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ABERDEENSHIRE EPITAPHS AND  
INSCRIPTIONS





# ABERDEENSHIRE EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS:

WITH

HISTORICAL, BIOGRAPHICAL, GENEALOGICAL,  
AND ANTIQUARIAN NOTES.

BY

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ETC.



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## PREFACE.

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**F**OR those who take interest in old times and ancient ways of life, in the rise and fall of families that exercise, or have exercised, influence in their time and generation, a vast amount of valuable information is recorded in inscriptions and epitaphs that are rapidly becoming illegible and succumbing to the wearing processes of time. To rescue some of these decaying memorials from a fast approaching oblivion, and to supplement their narratives from manuscripts, chartularies, registers, and other reliable sources, has for long been a keen enjoyment and a pleasing diversion to the writer of this book.

By the kindness of the Directors, Editor, and Manager of the "Aberdeen Daily Journal" he was permitted to present the result of his gleaning and research in a series of articles which appeared week by week in that newspaper from January 6, 1904, to October 10, 1906. This gave an opportunity, which was very courteously embraced, to many readers to communicate additional special information in their possession on matters treated of in these weekly instalments. This information has been carefully embodied in the present work, and it is confidently hoped that it will prove of interest and value.

It is to be observed that many matters and persons of considerable local importance have not been mentioned, either through the exigencies of space or because the facts are readily accessible in other publications.

In dealing with a huge number of persons, dates, and facts, it is impossible to avoid at least occasional inaccuracy, but every care has been taken to reduce it to a minimum.

Although many of the events recorded might supply material for romance or moral reflection, this exercise has been left to those who are minded to engage in it. No attempt has been made at literary embellishment, but what is mostly a matter-of-fact recital has been given in the form deemed appropriate for it. One object has been kept in view—not to give just

cause of offence by retailing irrelevant personal matter, or by the manner of narrating details that are of personal importance. If this has not been successfully accomplished, no one will regret it more than the writer.

Very many names of localities and persons have undergone great changes in spelling at different periods, and, consequently, the attempt has not been made to employ a uniform orthography in referring to them.

For assistance generously given, thanks are gratefully tendered to more Ministers, Schoolmasters, Presbytery and Session Clerks than can be individually named. Special service was rendered by the following:—Rev. John Anderson, curator, Historical Department, H.M. Register House, Edinburgh; Col. The Hon. Robert Boyle, London; Col. James Allardyce, LL.D., of Culquoich; Col. W. Johnston, C.B., of Newton Dee; Captain Douglas Wimberley, Inverness; Mr. Robert Anderson, editor, and Mr. James A. C. Coutts, manager, "Aberdeen Daily Journal"; Mr. John Malcolm Bulloch, London; Mr. P. J. Anderson, Aberdeen University librarian; Mr. David Littlejohn, LL.D., sheriff clerk, Aberdeen; Mr. A. M. Munro, city chamberlain, Aberdeen; Mr. Henry Alexander, editor, "Aberdeen Free Press"; Dr. Cameron, Firhall, Nairn; Mr. A. J. Mitchell-Gill of Auchinroath; Rev. Stephen Ree, Boharm; Canon Wilson, Elgin; Mr. Robert Wilson, Tarty; Mr. John Milne, LL.D., late of King-Edward; Mr. J. F. George, Aberdeen; Mr. F. C. Eeles, secretary, "Alcuin Club"; Mr. James A. Wood, solicitor, Aberdeen; Mr. A. G. Donald, Kemnay; Rev. Dr. Walker, Aberdeen; Rev. James Smith, Aberdeen; Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield; Mr. R. Murdoch-Lawrance, Aberdeen; and Mr. David Scott, librarian, Peterhead.

Rev. William Lawrence, Banchory-Devenick, kindly read all the proof-sheets as they passed through the press, and rendered helpful aid otherwise.

The book is sent forth in the hope that some of the author's pleasure in writing it may be shared by those whom kindred tastes may induce to read it.

J. A. H.



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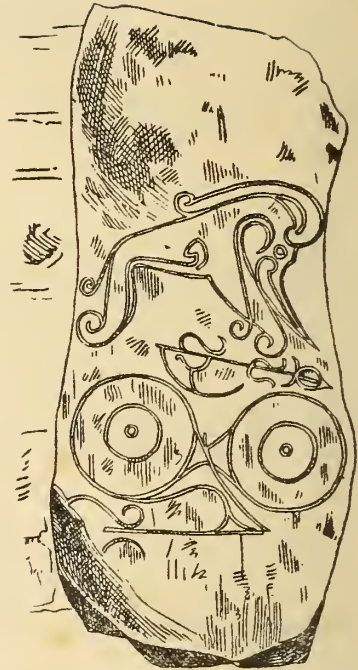
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Sculptured Stones at Dyce.



# EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS

FROM

BURIAL GROUNDS AND OLD BUILDINGS,

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

## Dyce.

THE church of Dyce was dedicated to St Fergus, Bishop and Confessor, whose feast was observed upon 18th November. In ancient records it is called the Chapel of St Fergus, near Moss Foetach. (Statis. Acct.) In the beginning of the thirteenth century it belonged to the Knights Templars, and thereafter formed one of the churches which depended upon Kinkell. In 1649 it was disjoined from Kinkell and declared an independent parish church. (Acts Parl.) In 1663 it was annexed to the Deanery of St Andrews (Ibid.), and in 1696 the vacant stipend was assigned to St Leonard's College. The parish was supplied by Thomas Myll, reader, in 1567, and by Robert Wood, reader, from 1574, the salary being xvi. lib. (Register of Ministers.)

### THE OLD CHURCH.

The roofless church, standing within the old parish graveyard on the right bank of

the Don, where the river takes a wide bend, and at a distance of about two miles from the village of Dyce, is of special interest through being one of the few remaining Scottish pre-Reformation churches. The structure, which is believed to have been built in 1544, is comparatively small, and has walls of about three feet in thickness. Inside the north wall, close to the east end, is a fragment of the old Sacrament House, consisting of a sill 26 inches long,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick, and projecting  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches from the face of the wall. On its exposed front are carved in relief a shield charged with a lion rampant, and scrolls bearing the letters A G, with the date 1544. These letters—(the first is almost illegible)—doubtless stand for Rev. Alexander Galloway, rector of Kinkell, the superior of the charge of Dyce at that date. The structural form of the Sacrament House, as also of the church itself, had, in all likelihood, been after plans by Galloway, who was no less skilful as an architect than eminent as a parson. A skew-put stone on the north side of the

west gable displays a curious representation of the head of a sheep or other animal.

Extensive structural alterations on the church have from time to time been made. Up to about 1780, the roof was of heath, but it was then renewed, and new seating introduced. The edifice continued as the Parish Church down to 10th March, 1872, when a new and larger church, erected almost a mile nearer the village, was opened for public worship. The roof of the old church, which was much decayed, and the seats, doors, and other woodwork were removed in 1892. The outer walls have since been re-harled, and, if rain is not allowed to get down between the stones, the ruin may stand for many years.

The old bell, which is now hung in the belfry of the new church, bears the same founder's name and date as that of the bell in Peterhead graveyard tower, thus:—

SOLI DEO GLORIA,  
MICHAEL BURGERHUYS.  
M.F. 1642.

By the side of the western door stands the ancient font, or holy water stone, which, unfortunately, has got slightly broken.

#### MINISTERS.

Few of the old ministers appear to have died in the parish. At least five were transferred to other charges, Rev. Patrick Seton, M.A., to Auchterless, 1682; Rev. Thomas Ragg, M.A., to Belhelvie, 1745; Rev. Alexander Temple, M.A., to Newhills, 1769; Rev. James Hay, to Elgin, 1779; Rev. William Robinston Pirie, to the Professorship of Divinity in Marischal College, 1843. The last-named afterwards became Principal of the University of Aberdeen.

A flat stone, showing various emblems, including an eagle and two roses, bears a very indistinct Latin inscription, from

which we make out that it had been erected to the memory of Jean Livingstone, spouse of Rev. Gilbert Ramsay, M.A., who died 16th March, 1708. Ramsay, who was a son of Robert Ramsay, merchant, was Ross bursar in 1673, and was elected one of the masters of Aberdeen Grammar School in 1679 ("Scottish Notes and Queries," Vol. XI., p. 39), and in 1682 appointed minister of Dyce. He was deposed in June, 1716, for praying for the Pretender during the rebellion, and died 31st May, 1728. (Scott's Fasti.)

A tablestone bears the inscription—

To the memory of The Rev. William Wilson, late Pastor of this Parish, who died on the 18th day of February, 1821, in the 68th year of his age, and the 42d of his ministry.

Mr Wilson, who was a graduate of Marischal College, was ordained minister of Dyce on 19th April, 1790, and died, unmarried, as above.

In the newer portion of the graveyard is a handsome monument, bearing the sacred monogram I.H.S., and the inscription—

In memory of Revd. John Syme Kemp, M.A., Minister of Dyce, who died on the 18th February, 1892, in the 85th year of his age and the 48th year of his ministry.

"I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness."

There has also been fixed in the Parish Church a tablet to the memory of Mr Kemp.

The present incumbent is Rev. James Taylor Cox, B.D., son of Henry William Cox, Gamrie. He graduated in Arts at Aberdeen University in 1886, and was ordained to the charge two years later. A tombstone in the graveyard is inscribed—

Gladys, daughter of Rev. J. T. Cox, B.D., Minister of this Parish. Born July 4, 1899. Accidentally drowned May 4, 1901.

"A little child shall lead them"

## PARISH LANDS.

The parish of Dyce originally formed part of the extensive thanage of Kintore, and embraced Cordyce, which was one of the seven Royal forests in Aberdeenshire. On 25th October, 1316, King Robert the Bruce granted this forest to Sir James "of Garuyach," knight, to be held for the fifth part of a knight's service in the king's host, and the Scottish service used and wont. (Reg. Epis. Aberd. I., 43.) The grant was made in return for the faithful service rendered by the knight to his king and country. It was through this grant, and by subsequent marriage, that the Johnston family became connected with the parish, as after stated.

The various properties have passed through many hands. About 1655, Craig belonged to William Shand, merchant burghess of Aberdeen. A descendant (possibly a son), Thomas Shand, late Treasurer of the city of Aberdeen, in 1672-78 registered arms—azure, a boar's head, coupé argent, on a chief of the second 3 mullets, gules. [Stodart's Arms, II., 262.] He was a merchant in Aberdeen, and married Anna Duncan, and they had a son, William Shand, who was infeft in the lands of Craig and others in 1687.

Kirkhill for some time belonged to the Burnetts, but the line failed in an heiress, Margaret Burnett, who, marrying Alexander Bannerman, merchant in Aberdeen, carried the property to that family. The eldest son of the marriage—Dr Alexander Bannerman of Kirkhill—was Professor of Medicine in King's College, and ultimately succeeded to the Bannerman baronetcy. (See Crimond and Lonmay.)

In 1628, Gilbert Skene, burghess of Aberdeen, of the family of Skene of that ilk, married Marjory Buchan, daughter of William Buchan of Auchmacey. On 8th December, 1628, he was infeft in half of

the barony of Dyce, and also in Kirktown of Dyce, which at an earlier period had belonged to the Leslies of Wardes. The line of Skene failed in Andrew Skene of Dyce, who died on 2nd January, 1815, at the age of 84. Under a deed of entail, General Gordon-Cuming of Pitlurg succeeded, and thereupon assumed the additional surname of Skene. In early life he married Lucken, youngest daughter of Sir Hew Crawford Pollok of Jordanhill and Pollok Castle, Renfrewshire. Their eldest son William, in 1825, married Anne, youngest daughter of Alexander Brebner of Learney. Besides two daughters, they had two sons—John, who succeeded, and Alexander Gordon, captain, Royal Artillery, "who was killed while on duty in the Gordon Battery, before Sebastopol, on the 5th July, 1855, aged 26." (See New Machar.)

## THE LIDDELL MONUMENT.

The lands of Pitmedden were acquired from the Leslies by Dr Duncan Liddell, of Aberdeen. On 12th July, 1612, he mortified the estate, with the fishings in the Don pertaining thereto, in favour of the colleges of New and Old Aberdeen for bursaries. (Deed of Mortif.) On a knoll in a field upon the estate, and to the south-east of Pitmedden Railway Station, a four-sided monument has been erected. It is inscribed in Latin, which may be translated.

On the north side—

The Senatus of Aberdeen caused this monument to be erected A.D. 1637. to the imperishable memory of Mr Duncan Liddell, M.D., citizen of Aberdeen.

On the south side—

In the year 1614 Mr Duncan Liddell, Doctor of Medicine, with the authority of the King and the Estates of the Realm, mortified the house and the lands of Pitmedden for behoof of six students in Arts in the University of Aberdeen.



On the west side the arms of Bon-Accord are shewn, while on the east Dr Liddell's arms are exhibited, flanked by the initials "D.D.L.," and bearing a motto which may be translated, "So let your light shine."

On 17th May, 1614, Mr Liddell's brother John was served heir.

#### THE INNESES OF PITMEDDEN.

Dr James Forbes, physician in Aberdeen, son of Rev. William Forbes, of Tarves, was also for some time proprietor of Pitmedden. He died on 19th July, 1774, aged 73 years. He was twice married—first to Helen, daughter of James Forbes of Thornton, and, secondly, to Euphemia, daughter of John Row of Bondeth. By the latter marriage there were three sons and one daughter—William of Echt and Springhill; John of Bodnod, North Wales, captain, 40th Regiment; James, of New York; and Euphemia, who married George Strachan Keith of Auquhorsk.

In a railed-in enclosure, near the east door of the church, are a table and an upright stone inscribed respectively—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Innes, Esq., of Pitmedden, who died at Pitmedden on the 22nd of July, 1829, aged 73 years. And of three of his daughters by Christian Susan Forbes, his spouse, daughter of George Forbes of Boyndlie—Elizabeth, died 17th July, 1813, aged 9 years; Isabella, died 11th August, 1816, aged 15 years; Mary, died 3rd June, 1820, aged 14 years. And of the above-mentioned Christian Susan Forbes, who died on the 11th March, 1834, aged 63 years.

Also the remains of Elizabeth, sister of Alexander Innes, who died 6th June, 1838, in her 76th year.

(2).

Erected by his widow and children in memory of William Shand, late of Arnhall, who died 26 February, 1845, aged 69, and is interred here.

Here lies also Christina, his wife, daughter

of Alexander Innes of Pitmedden, who died 30th March, 1855, aged 54.

Alexander Innes of Pitmedden was the second son of James Innes of Maisely, and of his wife Isobel Abernethy of Mayen. Susan Innes, daughter of the said Alexander Innes, married her cousin, John Ramsay of Barra and Straloch.

Arnhall is a property in Fettercairn district. It, along with The Burn, was purchased in 1818 for £70,000 by John Shand (son of John Shand, merchant and shipowner, Garmouth), who, in early manhood, had emigrated to Demerara, and acquired a competency. At his death both properties passed to his brother, William Shand, whose son, Alexander Innes Shand, is the well-known contributor to "Blackwood." Mr William Shand's affairs having become involved, the creditors sold the estates to Colonel M'Inroy. At one time they belonged to Lord Adam Gordon, uncle of the Duke of Gordon, and afterwards to Alexander Brodie, younger brother of James Brodie of Brodie, and father of Elizabeth, wife of the last Duke of Gordon. He amassed a fortune in India, and died on 15th January, 1818, aged 69.

#### THE ELMSLEYS.

Thomas Elmsley of Pitmedden died on 14th October, 1830, aged 52. His wife, Elizabeth Simpson, died 18th May, 1857, aged 82. Their youngest son, James, died 20th August, 1846, aged 25. The third son, Thomas, died 10th September, 1849, aged 32; and the second son, John, died 18th October, 1866, aged 63. Elizabeth Riddell, wife of the last-named, died 14th October, 1901, aged 87. (Tombstone, St Nicholas, Aberdeen.)

From the Elmsleys, Pitmedden and the adjoining lands of Guildhall passed to John Humphrey, J.P., whose son, Rev. William Humphrey, S.J., was admitted advocate in Aberdeen in 1860, ordained



a clergyman of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1864, received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1868, and entered the Society of Jesus in 1874.

#### MR GEORGE THOMPSON.

A more recent proprietor of Pitmedden is commemorated by a double monument erected in the United Free Church graveyard of Dyce. It bears the inscriptions—

(1).

In memory of George Thompson, junior of Pitmedden and Rainneshill, Lord Provost of Aberdeen from 1847 to 1850. Member of Parliament for the city of Aberdeen from 1852 to 1857. Born at Woolwich, 23rd June, 1804; died at Aberdeen, 11th April, 1895. And of his wife, Christiana Little, youngest daughter of the late Professor James Kidd, D.D. Born at Aberdeen, 12th September, 1806; died there 17th January, 1874. And of their children, Agnes Elizabeth. Born at Aberdeen, 3rd November, 1841; died there 28th January, 1844. And James Kidd. Born at Aberdeen, 16th January, 1849; died at Pitmedden, 17th November, 1870.

(2).

Also in memory of Stephen Thompson, of Hamilton Terrace, London, eldest son of George Thompson, junior. Born at Aberdeen, 29th June, 1833; died at London, 26th July, 1877.

George Thompson, junior, was the son of Andrew Thompson, of the H.E.I.C.S. In 1825 he commenced business in Aberdeen as a ship and insurance broker, and was the originator of the well-known "Aberdeen Line," of which his son-in-law, Sir William Henderson, was afterwards the head. A portrait of Mr Thompson, by Sir George Reid, R.S.A., is hung in the Townhouse of Aberdeen.

#### THE JOHNSTONS OF CASKIEBEN.

A horizontal tombstone in the graveyard has the inscription—

This stone (Repaired, etc., in 1878) was, about 1799, placed by William Johnston, Mer-

chant and Shipowner in Aberdeen, over the grave of his father, John Johnston, Farmer in Boginjoss, Dyce, thereafter at Cairntradrin, Kinellar, who was born, A.D. 1725, at Standingstones, Dyce, and died, at Milbowie, Skene, A.D. 1770. John's widow, Margaret Chalmers, born at Meikletown of Dyce, in 1730, married in this parish, in 1758, and who died at Hilton, Old Machar, in 1812, and rests here, with three children, who died unmarried prior to 1799, named Elizabeth, and James, and Alexander Johnston.

The foresaid William Johnston, for some time Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, born at Boginjoss, in January, 1762, died at his house of Viewfield, Old Machar, in February, 1832; he was eldest son of John Johnston and his wife, Margaret Chalmers—Their youngest son, Andrew Johnston, Burgess and Shipmaster, Aberdeen, afterwards in Mains of Balquhain, in the Garioch, born at Cairntradrin, in October, 1769, departed this life at Coullie, Monymusk, in September, 1845. William and Andrew Johnston were buried in the Town's Churchyard, Aberdeen. Andrew's youngest son, David Johnston, who died in February, 1827, in his 18th year, was interred here.

On the headstone of the same grave is inscribed—

In memory of Christina Martha, wife of Alexander Johnston, W.S., formerly of Edinburgh, and second daughter of John Leith Ross, of Arnage and Bourtie. She was born at Arnage, in Buchan, 16th March, 1814; married at Aberdeen, 1st January, 1836; and died at Johnston, near that city, 21st April, 1878.

"The Memory of the Just is blessed."

Alexander Johnston (son of William of Viewfield and his spouse Catharine Morice) erected this headstone at the grave of his Grand-parents, Mr and Mrs John Johnston, where the mortal remains of Alexander's wife, above named, were laid.

The remains of the said Alexander Johnston, W.S., who was born at Aberdeen, 4th June, 1809, and died at Foveran House, 14th June, 1880, are also interred in this grave.

Vive ut postea Vivas.

Alexander Johnston, W.S., who erected

the above headstone, was a devoted genealogist; and, besides preparing a large quantity of manuscript matter relating to families connected with the north-east of Scotland, he printed, for private distribution, "A Genealogical Account of the Family of Johnston of that Ilk, formerly of Caskieben," also "A Short Memoir of James Young and Rachael Cruickshank and their Descendants." He bequeathed money to the Aberdeen School Board for the purpose of procuring a silver medal, to be designated "The Johnston Medal," in memory of his collateral ancestor, Dr Arthur Johnston, the celebrated Latin poet, and physician to Charles I.

Stephen de Johnston, ancestor of the Johnstons in Aberdeenshire, married, before 1380, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Andrew de Garvaich, or Garioch, of Caskieben, and granddaughter of Helen of Mar. His descendant, George Johnston, tenth laird of Caskieben, who, in 1625-26, was created a baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia, by Charles I., and in 1630 was elected Sheriff of Aberdeen, in succession to the Marquis of Huntly, founding upon the marriage above stated, disputed the rights to the ancient Earldom of Mar, then held by John Erskine, and renounced his claims thereto only upon favourable terms of compromise. With his wife, Stephen de Johnston received, during the lifetime of his father-in-law, the lands of Johnston (named after himself, but now known as Courtestown, in Leslie parish), and also the property of Kinbrcon, Rothienorman; while, after that relative's death, he secured the estates of Caskieben (now known as Keith-hall, and the property of the Earl of Kintore), Crimond and Cordyce—the last-named being in the parish of Dyce. His immediate descendants added to the

patrimonial estates, and his great-grandson, Alexander Johnston, obtained a Crown charter, erecting the whole into a free barony, to be known by the name of "Johnston." For a lengthened period the family held possession; and came to be known as "The Gentle Johnstons." Ultimately, however, misfortune dogged their footsteps, and they had to part with portion after portion of their extensive estates, including Caskieben, their old ancestral home.

Sir John Johnston, the third baronet, a high-spirited and accomplished military officer, foolishly aided Captain The Hon. James Campbell of Burnbank, brother of the 1st Duke of Argyll, in abducting and marrying a rich young English heiress, Miss Mary Wharton, daughter of Sir George Wharton, for which he suffered the extreme penalty of the law at Tyburn on 23rd December, 1690. A ballad of that period, entitled "Captain Johnston's Last Farewell," professes to give his declaration thus—

I did not hurt nor wrong intend,  
 I solemnly protest;  
 But merely for to help a friend,  
 I granted his request.  
 To free his lady out of thrall,  
 His joy and only dear;  
 And now my life must pay for all—  
 Your laws are most severe.

He was succeeded by his cousin, John Johnston, of New Place, who had a charter to the estate of Craig, in Dyce, and transferred the old name of Caskieben to the western portion of that property, which it still retains. He joined the rising of 1715, and took part in the battle of Sheriffmuir, at which his only son fell while fighting by his side. Further financial disasters followed his successors, and, after 1730, the last portion of Craig or Caskieben had to be sold.

The next proprietor was George Burnett, who died in May, 1763, aged 53. He had married Christian Keith, and they had a family of at least two sons, Charles and Alexander. The latter married Isobel Irvine, daughter of Charles Irvine of Cults.

About 1790, the property was acquired, through purchase, by John Henderson, a native of the county, who in early life had gone to the West Indies and accumulated wealth. While in Jamaica he married Miss Farquharson, who died in Aberdeen in 1788; and he subsequently married as his second wife Miss Helen Leslie. By the first marriage he had a son, Alexander Farquharson Henderson, who graduated M.D. at Edinburgh, and became a physician in London. He succeeded as proprietor of Caskieben, and, having independent means, devoted much attention to literature and horticulture. In 1857 he mortgaged to Marischal College and University £1000 Bank of England stock for the endowment of a chair of Medical Logic and Medical Jurisprudence. His valuable collection of books, portraits, etc., was bequeathed to the College Library and Museum. (Records of Marischal College and University, I., pp. 529-31-33.) He died on 16th September, 1863, aged 83, when Caskieben passed to his half-brother, Dr William Henderson, a son of the second marriage above recorded. In 1839 he was appointed to the Chair of Materia Medica in Marischal College. After his death his trustees, in 1880, sold the property to Lewis Miller, timber merchant, Crieff, and subsequently it was acquired by James Stephen of North Kinmundy, who died on 12th January, 1902, aged 79. His widow, Mrs Elizabeth Stephen or Wilson, who died on 23rd March following, left estate exceeding £70,000. Besides other handsome bequests to public institutions, she directed Caskieben to be held by her trustees, and the free income

applied for benevolent and educational purposes.

#### GRAVEYARD AND GENERAL EPITAPHS.

The parish graveyard is small. It was estimated by the late County Engineer to have been used for interments for the past seven hundred years, but its age is probably greater. In 1899, as the result of a movement initiated by the parish minister—Rev. J. T. Cox—it was levelled up and improved. Tombstones are neither numerous nor of ancient date.

A headstone bears—

In memory of Elizabeth Davidson, daughter to George Davidson and Elizabeth Morice, in Foot of Hill, who died the 19th Septr., 1802, aged 33 years; and of Peter Davidson, their son, who died the 30th Octr., 1802, aged 19 years.

On the reverse side—

In memory of George Davidson, sometime Farmer in Foot of Hill, who died 11th July, 1819, in the 83 year of his age. Also Elizabeth Morice, spouse to the said George Davidson, who died in 28th March, 1826, in the 85 year of her age.

The above Elizabeth Morice was a daughter of James Morice, farmer in Echt, who was brother of Rev. William Morice, parish minister of Careston, and uncle of David Morice of Tullos, advocate, and for some time Sheriff-Substitute of Aberdeen.

John Davidson, merchant, burghess of Aberdeen, who died at North Broadford, in December, 1853, aged 76, was a son of the above George Davidson and Elizabeth Morice. (Johnston's Descendants of James Young, pp. 177-79.)

Upon a tablestone at east end of church—

Here lyes Jannet Forbes, spouse was to Alexander Paton of Kinaldie. Here lyes Lilies Forbes, daughter was to John Forbes of Leslie. 17 52.



The lands of Kinaldie were for many years in the hands of the Leslies of Wardes, thereafter passing to the Patons, who were of the Grandholm family of that name. In 1662, Alexander Paton of Kinaldie was one of the Commissioners appointed for rectifying the valuations of Aberdeenshire. (Poll Book I., p. IX.) Upon 8th December, 1686, Alexander Patoune had special service as nearest heir of his father, Alexander Patoun, "in the town and lands of Kinneller. . . . Meikle and Little Kinnaldies," etc. (Antiq. III., 241-42.) John Paton of Grandholm, who succeeded to that property in 1712, married a sister of the above Lilies Forbes, as evidenced by a Retour in her favour, dated 18th February, 1744, thus—"Christian Forbes or Paton, widow of John Paton of Grandhome, to her sister Lilius, daughter of John Forbes of Leslie, heir-portioner general."

In the following century Kinaldie was for a time owned by Mr William Tower, of the noted Aberdeen family of that name, several of whom were planters and merchants in Santa Cruz. (See also Kinellar.)

#### AUCHINCLECH.

A railed-in grave at the east end of the church has an obelisk, which bears the following inscription—

The burial place of James Rust, Esqr. of Auchinclech, Skene, who died 1st June, 1839, aged 68 years, and of his wife Margaret Petrie, who died 17th Octr., 1819, aged 49 years. Erected by their sons, Williamson Rust of Auchinclech and James Rust, minister of Slains.

On the right side—

And of their daughter-in-law, the wife of Williamson Rust of Auchinclech, Margaret Erskine, who died 7th October, 1848, aged 46 years; also the said Williamson Rust, born September 17th, 1803, died July 17th, 1884.

On the left side—

James Rust, M.A., C.M., M.D., born 8

January, 1836, died 13 January, 1873. Williamson, his son, born 30 March, 1863, died 18 January, 1873.

Auchinclech was for long in the possession of different members of a family named Wilson. Of these, Alexander Wilson died 1st June, 1799, aged 82, and John Wilson died 8th April, 1820, aged 66. The former married Elizabeth Tyrie, one of the last descendants of the Tyries of Dunning (the representatives of the ancient family of Tyrie of Drumkilbo), who died 10th March, 1814, aged 84. The latter married Jean Malcolm, who died 17th April, 1836, aged 84. The eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wilson—Elizabeth Wilson—became the wife of Alexander Mitchell of Allathan, and died there on 8th September, 1845, in the 49th year of her age. (Tombstone at Skene, etc.)

The above James Rust was a merchant in Woodside, and left considerable personal estate, along with the lands of Auchinclech, which he had acquired by purchase. His son, Rev. James Rust, minister of the parish of Slains for 34 years, died 5th November, 1874, aged 62. He was a diligent student of local antiquities, and author of several works, including "Druidism Exhumed."

A tablestone at the west end of the church is inscribed—

In memory of Catherine Stephen, spouse of George Baxter, farmer in Craigforthie, who died 15th December, 1812, aged 53 years. Also George Baxter, late farmer in Craigforthie, who died 18th January, 1821, aged 67 years.

How still in silence now I rest,  
Lie mouldering here in kindred dust,  
Have left the friends I held so dear,  
And dropping down unshed a tear,  
Am now no more.

A headstone bears—

William Cooper, M.D., Aberdeen, died 1st March, MDCCCXXXVIII., aged 27.

The above William Cooper, son of Alex-

ander Cooper, merchant, Aberdeen, was Gray mathematical bursar in 1828, M.A. 1829, and M.D. on 19th October, 1837, all at Marischal College and University. (Records of Marischal College, II., pp. 162 and 457.)

A tablestone bears—

In memory of Katharine Thomson, spouse to James Greig, farmer in Cairntradlin, who died the 9th day of November, 1808, in the 76th year of her age. This stone is placed upon her grave by her affectionate husband. Also of the said James Greig, afterwards residing in Aberdeen, who died there the 19th day of January, 1831, aged 77 years. Also of his only son James Greig by his second spouse, Catherine Sim, who died at Aberdeen the 26th day of October, 1820, aged 3 years and 4 months. Also of his daughter, Catherine Greig, spouse of George Leask, advocate in Aberdeen, who died at Aberdeen 22nd June, 1834, aged 20 years. Also of the above George Leask, late advocate in Aberdeen, who died 10th March, 1845, aged 44 years. Also the said Catherine Sim or Greig, spouse of the said James Greig, who died 5th January, 1865, in the 77th year of her age. Also of James Greig Leask, brigade surgeon in Her Majesty's army, son of the said George Leask and Catherine Greig or Leask, who died at London on 16th January, 1898, in the 66th year of his age.

The above George Leask was son of William Leask, farmer, Fyvie, and was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates, Aberdeen, in 1826.

Two stones are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lies the body of George Gill, who lived sometime in Farburn, who died 1st Janry 1783, aged 67 years. Also the body of Catharine Lindsay, his spouse, who died the 9th March, 1764, aged 44 years. Done by the care of their sons.

(2).

The burial place of John Irvine, merchant, Old Aberdeen, many years treasurer of that city where he was sincerely loved and esteemed. He was born 12th Aug 1755; died 6 Nov 1809. Near this spot likewise is interred the ashes of

his father Robert Irvine, sub-tenant in Rose Hall of New Machar, and his mother Elizabeth Robb as also his brother James and his oldest sister Margaret who both died in Nonage. His second sister Ann, wife of John Barelay, Kings Seat, lies at Fintray. His youngest sister Elizabeth and her husband William Rae rest here.

John Irvine was admitted a burgess of Old Aberdeen upon 1st October, 1781, and in 1796, was living in his own property there, evidently as a bachelor, as the number of persons in his household was returned as one. He was sometimes designed senior, to distinguish him from John Irvine, jun., brewer, who also took part in the local affairs of the Old Town. [Information from Mr A. M. Munro.]

A tablestone commemorates an old parochial schoolmaster—

Here lies the body of James Jamieson, late school master at Dyce, who died 1st of January 1788, aged 39 years.

John Rae, who was teacher for 28 years, died 16th July, 1839.

On a plateau near the railway stands a commodious church, with ornamental spire, which belongs to the United Free Church. A graveyard has been formed around, and a good many interments have taken place therein. The tombstones are all modern.

The parish contains two villages—viz., the old village of Dyce and the more modern one of Gordon Place. The latter has sprung up around the railway station of Dyce, and is rapidly extending. Regarding the parishioners and their characteristics, the remark which was made by the writer of the statistical account sixty years ago still applies—They, “in general, possess a good degree of sound sense, and perhaps even something of that sarcastic shrewdness which has sometimes been ascribed to the natives of Aberdeenshire.”

A sixteenth century roll of Sheriff Court

litigations applicable to this parish records an interim judgment which might with advantage in many cases be copied at the present day, thus—"8 January, 1509. Action between William Ronaldson in Craig and Thomas Fraser of Stoneywood continued for the time under 'houp of concourd.'"

#### SCULPTURED STONES.

Three sculptured stones, some of which were at one time in the churchyard wall, were recently, for their better preservation, built up within the old church, with their sculptured fronts exposed to face the former position of the eastern door. This was done at the instance of the heritors of the parish, and the Commissioners of H.M. Works, in conformity with the Ancient Monuments Protection Act of 1882. Two of these stones are finely marked, and are now reproduced (they face page 1) from tracings specially made by Mr George Moir, architect.

It will be noted that the symbols prominent in the one case are the elephant and double disc, while in the other they are the cross (filled with ornamental tracery) and other emblems. Alluding to these and to other stones around Dyce Church, the author of "The Scottish Gael," in his MS. notes, says, ". . . it is most probable that they had originally formed a circle. Those who first taught Christianity in this place, would, in delivering their exhortations, resort to a place held in veneration by the inhabitants, and as it would be found impossible at once to abolish old superstitions, a combination of Christian with heathen symbols would not only be tolerated, but was an excellent expedient to lessen the evils of an idolatry that could not be subdued; for he who came to bow at the 'stone of power' was unwittingly led to prostrate himself to the

cross of Christ. It is therefore probable that a church was established here at a very early period."

#### THE "STANDING STONES."

Another interesting antiquity is the circle of twelve upright stones, standing upon a low mound on the side of Tyrebagger Hill, and upon the farm of Standingstones, which takes its name from the circle. The stones vary in height from three to nine feet, and the centre of the mound is hollowed out somewhat, like a saucer. The "altar stone" now occupies a sloping position, and when struck emits a metallic sound. Two cairns formerly stood in the same locality, but one was demolished in 1896. They are believed to have been connected with the above circle.

The stone circles of the north-eastern counties had probably been erected by earlier inhabitants for the purpose of worship. The frequency with which they occur near the sea and river sides suggests that they belong to the period when the inhabitants had to depend upon fishing and the chase for a subsistence. It has to be noted that in many cases single upright stones appear in exact line, and form a connecting link between the circles, thus proving that all the stones had been placed according to a carefully-prepared plan. The presumption is that each circle and stone had had its specific purpose—i.e., some for special feasts and forms, and others for general worship. The sculpture upon the stones in many instances is very fine; and when one reflects upon the rude implements then at command, the long distances which many of the stones had to be carried before being set up, the primitive method of transport, and the lack of roads and paths, it will be realised how intensely earnest the people had been in their worship, and in providing its necessary adjuncts.



## Kinellar.

James Logan, in his MS., gives the following particulars—

“This parish lies west of that of Dyce, south of Fintray, and east of Kintore. The name is Gaelic, and appears to be compounded of “Caen,” the end or limit, and “ell-er,” a great battle. The propriety of this etymology is evinced by the numerous tumuli and cairns scattered throughout the parish, and countenanced by a tradition of a sanguinary defeat given the Danes in Cromar, and who are said to have been pursued to Kinellar.

“This church, like many others, has been built in or near the site of a Druidical circle, several of the stones of which were to be seen lying horizontally in the walls of the former church. Some of these measured ten feet by four. . . . The former building was very ancient, but it would appear that the east end was erected prior to the other part, and is said to have been a chapel. The west end was more ancient than the belfry surmounting it, which was erected in 1615. A fontstone near the door bore date A.D. 1534. The old building stood north and south, and appears to have been about 24 paces by 7. The old seats are said to have been, for the most part, ornamented with carved work.

“The present church, which is very small, was built in 1801.”

The church was recently repaired and modernised, and is now an attractive and compact structure.

Little is known regarding the earlier history of the church and parish, but among charters granted by David II. was one anent the liberties of the kirk of “Kinnellour.” (Robertson’s Index.) The church continued to form one of the six churches which were subordinate to Kinkell, but, in 1649, it was disjoined therefrom, and the parish declared an independent one. (Acts Parliament.)

## MINISTERS.

A granite slab, built into the outer wall of the church, is inscribed—

In memory of The Reverend Gavin Mitchell, D.D., who was minister of the parish of Kinellar for more than 54 years, and died on the xix. day of October, mdcccxci., in the lxxxii. year of his age. Also of Margaret Easson, his spouse, and of their children, Arthur, Alexander, Elizabeth, and John, who all died before their father.

Rev. Gavin Mitchell was son of the preceding incumbent, Rev. Arthur Mitchell, and succeeded to the pastorate of Kinellar on the translation of the latter to Skene. He was an ideal parish minister, and proved a veritable father among his people. Having a taste for music, he taught the parishioners a new method of psalmody, which was introduced into the services on 29th March, 1767. (Session Records.) In supplement to the particulars given by Dr Scott (Fasti), it may be stated that Mr Mitchell’s son, Gavin, died at Lynn Regis on 29th June, 1818, in his 42nd year, while a daughter—Isabel—became the wife of Rev. William Smith, minister of Bourtie, and died 15th October, 1847, in her 75th year.

A granite headstone bears—

In memory of The Rev. David Smith, 29 years minister of this parish, who died 2nd February, 1841, aged 85.

Rev. David Smith, M.A., was licensed by the Presbytery of Garioch, and, prior to his appointment to Kinellar, acted as assistant to Rev. Alexander Turing, minister of Oyne. It is stated, on reliable authority, that he had seen and conversed with the celebrated Peter Garden of Auchterless (died 12th January, 1775, at the reputed age of 131), who declared that, when a boy travelling in England as page, with his master—Garden of Troup—he met, in extreme old age, Henry

Jenkins, who asserted that, when a boy, he had carried arrows for the use of the English archers at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Jenkius was born in 1500 or 1501, lived to the reputed age of 169, and died in 1670. (Tombstone at Bolton, Yorkshire.) It will thus be seen that these three generations covered the phenomenally long period of 340 years, i.e., 1501-1841!

On a headstone in a railed-in grave—

In memory of Janet Gerard, daughter of the Rev. Robert Fiddes, who died 20th November, 1851, at the age of 16. Also of William and Helen Ann, who died in infancy. Also of Janet Reith, his spouse, who died the 18th of August, 1853, at the age of 47. Also of Alexander, their son, who died the 8th of July, 1859, at the age of 20. Also of Helen Ann, who died the 23rd of November, 1861, at the age of 17. Also of Robert Elphinstone, who died the 10th of May, 1862, at the age of 25. Also of the said Rev. Robert Fiddes, M.A., for 55 years minister of the parish, who died the 21st of January, 1889, at the age of 89. Also of Margaret Gerard, his second wife, who died the 1st July, 1902, aged 93 years.

The above details differ on several points from those given in Scott's "Fasti," but may be taken as correct. Rev. Robert Fiddes was the son of William Fiddes, farmer, Belhelvie.

#### PARISH LANDS.

The parish lands were originally included in the thanage of Kintore, but were gradually broken up and formed into separate possessions. In the fifteenth century, Kinellar proper was owned by a family named Scherar. William Scherar married Isabella Rutherford, and they had a family of at least three sons—Duncan, Andrew, and Alexander. Of these, Duncan afterwards became Rector of Clatt, and an important Churchman. In 1464 William Scherar and his wife disposed Kinellar to Henry Forbes, who is known through his connection with

Thainston. (See Kintore.) The lands were afterwards possessed by the Patons of Kinaldie, and at a later date were purchased by John Gordon, fourth son of Sir James Gordon, ninth laird and fifth baronet of Lesmoir. He married Henrietta, second daughter of William Fraser, eleventh Lord Saltoun, and they had a family of four sons and six daughters. (See Fraserburgh.) The lands were afterwards acquired by the Dyer Society, Aberdeen.

#### GLASGOWEGO.

In 1696, Glasgowego was owned and farmed by John Keith, a cadet of the Keiths of Auquhorsk. About 1720 it was purchased for £500 by Alexander Mollyson, for some time a magistrate in Old Aberdeen, who continued in possession until his death, on 12th June, 1736, in his 75th year. He married Elizabeth Mair, who died in November, 1750, predeceased by a daughter, Elizabeth, who died in October, 1719. (Tombstone in Old Machar graveyard.) He was succeeded by his son, William, merchant in Old Aberdeen, who acquired Dean's Croft in 1745 and Symon's Croft in 1747. In or about the latter year, Glasgowego was bought for £800 by Alexander Robertson, merchant, Aberdeen, son of Baillie James Robertson, who, upon three separate occasions, between 1740 and 1757, was elected Provost of Aberdeen. He married—first, Jean Strachan, and they had a family of nine, of whom six died in infancy. Of the others, Elizabeth became the wife of Dr Robert Pollock, Principal and Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, but died in 1753, at the early age of 26; and Jean married Alexander Lumsden, advocate, and died 10th May, 1773. Provost Robertson, shortly after the demise of his first wife, married Jean Rose, of the family of Kilravock. He died upon 20th November, 1775, in his 73rd year. Further interesting particulars regarding

this family will be found in Munro's "Provosts, etc.," pp. 223-24, from which some of these notes are taken.

In 1780, Glasgowgo was acquired by George Wilson, merchant in Aberdeen, the sasine in his favour describing the property as having been formerly possessed by Alexander Robertson, merchant, Oporto. Mr Wilson married Janet, daughter of William Symson of Ferryhill. He was succeeded by a son, Adam, who married Jean, daughter of Thomas Aberdein, farmer, Hillside, Echt. He died 31st December, 1825, aged 74. His son, George, was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen on 16th November, 1816, and died 29th November, 1867, aged 73. Other sons were Thomas, Adam, Alexander, and William. The last-named became a merchant in Jamaica.

During Mr Adam Wilson's proprietorship the public road leading from Aberdeen to the north was carried through the lands of Glasgowgo, and, for the ground thereby appropriated, he received a sum equal to the whole amount which had been paid for the estate little more than half a century before. Commenting upon this, Dr Skene Keith (Agricultural Survey of Aberdeenshire) says that "a more striking proof of the rise in value of land is not to be found in any part of the kingdom."

Between 1329 and 1371, David II. granted to Robert Glen the lands of Glasgow-le-forest (Robertson's Index), which afterwards were known by the respective titles of Whitecourse and Glasgowforest. They were afterwards in the possession of the Leslie family. Upon 17th October, 1508, a special court was held at Auld Leyis, in the barony of Leslie, for the purpose of settling boundaries of property which were in dispute between George Leslie of Leslie and Walter Leslie of Glasgowforest. (Grant Leslie's MS.) The proprietor in 1581-2 was John Gordon, son

of George Gordon of Lesmoir and his wife, Katherine, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Towie. He married Margaret Udny of Udny. He seems to have parted with Glasgowforest to his brother, Alexander Gordon of Tillymynat, who, in 1607, is designed proprietor of Lesmoir, and the husband of Mariot, or Margaret, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Pitsligo. The sons of this couple are named as James, George, of Glasgowforest, John, parson of Crimond, and Alexander.

In the following century the estate was held by Francis Leys, Baillie of Aberdeen, who, in 1755, married Elizabeth Ingram, daughter of William Ingram, sometime merchant in Huntly. Mr Leys was a partner of the well-known firm of Leys, Still, and Co., afterwards Leys, Masson, and Co., linen thread and cloth manufacturers at Gordon's Mills. He died in 1788, and was succeeded by his son, Thomas Leys, who was Provost of Aberdeen in 1797-98, and again in 1803-4. He was the chief promoter of those city improvements which resulted in the construction of Union Bridge, Union Street, and King Street. (Morgan's Annals of Woodside, etc., p. 66.) The Provost, who was Convener of the County of Aberdeen, died unmarried, on 24th October, 1809, aged 45. (Munro's Provosts, etc., pp. 257-8.) His successor in Glasgowforest was his sister, Christian Leys, who, in 1783, had married Alexander Brebner of Learney.

In 1696, Blackchambers was owned by Thomas Orem, who had then his wife and one son, William, residing in family. Its valuation at that date was £133 6s 8d. (Poll Book.) Towards the end of the following century, the property belonged to Alexander Robertson, son of Provost Alexander Robertson of Glasgowgo. He died upon 27th September, 1793, aged 61.

At an early period the Forbes family were proprietors of part of the parish



lands. On 20th January, 1626, William Forbes of Craigievar sold the land of "Cairnedradlane," with fishings on the Don, to Patrick, Bishop of Aberdeen, and the moderators of the presbyteries within the diocese, for ten thousand merks, mortified by them for the purpose of providing a salary to the professor of divinity to be admitted by them within the University and King's College. (Records King's College, p. 143-4.) The property is still held by the University.

#### AUQUHORSK.

An ancient stone—considerably broken—displays the Keith arms, the initials I.K., and various emblems, together with an inscription in Latin, which may be translated—

In this tomb lies an eminent man, John Keith of Auquhorsk, Baillie. He died 1 June, 1651, in the 59th year of his age.

The lands of Auquhorsk were given by William, second Earl Marischal, to his third son, Alexander Keith, who was born in 1460. The succeeding proprietor was James Keith, who was born in 1480, and subsequently married Marjory Leslie, daughter of John Leslie, second laird of Wardes by his fourth marriage with a daughter of Gordon of Haddo. (Macfarlane's "Gen. Collections," II., pp. 23-24.) Their son, John Keith, born in 1505, succeeded. He in turn gave place to his son, Alexander Keith, who was born in 1530, and was, according to the Chronicle of Aberdeen, "slayne in Aberdene be the gudman of Babithan, John Chalmer, and departtit the vii day June, 1584 yeris." Spalding Club Miscellany, II., p. 56.) Twelve years later, Chalmer, with his accomplices, Arthur Anderson, burgess of Aberdeen, and Walter Leslie, obtained a free pardon on the plea that the murder of Keith was accidental. (Privy Council Register, V., p. 397.)

The next laird of Auquhorsk was Gilbert Keith, who, in 1578-79, married Janet, daughter of Alexander Burnett of Leys. (Family of Burnett of Leys, p. 32.) These were the parents of John Keith, the "eminent man" of the inscription translated above. He was a baillie of Inverurie and of one of the numerous baronies then scattered over the country (possibly that of the Earl Marischal—Keith of Auquhorsk, being Baillie of Court at Hallforest as early as 1535—Cristison's "Protocol Book"), and that he possessed means is shown by the appearance of his name in the list of wadsetters of Aberdeenshire for 1633-34. He was succeeded by his son, James Keith, born 1630; W.S. 1664; Sheriff-Depute of the Mearns in 1705; and then Baillie of the barony of Urie. (Barron's "Court Book of Barony of Urie," pp 112-14.) He seems to have resided in Old Aberdeen, of which he was elected one of the magistrates in 1690. (Orem, p. 163.) He is said to have sold, in 1696, the lands of Auquhorsk to his kinsman, Rev. Gilbert Keith, minister of Dunnottar. Many of these particulars are taken from Mr P. J. Anderson's carefully prepared Genealogical Tree, "The Heirs of the Keiths," issued with "Scottish Notes and Queries" for September, 1896.

#### TERTOWIE.

A white marble slab, fixed into a free-stone monument, is inscribed—

In memory of Charles Robertson, Esq. of Tartowie, who died 29th August, 1819, aged 67 years, and of his family, vizt., Jane, who died in August, 1801; Isaac, in August, 1805; Margaret, in August, 1815; Jessie, in December, 1825; and Ann, in November, 1830; Adam, in December, 1836

In 1696 the lands of Tartowie, with those of Auchronie, belonged to the representatives of Sir Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle, who had married Nicolas, daughter

of Peter Young, of Auldbar. They had a family of three daughters, Isabel, Anna, and Margaret. Sir Alexander Burnett died in 1694, and numerous particulars regarding his family are given in the New Spalding Club volume, "The Family of Burnett of Leys."

The properties were afterwards held separately—Tartowie, or Tertowie, passing from the Robertsons to Dr Alexander Ewing, a successful physician and surgeon in Aberdeen, and for some time Lecturer on Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen. He married Barbara, daughter of Thomas M'Combie of Easter Skene. Their son, Alexander Ewing, Staff Paymaster and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army Pay Department, married Juliana Horatia Gatty, of parabolic fame.

Tertowie was afterwards acquired by Colonel William Ross King, a descendant of the ancient family of Barra and of Dudwick. He was the second son of Rev. William Hutchinson King, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, being collaterally descended from General Sir James King, a celebrated soldier, under Gustavus Adolphus, in the Thirty Years' War, and subsequently acting, during the Civil War in England, as second in command of the Northern Army of Charles I., by whom he was created Lord Eythen in 1642. At his death in 1652 he left no surviving male issue, and bequeathed his property to the children of his brothers in succession. At intervals during his life he had resided on his property of Dudwick, the old house of which was pulled down only some few years ago. In 1859 Colonel William Ross King married Lucan, younger daughter of Colonel William Gordon-Cuming-Skene of Pitlurg and Dyce, and was thus a brother-in-law of the late Mr Charles Elphinstone Dalrymple, of Kinellar Lodge. He was the author of numerous works, including "Campaigning in Kaffirland,"

and "The Sportsman and Naturalist in Canada." He rendered aid in the preparation of the volume, "The Castles of Aberdeenshire," and contributed many interesting articles to the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He died in September, 1890, and was succeeded in Tertowie by his only son, James Alexander Gordon King, then a lieutenant in the 3rd Gordon Highlanders—afterwards captain, Scots Guards, who died in May, 1904, in his 32nd year.

For a considerable period Auchronie belonged to Mr Crombie, and thereafter to George Gibb Shirra Gibb, of Cults, by whom it was sold to Thomas Farquhar, of the H.E.I.C.S., and Surgeon-Major, I.M.S., son of Rev. Alexander Farquhar, parish minister of Pitsligo. Dr Farquhar died upon 3rd January, 1891.

#### MR C. ELPHINSTONE-DALRYMPLE.

On a Celtic cross, in a railed-in space, is the inscription—

To the beloved memory of Charles Elphinstone Dalrymple. Born 23rd March, 1817; died 14th July, 1891.

Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.—1st Thess., iv., 14.

In Thy presence is fulness of joy.—Ps. xvi., 11.

A small headstone alongside is inscribed—

Mabel Graeme, second daughter of Charles and Christian Elphinstone Dalrymple. Born April 25th, and died July 25th, 1864.

I say unto you that in Heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in Heaven.—Matt. xviii., 10.

Charles Elphinstone-Dalrymple was the seventh son of Sir Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, of Logie-Elphinstone. He devoted much time and attention to antiquarian research, and was recognised as an authority, not only on the topography, but also the family history of the north-east of Scotland. He was a Fellow of the



Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a member of the Spalding Club, and a vice-president, as well as convener of the Editorial Committee of the New Spalding Club. No historian more willingly imparted his information to others, and few are aware of the trouble he gave himself to investigate and verify obscure points. In 1885 he published "Lays, Highland and Lowland."

It may be added that in 1868 Mr Charles Elphinstone-Dalrymple restored the Pitlurg Aisle at Cairnie. His interest therein arose from his having, on 24th April, 1860, married Christian, daughter of Colonel William Gordon-Cuming-Skene of Pitlurg and Dyce, a descendant of Sir John Gordon, who originally erected the aisle in 1597.

A granite obelisk is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of James Whyte, of Clinterty and Glasgowgo Cottage, who died 22nd September, 1866, aged 80 years. Also of his spouse, Agnes Moir, who died at Aldbro, Yorkshire, 12th November, 1877, aged 70 years.

In memory of Agnes, only daughter of James Whyte of Clinterty, who died 4th June, 1856, aged 21 years.

#### THE MILNES OF KINALDIE.

A granite monument, built into the outer wall of the church, bears the inscription—

In memory of George Milne of Kinaldie. Born 9th July, 1794, died 23rd September, 1871, and Margaret Mortimer, his wife. Born 18th April, 1801, died 14th April, 1886.

George Milne was a successful railway contractor, and afterwards a timber merchant in Aberdeen. The members of his family are James, who is now in possession of Kinaldie, and practically rebuilt its mansion house; John Henderson of Craigellie; Mrs John Cook of Ashley; Mrs George Jamieson; and Miss Milne.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Erected by Ann Bisset, in memory of her husband, William Moir, late farmer, Begglesy, who died the 31st of March, 1822, aged 61 years. Also of their son James, who died 5th January, 1820, aged 24 years. Also of their son George, who died the 20th of June, 1821, aged 24 years.

How still and silent now we rest,  
Lie mouldering here in kindred dust;  
Have left the friends we loved so dear,  
And dropping down unshed a tear.

Upon a flat stone (broken through), with various emblems, including a reaper with a scythe, sand-glass, globe, etc., is the inscription—

Here lyes George Wood, farmer in Strathray, who departed this life Aprile 22, 1749, aged 53; as also Alexander and John Wood, his children. . . .

A tablestone, level with the ground, and having at the foot representations of a skull, cross-bones, coffin, and sand-glass, surrounded by a Latin motto, which, translated, reads, Death is the gate of life, is inscribed—

Here lyes Andrew Keith, who dyed August 2nd, 1723, as also Alexander, Jannet, and Margret Keiths, his children.

Also Margaret Singer, spouse to William Keith, who died the 16th of Sept., 1821, aged 37 years.

Four tablestones are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Erected in memory of John Moir, late farmer in Mill of Baleairn, Meldrum parish, who died 25th March, 1812, aged 88 years. Also Marjory Walker, his spouse, who died 22nd May, 1816, aged 79 years. Likewise George Moir, their son, late merchant in Aberdeen. . . .

(2).

Here lies, in hopes of a blessed resurrection, the body of Elspat Chessor, who died March 19th, 1702, aged 73 years, laful spouse to William Reith, smith at Blackburn. . . .

(3).

Here lies Adam Cruickshank, late mason in Aberdeen, who died 7th April, 1785, aged 49 years. Also William, his son. Also Isabel Moir, his spouse, who died 10th April, 1827, aged 90 years. Also Janet, his daughter, relict of James Bothwell, shipmaster, who died 22nd May, 1860, aged 84 years. The above James Bothwell died in Aberdeen, 29th January, 1823, aged 58 years.

(4).

Here ly Alexander Rae, sometime in Kindie, who departed this life 1740, aged 78, and Nans Garden, his spouse, died 1746, aged 86, and Wil, who departed 1721, aged 28. Alex., who departed 1719, aged 18. . . .

Our passions vain, and vain desire,  
That led us oft astray,  
We charge our flesh, when it shall rise,  
To leave them in the clay.

In a nameless and now unknown grave at the west end of the church lie the remains of Rev. John Row, Principal of King's College, 1652-1661. On the fall of Cromwell he had to retire, when he endeavoured to support himself by teaching. In this he was only partially successful, and, finally taking up his residence with his son-in-law, Rev. John Mercer, at the Manse of Kinellar, died there in 1672.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The parish is rich in antiquarian remains, the most interesting of which is the sculptured stone, found in 1801, forming the foundation of the south-east corner of the old church. It is a block of granite of a somewhat irregular shape, about 40 inches in height by about two feet in width, showing on one side three incised circles, below which are an ornamental crescent with rod, symbols, etc. The stone is fully described and illustrated in the Spalding Club's "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," and also in J. Romilly Allan's "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland." It is pleasing to add that, for the

better preservation of this relic of a by-gone age, the heritors and kirk-session of the parish have recently had it removed from the churchyard wall and inserted in the inner side of the wall of the church porch.

Information as to other ancient remains will be found in the respective statistical accounts, etc.

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## Kemnay.

Kemnay owed fealty to St Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin, whose feast was observed on 26th July.

The parish was originally a vicarage, which depended upon Kinkell. In 1567, Arthur Forbes was minister of Kemnay, Echt, and Dilmaok, at a salary of six score merks, the contemporary reader at Kemnay being Thomas Gray, who had the modest allowance of xvi. lib. (Antiq., I., p. 227-30.) In 1649, Kemnay was disjoined from Kinkell, and declared a separate parish. (Acts Parliament.)

In 1632, an extensive renovation of the old church took place—if, indeed, a new edifice was not then erected. Its belfry, bearing the date 1632, is still preserved, and stands within the gardens of Kemnay House. The old church is understood to have been cruciform, with very thick walls and small windows. It was defective through having its floor, in the centre, from three to four feet below the level of the surrounding burying-ground. The floor itself was of earth, which created dust in summer, and formed a receptacle for water in winter and wet weather. It is asserted that in time of frost the parishioners had frequently to sit with ice for a flooring, and, heating in country churches being then unusual, their dis-

comfort must have been great. There were three galleries, to which entrance was got by two outside doors, approached, not by stairs, but by a sloping bank. When the old church was demolished in 1844 to make room for the present one, the remains of a high altar were exposed in the east wall. This fact would indicate that it was built considerably before the date found on the belfry. The bell is inscribed—A. LAWSON. OLD ABERDEEN. 1788.

The old churchyard was comparatively small, but some eighteen years ago a substantial addition to it was made upon the north side. About eight years later, the older portion was levelled up, and all fallen or sunk tombstones reset.

The object which attracts most attention is the old vault, which was erected for the purpose of protecting for a time the bodies of newly-deceased persons against the nefarious operations of the "resurrectionists." It is a strongly-built structure of stone and lime, arched on the top, and then covered over with mould, on which grass has grown. The end and sides are concealed by the rising ground. The date 1831 is on a stone over the entrance door, which is of heavy iron. The roof is firmly leaded within, to serve the double purpose of affording additional strength and a protection against water percolating through. Although the building remains intact, it, happily, is not now required for its original purpose.

The parish has always been recognised as bracing and healthy, many of the parishioners passing the allotted span. From the undernoted inscriptions (they are selected without the slightest regard to the age of those commemorated), it will be noted that at least twelve persons reached 80 and upwards, while one is recorded as dying at the patriarchal age of 102 years.

#### MINISTERS.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

In memory of the Rev. Patrick Mitchell, D.D., who was for 51 years minister of this his native parish, and died on the First Dec., 1838, in the 84th year of his age; also his spouse, Agnes Bruce, who died 11th Sept., 1837, in the 83rd year of her age, and of Robert Mitchell, surgeon, their son, who died at Nether Inver, in the parish of Monymusk, 6th Aug., 1859, in the 66th year of his age; also of Agnes Mitchell, their daughter, who died at Nether Inver 8th October, 1867, in the 78th year of her age.

Rev. Dr Patrick Mitchell was the son of Alexander Mitchell, farmer, Craigearn. He acted for some time as schoolmaster of Fintray, and was ordained minister of Kemnay 18th June, 1788. He possessed great force of character and scholarly attainments. In addition to the family named in the above inscription, he had three sons, Alexander, Patrick, and William. His son, Dr Robert, was held in high esteem by the Grant family, and in 1856 they had his portrait painted by James Cassie, R.S.A.

A railed-in grave has a mural stone inscribed—

In loving memory of the Rev. George Peter, M.A., for 58 years minister of this parish, who died on the 12th Dec., 1897, aged 83 years.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

A white marble tablet, built into the inner wall of the church bears the inscription—

Erected by the Parishioners of Kemnay to the loved memory of the Rev. George Peter, M.A., for fifty-eight years their dear friend and minister.

Ordained 25th June, 1839.

Died 12th December, 1897.

"This is my commandment that ye love one another."



Rev. George Peter, son of John Peter, farmer, St Cyrus, was an ideal parish minister, and took a keen interest in the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare of his congregation and the parishioners generally. He also interested himself greatly in the educational affairs of the parish. He had the church substantially enlarged in 1871, and on his celebrating his jubilee, 18 years later, he was made the recipient of many testimonials, including a cheque for a large amount, which had been subscribed to by all classes of the community. Although for about four years prior to his death he had the aid of an assistant and successor, it will be noted that he and his predecessor, Dr Mitchell, held the pastorate for the long period of 109 years.

#### ESTATE OF KEMNAY.

The lands of Kemnay were erected into a barony at an early period, and, according to the Lord Chamberlain's accounts, the ward of the same was, in 1348, bestowed by the Crown upon Norman de Leslie. Shortly afterwards, the lands were possessed by the Melvilles of Glenbervie, Sheriffs of the Mearns. In 1397, Andrew Melville served as a juryman at an inquest held in Aberdeen, and is then designed as "of Camnay." (*Antiq.* III., 263.) About 1420, Sheriff Melville incurred the hostility of the neighbouring lairds in the Mearns, who were so persistent in their complaints against him as to draw forth the Crown commentary—"Sorra gin the Shirra were sodden and suppit in broo." Accepting this in the literal sense, the lairds invited the Sheriff to a hunting match in the forest of Garrock, where, all arrangements having been previously made, they actually boiled him in a cauldron. The barbarous exploit is celebrated by Alexander Balfour in his ballad, "The Kaim of Mathers." Refer-

ence to it is also made in the *Border Minstrelsy*, and in the Appendix to the preface of the Spalding Club's "Sculptured Stones" (Vol. II.). In the last-named it is shown that several of the offenders got the benefit of the law of Clan Macduff.

In 1468, the last Melville died, being succeeded in both Kemnay and Glenbervie by his daughter, who had married Sir John Auchinleck. Subsequently, the heiress of the Auchinleck family married Sir William Douglas, second son of Archibald, 5th Earl of Angus, and thus carried the lands into that distinguished family. Sir William fell on the disastrous field of Flodden in 1513, and was succeeded by his son Archibald, who was then a minor. He was knighted by James V., and was occasionally resident at Kemnay. He married Agnes Keith, daughter of William, third Earl Marischal, and of their family, James, the second son, became parish minister of Glenbervie, and the only daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Alexander Falconer of Halkerton. The elder son, Sir William, was the most notable of the proprietors of Kemnay, becoming, as he did, ninth Earl of Angus, after contesting the honours with James VI. He accompanied Queen Mary on her journey through Scotland, was with her at Balquhain, and fought on her behalf at Corrichie—all in 1562. He married Egedia, daughter of Sir Robert Graham of Morphie, and had a family of six sons and four daughters. Two other proprietors of the name of Douglas successively owned Kemnay, till in 1624 it was parted with to Thomas Crombie and his wife, Margaret Ker, their sasine being dated 31st July of that year. (*Aberdeenshire Sasines*, Vol. IV.)

Crombie, who was afterwards knighted, possessed both power and influence. He was a Writer to the Signet; Sheriff of Aberdeenshire in 1633-35; Commissioner

to Parliament for Aberdeenshire in 1630-33-39, and 1643; Commissioner for Revising Acts of Parliament in 1633; and Member of Council of War in 1643. (Acts of Parliament.) In the troublous times of the Covenanters, he and his estate suffered severely. In 1639, Montrose and his army plundered Kemnay House, carrying off much spoil, and selling at a trifle 440 bolls of meal found in the Kemnay girnals.

Other raids upon the property and mansion-house are described by Spalding.

Sir Thomas Crombie died after 5th March and before 12th June, 1644, survived by his wife. He bequeathed 20,000 merks Scots for the maintenance of eight bursars at Marischal College, and for the remuneration of its Principal and Professors, 10,000 merks for the minister of Greyfriars Church, 1000 pounds to the Guild Brethren's Hospital, and 500 merks to the Trades Hospital. (Mortification Book, p. 120, etc.) On 12th June, 1644, Elspet Crombie, spouse of John Gordon, burghess of Aberdeen, and Christina Crombie, spouse of Robert Smith or Smyth, burghess of Aberdeen, were served as heirs portioners (being sisters) of Sir Thomas Crombie in the lands of Kemnay (Retours). The first-named lady died before 2nd March, 1648, when her son, Magister Alexander Gordon, was served heir in half the lands of Kemnay. Shortly afterwards, the estate was acquired, through purchase, by Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie, whose son Alexander, on 6th January, 1675, was served heir. The last-named, in 1682, sold the lands to Sir George Nicolson, who for some time had acted as Civilist in King's College, and had been called to the Scottish Bar in 1661. In 1682, he was raised to the dignity of a Judge of Session, when he adopted the title of Lord Kemnay, from his newly-acquired estate. Sir George's

brother, Thomas, became Bishop of Peristachium and first Vicar-Apostolic of Scotland.

#### THE BURNETTS.

In 1688, the lands of Kemnay were purchased by Thomas Burnett, second son of James Burnett of Craigmyle; and the great-great-great-great grandson of the latter in direct line is the present proprietor of Kemnay. A reserved space, surrounded on two sides by the church, and on the other two by a massive iron railing, set on a dwarf wall, contains several tablets, tablestone, etc., which bear inscriptions to various members of the Burnett family; and as the particulars there given differ widely from the published pedigree lists, we deem it advisable to give copies of each of them, as under—

##### (1).

. . . In memory of Thomas Burnet of Kemnay, second son of James Burnet of Craigmyle, second son of Alexander Burnet of Leys, who was buried here on the 6th of Nov., 1688. Also of Margaret Pierson, his widow. Was interred here on the 19th of February, 1689.

Thomas Burnett was a Writer in Edinburgh, and his wife was the only child of John Pierson, merchant, Edinburgh. In addition to several children who died in infancy, they had two sons—Thomas, who succeeded, and Andrew, W.S., Edinburgh, who married his cousin Jean, daughter of Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle.

##### (2).

Here lyes the body of Thomas Burnett of Kemnay, Esq., who, after many peregrinations through most of the countries of Europe, rests here, in hopes of a blessed resurrection. Dyed February 26th, 1729, aged 73.

Here also are buried George Burnett, Esq. of Kemnay, his only son, who died Oct. 31st, 1780, aged 66, and his wife Helen, daughter of Sir Alexander Burnett of Leys, Bart., who died Sept. 1st, 1750. Their



daughters, Ann, who died Jan., 1781, aged 45; Mary, who died Nov. 29th, 1802, aged 55; Helen, who died Sept. 20, 1810, aged 76; and Janet Dyce, second wife of George Burnett, Esq. of Kemnay, who died July 16th, 1802, aged 84.

[Re-erected 1869, and the name of George Burnett, Esq., and those following then added.]

Thomas Burnett qualified as a lawyer, and was a man of culture and conspicuous ability. He occupied an important position in the Court of Hanover, and the Electress Sophia held him in the highest esteem, and entrusted him with the transaction of important business. In the latter connection, he went to France, where, on a capricious and frivolous pretext, he was imprisoned in the Bastille. Through powerful influence, he was at length liberated. Late in life he married the young and beautiful Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Brickenden, of Inkpen, Berks; and they had a family of one son, George, who succeeded, and a daughter, Anne, who died in 1787. After Mr Burnett's death, his widow married her son's tutor, George Lamont, who afterwards became a celebrated physician in London, and his landed and other property ultimately fell to the Burnetts.

George Burnett, the third laird, married—first, Helen, daughter of Sir Alexander Burnett of Leys; and her beauty and sweetness of voice are happily set forth in the old poem, "Don"—

Mind Kemnay's seat, how beautifully placed,  
With shady woods and flowery gardens  
graced;  
See how the feathered choir extend their  
throats,  
By nature taught—hark how they swell their  
notes.  
Yet when fair Peggy, mistress of the grove,  
Joins her sweet voice to sing the praise of  
love,  
The birds sit listening to the wondrous song;  
The river calms, and smoothly glides along;

The gentle zephyrs with her tresses play,  
And from her balmy breath steal sweets away.

Besides the children stated in the above inscription, they had a son Alexander, who succeeded, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane. The last-named married Alexander Dunbar of Boath.

George Burnett married, secondly, Janet, daughter of James Dyce of Disblair; but they had no family.

(3).

In memory of Alexander Burnett, Esq. of Kemnay, British Secretary of Embassy, and afterwards Charge d'Affaires of the Court of Prussia. Born July 3, 1755; died Dec. 30, 1802. Also of Christian Leslie, his wife. Born Oct. 1, 1761; died Feby 14, 1841.

George, their eldest son, born May, 1783, died Jan., 1784. Elizabeth, their second daughter, born Jan. 5, 1788; died July 18, 1806. Lamont, their youngest daughter, born June 2, 1791; died Sept. 27, 1842. Christian, their third daughter, born Oct. 17, 1789; died May 9, 1874.

Alexander Burnett, fourth laird, was greatly esteemed by Frederick the Great, whom he personally attended during the Seven Years' War. He married Christian, daughter of John Leslie, for some time tutor to Lord Aberdeen, and afterwards Professor of Greek in King's College and University, and in addition to the children named in the inscription, they had a son, John, who succeeded, and a daughter, Helen, who married Dr James Bannerman, Professor of Medicine in Marischal College and University.

(4).

Erected by Alexander G. Burnett (Filius Patri) in memory of John Burnett, Esqr. of Kemnay. Born June 5th, 1786; died December 22nd, 1847.

According to the light he had, he served the Lord conscientiously in his day, and with a singleness of purpose rarely seen.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. Psalm xxxvii., ver. 37.

(5).

In memory of John Burnett, Esq. of Kemnay, born June 5th, 1786; died Dec. 22, 1847. Also of Erskine William Burnett, his youngest son, born Dec. 16th, 1828; died Oct. 31st, 1848. Also of Mary Stuart, wife of John Burnett of Kemnay. Born July 14, 1786. Died March 1, 1872. Also of their fifth son, Henry Martin Burnett. Born April 2, 1826. Died at Perth, July 12, 1881, and is buried here.

John Burnett, fifth laird, greatly improved the estate, alike by draining, reclaiming, and planting. He married Mary (she was sister of James Stuart, W.S., of Dunearn, who fatally shot Sir Alexander Boswell (Bozzy's son) in a duel near Auchtertool, 26th March, 1822), daughter of Charles Stuart of Dunearn, Fifeshire; and, besides the children mentioned in the inscription, they had Alexander George, the present proprietor; Charles John; George, LL.D., Lyon King of Arms, who died 23rd January, 1890; Stuart Mowbray, who died 9th January, 1893; Mary Erskine, who died 25th April, 1890; and Christina, referred to in the next inscription—

(6).

Here lies the body of Christina Leslie Burnett, second daughter of John Burnett, Esq. of Kemnay. Born Sept. 1st, 1818; died Oct. 20th, 1866.

Shall I fear o' earth thy bosom  
Shrink and faint to lay me there?  
Whence the fragrant lovely blossom  
Springs—to gladden earth and air.

Whence the tree, the brook, the river,  
Soft clouds floating in the sky,  
All fair things come—whispering ever  
Of the love divine on high.

Yea! Whence One arose victorious  
O'er the darkness of the grave,  
His strong arm revealing glorious  
In its might divine to save.

No! fair earth—a tender mother  
Thou hast been—and yet may be,  
And through Him my Lord and brother  
Sweet shall be my rest in thee.

Here also rests the body of Mary Erskine Burnett, elder daughter of John Burnett of Kemnay. Born May 5, 1815. Died April 25, 1890.

We look for the resurrection of the dead.

The following inscriptions refer to the first and second wife of the present laird, who, in 1893, married Emily Julia, daughter of Joseph Burch, Tuddenham Hall, Ipswich—

(7).

In memory of Amelia Kendall, for five short years the wife of Alexander G. Burnett of Kemnay. Born December 25th, 1826. Died April 22nd, 1855, at the early age of 28.

"He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down." Job xiv., ver. 2.

Also Anna Maria Pledge, for eight years the wife of the said Alexander George Burnett, who departed this life Sept. 9th, 1885, aged 36 years, in sure and certain hope. She was a model daughter, sister, mother, and wife. Her hope was in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

Amelia Kendall was a direct descendant of Oliver Cromwell through his son Henry.

The improving policy of the fifth laird has been continued by Alexander George Burnett, the present proprietor, with excellent results.

The old mansion house of Kemnay, which was built by the Auchinlecks or Douglasses, stood a little to the south-east of the present house, which was erected by Sir Thomas Crombie. It has been much altered in style and appearance through extensive alterations and additions.

## GENERAL EPITAPHS.

I. O.; E. N.; W. O.;  
I. O.; M. O.; A. O.;  
1690 G. L.

We are of opinion that the above inscription is to the members of a family named Orem, whose descendants were for a lengthened period tenant farmers in the parish.

In 1696, James Orem was tenant of "Auquthies," and, polling as a gentleman,

paid £3 6s of tax. (Poll Book.) This was anciently a Templar croft, and, in 1611, Lord Torpichen, chief of the ancient order in Scotland, granted a charter of it, and of a tenement in Aberdeen, belonging to the same order, to Gilbert Keith of Auquhorsk, who, in 1578-79, had married Janet, daughter of Alexander Burnett of Leys.

A small headstone bears the inscription—

Here lyes interred the body of Francis Abel, senr., who resided sometime in Racharral. He died 20th Decr., 1759, aged 57 years.

Francis Abel was probably a son of William Abel, tenant in Racharral in 1696. (Poll Book.)

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of Barbara Malcolm, who was married to George Stevenson, shoemaker in Dalmadilly, on the 24th December, 1797, in the 15th year of her age, and who died the 26th of May, 1824, being the mother of 14 children, six of whom died in infancy. Also the said George Stevenson, who died 21st August, 1846, aged 73 years.

In ancient writs Dalmadilly is frequently called Dam of Dilie.

A tablestone bears the inscription—

This stone was erected by me, Alexander Farquhar, in Auquorthy, in memory of Marjory Duncan, my mother, who died on the 10th day of December, 1774, aged 88 years. Also of John and Christian Farquhar, my children, who died in infancy. Here is also interred the body of the said Alexander Farquhar, husband to Christian Shewan when he lived. He was born on the 20th June, 1714, and died the 5th July, 1777, much and justly regretted by all who knew him.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of Andrew Stevenson, Esq., Kemnay Academy, who died 19th June, 1857, aged 63 years.

Erected by a few of his friends as a mark of respect.

Andrew Stevenson attained fame as a teacher, and the academy, which he allied

with his school, substantially increased the number of his pupils. In 1851 a Committee of Presbytery, after examination, reported that 119 were on the roll, that a solid basis was laid for all the branches of a useful education, and that in many of these branches a proficiency was attained which was not surpassed in any parochial seminary. A complimentary notice of Mr Stevenson and his academy appeared in "Chambers's Journal," No. 468.

Among other teachers who preceded Stevenson may be named James Rutherford, who died in 1663; James Rennie, who died before 1684, when his widow, Janet Paip, had her child, house, and goods destroyed by fire; William Johnston, who, in 1698, became minister of Auchindoir and Kearn; John Farquhar, and Charles Dawson, the publisher of "Don"—a poem.

The following inscription upon a headstone to the left of the entrance walk arrests attention, and impels the reader to tackle the problem how the husband could have died twenty, and the wife twenty-two years before they were born!—

1875. Erected in memory of William Cassie, Kemnay: Born 4/7/95: Died 11/12/75. Also Elizabeth Massie, his wife: Born 6/10/94. Died 14/1/72. . . .

The form is exceptional, and its adoption cannot be recommended. Cassie was born in 1795, and his wife in 1794—the former dying in 1875, and the latter in 1872.

A tablestone near the church door bears the inscription—

In memory of John Moir, eldest son to James Moir and Margarte Irvine, and husband to Katherine Anderson.

When he lived, by his good behaviour and integrity of heart, gained the esteem of all those who knew him, which makes his death justly regretted. He departed this life the 24th of Octr., 1771, aged 37 years.



The surnames Moir and Downie are probably the oldest in the parish. To members of the latter family there are many tombstones, but space precludes our giving the inscriptions.

The following headstone inscription is interesting, through shewing the old style of spelling the surname Wyness.

In memory of the deceased Alexander Winehouse, Gardner at Kemnay for 44 years; he departed this life 17th July, 1825, aged 80 years. Also Elspet Watt, his spouse, who died 22nd February, 1827, aged 77 years.

Lettering around the outer edge of the stone bears that it was erected by their children Ann, George, Alexander, and Christian, "as a memorial of their affection."

The above George Winehouse graduated at Marischal College and University, became schoolmaster of Kincardine (Ross), then of Newhills, and was eventually elected minister of Clova, Auchterhouse. (Records Marischal College, II., p. 382.)

In illustration of the shortening of surnames, we find that that of Ellis, or Ellice, was originally in many instances Ailhouse.

A railed-in grave, near the church door, has a tablestone inscribed—

Here lyes John Smith, who lived at Upper Mill of Kintore, and departed this life April ye 4th, 1748, aged 66. Also Jean Smith, his lawful daughter, who departed this life anno 1754, aged 28.

Also Elspet Low, spouse to John Smith, who died the 30 of November, 1768, aged 83 years. Here lyes Isobell Smith, lawful daughter to John Smith and Ann Reid, Bog Mill, who died Jun the 4, 1773, aged 16.

A headstone in the same enclosure records the death of James Smith, farmer, Sunnyside, Kemnay, on 25th November, 1897, aged 84, and of his wife, Jane Gordon, on 17th March, 1892, aged 68.

Another stone bears—

Erected by James Stevenson, in memory of

his father, William Stevenson, merchant, Kemnay, who died 31st March, 1853, aged 31 years. Also of his mother, Rachel Annand, who died 10th April, 1902, aged 76 years.

William Stevenson was one of the first merchants to settle in the village of Kemnay.

An enclosed grave near the church door has a tablestone bearing the inscription—

Here lies the Body of Thos. More, who was born in Craigeearn, where he lived most of his time, and where he was a tenant when he died. He departed this life 22nd Febr., 1795, in the 64th year of his age. Also a daughter, Agnes, in the 3rd year of her age. Also Margaret Adam, his spouse, who died the 20th Janry., 1818, aged 78 years.

Several centuries ago, a hamlet stood at Craigeearn, where also, it is believed, was the old chapel of St Bride, in which the minister of Kemnay occasionally officiated as late as 1667. The chapel is supposed to have been erected by the Douglas family, whose favourite was St Bride.

The following inscription, from a large tablestone, records the death of a centenarian—

Sacred to the memory of Christian Moir, spouse to Peter Hatt, late Gardener at Castle Fraser, who died 2nd of July, 1805, aged 80 years. Also the said Peter Hatt, who died 11th of March, 1816, aged 102 years.

A wall headstone bears the following inscription—

In affectionate remembrance of the Rev. George Proctor, M.A., for 33 years Schoolmaster of Kemnay, who died 20th October, 1898, aged 68 years.

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Mr Proctor was an excellent teacher, and was greatly respected. He acted for many years as parish registrar and session-clerk of the Parish Church.

A mural tablet is inscribed—

In memory of Frances, youngest daughter of Rev. John Dymock. Born 22 July, 1881, fell



asleep 30 Oct., 1888. Rev. John Dymock, M.A., for thirty years minister of the Free Church, Kemnay, died Feb. 4, 1899, aged 58 years.

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

Rev. John Dymock was eldest son of Rev. Thomas Dymock, Free Middle Church, Perth, and brother of Rev. William Dymock, Free Church, New Aberdour. He was much esteemed by his congregation, and throughout the district. He took a prominent stand against the C. D. Act and the Indian opium traffic. Against the former he wrote extensively. His son, Arthur, M.A., is an officer in the Royal Artillery.

A granitic headstone is inscribed—

Erected in memory of Jeannie Gellan, widow of James Laing, who died at Sunny-Brae, Kemnay, 5th May, 1878, aged 92 years.

It maiters-na wlaure we lie  
doon if we sleep in the hope  
of a glorious risin.

Jeannie, who was of a kind and obliging disposition, was a favourite in the district. The words of the concluding sentence of the above epitaph were the last she uttered. She forms the subject of a poem of 26 stanzas, entitled "Auld Jeannie's Deathbed," by W.C., well known in Aberdeen for his poetical attainments, who also generously defrayed the cost of the tombstone.

Another somewhat enigmatical inscription is given on a tombstone on the opposite side of the entrance walk, thus—

In memory  
of

Robert,	Born 1766	Died 1829
Margaret,	— 1780	— 1852
Margaret,	— 1804	— 1891
Barbara,	— 1806	— 1835
Eliza,	— 1809	— 1865
Isabella,	— 1812	— 1893
James,	— 1813	— 1877
John,	— 1816	—
Adam,	— 1817	— 1839

Family of Robert Stevenson,  
Aberdeen.

The two first-named were the parents, and the remaining seven their children.

A wall monument bears—

In memory of John Milne, Crofter, Glenhead, Kemnay. Died 1st Feby., 1889, aged 55 years.

A man of sterling worth, unbending will, and genuine Christian character, who, at a critical period in his life, did noble service to the cause of justice and freedom.

"Eph. 1. 6. To the praise of the glory of his grace."

Erected by his widow and friends.

The above epitaph has reference to Mr Milne's protracted fight for the continuance of the tenancy of his croft. He accomplished much in the way of ventilating the grievances of the crofter.

Erected by Andrew Gardiner in memory of his father William Gardiner, who died in Craigearn of Kemnay, 11th March, 1826, aged 87 years. And his wife, Mary Watt, who died 24th Jany., 1856, aged 61 years. Also his sons, John and George, who died in infancy.

The years rolls round and steals away  
The breath that first it gave,  
Whate'er we do, whate'er we be,  
We'er traveling to the grave.

#### KEMNAY VILLAGE.

The village of Kemnay is surrounded by trees, and has a picturesque situation on the right bank of the Don. Down to 1858 it was considered "a paltry hamlet," but the construction of the Alford Valley Railway and the opening of extensive quarries in the near vicinity brought it fresh and solid prosperity. It is now considered one of the finest and most prosperous villages in the county. The old buildings have been swept away and replaced by substantial, prettily-designed cottages and villas, arranged according to a carefully-prepared feuing plan.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Of antiquities, the Lang Stane o' Craig-

earn forms the subject of an interesting ballad by Mr William Cadenhead. It is a monolith standing on end nearly twelve feet above the ground. It has no inscription or markings, and had probably been carried to its present position in the glacial period.

Bruce's cave, howe, and camp are still pointed out, and traditional accounts survive of that monarch's exploits thereat.

Stone axes, flint arrow heads, cists, and urns have at various times been unearthed, but all were of the sort usually met with in the county.

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## Tough.

The parish has borne a variety of titles, including Tulch, Tulich, Tulluch, Tully-unch, and Touch, but for a considerable period it has been called Tough. Numerous meanings of the name have been assigned, but the most appropriate seems to be "a knoll," from Tulach. (Macdonald's "Place Names of West Aberdeenshire," p. 334.)

The church was dedicated to the Nine Maidens, who were daughters of St Donald—a Scot who lived among the Picts in the Glen of Ogilvy. The tradition is that these ladies were deeply religious, that they lived in a sort of hermitage, that they tilled the adjoining ground with their own hands, and but once a day partook of food, which consisted of barley bread and water. (Antiq. I., p. 595.)

The church was rated at four merks in the Taxation of 1366.

The present edifice was erected in 1838, and has a gallery on three sides. It is commodious, and in excellent order.

About 1700 David Wilson of Finzeauch, presented a bell to the church, but in 1734 the parishioners subscribed for a new one,

on the understanding that "they were to have the use of it (without paying anything to the officer), for themselves and their posterity at their several funerals, ay and so long as the said bell should last. . . ." An arrangement was made with John Mowat, bell founder, Old Aberdeen, under which he supplied one of the old music bells of King's College—Wilson's "bell and the bad money in the box" being taken in part payment. (Session Records.)

## MINISTERS.

Of sixteen parsons who have held the parish pastorate since the Reformation, ten made it a stepping-stone to promotion and translation—

1585—Rev. John Strathachin, to Alford.

1607—Rev. James Irvine, to Monymusk.

(He was a cadet of the family of Drum, and married Helen Strachan.)

160. —Rev. James Johnston, to Monymusk.

1617—Rev. James Irvine, to Arbirlot.

1640—Rev. William Forbes, to Innerwick.

1651—Rev. Thomas Forbes, M.A., to Keig.

1654—Rev. David Swan, resigned.

1662—Rev. James Gordon, M.A., to Alford.

1704—Rev. William Leslie, M.A., resigned.

(According to Leslie's "Family of Leslie," he was the third son of Patrick Leslie, eighth laird of Kincairgie, and "was deposed for beating some merchants at Barthol Fair at Kincardine," "for maltreating his servant," and also "because his wife sold cloth at the fair.")

1844—Rev. James Gillan, M.A., to Alford.

Of the remaining six, at least three are commemorated by tombstone inscriptions.

