forcing her to marry his eldest son. But having no near relative to defend her, she was obliged to endure his proceedings with patience ; and such was her own humility of mind, and meekness of disposition, that she was unwilling to complain unless she was compelled ; while her friends also feared that remonstrances on their parts might provoke the Governor to additional harshness, not only towards herself, but towards others.

This lady Wallace had seen as she was on her way to the church, and had been struck with her beauty and graceful bearing. He made inquiries respecting her, and discovered that she was of excellent parentage and descent. He felt strongly attracted towards her, but was unwilling to indulge his inclination, reflecting, not only how he had been deceived by the last object of his affections at Perth, but how improper it would be for him, in his present uncertain condition, and with the objects that he had in view in regard to his coun-

try, to involve himself in matrimonial engagements. Sometimes he thought of fleeing from the place, that he might never see her more, but he could not gather resolution to carry this thought into effect.

At last he spoke to Ker on the subject. "As you like the lady," said Ker, "and are satisfied with her character and lineage, why should you not offer her marriage? You have been deceived by one woman, but you need hardly fear being deceived by another, who is held in so much esteem."

"Would that I could see an end of these wars and disturbances," said Wallace; "and behold our country restored to its proper and rightful condition, and I might then think of settling down as a quiet country house-holder. But at present an entanglement of this kind is what I ought rather to shun than to meditate. I ought to persist in adherence to my schemes of action, until I either attain success, or convince myself that to succeed is impossible. Attachment to a bride, and domestic cares, would but engross my attention, and leave me only half a mind to devote to any projects for the public."

"Well," rejoined Ker, "if you make advances to her, it is not necessary that you should enter

into matrimonial bonds at this very time. You may visit her, and confer with her, and tell her of your views and hopes, and secure her affection, deferring the celebration of marriage to some future day."

This counsel was so much in agreement with Wallace's own feelings and inclinations, that he could not forbear compliance with it. He found no difficulty in procuring access to the lady through some of his friends, and, as they were pleased with one another at their first interview, he afterwards visited her frequently. But he was obliged to make his visits as little publicly as possible, because Hazelrigg, with his designs on her for his son, had his eyes on her proceedings, and was anxious to prevent her from doing anything that might interfere with his object. Wallace, therefore, used to enter her house by a private way through a garden.

She threw herself entirely upon his honour, and professed herself ready, as his wife, to devote her life to his service. Wallace told her his reasons for not wishing to marry immediately, and she admitted the justice of them; and it was thus understood between them that they were engaged to each other, but that their marriage was to be deferred till a more favourable time.

CHAPTER IV.

AN EXPEDITION AND A BATTLE.

One day Wallace rode over, attended by his four companions, to Torheid, where Thomas Halliday, a cousin of his, and a large landed-proprietor, resided. Here he was well received, and met with Edward Little, whom he had not seen since he parted with him and Boyd to visit the Earl of Lennox.

When they had enjoyed one another's company here for three days, they projected an expedition to Lochmaben Castle in Dumfrieshire. With their retainers, they formed a company of sixteen, all of whom, with the exception of Halliday, Little, and Ker, Wallace left, when they approached the place, in an adjoining forest called Knockwood. The four rode forward into the town, and put up at an inn, from whence, after having ordered dinner, they went to hear mass at the church, dreading no

interruption from the English or any other party.

During their absence, young Clifford, cousin to the Lord Clifford, and four other young men of his train, happened to alight at the inn. He was a presuming youth, proud of some success which he had had at tilting, and ready for any mischievous pranks. He asked the landlady whose fine horses those were in the stable, and she replied that they belonged to four gentlemen that had come from the west.

“What demon,” said he, “tempts Scotchmen to ride such flashy beasts?” and, as soon as he had uttered the words, cut off a large portion of the four horses’ tails.

Wallace and his friends soon after returned, and, finding the animals bleeding, and learning who had committed the outrage, immediately mounted and pursued after the party. As Wallace drew near them, he addressed them, though enraged, in a jocular tone, saying, “My good friends, stay till I make you a fair return for the operation which you have been kind enough to perform on our horses. I shall not offer you any fee, but shall repay one experiment by another; and, as you have shown us how the men of your country let blood, I will

show you how we of this country let it." Thus speaking, with his sword drawn, he overtook Clifford, and cleft his head to the neck, cutting down with a second blow one of his followers, while Halliday and his companions despatched the other three.

They then returned to the inn, and, taking the horses of Clifford and his party with them, as well as their own mutilated beasts, paid their reckoning, and rode off without waiting to dine; for they considered that the death of Clifford must soon become known, and that parties would immediately be sent in pursuit of them. Nor were they deceived in their supposition; for a force of a hundred and fifty men was speedily sent from Lochmaben in search of Wallace and his followers, who rode straight to the Knockwood to join the rest of their party; but, as the wood was small, and could afford but little protection, Wallace recommended that they should seek some stronger position; and they accordingly led their horses up a height to a place called Easter Muir, being greatly afraid, at the same time, that the wounded animals would faint on the way.

It was not long before the English force appeared, clad in glittering armour; and their mounted

archers, as they came up, discharged their long arrows, and wounded two of Wallace's men. The chief, seeing his friends bleed, was enraged, and headed a charge against the enemy, in which the Scots bore down sixteen of their opponents, and, continuing the strife, disabled fifteen more. The rest were seized with a panic, and fled; and the Scots meditated pursuit, but Halliday discovered another body of English awaiting them on another quarter, and advised Wallace to retreat.

The Scots moved off towards the Torheid; the English started in pursuit. Sir Hugh Moreland, one of the most esteemed warriors from the north of England, well armed and mounted, was at the head of the pursuers. Wallace, seeing how his foes were coming on, and thinking it well to rid himself, if possible, of their leader, caused his troop, after a while, to halt, and, taking post under a large oak, and awaiting Moreland's approach, he rushed forth on him as he came up, and clove his shoulder with one stroke of his two-handed sword. He then leaped on Moreland's horse, for his own was exhausted by fatigue and loss of blood, but could not succeed in getting off before the English came up and surrounded him. His men, however, soon hurried to his rescue; and the encounter was

prolonged for some time with great fury on both sides. Halliday, whose horse was also spent, and who had not been able to secure another, maintained the combat on foot, and did great execution. Wallace rode through the enemy with Moreland's spear, with which he killed three before it was broken, and then, resuming his sword, he dealt death with it on all sides. Every stroke despatched a foe; till at length the English, dismayed at their losses, and finding that they were unable to dislodge the Scots from their position, resolved on withdrawing; being amazed at the power of Wallace, who had felled one of the stoutest English captains at a stroke, and had mowed down their troopers as a mower cuts grass.

The English had not all been able to make their way through the wood together. Graystock, the second in command, who came up with a second party as the first were retiring, upbraided his countrymen for giving way to so small a number, and vowed that he would avenge those who had fallen. But Wallace's men had now had time to mount the fresher horses of their adversaries, and to take a short rest; and, as he had lost none, and only five were wounded, Wallace saw the enemy coming behind him without much apprehension,

trusting to resist even if they overtook him with their whole force at once. The English, however, from the route which the Scots pursued, were unable to advance upon them in a body, and, from what some of them had previously experienced, were unwilling to assail them in small parties. Wallace himself rode somewhat in the rear, and was easily known by the English from being mounted on Moreland's horse. One of them, who had been in the former encounter, rode up to Graystock, and said,

“That is the man that slew so many of our troop. If his horse does not fail him, he will think nothing of riding through a thousand of us. It will be better for you to desist from going after him, for you may possibly repent if you come in contact with him.”

Graystock was deaf to all remonstrances, and reaching a place that he thought would be favourable for an attack, he resolved on trying his strength with the foe. But Wallace was careful not to hazard a pitched battle, or to expose his men to open peril.

It had chanced, however, that Sir John Grahame had ridden over the preceding night, with thirty retainers, to Torheid, and had met, on

his way, with Sir Roger Kirkpatrick of Torthorald, a relation of Wallace by the mother's side, who, from disagreements with the English, had been for the last six months in Eskdale Wood at the head of a few insurrectionary followers. Sir John, having heard at Torheid whither Wallace had gone, rode off in search of him, and was joined by Kirkpatrick with twenty of his men. They came up with Wallace at the very time when Graystock was meditating an assault, and greetings were scarcely exchanged when the three charged at once into the centre of the enemy, and threw them into such complete disorder that resistance to the Scots was no longer possible. Some fell by the sword; some were trampled down in the confusion; and the rest fled. Graystock mounted a fresh horse, and, with a few of his men who still held together, endeavoured to reach a place of safety.

Wallace, seeing Sir John engaged in cutting down the fugitives, said to him, "It is but folly, my friend, to waste time in killing the common men while the leaders are escaping. Your horse is fresh, as well as your followers; pursue and disperse yon large body, among whom doubtless you will find the chief."

Sir John at first thought Wallace somewhat

peremptory, but afterwards executed his directions with alacrity. Kirkpatrick followed in his track; the fleeing enemy were soon overtaken; Graystock was killed by Sir John; and the whole of the English were put to the rout. Those who escaped sought refuge at the Knockwood, the place which the Scots had lately quitted.

This battle was fought near Queensbury. When it was over, Wallace asked pardon of Sir John for the warmth with which he had addressed him in the excitement of the contest. "I should not have urged to action," said he, "one who was so willing to act himself."

"Say no more of it," replied Sir John; "you had nothing in view but our advantage, and you could see better than I what was best to be done. I am quite willing to take instructions from you; and you shall be my father in arms."

Kirkpatrick also thanked Wallace for the excellent directions which he had given, and the several parties, congratulating each other, began to think of seeking quarters for the night.

CHAPTER V.

LOCHMABEN CASTLE TAKEN.

Wallace, being consulted as to the mode in which they should act, advised that they should proceed without delay to surprise the castle of Lochmaben, representing that, as the garrison had been drawn out to meet them in the field, and had suffered so much in the recent encounters, they might, if they could reach the fortress in advance of the fugitives, get possession of it before any means could be adopted for its defence.

To this proposal they at once assented; and Thomas Halliday, who was best acquainted with the country, was chosen to be their guide. Calling one of his followers, John Watson, who, having been pressed into the service of the English, had been for some time a sojourner in the castle, he hastened forward, and the two rode smartly up to the gate together. Watson knocked, and the

porter, who knew him, asked him, through a wicket, what tidings he brought, or what was his pleasure.

“Open the gate,” said Watson, “for the Captain is on the road.” The porter imprudently complied, when Halliday, rushing forward, seized him by the neck, and threw him into the ditch. Watson possessed himself of the keys, and gave free access to Wallace and the rest, who now came up, and found nobody in the castle but women and servants.

The place was well stored with provisions, among which was abundance of ale and wine; and they enjoyed a sumptuous repast after the fatigues of the day. By degrees, stragglers from their discomfited enemies began to appear before the castle; all were admitted by Watson, who acted as porter, as they came up; and being confined in the castle yard, were, when the Scots had ended their meal, indiscriminately put to the sword.

This fortress was deemed so important an acquisition, that Wallace thought it advisable to leave a garrison in it; and a relative of Halliday's, named Johnston, who lived in the neighbourhood, was appointed commander, with injunctions to defend it against all assailants.

CHAPTER VI.

CRAWFORD CASTLE.

As soon as things were arranged at Lochmaben, Wallace and Sir John Grahame, attended by forty men, rode off to Torheid, from whence, after a short stay, they proceeded to Crawford Muir. Halliday, in the meantime, went home, none of the English being aware that he had been engaged in the recent encounters. Kirkpatrick betook himself to Eskdale wood, where he hoped to find security as before.

As Wallace and Sir John reached the edge of Crawford Muir, and were directing their course towards the Clyde, Wallace observed to his companion, "I wish that we could make an attempt on Crawford Castle with any hope of success. What think you, Sir John? Is anything of the kind practicable?"

"If the garrison, or a large number of them, be away on any account," observed Sir John, "we might possibly surprise the place. Martindale, a

Cumberland man, is the governor, but I know not what force he has with him."

"I will ride forward," said Wallace, "and ascertain the state of things; and we will then act as circumstances may warrant."

Taking with him Edward Little, accordingly, he went on in advance. They soon arrived at a tavern, not far from Crawford, where a woman, who was standing at the door, advised them, if they were Scots, to pass on, as a party of English from the castle had been drinking there for some time, and were now vowing vengeance on the Scots for the taking of Lochmaben, in which they suspected, they said, that Wallace had been concerned. "They are furious," added she, "at the number of English that have been killed, but I hope to live to see the death of still more."

"How many men are in the fortress?" asked Wallace, who found, from her language, that she was a Scotchwoman, and judged, from her manner, that she was earnest for the good of her country.

"Scarcely any one is left to defend it," said she; "for some are away on a distant expedition, and more than a score of those who have been left in charge of the place, are carousing in this change-house. Would that the Scots could take it out of their hands!"

Wallace went back to Sir John, and when he had told him how matters stood, the two proceeded with their followers towards the tavern. Wallace went in among the company, and said, "Good day to you."

"You wish us good day," replied one of them, "but you look too grim for a merry party. You must be a Scot. The devil take the whole nation!"

"Nay, he shall take some of you first," exclaimed Wallace, and drawing his two-handed sword, began at once to make havoc among them, and so well was he seconded by Little and the others, that fifteen were killed within the house, and five outside. Sir John rode on to the castle, and setting fire to the gate, easily effected an entrance, there being indeed few in the place besides women and children. They found little provision, but nevertheless remained there for the night, bringing what they needed from the inn.

Next day they carried off whatever spoil was worth removing, set fire to the wood-work, and pulled down as much of the walls as they could; and having thus rendered it useless as a fortress for the present, they rode away, with much rejoicing, to Dundaff.

CHAPTER VII.

WALLACE MARRIED. YOUNG HAZELRIGG KILLED.
DEATH OF WALLACE'S WIFE.

Wallace resided at Dundaff, with his friend Sir John Grahame, till February in the following year, 1297, when he quitted that place for Gilbank, from whence he made frequent visits to Marian Braidfoot, at Lanark.

He was as much pleased as before with the society of his betrothed, and was still more divided in his thoughts as to what course of life he should adopt. Sometimes he meditated relinquishing war-like pursuits altogether, and settling himself in quiet with the lady of his choice. Sometimes he would feel inclined to flee from her presence, and make the battle-field his home. Sometimes he felt indisposed to further attempts in arms; from the slight effects of those which he had already made; sometimes he reflected how cowardly it would be

thought in him by his friends to abandon the cause to which he had expressed such resolution to devote himself. But at last he determined on satisfying both his inclinations ; he resolved to marry, and reside with his wife for a time, and then to resume his warlike pursuits. He and Marian were privately united, and John Blair, his old friend, performed the ceremony.

He enjoyed great happiness in the society of his wife, and continued with her till a daughter was born to them. But he could not live at ease, as long as foreigners were tyrannising over his country. He grew impatient of inactivity, and was becoming uncontrollably eager to return to the strife, when affairs occurred that drew him forth in all his former spirit and energy.

He was obliged to live in great retirement with his wife, for fear of Hazelrigg and the English. But their union could not be perpetually concealed. Hazlerigg found that the heiress of Lamington was not to be obtained for his son ; and those whom he employed as spies, easily learned that she was married to another. For some time after this discovery, however, Hazelrigg made no open demonstrations of seeking vengeance ; and Wallace, as he grew more disposed to return to action, and had been for

some time unmolested, became less solicitous to keep himself from Hazelrigg's notice. Sir John Grahame had one day ridden over to Gilbank, as he often did, to pay Wallace a visit. He happened, on this occasion, to be attended by fifteen followers. Wallace and he resolved on going to Lanark together to hear mass. Wallace took with him nine men; and the whole company, as was then much the fashion, was dressed in green, Wallace having his armour and sword, for fear of any mischance, concealed under his green mantle. Young Hazelrigg having noticed their appearance, and having been told that the most distinguished-looking of them was he that had married Marian Braidfoot, instigated Sir Robert Thorn, a crafty knight attached to him, to insult Wallace on his return from the church. Sir Robert delegated the execution of this commission to one of Hazelrigg's men, a fellow that was counted the strongest and boldest of all his force. This person, walking up to Wallace as he was coming from church, said to him, "Good day, monsieur."

"Whom do you call monsieur?" asked Wallace;
"do you mean to be impertinent?"

"Why," replied the other, "are you not a foreigner, just come from outlandish parts?"

“No,” answered Wallace.

“I crave pardon, then,” rejoined the fellow; “I took you, from your dress, for an ambassador newly arrived.”

“Such pardon as I care to give,” said Wallace, “you shall have; and that you may know me to be a Scot, I will give you the Gaelic salutation, ‘Good morning, if you please, lazy laird, and God bless you!’”

Wallace was unwilling to raise a disturbance, but at last one of Hazelrigg’s men made a snatch at Wallace’s sword, when, after some further objurgations on either side, the Scots saw, from the malicious looks and increasing numbers of the English, that it would be impossible longer to refrain from violence. Sir Robert Thorn, also, and young Hazelrigg were seen approaching to encourage the party. Wallace therefore drew his sword, and his companions followed his example. A fierce combat ensued, in which Wallace distributed his blows with fearful and destructive energy. Having despatched two of his adversaries, he struck off the right hand of a third, when the blood spouted from the arm into his face in such a copious stream, as almost blinded him, and his enemies thought that they had him at their mercy, but Sir John Grahame kept

them effectually at bay until Wallace recovered his sight. The Scots must have been at length, however, overpowered by increasing numbers, had they not been near Wallace's wife's house, who, happening to be there, and seeing the affray, gave orders to open the gate, to which Wallace and his party effected a retreat, keeping their faces towards the enemy, and fighting without remission, and which was closed as soon as they were all within it. Passing through the house, they were enabled to baffle their assailants entirely, and took their way to Cartlane Craigs, where they found such strongholds as rendered them secure from molestation.

Hazelrigg the elder, at the time of this affray, was not in Lanark, but on hearing of it, and of the slaughter among his men, he ordered Wallace's wife to be brought before him for having assisted Wallace to escape; and, as she could not deny the charge, he sentenced her to be instantly executed.

CHAPTER VIII.

WALLACE'S GRIEF. HIS REVENGE.

Wallace remained ignorant of the fate of his wife until intelligence of it was brought him by a woman of her household. His grief was excessive; and that of Sir John Grahame, who sympathized with his friend, was little less. All his followers, indeed, felt overwhelmed with sorrow at his calamity. But in Wallace's breast resentment and longing for revenge soon took the place of grief. He became better able to comfort them than they to comfort him.

"To lament," said he, "is useless. The past is without remedy. The dead cannot be restored to life. We must think of the future, and resolve on action. I will take no rest till this deed be avenged, or till I die in the attempt to avenge it. To the English, who are everywhere alike, not rulers, but tyrants over my country, I am hence-

forth a determined enemy. There shall be no more hesitation on my part whether to act against them or not. In punishing this outrage, and in daring whatever consequences may result from its punishment, I undertake, while I vindicate my own wrongs, the cause of a whole nation.

“The first attempt that we make, must be against Hazelrigg, the author of this unmanly injustice to a woman.”

All his companions declared themselves ready to follow whithersoever he might lead them. Auchinleck, too, who, having heard of Wallace's loss, had set out to condole with him, joined him at this time with ten of his followers, who were a welcome reinforcement.

A council of war being held, it was resolved to proceed against the Hazelriggs without delay. As they approached the town, the Scots separated into three bodies, and entered the place by different ways. Sir John Grahame made for the dwelling of Sir Robert Thorn; Wallace for that of Hazelrigg, who, in the dead of night, was startled by the door of his house being burst in with a noise like that of thunder.

“What din is this?” said he, and proceeded to call up his household; but the Scots had spread

themselves through the building, and his voice was stopped by the iron grasp of Wallace about his throat, crying, "You shall now make full atonement for your cowardly murder of my wife. Blood for blood is but fair exaction." Wallace then dragged him forth into the street, and cut off his head before the people of the town, whom the alarm had roused from their sleep. Young Hazelrigg, who was in the same house, met with a like fate.

Sir Robert Thorn was slain, and his house burnt to the ground, by Sir John Grahame. Auchinleck exerted himself with vigour and effect in other quarters.

The garrison was at length roused, and got under arms, and endeavoured to repel Wallace and his party; but the population of the town were so disgusted at Hazelrigg's barbarity, and at all that had been concerned with him in it, that they rose in one mass against the soldiery, who, unable to resist the general hostility, were driven from the town, after some ineffectual struggles, with great slaughter. Two hundred and fifty of their number were left dead in the streets.

Book IV.

CHAPTER I.

WALLACE EXTENDS HIS MILITARY OPERATIONS.

It was not till this rising at Lanark that Wallace's name can be said to have become known to his country. How able he was as a combatant, and how much he was likely to accomplish, if fortune favoured him, in the cause of Scotland, was clearly seen by his private friends, but was as yet concealed from the Caledonian world at large. He had conducted several enterprises, and had engaged, with uniform and resistless success, in various kinds of encounters, but the reputation which he had gained in these undertakings was local and confined, and had rather been obscured than celebrated by his associates, through the caution and secrecy which dread of their enemies had rendered it necessary for them to observe.

But his course of proceeding was now to undergo a change. When it was spread abroad that he had sufficient strength to take possession of a country

town, and that the inhabitants of the place and the neighbourhood had risen in his support, numbers, from all parts of the land, showed themselves ready to join his standard, and to own him as a leader ; and he felt himself at liberty to publish his desire and intention to deliver his country, if possible, from the yoke under which she laboured.

Richard Wallace of Riccartoun, and Robert Boyd, came immediately to join him with such force as they could collect from Kyle and Cunningham, among which there were not less than a thousand horsemen. Sir John Grahame, Sir John of Tinto, and Auchinleck, assembled about three thousand mounted troops, and a large concourse on foot, of whom many, however, were insufficiently armed. Sir Ronald Crawford would gladly have been with him, but was prevented from supporting him openly by the bond which he had given to Percy ; yet he sent him reinforcements secretly, and endeavoured to promote his success by every means in his power

There was then at the Court of Edward, in the capacity of pursuivant, a Scotsman named Walter Grimsby, a native of Kyle, who had long been desirous to detach himself from the English, and who, on hearing of Wallace's proceedings, fled secretly into Scotland, and offered his services to

the Scottish chief. He was strong, and tall of stature, and of a grim and stern aspect. He was well acquainted with the English coast, and had travelled in France, Normandy, and Flanders. He gave Wallace a full account of the state of things in England, and of Edward's disposition towards Scotland. He was well received by all Wallace's party, and was made their standard-bearer.

The lordship of Bothwell, in Lanarkshire, was at this time held by Sir Aymer de Vallence, one of Edward's chiefs, while Earl Murray, the rightful owner, had been obliged to flee, and had taken refuge in Arran. De Vallence, as soon as he heard of Wallace's movements, and his purpose to reassert the independence of Scotland, sent off a despatch to the King with an account of the whole proceedings. Edward was startled at the news, and immediately commenced preparations for another invasion of Scotland, vowing vengeance against all who were in arms, and whom he resolved to treat with the severity merited by rebels. His queen endeavoured to soften him, saying that the Scots were Christians, and deserving of honourable treatment, as they sought only to gain what they justly considered as their rights; but her remonstrances were of no avail.

CHAPTER II.

THE BATTLE OF BIGGAR.

Whilst Wallace and his force were encamped in the vicinity of Lanark, an army of the English, consisting partly of detachments from the neighbouring garrisons, and partly of troops despatched from England, began to assemble to the eastward of him, and took up a position near Biggar. This host was excellently equipped, and was under the command of the Earl of Kent.

Before coming to hostilities, the Earl sent two heralds to Wallace with a written proclamation, stating that, if Wallace would submit unconditionally to King Edward, the King, taking into consideration that he was by birth a gentleman, and a valiant man at arms, would pardon the mischief which he had previously done to the English, and would not only spare his life, but give him a post among the English in which he might main-

tain himself with honour ; but that, if he refused this offer from his majesty, he should be treated, if taken, as a rebel, and hanged on a gibbet. A young squire, a relative of the English queen, accompanied the heralds in disguise, from a desire to obtain a sight of Wallace, and to learn the state of things in the Scottish camp.

