could not listen without fear to these

could not listen without fear to these words which God put into my mouth. He shuddered and turned pale, and all at once put me down, and lett me free. "Who art thou?" he asked with a troubled voice. "I am thy wife whom thou believest thou hadst killed. I am owne to tall these that the last home in

come to tell thee that thy last hour i

at hand. Assassin, repeat: save that drowning child, and God will reward thee." He seemed to hesitate for an

thee." He seemed to hesitate for an instant. The sack had risen to the surface, but again sank. "Remember, fool!" I cried vehemently, "remember that thy last hour has sounded. Lose to the apparatus of red.

not the opportunity of redeeming a crime." A second time the sack rose then disappeared forever. "Monster!

I cried once more "prepare to appear before God;" and, without waiting

for him to recover from his stupor,

glided away among the reeds that bor

der the river. Alas, alas! you see it is too true: the poor child is dead. Let me go, that I may pray for him.

May he rest—may he rest in peace!" she added aloud, and then turned away to seek her lonely cabin, leaving her

auditors much disturbed by the tragic

fate of the young page.
"My lords," said the Cardinal, "you

see that, rather than betray us, the boy preferred to die. Let us do him justice."

"Certainly, my lord," replied Len-

nox; "but this child, whom I allow we wrongfully accused, and whose sad end I deplore, has already taken up too

much of our time. He has made us forget our council. Let us now con-sider what we ought to do."

"A troop is advancing," returned he knight. "I hear them distinctly,

watch over himself, never ing the slightest trace of the sa he felt to appear in his counter He even assumed a cordial mann

## THE PAGE OF JAMES V. OF SCOTLAND.

Translated from the French by S. A. C., with

CHAPTER XVIII.

KIRKLISTON CAMP.

Our reader has doubtless not forgot-ten that, according to the plan arranged by the Cardinal, a small band of men, were to serve as an escort to the who were to serve as an escort to the King, was to wait not far from the post ern on the side of the castle opposite to the river, the key of which had been entrusted to Francis, whose office was to conduct James out of the fortress. accordance with this arrangeme about an hour after Sir Walter had about an hour after Sir Waiter had taken up his position on the bridge, a band of twenty men skirted the castle walls, and posted themselves about a bowhot from the postern. Amongst these men, one attracted special notice these men, one attracted special notice

a warrior armed at all points, who,
notwithstanding the darkness of the
night, kept his visor closed, as if anxi
ous to escape recognition even from
the members of his own party. Near these men, one attra with a drawn sword in his hand, who appeared to be charged with his safety. These two had ridden in adof the others, who had now, h ever, arrived at their destination. sign from the unknown knight, the party halted, and, the more effectually to conceal their presence, they ranged themselves behind a ruined wall from whence they could watch the postern through which the King and his page were to make their exit. Whilst thus waiting, the knight with the closed visor drew the soldier accompanying him somewhat apart, and in a low voice

Shell, how long will it take us when once we have the King with us to get to Kirkliston?"
"Six hours, my lord, galloping as fast as our horses can go." we have the King with us,

"Then, if fortune smiles upon us, Shell, the King shall sleep this even-ing in Edinburgh. I pray it may be

"Amen, my lord," responded Shell; but I doubt it. I have sad forebodings, and I am sorry that you left the Biack Gorge, where you would have you would have been in greater security.

" None of these cowardly fears, Mas-Shell," replied Cardinal Beaton: for it was none other than he, disguised under the military attire of a knight. "I wished to be the first to receive James V. on free ground. As to danger, there is none. Francis, our little page, in whom I have great confidence, will make good use of the surprise occa sioned by Sir Walter's attack to escape with the King, and we shall be at Kirk

with the King, and we shall be at Kirkliston before those at Melrose have
discovered his flight."

"May your words prove true, my
lord. In any case we shall not be kept
long in suspense, for already the day
begins to dawn, and it seems to me as if the wind bore towards us the clash of arms. Either I am very much mistaken or Sir Walter is beginning the

"Let us rejoin our friends, then," said the Cardinal, "and wait in sil-

Followed by Shell, Beaton returned rollowed by Shell, Beach and thour passed in silent expectation. As time went on the greater grew the Cardinal's impatience. Day was advancing more and more, and soon it would be impossible to hide themselves. The King did not appear, and the postern remained pitilessly closed.