A tablestone near the east wall bears—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Patrick Thomson, who was, during 45 years, a faithful and diligent Minister of this Parish. He died Feb. 7th, 1792, aged 84.

The foregoing particulars differ somewhat from those given by Dr Scott. Mr Thomson was ordained 15th January, 1747, and thirteen years later had to face a serious schism in his congregation. This, Rev. Dr Davidson says (Old Aberdeenshire Ministers, pp. 81-2), took its origin in popular discontent, not with the minister, but with the precentor. The tunes used in the singing had been limited to seven, but one Sunday the precentor had the audacity to introduce an eighth one! Upon this a portion of the congregation left the church, and, betaking themselves to a neighbouring knoll, sang in the old orthodox form. These dissentients formed the nucleus of the Lynturk Seceder congregation, whose first standard may be designated the Seven Tunes. Mr Thomson, in 1749, married Helen, daughter of John Copland of Tillyfour, and they had a family of two sons, and at least three daughters. Of the sons, James entered the Government service, while John graduated M.D., and also qualified for the ministry, securing the pastorate of Foctdee, Aberdeen. A daughter, Helen, married Alexander Urquhart, the succeeding minister of Tough.

A tablestone near the church wall bears the undernoted inscription—

Underneath are deposited the remains of David Urquhart, late Farmer in Kinstair of Alford, who died 13th Oct., 1789, aged 57 years. Also the remains of Mrs Helen Thomson, spouse of The Rev. Alexander Urquhart, Minister of this Parish. She departed this life 4th July, 1810, in the 49th year of her age, deeply lamented by her affectionate husband and her weeping children. Their eldest son, Robert Urquhart, A.M., Preacher of the Gospel and Medical Practitioner, who died at Keith on 22nd Novr., 1828, in his 36th year, is also interred here. In both professions he was distinguished; and an extensive circle of relatives and sincere friends lament the premature bereavement

which his wife and numerous family have sustained.

Here also are deposited the remains of The Rev. Alexander Urquhart, who after having ministered in holy things 42 years in this Parish, was removed by death, on the 8th Feby., 1832, aged 72 years.

Rev. Alexander Urquhart, M.A., son of David Urquhart, farmer, Kincairgie, thereafter in Kinstair, and of his wife, Jean, daughter of John Harvey, schoolmaster, Midmar, was ordained assistant and successor to Tough, on 17th December, 1789. He married, first, Helen Thomson, daughter of his predecessor, Rev. Patrick Thomson, and, besides the son named in the inscription, had a son, Patrick, who graduated at Marischal College; a daughter, Anne, who became the wife of William Scott of Campfield; and a second daughter, Helen, who married Baillie Harper, of Aberdeen, and died in 1859. In 1826 he married, secondly, Margaret Forbes, daughter of George Forbes, coppersmith, Aberdeen, and their only daughter, Margaret Jane, became the second wife of William Littlejohn, who for more than forty years was manager of the Aberdeen Town and County Banking Company. She died 28th April, 1897, in her 68th year. These particulars differ considerably from those given by Dr Scott [Fasti].

A granite cross on a railed-in grave is inscribed—

In Memoriam.—Eliza Watt, wife of The Rev. Al. Milne, died at Manse of Tough on the 7th Augt., 1883, aged 69. Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., for 56 years Minister of this Parish, died at Manse of Tough on the 15th March, 1900, aged 83.

“In Thy presence is fulness of joy. At Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

Within the church is a marble tablet which bears—

In memory of The Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., for 56 years Minister of this Parish.



Born 5th Oct., 1816, at Mains of Druminnor, Auchindoir. Died 15th March, 1900, at Manse of Tough. This tablet is erected by his Parishioners and friends.

"His servants shall serve him. And they shall see his face."—Rev. xxii. 3-4.

Mr Milne was greatly attached to his parish and people, and the erection of the above tablet manifests the esteem in which he was held in the district. In 1894, upon celebrating his jubilee, he presented to the church, for use at the communion service, two silver cups and a silver flagon with the inscription—

Presented to the Church of Tough by Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., on the celebration of his jubilee as Minister of the parish. 12th September, 1894.

Mr Milne was thoroughly conversant with the ancient history of the district, and many of these notes are extracted from his MSS., written about thirty years ago.

Ecclesiastically, the parish was united to Keig in 1814, but was disunited in February, 1834.

#### THE M'COMBIES.

Upon a small upright stone—within the Cairnballoch railed-in space, afterwards referred to—is the inscription—

Her lys Danel Mackomy, who departed this lif, in the Mains of Tonley, July, 1714.

The above Danel Mackomy is said to have been a son of "M'Comie-More"—so called from his great size and strength—who died at Crandart in 1676. The family had been long resident in Glenisla and district, being known in the sixteenth century as the Clan M'Thomas and M'Intosh. Danel Mackomy is believed to have settled in the Vale of Alford about 1680. He married Janet Shires, and, according to the Poll Book, was tenant, in 1696, of Edindurnoch. He afterwards removed to Mains of Tonley, where he died

in 1714. He was ancestor of the late William M'Combie, M.P., of Tillyfour; of William M'Combie of Easter Skene, and others of the M'Combies after stated.

An enclosure has a tablestone as well as a headstone. The former is inscribed—

In memory of William M'Combie, Farmer in Mains of Lynturk, who departed this life 28th January, 1808, in the 88th year of his age. Also his spouse, Marjory Wishart, who died 28th January, 1792, and likewise their children John, George, James, Margaret, and Christian. And also of Peter M'Combie, Lynturk, their son, who died on 4th January, 1833, aged 66.

The latter bears—

In memory of Peter M'Combie, of Lynturk, who died 4th January, 1833, aged 66, and his wife, Elizabeth Murray, daughter of The Rev. Andrew Murray, Secession Minister in this Parish, who died 20th December, 1864, aged 72.

Erected by William M'Combie, of Easter Skene and Lynturk, nephew and successor to the said Peter M'Combie.

William M'Combie, who died in 1808, was son of Robert M'Combie; and his wife, Marjory Wishart, was daughter of a merchant in Banchory. Their son Peter M'Combie, referred to in both inscriptions, was for some time in business in Aberdeen. He bought the estate of Lynturk, and having no family was succeeded therein by his nephew, William M'Combie of Easter Skene.

A tablet in the Parish Church bears—

In memory of Charles M'Combie, Senior of Tillyfour, who died 10th September, 1836, aged 66. And Ann Black or M'Combie, his wife, who died 19th March, 1842, aged 58. Also of their sons and daughters following, viz. :—Mary Ann, died 26th December, 1822, aged 15. Robert, died 12th February, 1823, aged 13. Samuel, died 4th May, 1839, aged 14. Peter, died 7th January, 1841, aged 16. May M'Combie or Laing, wife of Rev. J. B. Laing, Woodside, died 26th December, 1842, aged 25. Thomas M'Combie, some time member of the Legislative Assembly and of the Executive Council of Victoria, Australia, died 2nd October, 1869,



aged 50. Rev. Charles M'Combie, LL.D., minister of Lumphanan, died 25th August, 1874, aged 70.

(The arms of the M'Combie family are shown at top, as also the motto—"Touch not the cat but a glove.")

The above Charles M'Combie, senior, was the seventh son of William M'Combie of Lynturk, while his wife, Ann Black, was the daughter of an influential Buchan farmer. Mr M'Combie was famous as a cattle dealer, his transactions as such being on the most extensive scale. To the names of the family appearing in the inscription may be added William M'Combie, M.P., and Mary, who married Patrick Campbell Auld, artist, and secondly, Rev. Mr Forbes, Obau.

Within an enclosure at the side of the entrance gate are two headstones and two crosses with the inscriptions—

(1).

In memory of Isabella Elizabeth Scott, wife of the Reverend Charles M'Combie of Tillyfour, who died on 28th July, 1838, aged 23. Of their daughter, Mary Margaret, who died on 16th March, 1839, aged 16 months. Of their son, Charles, who died at sea on 22nd November, 1857, aged 21. Of Anne Helen, eldest daughter of the said Reverend Charles M'Combie, LL.D., and of his wife, Elizabeth Lamond, who died on 25th August, 1865, aged 19. Of their son William Lamond, who died on 9th August, 1867, aged 17. And of Elizabeth Lamond, wife of Reverend Dr Charles M'Combie, who died on 13th March, 1868, aged 46.

(2).

Also in memory of the Rev. Charles M'Combie, LL.D., of Tillyfour, for 48 years Minister of Lumphanan, who died on the 25th of August, 1874, aged 69. And of Helen, daughter of the said Rev. Charles M'Combie and Elizabeth Lamond, his wife, who died 19th June, 1863, aged 15. And of their son Harry, who died at Torquay, 23rd January, 1871, aged 26. And of their son William, who died 20th February, 1871, aged 22. And of their youngest and last surviving son, Thomas, who

was drowned at Cape Town, Africa, 18th Oct., 1891, aged 33.

"Even so, Father; for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

(3).

Sacred to the memory of Margaret Shand M'Combie, the beloved wife of Henry D. Adamson, Alford, who died at Paris, 10th May, 1875, aged 28 years.

"Rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for Him."

(4).

In memory of Rachel M'Combie, wife of John Duthie. Died on 18th December, 1891, at Las Animas, Colorado.

In supplement of the foregoing particulars, it may be stated that Rev. Dr M'Combie was the eldest son of Charles M'Combie of Tillyfour, his first wife being a daughter of Rev. Robert Scott, Glenbucket, while his second was the daughter of Hary Lamond of Pitmurchie. Thomas M'Combie, the youngest son of this second marriage, for about two years prior to his accidental death by drowning, successfully conducted "The Cape Lantern" newspaper. Daughters by the same marriage were Mrs Adamson, and Mrs Duthie whose husband, a shipbuilder in Aberdeeu, died at Cults House 8th May, 1906. The surviving daughter, Isabella, is married to Rev. Thomas Young, Ellon.

On an obelisk in an enclosure is an inscription closing with a couplet from Mrs Hemans's "The Graves of a Household"—

In memory of The Honourable Thomas M'Combie, member of the Legislative Assembly, and of the Executive Council of Melbourne, Victoria. Born 7th February 1819. Died 2nd October 1869.

Also his children born and died in Melbourne—William, Ann, Australia, Charles, Robert, May, and Thomas.

Their graves are scvered far and wide,  
By mount and stream and sea.

The Hon. Thomas M'Combie was a son of Charles M'Com' senior, of Tillyfour, and a brother Dr M'Combie. His

demise at the age of 50 terminated a career of much activity and usefulness.

A railed-in grave has a massive headstone inscribed—

In memory of William M'Combie of Tillyfour, for several years Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire, who died 1st February 1880, aged 74.

He attained a distinguished position as an agriculturist; and in rearing and improving the black polled Aberdeenshire cattle, he earned for himself a high and wide-spread reputation.

A white marble tablet in church bears exactly the same inscription.

Mr M'Combie was the second son of Charles M'Combie, senior, of Tillyfour. While comparatively a young man, he took energetically to farming, and became tenant of three large holdings—Tillyfour, Bridgend, and Dorsell. Devoting special attention to the breeding of cattle, he attained a world-wide reputation. In 1867 he published an interesting volume, "Cattle and Cattle-Breeders," which subsequently went through several editions. He was honoured by a visit from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who expressed admiration of and interest in the magnificent herd. In 1868, and again in 1874, he was elected M.P. for West Aberdeenshire. He resigned in 1876. The year before, after his brother Rev. Dr M'Combie's death, he bought the estate of Tillyfour, making its name famous three years later by carrying off the two great Paris Exhibition prizes with polled Aberdeen-Angus cattle in competition with the best breeds of Europe.

A headstone bears—

In memory of Alexander M'Combie, Dyer in Waukmill of Bandle, who died in 1811, aged 78. And of Janet Gordon, his spouse, who died in 1815, aged 85. And of Alexander, their son, Dyer in Waukmill of Bandle, who died 2d May 1859, aged 89.

The above Alexander M'Combie, who died in 1811, was a son of Robert M'Combie in Findlatrie, and, besides the son Alexander noted in the inscription, he had a daughter, Grizel, who married Alexander Garden, Bandle. George Garden, Bandle, and Colonel William Garden, H.E.I.C.S., were sons of the last-named couple. George Garden was the father of the well-known and much-respected Dr William Garden in Balfuig, Alford, whose son, Farquharson Taylor Garden, is an advocate in Aberdeen, and treasurer to the New Spalding Club.

A headstone at a railed-in grave is inscribed—

Here rest the mortal remains of William M'Combie, farmer, Cairnballoch, Alford, who died 7th April, 1849, aged 78; and of his wife, May M'Combie, who died 2nd December, 1837, aged 66; and of William M'Combie, their only son, farmer, Cairnballoch, editor of "Aberdeen Free Press," author of "Hours of Thought," "Moral Agency," etc., who died 6th May, 1870, aged 61. Also of his sons Joseph, who died 7th March, 1870, aged 24, and Charles, who died 29th August, 1872, aged 24. His daughter May, who died 24th April, 1874, aged 33; and his wife, Anne Robertson, who died 28th February, 1887, aged 78.

The last-named William M'Combie possessed remarkable literary ability. In addition to the works enumerated, he published "Unity and Schism," "Life and Remains of Alexander Bethune," "Capital and Labour," "Essays on Education," "Modern Civilisation," "The Irish Land Question," etc. His wife, Anne Robertson, was the only daughter of Joseph Robertson, merchant in Aberdeen, and sister of Joseph Robertson, LL.D., the well-known antiquary, who, from 1853 till his death in 1866, was curator of the Historical Department of H.M. Register House, Edinburgh.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by Charles M'Combie, farmer in Tillychetly, in memory of his aunt, Elizabeth

Urquhart, who died 16th March, 1840, aged 74. And of the said Charles M'Combie, who died 21st February, 1876, aged 74. And of his wife, Elizabeth Matthews, who died 19th January, 1886, aged 78.

#### KINCRAIGIE AND ITS PROPRIETORS.

The lands of Kinraigie at an early period belonged to the Huntly family, and are believed to have been bestowed by Alexander, Earl of Huntly, upon Sir William Leslie of Balquhain for his services at the battle of Brechin on 18th May, 1452. Leslie acted as a captain in the engagement which was fought between Huntly and the Earl of Crawford. (Macfarlane's "Genealogical Collections," II., p. 5.) On the death of Sir William Leslie, his son, Sir Alexander, succeeded. From the latter, Kinraigie was bought, in 1470, by his immediate younger brother, William, who is recognised as the first of the Kinraigie Leslies. The lands remained with the family till after the death of George Leslie, the ninth laird. He was served heir to his father on 2nd November, 1705 (Retours), and practised as an advocate in Edinburgh. He was twice married. John, the only son by the first marriage, became an Episcopal minister, and secured a charge in the north of Ireland. On his father's death, he returned to Aberdeenshire to claim the lands, but found that they and all his father's means had been bequeathed to the widow, who was a daughter of Bailie Brand, Edinburgh. After much negotiation, he compromised his claim for £5000, and with this amount returned to Ireland and bought a property, to which he gave the name of Kinraigie. (Leslie's "Family of Leslie.")

Shortly after, the lands of Kinraigie, Tough, were bought by Alexander Auchindachy or Auchinachie. Alluding to this, and to the loss of the estate to the Leslies

after having been in their hands for upwards of two centuries, a manuscript quoted in the Leslie family history describes Auchindachy as "a person risen from the very dunghill, being of very mean, not to say worse, parents. After he had been a servant to one Jamieson, a Popish priest, he fell in about the Earl of Dunfermling's house, and after the said Earl's death at St Germain's, he became so intimate with the Countess of Dunfermling that she not only made him her chamberlain while she lived, but made over all her effects to him after her death. He is now a man of great substance . . ." He was succeeded by his only son, George, who passed as an advocate, but from his hearing having become impaired, he was more frequently designated "The wind laird."

In December, 1786, Kinraigie was purchased by James Byres of Tonley, and united by him to the estate of Tonley.

#### TONLEY AND ITS LAIRDS.

The lands and barony of Tonley belonged, in the 17th century, to the Farquhar family. In 1633, the proprietor was Alexander Farquhar, and his son Patrick, in that year, acquired the estate of Mounie. In 1668, Alexander and Patrick Farquhar were returned as owners of Tonley, while in 1696 Alexander Farquhar of Mounie is named as heritor. In 1701-2 all the property of the last-named was sequestrated for debt (Davidson's "Inverurie," etc., p. 231), and the lands of Tonley were then acquired by Alexander Hay of Arnbath, who married Christian, daughter of Alexander Abernethy of Mayen. Unfortunately, he took part in the Rebellion of 1715, and suffered forfeiture in consequence.

Within the next few years, Tonley was bought by the widow and trustees of



Robert Byres, formerly merchant in Dublin, and a descendant of Byres of Coates, Edinburgh. The purchase was made on behalf of Patrick Byres, eldest son of Robert Byres. He was then in minority, but in 1733 he married Janet, daughter of James Moir, M.P., of Stoneywood. He was known as "the Jacobite Laird," and, notwithstanding the misfortune of his predecessor, he joined the rising of the "'45," acting as a major in Stoneywood's Regiment. He fought at Culloden, and subsequently, for a time, found shelter in Cluny Castle, ultimately escaping to France. He was excepted from the first pardon, and would have lost the estate but for the timely intervention of his friends, who denied his identity with the rebel, "Peter Byres," as scheduled. He had a family of four sons and three daughters. James, the eldest son, succeeded, and during his proprietorship the estate of Tonley was greatly extended by the purchase and addition to it of the adjoining property of Kineragie, as already stated. Robert, the second son, possessed property in Martinique, where he died in 1799.

James Byres, second, of Tonley, accompanied his father to France after Culloden. He was a distinguished archæologist, and the original (British) possessor of the Portland Vase. For many years he lived in Italy, and is referred to by Horace Walpole as "The Pope's Antiquary in Rome." He it was who first introduced Gibbon, the historian, to the antiquities of Rome, before the latter began "The Decline and Fall." (See Dict. National Biography.)

In the Parish Church, opposite the pulpit, and underneath the gallery, is a white marble tablet of very fine sculpture, having an urn in relief at the top, figures resembling those on the Tuscan Vase, and a medallion of Patrick Byres and his wife,

Janet Moir. It was erected to the memory of William Byres, their third son, who served in the Navy, and held the appointment of one of the King's surveyors. He died in the island of St Vincent in June, 1765, at the early age of 23. The fourth son, John, was a captain in the H.E.I.C.S., and married a daughter of Dr James Donaldson of Auehmull.

Four of the succeeding proprietors have their names upon three crosses erected in a reserved space in the parish graveyard thus—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Patrick Byres, of Tonley, Lieut.-General in the service of the Hon. E. I. Company, who died on the 1st of Feb., 1854, aged 76 years; and Margaret Byres, his wife, who died April 28th, 1890.

(2).

Patrick Moir-Byres of Tonley. Born August 4th, 1813; died January 15, 1891. "He ever liveth to make intercession." And Maria, his wife, who died December 16, 1900, aged 86.

(3).

In loving remembrance of James Gregory Moir-Byres, of Tonley, who died on the 6th of November, 1881, aged 77 years. Also of Patrick Moir Byres, of Tonley, who died on the 4th of June, 1863, aged 61 years.

Lieut.-General Patrick Byres was the eldest surviving son of Robert Byres of Memel, and succeeded to the estate of Tonley on the death of his uncle, James Byres, in 1817. His first marriage was with Jessie, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Denny; and their only son, James, lieutenant in the 1st Royals, was accidentally drowned at Athlone. His second marriage was with Margaret, eldest daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Joseph Burnett of Gadgirth. This lady, as shown by the inscription, survived her husband for upwards of 36 years.

The succeeding proprietor was Patrick Moir, eldest son of Katherine Byres, cousin-german to Lieut.-General Byres,





Tonley House.



and to her husband, John Moir, of St Catherine's, the celebrated local painter. He assumed the additional surname of Byres, and died, unmarried, 4th June, 1863. (Ins. 3.)

James Gregory Moir-Byres, immediate younger brother of the preceding, succeeded. He married Mary (she died 27th September, 1906, aged 77), daughter of Henry Prideaux Hensleigh, surgeon, London, and they had a daughter, Patricia Byres Moir-Byres, who became the wife of Captain Harry Vesey Brooke, formerly of the Gordon Highlanders. Mr Moir-Byres bought the estate of Fairley, which, at his death (Ins. 3), passed to his daughter, Mrs Brooke.

Tonley then passed to George Moir-Byres, the next younger brother. He married Alleyne, daughter of Thomas Houghton Fields, of Colby, and their family consisted of three daughters—Alleyne Catherine Elizabeth, married to Napier Macleod Wyllie; Stuart, married to John Byres Leake, of Rocklands, Oakhampton; and Jean, married to Dr Oswald. George Moir-Byres died in Edinburgh on 8th December, 1889, and was succeeded by his cousin, Patrick Moir-Byres (Insc. 2), who, in 1838, had married Maria, eldest daughter of John White, merchant, Quebec. George Moir-Byres, eldest son of that marriage, is the present proprietor.

Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill of Savoeh and Auchinroath has published a carefully-compiled and exhaustive history of the "Houses of Moir and Byres," and from it many of these particulars have been taken.

The mansion house has recently been much enlarged. It has an excellent situation, with finely-wooded heights rising behind it.

#### THE FARQUHARSONS OF WHITEHOUSE.

Within the policies of Whitehouse is a private burying-ground. It contains two monuments, which are inscribed as under—

(1).

(East).

In memory of Marjory Stewart, wife of Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse, who departed this life on the 1st April, 1849.

And of the said Peter Farquharson, who survived until the 20th February, 1855.

This inscription is placed here, as a tribute of filial affection and great regard, by their son, Andrew Farquharson.

(North).

Sacred to the memory of George Campbell, eldest son of Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse, who died on the 8th September, 1833, to the inexpressible grief of his parents and other nearest relatives, by whom his memory will be fondly cherished through life with sentiments of the tenderest affection.

Also of Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse. Born 24th August, 1802; died 23rd January, 1896.

(South).

In loving remembrance of Jane Stewart Farquharson, eldest daughter of Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse and Marjory Stewart, who departed this life on the 9th December, 1891, deeply lamented by her surviving brother, Andrew Farquharson, of whom she had been the constant and affectionate companion for a long period of years.

Margaret, second daughter of her parents above-named, and wife of Lt.-Col. John Farquharson, H.E.C.I.S., of Corrachree, who departed this life on the 1st May, 1888, and is interred at Coldstone.

(2).

In loving memory of George Farquharson of Whitehouse, second son of G. A. Y. Leslie of Kininvie. Died 9th June, 1899, aged 53.

In the Parish Church are three mural tablets in memory of members of the family—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of May Stewart, only

daughter of William Stewart of Lesmurdie, Banffshire, and wife of Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse, who departed this life on the 1st of April, 1849 aged 84 years.

This tablet is erected by her surviving husband and family, in affectionate and grateful recollection of her many estimable qualities and exemplary conduct as a wife and a mother.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Peter Farquharson, Esqre of Whitehouse, who departed this life on the 20th day of February, 1855, in the 90th year of his age.

Throughout a long life he maintained a character distinguished for unblemished integrity, singular disinterestedness, and high moral worth, guileless and single-minded to a remarkable degree, largely imbued with that charity which thinketh no evil, in disposition mild, gentle, and amiable, simple and unaffected in manners, modest, and unassuming in deportment, ever ready and desirous to oblige; by the constant practice of these estimable qualities he gained a large share of regard and respect, at the same time ever retaining an abiding sense of the higher and more important duties—meekness, humility, and forbearance were prominent features in all his actions. Exemplary in every relation of life, his aim always was “to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God.”

In affectionate remembrance of those endearing qualities of which they had daily experience, and in gratitude for the inheritance he has bequeathed to them of that “good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches,” this humble tribute to his sterling worth is erected by his surviving son and daughters.

(3).

A tribute of a brother's love.

To the memory of George Campbell, eldest son of P. Farquharson of Whitehouse, who died unexpectedly in the prime of life, on the 8th day of September, 1838, to the inexpressible grief of his parents and sisters and his only brother, who received the mournful intelligence in a far distant land, and by whom this tablet is placed as a lasting memorial of the many excellent qualities of the deceased — of his exemplary conduct as a son and brother, of the sterling and manly worth of his character,

which combined great firmness of purpose with intelligence and strong good sense, unvarying sincerity, with plain unaffected demeanour, and great kindness of heart.

Over each of these tablets the arms of the Farquharson family are shown, along with the motto in Latin, which, translated, is “With faith and fortitude.”

In the wall of the vestry a red granite tablet has been fixed. It bears the inscription—

Sacred to the loving memory of Miss Jane Stewart Farquharson of Whitehouse, who departed this life on the 9th December, 1891.

This building has been erected by her affectionate and surviving brother, Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse. 1892.

The Farquharsons of Whitehouse are descended from the family of that surname, lairds of Castleton of Braemar, and subsequently of Monaltrie. The immediate progenitor of this branch was James Farquharson, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, brother of Colonel Donald Farquharson of Monaltrie, who was familiarly known as Donald Oig. He purchased the lands of Whitehouse, in Cromar. He married — first, the daughter of an Edinburgh lawyer; and, secondly, Anna Gardyne, daughter of Colonel Thomas Gardyne. He died in 1666, and was succeeded by his son of the second marriage, Harry Farquharson, whose eldest son, Francis Farquharson, acquired the lands of Shiels, in the parish of Cluny. Harry Farquharson, a son of the last-named, married Jean Rose of Tillysnaught; and the only surviving son of that couple, Harry Farquharson (he married Barbara, daughter of John Gordon of Hallhead), was an officer in the regiment of infantry commanded by his relative, Colonel Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie, and fell at the battle of Culloden, in 1746. He had four sons and two daughters. The second surviving son, William Farquharson, who was an



eminent physician in Dundee, succeeded. He married Margaret, eldest daughter of Patrick Souper of Auchlunies. Their son, Peter Farquharson, passed advocate in Aberdeen, and for a lengthened period was the trusted agent for many families. He was long trustee upon Invercauld estate. The old patrimonial estate in Cromar having passed from his family, he acquired the lands of Abercattie, in Tough, and changed the name to that of Whitehouse. The foregoing inscriptions give particulars regarding him and the later proprietors. The older members of the family were interred in the churchyard of Tullich, and also in the private burying-ground at Breda.

The mansion house stands at a high elevation on the western slope of Green Hill, and commands an excellent view of the fertile vale. The grounds and estate are well wooded.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A railed-in grave has a tablestone showing an angel at the top and a scroll at the foot. The inscription is—

Here lies interrd Eliz. Law, spouse to Alexr Ritchie, tenant in Fermtown of Balfluige. She died July 5th, 1774, aged 53. Likewise Ia Ritchie, who was tenant in Fermtown. Departed this life June 4, 1734. Also Elspet Adam, his spouse. Departed this life, Ianr. 5, 1745. Likewise the said Alexr. Ritchie, who was tenant in Fermtown of Balfluige, who died Agust 12th, 1787, aged 75. Also his son, Alexr. Ritchie, who died at Dykehead, the 19th Augt., 1817, aged 70.

Ritchies were for many years farmers at Farmtown. Isobel Ritchie, a daughter of the above Ja Ritchie, married Robert M'Combie, tenant of Findlatrie, and son of Donald M'Combie, the first of that name to settle in the Vale of Alford.

These five are tablestone inscriptions—

(1).

Here lies Mary Urquhart, who died in the 66 year of her age, and was 44 of them married wife to John Farquhar, late farmer in Abercattie. Also 3 of their sons, Wm., at her right side, aged 39; George, on her left side, aged 36; and Joseph, at her feet, aged 24.

J. F., her husband, caused this stone to be erected in memory of his family, August, 1787.

The above John Farquhar died 1790, aged 77. Samuel Farquhar, their son, Farmer in Higbogs, one of the elders of this parish, died 9th Dec., 1808, aged 68, and is also here interrd.

(2).

In memory of The Revd. Andrew Murray, who was minister of the Associate Congregation of Tough for the space of 36 years, and died the 9th of July, 1816, aged 71, and his sons—William, aged 22, and Robert, aged 7, as also his datr., Margaret, who died in infancy. And of his spouse, Mrs Jane Murray, who died on 14th Febr., 1833, aged 76. Also in memory of John Murray, Ardgowse, Tough, who died 10th July, 1859, aged 72 years.

Also his daughter Jane, who died 11th Jan., 1835, aged 15 years; and Andrew, who died 4th Feb., 1835, aged 11 years; and Hannah, who died Feb. 11th, 1835, aged 9 years. Also Ann Walker, his wife, who died Feby. 10th. 1869, aged 77 years.

(3).

This stone is erected to the memory of William Farquharson who lived in Little Miln of Tough; he departed this life the 21th of April, 1762, aged 70 years. By Margaret Cobhad, his relict, who died Feby. 13, 1773, aged 71 years. Also Margaret Farquharson, spouse to Alexr. Murray, in Mains of Tonley, who died 13th Decr., 1794, aged 57 years. Also the said Alexander Murray, who died 10th August, 1804, aged 69.

(4).

Here lies William Anderson, some time farmer in Upperhaugh of Alford; died March, 1746, aged 75; also Margaret Emslie, his spouse, died in 1717, and three sons—John, sometime farmer in Milltown of Bandlay, who died June, 1732, aged 45. Alexr., died Sept., 1738, aged 53, and Joseph, died Jan.,

1765, aged 56, both succeeded their father in Upperhaugh. . . .

(5).

Here lies in hops of a blessed resurrection, Margret Elsmay, who was 12 years lawful wife to George Miln, sometime in Dendurn. She dep' this life 20 of March, 1748, aged 34 years and 10 months, leaving behind her 3 children—Margret, Mary, and Willm Milns. . . .

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

Granite obelisks commemorate these—

(1).

To the memory of Revd. Alexander Ingram, for 56 years the much respected schoolmaster of this parish, who died 7th December, 1859, aged 74.

Erected by his pupils.

(2).

In memory of Adam Garden, M.A., 14 years schoolmaster in this Parish, who died 8th Nov., 1884, aged 37 years.

Erected by his pupils and friends.

The parish has had many eminent teachers, among whom may be cited James Man, about 1722, the critic of Ruddiman, and collector of material for an edition of Dr Arthur Johnston's Poems, as also a history of the Church of Scotland; in 1774 Rev. Benjamin Mercer, afterwards minister of Forbes and Kearn, and subsequently of Kildrumny; in 1854 James M'Lachlan, assistant to Mr Ingram, more recently minister of Inveraven; in 1860 John Craig Smith, thereafter minister of Kintore; and in 1869 James Moir, afterwards LL.D., and Rector, Grammar School, Aberdeen.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of The Reverend John Robb, minister of the United Presbyterian Church, Tough, ordained March 17, 1819. Died Nov. 29, 1853, aged 67 years.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

On the hill above Whitehouse is a large stone of about twelve feet in height, which

bears the title of "Luath's Stone." The tradition is that a son of Macbeth fell here while flying from Lumphanan, where his father was slain. Rhynie, however, claims the same honour.

A large stone circle is known as "The Auld Kirk of Tough," which implies that at one time it had been used for religious services.

At various times stone axes, arrow-heads, and other ancient implements have been unearthed; as also was the complete skeleton of a man in armour, who is supposed to have met his death while flying from the battle of Alford.

Interesting notes on the parish antiquities are given in the New Statistical Account, and also in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland, Vol. IV.

## Tyrie.

The name Tyrie is believed to be of Gaelic origin, and to signify "the King's house." This theory is strengthened by the tradition that in ancient times a petty Pictish King had his residence within the parish.

The church of Tyrie was dedicated to St Andrew, the Apostle (Antiq., I., p. 449), and, prior to the Reformation, belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath. It is rated at 6 merks in the old taxation.

In descriptions of the parish written in 1721 and 1723 (Antiq., I., p. 449) the kirk "is said to be one of the oldest in this diocese"; its walls were "built with run lime" before John Knox was born—it was "formerly well known by the name of 'The White Kirk of Buchan'"; the Queen Dowager of James I. gave out a pilgrimage intended by her to The White Kirk in Buchan, but "this shrine could scarcely have been in the parish church of

Tyrie," which was known to be "dedicated to Saint Andrew," while the Queen's pilgrimage "was to a chapel of the Blessed Virgin." It has been suggested that at that time a special altar to the Blessed Virgin may have been at Tyrie, which would remove the difficulty. (M'Leod's Churches of Buchan, pp. 119 and 120.)

#### MINISTERS.

For a period between 1527 and 1536 Hector Boece, the first Principal of King's College, Aberdeen, also held the rectorship of Tyrie. At that time there was preserved in the church a specimen of the barnacle log, which may have formed the text for the disquisition on the development of the barnacle goose to which we are treated in Boece's wonderful History of Scotland. He probably died in 1536, as, upon 27th November of that year, he was succeeded in the incumbency at Tyrie by John Garden, who had a Crown presentation, wherein it was stated that the vacancy had arisen through Boece's death.

In 1553, Alexander Anderson held the combined offices of Principal of King's College, parson of Tyrie, and rector of Kinkell, all of which he seems to have retained down to 1569, when, owing to the Reformation upheaval, he was deposed (Orem). He has been described as a "great scholar and a subtil disputant, but no great friend to the College." Doubtless, he and his predecessors had performed the duties at Tyrie by deputy.

In 1574, Tyrie, Gamrie, Aberdour, and Philorth were served by Mr David Howesoun as minister—the contemporary reader at Tyrie being Alexander Ugstoun, whose salary was xx. lib (Register of Ministers). Howesoun died in charge of Tyrie in 1615, and was followed by Rev. William Cheyne, who was deposed in 1637. The succeeding incumbent was Rev. William

Fraser, M.A., who, in turn, was followed, in 1645, by Rev. David Houston, M.A.

After the death, about 1692, of Rev. John Jamieson, M.A. (admitted to Tyrie 20th December, 1648), considerable trouble ensued over the appointment of a successor. For some time previously Andrew Dalgarno, M.A., schoolmaster of Fraserburgh, who held licence as a preacher, acted as an assistant minister at Tyrie, and, on the vacancy occurring, he intruded to the charge. He had got a call, but this was so keenly resented by the bulk of the parishioners that a rabble followed. The incidents are recorded in a local ballad, known as "The Guise of Tyrie"—

"Oh, wat ye how the guise began,  
The guise began, the guise began,  
O wat ye how the guise began,  
The guise began at Tyrie?"

The Lady Tyrie and laird o' Glack,  
Wha lived baith into the Slack,  
Between them twa there was a pack  
To enter Cripple Andry."

The female portion of the congregation, with whom Dalgarno was anything but popular, waxed wroth over the matter, and treated Lady Tyrie with much indignity—

"They said her husband was in h—l,  
And she was following fast hersell,  
And she was following fast hersell,  
For entering Cripple Andry.

They tare her veil out owre her tail,  
Out owre her tail, out owre her tail,  
They tare her veil out owre her tail,  
For entering Cripple Andry."

[Peter Buchan, in his "Ancient Ballads," gives a version of the piece from which these verses are taken, but in his explanatory notes commits the blunder of naming Rev. Andrew Cant, minister of Tyrie, as its hero. Cant never held the pastorate of Tyrie, but was for some time minister of the adjoining parish of Pitsligo.]



The opposition ultimately prevailed, and "Andry," finding that his was not the "message of peace" at Tyrie, wisely withdrew, and remained schoolmaster at Fraserburgh.

In 1701, Rev. James Farquhar was ordained to the charge, but eight years later demitted office owing to scruples respecting Church Government. He was subsequently inducted to the charge of Nigg. He possessed great bodily strength, and was frequently employed to preach churches vacant which had been held by Episcopalians. Mr Jervise records some of his exploits and eccentricities.

Only three of at least 15 ministers who have at different times held the incumbency since the Reformation are commemorated by tombstones at Tyrie. This doubtless arises from the fact that translations to other parishes had in some instances taken place, whilst in the case of ministers dying within the parish, it was usual, up to about 1750, to inter the remains within the church under or beside the pulpit.

A tablestone near the centre of the churchyard is inscribed—

Erected by Agnes Wilson, in memory of her husband, John Byth, Farmer in Milltown of Rathen, who died 6th September, 1835, in the 73rd year of his age, and of their daughter Agnes, who died 27th August, 1814, aged 13. Also in memory of her grandfather, The Revd. John Mercer, Minister of Tyrie, who died 31st March, 1761, in the 74th year of his age and 45th of his ministry. And of her Brother, James Wilson, Merchant at Tyrie, who died 17th Febr., 1796, aged 39. The above-named Agnes Wilson died 19th March, 1855, aged 35 years.

Rev. John Mercer, M.A., eldest son of Thomas Mercer of Todlaw and Smiddyburn, was successor to the above Rev. James Farquhar. He married Isobel Martin (she died 21st March, 1765), daughter of Robert Martin of Bruntbrae,

and they had at least three of a family—John, in Kirktown of Tyrie, who died 10th January, 1790, aged 73 $\frac{3}{4}$  years; Thomas, who became a minister; and Elizabeth, who married the Rev. James Wilson of Gamrie. In the inscription a mistake has been made as to the length of Mr Mercer's incumbency at Tyrie. The Presbytery and Session Records prove that he was ordained to the full charge on 30th November, 1710, that he continued in the active discharge of his duties down to 28th December, 1760—when he preached his last public sermon—and that he died on 31st March, 1761. He was thus in the 51st (not the 45th) year of his ministry.

Two tablestones, within a railed-in enclosure, are inscribed respectively—

(1).

To the memory of the Revd. William Fraser, Minister of the Gospel at Tyrie, who, after faithfully discharging the Pastoral office of this Parish for 37 years, cheerfully resigned his spirit into the hands of his Creator on the 6th September, 1810, in the 69th year of his age; this stone is erected as a tribute justly due to a beloved husband and an affectionate father. Also in remembrance of his spouse, Anne Wilson, who departed this life upon the 18th March, 1835, in the 80th year of her age.

(2).

Erected to the memory of Alexander Fraser of Sheddocksley, Physician in Aberdeen, and only son of the late Revd. William Fraser, Minister of Tyrie. He died on the 20th day of February, 1849, aged 60 years.

According to Scott (Fasti), Rev. William Fraser, M.A., was a descendant of the Saltoun family, and Buchan, in his notes on the ballad, "Lizie Baillie," gives details as to his forebears. Prior to his ministerial appointment at Tyrie, he officiated as schoolmaster of Fraserburgh. His wife, Anne Wilson, was daughter of Rev. James Wilson of Gamrie,



and grand-daughter of the above Rev. John Mercer. In addition to the son Alexander referred to in the second inscription, they had three daughters—Sophia, who married George Cruden, schoolmaster of Old Deer, thereafter minister of Logie-Buchan, and died 18th December, 1839, aged 58; Elizabeth, who became the second wife of James Watt, merchant and bank agent, Old Deer, and died 26th March, 1865, aged 80 (Tombstone at Old Deer); and Sarah, who became the second wife of Donaldson Rose of Hazelhead, merchant and shipowner, Aberdeen, and died 21st February, 1868, aged 77 (Tombstone in St Nicholas, Aberdeen). The two last-mentioned are not noticed by Scott.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

Erected by the parishioners of Tyrie in memory of their respected and beloved pastor, the Rev. George Alexander Simpson, who, after an incumbency of 30 years, departed this life on the 23rd October, 1841, aged 54 years. Also in memory of his children—Henry, who died in 1826, aged 4 years; Patrick, who died in 1829, aged 9 weeks; Ann, who died in 1830, aged 12 days; Charles, who died in 1833, aged 5 years; George Alexander, who died in 1835, aged 11 months; Leonara, who died 14th Oct., 1841, aged 16 years; and Rachel, who died in Aberdeen, 17th Feb., 1839, aged 21 years, and was interred in the town churchyard there; Katharine, who died in India 27th Sept., 1860, aged 26 years; William, who died 2nd Oct., 1864, aged 43 years; Alexander, who died 14th Nov., 1864, aged 45 years. Also in memory of Agnes Lawrie, the beloved wife of the above Revd. George Alexander Simpson, who died in Aberdeen 9th Dec., 1864, aged 67 years.

Rev. George Alexander Simpson, M.A., was the son of Rev. Alexander Simpson, minister of Fraserburgh (see Fraserburgh), and for some time was schoolmaster of Rathen parish. As stated in the inscription, he married Agnes Lawrie, and of their numerous family one son—

Alexander, became a surgeon in the H.E.I.C.S., Bengal, while a daughter, Katharine, married Dr John Brown, who held an official appointment in the same service.

In 1842, Rev. James Cruden, M.A., succeeded, but in 1855 he was translated to Gamrie.

In 1856, Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., was ordained. He acted for many years as clerk to the Bruce Bequest Trustees. In 1859, he married Isabella Caroline Patton, who died in 1899. In March, 1899, the University of St Andrews conferred on him the degree of D.D. He died 29th October, 1905, aged 80.

In 1901 Rev. Adam Nelson, B.D., was ordained as assistant and successor.

#### PARISH LANDS.

The lands of Tyrie originally formed a portion of the extensive possessions of the Earls of Buchan, which subsequently passed to the Earls of Ross. In 1367, Walter of Lesly, lord of Ross, granted a charter of "Tiry" with other lands to Euphame of Saint Clare. (*Antiq.*, II., 383.) In 1418, Laurence Mercer of Aldie ordered sasine of the lands of Faithlie and Tyrie to be given to Alexander Fraser, son of the deceased Sir William Fraser of Philorth. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 122.) In 1504, Sir William Fraser had a charter of "feufferme" from Sir Henry Mercer of Aldie of the lands of Tyrie, etc. (*Ibid.*, p. 124.) James Fraser, third son of Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth and Fraserburgh (1570-1624) received the same property from his father as his portion. He was the founder of the mansion of Tyrie described in the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen" as "a great house, built fancifully after a foreign model, but never quite finished, and now ruinous." Prior to 1728 the estate was sold to George Leslie of Eden, and after

passing through various hands, was purchased by Simon Fraser of Ness Castle, and through him re-united to the Philorth estates. (Fraser of Philorth, II., p. 152.)

Easter Tyrie would seem to have been a separate possession, David II., in 1369, confirming a grant of it by Hugh of Ross of Philorth to Alexander of St Clare, son of the deceased Thomas of St Clare. (R.M.S., p. 76, No. 273.) In the end of the sixteenth century it belonged to the Chalmers family, who formerly owned the land of Strichen. Alexander Chalmers of that family was the last laird of Strichen, which he sold to Fraser of Knockie, ancestor of the present Lord Lovat. He married, first, Elizabeth Johnston; and, secondly, Margaret Gordon, sister of Gordon of Gight, the murderer of Thomas Fraser at the bridge of Deer on Christmas Eve, 1576. His eldest son, James Chalmers, lived at the Mill of Strichen, and was designed of Coynach and Easter Tyrie. He married Janet Chalmers, a natural daughter of a priest, Duncan Chalmers, Chancellor of Ross, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Rev. George Chalmers, who held in turn the incumbencies of Crimond, 1596; Botarie, 1599; Gartly, 1601; and Kinore, 1607. He was named by the General Assembly of 1606 as perpetual moderator of the Presbytery of Strathbogie, and the Presbytery members were charged by the Privy Council to receive him as such, under the pain of rebellion. In 1701, Easter Tyrie was owned by Rev. George Chalmers, D.D. Several members of the Strichen branch achieved distinction in national affairs. Of these may be named David Chalmers, Lord Ormond, who was a judge in the time of Mary, Queen of Scots, and rendered her assistance in the unfortunate intrigue with Bothwell. ("Chalmers and Trail Ancestry," etc.)

#### BOYNDLIE AND ITS PROPRIETORS.

Within an enclosure are several monuments, inscribed respectively—

(1).

To the memory of George Forbes of Upper Boyndlie. Born the 22nd day of September, 1715; died the 30th June, 1794. Jean Keith, his first wife, who died in 1763, and Christian Ker, his second wife, who died in 1807; also Mary and Theodore Forbes, their daughter and son; also John Forbes of Boyndlie. Born the 27th June, 1758. Died the 6th December, 1824. All of whose mortal remains are interred here.

(2).

In memory of Alexander Forbes of Boyndlie, who was born 28th of April, 1787, and died December 20th, 1862, and of Annabella Reid, his wife, who died February 3rd, 1882, aged 85. . . . .

(3).

To the memory of Andrew Forbes, son of John Forbes of Boyndlie. Born the 28th of June, 1794. Died the 27 of September, 1831.

(4).

To the memory of Katharine Morison, wife of John Forbes of Boyndlie. Born the 25th of April, 1757; died the 5th of January, 1832; also Helen Forbes, daughter of George Forbes of Upper Boyndlie. Born 16th of March, 1757; died the 23rd of April, 1839.

(5).

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of George Ogilvie Forbes, M.D., of Boyndlie. Born 19 Sept., 1820; departed 25 June, 1886.

"The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord on that day."

On the reverse—

Also of Jane, his wife, daughter of Robert Cordiner. Born 27 March, 1814; died 4 April, 1896.

Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in Glory everlasting.

The first of the Forbeses of Boyndlie was a cadet of the noble family of Pitsligo, and fell at the battle of Crabstane in 1571. A descendant—John Forbes of Boyndlie—was taken prisoner by Montrose at the battle

of Aberdeen on 12th September, 1644. He was subsequently released on parole, with a view to exchange by the Covenanters with young Irvine of Drum, who had been taken prisoner by them. The negotiations fell through, however, and Forbes honourably returned to the camp of Montrose, and remained with him while his supporters were deserting in bands.

The first house of Boyndlie was built in 1560, but was rebuilt about a century later. Captain Forbes, son of the rebuildler, enlarged and beautified it greatly. He was succeeded by Captain John Forbes, who, as an elder and J.P., was, in 1705, appointed to accompany his minister, Rev. James Farquhar, and aid him in ejecting from the Parish Church of Fraserburgh Rev. Alexander Moore, who was the last Episcopalian incumbent to hold office there. Captain John Forbes died in 1741, leaving two daughters as heirs portioners. The younger of these — Elizabeth — in 1755 married Baillie George Philips, merchant in Banff, and had three sons—Alexander, who became a captain; John, who qualified as a surgeon; and George, who entered the service of the Hon. the East India Company, and rose to the rank of major. The last-named left a legacy of £600 for behoof of the poor of Tyrie parish. Baillie Philips died about 1758, and shortly afterwards his widow married James Mackie of Gask (see Peterhead). The elder daughter, who was a cripple, married a cooper named Thomas Morris. Mackie and his wife thereupon instituted legal proceedings to deprive the elder daughter of her portion, on the plea that she was weak and facile, as evidenced by her having married beneath her rank, but George Forbes of Ladysford interposed, and successfully maintained the legal rights of the cripple and her consort.

The estate was sold about 1781 to Captain George Irvine, who, on 26th

October, 1788, married Christian Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Beldorney, and died on 16th November, 1797 ("Aberdeen Journal").

The first of the present Forbeses of Boyndlie was John, a younger son of Sir John Forbes, third Baronet, of Monymusk. He purchased the greater part of the estate of Boyndlie from Lord Pitsligo in 1711. He was an ardent Jacobite, and was commissioned, by order of the Earl of Mar from the camp at Perth, in 1715, to collect the Aberdeenshire subsidy for the Stuart cause. He has left an MS. account of the sums collected from the landowners of the county. On the collapse of the movement he fled, embarking for Holland, and is supposed to have been murdered at sea. He married Susan, daughter of George Morison of Bognie.

George Forbes (Inscr. 1) was the youngest son of this John Forbes, and succeeded his father. His first wife was Jean, daughter of William Keith of Bruxie; his second, Christian, daughter of the Rev. Andrew Ker.

John Forbes, son by the first marriage of the above George Forbes, purchased the remainder of the estate in 1812, as already stated, pulled down the old and erected the present mansion-house. He (Inscr. 1) and his wife, Katharine Morison (Inscr. 4), daughter of Alexander Morison of Bognie, are also commemorated by the centre light in a fine window placed in St Margaret's, Forgue, of which congregation they were members. The light represents Christ bearing the cross, and was an offering by their second son, Alexander Forbes, at whose death, without issue, in 1862, his sister Jane, who had, on 22nd August, 1818, married Dr John Charles Ogilvie, physician in Aberdeen, of the family of Aucheries, became proprietrix of Boyndlie, and assumed the additional surname of Forbes.



Annabella Reid (Inscr. 2), wife of Alexander Forbes, was the daughter of James Reid of Ardoch, sometime merchant in Portsoy. She had three brothers who went to Jamaica, one of whom was a surgeon and another a lieutenant in the Army. A third brother — James — succeeded his uncle as laird of Cairnbanno, Auchmunziel, etc., and thereupon adopted the surname of Wilson. (Jervise II., p. 109.)

Mrs Ogilvie-Forbes was succeeded in 1876 by her eldest son, Dr George Ogilvie-Forbes, who, from 1860 to 1877, held the Professorship of Physiology in Aberdeen University, and was the author of "Early Progress of Christianity in Buchan." ("Club of Deer" Papers, 1873.) He married Jane, daughter of Robert Cordiner, and grand-daughter of the Rev. Charles Cordiner (author of "Remarkable Ruins of North Britain"), and on his death, in 1886, was succeeded by his only son, Mr John Charles Matthias Ogilvie-Forbes, the present proprietor of Boyndlie, who married first, in 1890, Mary Christine, daughter of Captain George Vaughan, grandson of John, third Earl of Lisburne. She died in 1897, and was buried in the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea at Fraserburgh. Mr Ogilvie-Forbes married secondly, in 1899, Anne Marguerite, daughter of Colonel Lennox Prendergast, late of the Royal Scots Greys.

A good story is told respecting one of the old lairds who was the owner of various pictures of the saints. Upon one occasion the rigid Covenanting minister, Rev. Andrew Cant, who for some time held the incumbency of the neighbouring parish of Pitsligo, had occasion to sleep at Boyndlie, and on being shown to his bedroom was disgusted to find that the picture of St Peter was hanging upon the wall. He at once requested his host to have it removed. This Mr Forbes good-naturedly complied with, but at the same time administered a

severe snub to his guest's narrowness and bigotry by substituting a portrait of Mr Cant himself, with the following lines written underneath it—

Come down St Peter, ye superstitious saint,  
And let up your better, Mr Andrew Cant!

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

The following three from tablestones commemorate members of the family of Forrest, who have for many centuries been connected with Tyrie:—

(1).

. . . the corps of Georg Forest, who lived in Tillinamolt, who was interred here the 24 of Sept., 161—.

(2).

Heir lyes Thomas Forest, who lived in Cvk-bog, whos corps was interred in this sepvclher the 20 of Febr., 1677 years. O Death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory.

(3).

This stone is erected by William Forrest, in Aucheries, in memory of his lawful spouse, Isobel Henderson, who departed this life the 10th July, 1793, aged 66 years.

The Forrests were long in Tillinamolt, where a considerable mansion-house at one time stood. In 1696, John Forrest was tenant of the mill there, and in 1710 he is named as one of the parish elders. He married Jean Ogston, believed to be a daughter of George Ogston, some time in Ladysford. Messrs Forrest, merchants and bank agents at Loumay, are descendants of this branch.

On a tablestone—

To the memory of Mary Coutts, wife of William Fowlie, A.M., schoolmaster of Tyrie. Born 23rd June, 1801. Died 10th February, 1836. William Fowlie, M.A. Born 1st October, 1801. Died 4th August, 1875, aged 73 years.

Besides being schoolmaster, Mr Fowlie for some time acted as a farmer, and was held in much esteem. At Tyrie he suc-



ceeded Rev. James Smith, afterwards Rector of Banff Academy, and subsequently minister of Monquhitter.

A tablestone near at hand commemorates Mr Fowlie's parents—

Erected by William Fowlie, late of Mill of Boyndlie, in memory of his beloved wife, Agnes Gordon, who was born 13th June, 1776, and died 30th December, 1836. The above William Fowlie was born 24th February, 1766, and died at Cairnmourning 17th February, 1852.

Another schoolmaster is commemorated by a tablestone—

To the memory of William Crawford, A.M., some time schoolmaster of Tyrie, who died Sept. 7th, 1768, aged 73 years, and of his daughter Katharine Crawford, who died Oct. 7th, 1792, aged 57 years. She was spouse to James Rose, mason in Tarmair, who erected this stone. The said James Rose died in Nov., 1818, aged 73 years.

On a tablestone, showing various emblems, including a skull, cross-bones, bell, sand-glass, spade, coffin, etc., surrounded by a scroll inscribed **MEMENTO MORI!**

Here lies the body of Margrat Anderson, spouse to Andrew Grig, sometime indwellars in Neitherboinnie, who departed this life August 26th, 1743, aged about 80.

Near the lower walk is a tablestone which bears an undated inscription in Latin. The letters are curiously arranged, and in some parts run through each other to such an extent as to render an exact translation practically impossible. An illustration of the letters is given in Pratt's "Buchan," along with the following probable translation—

In the hope of a blessed resurrection, the daughter of Eliza Gordon (or Garden) and Henri Cuming caused the bones of Patrick Cumin, Christina, his wife, and several of their children, to be entombed or covered.

Death levels the master with the man, and sceptres with dung-forks.

The following three inscriptions are from tablestones—

(1).

Here lyes the corps of John Grig, who lived in Craighil 96 years, and departed the 22 of Iul, 1661.

(2).

Here lies the body of James Skinner, square wright, some time in Burn-side of Philorth, who died Novr. 5th, 1743, aged 41.

(3).

Here lyes the Body of Alexander Hepburn, sometime Tenant in Techmurie, who departed this life October 19th, 1785, aged 57 years. Also lyes under this stone Eispet Third, who was his spouse, and died Ianry 23rd, 1788, aged 84 years.

This stone was erected by Eispet Third, who was his spouse.

On a tablestone—

Here lies the body of James Shirer, some time in Cairnyuhing, who departed this life April the 25th, 1722, aged 54 years, and Anna Baird, his spouse, who departed the 9 of Feby., 1739, aged 70 years. And also of William Shirer, their son, who lived some time in Tillinamolt, and died in Glaslay Deer. 21st, 1773, in the 75th year of his age.

Also Isabel Birnie, his spouse. She died April 15th, 1781, aged 81. Likewise of Andrew Shirer (son to the above Wm. Shirer and Isabel Birnie); he lived 42 years in Glaslay, and died June 12th, 1794, aged 68 years.

And nearly 18 yrs. afterwards was deposited here the body of Jean Anderson, his spouse, who died at Glaslay Janr. 18th, A.D. 1812, aged 82.

The lands of Cairnwhing, under different styles of spelling, are referred to in several early dated writs. On 6th November, 1423, John, Earl of Buchan and Constable of France, granted precept to infeft William Forbes of Kynmaldy in "Cairnywhinge," etc., and on 11th December, 1563, John Forbes of Pitsligo granted precept to infeft John Gordon of Lungar in

“Carynyngs,” etc. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 122.)  
The Shirers have long been farmers in the coast district of Buchan.

The next three inscriptions are also from tablestones—

(1).

Below this stone was interred the body of John Anderson, late Tacksman of the Mill of Boynlie; he died Oct. 4th, 1779, aged 68 years.  
Erected by William Anderson, his son.

(2).

Below this stone was interred the body of Alexander Wilson, late Tacksman of the Mains of Tyrie, who died July 9th, 1769, aged 61, and of his wife, Agnes Mercer, who died Sept. 23rd, 1788, aged 63 years. Likewise their second son Thomas, who died at Kirktown, Fyvie, 7th May, 1814, aged 62.

(3).

Erected by Mary Chalmers Watt, in memory of her beloved husband William Watt, Farmer, Quarryhead, Auehries, who departed this life the 21st March, 1864, aged 33 years.

Also their daughter Maggie, who died in U.S., America, on 25th January, 1878, and her remains laid with the dust of that country, aged 17 years.

Life at best is but a Span,  
An inch or two of time;  
Man is but vanity and dust  
In all his flower and prine.

On a tablestone beside south wall at west side—

Here lyes John Ogstoun, sone to George Ogstoun and Marjory Chamber, his spovs in Ladyesfoord, who died December 9, 1655.

The major portion of the last inscription runs round the margin of the stone, whilst the central upper portion is taken up with a large coat-of-arms, showing a close resemblance to that now borne by Ogston of that ilk. It presents a shield divided by raised bands into four practically square portions. In the upper right and lower left corners three lozenges are shown, while in the upper left and lower right a lion is portrayed. According to

the Genealogical History of the Ogston Families, John Ogston, in Ladysford (1623-1635) married Barbara Forbes, and George Ogston referred to in the inscription, was their eldest son. This branch of the family acted as bankers and wadsetters, and their transactions as such were of an extensive character. (*Spalding Club “Miscellany”* III., pp. 79-80.)

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Several relics of antiquity formerly existed in the parish, such as cairns and barrows, the sure indication, when they occur in number, of battles and feuds of bygone ages. In the case of Tyrie, they are supposed to lie in the line of march of the Danish army, which would seem to have been through the fastnesses of Auchmedden to the Bay of Gamrie (*Statis. Acct.*). In this vicinity is the Law Cairn which, early last century, was explored, but to no practical purpose. It had probably been the mound upon which the ancient thanes and subsequently the barons dispensed justice. Near the parish church there stood till the last century a circular mound known as “The Moat,” but for what purpose it had been constructed has not been satisfactorily explained.

The most interesting relic is a large stone found underneath the south-eastern corner of the foundation wall of the old church. It is described as being a “rough, unhewn, shapeless mass of blue-clayish mica stone.” It has been carefully preserved, and is now so placed in the inside of the passage leading from the vestry to the chancel as to leave exposed the interesting hieroglyphics cut on one of its faces. The most peculiar of these markings is the representation of a bird, which has such a striking resemblance to an eagle or to a raven that the stone has gradually got to be known as “The Raven’s

Stone." It is engraved in the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," issued by the Spalding Club, and is also reproduced and described in "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland."

## New Pitsligo.

The village of New Pitsligo, which stands at an altitude of upwards of 500 feet on the eastern slope of the hill of Turlundie, was founded in 1787 by Sir William Forbes, Bart., of Pitsligo, the eminent banker and superior of the lands. The name New Pitsligo superseded that of Caik or Cavoch, which was the designation of the farm on which the greater portion of the village is erected. The village extends for upwards of a mile in practically two parallel streets, there being a large grass-covered square (intersected by cross roads) near the centre. The houses are tastefully planned, with neatly-kept gardens, while numerous clumps of trees are scattered about. A beautifully-wooded den, with a rivulet flowing through its centre, crosses the village. These features, with its high elevation, give New Pitsligo a conspicuous appearance, and it justly claims to be one of the most healthy and bracing villages in Aberdeenshire.

The inhabitants at one time engaged in the linen trade, and subsequently in handloom weaving and lace-making. In the last-named industry considerable efficiency and fame were attained—a robe of Pitsligo lace being worn by the late Princess Royal at the opening of the first Crystal Palace Exhibition. The business afterwards waned, but an effort is being made to revive it. There are several quarries in the immediate vicinity, which give employment to a considerable number of work-

men. Granite is abundant, but the expense of transport of the cut stones militates against the proper development of this branch of business.

The village contains two hotels, numerous shops, and a commodious public hall.

In one of the houses in the lower street is preserved a quantity of pannelling removed from the ancient house of Auchmedden when it was dismantled. Part—on which is a shield bearing the arms of the old Baird family, with the initials L. B. and date 1607—forms the front of a bed; while a board presenting a shield with the family arms and the initials G. B. has been utilised as a mantelpiece.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Of the churches in the village, that of St John the Evangelist (Episcopal) is picturesquely situated by the side of the wooded den referred to. The present church, which superseded one erected about 1835, was completed in 1871, and is in the early English style of architecture, after plans by George E. Street, the eminent architect. On the outer wall of the chancel is a granite tablet bearing the following inscription—

To the Glory of God and in memory of Alexander Forbes of Boyndlie.

This chancel was erected by his widow, Annabella.—A.D. MDCCLXX.

The church has recently been beautified by the addition of six stained glass windows, presented in 1898 by J. H. Bridges of Fedderate and Ardlaw, in memory of his father, Canon Bridges; and of an organ commemorative of Rev. William Webster, for 52 years incumbent of the church, and for some time dean of the diocese. Dean Webster and his wife are also commemorated by a handsome granite tombstone in the churchyard adjoining—

Sacred to the memory of the Very Reverend

William Webster, M.A., Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney. Born in Aberdeen 12th November 1810; died 10 April 1896.

Sacred to the memory of Mary Hutchison, or Webster, widow of the Very Reverend William Webster, M.A., Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney. Born 2nd December 1818; died in Aberdeen 25th December 1901.

The tombstones in St John's Churchyard are all modern.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

Shortly after the village was founded, a Chapel of Ease to Tyrie was erected by the proprietor on a site above the village, and near the top of the hill of Turlundie. In 1853, however, the district was formed into a parish quoad sacra, a large portion of Tyrie being assigned to it. The church was much altered and improved some time ago, and recently an organ chamber was formed by widening one of the sides. The building is lighted by lancet windows, is surmounted by decorated crosses, and has an artistic belfry, in which there is a bell inscribed—"J. Warner and Sons, London, 1853." There are galleries on three sides, in one of which is fixed a white marble tablet—

To the memory of The Reverend John Sharp, 25 years Schoolmaster of the Parish of Pitsligo, and 33 years the faithful and beloved Pastor of this congregation, who was called hence on the 20 day of July 1837, in the 83rd year of his age.

This tablet is erected by his grateful friend and patron.

The "grateful friend and patron" who erected the above tablet was Sir William Forbes, Bart., of Pitsligo.

Rev. John Sharp, jun., schoolmaster of Aberdour, son of the above Rev. John Sharp, was appointed assistant and successor on 18th July, 1837, and held office at the time of the erection of the charge into a parish quoad sacra. In 1865 Rev.

Robert Gibb Forrest, M.A., was elected successor, but three years later was translated to Macduff, and from thence, in 1871, to West Coates, Edinburgh. He is a D.D. of Aberdeen University. At New Pitsligo Rev. John M'Gregor Fergusson, M.A., succeeded. He holds the degree of LL.D., is a distinguished botanist, and is now the minister of Fern, to which he removed in 1875. Rev. John S. Loutit succeeded, but was translated to Foveran in 1880. Rev. John Catto, M.A., was the next incumbent, but he removed to Fintray in 1885, when the present minister, Rev. Alexander R. Craib, F.S.A., was elected.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

In the adjoining graveyard, which is well kept, are many tombstones. One of the oldest is that "to the memory of Joseph Henry, innkeeper in New Pitsligo during the space of 32 years—from the year 1788"—who died 6th June, 1820. A handsome obelisk alongside and within the same kerb commemorates John Bell, who died in 1843, and Mary Henry, his wife, who died in 1871; also John Bell, J.P., Tyrie Mains, who died suddenly upon 11th February, 1902, aged 64.

There is a tablestone—

Erected by Forbes and George Philip, masons in Aberdeen, in grateful memorial of their loving and affectionate father, John Philip, who was for upwards of 40 years Ground Officer to Sir Wm. Forbes of Pitsligo, Bart., which office he discharged to the satisfaction of all concerned; died 26th Nov., 1825, aged 71. Also of their brother John, Accountant, died on the Roxburgh Estate, Tobago, West Indies, 13th August, 1822, aged 24.

The following inscription upon a headstone certifies in brief, but quaintly-expressed terms, to the virtues of a pattern wife—

Erected by his affectionate spouse in memory



of her husband, John Tarves, late Farmer Broomhill, New Deer, who died 30th January, 1858, aged 70 years. His spouse, Christian Mackie, died at Broomhill, April 14th, 1860, in the 80th year of her age. What a wife should be. Just such a wife was she.

The three following headstone inscriptions show that ability and well-doing carry their reward—

(1).

In memory of William Richardson, Inspector, Aberdeenshire Constabulary, who died at New Pitsligo, on the 10th April, 1864, in the 45th year of his age. He was one of the most active and zealous officers of the Police Force, in which he had served for 17 years, winning for himself the respect of all who knew him.

He died deservedly regretted.

This stone has been erected by the Superintendent and Inspectors of the Aberdeenshire Constabulary.

(2).

Erected by many friends in Brucklay and surrounding districts in loving memory of James Pirnie, who died at Artamford, 22nd March, 1886, aged 31 years. His character was strongly marked. It exhibited in rare combination dutiful affection as a son, kindness as a "Brother and Friend," and unflinching integrity and fidelity in the discharge of any duty intrusted to him.

(3).

To David Sturrock, twenty-one years Parochial Schoolmaster, New Pitsligo. Born March of Gardyne, Forfarshire, 5th September, 1840; Died at New Pitsligo, 10th April, 1883. Erected by Pupils and Friends, in appreciative remembrance of his faithful work and upright character.

David Sturrock, who was cut off at the early age of forty-three, had a taste for astronomical and meteorological subjects and for several years kept a record of the district rainfall.

A tablestone is inscribed—

This stone is erected by Jannet Allerdice in memory of her husband, Alexr. Bennerman,

some time feuar in New Pitsligo, who died 25th Octr., 1812, in the 69th year of his age.

A headstone bears the following commemorative and admonitory inscription—

Erected by William Webster, in memory of his father, George Webster, who died at Tirclossie, 7th Jany., 1856, aged 59 years. Also his wife, Isabell Duncan, who died at New Pitsligo, 27th Oct., 1879, aged 81 years.

Weep not for me, my children dear,  
I am not dead, but sleeping here;  
And death ere long will call for thee,  
Prepare in time to follow me.

A granite headstone is inscribed—

In memory of George Boyes, Feuar, New Pitsligo, who died 30th April, 1872, aged 85 years. And of his wife, An nWilson, who died 9th February, 1869, aged 71 years. Also their son John who died 22nd June, 1897, aged 63 years.

A headstone to Peter Murray, who died in 1846, aged 83, has—

There's virtue in His blood,  
That died upon the tree,  
To bring a sinner near to God,  
And that's enough for me.

A family named Craigen, who were feuars in the village, have this remarkable record of ages—John Craigen, died 1853, aged 82; Alexander Craigen, died 1857, aged 82; Ann Craigen, died 1848, aged 81; and Mary Craigen, died 1863, aged 88.

The Superior of the village is Lord Clinton, son of Charles Henry Rolle-Hepburn - Stuart - Forbes - Trefusis, Lord Clinton, by his first marriage with his cousin, Harriet Wilhelmina, only daughter of Sir John Stuart Hepburn-Forbes, eighth Baronet of Pitsligo. He is the twenty-first Lord Clinton, having succeeded to the title on the death of his father, in March, 1904. He married, in 1886, Lady Jane Grey M'Donnell, daughter of the late Mark, tenth Earl of Antrim, and their family consists of two surviving daughters.

## Bethelnie.

(NOW MELDRUM.)

The name of Bethelnie, or Balthelney, possibly has its derivation from Nathalen, or Nachlan, the saint to whom the parish church was originally dedicated. This saint, according to the Breviary of Aberdeen, lived about A.D. 450. It is written of him that "he followed the primitive employment of husbandry (though nobly born), but gave away his increase to the poor; that having gone in pilgrimage to Rome, he was there made a bishop; and returning home built the churches of Bethelny, Cowl, and Tulloch . . . ." His feast was observed upon a day in January, which all the people of the parish held as a holiday with much rejoicing. This was in gratitude for the signal service rendered during the prevalence of a plague. Tradition states that, whilst the pestilence was devastating the country and surrounding district, the saint did such humble penance by praying round the borders of the parish on his knees that the fatal disease never entered it.

The church, with certain lands, was conferred by William Cnmyrn, Earl of Buchan, and his spouse, the Countess Marjory, upon the Church or Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, Arbroath, for the safety of the souls of William the King, and that of the granters. (Regist. Arb.) This was between 1211 and 1214, and upon 22nd February, 1221-22, Alexander II. granted confirmation, the Royal charter being signed at Fyuyrn, now Fyvie. The church of "Buthelny" is included in the grant of churches made by Gilbert, Bishop of Aberdeen, to the monks of Arbroath in 1228-39. The same is also included in the charter by the chapter of the Church

of Aberdeen, as well as in that by Ralph, Bishop of Aberdeen, both to the said parties in 1239-47. (Antiq., II., pp. 121-23.) On 9th January, 1257, Pope Alexander IV. ratified the provision made for the vicarage of the church by the abbot and convent of a stipend of fifteen merks, the whole altarage, and six merks in teind sheaves from the lands in the parish then under cultivation. (Regis. Epis. Aberd., I., pp. 18-23.)

Alexander Seton, for some time Chancellor of the Diocese of Aberdeen, was the last pre-Reformation rector of Bethelnie. He was the second son of Alexander Seton of Meldrum by his first wife, Agnes Gordon, daughter of Patrick Gordon of Haddo, ancestor of the Earls of Aberdeen. The parish was supplied, in 1567, by Thomas Myll, reader; and, in 1570, by Alexander Garioch, reader, the salary of each being at the rate of xx. lib. (Register of Ministers.)

In 1574, Rev. Stephen Masoun was elected minister, with several other parishes in charge. Succeeding ministers were:—In 1613, Rev. John Logie; in 1633, Rev. William Wedderburn; in 1647, Rev. George Leith; and in 1665, Rev. William Urquhart, who was the last minister at the old church. (Rev. Marshall B. Lang's "The Story of a Parish.")

James Logan, author of "The Scottish Gael," etc., made many visits to the district early last century, and, in his MS. notes, gives several interesting particulars. Alluding to the old church, he says:—

The ancient structure stood in the north side of the parish, and was about twenty-six paces long by ten wide. A portion of the site is enclosed by a wall as the burial-place of the family of Urquhart. There are few now interred here, although the ground is large; and to prevent, as it would appear, its being at all used for this purpose, it is planted over with trees, by which it has a singular aspect.

There are no gravestones, if we except two small stones—one only about a foot wide, bearing the date 1739. The other shows a coat of arms. Gordon, and a fess checky with a lozenge in base. The inscription is—

Heir lyes George Gordon, vha departed the 22 de 1661. Sicklyk His Spous Christian Lindsay, vha departed the 23 Nov. 1650.

The famous Adam Donald, the prophet of Bethelnie, lived close to the churchyard, in which his grave is seen with the stone on which his water bucket rested, for a headstone.

Regarding the above Gordon-Lindsay small tablestone (the probability is that it commemorates George Gordon, Mill of Cromlet, Bourtie, and his wife), which is now much decayed, considerable diversity of opinion has arisen in the district—many holding that it is really to the memory of a Donald—possibly an ancestor of Adam Donald, the prophet. In this they are in error, as the following letters and figures may still be traced:—

Heir lyes Geo . . . G . . . don vha departed  
tho 22 de 16 . . . . . lyk his . . . .  
Christan L . . . . ay vha departed the 23 No.  
1650.

#### THE PROPHET OF BETHELNIE.

Adam Donald was a deformed, eccentric native of the parish, known by the familiar titles of Satey, Prophet, and Doctor. He conducted an extensive business, not only as a doctor and herbalist, but as an exponent of the powers of divination. His ointments and medicines were prepared by himself from herbs gathered in the country, and it was firmly believed by the credulous that he could give an infallible remedy for every ailment under the sun. As a necromancer, he frequented the lonely graveyard, professing to get disclosures and advice from departed spirits. When an article was stolen or went amissing, and when misfortune or loss occurred, who could so well reveal the secret, or prescribe the remedy as the redoubtable prophet! When so con-

sulted, he took care to give cautious, general answers, capable of various interpretations, and having private facilities at his command for knowing something of the history of the applicants, he was able to impress them so favourably that persons from all parts of the shire repaired to him. With the fishing population he was extremely popular, and his wonderful cures, and still more wonderful revelations, were retailed and multiplied to an extraordinary extent. His usual consultation fee was sixpence, and, small as this sum may seem, he gathered as much as enabled him to win a good-looking country maiden, whom he ultimately married. After a time, a daughter was born, but as she grew up she laughed at the imposition practised by her father, and divulged the secret of it. After this, business fell away considerably, and poor Adam spent his latter days in anything but affluent circumstances. A picture of him was painted, and he expressed the desire that the following lines, which he had composed, might be placed at the foot of it:—

Time doth all things devour.  
And time doth all things waste;  
And we waste time,  
And so we are at last!

He was born in 1703, and died in 1780.

The water bucket memorial stone, alluded to by Logan, and which is understood to have borne no inscription, has disappeared.

#### GRAVEYARD AND GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Logan's remark as to the singular appearance presented by the graveyard of Bethelnie nearly a century ago still holds good, for a more isolated or forsaken spot it would be difficult to imagine. A few tombstones have been erected within recent years.



A railed-in headstone bears the following inscription:—

Sacred to the memory of John Forbes, writer, Edinburgh, second son of James Forbes of Kirkhill, who died at Oldmeldrum, 14th January, 1853, in the 56th year of his age. Also to the memory of Rachel Manson, his wife, who died at Oldmeldrum, 3rd February, 1880.

Another headstone bears—

1823. To the memory of Elizabeth Sangster, spouse of George Black, Oldmeldrum. She died 23rd January, 1789, aged 55 years. This stone is erected by their loving daughter, Ann Black.

The surname Black is a very old parish one. Several bearing it have been prominent merchants and farmers.

## Meldrum.

Regarding the change in the situation of the Parish Church, Logan's MS. records—

When the church was transferred to the vicinity of Oldmeldrum . . . it was intended to annex Bourtie to it, but from whatever cause this was not done. The removal of the kirk from Bethelnie took place in 1684, yet in 1683 I find the latter name used for the parish. Concerning the erection of the kirk at Oldmeldrum, it is related that the hill of Perkake was the situation proposed, but the stones which were laid down at this place, north side of the town, were found every morning removed to the common, eastward of the village. This being looked on as a supernatural indication of partiality for this spot, the church was accordingly erected there, and the burial ground formed on the rigs and baulks of ancient cultivation, which gives it a curious appearance; the graves being formed along the ridges to avoid the intervening rocky spaces. The kirk of Oldmeldrum stands east and west, having a wing or aisle on the south side, on which the belfry is erected. This is square, ornamented with coats of arms, etc.—that on the opposite side consists of a chevron. The interior is well fitted up with pews and galleries. and is ceiled.

The graveyard—to which a large addition was recently made at the east side — is levelled up, and kept in good order. It contains a large number of tombstones, from which there is a general absence of the skull and cross-bone emblems, so characteristic of many Aberdeenshire churchyards.

There are two mural tablets in a railed-in portion near the south wall.

(1).

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Henry Likly, the Rev. John Likly, his son; and the Rev. James Likly, his grandson. They were all successively ministers of this parish (with the interruption of only 17 year) from 1706 to 1817, and alike eminent for genuine piety, extensive charity, and Christian benevolence. Dan. ch. xii. v. 3.

(2).

In memory of Margaret Manson, beloved wife of the Rev. William Brown, minister of the Free Church, Rayne. Born October 13th, 1831, she died in faith October 8th, 1864. And the said Rev. William Brown, for twenty-three years minister of the Free Church of Rayne, who died November 27th, 1876, aged 53.

Rev. Henry Likly, probably a son of "Hendrie Likly, Gentleman at Mill of Methlick," was for some time schoolmaster of that parish. (Poll Book.) He held the pastorate of Meldrum for 54 years. He married on 16th January, 1714, Janet Milne, daughter of the then deceased James Milne of Blairton, and died 9th July, 1760, in his 96th year. They had a family of at least two sons: John, the succeeding minister of Meldrum; and James, who became a merchant there. Although most worthy, Mr Likly had an eccentric and somewhat blunt manner. Traditions of his sayings and doings still lurk in the district. It is alleged that when preaching one Sunday he suddenly paused, and then called out to the beadle—"Tammas, pit oot that dog, for he's like to gar me lauch, gapin'



an' gashin' there at the fleas! Pit him oot, man, an' dinna miss a thud till ye hae him bye Luckie Foolie's door, an' haste ye back to the worship!" A somewhat similar version of this story is given in the late Rev. Dr Paul's "Past and Present of Aberdeenshire."

Rev. John Likly married Barbara Wight. She survived him, and died at Pittodrie on 22nd April, 1792.

Rev. James Likly, grandson of Rev. Henry Likly, was for some time minister at Campvere, but, with many of his congregation, was obliged to fly on the approach of the invading French. He was admitted to Meldrum on 18th March, 1801, and died, unmarried, on 8th December, 1816, in his 57th year. (Scott's Fasti.)

Mrs Margaret Manson or Brown (Ins. 2) was a daughter of the late Alexander Manson of Kilblean, and a sister of Mr J. B. Manson, the present proprietor.

Another tombstone bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Here lie the remains of James Rainy, minister of the word of God at Meldrum, who died 1st May, 1800, in the 36th year of his age, and the 7th of his ministry.

His wife, Mary Turner, caused this monument to be erected.

Rev. James Rainy, M.A., prior to his appointment to Meldrum parish, acted for six years as missionary at New Byth. He was admitted to Meldrum, 1st May, 1799, and died on the same day of the following year. His wife was the eldest daughter of John Turner, of Turnerhall, and she afterwards married Rev. Robert Arthur of Resolis.

In a railed-in space beside the south wall are two tablets, which bear the following inscriptions—

(1).

Here are interred the mortal remains of James Garioch of Gariochsford, who died on the 25th of August, 1818, and of his spouse,

Jane Gordon, who died on the 18th of December, 1817, and of their daughter, Elizabeth, who died on the 14th of March, 1848.

(2).

In memory of Margaret Wilson, wife of the Rev. George Garioch, minister of the Free Church, Oldmeldrum, who died on the 26th day of September, 1858, in the 54th year of her age; also of the said Rev. George Garioch, who fell asleep in Jesus on the 12th of May, 1872, in the 79th year of his age, and 66th of his ministry.

"He being dead yet speaketh."

"We are ambassadors of Christ as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

The surname Garioch is a very old one in the parish. In 1609, Alexander Garioch is designed as "of the Kirktown of Bathelnie." (Antiq., IV., p. 147.) James Garioch, the proprietor of Gariochsford—a property in the parish of Forgue—was for upwards of forty years a successful surgeon in Oldmeldrum. He married, on 19th November, 1789, Jane Gordon, who belonged to Cabrach. (Cabrach Registers.) He died at Milton of Durno, on 25th August, 1818, in his 78th year. A daughter, Isobella, became the wife of Rev. Robert Shepherd, minister of Daviot, and died at Linton on 6th December, 1841, in the 72nd year of her age. They had a large family, two of whom—John and Thomas—were in the H.E.I.C.S., the former being for some time chairman of the board of directors, while the latter became laird of Kirkville, in Skene. Another daughter, Mary, who died in 1866, aged 76, was the wife of Rev. William Grant, minister of Duthil. (Tombstone at Aberlour.) Rev. George Garioch, M.A., son of Dr Garioch, was ordained minister of the parish of Meldrum on 29th October, 1817, but seceded at the Disruption, and became minister of the Free Church. Being possessed of considerable means, he

was a liberal contributor to the funds of that church. On completing the fiftieth year of his ministry, special jubilee services were held, when he was presented with valuable gifts "as a zealous pastor, a kind friend, a judicious counsellor, and a sound interpreter of evangelical doctrine." (Scott's Fasti.) A memorial tablet in commemoration of the interesting event was also erected in the lobby of the church. His wife was the youngest daughter of James Wilson of Auchaber.

A railed-in grave next the wall has a mural stone inscribed—

In memory of Thomas George Easton, infant son of Rev. J. C. Easton, minister of Meldrum; born and died June, 1854. Also dedicated to the memory of the Rev. James C. Easton, born 19th October, 1822, died 24th October, 1876, M.M.E.; ordained minister of the South Church, Kirriemuir, in 1846; translated to Meldrum in 1852. Also of his wife, Marion Montgomerie Loudon, who was lost 28th December, 1879, in the Tay Bridge disaster. 1st Cor. 2nd chap. 2nd verse.

Rev. James Cruickshank Easton, M.A., was the son of Rev. Dr Easton, minister of the North Church, Kirriemuir. In 1854, he married Marion M. Loudon, daughter of Rev. James Loudon, minister of Inverarity, Forfarshire. The demise of the worthy couple, as stated upon the tablet, caused deep regret throughout the parish. Their son, Harry Montgomerie, M.A., is a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh.

On a headstone—

In memoriam. Robert, second son of Rev. R. Urquhart, M.A. Born in Botriphnie, November 7, 1873; died at Oldmeldrum, September 25, 1884.

The ministerial succession in Rev. Robert Urquhart's family is so remarkable that the following brief particulars cannot but prove interesting. His great-great-grandfather was David Urquhart, farmer, Kiu-

craigie, thereafter in Kinstair of Alford, who died 13th October, 1789, aged 57 years. David Urquhart's son—Rev. Alex. Urquhart—was minister of the parish of Tough, and died 8th February, 1832, aged 72 years. The eldest son of the latter was Rev. Robert Urquhart, Licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and medical practitioner, first in Alford and then in Keith, who died 22nd November, 1828, in his 36th year. The eldest son of the last named was Rev. Alexander Urquhart, who was ordained to the charge of Sanday, Orkney, in July, 1843, translated to the Free Church of Old Deer in December, 1844, and died in November, 1901. The only surviving son of the latter is Rev. Robert Urquhart, who was ordained minister of the Free Church, Botriphnie, in November, 1869, translated to Woolston, Southampton, in January, 1874, and admitted to Oldmeldrum Free Church in March, 1879. He has two surviving sons, Alexander, a doctor in Shepperton-on-Thames, near London; and Rev. William Spence Urquhart, who was ordained in December, 1902, to the Missionary Professorship of English Literature and Philosophy in Duff College, Calcutta. It will thus be seen that five successive generations of Urquharts have been licensed to the ministry, which is possibly unique in the record of any family in the north-east of Scotland.

There is a Latin inscription to the following effect on an ornamented marble tablestone:—

In memory of George Cooper, some time schoolmaster of Meldrum, who died 10th September, 1821, in the 69th year of his age and the 41st of his faithfully discharged office. This monument was erected by his pupils in 1823, as a sacred and lasting pledge of love and respect on account of the great and unwearied care bestowed by him in storing their minds with useful knowledge, and fitting them for the duties of life. (Jervise's MS.)

In a railed-in portion are two headstones—

(1).

In memory of Alexander Manson, of Oakhill, who died 17th March, 1847, aged 77; and of Mary Blyth, his wife, who died 10th July, 1864, aged 86. Also of their children—Alexander, who died in infancy; Eliza Duguid, who died 30th July, 1836; Alexander, M.D., who died at Jaffa, 9th May, 1841. Margaret Diana, wife of George Elmslie, merchant in Aberdeen, who died at Aberdeen, 9th November, 1850; and of the said George Elmslie, who died there, 30th August, 1855. Mary, wife of William Milne, surgeon, who died at Aberdeen, 13th November, 1855, and of the said William Milne, who died at Macduff, 26th November, 1839; also Agnes, who died 10th November, 1892, and Christian, who died, 14th January, 1893.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of William Connan, merchant, Oldmeldrum, and Agnes Manson, his wife, and of their daughter Agnes, who died 5th December, 1882, aged 81, and Jane, who died 5th January, 1893, aged 89.

“And that rock was Christ.”

Erected by Mrs Agnes Smith, Aberdeen, in remembrance of her grandparents and aunts.

Alexander Manson, of Oakhill, was brother to John Manson, merchant and distiller, who purchased the estate of Kilblean. A sister, Agnes Manson, became the wife of William Connan, merchant, Oldmeldrum [Insc. 2], and besides the two daughters whose names are inscribed upon the tombstone, they had two sons—John, who died in infancy, and William, who became a partner in the firm of William Davidson and Company, grocers and wine merchants, Broad Street, Aberdeen, which was established in 1790. The last-named—William Connan—married Mary, daughter of the said William Davidson, and their daughter, Agnes Connan, is married to David Smith, late stock and share broker, Aberdeen. A son of the latter couple—Rev. William

Connan Smith—is minister of the United Free Church, Fyvie.

On a tablestone—

In memory of William Gordon, son of James Gordon, farmer in Newburgh, who died 4th December, 1811, aged 33 years. Also of Mary Gordon, spouse to James Henderson, in Newburgh, who died 27th November, 1811, aged 27 years. And of the said James Henderson, who died 10th May, 1818, aged 42 years. Likewise of Ann, daughter of the above William Gordon, who died 6th March, 1818, aged 6 years.