Wallace, when he was informed of the arrival of the heralds, called around him some of his friends, and, in their presence, caused the proclamation to be read. He then, with their approbation, indited an answer to the effect that " King Edward, in regard to Scotland, was but a robber, and had no rightful power at all over the kingdom ; that he would make no submission to him, or accept any favour at his hands, but would do his utmost to destroy his forces or expel them from the country ; and that he would be ready for battle before nine on the following morning." The squire who attended the heralds, being recognised by Grimsby, and considered as a spy, was seized and put to death. The heralds were then suffered to depart, but not without being severely blamed for having allowed a spy to accompany them.

The Scottish leader then formed the design of visiting the English army in disguise, and set out,

on this enterprise, without the knowledge of any of his colleagues except Sir John Tinto. On the road to Biggar, he met a man driving a horse with panniers full of earthenware for sale, of whom he purchased his whole stock of goods, and his outer garment, and proceeded, in the guise of an earthenware seller, at the side of the horse, into the English encampment. He was an object of sport to the soldiers, who made jests upon him, broke his jugs, and annoyed him in various ways. But he bore their insults with patience, and, having ascertained all that he wished to know, took his way back, in quiet and safety, to his own army.

When he arrived, he found that his absence had occasioned much concern and apprehension among his followers, who were afraid that he must have been betrayed to the enemy, or put secretly to death; and, as Sir John Tinto was the last person with whom he had been seen in company, suspicion had fallen so strongly upon him, that Sir John Grahame had caused him to be bound and kept under guard; and the common soldiers were clamorous that he should be hanged. Wallace's appearance speedily loosed his bonds; and the business on which he had gone, and which Sir John Tinto had refused to disclose, was imme-

diately made known. Sir John Grahame was somewhat displeased, and said that it was not chieftain-like to expose himself so inconsiderately ; but Wallace replied, with great good humour, that he who would have, must venture ; and that they must all encounter greater perils than he had encountered before they could free Scotland.

They then took rest till daybreak ; when the whole army set forward, divided into three parts, of which Wallace himself, with Boyd and Auchinleck, commanded one ; Sir John Grahame, with Wallace of Riccartoun and Somerville, the second ; and Sir Walter of Newbigging, with his son David and Sir John Tinto, the third. In the front were ranged whatever cavalry they had, and behind them came the footmen, as being but imperfectly armed, and unfit to withstand the first charge. Before they proceeded to action, Wallace called the commanders around him, and charged them to restrain their men from plunder until the contest was decided, “for,” said he, “propensity to pillage has lost many a battle.”

As he finished his injunctions, they observed a body of men marching towards them from the south, equipped with armour and weapons that flashed brilliantly in the morning sun. From the

mode in which they approached, Wallace had little doubt that they were friends, and was soon informed that they were a force led by Halliday and his sons, who had raised a number of followers in Annandale, and by Kirkpatrick and Jardine, who had gathered a large company in Eskdale. The whole amounted to not less than three hundred men, and were received by Wallace and the other chiefs with the greatest delight.

“A hearty welcome to you, gentlemen,” said Wallace, “and may we succeed in putting these false intruders out of our heritage.”

“We will do our best for that purpose,” rejoined they; “you have but to lead, and we will follow.”

The whole Scottish force now moved rapidly forward on the English, who, by the swiftness of the enemy's advance, were taken somewhat by surprise. The onset of the Scots was terrific; and the battle rose with terrible fury round the post of the Earl of Kent. Sir John Grahame, Newbigging, and the whole of the Scottish leaders, were soon engaged hand to hand with the enemy. The English resisted manfully, but were borne down by the Scots with great slaughter. At length the Earl of Kent, after fighting long and valiantly, was struck down by the sword of Wal-

lace, and his men had great difficulty in bearing him off alive. The English standard reeled and fell, and the whole English army was thrown into disorder and took to flight. Some hundreds of them were killed in the action, and many more in the pursuit which followed.

The Scots feasted sumptuously on the field of battle. In the camp of the English was found abundance of provisions, money, jewellery, and other valuable booty, which was to Wallace and his followers a very acceptable supply.

CHAPTER III.

THE SEQUEL TO THE BATTLE.

Wallace had been cautious of allowing the pursuit to be continued too far, lest the English should rally and renew the contest. He purposed to retire to some place of strength, and, having caused the spoil to be removed to Ropis Bog, made his first movement, with his main body, to Davis Shaw.

In the meantime, the English, finding that the pursuit had ceased, had assembled at John's Green, where the Earl of Longcastle, who had succeeded to the chief command, endeavoured to restore order among them. While he was thus engaged, two of the English camp-followers, who, to save themselves from being cut to pieces, had cowered down among the slain, effected their escape to their own army, and told the Earl that the Scots, having eaten and drank heartily,

and being overcome with fatigue, had sunk into drowsiness and inactivity, and might easily be surprised and cut off. This account the Earl was unwilling to believe, observing that the Scottish leader had too much skill and caution to allow himself to be so exposed. Next morning, however, he was persuaded by the Earl of Westmorland, and a knight of Picardy, who had been at Calais with King Edward, to make a movement in advance towards Wallace's position. With these leaders were united Sir Aymer de Vallence, the Earls of Roxburgh and Berwick, and Sir Ralph Grey. At the field of battle they were surprised to find nothing but the bodies of the dead, and began to proceed with greater confidence, trusting that the Scots had retreated to avoid another encounter. But they were speedily undeceived; for Wallace, observing their approach, advanced a short distance to meet them, and then retreated, as if afraid of their superior strength; manœuvring so as to lure them to a point where, in order to come to battle with the Scots, they would have to cross a portion of Ropis Bog. As the surface of the bog was covered in a great measure with moss and long grass, they thought they might venture to march their cavalry across it, but they entered only to sink up to the girths

in mire, so that the front ranks were thrown into utter disorder, when the Scots, some of them hastening round the edge of the morass, and others, who had left their horses in the wood, crossing the firmer parts of it on foot, rushed upon them with impetuous assaults on different quarters. Horse and rider, struggling in the soft soil, or encumbered and rendered helpless in the crowd, were soon smitten down by their fierce assailants. The knight of Picardy, however, found an opportunity of coming to a struggle with Sir John Grahame, and, being a skilful swordsman, gave him some trouble; but Sir John's strength was at last victorious over his adversary's art. The English showed symptoms of an inclination to retreat. Wallace would fain have attacked Sir Aymer de Vallence, but the Earl of Westmorland came between them, and was killed by the stroke which Wallace had intended for the other. Robert Boyd, at the same time, slew a valiant captain from Berwick. The English then gave way at all points, and this second encounter was at an end.

The Earl of Longcastle, with the remains of his force, retreated without delay towards the South, and after halting awhile at Birkhill, crossed the Solway into England.

CHAPTER IV.

WALLACE ELECTED WARDEN OF THE KINGDOM BY
HIS FOLLOWERS. HIS SUCCESSES.

Wallace, after burying the dead, directed his march towards Braidwood, where he held a council of his chieftains, at which it was resolved to proclaim a general meeting of all that had attached themselves to him, and all that were willing to act with him against the English, at Forest Kirk.

Here he was joined by Sir William Douglas, who had been taken prisoner by Edward at Dunbar, and had sworn fealty to him, but was resolved no longer to submit to so unjust and tyrannical a usurper. As he had never appeared in arms against the Scots, he was received with a hearty welcome.

At this meeting it was agreed to acknowledge Wallace as general of the Scottish forces against England, with the title of Warden of Scotland.

He then marched southwards, and, as he passed along, settled things in that part of the country as he thought best. He appointed Scotchmen as sheriffs, and captains of the strongholds, in place of the English, who were obliged to flee. His power was universally acknowledged. The only places that held out against him in Galloway, were Wigton and Cree; but the captain of Wigton made but a short resistance, and stole off to England, leaving everything behind him in disorder. Wallace appointed Adam Gordon commander of the place. The capture of Cree was an undertaking of somewhat greater difficulty. It was a fortress built on the river of the same name, and surrounded on two sides by rocks and water. After some ineffectual attempts had been made upon it, Wallace came himself to survey its position, and immediately conceived a plan by which it might be taken. He waited till night, and then placed a body of men on the land side of the fort, at such a distance from it as to be unseen by its occupants, while he went to the edge of the water with Ker and Stephen of Ireland, who, being excellent swimmers, swam along the river to the foot of the rock, up which they climbed and made their way, while the inmates

were asleep, to the gate. Here the porter was soon despatched, and the drawbridge lowered, when Wallace, sounding his horn, called forward the body of men that he had stationed in readiness; at the head of whom he entered the place, and put to death all the English that were found in it, except a priest and some women. Much booty was discovered, and, as soon as it was removed, Wallace dismantled the building and set fire to it.

The stronghold of Turnberry, of which the commander had gone to Ayr to consult with Percy, was treated in a similar manner. He then proceeded to Cumnock in Ayrshire, and from thence to Lanark, where he held a court of justice for the punishment of such as had been guilty of offences in his absence. He also established his brother's son in possession of his estates.

From Lanark he went again to Cumnock, and fixed his quarters, with a strong garrison, at the Black Crag, a castle that had formerly belonged to the Earls of Dunbar, where he continued to reside for the next three months.

CHAPTER V.

A CONFERENCE. A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

Wallace was now master of Galloway and all the southern part of the country. The English in Scotland, being conscious that they were not strong enough to put him down, and fearing that if he proceeded in his career and made constant additions to his strength, he might cut them off from all communication with their country, began to think that the most prudent measure which they could adopt, would be to make a truce with him; a measure to which they were the rather impelled, by the knowledge that Edward, from the state of his affairs on the continent, was unable at that time to afford them any support.

Earl Percy, at this period, still held Ayr; Anthony Beck, bishop of Durham, ruled over Glasgow; and the Earl of Bothwell had considerable influence in Lanarkshire. These three, in

concert with Sir Aymer de Vallence and the Earl of Stamford, the English Chancellor, made advances to Wallace, who thought proper, for the time, to listen to them; and a meeting was arranged to take place in the Church of Rutherglen. Wallace came to it attended with fifty Scottish archers, well armed, not only with bows and arrows, but with swords and shields, and clad in bright green. He himself wore the dress in which he usually appeared on the field of battle; a coat of chain mail, over which was a surcoat, girded round the waist by a belt, a steel helmet, a collar of the same metal, cases of leather over his legs and thighs, well strengthened with metal plates, and gauntlets of similar construction. From his belt hung his heavy two-handed sword, with a stout-hilted dagger of the finest steel for closer combat.

Before proceeding to business, he caused a mass to be celebrated in the church, at which he and all his men attended. When the English arrived, they were struck with his noble appearance, and the Chancellor, wishing to conciliate him, offered him his hand. Wallace drew back with stately courtesy, and said that he could not take by the hand with apparent friendship any one whom he

must regard as the enemy of his country, and to whom he could not but entertain hostile feelings in his heart. "Let us proceed at once," said he, "without further ceremony, to business. You will please to state, my lord Chancellor, what is the object of our meeting?"

"I am sent by our king," said the Chancellor, "with the consent of the Parliament and barons, to settle a peace."

"It would be but mean in us," rejoined Wallace, "to make peace with you while you occupy that which is ours. Quit claim of our land, to which your king has no right, and peace may be made without difficulty."

"No," said the Chancellor; "I am not come to relinquish our King's rights. If there be anything else which you demand, I might consider whether it may be granted; but our sovereign will assuredly retain that to which he has so fully, by argument and arms, asserted his claim."

"Upon this point," returned Wallace, "we shall but dispute in vain. You wish for peace; I will, with the consent of my own friends, and because I think it may be for the good of my country, make, not a settled peace, but a truce for a year. To say the truth, however, I have

no faith in your king, and do not expect that he will keep any agreement that you may make longer than he may think suitable to his interest."

To this the Chancellor made no reply, and a bond was drawn out to the effect that there should be a cessation of hostilities between the English and the Scots for twelve months from that day, each retaining, during that time, the fortresses and territories which they then held. This bond was signed and sealed in the month of February, 1297.

Wallace left his copy of it in the hands of his uncle, Sir Ronald Crawford, and retired to his castle at Cumnock, having, as he expressed himself to the Chancellor, little confidence in the good faith of the enemy.

CHAPTER VI.

TREACHERY. A VISION.

It was not without reason that Wallace had entertained a suspicion that the truce would be broken. In the month of April, King Edward, who was then at Pontefract, went to Carlisle, to the great surprise of the Scots, to hold a council, and invited thither a great number of English chiefs, but no Scotchman except Sir Aymer de Vallence, one whom every Scot regarded as a double-dealer, true to nothing but his own interest. This person, at once false and cruel, was consulted, among others, as to the course of proceedings which would be most likely to weaken the power of the Scots.

“My advice,” said he, “would be to cut off their leaders. He who now takes precedence among them is both wise and valiant; and this truce, I think, has been but inconsiderately

granted, for it gives the whole nation time to collect and increase its strength, as well as the commanders time to arrange and mature their plans, so that the entire country, after the cessation from hostilities is ended, will be better prepared and more eager for insurrection, than before it began. But it has struck me that the head of the rebellion may be crushed, and the fire of the people repressed by the method which I am going to propose. There are spacious barracks at Ayr, which were built for his majesty's convenience when he was sojourning in that city, and in which there is one large apartment, with doors of such a nature that only one person can enter at a time, and can know nothing of what is passing within until he has entered. In these barracks it would be easy to call a meeting of the Scottish barons, and to make them prisoners in this apartment, one by one, as they should come in. This is a bold measure, and will doubtless be called severe, but it is the only efficient plan that I can conceive for the present emergency; and to desperate diseases must be applied desperate remedies."

Concerning this proposal Earl Percy was asked his opinion.

"The Scots have kept faith with me so long,"

observed he, "that I am unwilling to see any deceitful course adopted towards them. But I must not take their part against my own countrymen, and, if the proceeding which has been suggested be sanctioned by the council, I shall give them no clandestine knowledge of it, but suffer it to take its course. The responsibility will be on the heads of the majority, not on mine, who am but one. If the project is to be carried into effect, I will withdraw at the time, to the eastern part of the country, where I have to hold a conference with Sir Robert de Clifford."

The decision of the council was, to adopt De Vallenge's proposal; and a person named Arnulf, of Southampton, a man of great strength, and of less nicety of feeling than Percy, was appointed to be Governor of Ayr in Percy's absence.

Notice was accordingly given of a Court to be held at Ayr, on the eighteenth day of the following June, at which the Scottish leaders of that district were all desired to attend; and Arnulf undertook to have them all pinioned and imprisoned as they arrived. But more cruel measures were intended than were signified to King Edward, who, when the council was at an end, took his departure for the south.

The real object of this Court was of course kept secret with the utmost care, and the Scots wondered that a Court should be called at all, with so authoritative a summons, during the treaty. Sir Ronald Crawford, the hereditary Sheriff of Ayrshire, called a meeting of his friends, at Monkton Church, to ask their opinions about the purpose of the Court, and how they should conduct themselves in reference to it. Wallace, in his character of Warden, attended the meeting, and was admonished by Prior John, the priest of Monkton, to stay away from the Court, and to keep his friends from it, as the departure of Percy foreboded no good to the Scots.

Wallace went into the church to hear mass, where, after the service was over, he fell asleep, and had a remarkable dream. He thought that he saw an aged and venerable man come towards him, who took him by the hand, and, saying, "I have the charge of thee, my son," presented him with a heavy sword, which glittered like glass, and on the hilt of which was a large topaz, adding, "We tarry here too long; thou must go where much wrong is done." He then transported him to the top of a high mountain, from which he appeared to command a view of the whole world. The old

man then left him, and Wallace, looking around, saw a fire arise, which spread itself over the whole of Scotland. As he watched its progress, a fair woman, of queenly presence, seemed to descend from a cloud, and held out to him a wand of red and green, and touched his face and eyes with a sapphire stone. Around her shone such a flood of light as made the fire seem dim; and she said to him, "You are dear to me, for you are raised by Heaven to help those that are wronged; you will support and deliver your country; be, therefore, of good courage, though your reward on earth may be but small." When she had uttered these words, she handed him a book, and vanished into the cloud from which she had descended. Wallace, on opening the book, found it to be written in letters of brass, and gold, and silver. He attempted to read it, but was unable, and in his concern at the disappointment he awoke.

Leaving the church, he went to seek Prior John, and told him the vision, asking him whether he thought that it was intended to convey instruction, or how he considered that it might be understood. "My son," said he, "I venture on the interpretation of such a dream with fear. But, as far as I may presume to judge, I should conceive that he

who gave thee the sword may have been Saint Andrew, the guardian of Scotland; that thou wast set on a mountain, to denote that thou shalt see clearly what thou oughtest to do; that the great fire signified the troubles of thy country; that the bright queen was the Virgin Mary; that the wand showed superiority in war, intended by the red colour, and in council, betokened by the green; that the sapphire stone was divine assistance; that the book is the career which is before thee, the brass letters indicating trouble, the golden honour, and the silver a bright termination; but thy inability to understand it intimates the difficulties with which thou wilt be met. This is what I should conjecture that thou mayest understand from the vision, but I speak as one in doubt and uncertainty."

Wallace expressed his sense of the Prior's kindness, and withdrew.

CHAPTER VII.

WALLACE'S DANGER AND ESCAPE.

He remained with his uncle that night at Corsbie, from whence they set out the next morning for Ayr. They had ridden some distance, when Wallace bethought him of the bond of peace, and asked his uncle whether he had brought it with him. Sir Ronald replied that he had left it in a chest with some other documents; and Wallace, thinking it prudent to have it with him, proposed, as no one but themselves knew where to find it, to ride back for it. Sir Ronald assenting, he took with him three of the company, and set off at full speed for Corsbie, while Sir Ronald, unapprehensive of evil, pursued his way to the city.

On reaching it, he went at once to the barracks, and entered without hesitation; but he had no sooner passed the door than a cord, with a running

noose, was slipped over his head, and he was drawn up to a beam to hang till he died. Sir Bryce Blair entered next, and was treated in the same manner; then followed Wallace's uncle, and then Sir Neil Montgomery; then several others, of the families of Campbell, Boyd, Barclay, and Stuart, all of whom became victims to the same fatal process, falling by a barbarous massacre in a barbarous age.

Robert Boyd, in the mean time, who had charge of twenty of Wallace's men, went with them to a tavern. Ker, Kneland, and Byrd, had attended Wallace back to Corsbie. Stephen of Ireland, who had command of another party, going in the same direction with Boyd, was accosted on the way by a woman that had, by some means, obtained a knowledge of what had been done in the barracks. "Flee!" said she. "I wish well to you and Scotland; and would save you from destruction. Where is Wallace?"

"He is gone back to Corsbie," said Stephen, "but will soon return."

"Hasten, then," cried the woman, "and withdraw yourselves, with the whole of your men, from the town. I will wait here to warn Wallace." She then explained to Stephen, in a few words,

what had happened to Sir Ronald and the rest ; and Stephen and Boyd, with all their followers, immediately retired to Laglane Wood.

Wallace soon after arrived, and was hurrying, without suspicion, to the barracks, when he was stopped by the woman and informed of the death of his friends, and of the retreat of Stephen of Ireland and Boyd. He was overwhelmed with grief, and equally eager for revenge, but saw that, with his small party, he could do nothing against the force in the town, and that his men had acted wisely in retiring. Learning whither they had gone, he turned his horse in the same direction, and soon joined them.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BURNING OF THE BARRACKS OF AYR.

Arnulf, the new Governor of Ayr, fearing that some disturbance would arise on account of this slaughter, and desiring to attach to himself more strongly such as had supported him in the proceeding, promised that the lands of the dead barons should be divided, as far as was possible, among them, and that every gentleman thought deserving of a portion should be made a knight. A vast number of Englishmen were then in the town, and, for the sake of convenience, it was appointed that they should lodge in the barracks instead of the castle. An abundance of provisions had been collected for their maintenance; they were well furnished with strong ale, brought from Ireland, and wine; and they indulged in great excess both in eating and drinking.

The woman, who had warned Wallace, took note

of this state of things, and, going round among such of the people of Ayr as she knew to be favourable to him, caused them to carry ample supplies of food to Laglane, and to engage to support Wallace in any attempt to take revenge for the deaths of his friends.

Wallace's force being thus increased, he resolved to proceed at once to action. "But," said he to his troop, "though I was elected, some time ago, to be Warden of the party opposed to the English, there are many here who were not witnesses of my election, and whom, by birth and warlike qualifications, and other personal merits, I am willing to consider as well entitled as myself to take the command on the present occasion. I would, therefore, propose that five of the best men of our company should be selected from the rest, and that these five should cast lots among themselves who shall be leader."

All having assented to this proposal, Wallace, Boyd, Crawford, Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, whose father was now dead, and Auchinleck, were set apart from the others; and, lots being cast, the lot fell three times on Wallace; who then stood in the midst of them, and said, "I vow, by all that is sacred, that my uncle's death, and those of my

other countrymen, shall now be avenged, or I will die in the attempt to exact atonement for it. I will neither eat nor drink till I engage in the enterprise; and neither sleep nor sloth shall retard me in the execution of it." All around heard his words with joy, and vowed to follow whithersoever he should lead them.

Wallace then told them what plan of action he thought best, which was, to set fire to the barracks, and to all the houses in which Englishmen were lodged, on the following night. He desired one of the townsmen to go through the streets after it grew dark, and to mark with chalk the door of every house that contained enemies. He next appointed Boyd, with a strong body of men, to keep watch at the gates of the castle, and prevent any force from issuing from it when the fire should cause alarm; and he ordered another party to distribute themselves through the town, and secure the doors of the chalked houses on the outside. He himself, with the remainder of his company, proceeded to the barracks, where, being well supplied with tow, they set light to them in several places, and the sky was soon illumined with a vast blaze. Strict orders had been given to his men by Wallace, to guard every outlet of the burning

edifice, and to allow no one to escape. As he saw the flames ascend, he said, "This is a pleasing sight, and ought to afford us some comfort for what we have suffered on account of our friends."

The scene was frightful; the flames raged with the utmost violence. Many of the English, mad with pain, attempted to escape, but were pushed back into the fire by the Scots with the points of their swords. Others just showed themselves at the outside, and then fell back helpless. Others were stifled as they lay, and never stirred from their beds.

Among the houses chalked by the townsman was a Monastery of the Black Friars, where seven score of the English had lodged themselves, much against the will of the brethren. Notice having been given to the Prior of Wallace's designs on the barracks, he set a watch over his inmates at midnight, and, arming himself and the other friars, proceeded, when he saw the flames arising from the barracks, to set upon the sleeping English with such vigour and effect that most of them were despatched by the sword, while the rest fled naked and terrified into the river that ran near, and almost all perished in the water.

The few men who had been left in the castle

began to issue forth as soon as they knew of the fire. Boyd, who was carefully on the watch, allowed several to pass, and then forced his way into the building and slew the rest. This being done, he left twenty men in the castle, and went with the rest of his force to aid the operations of Wallace ; when, by their united efforts, and those of the other leaders, nearly the whole of the English in the town were destroyed.

This was savage retaliation ; but both Wallace and his friends thought themselves fully justified in repaying cruelty with cruelty.

CHAPTER IX.

BISHOP BECK EXPELLED FROM GLASGOW.

When his men had rested the remainder of the night, Wallace called them together, and said, "Since we are in arms, and ready for action, it may be well for us to make an excursion to Glasgow, where Bishop Beck has called a Court similar to that which was summoned here, and where we have too much reason to dread that others of our friends may have suffered. With the force which we muster we may dislodge Bishop Beck and his garrison, and take Glasgow, like Ayr, under our own command."