He comes not," at length exclaimed Cardinal. "All is lost! Ob, my the Cardinal. God! can the young page have be

"Do not think such a thing, my lord," said Shell. "I know the young Frenchman well, and he is incapable of treacher v. Nevertneless, you see," replied

Beaton, "the King comes not."
"Wait," rejoined Shell quickly. "It seems to me that the postern is being

surmise was true. It was opened, and a group of people appeared

It is they," said the Cardinal; and he was about to go forward, when Shell drew him back, saying :

Take care! Supposing it were not the King?'

Always on the side of prudence !' cried Beaton somewhat impatiently, but following, nevertheless, the advice of his faithful attendant, and waiting until the figures drew nearer. It was well both for himself and his followers that he did so, for suddenly Shell ex-

"It is not they, my lord, but a troop of the enemy who appear to be seeking

" No room for doubt, then," replied Beaton, in a despairing tone. We are betrayed! Oh, Francis, Francis I looked for botter things than this from you

The band at once set off at their fastest pace, and Shell, seizing the bridle of the Cardinal's horse, drew bim on in front. The noise their departure occasioned attracted the attention of the soldiers from the castle who at once started in pursuit. How far the Douglas pursued the fugitives we cannot say, but it was well towards noon when the Cardinal and his party arrived, quite exhausted, at the camp of Kirkliston.

Betrayed ! betrayed !" cried the Cardinal, as soon as he met Lennox.
"So the King did not appear, then?"

asked the Earl. "The King did not appear, and a of men who seemed to know eing near the postern set off in

pursuit of us." Woe to us, my lord !" cried Lenyou confided your secrets to a youthnox.

page. They have frightened him o an avowal. What will become of Walter Scott if the Douglases were forewarned, and what will be the result of this asasult ?" At that moment, as if in answer to

the question, Sir Walter came gallop-ing up, covered with sweat and dust. ounced the defeat of his clan, and added that, while expecting to take I taineer's dress, who asked me the way

the place by surprise, he had been himself surprise

"There can be no doubt," said Len nex, highly incensed, "we have been sold to the Douglas, and the traiton can be no other than that young page, who knew all our secrets. What are we to do now? What are we to do? Sir Walter, Lennox, the Cardinal, and the other chiefs of the enterprise, at once assembled in council. The Cardinal proposed to march upon Edin burgh.

"A coup de main," he said, "might surprise the city, and put it into the hands of the King's partisans. Once in possession of the capital, it would be easy to rally the citizens who are enemies of the Douglas, and thus force Angus

ies of the Douglas, and thus force Angus to set the King at liberty."

This advice was upheld by some, but combated by many others, who reasoned very justly that as long as the King was not with them such an attempt would be looked upon simply as a revolt, and would cause them to be regarded as conspirators. This was a strong argument, and weighed with many of the lords. Their ardor had been cooled by the bad success of the enterprise, and they feared to see the Cardinal throw himself into fresh danger, the results of himself into fresh danger, the results of which would inevitably be felt by them selves. Sir Walter Scott, who was greatly discouraged by his defeat and the decimation of his clan, gave it as his opinion that, their concerted measures having failed, there was nothing left but that each should retire to hi own domain, and defer to a more auspicious moment the attempt to liberate the King. Notwithstanding the opposition of Beaton, who could not thus relinquish the hope he had so long cherished of James V. once more free, Sin Walter's counsel prevailed, and already the chiefs were preparing to issue orders for departure, when Lennox, who till now had listened in silence,

"Stop!" he cried, "stop, by St. Dunstan! Are these in truth Scottish nobles that I hear speak thus? What nobles that I hear speak thus:
will be thought of us when one day it is
said, 'The King was held in close captivity by the Douglas: Sir Walter
Scott of Buccleuch, Lord Allan of Durfries, Sir James Bilston of Bilston Moor, the Earl of Lennox, and many other who had taken up arms for the delivery of James V. fled like cowards after their first defeat,' as though we had staked all our loyalty and courage on the conduct of a young Frenchman who had proved to be a traitor?"

