THE PAGE OF JAMES V. OF SCOTLAND.

Translated from the French by S. A. C., with the author's permission.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DEPARTURE. Day had hardly dawned before Franhis travelling dress, and was ready to father's weapons the shortest swo eould find, and had fastened it to th a richly chased silver handle—a belt. Thus armed and equipped, he en-tered his father's apartment as day be-an to break. The knight was asleep, but his rest seemed to be disturbed by pain-He moved his arms ab d from his half-closed lips issued inlate sounds. All at once a tear relied from under the closed lids, and in a deep voice he cried, "Francis my son!" The boy, who had entered with his heart full of joyous hopes for the future was saddened at the sight

ofere him.
" Poor father !" he murmured, " he mest have had a dreadful dream! Per haps he feels my going away more than he showed yesterday; and yet he said, 'In a month I may be with you again.' Shall I wake him? No, I dare not.''

But when he beheld the tear steal

wn his father's cheek, and heard the exclamation, "Francis, my son!" he could no longer restrain himself.
"Father father!" he cried. "What "Father, father!" he cried. "What is it?" and he kissed his father's hand.

is it?" and he kissed his father's hand.
The knight woke up with a start, and
seeing his beloved child, cried out as
he leant towards him, "You!—it is
yes!" and embraced him tenderly.
"Father, you gave me quite a
fright," said Francis, returning his em
brace. "What was the matter with

yea? I am sure you had a frightful dream, for I saw a tear roll down your face; and I entered into your dream, for you called aloud to me."
"Poor child! No, no! It is nothing. No

doubt I was dreaming, but I do not re-member what troubled my sleep," re-plied his father, trying to chase away the omy thoughts that filed his mind. Ah, well ! you are ready-and arme teo. Where did you find that sword?"
"In your armoury, father, and I have taken it with the intention of Where did you find that sword ing it free from stain, whatever

Right, my son. That sword was the first I ever wore: may it earn for you a reputation like to that it ac quired for me! But the day is ading, and we both have to set out-

you for Edinburgh, I forre the knight suddenly broke off. He recollected himself, and to tell his son of the appointed rendez veus would only serve to trouble him and lessen the courage he needed their coming separation. But the boy had noticed this interruption. "For—" he repeated. "You did

met finish, father. Why have you to

"Why? Well Master Curious, if you must know everything, I want to undertake a reconnaisance myself some miles out of Dunbar. It is said that some factious people are rising, and I must do my duty." Whilst he thus spoke he had risen, buckled on his sword, and douned a felt cap.

"You," he continued, " are now

"You," he continued, " are nov senger will escort you. Here is my answer to the Chancellor: you must give it to him yourself—only to him, you understand, Francis. You are as yet very young to be trusted with such a commission, but it is well for you to get accustomed to such duties, for probably at Edinburgh you will have mor important services to perform than the one I now confide to you. Remember that this packet contains the fortune, and perhaps even the life, of a power-ful person, without speaking of myself. If these letters should fall into the hands of strangers, we should be seriously compromised. I tell you all this, Francis, to make clear to you the great value of these papers, and to warn you to keep your eye upon them

during your journey."
"Do not tear, father; I will put them here in my doublet pocket, which I will fasten for greater precaution and I will defend them with my life."

"Take care, however, my boy, not to engage in useless quarrels. Be prudent, and think well with yourself, before lightly running risks, that your life heaceforth belongs to the country you serve, and to the King, James the Fith, with whom you are now to live.
"The King! What?"

"I cannot tell you more, my son. Perhaps much, and we are wasting precious time: for it is getting lare;" and a cloud suddenly overspread the face of th knight, whilst an involuntary shudger shook his frame. Recovering his however, with an effort, he said: brace me, child, and go without fear we shall soon meet again.'

