

there should no man speak with no Scots,' Carr was very doubtful if he could safely hold any communication with his friends across the Tweed. At last yielding to the advice of Raymond and a certain Master Ured he sent to a Scotsman who came to them at ten o'clock at night, and said that the king of Scots was at Hawick intending to ravage the West March and leave the East alone.⁷⁸ On July 16th, 1543, six hundred Scots from Teviotdale and the Merse 'ran a foray' at Wark and drove off eight score of cattle with some sheep and nags, and took two of the king's tenants prisoners. This time Carr and his company gave chase, and in crossing the ford the Scots turned round on them. In the skirmish Watty Young, a household servant of the laird of Cessford, the supposed instigator of the raid, was slain, and several of the Scots were badly wounded.⁷⁹

APPENDIX.

THE RELIEF OF WARK CASTLE BY EDWARD III.

ALTHOUGH Froissart's story of how Edward III. raised the siege of Wark, and was honourably entertained there by the Countess of Salisbury,⁸⁰ presents many difficulties of detail, these difficulties have been immensely increased by the blunders of those critics who have ventured to deny that there could be any foundation in fact for his narrative. 'What follows,' Mr. Ruskin justly says in presenting the story of Wark to his readers, 'you may receive on Froissart's telling as the vital and effectual truth of the matter. A modern English critic will indeed always and instantly extinguish this vital truth; there is

⁷⁸ *Ibid.* Appendix to Introduction, selections from Longleat MSS. lxxvii.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.* p. 574.

⁸⁰ Froissart makes the singular mistake of calling the countess, *Alice*. There was indeed an Alice Countess of Salisbury, Lincoln, and Lancaster, alive at the time—the widow of Thomas Plantagenet of the fascinating age of ninety. Ridpath in his *Border History* is equally wrong in supposing the countess to have been Joan Plantagenet, the Fair Maid of Kent, then a girl of thirteen. Katharine de Grandison, as the countess of William Earl of Salisbury, then a prisoner in France, was really called, was born before 1310, and married about 1327—her son William Montagu was born 25 June, 1328 (Inq. p.m. Will. Montagu, 18 Ed. III. Berks, P.R.O.) She was therefore over thirty years of age in 1341; Berenice was, however, the same when Titus laid the empire of the world at her feet. In 1332 Katharine had been charged to distribute at Woodstock the presents made by the queen to the ladies of her court.—Kervyn de Lettenhove, *Chroniques de Froissart*, iii. pp. 518-519.

in it something inherently detestable to him; thus, the editor of Johnes' Froissart prefaces this very story with "the romance—for it is nothing more."⁸¹ Yes, probably Froissart is after all right in the main, and we have here an interesting example of the danger of trusting to shallow methods of critical enquiry, methods that would rather destroy all history than be at the pains of examining and reconciling apparent discrepancies.

By erroneously postponing for a year the return of David Bruce to Scotland, which actually took place on the 2nd of June, 1341, Froissart's critics have also transferred Edward's adventure at Wark to the year 1342, in which it is easy for them to show it could not have taken place,⁸² instead of connecting it with his expedition to Melrose, late in the autumn of the previous year, into which it falls most naturally. Knyghton, no doubt, gives us the true sequence of events when he tells us that 'David Bruce with 40,000 Scots entered into England as far as Newcastle, and even Durham, and they did much mischief, and on their road home they lost six knights and eleven other warriors'—very possibly at Wark—and then goes on to say that 'King Edward invaded Scotland about St. Andrew's day and kept Christmas at Melrose.'⁸³

According to the Scottish accounts, David Bruce appears to have made three incursions into England during the year of his return. The first of these was a mere foray to Penrith and Rose Castle.⁸⁴ In the second, during which five knights were taken prisoners through the strategy of Sir Robert Ogle,⁸⁵ the royal banner was openly displayed, and we know for a fact, from documentary evidence, that David was encamped on Heddon Law, about six miles to the north-

⁸¹ Ruskin, *Fors Clavigera*, letter xxxi.

