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MAVOR'S
CATECHISM
OF THE
HISTORY OF SCOTLAND,
AND OF
IRELAND;
TO THE PERIOD OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
UNION WITH ENGLAND.
WITH AN APPENDIX, RESPECTING WALES.

For the Use of Schools and Families.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LACKINGTON, HUGHES, HARDING, MAVOR,
AND JONES, FINSBURY-SQUARE; BALDWIN, CRADOCK,
AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND C. AND W. B.
WHITTAKER, AVE-MARIA-LANE.

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BY
WILLIAM MAVOR, LL.D.

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In order to connect the History of SCOTLAND and of IRELAND more immediately with that of ENGLAND, the following Catechisms have been compiled.

As constituent parts of the British empire, and the two brightest jewels in her ancient crown, whatever relates to those countries can never be read with indifference by either. It is the fate of nations, as of individuals, in the course of events, to fill different stations ; but whether ranking first or last, in LEGITIMATE UNION with their political or personal associates, there is always strength and security !

Rectory, Woodstock,
June 1, 1820.

MAVOR'S
CATECHISM, &c.

SCOTLAND.

CHAP. I.

Geography.—Early History.

Q. Will you favour me with some account of the geographical circumstances of Scotland, before we commence its history?

A. With great pleasure, as it will be a proper introduction to its history.

Scotland, then, as you will see by the map, or a terrestrial globe, is the most northern part of Great Britain. It is bounded on the north and west by the Atlantic Ocean; on the south by the Irish Sea and England; and on the east by the British Sea; extending about 260 miles in length and 160 in its greatest breadth; and including its numerous islands, grouped under the general appellation of the Hebrides or Western Islands,

the Orkney and the Shetland Isles, has a population of nearly 1,900,000 souls. Its natural divisions are into the Highlands and the Lowlands, or perhaps more properly into the northern, the middle, and the southern districts. Its political divisions are into thirty-three counties or shires.

The general aspect of Scotland is mountainous; it contains a number of lakes and rivers, some of which are of great extent; the coast is very indented; and lying so far to the north, the climate is much colder than in England, especially among the mountains, and the soil generally less fertile, though there are many rich and well-cultivated tracks.

Scotland, or North Britain, as it is called since the union with England, produces corn, cattle, sheep, and horses in considerable abundance. Its chief mineral productions are coals, iron, lead, copper, some silver, fine crystals, and a great variety of other curious and valuable stones.

Its chief ports are Leith, Glasgow, Greenock, and Aberdeen; and it has four universities, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrew's. The Scots, indeed, show a strong predilection for learning, and being of an enterprising dis-

position, they display their acquirements in every part of the globe. Scotland contains many natural curiosities, and is therefore interesting to the traveller; while its industry, its trade, and manufactures, command the regard of the politician.

Q. What were the ancient names of this country and of its inhabitants?

A The Romans called the country Caledonia, from its abounding in forests. It was afterwards known by the appellation of Provincia Pictorum, or the country of the Picts; nor was it till the ninth century that it was called Scotia, or Scotland.

The inhabitants changed their names with those of the country. Caledonians, Picts, and Scots, are mentioned successively in history; and though there can be no doubt that the early settlers were of Celtic origin, the same as in the southern division of the island, yet they appear to have been mixed with colonies from Ireland and from the north. Indeed the Picts, or the Aborigines, and the Scots, who are said to have migrated from Ireland, after the retreat of the Romans, held divided empire for several generations; nor were they united under

one sovereign till the time of Kenneth M'Alpine, about the year 843.

Like every other country, the early history of Scotland is blended with fiction and tradition; and therefore little to be relied on. We know that Agricola, the general of Domitian, carried his arms to the foot of the Grampian Hills; but Adrian found it expedient to erect an earthen wall between the Tyne and the Solway Frith, and to give up the country beyond to the Caledonians. The emperor Severus afterwards erected a stone wall nearly in the same direction, with a view to prevent the incursions of the northern tribes, a fierce and warlike people, which, in the sequel, under the name of Picts and Scots, as has already been mentioned, carried on very sanguinary wars, till their union under Kenneth M'Alpine, from whose reign the history of Scotland assumes something of an authentic character.

CHAP. II.

From the Death of Kenneth M'Alpine to the Usurpation of Macbeth.

Q. By whom was Kenneth M'Alpine succeeded?

A. By his brother Donald, who reigned only four years. He had to contend with the Saxons and a party of discontented Picts, but on the whole was unsuccessful, and died miserably; when his nephew Constantine mounted the throne, and had to repel an invasion of the Danes, by whom he was at last taken prisoner and beheaded.

Q. What happened after this?

A. Eth, the brother of Constantine became king, but reigned only a year; when Gregory, surnamed the Great, and a contemporary of Alfred, was raised to sovereign power. This prince signalized his courage and his justice, in protecting the king of Ireland, then a minor; and was equally formidable to foreign and domestic foes. He is said to have founded the city of Aberdeen; and, after a glorious reign, died in 892, and was buried with his ancestors at Icolmkill, or Iona.

Q. By whom was Gregory succeeded?

A. By Donald III., who leagued with Alfred against the Danes. After him Constantine III. ascended the throne; but failing in an expedition against England, he resigned his crown to Malcolm, and retired to the solitude of the cloister.

Q. How did Malcolm conduct himself, and by whom was he succeeded?

A. He cultivated the friendship of the English, and was invested with the sovereignty of Northumberland, which he held as a fief of the crown of England. His son Indulfus succeeded him, who lost his life in opposing the Danes; when Duffus obtained the crown, and being murdered in 965, Colin, the son of Indulfus was raised to sovereign power.

Q. What was the character of Colin, and who were his successors?

A. It is painful to enumerate a list of kings, who only appeared on the stage to shew the instability of power in those barbarous ages. Colin behaved with great licentiousness, and was assassinated by the thane or lord of Fife. Kenneth, the son of Malcolm, next mounted the throne, and appears to have been a wise and valiant prince,* but he was cut off by assassination; and was succeeded by the usurper Constantine the Bold, who fell in an engagement against Grime, the son of Duffus. Grime, regardless of the claims of Malcolm, son of Kenneth, seized the crown; but after a reign of eight years was defeated and slain

* In his reign the family of *Hay* were first ennobled, on account of the bravery of the founder and his two sons.

Q. Who was his successor?

A. Malcolm, the lawful heir, mounted the throne in 1001, and was successful against his enemies, particularly the Danes, whom he defeated in three different engagements. He died after an active reign of thirty years, a period of unusual duration in the history of the Scottish kings; and left the crown to his grandson Duncan, who was cut off by domestic treachery in the seventh year of his reign. He seems to have possessed great courage, which he displayed against the Danes, and was diligently applying himself to the administration of justice, when he was murdered by the traitor Macbeth, one of his generals, leaving two sons, Malcolm and Donald, both very young.

CHAP. III.

From the Usurpation of Macbeth to the Accession of Robert Bruce.

Q. What happened after the death of Duncan?

A. The traitor Macbeth, immortalized by the genius of Shakspeare, now assumed the reins of government, but, though he displayed talents for govern-

ment, the consciousness of guilt rendered him restless and cruel; and he put to death Banquo, and other powerful men, together with the wife and infant children of Macduff, thane of Fife, who had saved his own life by flying into England. Macduff, addressing himself to Malcolm the lawful heir to the crown, by the assistance of the English made war against the Usurper, and at last defeated and killed him; thus avenging his own cause, and the cause of his country. On this Malcolm mounted the throne of his fathers in 1056; and Macduff received rewards and distinctions worthy of his services, though they could not compensate for his sufferings.