"My lord," said Shell, who had drawn near the group, and had caught pardon me for daring the final words. to interrupt you; but you are accusing the memory of a child who has not be trayed you, for I have certain proof to the contrary.'

cried the Cardinal, " the .. What! nemory! What are you saying?"
"Alas, my lord! the page and his have fallen victims to treachery which you impute to the young Frenchman."
"What do you mean? Speak

"I heard this brave boy, he whom have loved ever since the day when he made me do the first good action I ever did in my life-I heard him calle traitor and unworthy, and my mind revolted against it, and I said to myself, 'It is impossible that so brave a lad should be capable of treachery.' So I determined to procure information, and I can now still render him a service by clearing his character, and prevent ing his name from becoming a byword of reproach. Alas! it will be the last

service I shall render him." He is, then, dead!" cried the Cardinal with emotion, for he had always leved Francis. "Poor child! And I loved Francis.

was accusing him!" "But what is it that has happened?" asked Lennox impatiently, hoping to find in the soldier's words the explanation of the warning given to the

"Here, my lord," said Shell, " is old

Peggy, who will repeat to you what she has just told me." He made a sign, and the old woman

with her hair all dishevelled, advanced to the middle of the group. After looking in silence at those who conposed it, she at last perceived the Cardinal, and, in spite of the warlike ap parel which so altered his appearance knelt at his feet and bent her head. "Let the hand that is armed in the

holy cause, let the great worker deliverance, bless a poor sinful The Cardinal having complied with

her request, the old woman rose, and in

severe tone said: who is truly a martyr? Who is he that has dared to attach infamy to him who was the companion of the King who suffers? He has lied!"

She was silent for a few moments. Her face, which once had been beautiful, assumed a stern and resolute aspect. She looked from one to another of group around her, but seeing the chieftains were waiting in silence for her to continue, she resumed:

Yes, yes! he who said that has lied, and doubtless he puts forward that ac cusation in order to hide his own cow ardice, which urges him to give up the cause he had espoused. If that one wishes to go, let him go. Who would keep him back? The martyr King, keep him back? The martyr King like God, needs only devoted servants As to the child, hear what I shall say, and let the courage of that beardless youth serve as an example to older and

warlike men. She paused, and passed her hand over her forehead as if striving to collect her thoughts, and then said:

"I had seen the young man set out, and the very sign of him was enough to cause my heart to follow him to the Black Gorge. It was easy to read in his face the fidelity of his heart and his courage. Six hours had alapsed since the time when he must have reached the Shepherd of the Mountains. I was at my door waiting to see him pass on his return, when the noise of a galloping horse attracted my attention. looked with the eyes of my body and of my soul to see him who had been near the King and our holy Shepherd. Alas een near it was not he, but a man in a moun-

to Edinburgh. I saw that he had come from the mountains, and thought it might be a messenger in the holy cause, might be a messenger in the hard state, so I pointed out the road to him. But hardly had he left me, when a doubt came into my mind. Never did a mountaineer wear his plaid in the way he did. 'He is no mountaineer!' I cried. I know not why; no doubt God en-lightened me. Tre thought at once occurred to me that, if he were not a mountaineer, he would probably be an enemy of the Kivg or of his faith ul adherents, and throwing a cloak over my old shoulders, I set out in great haste towards the gate of Edinburgh. was I going to do? I knew not, but God was with me, urging me on, say-ing to me 'walk,' as He said before to he cursed Jew Assuerus, only the Lord was not irritated with me, as He was with the wicked Jew: His voice was sweet and persuasive. I walked on my heart moved within me, and the history of my life and its sorrows rose up before me. I saw myself once more a young girl, then the wife of a monster of iniquity. Oh, yes, yes, a monster!" she repeated wildly, "though you do not

know that man. It was-" She will tell you her whole history, my lord, and we shall learn nothing."
whispered Shell into the Cardinal's
ear, who at once hastened to recall Peggy to the matter in hand.

Yes, yes, you are right," replied old woman. "What do the sorthe old woman. "What do the sor-rows of poor Peggy matter to those who are combating for an unfortunate King? Listen, listen! Those thoughts King? Listen, listen: Those relogation of my girlhood and of my sufferings were only a presentiment that I should see him again. Yes, I have seen him. He stood before me, the instrument of vengeance and murder! Poor childmartyr! thy name henceforth will always be found in my poor prayers. Yes, I owe it to you, for it was he who thee into the bottomless abyss of eternity. Oh yes, it is a sacred duty the wife of such a monster is bound to pray for his victims !"