⁸² 'Eodem anno, scilicet Domini M.CCC.XLI. IIII Nonas Junii, David,—Dei Gracia, rex Scotorum illustris de Francia ad Scociam rediit . . . apud Inverbervy.'—Fordun, *Scotichronicon*, ed. Hearne, iv. p. 1035. Yet Mr. Longman in his *Edward III.* i. p. 201 makes this into 4th June, 1342, and thereupon dismisses the relief of Wark as a fable. By misdating the battle of Waterloo, 20th June, 1816, it would be easy to prove that the Allies never entered Paris.

⁸³ '*David le Bruz* cum xl. mille Scotorum intravit in *Angliam* prope Novum Castrum et eciam Dunelmum, et exercuerunt multa mala, et in regressu eorum perdiderunt sex milites et xj. alios valentes . . . Rex Edwardus transiit in Scotiam circa festum sancti Andreae, et celebravit natale Domini apud Menrose.'—Knyghton in Twysden, *Historiæ Anglicanæ Scriptores*, p. 2580.

⁸⁴ Wyntoun, *Cronykil of Scotland*, v. 5,975, etc. ed. *Historians of Scotland*, ii. p. 467.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*



west of Newcastle, on Sunday, the 26th of August, 1341. The third expedition, that with which we have to do, undertaken on a large scale towards the end of autumn, was impeded by heavy rains, and effected nothing except the burning of a few strongholds.⁸⁷

Edward's itinerary can be approximately traced, though very considerable research is necessary. He had set out on his road north as far as Cheshunt, on Friday, the 26th of October. The next day he reached Royston, and was at Huntingdon on the Sunday. Resting at Sawtry on the 29th, he reached Stamford on the Tuesday,⁸⁸ and remained there it seems for nearly three weeks. Then on Tuesday, the 20th of November, he suddenly left Stamford, and apparently only breaking his journey at Retford, Newark,⁸⁹ York, and Darlington,⁹⁰ arrived at Newcastle on Saturday, the 24th.⁹¹ So hasty an advance can only be explained, as Froissart explains it, by the arrival of the news of the Scottish inroad.⁹²

Now, referring to the Amiens MS. of Froissart,⁹³ of which the

⁸⁶ John de Denton, a leading burghess of Newcastle, was accused of having arranged to supply the Scottish army with provisions—'Quod Johannes de Dentone tempore quo David le Bruys jacuit apud Hydwynlawes cum excersitu suo deberet deslinasse predicto David et aliis Scotis victualia per quemdam Adam Palfreyman servientem sum die dominica post festum Sancti Bartholomei Apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi nunc xv.'—*Placita in Com. Northumb.* 19 Ed. iij.; *Arch. Ael.* iii. pp. 116-117.

⁸⁷ Buchanan *Rerum Scotticarum Historia*, lib. iv. xxxii. ed. Edinburgh, 1727, p. 257. Boece's version of these raids is too ridiculous; he turns Ogle's exploit round in favour of the Scots and then makes the Earl of Salisbury and the captain of Wark to be taken prisoners in battle and their castle to surrender.—*Builk of the Chronicles of Scotland*, Rolls ed. iii. pp. 355-357.

⁸⁸ Roll of expenses, etc., of Robert de Nateby and Robert de Kildesby, controllers, 3 Jul. 14 Ed. iij.—24 Nov. 15 Ed. iij. *Exchequer Q.R. Misc. Wardrobe*, 6², P.R.O.

⁸⁹ Rot. Pat. 15 Ed. iij. pars 3^a. m. 4, P.R.O. The earliest date at any place in the rolls of this period approximately fixes the date of the arrival of the king; the officials lagged several days behind, and the mere date of an entry on the roll is no indication of the king's presence. All the documents of the Exchequer, Treasury of Receipt, the Patent and Close Rolls, and the Chancery Privy Seals relating to this period have been carefully gone through.

⁹⁰ *Clav. Rot.* 15 Ed. iij. pars 3^a. m. 8, P.R.O. The entries dated York, 28 Nov., and Darlington, 1 Dec., seem to show that the officials were then engaged in writing up work the king had done in previously passing through those places.

⁹¹ *Excheq. Q.R. Misc. Wardrobe*, 6² P.R.O. The margin containing the names of the different places after Stamford where the king rested has been vexatiously torn off. The entry of the expenses of the royal kitchen between Stamford to Newcastle under the 24th of Nov. at the end of the roll proves the king to have reached the latter town by that day.

