

II.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE FAMILY OF KING JAMES THE
FIRST OF SCOTLAND, CHIEFLY FROM INFORMATION COMMUNI-
CATED BY JOHN RIDDELL, Esq., ADVOCATE. By DAVID LAING, Esq.,
F.S.A. Scot.

In attempting to clear up some obscure points connected with the alliance of the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell, one subject of inquiry related to the filiation of Jane Douglas, wife of Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, as the daughter of James, first Earl of Morton. I took occa-

¹ Spald. Misc. v., App. to Preface, p. 70, note.

sion to submit this matter to John Riddell, Esq., advocate, a Fellow of this Society, and allowed to be our great authority in all matters of peerage-law and genealogy; and it affords me much pleasure in expressing my obligations for the kindness which I have experienced, when applying from time to time for a solution of like difficulties. Mr Riddell, in his reply, acknowledged he could not solve the question at issue by legal evidence; but he was led to enter upon the discussion of a collateral subject of not less interest, the names and marriages of the daughters of our first King James. I should have greatly preferred had he himself put the notes he sent me into the form of a regular communication to the Society; but while he declined doing so, he gave me full power to make what use of them I might think proper for this purpose.

Mr Riddell says, "The mention of *illustris domine Johanne*, the mother of Johanne and Elizabeth (the wife and daughters respectively of James, first Earl of Morton), as *FILIE TERCIE excellentissimi ac metuendissimi principis Jacobi Primi bone memorie quondam Regis Scotorum illustrissimi*, in the 'Registrum Honoris de Morton' (vol. ii. pp. 238-9), is valuable, and I think might have elicited from the editor a *pointed* notice, instead of a bare one in the Preface. It is not often that the comparative seniority of a daughter, even in the case of our first families, is so specified; and it here serves in part to fix the seniority, and correct a glaring error in the accounts hitherto given of James the First's daughters. The Princess Johanna, Jean, or Janet, was hence clearly the wife of James, first Earl of Morton, instead of being, according to Wood's Douglas (Peerage, vol. i. p. 50), married *first* to James, third Earl of Angus, without issue; *secondly*, in 1447, to George, second Earl of Huntly. The first alliance, indeed, it would be difficult to prove, and the second is a most palpable fable, it being legally fixed by authentic deeds I have seen, both in the Gordon charter-chest and in Guichenon's elaborate History of Savoy, that this Earl of Huntly was married to quite a different daughter, the Princess Annabella, clearly a younger one, after being sought and declined as a match by the Count of Savoy, who however gave her a sum of money, and paid her expenses back. She seems to have been curiously bartered about; for Wood, not contented with the above error, with as much reason further marries Annabella, to the prejudice and indignation of Johanna had she known it, to the

identical James, Earl of Morton, husband of the latter, by whom, he adds, she had issue! (see *ut supra*, p. 51.)” [In reference to this charge, I may observe, that even in contemporary statements, such as the “Chronicle of James the Second,” preserved in Asloan’s Manuscript, and in a MS. Genealogy dated in the year 1484, quoted by Pinkerton (History, vol. i. p. 142), various discrepancies occur, and therefore we need be less surprised that the inaccuracies of Dr Abercromby (Martial Achievements of the Scots Nation, 1711), of George Crawford (History of the Stewarts, 1710), and of Duncan Stewart (Royal Family of Scotland, &c., 1739), should have been repeated in the Peerages of Sir Robert Douglas and Mr Wood, as well as in later works.]

JAMES THE FIRST, KING OF SCOTLAND, before his return from England to his native country, from a captivity of eighteen years, married Jane, daughter of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Beaufort, fourth son of Edward III., King of England. This was in February 1424. At the time when the King, the most accomplished of our monarchs, was barbarously murdered at Perth, on the 21st February 1436–7, in the forty-fourth year of his age, his family consisted of a son and six daughters. The eldest son, Alexander, having died young, James, who succeeded to the throne, was born in October 1430. The widowed Queen, Jane Beaufort, survived till the 15th of July 1449, having married for her second husband, in 1439, Sir James Stewart, usually called the Black Knight of Lorne, by whom she had three sons, John, Earl of Athole, who died in 1512; James, Earl of Buchan (1469–1500); and Andrew, Bishop of Murray (1482–1501).