Who'er thou art that tread'st this lonely way,  
Here let thy footsteps for a moment stay;  
This humble grave, tho' no proud structure  
grace,

Yet truth and goodness sanctify the place.  
Yes, blameless virtue that adorn'd thy bloom,  
Lamenting friends now weeps upon thy tomb.  
Escap'd from death. O! safe on that calm  
shore,

Where sin and pain and passion are no more.  
Lo! soft remembrance drops a pious tear,  
And holy friendship sits a mourner here.

In affectionate remembrance of a much beloved wife and husband, this stone is placed here by James Henderson and Christian Gordon.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Some lovely friend will drop a tear,  
On these dry bones and say,  
These once were strong, but now ly here,  
And mine most be as they.

Here lies interred the dust of Jannet Watson, lawful spouse to Peter Barron in Frosterhill, who died the 16th of April, 1772, aged 62 years. Likewise Elizabeth Barron, their lawful daughter, who died the 27th of September, 1761, aged 32 years. Death passeth upon all men, for all have sinned. The above designed Peter Barron, who died the 1st day of July, 1773, aged 65 years. . .

“Frosterhill,” with its mill and mill land, is mentioned in the service of John Urquhart, of Meldrum, in 1691. “Frosterhill,” Arnage, Clochcan, etc., belonged to Provost John Ross, of Aberdeen, who died in September, 1714.



A tablestone bears—

This stone covers the remains of James Likly, merchant in Oldmeldrum, who died the 8th May, 1800, aged 80, and of Isabell Simpson, his spouse, who died the 3rd September, 1799, aged 81 years. Also of their eldest son, John Likly, late banker in Paisley, whose memory is endeared to all who knew him by a recollection of his many amiable qualities, his undeviating rectitude, integrity, and beneficence. Ob. 5th December, 1814, ætâ 64.

The above James Likly was a son of Rev. Henry Likly, minister of the parish, as already stated.

The following three inscriptions are on tablestones—

(1).

Here is interred Alexander Ramsay, indweller in Oldmeldrum, who died March 31st, 1776, aged 55 years.

For further honour, claim who can,  
He lived and died an honest man.

In memory of Elspet Thomson, relict of Alexander Ramsay, ob. 6th October, 1795, ætâ 63.

(2).

Here lies the body of Keith Milne, some time in Browniehillocks, who died October 26th, 1789, aged 57 years. He was a dutiful husband, a loving parent, and a faithful friend. Also the body of his spouse, Margaret Gray, who died November 15th, 1783, aged 46 years; and of six of their children.

(3).

To the memory of James Forbes, son of Alexander Forbes, Apothecary (in Oldmeldrum), and Jane Forbes, his wife, who died on the 20th of April, 1823, aged XVII. years.

He died as one who wish'd to die,  
In hopes of heavenly rest,  
T' awake in immortality  
And be supremely bless'd.

. . . . .

A tablestone is inscribed—

Erected in February, 1835, by George Phillip, merchant, Arbroath, in memory of his father, Patrick Phillip, who died on the 9th of February, 1806, aged 61 years. Also near this

spot are interred the mortal remains of four of Patrick Phillip's family; also Jane Chapman, spouse of the said Patrick Phillip, who died 22nd October, 1843, aged 87 years. John Phillip, late merchant, Forfar, born 1787, died 1871; Christian Phillip, born 4th July, 1796, died 5th December, 1877. The above were son and daughter of said Patrick Phillip.

Patrick Phillip and Jane Chapman, referred to in the above inscription, were the grandfather and the grandmother respectively of John Phillip, R.A., of whose brilliant talents as a painter Aberdeen is justly proud. George and John Phillip were his uncles, while Christian Phillip was his aunt.

The following four inscriptions are from gravestones in various parts of the old ground—

(1).

Under this gravestone are interred the bodies of Alexander Simpson, some time wright in Oldmeldrum, and Helen Simpson, his wife. He departed this life in the month of August, 1735, aged 70 years, and she in the end of November, 1747, aged 66 years. . . . Death gives us a profound rest in the bed of the grave from all our labours, and all cares and troubles vanish as soon as our heads touch that pillow.

(2).

In memory of the sons of Alexander Allan, blacksmith, in Oldmeldrum, of John, who died 15th December, 1808, aged 25 years; also of Alexander, who died 31st March, 1810, aged 26 years.

O, Man of God, thy death how blest,  
How sweet thy journey to the sky;  
When from life's toils God bade thee rest.  
Ascend the sacred mount and die.

(3).

Here lies the body of George Wilson, late Taylor in Oldmeldrum, who departed this life 22nd January, 1793, aged 39 years.

Here in the silent grave I lie,  
Free from all pain and grief;  
'Tho' my disease was long and sharp,  
God sent at last relief.



His tender love while here below,  
 Did often fill my soul;  
 At last my Jesus took me up,  
 Where endless pleasures roll.

(4).

Here rest the remains of John Diack, son of John and Mary Diack, in Oldmeldrum, who departed this life 4th August, 1812, aged 17 years.

While with delighted eye thy parents trac'd  
 The growing Virtues which thy Bosom grac'd,  
 With flattering voice, Hope seem'd to smile  
 and say,

So fair a morn presag'd a glorious day.

But, ah! their expectations soon were cross'd,  
 And all their promis'd joys in anguish lost.

Not long those virtues had on Earth been  
 known

Ere happier Regions claim'd them for their  
 own.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH—ST MATTHEW'S.

The Episcopal Church of Meldrum dates back to 1688, but the names of the earlier incumbents have not been preserved. The oldest of whom record exists—Rev. George Walker—grandfather of the Misses Walker, who founded St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh—was ordained in 1730, and continued at Meldrum till about 1786. His successor was Rev. Arthur Walker, who was followed in 1804 by Rev. Nathaniel Grieve. In 1808, Rev. Alexander Walker was appointed to the charge along with that of Monymusk. He resigned the charge of Meldrum about 1811, and Rev. William Robertson was elected. A railed-in headstone beside the north wall of the parish graveyard has been erected to his memory—

In memory of the Rev. William Robertson, St Matthew's, Oldmeldrum, who died August, 1849, in the 39th year of his ministry; and of Rachel Knight, his wife, who died 26th January, 1856.

The next incumbent was Rev. Thomas Wildman, who was appointed chaplain to

the Earl of Galloway in 1856. His successor was Rev. James Davidson, who was translated to St Andrew's, Banff, in 1862, his successor in the charge at Meldrum being Rev. William Young Moir, son of Right Rev. David Moir, D.D., Bishop of Brechin. It was during the pastorate of the last-named that the present substantial, large, and beautiful church of St Matthew's was erected. It was consecrated on St Matthew's Day, 1863, by the late Right Rev. Thomas George Suther, D.C.L., Bishop of Aberdeen.

In the neatly kept burial ground many interments have taken place. The monuments are all modern. Two handsome flat tombstones, with raised crosses on the top, are inscribed respectively—

(1).

John Ramsay of Barra, Esq. Born 3rd December, 1831. Entered into his rest 29th May, 1895.

(2)

Leonora Sophia, wife of John Ramsay of Barra. Born 15th October, 1837. Entered into her rest 4th February, 1862.

The above John Ramsay was the eldest son of John Ramsay of Barra and Straloch, and his wife, Susan Innes, daughter of Alexander Innes of Pitmedden. (See Dyce.) Mr Ramsay's wife was Leonora Sophia Bond, daughter of Rev. Nathaniel Bond, of Creech Grange, Dorset, and rector of Steeple with Tyneham, Dorset. Their daughter—Mary Agnes Ramsay—became the wife of the late Francis Hugh Irvine of Drum.

#### THE URQUHARTS OF MELDRUM.

A triangular corner of the graveyard is reserved by the Meldrum family. Within it are two handsome monuments, which bear the following inscriptions—

(1).

Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart of Meldrum.

Born May 5th, 1830. Died September 3rd, 1896.

Such trust have we through Christ God-ward.  
2nd Cor. 3-4.

(2).

To the memory of Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart of Meldrum, major, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Born 20th July, 1850. Killed at the battle of the Atbara, Soudan, 8th April, 1898, and buried on the field of battle.

But the end is not yet. Matt. 24 6.

Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace. . . .  
because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26 3.

Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart (Ins. No. 1) was the second son of Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart of Meldrum and Byth, and of his wife, Anne Jane Fitzsimmons, eldest daughter of Patrick Fitzsimmons of Streamston, Westmeath. He was for some time a lieutenant in the Indian Army. He married on 5th August, 1856, Isabella Forbes Fraser, daughter of General Sir Hugh Fraser, K.C.B., of Braelangwell, Ross-shire, and they had a family of one son—Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart (Ins. No. 2)—and one daughter, Isabel Annie Urquhart, who, in 1878, became the wife of her cousin, Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton.

Major Urquhart (Ins. No. 2) was, for some time, an A.D.C. to the Earl of Aberdeen while Governor-General of Canada. With his regiment he took part in the march and capture of Tel-el-Kebir. In the battle of the Atbara he displayed conspicuous bravery. When the Dervishes advanced with their wild and solid rush, determined to sweep everything before them, he threw himself in front of his men, stimulating them by word and action to stand unflinching and firm. His fine physique, activity, and prowess drew the lances of the enemy upon him, and he received a mortal wound. In this trying juncture, with his life-blood rapidly ebbing, the truly noble spirit of the man, the valour of the soldier, and the loyalty of the patriot

at once became conspicuous, for it is recorded that when the soldiers at hand rushed forward to render assistance, he gave the final command—"Go on, lads; never mind me."

#### PARISH LANDS.

Prior to 1262 the parish lands belonged to Sir Philip de Meldrum, or Meldrum, who married Agnes Cumyn, daughter of William, Earl of Buchan. The original surname of the owner's family was Phendarg or Fedarg, but it was changed to that of Meldrum about 1249. Shortly afterwards the lands were erected into a barony. In 1290, William of Meldrum was Sheriff of Aberdeen. (Exch. Rolls, I., p. 49.) There were nine or ten successive proprietors who bore the surname of Meldrum, but the line failed in an heiress—Elizabeth de Meldrum, who married William Seton, son of Sir Alexander Seton, Lord Gordon, and brother of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, and thereby carried the barony of Meldrum into the Seton family. This William Seton fell at the battle of Brechin on 18th May, 1452, when he was succeeded by his son, Alexander Seton of Meldrum. The property remained in the Seton family till the time of William Seton, who, marrying Anne, daughter of James Crichton of Frenndraught, and having no family, executed in 1635 a deed of entail, under which the family of his niece, Elizabeth Seton, who, in 1610, had married John Urquhart of Craigston, commonly called the Tutor of Cromarty, succeeded. Mrs Duff of Hatton, who upon the death of her brother, Major Urquhart, as above, became proprietrix of Meldrum, is a direct descendant of the foregoing families.

The mansion-house is large and commodious. It was added to and "made one of the best" by Sheriff James Urquhart in the beginning of last century. The



Meldrum House.





older families had probably lived within the "tower and fortalice," which are specially referred to in the Crown Charter to Alex. Seton of 15th July, 1587. (Great Seal Register 47, No. 90.)

#### ARDFORK AND KILBLEAN.

The lands of Ardfork and Kilblean, which originally formed part of the Meldrum estates, were mortgaged by Patrick Urquhart of Meldrum to Dr William Guild, whose widow, Mrs Catherine Roland or Guild, having acquired the necessary title, mortgaged them, with other lands, in 1659, for the support of bursars, burgesses, widows, maidens, and poor of Aberdeen. (Aberdeen Mortifications, p. 135.) Kilblean was acquired by John Manson, who died upon 4th October, 1838, in his 77th year. He was succeeded in that property by his eldest son, Alexander Manson, while his youngest son, John Manson, agent for the British Linen Company Bank, Aberdeen, acquired the estate of Fingask, in the neighbouring parish. A son of the latter, Dr Patrick Manson, is a graduate and LL.D. of Aberdeen University. He is recognised as an expert in tropical diseases, and for his special studies and research in that department was recently made a Knight Commander of St Michael and St George.

#### EMINENT NATIVES.

Of natives who have attained distinction in various walks of life may be mentioned William Forsyth, F.L.S., the arboriculturist, who was born at Oldmeldrum in 1737. In 1771, he was appointed to the charge of the botanical gardens at Chelsea, and, thirteen years later, George III. made him chief superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kensington and St James's. For his discovery of a composition to remedy the injuries and diseases incidental to fruit and forest trees, he secured a Par-

liamentary grant. His name is perpetuated by the plant "Forsythia."

Dr George Watt, who was born in Oldmeldrum in 1851, was for some time assistant Professor of Botany in Aberdeen University, thereafter Professor of Botany in Calcutta University, and for the past sixteen years has been reporter on economic products to the Government of India. He was made C.I.E. in 1886, and in 1903 received the honour of knighthood. In 1904 he was given the degree of LL.D. by the University of Aberdeen. He is the author of a dictionary of the Economic Products of India, a work in nine volumes, "distinguished alike by scientific erudition and by vast industry."

#### OLDMELDRUM.

Oldmeldrum was originally a burgh of Barony—its charter as such being dated 1672. The village itself was founded in 1640.

Thomas Kirk, in the narrative of his tour in Scotland in 1677, says—

We intended to have lain at the Laird of Meldrum's house, but a mile before we came there, we understood he was not at home, and we were forced to take up at that poor village called Oldmeldrum, but we got wine, ale, and bread from the laird's house. . . . Near this Meldrum's house we saw a gibbet or gallows, and Mr Merrie informed us that most barons had one near their houses, having power to condemn and hang any offender within their liberties, but they usually send them to the Sheriff; we called at the house and drank four or five rummings of claret with two ladies there, and then we went on our journey.

The feudal jurisdiction referred to was not abolished till after the Union of the Parliaments. (Hume Brown's Early Travellers in Scotland.)

The foregoing stricture upon the village seems to be as inaccurate as were the prints circulated in England about thirty years ago showing Aberdeenshire men wearing

short kilts and growing bushy beards and long red hair. At all events, the entries in the Poll Book prove that within nineteen years after Kirk's visit the village had sixteen merchants, several of whom had a stock of the value of between 500 and 5000 merks—a considerable sum in those days. Besides, it contained ten cordiners, to say nothing of a gunsmith, a notary public, and a "chamberland and gentleman"! By the end of the following century the town became the centre of an extensive cattle trade, and its success at the present time depends largely upon the fine surrounding agricultural district. It is thoroughly healthy, and, having a high situation, commands extensive views. The dwelling-houses are of a superior build, and there are a commodious Town Hall, distillery, branch banks, etc. It forms the terminus of a branch of the Great North of Scotland Railway.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

A chapel dedicated to the Virgin at one time stood beneath the house of Meldrum, where the Ladywell was for long frequented in the month of May for cure of headache. Urns, bones, and other relics of antiquity have been unearthed at different times. Till the last century the remains of an old Roman encampment were visible upon the farm of Bethelnie.

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### Lonmay.

The parish in former times bore various names, including St Colm's, St Comb's, Longmay, Longmey, Lonmey, and Lonmay. The two first-named titles were from St Columba, to whom the church had been dedicated, while the four last were derived from a compound Gaelic word signifying the long tract.

The church originally stood near the seaside, within the graveyard of St Combs. It was formerly a prebend of Aberdeen, being added to the chapter of that city in 1314 by Bishop Henry Cheyne. (Regist. Epis., Aberd. II., p. 252.) The church was removed from St Combs, in 1608, to a site close by the public road, about two miles farther inland. The history of that building—known as Lonmay Parish Church—is given in an inscription upon a small slab built into the wall—

This house was built for the worship of God by the parish of Longmey, 1607, Mr Tho. Rires being minr. then, and 3 years before at the old church. After him, Mrs Wm. Rires, Ja. Irvine and Io. Houston were minrs. successively, next Mr Tho. Gordon was ordained minr. of the Gospel at Longmey by the Presbytery of Deer, wt consent of all concerned in this parish, September 24, 1709. The roof and dycks of this church were rebuilt by the heretors, 1714; the forewall, 1732. The bell was bought by people, sess., and minr., 1727. *Soli deo gloria.*

The slab referred to superseded, in 1732, an older one bearing the same inscription, which had been fixed "above the big door" of the church. (New Statis. Account.)

The incumbents who held office from 1604 to 1744 are recorded in the above inscription. The predecessor of Rev. Thomas Rires seems to have been Rev. Duncan Davidstone, who held office for some years after 1583.

Only three parish ministers are commemorated by tombstone inscriptions.

A tablestone bears—

This stone is erected in memory of the Rev. John Lundie, who was minister of Lonmay for upwards of 54 years, and died April 28th, 1807, aged 82.

And of his wife, Mary Forbes, youngest daughter of the late Thos. Forbes, Esq. of Echt, who died April 5th, 1798, aged 77.

Also of Elspet Sharp, his grandmother, who died in October, 1762, aged 90. And of Anna Farquharson, her eldest daughter, mother to Mr Lundie, who died February 10th, 1780, aged 76. And of Isabel Farquharson, her younger daughter, who died April 5th, 1779, aged 75. Also of Katharine Lundie, younger daughter of Mr Lundie, who died August 9th, 1809, aged 51.

And of Margaret Lundie, his eldest daughter, who died September 17th, 1816, aged 61.

Dr Scott describes Rev. John Lundie as having been "a respectable divine, and a correspondent of Dr James Beattie." He was a son of John Lundie, Inverurie, and a graduate of Marischal College.

A tablestone bears the inscription—

To the memory of the Reverend Hugh Shearer, some time minister of this parish, who departed this life 22nd February, 1810, in the 70th year of his age.

Rev. Hugh Shearer, M.A., for a considerable period acted as assistant at Cairnie, and also at Bellie—his admission to Lonmay taking place on 31st March, 1808. He thus held the pastorate for less than two years. His presentation to Lonmay was made by Thomas Gordon of Buthlaw and Cairness as a temporary arrangement pending the licensing and settlement of the patron's close friend and college companion, Charles Gibbon.

A railed-in space, with granite front and arched entrance, having a cross on top, contains two marble tablets—

(1).

In memory of the Rev. Charles Gibbon, D.D., minister of Lonmay for nearly 61 years. Born 20th November, 1789; died 5th February, 1871; and buried here beside his wife, Ann Duff, born 17th November, 1787; died 11th December, 1867. She was eldest daughter of the Rev. Robert Duff, D.D., minister of King-Edward, and of Janet Turing, his wife. Robert Turing Gibbon, born, 1827, died at Aberdeen 10th August, 1895. Charles William Gibbon, eldest son, born September 13th, 1820; died August 30th, 1899.

(2).

Their children Thomas, born 25th March, died August, 1818. Robina, born 16th March, 1824; died 28th November, 1825. Amelia Ann Turing, born 8th September, 1822; died about 15th June, 1836, were buried here.

Maria Gibbon, wife of Major-General Christopher Fagan, H.E.I.C.S., born 2nd December, 1815; died 5th November, 1847, was buried beside her husband at Pau, in France.

In addition to the foregoing particulars, it may be stated that Rev. Dr Gibbon was a son of William Gibbon, jun., one of a family long engaged in the shipping trade of Aberdeen. His foresight and zeal led to the establishing, by the General Assembly, of a Supplementary Orphan Fund in connection with the Ministers' Widows' Fund. A son, William Duff Gibbon, became an estate agent in Ceylon, and was for some time a member of the Legislative Council. Another—Charles W. Gibbon—presented to the kirk-session three memorial Communion silver salvers, inscribed—

Presented, with two similar plates, to the kirk-session of Lonmay in memory of Charles Gibbon, D.D., minister of the parish from 3rd May, 1810, until his death, 5th February, 1871, by his son, Charles W. Gibbon.

Annie Grace, the youngest daughter, married R. B. Tytler, Ceylon, whom she survived. She died at Stonehaven on 23rd October, 1904, aged 74.

Dr Gibbon was succeeded, in 1871, by Rev. Archibald Alexander Campbell, assistant to Dr Norman Macleod, Glasgow. Three years later he was transferred to Crathie, when Rev. James Leask, M.A., was ordained. In 1878, he removed to Rosemount, Aberdeen, and thence, in 1881, to St Stephen's, Broughty-Ferry, where he still ministers. He had the degree of D.D. in 1903. Rev. James Forrest, M.A., the first minister of Barthol



Chapel quoad sacra parish, was elected to the vacancy. He had D.D. in 1907.

A more commodious parish church was erected in 1787 on a site close to the public road, and about a quarter of a mile from the older edifice and graveyard. It is still in use, and, being surrounded by trees, has a picturesque appearance.

#### LONMAY LANDS.

In the fourteenth century, the lands of Lonmay were owned by the family of Montford—cadets of the powerful Montfords, of whom was Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who has sometimes been erroneously credited with the creation of representative institutions in England. According to Burke, Irvine of Drum married, first, a daughter of the Earl Marischal, and, secondly, a daughter of Montford of Lonmay. Through the latter marriage the lands of Lonmay are understood to have passed to the Irvines, who retained them for a lengthened period. The Montfords thus disappear as proprietors in Aberdeenshire, but about three centuries later, and under amusing circumstances, the surname again crops up in Belhelvie. (See Belhelvie.)

In 1452, James II. ordered Sasine to be given to Alexander Irvine, son and heir-apparent of Alexander Irvine of Drnm, and to Janet Keith, his wife, of the lands of "Lunmey," Savoch, Corskelly, Cairness, etc.

Later, Lonmay was held by the Hon. Patrick Ogilvy, who was also proprietor of Inchmartin. He was the second son of James, third Earl of Findlater, and married Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Francis Montgomerie of Giffen, son of Hugh, seventh Earl of Eglinton. (Family of Seton, II., pp. 683-84.) In 1708, he was elected representative for the Elgin Burghs in the first British Parlia-

ment. His arms, etc., with those of his lady, are displayed upon the pillars of the entrance gate to the parish graveyard. They are now considerably defaced.

In 1718, Lonmay was purchased by the Hon. James Fraser, third son of William, eleventh Lord Saltoun. He married Lady Eleanor Lindsay, daughter of Colin, Earl of Balcarres, and died 10th August, 1729. They had a son, William, but he died in early manhood. The estate was sold by Lady Eleanor to William Moir of Whitehill, Midlothian, and his son William upon 7th December, 1731. (Frasers of Philorth, II., p. 155.)

William Moir of Whitehill was the eldest son of James Moir, II. of Stoneywood, by his second wife, Jean, daughter of Alexander Abernethy of Mayen. He married a sister of General Fullerton of Dudwick, and besides the son William already mentioned, they had three daughters, Isabella, Catherine, and Jean, wife of William Cumine of Pitullie.

William Moir, senior, was an ardent Jacobite, and took up arms for the Stuarts in '45. He was appointed by Lord Lewis Gordon as Deputy-Lieutenant and Governor of the city of Aberdeen. He seems to have been zealous in raising soldiers and directing their movements, as well as in "collecting the revenues of Excise and Custom and the Land Tax." William Moir, junior, subsequently succeeded. He married Wortley, eldest daughter of James Stuart of Blairhall, and had a family of two sons and three daughters—William, James, Mary, Margaret, and Anne. Mr Moir afterwards purchased the estate of New Grange, Forfarshire. In 1768, he sold Lonmay to Alexander Garden of Troup, whose brother, Lord Gardenston, afterwards became proprietor. In 1796, the property



was sold to Charles Gordon of Buthlaw, in Longside.

#### THE GORDONS OF CAIRNESS.

Mr Gordon and two subsequent proprietors of Lonmay and Cairness are commemorated by a tablestone and a large ornamental monument with tablets, within an enclosure in the reserved grounds of the Parish Church. The inscriptions are—

(1).

Charles Gordon, Esq. of Buthlaw, died 26th January, 1796, aged 47. Christian Forbes, his spouse, daughter of Thomas Forbes, Esq. of Ballogie, died 31st May, 1801, aged 40. Charles William Gordon, their son, died April 8th, 1800, aged 8 years. And their eldest son, the last of the family, Thomas Gordon, Esq. of Buthlaw, Major-General in the Greek service, died in Cairness 20th April, 1841, aged 52.

(2).

Alexandrina Jane Gordon died 15th February, 1882, aged 57 years, wife of James Wilkinson Gordon of Cairness and Georgia, Jamaica, died 18th September, 1886, aged 62 years. Also Aimee Matilda, their second daughter, died 4th December, 1862, aged 10½ months.

(Three Scriptural texts are quoted.)

Thomas Gordon (Ins. 1) had a distinguished career. He was born at Cairness on 8th December, 1788, and educated at Eton, Aberdeen, and Oxford. He travelled extensively, and became an expert linguist. After serving for a time as an officer in the British and Russian services, he threw himself vigorously into the struggle for Greek independence. He advanced money for the prosecution of the war, and acted as major-general in the Greek Army. He held the command of the expedition for the relief of Athens, and defeated the Turks with great slaughter at Port Phalerus, after which he was appointed Director-General of Ordnance. As an antiquary, numismatist, and historian, he attained considerable distinction. In

1833, he published an exhaustive history of the Greek Revolution. He died in 1841, at the age of 52, and was succeeded in the possession of Lonmay and Cairness by James Wilkinson Gordon (Ins. 2). These Gordons claimed descent, through Charles Gordon of Buthlaw, from Thomas Gordon of Seggieden, said to be the eighth son, or according to Douglas (Baronage), the sixth son of James Gordon, laird of Lesmoir. (Wimberley's Lesmoir, p. 81.) Upon Cairness there is a very fine mansion house, which was completed in 1799, after plans by James Playfair. It is in the Grecian style of architecture, and its construction cost about £30,000. Dr Skene Keith, writing in 1811, describes it as "both the largest and best house belonging to any private gentleman in the county." (Agricultural Survey, p. 124.)

#### THE ABERNETHYS OF CRIMONMOGATE.

In the wall of the old church is a tablet bearing an inscription as follows—

Heb. ix. 27. It is appointed for men once to die.

Within this wall lies interred William Abernethy of Crimonmogate, Esq., who departed this life 13th June, 1744, aged 63; also James, Thomas, Jean, and Elizabeth Abernethys, children procreate betwixt him and Helen Gordon, his spouse, who died September, 19th, 1780, aged 80 years, and is also interred here.

Particulars regarding Crimonmogate and its various proprietors will be found in the article on Crimond.

#### THE CUMINES OF KININMONTH.

A tablestone bears—

To the memory of James Cumine of Kininmonth, who died May, 1803, aged 67.

Also of May Ferguson, his spouse, who died November, 1770, aged 34 years, and of Elizabeth, Charles, and Sophia Cumine, their children, who all died young. As also of Charles Cumine of Kininmonth, father of the

said deceased James Cumine, who died anno 1764. aged 57. And of Hay Cumine, his daughter, and Alexander Cumine, his brother, both long since deceased, all interred in this place.

This stone is erected by Alexander Russel of Moncoffer and Margaret Cumine, his spouse, daughter of the above-mentioned James Cumine, 1822.

The lands of Kininmonth were for a time in the hands of a branch of the Gordons, and thereafter of the Hays of Delgaty. In 1584, William Hay of Delgaty granted a charter to Elizabeth Keith, elder daughter of Robert Keith, Commendator of Deir, in life rent, and to Alexander Hay, his elder son and heir-apparent, of the said lands, including Mill of Perskow or Denend. (Reg. Mag. Sig. V., 1626.)

William Hay of Delgaty and Kininmonth played an important part as agent and counsel for Bothwell when charged with the murder of Darnley. He espoused the cause of Montrose, and was present at the defeat at Invercharron. He was captured and beheaded 7th June, 1650. Shortly afterwards Kininmonth is found in the possession of the Cumines, a branch of the original Buchan family of that surname. Gavin Cumine—the first of the new sept—married Katherine, daughter of John Hay of Seafield—the dowry of the bride being one thousand pounds Scots. John Cumine, their son, succeeded. He married Mary Keith, of the Marischal family, and their son Charles became laird, and married Sophia, daughter of James, 15th Lord Forbes. He rebuilt the mansion house of Kininmonth, in 1740. Five years later he and his brother Alexander joined the "rebels" at Edinburgh, but through the intervention of powerful relatives were afterwards pardoned. Charles Cumine died in 1764, and was succeeded by his son James, who married May Ferguson of Kinmundy, who died in 1770 at the age of 34, as stated in the above inscription.

In 1792, Margaret Cumine, elder daughter of this marriage, married Alexander Russell, son of Russell of Montcoffer, and thereby carried the property to the Russell family. The present proprietor is Major-General F. S. Russell, C.M.G., of Aden.

Many of these particulars were contributed by Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield, who also generously allowed extracts to be taken from his very complete sketch, "The Manor of Kininmonth."

#### THE SHANDS OF CRAIGELLIE.

A headstone at a railed-in grave is inscribed—

In memory of William Shand of Craigellie, Esq., who died April 28, 1871, aged 64. Also of Helen Duncan, daughter of the above, and of Frances Mary, his wife: born February 24, 1856; died March, 18, 1859.

Also of Anne Elizabeth, their daughter; born September 5, 1857; died April 2, 1861.

Also of Edward Erskine Tustin, their son: born January 23, 1849; died August 7, 1869.

Also of Clementina Seppings, their daughter; born January 7, 1844; died in Edinburgh November 8, 1876.

Also of Ann Brown, for 25 years nurse in the family of the above, who died January 9, 1868, aged 56.

The estate of Craigellie was for long in possession of the Shand family, the heads of which were closely identified with the municipal and business affairs of Banff. The immediate progenitor was James Shand, born 1679 (died 5th March, 1736), for some time Provost of Banff, who, in 1709, married Janet, daughter of Alexander Leslie of Kininvie and of his wife, Janet Hamilton. His son James Shand of Craigellie, for some time Provost of Banff, married, in 1762, Margaret Calder (widow of John Russell of Rathen, second son of Patrick Russell of Montcoffer), eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Calder of Muirtown, Bart. He died 10th December, 1795, aged 84, his wife having predeceased

him on 11th July, 1770, aged 56. In 1767, their son, William Shand of Craigellie, married Helen Ogilvie, daughter of William Ogilvie, merchant, Banff. He was Provost of Banff for three separate terms, and died in 1810, aged 70, survived by his wife, who died on 26th April, 1819, aged 78. A daughter, Helen, died 1st November, 1834, aged 66. The succeeding proprietor was William Shand, who died on 11th June, 1848, aged 70. He, in turn, was succeeded by his son, William Shand, who is commemorated by the above inscription, shortly after whose succession the estate was broken-up—part being sold to the proprietor of Crimnagogate, portions to different farmers, and the remainder to John Henderson Milne, son of the late George Milne of Kinaldie. Mrs William Shand still survives, and is resident in Edinburgh, while a son, John L. Shand, resides at Craigellie, West Dulwich. The last-named obligingly furnished many of these particulars.

#### BLAIRMORMOND AND KNOWSIE.

A tablestone within an enclosure bears the following inscription—

To the memory of George Lumsden Shirrefs, of Blairmormond, who died 25th April, 1830, aged 81 years. And of Margaret Smith, his spouse, who died 23th October, 1839, aged 77 years.

Also of Isabella, their eldest daughter, who died on 24th April, 1842, aged 47 years. Also of John, their eldest son, who died on 11th May, 1852, aged 57 years. Also of Alexander, their second son, who died on the 9th day of December, 1853, aged 56 years. Also of Shirrie L. Shirrefs, their youngest daughter, who died on the 16th February, 1870, aged 72 years.

Blairmormond, or Blairmormonth, and Knowsie, form a compact and nicely-wooded estate of about 1000 acres, situated close to the Lonmay railway station. For several years before 1700 it was in the possession of James, Earl of Erroll, Lord

High Constable of Scotland, who sold it to Alexander Gordon of Logie, whose son Robert succeeded. (See Crimond.) John Russell, merchant, Banff, purchased the estate, and was succeeded therein by his son Thomas, who sold it to Alexander Russell of Montcoffer and George Abercrombie, jr. of Birkenbog. These gentlemen, in 1797, sold it to John Lumsden of Towie in Clatt, son of John Lumsden in Ardhuncart, and of his wife, Helen Shirrefs. He died in 1799, aged 84, having entailed the estate on George Barclay, second son of Thomas Barclay, farmer, Letterbeg, Strachan, and of his wife, Margaret Lumsden, the testator's sister. Mr Barclay thereupon assumed the surname of Lumsden Shirrefs as above. He acted, for a lengthened period, as factor on the estate of Cairness. He was uncle of George Barclay, builder, Cults, whose son, the late James William Barclay, purchased the estate of Glenbuchat.

The above Shirrie L. Shirrefs—to whom Knowsie ultimately fell—had an adopted daughter — Barbara Shirrefs Smith or Shirrefs — who married the late James Francis Gordon Shirrefs-Gordon of Craig. Miss Shirrefs left the life-rent of the estate to Mrs Gordon, and entailed the property on that lady's second son, John Lumsden Shirrefs Gordon Lumsden Shirrefs, who, having secured disentail, sold the estate in August, 1898, to William M'Connachie, shipowner and merchant, and some time Provost of Fraserburgh.

#### EPISCOPAL CLERGYMEN.

An old stone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of a Presbyter of the Church of Scotland, for the qualities that constitute real worth and adorn the pastoral character, esteemed by his friends, rever'd by his brethren, beloved by his flock, respected even by strangers. This stone covers the body of the Reverend Mr John Jaffray. Died September, 1768, in the 70th year of his age, and



41st of his ministry. (The remainder is in Latin, which may be translated.)

While piety and the love divine of rectitude are cultivated, while Scotland holds fast her ancient faith, such a man will a sacred band delight to call brother, such a man will latest posterity praise.

Rev. John Jaffray was the first Episcopal minister of Lonmay after the establishment of Presbyterianism. He possessed considerable means, and purchased the estate of Park, which formed part of Blairmormond. The "Scot's Magazine," which records Mr Jaffray's death as occurring on 10th September, 1768, states that his "meeting house had not been duly entered," and that as a successor was about to be elected, the sheriff-depute, attended by his officers, went "and shut up the house" till caution for £100 had been found that no Episcopal minister should officiate therein without registration and qualifying by taking the oath to the Government, and by praying for the King by name, and also for the Royal Family.

A tablestone beside the old church wall is inscribed—

To the memory of the Reverend William Sangster, who was 57 years Episcopal clergyman of Lonmay, and died January 4 A.D., 1826, aged 81 years.

Mr Sangster succeeded Rev. John Jaffray, and at the time of his death was Dean of the Diocese. He was probably the last clergyman in the north to suffer under the penal laws against Episcopacy. He was put upon trial for officiating to more than four persons at one time, and suffered imprisonment for several months

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A wall-stone close to the entrance gate bears—

To the memory of William Robertson, some time an officer in the British Army abroad, and

Militia in Scotland, who died August, 1667, aged 50; and of William Robertson, his son, some time tenant in Mains, Crimonmogate, who died August, 1752, aged 84. . . . .

A wall-stone near the entrance gate is inscribed—

. . . . . Mr John Forbes, Pitnacalder, who dyed . . . . 1687 . . . .

The above John Forbes was the eldest son of John Forbes, who (about 1600) came into possession of the lands of Pitnacalder in the parish of Aberdour. He was grandson of William Forbes, laird of Tolquhon, in Tarves, while his mother was a daughter of Hay, laird of Burnthill. (Lumsden's Gen.) He was served heir on 1st June, 1631 (Retours), and married Christian, daughter of John Johnston of Caskieben. Of their family, John died early; Alexander became laird of Ballogie; James farmed Bethlem; George became minister successively of Portpatrick, Innerleithen, and Traquair; Margaret married Rev. Alexander Reynold, Aberdour; and Christian married William Forbes in Auchline. (Lumsden's Gen. and Troup's MS.)

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by Mary Strachan to the memory of her husband Alexander Strachan, fisherman in St Combs, who perished at sea on that memorable day, 18th November, 1835, in the 36th year of his age.

Strachans have been fishermen in St Combs for at least three centuries. Buehan, however, was the chief fisher surname in the parish in olden times. In 1696, there were seven heads of households bearing it. (Poll Book.)

A mural stone, with shield, ornamentation, and the initials W. K. and I. D. at top, is inscribed—

Six foot from this ston lyes the body of William Keith, some time farmer in Tyacksnook, who died September 13, 1766, in the 59th year of his age. Also John and Ianet,



two of his children, by Ianet Davidson, his spouse. Also William Keith, their son, who died 29th October, 1816, aged 73. And their son Robert, who died 4th September, 1819, aged 72. Also Isobel Keith, spouse to the last-mentioned William Keith, who died in May, 1826, aged 89. Also Mary Keith, daughter of the first-mentioned William Keith, who died October 8th, 1824, aged 77 years.

Isobel Keith, who reached the advanced age of 89, was the heroine of George Halket's well-known ballad "Logie o' Buchan." (See Crimond.) The Keiths of Tyacksnook were well-to-do farmers, and claimed to be descendants of the Marischal family.

#### COLONEL JOYNER.

A headstone bears—

Erected by Captain Joiner, of Her Majesty's 93rd Highlanders, in memory of his father James Joiner, who died 10th January, 1841, aged 45 years. Also of his mother Elizabeth Jack, who died 22nd July, 1853, aged 53 years; and his sister Elizabeth, who died 11th March, 1858, aged 26 years; and Catharine, who died 12th March, 1858, aged 18 years.

The career of John Joiner, or Joyner, forms a fine illustration of the plodding, determined Aberdeenshire man rising superior to his environment. Born in the most humble station in life, he wrought, in early youth, as a farm servant. In 1840, however, he enlisted as a private in the 93rd (Sutherland) Highlanders. After serving six years in Canada and eight years at home, he embarked with his regiment for the Crimea, arriving there in September, '54. During the succeeding two years he shared in all the hardships and difficulties of that memorable campaign. He took part in the battles of Alma, Balaklava (forming one of the "Thin red line"), Kertch and Yenikale, and Sevastopol. More than once his name was favourably mentioned in despatches, and he was rewarded by his

country with a commission as quartermaster. In addition, he received the Crimean medal and three clasps for Alma, Balaklava, and Sevastopol; the Turkish medal and the French War medal for valour and discipline. In June, '57, he left with his regiment for China, but the Indian Mutiny having in the meantime broken out, the force was landed at Calcutta. Active operations were at once commenced to quell the mutineers, and he took part in the following actions:—Relief of women and children, Lucknow; defeat of Gwalior Force at Cawnpore; battles of Serai Ghat, Koleh Nuddee; Lucknow Siege; Allygunge, Bareilly, Pusgaon, Russelpore, etc. He received the Indian Mutiny medal and two clasps. In March, '70, he returned to Aberdeen, and for the next ten years acted as paymaster. He attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and retired in October, '80, after completing upwards of 40 years of meritorious service. He died 2nd February, 1899, and was buried in Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen.

A small freestone mural slab bears—

Here lyes the body of Mary Davidson, spouse to Alex. Henderson, in Kirktown of Longmey, who dyed February 10, 1730, aged 50.

Also here lyes three of their children. He died Agest 12, 1752, aged 83. . .

A marble tablestone beside the old church bears the inscription—

To the memory of Mr Thomas Hay, who died the 18th April, 1772, aged 73 years; and his spouse, Jane, who died the 10th August, 1765, aged 45 years.

To the memory of the Rev. James Davidson, A.M., who was parochial schoolmaster in Lonmay for upwards of 56 years. He died November 8th, 1840, aged 77 years. And of his wife, Janet, the eldest daughter of William and Margaret Hay, late of the Kirktown of Crimond, who died at the house of her son-in-law, the Rev. John Sharp, of New Pitligo, on the 12th

day of September, 1854, at the advanced age of 81 years. . . .

The above Thomas Hay is understood to have been descended from a younger branch of the Hays of Erroll.

Rev. James Davidson was the eldest son of James Davidson, farmer, Little Meldrum, Tarves, one of Lord Aberdeen's oldest tenants. After graduating at King's College, he took to teaching, but afterwards qualified as an Episcopal minister, and was appointed second preacher at St Fergus. As a scholar he excelled in Greek and Latin, while as schoolmaster of Lonmay he educated the sons of the chief proprietors, etc. He married Janet, eldest daughter of William Hay, farmer and hotelkeeper, Kirktown of Crimond, and they had a family of two sons and one daughter, viz., John, who died in Australia, unmarried; Margaret, who married Rev. John Sharp, New Pit-sligo; and James, born 1816, graduated at King's College, 1837, appointed second master in Queen Elizabeth's School, Kingston-on-Thames, qualified at the Theological College, St Bees, ordained to the curacy of Ossett, West Riding, Yorkshire, elected senior curate of Whitby, and thereafter in charge of the parish; he was, in 1854, appointed vicar of Nafferton, which office he held till his death, which occurred on 30th June, 1906, in his 91st year.

On a tablestone—

Erected in memory of William Willox, late merchant in Tillakera, who died February 10th, 1824, aged 70 years.

And of his wife, Ann Keith, who died August 2nd, 1823, aged 71 years. Also of their daughter Mary, who died April 21st, 1845, aged 47 years.

The Willox family would seem to have tenanted Tillykeira for a lengthened period. The above inscription records their tenancy in 1824, while the Poll Book shows that in 1696 George Willox and his son John were then the tenants — the

former being married to Isobel Jaffray, and the latter to Isobel Reid. The name of the holding is by no means confined to Lonmay. Under different forms of spelling, it is believed to be derived from two Gaelic words meaning "knoll of the sheep." (Macdonald's Place Names, p. 322.)

A railed-in space with wall at one side contains a very old imposing stone, which displays, besides other ornamental work, two angels blowing trumpets, and the inscription—

All love. All glory be to God. The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. (1st Cor. xv. 52.) This stone was erected by William Cruden.

Here ly the remains of Iohn Cruden, late taylor in Cairness. He dyed September 5th, 1699, in the 60th year of his age. And Julia Davidson, his spouse, she dyed Aprile 9th, 1720, in the 76th year of her age. And William Cruden, their eldest son, who died 26th Aprile, 1761, aged 88. . . .

In 1696, the above John Cruden and his wife paid 18s of poll. There were then in the parish several other families who bore the same surname.

On a tablestone—

Here lyes the body of Iohn Milne, who dwelt in Kern Glace, and died January 8th, 1719, that being the 32nd year of his age. Also the bodies of Isobel, Alexander, and Andrew Milns, his children.

On a wall stone—

Sacred to the memory of William Milne, who died 12th January, 1819, aged 91 years. A pattern through life of piety, temperance, benevolence, and integrity. Also Isabella, his wife, who died 19th October, 1818, aged 80 years. Also Jane, their daughter, who died 19th October, 1787, aged 25 years.

The Milnes were afterwards well known as the tenants of Flushing, near Inverallochy.

A reserved enclosure has two headstones inscribed respectively—

(1).

Erected to the memory of George Walker, late mason, Newark, who died on the 20th June, 1857, in the 75th year of his age. And Mary Clark, his wife, who died on the 22nd June, 1864, in the 67th year of her age.

(2).

Erected by Alexander and Isabella Walker, in memory of their beloved and affectionate daughter, Jeannie R. Walker, who died 18th June, 1881, aged 19 years. Also Christian Isabella Walker, who died 22nd April, 1890, aged 14 years. Their son, Charles Henry Walker, who died 25th May, 1903, aged 34 years.

George Walker, Newark, was the father of Alexander Walker, referred to in the second inscription. The latter, who died 16th May, 1904, aged 71, was the respected postmaster and general merchant at St Fergus, and, for many years, did excellent public service in the district. He was chairman of the Parish Council and School Board. His son Charles, who was trained as a banker, had to relinquish his profession through prolonged dishealth. Prior to his death, he acted as school board clerk and registrar of St Fergus.

## QUAINT INSCRIPTIONS.

(1).

Here lyes Iames Cruden, late farmer in Strathelly, who died November 9th, 1756, aged 74. He was of meek and benevolent disposition, temperate in all things, aiming always to keep a conscience void of offence towards God and man.

In memory of his paternal love and affection this stone is erected by his sons—William, in Tillykeera, and James, Litster in Pitfour. Also Christian Miln, his wife, who died 20th June, 1768, aged 82.

(2).

Here lies interred the mortal part of William Cruden, who died at Blairmormount, on the 8th March, 1808, aged 91 years. With a mind improved by education and reading, his conversation was always agreeable, often instructive. Making it the constant rule of his life

to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God, he was at once a good Christian and an honest man.

In manners simple, unassuming, and plain, he fulfilled the various relations of life with affection and sincerity. Reader! This is not flattery, but a tribute justly due to the memory of a man whose virtues are not unworthy of thy imitation.

(3).

Underneath this stone is deposited the remains of William Henderson, of the late farm of Greenburn of Crimanmoget, who departed this life February 18, 1797, aged 61 years. Also Mary, his spouse, died July 23, 1802, aged 63. John, their second son, died October 22, 1791, aged 14 years. Free from the dream of life, this man of care, the tender parent rests and friend sincere. They followed virtue as their trusting guide. Liv'd like to Christians—like to Christians died.

## RHYMING INSCRIPTIONS.

(1).

To the memory of Andrew Murison, who lived some time at Denhead, in Kininmonth, and departed this life November 2nd, 1770, in the 65th year of his age. And Isabel Clark his spouse, who died January 18th, 1776, aged 69. Also their son, James Murison, who died January 19th, 1812, in the 74th year of his age. . . . .

While time doth run,  
From sin depart,  
For none can shun  
Death's piercing dart.

(2).

To the memory of William Ross, who lived the most part of his time at Backfolds in Kininmonth, and departed this life the 30th of August, 1799, in the 77th year of his age. Also Margaret Scot, his spouse, who departed 22 May, 1809, in the 89th year of her age.

Let worms destroy my wasting flesh,  
And crumble all my bones to dust;  
My God shall raise my frame anew,  
At the revival of the just.

(3).

Erected by William Willox, in Park, to the memory of his wife, Ann Henderson, who died May 24th, 1820, aged 28 years.



Stop for a moment, thoughtless passers-by,  
 On this memento cast a serious eye,  
 'Tho' now a rosy bloom may flush your cheek,  
 And youthful vigour may your health bespeak,  
 Yet think how soon, like me, you may become,  
 In youth's fair prime, the tenant of the tomb.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Poll Book shows that in 1696 there were resident in the parish, with various tradesmen and workmen, 37 heads of families working as weavers, 5 as millers, 14 as shoemakers, 16 as tailors, 28 as cottars, while 12 shepherds and numerous herds were required to look after the flocks.

Coralhill was the birthplace, in 1797, of James Forbes, whose reputation as a local painter was enhanced through his having acted as the first art teacher of John Phillip. In this case the pupil quickly outstripped the teacher.

Particulars respecting the Loch of Strathbeg will be found in the article upon Crimond.

In Pratt's "Buchan" (Revised Edition), Statistical Accounts, Smith's "New History of Aberdeenshire," Temple's "Thanaage of Fermartyn," and Transactions of Buchan Field Club, many details are given respecting the parish lands and people which do not come under the scope of these notes.

#### ST COMBS OR ST COLMS.

As explained in the preceding article on Lonmay, the ancient church, which formerly stood within the graveyard at St Combs, was dedicated to St Columba. The site was a knoll about 150 yards south from the sea. The outside dimensions of the church are stated (Pratt's "Buchan," Revised Edition, p. 233) to have been 60 feet by 21, with walls 27 inches in thickness. Owing to recent improvements being carried out on the graveyard, the church walls are now almost entirely gone, but

what remains, having been firmly cemented, may be expected to stand intact for many years. The churchyard (together with the area of the old church) continues to be used as a place of interment.

There is a flat stone bearing the following inscription to a reputed centenarian and his wife—

To the memory of James Carl, some time in Seatown of Cairnbulg, who died June, 1761, aged cxi. (111). And Iannet Duthie, his spouse, who died September 2, 1716, aged 50. . .

The above James Carl was a fisherman, and is understood to have enjoyed good health till within a few weeks of his death.

A tablet of white marble fixed into free-stone is inscribed—

Erected by Christian workers in memory of one of God's noble women, Janet Duthie, Cairnbulg, who for 30 years was the hostess of all Christian workers who visited our quarter, and was called to a higher service 1st September, 1887, aged 56 years.

A headstone is—

Erected by William Strachan, baillie, in St Combs, to the memory of his wife, Margaret Noble, who departed this life the 20th of September, 1823, aged 51 years.

The aforesaid William Strachan died 15th September, 1849, aged 79 years.

Their son Andrew, fisherman, St Combs, died 10th June, 1875, aged 84. . . .

The following inscription commemorates a family named Cardno, long tenants in Bankhead of Inverallochy—

This is in memory of John Cardno, who was tenant in Bankhead of Inverallochy, who departed this life the 18th of May, 1784, aged 77 years. Also Janet Reid, his spouse, who died September 20, 1778, aged 57 years. Also Alex. Cardno, their son, who died October the 4th, 1777, aged 21 years. Also Elizabeth Cardno, their daughter, who died September 9, 1816, aged 55 years. Also William Cardno, their son, who died August 31, 1820, aged 66 years, having resided in above farm from his infancy.



A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by John Buchan, master mariner, in memory of his dear wife, Beattie Stephen, who exchanged her earthly decaying tabernacle for an eternal mansion of glory, June 18, 1865, aged 27 years. Of her it may be truly said being dead she yet speaketh. To know her was to love her. She was a humble follower of the Lamb and the graces of His Glorious Character. Meekness, gentleness, and kindness shone clearly in her. Besides her sorrowing husband, she has left two young children to experience the loss of a Christian mother's love and care. Even so Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight.

A headstone bears the following inscription—

Erected by Andrew Penny of Oruro, Bolivia, in filial remembrance of his father, William Penny, mason, who died in New Leeds, November 24, 1862, aged 72 years. And of his brother, Charles Penny, mason, who died in New Leeds, March 27, 1881, aged 52 years.

Andrew Penny, who erected the above headstone, was a successful silver and copper mine owner. He was popularly known as "The Silver King." In 1888, he bought, at the price of £47,000, the beautiful estate of Park, Drumoak, where he intended taking up his permanent residence. He died two years later.

Other headstones record the deaths of William Penny, farmer, Tyronhill, afterwards at Middle Ardo, Belhelvie, on 28th February, 1892, aged 76; James Penny, Halmoss, Inverallochy, on 4th February, 1858, aged 74; Alexander Penny, Newseat, St Fergus, on 20th April, 1869, aged 49; and of Charles Penny, farmer, Shannas, on 12th May, 1886, aged 84.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by Isabella Duthie, in memory of her husband, William Stephen, who was drowned at sea, 26th August, 1881, aged 57 years. Also their son, James, who died 13th September, 1886, aged 25 years. And their son, John, who died 24th June, 1890, aged 23 years.

They are now singing the songs of Moses and the Lamb with their Father in Heaven.

A tablestone bears the following inscription of peculiar orthography—

Erected by Jean May, in memory of her husband, William Toiylor, white fisher in Cairnbulg, who departed this life October 2, 1810, in the 36th year of his age. Also, ther infants children, Mary and Christain.

#### RHYMING INSCRIPTIONS (abridged).

(1).

Erected by Isabella Duthie, in memory of her husband, Alexander Buchan, Fisherman, who died 13th September, 1856, aged 75; also, their sons, John and Gilbert.

You that pass by, you will stop and think,  
For we are in Eternity and you are on the  
brink.

(2).

Erected by James Carle, in memory of his mother, Bettie Stephen, who died January 6, 1845, aged 30. . . .

That bosom where I oft have lain,  
And slept my infant hours away,  
Will never beat for me again,  
For it is dead and wrapt in clay.

On the back of this stone are the representation of an angel blowing a trumpet, and the inscription—

The trumpet will sound, and the dead shall be raised. 1 Cor. xv. 52.

Remember man as you pass by,  
As you are now, so once was I,  
As I am now, so must you be,  
Therefore prepare to follow me.  
But, O! when the last confict's o'er,  
And we are chained to earth no more,  
With what glad accents shall we rise,  
To join the music in the skies.

(3).

1872. Erected by George Stephen, fisherman, in memory of his daughters. Also his wife, Ann Buchan, who died 7th March, 1903, aged 75.

Like crowded forest trees we stand,  
And some are marked to fall,  
The axe will smite at God's command,  
And soon shall smite us all.

## Crimond.

The derivation of the name Crimond is doubtful, various meanings being assigned, such as "the foot of the hill," "the moor for cattle," "the cattle mount," "the boundary of the moss," etc.

In the twelfth century, the parish lands, with others, were owned by John Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, but were confiscated to the Crown on the flight of the earl after the defeat of his forces at Barra and at Aikey Brae in 1308.

In 1324, Sir Archibald Douglas, brother to the good Sir James Douglas, the companion and trusted friend of Robert Bruce, got from that monarch a grant of the lands of Crimond, etc., with the power of pit and gallows. From time to time numerous changes in the ownership have taken place, while divisions, sub-divisions, and annexations have been frequent.

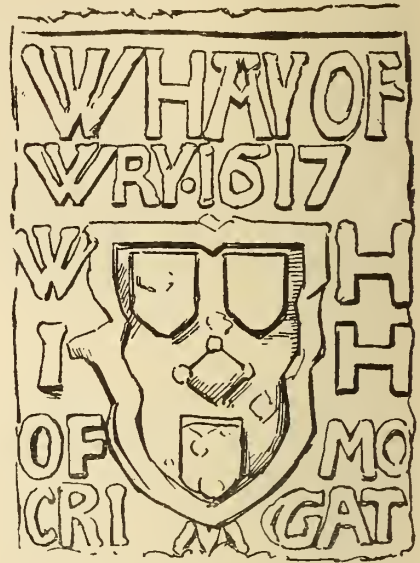
### THE LANDS OF CRIMONMOGATE.

In the fifteenth century, various parish lands, including Crimonmogate, belonged to the Dunbar family, but in 1471 Gilbert Hay, brother of William, first Earl of Erroll, married Beatrice Dunbar, daughter and heiress of Sir John Dunbar of Crimond, and thus succeeded to Crimonmogate. Four years before this, Hay had received a charter to the lands of Urie, and he was the founder of the family of Hay of Urie and Crimond. He died in 1487, and was succeeded by his son, William, who married Katherine, daughter of Archibald Rate of Drumtochty.

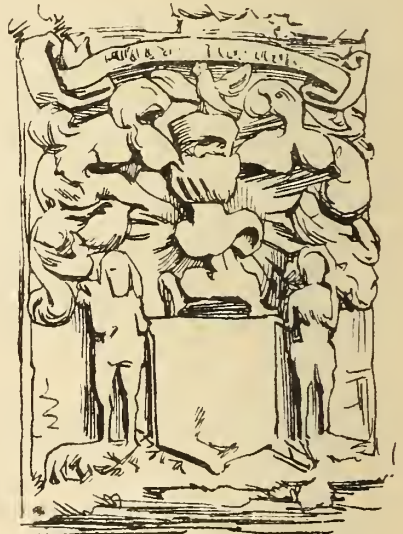
Notes on the subsequent proprietors, down to the end of the seventeenth century, will be found in the "Baron Court Book of Urie," edited by Rev. D. G. Barron, Dunnottar.

On the outer side of one of the pillars, at the entrance gate to the graveyard, are

slabs bearing a somewhat defaced coat of arms of the Hays, and an inscription—



On the pillar opposite, a bold coat of arms is shown, but it also has got considerably broken—



Mr Jervise in his MS. says this coat of arms had been a carving "of the Hay arms, with a coronet, crest, and the supporters of the Erroll branch." The foregoing illustrations are reproduced from photographs specially taken for this work by Mr W. Scorgie, Schoolhouse, Fetterangus.

It is now impossible to explain for what purpose the foregoing had been erected, unless it were to perpetuate the names of two of the leading parish heritors or to record the building of the churchyard walls and pillars. W. Hay of Wry represents William Hay, the last laird of Urie. He was the son of John Hay of Urie, whom he succeeded in 1607. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, and sold Urie to Francis, Earl of Erroll, in 1630, and died after 1634. (Barron's "Baron Court Book of Urie," p. 188.) Considerably before this date, Crimonmogate had been alienated from the main branch. The portion of the inscription I. H. OF CRI MO GAT represents John Hay of Crimonmogate, cousin of the above William Hay of Urie, and son of William Hay of Little Arnage, etc., whom he succeeded in 1614. (Ibid. 30, and *Retours* 135.)

In 1696, Crimonmogate belonged to Rev. William Hay, parish minister of Crimond, whose son John, after succeeding to the estate, built the old mansion house. (View of the Diocese, etc.) The latter became embarrassed, and in 1721 the estate is mentioned as being in the hands of creditors. (Ibid 429.) It was then purchased by William Abernethy, who died 13th June, 1744. (See *Lonmay*, *Peterhead*, and *St Fergus*.) Before 1786, it was purchased by Alexander Milne, merchant and manufacturer in Aberdeen, and a partner of the firm of Gordon, Barron, and Co., and of Milne, Cruden, and Co. He married

Margaret, youngest daughter of Patrick (afterwards Sir Patrick) Bannerman, merchant in Aberdeen, and Provost of the city in 1714-15. Of this union two sons, Patrick and Alexander, survived. Alexander Milne, senior, died 11th February, 1789, and his son Alexander in May, 1800. Patrick Milne succeeded, and an obelisk erected to his memory within the grounds of Crimonmogate bears the following inscription—

Erected to the memory of Patrick Milne by Charles Bannerman.

Patrick Milne died 16th May, 1820, aged 65 years.

Anne Bannerman, wife of Charles Bannerman, died 2nd September, 1838, aged 47 years.

Margaret Bannerman, their eldest daughter, died 2nd May, 1833, aged 5 years. Mary Elizabeth, their second daughter, died 30th August, 1838, aged 8 years.

Patrick Milne possessed much influence and business ability. For a time, from 1812, he represented the Elgin Burghs in Parliament. He bequeathed his estate of Crimonmogate to his relative, Charles, afterwards Sir Charles, Bannerman, eighth baronet, who married his cousin Anne, daughter of Charles Bannerman, advocate, youngest brother of the sixth baronet.

A massive grey granite obelisk erected in Crimond graveyard bears the following separate inscriptions commemorative of him and members of his family—

Charles Bannerman, VIII. Baronet of Elsick, born 18th August, 1782, died in London, 18th June, 1851, aged 68; and Anne Bannerman, his wife, born 3rd December, 1791; died at Crimonmogate, 2nd September, 1838, aged 47.

Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of Charles Bannerman and Anne Bannerman, died at Crimonmogate, XXX. August, MDCCCXXXVIII. (1838), aged VIII.

Ann Catherine, third daughter of Charles Bannerman, Bart., and Anne Bannerman, died at Crimonmogate, XXVI. of February, MDCCCXLVII. (1847), aged 15.



Sir Charles was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander, who died in 1877, leaving an only daughter, Ethel Mary Elizabeth, who, in 1891, married Lord Carnegie, eldest son of the Earl of Southesk. Varied information regarding the Milne and Bannerman families is given in Morgan's "Annals of Woodside, etc.;" Muuro's "Provosts, etc.;" and Pratt's "Buchan" (Revised Edition).

The lands of Crimond proper were purchased before 1689 from the Earl of Erroll by Alexander Cumming, who had for long acted as his factor. Upon 9th July, 1690, Alexander Cumming of Crimond was served heir to his father, Alexander Cumming, sometime of Brunthill, afterwards of Birness, in the lands of Borrowley, Ardgight, Cairnmuks, etc. (Retours.) In 1703, Alexander Irvine of the Artamford family bought Crimond (Irvine of Crimond was the ancestor of the present line of Drum), which subsequently was owned by the Forbeses and more recently by the Bannermans.

#### THE GORDONS OF LOGIE.

Before 1672, Logie, which lies to the west of the parish church, belonged to John Hay, who died in 1673, and was succeeded by three nieces as heirs portioners—Mary Meldrum, wife of David Stewart, Commissary of Moray; Isobell Meldrum, spouse of James Gordon of Ardmeallie; and Elspet Meldrum, wife of Rev. David Cumming, minister of Edin-killie. (Antiq., IV., p. 81, etc.) In 1696, the proprietors are returned as David Stewart and James Gordon, who are described as "portioners." Shortly afterwards Gordon acquired the whole of Logie. He was the third son by the first marriage of George Gordon, IV. of Coclarachie. He married a daughter of Peter Meldrum of Laithers, and of their family,

Alexander, the younger son, succeeded to Logie before 1721, while the elder son, Peter, received the estate of Ardmeallie, in the parish of Marnoch. Unfortunately, the laird got mixed up in the rising of the '45, as also did his son Robert, who joined the rebel army. The name of the latter was excepted from the general pardon, but he seems ultimately to have made terms with the Government. He was served heir to his father in 1752, and sold Logie. Of his family, a son James was for long a farmer at Mains of Logie, and thereafter at Mains of Orrock, Belhelvie. He was an advanced and successful agriculturist. Dr Keith (Agricultural Survey of Aberdeenshire, pp. 299-300) comments upon the extraordinary crop of ruta бага, or Swedish turnips, which Gordon had raised upon the former farm in 1798. The yield was found to average upwards of forty-one tons per acre!

Several of the foregoing facts are culled from exhaustive notes on the Coclarachie Gordons which have been carefully compiled by Rev. Stephen Ree, minister of Boharm, and given in the New Spalding Club's Vol. I. of "The House of Gordon."

To the strong Jacobite influence and proclivities of the Gordons of Logie, who were patrons of George Halket, sometime schoolmaster of Rathen, are doubtless due the production of many of Halket's stirring Jacobite songs, which are believed to have done much in winning Scotch followers to the Pretender's side. Among others of his still popular compositions is the plaintive ballad, "O, Logie o' Buchan." The hero of this piece was gardener at Logie House, while the heroine was Isobel Keith, who afterwards married William Keith, farmer, Tyacksnook, and died in May, 1826, aged 89. (See Lonmay.) It is alleged that the gardener, after leaving Logie, found employment in the service of the laird of Kin-



mundy. This explains why the first verse of the original ballad ran—

O, woe to Kinmundy! Kinmundy, the laird,  
Wha's taen awa' Jamie that delv'd in the yaird,  
Wha play'd on the pipe, an' the viol sae sma',  
Kinmundy's taen Jamie, the flower o' them a'.

Early last century Logie was owned by Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Tower (son of John Tower, convener of the Incorporated Trades, Aberdeen), for some time M.P. for Berwickshire, but was afterwards acquired by Sir Charles Bannerman of Crimonmogate.

#### THE PROPRIETORS OF HADDO.

Two small sandstone slabs built into the outer side of the south wall of the old church show a rough carving of a tree—the Watson arms—flanked by the initials, A. W.—W. W., while underneath is the motto, "Feir God." There is also the inscription—

An . row Watson of Hado.  
A . D . WT.

Prior to the scheme for improvement of the graveyard being carried out a few years ago, a large tablestone of Iona marble lay over a grave, but it has since mysteriously disappeared. The following inscription is given in Jervise's MS. as being upon it, and this corresponds with the particulars gathered from other sources—

Here lyes William Watson of Haddo, who departed this life March the 27th, anno, 1682; also here lyes Margaret Yonger, his spouse, who departed this life August the 10th, anno, 1674.

Under this stone lyes Patrick Black of Haddo, who died April 2nd, 1745, in the 49th year of his age. As also Margaret Carnegie, his wife, who died March 18th, 1748, aged 49 years.

The Watson epitaph ran round the edges of the stone, whilst Black's one was in the centre.

Andrew Watson, who, in 1605, was

designated as "proprietor of Rattray" and subsequently "as laird of Haddo," seems to have had much trouble in defending his life, property, and legal rights. Disputes about boundaries were of frequent occurrence, and such hostility was manifested towards him that on 5th August, 1605, the Privy Council ordered James Gordon, apparent of Lesmoir, to find caution for a thousand pounds, and Abraham Stewart in "Manbletoun," with James Gordon in Fortry, etc., to find three hundred merks each of caution not to harm the said Andrew Watson. (Privy Council Register.) William Watson was son of the above Andrew Watson, and, in 1675, in his capacity of baillie of the burgh of Rattray, superior of the lands, he granted a charter in favour of Isobel Watson, spouse of Alexander Bisset in Bilbo. (Statistical Account, etc.)

From the Watsons Haddo was acquired by William Black, who, in 1711, was elected sub-Principal of King's College and University, Aberdeen, in which he had held office as Regent. Mr Black died in February, 1714, and his son Patrick succeeded. It has been suggested that of this family was possibly William Black, advocate, who was trustee for Alexander Irvine, thirteenth laird of Drum—the opinion being strengthened by the fact that Irvine sold Auchtercoul for £48,000 Scots to Black of Haddo, but repurchased it in fee simple in 1702. In a subsequent list of the creditors of Irvine, the name of Black of Haddo appeared for the large sum of £26,661 13s 4d. (Wimberley's Irvines of Drum.)

From the Blacks the lands of Haddo were purchased by Robert Arbutnot, merchant in Peterhead, who died 15th September, 1756. (See Peterhead.) Thereafter they passed through various hands, including those of Alexander Annand (who died 16th April, 1792, aged 65), William

Annand, James Laing, Miss Laing, and Miss Brebner.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Apart from Rattray and its surroundings, the most interesting antiquities in the parish are the remains of a stone circle on the farm of Netherton of Logie. This circle is considered by experts to be in a high state of preservation.

Tradition erroneously locates the scene of the beautiful ballad "Sir James the Rose" at the Battle Fauld, near Haddo. It may be, however, that an encounter having an equally tragic ending took place there.

#### MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

Crimond was formerly a prebend of Aberdeen, being added in 1262. (*Antiq.*, I., p. 158.)

From 1567 to 1573 the parish was supplied by George Nesbit, reader.

In 1574, Archibald Keith was minister of Crimond, Longley, Peterugy, and Cruden. Two of his sons—Samuel and George—seem to have been of a lawless and turbulent character, as evidenced by the appointment, in 1586, of a commission to put them upon trial for malicious and deadly designs against sundry of the lieges in Buchan and the Mearns. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 640.)

Shortly afterwards, Rev. John Gordon, second son of Alexander Gordon of Lesmoir, and brother of Sir James, who became the first baronet, was parson of Crimond. Along with Rev. Duncan Davidson, minister of Rathen, and Rev. David Howesoun, incumbent of Tyrie, he joined Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth in his scheme of building a College at Fraserburgh and establishing a University there. (See Fraserburgh.)

In a railed-in corner of the graveyard are mural tablets—

(1).

In memory of the Rev. William Boyd,

minister of Crimond, who died on the 28th of April, 1839, in the 80th year of his age, and the 43rd of his ministry.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Boyd, minister of the parish of Crimond, who died on the 22nd August, 1854, in the 45th year of his age, and 14th of his ministry.

This tablet is erected as a token of affection by his disconsolate widow.

Thy will be done.

(3 Translation).

William Boyd, died 11th August, 1820, in his 21st year, while prosecuting his studies in Theology and Medicine with the greatest assiduity and success. Piety, benevolence, and earnest longing for heavenly things, and an ardent love of science filled his soul, heart, and mind. When winter is gone they will flourish again.

William Boyd, minister of the Church of Crimond from 1797 to 1839, dedicated this monument to the memory of a son whom he never once said that he was in fault.

To the foregoing particulars, and to those given by Dr Scott (Fasti), it may be added that Rev. William Boyd, M.A., married Janet, daughter of Robert Mackie, skinner, and some time convener of the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen, who died 2nd September, 1846, in her 81st year, and that of the four sons of this marriage, Robert, the eldest, became a planter in Java, while the elder of the two daughters—Penelope—died 18th April, 1874, aged 81 years. (Tombstone at Oldmachar.) Rev. Alexander Boyd, M.A., married a daughter of James Tower, M.D., of Santa Cruz (brother of Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Tower, of Logie), by his marriage with a daughter of Rev. Hugh Knox, D.D., of Santa Cruz. The Boyd family were related to the Lords Kilmarnock of that name.

A tablestone in Oldmachar graveyard records the demise of the succeeding minister—

In memoriam the Reverend Alexander Irvine,

D.D., minister of Crimond, died 12th January, 1884, aged 79 years; and Jessie Nicol, his wife, died 27th April, 1888, aged 83 years.

A mural tablet at the same grave adds that Dr Irvine was for 57 years a minister of the Church of Scotland, and that a daughter, Jessie Seymour, died on 2nd September, 1887, aged 51. Mr Irvine was presented by George IV. to the charge of Dunnottar in 1827, translated to Peterhead in 1844, and inducted to Crimond in 1855. His degree of D.D. was conferred by the University of Aberdeen in 1873. Patrick Irvine, solicitor, and clerk to the Harbour Board of Peterhead, is a son of Dr Irvine.

The old Parish Church is believed to have been erected in 1576, that date having been above one of its doors. (Old Statistical Account.) It stood within the graveyard, but all that now remains is a portion of the south wall and part of a neat ornamental stone cornice, which is built into the churchyard wall within the Boyd ground formerly mentioned. On the cornice in bold letters is—

For in Thy Courts on day excels a thousand other here. Psa. 84, 10.

The present church, which was erected in 1812, and substantially renovated in 1895, stands by the side of the public road, at a distance of about half a mile from the previous edifice. In the west end is a steeple containing a clock, which was presented by James Laing of Haddo and Streatham Hill, Surrey, who was a native of the parish. A two-light stained glass window has been placed in the east end in memory of the incumbents, Rev. Alexander Boyd and Rev. Alexander Irvine, D.D., already referred to. A vestry was added in 1854. On panels are painted names, etc., of sundry officers, together with the following list of patrons:—James VI., 1573; Gilbert, Earl

of Erroll, 1655; Andrew Hay of Montclairie, 1729; Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy, 1744; James, Earl of Erroll, 1796; James, Earl of Fife, 1839.

#### CASES OF LONGEVITY.

The parish is recognised as healthy, many of the residents reaching long ages. It will be noted from the few epitaphs here given that six parties died at an average age of 85, whilst within a few years preceding 1842, three females are said to have died at the age of 100. (New Statistical Account.) Remarkable as those instances of longevity no doubt are, they are eclipsed by those of John Dennis, Mains of Crimond, who died in December, 1770, at the reputed age of 102, and had taken part in the battle of Killiecrankie, 82 years before ("Aberdeen Journal"), and of John Cowie, who died in 1811, at the alleged age of 108. The latter, when 43 years of age, was a trooper at Culloden. In 1760, he was elected church officer and sexton at Crimond, but resigned several years later on the ground of old age. His successor held office for a considerable period, and at his death, John, who had in the meantime married and renewed his youth, was again appointed to his old important posts, faithfully discharging their duties till the last Sunday of his life.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

In memory of Charles Farquhar, preacher of the Gospel, and schoolmaster at Mintlaw, who died 25th of March, 1834, in the 28th year of his age. This stone was erected by the inhabitants of Mintlaw in token of their esteem for his character.

On a horizontal stone over the same grave—

In memory of Rev. John Farquhar, M.A., for 42 years schoolmaster of Mintlaw, who died 27th October, 1888, aged 72 years. 2nd Timothy IV. 7 and 8.



Here also rest Alex. Farquhar and Anne Keith, his wife, father and mother of the said John Farquhar, and their daughters Anne, Isabella, and Eleanora.

A stone lying against the north wall bears—

Captain Nairne and the other officers of the H.C.S. General Kydd, desired this stone to be erected in testimony of their regard for James Milne, who died on board that ship on his voyage homewards, 19th June, 1822, in the 43rd year of his age, and 29th of his service in the E. India trade.

Alexander Milne, lately in Longleys, his father, who died 11th January, 1802, aged 71, is interred here.

In the inside of the wall of the old church is a stone inscribed—

Here lyes William Nisbet, lauful husband to Elspet Donaldson, who departed this life the 17th of February, 1697, and of his age the 43.

A beautiful monogram and sundry mortuary emblems are shown, together with the Latin word Resurgam—"I shall rise again."

Upon an ancient slab fixed into the wall, and within the Boyd ground, is the following—

Under this lyeth sex of Mr Wil Hay and Mary Meldrum's children.

Suffer litle childrn to com unto Me.

No date is given, but from the fact that this space is locally known as "the ministers' corner," that it has within it the inscribed cornice of the old church referred to, and that Hay is described as Mr—which was the old documentary and inscriptive title for a graduate and a clergyman—it is very probable that the children commemorated had been those of Rev. William Hay, minister of Crimond, admitted before 1633, or of his son, who bore the same name, and who was inducted about 1655.

On a tablestone, having the initials J. F. and I. H., is the inscription—

Here lyes the body of John Farquhar, some time farmer at Mill of Starnefin, who died March 22nd, 1766, in the 62nd year of his age. Also Mary and John, two of his children by Isabel Henderson, his spouse.

Also here lyes the forsaid Isabel Henderson's body who died April 15th, 1784, aged 85 years.

A tablestone bearing the date 1742, the initials W. S., I. B., A. S., S. I., together with various emblems and a scroll, is inscribed—

Here lyes in hope of a blessed resurrection the corpse of William Seller, some time feuer in Ratra, who departed this life the 18th of May, 1705, of age 63. Also the corpse of Iean Bisset, his spouse, who departed this life 7th of November, 1740, aged 78.

Mary Seller died at Fraserburgh on 4th August, 1897, aged 81.

A tablestone has the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of James Robb, who died in Bilbo A.D. 1802, aged 81. Also of his son, John Robb, gardener at Grange, who was a peaceable and industrious member of society, a loving husband, an affectionate father, and in all his conduct an exemplary man. He died 3rd July, 1823, aged 63. . . .

Another tablestone has—

Here lyes the body of William Park, sometime farmer in the Mains of Crimond, who departed this life March, the 8th, 1763, aged 87 years. Also of Elisabeth Farquhar, his spouse, who died January 4th, 1757, aged 74 years; and also William Park, their son, sometime farmer Crimondgorth, who died February 2nd, 1765, aged 49 years.

In 1696, Park, for himself, his wife, and valuation, paid 16s 2d of poll, 12s being also paid for his son William and his daughter Janet. (Poll Book.)

The following five inscriptions are from



stones in various portions of the graveyard—

(1).

Erected by Alexander Anderson, in Casway-hill, in memory of his affectionate wife Mary Milne, who died October 26th, 1814, in the 59th year of her age. Also their son, who died in infancy.

Here a kind parent in death's dark abode,  
In solemn silence waits the trump of God.

Ye once lov'd friends your heart-felt grief  
refrain,

Your temporal loss is her eternal gain.

The above-named Alexander Anderson, late in Blackwater, St Fergus, who faithfully discharged the duties of an elder in the Free Church there, displaying the powers of an unimpaired and cultivated intellect, in combination with the Graces of the Spirit, until March 22nd, 1854, when he entered into rest in the 93rd year of his age.

(2).

Here lies the body of William Jaffray, late weaver in Tophead, St Fergus, who departed this life April 16th, 1790, aged 77. Also of his wife Isobel Rob, who departed this life February 4th, 1795, aged 75. Her sobriety and industry, as a loving wife, are fully manifested in her dutiful exertions as a parent towards her surviving children.

(3).

In memory of Jean Cummine, Turriff, who died 3rd March 1842, in the 4th year of her age.

Humbly then I flee to Jesus,  
Better refuge none can be.

When the arm of death shall seize us  
We shall put our trust in Thee.

William Turriff died aged 84 years. Also his brother Robert, who died 31st January, 1849, in the 19th year of his age.

(4).

Erected by Alexander Cowie, farmer in Bel-fatton, to the memory of his son Alexander, who

died 10th November, 1832, aged 16 years and 5 months.

"The finest flower that ever blow'd,  
Opened in Calvar's tree;  
When Jesus' blood in rivers flow'd,  
For love of worthless me."

(5).

In the grace and tender pity of Christ here resteth the body of James Park, the beloved son of William and Isabella Park, Haddo, who was swept off Peterhead Pier and drowned during the great storm of January 10th, 1849, at the age of 26 years. . . .

#### FARQUHAR THE MILLIONAIRE.

John Farquhar, who at his death in 1826 left a fortune of a million and a half, was born at Bilbo in 1751. His father, John Farquhar, afterwards moved to Deeside, and in 1761, being then designated "Wright at Saw Mill of Culter," purchased and held—conjointly with his wife, Elizabeth Chalmers—until 1774 the lands of Newton (now Newton-Dee), then in the parish of Banchory-Devenick. There is a tombstone to the memory of this couple in St Nicholas Churchyard, Aberdeen. (See "Scottish Notes and Queries," VIII., p. 87.) Their son John entered as a student at Marischal College in 1764, and obtained a cadetship in the Bombay Establishment of the H.F.I.C., but having been severely wounded, he was early incapacitated from a military career, and, going to Bengal, became superintendent of the powder factory at Palta, and subsequently sole contractor for the supply of gunpowder to the East India Company. Amassing a large fortune, he returned to this country, and in 1822 purchased Font-hill Abbey, rendered famous by the extravagancies of William Beckford, the author of "Vathek." Further particulars regarding the career of Farquhar will be found in the "Dictionary of National Biography," XVIII., 22.

## Rattray.

### CASTLE.

Tradition states that near the east end of the Loch of Strathbeg a castle formerly stood on a small circular-formed hill with a flat top, extending to about half a Scotch acre; that it belonged to the powerful Cumyns, Earls of Buchan (Kennedy asserts that it was their principal residence, "Annals of Aberdeen," Vol. II., p. 323); but that, on ceasing to be occupied, about 1308, it speedily fell into decay, until now not one stone remains upon another. The site is still known as "The Castle Hill," but, through the action of drifted sand and agricultural operations, the surroundings have been greatly altered. Hearthstones covered with ashes, and roughly-dressed stones with lime and clay adhering, have, at various times, been excavated from the supposed site. These finds, along with the recent discovery of a regularly-made causeway at the foot of the hill or mound, give weight to the tradition.

### BURGH.

On 6th March, 1563-4, Queen Mary, by charter, raised to the dignity of a Royal burgh a hamlet which had sprung up around the eastern end of the loch. The district assigned included the chapel and graveyard of Rattray, with certain adjoining "muirs." The usual privileges were granted, including power to hold a weekly market and two yearly fairs. (Antiq., I., p. 425.) It is now declared that the erection of the burgh arose, not on account of the size or general prosperity of the hamlet, but solely with the view of terminating a quarrel which had arisen respecting its superiority. This was claimed by both the Keith and Hay families, and considerable litigation followed. For a time the residents had the advantage of an excellent natural harbour in the

Loch of Strathbeg, which had then a clear opening to the sea. About 1720, however, during a furious storm from the east, a sand bar was formed which effectually closed up the connecting point. So sudden and destructive had been the storm that a small ship which was in the harbour discharging slates was closed in, and gradually went to pieces. Thereafter, the burgh rapidly dwindled till now the graveyard and chapel alone mark its site. In the Statistical Accounts particulars are given as to several of the old feus and their holders.

### BROADLAND—RATTRAY LANDS.

These lands were granted, in 1458, by James II. to Sir William Monypeny of Ardewny, who was described in the charter as the King's "well-beloved familiar." They had previously been in the hands of Hugh Douglas, Earl of Ormonde, but had been forfeited to the Crown. Shortly afterwards, they were acquired by the Keiths. In 1495, William Keith was served in these lands, as nearest heir to his father, the deceased Sir Gilbert Keith of Inverugie.

A few years later, Broadland was in the possession of James Gordon, afterwards the first baronet of Lesmoir, who, marrying Rebecca Keith (it was probably the celebration of this marriage, in the summer of 1589, that James VI. attended—Gordon's "Scots Affairs," I., p. xxxiii.) is believed to have got the lands as a part of her marriage portion. In 1614—eleven years before the Lesmoir baronetcy was conferred—Gordon conveyed to his second son, William, and his spouse, Christian Walker, the whole barony of Broadland. (Wimberley's Lesmoir, p. 54.) This couple would appear to have got into serious financial difficulties, as shown by the numerous and heavy mortgages which they were obliged to grant. In 1630, they assigned two ploughlands—208 acres Scots

—of Broadland to Thomas Gordon (Sasine Register, vol. vii., p. 119); and that they had further mortgaged the lands is shown by the deed of assignation to the wadset over Broadland for 6300 merks Scots, granted, on 19th October, 1631, by Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, Bart., with consent of his son, in favour of the hospital built for the help and support of old poor residents in the barony of Leys. (Family of Burnett of Leys, pp. 261-63.)

In the inside and over the window of the gable of the old church of Crimond is a slab bearing a defaced shield with the Gordon arms, the motto BYDAND, the initials T. G., and a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation—

Dr Thomas Gordon, jun., with his father.

Under this seat are laid the ashes of a man of good birth, Thomas Gordon of Broadland, 1652.

It is difficult to fix definitely the branch to which Thomas Gordon belonged. That he possessed considerable means is evidenced by his name appearing, in 1633, as lender of 5500 merks among six parties, two of whom were Sir James Gordon, younger of Lesmoir, and George Gordon of Terpersie. (Spalding Club "Miscellany," III., p. 102.)

#### THE FRASERS OF BROADLAND.

In the roof of the same window is a stone having a Latin inscription, which, translated, reads—

To Christ the Saviour. Here rests in the Lord all that is left under the sun of a man of good birth, and adorned with many graces of mind and person, Patrick Fraser of Broadland, who died peacefully and piously 4th January, 1685, in his 66th year, to cover whose mortal remains his widow Margaret Seton . . . . caused this stone to be erected.

Both splays of the window are lined with funereal slabs, showing a shield with the Fraser arms, a fleur-de-lis being over all, and surmounted by an esquire's helmet and

the motto, IN GOD I TRUST. The Seton arms are also shown; and the name of Margaret Seton had been inscribed along with a complimentary epitaph in Latin, which, translated, is—

As maiden, wife, and widow she was a model of perfect propriety, a pattern of modesty and matronly excellence.

Nisbet (*Heraldry*, II., part III., p. 15) gives Fraser of Broadland as descended from a sixth son of a proprietor of Philorth, the chief evidence being the fleur-de-lis in his arms; but the late Lord Saltoun (*Frasers of Philorth*, II., p. 157) regarded this descent as doubtful, inasmuch as no Fraser of Philorth was known to have had six sons—with the exception of Sir Alexander, third of Philorth, who died in 1482.

Andrew Arbuthnot, a descendant of Arbuthnott of that Ilk, married Margaret Fraser, daughter of the above laird of Broadland, from whom he purchased the lands. Of this marriage there were three sons and six daughters. Of the sons, Andrew and Nathaniel died unmarried, while Charles went to the West Indies, and on his return married Grizel Johnston, daughter of Andrew Johnston of Aldie. He lived for many years at Crichtie, Old Deer, and died in 1812. (Arbuthnot MS.)

Before 1778, Broadland belonged to Robert Stevens, whose improvements upon the property are referred to by Francis Douglas in his "Description of the East Coast of Scotland" (pp. 230-31).

Ten years later, the lands were purchased by Alexander Harvey at the price of 10,000 guineas. He was the grandson of John Harvey, schoolmaster, Midmar, and son of Alexander Harvey, who, while young, had emigrated to Antigua and accumulated wealth. In 1787, he married Mary Morrison of Terreagleston, but they had no family. Buchan, in his "Annals of Peterhead," comments in glowing terms



upon Harvey's loyalty, enterprise, and kindness of heart ; while Dr Skene Keith, in referring to the property, says that " in its neighbourhood are the finest downs in the island." Interesting particulars regarding the Harvey family are given in the records drawn up by the late A. Dingwall Fordyce of Fergus, Ontario.

#### THE CUMINES OF RATTRAY.

Nearly one-half of the area of Rattray Chapel at the eastern end is railed in, and forms the burial ground of members of the Cumine family, who next owned the property.

Within are two crosses inscribed respectively—

(1).

Harriet Hay Cumine, daughter of Thomas Burnett, advocate, Aberdeen, wife of James Cumine of Rattray, left this world November 21st, 1884.

"We enter life but through the gate of death."

(2).

"Until the day break and the shadows flee away."

To the loved and stainless memory of James Cumine of Rattray. Born March 30, 1810; passed from Death into Life everlasting. December 17, 1894.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

A headstone alongside bears—

In memory of Thomas Cumine, second son of James Cumine of Rattray. Born, 11th April, 1847; died, 21st June, 1887.