Q. How did Malcolm behave?

A. Being contemporary with William the Conqueror,—and Edgar Atheling, his mother and sisters taking refuge in Scotland, and Malcolm marrying the princess Margaret of England, this so offended the Norman, that a war commenced between them, which was carried on with various success; but in the end, Malcolm and his eldest son both fell in battle, in 1093. Margaret, who possessed every virtue of her sex, hearing of her loss, was so much affected, that she died in four days after, leaving four sons, and two daughters, all young.

Q. What took place after this catastrophe?

A. Donald, the brother of Malcolm, became a candidate for the throne; but Duncan, an illegitimate son of the late king, powerfully opposed his claims, and by the aid of the Norwegians, to whom he made some sacrifices, prevailed. His nobles, however, being disgusted with his conduct, set him aside, and raised Edgar, Malcolm's eldest son, to the throne of his ancestors. He enjoyed a peaceful reign of eight years, and was succeeded by his next brother, Alexander, who likewise dying without progeny, the crown descended to David the youngest brother.

Q. In what manner did he acquit himself?

A. David twice invaded England, and in 1138 fought the famous battle of the *Standard*, as it was called, in which he was defeated with considerable loss. He had likewise the misfortune to lose his only and deservedly beloved son Henry, whom the nation regarded as not only heir to the crown but to his father's worth and wisdom. Before his own death, which took place in 1153, David caused his grandson Malcolm to be acknowledged as his successor, though only fifteen years of age. This prince, who was weak and

superstitious, died without issue, in the twenty-fifth year of his age.

Q. By whom was Malcolm succeeded?

A. By William his brother, who mounted the throne in 1165; and soon after entering into a confederacy against England, was defeated and taken prisoner. The nobles were ready to purchase his freedom at the expense of the national independence; but William disdained to recover his liberty on such humiliating conditions. The accession of Richard I. to the throne of England was fortunate for Scotland. With a generous spirit he released William and his kingdom from feudal vassalage, and engaged to restore the cautionary fortresses. William reigned forty-nine years, and obtained the title of the Lion, probably from his using a lion rampant for his armorial bearing, rather than from his temper and disposition.

Q. To whom did the crown now descend?

A. To his son Alexander, who, though only seventeen years of age when he mounted the throne, has been represented as a model for future monarchs. He assisted the English barons in their struggle against King John, and at the same time by his address curbed his own licentious and turbulent nobles. He died in 1249,

and left the crown to his son of the same name, and the third who had borne it.

Q. Was there any thing memorable in the reign of Alexander III.?

A. He married the daughter of Henry king of England, which tended to preserve the peace with that nation; but he had to encounter the opposition of his own nobles, at the head of whom was Cummin, earl of Buchan. He was likewise engaged in a war with Norway, and defeated their king Haco with great slaughter of his forces. At last Alexander lost his life by his horse rushing down a precipice near Kinghorn, in the year 1285, leaving only an infant grand-daughter, Margaret, to inherit the kingdom.

Q. What took place after this?

A. Margaret, the late king's daughter, had been married to Eric, son of the king of Norway, but soon died, after having produced a daughter of the same name, and consequently heir to the crown of Scotland. Edward I. of England, a very politic prince, saw this was a good opportunity of adding Scotland to his dominions, and therefore proposed a marriage between his son and Margaret his grand niece. Eric, her father, consented to the match; but the child sickened on her passage from Norway, and being

landed at Orkney, there languished and died. The Scots were filled with consternation and dismay: they saw before them the miserable prospect of a disputed succession, intestine discord, and a war with England. And in order to avoid the miseries of a civil war, the competitors to the crown and the nation made choice of Edward I. as umpire, and agreed to acquiesce in his decision.

Q. Who were the competitors to whom you allude?

A. The chief were John Balliol and Robert Bruce, both descendants of David, earl of Huntingdon, who was brother to the two kings of Scotland, Malcolm and William. Bruce was the popular candidate; but Edward decided in favour of Balliol, because he was most subservient to his views. Balliol, however, felt his degradation, and wished to throw off the yoke of bondage imposed upon him by the English sovereign; but he found himself unequal to the contest, and was obliged to resign his crown, and to beg for mercy.

Q. How did this affair terminate?

A. Wallace, a name dear to his country and to patriotism, raised the standard of opposition to the encroachments of the English; and for a time, success crowned

his efforts to rescue his country; but Edward having collected an immense army, at length attacked the Scottish chieftain at Falkirk, in July 1298, and after a long and bloody fight victory declared in his favour. Wallace scorned submission; but being betrayed into the hands of the English, he was tried as a traitor, and condemned by an unjust sentence to die. With his dying breath he asserted the independence of his country.

CHAP. IV.

From the Accession of Robert Bruce to the Death of James V.

Q. Did the Scots now yield to Edward?

A. No. Robert Bruce, the grandson of the competitor with Balliol for the crown, had many partisans among the nobility; and being in the flower of youth, and possessed equally of courage and ambition, he had influence enough to collect an army; but one of Edward's generals gave him a total defeat, and obliged him to take refuge in the western isles, where he long wandered about in great distress. The English crown, however, falling to Edward II., by the death of his father,

Bruce was encouraged once more to try the fortune of war; and with 30,000 men gained a complete victory over thrice that number of English, at Bannockburn, near Stirling. This took place in 1313; and, for the remainder of his reign, Robert Bruce retained the advantage he had thus gained, and left his country free and independent. He died in 1329, and was a great king as well as a good man.

Q. By whom was Robert Bruce succeeded?

A. By his son David, then a minor, though Edward, the son of John Balliol, asserted his claim to the throne; and succeeded so far as to be crowned king at Scone. But the party of David at last prevailed; and after many changes of fortune, he died king in 1371, and left the sceptre to his nephew Robert, grandson of Bruce, and the first king of the Stewart line.

Q. Did any memorable events take place in his reign?

A. The noble families of Percy and Douglas now distinguished themselves, as well as other powerful *Borderers*; between whom the most deadly feuds prevailed, probably encouraged, or at least connived at, by their respective nations, England and Scotland.

Robert reigned nineteen years, and died at an advanced age, in 1390.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. By his eldest son John, who now took the name of Robert III. His reign was disturbed by intestine discord, and almost incessant wars with England. Finding that his eldest son had been treacherously taken off by the Duke of Albany, and anxious to preserve his surviving child, James, he sent him to France; but he was taken prisoner on his passage by the English, which so affected the unhappy king, that he almost immediately died of grief, in the year 1405.

Q. By whom was the government of Scotland now administered?

A. By the Duke of Albany as regent, in the name of James I. He was the king's uncle; and though the murderer of his brother, such was the necessity of affairs that his regency was submitted to. Henry IV. of England now invaded Scotland, but a truce was concluded, which lasted till the accession of Henry V. when the war was renewed, and continued with various success till his death.

Q. Did not James recover his liberty?

A. He did in 1424, after a long captivity, during which he had applied himself to study; and was on the whole, an

accomplished and learned prince, for the time in which he lived. On assuming the reins of government, he acted with great vigour, reforming abuses, which were become most flagrant, encouraging the good and repressing the ill-disposed; but this conduct, however laudable, among a turbulent and lawless nobility, created many enemies; and after a reign of thirteen years, he was assassinated by a band of conspirators, at the head of whom was the earl of Athol, in the year 1437. The murderers of their king did not, however, escape the punishment due to the enormity of their crime.