⁹² According to the Amiens MS. of Froissart, Edward received the news of the invasion at Windsor. The other MSS. say that it was at Chertsey. The fact is that Froissart was uncertain about the place, which was no doubt Stamford.

⁹³ This important MS. was discovered at Amiens by M. de Cayrol, see *Chroniques de Jehan le Bel*, ed. M. L. Polain, Brussels, 1863, i. p. 271n.

ordinary version is a revised epitome, we learn that in the first place the Scots had passed by the strong castle of Roxburgh, which the English still held, to their great annoyance. They attempted to carry it by assault, but on its proving too strong, the king resolved not to waste time in besieging it, but to march his army straight into England. Accordingly passing by Berwick, the Scots entered Northumberland, and having burnt all the town of Percy—by which Alnwick was doubtless meant—they attacked the castle, but failed to take it. They then proceeded to 'Urcol'—probably Warkworth—and burnt and sacked the town and neighbourhood.⁹⁴ After being harassed under the walls of Newcastle by a sally of the garrison,⁹⁵ they ineffectually assailed the castle, but burnt the town of Brancepeth, and ravaging the bishopric on all sides, came before 'the city of Durham'—by which Auckland is possibly meant—and as it appeared to be an easy prey, determined to remain till it fell into their hands.

⁹⁴ 'Si passèrent premiers par devant le fort castiel de Roseburch, que li Engles avoient concquis, et le tenoient encorres et leur faisoient souvent grans assaux et grans destourbiers. Si fissent là li Escot ung grant assault; més point n'y gaegnièrent, car li castiel est trop fors. Et n'eut point li roys adont conseil del asségier, més de chevauchier avant et d'entrer ou droit royaume d'Engleterre. Si fist son host passer oultre. Apriès il passèrent devant le cité de Bervich, més point n'y arestèrent et entrèrent ou royaume de Northombrelande. Si ardirent toute le ville de Persi et livrèrent ung grant assault à le forterèce, més il ne le peurent avoir. Si passèrent oultre et vinrent à Urcol, et ardirent et pillèrent toute le ville et le pays de là environ, et entrèrent si avant ens ou royaume de Northumbrelande; qu'il vinrent sur le rivière de Tin, ardent et destruisent tout le pays, et fissent tant qu'il parvinrent devant le bonne ville de Noef-Castiel-sur-Tin, et là se logièrent et le environèrent pour l'assailir.'—Froissart, *Chroniques*, ed. Kervyn de Lettenhove, Academie Royale des Sciences, Brussels, 1867, iii. p. 437.

⁹⁵ The Amiens MS. of Froissart represents Lucy and Ros as the captains of Newcastle and ascribes the feat of taking prisoner the Earl of Murray to Lucy. The Earl of Murray was already in captivity since 1335, and was released in 1342 in consequence of the agreement, dated at the Bois de Vincennes the 2nd of June in that year, which the Earl of Salisbury had entered into with the French king, that if he was allowed to return to England he would procure the safe delivery of the Earl of Murray with 'maistre Walter de Mofett,' at Roxburgh, and also endeavour to obtain the discharge of 'messire Hervy de Lyon' in Brittany, and if the former condition was not fulfilled by the middle of August, he would forfeit 3,000 livres sterling.—*Archives Nationales*, Paris, Trésor des chartes, carton J. 362, No. 1; Froissart, ed. Kervyn de Lettenhove, iii. p. 524. The account of Murray's capture before Newcastle is, one of the most dubious episodes in Froissart's narrative. Murray had been kept in by no means close confinement in England. In the summer of 1341 he was allowed to go to Scotland under promise of returning before September 12th, but there seems to be no proof that he did so return, while there is a safe-conduct for his passing through England on his way to France, dated 22nd February, 1342.—Douglas, *Peerage of Scotland*, ii. pp. 251-252; Rymer, *Fœdera*, iv. p. 660; v. pp. 197, 213, 224, 250, 262, 268, 300. If he broke his parole, he may easily have been taken prisoner before Newcastle, and kept there till the negotiations for his exchange for Salisbury.

They broke down the walls with their engines, and put the inhabitants to the sword.⁹⁶ The canons took refuge in the church, but this, too, the Scots burnt, with all who were in it.⁹⁷ It was in carrying off to Scotland the booty they obtained on this occasion that their rear-guard was attacked by the Earl of Salisbury's sister's son, whose name can scarcely have been Sir William Montagu,⁹⁸ and Wark was besieged in consequence.

