

# ***Bonnie Prince Charlie***

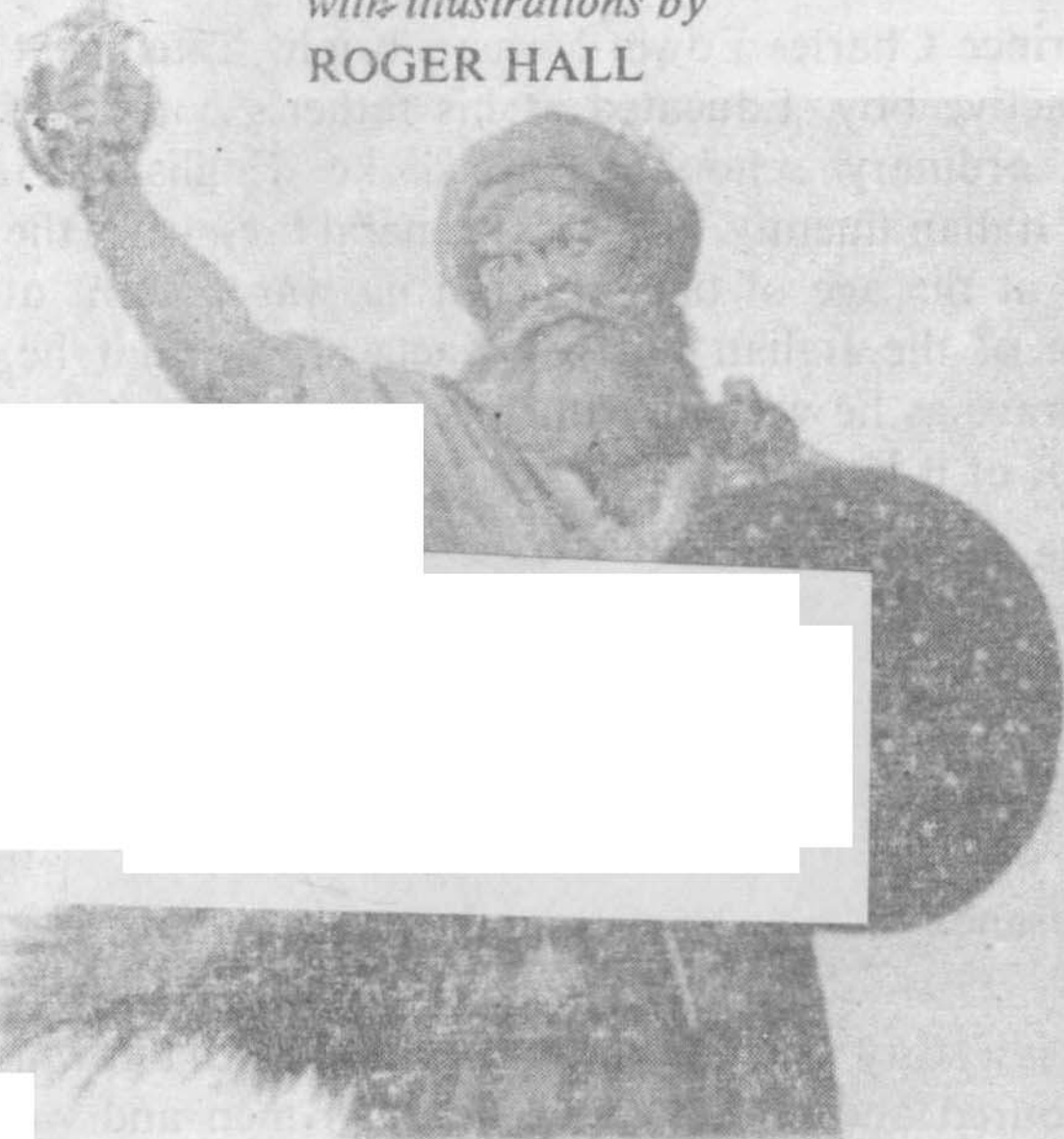
by L DU GARDE PEACH OBE MA PhD DLitt



# Bonnie Prince Charlie

by L. DU GARDE PEACH,  
O.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt.