He then sent for the principal burgesses, and charged them to keep the castle well guarded till he returned. "For fortresses," said he, "will be excellent bulwarks against the power of Edward, who, if we lose our strongholds, or suffer them to fall to decay, may be able to over-ride our country at his pleasure."

At the head of three hundred Scots, well armed and equipped, and mounted on the best of the horses that had carried the English troopers, Wallace took his way to Glasgow, and passed the bridge across the Clyde, leading to the city, before the English were aware of their approach. The Bishop, when he was informed that enemies were coming, had no doubt that Wallace was at their head, and, assembling his force, amounting to a thousand men, marched forth to meet him. Wallace, in the hope of doing greater execution on the enemy, divided his small force into two bodies, taking himself the command of one, and assigning the other to his uncle Auchinleck, who was well acquainted with the ground, and whom he asked, on making his arrangements, whether he would prefer to meet the Bishop face to face, and ask his blessing, or to go round behind him, and take the tail of his robe.

“I will leave the most honourable post to you,” replied Auchinleck; “for you have perhaps not been confirmed, and may need the Bishop’s benison, while I shall be quite content to look after his train.”

“Very well,” rejoined Wallace, “but try to rejoin us as quickly as possible, and take care, if

you can, that the English may not see us separate, for they may but be the more encouraged ; and the men of Northumberland, remember, are all stout warriors." The uncle and nephew then shook hands and parted, the uncle being accompanied by Adam Wallace of Riccartoun.

Wallace and Boyd led the other division up the principal street towards the castle. The Scots were few in comparison with their adversaries, but the narrowness of the way was in their favour, and a terrible conflict began. Wallace pressed forward with irresistible force, and numbers of the English, though well skilled in arms, fell to the ground before him and his men. Adam Wallace and Auchinleck soon came to his support, and, entering the battle on the flank, separated the enemy into two parties. Wallace had now more room to swing his huge sword around, and tradition still speaks, among the inhabitants of Glasgow, of the overwhelming might with which he then swept down his adversaries on all sides. With others fell Henry of Horncaster, the standard-bearer of the Bishop, whose men were then seized with terror, and a body of four hundred, taking the Bishop with them, fled out of the town by the Friars' Church into a neighbouring wood. Nor

did they make a stand there, but, having merely halted a while to refresh their horses, sped forward to Bothwell. They were, however, pursued by Wallace and his men, who had now slain or scattered the rest, and not a few of them were overtaken and killed; but the most active of them, with Beck himself, effected their escape, chiefly through the shelter afforded them by Sir Aymer de Vallence, towards the borders of England.

Wallace then took his way to Dundaff, where he was made heartily welcome, and gave Sir John Grahame, his host, a full account of all that happened at Ayr and Glasgow. Sir John expressed great regret that he had not been with him to take part in the transactions. He remained at Dundaff five days, during which he received intelligence of various proceedings in other parts of the country.

CHAPTER X.

INVASION OF MAC FADYAN. STIRLING TAKEN.

FATE OF MAC FADYAN.

In the district of Lorn, in Argyleshire, Sir Neil Campbell, who had made no submission to Edward, still kept possession of his lands of Lochow, though the king, in order to gain some control over that part of Scotland, had made a grant of Argyle and Lorn to an Irishman named Mac Fadyan; a grant in which the Duke of Argyle had concurred; for, having been made a nobleman of England by Edward, he hoped to gain greater advantages by residing at the English Court. Sir Duncan Campbell of Lorn, however, resembled Sir Neil of Lochow in resisting the mandate of Edward, and both resolved to oppose any force that might invade their territories.

Mac Fadyan, to gain possession of what had been granted him, landed, at the head of a tumul-

tuary force of several thousand Irish and renegade Scots, in Lorn, where they ravaged the country without mercy, destroying the dwellings and the lives of all that dared to oppose them. At length he entered Lochow, but Sir Neil defended himself with great resolution and skill, and succeeded in luring his adversary to the entrance of Bradher pass, a difficult and perilous defile, where, after crossing the Awe, he broke down the bridge behind him, and thus placed himself in one of the strongest positions; for he had, on one side, a castle that protected the only approach by which he could be assailed, and on the other a deep and rapid river, which communicates with a large lake of the same name. Mac Fadyan sought for a practicable road, but found only a pass leading from a ford, by which only a few could pass at a time, and which he durst not attempt, lest the enemy should hurl rocks upon him from above; but, as the country abounded in cattle, he hoped to maintain himself there till starvation should oblige Sir Neil to surrender.

In this emergency Sir Neil despatched Duncan of Lorn, attended by an old Highlander named Michael, well acquainted with the country, to Dundaff, to inform Wallace of his situation, and

desire his assistance against the invaders. Sir Neil and Wallace had been at school together at Dundee, and Wallace, on receiving the message, was eager to march to his relief. Earl Malcolm, with whom Wallace was now in communication, and who had secured himself in possession of the Lennox, offered his aid; Richard of Lundin, a powerful baron in Fife, brought him, at the same time, five hundred men; and Sir John Grahame resolved to join him; so that he found himself in a condition to march into the Highlands at the head of two thousand men.

On their way, they had to pass by Stirling Castle, which was then held by Rokeby with a strong garrison. As they approached the place, Wallace suggested to Earl Malcolm a project for taking it; he proposed that they should divide their force, to conceal its full strength, into several bands, that Earl Malcolm, with a large body, should place himself in ambush, and that he himself, with Sir John Grahame, and a hundred followers, should ride straight through the town. The Earl having acquiesced in this proposal, Wallace and Sir John took the public way towards the bridge; and Rokeby, observing them, and seeing the smallness of their number, determined upon

attacking them, and rode forth against them at the head of a hundred and forty bowmen. A fierce encounter immediately ensued; Wallace and Sir John Grahame did great execution with their spears, until they broke, when they both drew their swords and assailed their adversaries hand to hand. Sir John's horse was killed by arrows, and he was obliged to fight on foot; Wallace alighted to support him, and they exerted themselves with such effect, that the English began to think of retiring to the castle, but Earl Malcolm, with a portion of his force, intercepted their way to the gate, and many of them were cut to pieces. In the tumult, Wallace came in contact with Rokeby, whom he brought down with a stroke of his sword; but his two sons, with about twenty men, effected their escape to the castle. Earl Malcolm, with the consent of Wallace, resolved on securing this fortress, and, after three days siege, obliged the Rokebys to surrender.

Leaving Earl Malcolm to keep possession of the place, Wallace pursued his way to attack Mac Fadyan, Duncan of Lorn acting as guide on the march, and Michael being sent forward to reconnoitre. When they reached Strathfillan, the foot soldiers began to grow tired and fall behind.

Wallace therefore found it necessary to halt, and calling the chief of his men around him, addressed them thus :

“ My friends,” said he, “ it will not do for us to advance on the enemy in this fashion. If we fall in with them in broken array, we may incur great peril ourselves, and do them but little injury. Yet we should be upon them as soon as possible ; for, if they hear of our approach, they may come about us on open ground, where their numbers may give them advantage. To prevent this, I propose to leave those who are tired to follow at leisure, and to go forward at once with the most vigorous and fresh of you, divided into two or three bodies, so as to attack the enemy at different points.” He accordingly took three hundred men under his own command and that of Sir John Grahame ; gave five hundred to Sir Richard Lundin and Wallace of Riccartoun ; and left the rest to follow as soon as they should be able.

They then crossed a mountain that lay in front of them, and found themselves in the valley of Glendochar, where they were met by Michael and Sir Neil Campbell, with three hundred Highlanders · for Sir Neil, having heard from Michael of the advance of Wallace, thought proper to meet

him, leaving the pass open to Mac Fadyan, who, if he marched through it, would find very few positions where his numbers would give him advantage. Michael was again sent forward to watch the motions of the enemy, and, meeting with a spy from Mac Fadyan, put him to death, after forcing from him the intelligence that it was Mac Fadyan's intention to advance in the course of the day. The Scots resolved to continue their march, and, as the ground was become impassable for cavalry, dismounted, and made their way on foot between the lake and the mountain. Here they succeeded in surprising the enemy in a position where retreat was almost impracticable, and where the superiority of their numbers was rather a disadvantage, as they were confined on one side by steep rocks and on the other by deep water. The conflict was commenced without delay; Mac Fadyan's disorderly host was speedily broken, and repulsed with great slaughter, but, from their great multitude, they were enabled to rally and renew the contest again and again. But such was the courage and perseverance of Wallace's party, that resistance at length became useless; after maintaining the struggle for two hours, the Irish saw such passages cut through their throng by

Wallace, Grahame, Robert Boyd, and the other chieftains, that they lost heart, and were compelled to recede. Some were forced over the rocks into the gulfs below ; others threw themselves into the lake to escape the swords of their antagonists ; while various companies of archers, some from Wallace's own party, and others from the neighbouring country, sent down showers of arrows and stones on the fugitives. Such of the Scots as had joined Mac Fadyan, threw down their arms and implored to be admitted to quarter ; and Wallace gave orders that none of his countrymen should be slain, while none of the foreigners should be allowed to escape.

Mac Fadyan, with fifteen of his men, fled to Craigmore, and attempted to conceal himself in a cave ; but Duncan of Lorn, with Wallace's permission, pursued him to his retreat, and brought back his head on a spear.

Many weapons were found on the field of battle, and much spoil, which Wallace distributed liberally among his followers.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CAPTURE OF PERTH.

When this victory was gained, Wallace called a council of the chiefs of those parts at Ardchattan, in order to settle, as far as was possible, the affairs of the country. A great number assembled, and matters were amicably adjusted. Duncan was established in the possession of Lorn, with the condition that if his brother's son should quit the side of Edward, the lands should be delivered to him as the rightful heir.

At this time, many faithful Scots came to join Wallace. Among them was Sir John Ramsay of Ochterhouse with sixty men, a warlike and worthy knight, who, though greatly impoverished by the confiscation of his estates, had contrived to make a stand against the English in Strathern, and who was the father of Sir Alexander Ramsay,

so much celebrated for his pleasing manners, that it was said that he who had not known Ramsay had not known true courtliness. Another was Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld, who, spoiled of his benefices by the English, was living under the protection of James, Lord Steward of Bute.

When the business at Ardchattan was concluded, Wallace and his force took their way to the Bishop's old residence, the town of Dunkeld, where he remained some days, meditating, at the same time, how to attack and capture Perth. Having conferred with Sir John Ramsay, who knew something of the state of things there, as to the propriety of making such an attempt, he received Sir John's approbation of it at once, "For," said he, "though the ditch is deep, the walls are low, and you have such a number of men with you that you may soon fill up a portion of the ditch so as to pour a thousand men into the place in a body."

Having spent four days in making preparations for the assault, during which Ramsay constructed battering rams and other engines, which were conveyed on rafts along the river, they directed their march towards Perth. When they reached it, the host encompassed the town, filled a large part

of the ditch with earth and stone, laid long planks over it, and effected an easy passage to the walls, which they immediately proceeded to batter. Ramsay and Sir John Grahame besieged the turret bridge, while Wallace directed his efforts against other parts. The English made an obstinate defence with their cross-bows, spears, and machines for hurling stones, but the Scots, nothing daunted, soon gained a lodgment on the walls, and wet their weapons with English blood. Troop after troop passed into the place; Ramsay and Grahame forced the gate at the Turret Bridge, and the whole town was at the mercy of the Scots. The English were totally overwhelmed; Sir John Sivart, the governor, seeing that farther resistance was useless, fled, with sixty of his men, in a light barge, down the river, and sought shelter at Dundee. More than a thousand of the English were killed in the streets, the rest were expelled; and great quantities of provisions and other valuable spoils were captured. Ruthven, who now joined Wallace's party, was appointed governor, with a sufficient garrison; and Wallace, having stayed long enough to make arrangements, proceeded towards the north.

CHAPTER XII.

WALLACE'S ADVANCE. BATTLE AT STIRLING
BRIDGE.

When he reached Aberdeenshire, he summoned a council of chiefs, and, having conferred with them, went to Cupar, to visit the abbey there, from which the English abbot fled at his approach. At Glamis he was met by Bishop Sinclair, and marched from thence to Brechin, where, with solemn ceremony, he unfurled the banner of Scotland, and openly declared war against the English. Hence he proceeded through the country in order of battle, the English retiring before him towards the promontory of Dunottar, where a large body of them took shelter in the church of Rayne. Bishop Sinclair sought to prevail on Wallace to make a treaty with them, engaging to spare their lives on condition that they quitted the country; but Wallace, remembering the massacre at Ayr,

was indisposed to mercy, and set fire to the church, when some were consumed in the flames, and others fled to the rocks, from which many leaped or fell, and were dashed to pieces or drowned in the sea.

He then went forward to Aberdeen, from whence the English were hastening their departure, and finding their ships, to the number of a hundred, in the harbour, with a great portion of their property on board, he fell upon them when the tide was low, plundered them, and set them on fire. In consequence, none of the English escaped, but were all put to death except the priests, women, and children.

Proceeding still northwards, he entered the district of Buchan, which was under the rule of Earl Beaumont, who made no resistance, but fled to Staines, and from thence by sea to England. In Cromartie the Scots slew great numbers of the English, and returning again by Aberdeen, which they reached on Lammas Eve, with a still increasing force, they resolved on directing their course southwards, and laying siege to Dundee, which was almost the only fortress, north of the Forth, of which they had not gained possession.

In the meantime, Sir Aymer de Vallence had

quitted Bothwell, and passed into England with all his household to join King Edward, to whom he gave an alarming account of the progress made by Wallace in expelling the English. Edward was unable, at that time, to go to Scotland himself, but commissioned Cressingham, his treasurer, and Earl Warrenne, to assemble a numerous force, and march into the country as far as Stirling, then held by Earl Malcolm, to which they were at once to lay siege, and, if they failed in taking it, to wait there till he should come himself to take the command. This force was met on the banks of the Tweed by Patrick, Earl of Dunbar, commonly called Corspatrick, whose treachery to his country did it great mischief, and who accompanied them to Stirling, against which they immediately proceeded to act, having great hopes of reducing it before King Edward should leave England.

But Wallace, when he heard of their proceedings, relinquished his operations at Dundee, and, leaving Sir Alexander Scrymgeour, with two thousand men of Angus, to blockade the place, marched off by Perth to Sheriff-Muir, where he encamped, and held a conference with Ramsay and Sir John Grahame about their further proceedings.

“ We are too few,” said he, “ to offer the enemy

battle in the open field, but there will be other modes of acting against them."

"Nay," said Sir John Grahame; "we have encountered in battle as large a force as this with a smaller force of our own, and have been victorious."

"Yes," returned Wallace; "but we were thus venturesome only when circumstances rendered it necessary. Such defiance to the English host, at present, would be but rashness. I have conceived a stratagem by which I trust that we may injure them with better effect."

He then gave orders to Grimsby that the army should be drawn up in battle array, and be at Stirling on the Tuesday following. He himself, with Grahame and Ramsay, rode on to Stirling Bridge on Saturday, taking with them a skilful carpenter, whom he directed to saw through the bridge, which was of wood, secretly, on the Monday night, but to prop it up with planks so that it should not fall till they were withdrawn. This commission the carpenter and his men executed with great success; and the carpenter himself took post in a cradle under the bridge in readiness to cause the supports to be removed whenever he should hear a signal from Wallace's horn.

The day for the great struggle approached. A vast body of the English, seeing the advance of Wallace towards the bridge, marched in battle array to meet him. As their number was at least six times as great as that of the enemy, they had no distrust of the result, but hoped to overpower the Scots at the first onset. Wallace and his men awaited their approach on foot. Cressingham led the van of the English, supported by Sir Marmaduke Twenge, a brave knight of Yorkshire. The Earl of Warrenne followed with the second division, acting the part of prudence rather than of courage. Cressingham and his force crossed the bridge first, and Warrenne was preparing to follow, when Wallace was urged by some of his friends to give the signal to the carpenter, but he refrained till the half of Warrenne's company had passed over, and then, taking his horn from Grimsby, sounded a loud blast, at which the carpenter and his men withdrew the props, and the bridge and all that were upon it descended with a crash. A hideous cry arose from the English as they saw horse and man tumbled into the river. The Scots delayed the commencement of the battle no longer, but assailed, with the utmost impetuosity, that portion of the army

which had crossed. Wallace, and Sir John Graham, Boyd, Ramsay, and Lundin, were foremost in the contest, fighting hand to hand with the enemy. The English recoiled before the fierceness of the Scottish onset. Wallace, coming in contact with Cressingham in the midst of the tumult, struck him and his horse to the ground with one stroke of his two-handed sword, and then drove the weapon through his body. His death greatly damped the ardour of his men, but they still protracted the struggle till their numbers were so diminished that longer resistance was useless, when they fled in all directions to seek places of refuge. Many were drowned in the Forth, and at last, of all that had crossed the bridge, scarcely a man was left.

The English on the other side of the river, as soon as they saw the fate of their countrymen, had fled with great precipitation, taking the road towards Dunbar. The Scots hastened after them, Earl Malcolm, and a great portion of the garrison, coming forth to join in the pursuit. Many were slain in the Torwood, and many in other parts. Earl Warrenne, with Corspatrick as a guide, mounted on fresh horses, hurried across the country, and reached Dunbar with a very few fol-

lowers. Wallace and Sir John Grahame continued the chase in company, and slew many of the enemy at Haddington. Here also assembled Ramsay, Boyd, Richard of Lundin, Adam Wallace, and Earl Malcolm ; and, on inquiring about the rest, they found that no Scot of any note was killed, except Andrew Murray of Bothwell.

The battle was fought on the 11th day of September, 1297.

CHAPTER XIII.

WALLACE'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE COUNTRY. RESOLUTIONS OF THE ENG-
LISH.

The Scottish leaders remained that night at Haddington, and returned the next day to Stirling. Soon after, Wallace called together such of the barons as were well affected to their country, exhorted them to unite in defence of the liberty of Scotland, and made them take an oath to do their utmost for the promotion of that object. Among those who took this oath was Sir John Menteith, then lord of Arran, who, of his own accord, presented himself among the barons, and swore to be true to the cause of Wallace and Scotland. Some of the chief men, who were proved to have acted a treacherous part, he caused to be put to death, and others, who were less guilty, to be imprisoned; and the fame of his authority and influence was



spread more and more widely throughout England as well as Scotland.

Dundee was surrendered by the English on condition that their lives should be spared, and that they should be allowed to embark in their vessels for their own country. Other fortresses were evacuated by the English commanders, and, within ten days after the meeting at Stirling, there was not a single stronghold in Scotland left in the hands of King Edward, except the castles of Berwick and Roxburgh; and these also Wallace hoped soon to reduce.

There was living at this time, in Jedburgh forest, Crystall of Seyton, a brave and worthy knight, who was strongly attached to the cause of Scotland, and had done much damage on different occasions, to the English. Edward had made some attempts to draw him over to the English side, but without success; and, though outlawed, he had been left for some time without molestation. As Harbottle, the English governor of Jedburgh, was in flight, with a hundred and sixty of his men, towards the borders, he was met by Seyton and his followers in the forest, and slain, with many of his band. Seyton took from them much gold and other valuables, which they were carrying off with them;

and then took possession of the castle, which he left, at Wallace's desire, to the guardianship of Ruthven, while he himself retired to Lothian, where his estates lay.

Wallace then proceeded to make arrangements for the government of the country. He appointed commandants of fortresses, and sheriffs of counties, some of his own kindred, and some of other influential families. He made his cousin Crawford, an honest Scot, Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Scotland was now free. Wallace acted as governor of the country until the king could be recalled to his throne.

Edward was at this time in Flanders. The Council of England, who conducted the administration in his absence, sent letters, about a fortnight after the battle at Stirling Bridge, to such of the nobility of Scotland as had opposed Wallace, praising them for their fidelity to Edward, and exhorting them to support Brian Fitz-Alan, who had been appointed the King's Lieutenant in Scotland, to the utmost of their power, and to use every means at their command to stop the progress of Wallace, whom they stigmatised as a rebel and a traitor.

Book V.

CHAPTER I.

CORSPATRICK'S OPPOSITION TO WALLACE. RESULT
OF IT.

For five months Scotland had rest. Towards the end of that period, Wallace called a council at Perth, to which he summoned ecclesiastics, barons, and burgesses. Corspatrick, the Earl of Dunbar, refused to attend, and, remaining in his castle, replied to the summons with scorn. In his absence, many disparaging reflections were cast upon him by the nobility, and most of them recommended that severe measures should be adopted against him. But Wallace advised a milder mode of proceeding, and proposed that a message of peace should be sent to him, stating that his compeers would forgive all that he had done, if he would but make his appearance before them, acknowledge

that he had been in the wrong, and promise to be true for the future to his country and his rightful king. To this proposal the whole council assented, and a letter to that effect was despatched to him.

This communication he received with derision, saying, "If Wallace governs the land, there must be great want of a good ruler. I acknowledge no King of Kyle, for I never had a furrow of land from him. Go," added he to the messengers, "and tell Wallace and the rest of the council, that I owe them no allegiance, and will make no submission to them, nor enter into any bond with them. I am here on my own lands, and I have also lands in England, and I am as free to rule in either, being lord of my own, as ever prince or king could be. This is my answer, and you will have no other from me."

When the messengers returned with this reply, the council expressed indignation, and Wallace was furious with rage. "My lords," said he, "if this insolence be tolerated, things will be as bad with us as they were. What heaven has enabled us to do with the rest of the country, we must also do with his part of it. We must either oblige him to acknowledge us as his superiors, or put him to death. For my own part, I am resolved either

to reduce him to submission, or to die in the attempt. But he shall be made to repent of his insolence, unless my arm, and those of my followers, prove of less effect than I have hitherto found them."

The nobles approved of his resolution, and, when the meeting separated, he proceeded from Perth towards Dunbar, at the head of a large force, taking the road by Kinghorn, and from thence to Musselburgh, where he was joined by Robert Lauder, and Crystall of Seyton, with considerable reinforcements. A squire named Lyall, with some followers, came to him at Linton, and, as he was well acquainted with the country, his assistance was of great value. Turning to the east of Dunbar, Wallace found that Corspatrick had got notice of the designs against him, and had posted himself, with a large force, in a plain near Innerwick. Lauder advised that they should march between him and Dunbar, and attack him without delay. "Be in no haste," said Wallace, "for you will find that you have to deal with a man who knows well how to defend himself, and whom we must not assail lightly or incautiously. A stouter warrior is not to be found in all Scotland, and, if he would but be steadfast to his true

king, his vigour and wit might be of great service to us; but his perverseness and self-will will be his ruin."

The engagement began as soon as the two forces came near each other. The onset on both sides was furious; the leaders and the men fought with equal resolution; great numbers were soon stretched on the earth; and it was sad to see men of the same country shedding one another's blood in the most deadly of civil conflicts. But Corspatrick, dismayed at the slaughter among his men, was at length compelled to flee, and directed his retreat towards Dunbar, which, however, he had neither soldiers nor resources to defend against Wallace's army. It was accordingly reduced the same night, and Wallace entrusted the guardianship of it to Crystall of Seyton.

Corspatrick again took flight, passing through Ettrick forest into England by Norham, and, in conjunction with Bishop Beck, whom Wallace had driven from Glasgow, proceeded to raise a formidable force in Northumberland. They also, by deceitful misrepresentations, prevailed on Robert Bruce to take part with them, persuading him that Wallace was a rebel to Baliol as well as to Edward, and that he was striving to secure the crown for himself.

CHAPTER II.

A BATTLE WITH CORSPATRICK. WALLACE ENCOUNTERED BY YOUNG ROBERT BRUCE.

The English assembled, in the northern counties, an army of several thousand men, and stationed a numerous fleet off the mouth of the Tyne, to prevent supplies from being brought to Dunbar by sea, while Corspatrick led on a large detachment of their force to besiege the place by land. The rest of their troops remained at Norham, under the command of Bruce and Bishop Beck.

