

Wha for Scotland's King an Law?

WHIT is it about Stirling? Thon's a place that's aye been at the hert o this country's struggle an fecht for freedom an independence. A body juist haes tae think o Stirling Brig or the nearhaun Bannockburn tae mind agane the passion, pride an courage oor forebeirs shawed in aw thair eydent determination tae redd thirsels o foreign thirldom an conserve thair ain king, law an cultur for aw the generations tae come. When the Bruce, in clear sicht o Stirling castle afore the Battle o Bannockburn, speirt his men gin they wad tak the ure or no, the country roond aboot dirlt tae the mighty **"AY!"** that roared frae ilka mooth.

"AY!" wis the repone the King o Scots wis maist pleisured tae hear thon day but 688 year on, in Stirling Sheriff Coort, athin sicht o thae bluid stained fields o Bannockburn, it wis a word that scunnert Sheriff Lindsay Wood that muckle, he daured an accused laddie frae uisin it in **HIS** coort an gart him tae say "yes" insteid. Sic a muckle creenge tae grip a body that comes frae Arbroath, hame o its kenspeckle Declaration o 1320. Cuid he be ane o thon Parcel o Rogues in a nation that Burns gauns on aboot? Wha daes he think he is that he shuid, like the linguistic cockapentie that he is, gie oot that his language is superior tae that o a king or tae that o ane o the descendants thon king focht for?

**See thon birkie ca'd a sheriff?
Canna thole "ay's" an aw that,
Tho hunners trummle at his word,
He's but a coof for aw that.
For aw that an aw that;
"HIS" Sheriff Coort an aw that;
The man o independent mind
He taks the boaks at aw that.**

The Scots law that wis hained thon day at Bannockburn for future generations tae uise, live bi an hae applied tae thaim in the coorts bi the likes o Sheriff Wood, is enshrined in the Scots language. Sae whit words daes this sheriff uise tae evite uisin legal terms frae the same language as "ay" sic as Hamesucken, Depute, Poinding or Fiscal? Is onie o thae words onie less ugsome tae a cockapentie lug nor "ay"? A body cuid be forgien for wunnerin whit wad hiv kythed thon day gin the accused in the coort haed been a French tourist that haed answeirt **"Oui"** insteid o a hamelt Scots laddie thinkin in the same language that Scots law wis foondit on.

Gin Sheriff Wood canna thole the biggest vernacular language in the country he bides in, aiblins it micht be time for him tae flit tae anither airt whaur the words that comes frae awbodie's mooths fits in mair wi the sensitivities o his lugs. London wad be nae guid for the Wastminster pairlament wad gie him the boaks wi its "ayes" an "noes" efter ilka division an RN centres aroond Portsmouth wad be juist as bad but wi sic a reputation that he's gotten for hessel, he shuidna hae onie bother gittin sortit oot wi a job at Nottingham. Ay, **Sheriff o Nottingham**; he micht fit intae that job fine.

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