KING JAMES THE SECOND, at the time of his accession to the throne, was in the seventh year of his age. In 1449 a treaty of marriage was concluded betwixt him and Mary, daughter of Arnold, Duke of Gueldres, and niece of Philip, Duke of Burgundy. The youthful princess in the same year was conducted to Scotland by the Lord de la Vere, who was chosen for this purpose because, as the historian Matthieu de Coucy states, he was powerful in marine and well acquainted with the passage by sea, besides being allied to the King of Scotland, his son having married the sister of the said King. The King, it is well known, was killed by the bursting of a cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle on the 3d of August 1460. His Queen, the founder of Trinity College,

Edinburgh, died on the 16th of November 1463. Their descendants do not require to be enumerated.

The daughters of King James the First may now be mentioned in the probable order of seniority.

1. MARGARET, the eldest daughter, was contracted in marriage with Louis, Dauphin of France, in 1430, afterwards known as Louis XI. In the view of completing the marriage, two French envoys having arrived in Scotland, in the year 1436 the Princess was sent to France, with a fleet consisting of three large ships¹ and six barges, under the command of William St Clair, Earl of Orkney, Lord Admiral of Scotland, accompanied with a large retinue of persons of distinction and ladies of rank. They sailed from Dumbarton, and having landed at Rochelle, then proceeded to Tours, where the marriage was to be celebrated. In "Les Monumens de la Monarchie Française," by Montfaucon, vol. iii. plate 38, and in Johnes's "Illustrations to Monstrelet's Chronicles," vol. v., plate 23, the arrival of the Dauphiness is represented from an illumination in "the Colbert MS." of Monstrelet. Some years ago I examined that MS., but owing to some wrong reference I failed to observe the illumination; but in the interesting collection of prints and drawings illustrating the history of France, known as the *Recueil de Gaignières*, vol. vi. in the "*Bibliothèque Imperiale*," it is there copied in fac-simile with this title, "*Entrée de Madame la Dauphine Marguerite Stuart, femme de Louis, Dauphin de France, depuis le Roy Louis XI., à Tours en Juin 1436. Suivie de Madame de la Roche et de plusieurs autres Dames: les Sgrs. de Maillé et de Gamache estant a pied prirent sa haquenée des deux cotéz à l'entrée de la Ville, et la conduisirent jusqu'au Chasteau, ou estant descendue, M^r de Vendosme et un Comte d'Escosse lui donnèrent la main, et la menèrent en haut.*" Pinkerton, in reference to the portrait engraved in Montfaucon, says, "The likeness may be verified by the plate next given from the same MS., and which presents a genuine portrait of Charles VII."

At this time the Dauphin being twelve and the Princess eleven years of age, and so both within age by the pontifical law, a dispensation was granted by Philip, Archbishop of Turonne or Tours as Diocesan, on the 13th of June, and the marriage took place on the 6th of July

¹ Forduni *Scotichronicon*, vol. ii. p. 485.

1436. This alliance proved unfortunate, partly from the malignant character of her husband (whose character is well delineated in "Quentin Durward"); and her death in August 1445, in her 22d year, without issue, was hastened by some slanderous reports. Monstrelet, or the author of the third book of his Chronicles, briefly notices her death, and that of her mother the Queen Dowager; she (the Dauphiness) dying at Châlons, in Champagne, to the great sorrow of all who knew her, for she was a beautiful and good lady (*et fut grand dommage de la mort, car elle estoit belle et bonne dame*).¹ In the same chapter he adds, "About the same time two daughters of the King of Scotland arrived in France, expecting to find their sister the Dauphiness alive, for she had desired them to come to her, that she might marry them. On their landing in Flanders they first learned of the death of the Queen of Scotland their mother (15th July 1445), and also how their sister the Dauphiness had deceased at Châlons, for which they were exceedingly distressed (*dont elles furent moult desolées*). But the French monarch (Charles VII.) received them with parental affection; he ordered them to be waited on by the servants of the late Dauphiness, and to have the same establishment, at his expense, until other arrangements should be made, or they should be married."² He even proposed to obtain a dispensation for marrying the eldest of them to the Dauphin.

