

THE PRINCE OF SCOTLAND; OR, THE RIVALSHIP OF MARCH AND DOUGLAS.

The character of David Earl of Carrick, better known by the title of Duke of Rothsay, is one of those which nature seems to delight in distributing among nations, at distant periods, apparently with the view of teaching mankind that, however brilliant may be the powers of mind with which an individual is endowed, however captivating the qualities of his physical attributes—his sparkling wit, his graceful manners, and polite conversation.—and, however amiable the generosity, liberality, and feeling of his heart—though all combined with high rank, and even the station of a king—he has no character of immunity from the obligations of ordinary life, and that if he endeavours, by the aid of these, to turn serious things into frolic, and force a pastime from the sanctions of religious or moral duty, he must pay the usual forfeit of a departure from the rights of nature, and suffer destruction.

This young Prince, is well known, was the son of Robert III. of Scotland, who allowed the reins of government to be wrested from his feeble hands by the cunning and powerful Duke of Albany. The feebleness of the father was not inherited by the son. Rothsay had powers of mind which were equal to the management of a kingdom; and these, there is reason to suppose, he would have displayed for the advantage of his country, if the current of events in which he was involved had not been influenced by the powers of his uncle, Albany, and turned to suit his schemes of ambition. The indications of great talent which, in early youth, he exhibited, were hailed by his father with pride and satisfaction; but by his uncle, the governor, with well-founded fear and suspicion. Unfortunately, it soon appeared that the fertility of the soil did not limit its powers of production to the nobler and more useful plants. Along with the Prince's great powers of intellect, there arose a love of pleasure which could be gratified only—such was its insatiable character—by every species of extravagant sally and wild frolic.—His heart was untainted by any inclination to injure seriously the health, reputation, or interests of any individual, however humble; but, unfortunately, when a love of enjoy-

ment took possession of him, all his intellectual powers, as well as some of his moral perceptions, were abused or overlooked, and a character naturally generous was shaded by the faults of vicious intemperance.

To make all this the more to be regretted, young Rothsay was a beautiful youth. His voice was full and melodious, capable of being exerted—and he had the art to do it—exciting, by the strains of exquisite music the tenderest feelings of the heart. His manner had in it the affability of a free romping girl, with the grace and dignity of a young prince. His hilarity seemed to have no interval, and his good humour was scarcely capable of being disturbed. His love of amusement, and his genius in contriving schemes for the promotion of the happiness of his friends and associates, made his company the desire of the aged and the envy of the young. Yet, amidst all this, it was marked as wonderful, that he seldom lowered the dignity of his rank. Even his frolics were those of a prince, and his humblest services were performed with that consummate grace which can lend a charm to what, in other hands, would incur the charge of vulgarity.

But, while these fair features often set off with greater effect, the faults which inevitably flow from the indulgence of unbridled passions, Rothsay had the power of combining his good and evil, and so mixing up passionate sallies of intemperance or vice with traits of generosity, humanity, and feeling, that it was often impossible to determine whether some of his actions were good or bad, or whether the people who had apparently suffered from his unrestrained licentiousness would have escaped the injury if deprived of the benefit which it produced from the calm reflection of a generous mind.

The friendship of Rothsay was extended to most of the young nobles of that period, but no one was so successful in securing affection as Sir John de Ramorny—a Frenchman supposed to have come originally from France, and certainly justifying his extraction by his character. Originally bred a churchman, he was learned beyond the measure with whom he associated; and, while he could boast his erudition and knowledge, he still could cope with him in originality.