

Richard I. had sold back to William the Lion, King of Scotland, the feudal claims which Henry II. had imposed on that monarch, the English Kings continued to assert a species of lordship over the Scottish Kings, which the latter sometimes admitted, but more frequently rejected. In 1286, the throne of Scotland was filled by Alexander III., grandson of William the Lion. Alexander was Edward's own brother-in-law, having married Margaret, daughter of Henry III. To provide for the peaceful union of the crowns, Edward procured the betrothal of the Prince of Wales to Alexander's grand-daughter and heiress, Margaret, daughter of Eric, King of Norway. Unfortunately for Edward's plans, Alexander's death in 1286 was followed a few years after by that of the young Princess on whom so many hopes were built. The *Maid of Norway*, as she is generally called, died at the Orkneys on the voyage from Norway to Scotland.

6. The death of the Maid of Norway threw everything into confusion. The old line of Scottish Kings was practically extinct. Many representatives of remote branches preferred their claims. At last the rivals were reduced to two—John Baliol and Robert Bruce. Both were sprung from daughters of a brother of William the Lion. Baliol was *grandson* of the *eldest* daughter; Bruce was *son* of the *second* daughter. One insisted that he represented the older and higher branch, the other that he was a generation nearer the original stock.

7. The question at issue was referred to Edward. Marching northward with his army, the English King summoned the competitors and the Scottish Parliament to meet him on the banks of the Tweed. After a proper interval, he decided in favor of Baliol, on whom he forthwith called to do homage for his crown. Baliol, making a virtue of necessity, swore fealty to Edward in humble terms, in 1292.

8. Edward was now (1293) summoned by the King of France to atone for some injuries inflicted on a French fleet by the King's subjects in Guienne. He did not respond in person to the summons, but sent deputies, who, through some sharp practice on the part of the French King, were induced to surrender the entire duchy to that monarch. Not till some years afterwards was Guienne recovered. Meantime the King of France and John Baliol made common cause. Encouraged by Edward's difficulties on the Continent, Baliol asserted his independence; only, however, to find himself unable to maintain it. Edward soon appeared in the north, and after storming Berwick, decisively defeated Baliol at Dunbar. Baliol was deprived of his throne, if we can believe himself, without regret, and after three years' imprisonment was permitted to retire to Normandy, where he ended his days in peace. Edward