

the Scots and French. The French were then under the Government of Charlemagne, one of the greatest of their kings. The Scots and French were ever afterwards allies; nor does it appear that they were other than hearty friends till close to the time when Scotland was to become part of the same king's dominions with England. It answered the French kings very well to be able to incite the Scots to attack England, when the English were making war upon France, and it as greatly accommodated the Scots to have an ally that could attack England on the South, when its kings were bent on subduing them. On account of the mutual advantages flowing from it, the treaty of alliance between the Scots and French was perhaps the best kept treaty that was ever made between two nations.

We now come again to the period of the final difference between the Picts and Scots. War broke out between them, because of the right, both by law and blood, which Alpin king of Scots had to the Pictish throne, as next heir of its former sovereigns. Alpin had to fight hard for victory over his enemies, and lost his life in seeking after it; but in the days of Kenneth II., (his son,) the Picts were entirely routed, and the authority of the king of Scots established over all Scotland.

The stratagem which Kenneth fell upon to incite his nobles to engage the Picts was a singular one. Finding them averse to war, though his father had been