On the 4th of December Edward III. at Newcastle ordered a general levy there on the 24th of January for the purpose of advancing against the Scots; something exceptional must therefore have occurred to lead him to take the field himself in the meantime.⁹⁹ By the 13th of the month he had proceeded to Alnwick,¹⁰⁰ and on the 20th he was at Melrose.¹⁰¹ Froissart again very naturally attributes this forced march of Edward to the fact that he had received a message summoning him

⁹⁶ 'Quant li roys d'Escosse et ses conssaux virent que il se laissoient et travoilloit en vain, il s'ordonnèrent au deslogier et se missent au chemin contremont ceste belle rivière de Thin, et passèrent à Bransepie, ung très-fort castiel au seigneur de Noefville. Si l'assaillirent et ardirent toute le ville, mès le fortrèce ne peurent-il avoir, et assés priés de là il passèrent le rivière de Thin et entrèrent en l'evesquie de Durem. Si le ardirent moult et gastèrent de tous costés, puis se traient devant le chité de Durem et le asségièrent, et disent entr'iaux que elle estoit bien prendable et que de là ne se partiroient, si l'avoient.'—Froissart, ed. Kervyn de Lettenhove, iii. p. 441. The geography of this passage is somewhat wild. Froissart seems to have no idea of any other river but the Tyne in the North of England. 'Le chité de Durem' is probably Auckland—the bishop of Durham's town, just as the 'castle of Salisbury' is Wark and 'the castle of Percy,' Alnwick. The sack of Durham itself would have resounded in every chronicle as a work of sacrilege, and raiders who had attacked Roxburgh, Alnwick, Warkworth, and Brancepeth in vain could surely never have considered the true Durham to be 'bien prendable.'

⁹⁷ 'Depuis le chité prise, il s'en vinrent deviers l'église catédral qui siet haut sus ung tertre, et l'avoient li chanoine fortefyt, et estoient dedens retret à garant; mès li Escot (dont che fu grant pité et grant cruauté) brulèrent le feu ens et le ardirent et tous chiaux qui cedens estoient, sans nullui prendre à merchy. Enssi fu menée la bonne chité de Durem, des Escos, dont che fu dommage.'—Froissart, ed. Kervyn de Lettenhove, p. 441. 'The cathedral church set high on an eminence' sounds like Durham, and may be only a literary embellishment, while 'the canons' carry us again to Auckland.

⁹⁸ Salisbury's nephew, Sir Edward Montagu, seems to have been in the south of England.

⁹⁹ The Amiens MS. makes 'le chité de Ewruic' the appointed rendezvous for the army, and says that Edward set out for 'Iorc' where he received the tidings from Wark. The later editions of Froissart substitute 'Berwick' for 'York.' This shows that the actual place was considered doubtful, while documentary evidence now pretty clearly proves it to have been Newcastle. Rymer, *Fœdera*, ii. part ii. p. 1183, has erroneously dated some of the summonses addressed to the nobles for bringing their retainers to Newcastle, the 4th of *November*, 1341. A reference to his authority, *Rot. Claus.* 15 Ed. iij. pars 3^a. m. 9 dors, corrects this to the 4th of *December*.

¹⁰⁰ *Chancery Privy Seals*, file 280, 14477, 14479, P.R.O.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.* file 280, 14480.

to the relief of Wark. We are thus enabled to fix the time of this famous exploit to the week intervening between Thursday, December 13th, and Thursday, December 20th, 1341.