'I do not know how it is, father.' said Francis, his eyes filling with tears. "Up to this time I was full of joy at the thought of going to Einburgh. I was proud of being treated almost as a man, and of becoming useful; and now, to spite of myself, seeing you sad and heritating, I feel my heart heavy within me, and I have no wish to go." "There! Yes, it is true; you are right," said Sir Antony, trying to smile. "I am a weak and senseless

tool, and I am making you weak also and -- But there, there ! kiss me once more, my child, and I will give order to set out. Folding his son in his arms, he em

braced him again and again, and ther abraptly quitted the room, wishing to hide from Francis the tears he could hardly restrain. Before seeking the Cardinal's messerger, the knight with own apartment for a moment to calm himself and remove any traces of emotion from his face.
"Coward that I am !" he said, wip

ing his eyes. "Ah! if it had not for that horrid dream, I should But, oh, have been more courageous. it was a frightful one! Alone, sur-

rounded by enemies at the Morass of Dunse, I was murdered without pity; and it seemed to me that before I died they showed me the head—oh, it is too horrible to recall!—the head of Francis, my beloved child! But is it reasonable to feel such trouble? What ressonable to leel such trouble? what have I to fear? Wedderburn offered me an escort of five men. If his design had been murderous, he would have demanded that I should have come alone. No; all that can result from this interview is a duel, and then the chances will be equal. Sir Home may bate me, but, after all, he is a gentle man, and I ought to trust his word. Sto prove to him that I have no fear, as he insolently insinuated in his letter, I will meet him alone without any escort. As to my son, the Cardinal's servants are with him, and that ought to re as sure me. "Yes," he continued, "my fears are most unreasonable."

He now descended to the courtyard the now descended to the corresponding where the Cardinal's servant awaited him. He gave him his instructions, recommended Francis to his particular care, and then, calling for his horse which was always ready saddled, he left the castle at a gallop.

Francis, quite upset by what had

just taken place, had gone back to his room to make his final arrangements, when suddenly, in the milst of his sad reverie, the thought of Gauthier came to his Running down quickly, he looked for father in the courtyard.
Where is father? where is he?" he

questioned. My lord has gone off at a gallop, said Dick, who, thanks to a heavy sl had recovered from his deep potations and was now cooling his head in the

foggy air. ... Gone alone! that is very extra ordinary," replied Francis, half sur-prised, half uneasy. "I thought he was going to reconnoitre the frontier

"The captain of the pikemen has started with a troop," answered Dick; but I do not know if his orders are to rejoin my lord, though it would appear

"Then my father has forgotten the brave Gauthier," continued Francis, "who through my fault is at this moment a prisoner at Wedderburn.
Shall I," he added to himself, "go
without trying to save the poor lellow?
No, I will remain; and if my father
bas forgotten him, I will watch over

Turning away, Francis was about to countermand his departure, when Dick, who had overheard his words, stopped him.

"My young master," he said, "! think you are uneasy about Gauthier and in truth, you might well fear, for we all know that Wedderburn is not kindly disposed to anyone belonging to Sir D'Arcy, and besides that is a cruel and ferocious enemy. Neverthe-less, be assured, sir, your father is not forgetting Gauthier. How do you know?" asked Francis

"Did he tell you he was doing any thing to rescue him?"
"My lord," answered the man

"did not say anything to me; but, all the same, I can reassure you, for just as he was starting he passed through a group of servants, and hearing them express unea iness as to Gauthier's fate, he called out: "Have no fears; fourthier will be back in less than two hours, or I am un worthy of the spurs of knighthood." And as all know my lord to be the soul of chivalry, were perfectly satisfied, and went off to their work. Therefore, I beg of you, my young lord, to follow their example, and net delay your departure. Your noble father will look after his faithful vassal, and as to what concerns you his orders were precise. You were to set out at 9 o'clock, and he would be dis pleased if he found you still here on

"Dick, my friend, you are right," plied the boy; "and as I am now replied the replied the boy; "and as I am satisfied about Gauthier, there is thing to detain me here. Keep this, he added, "as a remembrance of me, and as an acknowledgment of the attachment you have always shown to wards me for my father's sake. Who knows if we shall ever meet again