*with illustrations by*  
ROGER HALL



Ladybird Books Ltd Loughborough

A Ladybird Book  
Series 301



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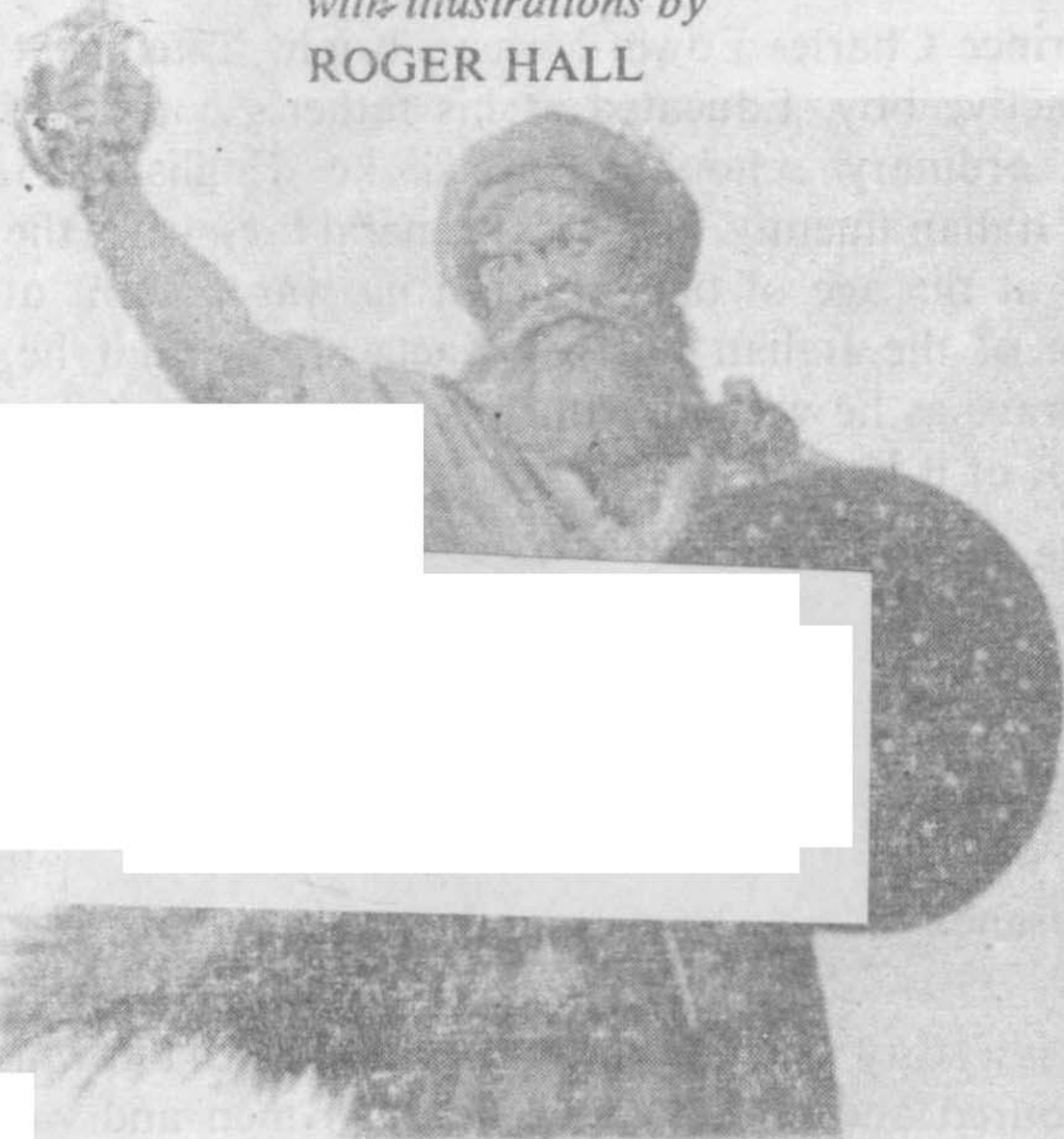
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## BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