"God is love."

A wall tablet in Oldmachar Churchyard records the decease of other members of the Cumine family thus—

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Williamson Burnett, wife of Adam Cumine, and daughter of Kirkpatrick Williamson Burnett of Monboddo. Died the 4th of May, 1815, aged 34 years. Alexander Cumine died 4th October, 1839, aged 24 years. Adam Cumine of Rattray, born 5th May, 1767, died 17th January, 1841. William Adam Cumine, eldest son of James Cumine, Esq. of Rattray, died

12th January, 1849, aged 4 years. Jane Cumine, daughter of the late Adam Cumine of Rattray, died 5th September, 1886, aged 73 years. Elizabeth Cumine, daughter of the late Adam Cumine of Rattray, born 9th May, 1811, died 5th November, 1887, aged 75 years.

These four inscriptions give particulars as to the later members of the Cumine family descended from the Morayshire branch of the Red Cumyns, which migrated to Aberdeenshire about two centuries ago, and acquired the estate of Pitullie, near Fraserburgh. The purchaser of Broadland-Rattray was Adam Cumine, of the Honourable East India Company's service, who, in 1808, married the grand-daughter of the celebrated Lord Monboddo, and niece of Elizabeth Burnett, whose accomplishments and beauty were extolled by Burns. James Cumine, their son, succeeded. He also, for a time, was an officer in the East India Company's service, but for many years lived on his estate, in the management and improvement of which he took much interest. Of his family, Alexander entered the Indian Civil Service, while George Lewis became a civil engineer, and an expert in railway construction. A daughter, Mary Elizabeth, is married to Sir Thomas Burnett, twelfth Baronet of Leys. Further particulars respecting the family will be found in the article under Old Deer.

The house of Broadland forms the mansion-house of Rattray, and since the property was acquired by the Cumine family they have called it Rattray, abandoning the old title of Broadland by which it was so long known.

#### THE CHAPEL OF RATTRAY.

A chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded here at an early date. The author of the "View of the Diocese" says that it was founded for the rest of the soul of the Earl of Buchan's son, who had been accidentally drowned in a well. This



assertion has not been substantiated, nor has the actual date of foundation been ascertained. A stone of red granite lying within the edifice, and removed from the west wall, gives the date as A.D. 911. No weight should be attached to this, however, as it was cut and fixed within the last fifty years. The probability is that the foundation had been made by William Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, between 1214 and 1233. Certain it is that that Earl, between the years stated, granted the lands and mill of Strathelyn (Strichen) and Kyndrochet to Cospatrick Macmadethyn for payment of two stones of wax at Whitsunday yearly; and this the Earl subsequently gave in free alms for ever to Rattray Chapel. The gift was afterwards converted into a monetary payment. (*Antiq.*, II., pp. 394-5.) The cost of building the chapel must have been considerable, as many of the stones had to be carried from Dundarg. The structure was small, measuring, internally, 45 feet in length by 18 feet in breadth. The

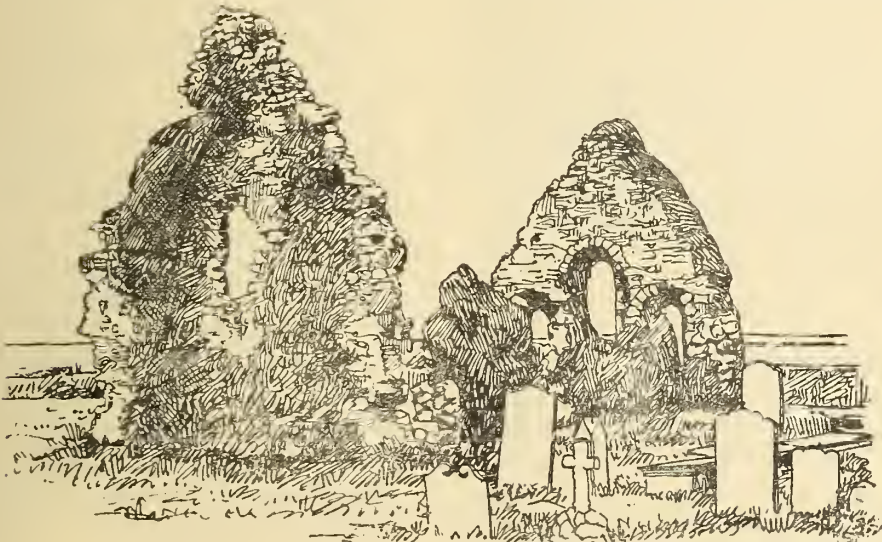
walls were three feet in thickness, but are now much broken down. The gables, however, are still in fair order, the east one showing three windows of beautiful Gothic design.

The following illustration of the Chapel is from a photograph specially taken by Mr Thomas Trail, Fraserburgh.

About thirty years ago, a scheme was started, and a considerable sum subscribed, for the restoration of the roofless building. But as the district is somewhat sparsely populated, and the site not particularly central, the undertaking has been deferred.

At a broken-down part of one of the walls and at the height of about two feet and a half from the ground, a railed-in slab about six inches square has been fixed, bearing the following peculiarly worded inscription—

P.C. 1877. The above was placed by the kind consent of the proprietor. Refer to "Guardian" and "Pratt's Buchan," 25th January, 1878.



The Chapel of Rattray.

P.C. means "Proprietor's Consent," and the remainder of the inscription refers to the deposit of a bottle and a leaden case containing the newspaper articles and correspondence relative to the proposed restoration, etc.

## GRAVEYARD AND GENERAL EPITAPHS.

For many centuries there has been a graveyard around the chapel, but, on the decay of the latter and the extinction of the burgh, it got into a sadly neglected condition. With no sufficient surrounding walls, it, in time, came to be recognised as a portion of the adjoining farm, and was regularly pastured by cattle and sheep. Alexander Davidson, a native of the parish, who had been for several years in Jamaica, and thereafter in Ceylon, and whose love for everything connected with Rattray was enthusiastic and paternal, provided the needful funds; and a substantial stone and lime enclosing wall was built—the graveyard itself being put into a neat and tidy condition. Mr James Cumine of Rattray, the superior of the lands, and Rev. Alexander Boyd, parish minister, ably seconded the carrying out of this praiseworthy work. Mr Cumine, at the same time, granted a deed, declaring that the graveyard should, in all time coming, be preserved for the purpose to which it had been dedicated. A record of the various operations is contained in two tablets on either side of the entrance gate—

(1).

1848.

The enclosure of the churchyard was restored with the prompt and kind consent of the proprietor of Rattray, and the active assistance of the late Rev. Alexander Boyd, then minister of the parish of Crimond.

(2).

The wall enclosing this burial ground was rebuilt at the request and expense of Alexander

Davidson, a native of this parish, late of the island of Jamaica,		now of Ceylon.
7 years.	1848	20 years.

Mr Davidson's gratitude for the special aid rendered by Rev. Alexander Boyd induced him to have a third mural tablet erected. It is inscribed—

A. Davidson, from respect to the memory of Mr Boyd, late minister of Crimond, begs to record his sense of gratitude for services rendered by him during the work of restoring the wall which encloses this ancient burial ground. Placed here with the consent of the proprietor. 1880.

Within an enclosure (besides the Boyd complimentary mural tablet already quoted) are three upright stones inscribed respectively—

(1).

1842. Erected by Alexander Davidson, of the island of Jamaica, in memory of his father John Davidson, some time tenant in Haddo, who died March 20th, 1811, aged 40 years. Also of Janet Adie, wife of the said John Davidson, who died April 15th, 1835, aged 60 years.

Though absent from our native land,  
We heave a filial sigh;  
And recollections are more keen,  
Perhaps than when we're nigh.

(2).

The burying ground of Alexander Davidson, who was seven years in Jamaica, and twenty years in the island of Ceylon. Born at Haddo Rattray, 10th May, 1808; died 9th November, 1890.

(3).

Jane Adams died 8th February, 1875, aged 31 years. Christ is risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

On a tablestone, showing skull and cross-bones at top—

Here lyes the body of Andrew Farquhar, who lived in the land of Haddo, who departed this life 16th of August, 1747, aged 69 years; as also the body of Marjorie Mitchell, lafule spouse to Andrew Farquhar, who departed this life June 10th, 1758, aged 77 years.

A tablestone near the centre of the graveyard is inscribed—

To the memory of John Foreman, some time in Saltwards of Boardland, who died March 25th, 1765, aged 88; and Christen Brodie, his spouse, who died November 26th, 1768, aged 81; and eight of their children. Also John, their son, some time in Haddo, and died December 31st, 1768, aged 52. Also William Forman, son to Andrew Forman, erector of this stone. Also George Forman, some time farmer in North Blackwater, who departed this life the 6th of July, 1816, aged 70 years.

The surname Foreman seems to have been quite common in the parish at one time. The Poll Book shows that four separate householders bore it about 1696.

A mutilated tablestone in the area of the chapel is inscribed—

Here lyes David Tarras, son of William Tarras, some time in Rottray, and merchant in and burges of Lanark. He died at Peterhead the 18th day of February, 1765 years, in the 74th year of his age.

A low reef of rock, known as Rattray Briggs, extends into the sea for a considerable distance, and as it becomes submerged at high water, it has always proved a death-trap to mariners. On account of the great loss of life and property, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses some years ago placed a lighthouse at the dangerous point. Since the warning light was put into operation, shipwrecks have been materially reduced. Many brave sailors who met their doom on the treacherous coast have been buried in the graveyard. The following headstone inscription gives the names of three—

Erected by his parents, residing in Dundee, to the memory of Thomas M'Lauchlan, aged 22 years, second mate of the ship Genoa, who was drowned with two others named John Murray, Galway, aged 21 years, and Robert Morrison, Pictou, aged 20 years, while nobly attempting to rescue the crew of that vessel, which was wrecked on Rattray Head Briggs, Sunday, April 12. 1863.

A headstone bears—

Erected by William Adie, Mill of Haddo, in memory of his brother Thomas Adie, who was 34 years a fishcurer in Fraserburgh. He died at Mains of Crimond 28th Jany, 1856, aged 65 years. He had a kindly manner and a hospitable disposition, for which he leived respected and died regreted.

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## Fintray.

Behold how Fintray's plains delight the eye,  
For fertile soil there's none with them can vie.  
See the enamelled meads extending wide,  
Augment the river charms on every side.

Logan's MS. furnishes the following particulars—

When the Abbey of Lindores was founded . . . the church of Fintriche, with its pertinents, was conferred on it, some confused tradition of which yet exists in the parish. The church formerly stood on the north bank of the River Don, nearly opposite to the kirk of Dyce, and at the eastern side of the parish. From this position the name is probably derived, it being interpreted "the fair bank of the river." [It will be noted that Rev. Samuel Copland, author of the "Statistical Account of the Parish," says that the origin and import of the name is unknown, while Rev. John Catto, in his interesting "Jottings on the Parish," declares the name to be of Gaelic origin—being derived from Fionn, fair, and Traigh, strand or margin.] The site of the original building, in which grow some large ash trees, is enclosed by high walls, being the place of interment for the family of Forbes of Fintray. The surrounding burial ground is still occasionally used, but it is hard and rocky, and water is found so copiously that it has been necessary to form a drain from the laird's aisle. This place is denominated "the old Manse," the house in which the minister lived.

In 1703 a church was built at the village of Hatton or Halltown, and in 1715 the minister was removed thither. This church is large and furnished with commodious galleries, but contains nothing remarkable. [The structure here referred to was superseded in 1821 by the



present parish church. The west end gable, with the belfry of the old building, is still standing.] The burial ground is large, and is surrounded by a wall and ditch; both, it is said, formerly of a considerable height and depth. . . .

#### MINISTERS.

There are no tombstones at Fintray to the memory of the earlier incumbents, but records show that in 1567 the parish was supplied by Alexander Harvie, reader, and by Thomas Flemyne, vicar and reader. Seven years later, Rev. John Quheit was minister of Fintray, with Dyce, Skene, and Kynnellar also in charge, the contemporary reader at Fintray and Dyce being Robert Wood. Five other incumbents were installed before the close of the century, including Rev. Thomas Gardyne, who was afterwards minister of Tarves. In 1639, Rev. Andrew Abercrombie, M.A., was ordained to Fintray. He was son of Rev. Walter Abercrombie, minister of Rayne, and grandson of Alexander Abercrombie, laird of Birkenbog. (Birth Brieves.) Spalding characterises him as "ane mayne Covenantanter," and records that "his house and cornis were brynt up, and goods plunderit" by the soldiers of Montrose on 17th March, 1645. He married Margaret, daughter of James Forbes of Knockandach, brother of Rev. Patrick Forbes of Corse, Bishop of Aberdeen. According to Row's Diary, he died on 22nd March, 1665, at the residence of his son Andrew. The succeeding incumbent was Rev. George Meldrum, translated from Alford 25th May, 1662. He died 23rd April, 1681. (Sess. Records.) Rev. Alexander Forbes was inducted from Kearn 17th July, 1681, but died in early manhood on 16th March, 1693. He is described (Maidment's Catalogue, p. 118) as "of the noble family of Pitsligo, born in Aberdeen . . . and expertissimus in mathematicks." His widow, Mrs Jean Forhes, in 1699, pur-

chased the estate of Badifurrow, now known as Manar.

Rev. Alexander Thomson, M.A., assistant at Old Machar, was admitted, 24th April, 1693, on a presentation by Sir John Forbes of Craigievar. He had a keen fight with the Church Courts and Parliament respecting the validity of his appointment. In the end he was deposed by Parliament. In 1699, Rev. Robert Burnett, M.A., formerly minister of Banchory-Ternan, was inducted. He was the eldest son of Thomas Burnett of Sauchen, whom he succeeded in that property in 1699. He married Jean, daughter of Rev. Robert Reid, minister of Banchory-Ternan, and, besides three daughters—Anne, Catherine, and Jean—they had three sons—Robert, who afterwards succeeded to Sauchen; Alexander; and John, who became parish minister of Cluny. Rev. Robert Burnett removed to Banchory-Ternan, and died there on 18th June, 1701, aged 53. Rev. James Hutchison, M.A., formerly minister of Newhills, was inducted 2nd July, 1702. He married Margaret, daughter of Captain William Keir, and they had at least two daughters—Catherine and Elizabeth. He died 26th February, 1712, and on 11th December of the same year Rev. William Osborne, son of Rev. James Osborne, Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, was admitted. He died in January, 1732, and on 25th October following Rev. Patrick Gordon, formerly minister of Lumphanan, was inducted. He died 4th July, 1744, and on 19th June, 1745, Rev. Samuel Copland, M.A., was ordained. He had the degree of D.D. in 1784, and was the father of Patrick Copland, LL.D., who for a lengthened period was Professor of Natural Philosophy in Marischal College. He died 18th February, 1795.

A railed-in space contains a headstone and tablestone inscribed—



(1).

Here rest the remains of Agnes Jane the beloved daughter of James and Ellen Macintyre of Liverpool. While on a visit to a circle of friends in the locality, accompanied by an endeared relative, it pleased God to afflict her with severe illness, and eventually to call her gentle and sanctified spirit to its eternal rest, at the adjoining Manse. Amidst the consolation of parental love she fell asleep in Jesus, on the morning of Wednesday 23rd June 1847, aged 12 years.

(2).

In memory of James Davidson who died in Cowstones of Fintray on 8th November 1833, in the 97th year of his age. Ann Johnston, his spouse, who died there on 15th November 1807, aged about 69 years. Ann Leslie, their grandchild, who died in Manse of Fintray on 31st July 1818, in the 20th year of her age. Jane Davidson, their daughter (spouse of Rev. John Leslie, minister of Fintray) who died 2nd October 1846, in the 69th year of her age. The Rev. John Leslie (he was for 57 years minister of this parish) who died on the 31st May 1850, in the 88th year of his age. His second daughter Jane died the 8th August 1853, aged 53 years.

Rev. John Leslie, M.A., acted as schoolmaster and ordained assistant to Rev. Dr Copland from 24th December, 1793. He officiated for many years as Presbytery clerk. Of his four sons, William, the third one, was, on 20th September, 1838, ordained assistant and successor; but, on his translation to Turriff in 1844, Rev. John Leslie resumed the whole duties of Fintray. Of five daughters, the youngest, Margaret, became the wife of George Black Bothwell, merchant, and for some time a magistrate of Aberdeen.

Rev. James Gerrard Young was ordained in January, 1851, but four years later was translated to Monifeith.

There is a headstone on a railed-in grave—

In memory of The Rev. William Ogilvie, for 29 years Minister of this Parish, who died at the Manse on 6th May 1885, aged 62 years.

And of his eldest son William Alexander, who died at Calcutta, 22nd February 1886, aged 30 years. His fourth daughter, Annie Gordon, died at Aberdeen, 14th Octr 1889, aged 21 years. His second son George Gordon died at Aberdeen 17th Novr 1889, aged 27 years. Also of Elizabeth Gordon wife of the above Rev. William Ogilvie, who died at Aberdeen on the 2nd April, 1901, aged 73 years. "Thy Will be done."

Rev. William Ogilvie, M.A., who was a native of Keith, was educated at King's College, and for a time was schoolmaster of Spynie. In 1854, he became minister of the East Parish of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, but speedily found the duties of that city charge too trying for his health, which was never robust. On 8th December, 1855, he accepted a presentation to Fintray, where he was held in high esteem.

Rev. John Catto, M.A., the present incumbent, was translated to Fintray from New Pitsligo on 27th October, 1885. He acted as clerk to the Presbytery of Aberdeen for several years, but delicate health recently obliged him to demit that office.

## PARISH LANDS.

The lands of Fintray were granted as a share of the handsome endowment made by David, Earl of Huntingdon and the Garioch, brother of King William the Lion, in support of the Abbey of Lindores, which he had erected. Subsequently, Alexander II. erected the wood of Fyntrith into a forest for the preservation of the trees and game in favour of the Abbot and Convent. A branch of the Convent (designed as the Northern Abbey) is believed to have been erected at Fintray on the site now occupied by the principal burying ground. It is certain that the Abbot had a summer residence at Fintray, in which, in 1505, James IV. lodged while on a pilgrimage to St Duthac's shrine at Tain. No ruins of

these buildings remain above ground, although occasionally the foundations are exposed when new graves are being dug. The date 1386 alleged to have been seen upon one of the old stones may have been the date of the erection.

#### FINTRAY ESTATE.

The extensive estate of Fintray, which is now possessed by the Right Hon. John Forbes, 18th Baron Sempill, was, with other properties, acquired early in the seventeenth century by his ancestor, William Forbes of Menie, second son of William Forbes of Corse. These Forbeses descend from Patrick Forbes of Corse, who was created Baron O'Neil in 1476, and acted as armour-bearer to James III. He was the third son of James, second Lord Forbes, by his marriage with Lady Egidia Keith, daughter of William, Earl Marischal. William Forbes of Menie, while a young man, entered into mercantile business in Edinburgh and on the Continent. He became known amongst his friends by the familiar title of "Merchant Willie." For a time he had a hard struggle to command success, but his energy and high character overcame every obstacle. It is recorded that he had frequently to apply for pecuniary assistance to his brother, Rev. Patrick Forbes, the saintly Bishop of Aberdeen. The latter at length got wearied lending, and intimated that nothing more would be advanced. William, in his difficulty, however, again requested a loan of a thousand merks, promising that a security bond for it would be furnished. On this understanding, the bishop agreed to leud, and, at the appointed time, William called for the money. Being then asked who was to be guarantor, he replied, "God Almighty—I have none other to offer!" "Well, brother," said the bishop, "He is not to be rejected; you shall have the money;

it is the first time that such a surety has been offered to me, but may God Almighty, your bondsman, prosper you and see that it does you good." It is gratifying to be able to state that the speculations of the merchant were crowned with such success that he was not only able to repay with interest all that he had borrowed, but also to purchase the lands of Fintray, Craigievar, etc. By his wife, Margaret "Vdward," daughter of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, he had a family of four sons and several daughters, and the eldest of the former—William, who was created a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., in 1630—is named along with his father in the Act of Parliament of 1621 by which they acquired the parsonages and vicarages, with the "richt of patronage" of the kirks of Fintray, Culsalmond, Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan, Midmar, Glentanner, and Cluny in Aberdeenshire and Auchtertuill in Fifeshire, and likewise the teinds of all the townes and lands within the parishes of Christ's Kirk and Premnay—the whole being created into a free barony called "Logie-Fintray." (Acts Parlt., IV., 1682-6.) The right of presentation to the first five of these churches remained in the hands of the Forbes family until the abolition of patronage in 1874.

The above William Forbes, on acquiring the estate of Craigievar from the Mortimers, found the castle but half built. He thereupon set about completing it, which he did in the most approved and sumptuous style of the period. He died on 27th December, 1627, and is commemorated by Arthur Johnston, the Latin poet.

An exhaustive genealogical deduction of the Forbes and Sempill families is given in Rev. Dr Temple's "The Thanage of Fermartyn" (pp. 663-673).

Fintray House, which is a large and beautiful mansion in the Tudor style,

stands on an elevation on the left bank of the Don. The grounds are extensive and well wooded.

#### WESTER FINTRAY.

These lands were acquired, in 1666, by George Skene, son of David Skene, Mill of Potterton. He amassed a fortune as a merchant in Dantzic, and was able to retire while comparatively young. He was elected Lord Provost of Aberdeen in 1676, and in 1681 received the honour of knighthood. In 1687, he bought the estate of Rubislaw, and on his death on 9th April, 1707, aged 88, was succeeded by his grand-nephew George Skene. Seventeen years earlier, however, he had settled the lands of Wester Fintray on his grand-niece, Giles Adie, and her husband, Alexander Skene of Skene, as a marriage portion. Miss Adie's father was David Adie of Newark and Easter Echt, baillie and burghess of Aberdeen, and her mother was Katherine Skene, Sir George Skene's niece.

#### DISBLAIR.

Another stone, showing a cross, shield, initials, date, etc., has the inscription—  
Ion Sitovn of Disblir, deit the 1563.

In the sixteenth century the lands of Disblair seem to have been divided into three separate portions, Easter, Middle, and Wester Disblair. Of these, Easter and Wester Disblair belonged to a branch of the powerful family of Seton. The above John Seton seems to have been succeeded in these properties by William Seton (probably a son), who married Marjory Tulydaf. In 1566 they had a Crown Charter to the south part of the lands of Logyruff. (Great Seal Register 31. Nos. 529-30.)

Middle Disblair was for some time in the possession of a branch of the Johnston family, of whom was William John-

ston, whose son, John Johnston, was Lord Provost of Aberdeen in 1697.

By deed dated 9th December, 1659, Catherine Rolland, widow of Dr William Guild, and proprietrix of Disblair, mortified the lands for the support and education of daughters of decayed Guild Burgesses of Aberdeen. In 1695, the property passed to Thomas Burnett, who, in the following year, sold it to Baillie William Forbes of Rubislaw. The last-named was succeeded by three daughters—Ann, Elizabeth, and Lilius—as heirs portioners. Ann married Joseph Farquharson of Allanquoich; Elizabeth was married to George Gordon, Professor of Hebrew in King's College; while Lilius became the wife of Thomas Gordon, some time humanist and afterwards Professor of Greek in King's College.

In 1744, James Dyce, merchant in Aberdeen, eldest son of Andrew Dyce, merchant, Old Aberdeen, acquired Disblair by purchase. In 1716, he married Agnes, daughter of Baillie William Baxter, and they had a family of three daughters—Isobell, who became the wife of James Morison of Elsick, merchant, and for some time Provost of Aberdeen; Janet, who became the second wife of George Burnett of Kemnay; while Agnes, the youngest daughter, on the death of her father on 10th January, 1751, succeeded to Disblair. She died unmarried on 22nd January, 1813, in her 86th year, when the estate fell to Thomas Morison, third and eldest surviving son of Provost James Morison by his marriage with her sister Isobell. This Thomas Morison graduated M.D. at Marischal College, was for a time a surgeon in the army, served in the American war, and was afterwards in practice as a physician in London. He brought into fame the beneficial properties of the springs at Strathpeffer, and rendered material aid in introducing vaccination into the north



of Scotland. He acquired the estate of Elsick, and in 1826 entailed both it and Disblair upon a series of heirs, in conformity with which his youngest brother, Rev. George Morison, D.D., minister of Banchory-Devenick, succeeded to both estates. The latter, who had been parish minister of Oyne for about three years, was inducted to Banchory-Devenick on 10th November, 1785. On 26th June following, he married Margaret Jaffray, daughter of Gilbert Jaffray of Kingswells, but they had no family. Mrs Morison died on 11th June, 1837, in her 80th year, while Dr Morison died, Father of the Church of Scotland, on 13th July, 1845, in the 88th year of his age, and 63rd of his ministry. His numerous acts of liberality at Disblair and Banchory-Devenick keep his memory green, notably his erection, in 1837, of the Suspension Bridge across the Dee at Cults, and his bequeathing a sum to maintain it in all time coming. He was succeeded in Disblair by his nephew, Duncan, son of his sister Anne by her second marriage with Rev. Alexander Mearns, parish minister of Towie, and afterwards of Cluny. Duncan Mearns studied for the church, and for some time was parish minister of Tarves, from which he retired on his appointment, on 7th December, 1816, as Professor of Divinity in King's College. On 11th August, 1808, he married Elizabeth, daughter of William Forsyth, Huntly, and they had a large family. He had D.D. from his Alma Mater, was Moderator of the General Assembly of 1821, and died 2nd March, 1852, in the 73rd year of his age and 53rd of his ministry, when he was succeeded in Disblair by his second surviving son, Rev. William Mearns. The latter was for some time parish minister of Glenrines, and afterwards for a lengthened period of the parish of Kinneff. He had the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen, was Moderator of the General

Assembly in 1883, and died 5th October, 1891, aged 76. In 1842 he married Margaret, daughter of Dr James Smith of Aldie, and (with one daughter, Jemima, who died in infancy) they had a son, Duncan George Mearns, who was (1874-96) parish minister of Oyne, and who is the present proprietor of Disblair and South Kinnmundy.

## GENERAL EPITAPHS.

On a tablestone—

Hier lyes Alexr. Watt, in hopes of a blisid resarection who was farmer in Woodheed of Fintray. Died Decr. 23, 1760, aged 77.

A tablestone near the entrance gate is inscribed—

. . . Erected to the memory of The Rev. John Walker, who died 12th July, 1828, in the 29th year of his age, as a last tribute of affection by his sorrowful parents; and also of his sister, Elizabeth, who died 5th Augt., 1825, in the 18th year of her age. Also of his sister, Isobella, wife of John M'Donald, who died on 11th February, 1832, aged 36 years. And of their father, David Walker, late farmer in Blair of Fintray, who died at Mountbletton on 28th September, 1838, aged 84 years. And Elspet Rennie, his spouse, who died on 15th November, 1836, aged 68 years.

A headstone alongside the preceding (both are railed in) bears—

Erected by Robert Walker, Esqr., Montbletton, in memory of his beloved spouse Jane Pratt, who died at Montbletton the 7th day of December, 1876, aged 71 years. The above-named Robert Walker, for 49 years farmer at Montbletton, died there the 10th day of February, 1880, aged 76 years.

According to Logan, a sarcophagus was erected by James Melvin, Old Aberdeen, on the grave of his grandfather. Amongst other sculpture on it was an angel represented as saying—

As runs the glass my life did pass,  
Man's time knows none, but God alone!



On one end were scriptural texts, and on the other the following verse—

Tho' in the vale of death I tread,  
With gloomy horrors overspread;  
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,  
For thou my God art with me still.

The principal inscription now reads—

Revised by William Walker and Jessie Cocker, in affectionate remembrance of their son, William Walker, watchmaker, who died at Woodside, 30th December, 1865, aged 21 years. The said William Walker died at Leeds, 7th April, 1876, aged 73 years. Also the said Jessie Cocker died at Leeds, 18th October, 1871, aged 57 years.

The reprehensible practice of effacing old inscriptions by new ones to persons more recently deceased was not uncommon. Indeed, it was quite usual for tombstones to be bequeathed by will. Quite recently there was lodged in Court a deed of settlement executed a dozen years ago, wherein a tombstone formed one of its few legacies. It is desirable, therefore, that heritors and graveyard managers should prohibit the removal of such stones, as also the obliteration of any inscription.

A tablestone near the entrance gate is inscribed—

Here lies the bodies of Andrew Cummin, sometime tenant in Castlehunger, who died April 3rd, 1801, aged 57 years and 9 months. Also his son John Cummen, who died January 26, 1780, aged 3 days. Erected by his widow, Jannet Niven, who died 5th Dec., 1837, aged 94 years.

To two nonagenarians and their children—

In memory of James Ellis, sometime Blacksmith, afterwards Farmer in Cowstones, who died there on 11th November, 1827, in the 93rd year of his age. Also his wife Jean Hervey, who died on 8th May, 1835, aged 92 years. Also their daughter Jean, who died 19th February, 1847, aged 81 years. Also of Alexander Paterson, died 30th December, 1864, aged 66 years.

A railed-in headstone near the centre walk bears—

Erected by James Ogston, in memory of his sons, Alexander, who died at Aberdeen 15 March, 1842, aged 9 years, and George who died at Wester Fintray, 4 May, 1846, aged 16 years. Also his daughter Isabella, the esteemed wife of George Stephen, timber merchant, Port-Elphinstone, who died 3rd November, 1854, aged 26 years.

The word of God was their delight,  
And grace was all their claim;  
Now free'd from sin they rest within  
The new Jerusalem.

Also Edward Ogston who died at Washington, U.S., 22nd May, 1862, aged 22 years. Also James Ogston, poor inspector and collector for this parish, who died at Wester Fintray, 25th July, 1863, aged 67 years. For 18 years ground officer to the Earl of Kintore and 17 years forster to the Earl of Fyfe. Also John, his fifth son, accountant of the Barrgo Commercial, Monte Video, who died there on the 28th October, 1875, in his 40th year. Also Isabella Webster, wife of the above James Ogston, who died at Kintore on 14th February, 1897, aged 100 years.

Mrs Isabella Webster or Ogston, the above centenarian, was a native of Old Deer. At her death, she had a son resident in London, aged upwards of 75, whose son was organist of Windsor Parish Church.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies James Anderson, Smith, late in Cowstones, one, who living was loved by his friends, esteemed by his acquaintance, and dying was lamented by both. His widow has placed over him this monument as a testimony of her affection to so kind a husband. He was born the 5th of March 1705, and died the 6th June 1764, aged 59 years.

#### THE CROMBIES OF GRANDHOLM.

In a railed-in portion of the area of the old church are three monuments, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of John Crombie,

manufacturer, Cothal Mills, who died at Old Manse on the 6th May 1858, aged 86 years. And of his wife Catharine Harvey who died 30th July 1864, aged 77 years. And of their children Catharine Crombie who died 15th November, 1830, aged 13 years. William Crombie who died 11th December 1832, aged 19 years. Margaret Crombie who died 24th May 1857, aged 42 years.

(2).

James Crombie of Goval Bank. Born 13 January 1810. Died 31 January 1878. Katherine Scott Forbes his wife. Born 1 December 1812. Died 10 April 1893.

(3).

Sacred to the memory of John Crombie. Born at Cothal Mills 21st February 1819. Died at Balgownie Lodge 16th November 1894. And to his wife Jane Sang. Born at Edinburgh 24th July 1825. Died at Balgownie Lodge 8th December 1900.

John Crombie (Insc. 1) in early years served in the cloth factory of Messrs Kilgour at Auchlee, Kimmundy. Early last century, under the title of Crombie and Co., he founded the woollen factory at Cothal, which attained considerable eminence, and employed upwards of one hundred hands. In 1854, the title of the firm was altered to J. and J. Crombie, and six years later the manufactory was removed to Grandholm, which had been purchased from Leys, Masson, and Co. Messrs Crombie have secured a world-wide reputation for the superior quality of their manufactures of tweeds and other cloth. John Crombie married Catharine Harvey, daughter of William Harvey, who for the long period of 57 years was farmer at Monykebock, New Machar. James Crombie (Insc. 2) was their eldest son, while John Crombie (Insc. 3) was a younger son. Of the family of the last-named, John William is M.P. for Kincardineshire, and James Edward is one of the partners of the Grandholm business referred to.

## RHYMED INSCRIPTIONS.

(1).

In memory of Hellen Tough, spouse to John Henry in Aberdeen, who died 21st March, 1820, aged 32. Also of their daughter Elizabeth, who died 28th December, 1817, aged 8 years. Also of their son Aurther, who died 1st April 1820, aged 20 months.

Beneath this mouldering clods who once had life,

Lies the fond mother and the faithful wife,  
Like to the tender flour cut in its bloom  
So lovely Hellen met an early tomb.

(2).

Erected by Alexander Philip, shipmaster in Aberdeen, in memory of his daughter Christian, who died 31st May, 1824, aged 14 years.

Now slain by death, who spareth none,  
I lye full low beneath this stone,  
Take heed and read, and thou shalt see  
As I am now so shalt thou be  
Rotting in dark and silent dust.  
Prepare for death, for die you must,  
Life is uncertain, death is sure,  
Sin is the wound, Christ is the cure.

(3).

In memory of Margaret Anderson, daughter of John Anderson, farmer, Heughhead, who died 23rd November, 1824, aged 34 years. Also John Anderson, her father, who died 17th August, 1833, aged 88 years. Also his wife, Jean Crockert, who died the 29th of March, 1853, aged 94 years.

Tho' now I mingle with my kindred clay,  
I once like you admir'd the face of day,  
And died in hope to view with keener eye  
A happier world and a fairer sky.  
Then learn this lesson from the lowly dead,  
To some green turf be oft thy footsteps led;  
and musing on the eternal King of Kings,  
Think on the state of sublunary things.

And their daughter, Agnes, who died the 16th of February, 1854, aged 50 years. Also their daughter, Elspet, who died 1st December, 1873, aged 79 years.

(4).

Erected in memory of Mitchell Duncan, who died at Torryleith on the 1st of February, 1838,

in the 63rd year . . . for more than 32 years the amiable and affectionate spouse of James Mackenzie, farmer there, who died at Torryleith on the 18th of March, 1859, aged 77 years.

The spring will come, but not for me,  
The leaves will clothe the forest tree;  
The spring will come, and flowers will bloom,  
But t'will be o'er my grassy tomb.

The parish has had several eminent teachers, among whom may be named Patrick Mitchell, afterwards Rev. Dr Mitchell, parish minister of Kemnay; Joseph Paterson, who for a time was tutor to Lord Byron, and afterwards Rev. Dr Paterson, minister of Montrose; also Rev. William Forbes, who died on 28th February, 1838, aged 45.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Stone-axes, flint arrow heads, etc., have frequently been met with in the parish, while urns and calcined bones have been unearthed. In the graveyard of St Medan's, about 35 years ago, a bishop's silver triangular ring was found. It bore the sacred monogram I. H. S., and was inscribed M A R I. A replica of it is preserved in the Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh.

No relic of a past age attracts more attention than the massive stone vault erected to withstand the depredations of the resurrectionists. It stands in the principal graveyard, and has walls about three feet in thickness. It is entered by an iron door, on the lintel stone of which is the date 1830.

On the lintel stone of the recess in the east end of the north wall of the Church of St Medan's is a representation of the crucifixion of Christ, which would imply that the structure has been erected prior to the Reformation.

The oldest silver communion cup bears the inscription—

For the Holie Commvnton, at Fintray. Mr Adam Barclay, minister, 1633.

Tradition states that the cup was formed from a silver head of St Medan, which in Popish times "was wont to be carried through the parish in procession, for the purpose of bringing down rain or clearing up the weather, as circumstances might require."

Remains of the old barony jail at Hatton are still standing.

In Rev. John Catto's "Jottings," already referred to, interesting extracts are given, both from the kirk-session records and barony court books of Logie-Fintray.

#### CHAPEL YARD.

"A short distance westward of Hatton is an ancient burial ground. It is small, and is named 'The Chapel Yard,' but there are no vestiges of any building, although there had probably been a small cell or chapel for the relief of the parish church, then some miles distant." (Logan's MS.) Possibly this was the site of the church of St Giles.

There are about two dozen tombstones in this graveyard, the larger proportion being of modern date.

The oldest stone, which is a table one, is inscribed—

Here lyeis the bodies of Andrew Phillip, late farmer in Barwick of Fintray, who died March, the 4th, 1748, aged 69 years. As also his spouse, Marjory Knight, who died February, the 15th, 1763, aged 68 years. As also Andrew Phillip, his son, who died April the 12th 1774, aged 49 years. Also Elspet Phillip, his daughter, who died in Barwick, 1st January, 1793, aged 65 years.

The name Barwick is now altered to Berwick.

A second tablestone records the names of three persons who reached advanced ages—

In memory of John Sievewright, late farmer in Hatton, who died March 16th, 1795, aged 82 years; and Isobel Brown, his spouse, who died March 27th, 1792, aged 76. And George, his son, who died November 14th, 1773, aged 22. Also of his son William, late of the house of Messrs Bulkeley and Son, London, who died September 1st, 1815, aged 59.

Erected by Elizabeth Sievewright, who died the 14th January, 1848, aged 96 years. Also her son, William Cock, who died October, 1784, aged 6 weeks.

A third tablestone commemorates three generations of wrights, who reached advanced ages, thus—

In memory of Alexander Sinclair, wright at Fintray House, who died 23rd May, 1791, aged 93 years. Also of Elizabeth Gordon, his spouse, who died 15th December, 1791, aged 87. Likewise of Alexander Sinclair, wright at Keith-hall, who died 17th January, 1812, aged 79. And of Janet Law, his spouse, who died 4th April, 1808, aged 76. Also of Alexander, their son, who died 18th September, 1787, aged 26. Likewise of their daughters, Mary, who died 15th October, 1808, aged 42; and of Jean, who died 13th February, 1789, aged 24.

Alexander Sinclair, wright, died 8th April, 1876, aged 65 years.

Two tablestones are inscribed as under—

(1).

Here lies in hopes of a blessed resurrection the body of Alexander Youngson, some time blacksmith in Foulpool, in the parish of Oldmachar. He died 28th June, 1787, aged 70 years.

This stone was placed here by his affectionate widow, Christian Simpson.

(2).

Here lies in hopes of a blessed resurrection the bodies of John Sharp, some time farmer in Easter Hatton of Fintray, who departed this life in the year 1752, aged 42 years. Also John Sharp, his son, who died in the year 1748, aged 7 years. Also James Sharp, his

son, who died said year, aged on year. Likewise Alexander Sharp, his son, who died in the year 1767, aged 21 years. Also Margaret Sharp, his daughter, who died in 1769, aged 30 years. Likewise John Sharp, his son, who died said year, aged 19 years. Likewise Jean Booth, his spouse. She died 29th April, 1792, in the 80th year of her age. Also Christian Sharp, died 26th November, 1823, aged 81 years.

#### ST MEDAN'S GRAVEYARD.

The old churchyard of St Medan's at Cothall, referred to by Logan, is still occasionally used for interments. It is well sheltered, and in the summer season presents a profusion of greenery and flower blossom which would be difficult to match. There are several ancient tombstones, some of which are illustrated in Rev. John Catto's brochure alluded to. One, presenting a shield with a coat of arms, with other emblems, and the initials "H. C." and "M. L.," bears the inscription—

Hendri Chalmer, decessit, 1504. His vif M. Lesli, deit 1520. A. Chalmer, 1541.

The probability is that the first-named in the above inscription is the Henry Chalmer who, in 1498, had sasine as heir to Margaret Kintore, his mother, in certain lands in the haugh of Kintore. In the same year, Chalmer conveyed to Master Duncan Shearer, canon of Aberdeen and rector of Clatt, certain rents arising from these lands. (Antiq., III., pp. 235-236.) The M. Lesli, named in the inscription as the wife of Chalmer, was possibly Margaret, daughter of William Leslie in Auquhorsk.

Various members of the family held influential positions in the parish and district. Of these may be cited William Chalmer, who, in 1584, held the office of Chamberlain of Lindores Abbey and lands. (Grant Leslie's MS.) Seventeen years later, four persons bearing the surname held office as parish elders.



Modern tombstones record the deaths of William Warrack, factor for Craigievar and Fintray for upwards of 35 years, who died at Newmill 3rd March, 1885, aged 77; of his wife, Margaret Strachan, who died 17th July, 1892, aged 77; of their sons, John, who died 26th May, 1868, aged 20; and Arthur F., postmaster, Kintore, who died 22nd February, 1884, aged 32; of Archibald M'Gillivray, late farmer, Balcraig, Keith-hall, who died 6th May, 1840, aged 79; of his wife, Jane Clark, who died at Burnside, Fintray, on 26th May, 1857, aged 93; and their son, Archibald, who died at Balcraig on 19th March, 1821, aged 22.

## Udny.

The parish of Udny was erected by Act of Parliament in December, 1597, the ground assigned to it being taken from the older parishes of Foveran, Ellon, Logie-Buchan, and Tarves. Long before this, however, a church stood at Udny, which had been dedicated to Jesus Christ. A new church was erected in 1600, and, according to the Presbytery Records, it was of plain design and thatched with heather. Logan's MS., written early last century, gives the following particulars respecting it and the parish—

The kirk of Udny is situated about 15 miles from Aberdeen, and adjoins the parish of Ellon, which lies eastward. The parish of Udny is computed five miles square, and was formed about the end of the 16th, or beginning of the 17th century, of part of Tarves, Ellon, Logie-Buchan, and Foveran; and, in proof of this, one heritor still pays teind to the minister of Logie, and five pay to the clergyman of Ellon.

The church is called Christ's Kirk, and the surrounding village is called "the green," from which it has been supposed to be the place where King James I. witnessed those rustic sports which he celebrates as having been performed

at "Christ's Kirk, on the green." The author of Caledonia decides the locality of this celebrated poem in favour of a decayed church. . . . in the district called the Garioch; but the existence of a market, held in the churchyard, and the same dedication do not give it a stronger claim than Christ's Kirk on "the green" of Udney. [It will be noted that Allan Ramsay names Leslie, in Fife, as the place celebrated in the poem, and that, with the view of confirming the erroneous assertion, a slab has been fixed over the church door there bearing the following inscription—"Our Lord Jesus Christ's Kirk on the Green, Leslie. Rebuilt 1869."]

The church is long and narrow, and is so very low in the walls that boys frequently amuse themselves by climbing to the bell, which hangs at the west end, by the "corbie steps," with which the gables are finished.

It was built about 1600, and partly rebuilt in 1760. It underwent a thorough repair in 1786, but is still very small, inconvenient, and much too small for the parish. The galleries and pews although mostly old and very curious are ill arranged, placed very near each other, and are kept in a state of utter neglect. The pulpit is a curious specimen of taste and carpentry, and appears, from the initial letters, to have been constructed during the ministry of Mr Thoires—beginning of the 17th century. The east gallery, or that of the laird, is of a peculiar form, and has been much ornamented with painting of coat armour, etc. The west gallery is paneled in a singular manner, and is painted white.

Next the north wall is a sort of little projecting platform, which is the cutty stool, on which delinquents "bade the reproof" of the minister.

The bell is cracked, and bears the inscription here given from a boy who went up to it at my request:—"Mr Robert Innes min. John Mowat, me fecit. Old Aberdeen 1744. In usum ecclesiae de Udny. Sabata pango. Funera pango. . ."

[The bell thus described by Logan had no doubt been disposed of, as the present bell bears the inscription, "Christ's Kirk of Green of Udny, 1821."]

A ruinous stone stair outside the east end of the kirk gable, leads to Udny's loft. The highest step, or that in the landing, has been

taken from the churchyard: it bears the inscription "Here lies ION TOUGH. . ."

The foregoing commentary by Logan accurately describes the old church and its equipment. Not a vestige remains above the ground, the levelling up and improvements having swept away the last of the old walls.

In 1821, a commodious new church was erected on a site on the upper border of "the green." It has a belfry and clock, underneath which is the entrance door.

#### MINISTERS.

The first settled minister of the parish was Rev. Thomas Mitchell, who is said to have been a relative of Bishop Patrick Forbes of Aberdeen. He was admitted 25th April, 1604, but about 1622 received a presentation to the parish of Logie-Buchan.

Rev. Thomas Thoirs was appointed in 1623. He is described as having been a "great anti-Covenanter," and appears to have had much trouble during the religious struggle. Having a considerable income from his estates of Auquhorthies, etc., he was enabled to smooth over many difficulties. In May, 1639, Montrose, with his men and horses, put up for a night in the kirk.

In 1653, Rev. William Keith, previously minister of Montkeggie, was inducted. He was a brother of George Keith of Lentush. In 1664, he was elected Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, securing shortly after the pastorate of St Cuthbert's. He had the degree of D.D.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. George Melville, M.A., who remained for only five years, being elected minister of Alford in 1668. His name is remembered chiefly through his having left a considerable legacy equally between King's and Marischal Colleges.

Rev. William Irving succeeded, but died in 1675.

Rev. John Cockburn, nephew of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen, was the next incumbent, but he was translated to Old Deer in 1681.

Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., sometime governor to William, Lord Keith, afterwards Earl Marischal, was admitted 1st January, 1682. He died in 1721, survived by his wife, Agnes Paterson. He was the last Episcopal incumbent.

In 1722, Rev. Robert Innes, son of Patrick Innes, Drumhead, Belhelvie, was ordained. He died 20th July, 1755, survived by at least one son, James, merchant in Aberdeen.

A tablestone commemorates the succeeding incumbent—

Here lies interred the corpse of the Reverend, Faithful, and diligent minister of God's Word, Mr John Forbes, who died the 22 of April 1763, in the 32nd year of his age, and 8th of his laborious ministry in the Parish of Udny.

The left side of the stone reads—

Under this side lies also interred the corpse of Jean Forbes, his daughter, who died in the 4th year of her age, on the 15th of April 1764.

Rev. John Forbes was the son of George Forbes, schoolmaster, Foveran, and was ordained minister of Udny 7th April, 1756. On 17th November, 1757, he married Mary Seton, who survived him for the long period of 46 years.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. George Adam, who was ordained to Udny on 28th March, 1764. In 1767 he was translated to Kintore.

Within a large railed-in reserved space are a table and mural stone, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

To the memory of The Rev. John Rose, the faithful and pious minister of this parish during 45 years, who died on the 17th Nov 1812, aged 65 years and 3 months. Through life his

conduct was most upright, and he was justly beloved and respected by all around him. He was charitable to the poor, a kind and tender husband, and most affectionate parent. His remains are interred in this tomb, with those of Mrs Grace Reid, his first wife, a most virtuous and most amiable woman, who died on the 29th June 1793, aged 51 years; and of four of their children—Lewis, James, Alexander, and Jessie who died in their early youth; also of three children of his second marriage with Mrs Anne Mair, who died in their infancy.

His widow, three surviving sons, and a daughter placed a stone sacred to his memory and to that of his family who had gone before them.

Also of Mrs Ann Mair, his widow, who died on the 19th of Octr 1817 aged 56 years, deeply lamented by her family and all who knew her.

The above stone having fallen into decay was replaced in 1875 by the Trustees of James Torrie, M.D.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Mary Ann Rose, wife of James Torrie, M.D., who died—June 1825, aged 25 years; also to James Torrie, M.D., who died 26 October 1873, aged 83 years.

Rev. John Rose, M.A., was the son of George Rose, goldsmith and burghess of Aberdeen, grandson of Alexander Rose of Lethenty, previously of Inch, and great-grandson of Dr John Rose, minister of Foveran, and proprietor of Inch. His uncle, Rev. John Rose, was minister of Logie-Buchan. Of the large family by the two marriages, Lewis, who died 7th December, 1792, aged 18, was an under master in Gordon's Hospital. Of four other sons whose names are not mentioned in the inscriptions, George, the eldest, was surgeon to the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, and died of wounds received at Aboukir in 1801. John, in 1794, became a law apprentice in Aberdeen, and subsequently entered the Civil Service in Ceylon, while two younger sons settled in London. Mrs Torrie was the only surviving daughter of the second marriage.

Her husband, Dr Torrie, was a physician in Aberdeen, and for some time acted as Lecturer on Institutes of Medicine in Marischal College. He founded a bursary of the annual value of £30 or thereby, tenable for four years, and open for competition to students in arts for proficiency in Latin.

Two headstones alongside each other are inscribed respectively—

(1).

The Rev. John Leslie, died 1st November, 1849, in the 77th year of his age, and 37th of his ministry in this parish.

(2).

Erected by the Rev. John Leslic in memory of his wife, Anne Hector, who died on the 28th February, 1862, in the 31st year of her age. The above Rev. John Leslie died on the 15th July, 1875, in the 58th year of his age, and 25th of his ministry in this parish. John, elder son of the Rev. John Leslie, died at Aberdeen, 9th June, 1876, aged 19 years.

Rev. John Leslie (Insc. 1), son of Andrew Leslie, Keith, was for a time tutor at Esslemout House, being ordained to Udney on 15th September, 1813.

Rev. John Leslie, M.A. (Insc. 2), was nephew of the preceding, and the son of Robert Leslie, farmer, Forgie, Keith. He and his family are referred to in the notes upon Pittrichie.

Rev. Alexander Spence, M.A., the present incumbent, is the fourteenth in succession from the time of the formation of the parish. He acts as clerk to the Presbytery.

A SERMON PREACHED THREE TIMES  
IN SUCCESSION.

During a vacancy early last century, the pulpit supply fell alternately to the members of Presbytery and a probationer engaged by the congregation. The minister of Logie-Buchan officiated one Sunday,



and preached from the text Genesis xxv., 27—"Jacob was a plain man dwelling in tents." He was followed on the next Sunday by the minister of Ellon, who is said to have sometimes got the loan of a few MSS. from the Logic-Buchan repository, and, as ill-luck would have it, the "Jacob" discourse was selected and again preached. On the succeeding Sunday the probationer was to preach, and it was skilfully arranged that he should use the same sermon. Knowing nothing of the trick, he, in solemn terms, gave out the text—"Jacob was a plain man dwelling in tents," when the village blacksmith, in a voice loud enough to be heard over the whole church, exclaimed—"The deil dwell 'im—he's dwalt here lang enuech already!"

It is but fair to add that, although similar versions of this story are given in Rev. Dr Paul's "Past and Present of Aberdeenshire" and Rev. Dr Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," the likelihood is that they have been improved upon. At all events, James Logan, author of "The Scottish Gael," who personally visited the parish within a year or two after the occurrence, records in his MS. that the text was "on a passage concerning Nathan the Prophet," and that all that the "smith" was heard to impatiently exclaim was "D—n Nathan the Prophet!"

#### PITMEDDEN.

The lands at Pitmedden at an early period belonged to various members of a family named Panton, whose cadets, according to Stodart, "held Tillymade, Blackhouse, Craig, Hilton, and held Haddo in wadset at the close of the fifteenth, and early in the sixteenth, century. In the eighteenth century the name had disappeared as landed proprietors."

In 1619, Pitmedden was purchased by James Seton, of Bourtie, second son of William Seton of Meldrum, by his second

wife, Margaret, daughter of Innes of Leuchars. He married Margaret Rolland, granddaughter of William Rolland, Master of the Mint at Aberdeen in the reign of James V.; and, with a son James, who is commemorated by Dr Arthur Johnston's complimentary epitaph, they had an elder son, Alexander, who succeeded to Bourtie and Pitmedden. He married Beatrix, daughter of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugas, and sister of George, first Lord Banff, and they had a family of one son and nine daughters. The son John, who succeeded to Pitmedden, etc., in 1637, was a staunch Royalist during the Covenanting wars. He fell at the battle of Bridge of Dee in June, 1639. Being a gallant soldier, a handsome man, and only 28 years of age, his untimely fate was greatly deplored. A cairn was raised to his memory at the Two-Mile-Cross (both have since been removed), while he is celebrated in ballad lore as "Bonny John Seton o' Pitmedden." He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Samuel Johnston of Elphinstone, and they had a family of at least two sons. The eldest son James succeeded, but, during his long minority, suffered considerable hardships on account of his father's loyalty, Pitmedden being more than once plundered by the Covenanters, and its rents seized. He died of wounds received in the naval attack by the Dutch on the English fleet at Chatham in 1667. He was succeeded by his younger brother Alexander, who, in 1661, passed as advocate, in 1664 was knighted, and twenty years later was created a baronet of Nova Scotia. In 1667, he was made a Lord of Session, and took his seat on the bench as "Lord Pitmedden." He represented the county of Aberdeen in the Scottish Parliament for several years. He rebuilt the mansion-house of Pitmedden, and laid out its beautiful garden and grounds. He married Margaret, daughter and heiress of William Lauder, one of



the Clerks of Session, and they had a large family. The second son, George, was proprietor of Mounie, and ancestor of Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Seton, whose heroic and self-sacrificing conduct on board H.M.S. Birkenhead, when sinking after striking a rock in Table Bay in 1852, led to the saving of the numerous women and children on board. Sir Alexander Seton died on 29th May, 1719, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William, as second baronet. He represented the county of Aberdeen in the Scottish Parliament from 1702, and was one of the Commissioners appointed to treat for the Union between England and Scotland. He married, in 1702, Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, Bart., and they had a family of five sons and four daughters. Sir William died in 1744, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander, who died in 1751, and was succeeded by his younger brother, William. The next proprietor and baronet was Archibald, brother of the preceding. He married Elizabeth Innes, who had her terce awarded in 1775. Sir Archibald was succeeded by his nephew, William, son of his deceased youngest brother, Charles.

Within an enclosure in the parish churchyard is a mural tablet—

Here lie interred Sir William Seton, Baronet. Died 26th February, 1818, aged 71. Margaret, Lady Seton. Died 21st April, 1843, aged 89. Anna Maria Seton. Died 12th April, 1863, aged 75.

Eliza Henrietta, Lady Seton. Died 23rd April, 1873, aged 69. Sir William Coote Seton, Baronet. Died 30th December, 1880, aged 72 years.

Margaret, the first Lady Seton, mentioned in the above inscription, was daughter of James Ligertwood of Tillery, and she and her husband, Sir William, had a family of three sons and two daughters—Charles, who died in infancy; James,

major, 92nd Highlanders, who was killed in the Peninsular War in 1814; William, an officer in the H.E.I.C.S., who died unmarried; Jean, who married Alexander Leslie, merchant, Glasgow; and the above-mentioned Anna Maria.

Sir William Coote Seton, named in the inscription, was son of the above Major James Seton through his marriage with Frances, daughter of Captain George Coote, nephew of Sir Eyre Coote. On the death of his grandfather, he succeeded as seventh baronet. He married, on 26th November, 1834, Eliza Henrietta, second daughter of Henry Lumsden of Cushnie, and widow of Captain John Wilson, H.E.I.C.S., and they had a family of five sons and three daughters—James Lumsden, captain, 1st Madras Fusiliers; William Samuel, H.E.I.C.S.; Henry, who entered the Church; Matthew, who became a barrister-at-law; Charles, a captain in the army; Eliza, who, in 1873, married Dr David Dyce Brown; Magdalene Frances, who, in 1870, married Arthur Talbot Bevan; and Frances. Sir William rebuilt the mansion-house of Pitmedden.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, James Lumsden Seton, who served in the first Burmese war and throughout the whole of the Indian Mutiny. He married, in 1870, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr George Castle, Oxford, and died without issue, on 28th September, 1884, when his immediate younger brother, William Samuel Lumsden Seton, succeeded as ninth baronet. He for a time served in the navy, and, afterwards entering the army, was present with the 4th Rifles at the battle of Kandahar in 1880. He married, in 1876, Eva Kate St Leger, only daughter of Lieut.-General Henry Hastings Affleck Wood, C.B. He was the last Seton of Pitmedden, the property having been sold, in December, 1893, to Alexander Keith, Chapelton, Ellon. Mr

Keith, who was an extensive and successful farmer, married a daughter of the late Charles Milne, Mains of Esslemont. He died on 3rd March, 1903, aged 62 years.

#### PITTRICHIE.

A built-in space in the parish graveyard contains several tablet monuments, which are inscribed respectively—

Erected A.D. 1856, by Alexander Milne of Pittrichie, in memory of

(1).

His mother, Ann Duncan, who died at Pittrichie House, 27th September, 1840, aged 70 years. His father, John Milne, for 47 years farmer at Mill of Grandhome, who died at Pittrichie House, 24th November, 1861, aged 94 years.

The above Alexander Milne of Pittrichie, sometime merchant and Dean of Guild of the City of Aberdeen, died there, 23rd November, 1869, aged 74 years, and was interred here.

(2).

Ann Milne, his sister, who died at Pittrichie House, 13th March, 1843, aged 38 years. John Milne, his brother, who died at Perth, 10th June, 1855, aged 56 years. William Milne, his brother, who died in infancy, at Mill of Grandhome, 1803, who are all interred in the churchyard of Old Machar. Barbara Milne, his sister, spouse of Convener James Robb, died at Aberdeen, 26th December, 1872, aged 76 years.

(3).

George Robb of Pittrichie, sometime merchant and Treasurer of the City of Aberdeen. Born 7th February, 1827. Died 14th June, 1876. An affectionate and dutiful son, a loving and beloved brother.

(4).

Rev. John Robb of Pittrichie, sometime minister of Longside, was born 14th January, 1814, and died 17th July, 1899. His wife, Jane Isabella Lawrence, was born 23rd May, 1841, and died 17th February, 1898.

They were interred at Longside.

The lands of Pittrichie for a lengthened period belonged to members of a family

named Maitland, who were also owners of Netherdale and other properties in the district. They claimed descent from Robert, third son of Sir Robert Maitland of Thirlstane, who flourished in the time of David II., and married the heiress of Gight. (Douglas Peerage.) Richard Maitland of Pittrichie was created a baronet in 1672, and, on his being appointed a Lord of Sossion, he assumed the title of Lord Pittrichie in honour of his patrimonial estate. He married Margaret, daughter of Robert Gordon of Straloch, and at his decease, on 22nd February, 1677, was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard, who had secured a Crown charter to the barony of Gight or Sheves, five years before. In 1674, however, Gight was sold to Charles, Earl of Aboyne. (Aboyne Records, p. 337.) Sir Richard Maitland, the second baronet, died in 1699, and was succeeded by his brother, Charles. He married Jane, daughter of Sir John Forbes of Monymusk, Bart., and, secondly, Nichola, daughter of Peter Young of Auldbar, and widow of Sir Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle. He was M.P. for Aberdeenshire in 1685-6. He died in 1700, and was succeeded by his only son, Charles, who died about three years later, without issue, when the baronetcy lapsed. He was succeeded by his sister, Jean, and her husband, the Hon. Alexander Arbuthnott, third son of the second Viscount Arbuthnott. On their succeeding to Pittrichie, they assumed the surname and arms of Maitland. Charles Arbuthnott Maitland, their only son, succeeded in 1746. He was called to the Scottish Bar, and in 1747 was nominated Sheriff of Midlothian. He was elected M.P. for the Aberdeen burghs in 1748, and held the position till his death in 1751. He was succeeded by his cousin, Arthur Forbes (he assumed the surname and arms of Maitland), son of Mary Maitland, daughter of the third baronet, who

had married Thomas Forbes of Echt. He was a major in the Dutch service, and, marrying a Dutch lady, was succeeded by his grandson, Arthur Richard Forbes Maitland, from whom and his trustees Pittrichie and other properties were sold to Rev. James Mackenzie, who died in 1816, and was succeeded by his son, James William Mackenzie, who, in 1819, erected the mansion-house and greatly improved the estate. He married, on 24th October, 1816, Georgina, eldest daughter of Keith Turner of Turnerhall, and from him the above Alexander Milne purchased the property. Mr Milne's parentage and designation are given in the first portion of the foregoing inscription. He bequeathed the property of his nephew, George Robb, merchant, and sometime treasurer of the City of Aberdeen, son of James Robb, convenor of the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen, by his marriage with Barbara Milne, sister of the said Alexander Milne. Mr George Robb rendered efficient service as a Justice of the Peace, and at his death, in 1876, Pittrichie passed to his brother, Rev. John Robb, sometime minister of Longside, whose wife was a daughter of Dr Nathaniel Lawrence, Longside.

A portion of Pittrichie, with Auchinhuive, went to the following four surviving children of Rev. John Leslie, minister of Udney, who had married Anne Hector, only child of Susan Milne, sister of the above Alexander Milne by her marriage with John Hector, farmer, Scotstown, and subsequently at Mains of Pittrichie—Susan Hector, who, in 1880, married Rev. George Greig, minister of Slains, and died in 1883, leaving an only child, Susan Hector Milne; Annabella, who, in 1887, married Rev. A. M'Kenzie, minister of Coull, and has two daughters and one son; Alexander Milne, who (in addition to his property of Auchinhuive) succeeded to the mansion-house lot of Pittrichie on

the death of his second cousin—Rev. John Robb—and now resides at the mansion-house there; and Barbara Janet, who resides at 14 Queen's Road, Aberdeen.

#### TILLIECORTHIE.

The estate of Tilliecorthie is believed to have originally had a castle, or at least a mansion-house, but no trace remains.

The first owners of whom records exist were the Udnys of Udney. In 1511, James IV. confirmed a charter by Ranald Udney to David Gardyne of Kynansith and Janet Tulloch, his wife, of half of the lands of Tilliecorthie. (*Antiq.*, III., p. 84.) In 1660, the property was owned by James Clark, and, four years later, Rev. Alexander Udney, minister of Hawkes, Kent, son of William Udney of Udney disposed to Robert Clark, son of James Clark of Tilliecorthie, twelve oxengates—equal to 156 acres—of Bonakettill, called Hillbrae. (*Ibid.*, p. 83.) Robert Clark married Jane, daughter of the said Rev. Alexander Udney; and among their children was William Clark of Tilliecorthie, who was one of the Commissioners appointed to collect the poll tax in Udney parish in 1696. He married Jane Strachan, and the name of one son—James—is recorded. (*Poll Book*, II., p. 186.)

Shortly afterwards the estate was sold to the Burnetts of Kirkhill; and from Alexander Burnett of Kirkhill Tilliecorthie was acquired by James Clark—probably a descendant of the family of the same surname who had previously owned it. A tombstone in Oldmachar Graveyard bears that he was son of James Clark, late merchant in Old Aberdeen, and Margaret Thomson, his wife; that he "was long an useful and respectable magistrate in his native city of Old Aberdeen"; that he "was born June 26, 1728, and died a bachelor, April 20, 1810," The inscription further declares that in business the



strictest integrity and honour guided his conduct; that in private, piety, friendship, hospitality, charity, and inoffensive manners marked his character; and that besides his estate of Tilliecorthie, which he bequeathed to a nephew, and £2525 in legacies to relatives and friends, he left the following public charities:—"To a fund for the annual purchase of coals to the poor of Old Aberdeen, Seaton, and Spital, £500; and to the Lunatic Hospital, Infirmary, and Poors House of Aberdeen each £100." The nephew referred to who succeeded to Tilliecorthie was John Angus, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother, George Angus, who died unmarried in 1861, when the property, in virtue of a deed of entail, fell to John Ross, eldest son of John Ross of Clark's Court, Grenada, and Granton Lodge, Aberdeen. He was born on 7th October, 1821, and, entering the army, attained the rank of major in the 71st Bengal Regiment. He was subsequently, for about 30 years, Chief Constable of Aberdeenshire. He married Flora Anne, daughter of Dr Mackinnon, of the family of Mackinnon of Skye. Of their large family, Alexander Carnegie Ross, C.B., has held several Consular appointments; he is at present British Consul at Buenos Ayres, in the Argentine Republic. Major Ross died on 28th November, 1892. (Tombstone in St Nicholas Churchyard.)

Tilliecorthie is now the property of James Duncan, who made money abroad.

#### MARRS OF CAIRNBROGIE AND UPPERMILL.

A railed-in space contains five headstones and one tablestone to members of the family of Marr. Below are three of the inscriptions—

(1).

In memory of John Marr, late of Cairn-

brogie, who died at Millbank, March 12th, 1849, aged 70 years.

Barbara Smith, his wife, who died January 27th, 1873, aged 82 years.

Their sons, James, who died June 19th, 1829, aged 3 years; and Alexander, who died August 14, 1843, aged 21 years.

(2).

Erected by William Smith Marr, Farmer, Uppermill, Tarves, in memory of his wife, Helen Bean, who died 20th July, 1852, aged 37 years.

Also his sons, William Smith, who died 11th August, 1860, aged 8 years; and Alexander, who died 29th December, 1873, aged 15 years.

His wife, Elizabeth Monro, who died 15th February, 1893, aged 67 years.

Also the above William Smith Marr. Born 27th November, 1810. Died 13th February, 1898.

(3).

In memory of eight children of George Marr, Cairnbrogie, who all died of diphtheria in the month of January, 1862:—

Barbara Smith, aged 10 years.		
Isabella	—	9 —
David Allison	—	7 —
Helen Ann	—	6 —
George	—	5 —
Agnes Mary	—	4 —
William Smith	—	21 months.
Alexander	—	7 —

Cairnbrogie is supposed to have derived its title from several cairns formerly upon it.

The lands, at an early date, formed part of the estate of Tarves, and belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath. In 1666, they belonged to Alexander Davidson, advocate in Aberdeen, and in the following century were acquired by the Earl of Aberdeen.

About a century ago, the extensive farm of Cairnbrogie was leased by John Marr (Ins. 1), who was an advanced agriculturist. William Smith Marr (Ins. 2) and George Marr (Ins. 3) were his sons, besides whom, and the two other sons named in the first



inscription, he had a son John, who leased a large farm in Wales; Anne, who married Mr Walker, Tillymaud; Helen, who married Mr Hay, Shevado; and Barbara, who married Mr Walker, Angustown, Peterculter.

William Smith Marr (Ins. 2) was a noted shorthorn breeder, and made the name of Uppermill a household word in the agricultural world. His youngest son, William Smith, who succeeded to the farm, and who died suddenly on 7th June, 1904, maintained and improved the traditions of the famous herd.

George Marr (Ins. 3), of Cairnbrogie and Hatton, was a graduate of Aberdeen University, and likewise won fame as a successful agriculturist. He married Isabella, daughter of Rev. Mr Alison, U.P. Church minister, Stuartfield; and of their large family no fewer than eight were cut off by diphtheria in the month of January, 1892. Mr Marr was succeeded in Cairnbrogie and Hatton by his eldest son, John, who was a noted breeder of Clydesdale horses.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Blessed are the dead which dye in the Lord. S. M. of Helen Mair, spouse to George Miln, in Mains of Eslemont, who, after about 19 years of conjugal affection and motherly care, did on the 24th of March, 1768, in the 50th year of her age resign her soul to God and left her body to rest here in hope of a blessed Resurrection. Also the above named George Milne, who departed this life the 16th August. 1794, aged 71 years.

There are other tombstones to members of the family of Milne, who were for a lengthened period tenants in Mains of Eslemont. A genealogical deduction of the family is given in Dr Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," pp. 518-20.

A railed-in space has a headstone—

Erected by Rev. G. Archibald in memory of Jane Thomson, his wife, who died at F.C.

Manse, Udney, on 13th January, 1872, in the 34th year of her age. Also to the said Rev. George Archibald, M.A., senior minister of the Free Church, Udney, who died at Aberdeen on the 17th November, 1887, in the 70th year of his age and the 44th of his ministry.

Rev. George Archibald for some time before his death had the assistance of a colleague and successor in the person of Rev. George Abel.

A tablestone has—

William Pirie, late farmer in Orchardtown, died 25th April, 1784, aged 84 years, and Elizabeth Laing, his spouse, died 14th June, 1790, aged 83 years. Also three of their children Helen, William, and George. James Pirie, farmer in Mill of Torry, died the 30th of May, 1803, aged 67. Also of Elspet Martin, spouse to James Pirie, who died the 18th of November, 1820, aged 81 years. Likeways Helen Diana Pirie, daughter to Patrick Pirie, in Orchardtown, who died the 19th April, 1824, aged 14. Also of his son William, who died the 13th August, 1831, aged 26. And their affectionate mother, Elspet Seton, spouse to Patrick Pirie, who died November 4, 1832, aged 65 years. The said Patrick Pirie, who died the 3rd January, 1848, aged 80 years. Also to James Pirie, farmer, Waterton, Ellon, who died 30th April, 1878, aged 77 years; and his wife Jane Mitchell, who died 17th March, 1889, aged 83 years.

Their bodies lie here in dust,  
May they rise in glory.

William Pirie, farmer, Orchardtown, was a son of James Pirie, farmer, Iriewells. He married Elizabeth Laing, and their son, Patrick Pirie, married, in 1778, Margaret, second daughter of Alexander Smith, paper manufacturer, Stoneywood. It was through the latter marriage that their descendants—the Piries of Waterton—allied themselves with the paper business, which has grown and flourished under their able direction.

A tablestone and granite cross are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In memory of William Pirie, late farmer in

Iriewells, who died 13th February, 1814, aged 69 years. Also of his daughter Margaret, who died 5th January, 1800, aged 19. Also of his spouse, Helen Mair, who died the 26th December, 1827, aged 73 years. Likewise of Ann Pirie, spouse of the Rev. Nathaniel Grieve, Episcopal clergyman in Kinharrachy, who died 13th January, 1814, aged 34. Also of George, son of the said William Pirie, who died 19th May, 1816, aged 41. Also of Isobel Mair, spouse of Andrew Pirie, son of the above William Pirie, who died 3rd November, 1829, aged 39 years. Also their daughter, Helen Pirie, who died 21st August, 1831, aged 15 years. Also of the said Andrew Pirie, who died at Iriewells, 8th April, 1863, aged 75 years.

(2).

In memory of Andrew Pirie in Iriewells, who died 8th April, 1863, aged 75, and of his wife, Charlotte Wilson, died 24th August, 1870, aged 76.

By their children.

Members of this family were for many years tenants of Iriewells. Representatives are now resident in Australia and the United States.

A tablestone beside the west wall is inscribed—

Here lies in hopes of a blessed Resurrection the dust of George Milne, some time farmer in the Mill of Esslemont, who departed this life the 15th of September, 1799, aged 75 years. Likewise Helen Ligertwood, his spouse, who died the 10th of March, 1787, aged 68 years. Also John Milne, lawful son to George Milne, who died the 10th of December, 1774, aged 27 years. And George Milne, their son, late in Sauchenbogg, who died 1st June, 1820, aged 55 years.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of James Allan, farmer at Monks-hill, parish of Foveran, who died there at an advanced age in July, 1832, and was buried in the churchyard of Uduy. This stone is erected by Lauchlan Mackinnon, junior, advocate in Aberdeen, and David Reid Mackinnon, surgeon-general, in grateful remembrance of much kindness received by them from him in their youth, when spending their summer holidays with him at Monkshill. 1897.

The erection of this headstone in gratitude for kindness received from the person commemorated upwards of sixty years before, manifests a fine spirit on the part of the erectors, who were well known in Aberdeen. Lauchlan Mackinnon, jun., died in Aberdeen on 11th April, 1899, and his younger brother, David Reid Mackinnon, M.A., M.B., surgeon-general (retired), died at Redhill, Surrey, on 5th April, 1906, in his 85th year.

A very old flat stone bears the following—

Here lies in hopes of a blessed Resurrection  
the dust of some time  
who died the of aged years.

This tombstone, in the ancient style of inscription lettering, has neither name nor date cut on it. The erector's representatives failed to add the particulars he had desired.

A tablestone bears an inscription as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Robert Temple, farmer in Cloisterseat, died 1778, aged 63; also his spouse, Margaret Simpson, who died 1788, aged 47; and also their sons, Robert, James, George, and William. Elizabeth Temple died 13th March, 1825, aged 48. Robert Temple in Cloisterseat died 17th December, 1861, aged 89. Christian, his wife, daughter of Captain Robert Allan, R.N., by his wife Christian Dyce of Tilliegrieg, died 19th February, 1866, aged 79. Of their seven sons—William died in infancy, 1825; James died at Port Dover, Upper Canada, 26th December, 1845, aged 23; John died at Dayton, Ohio, U.S., 8th February, 1879, aged 58; Robert died 31st May, 1882, aged 63.

Also are interred here Robert Temple, before 1696 in Cloisterseat, his wife Jean Forbes, and their son Robert Temple, also in Cloisterseat, and his wife, Isobel Milne, the parents and grand-parents of the first-named Robert Temple.

Also Charles S. Temple, in Cloisterseat, cor. mem. S.A. Scot., eldest son of Robert Temple and Christian Allan, died 16th June, 1888, aged 70 years. Also of their seventh son, Rev. Alex. Temple, M.A., late incumbent of St Paul's,

Armadales, who died 10th September, 1890, aged 61.

Inscribed by their sixth and last-surviving son, Rev. William Temple, M.A., F.S.A. Scot., of St Margaret's, Forgue.

The foregoing inscription gives a brief genealogical deduction of the family of Temple, of which was the late Rev. Dr William Temple, for many years the respected incumbent of S. Margaret's, Forgue, and author of "The Thauage of Fermartyn," etc.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Charles Simpson, merchant in Green of Udney, who died 1745, aged 47. Also his spouse, Agnes Milne, who died 1801, aged 81. Also Charles Temple, who died 1813, aged 42. Also Charles Simpson, who died 1822, aged 78 years. Agnes Temple, who died at Cloisterseat, 20th October, 1884, aged 30 years.

A tablestone has the figure of an angel at the top, and at the foot representations of a skull, coffin, cross bones, and sand glass, surrounded by a scroll having a Latin inscription, which, translated, reads "Death is the gate of Life." The tablestone bears the following inscription—

Here lyes George Inghram, farmer, late in Mills of Keith-hall, who died May 26th, 1758, aged 57 years. As also John, Andrew, and William Inghrams, lawful sons procreat, twixt him and his spouse, Elspet Simpson.

This inscription is interesting, not only on account of its style of composition, but for its old form of spelling the surname Ingram.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

In memory of Francis Crystall, late tacksmen in Hillhead of Tolquhon, for many years. Died June, 1825, in the 81st year of his age.

This stone was erected by his sorrowful widow, Elspet Gray.

The surname Chrystal is an old parish one. In 1796, John Chrystal was tenant of Tilliecorthie, and, about the same date,

Alexander Chrystal was in Mains of Drumbreck.

A flat stone is inscribed—

In memory of John Duguid, farmer in Ardmore, who died the 15th September, 1767, aged 74 years.

Another stone above the preceding bears the inscription—

In memory of John Duguid, farmer in Ardmore, who died the 15th September, 1763, aged 74 years. Margaret Gray, his first wife, who died in the year 1741, and Helen Johnston, his second wife, who died in 1779. Also of William Duguid, of Granite Place, near Aberdeen, youngest son of John Duguid and Helen Johnston, who was some time merchant in Baltimore, North America, and died at Granite Place, the 18th August, 1821, aged 67.

Various members of the Duguid family tenanted Ardmore down to Whitsunday, 1904, when John Duguid retired. He died at Corthymuir on 23rd September, 1906, aged 69. The tenant in 1696 was Francis Duguid, and in 1736 John Duguid, who was then tenant, incurred considerable notoriety through his "positively refusing consent to the marriage" of his daughter, Katherine, to James Gordon of Logierieve. The minister, kirk-session, and Presbytery were each appealed to, but the marriage ultimately took place.

A tablestone bears—

In memory of Samuel Ritchie, lawful son of Samuel Ritchie and Elizabeth Shirrifs, in Gilmorton, who died 29th May, 1805, aged 18 years. Also Elizabeth Shirrifs, who died 7th June, 1831, aged 86 years, and Samuel Ritchie, who died 10th September, 1833, aged 78 years. Also his son John Ritchie, at one time farmer, Turriff, who died 16th November, 1854, aged 70 years. Also his wife, Ann Pittendrigh, who died 26th November, 1854, aged 73 years.

The above Samuel Ritchie and his wife, Elizabeth Shirrifs, were the grandparents of the late Professor Samuel Trail, D.D., LL.D.



## RHYMING INSCRIPTIONS.

(1).

In memory of James Webster, lawful and only son of William Webster, farmer in North Mains of Tolquhon. He died the 24th August, 1799, in the 28th year of his age. Also of the said William Webster, who died the 17th of January, 1809, aged 78 years. Likewise of Margaret Anderson, his spouse, who died 1st February, 1813, aged 86 years. Also of Thomas Webster, late farmer in Mill of Dumbreck, who died 14th August, 1814, aged 76 years.

Here husband, wife, and only son,  
Repose in kindred dust,  
They liv'd in peace and died in hope  
To shine among the just.

(2).

Erected by Margaret Mowat in memory of her husband, Alexander M'Leod, merchant, in Aberdeen, who died 24th February, 1848, aged 35. . . .

A husband kind, a father dear,  
Was he whose dust lies sleeping here;  
Strong in the faith, he died resign'd,  
And left his weeping friends behind.

(3).

Erected by Walter Parr in memory of his daughter Ann, who died 28th March, 1868, aged 25 years. Also his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John Tough, blacksmith, Pitmedden, who died 4th November, 1868, aged 23 years. Also his wife, Elizabeth Bakwell, who died 9th December, 1869, aged 60 years. Also the above Walter Parr, who died 7th February, 1837, aged 80 years.

Who can tell who next may fall,  
Beneath Thy chastening rod;  
One must be first, so let us all  
Prepare to meet our God.  
O, what a joyful meeting there,  
In robes of white arrayed,  
Palms in our hands we all shall bear,  
And crowns upon our heads.

Under Newburgh inscriptions and particulars are given respecting the old family of Udny of Udny, whose principal residence—Udny Castle—has an imposing appearance, and is believed to have been founded

early in the fourteenth century. Extensive and handsome additions were made to it some years ago by Mr J. H. F. Udny.

## THE UDNY ACADEMY.

A tablestone is inscribed—

In memory of George Bisset, M.A., schoolmaster and Rector of the Academy, Udny, who died 10th July, 1812, aged 51 years; also of George his son, who died 16th December, 1812, aged 9 years, and of Robert, his son, who died 24th June, 1813, aged 4 years.

Also of Mary Scott, spouse of the late James Adamson, M.A., Strichen, who died 27th July, 1812, aged 88 years.

George Bisset, son of John Bisset, Keithhall, was in 1784 appointed schoolmaster of the parish of Udny. Two years later he added a boarding establishment, which he designated the "Udny Academy." He married Mary Adamson, Strichen; and of their numerous family, John became a doctor in Newburgh, Sussex; James was for a time rector of the Academy, and afterwards minister of the parish of Bourtie—in 1850 receiving the degree of D.D., and in 1862 being chosen Moderator of the General Assembly; Thomas, LL.D., vicar of Pontefract; Charles, vicar of Upholland, Wigan; William, colonel, H.E.I.C.S.; Udny, succeeded his brother as rector of the Academy; Margaret, wife of Sir Arthur Nicholson, Bart.; and Isabella, wife of Adam Thom, LL.D., sometime Recorder of the Hudson's Bay Company. Under Messrs Bisset's fostering care and excellent tuition, the Academy attained a high position. Among many eminent men who were educated thereat may be mentioned—Dr Robert Adam, author of "The Religious World Displayed"; Joseph Robertson, LL.D., the eminent historian; Lieut.-General Sir James Outram, Bart., G.C.B.; William Leslie of Warthill, M.P.; John Milne, LL.D., for long rector of Dollar Academy; Professor Samuel Trail, D.D., LL.D.; and Sir John Forbes of



Craigievar. Rev. Dr Temple, who also was educated at the Academy, gives an interesting history of it in his "Thanage of Fermartyn" (pp. 435-442).

It may be added that an engraving of an equestrian statue erected in Calcutta to the memory of Lieut.-General Sir James Outram, Bart., was placed in the school of Udney by Mr Udney, the proprietor. It bears the following inscription—

His life was given to India. In early manhood he reclaimed wild races by winning their hearts. Ghanzin, Kelat, the Indian Caucasus witnessed the daring deeds of his prime. Persia brought to sue for peace, Lucknow relieved, defended, and recovered, were fields of his later glories. Faithful servant of England, large-minded and kindly ruler. A true knight, the Bayard of the East. Educated at Udney School, under Bisset, 1814-1818.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The parish antiquities are neither numerous nor of outstanding importance. Eirde houses at one time existed, and urns and human bones have been unearthed.

In the parish graveyard is a round house of considerable size and great strength, which was erected about 1830 with a view to defying the operations of the resurrectionists. The coffins lay within, upon a turntable, for the necessary period. The structure, which was unique of its kind, is still standing.

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#### Oyne.

The origin of the name of this parish is doubtful, while its form of spelling has undergone various changes, thus—Owyn in 1256, Oryn in 1275, and Oven in 1403. (All in Reg. Epis. Aberd.) In Robertson's Index it is given as Unyn and Ouyn, and was frequently pronounced Een.

Walcott, without quoting authorities, gives in one place St Colm, and in an-

other St Adannan as the patron saint, but Rev. Alexander Keith, author of the "View of the Diocese," in his notes upon the parish, makes no mention of the dedication of the church. He is careful to record, however, that at Pitmedden there was in early times a chapel dedicated to St Ninian.

The church, with its lands and pertinents, is said to have been granted to Matthew, Bishop of Aberdeen, by King Malcolm the Maiden, which grant was ratified by the Pope in 1157. In 1256, the church was erected into a prebend of the Cathedral Church of St Machar at Aberdeen. (Reg. Epis. Aberd.) The ministerial duties at Oyne had doubtless been performed by a subordinate, the Prebendary himself having had his time wholly taken up with the business of the Chapter. Indeed, Orem records that he held the appointment of chief notary, and that he was dubbed "Rome-raker," through his being obliged frequently to travel to Rome for instructions and guidance in the work of the Chapter.

#### EARLY PRIESTS.

The names of several of the old priests have been preserved. Of these, Alexander Cullan founded an altar in St Nicholas Church, Aberdeen. The outstanding personality, however, was John Leslie, who, in 1559, became Prebendary. He was the son of a priest, and belonged to the family of Leslie of Cults. After a distinguished career at the University of Aberdeen, and in the study of law on the Continent, he took holy orders in 1558. In the important conferences and discussions which preceded the Reformation, he played such an important part on the Roman Catholic side as to bring down upon him the wrath of the outspoken Reformer, John Knox, who stigmatised him "a priest's gielt." He was the trusted agent of the Roman

Catholic Lords, and also a close friend and adviser of the unfortunate Queen Mary. In 1565, he was elected Bishop of Ross, and became likewise a judge of the Court of Session. For complicity in the Duke of Norfolk's scheme he was seized, sent to the Tower of London, and subsequently banished from England. He died in a monastery, near Brussels, in 1596.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

The old parish church stood within the graveyard, but all that now remain to mark its site are four small corner stones. The present church was erected in 1807-8 upon a wooded height a little to the eastward, and nearer the railway. It bears no inscription, nor has it any tablets.

Shortly after Rev. P. S. Bisset was elected minister, he, with praiseworthy zeal, set about securing new Communion plate to take the place of two old plates and four cups, which were all of pewter, and bore no date or inscription. As a result, the church is now provided with one silver plate presented by Rev. James Smith, B.D., F.S.A. (Scot.), of St George's-in-the-West, Aberdeen; one silver plate and two silver cups by Messrs Morgan, Aberdeen (all in commemoration of the ordination of Mr Bisset to the parish of Oyne on 15th April, 1897); one silver cup by Mrs Webster, Gadie Cottage; one silver cup by Mrs B. M. Riddel, Schoolhouse; and one silver flagon by the congregation.