"Oh, sir, do you really mean it?" asked the man. "Yea take it—take it! We never know, Dick, whether we shall live or die; and he placed in the servant's hand a little gold chain, from which die:

hung a small cross. He had always worn it round his neck, and, though not of great value, the way in which it was offered and the circumstances in which it was given made it very precious to Dick, much moved, was effusive in his thank to his young master. An hour later Francis had left the castle, and escorted by the Cardinal's messenger and the three men he had brought with him, took the road to the capital.

CHAPTER V.

THE FREEBOOTER CHIEFTAIN.

For the first bour the little caval cade rode in silence. Francis was sad and felt his isolation keenly Separ ated as he was from his father for the first time, a vague teeling of uneasiness stole over him. Not that his youthful courage had given way, but that he already felt himself parted from the father he loved, and of whom, perhaps, he should have no tidings for long Alas! all too soon he would receive Then, as to himself, he would for the future be alone in the midst of strangers, who even though they treated him as a friend, would certainly not show him such a love as his fathe had unceasingly lavished on him. Most like y, too, he would be exposed to great danger from the intrigues of se who make little account of anyone else when their own interests concerned. Yes, indeed, he had much

ground for fear.
Thoughts such as these occupied his mind as he rode along; but the fresh morning air, the novelty of the country which he now traversed for the first time, above all, ambition-which whis pered to him that he was destined to great things, and would be powerful even amongst the powerful-gradually changed the current of his thoughts, and reawakened the hope and satisfaction

he had felt the previous evening aving thus chased away his gloom; editations, he felt he should like to make acquaintance with his ea For this purpose he slackened his and soon found himself side by and soon found himself side by side with the chief of the little party. How ever, the latter seemed not at all disposed to enter into conversation, and though his horse was alongside of the young lord's, he took care to keep at s certain distance from him. France who remarked this, was at a loss account for it, and as they rode on he scrutinized his companion. In person he was the veritable type of an adven ne was the veritable type of an adven turer. His face was marked by a hid cous scar. His features were shrunk en, and his hollow eyes and heavy, sullen lips betokened habits of excessive indulgence. His countena bore the stamp of ferocity and intrepid ity. The first sight of him was sufficient to tell how bold he would be in danger and how terrible in combat.

If Sir Antony had studied the man more carefully, if he had not been coned that, as he brought the Cardin vinc al's letter, he must be in his service, he would have trembled at the mere idea of confiding his son to such an escort. But the writing was authentic, and the seal, which it is true he had only glanced at hastily, bore the arms of his powerful friend. Why, there fore, should he have any misgivings and why should he closely examine the soldier whom the Cardinal had trusted as his envoy? on his first glance at his

companion, experienced a strong feel-ing of repulsion. It was very strange, thought, that such a man should be the servant of a Churchman, and a the servant of a chredital, and thrill of fear ran through him. Ashamed, however, of this momentary weakness, he again turned to examine his fellow traveller. The man's garb was as little calculated to win confidence as his appearance and manners. His dress was, in truth, such as was usually worn by Scottish bandits. Over a buff leathern jacket, blackened by ase, he wore a coat of mail, and his thighs were also encased in armour, on which were designed patterns in golden rings It was easy to see that these once rich and brilliant accourrements, now rusty and uncared for, had seen better days, and no doubt had been the property of some noble knight. On his property of some noble knight. On his head he wore a felt cap, garnished out side with iron, and in which, by a sort of coquetry, he had placed an estrich feather, probably stolen from some rich lady's wardrobe. His immense deerskin boots reached to his knees, and were adorned with huga sours. At his were adorned with huge spurs. At his left side hung one of those long and heavy swords worn only by horse soldiers, but which he never laid aside, as if wishing to show that so formida ble a weapon was as nothing to his

This further study of his companion served, we must avow, to increase rather than allay the fears of the boy But Francis refused to give way to fear.

giant strength. Our readers will now

security by his being the bearer of the Cardinal's missive, had confided his

be able to picture to themselves the man to whom the knight, lulled into

"I remember." said he to himself. "my father has often said to me, 'li anything appears fearful to you from a distance, Francis, go near it, for that distance, Francis, go near it, for that is the only way of discovering whether there is real cause for fear or not. So I will act on that advice."