Wallace, meanwhile, was not inactive. He collected five thousand men, all thoroughly armed, and hastened to relieve Crystall of Seyton. As he was halting at Yester for the night, he was joined by Hay, who came from Duns Forest with fifty men, and, knowing the position of Corspatrick, urged Wallace to attack him without delay. Wallace needed no incitement to the encounter, though

he was anxious to take precautions against falling into any snare. Corspatrick, when he was apprised of Wallace's motions, sent a messenger to Bishop Beck to ask succour from him; and the Bishop, who was eager to take revenge for his expulsion from Glasgow, lost no time in complying with the request. He marched through Lammermuir, and stationed himself in ambush, according to Corspatrick's desire, at Spottmuir, about five miles distant from Dunbar. Wallace, though constantly on the watch, was long unaware of the Bishop's proximity; but at length a scout brought him word that Corspatrick was moving from the walls, and leading his whole force towards Spott, where he soon found that the Bishop and Corspatrick had united their forces, and were waiting his approach on an open plain. Seyton, leaving a few of his men in the castle, marched forth with the rest to support Wallace.

Many of the Scots, when they saw the large number of the enemy, began to be afraid of so unequal an encounter. Grimsby advised Wallace to withdraw, as he would but sacrifice his men's lives uselessly, and to betake himself to some stronghold, where he might make a stand until reinforcements could be obtained. "No," replied Wallace, "I will not retreat; I have no fear myself, nor

any apprehension that my adherents will fail to do their utmost. We are, besides, too near the enemy, who, if we were to turn our backs upon them, might pursue us, and do us vast damage."

The battle commenced with great fury. Both sides used their spears and swords with deadly effect, but more of the English were disabled than of the Scots. Yet Corspatrick undauntedly maintained the contest, and his followers, by his example, were withheld from flight. Wallace felt assured that his men would never yield; and the leaders, keeping their troops in a body, fought with determined resolution. Sir John Grahame, Ramsay, Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, Richard of Lundy, Hay and Lyall, Boyd, Barclay, and Lauder, were particularly distinguished in the combat. Corspatrick, though he fought fiercely, and slew many of the enemy, was so hard pressed that his men began to give way. But Bishop Beck and Robert Bruce supported him so effectually, that he was still enabled to maintain the struggle. Bishop Beck's efforts, both in fighting and commanding, were especially distinguished; nor did Bruce fail to do whatever he found practicable. Wallace pressed forward with the hope of encountering Bruce, but such was the crowd of men

between them, that he was unable to effect his purpose, and Corspatrick, seeing Bruce's danger, made way through the tumult to support him, and stretching forth his sword to the utmost length of his arm, succeeded in wounding Wallace slightly on the side of his neck. Wallace, turning towards him, aimed a blow with such force, that falling on the head of one Maitland, who came between them, it cleft his helmet and his skull, and stretched him dead on the earth in a moment. In the rush that followed from the side of Corspatrick, Wallace was separated from his men, and his horse being killed, was obliged to defend himself on foot. But he made abundance of room about him with his sword, and whatever Englishman came within the reach of it, was likely to give the Scots no further trouble. Corspatrick, however, urged forward upon him a number of his men, who attempted to bear him down with their spears. But Sir John Grahame, Boyd, and others, charged into the thickest of the enemy at the head of their men, bore down Bishop Beck, who was advancing to support Corspatrick, and carried off Wallace out of the throng. Wallace then mounted a fresh horse, and he and his men, fighting as they retreated, withdrew in sufficient order, to a post near

at hand, where Corspatrick, though he followed them thither, did not venture to assail them, but cursing fortune for having disappointed him, withdrew to join Bishop Beck. He thus kept the field, but with the loss of a great number of men. Five hundred of the Scots were killed, but no man of any note.

Neither the Bishop nor Corspatrick was disposed to remain where they were, for fear of a surprise from the Scots during the night. They therefore withdrew to Lammermuir, and posted themselves in the strongest position that they could select. The people of the neighbourhood, in the meantime, were gathering fast to the support of Wallace. Crawford also brought him a reinforcement of three hundred from Edinburgh; and Ruthven and Sir William Lang, from Tweeddale and Douglas, furnished additional supplies. Thus strengthened, Wallace thought himself in sufficient force to make another attempt on the enemy, and advanced towards Lammermuir. Dividing his army into two parts, he gave the command of the one to Sir John Grahame, and took the other under his own. It was at dawn of day that they came upon the English, many of whom were unprepared for combat, and hesitated whether to fight or flee. Wallace and his men penetrated the camp with

resistless impetuosity ; a few of the enemy stood their ground, but most were seized with terror, and gave way ; some were smothered before they were half awake ; and the shouts and groans on every side were appalling, Grahame, on his part, did equal execution, and at last the whole English host felt a general panic, and fled with precipitation. Bishop Beck was the last to retire, after having made repeated efforts to rally his men, in which he was well supported by one of his dependants named Skelton, who kept by his side to defend him, but Richard of Lundy, coming in contact with Skelton, struck off his head with a sweep of his sword. All the three leaders, Beck, Corspatrick, and Bruce, then took to flight, directing their course towards Norham Castle. The Scots pursued them as far as the Tweed ; and great numbers in the chase were put to the sword, or drowned in the river, with the fords of which they were but imperfectly acquainted.

Wallace was much concerned for Bruce, whom he earnestly wished to have on his side, and was rejoiced to find that he was not killed. The lands of Corspatrick he laid waste without remorse, pulling down all his strongholds throughout Lothian and the neighbouring parts, except Dunbar, and carrying off great quantities of spoil.

CHAPTER III.

WALLACE RECEIVES A COMMISSION FROM BALIOL.
HIS REGULATIONS.

On the eighteenth day after he had quitted the council at Perth, Wallace returned thither, and the sitting of the council was prolonged. The members of it expressed unanimous approbation of what he had done, and were more than ever disposed to look up to him as the only man capable of ruling the kingdom.

About the same time he received a commission from John Baliol, appointing him and Sir Andrew Murray, who had succeeded Sir Andrew, that was killed at Stirling Bridge, in the lordship of the lands of Bothwell, joint leaders of the army of Scotland.

He then turned his attention to the military regulation of the kingdom, making it his object that there should always be a sufficient available

force for its defence, and for the maintenance of its independence. Without interfering with the feudal system, which gave the nobles and barons the power of withholding their dependents from the national army, or allowing them to join it at their pleasure, and which, affording opportunities to the lords of indulging their jealousy or caprice, had prevented or diminished the success of many important enterprises, he proposed a plan of military organization which he conceived would be adapted to the general condition and interests of the country. Having divided the whole kingdom into districts, he desired that a list should be kept in each of all the males that were able to bear arms, between the ages of sixteen and sixty. These he meant to unite into permanent bodies, by appointing over every four men a fifth, over every nine a tenth, and over every nineteen a twentieth, the gradation in numbers and rank advancing until it reached the commander of a thousand. Every individual of this force was to be required, on penalty of death, to join the national army whenever he was summoned; and any baron that prohibited his vassals from appearing, was to be made subject to imprisonment or confiscation of his estates.

He directed his thoughts also to the promotion of commerce, and in conjunction with Murray, despatched a letter to the authorities at Hamburgh and Lubeck, thanking them for all favours that they had shown to the Scottish merchants, soliciting a continuance and increase of friendly intercourse, and promising all merchants of Holland safe access to the ports of the kingdom of Scotland, which, he thanked God, had been recovered from the dominion of the English. At the head of this epistle he placed Murray's name, from a feeling of courtesy, before his own.

To such of the principal men of the country as had supported him in his late efforts, he made various grants of lands, offices, and other privileges. The estates of Stanton, which were taken from Sir Aymer de Vallence, he gave to Robert Lauder; those of Bridge-end Crook, to Sir Walter Lyle; and others to other deserving leaders, among whom was Sir Alexander Scrymgeour, than whom none had been more devoted to the service of his country. To his own relatives he gave no lands, lest he should be accused of covetousness, or inordinate ambition, but on some of them, whom he thought deserving of reward or encouragement, he conferred such offices

as he considered suitable to their abilities. For all that he did, he declared himself responsible to his king, to whom he hoped to render a full account of his proceedings, as soon as he should return to his throne.

CHAPTER IV.

WALLACE INVADES ENGLAND.

While Wallace was employed in these arrangements, news reached him in the month of November, that King Edward, stimulated by Corspatrick, who had fled to the English Court, was preparing to invade Scotland. Wallace resolved to anticipate his movements, and accordingly summoned a meeting of the chief barons, and all that were able to bear arms, on Roslyn Muir. Here he called the nobles around him, and said, "My lords, we hear that King Edward still persists in asserting his right to our country, and is making preparations to invade it; and I think it well that, as he is resolved to commit violence on our lands, we should proceed, before he can reach us, to make depredations on his territories, so that he may see that we defy his power, and are ready, not only to meet him in battle, but to provoke him to it. He

has oppressed us, and we have thrown off his yoke ; he has injured us, let us retaliate.

“ I will not call on any of you to accompany me that are not well inclined to the enterprise ; I will leave it entirely to your choice whether to go with me or not. For myself, my purpose is to exert myself in the field to the utmost ; to do as much damage to the English lands, and to carry off as much spoil as shall be in my power ; and whoever among those that follow me shall allow himself to be captured by the enemy, shall never, with my consent, be ransomed.”

To this address the barons listened with pleasure, and assured him of their cordial support. He then selected twenty thousand of the best men that had assembled, taking care that they were all well armed and equipped, and furnishing a large portion of them, by the aid of Grimsby, with horses and equestrian accoutrements. Those whom he did not take with him, he exhorted to return to their homes, and apply themselves to husbandry, which, by reason of the unsettled state of the country, had been greatly neglected.

When they were all mustered at Roslyn, he said to them, “ We are sufficiently numerous and strong, my fellow-countrymen, if we be but reso-

lute and united. We must remember that we have all the same objects in view, to weaken our enemy, and to strengthen and enrich ourselves. Our realm is exhausted by the spoliations of the English, and we must recruit its resources from English wealth. With courage and determination, we cannot well be discomfited in a pitched battle, and with activity and energy, we shall make ample reprisals on those who have wasted our possessions."

Wallace was cheerfully accompanied by many of the principal men, among whom was Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, by whose prudence and vigour he was extremely glad to be assisted; Campbell of Lochow; Sir John Grahame; Adam Wallace of Riccartoun; Richard of Lundy; Ramsay, Robert Boyd, Auchinleck, Lauder, Hay, and Seyton. The army proceeded to Bruce's Field, in Teviotdale, where they halted for some time; and Wallace, taking fifty men with him, rode to the gates of Roxburgh Castle, and sought an interview with Sir Ralph Gray the governor, to whom he said, "We are on our way to invade England, and have no time to spend at present on the siege of your fortress; but I warn you to be prepared on our return, to give up the keys to us; for, if you

are not ready to do so, and force us to reduce the place by siege, I assure you, before all these witnesses, that I shall hang you on your own walls." A similar message he sent by Ramsay to the town of Berwick.

He then crossed the Tweed, and laid waste the lands throughout Northumberland and Cumberland. In this work of devastation they were joined by Robert de Ros of Werk, a great northern baron, who had deserted the standard of Edward at Dunbar. The town of Durham, and some other places of less note, they destroyed by fire; but abbeys and churches, as far as was possible, they spared. They then advanced into Yorkshire, committing similar ravages, for none were inclined to mercy, as they considered that they were only retaliating upon their enemies for what they themselves had suffered.

When they had been fifteen days in England, a deputation, consisting of a knight, a squire, and a clerk, was sent to them on the part of King Edward, soliciting a cessation from ravaging, and other hostilities, for forty days, at the end of which time he would give Wallace battle. To this proposal Wallace acceded, and the messengers returned to London, where they expressed them-

selves greatly surprised at the warlike appearance of the Scots, and the regal bearing and excellent understanding of their leader. Wallace immediately withdrew from the neighbourhood of York, and encamped near Northallerton, proclaiming peace for forty days, and promising that the people of the neighbourhood should be suffered during that time, to carry on their business unmolested.

One Sir Ralph Raymont, Governor of Malton, disregarded this truce, and attempted one night, with a large force, to surprise Wallace. Some Scots, however, who were settled in those parts, gave him notice of what was intended. He accordingly despatched Richard of Lundy and Hay, with three thousand men, to intercept Raymont on his march. These two leaders, guided by the Scots who had brought the intelligence, placed themselves in ambush by the side of the way, and sallied forth on Sir Ralph and his force, as they were passing, with such impetuosity, that a large portion of them were killed, and the rest put to flight. Raymont himself was pierced through with a spear. Wallace then came to the support of Lundy and Hay, and pursuing the fugitives into the town of Malton, killed many of them, and brought off several waggon-loads of spoil.

CHAPTER V.

SIEGE OF YORK.

Wallace fortified his camp carefully and strongly, to guard against any similar attempts, and waited with patience till the enemy should come to battle as they had engaged. But the English leaders were slow to take the field, and resolved rather to drive Wallace from the country by famine, than to attempt to overpower him in fight. They in consequence made proclamation in the king's name, that no one should bring provisions for sale as long as the Scots remained in the land, to any of the public markets, but that every kind of food should be kept as far as possible in concealment, so that the Scots, finding no means of support, might be obliged to decamp into their own country.

Wallace remained still in his position, waiting to be challenged or attacked, for five days beyond the stipulated number, but saw no appearance of

an advance against him. He then unfurled his banner, ridiculed the coolness of the English, and marching into other parts of Yorkshire, burned Northallerton, laid waste the land, and put to death all that ventured to resist him. All ecclesiastical edifices, and their people, he spared, but required from the abbey supplies of provisions.

At length he proceeded to besiege York, a city strongly fortified and garrisoned. Dividing his forces into four bodies, he prepared to assail it on all sides, and kept strict watch to prevent all ingress or egress. Wallace and Lundy took post at the south gate; Earl Malcolm and Boyd at the west; Campbell and Ramsay at the north; Sir John Grahame, Auchinleck, and Crawford, at the east. The Scots had a thousand archers among them, but in the city were five times as many, and a large number of other troops. The besieged made a vigorous defence, hurling lighted wood and hot stones, and inflicting other grievous annoyances, on the assailants, and, though they killed but few of them, wounded a great number.

At length Sir John Norton, and Sir William Leis, two energetic leaders of the English, determined to make a sally on the Scots, at the head of two thousand men, during the night, hoping to

take them by surprise. They issued forth as silently as possible, at the gate where Earl Malcolm was stationed, but it chanced that Wallace, riding round to see that the sentinels were properly posted, perceived their approach, and by a blast of his horn, roused the Earl's men from their slumbers. Wallace then joined the Earl at the head of his force, and both together encountered the charge of the enemy, doing great execution among them with their swords. The Scots manfully supported their leaders, and at last the English, foiled in their attempt, retreated into the city, leaving Sir John Norton, and several hundred of their countrymen, dead on the field.

The siege continued, with various efforts on both sides, for several days. The Scots, however, began to be in great want of provisions, and, though they sent out foraging parties in all directions, found great difficulty in procuring enough to maintain themselves. But the besieged were in equal tribulation on another account, for they dreaded that by the persevering efforts of the Scots they should be at length compelled to surrender. In this state of things, a deputation was sent from the town, with a flag of truce, desiring an audience of Wallace, who received them without

hesitation, and asked them for what purpose they came.

“The commander of York,” said they, “seeing that the forces within and without the walls are so equally matched, and so little disposed to relax their efforts for attack or defence, desires to stay the effusion of blood on both sides by putting an end to the siege. He holds the town for King Edward, and he thinks that he shall best consult the interests of his sovereign by sparing the lives of his soldiers, and inducing his enemies to quit his kingdom. For this reason, he proposes to pay you a sum of money, on condition that you will withdraw from the siege, and leave our town, during your stay in England, unmolested.”

“For your gold,” replied Wallace, “we have but little regard; it was to fight that we remained in England. We would rather have a fair encounter with the English army than all the gold that King Arthur found when he slew the giant on St. Michael’s Mount. Gold has its value, but honour is more precious than all the gold in King Edward’s realm.”

He, however, called a council of war, and the result of their deliberations was that, as the capture of York had not been their primary object,

and as more inconvenience than profit might result from protracting the siege, it would be better to listen to the offer of the townsmen, the acceptance of which, since it was in truth a token of submission, would be attended with no dishonour. But Wallace refused his assent to the proposal, unless the commander of York would hoist the Scottish standard on the wall on the morrow at eight o'clock, and suffer it to remain there till noon.

With this answer the deputation returned to the commander, who agreed to the condition. Wallace then farther stipulated for supplies of provision in addition to the gold, and these, with some hesitation, being furnished, and the money paid, the Scottish army withdrew from the walls after a stay before them of twenty days.

CHAPTER VI.

A TRUCE.

At length, in order to stop the ravages of the Scots, the English council of administration despatched three commissioners, Clifford, Beaumont, and Woodstock, to endeavour to arrange a truce with Wallace, until Edward should return from Flanders and act for himself. Wallace willingly gave them audience, but said that no arrangement could be made, unless the fortresses of Roxburgh and Berwick should be restored to Scotland, and such Scots of rank as were detained in England should be allowed to return. To these proposals the commissioners assented; the fortresses were delivered up, and Sir Thomas Randolph, the Lord of Lorn, the Earl of Buchan, Comyn, and Soulis, were permitted to go back to their country.

Sir Aymer de Vallence he wished to be given up to him as a prisoner, but he had fled to Picardy. Young Bruce he also desired to have,

but he had been taken to Calais in the keeping of the Earl of Gloucester. Corspatrick returned and was well received. Several other noblemen, mostly young, were also released. The truce was signed at Northallerton. Wallace marched back, laden with spoil, by Bamburgh, and, encamping on Caram Muir, received the keys of Roxburgh and Berwick from the English. The command of Roxburgh he gave to Sir John Ramsay; Berwick he committed to Crystall of Seyton. Corspatrick, on making full submission, was restored to the earldom of Dunbar, and put in possession of all his estates.

To the monks of Hexham, whose priory had been plundered by the Scots on their march into Yorkshire, Wallace granted a charter of protection, signed by Murray and himself in the name of Baliol, prohibiting all Scotchmen from doing them the least mischief under penalty of death.

During the absence of Wallace in England, Robert de Clifford, at the head of a considerable force, made an inroad into Scotland by Carlisle, with the object of plundering and devastating the country, but, just as Wallace was returning, he withdrew, after having burned a few villages, put about a hundred of the inhabitants to death, and taken a small number of prisoners.

CHAPTER VII.

WALLACE RECEIVES ANOTHER COMMISSION FROM
BALIOL. IS INVITED TO VISIT FRANCE.

Wallace now made farther efforts to establish a settled order of things, and regular form of government, in the country. He went through various parts of the land, making laws for different places, and administering justice to the utmost of his power. He made a sojourn of some days in the Lennox, where Sir John Menteith had a command; a man with whom he had twice before been closely connected, but whom he saw sufficient reason to distrust.

At Dumbarton he stayed two months, and laid the foundation of a citadel, leaving directions that it should be raised to a proper height. At Roxburgh, too, he built a strong tower. The state of things throughout the country promised well, and men began to look forward to ease and enjoyment.

He sent Grimsby twice to the father of Robert Bruce, who then lived at Huntingdon, soliciting him to come and take the government of the kingdom; but the influence of the English was too great to allow him to comply with Wallace's request.

In the early part of this year, 1298, he received a commission from Baliol appointing him sole Guardian or Regent of the kingdom; a deed which Baliol executed privately during his residence in the Tower of London, as he could easily do, since he enjoyed much liberty there, and was allowed to ride into the country in any direction to a distance of not more than twenty miles. In this character Wallace held a council at Torphichen in West Lothian, towards the end of the month of March, when he conferred on Alexander Scrymgeour, in the name and with the seal of Baliol, the office of Constable of Dundee, with a portion of land near that town, as a reward for his services in bearing the Royal Standard in the Scotch army.

The authority conferred on Wallace by this commission excited much jealousy towards him among many of the barons, who were displeased that a man of birth inferior to nobility, however meritorious, should be the recipient of such powers.

Sir Andrew Murray, who had been joined with him in command of the army, appears to have felt no discontent, but many others took great offence. He was, however, promised cordial support and assistance in the government by Sir John Stewart of Bonkill, Sir John Stewart of Abercorn, Macduff, uncle to the Earl of Fife, and John Comyn the younger of Badenoch.

At this time Philip, King of France, hearing of Wallace's warlike abilities and private virtues, his honour, patriotism, and generosity, felt a strong desire for a personal interview with him, and sent a herald to congratulate him on his successful invasion of England, and invite him to visit France. He could not but wonder that so young a man, with such moderate advantages of birth and fortune, should have been able, by his personal prowess, and natural aptitude for command, to raise himself to the position of a ruler over his country, and to enable himself to set at defiance the whole power of England.

The herald, arriving in Scotland with the king's letter, found Wallace, surrounded with his friends, at Ayr, and, having delivered his credentials, assured him that his master, moved by the nobleness of Wallace's character, and the great fame of

his exploits, was eager to make him welcome in France, to pay him as high consideration and honour as if he had been born to the most illustrious title among the French nobility, and to establish a bond of friendship between them which, he trusted, would continue unbroken to the end of their lives.

Wallace listened to the herald with pleasure, entertained him hospitably, and bestowed on him valuable presents; and, at his departure, charged him with an answer to the king, saying that he greatly valued the honour which he had done him, and that he would not fail, as soon as the condition of Scotland should allow him, to comply with his invitation.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BATTLE OF BLACKIRONSIDE.

It was not the intention of Edward to leave Scotland in this state of comparative repose. Having concluded a truce with France, he ordered John de Vallence, a son of the Earl of Pembroke, who had gained his confidence and esteem by the abilities and discretion which he had displayed in the operations in Flanders, to set sail, in company with Sir John Siward, son of him who had betrayed Dunbar to the English, for the coast of Scotland, and, landing in Fifeshire, to prepare the way for the greater invasion which he himself designed to make on his return from France. These two leaders, after being retarded by various occurrences, effected a descent, about the beginning of summer, on that part of the Scottish coast to which they had been directed, and proceeded, at

the head of a considerable force, to lay waste the country.

Wallace no sooner heard of their advance than he collected a small body of troops, and hastened into Fife to see for himself what they were doing. While he halted at Blackironside, a woody part of the country, the English came up, and the Scots found themselves so inferior to them in number that they became alarmed for their safety. Their best mode of procedure was to obtain succours from Perth, for which purpose they would have to send across the Frith of Forth, but the roads and the coast were so guarded by the English that they found it impossible to effect that object. In this difficulty, Wallace consulted Guthrie, a man well acquainted with the country, and others, what was best to be done.

“We are likely to be beset by our enemies,” said he; “and traitorous Scots, who act as guides, enable them to range through the land with ease, and to defy, for a time, our smaller force.”

“We must depend, it appears, on ourselves,” replied Guthrie. “To think of sending over the Frith is idle; for I was but lately on the shore, and know that no Scotch vessel is left there in a condition for sailing.”

“ I would venture myself in disguise,” returned Wallace, “ for I could swim across at some point ; but I think that I shall better consult my own safety and yours by remaining here and acting at your head. Our position here is strong, and, with courage and skill, we shall make a successful stand in it. In Elcho Park, we were but a small band against seven hundred, but we repulsed our foes with abundance of slaughter.”

These and other words of encouragement inspired his followers with such boldness that they were eager to issue from the wood and offer their enemies battle in the plain. But Wallace admonished them that the trees were their best defences, and directed them to form a square inclosure of felled trees interwoven with those that were growing. By the time this work was finished, Siward approached, intending to pass, under the conduct of his guides, through that portion of the wood. He led forward a thousand men under his own command, and ordered Vallenge to go round the skirts of the wood with five hundred. Finding himself stopped by Wallace’s timber fortress, he attempted to force it, but Wallace, whose men were well armed with spears and bows, repulsed them with vigour and success, wounding and

killing many. The English stood amazed at the prowess that had been exerted against them; and Siward, fearful for the safety of his men, consulted Vallence as to what was best to be done. Vallence advised him to do nothing farther for the present, but to wait till want of provisions should compel the Scots to issue forth from their stronghold, and then to overwhelm them with resistless numbers. But Siward refused to listen to this suggestion, observing that the Scots might be reinforced before they were starved. He therefore led a portion of his force to assail the rear of the enemy, and ordered Vallence to keep post with the rest in front.