The Amiens MS. gives some additional particulars of the king's departure from Wark which have an air of quaint verisimilitude about them:—'After dinner, when the trestle tables had been removed, the king sent Sir Reginald Cobham and Sir Richard Stafford¹⁰² to the army and to their companions who were quartered below the castle to inquire how they fared and whether they were ready to march, since he wished to set out in pursuit of the Scots, and therefore desired them to send on all the baggage and accoutrements in front and he would come up with them by the evening. He ordered the earl of Pembroke¹⁰³ to form the rear-guard with no more than 500 lances, who were to await him; all the rest were to ride forward. His instructions were obeyed, and the king still lingered in the castle with the countess, hoping that before he left his addresses would receive more encouragement from her. He asked for a chess-board, which the countess had brought, and then enquired if she would play with him. To this the lady gladly assented, for she was doing her very best to entertain him, as she was bound to do, considering that the king had rendered such good service in raising the siege of the castle by the Scots which had placed her in considerable danger, besides which, the king was naturally her liege-lord. At the commencement of the game the king, desirous that something of his should be left with the countess, laughingly demanded, "Lady, what wish you to play for?" To which she answered, "Sire, and what do you?" Then the king put down a very beautiful ring with a large ruby which he wore on his finger, but the countess protested, saying, "Sire, sire, I have no ring as splendid as yours is." "Lady," replied the king, "stake whatever ring you have. I do not attach so much importance to its value." So to oblige him the countess drew from her finger a little gold ring that was not worth much, and they began the game. The lady played as well as she could in order that the king should not think her stupid or ignorant, but the king played badly with intention.

¹⁰² See *Chroniques de Sire Jean Froissart* par J.C. Buchon, Paris, 1837, pp. xxxix, xlvi.

¹⁰³ Laurence Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, 1339-1375.



Between every move the king stared at her so much that the countess felt quite ashamed and lost several pieces in consequence of her moves, but when the king saw that she had lost a castle, a knight, or anything else, he lost one too in order to help her play. The result was that the king was checkmated and lost the game. Hereupon, as the king seemed desirous of leaving, the lady rose and ordered some wine and spices. Putting her own ring on her finger, she pressed the king to take his back, saying, "Sire, it is not right that in my own house I should have anything of yours, you should rather take something of mine." "Lady," rejoined the king, "it is all settled, according to the game, and if I had won you may be sure that I should have worn your ring." The lady did not then wish to press the king further, but going to one of her damsels, entrusted her with his ring, saying, "When you see that the king has taken leave of me and is about to get on horseback go up to him and return him his ring with good grace, saying that I nowise wish to keep it, for it would not be right to do so." And the damsel promised willingly to do so. At this point the spices and wines were brought in, but the king would take nothing before the countess, nor the countess before the king, and there was a loud altercation between them. At last, to save time, it was agreed that they should take what they wanted both together at the same time. This done, and the king's knights having all drunk, the king took leave of the countess and said to her in a loud voice so as to avoid all suspicion, "Lady, you remain here in your castle, and I shall go in pursuit of my enemies." The countess at these words bowed low before the king, and he, openly enough, took her right hand and pressed it a little, and this he did very earnestly, as a sign of affection. And seeing that the knights and damsels were occupied in taking farewell of one another, the king came up again to say only two words to her. "My dear lady, may God keep you till my return! and may you then be of a different mind towards me." "Dear lord," replied the countess, "may the glorious Father direct you and free you from any wicked and dishonourable thought, for I am and always shall be willing and ready to serve you to your own honour and to mine own." On this the king left the chamber, as did the lady, who accompanied him as far as the hall where his palfrey was. The king declared that he would not mount while the countess was present, so,

to save time, she took leave all round this time of the king and of his knights, and returned to her chambers with her damsels. Then when the king was about to mount, the damsel who had been instructed by the countess came to him and knelt down. On seeing this the king got quickly up and thought that she wished to speak of some different matter than what she did. "My lord," said she, "here is your ring that my mistress returns and humbly begs that you will not think it rude that she does not wish it to remain with her here. You have done so much for her in other ways that she is bound, she says, to be your servant always." The king; who listened to the damsel and saw his ring which she held, and heard the wishes and excuses of the countess, was quite amazed. Nevertheless, being quite resolved to have his way, and that the ring should remain there as he had determined, he answered briefly (for there was no occasion for a long speech), "Damsel, as your mistress does not care for the trifle she has won from me, it remains yours." After saying this, he mounted at once and rode out of the castle and immediately joined his knights. He found the earl of Pembroke waiting for him with fully five hundred lances, and they set off together to overtake the army.¹⁰⁴ The