#### PARISH MINISTERS.

In 1570, the incumbent was Rev. John Abercrombie, son of Alexander Abercrombie of Pitmedden. He had also Premnay in charge, and in 1574 Logie-Durno parish was likewise added to his jurisdiction. The pastoral duties at each were chiefly performed by readers. In 1583, Rev. George Abercrombie was minis-

ter of Oyne, but he is not noticed by Scott. In 1586, Rev. Walter Richardson was translated from Inch, and continued minister at Oyne till 1595, when he was transferred to Gartly. In the following year Rev. Robert Burnett was elected. He had previously been acting as a Regent at King's College. He married Marjorie Auchinleck, widow of Captain John Gordon, son of John Gordon, fourth laird of Gight, who was executed for his complicity in the murder of the Bonny Earl of Moray at Donibristle on 7th February, 1591-2. Rev. Robert Burnett was followed by Rev. Alexander Burnett, who, in 1647, was succeeded by Rev. William Burnett. The last-named remained till 1660, when he was translated to Inch. In the following year, Rev. John Strachan, M.A., succeeded, and seven years later was followed by Rev. James Strachan, M.A., son of Rev. Andrew Strachan, minister of Tullynessle, and subsequently of Kintore. He married Elizabeth Leith, and had a large family. He appears to have possessed considerable means, being entered in the Poll Book of 1696 as wadsetter of Newlands, Ardoyne, and Mill of Ardoyne, which then belonged to John and William Leith. He had the assistance as reader of James Leask, parish schoolmaster. In 1701, Rev. William Mair, M.A., son of Rev. John Mair, minister of Tough, was ordained, and continued till 1710, when he was translated to Kincardine O'Neil. The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Arthur Forbes, M.A., who died about 1727.

A tablestone in the parish graveyard commemorates the next minister thus—

Under this stone lies the body of the Rev. Mr Alex Turing, who died 24th August, 1782, in the 81st year of his age, and 53rd of his ministry.

Rev. Alexander Turing was the eldest

son of Rev. John Turing, Drumblade, being ordained minister of Oyne on 19th March, 1729. He married Anne Brown, who died 27th January, 1807; and, besides three sons—Ingulis, Robert, and Arthur—they had seven daughters—Ann, Forbes Ann, Jean, Grizel, Eleonora, Mary, and Beatrix. Of the sons, the eldest—Ingulis—became a minister in Jamaica, and died there in 1791, while the second son—Robert—claimed and enjoyed the title of Baronet, to which his father had a hereditary right through his descent from the old family of Turing of Foveran. (See Foveran.)

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. George Morison, M.A., son of James Morison of Elsick, some time Provost of Aberdeen. He was ordained minister of Oyne on 7th May, 1783, but in the autumn of 1785, was translated to Banchory-Devenick. (See Fintray.)

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

Inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Cushny, minister of the Gospel at Oyne, who died 1st February, 1839, in the 80th year of his age, and 53rd of his ministry. Eight of his children by Ann Gray, his wife, had predeceased him—two of them abroad and six at home, who are here interred, viz.—Thomas and Athol, who died in infancy. Mary, who died 19th January, 1823, in her 21st year. Jane, who died 21st November, 1823, in her 19th year. Athol, who died 12th July, 1826, in his 19th year. John, who died 3rd April, 1835, in his 33rd year. James Forbes, a lieutenant in the East India Company's service, died at Wallah-jabad, in Madras, in 1808, in his 20th year. Arthur, a merchant in Port of Spain, Trinidad, died there in 1811, in his 24th year. Ann Gray, above mentioned, eldest daughter of Thomas Gray, formerly at Westhall, died at Rayne, 9th September, 1848, in her 80th year, and was here interred in the tomb next adjacent, to the north of this stone, which was placed on the grave of her husband. They had fourteen children—nine sons and five daughters.

The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Rev. Alexander Cushny, M.A., for some time prior to his ordination to Oyne, was parish schoolmaster of Foveran. Of his sons, who are not referred to in the foregoing inscription, Alexander became parish minister of Rayne, and received the degree of D.D.; while Robert became minister of Bellie.

A handsome granite obelisk is inscribed thus—

(1).

To the memory of the Rev. David Simson, minister of Oyne for 32 years, 28 of these in the Free Church. Born 13th March, 1801; died 8th March, 1871.

A sincere Christian, faithful minister, dutiful son, kind brother, and true friend. . . .

(2).

. . . In memory of the Rev. David Simson, for 32 years minister of Oyne, 28 of these in the Free Church. Died 8th March, 1871.

A faithful minister, who, in 1843, left all for Christ's sake and the Gospel's, suffering persecution.

Rev. David Simson was a son of Rev. David Simson, minister of the parish of Tulliallan, Perthshire, and of his wife, Ann Paterson. Along with his elder brother, Rev. Henry Simson, minister of Chapel of Garioch, he seceded at the Disruption, and carried with him an attached congregation, who held him in special esteem.

A grey granite wall monument bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Andrew Fraser, minister of Oyne, who died 30th August, 1874, in the 74th year of his age, and the 31st of his ministry. Also of his brother, the Rev. Donald Fraser, who died at Inverness, 31st March, 1885, aged 83 years.

Rev. Andrew Fraser, M.A., who was parish minister from the Disruption till his death on 30th August, 1874, was a true



Highlander, and an excellent scholar. Like his predecessor, he was unmarried.

Rev. Duncan George Mearns, B.D., son of Rev. William Mearns, D.D., minister of the parish of Kinneff, and proprietor of the estates of Disblair and South Kinmundy, was ordained minister of Oyne on 9th April, 1874. He is now proprietor of these properties. In 1896 he retired from the ministry.

Rev. P. S. Bisset, B.D., the present incumbent, was ordained on 15th April, 1897.

#### THE HORNS OF WESTHALL.

The immediate ancestor of this family was Mr John Horne of Balgownie in the parish of Forgue, a burghess of Aberdeen, who seems to have been a dependant or adherent of the Crichtons of Fren draught. His name occurs in records belonging to the first half of the seventeenth century. A Mr John Horne, notary of the Diocese of St Andrews, frequently appears during the same period (e.g., in 1605, 7, 8, and 1628), as servitor to, or acting for, the same family; he is sometimes designed as "notar at Auchingoul and Monelie"<sup>1</sup> and at least one deed written by him as notary was signed at Balgownie.<sup>2</sup> It would seem at first sight that the two designations refer to the same individual; and it is said that the Pitfour MS. identifies the notary (whom it describes as schoolmaster of Marnoch and Forgue) as the ancestor of the Westhall family; but there are circumstances which make it difficult to believe that the possessor of Balgownie and the notary were the same man; the two designations never occur together; and no certain conclusion has been arrived at on the subject. It is to be noted also that Dr Hew Scott states that a Mr John Horne was minister of

Forgue in 1599 and 1601. Was Mr John, like Mrs Malaprop's Cerberus, "three gentlemen at once"?

Mr John Horne, designed "of Balgownie," first appears in 1606.<sup>3</sup> He had two brothers, Andro<sup>4</sup> and James. The latter was awarded damages along with Mr John, by decret arbitral dated 15th and 17th October, 1616, for blood and wrong committed against them by "Andrew Meldrum of the Muires of Fyvie and Robert Creichtoun of Fren draucht."<sup>5</sup> On 5th June, 1628, complaint was made against "Mr John Horne of Balgonye and James Creichtoun of Fren draucht" for lying in wait for the lives of William Gordon of Rothiemay and others, armed with hagbutts and pistols, the carrying of which was prohibited by Act of Parliament.<sup>6</sup> Northern Aberdeenshire must have been a lively district to reside in at that period!

Mr John Horne of Balgownie seems to have married twice. Susanna Weir was his spouse on 5th May, 1611,<sup>7</sup> and 8th June, 1619,<sup>8</sup> but it does not appear that she bore him any children. On 12th February, 1621, he married Agnes Touche,<sup>9</sup> who seems to have been daughter of John Touche, elder, merchant, burghess of Aberdeen. On 5th September, 1627, Mr John Horne purchased from John Touche, younger, for 400 merks, a tenement in the Gallowgate, Aberdeen, which had sometime pertained to the vendor's father, John Touche, elder.<sup>10</sup> By Agnes Touche, Mr John had three sons, John, his heir,<sup>11</sup> Andro,<sup>12</sup> and Mr James,<sup>13</sup> and a daughter,

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, V., 30. <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* <sup>5</sup> Register of Deeds, Gibson, CCCXLIX., 22nd March, 1632. <sup>6</sup> Register Privy Council, 2nd Series, II., 600. <sup>7</sup> Reg. of Deeds, CCLXVIII., 22nd December, 1617. <sup>8</sup> Reg. Priv. Council, XI., 591. <sup>9</sup> Reg. Old Machar. <sup>10</sup> Reg. of Sasines, Burgh of Aberdeen. <sup>11</sup> Gen. Retour, No. 2897. <sup>12</sup> Part. Reg. Inhibitions, Aberdeen, XLVI., 30th November, 1661. <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVII., 5th April, 1643; XLVI., 30th November, 1661.

<sup>1</sup> Secretary's Register, Aberdeen, VII., 326. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, IV., 392.



baptised 26th December, 1621.<sup>14</sup> He died before 5th April, 1643<sup>15</sup>; his wife survived him, and was alive 19th June, 1654.<sup>16</sup>

Mr James Horne, the third son, studied at Marischal College, Aberdeen, became schoolmaster at Grange,<sup>17</sup> was licensed by the Presbytery of Garioch in 1655, and soon afterwards called to be minister of the parish of Bellie, and ordained at Elgin 28th February, 1656. Three years later he was translated to the second charge at Elgin, which he continued to hold till 1682; he then resigned his cure rather than take the Test.<sup>18</sup> From that time he seems to have lived at Westhall, which property he had bought in 1674 from Mr John Campbell of Moye.<sup>19</sup> In 1683, he acquired the lands and barony of Pitmedden, but under reversion<sup>20</sup>; the reversion was discharged 4th April, 1693, by Sir James Abercrombie of Birkenbog,<sup>21</sup> when Mr James obtained the full rights of ownership. About the year 1682 he matriculated arms as follows:—“*Argent*, a fesse waved and cottised *azure*, betwixt two unicorns' heads couped in chief, and a bngle in base *gules*, garnished as the first, and stringed of the third. Crest, a bngle *azure*, garnished and stringed as the former; motto, *Monitus Munitus*.”<sup>22</sup> He was alive 5th June, 1707.<sup>23</sup> He married Issobella, daughter of John Leslie, seventh laird of Piteaple,<sup>24</sup> by whom he had a family of two sons and two daughters. The second son, James, was one of the witnesses to the marriage contract of his elder sister Issobell, dated 27th November, 1688,

with Robert Douglas of Bridgefoord,<sup>25</sup> whose family were cadets of the Earl of Angus<sup>26</sup>; they had issue. The second daughter, Agnes, was married, also with issue, contract dated 16th and 22nd May, 1700, to John Douglas, Younger of “*Tillie-quhillie*.”<sup>27</sup> Issobella Leslie was alive in 1696.<sup>28</sup>

John Horn, the elder son of Mr James, appears to have been educated at King's College, Aberdeen, and was perhaps a candidate for laureation in 1681.<sup>29</sup> He is invariably designated later, under the style of a graduate, as “*Mr John*.” He afterwards studied at Leyden.<sup>30</sup> He was admitted advocate 31st January, 1691.<sup>31</sup> He was allowed by the Lyon King of Arms to discontinue the use of the arms matriculated by his father, and to substitute an entirely different coat. The new grant is recorded as follows, under date 1st December, 1725:—“*Or*, three hunting horns *gules*. Crest, two horns conjoined, parti per fess *or* and *sable* countercharged. Motto, *Moneo et Munio*. N.B. — Second matriculation.”<sup>32</sup> He added considerably to his estates, and obtained a Crown charter erecting the lands and barony of Pitmedden, and the lands of Ardoyn, Buchanstone, Old Rayne including the burgh (a burgh of barony), and Westhall, etc., into a free barony, to be called the barony of Horn. Sasine thereof was registered 17th October, 1728,<sup>33</sup> and thenceforward he was styled “*Of Horn*.” On 24th July, 1733, he entailed his estates on the issue of his then deceased daughter Anne.<sup>34</sup> He died

<sup>14</sup> Reg. Old Machar. <sup>15</sup> Gen. Ret. <sup>16</sup> P. R. Inhib. Abdn., XLVI., 30th November, 1661. <sup>17</sup> Sess. Book, Grange. <sup>18</sup> Scott's Fasti, III., Part I., pp. 153, 191. <sup>19</sup> Part. Reg. Sasines, Abdn. and Kinc., VIII., 434, 20th July, 1674. <sup>20</sup> Ibid., XI., 416, 1st May, 1683. <sup>21</sup> Ibid., XIV., 320, 28th April, 1693. <sup>22</sup> Lyon Register. <sup>23</sup> Westhall Writs. <sup>24</sup> Laurus Lesleana, Cap. CXXI.

<sup>25</sup> Original among Westhall Writs. <sup>26</sup> Douglas Book, by Sir William Fraser. <sup>27</sup> P. R. S., Aberdeen, etc., XVI., 530, 12th June, 1700. <sup>28</sup> Poll Book, I., p. 281. <sup>29</sup> New Spalding Club's “*King's College Officers and Graduates*,” p. 211. <sup>30</sup> Westhall Writs. <sup>31</sup> Books of Sederunt. <sup>32</sup> Lyon Register. <sup>33</sup> P. R. S., Abdn., etc., XXII., 311. <sup>34</sup> Regr. of Tailzies, VIII., 301, 25th July, 1733.

in the end of May or beginning of June, 1743.<sup>35</sup>

In the second volume of Nisbet's *Heraldry*, at p. 73 of the Appendix, it is stated that two uncles of John Horn (there incorrectly styled "Of that Ilk" and Westerhall) suffered severely for their loyalty to Charles I., for whose cause they are represented to have "raised all they could." It is added that one of them, John Horn, commanded a troop of horse at Worcester, and fell in the battle; while the other, Andro, was obliged to fly to Sweden, where he was speedily advanced through the influence of Count Henry Horn, the Swedish general.

No corroboration of these particulars has been found in any contemporary document; the Andro Horne in question appears to have been in Aberdeen in 1654<sup>36</sup> and 1657.<sup>37</sup>

Mr John Horn married, contract dated 20th and 25th November, 1693, the Honourable Agnes Arbuthnott, daughter of Robert, second Viscount Arbuthnott.<sup>38</sup> She is called "Agnes" in the contract, but elsewhere her name is invariably given in the alternative form of Anna, or Anne. By her, who died in April, 1742,<sup>39</sup> he had an only child, Anne.

Anne Horn was born in or before 1696.<sup>40</sup> She was married at Prestonpans, 26th February, 1711,<sup>41</sup> doubtless from a house which her father possessed there,<sup>42</sup> to Mr Hew Dalrymple, advocate (afterwards a Lord of Session under the title of Lord Drummore), third son of the Honourable Sir Hew Dalrymple of North Berwick, Bart., President of the Court of Session, and grandson of James,

Viscount Stair, also President. They had a large family. Mrs Dalrymple died 13th February, 1731<sup>43</sup>; her husband survived her, and dying at Drummore 18th June, 1755, was buried at North Berwick.<sup>44</sup>

Robert Dalrymple, their third but eldest surviving son, was born 1st March, 1718.<sup>45</sup> At the age of thirty he succeeded, on the death of his elder brother Hew, to the estates entailed by his maternal grandfather, and thereupon assumed the additional surname of Horn. He also succeeded his brother in the estate of Foxhall, County Edinburgh.<sup>46</sup> He entered the army (first commission 26th March, 1737), and attained the rank of Lieutenant-General 29th August, 1777. He served many years in the Royal Scots, with which regiment and as a staff officer he saw much active service. He commanded the 1st Battalion Royal Scots from 1753 until promoted, 9th March, 1762. He was appointed Colonel of the 120th Foot 3rd August, 1762. After the reduction of that regiment, in 1765, he remained unattached until 5th February, 1770, when he was appointed Colonel of the 53rd Foot.<sup>47</sup> He held that position until his death at Edinburgh 20th April, 1794.<sup>48</sup> He was buried in the vault outside the church at Restalrig 24th April.<sup>49</sup> He married, 9th July, 1754,<sup>50</sup> Mary, elder daughter of the then deceased Sir James Elphinstone of Logie-Elphinstone, 3rd Bart. She had succeeded to the family estates in January, 1743, as heir to Sir John Elphinstone, 4th Bart., her uncle, who died unmarried.<sup>51</sup> The bridegroom assumed the additional surname of

<sup>35</sup> Edinburgh Evening Courant; Scots Magazine. <sup>36</sup> P. R., Inhib., Abdn., XLVI., 30th November, 1661. <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, XLV., 27th June, 1657. <sup>38</sup> P. R. S., Abdn., etc., XIV., 463, 21st April, 1694. <sup>39</sup> Caledonian Mercury; Gentleman's Magaz. <sup>40</sup> Poll Book, supra cit. <sup>41</sup> Reg. North Berwick. <sup>42</sup> P. R. S., Edinburgh, etc., LVII., 123, 30th July, 1697.

<sup>43</sup> Caled. Merc. <sup>44</sup> Reg. North Berwick. <sup>45</sup> Reg. Edinburgh. <sup>46</sup> P. R. S., Edinburgh, etc., CXXXIV., 115, 30th March, 1748. <sup>47</sup> Army Lists. <sup>48</sup> Annual Register. <sup>49</sup> Account of Mortcloth Receipts, Restalrig. <sup>50</sup> Reg. Inveresk. <sup>51</sup> P. R. S., Abdn., etc., XXIV., 3rd May, 1748.

Elphinstone; and from this marriage descended the family of Dalrymple-Horn-Elphinstone of Horn and Logie-Elphinstone. (See Logie Private Cemetery and Estate.) His wife predeceased him, dying at her town mansion, Balmerinoch House, Leith, 3rd March, 1774.<sup>52</sup> She was buried at Restalrig.<sup>53</sup>

Colonel the Hon. Robert Boyle, London, generously furnished these particulars.

#### HARTHILL.

An excellent illustration and plan of the old Castle of Harthill or Torries, which stands on a comparatively level piece of ground near the foot of Bennachie, is given by Macgibbon and Ross in their "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland." The castle is believed to have been erected in 1638 by Patrick Leith, a cadet of the Leiths of Edingarroch, now known as Leith-hall. To increase its stability and means of defence against an enemy, its walls were made of considerable thickness, with numerous loopholes, round towers, bartisans, etc., while the whole buildings had been moated.

The first Leith of Harthill was Henry Leith of Barnes, who, in 1490, was likewise proprietor of Lickleyhead, Auchleven, Ardoyne, Harlaw, and Drumrossie. He gave Harthill to his third son Patrick, who married Clara, daughter of John Leslie of Wardhouse. Their eldest son John succeeded, and lived to an advanced age.

Genealogical deductions of the family appear in Davidson's "Inverurie and the Earldom of Garioch," and also in Hay's "Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire."

During the troublous times of the seventeenth century, several members of

the family played an important part in assisting Montrose. "Young Harthill," the hero of the raid upon Craigievar's cavalry at Inverurie, who was particularly active, was taken prisoner and executed. His brother John proved a turbulent and eccentric character. Several of his exploits are recorded. On 24th December, 1639, during divine service, he entered the pew of the Lord Provost of Aberdeen in St Nicholas Church. He was offered another seat, but swore that, "by God's wounds," he would "sit beside the provost, and in no other place o' the kirk." After a severe struggle, he was lodged in jail, and, on being brought up for examination, vowed that he "would fence the court in the devil's name." The provost he insulted by comparing him to a "doittit cock and ane ass"; while the poor clerk had the written indictment plucked from his hand and torn. Leith was remanded, when his first act was to attempt the burning of the jail, after which he made a breach in the wall, and, procuring fire-arms, attacked the jailers and the town's people. To restrain his violence, he was put in irons, but these disappearing, he was interrogated as to their concealment, when he coolly replied that he "had sent them to Harthill." Regaining liberty after the victory of Montrose, he again made his presence disagreeably felt. He was a terror to the minister and kirk-session—the minister, in January, 1650, being compelled to notify the Presbytery of "the great wrong and violence offered to him by John Leith of Harthill during the time of divine service." Even the members of Presbytery were unable to overawe this extraordinary man, who, in September, 1651, "with cursing and swearing," "compeared and required the silver cups mortified by his umquhile sone to the churches of Oyne and Rayne" to be delivered up. In the following April

<sup>52</sup> Scots Magazine. <sup>53</sup> Account of Mortcloth Receipts.



he appeared again before the Presbytery, and in "ane most blasphemous and barbarous way, with cursing and imprecations, did threaten dyvers brethren, and did break the windows."

Four other lairds of the surname of Leith succeeded in turn to Harthill. The last one is said to have quarrelled with his relatives and neighbours, set fire to the castle, and left the country.

The estate, with its picturesque ruin, was afterwards purchased by the Erskines of Pittodrie, regarding whom particulars, with tablet inscriptions, are given under Chapel of Garioch.

The author of the "View of the Diocese" says that "Oyne has an isle for the Leiths of Harthill." All trace of the aisle has disappeared, unless it be the one now known as Pittodrie's.

#### TILLYFOUR.

The lands of Tillyfour for a considerable period belonged to the Earl of Mar, whose valuation in the parish in 1674 amounted to £166 13s 4d.

Early in the following century the estate was acquired, through purchase, by George Keith, advocate in Aberdeen, who died before March, 1745, as his brother, John Keith, residing in Inverurie, was then served heir.

Particulars respecting the later proprietors will be found in the article under Monymusk.

#### BENNACHIE.

The hill of Bennachie, which forms nearly one-half of the area of the parish, was originally one of the seven Royal forests in Aberdeenshire. It consists of a range of six summits or tops, the largest being the "Mither Tap," which reaches nearly 1700 feet. Besides being a favourite resort for holiday seekers, it

forms a welcome landmark to the mariner at sea, as evidenced by the couplet—

Clochnaben and Bennachie,  
Are twa landmarks o' the sea.

#### THE GADIE AND THE URY.

The natural beauties of the hills and streams of the parish and district have been extolled in numerous poems and songs.

The Gadie, which runs eastward, through the northern portion of the parish, till it joins the Ury, has had its praises sung in more than one Latin poem by Dr Arthur Johnston of Caskieben. It is also the subject of a beautiful old ballad, the rendering of which is said to have powerfully affected a Scottish regiment while serving in India. Several versions have been issued, including one by John Imlah, and another by Rev. Dr John Park, some time minister of St Andrews. The original is believed to have commenced—

O, an' I were where Gadie rins,  
Where Gadie rins, where Gadie rins,  
O, an' I were where Gadie rins  
At the back o' Benachie.

#### KIRK RECORDS.

The old Synod, Presbytery, and kirk-session records throw light upon many customs which were formerly observed in the parish. As late as 1650, it had been customary for farmers to leave portions of land uncultivated. These went by the title of "The Goodman's Fold," and were expected to propitiate His Satanic Majesty! Dogs were taken to church to such an extent that in 1673 a dog clip had to be made with which to turn them out. In 1701, playing upon the bagpipes was strictly forbidden in respect of its occasioning "that lascivious and unchristian carriage which is common at marriage feasts."



Trifling offences were severely dealt with. In 1663 a parishioner was debarred from Communion through being "guiltie of witchcraft, in causing dogs to follow him." Seventeen years later Sabbath breakers were carefully warned, and thereafter beggars were prohibited from being "resseted" under pain of the offender being remitted to the Sheriff.

## GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Two tablestones bear the following, the introductory verses being on the end supports—

(1).

All mortal here  
Of death must teast,  
And to the grave  
They go to rest.

Here lies the body of Helen Findlater; died in the year 1784, aged 17 years. This stone is put here by her father, William Findlater, and if he shall die near to this, he chuses to ly under this.

Here lies William Findlater, who died 1st December, 1808, aged 77 years.

Also George, son of George Findlater, farmer in Bogend, who died 2nd February, 1836, aged 32 years.

(2).

She was  
A good wife,  
And so continued  
All her life.

Here lies the body of Jean Watt, spouse to William Findlater. She died in the year 1793, aged 58 years.

This grave stone is put here,  
In memory of her body dear.

Here lies the body of Alexander Findlater, son of George Findlater, farmer in Bogend, who died 26th December, 1835, aged 25. The above George Findlater, who died 28th November, 1852, aged 79 years. And his son William, who died 5th December, 1840, aged 32 years.

The first inscription is interesting on account of the erector's recording, with characteristic caution, his wishes as to the

place of his own interment. Happily they have been acceded to.

A headstone is—

Erected in memory of Alexander Reid, merchant, Edinburgh, fifth son of the late John Reid, farmer, Pitmedden, died 1846, aged 67. Also of his eldest son, John Reid, silk mercer, died 1841, aged 36; and his second son, Alex. Reid, jeweller, died 1836, aged 28. And his daughter, Marion Reid, died 1850, aged 46 years.

Erected by James, his youngest son.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies Mary M'William, spouse to Wm. Home, in Bogandie, who died February 6, 1778, aged 73, and left issue behind her three sons and two daughters.

Time the destroyer of the human race,  
Who cuts down one to give another place,  
Sometimes leads early to the peaceful tomb,  
Sometimes permits ye rising bud to bloom,  
Keep death and judgment always. . . .

In the Poll Book of 1696, the above domicile is called Andies Bogg, the tenant then being William Martine, weaver.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Anna Skinner lies under this stone, overcome by death that spareth non, take head and read and you shall see, as I am now so most you be, life is uncertain, death is sure, sin is the wound, Christ is the cure. She died March 6, 1801, aged 25.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

Here lies till the last trumpet sound the body of Alexander Hume, wright to Whitehaugh 35 years, who died 26th December, 1785, aged 75. Also his daughter, Barbara Hume, who died 13th July, 1809, aged 62. Also his son, John Hume, wright to Warehouse 44 years, he died 27th April, 1818, aged 76.

The preceding inscription is an additional proof of how in former times father and son repeatedly followed the same trade, and remained for a lengthened period in the same situation.

A headstone bears—

In memory of Margaret M'Hardy, who died 26th March, 1833, in the 46th year of her age.

To commemorate departed worth.

This is erected by her surviving husband, John Dawson, by desire of their seven children.

A headstone bears—

1860. In memory of Alexander Leslie, late farmer in Hatton of Ardoyne, who died 8th April, 1824, aged 70. Also of his wife, Janet Benzie, who died 20th October, 1857, aged 73; and of their daughter, Elspet, who died 8th September, 1859, aged 48. Also Susanna Irvine, wife of John Leslie, who died 6th February, 1880, aged 83 years. And John Leslie, who died 3rd October, 1884, aged 88 years.

This stone is erected by their son John in Little Parkbrae, in remembrance of the Leslies, being residents in this parish for upwards of 400 years.

This burial ground extends 20 feet north.

As is seen in the foregoing inscription, members of the Leslie family have been resident in the parish for upwards of four hundred years. As heritors and tenants, they have always taken a leading part in the stirring, as well as the peaceful, affairs of the Garioch. Particulars respecting them and the Leslies of Chapel of Garioch will be found in Leslie's "Family of Leslie, etc." In 1682, Leslie, heritor of Buchanstone, was ordained by the Sheriff to receive 2s 6d per day as a witness fee in respect "he is a gentleman of quality and must keep servants and horses!"

The surname Benzie is also an old parish one. In 1703, Robert Benzie, one of the elders, was charged before the kirk-session with flagrant misconduct at his flitting, amounting to "witchcraft and charming." The specific charges included the hanging of a dog within the house, taking out the "crook at ye lumb," and "burying a cat under ye hearth," etc. Benzie made a spirited defence, but ultimately had to ap-

pear before the congregation and profess sorrow for the scandal.

The following headstone inscription records the death of a centenarian—

Erected by George Dawson, road surveyor, in memory of his great-grandfather, William Dawson, who died 12th July, 1851, aged 101 years, and is interred in the churchyard of Premnay. Also of his grandfather, George Dawson, wood manufacturer, Tillyfour, who died 7th February, 1873, aged 87 years.

Two tablestones, near the entrance gate, bear the following inscriptions—

(1).

Here lie the remains of Barbara Reid, spouse to John Mackie, farmer in Mill of Johnston, who departed this life the 21st of November, 1796, aged 23 years. She was thus cut off in the bloom of her youth, but tho' young in years she was old in virtue. She was a dutiful child, faithful wife, and an affectionate mother; lovely and pleasant was she in life; resigned in death; and with Christian fortitude and serenity of mind she left this earth most sincerely regretted by her affectionate husband. . . .

(2).

Here lies the body of Anne Morgan, spouse to George Mackie, in Miln of Auchmar, who died the 19th of December, 1787, aged 49 years.

Here now she rests,

In undisturbed dust,

Until the resurrection of the just.

The Mackies in Mill of Johnston, Mill of Auchmar, and Mill of Craigton, were of the same line. The last-named mill was demolished through the construction of the Great North of Scotland Railway between Kennethmont and Gartly, and Alexander Mackie, its last tenant, died at Rothney Village, Inch, about twenty-eight years ago.

A headstone, near the entrance gate, bears—

In memory of Captain Alexander Imlach, late St Helena Regiment, who died at Oyne, 25th August, 1868, aged 75 years. And his wife,

Margaret Cruickshank, who died 30th March, 1871, aged 73.

Four headstones record the deaths of persons bearing the surname of Home, thus:—John Home, farmer in Little West-hall, died 21st July, 1837, aged 61. Sarah Ross, his spouse, died at Fielding, 9th December, 1875, aged 80. James Home, died at Fielding, 2nd March, 1899, in his 74th year; and his two children, Hellen and Sarah, died in infancy. Alex. Home, for many years postmaster and farmer, Headhouse, Old Rain, died 6th April, 1840, aged 55. His wife, Ann Emslie, died 4th October, 1855, aged 60. Their eldest son, Walter Davidson Home, farmer and miller, Old Rain, died 29th May, 1857, aged 31. Their second son, Alexander Home, merchant, Old Rain, died 30th March, 1855, aged 27. Margaret Home, wife of William Cruickshank, Mill of Old Rain, died 8th September, 1828, aged 56; and James Home, farmer, Barreldykes, Rayne, died 3rd April, 1839, aged 52.

A tablestone and headstone are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here was laid in hope of a blessed Resurrection, the body of Helen Jean Cruickshank, spouse to William Farrel, in Middletoone of Blackfoord, who departed this life March the 14th, 1770, aged 59 years. This stone is erected by the said William Farrel in memory of his affectionate and loveing spouse. . . .

(2).

In memory of John Duncan, late in Pulwhite, who died February, 1794, in the 49th year of his age. Also his spouse, Isobel Smith, who died 8th September, 1826, in the 76th year of her age.

Erected by their sons, James and John Duncans.

A massive monument of the four-sided obelisk design is inscribed—

In loving remembrance of Margaret Brown, wife of Huntly Christie, who died at Oyne

Village, 24th February, 1900, aged 78 years. Also of their children, Elizabeth, who died at Rettie, 17th January, 1865, aged 8 years. Alexander, who died 5th March, 1865, aged 2 years. George, who died at Winnipeg, Manitoba, 10th March, 1899, aged 49 years.

Rettie, or Raitie's plough, in 1696 had a valued rent of £89, and belonged to Rev. Patrick Copland, minister of Cushnie. (Poll Book.)

A stone is—

This stone marks the grave of Jane Dawson, wife of Lewis Mathieson, farmer, South Ardoyne, who died 20th April, 1866, aged 72 years. This stone is placed for to show forth love's tribute to parental worth—these properties in one combined the wife, the mother, and the friend.

The grave on the north side of this stone contains the body of the above Lewis Mathieson, who died 9th February, 1875, aged 82 years.

A tablestone bears—

Here was laid in hope of a blessed Resurrection the body of Robert Alexander, some time in Daies, who died May the 18th, 1750, aged 59 years. Also his two eldest lawful sons, William and George Alexanders. This stone is erected to their memory by his two lawful sons, Robert and Alexander Alexanders. Also Alex. Alexander, dyer in Waulkmill, Auchindoir, son of Robert, who died 21st April, 1855, in the 90th year of his age. . . .

Time flyeth,  
Death pursueth  
Mind eternity comes,  
After mortality.

A marble slab fixed into a headstone at the same grave records the death of William Alexander, late dyer in Aberdeen, son of the above Alexander Alexander and Margaret Milne, his spouse, who died 31st October, 1811—the inscription adding that he was a dutiful son, an affectionate friend, and an active and useful promoter of the knowledge and practice of the religion of Christ.

A very old undated tablestone lies against the west wall, having at the top



representations of a skull, cross-bones, bell, coffin, and sand-glass, surmounted by the legend, "Memento Mori." It bears the following inscription in large letters—

Here lyes Jean Booth, spouse to John Robert.

A railed-in obelisk bears the undernoted inscription—

Erected by Rev. Andrew Galloway in memory of his son, Andrew, born 30th January, 1874, died 1st September, 1874. His daughter, Norah, born 4th September, 1886, died 8th December, 1899.

"Within the morn, those angel faces smile."

Rev. Andrew Galloway, son of Andrew Galloway, farmer and tenant of the flour, meal, and yarn mills of Cult-Mill, parish of Cults, Fifeshire, was ordained minister of the Free Church, Oyne, on 22nd June, 1871. He still actively discharges his ministerial duties.

A tablestone bears—

James Mackie, in Parkbrae, in testimony of grief and affection for a youth of pious and virtuous dispositions, erected this stone to the memory of his son James, who died December 3rd, 1793, in the 24th year of his age.

A granite headstone bears—

In memory of James Horn, for many years a residenter in Old Westhall, in this parish, who died 31st October, 1842, aged 72 years. And of his spouse Jane Gillanders, who died 28th December, 1868, aged 92 years. Also of their children, Robert, who died in December, 1825, aged 26 years; John, who died in March, 1828, aged 24 years; Alexander, who died in March, 1851, aged 44 years; William, who died in January, 1862, aged 41 years.

A son of the above-mentioned couple—James Horn—was a successful merchant and shipowner in Aberdeen. He purchased the estate of Pitmedden, and died on 13th February, 1874, aged 73 years, being predeceased by his wife, Nicolas Smith, 26th October, 1871. Of their children, Nicolas and James died in infancy, while William

Smith died 25th November, 1861, aged 24½ years.

The earlier history of Pitmedden is largely incorporated in that of Westhall, of which it, for a lengthened period, formed a part. In 1512, the lands, with others, were erected into the free barony of Pitmedden for George Abercrombie. Various misfortunes, however, overtook the family. Alexander Abercrombie of Ley was killed, it was believed, by witchcraft. Alexander Abercrombie of Pitmedden was shot dead by the Gordons in 1583. Four years later, his son was accused of bigamy, and in the spring of 1588 he had his "place of Pitmedden, with the effects therein," treasonably burned by William Leslie in Little Warthill and his accomplices.

A large railed-in space contains a number of tombstones to members of the families of Smith and Collie, who were connected through marriage. The following inscriptions are taken from them:—

(1).

Here lies the dust of William Smith at Mill of Ardeen, he died April 15, 1774, aged 74. Also his children, viz., William, he died December 2, 1754, aged 21; Patrick, he died January 7, 1767, aged 22; Christian died December 24, 1762, aged 24. As also Hugh, Ann, Adam, and Elizabeth Smiths, who died in their nonage.

(2).

In memory of Alexander Smith, late feuar in Insch, who died February 15, 1807, in the 70th year of his age. Here also are interred four of his children, who died in infancy. Also his spouse, Elizabeth Rough, who died 3rd of August, 1852, aged 90 years.

(3).

Underneath lies the body of George Smith, 30 years millwright at Mill of Rothney, a man whose knowledge very far exceeded his station. His integrity would have done honour to any station, and his religion was truly Christian, rational, sincere, and unaffected. He died September, 1812, aged 70. And close on his hand is interred the body of William, his only



son, a hopeful youth, who died in 1805, in his 16th year, while a student at college.

(4).

The burial place of Wm. Smith, distiller. Jericho, who was born at Mill of Ardoyne, January 4, 1793, and died 22nd February, 1873.

(5).

In memory of John Collie, late farmer in Priestwells, Inch, who died 20th July, 1837, aged 66 years. Jane Smith, his spouse, who died 15th January, 1851, aged 63 years. And also Alexander Collie, their son, who died 13th January, 1848, aged 36 years.

For particulars regarding the ancestors of the Smiths see Fyvie and Tullynessle.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The most interesting parish antiquities are the three sculptured stones which formerly lay horizontally and close to each other on the moor of Carden, but which, on the moor being planted about 1811, were built into its enclosing wall. At a later date they were removed to Logie-Elphinstone, and built into the garden wall. In size they do not exceed four feet six inches in height, nor two feet six inches in width, and they bear various emblems, including the elephant, crescent, rod, double disc, etc. On one is an Ogham inscription, the translation of which is given in the Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot., Vol. XVIII., p. 189, while the stones are fully described and illustrated in "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland," and also in the Spalding Club's "Sculptured Stones of Scotland."

It is regrettable that a fourth sculptured stone was split and completely destroyed through one of the parish millers foolishly using it as a hearthstone for his kiln.

Traces of a camp are marked in the Ordnance Survey Map as existing on the summit of Bennachie.

## Aboyne.

The derivation of the name of this parish is uncertain. It has undergone numerous variations, including Obyne in 1249, Obeyn in 1275, Oubyn in 1292, Oboyne in 1501, and Aboyn in 1567. Several writers, including the author of the chapter upon the parish in the New Statistical Account, affirm that the name is a compound of the Gaelic words, Abh, a ford, and boinne or buinne, a current of rippling water, from a ford in the Dee south of the church.

The church was dedicated to the great saint and author, Adamnan, whose feast was observed on 23rd September. According to Bishop Forbes, the saint is known by various other names, including Theunan and Skeulan. The latter was probably used at Aboyne, as it was perpetuated in the Skeulan Tree and the Skeulan Well. Both stood about half-way between Aboyne Castle and the old church, and were held in veneration for many a day.

The church was bestowed between 1221 and 1240 by Walter Bisset, proprietor of the lands and castle of Aboyne, upon the preceptory of the Knights Templars at Culter (Culter originally included the old parishes of Peterculter and Maryculter, but the latter, although an offshoot from the former, had the preceptory erected within its borders, in which, down till 1548, an elevating influence was exercised), which he had newly founded there. The grant was approved by the Bishop of Aberdeen, and the order being superseded by the Knights Hospitallers, or Knights of St John of Jerusalem, whose Scottish headquarters were at Torphichen, the church of Aboyne remained with them till after the Reformation.

The parish of Glentanner having been suppressed, the greater portion of its lands was annexed to Aboyne, a small part being added to the united parishes of Glenmuick, Tullich, and Glengairn.

The old parish church of Aboyne stood within the graveyard at Kirktown. It was "but a little edifice, and thatched with heather," but it is now in ruins, the foundation alone being traceable. The belfry and bell were carried to the Mains of Aboyne and there fixed on the top of the tower. The bell has an inscription, partly in Latin. In English it reads—

JOHN MOWAT MADE ME, OLD ABERDEEN.  
1753.

The roofless walls of the old manse are still standing on the north side of the graveyard, but the surroundings are somewhat depressing.

In 1761, a new church, intended to accommodate the united parish, was erected at Charlestown, fully a mile west of Kirktown. Divine service thereupon ceased to be held in Glentanner Church, which previously had been given in the rotation of two Sabbaths at Aboyne and one at Glentanner.

On the north wall of the new church were inscribed the initials C. G., E. A.; M. S., C. A., representing Charles Gordon, fourth Earl of Aboyne, and his first wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, third daughter of Alexander, sixth Earl of Galloway, who died at Aboyne on 12th August, 1762. Underneath were the Gordon arms, the motto "*Stant caetera tigno*," and the date 1761. This church was replaced by the present one in 1842.

#### MINISTERS.

The parish, in 1567, had as reader James Cusnye (Cushnie), whose salary was 20 lib. Robert Boyd succeeded in 1576. Twelve years later, Rev. Robert Zoungson (Youngson) was admitted. He had for the two

previous years acted as minister of Forbes. Along with Aboyne, he had Tullich in charge, but he remained for less than five years, accepting translation to the parish of Towie before 1594. The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Alexander Zoungson, afterwards minister of Skene.

Before the autumn of 1633, Rev. William Douglas was admitted, but was deposed in 1644. Four years later, he was reponed by the General Assembly, and in the following year he petitioned Parliament for redress, as, having advanced a thousand merks, besides certain annual rents for the public service, he was reduced to such poverty that he was unable to maintain and educate his family. The claim was directed to be paid, but it is doubtful if a full settlement had been made, as on 21st June, 1661, Parliament ordered £100 sterling to be paid to Mr Douglas "on account of his great sufferings and loyalty." A son William became parish minister of Midmar, while a daughter became the second wife of William Forbes of Pitallachie. It may be added that Rev. William Douglas, who was laird of Blackmill in 1643, was a grandson of Sir Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie and of his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. He was an ancestor of Francis Douglas, the topographer, who was bred a baker in Aberdeen.

The succeeding minister is commemorated by a cracked tablestone lying in the area of the old church, which displays various emblems, including a skull, hour-glass, and cross-bones, together with the initials, M. T. R. — M. F. These letters stand for "Mr Thomas Ross," and his wife, "Margaret Farquhar." No date is shown, but it is known that Mr Ross was admitted as minister of the parish before November, 1651, and that he died prior to May, 1684.

Rev. Ludovick Gordon, M.A., was ordained before November, 1679. He

married a daughter of Thomas Burnett of Sauchen, and they had a son, Thomas, who became minister of the parish of Lomnay. Mr Gordon died in October, 1694.

A long vacancy followed, it being 21st March, 1700, before a successor was ordained in the person of Rev. James Douglas, who was called by the Presbytery. He was translated to Arbuthnott on 29th December, 1714.

In March, 1716, Rev. George Shepherd, M.A., was ordained, and continued till his death, which occurred on 16th December, 1752.

The succeeding incumbent, who was proprietor of the estate of Harthill, in the parish of Keig, has a plain stone slab to his memory fixed in the inner wall of the old church there. It is inscribed as follows—

The remains of the Rev. Willm. Forsyth, late minr. of the Gospel at Aboyne, proprietor of Harthill in Keig, who died Augt. 25th, aged 87, and of Margt. Turner, his spouse, who died Decr. 15th, aged 60 yeres, interred in the church of Keig, 1793.

Rev. William Forsyth, prior to his ministry at Aboyne, officiated as missionary at Glenmuick. His wife, Margaret Turner, was a daughter of John Turner of Turnerhall. They had a son, Lieutenant Henry George, who succeeded to Harthill, and married a daughter of Colonel Robert Garden, and of his wife, Elizabeth Moir.

In 1784, Rev. Thomas Gordon, M.A., son of the proprietor of Crathienaird, previously ordained missionary at Crathie, and subsequently at Glenmuick, was inducted as assistant and successor. He married Elizabeth Michie, and, of their family, John emigrated to Jamaica, while George became laird of Bucksburn, and married Rachel Young of Sheddocksley. Mr Gordon died on 13th January, 1826, in his 83rd year.

The next incumbent was Rev. Robert Milne, M.A., a native of the parish. He was at first a teacher in the Academy at Fortrose, but, receiving licence as a preacher, was ordained, in January, 1810, as deputy-chaplain at Fort-George. He was inducted to Aboyne 27th September, 1826. In 1836 he assumed the patronymic of Miller, and died at his estate of Kinchurdy on 7th May, 1853, aged 73. He had married, in 1823, Jane Gordon, daughter of Colin Matheson, of Bennetsfield, and their family consisted of at least two sons, John and Colin.

In the year of Mr Milne's induction a supply of new communion tokens was provided. On the one side they bear the coronet of an earl, with the word "Aboyne" underneath, while on the reverse side are inscribed the minister's name, "Robert Milne," and the date, "1826."

A cross in a railed-in grave in the new churchyard commemorates the succeeding minister, thus—

In memory of the Rev. James Jenkins, minister of Aboyne and Glentanner, who died on 3rd December, 1870, aged 67. And of his wife, Margaret Shanks, who died 15th October, 1891, aged 76. Also of their son Walter, who died 20th May, 1872, aged 19. Also of his daughters, Margaret and Anna-Jane, aged 14 and 41 years.

Rev. James Jenkins, M.A., was son of John Jenkins, farmer, Urquhart, and prior to his ordination to Aboyne, in 1848, was, for about 21 years, Master of Elgin Academy, as also Session Clerk and Registrar. He married Margaret, daughter of John Shanks, baker, Elgin. Of a family of ten, three survive, viz. :—John, the eldest son, who has been over half a century in Australia as an architect and surveyor; William Gordon, merchant, near Melbourne; and George Gordon, of Jenkins and Marr, civil engineers, Aberdeen. The



second son, James Anderson, who was a land surveyor of much promise, was accidentally killed by the falling of a tree while assisting in the Australian Geodetic Survey; Robert, who was a ship's captain, died at Sunderland in 1892; Anna died in infancy; and Helen died in Aberdeen on 30th January, 1907, aged 66.

Rev. James M'Kenzie, M.A., who was ordained in 1861, was the next incumbent, and for many years clerk to the Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil. Owing to failing health he retired from the charge in 1902, and has taken up his residence at West Cults. He received the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1895. His son, Charles Gordon, is now minister of the parish of Methlick.

The present minister is Rev. James Duncan Mackenzie, who was ordained on 17th December, 1902.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

The parish has been fortunate in having had many eminent schoolmasters, among whom may be named Alexander Ross (he was the son of Andrew Ross, Stran-duff, studied at Marischal College, married, in 1726, Jane, daughter of Charles Catanach, farmer, Logie-Coldstone, and died in May, 1784, aged 85), author of numerous poems, including "Helenore, or The Fortunate Shepherdess," and upon whose tombstone, at Lochlee, erected by public subscription, is the following complimentary estimate of his poetic talents and productions—

"How finely nature aye he paintit,  
O' sense in rhyme he ne'er was stintit,  
An' to the heart he always sent it,  
Wi' might an' main;  
An' no ae line he e'er inventit,  
Need ane offen'!"

Dr Jamieson, in compiling his *Scottish Dictionary*, drew more from Ross, in illus-

tration of the Scottish vernacular, than from any other authority.

Rev. Joseph Smith, M.A., who was ordained minister of the parish of Birse on 2nd September, 1789, was for some time previously schoolmaster here. It is alleged that he received the intimation of his ministerial appointment while busy in school, and that this drew from him the exclamation, "Hurrah! Minister o' Birse wi' nine years' fordle!" This alluded to the stock of sermons which he had accumulated during the 13 years he had been a licensed preacher as well as a schoolmaster.

Other teachers were Andrew Thomson, M.A., Charles Begg, M.A., John Neil, and George M'Irvine, M.A., the last of whom was Murray lecturer in 1855, and afterwards civil chaplain in Mauritius.

The veteran schoolmaster, however, is thus commemorated on a granite obelisk in the new churchyard—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Andrew Gray, M.A. Born 19th February, 1836; died 20th January, 1900, aged 64 years. For 44 years headmaster of the Public School, Aboyne.

Father, in Thy gracious keeping,  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

#### THE BISSETS OF ABOYNE.

The lands of Aboyne were for a time in the possession of the Scoto-Norman family of de Byset or Bisset, the first of whom came from England under the auspices of King William the Lion. They quickly became both powerful and affluent, as evidenced by their acquiring the baronies of Lovat, Stratherrick, Abertarff, and Aboyne, besides several large estates on the Border. One built and endowed an hospital in the Merse, another founded a monastery, at Beaufort, near Beauly, while others of the clan erected chapels in various parts of Scotland.



Before 1230, Aboyne was in the possession of Walter Bisset, who seems to have been brave as well as accomplished, and whose acts of liberality on Deeside have already been noticed. In a tournament in which he took part, at Haddington in 1242, he had the misfortune to be unhorsed by Patrick of Galloway, the young Earl of Athole. On the following night, some of Bisset's attendants, in wrath at their chief's defeat, fired the building in Haddington in which Athole slept, and he was burnt to death. This diabolical outrage caused much indignation, and Bisset and his relatives were set down as its instigators. They had difficulty in escaping with their lives, and several of their possessions, including Aboyne, were forfeited. Against Bisset himself the utmost hostility was manifested throughout Scotland, and it continued unabated till his death, in Arran in 1251.

Within six years, the King, who had throughout shown considerable friendliness to the family, recalled the forfeiture of Aboyne in favour of Thomas Bisset, who is believed to have been nephew and heir to Walter Bisset. This and other acts of clemency went for little, however, for, as pointed out by Mr William Watt, the historian of "Aberdeen and Banff," the Bissets did not recover their former importance, while most of their northern properties passed by the marriage of heiresses into other families. They are represented to the present time, however, by the Bissets of Lessendrum (the male line has been broken more than once), who have been in possession of that estate and barony since before the wars of Scottish Independence, and are one of the oldest families in Scotland

#### THE ORIGINAL CASTLE.

The Bissets probably erected the original Castle of Aboyne, which was more of a

substantial than an ornamental design. During the forfeiture already mentioned, and for half a century thereafter, it was a Royal residence. Alexander III. frequently occupied it, and several of his charters were signed there. From "Obeyn" on 1st April, 1285, he despatched a letter to King Edward of England wishing him all kinds of increase of glory and honour, expressing gladness at hearing the satisfactory state of his affairs, and offering special thanks for the business assistance promised to the subscriber's dear kinsman, Ingeram de Ginis. Immediately afterwards Alexander was killed near Kinghorn, and Edward, with a view to making Scotland completely subservient to England, became Lord Dictator as to who should succeed. To strengthen his hands and further his selfish and dishonourable ends, he secured possession of a large number of Scottish castles, including that of Aboyne. These he was careful to garrison with English troops. In 1292, he directed "Obeyn" Castle, with others to be delivered up to his puppet, John Baliol, and on that weakling ultimately revolting, he (Edward) invaded Scotland at the head of a large army. Lord Huntly believes that he then spent a night at Aboyne Castle, as a large number of deeds and charters were carried off and destroyed. It is significant in view of the tragic death of the young Earl of Athole, as already explained, that in 1305 John, Earl of Athole, who had sworn fealty to Edward, should be engaged repairing for that King the Castle of Aboyne, which had belonged to the enemy of his family. The ultimate success of Robert the Bruce led to the clearing out of the English, the punishment of traitors, and the probable demolition of the castle buildings, with the exception of the Peel.

## SUCCEEDING PROPRIETORS.

From the Bissets, Aboyne passed to Reginald More and his spouse Isobel. In 1337, it was in the possession of Sir Alexander Fraser, who was succeeded by his grand-daughter and heiress, Margaret Fraser, who, before 1351, married Sir William Keith, Marischal of Scotland. By this union Sir William acquired, as the portion of his wife, the lands of Aboyne, Cowie, Durris, Strachan, Glentanner, etc. It is interesting to record that, in 1393, Sir William recognised by deed the bishop's right to the tenth penny of his rents of Aboyne as second tithes, while, by another document of the same date, he is exempted from payment on account of services rendered by him to the Church of Aberdeen. (Dalyell's Remarks, p. 28.)

Sir William Keith and his lady held Aboyne till 1407, when they made a grant of its lands to their grandson, John Stewart, Earl of Buchan, Chamberlain of Scotland, son of the Regent Albany, and their daughter, Muriella Keith. Buchan, who is known as Earl of Ross and Lord of Aboyne, continued as proprietor of Aboyne till his death, when it passed to Elizabeth Keith (daughter of Margaret Fraser before-mentioned), widow of Sir Adam Gordon of Gordon, who fell at Homildon Hill in 1402. In 1437, her daughter and heiress, Elizabeth Gordon, who had married Sir Alexander Seton of Seton, descended from a sister of Robert I., became proprietrix. Their elder son, Alexander Seton, who assumed his mother's surname of Gordon, was, about 1445, created Earl of Huntly.

(For further particulars, see the various Peerage volumes, Gordon's "History of the Family of Gordon," the New Spalding Club's "The Records of Aboyne," Seton's "Family of Seton," and Anderson's "Scottish Nation.")

It is probably to Charles Gordon, fourth son of George, second Marquis of Huntly,

that Aboyne as a parish is chiefly indebted. During the Civil Wars he adhered to the Royal cause; and, in consideration thereof, and of the special services rendered by his predecessors, he was, by patent dated 10th September, 1660, created Earl of Aboyne, Lord Strathaven and Glenlivet. On acquiring the lands, he found them nearly valueless through the tenantry being in an almost destitute condition by the ravages of war. An idea of their losses and privations may be formed from the statement of Spalding that, in the autumn of 1644, Argyle's soldiers cut down the garden planting to be huts, destroyed the corn, and left not one four-footed animal in Aboyne or adjacent estates. The Earl, with praiseworthy zeal, set himself to improve matters, however, and it is satisfactory to record that his efforts were crowned by success. In 1669, he secured Parliamentary powers for holding at Aboyne a weekly market, and an annual public fair of three days' duration. (Acts of Parliament.) Two years later, he rebuilt the north-western portion of the castle. Inscribed upon it are the initials C. G., E. A., and E. L., C. A., representing Charles Gordon, Earl of Aboyne, and his second wife, Elizabeth Lyon, Countess of Aboyne. This lady was the only daughter of John, second Earl of Kinghorn. There is no tablet or memorial to the Earl's first wife, Margaret Irvine of Drum, better known in ballad lore as "Bonnie Peggie Irvine." On the lintel of the old entrance doorway in the central north tower is carved the date 1671, and the sacred monogram I. H. S. The castle has since undergone numerous alterations and improvements, but it still retains its ancient grandeur, and is one of the finest family seats on Deeside.

Another improving landlord was Charles, the fourth Earl, who succeeded about 1732. Besides giving every possible encourage-

ment to the tenantry, he formed large plantations and built no less than forty miles of stone fences, upwards of five feet in height, for the purpose of enclosing and subdividing the extensive lands.

Within the last twenty years, the extensive estate has been broken up, and considerable portions disposed of. In 1888, the part known as the Aboyne Castle estate was sold to the late Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart., father-in-law of the present Marquis of Huntly. Two years later, Glentanner was sold to Sir William; and about the same time the land on the south side of the public road leading from Aboyne to Dess was disposed of to the late Alexander Davidson of Desswood (now known as Dess), advocate, Aberdeen.

KIRKTOWN CHURCHYARD.

This graveyard—in which formerly stood the old parish church—is situated near the east end of the Loch of Aboyne, and at a short distance from the public road. It is of medium size, but contains few tombstones. A portion of the area of the old church was enclosed by a high wall, and was used as a burial place by the old family of Ballogie. There are no inscribed tombstones or tablets in the enclosure, however.

Many years ago, when alterations were being carried out, a fine sculptured stone was discovered almost underneath the doorsteps of the church. How long it may have been lying buried there it is impossible to say. It now stands within the grounds of Aboyne Castle. Besides displaying beautiful ornamentation, it has an Ogham inscription, which has been translated by the late Lord Southesk (*The Origins of Pictish Symbolism*, p. 75) as follows:—

[The stone] of the son of Talore, Fineach of Aber . . . ? (Aber-don, or Aber-ythan?).

GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A tablestone bears—

Sacred to the memory of Nathaniel Wilson.

many years factor at Cluny, and late farmer in Mill of Kincardine, who died 24th November, 1816, aged 76. And Euphemia Angus, his spouse, who died 8th May, 1808, aged 50. Also of their children—Robert, who died in Jamaica, 19th December, 1814, aged 25; Nathaniel, who was killed at Waterloo in June, 1815, aged 29.

Ann Milne, who died 7th July, 1816, aged 35, spouse to their son Charles, is also interred here.

The death of the above Charles Wilson is not recorded in the inscription. He died at Inchmarnoch in 1865, aged 77.

On a freestone headstone with a marble tablet inserted in front is—

To the east of this stone lyes the remains of Charles Brown, lat factor to the Earl of Aboyne, and Jannet Robertson, his spouse, the last died the 6th January, ag'd 71, the former died 26th January, ag'd 73 years, both in 1794. The above left issue two sons and five daughters.

Why do we mourn departing friends,  
Or shrink at death's alarms,  
'Tis but the voice that Jesus sends  
To call us to His arms.

Burial ground extends 6 foot south and 6 foot north of this stone.

Charles Brown was for long factor on the Aboyne estates, and knew intimately the private affairs of the family. Although offered a large sum by an unscrupulous laird to disclose some of these, he indignantly refused it. One of his daughters, Isabella, married David Hillocks, factor on Finhaven, Careston, and Hallyburton.

A tablestone records as under—

Sacred to the memory of Robert Duncan, late merchant and farmer at Nether Mill of Auchenhove, who died the 21st August, 1781, aged 59 years. Likewise of Jean Thomson, his spouse, who died the 4th October, 1801, aged 59 years. . . . Also of their son, the Rev. Joseph Duncan, late minister of Kilrenny, in Fife, who departed this life there on the 28th May, 1818, aged 43 years. This stone is erected by their son, Alexander Duncan, schoolmaster of Durris. The said A. Duncan died 9th September, 1834,



aged 71 years. Isabel, his sister, died 30th November, 1834, aged 65 years. Both interred here. . . .

Rev. Joseph Duncan was licensed by the Presbytery of Tain on 30th March, 1803, and for some time acted as assistant at Kemback, being ordained minister of Killrenny on 21st September, 1809.

An idea of the miserable salaries formerly paid to schoolmasters in country districts may be formed from the advertisement which appeared in the columns of the "Aberdeen Journal," and led to the above Alexander Duncan's appointment at Durris. After stating the salary at £100 Scots, with £24 Scots additional for acting as session clerk (together these sums equal £10 6s 8d sterling), the advertisement proceeds—"A person advanced in life, who has no views to the church, can teach English, reading, writing, and arithmetic, with church music, will be preferred, although not qualified to teach Latin!"

In the area of the old church is a table-stone which displays a coat-of-arms, flanked by the initials A. M., and date 1776, having over it a Latin legend, which, translated, reads "By Industry." The inscription is—

Here ly the bodys of Margt. and Willm. Milnes, lawfull children to Alex. Milne, in Drumdowan, who died the 14th and 15th of Sept., 1774. Margaret aged 24, and Willm. 21 years.

Margt. Milne, who died 24th September, 1871, aged 77 years.

Farewell my friends and parents dear,  
I bid you all adieu,  
I ly into this earthen tomb,  
Far distant am from you.  
Don't weep for me for their vain,  
For your great loss  
Is my eternal gain.

A tablestone is inscribed—

The burial place and sacred to the memory of John Ogg, some time in Dundee, and thereafter in Mosstown of Blelack, who died the

8th March, 1804, aged 61; and his wife, Elizabeth Steven, who died 23rd August, 1826, aged 72 years. . . Their son John, surgeon in Banchory, who died 5th November, 1846, aged 54; and his wife, Rachel Roger, daughter of the Rev. John Roger, minister of Kincardine O'Neil, who died 26th October, 1832, aged 27 years, and are buried in this grave.

Dr Ogg had an extensive practice in and around Banchory. His wife was a daughter of Rev. John Roger, for fifty years minister of Kincardine O'Neil, who died 8th July, 1843, in his 81st year. Her elder sister, Helen, married Rev. James G. Garioch, of Strachan, while her eldest brother, William, was a miniature painter.

A headstone has the undernoted inscription—

1845. Erected by John Birss, farmer in Bottomend, in memory of his son Isaac, who died 14th February, 1844, aged 18 years. Also his daughter, Ann, who died at New Zealand on 8th August, 1861, aged 31 years. The said John Birse, who died at Bottomend on 1st March, 1866, aged 85 years, and is interred here. Also Margaret Machray, relict of the late John Birss, who died at Bottomend on 27th June, 1889, aged 96 years.

No mortal woes  
Can reach the peaceful sleeper here,  
While angels watch his soft repose.

A headstone alongside records the death of John Birss on 2nd June, 1894, aged 36, and of Edward William Birss, who died in infancy, both sons of Francis Birss, Boddomend.

A headstone is inscribed—

To the memory of Alexander Alexander, late in Dalquhing, who died 1774 aged 63. And of Peter Gordon, late Waterside of Birsemore, who died 1804, aged 63.

This stone is placed here by Jean Milne their relict.

A tablestone shows a raised figure of the Angel Death standing upon the globe with extended arms, having in the one



hand an hour-glass and in the other a scythe. A skull, coffin, etc., are also displayed. The inscription is—

Here lyes in hops of a Blessed Resurrection the dust of Peter Cromar who lived in Kirk-toun of Aboyn.

He died Oct 13 1770 aged 80 years. . . .

The Poll Book shows that in 1696 there were four persons bearing the surname of Cromar living in Kirktown of Aboyne, and the above Peter Cromar had doubtless been a son of one of them.

Other tombstones record the deaths of George Cromar, farmer, Greencoats, who died in July, 1797, aged 61; of his wife Helen Ogg, who died 6th March, 1815, aged 75; of Peter Cromar, farmer, Bogloch, who died 6th June, 1856, aged 62; and of his wife Isabella Robertson, who died 21st October, 1889, aged 92. Also of James, John, and Ann, children of the latter couple who all died young.

James Cromar, M.A., for many years the distinguished teacher and rector of Aberdeen Grammar School, who died in 1826, belonged to the district.

A tablestone in the area of the old church bears the inscription—

The grave of James Milne, late farmer in Mill of Dess, who died on 7th November, 1830, aged 40. Also his sister Jane, who died 26th May, 1875, aged 84. And their mother, Janet Cromar, who died 22nd June, 1846, aged 93.

The hamlet of Kirktown, which stood near the graveyard and church, never included more than a few straggling cottages of primitive construction, and the rise of the village of Charlestown gradually led to its complete eclipse. In 1696, the residenters in it included one or two crofters and their assistants, as also a weaver and a tailor.

#### CHARLESTOWN OR VILLAGE CHURCH-YARD.

This churchyard stands around the

Parish Church by the end of the village green. It contains a good many monuments, the oldest being a tablestone showing various emblems at the top, and at the bottom the initials E. S. and date 1780. The inscription is—

Here lies the Body of John Shaw who lived in Charlestown of Aboyne 43 years, and Died Jan'y 9, 1779, in the 75 year of his age.

A railed-in grave has a headstone bearing the inscription—

In loving memory of The Rev. A. Henderson Moir, for 28 years the faithful and esteemed Minister of the Free Church, Aboyne, who died 1st March, 1899, aged 54 years. Also of his only child Henrietta Elizabeth who died 29th Oct., 1897, in her 13th year.

Rev. A. H. Moir was the son of John Moir, messenger-at-arms, Aberdeen, and, after completing his divinity course, he acted for a short time as assistant at Birkenhead and Paisley, being inducted as Free Church minister of Aboyne in 1871, in succession to the late Rev. Mr Robertson. He married a sister of Rev. H. E. Michie, Stonehaven, by whom he was survived.

In an enclosure is a headstone bearing the epitaph—

Erected by David Smith, Farmer in Ferrar, to the memory of his eldest son George Gordon Smith, Writer in Aberdeen, who in the 23rd year of his age, was drowned by the upsetting of a boat at the entrance of the Aberdeen Harbour on the 26 of April, 1838.

Two other young men, also in the vigour of health, shared the same fate.

“Be ye also ready, for in the midst of life ye are in death.”

A railed-in grave has a headstone with the inscription—

In memory of William Spark, of Craigiepark, near Aberdeen, who died there on 15th March, 1870, in the 88th year of his age; and of Helen Esson, his wife, who died 27th December, 1868, in her 78th year.

Mr Spark for many years carried on a successful watchmaking and jewellery business in Aberdeen, and at his death left considerable means. Under his deed of settlement he bequeathed his heritable property and one-half of the residue of his moveable estate to his relative, Henry Smith, of Pawlett, near Bridgwater, who died, 15th October, 1904, after having been for upwards of fifty years resident agent of the Somerset estates of Lord De Mauley. The other half he left to his grand-nephew, Thomas Spark Sinclair (he was the son of William Sinclair, druggist, was an advocate in Aberdeen, and died 2nd June, 1906, aged 67), both beneficiaries being taken bound to assume the additional surname of Spark.

A headstone in a railed-in grave is inscribed—

In memoriam—Elizabeth Hill Cook, second daughter of the late Rev. George Cook, D.D., Kincardine O'Neil. Died at Bridge of Allan, 4th December, 1888.

Rev. George Cook was for some time minister of Midmar, being translated to Kincardine O'Neil in May, 1854. He married Agnes, daughter of Rev. Andrew Watson, of Tarland, and sister of Andrew Watson, advocate in Aberdeen, who succeeded to the estate of Ardoe, Banchory-Devenick. Of Dr Cook's family, John was for some time in the service of the Oriental Bank, Calcutta, and was subsequently cashier of the Union Bank of Scotland, Aberdeen; Andrew Watson died on the West Coast of Africa at the age of 18; and of the daughters, besides the one above-mentioned, one married Rev. Alexander Young, minister of Chapel of Garioch; a second married Dr Keith, Aboyne; and a third married Rev. Dr Macpherson, Elgin.

A handsome granite sarcophagus is inscribed—

In loving memory of John McGlashan, A M Inst. C.E., and of the G.I.P.Ry. in India, who

died at Aboyne on the 23rd day of September anno domini 1884, aged 42 years.

He satisfieth the longing soul.

Mr McGlashan was district resident engineer of the G.I.P. Railway, Bombay, and died when on holiday at Aboyne, as above. His wife, Jane Polson, died in Aberdeen on 1st February, 1907.

A railed-in enclosure has two headstones, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In loving remembrance of Sophia, younger daughter of Colonel Patrick Duncan of Preasmor who fell asleep in Jesus, 18 May, 1899. aged 45 years.

The friend of little children, loving and beloved. She gave her life for others. St John ix. 4.

(2).

In loving memory of Colonel Patrick Duncan, R.A., of Preasmor. Born 18th March, 1827; died 2nd February, 1901.

"Ever with the Lord."

—1st Thess. iv. 17.

Colonel Duncan, who was a native of Braemar, entered the army while young, and saw much service in China. On his retirement, he settled in Aboyne, where he took a deep interest in all religious and philanthropic objects.

A granite headstone has a sun-dial on the top, with an inscription upon the dial—

Man's days are as a shadow that passeth away.

The headstone is inscribed—

In loving remembrance of Robert Milne, for about 60 years gamekeeper to the Marquises of Huntly, who died at Viewmount Cottage on the 15th July, 1888, aged 83 years; also of his wife Elizabeth Irvine, who died on the 20th April, 1888, aged 81 years.

Near the above is another headstone, which bears—

In loving memory of John Milne, for 39 years gamekeeper in Glen Tanor, who there met his death by gunshot accident on the 6th

February, 1882, aged 57 years. Also his wife, Jane Anderson, who died on the 21st June, 1902, aged 81 years.

A granite headstone has the following inscription—

In memory of the Rev. Alexander Watt, 40 years minister of the Free Church of Scotland, in the parish of Kinneff, Kincardineshire. Born, 22nd December, 1822; died 22nd May, 1889.

Rev. Alexander Watt was the son of Alexander Watt, carrier, Aboyne. He married Anne Campbell, daughter of a ship captain in Aberdeen. He was a strong educationalist, and rendered good service on the School Board of Arbuthnott, as well as that of his own parish of Kinneff. As a preacher he had a fluent and attractive style. It is interesting to record that his predecessor in the charge at Kinneff was Dr Thomas Brown, author of "The Annals of the Disruption," while his (Mr Watt's) successor, Dr James Hastings, has become well known in the literary world as the editor of the "Dictionary of the Bible."

#### CHARLESTOWN.

Charlestown, which took its title from Charles, first Earl of Aboyne, is a burgh-of-barony. It is a prosperous and picturesquely-situated village, with many fine villas. In the summer season, it is largely frequented by tourists, who benefit from its salubrious climate. Besides the Parish Church already referred to, it has a Gothic United Free Church, with a graceful spire, and a Roman Catholic Church—St Margaret's.

A massive suspension bridge spans the Dee and connects the Glentanner with the north side of the parish. A bridge at the same point was swept away by the great flood of August, 1829.

The parish has been the birthplace of several eminent men, including Thomas

Innes, Principal of the Scots College at Paris, and the author of various civil, ecclesiastical, and antiquarian works. Peter Williamson, who attained notoriety through being kidnapped at Aberdeen and transported to Virginia, where he was sold as a slave, was a native.

Several of the parishioners espoused the cause of the Pretender, and were out in the '45. Of these, probably the most influential was James Innes of Balnacraig, who served in the "Rebel Life Guards." After Culloden, a party of soldiers took possession of the mansion-house, and proceeded with the arrangements for firing it. Combustibles having been gathered, the light was about to be applied, when one of the soldiers thrust his head into a jar of honey. His efforts to remove it were unavailing, and his predicament caused much amusement to the whole party. Ultimately, the luckless soldier was relieved by the breaking off of part of the mouth of the jar. During the merriment, a counter order to save the building arrived. It is almost superfluous to add that the broken honey jar was carefully preserved by the family as a reminder of their narrow escape.

#### OLD CUSTOMS.

From Rev. Robert Milne Miller's exhaustive account of the parish, in the New Statistical Account, the following particulars are extracted to show the difference between the methods of farming, together with the habits of the people of a little more than a century ago and now. In 1792 the fields were regularly checkered by baulk and rig. Drill husbandry and green crops not to be seen, save in a few rare patches of grass or turnips in some of the farmers' kailyards. The breed of cattle light, and of an inferior stamp; the horses Highland garrons; the sheep small in



carcase and scanty in wool. The houses of simple structure, lums for chimneys, and wooden boards for windows. Cur-rocks and creels and litter trees supplied the place of carts; and hair and moss fir tethers, or willow and birch withes, were substitutes for hempen ropes. The quern or hand grinding stone was partially used. Clumsy and ill-constructed ploughs were drawn by ten or twelve oxen, and the gad-man's whistle, in autumn and spring, heard on every side. The roads were wretched; and the nearest Post Office and bakehouse at Aberdeen. Many young men appeared in kilt, hose, and brogues; and all, old and young, at church and market, with breacan and bonnet. The women, too, were dressed mostly in home-made stuffs, and gudewives adorned with the barred plaid. From seed time to harvest many of the men were employed in the manufacture of tubs, harrows, plough-beams, etc., which they carried to markets. In summer, the women were employed in spinning the wool of their sheep.

#### ANTIQUITIES, ETC.

On the hill of Mortlich, which rises to a height of 1248 feet above sea level, and is the highest point in the parish on the north side of the Dee, a granite obelisk, with a cross, was erected in 1868 to the memory of Charles, 10th Marquis of Huntly, by his second wife (Mary Antoinetta, only surviving daughter of Rev. Peter William Pegus and of his wife, the Countess-Dowager of Lindsay), and the tenantry of Aboyne. The monument, which extends to a height of 60 feet, is inscribed—

Charles, 10th Marquis of Huntly; died 18th September, 1863. Erected by Mary Antoinetta, his widow, and the tenantry of Aboyne.

These were the parents of the present Marquis of Huntly.

Besides the sculptured stone in the policies of Aboyne Castle already described, there is a second sculptured stone, which was carried hence from an eminence on the banks of Loch Kinnord. It is an upright cross slab of pink granite, and fully six feet in height. It bears on one side a large cross, with beautiful ornamentation.

From time to time various articles of ancient date have been discovered within the parish. Of these, not the least interesting are three massive armlets of bronze, which were unearthed while ploughing operations were proceeding in ground which had the appearance of having never been broken up. As a result of careful examination and chemical analysis by experts, they were pronounced to belong to the period anterior to the Roman occupation of Britain.

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## Glentanner

(OR GLEN TANA).

According to the author of the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen," the name "Glentaner" is so applied "because it is a valley along Tanager, which here falls into Dee." It ought to have been added that the word Tana (Tanager or Tanner is a corruption) is pure Gaelic, and signifies shallow as applied to water. It accurately describes the stream flowing through the glen, in contrast to the deep and rapid flowing river Dee, into which it falls.

The greater portion of the parish was originally a forest, which attained fame not only for game, but for its superior Scotch fir trees.

An excellent public road passes along the north side near to the Dee, while an old military road led to the south through the glen. This road is alleged to have been



traversed by Edward I. with an army in his abortive attempt to conquer Scotland, and it is known that Montrose passed over it in 1645.

The lands of "Glentanyr," with those of Aboyne, etc., were bestowed upon the Earl of Huntly by grant on 29th January, 1449-50.

#### PARISH CHURCH AND ITS MINISTERS.

The old Parish Church stood within the graveyard near the Dee, and to the east of the farm of Cobleheugh. It was thatched with heather, and, in consequence, became known as the Black Chapel of the Moor. All that now remains is the west gable, with its corbel steps, the whole being overgrown by ivy.

For some time after the Reformation, the seven churches of Glentanner, Crathy, Glenmuk, Abergardin, Birss, Tullich, and Oboyne were all under the superintendence of one minister. In 1567, John Ross was reader at Glentanner with a salary of 16 lib. His successor was Henry Middleton, who, in 1576, was followed by James Cushny. Two years later, John Guthrie was installed, but in the following year he gave place to Gilbert Brown. In 1615-19, William Bruce was reader, and his name is perpetuated through his having been an attesting witness to many of the Aboyne charters.

In 1621, the right of presentation to the kirk was, with other privileges, bestowed by Parliament upon the family of Forbes of Craigievar. (Acts Parliament.)

It is apparent that the district was formerly unable to support a minister, and this doubtless led to the parish being suppressed and united to Aboyne. As early as 1666, practical steps were taken to bring about the union, inasmuch as representatives were elected from the Presbyteries of Kincardine O'Neil, Alford, and Garioch, to visit and perambulate the boundaries of

both kirks, to confer with the heritors and others interested, and to report upon the whole question. As a result, the union was shortly afterwards formed, but down to 1763 service continued to be conducted in both churches, in the rotation of two Sabbaths at Aboyne, and the third at Glentanner. In that year, however, a new central church for the accommodation of the united parish was built at Charlestown of Aboyne, and this structure sufficed till 1842, when the present church was erected.

#### OLD PARISH GRAVEYARD.

The old parish graveyard, which is enclosed by a substantial stone and lime wall, is comparatively small in extent. It has been partially levelled up, and the height of the surrounding ground above the area of the old church indicates that many interments have taken place.

It is traditionally asserted that, long ago, the plague raged in the district with the utmost violence, but that ultimately, on the special days of Monday and Friday, an abatement began to manifest itself. Out of gratitude, the people abstained from breaking ground for interments in the churchyard on these days. This observance was rigidly adhered to down to recent times.

The tombstones are not numerous, and none are older than the middle of the eighteenth century.

#### FAMILY OF GILLANDERS.

There are several headstones to members of a family named Gillanders, of whom Isaac Gillanders, late farmer, Mill of "Dinot," died 5th May, 1834, aged 68. His widow, Euphemia Milne, died 21st July, 1860, aged 85. Their sons—James died 11th January, 1816, aged 13; Isaac died 13th April, 1848, aged 35; and John died 3rd September, 1858, aged 44; and

their daughter Mary died 4th January, 1874, aged 66.

David Gillanders, farmer, Mill of Dinnet, died 8th August, 1879, aged 70. His sisters—Margaret died 6th June, 1876, aged 70; Elizabeth died 20th December, 1876, aged 73; and Isabella died 26th January, 1900, aged 92.

Francis Gillanders, Lary, died 8th November, 1853, aged 82. His wife, Isabel Ross, died 6th February, 1844, aged 37. . .

Jane Tawse, wife of James Gillanders, son of the preceding couple, died 14th June, 1889, aged 56; and their daughters, Jane died 28th April, 1891, aged 36; Mary died 21st November, 1870, aged 9; and Isabel died 13th July, 1862, aged 10 months.

David Gillanders, some time farmer in Lary, died 26th September, 1888, aged 78; and his spouse, Isabella Wright, died in September, 1841, aged 42. His spouse, Ann M'Kenzie, died 5th July, 1877, aged 56; and their sons Charles died 26th July, 1868, aged 1; James died 12th July, 1868, aged 14; and David Gillanders, jun., farmer, Lary, died 23rd May, 1888, aged 34; and Mary died 30th April, 1896, aged 39.

According to the author of the "New Statistical Account," a member of the above family was the eighteenth successive eldest son who had been born on the same farm. The statement must be taken, however, with considerable reservation.

#### BYRON'S "MARY."

A grey granite obelisk in the form of a cross — with the sacred monogram "I. H. S." cut in the centre of the cross — has the following inscription on the base—

Sacred to the memory of James Robertson, who departed this life on the 4th day of April, 1814, aged 71 years; and of Helen Macdonald, his spouse, who died on the 11th day of August, 1813, aged 60 years.

Also of Mary Robertson, their daughter, widow of Kenneth Stewart, who died at Aberdeen on 2nd March, 1867, aged 85 years.

James Robertson was tenant of the farm of Ballaterach, and his wife, Helen Macdonald, was the daughter of Captain Macdonald of Rinetan, who claimed to be a descendant of the Lord of the Isles. Of their large family, three sons entered the Honourable East India Company's service, and rose to the rank of colonel, while two other sons were educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood. Kenneth Stewart, who married the second daughter, Mary, was an Excise officer, for some time stationed at Crathie.

Ballaterach has been rendered famous through its having been, for a brief period, in 1796, the abode of the poet Byron, whilst recruiting from an attack of scarlet fever. From here he made the daily excursions so graphically depicted in his poem. "When I roved a young Highlander." The heroine of that piece is held by many to be the above Mary Robertson (some declare in favour of Mary Duff), who would at that time have been fourteen years of age. An excellent summary of the authorities bearing upon the question is given by Mr Robert Anderson in "Scottish Notes and Queries" for December, 1892. The New Spalding Club's volume, "The Records of Invercauld," pp. 389-95, and "The Letters of Lord Byron," by Rowland E. Prothero, in Murray's latest edition of the Poems, also afford information upon the subject.

Unfortunately, the panelled "Box-bed" in which Byron is said to have slept when at Ballaterach, was destroyed by fire nearly forty years ago.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A tablestone formerly stood upon two ornamental supports, on one of which were the initials, "M. M. F.," and on the other

a scroll, etc., with a warning in Latin, which, translated, is "Remember death!" The tablestone is inscribed—

This stone was placed here by Murdoch M'Farlane, schoolmaster in Tillycairn, and is sacred to the memory of six of his children, who are interred in this place. . . .

And also in memory of James M'Farlane and Isabel Bowman, his parents, who both died in 1764, aged 82 years each.

Unmarked by trophies of the great and vain,  
Here sleep in silent tomb a humble twain;  
With honest fame and sober plenty crown'd,  
They lived content, beloved of all around.  
May he who thus this pious tribute pays,  
Receive a like return of filial praise.

1793.

In early times a hamlet stood at Tillycairn, and the names of seven of its tenants, with two servants, are recorded in the Poll Book of 1696.

A headstone bears the following inscription—

Erected by John Birss, farmer, Tilphoudie, in memory of his wife, Isabella Begg, who died 26th December, 1852, aged 63 years. And of their family, James, who died 5th September, 1830, aged 10 years; Helen, who died 2nd June, 1853, aged 28 years; and William, who died 26th August, 1857, aged 32 years. Also Jessie, who died 4th September, 1860, aged 29 years. Margaret, who died 14th May, 1864, aged 30 years. The said John Birss, who died at Tilphoudie, Aboyne, 7th April, 1866, aged 82 years, and is interred here.

Tilphoudie had formerly a mansion house, which formed the residence of a branch of the Gordons, previously designed of Auchmenzie and Auchmalidy. John Gordon, the last of the old sept, who died in 1722, sold the lands to the Earl of Aboyne. It is alleged that when a mere boy an effort was made to inveigle him into a marriage with a penniless lady of fifty summers. He escaped from the snare, only, however, to be wedded to his cousin at the early age of 15. Full particulars respecting the family will be found in

the New Spalding Club's volume, "The Records of Aboyne," by Lord Huntly.

A tombstone bears the inscription—

1824. Erected to the memory of Margrate Sim, spouse, to John Cumming, Upper Bellastrain, who died the 5th day of March, 1824, aged 63 years.

Bellastrain or Bellastrain was formerly a small lairdship, and belonged to the family of Garden. James Garden was proprietor in 1696, when he polled as "a gentleman," and he was succeeded by his son Charles, who died in 1761, at the age of 90. They were related to the Gardens of Troup and the Gardens of Midstrath.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

Here lye the remains of Robert Davidson, late farmer in the Bordland, who departed this life on the 27th October, 1810, aged 73 years. Also his spouse, Jt. Davidson, who died 19th Octr., 1819, aged 82 years.

In testimony of filial affection to his memory, this stone is placed here by his son, Peter Davidson, who died 19th November, 1846, aged 78. Also his spouse, Elizabeth Birss, who died 22nd March, 1843, aged 58.

Remember, man, as you pass bye,  
As you are now, so once was I,  
As I am now, so you must be,  
Remember, man, to follow me.

A headstone bears—

In memory of William Birss, for many years farmer in Tillycairn of Glentanner, who died 3rd August, 1821, aged 81 years; and of his spouse, Jane Ross, who died 12th January, 1819, aged 81 years.

Impressed with Feelings of the Sincerest attachment to much loved Parents, their Son, Charles Birss, erected this Stone to their Memory.

And his brother Francis, died at Balgranie, 30th May, 1858, aged 79. His wife, Margret M'Grigar, died 29th January, 1852, aged 50. Their daughter Elezabeth, died 24th August, 1846, aged 28.

Members of the Birss family tenanted



Tillycairn for a long period. John Birss was the occupant in 1696.

A grey granite stone fixed into the inner side of the old church gable is inscribed—

In memory of William Duncan, for many years farmer in Deecastle, who died at Water-naldy on the 29th December, 1868, aged 80 years, and of Margaret Thomson, his beloved wife, who died on the 4th March, 1864, aged 75 years.

And also of their son William, who died on the 11th January, 1860, aged 36 years.

And their eldest son Jonathan Duncan for 50 years farmer in Deecastle, died 1st January 1905, aged 83 years.

And his wife Ann Troup died 24 Jan., 1897, aged 74 years.

And their children—Annie died 23 Mar. 1863 aged 7 years, and John who died in infancy.

Jonathan Duncan had an intimate knowledge of the ancient history of the district and of its numerous changes. He was survived by a son, William, who continues the tenancy of Deecastle, and two daughters, one of whom is Mrs David Dewar, Cults.

Deecastle stands about two miles south-west of Dinnet Bridge, and is the modern name for Candecaill or Kandychyle. Here formerly stood a hunting seat of the Huntly family, in which it is alleged the first Duke of Gordon was born.

An old ballad records the regret expressed to a waiting maid by one of the ladies of the castle at having been induced to marry a heartless English lord and to take up her residence south of the Tweed. Love for her old home and its beauties finds expression in the two following verses—

We'l up the muir o' Charlestown,  
An' ouer the water o' Dee:  
An' sine awa' to Kyan-na-kyl,  
It's there that we sud be.

For there the bonnie, bonnie birks  
Wave i' the scented air,  
An' mingle wi' the elder trees,  
An' their blossoms white an' fair.

The late Mr Michie (Loch Kinnord, p. 86) records that on the night of 23rd March, 1641, when "Kandychyle" was occupied by Colonel Gardyne and a small force of soldiers to repress the caterans who had been doing mischief in the district, a sudden fire broke out, which completely destroyed the building and its contents.

It is believed by many that the fire was wilfully raised.

A grey granite obelisk is inscribed—

In memory of Alexander Ritchie, merchant, Deecastle, who died at Tillenturk, 25th November, 1887, aged 89 years. Also his wife, Jane Calder, who died 6th August, 1858, aged 55 years; and their family, John, who died at Arbroath, 24th February, 1864, aged 39 years; Archibald, who died 26th August, 1877, aged 41 years; Jonathan, who died in India, 23rd July, 1884, aged 43 years.

#### ST LESMO'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In the "Kalendar of Scottish Saints," by Bishop Forbes, appears the name of Lesmo, a hermit who laboured in Glentanner. The word "Lesmo" signifies light in the desert, and the hermit is credited by ancient Scottish ecclesiastical writers with having introduced Christianity into the district. He died in the year A.D. 731, and was canonised, his feast day being observed on 9th December.

In early times a military fortress stood in the glen, but on its falling into decay, its stones were utilised in the erection of a dwelling-house for William Garden, laird of Bellamore and Braeline. The hand of time ultimately levelled even that building, until all that remained intact was the arched gateway.

In 1870-71, William Cunliffe Brooks (afterwards Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart.), tenant of Glentanner, had the stones of the above building carefully collected, and with them had a private chapel



erected, incorporating in it the ancient gateway referred to. It was consecrated by the late Bishop Suther to the memory of St Lesmo. Externally, the edifice is plain and covered by thatch, while internally the pews are rustic and covered with deer skins. Antlers (with the skulls) are used for the adornment of the upper walls, and in the roof are shown a number of coloured bosses, illustrative of the stars in the firmament. The edifice is furnished with a beautiful altar and pulpit, and a special feature is the baptismal font, constructed of a mass of porphyry found in the district, and most skilfully fashioned.