Wallace, perceiving the movement, led forth a part of his men to intercept Siward's progress. "Siward," said he, "is, I perceive, a skilful and brave warrior, and it is pleasing to see a chieftain exhibit such chieftain-like qualities. His onset will be formidable, for his example must give courage and energy to his followers. Stand firm, therefore, and resist with determination."

The Scots awaited the advance of their foes behind a turf wall, and the English hesitated to assail their position. But at length a sharp encounter commenced, in which Wallace and Craw-

ford overthrew many of their assailants, and were well seconded by Guthrie and Richard Wallace. Siward was amazed at the resistance of so few against his own superiority of numbers, and, pressing forward, killed one of the Scots with his own hand. Wallace tried to come hand to hand with him, but the English crowded so thickly between them, that all his attempts for that purpose were rendered vain. Many others, however, felt the weight of Wallace's sword, and the whole of Siward's party were at length so disheartened, that the signal for retreat was given. The loss on the side of the English was great; on that of the Scots but small. Wallace again acknowledged the valour of his adversary, and said that he had seldom seen braver efforts made.

The weather was hot, and as the wounded Scots were dying of thirst, Wallace himself, unclasping the helmet of a dead Englishman, assisted in bringing them water from a neighbouring stream, declaring that he had more pleasure in seeing the delight with which they drank, than in drinking the richest wines he had ever tasted.

Siward withdrew to Cupar, to obtain succour, and returned the next morning with three hundred fresh men. But by this time intelligence had been

conveyed, by whatever means, to Ramsay and Ruthven at Perth, of the peril in which Wallace was placed ; and they also hastened to Blackiron-side with a reinforcement equal in number to that of Siward. The English leader, seeing their advance, drew out his force, numbering nearly twelve hundred men, upon an adjacent plain ; Wallace issued from the wood to join Ramsay and Ruthven, and their parties, when united, amounted to nearly seven hundred. No braver men than those of Siward had come to battle with the Scots in the present war. The encounter that ensued was fierce and sanguine ; the Scots rushed on the enemy with desperate fury, and did great execution with their spears and swords. The English defended themselves with steady resolution, and the strife was protracted for a long time. Ramsay and Ruthven, with their fresh men, exerted themselves with great success ; and Siward at length began to see that he must be overpowered. Yet he rallied his men time after time, and fought on with the utmost gallantry. Ramsay would have had Wallace offer him quarter, but before the offer could be made, Siward struck down Bisset, a worthy supporter of Wallace, and proceeded, without stay, to attack Wallace himself, who, in self-

defence, was obliged to engage him in a hand to hand combat, the result of which was Siward's death. The greater part of his troops were cut to pieces.

Ramsay returned to Perth. Ruthven went off to attack Cupar Castle, which he speedily took, as the defenders were few. Having dismantled the place, Wallace proceeded to St. Andrews, from whence he expelled the English bishop; and the few English that were with him fled away by sea. Thus Fife was entirely cleared of the invaders.

CHAPTER IX.

LOCHLEVEN PRIORY. DEATH OF WALLACE'S
MOTHER.

Some of them were left, however, in a collection of buildings, one of them a priory, which stood on the largest island of the water of Lochleven, an island consisting of about forty-eight acres, but on which as yet no castle had been built, for it was thought to be sufficiently guarded by the surrounding water. Wallace saw the importance of wresting this stronghold from the enemy; "For," said he to his followers, "if the English send reinforcements to the garrison already there, and strengthen the island with additional fortifications, they may maintain their position in it for a great length of time, and, sallying forth as opportunity offers, may do the country much damage. We cannot cut off their supply of water, and if they but lay in large stores of provisions, they may defy us for weeks, or for months, to starve them into submission."

Having accordingly determined to assail the place, he led a party of men in the evening to the shores of the lake, and, telling them to wait till he should bring them a boat from the island, took off his armour, but fastened his sword to his neck in case of being attacked, and swam to the other side of the water, where finding the boats unguarded, he easily seized on one of them, and rowed back in it. Then, resuming his armour, and conveying his men over in parties, he took the place by surprise, put the men in it to the sword, and made prey of whatever valuables they found.

Notice of the capture of Lochleven was sent to Ramsay, who soon joined Wallace, and they rested together there for eight days, ordering things on the island, and adding to its defences.

At the end of that time, leaving a sufficient garrison in the place, Wallace went over to Perth, where he was met by Bishop Sinclair, who advised him to fix his residence for awhile in Dunkeld, and in order to be prepared for the meditated invasion of the English, to send messengers from thence to his friends in the north and west, desiring them to keep as many men as possible in readiness to join him. Grimsby was accordingly despatched to the north, and John Blair the priest, who had

been made Wallace's chaplain, to the west. Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, and Lindsay of Craigie, went to Earl Malcolm in the Lennox, who received them with his wonted cordiality. Sir John Grahame, Richard of Lundy, and Robert Boyd, who had been in Bute, continued with Wallace, for whose safety they were eminently solicitous. Randall, also, with men from Moray, came to join him, and Stephen of Ireland, and Ker. Comyn, Earl of Buchan, he heard, was preparing to support the English, and hoping to prevail on Corspatrick to take part with him; but the reports brought by Grimsby, Blair, and others, from his supporters, were so encouraging, that he thought but lightly of the efforts of his adversaries.

He then visited Perth, and, proceeding from thence through the Ochil Hills, and by Airth Castle, went westward to Dumbarton, where, during a short stay, he heard of the recent death of his mother, who had expired at the Abbey of Dumfermline. He was much affected at the intelligence, but observed that it was better for her to die then, with her old age undisturbed, than to live to witness another devastation of her country by the English. He saw due honour paid to her remains, and caused the funeral ceremony to be performed by Blair.

CHAPTER X.

SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS AT SANQUHAR CASTLE.
WALLACE'S FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

The Castle of Sanquhar, in Dumfriesshire, was still held by an English garrison under the command of a knight named Beaufort, a relative of the wife of Sir William Douglas of Douglasdale, who, from much intercourse with the English, and under the influence of King Edward, had married a lady of a high English family, and had become the father of two sons by her, but who, on taking his boys to Paris for education, had been detained by Edward in France, and forced, by some kind of intimidation, to profess allegiance to him. King Edward hoped that Sir William, through his matrimonial connexion, would be a steadfast friend to the English cause; but the event proved otherwise; for Douglas never forgot that he was a Scot, and when he saw that Wallace was likely to succeed in restoring the independence of his country, became desirous to afford him the utmost possible

assistance, thinking it no disgrace to desert the English side, as he had attached himself to it only through compulsion.

His first attempt was made on the castle held by Beaufort, who, from his relationship to Douglas, apprehended no hostility from him. Taking with him only thirty followers, he set out secretly, telling his wife and household that he was going on an appointment to Dumfries, and posted himself, as night came on, in a hollow on the banks of the Craw, a small river running into the Nith. From thence he sent forward one of his retainers, Thomas Dickson, to the neighbourhood of the castle, where he had a cousin named Anderson, with whom he held a secret understanding, and who agreed to procure him a horse and cart, and to lend him his clothes for a disguise, that he might present himself at the gates in the morning with a load of wood. This arrangement Dickson communicated to Sir William, who drew still nearer to the castle, and kept himself in readiness for action at sunrise. As soon as day dawned, Dickson appeared at the gate with the wood, and not without a scolding from the porter for awaking him so early, was allowed to enter. Just after he had passed through, he cut the cords of the wood with his knife, and the whole load fell to the ground, blocking up the

gate so as to prevent it from being closed. He then despatched the porter with his dagger, and seizing an axe which hung near, and which Anderson had directed him where to find, he stood prepared to assist Sir William, who now pressed forward with his party. The whole garrison were surprised and confounded; Sir William himself, running up a stair, found Beaufort in his chamber, and put him to the sword; and his followers soon slew all the English except one.

The man that escaped fled to Durisdeer, a stronghold at no great distance, where there was a more numerous party of English, to whom he communicated what had occurred, and who accordingly prepared to besiege Sir William in Sanquhar Castle. Sir William sent off Dickson, with intelligence of his position, to Wallace, who was then at Lochleven, and had been joined by Earl Malcolm. At the approach of the two leaders, the English fled with precipitation towards their own country.

Wallace had now expelled the invaders from the whole of Scotland except Dundee, which an English captain, named Morton, still held. He appointed Sir William Douglas governor of all the tract of country to the west of the line connecting Ayr with Dumfries.

CHAPTER XI.

KING EDWARD'S PREPARATIONS. SCRYMGEOUR
BLOCKADES DUNDEE. WOODSTOCK SENT TO RE-
LIEVE IT. BATTLE OF SHERIFF-MUIR.

Wallace had no intention to leave Dundee in the hands of the English. He made vigorous preparations for a siege; and Morton, fearing the result, sent a messenger to Wallace offering to leave the country if no harm should be done to him and his men. To this Wallace would not consent, but said they must surrender themselves prisoners of war. As Morton refused, Wallace determined on prosecuting the siege, and committed the conduct of it to Sir Alexander Scrymgeour.

But Edward was now hurrying home from France, with a resolution to march into Scotland with a force to which resistance should be useless. He accordingly made a truce with the French

King, arranged political affairs with his nobles and burgesses, and adopted every means for assembling a vast army. He saw that Wallace was the great cause of the Scots' opposition to his power, and was determined to convince him that no rising against England would ever be of any avail.

Wallace, leaving Scrymgeour with two thousand men, to blockade Dundee, marched himself, with eight thousand, to Perth, where he stayed, to settle some matters of business, for four days, and then proceeded southwards, having heard that ten thousand English, under the command of the younger Woodstock, a man of great valour, had penetrated into the country, by the direction of King Edward, as far as Stirling.

The object of Woodstock, in marching in this direction, was to relieve Dundee; for which purpose also ships were sent from England to the Firth of Tay. His guides recommended him to advance by Perth, from whence he would find the way to Dundee a matter of no difficulty. He was accordingly proceeding thither, when he received intelligence of the approach of the Scottish army, which he resolved at first, by keeping on the heights as much as possible, to avoid; but when

he found that their force was somewhat smaller than his own, he altered his determination, and turned to give them battle.

Sir John Ramsay was the first to see them coming, and was in doubt whether they were the English, or a body of Scots approaching to join Wallace. Wallace himself, however, easily discerned what they were, and cheerfully drew up his army, amounting to eight thousand men, on Sheriff-Muir. The English were well armed in steel, and not at all slow to commence the encounter. The spears of the Scots were splintered against the English coats of mail, but they soon made a passage for themselves through their enemies with their swords. The contest was protracted, with much bloodshed, for a considerable time; but the English were at length totally defeated. Woodstock was slain, and his army hopelessly scattered, and a vast quantity of valuable spoil fell into the possession of the Scots.

Wallace then marched to Stirling, where he broke down the bridge, and ordered sharpened piles of wood to be fixed in the ford, to render it impassable. He also sent directions to Lauder, who held the Bass, to destroy any ships that he found on the coast belonging to the English, and

to prevent Scottish vessels, as far as possible, from being used by the enemy in case of flight. These precautions being taken, Lauder and Seyton then came to join Wallace, who resolved on remaining at Stirling, with Earl Malcolm and Sir John Grahame, till he should ascertain how the English were likely to proceed.

CHAPTER XII.

DISCORD. BATTLE OF FALKIRK. BRUCE AGAIN
ENCOUNTERS WALLACE. DEATH OF SIR JOHN
GRAHAME.

Intelligence soon reached him of the progress of King Edward. He had entered Scotland by the eastern frontiers, with an army consisting of seven thousand cavalry and eighty thousand infantry, and, having afterwards received reinforcements, was now at the head of nearly a hundred thousand men, many of whom were veterans that had served under him in France. To meet such a force in the open field, with the small body then under his command, Wallace saw would be useless; and he, therefore, had recourse to the policy of withdrawing the inhabitants, with their cattle and provisions, from that part of the country which lay before the approaching enemy, in order that by

thus inconveniencing them, and consequently retarding their progress, he might gain time to collect his forces. He also took great care to keep advanced posts in front of his own army, and to prevent the English scouts from making any satisfactory discoveries as to the strength or intentions of their adversaries.

A fleet which had been ordered to attend on the English army with supplies was detained by contrary winds. The king was, in consequence, obliged to wait for its coming, and halted at Torphichen, in Linlithgowshire, fixing his head quarters in a preceptory of the Knights Templars, and arranging his army so as to maintain a communication with the sea. But as only a few of the vessels came in while he remained there, he found the scarcity in his camp increase to such a degree, that he was under the necessity of determining on a retreat.

Wallace, who had exact information of King Edward's movements, formed the intention of surprising the enemy in the night, and afterwards hanging upon their rear, and harassing them as they retreated. But some traitor in his army found means to communicate his plans to the English, and Edward, whose stores were not yet

quite exhausted, resolved to return and attack the Scots instead of waiting for their advance.

The Scots, however, had now had time to collect all their strength ; and though their numbers did not exceed thirty thousand, not a third part of the army opposed to them, they were yet in hopes, by delaying to come to a pitched battle, and alluring the enemy farther into the north, of being able to secure such advantages as would disappoint the purposes of the English monarch, and compel him ultimately to withdraw his host from the country, of which he might ravage the territories without conquering the inhabitants.

But discord, the curse of all Scottish military operations, was now interposing its influence between Wallace and some of those who had affected to support him. Wallace had been joined by Sir John Stewart, brother to the Earl of Bute, who brought with him not only his own dependents, but those of his absent brother, and by Sir John Comyn, Lord of Badenoch, chief of the clan of Comyn ; and each of these powerful leaders, either on his own account or that of his connexions, claimed a right to the command of about ten thousand men ; so that the Scottish force would be nearly equally divided among them and Wal-

lace. But Wallace, as having authority from Baliol, and as having purchased a title to command by his eminent services, considered it no presumption to take on himself the superiority over the other two, and accordingly proceeded to regulate the disposal of the whole army. This assumption, however, the other two refused to allow; nor could they determine between themselves which of them was the better entitled to the superiority over the other; for Stewart claimed the rule as representative of his brother, the Lord High Steward of Scotland, and Comyn demanded it on account of nobility of birth, and near connexion with the crown. The dispute grew vehement, and was long protracted. Stewart at last burst into invective against Wallace, and, upbraiding him with the humility of his birth, said that he could tell him a tale.

“Tell me what you please,” said Wallace.

“There was once an owl,” retorted Stewart, “that was dissatisfied with his feathers, and Nature, to whom he complained, gave him a feather from one bird, and a feather from another, till his plumage was totally changed, and he thought himself entitled to set all other birds at nought. Thus it is with you; you are formidable

only with other men's strength ; for if every man of rank that follows you were to withdraw his retainers from your retinue, the number left you would be but small."

Wallace could not hear this reproach without indignation. " You have not justly compared me to an owl," said he, " for an owl flies from the light of day, but I have acted openly and sincerely in the face of all men, maintaining the rights and independence of Scotland against her enemies. You might better compare yourself, and some of your fellow nobles, to owls, for you have often sought concealment, and engaged in clandestine proceedings, hiding your acts from your countrymen, and carrying on secret treaties with her enemies. But as long as I hold the commission which has been granted me, I shall not yield the precedence to either of you ; I shall maintain that rank which has been assigned me, until my king deprives me of it, or comes himself to assume the command of his own army."

As the others made no advances towards reconciliation, Wallace at last said that he would leave them to fight each for himself in his own way, and withdrew the troops immediately under his command, to the number of something more than ten

thousand, into a wood to the eastward of Falkirk.

The English army advanced in three divisions, one under the command of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, and Constable of England; the second under that of Bishop Beck, whose warlike pride was displayed in the magnificence of his banners; and the third under that of King Edward himself, whose standards outshone in gorgeousness those of the Bishop. All the English host was nobly equipped, and their hearts were not less fitted for war than their accoutrements.

Edward ordered the division under the Earls of Hereford and Lincoln to march upon the division of the Scots under Comyn. But Comyn, who had become still more irritated against Stewart, and had also received a secret communication from the English king, withdrew, after the example of Wallace, from the field, leaving Stewart and his division unsupported; against whom, accordingly, the two English Earls at once directed the whole weight of their charge. At this retrograde movement of Comyn the whole army could not but be somewhat dispirited; but Stewart and his men received the English onset with the utmost intre-

pidity, and even repulsed their assailants. Wallace, beholding Stewart's valour, held up his hands in admiration of it, and observed that, but for his absurd presumption and conceit, he would have been worthy to command the whole army. "However," he said to himself, "they will soon return upon him with fresh forces, and another assault will overwhelm him."

His prediction was soon fulfilled, for Bishop Beck and Robert Bruce were already advancing, with a portion of Beck's division, to crush Stewart with a second charge. Wallace long hesitated, and held debate with himself, whether he should march to the aid of Stewart and his countrymen, or still keep aloof; but though he pitied the fate of Scotland, thus a prey to dissension, he could not forget the insult that he had so recently received, or act in concert with the man that had uttered it. Stewart's men nobly supported their leader, and no retreat was made on their part until Stewart himself was slain, and the greater number of his followers cut to pieces. Wallace and Sir John Grahame witnessed his end with sorrow and tears.

But it was now necessary for Wallace and his friends to decide what measures they should adopt

for their own safety, for, if they kept their position, the victorious English would soon be upon them with their whole power. One eligible course only, indeed, was open to them; they must betake themselves to the nearest place of strength, which was the Torwood, and for this purpose they must cut a passage through the forces of Beck and Bruce. There was no time for hesitation; Wallace led the charge with his usual impetuosity, and his men seconded his efforts with such spirit that numbers of Beck's troops were slain, and a clear way made through them, before either Beck himself or his sovereign could make a movement to check Wallace's progress, or even understand what was his object. Wallace sped forward his men to the Torwood, and took post near the rear, with Sir John Grahame and Lauder, till they were all clear of the English troops. At last Bruce rallied a body of his followers, and, pressing forward with great eagerness, came in contact with Wallace himself, whom he hotly charged, and wounded in the throat with the point of his spear. Wallace, knowing his superiority in strength to Bruce, was unwilling to kill one of the royal family, and contented himself with withdrawing to a distance, and quietly staunching the blood.

“ Alas !” said he ; “ that one who should be the first to protect his country should be thus eager in effecting its ruin !”

While Wallace was engaged with his wound, Grahame and Lauder had nearly been overpowered by the force under Bishop Beck, who had hurried on to support Bruce. But Wallace, as soon as he had recovered, came to their rescue, and cut down, with fury and indignation, every Englishman that came in his way. Bruce made another attempt on Wallace with his spear, but missed his aim, and Wallace, still unwilling to do him injury, contrived to unhorse without wounding him. He was, however, soon remounted by those about him ; and Wallace and Grahame were obliged to make desperate efforts to defend themselves in the midst of the tumult. Grahame struck down, with a blow on the helmet, a knight that came in front of Bruce ; when another knight, enraged at the fate of his companion, and observing that Grahame’s coat of mail was slightly open at the waist, plunged a spear into his back. Grahame turned, and, collecting his whole force, cleft the knight’s helm and skull with his sword. But this was his last effort ; he felt himself fainting, and endeavoured to retire among the body of his

countrymen ; but his horse was pierced by the English lances, and the animal and himself fell dead together.

Wallace's grief, when he saw that the man who had so long been his dearest friend, and had fought by his side in so many deadly struggles, had ceased to live, was almost beyond conception. He would have retired to mourn, but the necessity of defending himself against the enemies that thronged around, allowed him no opportunity. He was obliged to let sorrow give place to rage, and, turning his fury on his opponents, like a wild beast that has no reason, he slew all that he encountered, and made great room around him. Among those that he slew in this struggle was Sir Brian Le Jay, a Knight Templar of great military reputation, who had been one of his most violent assailants. Bruce ordered his men to kill Wallace's horse, as they had killed Grahame's, with their spears ; and they succeeded indeed in wounding him ; but Wallace, seeing their intention, drew off, while sufficient strength was yet left in the animal, to the bank of the river Carron. Desiring his men to keep together, and swim boldly across, he remained himself to guard the passage till they were all over, and then swam

after them, when his horse fell dead on the opposite bank. Ker, who had strenuously supported him in the combat, brought him another steed, and enabled him speedily to rejoin his troops.

Besides Sir John Grahame, Wallace lost, on this occasion, fifteen of his distinguished comrades in arms. A vast number of the English were slain, and King Edward, though he gained the day by superiority of force, yet, when he reckoned how many men he had lost in the contest with Stewart, and how many in that with Wallace, could hardly think himself entitled to much honour for his victory.

CHAPTER XIII.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN WALLACE AND BRUCE.

After Wallace's men had passed on to the Torwood, and all the din of arms had subsided on both sides for the night, Wallace himself, accompanied by Ker, was straying along the north bank of the Carron in the twilight, when he perceived on the other side of the stream a figure apparently watching them. Thinking that mischief might be intended, he called out to know who was there, and found that the voice in which the answer was returned was the voice of Robert Bruce.

“Thou hast met me in battle to-day,” cried Wallace to him; “I would now fain meet thee in conference. The English, whom thou supportest, have nearly ruined our wretched country. Why wilt thou still act with her enemies? I was unwilling to fight thee; let me speak with thee on the unhappy condition of our land.”

That part of the English army, in which Bruce had held his command, had gone forward with Bishop Beck, and Bruce had happened to linger behind, in a melancholy mood, to meditate on the events of the day.

“I know thy voice,” replied Bruce, “as thou appearest to know mine. I am willing to hear what thou hast to say; and first I would ask thee why thou still continuest to agitate the country with war, when thou mightest be at peace with King Edward, and leave Scotland in rest and tranquillity? What is thy object? Wouldst thou make thyself a king over thy countrymen?”

“Nay,” replied Wallace; “thou doest me the greatest wrong in merely asking me the question. What cause have I given that such a suspicion should be conceived against me? I have sought but to deliver my country from tyranny, and to establish her independence. I have acted under the commission of Baliol, who will not come to act for himself. If Baliol be set aside as incapable of governing, I am ready to act under thee, as I consider thy title to the throne to be not less valid than his. Wouldst thou come to the support of thy people, instead of working their destruction, how much better a state of things might we soon

produce! How many Scots have fallen in battle to-day, that might, if all had gone well with our country, have been now alive and in comfort!"

"Wilt thou listen to my advice," asked Bruce, "and do as I would have thee?"

"Not whilst thou doest as thou art now doing," rejoined Wallace. "Thou servest under King Edward, and wouldst have me, I fear, follow thy example; but I would rather die this moment. But if I might give thee advice, I would say that if thou wouldst quit King Edward, thou mightst either live as a nobleman respected in thy own country, or, by the aid of thy faithful well-wishers, establish thyself as a sovereign. Were I desirous to secure the crown for myself, it is possible that I might, with the influence which I have obtained among the people, accomplish that object; but I have no wish either for such a burden or such an honour. Heaven knows that I have raised war only to maintain that independence of my country which thou strivest to undo. It might well be said of thee that thou wast born in an unhappy day for Scotland. Dost thou feel no shame that thou hast as yet done thy country no good, but, like a traitor, hast leagued with her enemies to work her ruin? Thou hast been to us but as a heathen

and a Pagan, and deservest death at our hands more than any Saracen or other infidel."

Bruce was touched with Wallace's warmth, but said, "Words are vain; thou art too strongly beset with the English power to have any hope of resisting it, either in concert with me, or by thy own unaided efforts."