Bonnie Prince Charlie or, to give him his full name, Charles Edward Louis Philippe Casimir Stuart, was born in Rome a few days after Christmas, 1720. Known as the 'Young Pretender', he was considered by the followers of his grandfather, the exiled King James II, as the rightful heir to the united thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland. His father had been the 'Old Pretender', which meant that each of them had pretences or rights to the crown. When Prince Charles Edward was born in 1720, the Hanoverian, George the First, who spoke only a few words of English, was on the throne.

Prince Charles Edward was a bright, intelligent and attractive boy. Educated at his father's court without any ordinary schooling, he spoke English, French and Italian fluently. He was a general favourite; the fact that at the age of only thirteen he was present at the siege of the Italian port of Gaeta shows that he was as brave as he was adventurous. He was to give ample proof of it later.

He did more. He brought trouble to Scotland for generations to come, but at the same time inspired the Scottish nation. The story of what is known as the 'Forty-Five' is one of heroism, loyalty, patriotism, and the devotion of a people as poor as any in Europe. Any one of them could have claimed a reward of thirty thousand pounds for betraying their young Prince. None did.

It is a story which is no credit to England, but which is honoured and cherished by Scottish men and women the world over.







The Stuarts had been Kings of Scotland for centuries before James VI of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth I in 1603 as James I of England. In other 'Ladybird' Books in this series the somewhat complicated and confused history may be read of why a Scottish Stuart King should become the Ruler of Scotland's enemy. Queen Anne, the great-grand-daughter of James I of England, was in effect the last English monarch of the House of Stuart in the direct line. She was followed by George of Hanover, a German, whose grandmother, a daughter of James I, was his only link with the Stuarts. It was a distant and feeble link, and the Scottish patriots refused to recognise him at all.

James II, exiled from England in 1689, died in France in 1701, and an attempt by a party of patriotic Jacobites to crown his son in London as James III so provoked the citizens that those taking part had to flee for their lives. The people of London had not forgotten James II.

The Scots, like so many nations inhabiting bleak mountainous country where life is harsh, were a warlike people at that time, determined, hardy, able to withstand extremes of heat and cold, and utterly without fear. In Stuart times, too, they were desperately poor. Intensely proud and owing allegiance to their Clan Chieftains to the death, they hated the alien rule of England.

Such a people are apt to be fiercely revengeful. Feuds between one Clan and another are kept alive for generations, and to this day there are Highland Clansmen who refuse to have anything to do with a member of the Clan Campbell. The reason for this, as we shall find, goes back to the 'Forty-Five'.





In 1745 such firearms as the Clansmen possessed were mostly old and much inferior in range to those of regular troops. But where every man depended upon himself for his own protection, they were skilled in their use, and made up for what they lacked in effective fire-power and discipline by reckless courage.

There had already been three attempts at throwing off the English domination. All had failed. The first was in 1708 when some French ships sailed from Dunkirk with a French force of 5,000 men, reached the Firth of Forth, and returned. The expedition had been very badly organised, and to add to other misfortunes, James became ill just as the ships were about to sail. Of all the things to delay an invasion, it was a case of measles.

The second attempt, in 1715, was equally unsuccessful, although it seemed for a while to promise well. The revolt was started by the Earl of Mar in Scotland and by an English Jacobite, the Earl of Derwentwater, in England. The Old Pretender landed at Peterhead in December, having been proclaimed earlier at Braemar as James VIII of Scotland and James III of England. Marching south some eighty miles to Scone, he hesitated. The Highlanders, hearing of the approach of a force under the Earl of Argyle, and disheartened by the indecisive result of a battle in November at Sheriffmuir, vanished into the mountains. James returned to France accompanied by the Earl of Mar, having achieved nothing.