Q. Who succeeded James I.?

A. His son James II., then only seven years old. During his minority new broils prevailed. At the age of fourteen, he took the management of affairs into his own hands; and though he had to contend with several formidable confederacies entered into against him by his turbulent nobles, during which the country was exposed to all the horrors of civil war, he finally overcame all opposition by his firmness and vigour; and had he not been accidentally killed by the bursting of a cannon at the siege of Roxburgh, he most probably would have proved himself one of the greatest and best of the Scottish

kings. He was still in the flower of his age, and had acquired the love of the loyal and the good, and was feared by the disaffected and disorderly.

Q. What happened on his death?

A. His son James III. was then only seven years of age, and during his minority, the administration of affairs was conducted by the queen mother and a council. On arriving at the age of maturity, the young king married Margaret of Denmark, a celebrated beauty, but being of a weak and superstitious turn of mind, he gave himself up to the study of judicial astrology, and, in consequence of his visionary fears, he put to death one of his brothers the earl of Mar; while the duke of Albany, his elder brother, escaped into France. A nominal reconciliation afterwards took place between the king and the duke of Albany: but the latter, justly suspecting his brother's sincerity, withdrew to England; and a fresh conspiracy being formed against the king, headed by his own son, the young duke of Rothsay, the two armies met near Bannock Burn; and victory declared in favour of the insurgents. The king in his flight was thrown from his horse; and being taken up by some of his rebellious subjects, and carried to the

first hovel, was stabbed to the heart. This took place in 1488.

Q. In what manner did the prince his son regard this melancholy event?

A. His son James IV. hearing of his father's untimely death, felt all the horrors of conscious guilt; and was much more inconsolable for the part he had acted, than gratified at being thus called to the throne. In order to evince his contrition, though he seems to have acted with the rebels rather from a misconception than intentional rebellion against his father, he undertook several pilgrimages; and wore on his body an iron chain, to which he added a link every year.

Q. How did James IV. conduct the government?

A. Having married the daughter of Henry VII. of England, this paved the way to a firm peace between the two countries, the first that had taken place for 170 years. Being thus disengaged from the care of protecting his frontiers, he applied himself to the improvement of the country, and the civilization of his people, by encouraging learning, keeping a magnificent court, raising stately edifices, and particularly by encreasing the naval power of Scotland.

Yielding however at last to French councils, he rashly entered into a war with his brother-in-law, Henry VIII. contrary to the advice of his best friends; and at the memorable battle of Flodden-fields lost the flower of his nobility and his own life. This happened on the ninth of September 1513.

Q. By whom was he succeeded?

A. By his son James V. then only two years of age. His mother, Margaret, sister to the king of England, was appointed regent and guardian by her husband's will; but the duke of Albany exercised the principal power, and had to contend with a factious nobility, and a discontented but warlike people.

Q. How did James V. behave on taking the reins of government into his own hands?

A. At first he had a council of eight to advise with; but impatient of control, he soon shook off the yoke of restraint, and proceeded with steadiness and prudence to administer justice, and to regulate the state. He punished the freebooters on the borders with great and deserved severity, ordering many of them to be apprehended and hanged on the spot. In this reign, the reformation was introduced into Scotland; and the opposition it met with

only spread its progress, and confirmed its doctrines.

It was the misfortune of James V. at the same time to offend his own nobles and Henry VIII. of England, whose army made an inroad on the western border. James, despising or distrusting his principal nobility, gave the command of his forces to a person not agreeable to them, on which 10,000 Scots at the Raid of Solway Moss laid down their arms, without striking a blow, before 500 English. This disgrace so affected the unhappy king, that he refused from that moment to take any sustenance; and, after languishing a few days, expired in the year 1542, in the 31st year of his age, leaving an infant daughter Mary, by his queen, a princess of France, heir to the throne, and with this dying observation, "the kingdom came with a lass, and will go with a lass."

CHAP. V.

From the Accession of Mary to the Restoration.

Q. How old was Mary when her father died?

A Only a few days; and the disasters

of her reign began and ended only with her life. Civil and religious dissensions immediately broke out; and the queen-mother sent her daughter to France at an early age, to be brought up at the court of Henry II. whose eldest son, Francis, was destined to be her husband.

Q. Who had the management of affairs in the meanwhile in Scotland?

A. The earl of Arran for a time acted as regent; and being then friendly to the reformation, the scriptures were allowed to be read in the vulgar tongue; but afterwards renouncing the protestant religion, the chief power fell into the hands of Cardinal Beaton, who persecuted the reformists; but was soon after assassinated. The queen-mother was then entrusted with the regency, which she held amidst the distractions and the animosity of parties with a decided preference to the catholic religion, till at last she was tired of contending against the storm, and withdrew.

Q. What became of Mary?

A. She was married to Francis, dauphin of France, who, dying in less than three years, left her a widow in the nineteenth year of her age. On this, she returned to her native kingdom; but being strongly attached to popery, and much

too gay for the gloomy reformers who had imbibed the doctrines of Calvin, her conduct was viewed in an unfavourable light by her subjects, whose manners, on the other hand, were little congenial to the habits in which she had been educated.

Q. Was not Mary afterwards married?

A. She was, to her cousin Henry, lord Darnley, but besides exciting the jealousy of queen Elizabeth by this match it was unfortunate in itself. Darnley ridiculously fancied himself supplanted in the queen's affections by an Italian musician, named Rizzio; and in order to be revenged, caused the poor wretch to be murdered in the queen's presence. Soon after Mary had given birth to a son, named James VI. of Scotland, and the first of England, Darnley himself was blown up with gunpowder, in the house where he slept; and his body found in an adjoining field.

Q. Was not Mary suspected of being an accessory in this foul murder?

A. Though there is no direct proof of this, and it is charitable to disbelieve the imputations that have been thrown on this beautiful and unfortunate princess, her afterwards marrying the Earl of Bothwell, who was thought to be the principal in the crime, naturally gave a colour

to the most injurious suspicions against the purity of her conduct. The consequence was, that a confederacy was formed against the queen and Bothwell: the latter sought his safety by flight, and died miserably; and the queen gave herself up to her rebellious nobles, and a regency was formed, at the head of which was the earl of Moray, a person who pretended to be friendly to the queen, but who practised the grossest dissimulation, and soon became very unpopular. This gave the queen's party an opportunity of trying to restore her power. A battle was fought between them and the regent's forces at Langside, in May 1568, when fortune once more declared against Mary; and distracted by discordant counsels, she adopted the most dangerous of any, in throwing herself under the protection of her jealous rival queen Elizabeth.

Q. Did not Elizabeth grant her an asylum?

A. Much the reverse. She brought her to trial for the alledged murder of her husband, Henry lord Darnley; and though Mary was acquitted of being privy to this horrid deed, the queen of England still detained her a captive; and in the event found an opportunity of convicting her, with some appearance of truth,

of conspiring with others to recover her liberty, which, however, was interpreted to be a design against the life of Elizabeth. To make short, Mary was brought to the block on this charge at Fotheringay castle, on the 7th of February, 1587; and suffered with heroic resolution. In beauty, in accomplishments, and in misfortunes, Mary is almost without a rival. She scarcely saw a happy day, after the death of her first husband, Francis II. of France.