"Nay," rejoined Wallace, "be not so sure of our inability. If we but collect our forces, those which remain of Stewart's, and those which are still under Comyn, we shall not be fewer in proportion to King Edward's army than we were to the English at Biggar, when they saw many of their number fall under our swords, and yielded us a complete victory. Despair not of the spirit of thy countrymen; show us the enemy, and we will fight them, though they be three to one. It is not strength or valour that Scotland wants, but concord; were she but as united as she is courageous, she might still successfully assert her independence. For myself, I cannot desert her in her peril, but must continue to do what I can to support her cause."

"It is but inconvenient talking here, across this stream," returned Bruce, "but I would fain consult with thee further, in some place where

we may converse more at ease. Wilt thou meet me to-morrow morning at the chapel near Dunipace, at nine o'clock?"

"Nine o'clock," replied Wallace, "will be too late an hour; for I intend to be in preparation for the day's proceedings long before that time, but if you will engage to be there by three, I will meet you with the greatest pleasure."

To this proposal a ready assent was expressed; and Bruce with twelve followers, and Wallace with ten, held a secret conference at the chapel of Dunipace, when Wallace enforced the arguments which he had already used, and many others, with such success, that Bruce from that day never raised his sword against Scotland.

CHAPTER XIV.

BURIAL OF SIR JOHN GRAHAME.

Wallace had taken due care that the body of Sir John Grahame should be sought out from among the other dead; and he now proceeded, on the termination of his interview with Bruce, to bestow on it the rites of sepulture.

When he saw the corpse, he could not forbear falling on it, and kissing it, and saying, with tears and groans, "Thou wast indeed a brother to me. How can I sufficiently lament thy death? Thou wast my friend when I was in need of friendship; thou wast my pride, my delight, my constant support. In thee I beheld true valour, independence, and manliness; in thee I saw truth, honour, and nobility of mind. Thou couldst govern thyself, and govern others; thou wast firm, just, and kind. Though I began war with England, I should, but for thy encouragement and consolation,

have scarcely had heart to continue it. My only comfort, in looking on thy dead body, is that thou hast died the noblest of deaths in defence of thy country."

The remains of Sir John were deposited in the churchyard of Falkirk, where a tomb was afterwards erected to him, with an inscription, "Here lies Sir John Grahame, a man of strong mind and body, the faithful friend of William Wallace; he was killed by the English, July 22, 1298."

CHAPTER XV.

THE ENGLISH HARASSED. EDWARD QUITS
SCOTLAND.

Notwithstanding that Edward had gained the victory at Falkirk, he was far from being in a condition to profit greatly by it. He was grievously in want of provisions for his men, and forage for his horses; and numbers of the Scots, who, though defeated, were not subdued, were ready to harass him on the march, lay waste the country, and deprive him of all hope of obtaining supplies.

In such operations Wallace was not inactive. On the day after the battle, he divided the troops which he had still with him into two bodies, one of which he entrusted to Earl Malcolm, with directions to march towards Linlithgow by Inveravon, while with the other he himself went round by Manwell, his object being to surprise

Edward's camp, of which Linlithgow was the head quarters. In the evening, Earl Malcolm pressed forward to the town, and commenced an attack on the English somewhat precipitately, before Wallace was ready to support him. The unprepared condition of the enemy, however, prevented any unpleasant consequences to the Scots, who destroyed a vast portion of their tents and baggage, and put numbers of them to the sword. Wallace directed his movements chiefly on King Edward, who took excellent measures for defence; but Wallace killed his banner man, and the King himself was obliged to effect a retreat from his quarters.

The impression made by this and similar attacks on the English, in addition to the deficiency of provisions, was such, that Edward sought only a fair pretext for withdrawing from the country altogether. But first he determined to march in pursuit of the Scots with a numerous detachment of his army. His adversaries, however, eluded all his attempts, and, retiring before him, burned and ravaged the neighbourhood of Stirling, and rendered his position worse than it was before. He had no choice, therefore, but to withdraw, and, after many losses in his retreat from the assaults of the enemy, passed across the Solway into England.

In all these proceedings, Bruce, though still with Edward's army, kept carefully aloof from any contest with his countrymen. Wallace and Earl Malcolm were well supported by Sir John Ramsay, Sir Richard Lundin, Crystall of Seyton, and Wallace of Riccartoun.

CHAPTER XVI.

OPPOSITION TO WALLACE. HE RESIGNS THE
OFFICE OF REGENT.

But great opposition was now rising against Wallace, and from quarters from whence he least deserved to experience it. Envy and jealousy were producing a state of things extremely unfavourable to him. Comyn, and the surviving followers of Stewart, expressed loud disapprobation of his conduct. Comyn, to palliate his own treacherous desertion of his countrymen, accused Wallace of designing to seize the crown, and declared that, even if the charge were groundless, it would be more honourable for men of birth to submit to a powerful foreign prince like Edward, than to take their orders from a Scotch upstart; and the partisans of Stewart, forgetting the insulting words of their chief to Wallace, charged him with having capriciously occasioned the loss of

the battle of Falkirk, by refraining from assisting Stewart till assistance was useless. Comyn, in the meantime, was still strengthening his party, and it appeared possible that, under pretence of supporting Edward, he might be desirous to establish himself as a sovereign over his countrymen.

Wallace, on his return from following Edward, finding that such was the condition of affairs in the country, and seeing that unless he involved the kingdom in a civil war he would be unable to compel such powerful factions to postpone their own aims and feelings to the public good, resolved no longer to act as regent; and, accordingly, called a council of the chief nobility at Perth, at which he formally stated that, with a view to the benefit and tranquillity of the country, he should discontinue, for the present, the exercise of that authority which Baliol had conferred upon him, and should desire, until better prospects should arise, to be considered only as a private individual, reserving to himself no other privilege than that of opposing the enemies of Scotland at the head of such true men as should be willing to adhere to him. His friends endeavoured to dissuade him from this determination, but were unable to succeed. "I was ap-

pointed Regent," said he to them, "by him whom all loyal Scotsmen regard as their king; I endeavoured to exercise my powers so as to honour and profit him and his realm; I have passed through many perils and hardships, and have never spared myself in doing that which I considered to be my duty. But for all my efforts, I was repaid at Falkirk only by insolence; and to such retorts I do not intend longer to expose myself. I, that have done so much to resist our enemies, should not have met with hostility from my own countrymen. If harm were intended me, I might have expected it, not surely from Scots, but from Englishmen. I now leave you free to adopt what course you please: may heaven grant you aid to defend and maintain your rights!"

All his adherents heard his determination with sorrow, but could not alter it. Wallace withdrew; and the assembly, after long deliberation, thought the best thing that could be done, in the present condition of parties, was to elect a Regency, consisting of Comyn, Lord de Soulis, and Lamberton, Bishop of St. Andrews.

CHAPTER XVII.

SPIRIT OF THE SCOTS. BALIOL RELEASED BY EDWARD. STIRLING TAKEN FROM THE ENGLISH.

Though Edward had personally withdrawn from Scotland, he had been able to leave a considerable portion of his forces to overawe that part of the Lowlands which lies nearest to England, and which he was resolved, at all hazards, to endeavour to make his own. But the Scots, though they had suffered greatly from his invasion, were not so much impoverished or dispirited as they had often been in former years; they had saved much of their cattle and other effects, from the enemy; the courage with which Wallace had animated them was still unextinguished; and though several of the chiefs had renewed their oaths of attachment to Edward, yet the disposition to sacrifice their independence was far from being general

among them. The principal strongholds were in the occupation of the Scots; and the almost impregnable fortress of Dumbarton had been entrusted by Wallace to Sir John Menteith, a man who had assisted him in the burning of the barracks of Ayr, and in other enterprises of difficulty, and whose honour he as yet knew no reason to suspect. When Wallace conferred this command on him, he agreed for the erection of a house for himself within the fortress, where he might hope to secure his own safety, in times of peril, or that of any of his relations.

Edward sent large supplies of provisions, at the commencement of the winter, for the support of Stirling and other places that remained in his hands, but the activity of the Scots prevented many of these from reaching the parts for which they were destined, and the king saw that great efforts would be necessary to preserve his power in Scotland from gradual diminution and decay.

In the following year, Baliol, after repeated applications to the Pope, from himself and his friends, to interfere with Edward on his behalf, was released by the King from captivity, and delivered over to the Pope's Nuncio, with permission to his Holiness to dispose of him as he

should think proper. Edward consented to this measure in the hope that Baliol would be removed from Great Britain to the continent, and that, in his absence, some of the former claimants of the crown would urge anew their pretensions to it, and thus excite fresh distractions among the Scots; but in this expectation he was disappointed, for the regents, supported and encouraged by Wallace, exercised their government with vigour and in concert, and proceeded at length to lay siege to Stirling Castle, Edward's chief stronghold in the country. The besieged were soon distressed, and obliged to apply to Edward for succours, who, knowing the importance of the place, resolved on relieving it, and, for that purpose, assembled an army at Berwick in the early part of November; but many of his barons, complaining of his want of faith in regard to the English charters, and in the disposal of certain lands in Scotland, refused to attend him over the border, so that he was compelled to march for Stirling with only a portion of his army. When he had entered the country, he found the Scots too strong for the force which he had with him, and determined on returning, and allowing the garrison to make terms of surrender. The castle was accordingly

soon after given up to Lord Soulis, who consigned the command of it to Sir William Oliphant.

Comyn also exerted himself against the English, and gained some portion of popularity by his conduct; and the three Regents, with many others of the nobility, resolved on sending ambassadors to France to ask assistance against the English; and the ambassadors, if they should be unsuccessful with the French king, were directed to proceed to Rome, and solicit the influence of the Pope with Edward, to restrain him from farther aggressions on their unhappy country.

CHAPTER XVIII.

EDWARD AGAIN INVADES SCOTLAND. SIEGE OF CAERLAVEROCK. HE RECEIVES A BULL FROM THE POPE. A TRUCE.

Edward, however, was still determined to resume hostilities with Scotland as soon as he should be able; and accordingly hastened to conclude arrangements as satisfactorily as possible, with his barons; but it was not till spring in the year 1300 that he was in a condition to call together his army, which met at Carlisle on the 1st of the following July. From thence it proceeded towards Scotland in four divisions, the first led by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, the second by John Earl of Warrenne and Surrey, the third by the King himself, and the fourth by Prince Edward his son, who now appeared in the field for the first time.

The first operation in which Edward was en-

gaged was the siege of Caerlaverock, a strong castle about nine miles south of Dumfries, occupied by Herbert Maxwell, who was chief of a powerful border clan, and who had refused to comply with a summons of Edward to surrender. Its shape was triangular, with a tower at each angle; it had good walls, and was surrounded with a ditch filled to the brim with water; and it was well furnished with men, provisions, and military engines. Such being its strength, and such its defences, it is not surprising that the siege of it retarded the progress of Edward for several days.

While the English army was encamped before the place, Winchelsea, the Archbishop of Canterbury, brought Edward a bull from the Pope. The ambassadors, who had gone for aid to the French King, having been unsuccessful, for the disturbed state of his own kingdom afforded him a fair pretext for declining to assist others, had proceeded, according to their instructions, to complain to Pope Boniface at Rome, who, in the bull now delivered to Edward, admonished him to desist from attempting to subjugate a kingdom to which he could assert no lawful claim, as no King of Scotland, on paying homage to an English sovereign, had paid it for his crown, but merely for the lands

which he held in England. The king, on perusing the bull, was highly incensed, but afterwards returned a temperate answer to it, refusing, however, to relinquish his pretensions to be liege lord of Scotland.

Caerlaverock was at last taken. Of its defenders only sixty survived, whose lives, from admiration of their bravery, King Edward spared, and on releasing them, granted each of them a new suit of apparel.

The king then marched into Galloway as far as Kirkcudbright, and from thence into other parts of the country, returning to Caerlaverock by the beginning of November. During his progress, he sent out in different directions, detachments from his army, which Wallace, still at the head of his adherents, did his utmost to annoy or cut off. One division, under the Earl of Warrenne, the Scots attacked near Irvine in Ayrshire, but though they did the English much damage, were at last obliged to retreat before superior numbers. Another division laid waste Clydesdale, destroyed Bothwell, and burned the abbey church of Lesmahago, where a body of the inhabitants had taken shelter; an act which Wallace made great efforts to prevent, but was unsuccessful, and had to conceal himself in

a cave in the vicinity, still called Wallace's Cave, until the enemy retired.

Edward then proceeded to fortify the places of strength which he had taken ; but very few of the Scots were willing to hire themselves to him for the work, and he was in consequence obliged to procure labourers, at great expense, from the northern parts of England.

But as the result of all these operations in Scotland was on the whole extremely unsatisfactory, he at length affected to listen to fresh representations from the Pope, seconded by others from the King of France, and agreed to a truce with the Scots who were in arms against him. This truce was concluded at the French Court between English and Scottish commissioners, who, to the great displeasure of Edward, allowed Baliol's name to appear in the treaty as King of Scotland ; and the truce was to last till the following Whitsunday. In consequence, all the English troops, except those of the garrisons, were withdrawn from the Scottish territories.

Book VI.

CHAPTER I.

WALLACE VISITS FRANCE. HIS ENCOUNTER WITH
THE RED REIVER.

During this cessation of hostilities, Wallace, finding that he could be of little service for the present to his countrymen, resolved on visiting France. To this determination he was impelled partly by inclination to accept the earnest invitation of the French king, partly by the desire of seeing the military condition of the country, and partly by the hope of inducing Philip to lend aid to Scotland, when the truce should be expired, against the English.

Having procured a vessel, he selected fifty men to form its crew, but communicated the place of his destination to few, except Crawford and
E. who were to accompany him, for he

knew that the majority of his friends would hardly consent that he should leave the kingdom, and he feared that the English, if they heard of his departure, might attempt to capture him at sea.

He set sail for Kirkeudbright in the month of April, 1301, and having proceeded with a fair wind for a day and a night, he was told by the master of the ship, on the following morning, that six sail were approaching from the south-east. As they drew nearer, and the sun shone strongly upon them, the master was able to distinguish that they were the vessels of the Red Reiver, a noted pirate of the day. "Alas!" said he, seized with terror, "alas the day that I was born! it was in an evil hour that I undertook the charge of conveying the champion of Scotland to France. Our lives are lost, for we have no strength to resist this piratical force. But I would gladly give up my own life, if Wallace might but go unharmed."

"Do not despair," said Wallace, who overheard his lamentations. "We may yet find means of resistance or escape. But who is this Red Reiver, as you call him? What makes him so formidable to you?"

"He is the fiercest fighter that roams the seas," replied the master, "and we may well call him

king of the main. He kills all whom he takes, accepting neither gold nor any other ransom; kings and subjects are all alike to him; all are drowned or put to the sword. He has tyrannized over the waters these sixteen years, for he has such a force with him, as only a large fleet can withstand."

"Well," said Wallace, "how shall I know him when he draws near, and what is his usual mode of attack?"

"You will be sure to see him," answered the master, "in the ship that advances foremost; he will hail us as he comes up, and will be the first to board us. You will know him by his red shield, marked with a bar of blue, and a bend of green."

Wallace having received this information, ordered the master and steersman to resign their charge to Kneland and Crawford, both of whom were well acquainted with naval matters, desiring Kneland to steer, and Crawford to stand by the mainsail, to haul it in or let it loose as he should direct. He then called his fifty men around him, and after a few words of encouragement, stationed them, fully equipped, on the deck. The Reiver called to them to strike, and Kneland, by Wallace's direction, steered the vessel close to the pirate's ship, who at once sprang on board, when Crawford, at another

signal from Wallace, let go the sail, and the vessel passed on. The Reiver, being thus separated from his men, was instantly seized by the neck by Wallace, and thrown on his back with such force, that the blood spurted from his nose and mouth. He attempted to draw his dagger, but Wallace soon disarmed him of both dagger and sword, and reduced him to supplicate for his life, which Wallace would not grant till he had solemnly sworn never to attempt to do him injury. The Reiver's men began to hurl missiles, but the Scots were so well protected by their armour, that none of them were hurt; and, at a sign from the Reiver, the hurling was discontinued.

Wallace and the Reiver were seized with a strong admiration and liking one for the other. Both were brave, and each admired the other's bravery. From some words that the Reiver let fall, Wallace found that he understood Latin, and, as his own fluency in the French tongue was not great, he talked with him for some time in the Latin tongue. Wallace asked him if he was a native of France. "Yes," replied he, "and descended from an ancient family, who had large estates in the country."

"How came you then into this kind of life?" inquired Wallace.

“Through a quarrel with a nobleman, who insulted me in the king’s presence, and on whom I was provoked to draw my sword on the spot. We fought, in spite of the courtiers’ endeavours to separate us, and he was killed. Death was the penalty due to me for drawing my sword before the king, but the intercessions of my friends saved my life ; I was, however, banished, and have never been able, though I have made many attempts, to procure a pardon. My family, partly through my offence, fell into disgrace ; and when I saw that there was no hope for me at home, I resolved on doing something for myself abroad. I could not live as a slave, and I felt an inclination to be, in some career, a leader of others ; but I must acknowledge that the way of life which I have pursued, has been one from which I have often longed to release myself.

“With a few companions, desperate and adventurous like myself, I seized on an English ship at Bourdeaux, and commenced the lawless course in which you have arrested me. Being successful, I was joined by many more adherents, for there are plenty of people inclined to evil in the world, and we at last became so strong, that we got more vessels, and have been enabled to defy the civil

power for sixteen years. During this period I have done much harm, and have been particularly severe to my own countrymen, for though I have shown favour, and even done service, to men of other nations, I have allowed no Frenchman to ransom himself from my sword. I have been called king of the sea, but I might well have been termed tyrant of it. In personal prowess I have never before met my match, and if any one had told me this morning that I should have been so easily overthrown before noon, I should have laughed him to scorn. I long to know the name of my conqueror, for I should have thought lightly of meeting any man living in arms, unless it were Wallace, the champion of Scotland, of whose valorous exploits I have heard so much, and who is said to be the strongest and most skilful of all that have ever wielded a sword. It is wonderful that a man of such merit should not have been more honoured by his people, but should have been prevented by envy and jealousy from securing the independence of his country."

"There are other men of merit in Scotland besides Wallace," replied the Scottish hero with a smile; "Wallace must yield to circumstances like others; but, such as he is, you see him before you."

“Am I indeed so fortunate?” rejoined the Reiver. “Since I was to be overthrown, I may well congratulate myself on having been overthrown by so worthy an antagonist. But how comest thou to be at sea? I thought thou wast fighting thy country’s enemies on thy native soil.”

“I am making a voyage to Rochelle,” said Wallace, “for I have been courteously invited to visit the French king, and I trust that I may induce him to be of some benefit to Scotland. But you have not yet told me your name.”

“My name,” answered the Reiver, “is Thomas de Longueville. I would that I were in as much favour with the King of France as you are, for I had much rather be at peace with my country than at enmity with it. But since I cannot serve my own sovereign, I would willingly take service with you. You shall be my king, and I will be your subject.”

“Nay,” rejoined Wallace; “I will be nothing to you but your friend. I will be so presumptuous as to solicit the King of France on your behalf. I like the open manner in which you have addressed me, and should be glad to be of any advantage to you.”

After some farther conversation to the same

purpose, the vessels proceeded on their voyage together, and came to land at Rochelle, where the people, recognizing the Reiver's ships, were in some alarm, fearing that a piratical attack was intended; but the appearance of Wallace's vessel in front, whose ensign, the red lion, they well knew to be Scottish, diminished their apprehensions, and Wallace's assurances, as he stepped on shore, restored their tranquillity. They saw that he was a man of authority and command, and, when they learned who he was, readily took his word that no harm should be done them, and gave him and his followers a cordial reception.

Having stayed here four days, he prepared to visit Paris in company with the Reiver, making an agreement with the Reiver's crew that, until they heard from him, they should keep peace, and live at their own charge. When they reached Paris, and Wallace sent notice to the king of his arrival, he was received without delay by the king and queen in the garden of the palace, amidst a large number of the courtiers, all of whom were eager to see the champion of Scotland of whom they had heard so much.

After a plenteous repast, the king and his nobles retired to discourse with Wallace, with

whom he conversed in Latin, asking him many questions respecting the state of Scotland, to which Wallace gave ready and satisfactory replies ; and each was much pleased with the other. Among their subjects of talk the Red Reiver was mentioned, and the king congratulated Wallace on having escaped him, observing that he might have sent to France for a naval force to protect him in his voyage. Wallace thanked the king, and the discourse ended by Philip telling Wallace to make himself at home in France, and offering to give him any boon that he should ask, except his wife and his crown.

Wallace in consequence took occasion to solicit Longueville's pardon, relating his adventure with him, and stating how desirous he had expressed himself to be again in favour with his prince. This request, which was seconded by some of the noblemen, the king, with reluctance, but under the obligation of his promise, at length consented to grant. Similar favour was extended to such of the Reiver's men as were willing to become good subjects of France.

CHAPTER II.

WALLACE IN GUIENNE.

After Wallace had been some time at the French Court, he began to grow tired of inactivity, and, as the English were then engaged in military operations in Guienne, he asked of Philip to be allowed to take the field against them, at the head of such Scots as he should be able to collect. In a short time nine hundred of his countrymen were assembled, and, accompanied by Sir Thomas Longueville, who promised to be his constant and faithful friend and supporter, he led them at once to the scene of war.

The first place against which they directed their efforts, in concert with the French troops, was a considerable fortress well garrisoned by the English. The defences were strong, though chiefly of wood, and, after various manœuvres before the place, it chanced that Wallace, Crawford, and

Longueville, by setting fire to a portion of the works, succeeded in effecting an entrance at one of the gates. But as soon as fifteen of the Scots had passed in, one of the porters, seizing an opportunity, contrived to let a gate fall across the passage, and cut them off from all communication with their countrymen without. The English within, seeing the small number of their enemies, assailed them with great boldness, but Wallace and his party, setting their backs against a wall, maintained a long and successful resistance, till his cousin Richard, with a few vigorous supporters, killed the porter, removed the obstacle, and gave free ingress to the other Scots. Many Englishmen were killed, and much booty taken; and the fort was left in the keeping of a French garrison.

Other successes followed, and the proceedings of the French and Scots in those parts were thought of such importance, that the Duke of Orleans, with a considerable body of men, was sent to their support. But, while the Duke was on his march, the Earl of Gloucester, who was then Governor of Calais, sent urgent representations to King Edward to induce him to stop Wallace's progress. Mention was made of the matter in the English parliament; when some said that Wal-

lace's acts were an infraction of the truce with Scotland; others alleged that the truce had no reference to what might be done in France, but to Scotland only. As for Edward himself, he was not merely displeased with Wallace's doings, but was bent, for other reasons, on resuming hostilities as soon as the truce should expire.

CHAPTER III.

ANOTHER TRUCE.

Accordingly, when Whitsunday, to which the truce extended, was past, Scotland was again invaded by the English, who advanced as far as Linlithgow, where they fixed their head quarters, and prepared to build a strong fortress. But Edward was at the same time anxious to make a treaty of peace with the French king, and to detach him from the interests of the Scots ; and these objects he could not effect but on condition, not only of resigning the Flemings, his allies, to the resentment of Philip, but also of granting a truce to the Scots till St. Andrew's day, the thirtieth of November, in the following year. To these conditions Edward agreed, and put a stop, in consequence, to hostilities with Scotland, and withdrew his troops, except such as were left in garrison, from the country.

CHAPTER IV.

BATTLE OF ROSLYN. WALLACE'S RETURN FROM
FRANCE.

When this second truce expired, Edward was still in the same mind with regard to the subjugation of Scotland, and immediately despatched thither Sir John de Segrave, with a force of twenty thousand men, who advanced into the country as far as Roslyn, in Mid Lothian, where, in order the better to obtain forage, he separated his troops into three divisions.

But the Regent, John Comyn, assisted by Simon Fraser, a warlike chief, who had previously joined Edward, but, having repented of his defection from patriotism, had since become a strenuous vindicator of Scotland's independence, had, on hearing of Segrave's approach, collected a force of eight thousand Scots, with which he advanced upon the enemy while they were thus scattered.