The bell bears to have been cast by J. Warner and Sons, London, while on its stock is the inscription—

† S. Lesmo.

Near the church is St Lesmo's Well, at which is the inscription—

Drink, weary Pilgrim, Drink and Pray.

Around the church is a small graveyard, in which several interments have taken place. There are only six inscribed monuments.

#### SIR WILLIAM CUNLIFFE BROOKS, BART.

Close to the church door is a large railed-in space, in which is a massive raised granite kerbing, with a cross at one end. On the upper side of the kerb a harp is shown with some of the strings broken. Underneath in large letters is the inscription—

In loving memory of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart. Born, 30th September, 1819; died 9th June, 1900.

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest.  
—Ps. iv. 9.

Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart. (the baronetcy was conferred in 1886), who was descended from an old family of Lancashire yeomen, was educated at Rugby under Dr Arnold, and subsequently at

Cambridge. He was admitted to the Inner Temple, but soon gave up the legal profession in favour of the family business of banker, which he largely extended. He was twice married—first, to Jane Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Orrell, of Stockport, who died in 1865; and, secondly, in 1879, to Jane, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir David Davidson, K.C.B., by whom he is survived. Of issue by the first marriage, two daughters survive—namely, Amy, who is married to the present Marquis of Huntly; and Edith, married to Lord Francis Cecil, second son of the Marquis of Exeter. He was for some time M.P. for East Cheshire before sitting for the Altrincham division of the county. He became tenant of Glentanner in 1869, from which time till his death he followed a generous and varied system of improvement. No better monument to his memory could be seen than the many handsome cottages and villas erected for his servants, and the renewal of the various farm houses and steadings. In the language of a contemporary, he has left the glen a smiling valley, clothed in peace and plenty, with double the population. His moveable estate was very large, while he owned landed property in England, the lands and forest of Glentanner, and the Aboyne Castle estate—the three last-mentioned being previously portions of the extensive possessions of the Marquis of Huntly.

From the trustees of Sir William, the estate—extending to nearly 30,000 acres—was purchased in 1905 by Mr George Coats, who is married to a daughter of Mr Black, one of Scotland's most successful publishers.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A large rough stone in the wall is chiselled down on the inner side. At the

upper left side a cross is shown, while underneath is the inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Donald Mackintosh, deer stalker (none better), who departed this life the 30th day of May, 1876, and of Margaret, his wife, who, within a week, was also buried here.

† Requiescant in pace.

A huge boulder stone, upwards of six feet in height stands at the foot of this grave.

The next inscription, taken from a white marble tablet fixed in a wall monument, refers to a child of the above couple—

In memory of Theresa. Born April 8th, 1874; died 19th of same month, daughter of Donald Mackintosh and Margaret Burton, his wife.

Ere sin could blight or sorrow fade,  
Death came with friendly care,  
The opening bud to Heaven conveyed,  
And bade it blossom there.

In a small enclosure is a granite cross showing the sacred letters "I. H. S.," and the inscription on the base—

Erected by Charles and Jane Ewen in memory of their children Edith Mary, who died December 15th, 1888, aged 7 months. Also William Cunliffe Brooks, who died December 24th, 1891, aged 5 months.

A granite monument, covering the whole grave space, has the following brief inscription—

William Thomas Berry. Died 16th April, 1893, aged 29 years.

Faithful servant.

#### WELLS AND WATER-TROUGHS.

Under the liberal policy followed by Sir William a large number of wells and water-troughs have been constructed at convenient points. Many of these display excellent artistic taste, while appropriate mottoes and quotations are inscribed.

Amongst others, the following may be mentioned—

(1).

Drink, weary traveller, on thy way,  
And on thy journey fare;  
'Tis given by God Almighty's hand,  
And stored by human care.

(2).

From earth I flow,  
Seaward I go,  
Refreshing the world on my way;  
My duty done,  
My guerdon won,  
I rise on celestial ray.

(3).

Men may come and men may go,  
But I go on for ever.

(4).

Honest water never left man in the mire.

Perhaps the most handsome fountain is that by the side of the public road and close to the Public School, erected in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. It is constructed of dressed granite, having the water-trough in the centre with a high rounded background. In the centre of a massive moulding, a crown is neatly cut, while on either side are the inscriptions—

(1).

Shape thyself for use.  
The stone that may fit in the wall  
Is left not in the way.

(2).

Then may Fate thy measure take,  
And say I find thee worthy,  
Do this deed for me.

Underneath is the principal inscription, thus—

Victoria, Queen and Empress, has reigned for 60 years, a bright and shining light to her people, who everywhere record loyalty to her and gratitude to God.

1837 — 1897.

At Bridge of Ash or Ess, where the glen is entered from the public road, is a well,

on the granite supports of which is the inscription—

Well of Welcome.

At Bridge of Tanner is another well, holding forth the old Highland welcome—

Cead Mille Failte.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Urns and calcined bones have at various times been unearthed throughout the district. At Cairnmore, near Hillhead, in 1818, human bones and a pin, with a small gold chain of four links, were found. Ten years later, several urns containing ashes were discovered, while about 50 yards distant the soil presented a dark appearance with small pieces of charcoal embedded in it, where probably the burning of the bodies had taken place preparatory to the calcined remains being placed in the urns. These and other discoveries give proof that the district had been peopled at a very early period. The ready facilities afforded for hunting and fishing had doubtless proved important attractions.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The parishioners were not always the peaceful and law-abiding subjects they now are. In July, 1593, a number of disorderly natives, in concert with a roving band from Birse, made a descent upon Aberdeen and district, murdering and maltreating many of those who opposed them. After securing a considerable quantity of spoil, they retreated to their old haunts. In the earlier part of the last century they were noted smugglers, it being recorded that as many as fourteen illicit stills were at work in the glen at one time.

In 1715 the forest was utilised by the Earl of Mar as a rendezvous for the assembling of the Highland host preparatory to moving to Braemar.

## Belhelvie.

The name Belhelvie is held by many to be of Gaelic origin, and to signify the place of seven streams, in reference to the fact that seven rivulets bound or pass through the parish.

The church was one of the fifty-eight Scottish sanctuaries which were dedicated to St Colm, or Columba, whose feast was observed upon 9th June, and whose name is perpetuated by St Colm's Well, which is close to the graveyard. It is believed that at a very early date there had also been a chapel dedicated to St Ternan, as, in 1305, complaint was made to Edward I. that "Balhelvi possessed in King Alexander's time a piece of land called 'St Ternan's land,' lying between St Ternan's Chapel and the sea on the north, which was leased to the Thane of Balhelvie by the parson of Lony, after whose decease the land was . . . taken by force from the church in the time of the war." Inquiry was ordered to be made. (Cal. of Documents relating to Scotland, II., p. 468.) It is possible that this was one of the three chapels which are known to have stood at Milden, Ardo, and Muirton respectively. A field at each of the two first-named is still known as Chapelpark.

"Ecclesiam de Balhelvy" is included in the Bull of 1157, by Adrian IV. to Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen (Antiq., I., p. 144-5), and in 1256 the parson was raised to the dignity of a prebend of the Cathedral Church of Aberdeen.

Orem (p. 118), in describing the chapter and the manses in Old Aberdeen, says—"No. 6 was the parson of Belhelvie. His manse is in a great house, opposite to the public style of St Machar's Church and built by George Seton, parson of Belhelvie, witness his name, armorial coat, three roses and a crescent; and, for his crest, a car-



dinal's cap with its tresses, yet (1724-25) to be seen." In 1685, this manse was granted to the Duke of Gordon. (Acts of Parliament.)

The old parish church stood within the graveyard on the lower side of the public road leading from Aberdeen to Peterhead. Describing it, Logan in his MS. says—

The kirk . . . is built east and west, with an aisle on the south side, which makes the plan nearly three equal wings. On the jambs of the aisle windows are slight mouldings, but the building is otherwise plain. . . . Mr Ragg, who was minister . . . [1745-1786] . . . had the west end taken down and rebuilt, before which time there was a stone stair outside that led to the gallery. His name, with the date of erection, are cut on the bell house, but they are illegible from the ground.

Of the edifice thus described all that now remain are a small portion of the aisle, and the west gable which is covered by ivy. Surmounting the latter is the belfry, on which still hangs the old bell, which was cast by the same founder, and in the same year, as that of the bell of Strichen. It has an inscription which is partly in Latin. In English it is—

Henrick Ter Horst made me at Deventer in 1633.

Belonging to the church are four Communion cups, of solid silver, hammered. Two are inscribed—

For ye Kirk of Belhelvy. Anno Domini, 1636.

The other two bear the inscription—

1637. Dedicat be M. Da Lyndsay. For ye use of ye Lord's Supper.

There are also two pewter plates marked "Belhelvie," which are now used only upon Communion Sundays to receive the offerings.

At the Reformation the parish was included in the Presbytery of Aberdeen. In 1645, it was attached to the Presbytery of Ellon, but twenty-three years later it was reunited to Aberdeen, in which it still is.

A new parish church was erected at Drumhead in 1878 at a cost of £3150. It is of Gothic design, and is surmounted by a belfry rising to about 70 feet.

#### MINISTERS.

Rev. James Strachan was parish minister at the Reformation, and was the last Roman Catholic incumbent to hold that office. In 1559, he was entrusted with the custody of ninety-one ounces weight of the utensils of the Cathedral of Aberdeen. (Orem, p. 172.)

In 1567, the parish was supplied by Gilbert Kello, reader, whose salary was xx. lib.

In 1570, Rev. George Paterson, previously a Regent in King's College, became minister, having Kintore and Kinellar likewise in charge. Three years later he was translated to the parish of Daviot, where he is said to have played the part of a small bishop for more than 20 years.

In 1576, Rev. Patrick Gardyne was elected. He continued till his death, which took place in July, 1614. (New Spalding Club's Sheriff Court Records, II., p. 70.)

The next incumbent was Rev. David Lindsay, M.A., who was Rector of King's College at least from 1645 to 1650. He is described by Dr Scott [Fasti] as one of the most active and energetic in the cause of the Covenanters, who yet continued under Episcopacy. He died 25th November, 1667, aged about 84. He was a bold, stirring, pragmatist man, and a pious and zealous preacher. He married Margaret Annand (Sheriff Court Records), and had, with two daughters—Elizabeth and Helen—a son, John, who was designed in 1672 as of Easter Tyrie. (Session Records.) He was the author of several publications in prose and verse, including "Scotlandis Halleluiahs," "A Dolorous Expression," "An Eclog," and "The



Convert's Cordial." In 1637, he presented the two Communion cups already referred to.

The succeeding minister was Rev. George Innes, M.A., who at an earlier period had been parish schoolmaster, thereafter minister of Dipple, and subsequently of Kinnernie, from which he was translated to Belhelvie and inducted on 8th March, 1668. He received the degree of D.D. He died in 1697. A son, George, died in September, 1710, and a daughter, Anna, in 1701. (Edinburgh Registers.)

Rev. Alexander Mitchell, M.A., governor to Charles Maitland, younger of Pittrichie, was ordained successor on 28th February, 1699. He was translated to Old Machar, and inducted there on 31st August, 1714. The Edinburgh registers show that on 18th July, 1699, he married Jean, daughter of Thomas Innes, local factor to the Earl of Panmure, and that they had a family of at least three sons, Thomas, John, and Alexander, besides a daughter, Margaret. In 1708, he became proprietor of North Colpnay, to which his son Alexander, merchant in Aberdeen, who married Ann, daughter of Rev. William Osborne, minister of Fintray, ultimately succeeded.

Rev. James Keith intruded during the Rebellion of 1715, but is not noticed by Scott.

On 14th March, 1716, Rev. William Dyce, M.A., younger brother of James Dyce of Disblair, and a son of Andrew Dyce, merchant, Old Aberdeen, was ordained. He died 23rd July, 1724, aged 35. He had married Katharine, daughter of Rev. David Anderson, Professor of Divinity in King's College, and previously parish minister of Foveran. (See Foveran.) She died in 1773, having had a son, Andrew, and two daughters, Katharine and Janet. The last-named married William Forbes, coppersmith,

Aberdeen, progenitor of the Forbeses of Callander and Castleton.

On 22nd July, 1725, Rev. David Brown, M.A., previously minister of Peterhead, was inducted. He married the Hon. Isabella, fourth and youngest daughter of William, eleventh Lord Saltoun. He was deposed for adultery on 18th October, 1744. Of the four children of the marriage, one daughter, Margaret, married Alexander Scroggs, merchant, Aberdeen. Elizabeth, sister of Mr Brown, was the second wife of George Fordyce of Broadford, merchant, and for some time Provost of Aberdeen.

The succeeding incumbent, Rev. Thomas Ragg, M.A., previously minister of Dyce, was admitted 5th June, 1745. He had a previous acquaintance with Belhelvie, as its sometime schoolmaster. He married Ann Black, and they had a family of two sons and a daughter—John, Andrew, and Isobel. Mr Ragg died 14th January, 1766, and his wife survived till 10th August, 1786.

The two following ministers are commemorated by a massive tablestone within an enclosure. The end supports are inscribed respectively—

(1).

H. M. P.

G. E. M. R.

A

M D C C C X L I V.

(2).

Interred here James Forsyth, minister of the parish, and his wife Isabella Syme. Also their children Alexander John, Walter, Elizabeth, Barbara, and Mary Margaret, wife of The Rev. Robert Scott.

The tablestone itself bears—

In memory of The Rev. Alexander John Forsyth, LL.D., for fifty-two years minister of this parish. He was born 28th December, 1768, and died 11th June, 1843.

Rev. James Forsyth, M.A., who was a

native of Clatt, was ordained to Belhelvie 24th September, 1766, and died suddenly on 1st December, 1790. He married, 30th April, 1767, Isabella, youngest daughter of Rev. Walter Syme, minister of Tullynessle (see Tullynessle), and the names of all their children are recorded in the above inscription. The youngest daughter, Mary Margaret, married Rev. Robert Scott, minister of Glenbucket. (See Glenbucket.)

Rev. Alexander John Forsyth, M.A., was the elder son of the preceding, and was ordained 24th August, 1791. For the long period of fifty-two years he discharged, with marked ability and assiduity, the ministerial duties of the parish. He had a profound knowledge of chemistry, and rendered considerable service to the Government in the manufacture of gunpowder. His crowning success, however, was the discovery, about 1805, of the percussion cap. In 1807, he laid the details of his discovery before Government, and by request gave practical illustrations in the Tower of London of the advantages of the invention. Instead of receiving the reward which the valuable discovery merited, he was kept hanging on in London till ordered by the Ordnance Department to "remove his rubbish"—"a brutal order which was at once complied with." After a lapse of many years, the Government agreed to make some acknowledgment, but, before the first instalment arrived, the clever and inventive brain had gone to sleep. He received the degree of LL.D. from King's College in 1834. It may be added that the anvil on which he spent so many happy hours is still in the parish in the hands of Messrs A. and R. Rae, builders, Balmedie.

The succeeding minister has, within an enclosure, a massive monument to his

memory in the form of a cross, which is inscribed—

(1).

This monument is erected by the Parishioners of Belhelvie to the memory of The Rev. William Thomson, M.A., for 44 years minister of the parish.

Born 15. June 1815.

Died 11. Oct. 1887.

(2).

Jane Macnaughton, wife of the said Rev. William Thomson, died 6th June, 1879, aged 62 years. Their sons James H. Rose, died 7th May, 1875, aged 12 years. William, died 23 January, 1889, aged 41 years.

Rev. William Thomson was a native of Woodside, his father being connected with Grandholm Mills. He was for a time tutor in the family of Rev. Mr Grant, Nairn, and had under his tuition James Augustus Grant, afterwards well known as Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Grant, C.B. He was at an after date a teacher in Gordon's Hospital, and thereafter parish schoolmaster of Dyce and Belhelvie respectively. Being ordained minister of the parish, he fulfilled the duties with much acceptance and credit. Among his thirteen children were George, medical practitioner and coroner of Oldham, who died in Germany on 18th October, 1906, aged 62; Alexander, agent for the Town and County Bank (Ltd.), Harbour Branch, Aberdeen, who died on 10th August, 1897, aged 46; Harvey Abernethy, who died at Yokohama on 15th February, 1906, aged 44; Theodore, for some time medical officer of health for the city of Aberdeen, now C.M.G. and one of the medical inspectors to the Local Government Board, London; and Frederic Holland, medical superintendent of Gore Farm Hospital, Darent.

The present incumbent is Rev. Malcolm Tower Sorley, B.D., who was ordained to the charge on 12th April, 1888.

## SCHOOLMASTERS.

Apart from the three parish ministers who had acted as schoolmasters, as already explained, the district has had many excellent teachers. Among others, may be mentioned William Cheyne, who, on 8th November, 1635, was appointed schoolmaster, reader, and session clerk.

On 21st May, 1676, John Gordon, "Mr. of Arts," was appointed, he having obliged himself to furnish a substitute to teach music. (Session Records.)

A tombstone records the death of a succeeding teacher of the same name thus—

John Gordon, Schoolmaster in Belhelvie, died 15th Sept., 1805, aged 87. His spouse Elspet Ritchie died 22nd April, 1784, aged 53. Elizabeth, their daughter, who died 24th April, 1832, aged 74. Annie, their daughter, who died 1st May, 1839, aged 82.

William Gordon, his son, who died 4th April, 1850, aged 89. Also his spouse Elspet Henderson, who died 20th Decr., 1836, aged 58.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Isabella Smith, youngest daughter of William Smith, and Margaret Milne, in Cowhill, and spouse to the Rev. Adam Smith, Schoolmaster of Belhelvie, who died on the 20th July, 1816, in the 19th year of her age.

All you who have a soul to save,  
Extend your views beyond the grave;  
And whilst Salvation is brought nigh,  
To Christ the Friend of sinners fly.

Rev. Adam Smith was teacher for only a brief period, having, in 1819, been appointed assistant minister at New Deer, and on 26th June, 1823, ordained minister of the parish of Towie.

A railed-in headstone has the under-noted inscription—

This stone is erected by friends as a mark of esteem to the memory of The Rev. Francis Hay, 24 years Schoolmaster of Belhelvie, who died 10th April, 1846, aged 58 years. Here also lie

the remains of his infant son Alexander, who died 8th August, 1840, aged 1 year and 9 months. Also his son Francis, who died 6th May, 1863, aged 23 years. Also of his daughter Elizabeth M. S. Hay, who died 2nd April, 1887, aged 45 years.

Abigail Macdonald, wife of The Rev. Francis Hay, who died 11th Oct., 1892, aged 89 years.

Rev. Francis Hay, who was a native of Banff, graduated at King's College on 31st March, 1815. He was held in high regard throughout the parish, as evidenced by the erection of the headstone to his memory.

William Scroggie acted for some time as assistant to Rev. Francis Hay, but he died in early manhood in the summer of 1844.

The veteran teacher, however, was John Jack, son of Peter Jack, Loumay. He graduated at King's College in March, 1843, and in September, 1844, took office at Belhelvie, where for upwards of forty-eight years he discharged the duties with marked success. He retired on 12th January, 1893, and is now resident in Aberdeen.

## THANAGE OF BELHELVIE.

The ancient Thanage of Belhelvie lay along the sea coast adjacent to that of Fermartyn, and as pointed out by Rev. Dr Temple (Thanage of Fermartyn, p. 618), it corresponded in extent very much with the present parish. Of its early history little authoritative information is available. In 1292, it was farmed by Sir Patrick de Berkelay, who on April of that year paid £12 12s to John de Gildforde, Castellar of Aberdeen. (Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland, II., p. 140.) It is also recorded that the rents of the lands, with others, were assigned in security for payment of the dowry which Eric, King of Norway, had on Scotland, through his marriage with the Princess Margaret, daughter of Alexander III.



Walter Berkelay, who was probably a son of the above Sir Patrick de Berkelay, secured a Crown charter to the Thanage from King Robert the Bruce. The same King confirmed to Hugh de Berkelay and to Elene, his spouse, the Thanage, with the office of serjant, also the can of the church lands of Balhelvy, extending to forty-pound land and rent as a free barony. (*Antiq.*, I., p. 287.) A forty-pound land equalled 2080 acres Scotch, and this confirmation is particularly interesting as showing how wealthy the church of Belhelvie would now have been had it been permitted to retain its early possessions.

About 1340, Sir William de Fodringley had a grant to the same lands from David II., and in 1379 Alexander Stewart, Lord of Badenoch, son of Robert II., had a Crown charter to them.

In 1400, John Fraser of Forglen was proprietor, and within a century thereafter Lord Glamis was in possession. In 1596, Patrick, Lord Glamis, was served heir of Patrick, Earl of Kinghorn, Lord Lyon and Glamis, in the same lands and barony, with others. (*Retours.*) They remained in the possession of the Glamis and Kinghorn family till purchased by Patrick Maule of Panmure, who, in 1646, was raised to the peerage under the title of Earl of Panmure with the secondary title of Baron Maule of Brechin and Navar, the latter being given from the lordship of that name which he had acquired, through purchase, from the Earl of Mar. He was a warm adherent of the cause of Charles I., and was fined in a heavy sum by Cromwell. He died on 22nd December, 1661.

The ownership of the lands continued in the Panmure family till the time of James, the fourth earl, who, from the prominent part he took in the rising of 1715, was attainted, with forfeiture of all his ex-

tensive estates. (*Registrum de Panmure*, etc.)

The Panmure estates, including the lands and barony of Belhelvie, were purchased by the York Buildings Company for £60,400, which was under twenty years' purchase of the rental. The company afterwards became embarrassed, and in 1782 the Belhelvie lands were sold in sixteen different portions, the particulars of several of which follow under separate headings.

About 1780, Hary Lumsden, advocate, Aberdeen, purchased the portion which bore the title of "Belhelvie." He married Catherine, daughter of Hugh M'Veagh, manufacturer, Huntly, and died on 20th February, 1833, in his 80th year, survived by his wife, who died on 11th March, 1843, aged 87. Of their five sons, Hugh—who was an advocate, and for some time Sheriff-Depute of Sutherlandshire—became laird of Pitcaple; Henry became proprietor of Tilwhilly, and afterwards of Auchindoir and Clova; Clements was a Writer to the Signet and an advocate in Aberdeen; and William James became laird of Balmedie.

Mr Lumsden was succeeded in the property of Belhelvie by his third son, Thomas, who entered the army, saw much service in India, attained the rank of colonel, and had the Order of C.B. conferred upon him. He and his wife and daughter are commemorated by a monument within an enclosure in the parish graveyard—

Sacred to the memory of Hay, daughter of Peter Burnet of Elrick, and wife of Colonel Thomas Lumsden, C.B., of Belhelvie, who died at Belhelvie Lodge, October 11, 1873, aged 74.

Clementina Jane Lumsden died 8th November, 1895.

On the reverse side—

Sacred to the memory of Colonel Thomas Lumsden, C.B., of Belhelvie, who died at Belhelvie Lodge, December 8, 1874, aged 85.



Of the family of Colonel Lumsden, two sons attained high rank. Of these, Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Burnett Lumsden, of the Guides, is commemorated by a cross within the same enclosure, which bears the inscription—

To the dear memory of Lt.-General Sir Harry B. Lumsden, K.C.S.L., C.B. Born 12th November, 1821; died at Belhelvie Lodge, 12th August, 1896.

The other son referred to is Sir Peter Stark Lumsden, G.C.B., C.S.I., who is now retired, and is resident at his estate of Buchromb, near Dufftown. Both distinguished themselves in connection with the Indian Mutiny and in political missions to Kandahar and Afghanistan.

The eldest sister of these officers—Helen Garden—married Rev. James Johnstone, minister of the United Free Church, Belhelvie, and died 15th September, 1903.

BALMEDIE.

In 1784, Dr Arthur Dingwall Fordyce of Culsh purchased from the York Buildings Company the lands of Balmedie, along with those of Eggie. After his death in 1834, the properties were sold to William James Lumsden, fourth son of Harry Lumsden, advocate, Aberdeen, who had acquired a fortune in the Bombay Civil Service, in which for a time he had acted as a judge. He also purchased the properties of Newtyle in Foveran, Balhargie in Monquhitter, and Courtestown or Johnston in Leslie. He married—(1) Margaret, daughter of Viscount Arbuthnott, who died 4th March, 1845; (2) Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Matthew Thompson, J.P., D.L., of Manningham Lodge, Yorkshire, who died at Kensington 15th April, 1863, aged 42; and (3) Williamina Stewart, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel James John Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh. By the second marriage there was a family of two sons and three

daughters. Of these, the second son, George Gordon, died in youth. Of the daughters, Agnes Peile, married Captain Boyle, R.N., and Mary married William Campbell Colquhoun of Clathick, Perthshire. The remaining daughter was Catherine Elizabeth. (Temple's "Thanage," p. 631.) Mr Lumsden died on 14th October, 1875, aged 81.

In a large reserved space within the area of the old church are two white marble crosses to the memory of the succeeding proprietor and that of one of his daughters—

(1).

William Harry Lumsden, Esquire, of Balmedie. Born 6th May, 1852; died 7th February, 1900.

Peace, perfect peace.

(2).

Sybil Kathleen Lumsden. Born 2nd November, 1888. Died 10th February, 1889.

"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

The above William Harry Lumsden succeeded to the various estates on the death of his father on 14th October, 1875. He was highly esteemed, not only by his tenantry for his generosity as a landlord, but by a wide circle of friends in the north-eastern counties for his sterling character and unpretentious manner. On 14th June, 1877, he married Elizabeth Lauderdale, daughter of Colonel Renny Tailyour of Borrowfield, near Montrose, by whom and a family of five sons and one daughter he was survived.

BLAIRTON.

The first proprietor of Blairton of whom record exists was probably John de Boneville, who had charters to the lands (with others) from Robert the Bruce. (Robertson's Index, p. 17.) He was Sheriff of Aberdeen in 1329. (Exchq. Rolls, I., p. 210.) Shortly afterwards, John Fraser of Forglan is named as owner, and subse-

quently Andrew Wood. By the middle of the sixteenth century, the lands had become the property of the incumbent of the parish. (*Antiq.*, I., p. 120.) They were afterwards sold by way of feu, and a family named Gardyn became proprietors. In 1592-3, Thomas Gardyn of Blairton was Commissary Clerk of Aberdeen, at which time security was granted for William Ury of Pitfichie that he and others would not harm Gardyn. (*Privy Council Register*, V., p. 45.) He married Isobel Stewart, and on his death, in February, 1610, was succeeded by their son Robert, whose service included Blairton and the rectory of Belhelvie, etc. (*Retours*.) On 22nd October, 1631, Robert Gardyn, some time Sheriff Depute of Inverness, and heir to Blairton, sold the lands of Loch-hills, with the loch, etc., on the west side of Old Aberdeen, to the masters and members of King's College. (*Fasti Aberdonenses*, p. 144.) Robert Gardyn married Elspet Rutherford, daughter of Alexander Rutherford of Rubislaw.

An ancient monument of very fine workmanship was originally batted to the outer wall of the aisle on the south side of the old church. The aisle is almost wholly removed, but the monument still stands. For nearly a century the ornamentation and lettering have been in a worn condition, rendering the deciphering of the inscription almost a puzzle. By the aid of several old MSS., including those of Logan and Jervise, the following particulars are furnished.

At the top in high relief is a sand-glass held in the middle by extended wings, below which is a scroll with the word, "Irrevocable." Immediately underneath is a shield of arms showing—Argent a fess between three mullets, azure; crest, a primrose proper, and thereupon a bee sucking the same, on an esquire's helmet, with mantling. The motto is in Latin, which

in English reads, "Labour is Sweet." The principal inscription is also in Latin. In English it is—

Mr Alexander Innes of Blairton, a descendant of the ancient family of Innes of Benwell, spent his youth in mercantile pursuits abroad, and in the management of the affairs of certain relatives at home. But being grievously afflicted with calculus, he early retired from the world—devoting himself to a life of piety—and, after a career marked by the highest integrity, uprightness, and prudence, his mortal remains were deposited here in faith and hope by his widow, Agnes Johnstone, the loving wife of a loving husband. He left . . . sons and an only daughter.

This monument was erected to the memory of an excellent and worthy father by his eldest son and heir, Robert Innes.

He died 2nd April, 1679, in his 64th year.

Inscribed scrolls surround the chief inscription, but their worn condition precludes the giving of the translations, and no record of them appears in any volume or MS.

Mr Innes, besides considerable moveable estate, left his widow the life rent of Hopehill, at which, in 1696, she was resident in family with her son, Patrick, who polled "as an gentellman."

The eldest son, Robert, who erected the above monument, was a Writer to the Signet and Lyon Clerk. He traced the descent of the family from the Inneses of Innermarkie and Ardtannes.

Before 1684, Blairton was acquired by James Milne, merchant, burghess of Aberdeen, son of James Milne, also a merchant and burghess of Aberdeen, and of his wife, Elspet Donaldson. Mr Milne, senior, and his wife were both dead before 1st June, 1685, when the laird of Blairton had to make the disappointing communication to the town of Aberdeen that, owing to his mother having "left many more legacies than her moveable estate and fortune did extend to," he was unable to hand over more than 2800 merks Scots money (£155

11s 1d stg.), instead of 4000 merks as bequeathed for behoof of three widows and three orphans within the burgh. (Aberdeen Mortif. Book.) In 1697, Mr Milne was Dean of Guild of the city. He died 19th March, 1712, aged 56. Of his daughters, Janet, married, on 16th February, 1714, Rev. Henry Likly, parish minister of Meldrum; and Margaret, on 8th August, 1716, married Alexander Gordon, Commissary Clerk Depute of Aberdeen.

Subsequently, the estate was in the hands of Alexander Walker, a prominent agriculturist, who farmed Auquhirie, Dunnotar, in which and in Blairton he was succeeded by his son, John, who died in 1812. (Baron Court Book of Urie, pp. 160-1.) The last-named was succeeded by two daughters as heirs portioners, and the estate remained till recently the property of the Walker family. It is now owned by the family of Lumsden of Balmedie.

#### OVERBLAIRTON AND COLPNAY, OR ORROCK.

The lands of Overblairton and Colpnay were adjoining lands in the parish which came to be held by two different branches of the Wood family towards the end of the fifteenth century. Overblairton comprised one part of the lands of Colpnay in contradistinction to the lands of Little Colpnay, owned by the Woods of Fynnersie and Colpnay.

I. Andrew Wod was proprietor of Overblairton in 1487. His name is brought into prominence through his having succeeded, in 1493, in securing a charter from James IV. to the Castlehill of Aberdeen and also the "Stoketwod." This grant led the civic authorities of Aberdeen to take action, with the result that in the following year a decree of Council was passed abrogating the grant to Wod, and declar-

ing the town's claim to be valid. (Antiq., III., 212-14.) This Andrew Wod was the founder of the family of Wood of Balbegno, and on 10th March, 1498-9, he obtained a Crown grant of the lands and thanages of Fettercairn and Aberluthnot, which had been held by him in tack. His son

II. John Wod of "Bawbegno" granted, in 1539, to King's College, an annual rent of four pounds Scots from his lands of "Uverblairtoun or Colpno," in warrandice of an annual rent of like amount of which he had been in right out of the lands of Watterton, Easter Ellon, etc. (Fasti Aberdonenses, p. 112.) John Wod married Elizabeth (sometimes named Isobel) Irvine, daughter of Alexander Irvine of Drum. Their eldest son was

III. Walter Wood of Fettercairn, Balbegno, and Overblairton, who died circa 1600, and was succeeded by his eldest son

IV. Walter Wood of Fettercairn, Balbegno, and Overblairton, who died in 1607. His eldest son was

V. Sir John Wood of Fettercairn, who, in 1615, with the consent of his wife, Lady Jean Lindsay, and of his mother, Isobel Forbes, sold Overblairton and his other lands in Belhelvie to George Gordon of Coclarachie for 32,400 merks Scots.

The first Wood of Little Colpnay or, as the family was generally designated, of Colpnay, was

I. John Wod of Fynnersie, who was predeceased before 1510 by his eldest son . . . Wod, and was succeeded by his grandson

II. Andrew Wod of Fynnersie and Colpnay, who died in 1558. His eldest son was

III. John Wod of Colpnay, who was absent from Scotland at the time of his father's death. Walter Wod, his brother, deeming on account of his brother's long absence that he was dead, served as heir to his father, and took possession of the lands



of which, however, on his brother's return, he had to denude himself. John Wod of Colpnay met a violent death, for which, upon 12th October, 1565, Alexander Lyon, burgess of Aberdeen, and his wife, Mariorie Urquhart, were put upon trial. (Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, I., p. 470.) He was succeeded by his eldest son

IV. Alexander Wod of Colpnay, who was a minor at his father's death. He died in June, 1614. His eldest son was

V. William Wod of Colpnay. Margaret Wod, his daughter, was one of the "suspectit personis to be either airt and pairt or on the counsell" of the burning of Fren-draught. For this she was apprehended, lodged in Edinburgh Prison, and examined by the Lords of Council, but denying everything, was subjected to the torture of the boot. Subsequently for her "manifold forgeries, perjuries, and lees" she was tried, found guilty, scourged, and banished. (Spalding's Trubles, I., p. 19-20.) William Wod granted a number of mortgages over Colpnay, which at his death

VI. John Wod, his eldest son, found himself encumbered with, and was unable to liquidate. It was left to his brother George to pay off the incumbrances on the lands, in respect of which John Wood was a consenter to the disposition of the estate in favour of his brother.

VII. George Wood of Colpnay acquired the lands in 1643. In 1649, Gilian Wilkie, wife of George Wood of Colpnay, petitioned Parliament for aid, narrating "her own and her husband's sad sufferings, to the utter ruin of both, by the enemies of this Kingdom." Colpnay finally passed out of the possession of the Woods in 1653.

Mr James M. A. Wood, solicitor, Aberdeen, obligingly furnished these particulars.

North Colpnay was acquired by a family named Stewart, while South Colpnay was

bought by a branch of the Leslie family. (Particulars respecting these families and other proprietors who held the properties for brief periods will be found in Temple's "Thanage," p. 696.)

In 1754-55, William Mowat of Colpnay, merchant in Aberdeen, was Provost of the city. He married Jean, daughter of Principal Osborne, of Marischal College, and they had a family of three sons—William, John, and Andrew. (Munro's Provosts, pp. 236-7.)

Subsequently, John Orrok — who is understood to have been at one time a captain in the merchant service—bought both North and South Colpnay, and thereupon gave them the new title of Orrock, in memory of the estate of that name in Fifeshire which had belonged to his forebears. In September, 1780, he married Sarah, second daughter of John Dingwall of Rannieston, one of the magistrates of Aberdeen, and they had a family of several sons. Mr Orrok died in 1796, when he was succeeded by his eldest son Walter.

John Orrok, younger, brother of the preceding, succeeded. Particulars respecting him are given in the following inscription on a marble tablet in the inner side of the gable of the old church—

Sacred to the memory of John Orrok of Orrock, captain in the Hon. E. I. C., 17th Regiment, No. 1, second son of John Orrok, Esq., of Orrock and Sarah Dingwall of Rainiston, his wife. He had retired upon half-pay, was married August 2, 1823, to Mary, daughter of the late James Cockburn, Esq., of Lime Street Square, London, and died suddenly by the rupture of a blood vessel in the head on the 6th of October, 1823, in the 40th year of his age. His mortal remains are interred here. This monument is erected by his widow as a testimony of her affection.

Wemyss Orrok, the younger brother of the preceding, was served heir in 1824. (Retours, etc.)

The estate was acquired through pur-

chase in 1880 by Robert Stewart Walker, who died on 22nd April, 1889, aged 70. It is now in the possession of Mr Baird's trustees.

## ARDO.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the estate of Ardo was acquired by John Dingwall of Ranniaston, fourth son of Arthur Dingwall of Brownhill and of Sarah Murray, his wife. He was a successful stocking merchant in Aberdeen, and for some time one of its magistrates. By his first wife Mary, daughter of Rev. James Lumsden of Corrachree, minister of Towie, he had ten sons and six daughters.

Arthur, the eldest son, succeeded, at whose death, without issue, John Dingwall, his immediate younger brother, succeeded to both estates. He was Provost of Aberdeen from 1799 to 1801. He was three times married—(1) to a daughter of George Willox, one of the magistrates of Old Aberdeen; (2) to Catherine Jane Moir, daughter of Rev. William Moir, minister of the parish of Fyvie; and (3) to Ann Taylor, who survived him. There were no children by any of these marriages. Mr Dingwall died on 29th March, 1836, when the property passed to his younger brother Alexander, who was for a lengthened period postmaster of Aberdeen. (Family Record of Dingwall Fordyce.)

In March, 1838, the lands were purchased by Peter Harvey, farmer, Danestone, son of Alexander Harvey, Mains of Grandholm—a descendant of the family of Harvey. (See New Machar, etc.) He married his cousin Susan, daughter of William Harvey, Monycabock, and died 16th September, 1866, aged 90, survived by his wife, who died 21st May, 1879, aged 91. Of their family, Alexander was designed as "younger of Ardo"; William, who was in Middlemuir, and was well known as an elder and session clerk of Belhelvie, died 12th August, 1901, aged 82; and

James died 24th April, 1880, aged 46. There were also six daughters—Jane, Barbara, Susan, Ann, Christian, and Catherine. (Tombstones at Old Machar.)

Alexander Harvey, "younger of Ardo," married Agnes, daughter of James Abernethy, Ferryhill, Aberdeen, and died 27th March, 1859, aged 44, survived by his wife, who died 15th May, 1888, aged 73. They had a family of three sons—Alexander, Peter, and Peter James—and six daughters—Anne, Susan, Susan Abernethy, Agnes Jane, Catherine, and Barbara Stephen. All the sons died young, and of the daughters, Anne died on 30th July, 1880, aged 38; and Susan Abernethy is married to Rev. John S. Loutit, minister of Foveran. (See Foveran.) The estate is now held in trust for behoof of Mrs Loutit and her two surviving sisters, Agnes Jane and Catherine.

## MENIE.

King Robert the Bruce granted two charters in favour of John de Boneville of the lands of Many and Blairton. (Robertson's Index, p. 17.) In 1379, the Boneville family disposed of Many to William de Camera or Chalmers, Burgess of Aberdeen, and to Elizabeth, his wife. Chalmers, who was laird of Findon and tenant for life of the barony of Murtle, was Alderman of Aberdeen in 1398, and he and his successors played a conspicuous part in the affairs of the city for a lengthened period.

In 1435, Richard Vaus, grandson of the above William de Camera, had a Crown grant to the lands of Many. (Antiq., III., p. 336.) He was probably the son of John Vaus, who was Provost of Aberdeen on several occasions between 1420 and 1445. (Munro's Provosts, etc., p. 31.) Richard Vaus is commemorated through having, in 1469, granted to the Franciscan or Grey Friars his property in Broad Street for

their monastery. He is referred to in the obituary of the Order as "a man of pious memory, Richard Vaus, laird of Many, . . . He died 1478."

There were several proprietors who bore the surname of Vaus, of whom John Vaus, on 6th June, 1537, had a respite for six months for complicity in the slaughter of James Lyon, mutilation of Alexander Rutherford, one of the baillies of Aberdeen, and deforcing of the magistrates of Aberdeen. On 9th December following, Vaus had a remission for all offences except that of treason. (Pitcairn's *Crim. Trials*, I., pp. 250-51.) On 25th January, 1556, he granted, subject to his own life rent, the lands of Many and others to his daughter Margaret and her husband, John Carnegie, son of Robert Carnegie of Kinnaird. The estate ultimately passed to David, Lord Carnegie, who sold it to William Forbes, then designed as merchant in Edinburgh, and brother of Rev. Patrick Forbes of Corse, Bishop of Aberdeen. (See Fintray.)

On 30th July, 1618, a Crown grant was made in favour of George Gordon, sixth laird of Gight, and his second wife, Jean Abernethy, erecting into a free barony the lands of Many, consisting of "Lyntoun, Cothill, Cowhill, and Altersait." (Great Seal Register.)

Within twelve years, William Seton of Udny and Marjory Innes, his wife, purchased the estate for 40,000 merks. Seton had considerable influence in the district. Along with Alexander Innes, chamberlain of Belhelvie, he acted as a "justitiar," according to Act of Parliament, "for taking order and inflicting censure upon delinquents convict before the kirk-session." Unfortunately, he was worried by financial troubles, and in 1659 Sir Robert Graham of Morphie, a heavy creditor, stepped in and mortgaged the lands of Many to Robert Kerr, burgess

of Aberdeen, and the Collector of Assessments for the County of Aberdeen. Kerr foreclosed and became proprietor. He died on 4th February, 1669. In 1678, Alexander Kerr, the second son, was served heir to the lands, holding in chief of Graham of Morphie in free-blench farm for yearly payment of one penny Scots. (*Antiq.*, III., pp. 336-7.) This proprietor was impressed with the importance of his position, and he determined that only one of wealth and power should be permitted to aspire to the hand of his daughter Susanna! The young lady, who was both accomplished and of considerable beauty, fell in love with John Montford, an Excise officer, who, in March, 1729, took the necessary steps for proclamation of the banns of marriage. Mr Kerr declared before the church courts his dissatisfaction "with such a match," and proceedings were accordingly sisted. The old registers disclose nothing as to the fate of poor Susanna, but the likelihood is that she had been removed to another district, where possibly a lover more acceptable to her parents had turned up. An elder sister, Elizabeth, married Peter Smith of Inveramsay.

The next proprietor was George Turner, son of Robert Turner of Turnerhall and Tippertie. By profession he was an advocate, and for some time held the appointment of Sheriff Clerk of Aberdeenshire. He married (1) Margaret (died December, 1745, in her 32nd year), daughter of John Gordon, M.D., of Pitlurg, and they had a family of two sons and two daughters. (*Temple's Thanage*, p. 639.) He married (2) Margaret Catnach, and died 20th December, 1772. His widow surviving till 2nd April, 1778. ("Aberdeen Journal.")

Robert Turner, son of the preceding, succeeded (died 29th May, 1809, aged 67). He married Euphemia, daughter of David



Simpson of Hazelhead; and of their family George died in infancy. John, Robert, William, and Alexander all entered the service of the Honourable East India Company. Of these four, the two first mentioned died in India, William died in battle, and Alexander died of wounds received in battle. Of the daughters, Euphemia, in 1796, married Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy, and had a family of six sons and three daughters. (MS. by Lord Caithness.) She died at Edinburgh on 22nd December, 1832. A second daughter was Margaret Cattanach, who died 12th February, 1824, aged 49; while the youngest one is commemorated by an inscription upon an obelisk within an enclosure in the parish graveyard thus—

To the memory of Rachel, third daughter of the late Robert Turner, Esq. of Menie, who died at Aberdeen on 7th January, 1847.

The same obelisk records the death of the succeeding proprietor and of two members of his family as follows—

Sacred to the memory of General Sir George Turner, K.C.B., of Menie, Col. Commandant 12th Brigade Royal Artillery. Born March 22, 1780. Died December 9, 1864.

Also to the memory of George Robert, infant son of the above, died May, 1827.

Also to the memory of Helen Catherine Turner, third daughter of the above. Born 3rd April, 1828; died 3rd March, 1891. . . .

General Sir George Turner was the third son of Robert Turner. Adopting the profession of arms, he served during the rebellion in Ireland in 1798, at the capture of the Cape of Good Hope in 1806, and during a portion of the Peninsular War, taking part, besides other actions, in those of Orthes and Toulouse. He was made Lieut.-Colonel in 1828, C.B. in 1831, K.C.B. in 1862, and General in 1863. He married Margaret, daughter of John Ramsay of Barra, and, besides the son and daughter named in the inscription, they

had three other daughters — Mary Euphemia, Margaret, and Robina Rachel. The last-named is now proprietrix of the estate.

MUIRTON OR MEADOWBANK.

This property was purchased from the York Buildings Company, about 1770, by Francis Logie, merchant, Aberdeen, who re-sold it in August, 1782, to James Reid, merchant, Gardenstown. By him it was bequeathed to his nephew, Peter Reid, son of his brother, John Reid, Fortrie.

Peter Reid married Ann Lumsden, sister of Hary Lumsden of Belhelvie, and daughter of John Lumsden, Boghead, Kintore, son of Alexander Lumsden, and grandson of William Lumsden in Tita-boutie, who was fifth son of Alexander Lumsden of Clova and Cushnie.

A railed-in enclosure contains a table-stone and headstone, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

To the memory of Peter Reid, some time farmer in Muirton, who departed this life 10th May, 1795, aged 28 years. Also of Ann Lumsden, his spouse, who died 21st December, 1836, aged 75 years.

(2).

Erected by James Reid of Muirton in memory of his children, Harry L., who died 4th January, 1827, aged 2 years. Also Harry L., who died 9th June, 1846, aged 18 years. Also John, farmer in Myretown, Inch, who died 18th June, 1862, aged 42 years. Also the said James Reid of Muirton, who died 6th August, 1862, aged 70 years. Also his spouse, Jessie Gray, who died 4th April, 1866, aged 75 years. Also Peter, eldest son of James Reid, who died at Muirton, 17th April, 1874, aged 63 years.

The first inscription commemorates Peter Reid and his wife already referred to, while the second is to his only son, James Reid, who succeeded. He married Jessie Gray, who belonged to Fintray, and they had a large family, of whom the names of four are recorded as above.

The second son of the above James Reid was James Reid, who graduated M.D. at King's College in 1848, and settled at Ellon, where he had a large practice. He married Beatrice Peter, Canterland; and of their two sons, the elder is Sir James Reid, Bart., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., LL.D., who was the trusted physician to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. He is now physician to His Majesty King Edward. In 1899, he married one of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Maids of Honour—the Hon. Susan Baring, daughter of the first Lord Revelstoke; and they have a family of two sons and one daughter—Edward James, born 20th April, 1901; John Peter Lorne, born 10th January, 1903; and Margaret Cecilia, born 25th December, 1904.

In 1877, the property was sold to Alexander Sim, and is now held by his representatives.

#### PETTENS.

Early in the seventeenth century, the lands of Pettens belonged to George Gordon of Coclarachie, and his wife, Grissell Seton. They sold them in 1643 for 16,224 merks to George Davidson, elder, burghess of Aberdeen.

Poorly educated and unable to write, Davidson followed the calling of a "chapman" or hawker, and, although the philanthropic instincts which he afterwards manifested were early stirred by seeing a man drowned in the burn at Bucksburn, all that he was then able to accomplish was to vow "to build a bridge over that burn if the Lord enabled him to do it." Success crowned his efforts in no ordinary degree, and, besides acquiring wealth in coin, he became proprietor of Pettens, Westburn, Bogfairly, and Kepplehills in the parish of Newhills. A handsome tomb to his memory in St Nicholas Churchyard records that he was "truly notable for the in-

tegrity of his life and profuse liberality towards the poor"; that "beside many donations for the perpetual help of the poor and public uses," he "caused the Bridge of Inch to be repaired, and the Bridge of Buxburne to be built of a not inelegant structure"; that "he gifted to the Church of Aberdeen the lands of Pettens and Bogfairly, with certain sums of money, for the perpetual use of a preacher of God's word there"; that "he also caused to be built the church of Newhill," and that "he dedicated and mortified the said lands of Newhills also, for the maintenance of the preachers of the Gospel thereat—a rare example. He died in the year 1663." In 1650, he built a substantial wall around the Churchyard of Footdee, as evidenced by a small tablet fixed into the inner side and still to be seen there. The inscription is—

GEORGE DAVIDSONE, ELDER,  
BURGESS OF ABD. BIGIT  
THIS DYK ON HIS OVIN  
EXPENSES. 1650.

Underneath is a coat of arms flanked by the initials "G. D." The title "Elder" was applied to Davidson to distinguish him from a younger brother also named George, it being customary in those days to give the same name to more than one member of a family.

The property of Pettens, etc., as thus mortified by Davidson, remained in the possession of the town of Aberdeen till 1756, when a portion was feued and the balance sold.

Miss Turner of Menie is the present proprietrix.

(See Row's "Diary," "Antiquities," "Aberdeen Mortif. Book," Morgan's "Annals," and "Scottish Notes and Queries" for November and December, 1888, and October, 1893.)

## POTTERTON.

The estate of Potterton was purchased from the York Buildings Company by James Harvey, eldest son of Alexander Harvey, Mains of Grandholm, and grandson of James Harvey, Seaton, Bridge of Don. He died on 23rd December, 1838, aged 71, leaving the property to his grandson, James Harvey, but subject to the life-rent of his mother, Margaret Harvey, who was a daughter of the testator. This lady married Rev. John Allan, for some time minister of Union Free Church, Aberdeen, and died 4th February, 1878, aged 78 years. Mr Allan, unfortunately, had to retire from the ministry owing to an affection of the throat. He was the author of "The Lentiad," besides other satirical poems, particulars of which are given in Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord," p. 660.

James Harvey of Potterton died 15th January, 1870, aged 46. (Tombstone in St Peter's.)

The estate was sold to Thomas Clapper-ton, Fochabers, and is now held by his representatives.

## GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A split tablestone now lying level with the ground bears a Latin inscription, which, in English, is—

Under this mound is buried the body of Mr William Duncan, Professor of Philosophy in Marischal College, whom—accomplished in literature, of blameless morals, his friends mourning for him, all regretting him—cruel death, in a sudden tempest, carried off on the 1st day of May, 1760, in the 45th year of his age.

Professor William Duncan was a son of William Duncan, Arbroath. Having graduated M.A. in 1735, he attended divinity classes with the object of entering the Church. He changed his mind, however, and became a professional author. He wrote many works, including "Logic,"

"Discourse on Roman Art of War," and several translations from Latin and French. (Scottish Register.) While visiting his old friend, Rev. Thomas Ragg, at the Manse of Belhelvie, he went to bathe in the sea on the morning of 1st May, 1760, and unfortunately was carried beyond his depth and drowned.

A headstone at a railed-in grave is inscribed—

Erected by James Lorimer, bootmaker, Aberdeen, in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Harvie, who died 20th June, 1841, aged 58 years. Also of his father, John Lorimer, who died 13th January, 1849, aged 67 years. Also to the memory of two of his children, who died in infancy. And his son Alexander, who died 9th February, 1867, aged 18 years.

Here also are interred the remains of the said James Lorimer, bootmaker, Aberdeen, who died 8th September, 1890, aged 76 years.

James Lorimer, who erected the above headstone, was a well-known citizen of Aberdeen. He was father of James Lorimer, one of the present magistrates of Aberdeen.

## THE STOW SUCCESSION.

On an old and considerably broken tablestone is—

Here lyes the body of Gilbert Innes, sometime in Rora, who died 29th May, 1755, aged 83. A man of true virtue and piety. Also the body of Isobel Innes, his eldest daughter, spouse to Thos. Simpson in Darahill, who died in July, 1743, aged 43. Also the body of Jean Fraser, the widow of the said Gilbert Innes. She died 26th January, 1769, aged 93. Also the body of the said Thomas Simpson, who died 12th November, 1784, aged 88.

Elsbet Simpson, daughter of the above Thomas Simpson, and niece of George Innes of Stow, married, in 1763, Alexander Mitchell, son of Alexander Mitchell, farmer in Tillycorthie. Alexander Mitchell, jun., succeeded his father-in-law in the farm of Darrahill. He had a son, William, J.P.



and D.L., of Parsons Green, and of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, who succeeded to the moveable property of his relative, Miss Innes of Stow, estimated as worth upwards of one million pounds. He assumed the additional surname and arms of Innes, and was the first of the Mitchell-Innes family of Ayton and Whitehall, Berwickshire. (A. J. Mitchell-Gill's "Houses of Moir and Byres," p. 20.) His elder brother, Thomas Mitchell, was a farmer at Hill of Udney, and he had a son who is commemorated by a marble tablet in the inner side of the gable of the old church. It is inscribed as follows—

In the adjoining churchyard are interred the mortal remains of Alexander Mitchell, late cashier of the Aberdeen Town and County Bank. He was the son of Thomas Mitchell, sometime in the parish of Udney, was born 12th December, 1798, married 14th September, 1829, Jane, only daughter of J. Gardiner, of the parish of Rhynie, and died 30th October, 1834, leaving two infant sons, and a widow who records this testimony to the memory of a husband amiable and estimable in every relation of life.

Alexander Mitchell married Jane, daughter of John Gardiner, farmer, Smithston, Rhynie; and of the two sons referred to in the inscription the elder, Alexander, after protracted and expensive litigation, succeeded to the estate of Stow, near Edinburgh. His widow, Fanny Georgiana Jane, daughter of Richard Hasler, of Aldingbourne, Sussex, became proprietrix of the estate, and afterwards married Lord Reay, of Reay, Caithness.

#### THE LUMSDENS OF AUCHRY AND BETHELNIE.

Two tablestones alongside each other are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In memory of Barbara Lumsden, eldest daughter of John Lumsden, farmer in Overhill, who died on the 17th December, 1794, aged 18 years. Isabel Simpson, wife of John Lumsden,

farmer in Overhill, died 17th May, 1807, aged 56 years. John Lumsden, son of John Lumsden, farmer, Eggie, died in infancy. John Lumsden, late farmer in Overhill, who died 7th August, 1823, aged 67 years. Bathea Smith, wife of George Lumsden, farmer, Keir, who died 5th April, 1825, aged 24 years. John Lumsden, son of George Lumsden, farmer, Keir, who died 13th July, 1825, aged 9 months. Also Neil Lumsden, infant son of George Lumsden and Agnes Smith, who died May, 1833, aged 8 days. And Isabella Lumsden, their daughter, who died 6th August, 1835, aged 11 months. Also his son Benjamin, who died 12th August, 1849, aged 12 years. Also his daughter Elizabeth, who died on the 20th February, 1854, aged 18 years and seven months. William died in infancy on the 13th of December, 1854. John died in Queensland on the 4th of February, 1865, aged 34. George died in Assam, India, on the 15th of September, 1868, aged 26. Also the above George Lumsden, who died at Disblair, Fintray, on the 7th day of July, 1876, aged 82 years. Also Agnes Smith, widow of George Lumsden; born 23rd May, 1807; died 1st December, 1896. Also his fourth daughter Isabella Simpson Lumsden, who died at Balbithan, Keith-hall, on the 11th of January, 1900, aged 59 years.

(2).

Under this stone are interred the mortal remains of Mr John Lumsden. He rented for many years the farm of Eggie, in this parish, and died on the 8th day of November, 1833, aged 52. His daughter Margaret departed this life on the 1st March, 1834, in the 25th year of her age, and is also buried here. Janet White, his relict, died at Banff on the 21st day of January, 1868, in her 93rd year, and her remains now rest here with those of her husband and daughter.

The first-mentioned John Lumsden and his wife, Isabel Simpson, were the parents of James Lumsden (who purchased the estate of Auchry), besides whom they had other sons, including John, many years tenant of Eggie, who married Janet White (particulars of their demise with that of a daughter, Margaret, are given in the foregoing inscription, No. 2), and George, some time in Keir, thereafter in Aquu-

horthies, who married Bathea Smith, and secondly, Agnes Smith, as shown by the first inscription.

A tablestone in an enclosure bears the inscription—

In memory of James Lumsden, Esq., of Auchry and Bethelnie, who died the 17th day of October, 1869, aged 85 years.

James Lumsden was son of John Lumsden, farmer, Overhill, Belhelvie, and his wife, Isabel Simpson—his great-grandfather being William Lumsden in Tita-boutie, Coull, son of Robert Lumsden of Clova and Cushnie. He married Mary, daughter of Mr William Mortimer, Aberdeen. She succeeded to a share of the enormous wealth amassed by the clever John Farquhar of Fonthill Abbey. (See Crimond.) Mr Lumsden acquired from the Cumine family the estate of Auchry, in the parish of Monquhitter, the rental of which he is said to have more than doubled through prosecuting a vigorous policy of reclaiming and draining. At a later date he also bought the property of Bethelnie, in the parish of Meldrum. He was survived by at least four sons—John Farquhar, who succeeded to Auchry; Richard, now of Auchry, Garmond, and Bethelnie; Edward, and Frederick.

A tablestone has the following inscription—

To the memory of Ann Simpson, spouse to Thomas Milne, farmer in New Craig of Udny, who died 22nd July, 1817, aged 32 years. Also Flora Milne, his spouse, who died the 30th June, 1830, aged 33 years. Also of the said Thomas Milne, who departed this life on the 30th day of December, 1854, aged 76 years.

Also Elspet Milne, spouse to Alexander Forrest, farmer in New Craig of Udny, who died 3rd March, 1875, aged 69 years.

The above Thomas Milne and his first wife, Anne Simpson, were the parents of John Milne, LL.D., for many years Prin-

cipal of Dollar Academy, which he conducted with marked success. Mrs Forrest, New Craig, was a daughter by the same marriage.

A tablestone bears—

Erected by Margaret Nisbet in memory of her late husband, the Rev. David Waddel, of the United Secession Church, Shiels, who died 16th November, 1826, in the 72nd year of his age and 41st year of his ministry. An affectionate and kind husband and father, a man meek, unassuming, and upright; a faithful minister of the Gospel, who exemplified in his life the blessed influence of those truths in which he instructed others. He lived respected and died much regretted. Also of their oldest son, John, who died 9th April, 1821, aged 32 years. Their daughter, Anne, died at Cabrach 17th October, 1796, aged 3 years. Their youngest son, William, died at London, 12th November, 1826, aged 23 years.

Here also rests the earthly part of Margaret Nisbet, who died 25th May, 1831, aged 74 years.

Rev. David Waddel, previously at Cabrach, was in 1800 elected minister of the United Secession Church at Shiels, a charge which had been formed in 1782 through the exertions of Rev. Mr Brown of Craigmadam. His predecessor was Rev. James Andrew, who left the church and took to farming. Succeeding ministers were Rev. James Macintosh, Rev. William Gillespie, and Rev. Edward Rankine, etc.

The death, at the early age of 32, of Mr Waddel's eldest son, John, mathematical master of Elgin Academy, terminated a career of much promise.

A tombstone bears the following inscription—

Erected by James Anderson in memory of his father, Robert Anderson, who died 30th July, 1849, aged 79 years.

Also of his mother, Susana Simpson, spouse of the above Robert Anderson, who died 13th June, 1860, aged 82 years.

Robert Anderson was a well-known native of the parish. His son, James

Anderson, was a joiner to trade, but, settling in Aberdeen, became a clerk of works, and was employed in that capacity at the erection of the Grammar School, the Free West Church, and many other prominent buildings. He married a daughter of Alexander Gray, one of the founders of the firm of Gray, Watt, and Company, rope and twine manufacturers, West North Street. He died 23rd June, 1873. His eldest son, Robert Anderson, is the present editor of the "Aberdeen Daily Journal." A younger son is a prominent irrigation engineer at Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., but has lately been engaged in the execution of extensive irrigation works in Alberta, Canada.

A grey granite headstone bears the inscription—

Erected to the memory of Alexr. Rainnie, Builder, Aberdeen, who died 4 April, 1845, aged 52 years.

His parents lie in this and the adjoining grave, viz., Alexr. Rainnie, late Farmer in Cothill, Belhelvie, who died 8th May 1823, aged 72 years, and Jane Allan who died 20th July 1828, aged 68 years.

The above Alexander Rainnie conducted an extensive business as a builder in Aberdeen. Among other large buildings which he erected was Marischal College.

#### THE ESSLEMONT FAMILY.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected in memory of Peter Esslemont, late Farmer, Mains of Shiels, who died 21st Octr., 1846, aged 48 years. Also Ann his 3rd daughter, who died 27th Nov., 1846, aged 14 years. Also Elisabeth Margaret, who died December 13th 1856, aged 12 years, and Jean Esslemont, who died 7th March, 1860, aged 29 years, and George Esslemont, who died 30th October 1860, aged 19 years. Also Ann Connon wife of the said Peter Esslemont, who died 12th Sept. 1880, aged 81 years.

Peter Esslemont was for some time tenant of Balnakettle, Udny, and after-

wards of Mains of Shiels. Of his sons, the eldest, James, continued the tenancy of the latter farm, the arable land of which he greatly extended by reclamation from moss and moor. He subsequently occupied in turn the farms of Kirkton of Culsalmond; Boghead, Forgue; and Mains of Crombie, Marnoch, where he died in July, 1896. He was an advanced agriculturist and a leading member of the Farmers' Alliance. His son, James, continues in Mains of Crombie, which is a farm of about 400 acres.

Alexander for many years conducted a successful wholesale grocery business at 32 King Street, Aberdeen, interesting himself largely in the affairs of the United Presbyterian Church, Belmont Street, of which he was an elder for upwards of thirty years. He died in 1888, and his business is continued by his son under the title of Alexander Esslemont and Son.

Peter, who bore the family name, was well known, not only from his partnership in the firm of Esslemont and Macintosh, warehousemen, Aberdeen, but through his connection with the Town Council of the city, to which he was elected in 1871. By his colleagues there he was early made a magistrate, and Lord Provost in 1880. During his tenure of the latter office he did excellent work, including the carrying of an extensive scheme of city improvement. In 1885, as an Advanced Liberal, he was elected Member of Parliament for East Aberdeenshire. In December, 1892, he was appointed chairman of the Scottish Fishery Board, and held that office at his death, which took place 8th August, 1894. Of his sons, George Birnie is Member of Parliament for South Aberdeen. He and his brother James are both partners in the firm of Esslemont and Macintosh. A younger son, Alfred Sherwood, is an electrical engineer.

John Ebenezer has a large grocery busi-



ness at 16 King Street, Aberdeen, in the management of which he is assisted by his eldest son Peter. Another son is William Davidson, advocate. A third son is John Ebenezer, who had a brilliant career at the University of Aberdeen, and is now in medical practice at Durban.

An old stone with the inscription very indistinct bears to have been erected by Christian Wilson to the memory of her husband and of their infant son. The following pathetic verse is also given—

Traveller attend, beneath the turf rest here  
A loving husband, and a child held dear,  
A childless widow'd wife bemoans their fate  
And sad laments her hard untoward state;  
Bow'd down with grief altho' in years but  
young.

Silent the husband and child's lisping tongue.  
Death caught the child, the father nought could  
save.

One day, one hour, carry'd both to one grave.

Abutting on the churchyard is a strong vault, which is divided into compartments. It is still used as a mortuary for the remains of sailors that are cast ashore. A portion of the churchyard is set apart for the interment of such, and is known by the title of "The Sailors' Knowe."

The churchyard was levelled up in 1903, and is most tidily kept, forming a pattern from which many country parishes might with advantage take a copy.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The old church is said to form the subject of Phillip's picture "The Collection."

It is believed that a primeval forest lies submerged along the coast and sands of the parish. At all events during severe storms from the east, huge masses of peat, intermixed with decayed wood and roots, have been thrown ashore.

Quicksands of a dangerous character formerly existed. It is recorded that on 24th September, 1611, when Sir James

Lawson of Humbie was riding on the sands, he was completely engulfed. His body was found on the following day, but that of the horse was never seen. This tragic occurrence is alleged to have suggested to Sir Walter Scott the fate of the "Master of Ravenswood."

On the moorlands there were formerly several stone circles, but they have been removed.

Ancient ornaments of stone, bronze, and gold, as well as urns and calcined bones, have been discovered at different times.

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### Rhynie.

Various derivations have been given of the name of this parish. The author of "The Place Names of West Aberdeenshire" suggests that it may have been derived from Roinnean, the diminutive of Roinn, a small promontory or headland, or from Rinneen which, according to Joyce, signifies "little point."

Between 1224 and 1700 the spelling differed slightly—from Ryny, and Rynyn, to Ryne. In 1730 the present form—Rhynie—was employed. (Macfarlane's Geog. Collections MSS.)

The Church of Ryny was attached to the See of Moray, and Bishop Bricius erected it into one of the eight prebends of the Cathedral Church of Elgin. This arrangement was ratified by the succeeding bishop—Andrew de Moravia—at Elgin, on 5th May, 1226. (Regis. Epis. Morav., pp. 73-76.) The prebendary was taken bound to provide a sub-deacon to serve as his vicar in the cathedral church.

Difficulties regarding the rights of the church and its lands arose early in the 13th century. In 1224, Pope Honorius III. granted a commission to the Abbot of Deer and the Dean and Archdeacon of Aberdeen

for the purpose of redressing the wrongs done at Rynyn, etc., by David of Strathbogy. (*Antiq.*, II., p. 153.) Three years later an agreement was arrived at, but it did not prove permanent, for the quarrel broke out afresh two centuries later through the action of Alexander, Earl of Huntly, in withholding payment of the rents of portions of the church lands. The Bishop, who was all-powerful, resorted to the extreme measure of cursing the earl and his predecessors, which brought about a speedy adjustment. (*Ibid.*, p. 162.)

The bell was hung in a small house specially erected for the purpose on the "Bell Knowe" above the church. It bears the inscription—

MICHAEL BYRGERHVYS, M.F.  
SOLI. DEO. GLORIA. 1620.

A handbell was bought in Aberdeen in 1762, and used at funerals up to about 1825.

The old Parish Church stood in the graveyard near the entrance gate, and measured 52 feet by 20. It stood east and west, and was not plastered, the naked baulks being visible from underneath. In 1758, it had fallen into disrepair, as also had the manse office houses. It was found that the necessary improvements could not be executed at a lesser cost than £101 13s 4d sterling, and, the heritors objecting, the Presbytery had to interpose. By 1822 the structure was in a ruinous condition, with large holes in the walls and door. The discomfort was intensified through the manse poultry finding the seats a convenient roosting place. This necessitated the parishioners, when on their way to service, pulling twigs of broom with which to sweep their seats before sitting down!

In 1823, the Duke of Gordon, who was then the sole heritor, intimated his willingness to provide a new church at the village capable of seating 450 to 500 persons, and

measuring 57 feet by 32. This was accepted, and the edifice sufficed till 1889, when it was remodelled and enlarged, and a clock tower erected, as afterwards stated.

The church, which forms practically a side of the village square, now accommodates about 550 worshippers. It contains a handsome two-manual pipe organ, the gift of Mrs George Proctor, Rhynie, in memory of her husband.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC PARSONS.

From 1473 to 1489, Master David Monypenny was prebendary. In 1488, he was amerced in the seventh part of the fruits of his benefice for contumacy and non-residence at the cathedral. In 1493, Sir Thomas Myretoune was parson. From 1539 to 1547, Rev. Alexander Hepburn held the appointment, and he was followed by Rev. John Leslie, who in turn was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Sutherland.

Probably the most aristocratic parson was Rev. James Gordon, fourth son of George, Earl of Huntly, who fell at Corriche. He held the appointment from 1560 to at least 1563, but being an ardent Roman Catholic, he was compelled to resign at the Reformation. Going abroad, he was admitted a member of the Society of Jesus, and secured the degree of Doctor of Theology. He is said to have been a very active agent of the Roman Catholic Church. He died in Paris on Good Friday, 1620. (*Gordon's "History of Gordon,"* II., p. 119; *Regis. Episc. Morav.*, and *Antiquities*, II.)

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

In 1567, Andrew Thomson was reader at a salary of 16 lib. He was followed in succession by James Uruell and Arthur Gordon.

In 1574, Rhynie, Essie, Gartly, and Diuindelgie were under the ministerial superintendence of Rev. George Nicolson.

In 1586, Rev. Alexander Hay was elected minister of Rhynie, with Cabrach also in charge. After less than three years he was translated to the parish of Dipple.

Before February, 1609, Rev. Henrie Ross, M.A., was minister of both Rhynie and Essie. (New Spalding Club's Sheriff Court Records, II., p. 143.) By 26th July, 1646, he had become so old and "infatuated that he did misknow his owne vyf and children," and was "vncapable of any publick function." (Presby. Records.) Demission accordingly took place. Besides a daughter who married Rev. Robert Cheyne, Kennethmont, he had a son James, who sadly misapplied his talents. On 27th October, 1640, he was accused of being "a commone drinker, a lascivious dancer in taverns, and a macker of prophane ungodli and infamous cockalanes and rymes."

Rev. George Chalmers, M.A., third son of Rev. George Chalmers of Easter Tyrie, etc., who had for some time acted as schoolmaster of Inveravon, was ordained assistant and successor in 1642. He married Jean Gordon of Thomastown in 1646, and died in or about 1660. According to Dr Scott, one daughter, Margaret, married John Grant, merchant, Elgin, and a second daughter, Jean, married Thomas, son of James Spens of Kirkton, Alves. There were also two sons — Rev. Hugh Chalmers, who was for some time schoolmaster of Keith, and subsequently minister of Marnoch; and Rev. George Chalmers, minister of Drumblade from 1687 till his death in 1702. It may be added that a great-grandson of this worthy minister of Rhynie was Rev. John Chalmers, D.D., Principal of King's College from 1746 till his death on 7th April, 1800, while another great-grandson was James Chalmers (1713-1764), who, in 1748, founded the "Aberdeen Journal."

In 1661, Rev. Alexander Youngson,

M.A., was translated from Tullynessle and inducted to this parish, where he died on 26th November, 1678.

In 1680, Rev. James Gordon, M.A., was presented to the charge, and remained in office till 30th May, 1716, when he was deposed for supporting the cause of the Pretender and rejecting the authority of the Presbytery. In this case the deposition fell lightly, as Mr Gordon was possessed of ample independent means, being proprietor of Chapeltown, Drumblade.

The succeeding incumbent is commemorated by a small marble cenotaph, which was removed from the old church, and fixed into the sloping sill of a window in the present edifice. It bears a Latin inscription, which in English is—

For a memorial of a very reverend man, Alexander Ogilvie, A.M., the faithful pastor of this church.

When he had led these parishes (i.e., those of Rhynie and Essie) about 22 years, and had adorned his holy office with an integrity of mind and a simplicity of manners truly primeval, he died February 6, 1738, leaving great regret for his loss.

He was born A.D., 1686.

Rev. Alexander Ogilvie, son of John Ogilvie of Cairnstown, Morayshire — a lineal descendant of Ogilvie of Findlater and Deskford—was ordained to Rhynie on 10th July, 1717, and in December of the following year he married Mary, daughter of John Cumming Farquharson of Kellas and Haughton. Of the family of this union, the eldest son, Alexander Ogilvie, on the death, in 1767, of his uncle, Francis Farquharson of Haughton, succeeded to that estate, and thereupon assumed the additional surname and the arms of Farquharson.

In 1739, Rev. Patrick Gordon, who for the previous eight years had been missionary at Enzie, was ordained to Rhynie, and remained till his translation to Bellie in 1751.



Rev. John Brown, son of Thomas Brown, schoolmaster, Huntly, was ordained minister in 1752, and was translated to Newhills in 1771. He married Barbara, eldest daughter of John Gordon of Craig, and the great-grandson of this marriage, James Francis Gordon Shirrefs, ultimately succeeded to the estate of Craig, and thereupon assumed the patronymic of Gordon. He was the last Gordon to possess that beautiful property and castle. Mr Brown's son John, who died in London on 29th September, 1818, bequeathed two hundred guineas to each of the kirk-sessions of Rhynie and Newhills for behoof of the poor.

Of three tablets, with freestone mouldings and granite backing in a large enclosure, one bears—

Here are interred the mortal remains of the Reverend James Milne, who was for fifty years minister of this parish. He was the son of the Reverend Robert Milne, minister of Speymouth, in the county of Moray; was born in 1743, and after being six years minister of the chapel at Enzie, was presented to this parish in 1771, having previously married Jane, only daughter of Alexander Milne of Braehead, near Keith. He died on the 27th of May, 1822.

During the long period of his ministry he possessed much of the confidence and esteem of his parishioners, and of many private friends, who, in admiration of his character and talents, cultivated his acquaintance.

His beloved and attached widow died on the 21st April, 1834, in her 85th year, and her remains are also here deposited. . . .

They had four sons and four daughters. Of these the remains of their second daughter, Jane, who died on the 18th May, 1803, in her 29th year; of their fourth son, James, who died on the 20th of March, 1821, in his 32nd year; and of their fourth daughter, Anne, who died on the 1st of April, 1826, in her 39th year, are interred in this ground. And within the precincts of the old church are interred the remains of their third son, Arthur, and of their third daughter, Isabel, who died in their infancy.

Their eldest son, Robert, having been for several years in London, engaged in mercantile concerns, much respected and esteemed by all who knew him, died at St Domingo, on the 9th of September, 1814, in his 38th year.

The foregoing inscription is almost unique in the minuteness of its details. It may be proper to add, however, that Rev. James Milne's second son, Alexander, became one of the Crown Commissioners of Woods and Forests, while his eldest daughter, Catherine, married John Gardiner, Smithston.

His report upon the character of the parishioners of Rhynie, as given in the Statistical Account, is complimentary to them, but gratuitously sarcastic on certain outside classes—"They (the people of Rhynie) are sober, industrious, peaceable, and contented with their condition. They enjoy not the luxuries of cities, but they have the necessaries and some of the comforts of life, along with health of body and animation of character; and they add more to the strength of the country than four times their number of discontented and debauched manufacturers or mobbish politicians can do, in any time of public or national danger."

In 1823, Rev. William Allardyce, M.A., son of George Allardyce, surgeon, Banff, was inducted. He played an important part in the Marnoch controversy which preceded the Disruption, and earned credit for his consistency, dignity, and strength of mind. For several years he lived in retirement at Portsoy, where he died on 22nd January, 1867. He had married Nancy Cruickshank, and besides three daughters, they had two sons—James M'Kenzie, who became minister of Bowden, and, on 8th March, 1873, received the degree of D.D., and Francis, who received a commission as an officer in the Honourable East India Company's service. No tombstone marks

the grave of Mr Allardyce, which is near the enclosure where his predecessor is interred.

On 2nd December, 1858, Rev. Alexander Anderson, M.A., who had for some time previously been acting as schoolmaster of Bellie, was ordained assistant and successor, and on the death of Mr Allardyce as above, succeeded to the full charge. In addition to discharging the pastoral duties with fidelity and acceptance, he interested himself greatly in the educational affairs of the parish, and it was at his instigation that the graveyard was levelled and laid out. He married Catherine Forbés, who was a native of Fochabers. She died in 1902. Of a family of four sons and four daughters, two sons are Church of Scotland ministers, namely, Rev. Alexander J. Anderson, M.A., of Auchindoir, and Rev. Alfred W. Anderson, B.D., of Craiglockhart, Edinburgh. Mr Anderson was translated from Rhyne to Gartly in 1878, where he is still in active duty, and exercises an uncommon influence. He is (quoting the words of one of his co-presbyters) one of the best ministers of the Church, and has satisfactorily solved within his jurisdiction the farm servant church problem.

Rev. James Jolly Calder, M.A., was ordained to the charge in 1879, and inducted to Cairnie in 1889. Like his predecessors, he has interested himself greatly in educational matters, and for many years has acted as clerk to the important Presbytery of Strathbogie.

The present minister of Rhyne is Rev. J. C. McHardy, B.D., who was ordained in 1900.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

In 1651, William Watson, who at that time was parochial schoolmaster, gave much offence to the Presbytery of the bounds. He "was called a tipler and idle speaker some tymes, but was careful

enough of the bairnes, and did take paines upon them for their educatione. He was admonisht for the tyme, and exhorted to amendment; otherwise to be remoued." (Presbytery Records.) In 1685 Rev. George Sharp held the appointment. In the following year he was an applicant for Alford.

The succeeding teacher is commemorated by a tablestone—

Here lyes Mr Thomas Roper, who was sometime schoolmaster at Rhyne. Lawfull husband to Jean Innes, who died March 9, 174 ., aged 81.

Unfortunately, Mr Roper—who was a keen Jacobite—got implicated in the rising of 1715, and had to suffer deposition.

Jerome Spence succeeded, but within four years . . . . Duncan was in charge. By 1725, Rev. John Yule was installed, but he resigned and became a minister in Kirkwall. Successive teachers were Alexander Adam in 1747; Alexander Murray in 1758; Alexander Irvine in 1775; William Gardiner in 1779; and Alexander Harper in 1802. The last named also officiated as session clerk, and on 15th July, 1809, married Jean Brown, daughter of James Brown, Cottown, Druminnor.

Rev. Robert Duff held office in 1835. He was a native of Banff, and became minister of All Saints, Berbice, Demerara.

About 1840, Rev. George Stuart was appointed, and for nearly thirty years discharged the duties with considerable success, sending many pupils direct to the university. He resigned in 1869, and was presented with a purse of sovereigns and silver snuff-box. He afterwards accepted an appointment as missionary at Aberchirder, and died 23rd February, 1880. A son, George Alexander Stuart, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, who was for some time at Bo'ness, died in London in 1883.

Robert Rattray, M.A., the present headmaster, was installed on 11th November, 1869.

#### THE GORDONS OF MUIRACK.

A vault has a raised erection over it resembling the quarter of a sphere. It is open in front, and within are shown a coat-of-arms for Gordon and the initials "A. G." Over the arms is the sacred monogram, while underneath is a warning in Latin to "Remember death." An hour-glass, skull, cross-bones, and other mortuary emblems are also shown, together with the inscription—

Heir lyes Alexr. Gordone of Myrack, who departed this lye the 6 of Octr., 1668.

Muirack is a small property in the Ordiquhill district, which, in 1513, belonged to the Earl of Huntly. Mr J. Malcolm Bulloch, the indefatigable historian of the Gordons, kindly communicates that he has discovered from various authorities, including Theodore Gordon's MS. History of the Gordons, that the Earl, before 1542, granted a charter of Muirack to John Gordon of Cormellat, a descendant of the Gordons of Cairnborrow, whose progenitors were the Gordons of Essie.

In 1624, William Gordon and his wife, Marjory Gordon, are designed as proprietors. (Ordiquhill Records.) On 7th August, 1635, William Gordon and his son, the above Alexander Gordon, with numerous others of the Gordon Clan, were ordered to compare before the Privy Council on 22nd September following to find caution for keeping of good rule and quietness in the country under the pain of rebellion. In 1644, William Gordon was one of the four collectors of the taxation in Banffshire; and Spalding, who records the fact (Vol. II., p. 329), adds that Lord Gordon compelled him to deliver up 2000 merks of the collection. In 1647, the local Presbytery ordered inquiry to be made anent

Alexander Gordon, who was then considered a "malignant and enemy to the work of reformation." Prior to this, Parliament had granted a commission to uplift his rents on the plea that he was a "malignant."

Adam Gordon, principal and professor of Greek in the College of Mell, in France, was a descendant of the Muirack branch of the Gordons. (Spalding Club Miscellany, V., pp. 332-33.)

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Here are interred in the hope of a blessed resurrection the body of Robert Gordon, late in Newseat of Rhynie, who departed this life March the 4th, 1793, in the 64th year of his age. Also Helen Wemyss, his relict, who departed this life the 7th of May, 1812, aged 81 years.

And also George Gordon, late in Ord, who died February 28, 1820, aged 70. Also his spouse, Mary Gordon, died the 24th February, 1834, aged 68 years.

Other tablestones alongside record the death of Hugh Gordon, late in Mains of Druminnor, 19th April, 1792, aged 71; of Janet Gordon, wife of George Gordon, late in Bogenclough, 11th March, 1806, aged 68; and of Margaret, lawful daughter to Alexander Gordon and Jean Garioch, some time in Mains of Knockespoek, 26th March, 1808, aged 52.

A tablestone bearing the initials "A. H." and "C. O." shows various mortuary emblems and a shield, which is charged with the rare representation of two "owsen yokes" or teams. The inscription is—

Here lies Christian Ord, some time spouse to Andrew Hay in New Merdrum. She departed this life January the 11th, 1742. Also John Hay, their son, who died June the 5th, 1744.

This Christian Ord was a descendant of the old family of Ord of Findochty.

Within an enclosure are three tablets



batted to a wall. The inscription on one (that to Rev. James Milne and his family) has already been given. The two others are—

(1).

In memory of John Gardiner, late of Smithston, in this parish. He was born on the 2nd of February, 1771, and died on the 31st of March, 1846.

He is survived by two sons and one daughter, who record this remembrance of a kind and affectionate father.

(2).

To the memory of Catherine, wife of John Gardiner of Smithston, and eldest daughter of the late Rev. James Milne of this parish. She died on the 6th of June, 1837, in her 66th year, leaving her husband, two sons, and one daughter, who record this testimony of their affectionate, grateful, and dutiful remembrance of her as a wife and mother.

Several generations of the family of Gardiner were tenants of the large farm of Smithston. Before 1770, John Gardiner was tenant, and married Isobel Thomson. John Gardiner—referred to in the two foregoing inscriptions was a twin son of this union. The other twin son was Adam. Other sons were James, Francis, and George. The last-named, who was born 16th February, 1782, became minister of Aberdour, and died there on 30th January, 1857, having held the pastorate for 46 years. (Tombstone at Aberdour.)

John Gardiner and Catherine Milne were married on 26th April, 1806, and with two sons—John and James—they had an only daughter, Jane, who married Alexander Mitchell, of the Aberdeen Town and County Banking Company, now known as the Town and County Bank (Limited). One of the sons of that marriage, Alexander Mitchell, succeeded to the estate of Stow, near Edinburgh. Mrs Mitchell, his mother, married, secondly, Lord Reay. (See Belhelvie.)

An old tablestone displaying various emblems has the inscription—

Here are interred the remains of George Farquhar, late tacksman of Godrai (? Culdrain), who departed this life April 28th, 1762, in the ninety-first year of his age. As also the remains of Janet Cran, his second wife, who died August 26th, 1743, in the seventy-third year of her age. Here likewise are interred the remains of George and John Farquhars, children of the said George Farquhar and Helen Taylor, his third wife. They both died in 1753, the elder in the 7 year of his age, and the younger in the i. year of his age.

A railed-in grave has a tombstone bearing the inscription—

1858. Erected by James Paterson, farmer in Brawland, Auchindoir, in memory of his father and mother, the late George Paterson, farmer in Brawland, who died 30th September, 1832, aged 59 years, and his spouse, Elizabeth Lindsay, died 1st October, 1837, aged 58 years.

And Mary Ann, daughter of the said James Paterson, died 10th October, 1851, aged 3 years. Also the above named James Paterson. Born, February, 1809; died, 29th December, 1884. And his wife, Jane Duff; born 20th June, 1824; died 2nd May, 1889. Also their son, John, who died in Aberdeen, 13th May, 1896, aged 44.

Brawland has for a lengthened period been occupied by the Paterson family. James Paterson, the present tenant, is the grandson of George Paterson and his wife, Elizabeth Lindsay, to whose memory the above tombstone was erected.

The old name of the holding was Bralen, and James Milne was tenant of it in 1621. (Sheriff Court Records, II., p. 247.)

A wallstone bears—

Here lyes Barbara Mitchel, spous to William Dasson, Rows of North, who dyed on May the 1st, 1721, and also Alexander Dason, his son, who departed this life on March the 15th, 1732, and of age 27 years.

The above William Dasson in 1696 bore the designation of "cottar and tradesman resident at New Merdrum." For himself

and his wife he was charged 18s of poll. The surname Dason was then quite a common one in the parish, nine separate householders bearing it. In many instances succeeding families have altered it to Dawson.

A tablestone gives the following unusual form of inscription—

October 22, 1810, in the 51st year of her age, the body of Elizabeth Henderson, wife of Robert Leslie, in Belhinny, fell asleep, and was laid in this bed, a resting place till the resurrection. Also her son, John Leslie, who died in infancy.

Done by the care of her affectionate husband and sons.

A headstone bears—

Sacred to the memory of William Balgowan, late in Raws of Noth, who died 22nd November, 1809, aged 49 years. And of his wife, Elizabeth Balgowan, who died 20th October, 1852, aged 82 years, parents of James and William Balgowan, their only and lawful offspring . . .

Whither you be friend or foe,  
Or if you be a stranger,  
Prepare to-day to meet your God,  
And you need fear no danger.

The above William Balgowan and Elizabeth Balgowan, who belonged to the parish of Drumblade, were married on 5th December, 1804.