¹⁰⁴ 'Après disner on leva les tables : si envoya li roys monseigneur Renaut de Gobehe et monseigneur Richart de Stanfort à l'ost et as compagnons qui desoubz le castiel estoient logiet, savoir comment il le faisoient, et qu'il fuissent appareillet, car il volloit cevaucier encorres outre et sieuwir les Escos, et que on fesisit tout le charoy et tous le harnas exploiter devant, et que dou soir il seroit avoecq yaux, et ordonna le conte de Pennebruch à faire l'arrière-garde atout V^c lanches, et que chil l'atendesissent sus les camps tant qu'il venroit, et tout li demourant chevauchaissent avant. Li doy baron fissent tout ce qu'il commanda, et il demoura encorres ens ou castiel de Sallebrin dallés la dame, et espéroit bien ainschois son département que il aroit de la dame respouce plus agréable qu'il n'avoit eue. Si demanda les eschès, et la dame li fist aporter. Adont pria li roys à la dame que elle volsist jeuer à lui, et la dame li acorda liement, qui li faisoit toutte le bonne chièrre que elle pooit, et bien estoit tenue dou faire; car li roys li avoit fait ung biau serviche de lever le siège de Escos de devant son castel, dont elle estoit en grant péril, et se li devoit le dame faire, pour tant que li roys estoit ses droits naturels sires de foi et hommaige. A l'entrée dou jeu des escès, li roys, qui volloit que aucune cose demourast dou sien à la dame, l'assailli en riant : 'Dame, que vous plaist-il à mettre au jeu?' Et la dame li répondi : 'Sire, et vous ossi?' Adont mist li roys avant ung très-bel aniel qu'il portoit en son doi à ung gros rubi sus le tablier. Lors dist la dame : 'Sire, sire, je n'ay nul aniel si riche comme li vostre est.'—'Dame, dist li roys, tel que vous l' avés, metés-le avant. Je n'y preng pas de si priés garde.' Adont la contesse, pour accomplir la volenté du ray, traist hors d'un doy ung anelet d' or qui n'estoit pas de grant vaille. Si jeuèrent as escès ensamble, la dame à son avis au mieux que elle pooit, affin que li roys ne le tenist pour trop simple et ygnorans, et li roys se faindoit, car pas ne jeuoit dou mieux qu'il s'avoit; et à paine y avoit nulle espasse de tires, que il ne regardast la dame si fort que elle en estoit toutte honteuse et s'en fourfaisoit bien en traitant, et

damsel, of whom you have heard tell, went back to her mistress, and, telling her the king's answer, wished to restore the gold ring the king lost at chess. The countess, however, would not accept it,