Q. Did not her son, James VI. revenge his mother's death?

A. He threatened; but his mind was not sufficiently firm to persevere, nor his power equal to such an enterprise; and besides, he now considered himself lawful heir to the crown of England, to which Mary too had made pretensions; and under all circumstances it was wise to disguise his resentment. In the meanwhile he acquitted himself with some degree of reputation, as king of Scotland. He possessed learning himself; and Scotland is at this moment indebted to him for the establishment of parochial schools, one of the greatest blessings that ever was conferred on a nation.*

* Without parochial schools, education can never

Q. Did James succeed to the crown of England as he expected?

A. Queen Elizabeth departing this life in 1603, with her dying breath declared her cousin the king of Scotland to be her heir; and indeed he was nearest in lineal succession, as being the great grandson of Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. who married James IV. of Scotland.

The two kingdoms, much to the prosperity of both, have since been united under one Sovereign, though it was long after this period, as will be seen in the sequel, that a complete political union could be effected between the people of both countries. The difference of religion, laws, and government, threw many impediments in the way of this desirable event, nor were they easily overcome.

Q. Was the accession of James to the throne of England popular?

A. He began his reign with every prejudice in his favour, as his English subjects saw the advantages which they would derive from both parts of the island being subject to the same king; but

become general among the common people in any country. They ought to be established in England, on the same principle as in Scotland, as the only means by which this glorious object can be secured.

his partialities and his pedantry soon became the objects of jealousy or of ridicule; and he died in the fifty-ninth year of his age, little esteemed or regretted. Being of a pacific disposition, he allowed factions, both civil and religious, to take root and to flourish, which eventually proved the ruin of his son and successor.

Q. By whom was James succeeded?

A. By his son, Charles I., who was crowned king of Scotland, as well as of England; but his attachment to prelacy, which he wished to substitute for the presbyterian form of government in Scotland, threw the people of that country into a flame, and they entered into a solemn covenant to resist the royal authority.

Q. What was the consequence of this confederacy?

A. The Scotch covenanters leagued with the rebels in England; and though the duke of Montrose valiantly supported the royal cause in Scotland, he was obliged to yield to circumstances, and withdrew into France. The affairs of Charles being ruined in England, he adopted the weak resolution of throwing himself into the hands of an army in rebellion against him, which to its eternal disgrace, delivered him up to his English subjects, without even stipulating for his personal safety. It should

be mentioned, however, that this was only the act of a party, and not of the whole nation. The royal cause had still many warm adherents in Scotland, and even many of those who had been most hostile to it, repented of their conduct; and, after the murder of Charles I., exerted themselves to the utmost to restore his son, Charles II. to the throne of his ancestors. The fortune of Cromwell, however, prevailed; and after the battle of Worcester, the royal cause suffered a long eclipse under the usurpation of an able but unprincipled hypocrite.

CHAP. VI.

From the Restoration to the present Time.

Q. How did the Scotch behave on the restoration?

A. They vied with England in their expressions of loyalty; and their parliament made a liberal annual grant to the king for his civil list. Their religious prejudices, however, were frequently shocked by the means which was taken to change the presbyterian form of church government for the episcopal; and when James II. gave evident indications of his wish

to establish popery on the ruin of both, notwithstanding their former submission to many stretches of prerogative, the Scotch, as a nation, were induced, as well as the English, to hail William, prince of Orange, as their king and deliverer. William, who seems to have had no religious predilections, finding a great majority of the Scottish nation attached to the presbyterian form of church government, granted it a legal establishment, which has ever since continued.

Q. Were there not still a great number of persons in all ranks of life in Scotland attached to the interest of the Stuart family?

A. There assuredly were; and on the accession of queen Anne, the daughter of James II., in 1702, these persons naturally indulged the hope that she would prefer her brother to a stranger, having no surviving issue of her own. This gave her an influence which was extremely desirable in the present conjuncture of affairs, and enabled her to accomplish, though not without some difficulty, an union between Scotland and England, which had been repeatedly attempted, but in vain, by her predecessors. This took place in 1707; when the Scottish parliament was dis-

solved; and forty-five commoners and sixteen peers to be chosen every new parliament, were agreed on to represent the ancient kingdom of Scotland in the parliament of Great Britain.

Q. What took place on the demise of queen Anne?

A. Whatever wish she might have had to promote the restoration of the Stuart line, the parliament, by the act of settlement, provided otherwise; and they were excluded from the throne. The Jacobites, however, as the adherents of king James were called, still continued to plot; and the union with England, being at first far from being popular, though it has been productive of the happiest results, gave them fair opportunities to create agitations and disturbances; and before George I. was well settled on the throne, the earl of Marr set up the standard of the Chevalier de St. George, or the son of James II. in 1715, to which a considerable number of persons of distinction and their partisans flocked. In England likewise the Pretender was not without friends; but being defeated by the duke of Argyle in Scotland, and surrounded in England at Preston, in Lancashire, by the king's generals, this rebellion was speedily quelled.

The Pretender indeed had landed at Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, and proceeded as far as Scone, where he intended to have been crowned; but seeing his affairs desperate, he again retired to France, attended by many of his friends.

Q. In what manner were the rebels treated?

A. They were treated with severity, for the sake of example. The earls of Derwentwater and Kenmuir were beheaded; several gentlemen suffered as traitors at Tyburn and in Lancashire, and some hundreds of the common soldiers were transported to North America.

Q. Did this put an end to the machinations of the Jacobites?

A. By no means. In 1745, Charles Edward, the son of him who had attempted to recover his pretended rights in 1715, landed in Lochaber, and being speedily joined by several persons of rank and their clans, advanced to Edinburgh. At Preston Pans, he came up with a body of the king's forces, under Sir John Cope, and completely routed them. This partial success was the cause of augmenting his army; and he marched as far as Derby and Manchester, without meeting with any serious opposition. Disappointed, however, in a general rising in his favour in

England, which it seems he had expected, and hearing that the Duke of Cumberland was advancing against him with a considerable army, he began to retrace his steps. After a variety of occurrences, which cannot now be detailed, the Duke of Cumberland came up with him at Culloden on the 16th of April, 1746; and with an army of 14,000 men, gained a complete victory over the rebels, whose forces did not amount to more than about 8,000, and many of them were ill disciplined and badly armed. They did not however retire till the field was covered with their dead and wounded; and it may be said, that they fought like men worthy of a better cause.

Q. Did the Pretender escape?

A. He wandered up and down the Highlands for nearly six months in the utmost distress, exposed to the danger of being discovered by the royal troops, which were in constant pursuit of him, and protected only by the attachment of the wretched peasantry; who, though they knew that a reward of 30,000*l.* was offered for his apprehension, scorned to betray the son of their king.

Nothing can be more romantic than the history of his escapes when in the most imminent peril, and nothing more amiable

than the fidelity of the natives. On one occasion, we are told, that he was driven by necessity to implore the relief of a man who was well known to be hostile to his cause. "The son of your king," said he, on entering the house, "comes to beg a little bread, and a few clothes. I know your present attachment to my adversaries, but I believe you have sufficient honour not to abuse my confidence, or to take advantage of my distress. Take these rags which have for some time been my only covering. You may probably restore them to me one day when I shall be seated on the throne of my ancestors."

At length, the unfortunate Pretender got on board a privateer of St. Maloes, which had been sent to Lochranach to bring him off and such of his adherents as were in the vicinity; and was safely landed in France. It does not appear, however, that his sufferings and the misery he had brought upon his friends,* produced a proper effect on his mind, or reformed his irregular habits. It is known

* The Earl of Kilmarnock and Lords Balmerino and Lovat were beheaded. Several officers and gentlemen who had taken part in this rebellion were executed in different parts of the kingdom, and many more were transported.

that he afterwards visited England in secret, and that meetings took place between him and several of his party, but this was the last open effort that was made in his favour. He married a German princess, but died without issue; and his only brother, Cardinal York, the last of the direct line of the royal family of Stewart, some years before his death enjoyed a pension from the bounty of George III.