A tombstone is inscribed as under—

1869. Erected by Alexander Leslie, merr-at-arms in Aberdeen, in memory of his father John Leslie, millar at Barflatt, who died 3rd April, 1840, aged 66 years; and of his mother, Ann Grant or Leslie, who died 12th May, 1849, aged 74 years.

Also of their son Peter Leslie, late miller at Mill of Barflatt, who died there 4th March, 1861, aged 47 years. Also Jessie Smith, beloved wife of the above Peter Leslie, who died at Cottown, Druminnor, 7th February, 1897, aged 82 years.

John Leslie and his wife, Ann Grant, were the parents of the late John Grant Leslie, Sheriff Clerk Depute of Aberdeen-

shire and auditor of the Sheriff Court, who left a number of manuscript volumes of extracts from the Records of the Sheriff Court of Aberdeenshire. The most important of these extracts appear in "The Records of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen" edited for the New Spalding Club by Mr David Littlejohn, LL.D., Sheriff Clerk.

A headstone is—

In memory of William Gordon, who died at Rhynie Village, 1854, aged 26 years. Though fatuous, yet he attended church twice every Sabbath. In his person he was a model of cleanliness, in his manners inoffensive, and sociable in his habits.

In peace the dust of William lies  
Till the last trumpet rend the skies;  
No longer shall the grave retain,  
But render up its charge again.

A vaulted grave has a handsome obelisk and a fine granite monument which are inscribed—

(1).

In loving remembrance of John Symon, formerly carrier, Rhynie, who died April, 1835.

This monument is erected by his eldest son, James Symon, now of Melbourne, colony of Victoria, Australia.

(2).

In loving memory of James Symon of Melbourne, Australia, who died at Huntly, Aberdeenshire, on the 5th July, 1889, aged 63 years.

Erected by his sorrowing widow.

James Symon left Rhynie in early manhood and finally settled in Melbourne, where he accumulated considerable wealth. In 1886, he returned for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of his parents. Happening to spend a Sunday in a village in the north of England, he took a walk before morning service, and was so much impressed by the sound of the church bell that he decided to return to Rhynie within two years and provide it with a tower, clock, and bell. This laudable resolution he carried out in 1889 at a cost of about £500, but, unfortunately,

he died suddenly during the progress of the operations. The tower is of graceful design, and contains a three-dialled clock. The bell weighs 11 cwt., and has a full, rich tone. It bears the donor's name, and the date of his gift. The parishioners, to commemorate the handsome benefaction, erected in the inner side of the base of the tower a brass cenotaph, which is inscribed—

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF JAMES SYMON  
ESQ., OF MELBOURNE, DONOR OF THIS TOWER.  
DIED 5TH JULY, 1889.

“MACKAY OF UGANDA.”

A headstone bears the inscription—

In memory of Maggie Lillie, the beloved wife of The Rev. Alexander Mackay, LL.D. first Free Church Minister of Rhynie, who fell asleep in Jesus, 8th June, 1865, aged 39 years.

Also William and John Sinclair their children, who died in infancy.

“The dead in Christ shall rise first.”

Rev. Dr Mackay was born in Thurso 15th November, 1815, and was educated at King's College, Aberdeen. He was called to the Free Church of Rhynie in 1845, where, although assiduous in his ministerial duties, he found time to cultivate his hobby for geography, and to write a number of works on that subject. These commanded a large sale, some of them reaching a 17th edition. The death of his wife, in 1865, at the early age of 39, was a severe blow, and in the following year he resigned his charge at Rhynie and took up his residence in Edinburgh, subsequently removing to Ventnor, where he died on 31st January, 1895. He was survived by his second wife and by five daughters. Of five sons, all predeceased him. One—Alexander—was the celebrated African missionary known as “Mackay of Uganda,” who as a boy attended the parish school of Auchindoir. Another was Professor James Bunyan Mackay, who died at Melbourne.

It is matter for regret that no monument stands at Rhynie to the memory of “Mackay of Uganda,” who was perhaps the greatest of its sons, and who in youth gave little indication of his wonderful personality save in the brightness of his eye.

A granite headstone has the following—

In loving memory of Rev. Robert Harvey Smith, M.A., of “The Park,” Rhynie, who died January 11th, 1901, aged 76 years.

“Till the day break.”

Rev. Robert Harvey Smith was the eldest son of Peter Smith, merchant, Rhynie. After completing his theological training, he became minister of Princes Street Congregational Church, Dundee. From there he removed to Peterhead, and subsequently to Carlisle, ultimately accepting the charge at Duncanstone. He took an active interest in the forming of Mutual Improvement Societies in the district. The excellent work done by those societies is modestly told in a volume published by Mr Smith, entitled “A Village Propaganda.” Retiring from the ministry, he built a neat cottage at Rhynie, which he named “The Park,” in memory of its being in the field in which, as a boy, he had herded his father's cows. He was held in high esteem over a wide district. He proved himself a “son of song” of no mean order. Several of his pieces show deep pathos, and his enduring love for the district finds expression in the verse—

Lat Noth but on my graif leuk doon,  
An' Bogie's water sweetly croon  
By yon kirkyard, an' I'll sleep soun'  
On the bonnie banks o' Bogie.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Congregational Church originated under somewhat peculiar circumstances. In the beginning of the last century a division took place in Cabrach Secession



Church, through the minister's openly denouncing certain itinerant preachers of the Independent body who had invaded the parish. Many members of the congregation supported their minister, while others favoured the travelling preachers. Feeling ran high till the minister resigned, when an arrangement was made whereby the church was used alternately by the Secession body and by the Independent party. The latter grew strong, and called Mr Cruickshank to be their pastor. At this time, there were two places of meeting, the principal at Cabrach and the other in Rhynie, but by the year 1808 Rhynie had become the chief place of meeting, and in a few years it became the only real church—Cabrach being reduced to the status of a preaching station. As an independent church the Congregational charge at Rhynie dates its existence from 1802.

Eight separate ministers have held the incumbency. The first, as already stated, was Rev. Mr Cruickshank, who was ordained in 1804, and laboured with much success till 1841, when he retired, and went to reside with his relatives in Huntly.

A railed-in grave has a granite obelisk, which commemorates the second minister thus—

Erected by friends in memory of the Rev. Alexander Nicoll, for 35 years the faithful minister of the Congregational Church, Rhynie. He died 6th May, 1878, aged 68. St John xvii. 24.

Rev. Alexander Nicoll is said to have been an "earnest preacher of the old school" and a "very godly man of great weight of character." He married Margaret Smith, who died at Aberdeen, 31st May, 1906, aged 80. Their sons, Alexander, James Robert, and Patrick John Smith are physicians in New Zealand, Queensland, and Buckie respectively.

The successors thereafter and their dates of appointment were — Rev. John Cameron, December, 1878, resigned July, 1880; Rev. James Edwards, July, 1881, removed to Glasgow, May, 1884; Rev. William Singer, September, 1885, died in September, 1886; Rev. Alexander Yeats, July, 1887, resigned June, 1896; Rev. G. C. Smith, October, 1897, resigned, April, 1903; and Rev. Arthur Shand, September, 1903, died 30th June, 1905. The present incumbent is Rev. William Farries.

#### EMINENT NATIVES.

Among several natives of Rhynie who have risen to eminence may be mentioned James Henderson, M.D., medical missionary to China. He belonged to the most humble ranks, but as the result of his own industry and ambition secured a good education at Edinburgh University. He afterwards settled at Shanghai, where he did excellent work.

Another was George Paul Macdonell, M.A., barrister-at-law, London, who died 9th June, 1895. His brother is John Macdonell, who in 1898 was made a C.B., and in 1903 was created a knight bachelor. After a successful journalistic career, he studied for the bar, and was called at the Middle Temple in 1873. As editor of "State Trials," "Civil Judicial Statistics," "Criminal Judicial Statistics," and as the author of "A Survey of Political Economy," "The Law of Master and Tenant," "A Treatise on the Land Question," etc., he has attained the first rank.

A third was the late Alexander Allardyce, who was for some time associated with the editorship of "Blackwood's Magazine," and was the author of numerous historical works, including "The Life of Admiral Keith," "Scotland and Scotsmen in the Eighteenth Century," and "Letters from and to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe."

## ANTIQUITIES.

When the parish graveyard was levelled up about twenty-eight years ago, several relics of antiquity were discovered, including a deep stone coffin of hard whinstone, which had been hollowed out of a solid block. It has a rounded projection at one end, sufficiently large to hold the head of the remains. The presumption is that the coffin had been made for the body of an influential person, but there are no inscriptions or markings to aid investigation.

In clearing out the foundations of the old church, a sculptured stone, and the lower portion of another, were discovered. The former displays at the top the beast's head symbol, on the right the double disc and z-shaped rod symbol, while at the foot the mirror and comb ornaments are shown. The latter has at the top the double disc and z-shaped rod symbol, below which are the crescent, etc., and at the bottom the mirror, but not the comb. There are other sculptured stones in the parish, notably the "Craw Stane," which stands in a field on Mains of Rhynie. Besides incised lines, it displays the fish and elephant symbols. Further particulars with illustrations will be found in the Spalding Club's "Sculptured Stones" and in J. Romilly Allan's "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland."

In July, 1896, while excavations were proceeding in the upper end of the village for the erection of a new cottage, three parallel stone cists were laid bare about two feet below the surface. Each contained human bones, but no urn or calcined remains.

Particulars of old holdings, rentals, and topographical details of an interesting nature are given in Macdonald's "Place Names of Strathbogie."

*Essie.*

This small ancient parish, which was united to Rhynie early in the seventeenth century, takes its name from the Gaelic Eas, "a waterfall, rapid," and sometimes a "narrow glen." The title is appropriate—as also is that of Essachie—to the stream which flows through the glen and joins the Bogie near Mill of Noth. The features and course of the rivulet are well described in the opening verse from an old ballad—

O' the bonnie wee Essachie burn,  
Hoo it rushes and tumbles in glee.  
Frae Merdrum's braes, by aul' Lesmoir,  
An' Craig-beg on the sea.

## PARISH CHURCH.

The old Parish Church stood in the small graveyard near the left side of the public road leading from Rhynie to Cabrach, and at a distance of a little over two miles from Rhynie village. It measured 36 by 15½ feet. The furnishings were of a superior order, especially the high altar, on which, in Roman Catholic times, the local proprietors were taken bound to pay their wadsets and monetary obligations.

The names of several of the old priests and ministers have been preserved, thus—

In 1490, Richard Strachan was rector.

In 1521, and for many years after, William Gordon was rector.

In 1574, the parish was supplied by Gilbert Nory, reader, who was followed two years later by Walter Leslie, whose emoluments were "the hail third of parsonage and vicarage extending to £6 13s 4d."

Successive readers and ministers were Patrick Gordon in 1578-79; Duncan Brebner in 1585; Patrick Chalmers in 1601; and Henrie Ross, M.A., in 1607.

The Essie parishioners continued to have service in their own church each

alternate Sunday down to about 1760, when, on the fabric becoming ruinous, the services were restricted to Rhynie. The old manse was occupied to a later date. In 1779, James Leslie and his wife Jean Gordon were tenants, and Elizabeth Watt died therein on 10th July, 1787. In 1860, the glebe of Essie, which extended to a little over four acres, was excambed for a similar portion of ground lying contiguous to the glebe of Rhynie.

Forty years ago, the ruined walls of the old church stood to the height of a few feet, but the foundations have since been cleared out and the churchyard put into thorough order.

#### THE GORDONS OF ESSIE AND LESMOIR.

The lands of Essie were included in the grant of Strathbolgie made in 1376 by Robert II. to Sir John de Gordon, who had at least two sons—John, to whom he gave the lands of Scurdargue and Essie; and Thomas, who succeeded to the Daach of Ruthven. These sons are known in history as “the Jock and Tam Gordons,” and much controversy has arisen on the question of their birth. It is understood that the Lyon Office favours the contention that they were illegitimate, although, probably, the only evidence justifying it is the charter of confirmation of the lands of Ardlach, dated 1418-23 (*Antiq.*, Vol. II., p. 379), wherein John Gordon is described as “natural son.” Against that, however, there are MSS. of the Gordons, which contend that both sons were legitimate, while it cannot be ignored that in old deeds the term “natural son” had a very different meaning from that now assigned to it. In a notarial instrument dated as recently as 1556 a lawful son is described as “natural and legitimate,” and in a subsequently-dated sasine another person is named as “lawful and natural heir.” The

problem may be left with the remark that if “Jock and Tam” were illegitimate, they were surprisingly fortunate in the marriages they made, the families they founded, and the lands they acquired! The two last heads are well defined in the following stanzas from notes on “Lays of Strathbolgie”—

Jock of Scurdarg had houses grand  
In Bogie, Mar, and Buchan land,  
Straloch, Pitlurg, and Auchindoir,  
Cairnbarrow, Buckie, and Lesmoir.

Daach, Sauchin, and Keithock Mill,  
Of Tam of Ruthven owned the will;  
Balveny, Cults, and Cluny Moir,  
Auchindroin, and many more.

John Gordon of Scurdargue and Essie married Margaret, daughter of Sir Patrick Maitland of Gight, and they had a family of three sons—John of Auchleuchries; William of Tillytarmont, ancestor of Lesmoir and Craig; and James, who is held by many to have been the ancestor of the Gordons of Haddo.

William Gordon, the second son, designed of Tillytarmont, married the daughter of Sir John Rutherford. Of their sons, George succeeded to Tillytarmont, and Patrick—who married Rachel, daughter of Barclay of Towie-Barclay—became proprietor of Fulziemont (Wheedlemont), and was progenitor of the families of Craig, Cairnbrogie, Coclarachie, Tillyangus, Tillychoudie, Ardmeallie, Auchintoull, etc.

George Gordon of Tillytarmont married Isobel, daughter of Bereowald Innes of “Meillers,” and they had a family of four sons—Alexander of Tillyminat, who fell at Flodden, and was progenitor of the Gordons of Prony; James of Lesmoir; William of Brackley; and Thomas of “Bowmakelock.”

James Gordon, first laird of Lesmoir, married Margaret, daughter of Stewart of



Laithers, and it is argued by several authors that he died in or about 1505; as also that, three years later, and during her son's minority, Mrs Gordon had the Castle of Lesmoir erected. This is a mistake, however, as Mr Gordon lived long after the date stated, and the castle was not erected till about the middle of the century. Its builder in all probability was the Earl of Huntly. The site selected was the hollow between the Tap o' Noth and one of the outer spurs of the Buck of the Cabrach. The building was of a substantial character and strongly fortified, being enclosed by a rampart and fosse. The Royal Arms were shown upon the buildings, which are believed to have been extended at a later date.

Mr Gordon bought land extensively. In 1521 he was designed of Fotherletter and also of Meikle-Coldstone. In 1532 he acquired Creechties, in 1536 Fortre, and in 1537 Carntralzane. Between 1541 and 1546 his wife, Margaret Stewart, had died, as shown by a charter (dated in the latter year) to the lands of Earlsfield and Seggieden, wherein Margaret Ogilvy is named as his spouse. This lady was a daughter of Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford and Findlater; and Captain Wimberley, the historian of the Barclays, inclines to the view that she was the widow of Walter Barclay of Barclay. Mr Gordon died between 1557 and 1559. By his marriages he had a family of eight sons and four daughters, from whom descend, among others, the Gordons of Birkenburn, Terpersie, Oxhill, Leicheston, Dilspro, and Seggieden.

On 27th March, 1576, George Gordon of Lesmoir had a grant from his cousin George, Earl of Huntly, of the sunny half of Old Merdrum, together with the perpetual right of patronage of the church of Essie. (Reg. Mag. Sig.)

Space prevents the detailing of the interesting history of this family, which

was one of the most influential of the Gordon Clan, and on which a baronetcy was conferred by Charles I. on 2nd September, 1625. It flourished for a lengthened period, and largely extended its landed possessions.

Sir James Gordon, the first baronet, married Rebecca Keith, daughter of Keith of Ravenscraig, and it was possibly at their marriage, in the summer of 1589, that James VI. attended at the Craig of Inverugie. Besides Lesmoir and Essie, Sir James was proprietor of Broadland and Troup, which had probably been a part of the dowry of his lady.

Sir James Gordon, eighth laird of Lesmoir, but the fifth baronet, married Jean, only daughter of Sir John Gordon of Haddo; and his grandson, Sir William Gordon, the sixth baronet, who married Lilius, daughter of Gordon of Carnousie, was the last laird of Lesmoir and Essie, having sold these lands, about 1736, to John Gordon of Wardhouse or to his eldest son Arthur Gordon of Law. From the last-named the lands were bought by Alexander Garioch of Kinstair, whose son, George Garioch, succeeded in 1756. From the Gariochs the lands passed to John Grant of Rothmaise, whose trustees, in 1780, sold them to the Duke of Gordon, and they are now the property of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

In 1647, the Castle of Lesmoir was besieged by the Covenanters under General David Leslie. A letter written by Leslie to the Committee of Estates, dated Lesmoir, 27th March, 1647, reports the reduction of both Wardhouse and Lesmoir. This interesting communication has been pointed out by Mr P. J. Anderson and Captain Wimberley, and the following excerpts are taken from it. Owing to the strength of the tower of Lesmoir, to which the small garrison had betaken themselves, Leslie thought it best "upon a parlye

offered by the captain to agree with him upon conditions that he should yield up the house and all that therein was, that all the Irish should dye, and his own lyfe, with Harthill, the elder, should be spared, and they both to be prisoners untill they satisfy Church and State." "So I caused hang 27 Irish. The captain and Lesmoir, with two or thre Scottismen, poor sogers, more, I have prisouers."

The captain was Mortimer, and Lesmoir was then a mere youth of about 16. He died shortly afterwards—probably a prisoner in Edinburgh. Poor John Leith of Hartlhill lived to see further troubles.

The castle itself has totally disappeared, the stones with which it was built having been removed to form fences and walls of adjacent steadings. The enclosing dyke remains, and the moat—as fed from the Essachie burn—can still be traced. The site is opposite the farm buildings of Mains of Lesmoir, and close to the left side of the public road leading from Rhyne to Cabrach. Some of the castle equipment was carried to Craig, but has since disappeared.

On the death, in 1837, of Sir Francis Gordon, the eighth baronet, an officer of the Honourable East India Company, who had never married, the baronetcy became dormant, and still awaits a claimant. Before this, however, the last of the once extensive possessions of the family had been parted with.

Captain Douglas Wimberley, of Inverness, has already published an interesting genealogical account of the family, and he has prepared a revised monograph, in which he has incorporated all the latest particulars which have been traced. It is to be given in Vol. II. of "The House of Gordon," about to be published by the New Spalding Club.

## MERDRUM.

An old, broken, and considerably decayed tablestone, which formerly stood within the area of the old church, bears the following inscription round the sides—

H . . R LYSIS ANE HONORABIL MAN, IAMES  
. . NCAN OF MA . . . RUM QVH . . . E  
SECVND OF NOVEMBER IN YE . . OF GOD, 1601,  
AND I. LUMSDEL, HIS SPOVS QVH.

The above is commemorative of James Duncan in Merdrum, and his wife, Janet Lumsden, youngest daughter of John Lumsden, eighth laird of Cushnie. The date of Mrs Duncan's death is not recorded. The major portion of the centre of the stone is taken up with two recumbent figures, doubtless intended to represent Duncan and his wife. Both are holding shields, covering nearly a third of the bodies, on which arms are cut. They are now so much defaced that it is almost impossible to trace them. It is probable, however, that they are a boar's head erased, for Duncan, impaled with two wolves' heads couped in chief and an escallop in base for Lumsden. Both shields are flanked by the initials "I. D." and "I. L." An excellent representation of the stone is given in "Scottish Notes and Queries" for November, 1890.

Duncan possessed both means and influence. He was succeeded by three daughters as heirs-portioners—Elizabeth or Bessie, who married George Gordon, third laird of Coclarachie, a cadet of the Gordons of Craig; Marjory; and Janet, who married the "laird of Beltie Irvine, and, secondly, Abraham Forbes of Blackton," who was fifth son of William, Lord Forbes. (Family of Forbes, p. 29 and Antiq., I., p. 482.) These three ladies had, in 1602, Sasine, on the lands of Mortlich, Corbanchrie, Cokstoun, Jempstone, Duncanstoun, New Merdrum, Balnakellie, Balthenie, Wester Fowlis, Craigmill, etc.

(Aberdeen Sasine Register.) Under an arrangement, the eldest sister and her husband, George Gordon, became life-renters of Merdrum. Of the children of this union, George, the eldest son, was designed of Coclarachie, although he died before his father, and Alexander, the second son, succeeded to the half lands of Merdrum, etc. There were two other sons, Hew, and William, doctor of medicine; and a daughter, Marjory.

James Gordon, son of the above Alexander Gordon, was a notorious fornicator, and besides, was guilty of "contempt of the Session of Rynie, drunkenness, relapsing into rebellion with James Grahame, and the setting lightly of his father and his admonitiones."

Interesting particulars regarding these families will be found in the New Spalding Club's "House of Gordon" under "Coclarachie."

#### THE CRAN FAMILY.

Many members of families bearing the surname of Cran have tombstones, but as they nearly all descend from one stem, what follows will be more easily understood than a quotation of the inscriptions.

The Scottish Crans are probably descended from the French baronial family of "De Craon" or "De Cranno," who flourished in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Certain it is that the family obtained a hold in Aberdeenshire about 1290, but probably the oldest tombstone inscription to a member is that in Fyvie Churchyard (see Fyvie) to Thomas de Cranno, vicar of the parish, who died in 1489. He is named (View of the Diocese) "Sir Thomas Cranno, otherwise Vatson"; but the title had probably been applied as a courtesy one, and not as indicating the order of knighthood.

In the seventeenth century, the family had a large representation in Forgue,

Drumblade, and Huntly districts. Three brothers—James, John, and Robert Cran—were tenants of Belhinnie before 1740, and the two last-named were subsequently in Mains of Lesmoir.

John Cran, who was born in 1760, had a son, Robert, who became tenant of Scurdargue, married Agnes Ingram, and died 29th August, 1828. Besides two daughters—Agnes and Jannet—they had two sons—Robert, who succeeded to Scurdargue, married Margaret Pirrie, and died 1st July, 1873, aged 85; and William, tenant of Mains of Lesmurdie, Cabrach, who died 13th March, 1882, aged 77. He married Ann Kellas, who survived him, and died in 1903, aged 87. Of their family, John is the well-known farmer of Kirkton, Bunchrew, and founder and managing director of the large firm of John Cran and Company (Ltd.), Bunchrew and Invergordon, manufacturers and importers of fertilisers and feeding stuffs; William is in Scurdargue; Robert is in Mains of Lesmurdie; while James and Alexander are medical practitioners in Great Harwood, Lancashire. Of the daughters, Ann died at Huntly in 1903; Agnes was married to Rev. George Duthie, U.P. minister of Kinkell, Perthshire, and died 26th March, 1871, aged 24, survived by a son, William Cran Duthie, who is now a doctor in Blackburn, Lancashire.

The above Robert Cran in Belhinnie, and subsequently in Mains of Lesmoir, who was born in 1717, married Agnes Alexander, and died 16th May, 1797. They had a large family, of whom James and Robert were in Mains of Lesmoir, John became farmer of Templand, and William of Farmton.

The last-named Robert Cran married (1) Isobel Mair, and (2) Christian Duncan. Of the children of the latter marriage, Jean married Robert Troup, Rhynie, and



Christian married John Cran, also in Rhynie.

John Cran in Templand, who was born in 1758 (he died 2nd November, 1838), married (1) Jean Gordon of Bogenclough, of the family of Gordon of Birkenburn, cadets of the Lesmoir Gordons. They had two sons—James and John. The last-named, who was born in 1790, married his cousin, Christian Cran, of Mains of Lesmoir, and died in Muir of Rhynie in 1849. They had a family of two sons and two daughters—John, James, Christian, and Jean.

John Cran, last-mentioned, who was an extensive boot manufacturer in Rhynie, married Margaret Scott, Bowling; and among their family are John, who is an engineer and shipbuilder in Leith; Agnes; Robert, and Alexander, who are in business in Aberdeen; and William, who is in Sydney, New South Wales.

The above John Cran, farmer, Templand, married, secondly, Ann Cruickshank; and they had a family of six sons—William, in Mains of Lesmoir; Robert, who died in Grenada on 26th December, 1820, aged 24; George, schoolmaster, Cabrach, who died 26th June, 1823, aged 25; Peter, who died 16th March, 1824, aged 23; Alexander, medical practitioner, Kildrummy, and thereafter in Tarland; and James, who married Isabella Grant, became farmer in Templand and Newseat, and died 18th April, 1870, survived by a family.

The above Dr Alexander Cran (died March 1889) married Margaret Reid (died February, 1890), daughter of James Reid, Templeton, Kildrummy, and they had ten of a family, of whom John is a merchant in Portland, Oregon; James is manager of the Bank of British North America, Ashcroft, British Columbia; William is a retired farmer; George, M.D., is in practice at Banchory-Ternan;

while Robert, M.D., now deceased, practised in Assam and subsequently at Bal-later. The eldest son, Alexander, and the second daughter, Margaret Harper, are also deceased. The other daughters are Anne Erskine; Mary, who married Dougall Christie; and Isabella, wife of William Shepherd, Bellastraid, Dinnet.

William Cran in Mains of Lesmoir, who was born in 1794, married Jannet Cran, and died 26th December, 1866, survived by a family of whom John is now tenant in Mains of Lesmoir.

William Cran in Farmton, who was born 16th October, 1760, married Ann Morrison, and died 30th December, 1842, survived by a family, of whom Peter was farmer at Morlich, Towie. His son, George Cran, is the present tenant of Morlich, and is famous for his herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. A brother of his is Alexander Cran, M.A., Ph.D., Litt.D., of Edinburgh High School.

Another son of William Cran of Farmton was John Cran in Glencowie, Towie, whose sons were the pioneers of the sugar trade in Queensland, Australia.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

Two tablestones have inscriptions as under—

(1).

Here lies the dust of John Milne once in Newmerdrum, who died October, 1809, aged 57. Also his son, William, died May 6th, 1800, aged 21. . . .

(2).

Here lies the remains of John Milne, for many years farmer in New Merdrum, who died at Alford, 5th July, 1878, aged 87 years. Also of Margaret Thomson, his wife, who died 19th June, 1876, aged 79 years.

A tablestone, which displays various mortuary emblems, has the following inscription—

Under this stone lies interred the remains of

John Henry, some time in Rumfud, who departed this life February 7th, 1774, aged 67. . . .

The name of the above small holding has been altered to Ramfold. It is now attached to the farm of Scurdargue.

Two tablestones are inscribed—

(1).

Here . . . James Hennderson . . . who deprted May, 1681. . . .

(2).

Here lies James Henderson who died May the 22nd, 1682, and also James Henderson his grandson. . . .

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected in memory of Wm. Allardyce, Farmer in Belhinnie, who died Nov. 14, 1849, aged 77. Also Isobel Allardyce, his spouse, who died Sept. 18, 1846, aged 74.

A tablestone has the undermentioned inscription—

In memory of William Shand, late in Stone-dyke, son to William Shand and Jean Laing, late in Castlehill—he died Aug. 16th, 1819, aged 38 years.

This stone is placed over his grave by Mary Dawson, his widow. . . .

#### ANTIQUITIES.

On the summit of the Tap o' Noth, which reaches a height of about 1851 feet above sea level, and is the most outstanding natural feature in the parish, are the remains of a "vitrified fort," the origin of which has formed the subject of much discussion. It is an enclosure somewhat in the form of a parallelogram, measuring 150 yards in length by about 40 yards in breadth. The walls, which measure nearly 20 feet in thickness, are fused about three feet inwards from the surface on each side. The late Professor George Pirie went carefully into the subject, and had the material forming the fort analysed. As a result, he was led to the opinion that the stones had been gathered in the upper reaches of the

Don, carried to the top of the hill, and then vitrified by the action of heat and the potash of the wood employed for the fire. When or for what object the fort had been constructed it is impossible to say.

At the foot of the hill is Milledwne (the Grave of a Thousand), where formerly were many cairns, believed to contain the remains of those who fell in the battle in which Lulach was slain after his attempt to secure the Crown of Scotland. On one of the cairns being opened a good many years ago, a rude stone coffin was found.

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### Tullynessle.

The origin of the name of this parish is uncertain. It has undergone various changes of spelling—thus, Tulinestyn in 1157, Tulynestyn in 1275, Tholynestyn in 1375, Tillinessil in 1549, Tullinessill in 1669, Tillinessle in 1667, Tillynesle in 1756, Tullenesle in 1812, and Tullynessle from 1820 onwards.

In 1157, Pope Adrian IV. confirmed "Tulinestyn" with the church and other appurtenances to Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen. (Reg. Epis. Aberd., I., pp. 6 and 85.) In 1376, Bishop Alexander erected the Parish Church of "Tholynestyn" into a prebendal church of the Cathedral of Aberdeen—the prebendary being bound to provide a perpetual vicar to serve the cure of the parish church. This arrangement continued in force till the Reformation.

"Tholynestyn" manse and glebe, in Old Aberdeen, adjoined the churchyard of Old Machar. After being for a time in the possession of George Kilgour, they were sold, in 1723, to Colonel Middleton for 700 merks Scots. (Orem, p. 75.)

The vicarage of the parish was granted to King's College and University in the

reign of James IV., and the vicarage and patronage were ratified to the College by Parliament in 1633. In 1769, the College sold the right of patronage to the Earl of Fife.

On 22nd July, 1680, upon the occasion of a visitation by the Presbytery, the elders were Alexander Chalmer in Mongerrie, William Stewart in Firmilne, Arthur Donaldson, James Smith, Patrick Clerihew, and William Green. Of money mortified for behoof of the poor, there were 450 merks. The fabric of the church was found to be entire. Of church utensils, there were "a basin for baptisme, two tables, a linen cloath for covering the same, and two cups of Tiun for the use of the Holy Communion." (New Spalding Club's "Records of the Exercise of Alford," pp. 316-17.)

A new parish church to accommodate the united parishes of Tullynessle and Forbes, was erected in the graveyard in 1877. It is built of Syllavethy granite, quarried in the parish.

The belfry of two older churches has been preserved intact, and stands on the ground to the left of the entrance gate to the church. It bears the date 1604, and, considering that it has withstood the storms of three centuries, is in good preservation.

In the vestibule of the church is a white marble cenotaph bearing the following inscription—

£100 stg. left to the parish of Tullynessle, where he was at school, by the late Mr Joseph Taylor, of London, who desired that this inscription should be put up as an example to others. A.D. 1816.

Joseph Taylor was a native of the parish of Alford, and for a time attended the school of Tullynessle. He afterwards became a bookbinder in London, and acquired means. Under his deed of settle-

ment, he bequeathed, free of legacy duty, to the kirk-sessions of Tullynessle and Alford £100 each, with direction that the interest should be expended at Christmas yearly "amongst the most necessitous and deserving poor . . . forever."

#### MINISTERS.

Rev. Thomas Strathachin was rector in 1487-88.

Rev. Hector Boece held the vicarage in 1528. (Dict. Nat. Bio.)

Rev. William Cabell was rector, with Rev. Peter Hutchison as vicar in 1544. The latter was succeeded before 1559 by Sir John Ranye. Cabell, however, continued to hold the rectorship for a long period. On 24th January, 1556-7, he granted a tack for nineteen years to Alexander Leith of Montgarrie, of the teind sheaves of that property, including Milhill, etc., for payment to the prebendaries of "Tullynessil" of 32½ merks Scots yearly. In 1559, he was entrusted with the custody of 24½ ounces of silver plate belonging to the Cathedral of Aberdeen. He appears to have experienced the pressure of the Reformation movement and its drastic changes, as is shown by the wording of a tack, dated 27th July, 1562, to James Leslie, Burgess of Aberdeen, of the whole parish teinds, in so far as not previously set, for £59 1s 8d. The aged parson declared that it was granted to Leslie "in speciall respek of his labouris takin for me in this tribulus tyme for inbringing of my fruttis . . . and in respek of my age and inhabilitie of persone." (Whitehaugh MS. Chartulary.)

Rev. John Strathauchin was translated, in 1567, from the pastorate of Forvie, Slains, and Logie-Buchan, to that of Tullynessle, Kyg, and Towch, with £5 11s 1½d of stipend, to which he had an augmentation of £2 4s 5½d, as from Lammas, 1569. He



was translated to Alford in November of the same year. (*Antiq.*, I., p. 226.)

Patrick Strathachin officiated as reader at Tullynessle, the salary pertaining to the office being xx. lib. (*Ibid.*, 228.) He was succeeded in the readership by James Forbes, son of William Forbes of Keithmore. (Lumsden's "Family of Forbes," p. 62.)

Rev. John Kennedy was installed as minister before 1572, and he continued in office till at least 1583. (Whitehaugh MS. Chart.) He is not noticed by Dr Scott.

Rev. Alexander Guthrie was admitted to the charge about 1589. He removed to Forbes, and afterwards to Alford, but returned to Tullynessle, continuing till after 1619.

Rev. Andrew Strachan, M.A., was possibly the next incumbent, but he removed to Kintore about 1647. (See Kintore.)

Rev. David Swan followed. He joined the Protesters, and removed to the parish of Tough in 1651. (See Tough.)

In the following year, Rev. Alexander Youngson, M.A., was ordained, but in 1661 was translated to Rhynie, where he died on 26th November, 1678.

Rev. John Walker, M.A., was ordained successor, in 1662, and, according to Dr Scott (*Fasti*), was alive in 1710, and probably held the incumbency for fifty years. He married Margaret Gordon, of the Telpersie family. In 1677, she resigned her rights over the lands of Warestone (? War-rackston) in favour of "James Gordon of Delpersie, and his son George."

A tablestone near the centre of the graveyard commemorates the succeeding minister thus—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Walter Syme, late minister of the gospel at Tillynessle, who died in the year 1756, and Elizabeth Gordon, his spouse.

Rev. Walter Syme, M.A., was a native of Banff, where he was born in 1692. He

was for some time schoolmaster of Alford, and was ordained to the charge of Tullynessle on 6th March, 1722. He is said to have "been possessed of good talents." He married, on 1st August, 1722, Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Rev. James Gordon, for some time minister of Rhynie, and proprietor of Chapeltown, Drumblade. Of their family, James became tutor to Sir Ralph Abercromby, was licensed in 1747, and in 1750 was ordained to the charge of Alloa. He married Mary, eldest daughter of Rev. Mr Robertson, Edinburgh, and sister of Dr William Robertson, the historian; and the only daughter of this union, Eleanor, married Henry Brougham of Brougham Hall, Westmoreland, and their son became the famous Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, whose unwearied efforts in the cause of popular education are gratefully remembered. The other children of Mr and Mrs Walter Syme were William; Mary, who, in June, 1786, was married to John Dingwall of Ranniaston; Margaret, who, in 1751, married Rev. Alexander Johnstou, minister of Alford, and died 16th September, 1802; and Isabella, who was married to Rev. James Forsyth, minister of Belhelvie. (See Belhelvie.) Mr Syme, on 29th May, 1746, married, secondly, Barbara Calder, but her name is not recorded upon the tombstone.

Rev. George William Algernon Gordon, M.A., son of Rev. Theodore Gordon, minister of Kennethmout, was ordained to Tullynessle on 3rd October, 1759, but was translated to Keith in 1771. He died at Linton on 28th May, 1796. (*Scots Magazine*.) He married Cecilia Reid, who died in April, 1784. They had a son, Theodore, who became laird of Overhall.

The succeeding minister was Rev. Alexander Angus, M.A., son of Rev. John Angus, minister of Culsalmund. He was ordained on 29th April, 1772, but, two

years later, was translated to Botriphnie, where he died on 11th April, 1829, in his 85th year. He married Katharine Mair, and one of his sons was Dr George Angus, of the Bengal Medical Service, who died in Aberdeen on 7th April, 1872, and to whose memory his brother officers in the Bengal Medical Service erected a monument in the West Church of St Nicholas, Aberdeen.

Rev. Francis Leslie, M.A., of the Kininvie family, was ordained 10th May, 1775, but, twelve years later, removed to Rothiemay, whence he was afterwards translated to Bolarm.

A railed-in space has a wall monument to the succeeding incumbent. The inscription is—

Here is interred the body of the Rev. Andrew Marshall, who, after being 25 years minister of Tullenesle, died upon the 26th of May, 1812, in the 59th year of his age, much lamented by his own people and a numerous acquaintance, by whom he was beloved.

Here also are laid the bodies of his ten children, who all died young.

In testimony of warm affection and esteem, this is inscribed by his disconsolate widow, Mary Grant, the affectionate mother of his children, who died at Aberdeen, March 21st, 1841, aged 78, and was also interred here.

Rev. Andrew Marshall, M.A., engaged for a short time in tutorial work, was licensed by the Presbytery of Garioch in 1778, ordained assistant minister of Daviot 13th July, 1786, and inducted to Tullynessle 9th August, 1787. He did not enjoy robust health, and the death of his ten children in early youth proved a severe blow, from which he did not recover.

A reserved corner space beside the churchyard wall has a headstone bearing the under-mentioned inscription—

In memory of the Rev. James Paull, D.D., who departed this life on 21st October, 1858, in the 78th year of his age, and the 54th year of his public ministry—45 of which were spent

in this parish in the midst of a deeply attached people.

Also of his children, Margaret, Robert, and Andrew, who all died in infancy. And John Alexander Forbes, who died at Peria Chola Estate, India, on the 28th January, 1860, in the 32nd year of his age.

Also of his widow, Eliza L. Forbes, who died 23rd June, 1874, aged 73 years.

Rev. James Paull, M.A., son of James Paull, schoolmaster, Drumoak, was for some time minister of Greyfriars Church, Aberdeen. He was admitted to Tullynessle on 24th March, 1813, and received the degree of D.D. from the University of St Andrews in 1844. He took an active and prominent part in Church affairs alike in Session, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. By the last-named he was elected convener of the Supplementary Orphan Fund, and by his exertions and guiding skill beneficial measures were passed. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of 1846, and six years later had the honour of being elected one of the Chaplains - in - Ordinary to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. On 25th March, 1822, he married Eliza L. Forbes, daughter of John Forbes, West India merchant, and they had a family of fourteen, of whom ten reached majority. Of the sons, James was an advocate in Aberdeen, and Synod law agent. He died 27th February, 1901. William succeeded as minister of Tullynessle, as after stated. The above John Alexander Forbes met his death under tragic circumstances. He had gone out carrying a loaded gun and accompanied by a favourite dog. While resting he had placed his gun against a bush, and unnoticed, the dog had commenced to play with it, with the result that it went off with fatal effect.

Rev. William Paull, M.A., son of the preceding, was ordained to the charge in May, 1858, and for forty-three years discharged the whole ministerial duties with

much acceptance. He retired in the autumn of 1901, and thereafter resided in Aberdeen, where he died on 15th November, 1905, in his 70th year. He married a daughter of the late Dr Stephen, Buchromb, and grand-daughter of the late Rev. Alexander Reid, minister of the parish of Kildrummy, and they had a family of two daughters, and one son, James George Paull, advocate, Aberdeen, of the firm of Paull and Williamsons. The remains of Mr Paull were interred in Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen, where a cross resting on a rustic base commemorates him. The inscription is—

In loving memory of the Reverend William Paull, for 47 years minister of the parish of Tullynessle and Forbes, who died at Aberdeen on the 15th day of November, 1905, aged 69 years, having retired from the active charge of the parish in 1901.

The present incumbent is Rev. J. Grant Forbes, M.A., who was ordained 19th December, 1901.

#### MONTGARRIE AND WHITEHAUGH.

The Leiths of Montgarrie, Whitehaugh, etc., deduce their descent, through the family of Barnes, in Premnay, from Patrick de Leith, who was in Edingaroch in 1120. The first Leith of Barnes who came into prominence was probably William Leith, who was Provost of Aberdeen in 1351-55. He is said by Nisbet to have married, in 1350, a daughter of Donald, twelfth Earl of Mar; but this has been disputed. In any case, he possessed considerable wealth, as evidenced by his being proprietor of several estates, including Ruthrieston, near Aberdeen. He founded the Chantry of St Laurence and St Ninian, in the church of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, and gave to the church two fine bells (Laurence and Mary), which were destroyed by the great fire on 9th October, 1974. Besides the Leiths of Montgarrie

and Harthill, he is said to have been the common progenitor of the families of Leith-hall, Freefield, Glenkindie, Bucharn, and Arnage.

Certain authors design William Leith as of Montgarrie as early as 1423, but possibly it was not till 1556 that the family fully acquired the lands, which they did under a feu-charter by the Bishop and Chapter of Aberdeen in favour of Alexander Leith and his heirs or assignees. The properties thus conveyed embraced

“ the lands of Montgarrie with their pertinents, the mill of Montgarrie with the multures and brewhouse of Montgarrie, and the brewhouse called Milhill, Croft Crany, and the Dirahouse with their pertinents, lying in the barony of Tulenessill, the feu-duty for lands of Montgarrie being £13 6s 8d, one mart, 4 sheep, 4 bolls malt with a gallon to each boll, 4 bolls oats with 24 tame hens, 24 moorfowl, 12 tame geese, 6s 8d for bondage, and for grassum 53s 4d yearly; for the mill of Montgarrie, etc., 40s, one fed sow, 24 well fed capons, 24 tame hens, 6 moorfowl, and for grassum 8s; for the brewhouse of Montgarrie with Croft Crany and the Dirahouse with tofts crofts, etc., of all the same 36s 8d, and for grassum 7s 4d, 12 capons, 12 poultry, and 6 moorfowl; for Milhill 10s, 24 tame hens, for grassum 2s, and for arriages, carriages, and other services 6s 8d. . . . and also 15s 4d of augmentation. . . . doubling said feu-duty at the entry of every heir and giving 3 suits at 3 head Courts of the Bishop in the Bishop's Palace at Old Aberdeen, and the tenants to be bound, sufficiently armed according to the fashion of the country to serve the Bishop's baillie in the Queen's armies; and every heir attaining lawful age to give oath of fidelity to defend the Bishop, the Sec, the Chapter . . . and the Christian and orthodox faith. . . . (MS. Chartulary.)

Additional lands were acquired at various times.

The above Alexander Leith married Elizabeth or Bessie Gray, and their initials, with those of John Leith and his wife, Beatrice Middleton, are preserved



upon a coat of arms bearing the date 1588, and the motto "Trev to the end."

Within the ancient Temple Glen, near the mansion-house of Whitehaugh, are a private chapel and mausoleum (reconstructed 1842), in which are interred the remains of many members of the family. Numerous tablets and memorials have been erected within, one of the oldest being a tablet which formerly stood in the wall of the old church of Keig, but was removed thence many years ago. It has at the top the legend "Trev to the end," below which are coats of arms flanked by the initials A. L. and B. G. An inscription in Latin follows, which, translated into English, is—

Sacred to God, the Best and Greatest, and to the good memory of Alexander Leith of Montgarie, his great-grandfather, who died A.D., 1597, above 80 years of age; of Bessie Gray, his great-grandmother; of Patrick and William, and the other children of the foresaid. As also of Beatrice Middleton, grandmother of Alexander Leith, and of her daughter and other children. Also of Christian Nicolson, his mother-in-law, and of her infant daughter, Isobel Leith, of all of whom the mortal remains rest here in the hope of a blessed resurrection.

John Leith of Montgarie, great-grandson of the foresaid Alexander, caused this monument to be erected, A.D., 1655.

Alexander Leith and Bessie Gray had a family of at least three sons—Patrick; William, who married Elizabeth — sometimes called Isobel — daughter of Patrick Forbes of Corse, and died before 1599, leaving no male issue; and John, who succeeded as heir to his brother William. He married Jean Mortimer, and died on 6th May, 1637, as shown by a tombstone which was in the Chantry referred to. The inscription is—

Here lyes an honest man, Iohn Leith of Mongerrie, who departed the 6th day of May, 1637, who is linealy descended of The Right Honourable William Leith of Barnes, burges

and Provest of Aberdeen in the year 1352. Here lyes Mr William Leith, lawfull son to George Leith of Thriefield, linealy descended of the forsaid Barnes who departed the 30th day of June, 1702, and of his age the 51 year. As also Charles Leith, son to the said Mr William Leith.

In 1613, John Leith had a grant from the town of Aberdeen of the lands of Countesswells, Gardyn or Gairn, and Brotherfield, all in the parish of Peterculter.

In 1614, Patrick Leith, eldest son of John Leith, married Christian Nicolson, eldest daughter of Thomas Nicolson, Commissary of Aberdeen. She died before August, 1619. After October of that year, Patrick Leith married, as his second wife, Anna Forbes, daughter of the deceased Abraham Forbes of Blacktown, and granddaughter of William, Lord Forbes. Their names are recorded upon two monuments as under—

One—now much defaced—has at the top a coat of arms, flanked by the initials P. L. The legend "Trev to the end" is also shown. Underneath is the inscription in Latin, which, in English, reads—

Sacred to God the Best and Greatest and to the good memory of Patrick Leith of Montgarie, who in the turbulent times of Civil Wars, by an innocent life, excellent conduct, blameless integrity, beloved of all good men, in peace completed his mortal life, whose bodily remains here await a blessed resurrection.

Anna Forbes, his surviving wife, has erected this monument to her late dearly beloved husband.

Born in the year 158-, ninth of month of June, he died in the year 1641, sixteenth January.

The other bears—

This is buildt by Anna Forbes in memory of her husband, Patrick Leith of Mvngary, who departed this lyfe anno 1641.

Underneath is a semi-circle, round the edge of which are the mottoes—

GRACE ME GYVD.  
IN HOPE I BYD.

In the centre three stags' heads are shown, along with the initials A. F., for Anna Forbes.

John Leith, son of Patrick Leith and Anna Forbes, succeeded to the estates. In the monument erected by him to his ancestors in 1655 he followed a not uncommon usage in designating his step-mother, Christian Nicolson, as his "mother-in-law." He died before 1672.

John Leith, son of the preceding, succeeded, and married Elizabeth, daughter of William, eleventh Lord Forbes. Their daughter and heiress Anne, in 1706, married William Forbes of Tolquhon (he was the lineal descendant of the brother of the first Lord Forbes — i.e., Sir John Forbes, who, through his marriage, in 1420, to Mariot, the widowed daughter and one of the two heiresses of the deceased Sir Henry Preston, Lord of Fermartyn, got with her one-half of the lordship of Fermartyn, which embraced the lands and fortalices of Tolquhon, and became the progenitor of the Forbeses of Tolquhon, Culloden, Ballogie, Foveran, Waterton, etc.), who, unfortunately, allowed himself to become pecuniarily involved with designing persons, who, not content with suddenly foreclosing and securing powers from the Court of Session to sell his fine old castle and estate, actually sent a band of soldiers to evict him from Tolquhon! He died on 4th April, 1728, in his 42nd year, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

William Forbes-Leith, the elder son, became curate of Binsay, and subsequently vicar of Thornbury. John Forbes Leith, the second son, succeeded to Whitehaugh, Montgarrie, etc., and became by the death of his elder brother without issue, the representative of the family of Tolquhon. He married Jane, eldest daughter of Theodore Morison of Bognie. Particulars of the improvements effected by him on his estates are given in the New Statistical

Account of Scotland under "Tullynessle and Forbes." He is commemorated by a monument, which has a Latin inscription. In English it is—

John Forbes Leith directed this monument to be erected for himself and his family in the year 1781. His sons William and Theodore Forbes Leith erected it in 1782.

William Forbes Leith, elder son of the preceding, succeeded. He was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, and subsequently studied civil law. He died unmarried in the spring of 1806.

Dr Theodore Forbes Leith, as the next surviving brother, succeeded. He had an excellent medical practice in Greenwich, and was noted for his personal strength and courage. He married Marie d'Arboine, a French lady of ancient family.

A white marble monument stands to his memory, with an inscription thus—

Theodore Forbes Leith, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., of Whitehaugh, who departed this life September 16, 1819, aged 74.

A kind and indulgent husband, an affectionate father, and the benevolent friend of all mankind.

Theodore Forbes Leith, the eldest son of Dr Forbes Leith, died young, and James John Forbes Leith, the immediate younger brother, succeeded. He was for a long period an officer in the Honourable East India Company's service, retiring in 1826 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. On 28th November, 1827, he married Williamina Helen, only child of Lieutenant-Colonel James Stewart, 42nd Highlanders.

A small stone below the west window has a plate, with an inscription to them thus—

Colonel James John Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh left this world on Friday, 24th September, 1841; and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith, his beloved wife, on Friday, 12th October, 1866. United in death as in life. The remains of both repose within this shell, and may the humble hope of a glorious resurrection be truly realised in the blessed rise of both

together to the united enjoyment in soul and body of immortal happiness through the merits of a Crucified Redeemer. That faithful affection of the heart for each other, and that devoted love for their 8 dutiful and attached children was theirs. To whom the Saviour says,

A few short years of evil past,  
Ye reach the happy shore,  
Where death divided friends at last,  
Shall meet to part no more.

Colonel and Mrs Forbes Leith had a family of five sons and three daughters. An obelisk, with cross on the top, and standing on a triple base, bears inscriptions to several of them—

To the glory of God, and the cherished memory of James, eldest son of James John and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh. Born 10th December, 1828; died 12th May, 1875. His noble character, most sweet disposition, and generous, tender heart endeared him to all. His life was spent in striving to benefit and make others happy; his irreparable loss is ever mourned by his sister, Williamina Stewart, widow of W. J. Lumsden of Balmedie.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.

The upper base bears—

W. S. L. desires that this monument should record also the lives of their beloved and honoured parents, James John Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh, Lieut.-Colonel H.E.I.C.S., born 25th October, 1778; died 24th September, 1841. And Williamina Helen Stewart, his cherished wife, only child of James Stewart, Colonel 42nd R.H. Black Watch, and of Williamina Kerr, his wife. Born 22nd April, 1804; died 12th October, 1866. They were married 28th November, 1827. Their bodies are laid side by side in the raised coffin in the centre of this building.

The second base is inscribed—

And of her beloved sisters and brother.

Helen Maria, their 2nd daughter, born 1st December, 1831, married R. W. Rickart Hepburn of Rickarton, 25th November, 1851; died 1st March, 1881. Adelaide Isabella, their 3rd

daughter, born 7th November, 1837; married A. B. Myers, Lieut.-Colonel R.E. 31st December, 1872; died 22nd November, 1874. And Henry Stewart, their 4th son, born 2nd March, 1836; died 25th February, 1853.

We sorrow not for them all as if we had no hope, for we believe that them which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

A brass plate has the following inscription to the third son—

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Thomas Augustus, third son of Colonel James John and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh.

Born 25th August, 1834.

Died 8th December, 1896.

A large brass cenotaph, framed in oak, is inscribed to the fourth son thus—

Henry Stewart Forbes Leith (fourth son of Colonel James John and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith) of Whitehaugh was born on the 2nd March, 1836, and tenderly reared there; and on the 25th of February, 1853, soon after his arrival in Australia, he fell a victim to the climate of Forest Creek, and died universally beloved for his many virtues and amiable disposition, which will ever endear his name in this spot where he spent the happiest years of his short life. This tribute of affection to his cherished memory is raised by his sorrowing mother at the earnest request of his youngest brother, Charles Edward.

A brass has been erected to the fifth son—

To the glory of God and the dear memory of Charles Edward, fifth son of Colonel James John and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh.

Born 18th October, 1839.

Died 6th October, 1891.

The chapel baptismal font is of white marble, and consists of a shell sitting on base and held by an angel. It is inscribed—

To the glory of God and the fair and dear memory of Helen Maria and Adelaide Isabella, this font is erected by their sister, Williamina Stewart, and the only child of each Helen and Amelia Adelaide Williamina Helen.



The righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

A small brass plate is inscribed—

To the glory of God and the cherished memory of a father and mother, Colonel James John and Williamina Helen Stewart Forbes Leith, these west and east windows were erected by W. S. L. and H. R. H. 1892.

The present proprietor is Rev. William Forbes Leith, M.A., Oxon, vicar of Wattisham, Suffolk. He and his sister, Williamina Stewart, widow of W. J. Lumsden of Balmedie (see Belhelvie), with their two nieces, Helen Rickart Hepburn and Amelia Adelaide Williamina Helen Fyers, are the only surviving representatives of the family of Colonel James John Forbes Leith.

#### TERPERSIE.

The lands of Terpersie — otherwise named Terperci, Tirepressy, Tyrpressy, Tarpersie, Dalpersie, Dulpersie, and Derpersie—with those of Warrackston, Boggy-shalloch, etc., belonged in early times to the Bishopric of Aberdeen. About 1390, the Bishop was called upon to vindicate his rights on account of the Knight of Forbes claiming a portion of the lands of "Tirepressy" called "Lurgyndaspok, that is to say the Bishopis Leg." The pleadings of the Bishop were ingenious. The first plea was that it was unlikely that such a name would have been given had the land not been the Bishop's. "Item Tirepressy is and ay has been twa dauach of land" (832 acres Scotch), and were the land that Forbes claims deducted from it "the lave war nocht a dauach and a half," wherefore his claim is not like to be "richtwise." . . . Item, Sir John Broun, Knight, held "Tirepressy" of the Bishop and the Kirk of Aberdeen, and had then his "shepcotis and schepherdis housis" upon the land in dispute.

On 7th August, 1428, Bishop Henry let "Tyrpressy" to John Clark and his helpers, during the lifetime of Clark, for eight merks yearly, with services, and the erecting of "an honest house in which the Bishop might be lodged for one night yearly." It was further stipulated that a garden, planted with trees, should be provided. This was the origin of the Bishop's summer residence in the parish.

In 1556, Bishop William, with consent of the chapter, disposed of the lands, by way of feu, to William Gordon, one of the eight sons of James Gordon, first laird of Lesmoir. (See Essie.) Four years earlier Gordon had acquired from George, Earl of Huntly, the lands of Toldow, Brachlie, Ballantober, Ballantorre, etc., in the lordship of Aboyne. (Records of Aboyne, p. 78.) He possessed considerable means, and after acquiring Terpersie lost no time in erecting on it a castle capable of accommodating his family and at the same time withstanding the ordinary attacks of a foe. The site selected was in a secluded valley almost surrounded by the hill of Correen, and about a mile to the west of the old military road leading to Alford across the Suie Hill from the north. The castle consists of a main building, with two round towers at opposite corners, but subsequent additions have altered the original arrangement. The date 1561 is upon a label under one of the loops of the old hall stair, and the letter G is also shown. The boar's head of the family arms is carved over the first floor window. The building was originally surrounded by a moat, the water to which was got from the Esset Burn, flowing past. Billings, and Macgibbon and Ross give two views of the castle in their respective works, but as farm buildings surround the structure, its appearance is greatly spoiled. It is now roofless.

William Gordon appears to have been twice married, (1) to Margaret Ogilvy, daughter of the laird of Dunlugas, and (2) to Elspet, daughter of George Gordon of Tilphoudie, and widow of John Forbes of Brux. (Records of Aboyne, p. 201.) He took part in the battle of Corrichie in 1562, and in October, 1571, was at the clan battle of Tillyangus, where he slew "Black Arthur," brother of Lord Forbes. He was then under the command of Adam Gordon of Auchindoun, whom he accompanied to Aberdeen, and assisted in the battle of Crabstane, which was fought in the following month. For those exploits he was proscribed, and died in the house of Rannes, his remains being interred in Rannes' Aisle in the Parish Church of Rathven.

The lands having been restored to the family, George Gordon, son of the preceding, succeeded, and is understood to have married Miss Ogilvie of Inverquharitie. Their eldest son, William, became third laird, and was alive as late as 1667. He married a daughter of Gordon of Leicheston, and suffered considerable persecution, including the burning of the castle by the troops of General Baillie in 1645.

Alexander Gordon, eldest son of William Gordon, died before his father, unmarried, and James Gordon, the second son, thus became fourth laird of Terpersie. He and his lady, Anna Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Craig, and of his wife Jean, daughter of Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir, Bart., are commemorated by two large flat stones lying on the ground in the churchyard of Tullynessle. The probability is that these, and a still older stone lying alongside, had originally been within an aisle connected with an older parish church, as it is known that the earlier Gordons of Terpersie buried in the church. The words of the inscription are considerably contracted, while many of them

are much defaced. The following may still be made out—

—HIER · LYES · ANNA · GORDON

HIER · LYES · INCLOSED · WITHIN · THIS  
 LITTLE · SHRINE · THE · PRECIOUS · BO ·  
 · DY · OF · A · SOVL · DIVINE · THE · SOVLS  
 RETOVNRD · TO · GOD · VHO · DID  
 IT · GIVE · TO · SING · HIS · PRAIS · AND  
 SHAL · FOREVER · LIVE · THE · BODY  
 WHICH · WITH · BEAVTIE · WAS · AD ·  
 · ORNED · MOST · NOV · TO · DVST · FROM · V ·  
 · HENC · IT · WAS · RETURNED · BVT · YET · IN ·  
 · REMEMBRANCE · OF · HIR · VERTVE  
 SHAL · INDVRE · FROM · EAG · TO · EAG  
 PERPETVAL · AS · PALAS · SHE · HIR · W ·  
 · ISDOM · STILL · DID · SHOV · AS · PYT ·  
 · HO · SHE · INELY · SVENCE · DID · FLOW  
 AND · IVNO · VHO · IN · RICHES · DID · EX ·  
 CEL · WAS · NOT · MOR · FREE · NOR · YET  
 MOR · HOSPITAL · THE · POOR · SHE · FE ·  
 · D · THE · NAKED · CLAD · ALSO · NON · II ·  
 · VNGRY · NAKED · FROM · HIR · HOV  
 · S · DID · GO · OF · BEAVTIE · MEANERS  
 AND · HVMLITY · A · PERFECT · PATER.

SOMTYM · SPOUS · TO · JAMES · GORDON · LAIRD · OF · TERPERSIE · VH

1672 · ANNO · OF · DECEMBER · 8

· IN · SHE · x · x · x · x · x · x · x · x · x · x ·  
 AND · THESE · HIR · LYF · DID · GRACE  
 AND · SHOVED · HIR · DISCENT · OF  
 A · VORTHY · RACE · LO · HIR · THE  
 PHEYNIX · OF · HIR · TYME · DOTH · LY  
 WHO · LIVED · VNSPOTEDLY · AND  
 BLEST · DID · DY · 1672.

(In this space are emblems of a sand-glass, coffin, skull, and cross-bones, with the words Memento Mori underneath.)

THE · LYF · THIS · DEPARTED · O

This inscription is a curiosity, there being no attempt to present the poetry in lines. The comparison of the lady to Pytho—the Greek for Pythoness—the priestess of Apollo, who gave oracular answers; to Pallas, the goddess of wis-

dom among the Greeks; and to Juno, the guardian of the national finances of Italy, is sufficiently exaggerated flattery.

Anna Gordon was excommunicated for Popery before 1663, and four years later her name, with that of her father-in-law, William Gordon of Terpersie, was given up in Tullynessle as that of a papist. (New Spalding Club's "Records of the Exercise of Alford," pp. 17 and 102.)

The elder stone, split through the centre, lying alongside appears to be part of a monument. Near the top is the word *Voman*, below which is a large shield, doubtless intended for a coat of arms, but it remains uncut. The remainder of the inscription follows:—

S P O V S E O F  
T E R P E R C I  
Q V H A  
D E P A R T  
I T. T H E

The inscription probably dates earlier than 1650.

George Gordon, son of the above James Gordon, and of his wife Anna Gordon, succeeded to Terpersie. He married Anne, sister of Sir Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle, and their son Charles was the next proprietor. Unfortunately, he took up arms for Prince Charles, and was out in the '45. After the battle of Culloden he returned to the neighbourhood of his own home, but lay in concealment on the hills. One night, however, on venturing into the castle, a band of soldiers, who apparently had received information as to his movements, surrounded the building, and took him prisoner. Tradition asserts that he had been skilfully disguised, and as he denied his identity, proof on the point became necessary. He was taken before the parish minister, who discreetly evaded the questioning, and he was then carried to the farm house, where his wife and children had

taken up their temporary residence. On being seen by the children, some of them greeted him with the cries of "Daddy! Daddy!" This was sufficient, for he was at once hurried off to Carlisle, put through a form of trial, condemned, and there executed on 15th November, 1746.

A letter written by the unfortunate laird to his wife the day before his execution is printed in the Scottish History Society's "Lyon in Mourning," and manifests much deep feeling and tender solicitude for the welfare of his family. The following are extracts from it:—

Dear Heart.—I now tell you that I suffer death to-morrow for my duty to God, my king, and country. I bless God I die in charity to all men. I think my butchered body will be taken care of and buried as a Christian . . . I die with the greatest regret that I've been a bad husband to you, and I beg you'll pardon me in your heart, and that you'll express your goodness (as you'll answer to God and me in the everlasting world) by your care of and motherly-looking to your children's salvation and right putting them to business in this world. I know not how many are alive; only set the bouys to some right employment while young, and strive to admonish the daughters in the fear of God. . . . My dearest —, if I should write till my life ends I would still have something to say. But to stop that, I end with my dying blessing to you, and my poor mother, if alive. Your last from your unfortunate husband.

CHA. GORDON.

Mrs Gordon was Margaret Gordon, and of the sons, Charles—who is sometimes called James—was out with his father in the '45, served as a lieutenant in the Jacobite Artillery, was captured at Carlisle, removed to London, tried at Southwark, found guilty, and condemned to death. While awaiting execution he submitted a petition craving the King's clemency on the ground (1) that, in September, 1745, while at school, and about the age of 15, he was seized and forcibly carried into the



rebellion by a party of Highlanders, and (2) that, on being carried to Edinburgh and there finding his father engaged in the service of the rebels, he himself joined, rather for the sake of taking care of his father, who was aged and infirm, than from principle or inclination. . . . A reprieve was fortunately granted—Captain Wimberley stating, however, that it was subject to James's going to the West Indies. It is believed that he went to Jamaica and made money. Another son, Henry, became a captain in the Royal Marines. There were also two daughters, Margaret and Helen, who, for a time after their father's capture, were obliged to board in disguise with poor cottars to avoid the violence of Cumberland's soldiers. The last-named, who was a great beauty, married George Cattanach in Bridgend of Mossat, Kildrummy.

The estate of Terpersie was forfeited, and with the other confiscated properties was purchased by the York Buildings Company. It was afterwards acquired by James Gordon, a reputed descendant of the old family, who was a prosperous merchant in the island of St Kitts, in the West Indies, and died in 1770. He was succeeded by his brother Colonel Henry Gordon, who, dying in 1787, was followed by his second son Harry Gordon of Knockespock, who died in October, 1837, aged 75. Terpersie and Knockespock then fell to James Adam Bremner, who assumed the surname and arms of Gordon. He was grandson of Mr Whitbread, M.P., and great-grandson of Margaret, eldest sister of James Gordon, of St Kitts, wife of James Bromner, farmer in Towie of Clatt. He died in 1854, when the estates fell to Sir Henry Percy Gordon, Bart., great-grandson of Barbara, youngest sister of the above James Gordon, of St Kitts, through her marriage with William Grant. Their son, who was a captain in

the navy, substituted the surname of Gordon for that of Grant, and his eldest son, General James Willoughby Gordon, who was created a baronet in 1818, was the father of the above Sir Henry, who, dying 29th July, 1876, was succeeded by Hannah Gordon, daughter of Harry Gordon, the last proprietor of that name, and wife of Admiral William Abdy Fellowes, whose son, Mr H. G. Fellowes Gordon, is now proprietor of both Terpersie and Knockespock.

Further particulars regarding these families will be found in the New Spalding Club's "House of Gordon," I., pp. 46-49, etc.; Temple's "Fermartyn," p. 103; Captain Wimberley's "Notes on the Family of Gordon of Terpersie"; "Scottish Notes and Queries," November, 1900; and Anderson's "Scottish Nation," II., pp. 321-22.

#### SCHOOL AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

In early times the parochial scholastic arrangements were of a primitive character, but within a century after the Reformation the local Presbytery took action to effect an improvement. In 1667, a committee of Presbytery visited the parish school and sharply rebuked the schoolmaster "for suffering his schollers to wear armes." Before July, 1680, the school buildings had become ruinous, as there was then neither "schoole nor schoolmaster for the tyme"—the minister being appointed to deal with the heritors to settle a provision for a schoolmaster, and to use legal diligence with that object, if need be.

The names of two successful schoolmasters are mentioned on monuments in the graveyard.

A headstone in an enclosure bears—

In Memoriam, James Smith, A.M., Preacher of the Gospel, for xxxvi years Schoolmaster of this parish. Died 27th December, 1861, aged

63 years. His daughters Elizabeth died 21st March, 1847, aged 14 months. Mary Paull died 21st Aug., 1859, aged 10 years. Jane Elizabeth died 21st October, 1866, aged 19 years. His son William Alexander died 1st November, 1868, aged 17 years. His Widow Jane Robertson died 11 June, 1887, aged 70 years.

Rev. James Smith was the son of Alexander Smith, Mill of Ardoyne, and a direct descendant of Patrick Smith, tenant of that mill in 1674, and a brother of William Smith, Mill of Tiftie (father of "Mill o' Tiftie's Annie"), of Robert Smith of Smiddieburn, of James Smith in Meikle Fetterletter, of Nathaniel Smith, Burgess of Aberdeen, and of John Smith, laird of Inveramsay, Baillie of Aberdeen. (See Fyvie.) Mr Smith, who was a much respected teacher, married Jane, daughter of James Robertson, farmer, Braehhead, Cairnie. Of their family, three sons survive—James Smith, manager of an extensive carting contractor's business in Peterhead; Rev. Hugh MacConnach Smith, M.A., who on 23rd February, 1888, was ordained as assistant and successor to the now deceased Rev. Robert Fairweather, minister of the parish of Nigg, Kincardineshire; and George Smith, who is connected with the firm of Taylor and Henderson, lithographers, etc., Aberdeen.

#### A headstone records—

Erected by Rev. Jas. M'C. Pithie, M.A., Schoolmaster in this parish for 38 years, in loving memory of his wife Mary Lawrie, who died in 1903, aged 67 years. And their sons James died at Sydney, Australia, in 1885, aged 23, John died at Montreal, Canada, in 1890, aged 25. And Alexander died at Montreal in 1894, aged 25. Also their daughter Helen Drimmie died in 1903, aged 41.

Rev. James M'Christie Pithie is a son of the late John Pithie, master carpenter, Montrose. While engaged in teaching he managed to attend the necessary sessions at King's College, finally graduating M.A.

in 1859. In the same year he was appointed headmaster of Dr Bell's School, Aberdeen, but in 1862 became parochial schoolmaster of Tullynessle. About 1864, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Alford. He adhered to the teaching profession, however, and after 49 years' service in it (38 of which were spent at Tullynessle) he retired on 31st March, 1900.

As schoolmaster, elder, and session clerk he has done excellent service in the parish, but this last office he has relinquished since taking up his residence at Bridge of Alford. Four of his sons survive—Edward, marine engineer; Henry S., wholesale druggist; Frederick, marine engineer; and Frank, warehouseman.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A tablestone which displays various mortuary emblems and on a scroll "Remember Death" has the following inscription—

Here lyes John Mackie sometime farmer in Crookmore who died the fifth of June, 1769, aged 35 years.

Done by the care of Elizabeth Allan his spouse.

Also the said Elizabeth Allan who died 11 Jany., 1822, aged 81.

#### An old tablestone bears—

Her lyes Daued Laing laful son to the desest John Laing who died July 5th, 1764, aged 31 years. He was farmer in Reekie in Alford.

#### A monument is inscribed—

The Family burying-ground of James Thom, Redhouse, Tullynessle.

In memory of his daughter Mary who died 17 October, 1880, aged 6 years and 9 months. Also his brother Alexander Thom, who was 20 years Grieve in the service of Queen Victoria, and who died 12th Nov., 1895, aged 65 years.

James Thom, who erected the above monument, was for long a respected elder in Tullynessle Parish Church. He died on 26th December, 1905, aged 82. His

brother Alexander was for twenty years a much trusted servant in the employment of Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria.

A tablestone with various funereal representations bears the inscription—

Here lyes Georg Matheson in Greenhou, who died Feb 29, 1770, aged 55, and his daughter Jannet who died March 20, 1770, aged 17.

Don by the cear of his spous Isobal Dasson and two of hir children John and Margrat Mathesons.

A cross bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of John Innes, Inspector of Poor, who died at Montgarrie 24th August, 1871, aged 76 years.

Also his son John James Innes, M.A., late teacher, Banchory Ternan, who died at sea on his way to South Africa, 4th April, 1881, aged 27 years. Also his wife Jane Farquharson, who died at Aberdeen, 24th July, 1882, aged 73 years.

“Yet will I remember thee.”

John Innes was for many years Inspector of Poor for the parish. He was recognised as a shrewd, all-round business man. His son was an excellent teacher, and would have taken a high place in the profession. Bad health obliged him to leave Banchory-Ternan for South Africa, but he died at sea as above.

A headstone showing an anchor at the top and the date 1883 has the following inscription—

In memory of Archibald Comfort, who died at Whitehaugh, 26th Jan., 1882, aged 24 years.

Erected by his brothers.

And of their mother, Mary M'Lean. Died 23rd Jan., 1901, aged 83 years. Also of their father Abraham Comfort who was Head Gardener at Whitehaugh for 34½ years. Died 15 Oct., 1903, aged 89 years.

Abraham Comfort, who belonged to Kingston-on-Thames, was an experienced horticulturist and a prize-winner at all the important flower shows in the north. His services as a judge were in keen demand.

A record of 34½ years as principal in one situation is an ample certificate of both character and ability. The same appointment is now held by his son James.

A headstone bears—

Sacred to the memory of David Taylor. forty-five years an honest and trustworthy servant of the family of Haughton in this County. Died 18 Novr., 1878, aged 84 years. Also Catherine Leslie or Taylor his second spouse. Died 25 Novr., 1877, aged 72 years.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

At an early date the order of Knights Templars, which was superseded by that of the Knights Hospitallers or Knights of St John of Jerusalem, had a settlement in the parish. The romantic Temple Glen within the policies of Whitehaugh and fields on that estate bearing the titles of Temple Close and St John's Close perpetuate the record of the connection.

Near the Don and in close proximity to Montgarrie is the site of the camp in which General Baillie and his troops lodged the night before the battle of Alford, in which they were defeated by Montrose.

Particulars of ancient stone circles and much general information connected with the parish are given in the article drawn up by Rev. Dr James Paul and printed in the New Statistical Account of Scotland under “Tullynessle and Forbes.” Extracts from the minutes of court of the barony of Whitehaugh for the years 1686-87 are given in Vol. V. of the Miscellany of the Spalding Club. They afford accurate information as to the old holdings and their respective tenants.

The name of the parish finds a place in a local rhyme, composed on the itinerant minister who preached incessantly from Kings, xvii., 8-16—Elijah's miracle of the



widow's barrel of meal wasting not nor  
her cruse of oil failing—

Up by Tough an' roun' by Towie,  
'Twas aye the wife an' her bowie;  
An' doun by Keig an' Tullynessle,  
'Twas still the wife an' her vessel!

## Forbes.

The origin of the title of this ancient parish cannot now be given with certainty, but, as pointed out by Sir Bernard Burke, it gave the surname to the progenitor of Lord Forbes, who owns the lands of Forbes.

A church was erected at an early date, and had probably been dedicated to the Nine Maidens, as, according to Bishop Forbes, their story is located here.

Bishop Henry Cheyne, in 1325, erected the church of Forbes into a prebend of the Cathedral of St Mary and St Machar of Aberdeen. (Reg. Epis. Aberd., II., 252.) The prebendary had a "manse, yard, and gleib" assigned to him in Old Aberdeen, while the ministerial duties at Forbes were performed by subordinates.

In 1436, Sir Alexander Forbes of that Ilk, Knight, gave an annual rent of twelve merks from his lands of Asbachlach and Lastrody, and from the mill of Ardgach, in the barony of Forbes, to a chaplain performing religious services in the Parish Church of Forbes for the souls of the granter and of Elizabeth of Douglas, his wife. (Ibid., I., p. 293.)

In 1618, the Commissioners for the Plantation of Kirks declared that the "Chaple of Kearne" was "onlie ane pendicle of the Kirk of Forbes and hes neur bene ane seuerall parochie kirk"; and in respect thereof, and of "the meanenes of the teindis fruitis and rents" of Kearne, the Commissioners united the "foirsaid Chaple of Kearne" to the Kirk

of Forbes. It was not till 8th August, 1722, however, that the actual annexation took place, when Rev. Stephen Oliver, for four years previously minister of Forbes, was admitted to the united charge of Forbes and Kearn. The new arrangement continued in force till about 1807, when, on the translation of the incumbent, Rev. Benjamin Mercer, effect was given to an Act of Assembly which had been passed about 1795. This Act was, in reality, the order of the Commissioners for the Plantation of Kirks, and was dated 4th July, 1792. Under it, Kearn was disjoined from Forbes and annexed to Auchindoir, while Forbes itself was practically suppressed and annexed to Tullynessle. This was a sensible arrangement, for evidence exists that Forbes was a poor living and unable to keep abreast of neighbouring parishes. On the occasion of a visitation by the local Presbytery on 13th June, 1683, it was found (1) that there was no mortification for the use of the poor; (2) that there was no school (master), in regard the parish was not able to afford him a maintenance any wayes competent; (3) that the church utensils were a table and two cups for the use of the holy communion; (4) that the minister had a "gleeb and manse, but not sufficient according to law"; and (5) that the "stipend was some more than four hundredth merks!" (New Spalding Club's Records of the Exercise of Alford, pp. 343-44.)

Within the small parish graveyard in the hollow of the Braes of Forbes, at a point where the Don takes a rapid sweep to the right, and beside the farm buildings of Kirktown, stand the roofless walls of the old church, with its crow-stepped gables. The edifice is small, and contains no monuments. It is known, however, that several of the old ministers were interred within its walls, as also were the remains of an infant child of one of the Lords Forbes.

## PRIESTS AND MINISTERS.

Among the names of old priests and ministers which have been preserved are—William of Lindores, prebendary, 1407; Duncan Herry, 1427; Sir Alexander Yhong, prebendary and burges of the city of Aberdeen, 1457; David Lyon, "peirone," 1493, who was closely related to Agnes Lyon, daughter of John, third Lord Glamis, and wife of Arthur, Lord Forbes. This Lord Forbes died before attaining majority, and was succeeded by his brother, John, Lord Forbes, who treated the whole Lyon family with much harshness. His brother's widow was compelled to sue him for her terce out of the lands and barony of Forbes, while the poor parson was likewise obliged to proceed against him, on 25th June, 1494, for the "wraugwis vexatioun and stoppin of him in the peceable broiking and joising of his said personage, and for the wraugwis withhalding fra him of the froitis and proffitis of the said personage for a yere bigane." (*Acta Dom. Con.*, p. 337.) Sir John Jaffrasoun, vicar, 1496; Sir Alexander Monemeill, parson, 1499 and 1506; Sir Thomas Jaffrasoun, vicar, 1507; James Strachan, vicar, 1526; Sir John Michelson, 1547.

On 26th February, 1562-63, James Forbes, son of William, Lord Forbes, was inducted to the rectory, prebend, or canonry. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 371.)

Rev. John Philpe was minister of Forbes, Kearn, Clatt, and Alford, in 1567, his stipend being £100 Scots. He was afterwards translated to Dunbennan and Kinnaird.

Rev. John Strathachin was the succeeding incumbent.

Forbes and Kearn were supplied by Alexander Walcar, reader, in 1574; by James Walker, reader, in 1576; and by John Smyth, reader, in 1578.

Rev. James Forbes, was minister of

Forbes and Kearn in 1583, but he is not mentioned by Dr Scott.

Two years later, Rev. Thomas Melville held the charges of Forbes, Kearn, Towie, and Auchindoir, but was speedily translated to Strathdon.

Rev. Robert Youngson was appointed in 1586, but removed to Aboyne, from which he was translated to Towie, and was re-admitted at Forbes about 1596. In 1598-9, under the designation of "minister at Dryminnor," he was sued in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeen for "spuilzie or wrongous intronission" by George Strachachin, burges of Aberdeen, the subject in dispute being a "gown of reissalls grow-grane thick pessimentit with silken pessiments." Value as proved £30. "A skirt of figurat weluot," £10. A "hewit plaid," £10. (*New Spalding Club's "Sheriff Court Records,"* I., p. 385.) He was translated to Clatt in 1601.

Rev. Alexander Guthrie, previously at Tullynessle, was inducted in 1601, having that parish likewise in charge. He was translated to Alford before 1608.

Rev. John Forbes, third son of Duncan Forbes of Drumallachie, and subsequently of Brux, was admitted about 1608. His eldest brother, William, became laird of Kildrummy, while his immediate elder brother, also named John, succeeded to Brux.

Rev. Alexander Youngson, previously minister of Towie, was admitted about 1618.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Alexander Irving, M.A.

Rev. Robert Cheyne was admitted about 1638. He removed to Kennethmont in 1643.

Rev. Walter Ritchie was ordained about 1651.

Rev. William Garioch, M.A., was instituted in May, 1677, but he removed to Kennethmont about ten years later.

Rev. Robert Milne, M.A., was ordained in 1688. He married Elizabeth Ross, and they had a family of at least four sons—James, William, Robert, and John. He died in March, 1715, aged about 66.

Rev. Stephen Oliver, M.A., was ordained on 23rd April, 1718. He married Isabel Rutherford, and had two sons, James and Ebenezer. The latter was indentured as an apprentice to Robert Chalmers, cooper, Aberdeen, for six years from Whitsunday, 1735. Mr Oliver died in February, 1740.

Rev. John Mair, M.A., son of Rev. William Mair, of Kincardine O'Neil, was ordained as successor on 28th January, 1741. In July, 1744, he removed to the parish of Rayne.

Rev. Alexander Orem, previously minister of Cushnie, was inducted 22nd May, 1745. Besides a son—James—he had several daughters, including Forbesia (named after Lord Forbes), Dorothea (named after Lady Forbes), Jean, and Annie. The last-mentioned, who was famed for her beauty, was known as "Bonnie Annie Orem," but her career proved a chequered one. On 5th January, 1757, Mr Orem was inducted as minister of Monquhitter, and died there about 30th June, 1775.

Rev. James MacWilliam, who had for some time been acting as schoolmaster of Oyne, was ordained minister 17th August, 1757. A protracted litigation followed on the question of the patron's rights. On appeal to the House of Lords, a decision was given adverse to the validity of the appointment. In 1763, Mr MacWilliam was admitted as minister of Kildrummy.

Rev. William Copland, M.A., was admitted 12th May, 1763, and died 8th May, 1772. He married, on 29th November, 1764, Barbara Duthie. They had a son, Peter.

Rev. Alexander Smith was ordained 7th

July, 1773, but removed to Keig in the following year. (See Keig.)

#### AN ECCENTRIC PARSON.

Rev. Benjamin Mercer, M.A., son of John Mercer in Kildrummy, and for some time schoolmaster of Tough, was ordained 10th January, 1776. He removed to Kildrummy in 1807, and was the last minister of Forbes and Kearn.

Mr Mercer was a man of eccentric habits, and a volume might be filled with the anecdotes concerning him which were related in the district. The following—of which some are given in the late Dr Paul's "Past and Present of Aberdeenshire"—may prove a not uninteresting digression. Mr Mercer—or "Benjie," as he was familiarly called by his parishioners—possessed great bodily strength, by which he kept the people of the district in awe when they got into brawls—no unusual occurrence in those times. He carried about with him a large stick, which he called "Liowes"—a corruption of Lewis—in which island—at Stornoway—he had spent the earlier part of his career as a schoolmaster. On the threatened invasion by the French in the beginning of last century, Mr Mercer was approached by the local proprietors with a view to inducing his parishioners to join a corps of volunteers then being organised in the district. He accordingly called a meeting of the young men, and, delivering a stirring address to stimulate their martial ardour, he laid "Liowes" upon his shoulder and urged them to follow him to the place of rendezvous, adding by way of encouragement—"Come, lads, follow me, for I aye delichtit in fechtin'." His prowess in this respect was put to a practical test on one occasion when returning from Tarland. When about two miles out of that village, he was suddenly set upon by four fellows, who tried to rob him. They had evidently



miscalculated the powers of their subject, for he quickly felled three of them to the ground, while the fourth made off at a run!

Mr Mercer's habits of living were strikingly peculiar. He named the manse, garden, and glebe his West Indies, from the fact that he manufactured his oats into coffee, which he sweetened with honey made by his own bees. He partook of no refreshment without first toasting his own health in the words, "Here's t' ye then, Benjie." He used little butcher meat, considering it "flash" and an unnecessary article of diet. At length these foibles became so pronounced that his wife (she was a daughter of Mr Stewart of Carnaveron, in Alford) was obliged to separate from him.

A curious account is given of the treatment he extended to Mr A. Brown, who afterwards became minister of the parish of Coull, and who is said to have changed his surname from that of Brownie. After completing his educational career, Mr Brown travelled for some time on the Continent as tutor to young Forbes of Craigievar. Returning to his native district, he called upon Mr Mercer, announcing himself as Mr Brown. He was so much changed in appearance and manner, however, that Mr Mercer either did not or pretended not to know him. After some explanations were given, the cultured young tutor was honoured with the remark—"I ken, my young man, far ye are noo! Ye'll be a son o' Sanners Brownie's o' Brig o' Scuttery." Not long afterwards, Mr Brown appeared before the local Presbytery on trial with a view to being licensed as a preacher of the gospel. Walking into the place of meeting with a bearing which did not commend itself to Mr Mercer, he was thus accosted by him—"Come awa', Mr Brown! We aye kent

ye'r father, Mr B-r-o-w-n-i-e, wis a capital fiddler o' Strathspeys!"

During his pastorate of Forbes and Kearn, Mr Mercer was in the habit of preaching every Sunday forenoon at Forbes and in the afternoon at Kearn. In walking between those places he had to cross the hill of Correen, which was no easy matter in winter, and was almost overpowering from the heat in the summer season. In specially warm weather, however, he was equal to the occasion for, taking off his coat and waistcoat, he threw them over his shoulder and thus advanced. The beadle, when he saw the white shirt appearing on the crest of the hill, took this as his signal and forthwith rang the bell.

One day, when Mr Mercer was preaching, a man in the corner of a seat fell asleep. Of this no notice was taken till he commenced to snore, when the minister called out to the beadle—"Charlie, waken up Sandy Mutch; he's sittin' i' the corner o' that squar' seat snorin'." Sandy, on being roused, wakened up in a flurried and excited state, whereupon the minister addressed him—"Sandy, I'm nae sae hard upon sleepers i' the kirk as some fouk, because the preacher is sometimes as much to blame as the hearer;" and then holding out his big clenched fist with a threatening gesture, said—"But, Sandy, I debar snorin'."

All Mr Mercer's family died young except one son—James, who, like his father, "delichtit in fechtin'." He served with distinction under Sir John Moore in the Peninsular campaign, and was beloved by his comrades. His death was very sad. As lieutenant in one of the regiments which fought against Marshal Soult at Corunna, he signalled himself by his daring and courage. With a mere handful of men he held the enemy in check at a bridge which they vainly strove to carry, and to give greater encouragement to his

followers, he got upon the parapet, when a bullet from the French guns pierced his body, and he fell dead.

#### FORBES LANDS AND FAMILY.

According to John Skeen, clerk register. Alexander III., in 1272, made a grant to Duncan of Forbes of the lands and tenements of Forbes. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 372.) The next conspicuous person of the line was Alexander Forbes, who is described as "a man of great magnanimity and courage, and a true lover of his country." He was captain and governor of the castle of Urquhart, which in 1304 he gallantly defended for a long time against the forces of Edward I. All terms of surrender having been rejected, the castle was at length reduced by storm, and he and his sons, along with the whole garrison, were put to the sword. Happily, his lady made her escape to Ireland, where she gave birth to a posthumous son.