Stifled sobs escaped her, but none of the gentlemen who witnessed the scene thought of interrupting her, notwithstanding the imminent danger hanging over them, so strong wa the interest awakened in them by this

sider what we ought to do."
"We have no choice, my lord," cried
Sir James Bilston, suddenly throwing
himself down, and putting his ear to
the ground. "Yes, it is they." strange woman. At length, wiping away her tears, she continued: "I have not told you the ground. "Yes, it is "What do you mean?" all," and, composing herself, she went on: "Where was I? Ah! this is the knight. so there is nothing for it but to fight, what took place under my eyes-yes, see it now. I soon arrived at the gates of Edinburgh. The soldiers of and fight like gentlemen. Belial issued forth from the city, and advanced in my direction, the moun taineer amongst them, who, addressing the chief of the band, said: "You will defeat.' obey the Earl's orders; as for me, I rethrough the camp. turn at once to Melrose to inform the there of what I have learnt." I glanced at the man to whom this pretended countaineer was speaking. It was he whom I now saw again after a lapse of twenty years. Oh, I recognized him only too well! The enormous scar on his face! and the voice which made me shudder! I was only a few steps from him. Lord! Lord! why did you not will that I should have had a eapon in my hand that I might have killed him, and by my crime have averted a worse one? Soon his harsh voice cried out: "There he is! attention, you others! This not escape me like at . . ." could not catch the name of the place for I was listening to the sound of horses' hoofs which I now heard. It was the young page, followed by his servant, riding fast towards Edin burgh. Until then the soldiers had not noticed me. I wished to throw before the King's companion and tell him to fly, to take another oad, but there was no time. child was already in the claws of the vultures who surrounded him, and, after gagging him and his servant, were about to drag him away. "Stop!" cried : " stop. iquity! Do you forget that God beholds you? Surprised at my exclamation, the solders stood still for a The chief himself seeme moment. stupefied. The voice and the words he nad so often heard (for as long as I had any hope of reclaiming him I used to eat them incessantly) struck him with surprise and fear : but soon he said with an oath: "No, no, it is impossible! the dead do not return!" No, no, it is imand, laughing his terribie laugh, he ordered his men to march. During the momentary delay caused by my words, the young page had apparently had time to put his hand in his pocket, for

a key fell at my feet without the soldiers noticing it. Behold that key;" and she handed one to the Cardinal who recognized it at once as the one he had entrusted to Francis. "We can no longer doubt," he ex-claimed. "The poor boy Francis is

" Alas ! alas ! cried old Peggy. "why had I no weapon? Why did I not kill the monster? Seeing that he was about to set off, I threw myself before the horses. "By my father's soul." he thundered forth, "living or dead, woman or demon, let me pass, or I will prove on your old body whether sh of the dead who return is as tough as that of the living." In spite of his threats I did not stir, stretching out my arms to prevent the horses from advancing, and though the men strove the order given th to obey the order given them their beasts stood still, and refused to trample me down. Beside himself with rage, the monster approached me, sized me by the neck, and, lifting me up to his saddle, cried out in a fury: Ah! I see by the terror of the

the monster approached me, animals that you are none other than a demon. Very well, demon, since you will not let me go alone, you shall go with me." And thus for more than a with me. And thus for more mile he supported me by the sole strength of his arm. We had now arrived at the banks of a river, and at a place where it ran very deep. "Halt!" place where it ran very deep. "Halt!" he cried to his troop. "Let the young page be put into a sack, and be thrown into the river. Ha! ha! my young man," he added, addressing the poor " you have only drawn back to jump the better. This time you shall The servant made vain not escape." te save his master, imploring them by signs (for he was gagged) to