Two years later, a Spanish naval expedition organised by the statesman Aberoni was scattered by a storm. Only two battered frigates reached the Hebridean Isle of Lewis.





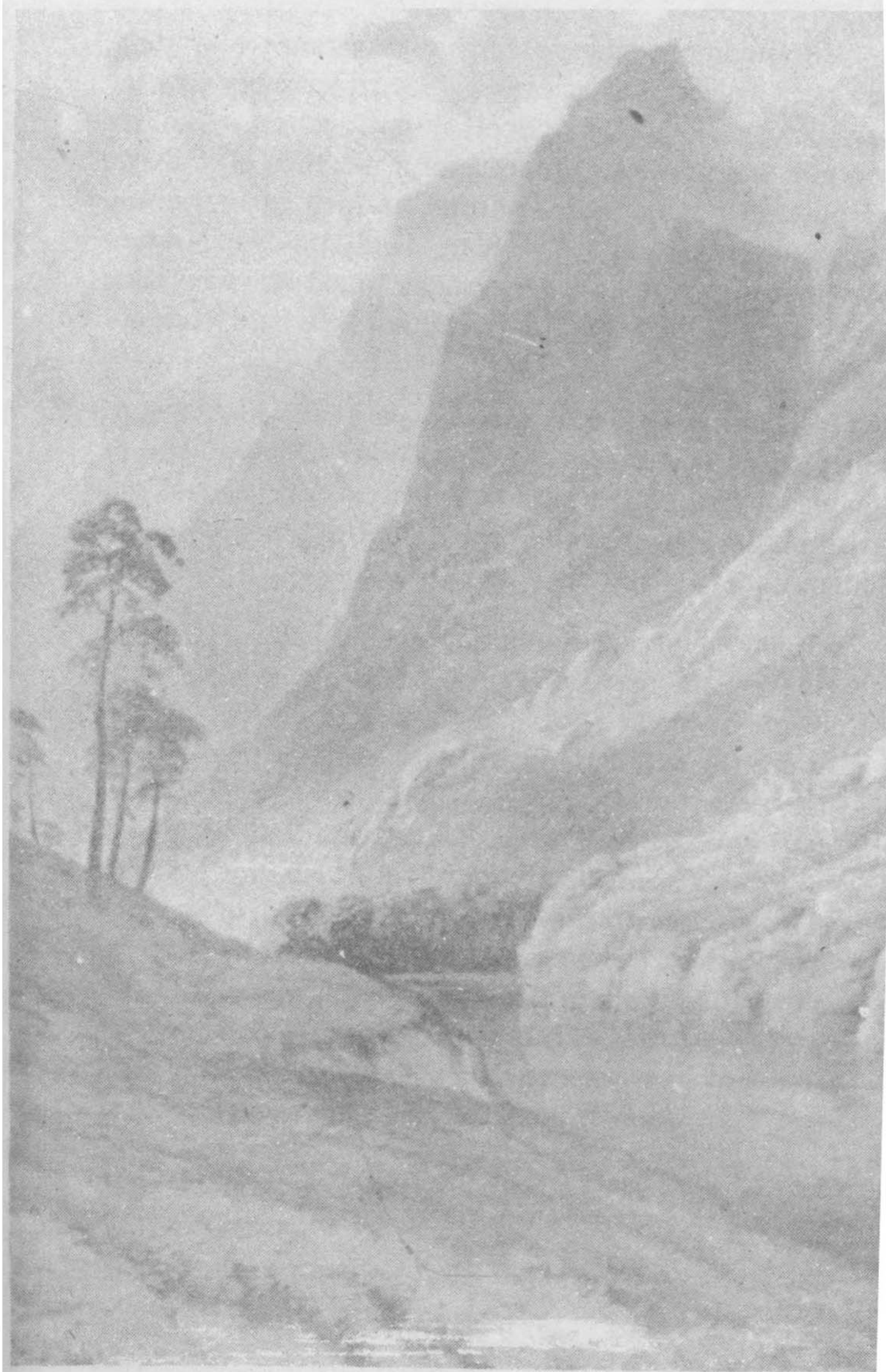
In the year following the dispersal of the Spanish fleet, Prince Charles Edward was born in Rome, the son of James and the Polish Princess Clementina Sobieski, whom James had married the year before. Prince Charles was acclaimed by the Scottish Jacobites as the Prince of Wales, but never recognised as such by the English.

