

field, leaving Athelstane among the slain. Since that time the white saltire cross, upon a blue ground, the banner of St. Andrew, has been carried by the Scotch as their national ensign.

*The Scotch Jack*, which is described in heraldry as "Asure, a saltire argent" (on asure blue, a silver white saltire), was the flag carried before the Scotch hero, Robert the Bruce, whose valor won for him the crown of Scotland, and whose descendant, the Earl of Elgin, still bears his banner on their coat-of-arms. In 1314 this emblem of Bruce arose victorious over Edward II. Its use was continued till 1385, when the Scots, aided by Charles VI. of France, entered England, and both they and their French auxiliaries wore the white St. Andrew cross, both before and behind, to distinguish their soldiers from the foe. The battles at Chevy Chase and Flodden Field show that the flag of St. Andrew was not always victorious, but this only proves the truth of the warning motto of the prickly Scotch thistle, "*Nemo me impune lacessit*" (no one may touch me with impunity).

History shows that in the early centuries the Scotch Jack was not carried far afield, nor in expeditions across the seas. Many of the Scotch freebooters, in the early days called "sea rovers," with their tall ships pouncing down upon vessels passing the northern coasts, and the exploits of some of these sailors under St. Andrew's Jack, crop out from time to time with splendid audacity in the history of the centuries. One Mercer, a Scotch sea rover during the reign of Richard II. of England, so harrassed the merchant shipping of England that in 1378 Alderman John Philpot, a London citizen, equipped an expedition at his own expense, captured Mercer and fifteen Spanish ships and brought the whole fleet in triumph to port at Scarborough. Philpot, although he violated the law, was, for his bravery, allowed to go unpunished. The rise of the navy of Henry VIII., and the union of England and Scotland by James I., under one crown, put an end to these quarrels and reprisals so common between the subjects of the two kingdoms, yet it was the remanent of these very rivalries thus engendered between the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew which led to the National Jacks of these