arms, believed themselves to be fighting drown him instead. But the monster had regard to nothing, neither to the generous efforts of the poor servant nor or their Sovereign in turning their arms against the army then assembled at Kirkliston. In the ranks of the Douglas might be seen his former rival, to my reproaches. I heard a loud splash in the river. It was done; the spiasn in the river. It was done; the page had found his death in the waters. "Murderer!" I cried indignantly. "You killed your wife, and now you drown a child! Coward! God sees you, and notes your villainous actions, and He will make you pay for them. the Earl of Arran, and all those Hamil-tons who had abandoned their kinsman Beaton and allied themselves with Angus. All these were related to Lennox by ties of blood, and yet they showed no less ardor in fighting against and He will make you pay for them.
Go! Go! you have filled up the
measure, and this crime will be your him than against the other adherents last. Three days hence you will have to give an account to God of your wicked life." Even this hardened man

The two armies were about equally matched as to numbers, and the battle was fought with much fury. Beaton himself, in spite of the representations of his friends, took part in the combat. At the outset the advantage was wholly with the Douglas; but on finding that the King, in whose interests they forther was there in person the they fought, was there in person, the soldiers of Lennox redoubled their exertions, and the struggle became desper ate. Hitherto James had remained a little apart with Sir George; but perlittle apart with Sir George; but per-ceiving that their advantage was being disputed, and wishing by a decided stroke to regan it, the Douglas con-ceived the idea of placing the King in the front, and this he proceeded to do, notwithstanding James' protests and

As they rode forward, Sir George, who perceived the King's reluctance, cried out :

will not deceive you. Should our enemies hold you on one side, and we on the other, we would tear you in pieces rather than let you go."

Frightened at these words, James suffered himself to be led along; but he never forgot them, and later on, when he was reestablished on his throne, and was once again his own master, he fully repaid them. However, by the time that James had arrived on the scene of action the com bat was nearly over, and he was only in time to witness the defeat of his partisans and the triumph of the Douglas. The struggle had been flerce and blo dy, and Lennox had fallen mortally wounded by the hand of his cousin Sir James Douglas. Sir Walter Scott was een striking right and left, striving to clear a passage to his deadly enemy Sir Andrew Kerr Cessford, but he failed in his attempt. Cessford had by failed in his attempt. Cessford had by this time recognized Shell, and made

"Ah, here is my creditor! Here is my gentleman of the bolster; I will pay him my debt!"

then !" was the enthus-"To arms, then!" was the enthusiastic cry. "Let us avenge the death of James V.'s page and Sir Walter's "To arms! to arms!" resounded Whilst Lennox is marshalling whilst Lennox is marshalling his little army for the battle, we will re-turn to Melrose. After the rout of Sir Walter Scott and his clan, Sir George and Sir Parkhead re-entered the castle to take some necessary rest and refreshment, after which, without loss of time, they put themselves at the head of the soldiers, who only awaited their orders to set out. All was ready, and the troop preparing to start, wh an idea occurred to Parkhead, which he communicated in a low tone to Angus "Go then, cousin," said the Earl,

and carry out your plan."
Sir Parkhead hastened at once to the King's apartments. The proud Douglass had not forgotten the sarcastic words James had recently addressed to him. Now he had the opportunity of revenging himself, and it was with much malicious pleasure that he ascended the stairs leading to the King's rooms. " Sire," he said in a brutal tone, as

who stood near.

he entered, without even uncovering his head, "your enemies and those of the Regent have taken up arms. They attacked the castle this morning, and are now assembled at Kirkliston. Dress Sire, for you are lead the fight against them.

"I lead the fight!" cried the unfortunate boy, turning pale, not from fear, but at the thought of having to appear in arms against his friends No, sir, I shall take well-wishers.

no part in this contest."
"I understand, Sire; you are afraid," said Parkhead, with a smile of pity "It is always so the first time; the second time you will not even think of second time you will not even time of fear. You must serve your apprentice-ship in battle to-day. If you will not go of your accord, you will have to go by force; and, suiting the action to the word, he drew near the King as if about

word, he drew hear the string with to lay hold of his arm.

