

sum of money was to be advanced to her as an equivalent for the burdens imposed. The commissioners for the two countries agreed on these points: they differed only as to the composition of the parliament of the United Kingdom as desired by England, and, while the population of Scotland was one sixth in number that of England, they were only accorded in the united representation forty-four members, or one thirteenth of the entire body. Sixteen peers only were to be elected from the entire Scottish peerage to sit in the English house of lords.

"The harshness of these latter clauses, which the Scottish people regarded as an insult, excited general discontent; the result of which was, especially at first, that the treaty for union engendered a clashing of material interests prejudicial to very many, as happens at the termination of most important political commotions. The wound inflicted on the patriotic feeling of the Scotch was of itself sufficient to render them insensible of the advantages of the agreement; and all parties, Whigs and Tories, Jacobites and Williamites, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Cameronians, united to oppose it. The government commissioners were exposed to the insults of the populace, who destroyed the houses of many officers of state favorable to the union, while they extravagantly extolled the Duke of Hamilton, the chief of its opponents. The Dukes of Queensberry and Argyle, and the Counts of Montrose, Stair, Roxburgh, and Marchmont, in vain endeavored to oppose argument to this explosion of patriotic sentiment and national fury; but what the strongest arguments could not obtain, bribery reached. Part of the money promised by the English commissioners as indemnity for the fresh burdens imposed, was distributed among their Scottish colleagues and among influential members of the Edinburgh parliament. Thenceforward everything went smoothly. The treaty of union, that the majority of the Scottish people looked upon as suicide,* and that pure and irreproachable men would never have sanctioned, obtained the assent of a venal majority;—this famous agreement, in short, regarded as a stain upon Scotland, wherein were involved the sacrifice of her interest and her glory, and which ought to have been followed in course of time by an

* One of the members of the Scottish parliament most opposed to the union, Lord Belhaven, in an eloquent speech portrayed Scotland as perishing by the hands of her own children. All the state archives appeared to him in a vision, he said, "and in the midst of them I saw old Caledonia, sitting, like Cæsar in the senate, casting around looks of distress, shrouding herself in her royal mantle awaiting the final stroke, and crying, as she breathed her last sigh, 'And thou also, my son!'"—*Walter Scott, History of Scotland.*