They fell fiercely on the first division, and put it to flight with great slaughter. Soon after, as they were crossing the field of battle, and gathering spoil in their progress, they came in sight of the second division, which, elated with their previous success, they attacked and routed with the same ease as the first. By these victories, however, they were somewhat exhausted, and were preparing to take rest, when the scouts brought intelligence that the third division was coming towards them. Comyn and Fraser then besought them to make one more effort, and to give the enemy a total overthrow ; and the Scots, mustering their whole force, and arming several of their camp-followers with the weapons of the slain, stood again to their arms, and met the advance of the English with such spirit and resolution as threw them utterly into disorder, and compelled them to take flight, leaving their camp and its contents in the hands of the conquerors. Sixteen knights were made prisoners, and Sir Ralph the Cofferer, who was Edward's treasurer for Scotland, had his head cut off by Simon Fraser.

This day's triumph was not without advantages to Scotland ; for it rendered the Scots more ready to take up arms against the invaders, who were

expelled from many of the strongholds which they occupied in the South.

Before this battle was fought, news of the threatened invasion had reached Wallace in France, and he in consequence returned to Scotland, but not in time to be present at the engagement.

CHAPTER V.

WALLACE SETS OUT AGAIN FOR FRANCE. HIS
COMBAT WITH JOHN OF LYN.

Finding that the time was not yet come for him to serve his country effectually against the English, he set out again for France. He was attended on this occasion by Longueville, who was his constant companion; by Richard Wallace, and John Blair, who had returned to Scotland with him; and by Simon Wallace, a brother of Richard, Thomas Gray, an ecclesiastic, Grimsby, and Edward Little.

They set sail in a trading vessel, in company with a number of merchants; and it was remarkable that he met with a similar adventure in his second voyage to that which he had encountered in his first. They sailed along the coast of Britain till they came to the mouth of the Humber, when they perceived a large ship with a red

sail, and a flag on which were three leopards, the ensign of the English monarch. The merchants at once knew that it was the vessel of John of Lyn, an English adventurer of great ferocity, who had done much mischief to the Scots that he had met out at sea. They were in consequence in great dismay; but Wallace and his companions encouraged them, and they at length began to prepare for defence. Their cargo consisted chiefly of wool and sheep-skins; and, stuffing several of the skins with wool, they hung them about their persons as a kind of armour against the missiles of the enemy. Wallace smiled at their contrivance, and said that he had never seen such armour before, but that he hoped it would answer their purpose. He himself, with Longueville and Blair, who, though a priest, could fight, took post in the centre of the vessel; his other followers he stationed in different parts; and committed the management of the helm to Gray.

John of Lyn had with him about a hundred and forty men; and when he saw the Scots preparing to resist, he laughed, and said to those about him, "Those fellows are doubtless landsmen, and know not who we are; if they had been much at sea, they would not think of fighting with John of

Lyn. Strike!" cried he to Wallace and his crew; but Wallace returned no answer. Blair then shot three arrows, and killed one of John of Lyn's men at each shot. The privateers were exasperated, and assailed Wallace and his party with a storm of spears, arrows, and cross-bow bolts, from which they had much difficulty in defending themselves. At last the Scots succeeded in bringing their vessel alongside the enemy, when they taught John of Lyn and his men the weight of Scotch broadswords. The merchants also exerted themselves bravely, and were of great assistance to the men of war. Wallace and his companions sprang on board the enemy's ship, and attacked the crew with such fury, that the captain, seeing the terrible energy of his assailants, and the havoc with which they strewed the deck, would gladly have steered off; but the Scots had no inclination to let him escape. At last the two leaders met hand to hand, and John of Lyn, after a short struggle, was overpowered by his opponent, who struck his head from his shoulders. Such of the crew as survived then submitted to the victors, who found in the vessel much valuable treasure that John of Lyn had collected in a long career of privateering. Wallace, in this encounter, was

well supported by all his followers, but by none more efficiently than by Longueville and Blair.

He took the captured vessel with him, and steered for Helvoetsluys, where he made a free gift of it to the merchants, who were delighted that their terrors had ended in such profit. The spoil he divided among his own people, with whom he then took his way for Paris.

CHAPTER VI.

HONOURS PAID TO WALLACE IN FRANCE. HIS
PROCEEDINGS.

Wallace was cordially welcomed, as before, by the French monarch. A few days after his arrival, Philip directed his peers, then assembled in council, to consider what title and command might properly be conferred upon him. The peers were unanimous in recommending that he should be made Governor of a fort near Guienne, where he had so much distinguished himself. Philip was displeased at this recommendation, because he knew that many of them had concurred in it through a desire to send Wallace away from the court to a part where he would be constantly kept in employment, and perhaps meet with his death at the hands of an enemy; but Wallace himself was much gratified, and said that he thanked the lords for wishing him not to be idle, but giving him an

appointment where he would perhaps be able to act against the English, the enemies of his country. Philip accordingly appointed him to a command, and desired him to take troops and everything necessary for establishing himself in the government of his territories.

Wallace was readily joined by the Scots that were in France; and Longueville made efforts to induce Frenchmen to support him; so that he was soon at the head of a considerable body of men. He was also favoured by the Duke of Orleans, who had been on his march to assist him when he quitted France to return to Scotland. He conducted himself in his office, during the time that he held it, so as to gain great applause from Philip.

CHAPTER VII.

EDWARD AGAIN INVADES SCOTLAND. HIS SUCCESSES. COMPACT BETWEEN BRUCE AND COMYN.

In England, meantime, Edward was meditating vengeance on the Scots for the battle of Roslyn. He was annoyed at the praises, which he could not help hearing, of the bravery of the Scots; he was provoked by a report, conveyed to him by Menteith, that they were presuming to think of making Bruce king; and he collected a mighty host to overwhelm the whole nation, and render it powerless to resist or disturb him for the future. Preparations for war were heard from one end of England to the other; and a numerous fleet was appointed to attend the movements of the army, and prevent its operations from being crippled by want of provisions.

Edward himself led his army into the country. Such of the higher class of people as were un-

willing to submit to him sought refuge in the Isles. Bishop Sinclair again fled to Bute; but most of the bishops were ready enough to pay him homage; and he caused them to produce whatever records could be found of the independence of Scotland in past times, that they might be destroyed. Many of the nobility and others, who refused to hold their lands from him, he deprived altogether of their possessions, and sent prisoners into England. Among these were Sir William Douglas, who died in confinement in London; and the Earl of Murray, Lord Fraser, and Hew the Hay, who were despatched into England in charge of Sir Aymer de Vallence. Seyton, Lauder, and Lundy fled to the Bass; Earl Malcolm sought shelter with Bishop Sinclair in Bute; Ramsay and Ruthven fled northwards to their cousin, the Lord of Fyllorth, and being joined by a recusant to Edward named Clement, built a strong fortress at Stockford, in the county of Ross. Adam Wallace, Lyndsay of Craigie, and Robert Boyd passed over to Arran.

Among the few places that made any resistance to Edward, one of the most obstinate was the castle of Brechin in the shire of Angus, which, under Sir Thomas Maule, the governor, offered a

most gallant defence, and did not surrender till the death of the governor introduced disorder among the garrison.

The governorship of Perth was given to the Earl of York, with all the lands between the Tay and the Dee; and Butler, whose father and grandfather had been killed by Wallace at Kinclaven, was made lieutenant under him. To Lord Beaumont he gave a command in the north, and to Lord Clifford he assigned Douglasdale, with an additional portion of land towards the border. Young James Douglas, who had just returned from school at Paris, prevailed on the Bishop of Lammerton, who had received kindnesses from his family, to intercede with Edward that he might have his father's lands under service for them, but Edward refused with an oath, declaring that the father had been too much his enemy for the son to expect any favour from him.

The governorship of Dumbarton was confirmed to Sir John Menteith, who also, having met Sir Aymer de Vallence in Annan, induced him, by large professions of attachment to the English, to procure for him from Edward, an extension of his authority over the district of the Lennox. The command of Berwick was conferred upon Lord

Soulis, who had been one of the Regents, but was now a professed subject of Edward.

Having made these dispositions, Edward commenced his march back towards England. On the journey, Comyn, who happened to be a near neighbour of Bruce, asked leave to speak with him privately on the state and prospects of their country. Bruce told him to speak without fear, as he would make no ill use of anything that he might say.

“You are aware,” said Comyn, “that if Baliol be put out of consideration, you are the rightful king of this realm.”

“Yes,” replied Bruce, “but I see no opportunity for pressing my claim, for I am in the power of the greatest and strongest opponent to it, King Edward, who forced me to promise, when he and I came into Scotland, that I would not quit his army under the influence of any power but that of death. He once signified that he might possibly give me the throne at some time, but he never could have had in reality any such intention, or he would not now be partitioning the kingdom among Englishmen and traitorous Scots.”

“Would you like to have my lands?” asked Comyn in return; “I will give you them most

readily, if you will but make over to me your right to the crown. Or, if it would please you better, I would afford you such assistance as I may be able in securing your rights, and you should engage to give me such benefits as may seem fitting in return."

"I will not sell my claims," replied Bruce; "but if you will assist me, when time serves, in prosecuting them, I will grant you such lands and honours as may appear equitable when we have attained our objects."

"Take the first opportunity that offers, then," said Comyn, "of detaching yourself from King Edward. I have some power myself to support your cause, for Edward has ventured to give me the whole of Galloway; and I have three nephews on whom I can call for aid; Lord Soulis, who is Governor of Berwick; the Lord of Lorn, who has large possessions; and the Baron of Brechin, who is known as a stout soldier."

"With such support," returned Bruce, "we might hope for success, if we could but get Wallace from France. His valour and prudence, united with such as we possess, might rescue the kingdom from the thraldom which it has too long endured. But at present it would be premature to make any effort for its independence."

After some further conversation, it was arranged between them that they should sign a written agreement to afford aid to each other in carrying their project into effect; Bruce being to enjoy the crown, and Comyn to be the most powerful subject under him. A bond to this purpose was accordingly signed and sealed by both of them the same night at Stirling; and Bruce was imprudent enough to leave it in Comyn's hands.

CHAPTER VIII.

WALLACE STILL IN FRANCE. HE RETURNS TO
PARIS. HIS ADVENTURES AT THE FRENCH COURT.
HIS COMBAT WITH A LION.

Tidings had reached Wallace in France of the proceedings of Edward in regard to Scotland, but the affairs in which he was engaged, and the apprehension that his party at home was too weak for effectual resistance, contributed to detain him from returning to his country. The remembrance of the insult, too, that he had received at Falkirk, made him less inclined than he might otherwise have been to assist the Scottish nobles in any of their designs against the enemy. He hoped, also, that by prolonging his services to the French king, he would render him more disposed to afford him aid against the English when the time should come for availing himself of it with effect.

The last place at which he was engaged was a stronghold near Bourdeaux, which had been

seized by a number of outlaws and other desperate characters, who, knowing that to surrender would be death to them, continued to defy the utmost efforts of the king's troops for their reduction. Sixty days Wallace spent in besieging it, but to no purpose, for it had received ample supplies of provisions and other requisites for war by sea; and the besieged, with showers of arrows and other missiles, and with sallies in which they set fire to whatever was combustible, succeeded in causing great annoyance and loss to the besiegers. The country around, also, was so much exhausted by continued demands upon it, that the scantiness of supplies began to be severely felt among Wallace's men.

In this state of things more urgent solicitations came to Wallace from Bishop Sinclair and others, who intreated him to return and consider what could be done to save their country from being utterly overwhelmed, and deprived of its name among the nations, by the English. Being greatly moved, he consulted with the Duke of Orleans how he should act, and the Duke advised him to go to Paris, and, representing to the King the state of things at the fortress, urge him to send reinforcements as soon as possible. " I,

in the meantime," said he, "will remain here and establish a blockade, unless famine oblige me to withdraw; and you, when you see the king, may perhaps obtain his consent to a visit to Scotland, if he but considers the humiliation to which your country is subjected."

Wallace acted in compliance with this suggestion. The King thanked him warmly for what he had done in France, and, though sorry to part with him, offered no opposition to his return; trusting that he would come again to France when the condition of his country should be improved.

But Wallace was destined not to leave France without further adventures. During his short stay at the court, he dwelt in a house which, with some adjoining land, Philip had assigned for his residence. A nobleman, who pretended a right to the lands, and complained that his family had been unjustly deprived of them, sought to kindle a quarrel with him, and, observing that he was accustomed to ride abroad with fifteen attendants, met him one day accompanied by the same number, and said, "We are sixteen, and you are sixteen; let us try which is the better troop." Wallace did not shrink from the encounter, and the two parties immediately engaged. But the

French nobleman had treacherously placed a body of his retainers in ambush, who, as soon as the contest was fairly begun, rushed forth upon the Scots with great fury. But Wallace and his men, though assailed by double their number, were not at all daunted; Wallace wielded his formidable sword with his usual energy, cut down all that came in his way, and struck off the nobleman's head with a single blow. His brother cheered his followers to avenge his death, but was soon despatched by Wallace's men, and all that survived of the Frenchmen then took to flight. The King, when he heard of this affair, caused search to be made for those that had been concerned in it, but all contrived to make their escape.

Two other knights, who were constant companions, and persons of great strength, and imagined that no two men on earth were a match for them, conceived an irresistible desire to attack Wallace. Being of malicious dispositions, they took occasion to speak, in his hearing, disrespectfully of Scotland, at first half in jest and half in earnest, and Wallace parried their remarks in the same strain; but meeting him one day alone in the unfurnished apartment of a castle, they thought fit to attack him on the same subject

somewhat more seriously. Wallace quietly remonstrated with them, and said, "You do my countrymen and myself great discourtesy and wrong. We are the allies of your sovereign, and he himself speaks of us with the utmost regard and kindness. We have given aid to your country, and you might surely return us good words for good deeds. If you speak ill of your friends, how will you speak of your enemies?"

"Nay," replied they, "we speak of you but as you deserve; Scots have ever been false."

This slander was too much for Wallace's patience. All three were unarmed, and no weapon was to be found in the apartment; but Wallace seized one of them by the throat with such force that the blood burst from his nose, mouth, and eyes, and stretched him senseless on the floor.

The other, whom he had previously kept at arm's length, he then treated in a similar manner, and dashed out the brains of both against one of the pillars, and, as he left their corpses, said, "Poor spiteful creatures, what demon tempted you to meddle with me? You might have been long in my neighbourhood before I would have interfered with you." As there were no witnesses to this deed, it could only be conjectured by whom it had been committed; but suspicion naturally

fell on Wallace, as he was thought the only man strong enough to have mastered the knights, though whether he could have despatched them without assistance was a subject for further conjecture. However, no one ventured to charge him with the act; and Philip, to whom he privately confessed that he was the author of it, readily forgave him, and still held him in honour, for he was convinced, from all that he had seen of Wallace's character, that the knights must have been the aggressors.

Two gentlemen, cousins of the deceased knights, feeling convinced that Wallace was the slayer of their kinsmen, meditated an artful method of taking vengeance on him. The king had recently received into his menagerie a large lion of exceeding fierceness, which was kept in an iron cage, and which every one dreaded to approach. The two gentlemen contrived to have it represented to the king that Wallace was extremely desirous to fight this savage beast, hoping that, if permission to encounter it should be granted him, he would be torn to pieces in the conflict. The king expressed great surprise that Wallace should covet such an enterprise, as it appeared to be an extravagant manifestation of valour, and likely to be attended with a disastrous result; but, as he was

unwilling to deny Wallace anything, he at last gave his consent that he should try his power on the animal. Having attained this object, the two gentlemen hastened to Wallace, and represented to him that the king was in the highest degree anxious that he should subdue the lion, and appointed the following day for the combat in the lists, in the presence of the court. Wallace considered that the king was much too imperative in his desire, but replied with calmness, that he would endeavour to do what the king wished. The matter was accordingly arranged without any personal communication between Wallace and the king concerning it.

On the next day, the king ordered a choice of armour to be provided for Wallace. "Nay," said he, "I would put on armour if I were going to fight with a man, but against a beast, that can wear no armour itself, I will have none. I shall merely wear my cloak, and take my sword, which I may count an equivalent against his teeth and talons." Thus prepared, Wallace entered the list with the utmost intrepidity and coolness, and the lion was let loose. The animal rushed towards him with the greatest fierceness, but Wallace, wrapping his mantle about his left arm, thrust it down the beast's throat, and, with a stroke or two of the

sword in his right hand, divided its body in two. When the lion was killed, he went immediately to the king, and said, "Sire, was it your wish to expose my life to destruction, that you might have one the fewer of the Scots who have fought for you in your dominions? Or have you any more beasts that you wish to be killed? If you have, let me know what they are, that I may see if I can do your pleasure. It is true that I was setting off for Scotland, where I may find better work than fighting with wild animals."

The king perceived that Wallace was offended, and replied with dignity, "You should not be displeased, Sir William, for you yourself desired the encounter, or it had never entered into my thoughts; but men of rank came from you to me to request my consent to it as a favour."

"Nay, sire," rejoined Wallace, "I made no request of the kind, for I have no ambition to fight with beasts, nor consider that any honour is to be obtained in such combats."

The king then found that there was some mistake, and proceeded to inquire by what means he and Wallace had been deceived. The guilt was soon traced to the two gentlemen, and the king caused them to be put to death for their malicious and mischievous treachery.

CHAPTER IX.

WALLACE'S RETURN TO SCOTLAND. HIS DANGERS
FROM THE ENGLISH.

Wallace now hastened his departure. The king bestowed on him valuable presents at parting, and all the well disposed among the courtiers took leave of him with regret. Longueville accompanied him to Scotland, with Blair, Gray, and the rest of his friends that had gone with him to France.

He landed in Perthshire by night, at the mouth of the river Erne. As the English were in possession of Perth, it was necessary for him to be very cautious in his proceedings, and he took care that the vessel should sail away out of sight before daybreak. He then went to Elcho, where there dwelt a cousin of his, named Crawford, whose premises he entered by a secret access, and who gave him a hearty welcome, and a place of secure con-

cealment in one of his detached buildings. Here he remained four or five days, when Crawford, as his provisions were exhausted, was obliged to go to Perth for a supply, and the unusual quantity which he bought excited a suspicion in the English that he must have more mouths to feed than those of his own household. Being questioned why he had purchased so largely, he replied that he had purchased for a feast; but, as they still thought that something clandestine was in agitation, they allowed him to take what he had bought and resolved to follow him, and ascertain whether any foes to the English were hidden on his lands or in the neighbourhood.

Some intimation had, in the mean time, reached Perth, notwithstanding the precautions of Wallace, that strangers had landed on the coast, and, from other reports, it began to be surmised that Wallace might be among them. Butler, the deputy commander of Perth, accordingly followed on Crawford's track at the head of a considerable body of men. Wallace, hearing of the questions that had been put to Crawford, thought it prudent to retire to a neighbouring thicket in Elcho Park. Crawford's wife, when the English came to the house, and inquired for her visitors, refused to disclose

the place of their retreat ; and they were proceeding to compel her to answer their questions, when Wallace, learning the annoyance to which she was subjected, let them know, by a blast of his horn from the wood, where he and his party were posited. He had but nineteen men with him, with Crawford for a twentieth, but he had chosen a position which was assailable only by three steep and narrow approaches, and these he proposed to defend by distributing his little band into three divisions. Butler, with his superior number, was enabled to attack all the accesses at once, and from the supposition that he might meet with Wallace, engaged in the assault with great fury, in the hope of exacting vengeance for the deaths of his father and his grandfather. But the party within the retreat knew well how to protect themselves ; and Wallace, according to his old practice, had strengthened his position with felled or uprooted trees interwoven with those that were standing. The consequence was, that Butler's attempts were wholly in vain ; several of his men were killed while no one of Wallace's party was seriously injured ; and when night came on, he was glad to break off the strife, and withdraw to a distance.

Butler's men were well provided with meat and ale, but the Scots had but scanty supplies, and

nothing to drink but cold water. Butler suspected that they must be in want, and being eager to capture Wallace, if it were he, before an additional force should arrive to snatch the honour from him, he made advances, during the evening, for a parley with the besieged, and endeavoured to persuade them of the folly of protracting a resistance which must terminate in their destruction. Wallace replied by warning him, in return for his advice, to be on his guard, as he intended, instead of remaining stationary, to become the assailant, and was resolved to sally forth, either during the night or in the morning, though all England were leagued to oppose him. Thus repelled, and provoked at Wallace's coolness, he set watches all round the Scots' post, keeping his men under arms all night. But Wallace did not deceive him, for about sunrise, there being a thick mist over the ground, he issued forth at the head of his little troop, and coming quietly upon the enemy, fell upon them, as it happened, at that point where Butler himself had taken his station. Butler had scarcely men enough with him to make a stand against the assailants, and called aloud for assistance; but he had dispersed his troop too much, and Wallace and his band broke away before any effectual resistance could be collected against them. Crawford, how-

ever, dropped behind, having been severely wounded in the knee, but Wallace, missing him, returned to the charge, and came in contact with Butler, whom, after a slight resistance, he slew, and carried Crawford off in his arms. Favoured by the mist, he then guided his followers in safety towards Methuen Wood, where, as there was plenty of deer, they would be in no danger of wanting sustenance.

When the sun shone forth, they perceived a small body of men approaching them, and Wallace observed that, whether they were friends or foes, he would not decline meeting them. To his great delight, they were led by Sir Elias Dundas and Sir John Scott, two knights who were well inclined to the cause of their country, but had, from necessity, consented for the time to hold their lands of the English. When they found that they had fallen in with Wallace, they thanked Heaven, and gladly accompanied him to Methuen Wood. Here the two parties rested for a day, but thought it better, on the morrow, to proceed to Birnam Wood, where they were joined by Squire Ruthven, who had long lived there as an outlaw, but was preparing to quit the place, as he had begun to find difficulty in procuring provisions. Making no delay, therefore, they went on to Athol, and from thence to Lorn.

CHAPTER X.

WALLACE IN WANT OF PROVISIONS. ATTACKED BY
FIVE MEN.

Here also there was difficulty in finding provisions; and such was the scarcity, at one time, that it seemed likely that some of the party would perish of hunger. They were, however, staunch to their cause, and all said that they would rather die than cease to make efforts under so distinguished a leader for the independence of their country. As for Wallace himself, he was greatly cast down, and desired them to consider themselves free from any obligation to him, and to disperse, if they thought fit, and seek each his own fortune.

As they would listen to no such permission, he walked away from them for a space that he might consider with himself what measures he might best adopt for their preservation, requesting them to remain where they were until he should return.

Crossing over a neighbouring hill, he descended into a plain, when, entering a thicket, he sat down under an oak, with his sword resting against the stem of it. "It had been well for me, methinks," said he to himself, "if I had never had this great strength above that of other men. Had I but been like those around me, I might have rested content in an unpretending station. But having been gifted with extraordinary power, I have been agitated with restless desires to achieve something great. I have cherished hopes that I should set my country free, but heaven seems to have appointed that they shall not receive fulfilment. Success seems now to be farther from me than it ever was before. My followers are few, and those few are dying of hunger. Were I at the head of a host, as I formerly was, I might yet effect something; but what can I expect to do now, or how shall I ever rise from this miserable condition?" As he meditated thus, a feeling of drowsiness came over him, and he fell into a partial slumber.

For three days past, five men had been carefully tracking the movements of him and his band, in the hopes of surprising and taking him, either dead or alive; being stimulated to the attempt by

the offer of a large reward from the Earl of York, the chief governor of Perth. Three of them were English, and two Scotch; and they had a boy with them to help to carry their provisions. They had observed Wallace, or the person whom they supposed to be him, leaving his companions, and had closely watched his progress into the wood where he had sat down. When they perceived him slumbering, they began to confer together how they might best proceed against him. "It would be a great thing," said one of them, "to take him alive and bind him, and lead him off prisoner round by the back of the hill, unseen by his party, into Perth. See how he lies dozing; we may rush upon him before he is aware, and hold him down so as to prevent him from getting his sword, or making any effectual resistance in any way."