"Stand back, sir," cried James indignantly. 'Lay not your hand upon your Sovereign, nor add violence to insult. I will follow you; but 1 protest, and history will one day bear me witness, that it is against my will that I march in your ranks to combat against faithful subjects, whom I hold in great

esteem; whilst as to—"
"Whilst you hate us. Is that not what you meant to say, Sire?" broke in Parkhead. "Ah, well, be it so! At least we know what to expect, and it only proves that we must give our enemies neither truce nor mercy if we were not the victors, and if you fell into their hands, Sire, we should have only your vengeance to reckon

"And a terrible one, sir, I warr replied the King. you," replied the King.
"Very well, Sire; "forewarned is forearmed." But, now, what will you us! under the necessity of forcibly carrying you with us?"

"Come, sir, follow me," said James, passing before Parkhead with an air of

much dignity.

Descending to the courtyard, James mounted his horse without vouchsaving any reply to the false flattery of Angus and the other Douglas chieftains. Sir George and Sir Parkhead placed themselves on either side of the King, and thus, with the King in their the troops that were to give battle to Lennox and his devoted little band pursued their way. As they proceede their numbers increased, for the vassals of Douglas joined them, and for the many others, too, who, seeing the King there present, and not knowing for what cause Lennox had taken up

of the King.

"I can read your thoughts, Sire, and

owards him, crying out :

So saying, he furiously attacked Shell, who, on his part, entered with zest upon the combat. It was God's will, no doubt, that so many crimes should no longer remain unpunished, and that old Peggy's prediction should be verified: for Shell, though much the weaker man and the less skilful swords man, was victorious, and Cessford fell pierced with many wounds. The dying man dragged himself slowly away from the scene of the encounter till he reached a little hut. As Providence would have it, this was old Peggy's cabin, and she herself was at her door, praying for the success of the royal cause. Sir Andrew, who had crawled to his feet before she was aware of his to his feet before she was aware of his presence, interrupted her prayers with the cry, "Woman, some water! have pity on a dying man!" Hearing these words, and at once recognising the woice, Peggy let her book fall, exclaiming, "It is he—the monster!" At the moment Shell appeared. "Good soltier," and Poggy, "help me to carry

house. Cessford appeared to recall the face of the old woman for he made a sign with his hand as if to repel some vision, and murmured:

"That apparition again! Demon

away with you!"

"Andrew, I am no demon," said Peggy; "I am not an apparition, but tay wife whom thou didst murder, but who did not die — thy wife whom thou findest again to day near thee, like an deet they not angel of death. Andrew, dost thou not remember the prediction I made to thee three days ago? Thou seest now that God has confirmed it."

"Leave me, leave me!" cried Cess ford in agony.

However, helped by Shell, old Peggy

had by this time succeeded in placing the dying chieftain on a bed of bracken and, standing by him, she cried out:
"Repent! It is never too late — re

pent! Andrew, thou hast committed murder and theft and injured many pent! Thou hast been an instrument repent! of death and cruelty; yet repent, for God has seen all, and thou art about to give Him an account of thy life, and in the next world thy torments will be in proportion to thy crimes in this - re pent, repent! nd back ! Away ! Go. fo

"Stand back! Away! Go, for pity's sake!" cried Sir Andrew with evident signs of terror.
"Pity!" said the old woman. Didst thou show any pity when thy wife, dying under thy cruel blows, implored for mercy? Thou didst beat her so unmercifully that thou didst eave her for dead. Didst thou show pity three days ago, when I begged thee to save the poor child whom thou hadst thrown into the water, and whom thou didst leave to perish? Pity, didst thou say? Ask that of God, and repent; thou hast no other resource But the mercy of God is infinite, and will receive even now thy repentance.'

Sir Andrew was, however, past under standing the words with which his wife continued to exhort him. He grew more and more confused, and could only murmur disconnected words. "Death and hell! Mercy — the child in the sack—the river—pity the dead — phan-And in this state of fe toms." dread the unhappy man drew his last breath. Peggy, perceiving that life was extinct, covered her head with her cloak, and kneeling down by the side of the dead man, prayed fervently for

Meanwhile the army of Lennox, decimated and dispersed, was fleeing in disorder to the mountains, pursued by the enemy. On returning from the pur suit, the Earl of Arran perceived the body of Lennox stretched upon the field of battle.

one who was the best, the bravest, and the wisest man in Scotland!" and throw-ing his scarlet plaid over the corpse of his nephew, he gave orders that the body should be removed and honorably

