

2 WHEN LOVE CALLS MEN TO ARMS

rest and a first Scots Jamie sits an English throne; the Bible is half translated by the bishops, and life is pleasant in Kilellan Castle.

Not that England's wars and wranglings ever disturbed us much in Kilellan, for after the Earl of Argyll foreswore the Roman Catholic queen and gave allegiance to Murray at Langside, there was never a call to arms that was not in our own little affairs. Whiles we quarreled with the Macdonalds over the strait or chased the caterans; but even Argyll's matters touched us little in our part of the country, which was called Cowal, for it was nigh impregnable, save from the Lowlands on the other side of the Firth, and it was to the advantage of these to keep peace with us Campbells of Argyll.

Cowal was the frontier of the Highlands, and Kilellan Castle and all the laird's lands covered the broad peninsula between Loch Striven and the Holy Loch. Back of that was Argyll's mountainous playground, while fronting Kilellan Castle was the broadening Firth of Clyde, with the lowland coast of Kyle and Carrick on the other side. Right off the point of Kilellan, the Isle of Bute filled up most of the wide bay formed by the meeting of Striven and the Firth. Indeed, Bute would have been no island but for the strip of sea on the farther side of it, called the Kyles, where the Macdonalds were strongly secure against invasion.

On the point of the laird's peninsula was the clachan of Kilellan. Here every man was a Camp-