

Rule Britannia, Britannia waives the rules...

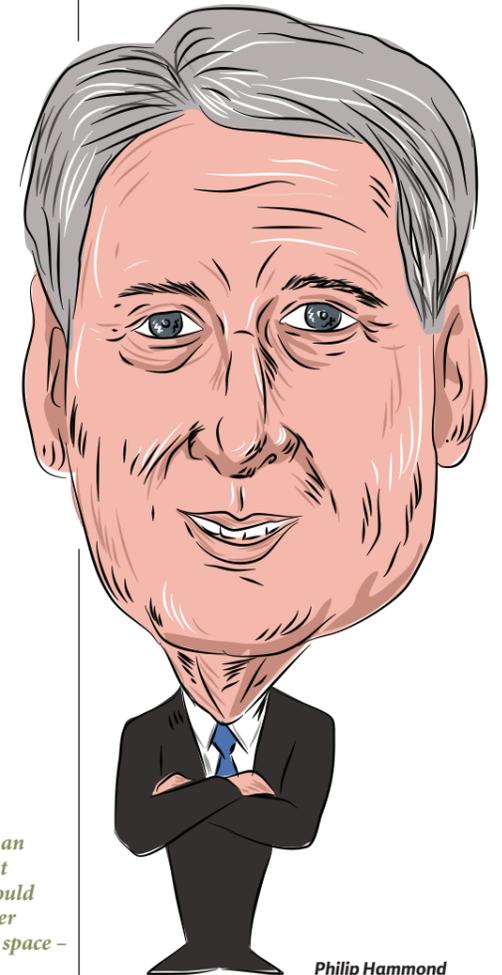


by Gordon
Craigie

AS WE ALL know, jolly old Great Britain™ has warm and cuddly ex-pat communities all over the world while citizens of other nations reciprocally living in the UK are less warm and cuddly and are, more threateningly, designated as immigrants or aliens. It seems that this British Nationalist obsession with aliens is a recurring theme – were we not warned, prior to our 2014 Independence Referendum, that an independent Scotland would be at greater risk of being invaded by those other aliens, the little green monster extra-terrestrial types? (Strange but true, courtesy of the then UK Defence Secretary, and recently resigned Chancellor, Philip Hammond, when he claimed an independent Scotland would face a greater threat from space – get a grip!) But, if we look even further back, to the early 1700s, it was us rebellious Scots who were threatened with *actually becoming* aliens simply to suit the purposes of our superior English needs...

It's a complicated era of our history, but the root causes of many of the events in the early 1700s can be traced back to the religious, military and royal shenanigans of the 1500s, culminating in the Union of the Crowns in 1603. James the VI and I had initially favoured uniting the parliaments of Scotland and England too, but this found no great support on either side of the border. However, it was when his son, Charles I, acceded to the throne in 1625 that the relationship between Scotland and England began to get even more confused than it had previously been. Charles, (incidentally, the last British monarch to be born in Scotland), wasn't very popular in England due to his disregard for their parliament – between 1629 and 1640 he ruled England without one! – and his ambivalent attitude to Catholicism (he married a Catholic) in the face of the English Reformation. When he began to try and influence religious affairs in Scotland too this was violently resisted, forcing Charles to send his army North to 'sort out' the Scots. A Scottish army firstly repelled Charles' troops at Berwick in 1639, in the so-called Bishops War. Then, when he came back for another go the following year, his efforts were eventually ended when the Scottish army was victorious at the Battle of Newburn and captured Newcastle and the county of Durham, whereupon Charles decided maybe he'd best leave Scottish religious matters to the Scots. The subsequent Treaty of Ripon decreed that Charles would recompense the Scots at the rate of £850 for each day

they occupied Newcastle and Durham – that's worth around £150,000 in today's money. Per day! I did mention this was all complicated – and, as always with exposés of Establishment skulduggery, it's important to 'follow the money'...



He claimed an independent Scotland would face a greater threat from space – get a grip!

Philip Hammond

A N A C T

For the Effectual Securing the Kingdom of England from the apparent Dangers that may arise from several Acts lately passed in the Parliament of Scotland.