The Princess Margaret was not only a patroness of men of letters, but was herself proficient in French poetry; and it is mentioned in the depositions concerning the cause of death, that she would sit up all night writing rondeaux and ballads.³ The story of the Dauphiness and Alain Chartier, the French poet, is well known. On passing through the gallery of the palace, and finding him asleep, she stooped down and kissed him; observing to her ladies in attendance, who had made some remark on the impropriety of the proceeding, that she did not kiss the man, but the mouth which had uttered so many fine things. This kiss, says Menage, who recites the incident, will immortalize her.

In the Fairfax MS. of Fordun's "Scotichronicon," with the continuation usually but most erroneously attributed to Bishop Elphingston, there

¹ Chroniques, &c., tome iii. p. 2, Paris 1572, folio; Johnes's translation, vol. iii. p. 389. ² *Ib.* p. 3 and p. 390. ³ Du Clos, Hist. de Louis XI., vol. iii.

is preserved part of a poem in Scottish verse, from a French epitaph placed upon her tomb, entitled *Lamentatio Domini Dalphini Franciæ pro morte Uxoris suæ, dictæ Margarietæ*, and translated, it is said, at the command of her brother King James the Second. The transcriber however says, as this complaint "was but a fained thing," he had copied only a portion of it; and indeed it is sufficiently prolix and dull. This portion of the Fairfax MS., preserved in the Bodleian Library, was printed for the Maitland Club, edited by the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, under the title of "The Life and Death of King James the First of Scotland." 1837. 4to.

The same continuator, who appears to have been one of the household of the Dauphiness, and to have accompanied her in the voyage to France, expresses his own lamentations for the fate of such an amiable and accomplished Princess, cut off in the flower of her age. "Sed heu, proh dolor! quod me oporteat scribere quod dolenter refero de ejus morte . . . Nam ego, qui scribo hæc, vidi eam omni die vivam, cum Rege Franciæ et Regina ludentem, et per novem annos (1436-1445) sic continuantem." He adds, that within the short course of eight days he had seen her in health, and then dead and embalmed, and her leaden coffin placed in a tomb at the corner of the high altar of the Cathedral Church of Châlons, until, as the King said, it should be removed and placed along with the kings and queens of France in the Abbey of St Denis. Paradin, in 1561, states, that her body remained in the great church of Châlons until the reign of Louis XI., when it was brought to the Abbey of St Laon de Thouars in Poitou, where it lies.¹

2. ISABELLA was the second daughter.—In the year 1441, an embassy arrived from Bretagne or Brittany to propose a marriage between Francis, Count de Montford, son and heir of John, Duke of Bretagne, and Isabella, sister to the King. The arrangements were finally concluded; Yoland of Anjou, the Count's first wife, having died in 1440, and their only son had predeceased her. On the return of this embassy, as related by Argentre, in his "History of Brittany," and by later writers, the Duke asking the opinion of the envoys of the lady, they answered, that the young Princess had beauty, health, and an elegant person, and one likely enough to have children, but that she spoke little, apparently

¹ Alliances Genealogiques des Rois et Princes de Gaule, p. 111.; Lions, 1561, folio.