Riding up close to the man so that almost touched each other he resolutely opened the conversation.

saying abruptly:
"It is a beautiful morning, sir." His companion stared at him, but

made no reply.

"If the day continues as fine as has begun," pursued the boy, "o journey will be very pleasant." our

answered the man in a "Perhaps," answered the man in a harsh gutural voice; and he began to whistle between his teeth. Rather taken aback by this doubt expressed in such a strange way by his enide as to the character of their jour

ney, Francis kept silence for a few minutes. Then, with an effort, he returned to the charge. "What did you mean, master, by doubting of the pleasantness of our

ride? He paused, awaiting a reply, but the

man went on whistling as before.

"By St. Francis!" said the boy. quite disconcerted by this silence, torcing himself to appear merry, "no one can accuse you, sir, of being a gossip. I guess, however, what it is. You tear danger on the road, and dare not tell me, in case I should be fright ened. But reassure yourself. I am brave, and should we be attacked, you would see that I should be able to help in the defence. smile of mockery o'erspread the

features of the horseman as he teard these words. " By my father's sword !" exclaimed

Francis, indignant at this look of raili you appear to doubt my word o not mistake me. I will suffe no insult-no, not even from a man o

After uttering this boast, the boy looked resolutely at the soldier, whose ace expressed greater scorn than be His only answer was to lean to fore. wards Francis, seize him by the arm and hold him suspended for some me ments above his saddle, after which he replaced him on his horse with a burst of dry short laughter.

It is difficult to express the feelings of the youth at such treatment. His anger was mingled with a vague fear which he could not altogether master. He nevertheless boldly continued the conversation :

Well, master, you have certainly proved yourself to be stronger than i m : but that does not say that I am lacking in courage, and it would have been better to have chosen some other way of proving to me your strength, a I think that if the Cardinal were to hear of the way you have behaved to me he would not be well pleased." he would not be well pleased."
The Cardinal? Yes, that is possi-

ble," said the man, at last breaking silence. " Ah, you agree there," added Fran

companion, and withal well pleased at being able to shelter himself under the Cardinal's protection. "You know that on my arrival at Edinburgh I should only have to say a word to draw down on you condign punishment. You must be aware that I am under the promust be aware that I am under the pro-tection of the Lord Chancellor, and that he ordered you to take every pos-sible care of me. Why, then, have you treated me in so ungentlemanly a fash-ion? and how do you dare disobey your master's orders? your master's orders ?

"Because the Cardinal is not my master," said the soldier. "What do I hear?" murmured Francis. as a shiver again ran through him.

What! you are not--'
And he looked about him for mean And he loosed about this code of escape, and had already spurred his horse to a gallop, when he felt heavy hands laid on his shoulders. Turning his head, he saw that two of the soldiers who formed their escort had appros at a sign from their chief, and they now rode on either side of him. Convinced by this of his danger, all his vinced by this of his danger, all his courage revived, and the vague fear that had oppressed him whilst in doubt as to his position vanished with the certainty of his being in the hands of enemies. So, without calculating his powerlessness in the face of overpowering numbers, he with a quick move ment laid his hand upon his sword but he soon found that resistance wa impossible. His two guardians each seized one of his arms, pinning him to his saddle, and the chief, calling to him the third soldier, drew him aside and gave him the following orders: "Go on ahead of us, Shell, to Wed-derburn."

"I go," sald the man addressed turning his horse's head as he spoke.