Soon after this rebellion was quelled, every means was taken to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity. Clanships, or the influence which chieftains had over their vassals, were destroyed; military roads were made, and posts established in the most inaccessible parts of the country, improvements in agriculture were encouraged, and manufactures have been established, which, while they have encreased the national wealth, have spread comfort and happiness among an industrious and moral people. If the military genius of Scotland still exists, and it certainly does with undiminished lustre, it is now directed to its proper ends and objects—to add to the national glory against foreign foes, and to support the cause of freedom and of man, in every climate where it can

be called into action. In a word, in arts and in arms, the descendants of the ancient Caledonians are not unworthy to be associated with their brethren of the British empire at large, or to participate in those rights and privileges which have been acquired by a full proportion of their blood!

END OF HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

MAVOR'S
CATECHISM, &c.

IRELAND.

CHAP. I

Geography, &c.—Early History.

Q. Describe the situation, divisions, climate and productions of Ireland?

A. This large and very fine island, known by the names of Hibernia, Ierne, Scotia, Erin, and Ireland, is situated to the west of Great Britain, and nearly in a parallel latitude, having the Atlantic on the north, west, and south, and St. George's Channel, the Irish Sea, and the North Channel on the east; and presents something like the shape of an egg in its outline; with various indentings, however, which form excellent havens.

It is divided into four provinces,* Ulster on the north, Connaught on the west,

* See Catechism of Geography for more particulars.

Munster on the south, and Leinster on the east; and these are subdivided into thirty-two counties, of which Ulster contains nine, Connaught five, Munster six, and Leinster twelve, which, collectively, have a population of about four millions.

Round the coast of Ireland are numerous isles, but none of them of great magnitude.

The gulphs and bays, of which there are many, show how excellently this island is adapted for trade; and its internal lakes or loughs are several of them not only of great extent, but of remarkable picturesque beauty.

The climate of Ireland is mild, and favourable to vegetation from its great humidity; and consequently it produces much corn, and feeds numerous herds of cattle, a principal article of export. The surface is mostly level, and for want of draining still contains many bogs and pieces of stagnant water, besides some noble rivers. It has, however, some chains of mountains in Kerry, Wicklow, in Ulster, and Connaught.

The principal mineral productions of Ireland are iron, copper, lead, some gold and silver, coal, sulphur, chrystals, gypsum, granites, and marbles.

The principal ports are Dublin, Cork,

Waterford, Wexford, Londonderry, Limerick, Belfast, and Newry. The exports, linen-cloth, cattle, corn, and other native commodities; the imports chiefly East and West Indian produce.

Dublin, the capital, is reckoned the second city in the British dominions. It is the seat of the Irish government and courts of law, and has an university called Trinity-College. Perhaps Cork is the next most important city in Ireland, as it has much shipping and foreign trade.

The principal natural curiosities are the Giants' causeway, an immense cluster of basaltic columns, in the county of Antrim; and the exemption of this island from venemous animals, which is vulgarly ascribed to a miracle of St Patrick!

Q. What have you to observe of the original inhabitants of Ireland?

A. According to the generally received opinion they were of Scythian, or more properly speaking, of Phœnician origin; for besides the common use of the Phœnician language by the natives of that country,* there are not wanting other proofs that a colony of Phœnicians or Carthaginians settled in Ireland. But, besides

* This is proved from some lines in a play of Plautus in the character of a Carthaginian, which are easily intelligible by a modern Irishman.

these, it is evident there were still more early settlers in this island, called Fomorian, Nemedians, and Firlbolgs; though it appears that the Phœnicians from Spain, under the conduct of Heber, Eremon and Ith, the three sons of Milesius, and thence called the Milesian kings, from the earliest ages even of tradition, exercised sovereign power in this island.

Q. At what period is it said that the Milesians established their power in Ireland; and what was the form of government?

A. About twelve hundred years before the Christian æra; but it must be acknowledged that there are no existing records to rectify this, and that the statement rests on tradition and conjecture. It appears, however, that the Milesian race of kings divided the island into four provinces, namely, Ulster, Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, each of which had its sovereign; and over these four provincial sovereigns was placed a supreme monarch, to whom they all paid tribute, as a mark of subjection, and of consideration for his wisdom and his talents; but who never interfered in the internal government of the subject kings. At length the district of Meath was separated from the other provinces and appropriated to the support

of the monarch, in addition to his ordinary revenues from the four vassal provinces.

It should farther be observed in answer to the latter part of your question, that though the throne and all posts of honour and profit were elective, the parties filling them were always taken from particular septs or families, not indeed in immediate lineal descent, yet so that from the landing of Milesius with his Phœnician colony, for the space of nearly 2000 years, no one filled the seat of monarchy who was not a descendant from one of the three sons of its founder. The same was the case with the four great provincial and the numerous other smaller kingdoms into which the island was in process of time subdivided; for besides the monarch and the four sovereigns of provinces we read of the kings of Offaly, Limerick, Cork, &c.; so that every provincial king had under him as many suffragan kings, as there were septs or families of note in his province.

Q. At what period, and under whom did this system of government acquire its greatest perfection?

A. About 950 years before the birth of Christ, under the celebrated monarch Ollam Fodlah, who instituted the triennial parliament held at Tara, consisting of

kings, druids, and other learned men, who assembled for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the nation, and of recording the antiquities and annals of the kingdom. Even at this early period we are told that the Irish had made great progress in the arts and sciences, and that poetry and music in particular were cultivated to a superior degree; while an enthusiastic love of glory and personal valour were the common attributes of every rank. A great degree of obscurity, however, hangs over the annals of many preceding as well as succeeding ages; and it was not till the introduction of Christianity that history is able to separate truth from fable. One thing is certain, that the Romans, in the plenitude of their power, never attempted to conquer Ireland.

CHAP. II.

From the Introduction of Christianity to the Restoration of Charles II.

Q. When and by whom was Christianity first introduced into Ireland?

A. The gospel was first preached in this island about the middle of the fifth century by St. Patrick, who was sent hither with other missionaries by Celestine,

bishop of Rome, to convert the Irish from pagan druidism; and in no land did the truths of Christianity make more rapid progress, or were its professors more esteemed, as St. Patrick was early invited to a seat in the parliament of Tara. Indeed Ireland and the western isles of Scotland soon became celebrated as the chief seats of piety, learning, and science; and youths from other countries were sent there for their education.

Q. Did the civil prosperity of Ireland keep pace with its religious improvement?

A. By no means. Divisions have ever been its bane; and from the nature of its government, unity of action could not be at all times expected. It had indeed escaped the power of Rome, but it was doomed to submit to the inroads of the Danes, who first invaded Ireland about the year 800, and were not finally subdued till 1014, at the battle of Clantarffe, in which Brian Boromhe, king of Munster, then nearly 90 years of age, signalized himself, and in which his son Mortagh lost his life. For more than a hundred years after this period the history of Ireland presents little worthy of particular record.

Q. What then was the next memorable event in its history?

A. About the year 1166 Roderic O'Connor, of the Milesian race, was almost unanimously invested with the supreme power; but the tranquillity of his reign was soon disturbed by the revolt of several petty kings and princes; and scarcely had he reduced them to obedience before he was called on by O'Rourk, king of Breffny, to assist him in avenging himself of Dermot, king of Leinster, by whom he had been grossly injured. Dermot, in order to escape the storm, secretly repaired to Henry II. of England, and implored his assistance, with a promise of becoming his vassal.