from great simplicity. The Duke replied, "My friends, return to Scotland and bring her hither: she is just such a person as I wish for my son. Knowledge or cleverness does a woman more hurt than good; upon my soul, I shall have no other. By the body of St Nicholas, I esteem a woman wise enough when she can make a distinction between her husband's shirt and his doublet." The Princess Isabella, accompanied with a number of lords and ladies of Scotland, landed at the Chateau d'Aurai, on the 30th of October 1442, and after the marriage ceremony the whole Court proceeded to Rennes, where they were received with great state, the festivities lasting for eight days. Her husband, upon the death of his father who uttered the preceding ungallant speech, had succeeded in the month of August to the duchy, by the style of Francis I. She appears to have been a person of good sense and discretion. Upon the death of her sister Margaret, Dauphiness of France, in 1445, she wrote a French song, which has been printed from a beautifully illuminated Prayer-book, or volume of Hours, "Livre de Prieres d'Isabeau d'Escosse," preserved in the Imperial Library at Paris. This volume also contains her own portrait in miniature and that of her husband. Both are copied in the "Recueil de Gaignières," vol. vi., and likewise two others from a painted glass window in the chapel of our Lady *De bon Secours aux Cordeliers de Nantes*. In Lobineau's "Histoire de Bretagne" (tome i. p. 619) is an engraving of her portrait, which Pinkerton has copied in his "Iconographia Scotica." In 1450, the Duchess Isabella was left a widow, with two daughters, who, failing her brother James the Second and his issue, were the nearest heirs to the throne of Scotland. Overtures were made for a second marriage with the Prince of Navarre, but the scheme was abandoned in consequence of the disapproval of Charles VII. of France. Margaret, the eldest of the two daughters, married her cousin Francis, second of the name, Duke of Bretagne, but died without issue in 1469. Marie, the second daughter, married John, Viscount de Rohan. From him, as Mr Riddell in his MS. notes says, "many high and princely families are descended, some of whom quarter the royal arms of Scotland." Mr Riddell also, by references to Anselme's great work,¹ "Histoire Généalogique et Chronologique de la Maison

¹ Paris, 1726-33, 9 vol. folio.

Royale de France," and to Dom Hyacinthe Morice's, "Memoires pour servir de preuves a l'Histoire de Bretagne,"¹ points out that Thomas Spens, Bishop of Galloway and Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Thomas de Cranston de eodem, were sent as special ambassadors in 1452, to ascertain the claims and rights of the Duchess Isabella and her daughters. The deeds are long and interesting, and there is likewise the King's formal letter on the subject, dated 4th January 1452. A letter addressed by her to Charles VII. is here printed, at p. 99. The Duchess Isabella survived three Dukes of Brittany in succession to her husband, and died at an advanced age, in the year 1494.

3. JOHANNA OR JANET, as now ascertained by the terms of the Morton Charter, was the third daughter. In the year 1445, as already stated, she and her sister Eleonora were in France; and that they remained there for two years appears from a MS. now in the British Museum, entitled "Compte des Despenses de Jeanne et Alienor, soeurs de Marguerite d'Escosse, premiere femme de Louis XI., Anno 1447, 20 leaves large 4to. This title must have been subsequently added, as the Dauphin's succession to the throne of France was not till 1460. This Jeanne or Johanna having returned to Scotland, was afterwards married to James Douglas of Dalkeith, created Earl of Morton by King James the Second, 14th March 1457-8. A royal charter was granted to James, Earl of Morton, and Johanna sister of the King, of the lands of Easter and Wester Balbartane, 13th May 1459. Their issue were John, second Earl of Morton, and two daughters—Margaret, married to Sir Patrick Hepburn of Hailes, created Earl of Bothwell in 1480-1; and Janet, to Thomas, Lord Erskine. The Lady Johanna must have died before the year 1490, the date of the marriage-contract of a daughter of the Earl of Huntly.

4. ELEONORA OR ALIENOR may be considered to have been the fourth daughter. She probably remained in France after her sister Johanna, as already stated, had returned to Scotland in 1447. In that year Eleonora of Scotland accompanied the Queen of France in a pilgrimage to St Michel. In the following year she was contracted in marriage with Sigismund, Archduke of Austria, and the ceremony probably took place in 1449. Charles the Seventh of France, who evinced a lively interest in

¹ Paris, 1742-56, 5 vol. folio.

the fate of these young ladies, addressed a letter to the Archduke Sigismund expressing his satisfaction at the proposed alliance. A copy of this letter is given in the Appendix (*infra*, p. 98).