By St. Andrew's cross! I'll break
your head with a blow of my fist if you don't listen better, you clown !

you don't listen better, you clown!"
angrily cried the chief.

Evidently frightened at the threat,
Sheh pulled up his horse, and remained
motionless before his master.

"Tell Sir Home that I am following
with the young gallant, of whom he will
probably speak to you. Ask for his
orders, and bring them to me at the
Pine-branch lin at Wedderbarn Tille Pine-branch Inn at Wedderburn village. I shall stay there until you return with Sir Home's orders, since the Earl has commanded me to obey him. By the Mass! I, John Andrew Cessford, to obey a simple Baron! Oh! if it were not for the orders of—of—someone!" The horseman, who had before been Oh! if it we so eager to start, now sat as if nailed You brute !" cried Cessford with

an oath. "Why do you stare at me like Did you not hear what I said ?' ' Yes ; but you told me-"I told you—I told you," repeated the cavalier mockingly—'I told you to

start, which I advise you to do at once,

start, which I advise you to do at once, if you don't want your bones broken with the fiat of my sword!"

"Cursed bandit!" murmured the soldier. "Nothing but threats. 'I will break your head with my fist if you set out!—I will break your bones with my sword if you do not go?' One does not know how to act; for he does what he save. Only three days and he does not know how to act; for he does what he says. Only three days ago he thrashed me. Oh, if he were not so strong! But patience! One day those blows will be repaid, Master Andrew Cessford."

These reflections were made by Shell as he galloped across the fields towards the Manor of Wedderburn.

'Now let us pursue our journey,'

said the chief, returning to Francis and his guardian. "Ab, but explain yourself," began

Francis. But Cessford cut short his petition

But Cessford cut short his petition, and for all explanation cried out:

"Deliver me from the barking of this snappish little cur! Muzzle him!" And in spite of the desperate resistance of Francis they succeeded in gagging him. "Forward!" cried Cessford as soon as his order had been conviced out. And the two soldiers And the two soldiers carried out. And the two soldiers followed their chief at a gallop, dragg ing Francis between them.

him, where they were taking him, he did not know. But all at once his did not know. But all at once his guides turned from the highroad into a by path. What did that mean? where did it lead? Francis asked himself, but could not answer. However, when they had pursued this lane for about half an hour, he thought he recognised his surroundings, and that in the dis tance he could see the shiny and mir soil of the Morass of Dunse. No longer had he any doubt; they were taking him to Wedderburn. His father had had good reason for his fears about him. It was certainly by Wedderburn's

orders he had been thus treated.
"My goodness!" he thought, "wha about those papers which my father entrusted to me, and which I was to give to no one but the Cardinal himelf? I am lost; for, as I am in their power, they will doubtless search me for them. Who knows but that it was for them. to get at them that they have seized me and laid this hateful snare into which I have fallen? My God! what shall I do? How can I keep the paper from them? Father said cerned the life of a powerful person not to speak of his own. Lord, Lord help me! I must succeed somehow in saving them, and then they may do with ne as they list.'

The desire to preserve the papers entirely possessed the mind of this brave youth, and he racked his brains for some way of carrying out his purhere they were within : pose. Alas! musket shot of Wedderburn. He could already see the smoke of the village chimneys, and he had not yet found What should he do? to be his tate ?

Leaving, though unwillingly, our young triend in his perplexity, we must change the scene to Edinburgh.

CHAPTER VI. CARDINAL BEATON.

Having traversed the High Street of

the capital, we turn off into a smaller one leading to the Cowgate, and pur sue our course until we arrive at a palace, the entrance door of which is surmounted by the archiepiscopal arms. It is the dwelling of Cardinal cis, drawing himself up proudly, arms. It is the dwelling of Cardinal hoping by his assurance to impress his Beaton, Archbishop of St. Andrews

and Chancellor of Scotland. Let us enter. The courtyard presents a busy scene. Servants come and go, sentries walk up and down, nobles and clerica enter and leave. It is the time appointed for giving audience to the numerous clients who throng the Car dinal's Court. At the gatherings of the Archbishop, the priest and soldier, the magistrate and captain, the rough chieftain of a clan and the polished and courtly noble, meet together, form-ing a motley assemblage.