quant li roys veoit qu'elle estoit fourfaite d'un rock, d'un chevalier ou de quoy que fuist, il se fourfaisoit ossi pour remettre le dame en son jeu. Tant jeuerent que li roys le perdi, et fu mas d'un aufui. Adont se leva la dame et demanda le vin et les épisses, car li roys par samblant volloit partir, et prist la dame son aniel et le mist en son doy, et volsist trop bien que li roys eüst repris le sien, et li aussi offri et dist : 'Sire, il n'aperteint pas qu'en mon hostel jou aie riens del vostre, ainchois en deveriés porter dou mien.'—'Dame, dit li roys, si fait, car li jeus le porte ensi, et se je l'euisse gaigniet, tenés véritablement que jou euisse porté le vostre.' La dame ne vot adont plus presser le roy, mès s'en vint à une sienne damoiselle et li bailla l'aniel et li dist : 'Quant vous verrés jà que li roys sera parti de céens et qu'il ara pris congiet de moy et qu'il devra monter à cheval, si vous avanchiés et li rendés tout bellement son aniel, et li dittes que nullement je ne le veoil détenir, car point n'aperteint.' Et la damoiselle li respondi que elle le feroit volontiers. A ces mos vinrent espisses et vins, et n'en vot oncques prendre li roys devant la dame, ne la dame ossi devant lui, et y eut grant estrif tout en reviel. Finablement, il fu acórdé que il prisent tout doy ensamble, ossitost li ungs comme l'autre, pour cause de brieffté. Après ce fait et que li chevalier le roy eurent tout beu, li roys prist congiet à la dame et li dist tout haut, affin que nuls n'y penssast : 'Dame, vous demoures en vostre hostel, et je m'en irai sieuwir mes ennemis.' La dame, à ces mos, s'enclina bien bas devant le roy, et li roys moult apertement le prist par le main droite et li estraindi ung petit, et ce li fist trop grant bien, en signe d'amour, et regarda li roys que chevaliers et damoiselles s'ensonnoient de prendre congiet l'un à l'autre : si s'avança encorres de dire deux mos tant seullement : 'Ma chière dame, que Dieu vous commande jusques au revenir ! Si vous pri que vous vos voeilliés aviser et autrement estre conseillie que vous ne me aies dit.'—'Chiers sires,' respondi la dame, 'li Péres glorieux vous voeille conduire et oster de villainne pensée et deshonnorable, car je sui et seray toudis conseillie et appareillie de vous servir à vostre honneur et à la mienne.' A tant se parti li roys de le cambre, et la dame ossi, qui là convoyà jusqu'en la salle où sen pallefroi estoit. Se dist li roys que il ne monteroit point à cheval tant que la dame fust là, sique pour couse de brieffté la comtesse prist congiet de tous poins pour ceste fois au roys et à ses chevaliers, et entra en ses cambres avoecq ses damoiselles. Ensi que li roys devoit monter, la damoiselle qui estoit enfourmée de sa dame, s'en vint au roy et s'engenouilla, et quant li roys le vit, il se leva moult tost et quida que elle volsist parler d'autre matère que elle ne fist. Ce li dist : 'Monseigneur, vechy vostre aniel que madame vous renvoie et vous prie humblement que vous ne le voeilliés tenir à villonnie, que point ne voet qu'il demeure ci par deviers elle. Vous li avés fait tant en autres mannières que elle est tenue, ce dist, à toujours d'estre vostre serve.' Li roys qui oy la damoiselle et veoit son aniel qu'elle tenoit, et oit la vollenté et l'escusanche de la contesse, fu tous estonnés. Nonpourquant, comme tout conseilliet à son gré et affin que li aniaux demourast laiens, ensi que en soy-meysmes ordonné avoit, respondi briefment (car pas n'y afféroit longe parole), et dist : 'Damoiselle, puisqu'il ne plaist à vostre dame li gaains petis que elle a fait à moy, il vous demeure.' Après che parlet, il monta tautost et se parti et yssi hors dou castiel, et se mist sour les camps avoecq ses chevaliers, et trouva le conte de Pennebrucq qui l'atendoit à bien V^e lanches. Adont se partirent-il tout ensamble et sieuwirent l'ost ; et la damoiselle dont vous avés oy, revint à sa dame et ly recorda la respouee dou roy, et li vot rendre l'aniel d'or que li roys avoit perdu as escès, mais la dame ne le volt prendre ; ains dist que elle n'y clammoit riens et que li roys lui avoit donnet et si en fesist son prouffit. Enssi demoura li aniaux dou roy à la damoiselle.—Froissart, *Chroniques* (Amiens MS.), ed. Kervyn de Lettenhove, Brussels, 1867, vol. iii. pp. 457-461.

as she said she had no claim to it, while as the king had given it to the damsel she might have the benefit of it. Thus the king's ring remained with the damsel.'

It is extremely annoying that the unique MS. of the *Scalacronica*, to which we might reasonably look for some side-light, is defective at this very juncture,¹⁰⁵ and we have only Leland's abstract of its contents, which certainly bears out Froissart's incidental mention of the heavy rains and his account of the effect the rebuff to his gallantry at Wark had on Edward's spirits:—'The wynter after the sege of Turnay king Edward went to Melros, and rode thorough part of the forest of Etrik in a very il season, and cam to Melrose agayne, wher Henry erle of Darby, sunne and heyre to Henry counte of Lancastre, justid with Wylliam Douglas by covenaut yn the kinges syte. The king Edward taking a trews departid from Melros half in a melancholy with them that movid hym to that yornay.'¹⁰⁶

The most ample testimony to the general veracity of Froissart's account of the reception of Edward by the Countess of Salisbury at Wark, is, however, afforded by the fact that Jehan le Bel, a chronicler hostile to that king's reputation, after unhesitatingly relating this story in the same words, makes Edward return to Wark in about September, 1342, under pretence of inspecting the border fortresses, and take the foulest advantage of the unprotected countess.¹⁰⁷ The whole details