The other four assented to his suggestion, and the five approached Wallace, with cautious steps, in the hope of accomplishing their object. But the strongest man that Scotland had ever seen was not to be so easily overpowered. One touch served to startle him from his sleep, and, springing to his feet, he cried, "What means this?" and easily perceiving their intentions to be hostile,

shook them off as a lion would repel deer, and grasping the nearest of them in his arms, dashed out his brains against the stem of the oak. He then seized his sword, which one of them was attempting to carry off, and swept it round among the four, two of whom were at once killed, and the other two fled. Flight, however, availed them nought, for Wallace was as swift as he was strong, and soon caught them and put an end to their lives. This easy victory of a noble and true man over five traitors, was an achievement that gods might have witnessed with admiration.

The boy fell down at Wallace's knees and begged his life, protesting that he knew nothing of the men's design. Wallace readily spared him ; and the provisions which he found on him and those whom he had followed were, though but a small quantity, a welcome supply to Wallace's little troop. They asked him how they had been obtained ; Wallace took them, as soon as they had eaten, and showed them the five dead bodies. They blamed their chief for having thus exposed himself alone ; he made no defence, but merely observed that happily nought had come of it but good.

They then inquired of the boy what he thought

was the nearest place at which provisions could be obtained. He replied that he knew no place nearer than Rannoch Castle, the lord of which had made submission to King Edward, and had secured abundance of everything requisite for the maintenance of a considerable number of men. They in consequence took their way to Rannoch without delay, and reached it on the following morning. Wallace himself went up to one of the sentinels, and finding that he was a true Scot, well disposed to his country, he drew from him full information concerning the fortress and its governor, who, they found, though he had joined the English, was very willing to return to the side of the Scots, and support their great leader in any attempts in favour of his country.

CHAPTER XI.

WALLACE'S PROGRESS. KING EDWARD CONSULTS
WITH AYMER DE VALLENCE.

Here they refreshed themselves for some time, and deliberated how they should proceed. The Lord of Rannoch, who had three stout sons, and more than a score of retainers, all ready to follow Wallace, recommended that they should communicate with their friends as soon as possible, and take the field whenever a competent force should be ready to join them. As there was no objection to this advice, and as Wallace hoped, from what he could learn as to the state of affairs in that part of the country, that supporters would speedily gather round him, it was resolved that, few as they were, they should at once go forth, and direct their march upon Dunkeld.

The Bishop, an Englishman, who had the government of the place, fled at their approach,

and took refuge in Perth. The Scots were soon masters of the place, and killed or expelled all the English and their adherents. They found abundance of provisions and other booty, and subsisted in ease and plenty for several days.

Wallace then called a council to consult as to their further operations. "It would be well for us," said he, "to make an attack on Perth, but we have not at present sufficient strength. We may perhaps find it more eligible, therefore, to go northward. There are good men in Ross ready to afford us aid; and Bishop Sinclair from Bute, with numbers of westland men from Arran and Rauchlin, will, when they hear of our proceedings, hasten doubtless to join us." Northward, accordingly, they marched; the Scots flocked to their standard; and the English fled at their approach.

By the time Wallace reached Aberdeen, his force amounted to seven thousand men. The English garrison deserted the town, and Lord Beaumont, the governor, fled to the coast, and took ship at Buchan Ness. Meantime, Clement of Ross, a brother of the Earl, suddenly invaded Morayshire, and captured the stronghold of Nairn, putting the captain and many of his men to the

sword. He then went in pursuit of Beaumont, but being unable to discover him, returned and united his forces to those of Wallace.

Wallace was also joined at this time by many from whom he had long been separated; Sir John Ramsay, Lyndsay, Boyd, Adam Wallace of Riccartoun, and Bishop Sinclair from Bute. Finding himself strong enough, he determined now to make an attempt on Perth, whither his adherents followed him with great eagerness; and he proceeded to form a regular siege round the place. Soon after Seyton, Lauder, and Richard of Lundy, arrived to his aid by sea, having taken two English vessels in their passage.

The Bishop of Dunkeld fled to London, and carried tidings to King Edward of what Wallace was doing. Edward saw that something decisive must be done to stop Wallace's course, as it seemed that Scotland would never be his as long as Wallace should be alive. He accordingly took into his counsel Aymer de Valence, who was then at the English court, and asked him what measures he would advise to be adopted. De Valence recommended bribery, and said that if an artful person were but sent into Scotland with plenty of gold, he would not fail of inducing some

of Wallace's connexions to deliver him into Edward's hands.

“Though he is strong,” said he, “he may be overpowered by numbers; and, whatever be his circumspection, he cannot be always on his guard.”

CHAPTER XII.

DE VALLENCE CONFERS WITH MENTEITH.

It was accordingly arranged with the king that Sir Aymer should go to Scotland with abundance of gold, and endeavour to procure the removal of Wallace, the king promising to uphold him in any measures which he should see fit to adopt for that purpose.

De Vallence in consequence returned without delay to Bothwell, his old residence, and considered whom he should choose as the best instrument for accomplishing his designs on Wallace. After some hesitation, he resolved on applying to Sir John Menteith, who was intimately acquainted with Wallace, and whom, from something that he had heard concerning him, he thought not unlikely to listen to offers from the English king. Some correspondence having passed between them, arrangements were made for an interview at the

church of Rutherglen in Lanarkshire. De Vallence, when they met, insinuated that Menteith might have almost any lordship in Scotland that he might desire, if he would but consent to do for Edward what he wished. Menteith inquired what De Vallence meant.

“You are aware,” replied he, “that our unhappy country has no quiet, and that its great disturber is Wallace. King Edward had settled the whole realm in tranquillity, and trusted that no farther trouble would arise either to himself or to the inhabitants. But now Wallace has started up to throw all things anew into confusion. Men are drawn away from their work to follow him; trade and husbandry are interrupted; and all the evils of civil war are rapidly spreading everywhere. Were Wallace but out of the way, the land might soon return to its proper condition; and you and I, and every man in the kingdom, high and low, might live as we ought in our own stations. What, with all his show of patriotism, does he desire? He can have little hope of recalling Baliol, of whose rights he professed to be the supporter. Bruce is far off; and Wallace, I think, does not pretend to be acting for him. His own aggrandisement must be his object.”

“Yet he has not manifested any such ambition,” rejoined Menteith. “He had once the office of Regent, which he might have continued to hold, but which he resigned rather than embroil the country in civil disputes. What he has done, he has done apparently for the establishment of the freedom and independence of his country.”

“He may have resigned the office,” said De Vallence, “merely because he had no hope at that time of attaining that at which he was aiming. He may now think that he sees a better prospect of succeeding in his views. But what just expectation can he have of resisting such a power as that of Edward? All that he can do ends in nothing but useless bloodshed. It is these contests and slaughters that all who wish well to their country ought to study to prevent. To this end I would have Wallace taken from the scene of action. I have no desire that any evil should be done him, but merely that he should be kept out of the country, or confined somewhere in it, until the power of King Edward is so thoroughly established that Wallace, if he should reappear among us, may not again be tempted, by any seemingly favourable opportunities, to offer resistance to it.”

After some farther conversation to the same

effect, Menteith signified his concurrence in De Vallence's professed views, and agreed to be instrumental, if possible, in capturing Wallace, in order that he might be conveyed, as De Vallence suggested, into England. De Vallence then asked him what government, if this project were effected, he would like to have from Edward as a recognition of his services; and he replied that he should prefer the government of the Lennox. De Vallence said that he thought he could undertake to procure him a promise of it from Edward at once, as well as a sum of money to put him in a fair condition for entering upon the efficient exercise of it.

Having thus far advanced the affair, he hastened to Edward with the news, from whom, as he was much delighted, he easily obtained a written bond to be shown to Menteith, promising that what he desired should be bestowed upon him when what he had undertaken should be fulfilled.

CHAPTER XIII.

SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF PERTH.

The siege of Perth was still continued. Wallace made great exertions to take the place, but the English defended it with the greatest obstinacy. One morning five hundred of them, thoroughly armed, made a desperate sally from the south gate on Scott and Dundas who were posted on that side. The attack was fierce and impetuous, but the resistance steady and resolute. A long struggle ensued, in which many were killed on both sides, but the Scots were at length overpowered by numbers, and obliged to withdraw. Dundas, however, pursuing too eagerly, was surrounded by a body of the enemy, and hurried, before he could extricate himself, in at the gate.

He was taken before the Earl of York, who, observing that the death of one man would avail him little, spared his life, and, after keeping him a

few days in prison, sent him back with a courteous message to Wallace, who signified his gratitude in return.

About this time the Earl of Fife, who, having gone over to the side of Edward, had long wished to detach himself from it, but, from uncertainty as to Wallace's views, had hesitated to make the change, came, with several followers, to join his countrymen engaged in the siege. John Vallance, also, the sheriff of Fife, brought them a considerable reinforcement. Thus strengthened, Wallace resolved upon a general assault, and, having filled up portions of the ditch with faggots of sticks and heather, and bundles of hay and straw, led on his men with scaling ladders, against the walls. Hundreds were killed before the English would yield, but the place was at last taken. Amidst the general massacre that followed, Wallace was anxious to save the Earl of York for his humanity to Dundas, and despatched Grimsby, who knew him by sight, to take care that no harm befell him. Grimsby having ably executed his commission, a horse was provided for the Earl, with a sum of money, and a passport from Wallace, for his escape into England.

This success gave great encouragement to Wal-

lace's party in the north. At the same time, too, Edward Bruce, the brother of Robert, who had been a year in Ireland, landed at Kirkcudbright with fifty men of his mother's kindred, and, after taking Wigtoun Castle on his way, hastened to attach himself to Wallace. The Scottish hero, to do him honour, rode to meet him as far as Lochmaben in Dumfriesshire, and expressed his readiness to act under him as the deputy of his brother Robert during his absence.

King Edward, repenting, in some degree, of his clandestine agreement with Sir Aymer de Valence and Menteith, and being unwilling to have recourse to treachery if his great object, the thorough subjugation of Scotland, could be attained by any other means, caused, in this state of affairs, a secret communication to be made to Wallace by trusty messengers, offering him a high post, and large estates, if he would but consent to hold them of the English crown, and engage to give Edward no farther disturbance. But Wallace replied with dignity that, as he had not been born a subject of King Edward, he was resolved, if possible, to live and die without submitting to him; that he was willing to obey Baliol as his sovereign, or, as Baliol might be considered to have relinquished

the crown, Robert Bruce ; but that he would never yield, or induce his countrymen to yield, to one who demanded allegiance from them without having any right to it. Edward, being thus repulsed, grew again unmerciful, and his desire to be rid of Wallace, by whatever means, returned upon him ; and he accordingly sent notice to Menteith that he might carry his design into effect as soon as he should find it practicable.

Wallace, meanwhile, despatched Grimsby into England with a letter to Bruce, urging him to come and assume the government of his country, and assuring him that neither the clergy, nor the nobility, nor the inferior orders, were in the least likely to oppose him. Bruce was extremely pleased with the communication, and returned a most gracious answer, expressing his desire to comply with the invitation, but observing that he must proceed with the greatest caution, and must wait, as he was strictly watched, for an opportunity of leaving England secretly. But he added that he trusted to accomplish that object shortly, and requested Wallace to be in readiness to meet him by the end of June in or near Glasgow, whither he would make it his object to repair with a few trusty followers.

CHAPTER XIV.

WALLACE BETRAYED AND SURPRISED.

Menteith began to make preparations for the execution of his compact. His first step was to recommend a young man, the son of his sister, to Wallace as an attendant, for the purpose of being a spy on his actions, and giving Mentelth notice when an opportunity should occur for surprising him. Wallace, who suspected no treachery from Mentelth, received the youth kindly, and admitted him into his confidence.

As the time drew near for his proposed meeting with Bruce, he moved towards Glasgow, being accompanied with only a few of his adherents, and leaving the rest of his men partly in garrison at Perth, and partly dispersed under Longueville, Ramsay, and other leaders. Among those that attended him were Ker and Mentelth's nephew, who, as soon as he knew the purpose of Wallace's

journey, and that he would have but few followers with him, sent intelligence to his uncle of what was going to happen. The meeting was arranged to take place at Robroyston, a village near Glasgow, where Wallace engaged, for a few nights, a small and retired lodging for himself, Ker, and the young man. His other attendants were quartered in different places at some distance.

Menteith, on receiving notice from his nephew of Wallace's position, brought a body of sixty armed men, chiefly of his own kinsmen, from Dumbarton, and stationed them secretly in parties in the vicinity of Wallace's abode.

One night, when Wallace expected that some communication for him might arrive, himself and Ker, overcome with the fatigues of the day, had retired to rest, but had directed the young man to keep watch, and to waken Wallace if any one should inquire for him. The youth lost no time in sending intelligence to his uncle that Wallace was unguarded; and was informed by his uncle in reply that an attack would be made upon the house that night. He then removed Wallace's arms and bugle, and admitted a small party of stout men-at-arms, whom his uncle had sent forward for the purpose, at the door. Two of

these immediately caught hold on Ker, hurried him from the room, and put him to death. The others then threw themselves on Wallace, who, however, shook them off, and started to his feet, but, finding that his weapons were gone, at once suspected treachery. Seizing instantly on a heavy plank, which had served for a bench, he broke the back of one of his assailants, and knocked out the brains of another. Several then grasped him at once, and attempted to drag him away, but he declared that he would not leave the house until they or he were dead. Sir John Mentieth, therefore, seeing the difficulty that they would have in capturing him, advanced to the door, and ordering the men to stand back a space, addressed him with pretended kindness.

“ I have heard, my friend,” said he, “ of the straits into which you have fallen. It will be useless for you, I fear, to offer resistance to the force that has gathered round you. The English have watched their opportunity, and have encircled the house with a vast number of men, which, if you had the strength of ten Hector, must at length overpower you. They are persuaded that to capture you is the only means of ensuring the peace of the country, and have in consequence been long resolved on accomplishing that object.”

“Were it not that you and I have been so intimately connected, Sir John Menteith,” said Wallace, “and that I have always considered you a person worthy of trust, I should much fear that you yourself were a traitor to me. But surely you would not act with such baseness; and, if you are my friend, how would you advise me to act, for it is plain that you will not assist me?”

“I have spoken to Lord Clifford, the commander of the troop that surrounds you,” replied Menteith, with ready invention, “for I chanced to come in contact with him, and, learning his object, was desirous to be of service to you. He asks only that you should surrender, having no design on your life. He even consents that you should accompany me to Dumbarton, where you shall live, if you please, not as a prisoner, but in your own house. The English must see you, however, appear as a captive, or they will soon take you out of my hands, and you must therefore allow yourself to be bound.”

“Before I submit to that indignity,” said Wallace, “I must have an oath from you, notwithstanding our previous intimacy, that what you say you mean in all sincerity.”

An oath to that effect was accordingly taken by

Menteith, and Wallace then consented to be bound with cords, which Menteith's men took care should be sufficiently strong and secure. Yet they could not lead him forth, even bound, without fear.

As for himself, when, on advancing from the house, he found that he was surrounded, not by English, but by his own countrymen, he at once felt convinced that he had been betrayed. His captors, who hurried with all possible speed towards the south, still tried to persuade him that though he was to be put into the power of King Edward, the monarch could have no thought of taking away his life; but on such assurances he could place no dependence; he felt that there was little hope of safety for him, unless fortune should show him extraordinary favour. His friends were ignorant of what had happened to him until he was quite beyond their aid; and Menteith's party carried him off across the frontiers by the Solway Sand, where they delivered him to Lord Clifford and Sir Aymer de Vallence, who conveyed him straight to Carlisle, and confined him in a tower of the prison, which was afterwards called Wallace's Tower.

CHAPTER XV.

WALLACE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. HIS SENTENCE.
HIS DEATH.

When Wallace's followers found that their leader was taken from them, their grief was extreme. One of the most deeply afflicted was Longueville, who vowed never to return to France, but to remain in Scotland, and seek revenge for the fate of his friend. He rode over to Lochmaben, where he met with Edward Bruce, and continued with him till the arrival of Robert, who reached that place on the third day after Wallace was carried off. He was subsequently one of the great supporters of Robert Bruce in his struggles for Scottish independence, and was in return presented by Robert with the lands of Charteris, surrounding the castle of Kinfauns, where his large two-handed sword is still to be seen, and from which possessions his descendants took the name of Charteris.

Bruce and his brother were greatly cast down at the loss of Wallace.

“ We have, indeed,” said Edward, “ great cause to mourn for him. It was to uphold royalty in Scotland that he engaged in so many warlike and perilous enterprises. Had it not been for him, we and all our kindred should have entirely lost hold, as it would appear, of our country. He was an example to the world of loyalty and manliness, and the stoutest and most skilful of all that ever wielded a sword. Had he sought the crown for himself, he would have found few to oppose his assumption of it. But we must, like Longueville, think of revenge. We have lost Wallace, but we must struggle for ourselves.”

In the meantime, Lord Clifford and Sir Aymer de Vallence were hastening with Wallace to London, where his arrival caused great joy to King Edward. Crowds collected to witness the entry of the Scottish champion into the city, and he was lodged in the house of William Delect, a citizen in Fenchurch Street. The following day, such was the haste with which proceedings against him were conducted, he was taken from thence on horseback to be put on his trial in Westminster Hall, Sir John de Segrave, the fugitive of Roslyn,

who acted as Grand Marshal of England, riding on one side of him, and Geoffrey de Hartlepool, Recorder of London, on the other; the mayor, sheriffs, and aldermen of London following. When he was brought into the Hall, he was subjected, as he was placed at the bar, to a mean and unjustifiable insult, being crowned with a wreath of laurel, in consequence of a report that he had said he ought to be crowned in Westminster Hall instead of being put on his trial in it. But his majestic appearance and calm demeanour rendered this attempt to throw ridicule on him totally ineffectual.

The indictment was read by Sir Peter Mallory, the chief justice, and charged Wallace with being a traitor to his majesty, whose towns he had burnt, and whose subjects he had slain. Wallace replied that, as he had not been born the King of England's subject, and had never professed allegiance to him, he could not be a traitor. That he had slain many Englishmen, and carried destruction to some towns, in support of his sovereign's rights, and the independence of his country, he readily admitted.

When he had made this confession, he was at once sentenced to the most cruel and ignominious

of deaths. As a traitor, he was to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution; as a robber and manslayer, he was to be hanged by the neck; as a violator of abbeys and religious houses, he was to be taken down from the gibbet before he was dead, and to have his entrails torn out and burnt before his face; and his body was then to be quartered, and the parts to be disposed of as his majesty should see fit.

As soon as preparations for carrying this sentence into execution could be made, Wallace was brought forth heavily ironed, and chained to a bench of oak, and was dragged to the Elms in Smithfield. He appeared calm and undaunted as on his trial, and asked that he might have time to make confession to a priest; but Edward, on being told of the request, gave orders that no priest should delay the execution for such a purpose. But Winchelsea, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the same prelate that had delivered the Pope's bull to Edward at Caerlaverock, went forward to the king and remonstrated with him, and declared that, as other priests were afraid to officiate, he would hear Wallace's confession himself. He accordingly went calmly through the ceremony, and then, having taken farewell of Wallace, and

leaving open before him a Psalter, which he had had about his person when he was carried prisoner to London, rode off to Westminster, that he might not behold the conclusion of the tragedy. Edward was exasperated with the Archbishop for his boldness, and would have entered on proceedings against him, but that his counsellors advised him to leave the matter unnoticed.

The sentence was executed in its full severity. The body having been dismembered, the head was fixed on London Bridge, the right arm on that of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the left at Berwick. The right leg was ordered to be fixed at Perth, and the left at Aberdeen, but it is uncertain whether this part of the command was fulfilled.

Such haste had been made to put him to death, that, being captured on the fifth of August, he was executed on the twenty-third, in the year 1305.

Wallace's daughter by Marian Braidfoot, who had been left during her father's travels and adventures with some friends in Lanarkshire, inherited her mother's property, and was afterwards married to a gentleman of the name of Shaw; and from her, by another marriage, the family of the Baillies of Lamington are descended.

CHAPTER XVI.

CONCLUSION.

Thus perished, probably before he had reached the age of thirty-five, one of the most nobly endowed human beings, certainly in bodily qualities, that had ever appeared on the face of the earth. His person is described as eminently handsome; his face was long and well-proportioned; his eyes clear and sparkling; his nose prominent; his lips round and full. His hair was brown, and inclined to curl; his complexion sanguine. His stature was tall, and his limbs and body large, and proportioned to his height. His step was firm and dignified, his movements agile, and his fleetness of foot beyond that of any man of his time.

Nor were his mental faculties of an inferior order. He that had only to appear in the field among his countrymen, in the earliest years of manhood, to be acknowledged a leader, must have

been gifted with commanding abilities, and have impressed those around him with a strong sense of his superiority. He seems to have easily acquired the art of war, and to have been able to direct others as soon as he could act for himself.

His moral qualifications were of the same rank with those of his intellect. He was a strict observer of his word, and though he saw numbers around him, who, for some fancied advantage, vowed allegiance to King Edward, and then, on pretence that it had been compulsory, broke their vows without hesitation, he himself was never influenced by their example. He exercised his authority as a ruler with justice; he suppressed violence and injury, and took the part of such as were wronged; he was kind to the poor and the helpless, and, while he combated those that fought against him, spared all whose weakness of age or sex claimed his pity and compassion. In the division of spoil taken in battle he sought nothing for himself but what was absolutely necessary, relinquishing much that he might justly have claimed, in order to gratify the desires or relieve the wants of his followers.

His look, though often grave, was generally serene and cheerful, as that of a man at ease with

himself, and kindly disposed towards those about him. His manner was staid and calm, and his ordinary mode of speaking mild and gentle. But, when roused in the fury of battle, his tone was loud and fierce, his gestures energetic and vehement, and he differed as much from the Wallace of other times as Hercules courting Omphale differed from Hercules seizing Lichas.

With all his powers, it is wonderful that, in the circumstances in which he was placed, he should have been able to accomplish what he did. He was not born among the nobility, but was the son of a private gentleman; he had to withstand or elude the whole force of England, with a most warlike sovereign at its head; and he had to contend, when he arose to eminence, against the envy and malice of his more nobly born countrymen who ought to have supported him. He would doubtless have done much more damage to the enemy, had he been unopposed, before the battle of Falkirk, for his plan was to lure the English farther into the country, and subject them to the destruction of famine as well as that of war; but the ill-will and dishonesty of those who thought themselves superior to him betrayed his design to King Edward, and rendered his prudence unavailing.

Yet, in spite of all difficulties, he prevented Edward from becoming lord of Scotland, and preserved his country as an independent kingdom for him who was lineally entitled to the throne, and who was destined to achieve the possession of it.

His departure to France, while his country was still in trouble, may seem like an unwarrantable desertion of his duty as a patriot; but he had doubtless a wise and good object in view, and trusted to secure French aid against English oppression. He felt bound to fight in defence of his country, and deemed himself fully justified, when its own strength was insufficient for its defence, to procure it foreign assistance to vindicate its rights.

He died by an arbitrary doom, being brought to the scaffold by a king to whom he had not been born a subject, to whom he had never sworn allegiance, and who had no right to dominion over his country, but who hoped that, by cutting off Wallace, he would secure himself from farther opposition to his unjust usurpation. His expectations, however, were disappointed. The Scottish nation were exasperated at the cruel fate of their champion; they had never been fully subjected to the

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 to gainst them. Those who had invited Wallace
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 pendence.

THE END.

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English, and were now more than ever disposed to rise against them ; those who had envied Wallace in his life-time, regretted him when he was no more ; and Edward died as insecure of Scotland at his last hour as he had ever been, bequeathing the subjugation of it to his son, who, instead of accomplishing his father's wishes, was fated to see the whole country shake off English domination, and establish itself in power, liberty, and independence.

THE END.

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