

Regalia of Scotland. This was accordingly done, and the missing treasure found exactly as deposited 110 years before, the very imperfections mentioned in the account of them published in 1621 being found precisely as described. There they lay, brilliant sparkling gems, yellow shining gold, glittering steel, and royal ermine.

The story of the first concealment is more eventful, and the danger of destruction greater, as had they been seized by Cromwell's victorious army, they would no doubt have shared the fate of the crown and sceptre of England.

When Edward I., whose epitaph in Westminster Abbey reads thus, "Here lies Edward the Hammer of the Scottish nation," placed victorious garrisons in Scotland and put his heel on the neck of Scottish independence, he carried to England, in 1296, the crown, and many other articles, some even more valued, to one of which a superstitious value was attached. This was the celebrated Stone of Destiny, now placed in the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey, about which that delightful compound of simplicity and wisdom, Sir Roger de Coverly, is described as asking, when told it was Jacob's pillar, "What authority they had for saying Jacob had ever been in Scotland?" A fabulous history, according to one version, traces it back to the time of Pharaoh's daughter, another to the time of Romulus, when it was brought to Ireland and used for ages as a coronation stone, thence conveyed to Scotland, A.D. 842. The connection which it was supposed to have with the latter country is commemorated in a Latin stanza, thus rendered :

" Unless the fates are faithless grown,
And prophet's voice be vain,
Where'er is found this Sacred Stone,
The Scottish race shall reign."

Many feared the total enslavement of the country was betokened by its removal. So deeply rooted was the belief in the stanza, that when, three hundred years after, James VI. ruled in England, the dark saying was thought to have its true fulfilment.

When Robert Bruce, in 1306, was crowned, a plain circlet of gold was hastily made; this fell into the hands of Edward in the next year. The crown before us was made after the battle of Bannockburn; the work corresponds to that of the 14th century.