Q. Did the king of England listen to these overtures?

A. They appear to have been very grateful to him, and he sent a body of troops to support Dermot; but not satisfied with the vassalage of a single prince, Henry obtained an authority from the Pope to reform the manners and purify the religion of the Irish, and likewise a ring in token of his investiture, as lawful sovereign of that island.

Q. Was Henry II. successful in his enterprise?

A. After a noble struggle on the part of the Irish against Dermot and his English ally, the power and policy of England pre-

vailed; and in 1172 Ireland submitted to Henry. But notwithstanding this nominal subjection, and the papal grants repeatedly renewed, the English power and authority during the space of 400 years was chiefly confined to a district called the Pale, comprehending the counties of Dublin, Kildare, Meath, and Uriel, with the cities of Waterford, Cork, and Limerick, and their adjacent territories. And during this long and gloomy period, internal divisions distracted, and external oppression weighed down this unhappy island. I will not therefore give you details which produced no important results; but will pass on, if you please, to the time of the reformation.

Q. What happened at this period?

A. A parliament being summoned to meet at Dublin in May, 1536, though it in reality contained only representatives for the Pale, so artfully did Henry VIII. manage matters, that he procured himself to be declared supreme head of the church in Ireland, and annulled the spiritual power of the Pope. Pains and penalties were imposed on recusants; and the support of the civil rights of the Irish nation now became a subordinate consideration to the preservation of the ancient religion. In every struggle, however, the divided

Irish were obliged to submit to English power; but though the doctrines of the reformation made considerable progress among the great, the lower orders continued, and still continue to evince a strong adherence to papal Rome.* In 1542 the style and title of lord protector of Ireland, which the English monarchs had hitherto used, was changed to king; and it was declared to be high treason to impeach that title or to oppose the royal authority. The arbitrary measures, however, of Henry VIII. served to intimidate, but could not conciliate; and when his son, Edward VI., succeeded to the crown, national prejudices and English oppression gave rise to the insurrection of Tyrone. In the reign of Mary, popery was of course restored in Ireland, as it was in England; and this rendered it more easy for the government to extend the English Pale beyond its former limits, and to divide the unreduced parts into shires, which materially promoted the entire subjugation of the island.

Q. How was Ireland circumstanced on the accession of Elizabeth?

A. It was less disturbed than usual; but Elizabeth being determined to esta-

* It has been calculated that three fourths of the landed property in Ireland belong to Protestants, while three fourths of the population are Catholics!

blish the reformation, and to enforce the rigorous system adopted by her father, Henry VIII., the whole island was for several years agitated by internal feuds, or by combinations against the English. At length, in 1596, a general rebellion to shake off the English yoke was organized in Ireland, under O'Neal, who assumed the title of king of Munster, and entered into a correspondence with Spain; but failing in his efforts, he was brought to the humiliating condition of being obliged to implore mercy, and to renounce for ever his name and title.

Q. Did James I. show more lenity to Ireland?

A. Naturally pacific, he endeavoured to ingratiate himself with the disaffected Irish Chieftains, and he was thus enabled to extend the legislative as well as the juridical power of England beyond the Pale. But he introduced at the same time several vexatious regulations, which drove the Irish at last to rebellion; and on one occasion, six of the northern counties were confiscated, and peopled with families from England and Scotland.

Q. Did Ireland take any part in the civil wars of England, during the reign of Charles I.?

A. Charles at his accession showed a

disposition to favour the Catholics, but this irritated the puritans, who were everywhere gaining an ascendancy; and at length the former were driven to open rebellion; when, according to Sir John Temple, 150,000 Protestants were murdered in cold blood by the Irish under O'Neal; while Sir William Petty estimates them only at 30,000. The truth probably lies between both; but it would be painful, because it is disgraceful to Christianity, to enter into farther details of the atrocities committed in Ireland by both sides, during the civil wars of England, as well as during the usurpation. Cromwell exercised horrible cruelties, before he could make the loyal Irish submit to his authority.

CHAP. III.

From the Restoration of Charles II. to the Revolution under William III.

Q. What took place in Ireland on the Restoration?

A. Ireland had shown its adherence to the royal cause nearly three years after the rest of the British empire had renounced its allegiance; it had lost one third of its population by war, famine, pestilence, and

expatriation ; yet it was still doomed to suffer by an event that diffused joy over other parts of the empire. Charles, no doubt, was inclined to favour the Catholics ; but notwithstanding his declaration from Breda explicitly stated “ that he would perform all grants and concessions, which he had either made or promised, and which, as he had new instances of their love and affection to him, he should study to enlarge rather than diminish or infringe in the least degree,” in order to gratify the puritans, excluded the Irish Catholics from the general indemnity, and confirmed the rebellious regicides in the wages of their bloody deeds. Ormond was invested with the government of Ireland ; and it is said, that by forfeitures and other causes, his family were the greatest gainers by the restoration, which proved so ruinous to the old Catholic families.

Q. Did James II. show more favour to Ireland ?

A. On his accession he appointed the Earl of Clarendon to be governor of Ireland, instead of Ormond ; but his lordship being too much attached to the Protestant interest to give in to the views of his master, the Earl of Tyrconnel, was made commander in chief of the army, and declared independent of the lord lieute-

nant. This and other proceedings of a similar tendency alarmed the Protestants, who were the chief commercial people in Ireland; and the greatest part of those whose fortunes were transferable, left a country where they expected a speedy re-establishment of popery and all the evils which their brethren had suffered in the unhappy reign of Charles I.

Q. What took place in Ireland on James's abdication of the British throne, or more properly speaking perhaps his merited expulsion from it?

A. When William, prince of Orange, who had married Mary, daughter of James II. was placed on the English throne in 1688, the Protestants in the north of Ireland proclaimed William and Mary, which Tyrconnel and the Catholics considered as an act of rebellion. Meanwhile James, who had been favourably received by Louis XIV., apprised of the attachment of his Irish Catholic subjects, sailed from Brest with a strong armament, and landed at Kinsale in March 1689, from whence he proceeded to Dublin, where he was received with great pomp and every testimony of dutiful allegiance. He now summoned a parliament which sat about two months, when debate was changed to deeds of arms. My limits will not allow me to

particularize the events of the civil war that ensued. The Protestants in the north supported the cause of William against the forces of James, till the arrival of an army of 40,000 men under Schomberg, which was afterwards commanded by William in person. Several partial engagements took place in different parts: but at the battle of the Boyne, fought on the first of July, 1690, victory decided in favour of William. During the heat of the engagement, it is said that James, seeing the havoc made by the Irish, repeatedly cried out, "spare my English subjects." Though he had shown much bravery by sea while Duke of York, as king of Great Britain and Ireland, by land he proved that he wanted skill and conduct. James fled precipitately from the battle of the Boyne to Dublin, and from thence to Waterford, from whence he embarked for France, to return no more.

Q. Did Ireland now submit to William?

A. Limerick still held out for James with a strong garrison; but on the 3d of October, 1691, it surrendered, on condition that the Catholics should enjoy the free exercise of their religion, the security of property, the pardon of misdemeanours, and the privilege of voting for members of parliament. De Ginkle, who commanded

for William, solemnly guaranteed these terms, which were afterwards confirmed by parliament. Nevertheless about 4000 Irish were outlawed for the part they had taken in this rebellion: and 1,060,800 acres belonging to them, were confiscated, and divided among the friends of the revolution.

CHAP. IV.

From the Accession of Queen Anne to the Independence of the Irish Parliament in 1782.