¹⁰⁵ *Scalacronica*, Maitland Club Publ. p. xxxvi n.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.* p. 229. Cf. 'Hoc anno (1341) circa Adventum Domini, audito rumore quod David le Bruys, qui diutinam moram traxit in Franciæ partibus, consensu Philippi de Valoys rediret in Scotiam cum multitudine armorum, et teneret ibi Natale prope marchiam Angliæ, rex Angliæ cum comite Derbeyæ, et aliis armatis paucis, se transtulit versus Scotiam, et audito quod David le Bruys voluit tenere Natale apud Menros, rex præveniens tenuit suum Natale ibidem, et per nuncios obtulit se paratum pugnare cum Scotis; sed ipsi noluerunt pugnam aliquam expectare, sed ultra mare Scotiæ latitarunt. Rex tamen et sui quæsierunt habere facere cum eisdem, et, quærendo, magnas hyemales angustias tolerarunt; multasque prædas ceperunt, et patriam vastarunt ubique. Sed quidam a suis et nostris, pauci a casu fortuito ceciderunt. Et finaliter fuit inita una treuga usque ad festum Pentecostes.'—*Adami Murimuthensis Chronica*, ed. Thos. Hog. 1846, p. 131.

¹⁰⁷ 'Aprez ce qu'il eut envoyé le vaillant conte de Salbry en Bretagne, mary de la bonne dame aveques messire Robert d'Artoys, il ne se pœut tenir qu'il n'alast veoir la vallant dame en faisant semblant qu'il alast visiter sou pays et les fortresses, et s'embasti ès marches où le chastel de Salbry estoit, et là où la dame demouroit &c. &c. Aprez ce tantost avint que le noble roy ala en Bretagne pour secourir ses gens qu'il y avoit mandé . . . eut puis s'en revint en Angleterre avecques le conte de Salbry aussy.'—*Jehan le Bel, Chroniques*, ed. M. L. Polain, Brussels, 1863, ii. pp. 30-31. Salisbury embarked with Robert of Artois for Brittany in August, 1342; Edward III. followed early in October, and during the interval resided almost continuously at Eastry in Kent.—Froissart, ed Kervyn de Lettenhove, iv. p. 459.

of this calumny are so utterly at variance with known facts that it is not necessary to again refute it.¹⁰⁸ It is only worthy of notice that even Jehan le Bel throws not the least aspersion on the noble character of the countess. The important point is that Froissart himself, in the Amiens MS. expressly denies the truth of Jehan le Bel's scandalous story, and states that in the whole course of his own connection with the English court he never heard any rumour of the sort.¹⁰⁹ It is certain, then, that the circumstances of Edward's reception at Wark, in December, 1341, were made the subjects of critical examination while contemporary witnesses were yet alive. That the romantic relief of Wark was a favourite topic for court gossip is more than probable, and in the tournaments that Edward subsequently gave in honour of the countess, and to which the origin of the Order of the Garter is referred, he may, under the circumstances, very properly have adopted the device HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

¹⁰⁸ See *ibid.* iv. pp. 458-460.

¹⁰⁹ 'Vous avés bien chy-dessus oy parler comment li roys englès fu enamourés de la contesse de Sallebrin; toutes-fois, les cronikes monseigneur Jehan le Bel parollent de ceste amour plus avant et mains convignablement que je ne doie faire; car, se il plaist à Dieu, je ne pense ja à encoupper le roy d'Engleterre, ne le contesse de Sallebrin, de nul villain reproche; et pour continuer l'istioire et ouvrir le vérité de le matière, par quoy toutes bonnes gens en soient apaisiet et sachent pourquoy j'en parolle et ramentoy maintenant ceste amour, voirs est que messires Jehans li Biaux maintient par ses cronikes qui li roys englès assés villainnement usa de ceste dame et en eult, ce dist, ses vollentés sicomme par force: dont je vous di, se vieux m'ait, que j'ai moult repariet et conversé en Engleterre en l'ostel dou roy principalement, et des grans seigneurs de celui pays, mès oncques je n'en oy parler en nul villain cas; si en ai-je demandé as pluisseurs qui bien le sceuissent se riens en euist esté. Ossi je ne poroie croire (et il ne fait mies à croire) que ungs si haux et vaillans hommes que li roys d'Engleterre est et a esté, se daignast ensonner de déshonneurer une sienne noble dame et un sien chevalier qui si loyaument li servoit et servir toute se vie.—*Ibid.* p. 273.