FOR preventing the many Inconveniences which may speedily happen to the two Kingdoms of England and Scotland, if a nearer and more compleat Union be not made between the said Kingdoms, Be it Enacted by the QUEEN'S most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Commons, in this present Parliament Assembled; and by the Authority of the same, That such Persons as shall be nominated by Her MAJESTY, under Her Great Seal of England, or such, and so many of them as shall, in that Behalf, be appointed by Her MAJESTY, to be of the Quorum, shall, by Force of this Act, have full Power, Commission, and Authority at such Time and Times, and in such Place and Places, as Her MAJESTY shall please to appoint to assemble and meet; and thereupon to treat and consult according to the Tenor and Purport of their Authority or Commission in that Behalf, with certain Commissioners, as shall be authorized by Authority of the Parliament of Scotland, of, and concerning such an Union of the said Kingdoms of England and Scotland, and of, and concerning such other Matters, Clauses, and Things, as upon mature Deliberation of the greatest part of the said Commissioners Assembled, as aforesaid, and the Commissioners to be authorized by the Parliament of Scotland, according to the Tenor or Purport of their Commissions in that Behalf, shall, in their Wifdoms, think convenient and necessary for the Honour of Her MAJESTY, and the common Good of both the said Kingdoms for ever, which Commissioners of both the said Kingdoms, shall, according to the Tenor or Purport of their said Authorities or Commissions in that Behalf, reduce their Doings and Proceedings therein in Writings or Instruments Quadrapartite, every Part to be subscribed and sealed by them, to the end that one Part thereof may, in all Humbleness be presented to the QUEEN'S most Excellent MAJESTY, two other Parts thereof to be offered to the Consideration of the Parliament for the Realm of England, and another Part to be offered to the Consideration of the Parliament for the Realm of Scotland, at their next Sessions, which shall be held in each Kingdom respectively, after such Writings or Instruments shall be subscribed and sealed by the said Commissioners, that thereupon such further Proceedings may be had, as by Her MAJESTY, and both the said Parliaments, shall be thought fit and necessary for the Weal and common Good of both the said Kingdoms, to whom the entire Consideration of the whole and the Allowing or Disallowing of any Part thereof, as they shall think fit, is wholly reserved. Provided always and be it further Enacted and declared, That no such Commission or Authority as aforesaid, shall be granted until an Act of Parliament shall be made in the Kingdom of Scotland, empowering Her MAJESTY to grant a Commission under the Great Seal of that Kingdom, nominating Commissioners to treat concerning the Union of the two Kingdoms. Provided also and be it further Enacted and declared, That no Matter or Thing to be treated of, agreed or proposed by the said Commissioners, by Virtue of this Act, shall have any Force or Effect to be put in Exemption, until it be confirmed and established by Act of Parliament of England. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the 25 Day of December 1705, no Person or Persons being a Native or Natives of the Kingdom of Scotland, (except such as are now settled Inhabitants within the Kingdom of England, or the Dominions thereunto belonging, and shall continue Inhabitants thereof, and such as are now in Service in her MAJESTY'S Fleet or Army) shall be capable to inherit any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within this Kingdom of England, or the Dominions thereunto belonging, or to enjoy any Benefit or Advantage of a natural-born Subject of England: But every such Person shall be, from thenceforth, adjudged and taken as an Alien born out of



King James VI and I



King Charles I



King Charles II

Anyway, Charles' uneasy relationship with Scotland was nothing compared to his relationship with the English Parliament which would eventually result in the English Civil War. Led by Oliver Cromwell, the 'New Model Army' was formed by English parliamentarians in order to defeat their royalist opposition and remove Charles from power. As with most dictators, Cromwell appears to have exceeded his remit by spilling the English Civil War over into Scotland in 1650 because the Scots had the audacity to name Charles' son, Charles II, as King after the English had executed his father – Cromwell had effectively abolished the monarchy in England and declared 'The Commonwealth of England'. In 1652 the English Parliament unilaterally decided that Scotland would also be part of this Commonwealth – anyone else experiencing déjà vu here? This was never to be formally ratified, though that didn't stop Cromwell from occupying Scotland, forcing Charles into exile, and abolishing the Scottish Parliament. A particularly unsettling 10-year period followed but eventually Scotland returned to normality in 1660 when Charles II was restored to the throne, and the Scottish Parliament was reconvened the following year.

The cross-border political, religious and monarchical machinations continued to rumble on however and, in 1701, in order to ensure that England would never again, under any circumstances, have a Catholic monarch, the English Parliament passed its Act of Settlement. Unsurprisingly, despite the Union of the Crowns agreement being in force for almost a century, they didn't take any heed of Scotland's opposition to this decree. The Scottish Parliament's response was to formulate its own Act of Security, which passed in 1704, asserting Scotland's right to choose its own monarch, irrespective of religion, as Queen Anne's eventual successor. And this is where the effluent appears to have really hit the fan as far as England was concerned!