We pass through several rooms, and at last find the Cardinal in a chamber of vast dimensions, the description of which will perhaps serve better than anything else to give our readers some idea of the character of this extraordinary man. This large room, which serves also as the cabinet of the Cardinal Chancellor, is hung from ceiling to floor with rich tapestry, brought at great cost from foreign countries. The apartment is well lighted by five windows curtained with silken hangings, and the furniture is chiefly of ebony, richly carved and ornamented. Examrichly carved and ornamented. Examining now in detail, we find in the curious mixture of things, sacred and profane, which fill the room, an indica tion of the many-sided character of the Cardinal. One is inclined to think that the shrewd prelate had furnished his audience chamber with the intent that those who attended his levees, which, as we before remarked, were such mixed assemblies, should find there the objects best calculated to interest him. Thus, by the side of a prie dien surmounted by a massive silver crucifix hung a heavy sword; a knight's helmet and armour were sus pended on the wall side by side with a mountaineer's clays ore and bonnet.

In another part of the chamber, on a bracket of the finest marble, a magni-

ficent reliquary, containing a relic St. Dunstan, stood next to a small polished steel coffer, which held the State seals; so that politics and relig-ion went hand in-hand. Lastly, on a very large table which served the purpose of a bureau, were assembled such a variety of books and papers of totally opposite characters that one was los opposite characters that one was lost in wonder as to how such diverse elements could have been brought together. To give a few examples: Side by side lay a sermon and a proclamation, the wild song of a mountaineer and a translation of the Psalms, a petition from the Glasgow merchant alongside a mandate composed for his own archdiocese. Certainly it was a strange mixture of opposite element as found in the cabinet of the Oardinal statesman; and, as we said before, it was an index of the character of the man himself. Devoted though he was to the in-

terests of religion, Cardinal Beaton was far from neglecting the interests of his political party. By profession a man he was not wanting in the of peace, he was not wanting in the instincts of a warrior. Under his pre late's robe he wore a coat of mail, a no means unnecessary precaution, when we consider the lawless character of the time and the many enemies th surrounded him. Hardly fifty years of age, he was in all the prime and vigour age, he was in all the prime and vigous of manhood; tall, and of easy and graceful carriage, he possessed the dignified bearing of one accustomed to high command. His expressive features reflected the changeful thoughts that in turn occupied his mind. face, which in his youth possessed remarkable beauty, bore an expression good humour, which made him charming in social intercourse; but it also gave evidence of that astuteness and shrewd ness, which had acquired for him the renown of being one of the most subtle and skilful diplomatists of his age. His voice, gentle and ordinary conversation, thundered forth with vehemence in the heat of stormy discussion. Such was the extraordi ary man who held one of the highest offices in the government of Scotl nd. Nominated by James IV. to the Chan cellorship, he had displayed such druness at the time of the disastrous de feat at Flodden, and had so largely contributed to the order and prosperity, that the Queen-mother and Albany had not only con-firmed him in his chice, but had constantly called him to assist at the Council of the Regency, where his ad vice was always listened to with respect and usually religiously followed.

The great political influence of Car dinal Beaton naturally drew round him many of the leading politicians of Scotland. Foremost amongst these were the Hamiltons, with whom the Cardin al had openly alijed himself, as much from sympathy as from family ties Karl of Arran, chief of the clan Hamil ton, having married one of Beaton's pieces. But if his political influence von him many friends, it also gained for him many enemies, the most dangerous of whom were the Douglas family, whose chief, Lord Archibald Angus, had espoused the Queen mother. But little attached to his royal consort. Angus not only refused her her rank deserved, but even aimed at depriving her of the Regency, and he was well aware that in the attempt to carry out his project he would have no nore redoubtable adversary than the Cardinal Chancellor. Angus con ceived in consequence a violent dislike for the Cardinal. He felt, however, bound to dissemble his feelings for s time; Beaton was much too powerful at this moment to be openly attacked But, whilst waiting a favorable opportunity for revenge, he surrounded the Cardinal with his spies, who kept him informed of all Beaton's actions.