Angus now entered the capital in Angus now current triumph, to celebrate his victory over "enemies of the King," as he declared his opponent to be. Parliament voted him public thanks, and James was con-strained to make a formal profession of gratitude to the Douglas family. To save his mother from persecution abettor of the late rising, th little King consented to all that was demanded of him and his captivity became more rigorous than before. Alas how he regretted his page, his well-be loved companion! He had learnt hi tragic end, and wept over the untimely fate of one he so loved, and who had died for him. We must, ere we close this chapter, say a few words in reference to Car-dinal Beaton. Seeing that all hope was

lost, he, in company with Shell, set off at once for the Black Gorge. Angus, who feared to irritate the people by too great severity, offered him his par-don on certain conditions. Though the conditions in question were of a very rigorous character, Beaton was con-strained to subscribe to them, any inrther resistance being impossible. In return for these concessions, he was permitted to retain his place at the council and the possession of the arch-bishopric of St. Andrews. The fallen prelate made his peace with Angus and returned to Edinburgh, accompanied by the faithful Shell, who was now permanently attached to the person of the Cardinal. Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, and the other associates of the Cardinal in the conflict at Kirkliston, were far too discouraged to be dangerous, and were, therefore, suffered to return in peace to their Thus the great enterprise, framed and concerted in the mountain defiles of the Black Gorge by the partisans of the King, had no other effect than to increase the rigor of the King's captivity, and to bring about the death of his dear and trusted friend, Francis d'Arcy, whilst to Angus and the Douglas it brought increase of power and corresponding insolence. Such were the grievous consequences of the Battle of Kirkliston, and in his private garden at Edinburgh James commemorated the sad event by raising a small marble column to the memory of his page. The inscription ran: "To Francis 'Arcy, the best and most devoted of And every day the young friends. King went there to weep for him who, at the age of fourteen, had lost his life in his service.

## CHAPTER XIX.

A YEAR LATER.

A year had gone by, and James, who had been taught the art of dissimula-tion by his misfortunes, had succeeded so well in disguising his feelings that the Douglas, deceived by the outward calm of his demeanor, believed him to be resigned to his fate. Yet. perhaps, at no other time had the King ever dreamed more of liberty than at the present moment. Feared by all, and sure of their power, the Douglases gave themselves up to a blind confidence, which arose as much from the apparent resignation of the King as from the consciousness of their strength. In consequence James was now allowed a little more liberty, and was permitted at times to walk in the palace gardens without being followed by his gaolers, as had been the case at Melrose. dier," said Peggy, "help me to carry this wicked man who is dying into my

Beaton, ever on the watch, became aware of this comparative freedom now granted to the King, and was concert-ing measures to profit by it. Already had managed to enter the garden unperceived at the hour when was walking there alone, and had held

some converse with him.
"You! Is it you, my good Cardinal?" cried the young King, on per-

"Hush, Sire!" said Beaton, laying his finger on his lip by way of warning"Would you have me driven from the

rarders ? "No, truly," replied James; "I am

only too delighted to see you."
"Forgive me, Sire, for interrupting
you, but at this moment we have no
time to waste in useless conversation. Is your indifference feigned or real? Feigned, my lord.

"In that case you would be ready to risk anything to escape from bondage and regain your freedon "It is the dearest wish of my heart."

"Then, I think, your wish may be accomplished. The Douglases are going to Falkland; they will certainly take you with them. Watch your opportunity to escape, and when it presents itself, fly to Stirling. The Governor of the castle is a friend of mine, and devoted to you. Once there, you will reassume your power. This is all I can say. As to helping you to carry it out I can do but little, so strictly am I watched by Angus. However, when ent has arrived, let the opportune moment has arrived, let me know by some sign, and I will at once go to Stirling to meet you. Until then, Sire, keep up the part you are now playing. Be very resigned, even

gay if you can."
"Gay!" repeated James, his face suddenly assuming a sorrowful ex-pression. "That is impossible; for, though dreaming of liberty, I cannot help thinking of poor Francis, who sacrificed his life in trying to set me free. Look, Cardinal, look! This is all that remains to me of him."