This is the romantic story of his invasion of England which was the fourth and last attempt by Scottish patriots to liberate their country from alien rule.

Today Scotland is visited every year by thousands of English holiday-makers. New and efficient roads, bus-services, bridges replacing old ferries, aerodromes and caravan sites, together with new hotels and accommodation for all kinds of sport from ski-ing to mountaineering, have opened up a country which even at the beginning of the present century was almost as wild as when the Clans marched south in 1745.

Many romances have been written round the history of the '45; many of them are nothing more than romantic legends. There are however two which, written by Scotsmen, give a vivid picture of the country from which the Clans came, and in which bewildered English soldiers sought hopelessly for Bonnie Prince Charlie. Almost every grim faced Highlander they met on the mountain tracks knew where he was; the English never did, until it was too late.

*Waverley* by Sir Walter Scott, and *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson are familiar to many Scotsmen: English boys and girls who do not know the Scottish Highlands should read them if they wish to know the sort of country for which Scotsmen fought and died. *The Burning Cresset* by Howard Pease gives a good picture of the earlier rising of 1715.





Although brought up largely in France and Italy, Prince Charles Edward lived in a court fervently devoted to the cause of Jacobite Scottish nationalism. He never forgot that he was a Stuart, and a member of a Royal House. Romantic, adventurous, trained in arms, and encouraged by a French King ready to help anyone to harm England, he was determined to win back Scotland for the Scots. He wrote that he would 'conquer or die'.

In 1744 he was twenty-four, an age at which any young man of spirit is eager for action. When a crown is to be gained by success, the inducement to take almost any risk becomes irresistible. Prince Charles Edward had no intention of resisting it.

Money, ships, arms, ammunition, and above all, men: these were the needs of Prince Charles before he could think of invasion. Not that he was doubtful. He was ready to sail to Scotland with, as he said, only his personal servant to accompany him. Between them they would raise the Lion Flag of Scotland, and every Scot would rally to his call. He had good reason for thinking so. There were many thousands of Scots, both in Scotland and in England, who drank the King's health every day and they did not mean King George! Because it was high treason even to name King James, they passed their glasses over a bowl of water as they gave the toast of 'The King!' They were drinking to 'The King over the water!'

To this day there are to be found in many Scottish mansions wine-glasses inscribed with the Stuart crest; many a Scot risked his life by using them.





Unfortunately for the high hopes of Prince Charles Edward, many Scots were ready to drink a romantic toast to the exiled King 'over the water', but thought twice when it came to open rebellion. King George was nearer than King James in France. To the Lowlanders just north of the Border, he was much nearer than to the Highlanders in the remote mountainous regions of the north.

The Highlanders were for the most part descendants of Gaelic tribes. They were always ready to fight, because fighting meant plunder. The Celtic inhabitants of the Lowlands, more civilised and more given to trade, looked on the wild Highlanders as little better than brigands, and were reluctant to join any enterprise in which they were concerned. They feared that whatever happened, they would come off second best and they were probably right.

Prince Charles was to experience another disappointment. France was at war with England, and a French invasion had been planned to take place at the same time as the Scots' rising. The Prince had established a base at Gravelines, near Calais, and a French fleet was ready to sail with 7,000 troops commanded by the famous French Marshal, Saxe. The number of troops varies according to different accounts; there may have been double that number. However many there were, they were considerably discouraged by the appearance of a squadron of British warships; the French soldiers may not have been sorry when violent storms at sea caused the invasion to be cancelled!

The French troops disembarked and marched away and that was the end of the French help promised by Louis.