

THE SCOT ABROAD.

Under this title, Mr. John Hill Burton, author of that clever and amusing compilation, *The Book Hunter*, has just published a work in two volumes. It is thus noticed in one of the best London weeklies:—"This is a charming book, written in the lightest and most conversational style, but as full of 'meat' as if its author had been a worshipper of the dignity of history. The pleasant author of the 'Book-hunter,' it appears, either passes his leisure, or did once pass it, in an effort to reconstruct the history of Scotland, and has used the knowledge he has acquired and the collections he has made to illustrate the career of the Scot out of his own country. The result is a series of sketches, all readable, most of them full of information which, to a Southron at least, is original, and one or two containing generalizations which display a thorough comprehension of the great 'points' of European history. The first volume is, we think, the more valuable of the two, for it brings out in the fullest detail the origin, progress, and decline of the alliance which, from the days of the Conqueror to the accession of James II., governed the foreign policy of Great Britain, the 'ancient' league, as Mr. Burton calls it, between Scotland and France. We will endeavor to summarize the more original portions of his account, which though familiar to historians are as little known to the ordinary Saxon public as the history of the great popular movement which in the reign of Anne extorted the Act of Union from England almost at the point of the sword. The popular notion is, we believe, that this union was forced on Scotland, but the truth is that it was forced on England, by a threat of final separation if it were not conceded. The Scotch, beggared and maddened by the failure of the Darien expedition, which they attributed to 'the Dutchmen,' declared that unless their losses were repaid to the last penny, and they themselves admitted to full participation in all English privileges, particularly of commerce, they would on Anne's death set up a separate monarchy. If Parliament chose the Stuarts, the Estates would set up another family—probably the Bruces; if Parliament rejected the Stuarts, the Estates

would accept them. The Estates passed a law to arm the whole population in case England should try force, and an English vessel was even seized in the Forth in reprisal for the legal condemnation of a ship belonging to the Darien Company. Scotland was in fact in insurrection, the English Ministry gave way, and the most beneficial political Act ever passed by a representative Assembly was in fact a concession to avert a civil war. The long war which, with intervals of truce, raged between England and Scotland from Hastings to Bannockburn was in fact the only open contest between the Norman and the Saxon. The lowlands of Scotland were in 1066 almost completely in Saxon hands—Saxon emigrants, Johnstons, Armstrongs, Kerrs, Bells, Scots, Browns, and others with purely Saxon names—ruling a mixed race of Celts and Saxons. The Conquest greatly increased the number of the dominant caste, the Saxons, disorganized and cowed, flying in thousands to Scotland, more particularly from the territory north of the Humber, which William is said to have depopulated.—The Court became purely Saxon, and ordered invasion after invasion of England with little result, except to establish in the minds of the French Kings of England an ardent desire to extend the limits of their sovereignty up to the Hebrides. The Plantagenets very nearly succeeded, and Mr. Burton notices that during the struggles the Scotch nobles of great mark are Normans—De Vere, De Courcy, De Umfraville, and the like.—The Saxon commonalty, hated the nobles and England for their sake, and when Bannockburn settled the question they replaced their old Saxon lords in the position which their descendants still enjoy, 'the bold Buccleugh,' for example, being just now the social superior of the nobles whose fathers considered his fathers much as we consider the men of Tipperary. Cut off by the long struggle from all amity with England, the Scotch turned their eyes to France, and from Bannockburn to the accession of James the First, Scotland became in politics a haughty but dependent province of France. Every cadet who found no room at home, every man whose ambi-