And he pointed out to Beaton the little column he had erected to his friend's memory.

| "Poer child!" said Beaton, "drowned"

drowned like a dog! It is horrible!
"And by the orders of Angus,
aid the King vehemently. "Once said the King vehemently. "Once I recover my liberty, the Earl shall pay dearly for the life of one I loved so

well."
"Strive, Sire to procure that liberty. Bat I must leave you now, for fear of being surprised. But rest assured that from far or near Cardinal Beaton is watching over you."

"Thanks, thanks, Cardinal !" said James warmly, as the prelate took his

leave. "Alas! alas!" he cried, "there lies From this time James kept a vigi-

He even assumed a cordist main his relations with his gaolers, he met either Sir George or Par-overcoming the natural dis'ike for them, he conversed so open familiarly with them that the abted his perfect conten longer doubted his before the cruel of stances, the royal child lost little the frankness and cand youth, and became an adept in of dissimulation. of dissimulation.
When the Douglases, takin
King with them, arrived at Fa
Angus decided to allow Jame
more liberty, and permitted
hunt, a recreation which until n been denied him ; and as he was ealthy recreation ful. The chase r ing fast, this he ing fast, this healthy recreation the more needful. The chase n came the King's chief amuseme he gave himself up to it with ardour of youth, whilst Angus, with this fresh proof of his meet, resolved that nothing sheating in this matter to active wanting in this matter to sat young monarch. Sending, the

> truly royal one. The man hastened to obey the of Lord Angus, making up th of Lord Angus, making up to with great care, and engaging ber of men for the royal servi-out any other consideration the their skill in their craft.

for the master of the hunt, he said, "that His Majesty's and dogs should be the best kind; therefore, have any infeturned out, and replace the hard safety and replace the hunt.

others; also engage more vand beaters, so that the hunt

James, much pleased by beasures undertaken for hi had almost forgotten his p flight, when one day, whilst h Falkland Forest, and carried the hot pursuit of his game denly found himself almost a huntsman only having kept him. This man had been at h the morning, waiting, no de impatience for this favorable impatience for this favorable for no sconer did he perceiv King was out of sight of the i-party than he approached hi-saying: "Sire, this is from dinal; and as he spoke he paper from his doublet and to lames, who, much surprise to James, who, much surpris from the huntsman and haperuse it. Whilst the King engaged, the man gazed aboreasily, fearing lest they sho The huntsman was tall

with scanty hair of a grayist of about middle age. He va our old friend Shell, who i orders had offered his servimaster of the hunt when the master of the nunt when the engaging the extra huntam by Angus. Shell in his you ercised this calling, and his in all the details of the ch to be one of the first se When the King had finis the Cardinal's missive, h

the man, saying:
"The Cardinal writes trust myself to you, and t advise me as to means of ea 'Yes, Sire, I am your il," replied Shell; "ar desire to undertake and good end that which the

Francis d'Arcy, was not ab James eagerly.
Yes, Sire; I had the nce rescuing him from the devilish Cessford at V

"What! was it you we life on that occasion, of w spoke to me?" "Oh, Sire, would that the banks of the Forth

him again !" Poor Francis! poor

the King, altogether for hunt in the thoughts of page. "The Cardinal is he continued you. But he has said Have you concerted any me quickly, for indeed I I wish to regain my por may avenge the death of said Shell, of my master the Cardin baggage a peasant's d your size. The Dougla

ning to relax their wat and by the help of you, and by the help of will be possible for y but," he added, "we opportunity."

"Are we not alone James, fired with the id his freedom. We are, Sire."

"Have you the clothe "I always carry them they are in this game be "Give them to me, t a lonely spot where I can and thus disguised I wi Stirling, where, no awaits me."

awaits me."

"Yes, Sire, the Card
Majes'y at Stirling
not see you yet, for I the clothes to-day."

"What do you meat "What do you mean irritated by Shell's wo

"No, Sire," repeate act with such haste to compromise matter. The hour has not yet the Douglases, it is to you in such a tyranni first, still, they wat could not leave the being recognized. The on the east side. Si west, Sir Parkhead Archibald in the ce their guard over you of sport, and no doub to try your Majest and out whether your only feigned, or whet But I repeat they are and the forest is sur ily seize an oppor of Douglas spies. I tion with the servan

the others, and from their masters set off time as your Majest apparent hunting