

several claimants had the best right to the Scottish throne. Edward claimed a submission from the Scotch, which they at first refused to grant; a vassalage similar to that given to Henry II. They yielded, however, on Edward's appeal to arms, and the nobility and bishops acknowledged him as their "lord superior." Edward decided in favor of Baliol, and he became King of Scotland, and for a time did homage to Edward. This he at length refused to do, being aided by the French. Edward easily forced Baliol to surrender, and was acknowledged king by the Scotch barons and gentry. The masses in Scotland strongly objected to being ruled by an English king, and were indignant at the introduction of English churchmen into their churches. In 1297, a year after the overthrow of Baliol, **Sir William Wallace**, the great national hero of Scotland, roused the people of his native country to throw off the English yoke. He defeated the English at **Stirling**, but Edward raised a large army and again reduced Scotland to submission. Wallace was beheaded by Edward, but in other respects the English king acted with clemency, and sought to win the Scotch by moderation and good government. The spirit roused by Wallace still lived, however, and in 1306, a year after the death of Wallace, **Robert Bruce** became the leader of the Scotch and was crowned king. Edward again marched to invade Scotland, but worn out with long and hard service, he died on the way, leaving a dying injunction with his son Edward II. to complete the work he had begun. After a delay of seven years Edward II. marched to Scotland with 100,000 men, but was defeated by Bruce with 40,000 at **Bannockburn**, 1314. The independence of Scotland was acknowledged by England in 1328.