Such was the state of affairs at the time of our introduction to the Chan-But to return to the busines of the moment. The numerous visitors were received in turn, and then dis missed. One alone remained, who had waited with impatience the end of the audiences. It was the Earl of Arran nephew to the Cardinal, and head of

the House of Hamilton.

"Approach, Arran," said Beaton, when the door had closed behind the last petitioner. "Now that we are alone, explain to me, I pray, why you appear in this house of peace with a morion on your head and a cuirass or your breast. Why this semi warlike

B" By St. Dunstan, my lord," replied the Earl, "in times like these, when a the Earl. man may rise in the morning sound and whole in body, and sleep on a bier by nightfall, it is necessary to take pre-

"Well spoken, Arran. But what has happened to make you arm like a Crus-ader of olden times setting out for the

"Very serious news, my lord, and if your spies had done their duty you would have no need to question me."

"Not so fast, nepbew. Before charging my spies with want of diffigence, you must learn whether I know this news or not. But let us hear your secount."

" Angus has armed all his clan," said the Earl.

"I know it," replied the Cardinal.
"He has some rebel lords to subdue
in his territory."

"Pretext—mere pretext, my lord. Very little does Angus care about rebel lords. He keeps his eye upon us, and is now making ready to fall upon us at the first opportunity. For a long time he has taken umbrage at your power. He fears you, and the your power. He fears you, and the whole Douglas party desire but one thing, my lord, your downfall; and as thing, my lord, your downlast; and as Angus knows but too well that he can-not overthrow you, he has conceived a deadly hatred against you and yours. Believe me, Lord Archibald, Angus is planning a sudden attack.

"Heyday! is that all? The Hamiltons will be ready to respond to the tons will be ready to respond to the Douglas. But perhaps, nephew, year suspicions have led you too far. Yea tell me nothing more than that Angue has armed his own retainers. If you has armed his own retainers. If you had told me that Sir Douglas Parkhead a cousin of the Earl, had just been en a journey to the mountains, that the clan of Cessford had been induced by a promise of money to lead its help, that Sir Parkhead had brought back with him to Edinburgh and enrolled in the service of Angus the redoubtable chief of the clan, Sir Andrew Kerr Cessford —if you had apprised me of all this, Arran, I might perhaps have shared your suspicions

But what you have just said, my lord, is the exact truth. "Do you believe it Arran?" said the Cardinal, with a smile."

"I believe, my lord, that I was unjust towards your spies, and that I can tell you nothing but what you already

"One thing more, my lord, you can tell me: that it was from your sea James Hamilton you received these de-tails, and that it was he who persuaded tails, and that it was he who persussed you to stand on the defensive. But what I defy you to tell me is that which I will now tell you. Your son James learnt all these details from a man he met at the King David's Inn. That man let himself be taken for a parthan of the Douglas fraction, and feigning to be wanting in discretion, let escape the secrets of his party. James thus be-lieved himself to be forewarned of our eremy's plans. Now I sent that man and he had learnt from me all that you have just repeated to me," added the Cardinal, with a touch of raillery in his

"I bow my head, dear uncle, before "I bow my head, dear uncle, before your skill; but why all this dupliets? Why not send me to warn our people to arm and stand on the defensive?"
"Wny, Arran? I will tell you why. Setting aside my office of a minister of peace, which would not allow me to stir up a civil war, I put forward as a reason the interests of one age.