This lady, like her two eldest sisters, inherited their father's love of literature. Her husband not being remarkable for learning, and ignorant of the French language, but fond of romances and works of fiction, the name of the Archduchess is connected with the popular work entitled "The History of the King's Son of Galicia, named Pontus, and the beautiful Sydonia; which history by the high-born lady, Lady Heleonora, born Queen from Scotland, Archduchess of Austria, was from the French tongue into Dutch (German) transferred."

("Das buch vnd lobliche Histori von dem edelen Kunigs Sun auss Galicia genant Pontus, auch von der schenen Sydonia kunigen auss Pritania. Welche histori gar lustig vnd gar kurtzweylich tzu heren ist.—Wöliche hystori die durchlechtig und hochgeborne fraw fraw Heleonora geborne kuniginne auss Schottenlande Ertzhertzogin zu Osterreich loblich von Frantzosisger zungen in Teutsch getranssferieret und gemacht hat, &c.") The French original passed through several editions between (about) 1480 and 1550.¹ A MS. copy of the German translation, preserved in the library of Gotha, bears the date 1465; but it seems also to have obtained an extensive circulation in a printed form. The earliest edition described by Hain, printed at Augsburg in 1485, I have not seen; but books of this class are now of the greatest rarity, and even in the Imperial Library at Vienna (that most extensive and precious collection of books printed during the fifteenth century), where all the editions of such a work might have naturally been expected to be preserved, upon inquiry a few years ago, I could discover only the later editions of 1539 and 1548. At the sale of Dr Kloss's library, I was fortunate enough to procure an edition printed at Augsburg 1491, folio, unknown to Hain, who has described a subsequent edition, also printed at Augsburg in 1498. There are subsequent impressions at Strasburg of the dates 1509, 4to, and 1539, folio; Frankfort, 1548, folio; and at Hamburg, *in Sassen sprache*, 1601, and 1687, 8vo.² It is likewise included among old

¹ See Brunet's *Manuel du Libraire*, last edition, vol. iii. p. 812.

² Hain, *Repertorium Bibliographicum*, vol. iv. p. 145-6; Ebert's *Allgemeines Bibliographisches Lexikon*, vol. ii. p. 502; Weber's *Metrical Romances*, vol. iii. p. 361

German prose romances, in Büsching's and Hagen's "Buch der Liebe," Berlin, 1809, 8vo. &c.

The Archduchess Eleonora having died without issue during her husband's life, he had, in 1480, for his second wife, Catherine, daughter of Albert of Saxony. In Coxe's "History of the House of Austria," he is called the poorest prince of his time, and it is added, that he left only a numerous illegitimate offspring.

5. MARY, I suppose, was the fifth daughter. Mr Riddell is of opinion that she was the sixth or youngest daughter; but having been married several years before her sister Annabella, we may be warranted in reckoning her as senior. On the marriage of King James the Second with Mary of Gueldres, in June 1449, she was escorted on her voyage to Scotland, as already stated, by the Lord de Vere or Campvere, whose son is expressly named as brother-in-law to the King. This was Wolfred van Borselen, afterwards Lord de Campvere in Zealand and Earl of Buchan in Scotland, or, as Oliver de la Marche calls him, "Seigneur de Vere, un mout puissant et notable chevalier Zelandois." The Princess Mary having died without issue before 1468, her husband's connexion with this country ceased, and the Earldom of Buchan did not continue in the family, although the title was not dropped at the time; but it was conferred, in 1469, on James Stewart, the King's uncle, as already mentioned at p. 89.