Q. What was the state of Ireland at the accession of queen Anne?

A. Humbled by the sufferings of the preceding period, the Irish submitted to fresh inflictions and restraints, on account of the predominant religion; for as the queen held the crown against the claims of her brother, by the tenure of protestantism, she felt herself in point of policy called on to encrease the severity of the penal laws, or at least she suffered the Protestant parliament of Ireland to legislate without mercy against their fellow-subjects of the Catholic persuasion, who, however, remained passive.

Q. What effect had the accession of

George I. on the circumstances of Ireland?

A. Little or none for the better, though the behaviour of the Irish at the time of the rebellion in Scotland in 1715, gave them a claim to favour and indulgence. At this period, when a popish pretender was exerting himself to overset the government in Great Britain, Ireland remained tranquil, and took no part in his cause. Those who had so strenuously defended James II. till hope was extinct, having once transferred their allegiance to another line, scorned to violate it in favour of his son.

Great offence, however, was given to the Irish by Wood's patent for coining copper for the use of that country, which he shamefully abused; and which Swift, Dean of St. Patrick, exposed in his Drapier's Letters, with all the acrimony of wit and with the desired effect.

Q. Did any thing remarkable occur in the reign of George II.?

A. During the rebellion in 1745, which for a time agitated Scotland and England to its centre, Ireland was again quiet; nor did any thing particularly deserving notice take place in the sister island, except the landing of the French at Carrickfergus, under Thurot, in February 1760. This

enterprising chief had originally five ships and 1250 men under his command; but only three of the ships reached Ireland, from which he landed about 600 men. They were bravely opposed, however, by Colonel Jennings, with four companies of new raised men; but whose ammunition being expended, he was obliged to surrender to the French. On this Thurot laid a contribution on Carrickfergus, and re-embarked his men; but Commodore Elliot and an equal force coming up with him, before he could leave the coast, a desperate battle took place, in which Thurot was slain and his ships taken.

Q. In what position were the affairs of Ireland when George III. mounted the throne?

A. At his accession they were sufficiently gloomy; but during his long and eventful reign the condition of Ireland has been improved in every respect; and it will look back with gratitude to his benevolent care for its welfare. But I am anticipating events.

Q. In what respect were the affairs of Ireland in a bad situation at the commencement of his reign?

A. Public credit was at the lowest ebb; private distress had reached its highest pitch; and many of the lowest and most

wretched among the peasantry were in a state of insurrection. These at first committed their outrages by night, usually appearing in white shirts or frocks, from which they had the name of *White Boys*. On enquiring into the cause of their riotous proceedings, it was found that they chiefly arose from distress, and that the parties had no particular political or religious object in view. After them, we find Ireland disturbed by other illegal associations for a series of years; some of the rioters being called *Oak Boys* from sprigs of oak worn in their hats, and others *Hearts of Steel*, to denote the steadiness of their resolution in the cause they had embarked in. For these continued insurrectionary movements various and even contradictory causes have been assigned—the truth seems to be, that want of employment, want of education, and want of every kind, arising from defects in the domestic policy of the country, were the origin of almost all the illegal and dangerous combinations that had been formed about this time.

Q. What was done to meliorate the condition of the people, and to secure their quiet?

A. It was not in the power of any legislature to remove many of the causes of

distress among the lower orders in Ireland; but a measure was carried in the British parliament in 1782, by which the political independence of the Irish parliament was secured, by allowing Ireland to legislate for herself; and this was hailed by the whole nation as the promise of a brighter day. And in order to conciliate them still farther, a new order of knighthood was instituted about this time, called the Illustrious Order of St. Patrick, of which the king was appointed Sovereign, and fifteen knights were made companions. These attentions on the part of Great Britain were not wholly without their effect on the hearts of a generous people; but though they soothed for the moment, they did not in the slightest degree eradicate the disease, under which the Irish laboured, as will be seen in the sequel.

CHAP. V

From the Independence of the Irish Parliament, to the Union with Great Britain.

Q. Did Ireland become more tranquil, now her parliament could legislate independently?

A. This flattering boon, as might have been seen, could not remove the prevailing distress; and other causes arose, which increased discontent, and ripened it into rebellion.

Q. Will you mention some of those causes?

A. That splendid chimera, the French revolution, breaking out in 1789, many of the Irish, both from political as well as religious prejudices against the existing order of things, availed themselves of the principles thus disseminated, to fan the flame of disaffection, and to enter into associations one with another, as well as with the leaders of the French, to carry on their dangerous and rebellious projects. In 1791 several societies of united Irishmen were formed, and the Roman Catholics published a declaration of their tenets and pretensions; and next year, the question of Catholic emancipation, as it has been called, was blended with the jargon of French jacobinism; and many of the professors of that religion were urged on to acts wholly inconsistent with order and good government, notwithstanding the liberal concessions they had already obtained.

Q. What measures were adopted by

government to suppress these illegal proceedings?

A. The earl of Fitzwilliam, having shown a disposition to concede the new Catholic claims, was recalled from his vice-royalty, much to the regret of the Irish; and Lord Camden was appointed his successor in 1795. Troops were poured into Ireland, and every precaution taken to prevent a rising, but in vain. The fomenters of rebellion, encouraged by a promise of support from the French, put themselves in military array; and a large armament from Brest, in December, 1796, intended to co-operate with them, was prevented only by the elements from invading Ireland. Next year the rebels dispatched agents to France and Holland to press assistance, and had it not been for the victory opportunely gained by the gallant Lord Duncan in 1797, there can be little doubt that the hostile fleets would have made an attempt on Ireland, and seconded the views of the rebels.

Q. Did these repeated disappointments incline the rebels to relinquish their designs?

A. By no means. In 1798 the rebellion in Ireland spread in all directions; and after thousands had perished in the field or

by the laws, a proclamation was issued by Lord Cornwallis, then Lord Lieutenant, offering his Majesty's pardon to all who would surrender before a certain day. The consequence was, that numbers were induced to accept the amnesty, and to return to their allegiance.

Q. Did not the French effect a landing in the mean while?

A. Not till the submission had become pretty general. But in the end of August a small force under General Humbert landed at Killala, of which he made himself master. Advancing to Castlebar, and being joined by some hundreds of the natives, he repulsed the king's troops, who retreated to Tuam, but finding himself surrounded by the English forces, he surrendered with his men, prisoners of war. His Irish adherents being refused quarter, fled in all directions, and were pursued with great slaughter.* This was the expiring effort of the Irish rebels in 1798;

* The contrast between the Irish rebels who joined the French invaders, and the invaders themselves with regard to religious sentiments was worthy of remark. The Atheist affronted and despised the Bigot. But says the Bishop of Killala, who had been taken prisoner by the French, and was extremely respected by them, "the wonder was how the zealous Papist, could come to any agreement with a set of men who boasted openly in

and may those scenes of blood never more be renewed!

Q. Was tranquillity now restored to Ireland?

A. The defects of her government were seen and acknowledged by good and wise men of all parties; and they set about remedying and removing them. This obviously could never be done without a legislative Union with Great Britain, so that their interests might for ever be identified, and the same.

Q. Did such an union take place?

A. This event had long been in contemplation; but, as may well be supposed, there were many prejudices to remove and jarring interests to reconcile, before it could be brought to maturity. A great part of the parliament of Ireland opposed the measure, and in England it was not generally popular; but Mr. Pitt, at that time premier, bent all the energies of his great mind to accomplish it; and after protracted public discussions and private negotiations, it took place on the first of January, 1801.