reason the interests of our cause. For a long time I have had my eye on Angas, who, on his side, watches me as a wolf does the sheep he intends as his prey. Yet, notwithstanding this state of mutual observation, at the Council board, where we daily meet, we still preserve toward each other, an out-ward semblance, if not of friendship, at least of indifference. The citisens of Edinburgh hold civil strife in horror, and you will find that they will never support the party which commences hostilities. Hence, if Cardinal Beater who certainly wishes his party to stand on the defensive, but does not wish the aggressor's part to be attributed to him, had openly sent orders to his nephew, the Earl of Arran, to arm the Hamiltons and prepare for battle, the citizens wou d not have failed to say, Here is this warlike prelate, with any consideration for the misery of the people, disturbing the peace of his flock for a mere political interest. Had a conflict occurred in these circumstances, you would have seen them at once declare in favour of the Dong. las, and take up arms in his defend This is what I am anxious to avoid The King David's Inn is the meeting place of the most eminent citizens, at in sending that indirect warning to your son James, who resorts there every evening, I intended to make the other citizens assembled there acquainted with the preparations Anges is making. They will now look upon him as the aggressor, and consider your taking up arms as a necessary precuation and a leatimate defence, and, should the quarrel break out, you will hear them cry, "Down with the Douglas! Long live the Hamiltons!" las! Long live the Hamiltons!"
There, my dear Arran, is the explanstion of my conduct, and the reason of that cunning you did not understand. " I admire you, dear uncle, and box down before you as one of the most expert diplomatists of our age

but what think you? Will it be long before Angus throws off the mask and openly attacks us?"
"Listen, Arran. Since you are the arm of the party of which I am the head, it is right that I should conceal nothing from you. Angus wishes to obtain the Regency. He desires to overthrow his wife, the Queen mother, but as yet he has not dared to avow his project openly. He is temporizing, and passes a great part of the day in the apartments of the young King, with whom he is seeking to ingratiate by every means in his power. He began by daily bringing him something new in the way of sweetmeats. He now makes presents to the King of a more fistering character. A little while ago be presented him with a splendid Spanish genet, of such a diminutive breed that it might have been made expressly for For some time James could think of nothing else. Then, when the

of, the cumning new treasure, a the height of worthy of his a-being richly wrote Here was a new p who looks upon good angel, alwa slightest wish. he is, has stooped young King's a vented games fo does not disdain Arran, actually Every morning of the Council he on the carpet wi diversions of the " By St. Duns said Arran, iau

to see you rude Ha! ha! And gain by returning head? Ha! ha "You need no has an end in vie pes, I feel sur the Prince, in half succeeded. will persuade the Then, do you hext, nephew? his power, he wiself Regent. Tat, and until it will take care n attack us ; but if we continue t will show his te is, Arran, that throwing us, cr weight of his us

" But, my lo vented, e**v**en amune the offer ourselves on the the whole brood " You mustbe ready to defineed, but do n Leave me to ac "But, my lo

" I may, and least has the brute force, st propose. As it and by playing that Angus has to oppose to hi to go against causes awkwar who will natu player at knuc a Lord Arc will soon effac the King now "Upon whom Upon a y

bim, in spite o who, as you k voted to our o year I have he and, from all I person fitted f ign for him. Perilous ! langhing. "V
playing knuck
"One," rep
that is to p Bat. seriously

Angus may fe

courageous, ar

his plans, and him, and you all means are ' And has I " As yet I trusty servant accompanied carried with the Chevalier. with our you added, " it is must go to Arran, and re told you is a must a Hamilt The Earl de here on all poi vice, and the

showing signs called you?"
surprised at l
"My lord " Oh !" sai the man's ton " My lord, with Percy ba yard covered What do

ses out for t

happen ?"
" My lord, he is my relat that came ov mg the rest. Bring up you to do whilst waiti paced up and trides, which

" Well." s as the horsen Why have yo this blood?" "My lord able to sper bar, whither sen or twel others were l because they

And my "Stolen, " Maledic ejaculated hieves were

Of the am quite sur am not mis