In regard to her husband, Mr Riddell says, "Wolfred married as a second wife, Charlotte of Bourbon, daughter of Louis, Count of Bourbon-Montpensier, third son of John I., Duke of Bourbon.¹ Of this marriage there was an only daughter and heiress, Anna van Borselen, who, under the name of Anne, Princess of Campvere, is greatly celebrated by Erasmus for her beauty, generosity, and other fine accomplishments. She must likewise have been a learned lady, for some of his Latin epistles are addressed to her. In conformity with this partly, Anselme, in his noted French genealogical work (vol. i. p. 314), states that Charlotte de Bourbon, youngest daughter of Louis de Bourbon, Count of Montpensier and Clermont, was afterwards married by contract, 17th June 1468, to Wol-

¹ "Actually head of the royal house of Bourbon, afterwards Kings of France; but here there is an error in some degree, for Charlotte was not daughter of Duke John, but of Louis de Bourbon, Count of Montpensier and Clermont, as Anselme truly transmits. Louis, however, was a *cadet* of the illustrious house of Bourbon."

fred de Borselen, Seigneur de la Vere en Holland, Comte de Grandpré en Champagne et de Boucan en Escosse," Marshal of France; and that he died in 1487 and left two daughters, the eldest of whom he explicitly styles "Anne de Borselle dame de la Vere (same as Campvere) fille ainée de Wolfart de Borselle, Seigneur de la Vere, Comte de Grandpré en Champagne et de Boucan en Escosse, Marechal de France," Knight of the Golden Fleece, and of Charlotte de Bourbon-Montpensier (*Ibid.* vol. i. p. 255, 1315); which Anne, as he states and is well known, married in 1478, 1st, Philip of Burgundy, Lord of Bemer in Flanders de la Vere, Chamberlain of Maximilian, King of the Romans, Knight of the Golden Fleece; and afterwards, 2dly, Louis, Viscomte de Montford; but the fact of this Anne de Borselle, the issue only of Wolfart de Borselle, Count of Buchan, and by his *last* wife Charlotte de Bourbon, having succeeded him in his Netherland estates, further confirms the fact of his having no surviving issue at least, or representatives, by his *first* one, the Princess of Scotland."

6. ANNABELLA was apparently the sixth and youngest daughter. She was contracted in marriage with Louis of Savoy, then eight years of age, at Stirling, on the 14th December 1444. In the letter of Charles VII. of France in 1448, the Comte of Savoy and the Duke of Bretagne are named as already married (or betrothed) to two of the sisters of his daughter-in-law. In the year 1455 the young Princess was conducted into Savoy for the accomplishment of the marriage; but from some unexplained reason the French king interfered, and prevented this alliance taking place. To settle this matter, Thomas, Bishop of Galway, and the Chancellor of Savoy were appointed commissioners, and they consented to the dissolution of the marriage, in the presence of Charles VII., on the 3d of March 1455—Louis, Duke of Savoy, agreeing to pay 25,000 crowns of gold for the *dommages et intérêts de l'epouse*, and for the expense of her conduct back to Scotland.¹ This arrangement was approved of by James the Second, by his letters patent, here subjoined (*infra*, p. 100), dated at Perth the 7th of May 1456. She became, in March 1459–60, the second wife of George, second Earl of Huntly; and by her he had four sons and six daughters. But notwith-

¹ Guichenon, Histoire Geneal. de la Royale Maison de Savoie, tome ii. p. 3, edit. Turin 1778, folio.

standing this alliance, her ill fate pursued her, she being legally divorced from her husband by a sentence pronounced in the year 1471; which proceeded upon the ground of consanguinity with his first wife, Elizabeth, Countess of Murray, the two ladies being within the third and fourth degrees. The documents proving this were examined by Mr Riddell many years ago in the Gordon Charter-chest at Gordon Castle;¹ and he gave a detailed account of them in his "Tracts, Legal and Historical," 1835, pp. 81, &c. They have since been described or printed among the "Gordon Papers" in the Miscellany of the Spalding Club,² edited by John Stuart, Esq., secretary.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

EPISTOLA CAROLI FRANC. REGIS SIGISMUNDO DUCI AUSTRIÆ: *Gratum se habere testatur Matrimonium cum filia Regis Scotorum*, 1448. Ex MS. D. d'Herouval.