Q. What line of argument was taken against the Union?

our hearing, that they had just driven *Monsieur Pope* out of Italy, and did not expect to find him again so suddenly in Ireland."

A. It was contended that Ireland would thus be degraded, and deprived of its independent legislature, which it acquired with so much difficulty in 1782; that a local parliament was best adapted to provide for the wants and attend to the interests of the nation; and in particular, that men of rank and fortune would thus be drawn by interest or ambition to settle or spend their money in England, to the impoverishment of their native country, and the neglect of their tenantry. The last was the most powerful argument, and it is certainly felt in its consequences, and must be felt till the people learn to trust to their own resources; but the same objections applied to an Union on the part of Scotland, and indeed for a long time the measure was far from being popular; though it has eventually become the source of the greatest blessings of the northern part of Britain, as it unquestionably will to Ireland.

Q. What arguments were urged in favour of an Union?

A. They may be summed up in the elegant language of Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, in the house of lords, on this important topic. "It would enrich Ireland," said his lordship, "and would not impoverish Great Britain. The consoli-

dation of Ireland with this country would render it the strongest empire in Europe. Ireland," continued he, " must either be shaded by the British oak, or it must be poisoned by the pestilential vapour of the tree of French liberty. Ireland cannot stand alone. In the present state of Europe, she must either be united to England or to France. English capital, in the event of Union, would seek employment in Ireland, and diffuse improvement and wealth. The bogs would be converted into fruitful fields, the barren mountains covered with cattle, the old sources of wealth would be extended, new ones discovered, and the inhabitants be rendered rich, industrious, and happy "

Q. Have these anticipations been realized?

A. They are in a state of progressive fulfilment. Trade has already been much extended; the penal laws have been softened down, nearly as much as a regard for a protestant establishment will allow, education has been extended to the catholic as well as the protestant, internal improvements are every where taking place; and if the land-owners would introduce a better system of letting their estates, and more generally reside upon them, Ireland would speedily become, what nature in-

tended it should be, the seat of commerce, of plenty, and of happiness.

Q. How is Ireland represented in the imperial parliament ?

A. In the House of Commons it is represented by one hundred members, chosen for counties, cities, and boroughs ; in the House of Lords by four bishops, who sit in rotation for a limited time, and by twenty-eight lay lords, who are elected for life. The Courts of Justice remain as before ; and a Viceroy continues to hold his Court at the Castle, in Dublin, and is thus an important means of keeping many of the Irish families of distinction at home, without an absentee tax, which has, however, been strenuously recommended.

END OF HISTORY OF IRELAND.

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END OF HISTORY OF IRELAND.

APPENDIX,

RESPECTING WALES.

1. Q. Are there not some circumstances worthy of being recorded, respecting Wales, which you have not had an opportunity of introducing into the general history of the Island of Great Britain?

A. There certainly are; and I am happy you have reminded me of this interesting portion of the island, which has only been incidentally mentioned in the history of England.

The principality of Wales, lying to the westward of England, is about 130 miles long, and nearly 100 broad. The surface of the country is mountainous, with many sweet vales between, watered by numerous streams, and some large rivers. It produces corn, cattle, iron, lead, copper, coal, and slates, and likewise some silver. The air is rather sharp, but salubrious.

2. Q. By whom was it first peopled?

A. By the Belgic Gauls, who are said to have made a settlement in this island,

about fourscore years before the first landing of Julius Cæsar. The natural strength of Wales enabled its inhabitants to make a long and noble struggle against the Romans, the Anglo Saxons, and the Normans; and they received considerable accessions in numbers, from the ancient Britons, who were, by each successive invasion, driven from the more level country, to the shelter of the fastnesses of Wales. It became the principal seat of Druidism; and many monuments of that extraordinary sect are still existing in different parts of this division of the island.

3. Q. What is the character of the Welsh?

A. They are naturally irascible, but their anger is of short duration, and they are remarkable for their fidelity, and attachment to their benefactors and fellow-countrymen. Their love of pedigree and of their country is very remarkable; and they have preserved their language, and many of their original customs, beyond the example of almost any other nation. Wales has been famous for its bards and poets, from remote antiquity, and whose writings, still extant, attest the genius that produced them.

4 Q. How is Wales divided?

A. Into north and south; North Wales contains six counties, Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth; South Wales has also six counties, Radnor, Brecon, Glamorgan, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Caermarthen. It has no cities or towns of any considerable magnitude; but has evident vestiges of its having been formerly more populous than at present; and many of its ancient castles, though little calculated for modern defence, must have been of extraordinary strength, before the use of artillery. Some of them are venerable even in their ruins.

5. Q. What is the present constitution and government of Wales?

A. As you have asked this question, I shall answer it, before I give you a brief sketch of its ancient history, till it became dependant on England. Though Wales then lost its independence long before the reign of Henry VIII., as I shall inform you in the sequel, that monarch was the first who incorporated it with England, and admitted its inhabitants to a participation of all the English liberties and privileges, particularly that of sending members to parliament; namely, a knight for every shire, and a burgess for every shire-town, except Merioneth. It has

likewise four several circuits, for the administration of justice, under justices of its own.

6. Q. How was Wales anciently governed?

A. Passing over the more early ages, when it appears to have been subject to a number of petty princes, it may be observed, that, for a long period, the Welsh were curbed, rather than subdued by the different invaders of Britain, and that they remained in a great measure, an independent people, governed by their own princes, and their own laws.

7. Q. When was this independence first materially shaken?

A. About the year 870, when Roderic king of Wales, divided his dominions among his three sons, giving them the separate dominions of South Wales, North Wales, and Powis Land. By degrees, the princes of these adjoining countries turned their arms against each other, and by their dissensions paved the way for the inroads of their more powerful English neighbours. In 1112, Henry I. of England, planted a colony of Flemings on the frontiers of Wales, in order to form a barrier against the inroads of the Welsh princes, or more probably to be a rallying point, whenever an opportunity should be

found of extending the English sway. In 1237, a plausible occasion was given for the future conquest of Wales, by the aged and infirm Llewelin claiming the protection of the king of England against his undutiful son Griffyn. Young Llewelin disdainng the subjection to which the elder of that name had submitted, provoked the ambitious and warlike Edward I. of England, to make a complete conquest of Wales. Accordingly, he raised a powerful army, with which he penetrated as far as Flint; and taking possession of the isle of Anglesea, he drove the Welsh to the fastness of Snowden, and obliged them to submit to pay a tribute.

8. Q. Did the Welsh now acknowledge Edward as their lawful sovereign?

A. They made various efforts to defend their country; but Llewelin dying in battle, in 1285, and his brother David, the last independent Prince of Wales, falling into Edward's hands through treachery, was by him most barbarously hanged. About the same time, Edward perpetrated that inhuman massacre of the Welsh bards, which will for ever disgrace his name.

9. Q. Did not Edward use some other

expedients to secure his ill-gotten dominion over Wales?

A. With a policy which does him credit, because it shewed a just regard to national feelings, he sent his queen in 1282, to be delivered in Caernarvon Castle, that the Welsh having a prince born among themselves, might the more readily acknowledge his authority. This was the unfortunate Edward II., and from him the title of Prince of Wales has always descended to the eldest sons of the English kings. Even when Henry VIII. had no son, his daughter Mary was created Princess of Wales. For a long time, the heir apparent to the crown held his court at Ludlow; and a regular council with a president, administered the affairs of the principality. The laws are now assimilated; the government is the same; and the Welsh are as distinguished for their loyalty, as they were formerly for their love of independence.

THE END

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