Historian William Ferguson, writing in *The Scottish Historical Review* in 1964, explains that, on acceding to the throne, Queen Anne (the last of the Stuart monarchs) had devolved the task of looking after 'Scottish affairs' to her English parliamentarians, in particular her Lord Treasurer, Lord Godolphin. Ferguson describes him as, "An able financier but not an outstanding statesman, he knew little of Scotland and cared less ... His one policy for Scotland was to keep it quiet and subservient, and the less troublesome the means the better." Karin Bowie, writing in the same journal some 40 years later cites Ferguson as having "argued that Union was a 'political job' in which the Court used economic incentives, patronage and bribery to secure the passage of the Union treaty in the Scottish Parliament to satisfy English political imperatives". Hmm...

The UK Parliament's official website, www.parliament.uk, records that there were two proposals put before the English Parliament in 1705: "One offered fresh negotiations for a full incorporating union [with Scotland], with a single parliament and unified free trade area. The other, an aliens bill, threatened that unless Scotland agreed to negotiate terms for union and accepted the Hanoverian succession by 25 December 1705, there would be a ban on the import of all Scottish staple products into England. Scots would also lose the privileges of Englishmen under English law - thus endangering rights to any property they held in England." In other words, we could agree peacefully to lose our nationhood and be wholly ruled from London, politically and royally, or we would become alien nationals with no rights to own land in, or to conduct trade within, England. Aye, the old 'carrot and stick' approach to diplomacy. Looks like our southern neighbours' reputation for fair play, love and

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friendship towards Scotland – anyone else remember "Don't leave the Union, lead the Union"? – isn't only a recent phenomenon!

But what really brought about this desire to bring Scotland into the political fold? Why was the complete unification of Britannia deemed to be a good thing for either England or Scotland? As today, the two countries appeared to be entirely, and increasingly, at odds. There was no agreement on religion, no agreement on monarchy, and no agreement on foreign allies. England, outwardly, thought Scotland a poor and impoverished country – despite Scotland having zero national debt in contrast to England's £2.5 billion (in today's money) – and was wary of the military threat afforded by Scotland's Auld Alliance with France, viewing Scotland as a 'rogue nation'. It's only a short hop from describing us as a 'rogue nation' to designating our citizens as 'alien nationals' and the English Parliament seized upon the notion in order to force the Scottish nobility towards accepting a full political and monarchical union with England. As *iScot Magazine* demonstrated last month, in our Darien feature, the Scottish elite of the time gladly took up the opportunity of having their personal Darien losses refunded, and their lands in England retained, in return for Scotland (the country, and all its citizens) assuming a share of that English national debt – it's worth recalling again Rabbie's famous line, "We're bought and sold for English gold, sic a parcel o rogues in a nation"!

Agreements? Treaties? International accords? Rules? These have never applied to Britannia, *jolly old Great Britain™*, and that arrogance and sense of entitlement carries on to the present day. The parallels with Brexit, the British Nationalist response to the second Scottish Independence Referendum triple mandate, and even the Tory leadership fiasco, are uncanny. Today, those who hold differing opinions or nationalities are routinely 'othered' by the British Establishment, just as we Scots were othered and designated as 'aliens' to help enforce a Treaty of Union that the people of Scotland rejected overwhelmingly over 300 years ago. This is precisely the

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Oliver Cromwell

Queen Anne



GO-ALONE SCOTLAND FACES 'THREATS FROM SPACE'

THE pro-Union campaign has already been mocked for warning that 'forces of darkness' would welcome independence.

But Defence Secretary Philip Hammond stunned observers yesterday by declaring that a separate Scotland would be more vulnerable to threats... from space.

The Tory minister did not expand on his comment and a government insider said the nature of such threats was 'classified'.

The bizarre episode will infuriate Better Together campaign leaders who are desperate to present a more 'positive' case for the Union.

Mr Hammond has been responsible for a series of gaffes and only this week said 'everything' would be up for negotiation if the SNP wins September's referendum.

That undermined his party's only MP north of the Border, Scotland

Office Minister David Mundell, who at the weekend said there was 'no deal to be done' over the Trident nuclear missile system.

Mr Hammond said: 'In the past, the threats we faced came only from the sea, from land and, more recently, from the air. Now, they also come from two new domains - space and cyber-space - and from non-state protagonists as well as from nation states.'

Defence experts believe Mr Hammond was referring to cyber attacks on satellites by countries such as China.

An SNP spokesman said: 'First we had [former NATO chief] Lord George Robertson warning of the "forces of darkness", and now we have Philip Hammond predicting attacks from space. The No campaign really is on a different planet.'

kind of history that we were never taught in school, but Bowie writes that, in the lead-up to that Union being 'agreed', "Pro-unionists rejected any suggestion that parliamentary representatives were required to follow the instructions of their constituents", while Ferguson concludes, "it cannot be regarded as a natural consummation or even a triumph for honesty and right reason". Aye, some things never change right enough – now, as then, Britannia waives the rules.