CAROLUS, &c. Illustri Principi Sigismundo Duci Austriæ carissimo filio, ac dilectissimo Consanguineo nostro salutem, zeliq̄ue filialis dilectionem. Illustris Princeps, filique carissime, directos jamdiu ad nostrum presentiam caros ac nobis dilectos Ludovicum Beuse Militem, Præceptorem Comitatus de Tyreul,³ et Haveze Pachel Consiliarios ac Ambaxiatores vestros advenisse benigne, litterasque per ipsos vestri ex parte nobis presentatas, læto animo suscepimus, eosque ad plenum super credentia earundem tractatum matrimonii inter vos, carissime Fili, ac illustrem sororem consanguineamque nostram ALIENOR filiam serenissimorum quondam Regis, necnon sororem Regis præsentis Scotorum, nostrorum carissimorum fratrum, tangente, placidis auribus audivimus. Qua in re postquamplures, præsentī in materia dilaciones, tum quia consensus dicti carissimi fratris nostri Scotorum Regis erat necessarius, ad cujus præsentiam quosdam nobis fidos destinavimus, qui (prout nobis nuntiaverunt)

¹ Charter to George, Lord Gordon, son of Alexander, Earl of Huntly, and Annabella his spouse, sister-german of the King, of 200 marks of the lands of Oboyne, 10th March 1459-60 (Reg. Mag. Sig. lib. v, No. 91).

² Vol. iv. pp. xxviii.-xxxii., 128-131.

³ *Vulgo*, Tirol.

rem gratam acceptamque habuit: tum etiam id carissimis consanguineis nostris Britanniae et Sabaudiae Ducibus, quibus sorores ejusdem carissimae nostrae Alienor junctae sunt, notificavimus: quod laudaverunt, et huic operi ob ferventem animum quem ad vestram personam gerimus, ejus successus tanquam pro filio proprio prospere optantes, tantam adhiberi diligentiam fecimus, quod sponsalia per verba de futuro inter vos et praefatum quam carissimam Consanguineam nostram, sub certis conditionibus et modificationibus contracta fuere. Verum quia intra quatuor mensium spatium vestram ratihabitionem, secundum ea quae agitata sunt, ad consummationem hujus matrimonii mittere tenemini, vestris Ambaxiatoribus utilius visum fuit impraesentiarum praefatum Haveze Pachel vestram ad personam fore transmittendum, per quem latius super omnibus poteritis informari, quam multo longior scriptura contineret. Datum in Monte-aureo prope Laverdini.

(Veterum aliquot Scriptorum, qui in Galliae Bibliothecis, maxime Benedictorum latuerant, Spicilegium. Tomus Septimus—prodeunt—opera et studio Domni Lucae Dacherii, p. 252, Parisiis, 1666, 4to.)

No. 2.

LETTRE DE LA DUCHESSE YSABEAU AU ROY DE FRANCE, 1453.

Mon très-redoubté Seigneur—Je me recommans à vostre bonne grace tant et si très-humblement que plus puis. Et vous plaise sçavoir, mon très-redoubté Seigneur, que j'ai receu vos lettres qu'il vous a pleu m'escrire, et oy ce que Maistre Guy Vernart Archidiaque de Tours, vostre Conseiller m'a dit de par vous. De quoy et de la bonne visitation honorable qui de par vous m'a esté faicte de tout mon cueur très-humblement vous remercie. Mon très-redoubté Seigneur, je me merveille des rappors que on vous doit avoir fait de moy, ainsi que vostre dit Conseiller m'a dit: car veritablement ce sont choses controuvées. Je vous certifie que puis le trespas de Monseigneur, à qui Dieu pardoint, beau-frère de Bretagne m'a si honorablement et favorablement traictée en tout mon estat et autres mes affaires, que j'ay cause de m'en louer à vous, à Monseigneur mon frere le Roy d'Escosse, et à tous mes autres Seigneurs, parens et amis, ne jamais m'a esté faict chose dont je me doye douloir, quelque

rapport qu'on vous ait fait au contraire. A quoy je vous supply très-humblement qu'il vous plaise n'ajouter foy. Et quant l'on m'eust fait chose que bien à point je le vous eusse fait sçavoir. Mais Dieu mercy, et la vraye amour qui continuellement a esté et est entre mon dit beau frère de Bretagne et moy, je n'ay eu cause de ce faire, vous suppliant, mon très-redoubté Seigneur, que quant votre plaisir sera de expedier l'Evesque de Galoy, qu'il vous plaise de vostre grace escrire et certifier ces choses à mon dit Seigneur et frère d'Escoce, et l'avertir de soy acquitter vers moy du dot de mon mariage, en quoy il m'est tenu, dont je n'eu jamais rien : car vostre rescription m'y sera très-honorable et proufitable. Et vous plaise tousjours m'avoir et tenir en vos bonne grace et souvenance. Et me mandez et commandez tousjours vos bons plaisirs pour les accomplir et y obeir. Mon très-redoubté Seigneur, je pry Dieu qu'il vous doint très-bonne vie et longue. Escript à Rennes ce 14 jour d'Avril. (*Et au bas la souscription est*) Vostre très-humble et obeissante niessce la Duchesse de Brétagne, (*et ainsi signé*)

YSABEAU.

(*La superscription est*) A mon très-redoubté Seigneur Monseigneur la Roy. Chamb. des Comptes de Paris. (Morice, Memoires pour servir de Preuves à l'Histoire de Bretagne, tome ii., col. 1629.)

No. 3.

LETTRES DE JACQUES ROI D'ESCOSSE, *par lesquelles il consent à la Resolution des Promesses du Mariage d'Anne-Belle sa Soeur, et de Louis de Savoie, Comte de Geneve, 1456. (Tirés de la Chambre des Comptes de Savoie.)*

JACOBUS Dei Gratia Rex Scotorum, universis et singulis ad quorum notitiam præsentis Literæ pervenerint, Salutem. Sciatis nos intellexisse pleneque concepisse effectus, conventiones et concordias initas et factas in Oppido Gannasii die vigesima tertia mensis Martii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo quinto, secundum Regni nostri computationem inter Reverendum in Christo patrem Thomam Episcopum Candidæ Casæ, Consiliarium, et Ambassiatorem nostrum procuratoremque

ad hoc specialiter deputatum, et Egregium Virum Dominum Jacobum de Comitibus de Valpergua Cancellarium, ac Procuratorem *Illustrissimi Principis Ludovici Ducis Sabaudiaë*, ad hoc etiam specialiter deputatum super receptione et reductione Inclitæ Sororis nostræ Germanæ Annæ-bellæ ad Regnum nostrum, necnon de consensu partium infra scriptarum, ad dissolvendum et acquittandum omnes conventiones, contractus et appunctuamenta super matrimonio contrahendo inter præfatam nostram Inclytam Germanam Anna-bellam et Ludovicum secundogenitum prædicti Illustrissimi Ducis Sabaudiaë Comitem Gebennarum, alias habita, stipulata aut compromissa, ac etiam super acquittatione summæ viginti quinque millium scutorum auri, pro damnis, expensis et interesse et statu dictæ sororis nostræ, manutenendo nobis et dictæ nostræ sorori per dictum Illustrissimum Ducem Sabaudiaë concessæ, prout in Instrumentis publicis desuper confectis latius continetur. Quas quidem conventionem et concordiam, per prædictos Procuratores et procuratorio nomine factas, secundum vim, formam et continentiam earundem laudamus, approbamus, ratificamus et confirmamus. Datum sub magno sigillo nostro apud Perth. Septimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo sexto, et regni nostri vicesimo.

(Guichenon, Histoire Genealogique de la Royale Maison de Savoie: Preuves. Tome iv. p. 386.)