This son, Alexander Forbes, while yet a young man came to Scotland, and, espousing the cause of Robert the Bruce, performed many acts of daring and chivalry. On the accession of King David, Forbes faithfully adhered to his interest till he lost his life, along with many of his clan, in the fatal battle of Dupplin in 1332. He was succeeded by his son—known in history as "Sir John with the black lip"—who acquired from Thomas, Earl of Mar, additional lands in Aberdeenshire. By Robert III. he was elected Justiciary and coroner of the county. He married Elizabeth Kennedy, and they had a family of four sons—Sir Alexander, his successor; Sir William, progenitor of the Lords Pitsligo, etc.; Sir John, progenitor of the Forbeses of Tolquhon, Foveran, Waterton, and Culloden; and Alexander—known as Alaster Cam—progenitor of the Forbeses of Brux, etc.

On the death of his father in 1405, Sir

Alexander succeeded, and early gave proof of his martial prowess. In 1407, he accompanied Sir Walter of Lindsay and Sir Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, on a special mission to England, where they engaged in tournaments with certain English knights. At the head of one hundred horse and forty lances, he went to France with a view to opposing the English under Henry V. He accompanied the Earl of Mar to the battle of Liege, and it was chiefly owing to his and Lord Gordon's bravery that the Scots obtained a crowning victory over the English at Beauge, in Anjou, in 1421. Immediately thereafter, he returned to Scotland, and at different times had safe conducts to visit England and wait upon the Scottish King, who was a prisoner there, and for whose release he subsequently became one of the hostages. (*Acts Parliament.*) He had grants to many estates, and had the whole erected into one barony—that of Forbes—on 6th October, 1430. About 1440, he was created a peer of Parliament, under the title of Baron Forbes; and the honour remains with his direct descendants to the present time. He married Lady Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of George, Earl of Angus, and they had a family of two sons and three daughters.

James, second Lord Forbes, succeeded on the death of his father in 1448. He married Lady Egidia Keith, daughter of William, first Earl Marischal, and their family consisted of William, Master of Forbes; Duncan, progenitor of the Forbeses of Corsindae, Monynusk, etc.; Patrick, of Corse, armour-bearer to James III., whose grandson was progenitor of the Forbeses, Earls of Granard, in Ireland. The daughter married Malcolm Forbes of Tolquhon.

Alexander, 4th Lord Forbes, played a prominent part in the dissensions which agitated Scotland after the murder of

James III., joining the insurrection of the Earl of Lennox and other barons. Indignant at the ascendancy of the nonentities who then ruled the Court of James IV., Lord Forbes appeared in open revolt, marching through the country, and displaying the blood-stained garments of the murdered King. Large numbers flocked to his banner, but the insurrection—which at one time looked serious—was effectually quelled by the utter defeat of the army of Lennox at Talla Moss. Lord Forbes was not only pardoned, but restored to Royal favour.

#### THE FORBESES AND ABERDEEN.

Arthur, brother of the preceding, succeeded as 5th Lord Forbes in 1491, and was followed by his brother John as 6th Lord in 1496. The latter had charters to many lands, and, on 6th April, 1509, secured a special permit to erect a castle upon the hill of King-Edward. Matters of a more stirring nature than castle-building occupied his attention, however. He was at deadly feud with the Earl of Huntly, who left no stone unturned to encompass his ruin and that of his family. For a lengthened period, the Lords Forbes had been engaged by the burgh of Aberdeen to preserve the salmon fishings on the rivers Dee and Don within the limits of the town. For this service they had been accustomed to receive an annual present of a tun of wine. For some years the present had been withheld by the town for the double reason that there had been a serious quarrel between the sons of Lord Forbes and several prominent residents, and also that those charged with the preservation of the fishings were alleged to be the principal destroyers of the fish. His lordship, dissatisfied with this treatment, made a formal demand for his wine, at the same time claiming the right to a half net's fishing in the Don. The refusal to comply

with these demands speedily led to an open rupture. The citizens prepared for being attacked; nor had they long to wait, for on 30th July, 1530, the Forbeses, assisted by John Forbes of Pitsligo, Arthur Forbes of Brux, and "Evil Willie," invaded the town. A sharp rencontre followed, in which the Forbeses were overpowered and compelled to seek shelter in the Grey Friars place. Several were killed and many injured. Ultimately, a more friendly understanding was arrived at, and the present of the wine was renewed. Subsequently, on the Forbeses erecting a house in the town, the Council furnished them with wood to the value of 100 merks, and named the locality Putachie Side, in honour of their country house and property of Putachie.

On 30th January, 1527, John, Master of Forbes, with certain retainers, cruelly murdered Alexander Seton of Meldrum in the house of Menzies of Pitfodels, Provost of Aberdeen. For this offence the Master got a remission under the Great Seal on 10th October, 1530. He became speedily involved in further broils, the result being that Lord Huntly lodged a charge of treason against him and his father, Lord Forbes. The latter was acquitted, but the Master was found guilty of the whole offences charged—i.e., conspiring for the King's death by meditating to kill him with the shot of a culverin, conspiring for the destruction of the Scottish army at Jedburgh, and aiding the English enemies. He was sentenced to be hanged and quartered, but, says Balfour, "by the mediation of friends, had the favour to be beheaded and quartered." Subsequent information showed that the Master was guiltless of the crimes for which he suffered.

#### THE FORBESES AND THE GORDONS.

William, 7th Lord Forbes, succeeded in 1547. He married Elizabeth, daughter



and co-heiress of Sir William Keith of Inveugie, and they had a family of six sons and eight daughters. He had several marks of favour from James V., who appointed him one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber while comparatively a young man. His rent roll of 1552 shows that he possessed estates not only in Tullynessle and Forbes, but also in the parishes of Auchindoir, Kearn, Alford, Keig, Tough, Cluny, Midmar, Glenmuick, Kincardine O'Neil, Birse, King-Edward, and Foveran. Unfortunately, the friendliness with the Gordons, which was expected to follow from the marriage (contract dated 21st February, 1547-48) of the Master of Forbes with Lady Margaret Gordon, daughter of George, 4th Earl of Huntly, was dissipated. The Gordons, before September, 1571, having seized certain church lands which pertained to the Forbesees, war was declared by the two clans, the Forbesees entrenching themselves on the White Hill of Tillyangus, in the parish of Clatt. The Gordons, under the command of Adam Gordon of Auchindoun, and another brother of the Earl of Huntly, surprised and attacked the Forbesees, many of whom—including "Black Arthur," brother of the Master—were slain. They fled precipitately, pursued by the victorious Gordons, who are alleged to have entered and rifled the Forbes family seat of Druminnor. The Master himself, it is said, "hardly escaped with his life," and rode to Stirling to solicit the assistance of the Regent Mar, who responded by furnishing five companies of foot and some horse. The men of the Mearns were at the same time summoned to attend the Master at the kirk of Fordoun, and proceed against the Gordons. The opposing forces met at the Crabstane, and, after an engagement, "cruelly fochten for the space of an hour," victory again declared against the Forbesees, of whom the Master and many more were

taken prisoners. Whilst the Master was immured in Spynie Castle, his wife unlawfully associated with Patrick Hepburn, parson of Kinnoir (natural son of Patrick Hepburn, Bishop of Moray), and was divorced. (See New Scots Peerage, under Forbes.)

John, 8th Lord Forbes, succeeded on his father's death in 1593. In the following year he was one of the five noblemen appointed, by commission from the King, lieutenants of the northern counties for the suppression of the rebellion of the Earls of Huntly and Erroll. Lord Forbes, Leslie of Balquhain, and Irvine of Drum assembled their vassals with a view to joining the Royal army under Argyll, but the defeat which the latter experienced at Glenlivet caused a change of plan. After consultation, it was agreed to square former wrongs, and the force set out from Druminnor on a mission of vengeance. An Irvine, riding by the side of Lord Forbes, was shot by an unknown hand, and investigation having failed to identify the murderer, suspicion and distrust were created to such an extent that the enterprise was abandoned, and the chiefs returned home.

After a time, a truce was arranged between the Forbesees and the Gordons, and to ratify the peace and cement the friendship, a party of the Gordons assembled at Druminnor on a visit to Lord Forbes. Everything promised well, but the old feeling of distrust had induced the Forbesees to arrange beforehand that, if their chief should have any cause for dissatisfaction or any suspicion of treachery, he should at the festive board stroke his beard, and every Forbes would plunge his dirk into the heart of a Gordon. Everything proceeded favourably till, in a moment of absent-mindedness, Lord Forbes lifted his hand to his chin, when instantly the dirks of fifteen Forbesees were buried

in the breasts of their unsuspecting guests. Needless to say, this unfortunate episode renewed the hostility and bitterness between the clans, the prolongation of which caused both to suffer seriously in the loss of followers and possessions.

Alexander, 10th Lord Forbes, while comparatively young, went to Germany and served under the brilliant Gustavus Adolphus. He attained the rank of lieutenant-general, and was considered a brave and gallant officer. On the breaking out of the Civil War in Great Britain, he returned home, and held a command in the army that was sent to quell the Irish Rebellion in 1643. He finally returned to Germany. He was twice married—first, to Anne, daughter of Sir John Forbes of Pitsligo; and, secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Forbes, of Rires, in Fife.

William, 11th Lord Forbes, while still Master of Forbes, aided Montrose in his efforts to enforce "the Covenant" upon the inhabitants of Aberdeen.

William, 12th Lord Forbes, was an active supporter of the revolution. In 1689, he was sworn a privy councillor to King William, and on 27th May, 1702, was appointed colonel of the second troop of horse—Grenadier Guards. He was also a member of Queen Anne's Privy Council. He supported the treaty of union, and, on the outbreak of the rebellion of 1715, was elected lord-lieutenant of the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine. He married Anne, daughter of James Brodie of Brodie, and died in July, 1716.

William, 13th Lord Forbes, eldest son of the preceding, married, in 1720, Dorothy Dale, daughter of William Dale, of Covent Garden, London. This lady had a fortune of £20,000, which was entirely lost in the South Sea and other bubble schemes. Lord Forbes died in Edinburgh on 26th June, 1730, and was succeeded by his son Francis,

14th Lord Forbes, who died in August, 1734, in the 13th year of his age.

James, second son of the 12th Lord Forbes, succeeded his nephew as 15th Lord Forbes, and he, in turn, was succeeded by his son James, 16th Lord Forbes.

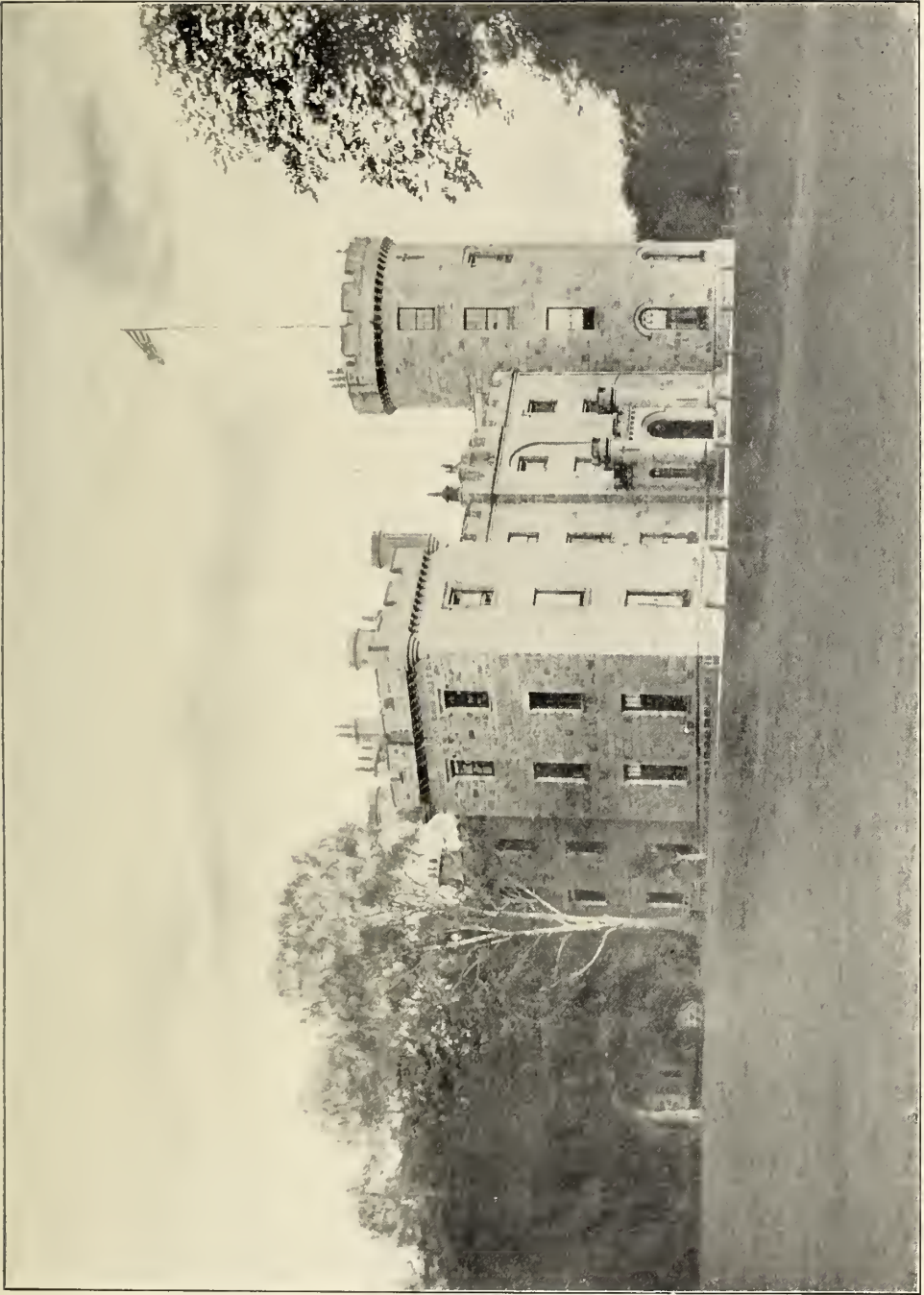
At this stage it may be proper to point out that the remains of nearly all the earlier Lords Forbes were interred in an aisle within the graveyard which pertained to the old Chapel of Kearn. There are no monuments to any of these lords, but James, 16th Lord Forbes, having a strong attachment to Putachie, decided that his burial should take place beside that mansion, and within the graveyard of the old Church of Keig. The interment, accordingly, took place within an enclosure at the end of the church, and a plain, unpretentious wall monument, having at the top the Forbes motto, "Grace me guide," and underneath a baron's coronet, with a small shield displaying the letter F., for Forbes, has the following inscription—

Here, by his own appointment, is interred The Right Honourable James, the XVI. Lord Forbes, who died Febr. 20. MDCCLXI. in the lxxiii. year of his age, at Putachie, the place of his birth.

It is singular that nearly all the Peerage volumes are in error in naming this Lord as the 15th instead of the 16th Lord Forbes.

James, son of the preceding, succeeded as 17th Lord Forbes, and in 1764 was appointed deputy-governor of Fort-William. He married Catherine, only daughter of Sir Robert Innes of Orton, etc., and died in Edinburgh on 29th July, 1804, in his 80th year.

James Ochoncar, eldest son of the preceding, succeeded as 18th Lord Forbes. While Master of Forbes, he entered the army as ensign in the Coldstream Guards, and continued in that regiment for 26 years, during which he saw much active



Castle Forbes.





service. While acting as lieutenant-general in command of the British troops in Sicily in 1808 he was decorated with the Order of St Januarius. He was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly in 1826 and 1827.

Walter Forbes of Brux, the second son of the preceding, became 19th Lord Forbes on his father's death in 1843. He was present at the battle of Waterloo, but is best remembered for his liberal support of the Episcopal Church in Scotland.

The present baron is Horace Courtenay, 20th Lord Forbes, who succeeded on the death of his father in 1868.

It may be added that the barony of Forbes is the first on the Union Roll, and, in consequence, Lord Forbes is the premier baron of Scotland. He is also a baronet of Nova Scotia, the date of creation being 1628.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A railed-in grave has a marble slab—fixed into a freestone headstone—which is inscribed as under:—

In memory of John Reid of Blair, parish of Bourtie, who resided at Harestonc, parish of Premnay, and who died on 22nd December, 1851, aged 51 years.

This stone is erected by his nephew, Harry Leith Lumsden Morrison of Blair.

Interesting particulars respecting Blair and its proprietors will be found in Davidson's "Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch."

There are many tombstones to families bearing the surname of Reid who have been leading farmers in the parish for at least two centuries.

A tablestone is inscribed:—

Here ly Alexander Reid, late farmer in Balfour and when he died he was regreated by all yt knew him, being a peeceble neighbour and an obliging frien. He left behind him two children of his first wife Ann Ritchie, Robert and Jean; and two by his second wife Jean

Giles, Alexander and Elizabeth. He died November, 1767, aged . . . .

A headstone on the same grave bears—

In loving memory of George Reid, teacher, Tornaveen, Kincardine O'Neil. Born at Bithnie, 1787. Died at Tornaveen, 28th May, 1876. And of his wife Margaret Clark. Born 1796. Died at Tornaveen, 15th January, 1868. Also of Samuel, their youngest son. Born at Tornaveen, 1836. Assistant surgeon on board H.M. ship Heron. Perished in his berth when the vessel sunk during a hurricane off the West Coast of Africa, 9th May, 1859.

A railed-in enclosure has two headstones—

#### (1).

In memory of Robert Reid, Upper Balfour, who died 30th December, 1860, aged 80 years, and his son Robert, who died 16th September, 1854, aged 15 years; also his daughter Jean, who died 20th July, 1855, aged 26 years. Also his daughter Ann, who died 23rd February, 1865, aged 42 years; and his daughter Charlotte, who died 31st May, 1869, aged 42 years. Also his wife Isabella Reid, who died 16th November, 1874, aged 79 years.

#### (2).

In loving memory of William Reid, farmer, born at Upper Balfour, April 6th, 1825, and died there August 9th, 1896.

He that is down need fear no fall,  
He that is low no pride;  
He that is humble ever shall  
Have God to be his guide.

William Reid was the son of the above Robert Reid. In addition to being an excellent agriculturist, he was a shrewd business man, whose advice was widely sought on points of difficulty. His widow, Mary Reid, continues the tenancy of Upper Balfour.

A headstone bears—

In memory of James Reid, farmer, Kirktown of Forbes, who died 22nd February, 1864, aged 73 years. Also his son James, who died 18th October, 1858, aged 27 years. Also his daughter Eliza who died 9th October, 1858, aged 14 years. And William, who died in infancy. Alexander

died at Banchory, 13th January, 1879, aged 42. Also his wife Margaret Reid, died at Culhay, 11th March, 1882, aged 75.

Mr Reid's sister Elspet was wife of James Reid, farmer, Muir of Alford, and died there on 30th April, 1892, at the advanced age of 93. Her husband predeceased her on 10th March, 1853, aged 62, while their son James died at Muir of Alford on 21st December, 1888, aged 53.

The above Margaret Reid was a daughter of George Reid, farmer, Nether Balfour, and sister of Joseph Reid, farmer, Nether Balfour, who died 22nd December, 1886.

A granite headstone has the following inscription:—

In memory of Ann Reid, wife of William Walker, farmer, Bithnie, who died 28th November, 1877, aged 44 years. And their grandson James Fraser, who was drowned in the Dee at Ballater on 15th December, 1879, aged 3 years and 10 months. Also their daughter Jane, wife of John Kellas, died 17th October, 1893, aged 35 years.

The said William Walker died 20th June, 1898, aged 76 years.

William Walker was a popular farmer, and interested himself greatly in the political affairs of the county and district. His wife was a daughter of the above James Reid, farmer, Kirktown.

Bithnie was long occupied by the Forbeses, of whom information is given in Macfarlane's "Genealogical Collections" and Lumsden's "Genealogy of the Family of Forbes."

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by his widow and son in memory of Joseph Reid, farmer, Nether Balfour, Forbes, who died 22nd December, 1836, aged 57 years.

The above Joseph Reid was the son of George Reid, farmer, Nether Balfour. He married Elsie Gauld, who still survives; and their son Joseph is now tenant of that farm.

A headstone has the following epitaph:—

In memory of Peter Reid, late in Broomfold, Tough, who, after a life marked by genuine honesty and warm affections, died 22nd January, 1847, aged 77. Also his son James, who died 12th April, 1829, aged 8.

#### AN IMPORTANT INSCRIPTION.

A small tablestone has the following:—

Here lyes Alexander Forbes, farmer and square wright in Neu Balgouon, who departed this life Agust, the 14 day in the year of God. 1740, aged 55, and his children Alexander, Anne, as also Alexander Gellan and Margaret Morgan, his father and mother in lau.

In a local genealogical work, published in 1905, the above inscription is quoted, but it inaccurately gives the day of death of Alexander Forbes as "August the 4," and his age as "53." The same volume states that he was the second son of William Forbes, sixth laird of Newe, and that from him "are descended the family of the late Baillie James Forbes of Aberdeen, who therefore are now the representatives of the Forbeses of Daach and Newe, and the heirs male general of the Lords Forbes of Pitsligo." As Alexander Forbes, second son of William, sixth of Newe, was admittedly baptised 22nd December, 1687 (John, the eldest son was baptised 9th December, 1686), it is apparent that the farmer and square wright above commemorated was born at least two years earlier, and that he belonged to another branch.

#### GENERAL NOTES.

The parish was not always the scene of peace, as is shown by the following excerpt from the Whitehaugh MSS.:—"John Forbes, called 'John Ont-with-the-Sword,' an man of broken life, being informed against of great extortion whilk came to the King's ears, who wrote to Sir Alexr. forbes of Druminnor to putt remeed therein, and if he would not, he would



charge others to the same effect, and upon this writing Sir Alexr. Forbes took him at the kirk of Forbes and struck off his head and caused yerd him behind the church, and sett his grave about with tippet stones, where it remaineth as yet to testify the same." This incident is recorded in almost identical terms in Mr Mathew Lumsden's MS. of 1580.

The Poll Book shows that in 1696, the principal tenants were Alexander Gellan, Bithnie; Nathaniel Smith, Kirktown; John Ritchie, "Silarvethie"; John Clerihew, Waterside; John Mitchell, Culhay; James Bonner, Walkmill; Arthur Mitchell, Balfour; Robert Laing, "Strethlunack"; John Clerihew, Scotsmill; and Alexander Clerihew, Dubstown. The farmers of Bithnie and Culhay each employed five male servants, to whom they paid wages ranging from £1 6s 8d to 4s 2d sterling per year. In 1552, the rent of Bithnie was "38 bolls victual, 1 wedder, 4 kids, and 2 geese"; while that of Culhay was "13s 4d stg. cash, 8 bolls malt, 48 capons, 4 widders, 8 geese, 4 leits peats, and 13s 4d stg. of grassum."

The topographical history of Forbes is somewhat conflicting, inasmuch as the Lords Forbes, who derive their name and title from the lands of Forbes, erected their original castle at Druminnor, in Kearn, and afterwards changed the name of it to Castle Forbes. James, sixteenth Lord Forbes, sold the estate and Castle of Druminnor or Castle Forbes to John Grant of Rothmaise and Tomnavoulin, and removed to Putachie, in Keig, at which the present mansion known as Castle Forbes was subsequently erected.

The estate of Braes of Forbes is frequently called Littlewood. This erroneous designation originated from a shooting lodge being erected in a field called "the little-wood park." The lodge was named Littlewood Park, the shootings became

known as Littlewood, and that title has gradually got into use for the estate and district.

The parish is extolled in the following verses from an old ballad—

The city may boast of its bustle and trade,  
Of its wealth and people of every grade;  
But for health-giving air and beauty of scene,  
Commend me to Forbes with braes ever green!

There by the vale, the stream, and the hill,  
I drink nature's nectar, a balm for each ill—  
Drives care to the winds, gives spirit and hope,  
Renewing my youth life's battle to cope.

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## Kintore.

The following interesting particulars which were compiled early in the last century, preparatory to the erection of the present Parish Church, appear in James Logan's MS.—

The etymology of Kintore is Celtic, and is generally said to signify Bull's head, from "Caen" head, and "Taur" bull. It may with more probability be derived from Caen-doire—head or principal wood—and the forest of Kintore, so often mentioned in old charters, affords some proof of the justice of this explanation.

The church is situated in the town, which is a very ancient Royal Burgh.

On the north side of the churchyard is a Law or Moot hill, at the base of which runs a small rivulet.

Kintore was anciently in the benefice of Kinkell, and it is not only evident that a church must have existed here from very remote antiquity, but it is highly probable that its site occupies a spot consecrated for worship by our pagan forefathers. In support of this opinion a stone is seen in the south part of the burying-ground, on which is traced the symbolical figures so frequently found on similar remains. It is a bluish whinstone, and lies almost buried in the soil. So little do these relics interest the present generation that the Rev. [John] Shand, who has been many years minister, told me . . . he never knew of its existence before I informed him of it!

This parish was often the scene of military musters, and sometimes of warlike contention, for which, from its situation and extensive muirs, it was well adapted.

It was also in early ages the occasional residence of Royalty. Hence we may believe the church was resorted to on many a solemn occasion.

It was dedicated to Saint Mary. (Harl MS., 4613.)

There was an altar in this church dedicated to the Holy Cross, for officiating at which a chaplain had an endowment of a house, land, and certain rents "in the territorie of Kintore." In . . . "Seventeen rynds of land, with houses and rents, etc.," belonging to this chaplainry were "sett to William, Master of Marischal, ffor £1 6s 8d." (H.S. ut sup.)

The altar was probably situated a few feet from the east end of the church, where, in the north wall, is a small square niche, 1ft. 9in. by 1ft. 2in., ornamented by mouldings, etc. In the upper part is a mitre, highly enriched, and ornamented by a figure of the crucifixion. Underneath is an inscription, of which the word *Jesvs* is legible. It is partly hid from view by the gallery. The marks of an iron grating remain in the stones forming the aperture. The figures have been gilt.

The above-quoted manuscript informs us that—

The kirk is placed east and west, and is 82 or 83 feet by 25 outside measure. It appears to be very ancient, and is well built. Near the west end are two singularly-formed doors opposite to each other, but the one on the north wall, by which, in Popish times, the holy water was brought into the church, is now closed up as useless. I believe there were originally only these two. The small one in the centre gives access to the pulpit, but has been a window, surrounded with various mouldings and considerable sculpture. The lancet window is well formed.

In the interior south wall, near the east end, and about three feet from the ground, is a small niche, 1 foot 4 inches high and 1 foot 2 inches wide. The form is an ogee arch. Here the gallery stair is carried up.

On the north jamb of the window in the west end is an inscription in relief, 171R111, but from the appearance of the letters it does not seem in its original situation,

The door latches are curious.

The church was repaired about 1760, and new lofts or galleries were erected for the accommodation of the additional parishioners, obtained by the annexation of one-third part of the parish of Kinkell, and it was probably on this occasion that the stair ascending to the western gallery was built. (There are galleries on three sides of the church.)

The "inside plenishing" or furniture of this church affords a curious specimen of the old mode of fitting up a place of worship. But, compared with others still remaining in a similar state, it may be considered plain, none of the pews exhibiting those elaborate and fantastic canopies so much the fashion in former times.

In the east end is a "table seat" or round pew, which belonged to an old family of the name of Harvie—heritors of the parish. The panelling on the wall is ornamented in a simple manner, but with a rudeness resembling Indian workmanship. The family arms, and date 1653, are carved in relief, and have been originally painted. . . .

It does not appear that there ever was a bell attached to this church.

In the aperture of the remains, supposed to mark the site of the Holy Cross altar, is an old weather-cock, and the now useless jogs.

In the north side of the churchyard is a ponderous stone of a peculiar shape, said to have been the pedestal of the font. Its greatest circumference is 7½ feet. . . .

The parish was formerly in the Presbytery of Aberdeen, but in 1702, by an Act of Synod, it was annexed to that of Garioch (pro tempore), from which it has not since been separated.

In 1754 the lands of Creechy [Crichie] and Thainston, in the west part of the parish, were, by decret, annexed to it. On the death of the incumbent of Kinkell in 1761 the annexation was carried into effect. . . .

Although, as stated by Logan, no bell was attached to the old church, yet a small one hung from a tree in the graveyard. It is now stored within the present church buildings. In the Town House is a bell, which was originally intended for the use of the Parish Church authorities, as well as the burgh magistrates. It bears

an inscription in Latin, which in English reads—

This bell was made in 1702 by Albert Gely for the use of the Parish Church of Kintore and the Magistracy. Be mindful of the last Judgment.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

“Kyntor and Kynneller” were supplied by Rev. George Patersoun as minister, with John Wilie as reader, in 1569. The readership included Skene likewise, and the salary was xx. lib. Wilie was followed by John Chalmer, who, in turn, gave place to John Leslie.

Rev. William Forbes was for a short time minister, but in 1600 was compelled to remove to Leslie through his failure to secure a living at Kintore.

Rev. Archibald Rait was ordained in 1600, and two years later his stipend was returned at the miserable sum of £2 15s 6½d. He died before February, 1635, survived by his wife, Janet, daughter of Bishop Peter Blackburn, and by two sons, William and Robert. (Grant Leslie's MS.) Mrs Rait was married, secondly, to Robert Anderson in Kintore. (See Sheriff Court Records, II., p. 408.)

Rev. Alexander Lunan, M.A., previously at Monymusk, was inducted in 1628. In 1632, he married Jean, eldest daughter of Sir William Forbes of Monymusk, Bart. (see Monymusk), and they had a son, William.

Rev. John Cheyne was the succeeding incumbent. In June, 1640, he was apprehended and carried prisoner to Aberdeen for standing out against the Covenant. On 12th March, 1645, he entertained and lodged in the manse the Marquis of Montrose. He married, and had a son, Robert, who married Isobel Johnston of Craig. According to the Rose MSS., Mr Cheyne was the great-grandfather of the celebrated Helen Taylor, Lady Braco.

Rev. Andrew Strachan, M.A., previously at Tullynessle, was inducted about 1649. He died in August, 1679, survived by a son, James, minister of Oyne. (See Tullynessle and Oyne.)

Rev. William Gordon was admitted from St Cuthbert's in 1680. In 1695, he was deprived for non-jurancy, and died two years later. He married Janet Keith, and they had a family of three sons—William, Alexander, and James—besides two daughters, Anna, and Catherine who married Rev. Robert Keith, minister of Ballantrae, son of John Keith of Glasgow. The son William became a magistrate of Old Aberdeen, and it is recorded [Scott's Fasti] that at the interment of his wife, Mary Irvine, in 1713, the funeral service of the Church of England was first read in the north of Scotland.

Rev. William Thomson, previously at Auchindoir, was inducted in 1697, and continued till at least October, 1717.

Rev. James Shand, son of Rev. John Shand, minister of Premnay, was translated from Kemnay in 1718. He died in 1726. He married Barbara Leith, and their family consisted of two sons and a daughter—George, baptised 27th September, 1711; Andrew, baptised 4th November, 1712; and Margaret, baptised 17th November, 1713. The son George was Lord Provost of Aberdeen in 1764-65. (See Fraserburgh.)

Rev. George Moir, previously at Towie, was inducted 18th October, 1727. He died 9th April, 1737. In 1719, he married Jean, daughter of Sir William Forbes of Monymusk, Bart.; and of their family, William afterwards became minister of Fyvie, and Jean, in 1751, married James Jopp of Cotton, who was Lord Provost of Aberdeen for several terms from 1768.

Rev. James Darling, translated from



Montkeggie, was inducted in 1738. He died four years later.

Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., son of Professor George Gordon, of King's College, was ordained in 1742. He died at Old Aberdeen on 27th May, 1766, in his 48th year.

The succeeding incumbent is commemorated by a tablestone in the parish graveyard, which bears the following inscription—

In memory of the Rev. Mr George Adam, late minister of Kintore, who died the 19th day of November, 1798, in the 69th year of his age, and 35th of his ministry. This stone is placed upon his grave by his affectionate widow. Under this stone also is interred his widow, Mrs Elizabeth Adam, who died the 1st day of January, 1822, in the 78th year of her age.

Rev. George Adam was ordained minister of the parish of Udney 28th March, 1764, and inducted to Kintore, 10th June, 1767. His wife's maiden surname was Pratt.

A railed-in grave has a tablestone—

In memory of the Rev. John Shand, who was for nine years minister of the parish of Kemnay, twelve years at Chapel of Garioch, and thirty-three at Kintore. He was born 7th November, 1754, and died 11th January, 1833, in the 79th year of his age, and 54th of his ministry. And Margaret Daune, his wife, daughter of the Rev. Francis Daune, minister of Banchory-Ternan, who was born 8th August, 1763, and died 27th February, 1833. Also their children—John, born 8th April, 1785; died at Calcutta, 31st March, 1813. Francis, born 2nd August, 1786; died at Spanish Town, Jamaica, 10th March, 1827. Margaret, who was born 13th March, 1788, died 22nd December, 1789, and is buried in the Churchyard of Banchory-Ternan. William, born 13th January, 1790; died 12th May, 1804, and is buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas, Aberdeen. Eliza, born 4th July, 1793; died 16th January, 1817; and Anthony, born 1st July, 1797; died 20th June, 1802, both buried in this churchyard. Alexander, born 6th August, 1795; died

at Kilmarnock, 16th May, 1835. Robert, born 21st February, 1801, died 20th April, 1862. Mary, born 17th July, 1791; died 12th February, 1881. Margaret, born 28th December, 1802; died 21st May, 1896.

Christina Keith married to Alexander Anderson, born 4th April, 1807; died 17th June, 1894.

Rev. John Shand was the second son of John Shand, Old Rayne, and of his wife, Mary Stewart. He graduated at Marischal College in 1771, and on 28th April, 1779, was ordained minister of Kemnay. On 11th October, 1787, he was inducted to Chapel of Garioch, from which he was translated to Kintore, and inducted 3rd October, 1799. Of his sons mentioned in the foregoing inscription, Francis was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen 21st November, 1811; Alexander (father of the late Lord Shand, referred to later) was for some time a partner in the firm of Shand and Simpson, clothiers, Aberdeen; and Robert is referred to later. The daughter, Christina Keith, married Alexander Anderson, son of Rev. George Anderson, minister of Leochel-Cushnie, and they had six of a family, of whom the eldest son was the late George Anderson, advocate, of Cochran and Anderson, advocates, Aberdeen, a younger son being John Alexander Anderson, of the Indian Civil Service, Lahore, and some time of Belmont, Stouehaven, who died at Murree, Punjab, 20th June, 1904.

In a railed-in grave is an obelisk, which is inscribed as under—

To the memory of the Rev. Robert Simpson, D.D., ten years minister of the parish of Kintore, and 26 years minister of the Free Church there, formed under him in 1843. Died 29th June, 1870, aged 78 years. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Erected by his widow and family.

Harriet Mary Brown, widow of the Rev. Robert Simpson, D.D., who died 9th February.

1886, aged 72 years. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

James R Simpson, their eldest son, died 13th May, 1851, aged 15 years; their fourth son, Surgeon-Major John Simpson, died 13th August, 1880, aged 38 years. George Gilbert Simpson, fifth son, died 13th June, 1896, at Perth, Western Australia.

Rev. Robert Simpson—who was a native of Brechin, and who had previously been acting as master of Robert Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen, and assistant to Dr James Kidd, Professor of Oriental Languages in Marischal College — was appointed to that professorship on 6th March, 1832. He was Murray lecturer in 1831-32. He was ordained minister of Kintore on 18th September, 1833, but in June, 1843, joined the Free Church, and speedily formed a congregation in the burgh. He was made D.D. in 1856. His wife was a daughter of Professor Brown; and of their large family, other than those mentioned in the foregoing inscription, William Lawrence is a lawyer, and resides in Dunedin, New Zealand; Robert James Brown is a retired colonel of the Indian Staff Corps, and is resident in Cheltenham; Archibald F. is a retired bank agent; H. B. is a retired commander of the Royal Indian Marine, and resides in Huntly; and David C. is a civil engineer in Sydney, New South Wales. Of the daughters, Ann Elizabeth married Rev. J. S. Candlish, D.D., and died in Glasgow, 9th May, 1904; while the others are Isabella, Harriet M., and Jane M. A.

A railed-in grave has a granite obelisk bearing the inscription—

In loving remembrance of the Rev. William Ross, for 30 years minister of this parish. Born 1807; died 1873. And of Isabella Mearns, his widow, born February, 1816; died May, 1888.

Erected by his widow and family.

A white marble tablet to the memory of

Mr Ross has been erected by the congregation within the church. It bears that he "was the faithful minister of the parish," and died on 28th January, 1873. He was the son of Rev. Alexander Ross, minister of the parish of Balmaghie, and was a graduate of Edinburgh University. His wife was a daughter of Professor Duncan Mearns, D.D., of Disblair; and of their family four children died in infancy — a son, Rev. Duncan Mearns Ross, M.A., is minister of Glass, to which parish he was ordained on 23rd August, 1876; and a daughter, Agnes Neilson, married Commander H. B. Simpson, son of Rev. Robert Simpson, D.D., Free Church minister of Kintore. There were two other daughters—Isabella Margaret and Jane Anne.

The remains of the succeeding minister are interred in Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen, where a headstone bears—

Erected by the Rev. J. C. Smith, minister of Kintore, in loving memory of his brother, Alexander Smith, merchant in Aberdeen, who was born at Ellon, 21st August, 1826, and died at Aberdeen 26th March, 1889.

Also the said Rev. John Craig Smith, for 10 years schoolmaster at Tough, and for 25 years minister of Kintore. Born at Wester Rora, Longside, 19th June, 1832; died at Kintore 1st June, 1896.

Rev. John Craig Smith, M.A., was for some time schoolmaster of Edinkillie. In 1858 he was appointed to the school of Tough, and subsequently to that of Tarves. In 1873 he was ordained minister of Kintore.

The present incumbent is Rev. T. O. Duncan, M.A.

#### THANAGE AND FOREST.

Although Kintore parish was in early times subservient to Kinkell, yet its Thanage embraced not only Kinkell and Kintore, but also the greater portion of the

parishes of Kemnay, Kinellar, Dyce, and Skene. Within its territory stood the ancient castle of Kintore, the castle or keep of Hallforest, and the forest of Kintore, in which the earlier Scottish Kings were wont to enjoy hunting. A portion, however, was capable of yielding a revenue, as evidenced by the fact that in 1266 Andrew of Garviauch, Sheriff of Aberdeenshire, rendered account thereof to the Crown. (Excheq. Rolls.)

David II. granted to his sister, Princess Maud, the thanage of Kintore along with the lands of Formartine. (Robertson's Index, p. 36, N. 2.) Subsequently the same King gave the half of both to the Earl of Sutherland and his wife.

In 1375, the thanage was transferred by Robert II. to John Dunbar, Earl of Moray, and his wife, Marjory, sister of the King. The charter declared that the lands were to be held as a "barony," with the bond-men, bond-service, "native men," and their issue, for military service.

On 30th September, 1473, James III. granted a charter of feu-farm to Alexander Leslie of Wardis, his familiar esquire, of the King's lands of the thanage of Kintore, to be held by him and his heirs for an annual payment of £4 4s Scots to the Bishop of Aberdeen, and £3 Scots to the Sheriff of Forfar and his successors, and the heirs of the deceased Alexander Ogilvie of Ochterhouse. Leslie married Isobel Lauder of Balcomie, in Fife, and, for some time, acted as King's Comptroller. At his death, the King was indebted to him in a considerable sum.

On 17th June, 1508, John Leslie, second baron of Wardis, and son of the preceding, had a grant of the feu-farm of the thanage, embracing the over and nether davach of Kintore, with mills, lands of Crichtie, Tavilty, Mekil Kynnaldy, with mill, Little Kynnaldy, Petmeddene, Nether Dyce, with the annual rents, and fishings on Don, and

the lake and bogs. Leslie was Provost of Aberdeen in 1504 and baillie of all the King's land of the regality of the Garioch. Interesting particulars respecting him and his five matrimonial contracts are given in Munro's "Memorials of the Aldermen, Provosts, and Lord Provosts of Aberdeen," pp. 73-74.

Alexander Leslie, son of the preceding, succeeded, and on 13th October, 1546, had a special charter from Queen Mary to the lands of Tavilty. He was three times married—first, to Margaret, daughter of Alexander Forbes, of Towie; second, to Elizabeth, daughter of William Seton, of Meldrum; and third, to Isabella Menzies. Of the first marriage there was a family of three sons—William, who succeeded; Patrick of Duncanstone; and Alexander of Dyce.

The Leslie family disposed of various portions of the lands, the majority of which are now the property of the Earl of Kintore.

From an early period the forest of Kintore was carefully preserved for hunting by the King. That it was partially wooded is shown by the command given on 12th April, 1304, by Edward I. to the keeper of the forest to give the Bishop of Aberdeen thirty oak trees therefrom. (Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, II., p. 390.)

In 1320, Parliament bestowed upon Sir Robert Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, a large portion of the forfeited estate of Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, and, four years later, King Robert the Bruce made a grant to Keith of the Castle of Hallforest and Forest of Kintore, but exclusive of the park. Thus, in 1324, was established with Kintore the connection of the Keiths which continues to the present time. The individual history of the descendants of Sir Robert Keith will be found in Rev. Dr



Davidson's "Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch," pp. 436-40.

#### HALLFOREST.

The ruins of the Castle of Hallforest, which measure 48 feet in length by 30 feet in width, with walls 7 feet in thickness, stand on level ground about a mile and a half to the westward of the burgh of Kintore.

Messrs Macgibbon and Ross, who give a view and plan of the building in their "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" (Vol. I., p. 157), say that it is one of the very few examples of fourteenth century keeps now remaining in the north. They do not dispute the tradition that it had been erected by King Robert the Bruce as a hunting seat.

The castle formerly rose to the height of four arched stories, having battlements besides a cape-house, with an outside movable ladder, by which the inmates secured entrance to the first floor. It is believed to have been originally surrounded by a wall and fosse.

Tradition tells an interesting anecdote of a visit made incognito by James II. to the district during the proprietorship of Lord George Keith. His Majesty, who is known to have delighted in wandering over the country in various forms of disguise, called one evening at a cottage in Kintore occupied by a man named Thain. After some conversation, in the course of which he made inquiries respecting Hallforest and its occupants, the King asked Thain if he would convey a message to Geordie Keith. "Geordie Keith!" exclaimed Thain, in anger. "A better man than you would have called him Lord George Keith." Ultimately, he agreed to deliver the message, which included the conveying of a knife and fork so constructed as to fit into each other. On receiving the symbol, Lord George asked Thain if he knew who

the visitor was, and being answered in the negative, told him it was the King. The worthy burgher, remembering the wrath he had manifested, was afraid to face the stranger again, but, being reassured and accompanied by Lord George, he returned. In the meantime, Thain's wife had recognised that her visitor was no ordinary individual, and to show him some hospitality had killed and prepared her best fowl for supper. In return for the kindness thus shown by the couple, the King made them a grant of land, which is known as the Goose Croft.

The foregoing is the tradition, and, subject to the explanation that Lord William Keith was the owner of Hallforest at the time, it is probably reliable.

Mr Alexander M. Munro, F.S.A. Scot., has in manuscript a carefully-prepared history of the Goose Croft and its various proprietors, which will appear in an early issue of "Scottish Notes and Queries."

#### THAINSTON.

On 14th June, 1367, Henry of Gothenys and his wife Margaret, for homage and service, had a charter under the Great Seal to the land of "Thanystoun and Foulertoun" in the thanage of Kintore. Subsequently, the lands were in the possession of Martin Benyng, and in 1465 in that of Thomas Wardroper, the King's servant. On 7th September, 1467, Alexander Wardroper of Gothenys—probably a son of the preceding—sold them to Henry Forbes of Kinellar. Prior to this, however, the family of Chalmers owned a portion, as also did Alexander Ardbeke, but the whole was acquired by the Forbeses.

On 9th August, 1603, Henry Forbes sold Thainston and Foulertown to William Forbes of Tolquhon, who had them included in his barony of Tolquhon, and they remained in the possession of his descen-

dants till 1717, when they were acquired by Thomas Mitchell, who, in 1698-99, had been Provost of Aberdeen. In 1703, he purchased from Sir Robert Forbes of Larnsey the lands of Easter Beltie and Annesley. He was three times married—first to Janet, daughter of Sir Patrick Leslie of Eden; secondly, to Isabella Patton; and, thirdly, to Jean Mercer. He died 20th December, 1719.

Thomas Mitchell, son of the preceding, succeeded. Ten years previously he had married Barbara, third daughter of Sir John Forbes of Monymusk, Bart. He died on 14th March, 1721.

Barbara Mitchell, only daughter and heiress, succeeded. She married—in his extreme youth—Andrew Mitchell (son of her relative Rev. William Mitchell), who had a brilliant career as a statesman and diplomatist. He was called to the English bar in 1738; appointed Under-Secretary of State for Scotland in 1742; M.P. for the County of Aberdeen in 1747, and M.P. for the Elgin Burghs in 1755-61-68. He was elected British Envoy to Berlin in 1756, being subsequently raised to the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Frederick the Great of Prussia. For his special services in attending upon that Monarch during the Seven Years' War, he received the Order of the Bath. Having lost his wife and only daughter, Barbara, he had himself served heir to the various estates, which he bequeathed to his life-long friend, Sir Arthur Forbes of Craigievar, Bart. He died at Berlin on 28th January, 1771, and his funeral was honoured by the presence of the Court of Prussia. The King is said to have seated himself on a balcony, from which he witnessed the procession with tears.

Under a deed of entail executed by Sir Arthur Forbes, Bart., in 1772, his third son, Duncan Forbes, succeeded to Thain-

ston, Easter Beltie, etc., and assumed the additional name and arms of Mitchell—all as detailed on a tablet on the wall of the Parish Church of Kintore. Hand-some figures in high relief are shown at the sides, while at the top arms are displayed, with the motto "Watch." The inscription is as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Duncan Forbes Mitchell of Thainston, Esq., who died the 6th of October, 1796, aged 41 years.

He took the name and arms of Mitchell of Thainston, under the will of his father, Sir Arthur Forbes of Craigievar, Baronet, whereby the said estate was entailed on him and his heirs male in order to perpetuate the memory of Sir Andrew Mitchell of Thainston, K.B., by whom the same was bequeathed to Sir Arthur in remembrance of their friendship through life.

Also in memory of his under-mentioned sons, by his wife, Katharine Ann Fraser of Fraserfield, Arthur Andrew Forbes Mitchell, his eldest son, died at Bombay, in the East Indies, on the 3rd of May, 1801, aged 22; William Forbes Mitchell, his second son, died at Thainston, the 11th of May, 1808, aged 25; Duncan Forbes Mitchell, his third son, died at London, the 7th of March, 1812, aged 27.

Also in memory of two infant sons of John Forbes Mitchell, by his wife, Ann Powell. They died at Bombay on the 6th of September, 1810, and the 25th of December, 1811, and of their infant son, James Andrew, born in London the 6th of May, and died the 27th of August, 1820.

John Forbes Mitchell, Esq., died at Tarara, in France, on his way to Geneva, on the 9th of July, 1822, in the 37th year of his age, and was interred in the Protestant burial ground at Lyons, leaving a widow and six infant sons to lament their irreparable loss, and to imitate the example of those domestic and social virtues which marked his character through a short, but arduous, and well-spent life.

Also in memory of the above named Katherine Ann Fraser, widow of the above named Duncan Forbes Mitchell, Esq., of Thainston, who departed this life on the 27th day of December, 1836, aged 81 years.

Erected anno, 1820, by his fourth son, John Forbes Mitchell of Thainston.

Our friends when dead are but removed from sight,

Hid in the lustre of eternal light;  
Oft with the mind they wonted converse keep  
In the lone walk, or when our bodies sleep,  
Let in a wand'ring ray, and all elate  
Wing and attract us to another state;  
And when the passing storms of life are o'er,  
We hope to meet where we shall part no more.

The fifth son of Duncan Forbes Mitchell and of his wife, Katherine Anne Fraser, daughter of William Fraser of Fraserfield (Balgownie), is commemorated by a tablet in the church—

In memory of Alexander Forbes, Esq., fifth son of the late Duncan Forbes Mitchell, Esq., of Thainston, who died 3rd January, 1843, aged 54 years. And of his wife Janet Forbes, eldest daughter of the late Sir William Forbes, Bart., of Craigievar, who died 15th February, 1846, aged 64 years.

This tablet is erected by their affectionate children. 1846.

There is a granite tablet in the wall of the private burying-ground of the Forbes-Mitchell family in Kintore Churchyard to the seventh son, which is inscribed—

Mansfield Forbes, Esq., born 9th November, 1796; died 19th January, 1869.

Duncan Forbes Mitchell was succeeded in the estates by his eldest son, Arthur Andrew Forbes Mitchell, who, dying at Bombay on 3rd May, 1801, aged 22, was succeeded by his brother, William Forbes Mitchell, an officer in the Royal Navy, who, dying on 11th May, 1808, aged 25, was succeeded by his brother, Duncan Forbes Mitchell, who, dying on 7th March, 1812, aged 27, was succeeded by his next brother, John Forbes Mitchell, who, in 1809, married Ann Powell, daughter of George Powell, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Honourable East India Company's Artillery. He died on 9th July, 1822, and is specially referred to in the first of the above inscriptions.

John Forbes Mitchell's fifth son, Frederick Forbes, and his wife, Raechel

Forbes, fourth daughter of Alexander Forbes, have a granite tablet to their memory in the private burying-ground already mentioned. The inscription is as follows—

Frederick Forbes, born 21st June, 1818; died 25th December, 1883. Also his widow, Raechel Forbes, born 25th January, 1819; died 9th May, 1897.

Mr John Forbes Mitchell was succeeded in the estates of Thainston, Easter Beltie, etc., by his son, Duncan Forbes Mitchell, who is commemorated by a tablet in the church—

In memory of Duncan Forbes Mitchell, Esq., of Thainston and Easter Beltie. Born 31st October, 1812; died 13th August, 1870. Erected by his widow and children.

Duncan Forbes Mitchell, on 18th February, 1834, married Maria, eldest daughter of Robert Anthony Bromby, and their son, John Forbes Mitchell, has a white marble cross to his memory in the burying-ground referred to. The inscription is—

John Forbes Mitchell, died at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, April 25th, 1882, aged 38 years. Matthew 11-28. In loving memory.

The lands are now held by Mr John Forbes Mitchell's trustees.

#### TABLET INSCRIPTIONS IN PARISH CHURCH.

A tablet in the vestibule of the Parish Church has the following inscription—

James Davidson, late of London, merchant, a native of this parish and town, left to the magistrates, Town Council, and minister of Kintore, for ever, rents and interest of £200 sterling, to be given to 7, 8, 9, or 10 poor people of the town, old or young, men or women.

And that the minister every New Year's Day preach a sermon setting forth the above legacy with its uses; and that this stone be kept clean; and when decayed, to be replaced by others, and in good condition for ever.

1803.



James Davidson was the eldest son of an old Kintore burgher family, and, having a full share of the characteristic energy and push of the Scotch, proceeded to London, where he acquired a competency as a merchant. He died before 1765, and under his deed of settlement he bequeathed the above-mentioned sum of £200, but subject to the life-rent of his sister Christian. It was 1802 before the first interest became available for distribution. The will stipulated that no person should receive beyond one pound in any one year; that the minister should receive ten shillings for preaching the special annual sermon, and that the tablet inscription "be cleaned and butified every twenty years."

It is traditionally asserted that Provost Davidson, of Aberdeen, who fell at Harlaw in 1411, belonged to this branch.

A white marble tablet in the church bears the inscription—

In memory of Robert Shand, advocate in Aberdeen, sixth son of the late Rev. John Shand, minister of this parish.

Born, 21st February, 1801.  
Died, 20th April, 1862.

Robert Shand was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen 19th November, 1827, and had an extensive practice. He was for some time a partner in the firm of Jopp and Shand, advocates, and died a bachelor as above. Being of a generous and social disposition, he was a leading spirit in the Mill of Maryculter Friendly Society, his title therein being the grandiloquent one of "Grand chaplain, poet-laureate, and Knight of Kaw-Wa in the colony of New Zealand."

#### LORD SHAND.

Over the grave of Lord Shand in the parish churchyard, a monument of light

sandstone has been erected. A baron's coronet is shown at the top, and underneath is the following inscription—

Here lies the body of Alexander Burns Shand, first Baron Shand. Born, 13th december, 1828; died, 6th march, 1904. Requiescat in pace.

And if there be no meeting past the grave,  
If all is darkness, silence, yet 'tis rest.  
Be not afraid, ye waiting hearts that weep  
For God still giveth His beloved sleep.  
And if an endless sleep He wills—so best.  
Perchance a little light will come with morn-  
ing;

Perchance I shall but sleep.

Alexander Burns Shand was the son of Alexander Shand, for some time a partner of the firm of Shand and Simpson, clothiers, Aberdeen, nephew of the above Robert Shand, and grandson of Rev. John Shand, parish minister of Kintore — his mother being Louisa, daughter of Dr Whyte, Banff. He was born in Aberdeen, and was educated at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Called to the Scottish bar in 1853, he was appointed Advocate - Depute in 1861, Sheriff of Kincardineshire in 1862, and Sheriff of Haddington and Berwick in 1869. He became a judge of the Court of Session in 1872, with the title of Lord Shand. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Glasgow University in 1873, and that of D.C.L. by Oxford in 1895. He acted as a Commissioner under the Endowed Schools (Scotland) Act, 1885-90. He retired from the bench in 1890, when he became a Privy Councillor, and a member of the Judicial Committee of the Council. In 1892 he was raised to the peerage as Baron Shand of Woodhouse, in the county of Dumfries. In 1857, he married Emily Merelina, daughter of Mr J. C. Meymott, but they had no family.

The lines on Lord Shand's monument, it may be mentioned, are from a poem written by Mrs Huxley. The three lines

beginning "Be not afraid" are inscribed on Professor Huxley's tombstone. (See "Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley," Vol. II.)

#### HARVEY AND FARQUHAR FAMILIES.

A partially-broken tombstone is inscribed—

Hero lyes interred the body of Mr John Harvie, who was 57 years schoolmaster at Midmar. He was youngest son of Alexander Harvie of this burgh, who likewise lyes here. He was a kind affectionate father and . . .  
 . . . ght up a large family. He died the 9th of February, 1767, aged 77 years. Also the body of Elizabeth Mackay, his spouse, who died the 5th of April, 1776, aged 85 years.

John Harvie or Harvey was the youngest son of Alexander Harvey, who was long tenant of Mains of Muchel, Cluny. His wife was a daughter of John Mackay, farmer, Midmar. They had a family of three sons and five daughters. Alexander, the eldest son, went to Antigua, where he amassed considerable means. Particulars regarding him and his family will be found in the Dingwall-Fordyce Family Record.

A railed-in space near the churchyard gate has a tablestone which presents the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Farquhar, for many years one of the Baillies of this Borough, who was born 16th May, 1725, and died 26th February, 1807, in the 82nd year of his age. And of Elizabeth Harvey, his wife, who was born 16th November, 1724, and died 24th February, 1807, in the 83rd year of her age.

They were born within six months of each other, and had been married upwards of 52 years. They lived very happily together, and enjoyed good health till they were 80 years of age, when, their infirmities increasing with their years, they had often expressed a wish that the one might not long survive the other. And the Almighty was pleased to grant their desire. They were taken ill almost at the same time; died within two days of each other; and were buried together in one grave on the 2nd March, 1807.

As they lived respected and esteemed, so they died universally regretted by their numerous relations and acquaintances.

Here also rest, according to her own desire, the remains of their second daughter, Jane Farquhar, wife of John Davidson, Esq., of Kebbatty. Born, 11th August, 1765; died, 4th November, 1834.

Baillie Farquhar's arms are cut upon the stone thus—Arg. a lion rampant sa., gorged with a plain collar or, between two sinister hands in chief coupé and appaume of the third, and a trefoil slipped in base vert, all within a bordure engrailed az.

Mrs Farquhar was a daughter of John Harvey, schoolmaster, Midmar, and widow of — Rae, Kintore. The above-mentioned daughter, Jane, married John Davidson, advocate in Aberdeen, who bought the property of Kebbatty in Midmar, and erected a mansion-house thereon. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married Alexander Ross, schoolmaster, Kintore; while a third, Margaret, married, in 1798, Rev. James Shand of Greyfriars, Aberdeen, and subsequently of Marykirk, Kincardineshire. The third son of the last couple—Charles Farquhar Shand—was appointed Chief Justice of the Mauritius in 1860, and nine years later was honoured with a knighthood.

Three sons of Baillie Farquhar met their death under distressing circumstances, as detailed in an inscription upon a marble tablet fixed in the wall of the church—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander, James, and Charles Farquhar, Esquires, the three youngest sons of Baillie Alexander Farquhar of this burgh, and Elizabeth Harvey, his spouse, who all died in the prime of life.

Alexander was born 16th October, 1761, and died of a fever in the Island of Antigua, on the 19th October, 1792, and lies buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Old Road, in the said Island.

James was born on the 16th October, 1763, and lost his life along with Governor Home,

to whom he was *Aid-de-camp*, and 40 of the principal inhabitants of the Island of Grenada, in an insurrection of the negroes, instigated by the French from Gaudaloupe at Morne Quaquo, on the 8th April, 1795, and lies buried there.

Charles was born on the 2nd July, 1769, and died in this place on the 19th April, 1798, of consumption brought on by anxiety and fatigue during the insurrection in the said Island of Grenada, and lies buried in this churchyard.

This monument is erected by John Harvey of Castle Semple, Esq., and Robert Farquhar of Portland Place, London, Esq., their surviving brothers, as a token of their affection, and to perpetuate the memory of the premature fate of these amiable and meritorious young men.

John Farquhar, the joint erector of the above monument, succeeded to a share of the wealth of his uncle, and changed his surname to that of Harvey. He bought the property and mansion of Castle Semple in Renfrew, while his brother, Robert, became proprietor of the estate of Newark, in the same county. The only child of the latter—Eliza Mary Farquhar—married Sir Michael Shaw Stewart of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart., for some time M.P. for Renfrewshire.

A headstone battled against the churchyard wall, and within the Farquhar enclosure, is inscribed—

In memory of Alexander Ross, for 41 years parish schoolmaster in Kintore, who died August 17th, 1824, aged 83. And of Elizabeth Farquhar, his wife, who died September 26th, 1845, aged 88. Also of their children John Ross, who died April 4th, 1837, aged 54; Janet, who died January 15th, 1801, aged 15; Eliza, who died November 14th, 1799, aged 15; Alexander, who died in the Island of Grenada, October 7th 1818, aged 30, and is buried there; Margaret, who died February 24th, 1796, aged 4; Robert, who also died in Grenada, January 24th, 1822, aged 29, and is buried there; Mary, who died March 22nd, 1861, aged 65.

Alexander Ross, who was a successful teacher, succeeded to considerable wealth.

His wife, Elizabeth Farquhar, was the daughter of Baillie Alexander Farquhar; and Mary Ross, the last surviving member of their family, ever evinced a supreme regard for the burgh and parish. She bequeathed £100 for behoof of the poor of the Parish Church, a like sum for the poor of the Free Church, besides £200 for the benefit of the latter church.

Jane Ross, another daughter, married David Walker, land surveyor, Aberdeen, and died 25th May, 1828, aged 29, survived by her husband, who died May 22nd, 1844, aged 51.

The above John Ross followed the same profession as his father, and for a time held an appointment in Aberdeen.

A rough, partly-broken, upright stone displays the initials P. R.; I. D., and date 1697. These letters probably commemorate Peter Rae, weaver, in Kintore, and his wife, Isobel Duff.

A small, roughly-dressed headstone has the inscription—

Here lyes the body of Robert Divorty, who died 1783. M. A. Divorty.

There are other tombstones to families bearing the surname of Divorty. They were tenants of various farms, including Midmill.

A tablestone showing various emblems, including a skull, cross-bones, hour-glass, and coffin—flanked by a scroll—has the following inscription—

Here lyes Robert Lessel, sometye in Ley-lodge, who dyed February 13th, 1718, and Margaret Foulter, his spouse, who dyed Nouember 5th, 1728.

Lessel possessed considerable means. In 1696, for himself and his wife, he paid £1 2s 6d of poll. He had in his service one female and three male servants.

Another tablestone alongside commemorates a descendant—

In memory of Alexander Lessel, some time



farmer in Broomhill of Skene, who died the 22nd September, 1804, aged 72 years; also, Elspet Barron, his spouse, who died the 6th September, 1827, aged 87. . . .

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected to the memory of Jean Dun, who died March 12th, 1808, aged 44 years. Also, John Anderson, her spouse, some time mason in Kintore, who died September 14th, 1793, aged 42 years. And their children, who died in infancy, lie interred near this. Also, their son, David Anderson, who died 29th December, 1851, aged 68 years.

No pomp displayed or meant by this plain stone.

To draw the attention of the passing eye;  
But the due tribute of a mourning son  
That marks where lies a mother's mouldering clay.

The above headstone was erected by David Anderson to the memory of his mother, to whom he was devotedly attached. Left a widow in humble circumstances with her boy barely ten years of age, she struggled bravely, and not only gave him a fair education, but had him trained to the trade of a coppersmith, from which fact he derived the title of "Copperie." He proved himself a man of many parts, including author and poet. Particulars regarding him and his works are given in Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord," pp. 354-57.

A small headstone has the following unusual form of inscription—

Here lies the body of Robert Rae, son to William Rae in Kintore. He was born A.D. 1752, married to Barbara Daune, 1791, and died January, 1794, aged 42 years.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A tablestone is inscribed—

In memory of John Rough, surgeon, and lawful son to John Rough, farmer in Mains of Glascoego. He was born the 12th day of October, 1775, and died September the 20th, 1794, aged 19 years. Also, Elspet Rough, his daughter, was born May the 31st, 1777, and

died March the 25th, 1797, aged near 20 years. Also Mary Rough, his daughter, was born May the 28th, 1789, and died May the 8th, 1804, aged 15 years. Also George Rough, his third son, was born July the 12th, 1784, and died May the 9th, 1808, aged near 24 years. Also the said John Rough, late in Mains of Glascoego. He died the 15th of April, 1810, aged 63 years. And of Isobel Scott, his spouse, late in Conglass, who died 3rd December, 1820, aged 65 years. Also Alexander Rough, who died at Fetternear, 20th April, 1842, aged 63 years.

A headstone alongside records the death of John Rough, late farmer in "Neither Black-Chalmers," in August, 1760, aged 45, and of his wife, Elspet Fowler, in October, 1808, aged 89.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected in memory of John Hill, late portioner in Kintore, who died 10th March, 1829, aged 82 years. Also of his spouse, Jane Morrice, who died 21st July, 1839, aged 82 years. And of their only son James, who died 23rd July, 1802, aged 16 years. Also their daughter Elizabeth, who died 21st July, 1802, aged 11 years. Also of their grandson John Hill Watt, who died 28th May, 1852, aged 35 years, and lies in Logie Churchyard, Stirling; and of their daughter, Barbara Hill, who died 12th February, 1872, aged 82 years.

Respecting the Hill family, Rev. Dr Davidson (Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch) states that at an earlier period than the gift of Hallforest—and it is likely in the necessitous days of King Robert the Bruce—the ancestor of the family obtained a charter of a portion of land in the burgh. William Donald Hill, Provost of Kintore in 1872, was descended from the original holder. It now bears the name of King's Field.

A reserved space, surrounded by a high iron railing, contains two tablestones, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In memory of John Fraser, for several years one of the Baillies of Kintore, who died on the 15th day of November, 1828, aged 87 years.

And of Jean Gordon, his spouse, who died on the 14th day of December, 1822, aged 66 years.

Also in memory of their children Elizabeth, Margaret, Robert, and Anthony, who are buried near this spot.

Also in memory of their son, Baillie George Fraser, who died 27th July, 1851, aged 66 years.

Several bearing the surname of Fraser have rendered good service as magistrates of the ancient burgh. The above inscription commemorates two; a third—William Fraser—was Provost before 1698; and the name of a fourth—Thomas Fraser, Provost, 1882—is upon the massive girder bridge erected across the Don near the lower end of the town.

## (2).

In memory of Alexander and James Morrison, sons of James Morrison of Kingseat, who died at Balhaggardy—Alexander on the 29th May and James on the 6th July, 1856, respectively, aged 25 and 16 years. Also of Mr James Morrison, their father, who died at Balhaggardy on the 7th January, 1863, in the 90th year of his age. And of his wife, Agnes Fraser, their mother, who died at Oldmeldrum on the 18th February, 1881, in her 89th year.

James Morrison was a skilful and advanced farmer. In 1842, he purchased the estate of Kingseat in the parish of New Machar, but in 1859 sold it to Sir Thomas Blaikie, Provost of Aberdeen, 1839-46. (See New Machar.) His wife was a daughter of Baillie John Fraser referred to in the preceding inscription. He was a man of sterling worth and of marked individuality of character. Several anecdotes respecting him are related in Davidson's "Old Aberdeenshire Ministers," pp. 96-101.

The following inscription records the death of a nonagenarian and members of his family—

In memory of Alexander Roger, Kintore, who died 3rd July, 1900, aged 96 years. Also his wife, Helen Cruickshank Craig, who died 5th January, 1852, aged 39 years. Also their

sons, John, died 26th September, 1845, aged 8 years; John, died 24th January, 1855, aged 7 years; James, died at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 22nd December, 1862, aged 22 years, and buried at Burlington Cemetery there; Alexander, died 29th January, 1893, aged 51 years.

A stone, which displays various funereal emblems, was lately removed from lair 75, and fixed to the inner side of the churchyard wall, near the entrance gate. It is inscribed—

Here lyes John Fowler, some time farmer in Overmill of Kintore, who departed life November 17, 1748, aged 58. As also six of his children, namely, Margrat, Jean, Marjory, Christian, Elizabeth, and Janet Fowlers.

The surname Fowler is one of the oldest in the parish. Thomas Fowler was tenant of Leylodge in 1510 (it was then called Leylug), and in 1696 Patrick Fowler was in Boghead, and George Fowler in Womblehill.

Three tablestones within an enclosure are inscribed respectively—

## (1).

Here lies Christian Stephen, spouse to John Lumsden in Boghead, who died 2nd February, 1793, aged 63 years. Also of James Lumsden, Esq., Grove, who died 9th May, 1834, aged 64 years.

The above John Lumsden was the son of Alexander Lumsden, farmer, Boghead. His wife, Christian Stephen, was a daughter of Alexander Stephen, Goval, Fintray, and James Lumsden was their fifth son. John Lumsden was the ancestor of the Lumsdens of Piteaple, Auchindoir, Balmedie, etc. (See Belhelvie.)

## (2).

To the memory of Margaret Gordon, wife of Benjamin Lumsden, Esq., of Kingsford, Alford, who died on the 9th of February, 1843, aged 81 years. Benjamin Lumsden of Kingsford died the 6th day of December, 1856, aged 83 years.

Benjamin Lumsden was the sixth son of the above John Lumsden, Boghead.

(3).

Sacred to the memory of Andrew Jamieson, A.M., preacher of the Gospel, and late school-master of this parish, who died on the 20th day of July, 1823, aged 28 years. He was a young man of very respectable talents, of an amiable disposition, and engaging manners, and died regretted by a numerous circle of friends.

This stone is erected by his father, George Jamieson, late in Brae of Kintore, as a mark of affection for a beloved son.

Also in memory of his beloved wife, Barbara Lunsden, who died 18th July, 1835, aged 65 years.

Also of the said George Jamieson, who died at Cushnie, Auchterless, 26th April, 1842, aged 81 years.

Also his son John, who died the 20th February, 1879, aged 77 years.

George Jamieson, farmer in Brae of Kintore, and subsequently at Cushnie, Auchterless, married Barbara, third daughter of the above John Lunsden, Boghead. The death of their son Andrew at the early age of 28 caused widespread regret.

A tablestone shows the inscription—

Here lies the body of George Wood, late tenant in Brae of Kintore, who departed this life the 15th day of May, 1749, aged 88 years. Also Anne Young, his spouse. She departed this life the 9th day of October, 1753, aged 61 years. Also in the memory of George Wood, late farmer in Mill of Garlogie, who departed this life the 17th February, 1784, aged 64 years. Also Janet Sanguster, his spouse, who departed this life the 30th December, 1813, aged 82 years. These lines is inserted by their son William, who is left to lament their loss.

Had the above inscription been known to the litigants in the great Woodburnen succession case much trouble and expense would have been saved.

On 14th August, 1736, a complaint came before the Burgh Court of Kintore, the particulars of which show that adulteration was not unusual in those times.

Wood had undertaken to deliver a quantity of pure meal to the order of the Earl of Kintore's Receiver, but had mixed "two-thirds of bear meal" amongst it, with the result that a merchant who had bought largely "threatened to break up his bargain." Pleading guilty, Wood was fined £5 sterling, besides being taken bound to refund such further loss as might be sustained through the transaction.

A tablestone bears—

In memory of George Mackay, Provost of the Burgh of Kintore, who died 28th August, 1834, in the 77th year of his age.

#### RHIND AND RAIT FAMILIES.

A tablestone near the churchyard gate is inscribed—

In memory of William Rait, farmer in Dalwery, who died 11th January, 1820, aged 78. Also of Elizabeth Rhind, his spouse, who died 27th of December, 1822, aged 70. Also their grandchild, Alexander, who died 27th December, 1818, aged 3 years.

A headstone alongside has the inscription—

Erected by their affectionate family over the remains of James Rait, born September, 1786, died 21st June, 1856; and Agnes Rhind, born May, 1783, died 16th September, 1856.

We shall meet again.

Also of their son James, for 31 years land steward at Castle Forbes, who died at Oakbank, Keig, 17th August, 1881, aged 57 years; also their daughter, Elizabeth, died 16th February, 1886, aged 72; also their son William, farmer, Brae, died 9th June, 1891, aged 79. And of Martha Benton, wife of James Rait, Castle Forbes, who died at Elgin 14th July, 1903, aged 86 years.

1867. The above named with their ancestors were tenants of Dalweary, Kintore, it is believed for 400 years.

A tablestone alongside bears—

Here lies in hopes of a blessed resurrection (Untill the time that Christ shall say, Arise ye dead and come away), Alexander Rait, some time farmer in Brae of Kintore, who was born



24th April, 1733, and died 4th April, 1810, aged 77 years. And (remainder of intended inscription not cut).

The Rhinds who settled in Dalweary as tenant farmers in 1457 are traditionally reported to have come from Germany in the beginning of the fifteenth century in the capacity of engineers to Sir William Keith, afterwards Earl Marischal. A descendant, John Rhind, before 1680, married Margaret Bannerman, but he died before 1696, when his widow's name as tenant appears in the Poll Book. They had two sons—John and William. The latter (born in Dalweary 20th June, 1680) married, on 19th November, 1704, Jane Bruce, probably a daughter of Robert Bruce, Bailie of Kintore. He graduated M.D., and was alive in 1758. He was succeeded by his son, William, who became an eminent doctor. The latter died without issue. The tenancy of Dalweary ultimately fell to the Raits, who had intermarried with the Rhinds long before.

James Rait, referred to in the first part of the second inscription, in November, 1810, married his second cousin Agnes Rhind, daughter of Dr Robert Rhind of Surgeonshall, Fettercairn. They had issue—William, Betsy, Alexander, Agnes, James, and Mary. The first-named became successor in Dalweary, from which he removed to Brae of Kintore in 1864, the Rhinds and Raits between them having thus occupied Dalweary for 407 years.

James Rait, who was well known in Aberdeenshire as the enterprising land steward of Castle Forbes, had considerable literary talent. He was originally a poet, and wrote a treatise "On Timber," which was published by Messrs Blackwood. His wife, Martha Benton, was a daughter of Joseph Benton, farmer, Cattie, Keig.

A headstone presents the inscription—  
Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas

Annand, minister of the parish of Keith, who died 15th June, 1867, aged 40 years.

Rev. Thomas Annand was the son of John Annand, Kintore, and a brother of John Annand, proprietor of the Kintore Arms Hotel, Inverurie, and for many years provost of that burgh. He married Miss Anderson, Inverurie, and his death at the early age of 40 caused keen regret alike in Keith as in Kintore.

A railed-in grave has a grey granite obelisk, which is inscribed—

In loving memory of the Rev. John Galloway, M.A., for 36 years a faithful minister of the Free Church, Kintore, who died February 2nd, 1903, aged 67.

Erected by his congregation in token of respect and esteem.

"God is love."

Rev. John Galloway, who was a native of Colmonell, was licensed by the Free Church Presbytery of Ayr in August, 1864. For about two years he acted as assistant in Rutherglen Free Church, being elected in 1866 colleague and successor to the late Rev. Dr Simpson at Kintore, at whose death in 1870 he succeeded to the charge. He was held in high esteem by all classes of the community. He is survived by a widow and two daughters.

Numerous tombstone inscriptions show how tenacious was the desire of descendants of old parishioners, even in distant districts, to bring the remains of their beloved dead to "mix with kindred dust" at Kintore.

The practice of burying within the church had obtained to such an extent that on 20th July, 1599, the Presbytery enacted as follows—

The buriall of the defunctis to be in the kirk yarde; and gif ony beis bureit within the kirke, being ane parochinar, sall pay iii lib., be in-tromettouris with the defunctis guidis and geir; and being ane stranger, or of ane vyer con-

gregatioun, sall pay xx lib., except it be with the consent of the paroch, quhilk being interponit to pay bot iii lib.

#### ROYAL BURGHE.

Kintore was erected into a Royal Burgh at an early period, several authors asserting that the original grant—which included extensive and valuable common rights—was conferred by King Kenneth between 844 and 854 on account of the villagers having turned out in large numbers and rendered efficient assistance in vanquishing a Pictish force, which enabled him to become King of Scotland. Others declare that the charter and privileges were bestowed by William the Lion. Certain it is that Kintore in the thirteenth century was a place of considerable importance; and that it was frequently visited by Royalty is shown by the Crown charters granted thereat. Among other visits may be noticed those of William the Lion between 1208 and 1214; Alexander III. on 2nd December, 1273, and 29th March, 1285; and Edward I. of England on Friday, 20th July, 1296.

In 1292, the community of the burgh granted a letter discharging debts due to them by the King and Queen.

In 1506, James IV. granted a new charter, wherein he confirmed all grants and privileges embraced in prior-dated writs. These old deeds are alleged to have mysteriously disappeared. Again, in 1661, there was a Parliamentary ratification of all the burgh charters and infestments, and appointing a weekly market to be held on Thursday. (Acts of Parliament.)

It is now impossible to say when the municipal government of the burgh originated, but the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland show that in 1331 Thomas Ayire held the Provostship, which in 1330-32-40 stands in the name of Gregory Bowman. Space precludes the giving of even the names of the successors in office, among

whom may be noted John, Earl of Kintore, in 1699.

The Burgess Roll is specially interesting, and includes the names of men eminent in statesmanship, law, literature, and arts.

It is matter for regret that the ancient common rights of the burgh have been entirely lost, and that the hundreds of acres of land, extending into Dyce and Kinellar on the one hand and towards Kemnay on the other, on which the burghers of old were accustomed to graze their flocks as a gratis and legal privilege, should now belong, as fertile farms, to outside proprietors. That the alienation had been thorough—without any equivalent being granted—is shown by the evidence given by the chief magistrate and town clerk before the Municipal Inquiry Commissioners in 1833. They declared that the burgh had then “no property and no debt,” and that the only revenue consisted “of feu-duty paid by Lord Kintore, amounting to £9 6s Scots (15s 6d sterling); and £1 13s 4d sterling paid annually by the family of Craigevar to the poor of Kintore as an amercement for the murder, within the burgh, of one of the family of Gordon of Craigmile.” Having regard to this declaration, and to the view expressed by the Provost that Kintore “ought to be relieved of the burdens incumbent upon a royal burgh, and reunited with the county,” it is not surprising that the Commissioners in their report stated that it was “in the most impoverished condition of any town in Scotland.”

A considerable improvement has since taken place, however. The opening of the railway and the extensive development of the granite quarrying industry in the immediate vicinity have been material aids. In the neighbourhood of the railway station a few fine new houses have been recently erected. The town, although

small, has several wide streets. The Town House is an old building, dating back to 1737-47. It was erected on the site of the old market stance, in which Mary-mass fair was regularly held.

The praises of the burgh have been sung by various bards, including Dr Arthur Johnston, the celebrated writer of Latin verse, who received the rudiments of his education at the parish school. The following lines express the sentiments of one who spent many happy days in the district—

Kintore thou ancient burgh town,  
Well favoured by the Scottish Crown,  
May thou long flourish and increase  
In commerce, wealth, and heavenly peace.  
With sons and daughters aye to be  
A credit to themselves and thee!

The burgh seal is oval shaped, and shows a well-designed branch of foliage. Running round the edge are the words—

S' COMMVNE DE KINTOR.

BURGH COMMISSIONERS TO PARLIAMENT PRIOR TO THE UNION.

1579. Thomas Mollison.

1617-21. Walter Cheyne.

1621-25. John Leslie. He was the eleventh laird of Balquhain, and had been representative for Aberdeenshire in 1616. He married, first, Marjory Gordon, widow of Robert Duguid, fifth laird of Auchinhove, and secondly, Janet Innes, daughter of the laird of Auchintoul. By the second marriage there was a family of two sons and one daughter—John, who succeeded to Balquhain; Alexander, who died young; and Jean, who married James Elphinstone of Glack. Leslie died in 1638.

1625-61. No return.

1661-63. James Keith, "son of the late John Keith of Auquhorsk, Baillie of Inverurie," was a Writer to the Signet, and in 1705 held the office of Sheriff-Depute of the Mearns. (See Kinellar.)

1667-74. William Moir. He was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates on 12th February, 1664, and on 21st May, 1666, married Isobel, daughter of John Alexander, burgess of Aberdeen. He purchased the lands of Knaperna, in Udney, Fisherie in King-Edward, and Hilton in Ellon. He sold the last-named estate, which is now known as Turnerhall. He was one of the Principal Clerks of Session, and was of an outspoken, uncompromising disposition. On 5th July, 1672, he was sent by the order of Parliament to the Tolbooth of Edinburgh during the Lord Commissioner's pleasure for some words uttered tending to the subversion of the constitution of Parliament. Five days later he was released, having craved pardon on his knees. (Gill's "Houses of Moir and Byres," pp. 78-79, etc.)

1678-81. Adam Pittendrigh. He was a baillie of the burgh.

1681-86. John Udney. He was a baillie of Kintore, and was probably the third son of John Udney, third son of William Udney of that ilk. He was owner of Newtyle and Cultercullen, as also of considerable property in Kintore. The last-mentioned patrimony fell to him through Christian Kintore, one of the joint heiresses of the ancient family of Kintore having, two centuries earlier, married his ancestor, William Udney.

1689-93. Hugh Wallace of Inglistoune, heritor of the barony of Larg, Writer to the Signet. He represented the Kirkcudbright Stewartry during 1685-86, but on 28th April, 1693, his seat for Kintore was declared vacant because he had not signed the assurance.

1693-1702. James Scougall. He was the son of John Scougall—Lord Whytekirk—a Lord of Session, and nephew of Patrick Scougall, Bishop of Aberdeen. He studied medicine, took the degree of M.D., trans-



lated from the French a work on anatomy, and published a treatise called "The Country Physician." Qualifying in law, he was admitted advocate on 8th June, 1687, and for seven years held the office of Commissary of Aberdeen, subsequently holding a similar appointment in Edinburgh. In 1696 he was elected a judge of the Court of Session under the title of Lord Whitehill. He died on 23rd December, 1702.

1702-7. George Allardyce. He was the second son of Sir John Allardyce of Allardyce, and married Anne, eldest daughter of James Ogilvy, Earl of Findlater. He was for some time Master of the Mint, and seems to have been a favourite with Queen Anne, who presented him with a beautiful pendant jewel of gold, set with fine stones, which was recently disposed of in London at the price of £6500. He died on 17th October, 1709, survived by his wife, who died on 27th August, 1735.

At the union with England, 13th June, 1707, the burghs of Kintore, Inverurie, Elgin, Banff, and Cullen sent one member to the British Parliament; and from 2nd February, 1801 (the union with Ireland), till 3rd December, 1832, when the Parliament was dissolved after the passing of the Reform Bill, one member to the Imperial Parliament. By the Reform Act of 1832 the town of Peterhead was associated with this district of burghs in sending one representative to the Imperial Parliament.

#### PORT-ELPHINSTONE.

Within the parish, but in the municipal area of Inverurie, lies the village of Port-Elphinstone, which derives its name from James Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone of Logie-Elphinstone on account of the energetic support rendered by him to the scheme for the construction of the Aberdeenshire Canal, which had its terminus here. With the opening of the Great

North of Scotland Railway in 1854, however, the need for the canal disappeared, and the village ceased to extend. Its granaries and stores are now nearly all vacant, but it still has a large meal mill, while in the vicinity are the extensive mills of Messrs Thomas Tait and Sons, Limited, where the various qualities of paper are manufactured both from esparto grass and wood pulp.

#### CHAPEL YARD — THAINSTON.

The following is extracted from Logan's MS.—

In a belt of planting on the land of Thainston, in the west part of the parish of Kintore, is an old burial ground called "The Chapel Yard."

About 30 years since (that is about 1785) the proprietor ordered it to be ploughed up, but his grieve, with a becoming respect for the place where rested the ashes of generations, refused to execute so indecent an order, and is said to have on that account lost his situation! The man who came in his stead performed the work, but it was remarked that he never thrived afterwards but gradually sunk with his family.

The place has since been enclosed by a stone wall which marks the situation.

The probability is that this small graveyard had been formed at a very early period for the accommodation of the parishioners of Kinkell parish resident on the right bank of the Don. The annexation of the lands to Kintore removed the need for its continuance.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The ancient sculptured stone referred to in Logan's MS., which was in the parish churchyard ground belonging to the Thain and Smith families—owners of the Goose Croft—now stands by the inside right of the entrance gate to the graveyard. It is fixed on a solid base, on which the date 1854 is inscribed. The stone is under four

feet in height, 22 inches in width, and 10 inches in thickness, and is sculptured on front and back. At the top on the front is the fish symbol, below which are the triple disc and bar. On the back are displayed the crescent, elephant, and other signs.

A mound, measuring about 150 feet in diameter by about 30 feet in height, formerly stood near the Parish Church, and was called the "Castle Hill." On its being levelled by the construction of the Great North of Scotland Railway, two finely sculptured stones were discovered. They are both deposited in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, and are fully described in the Spalding Club's "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," and in J. Romilly Allan's "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland."

Excavations at the stone circle at Tuach have yielded arrow-heads, flint chips, and several urns of large size, filled with burnt bones, etc. In two of them were small pieces of calcined bronze—a very unusual find.

About a mile and a half to the west stood two other circles, and on the farm of Crichtie is part of a specially interesting circle.

In the summer of 1866, while an accommodation roadway was being formed at Broomend, from the public road to the paper mills, several stone cists were laid bare. One contained two skeletons of tall, strong-boned men — the heads being at either end. The skeletons were covered with matting somewhat resembling felt. An urn lay at the back of the neck of each skeleton. The skulls having been examined by experts were declared to belong to the "Ancient Caledonian" race. The cist was formed of large flat granite slabs, connected with wrought clay. The bottom consisted of pebbles from the river, which lay to the depth of ten inches.

Another stone cist was found to contain a large skeleton and that of a female infant, together with a large and small urn. Hanging from the large urn was a lamp or "drinking cup or food vessel" made of horn. Details of these finds, along with illustrations, are given in Vol. 7, Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

An interesting and what has been named by experts as "an unique monument" is built into the wall of the Parish Church staircase. Describing it, Messrs Macgibbon and Ross say—

It consists of two parts, the lower portion forming a panel to contain an inscription or coat of arms, and the upper portion being enriched with a beautifully carved bas-relief, representing a monstrance of elaborate tabernacle work, supported by two angels, and crowned with a sculptured crucifix. The whole monument is surrounded by a frame composed of a series of baluster-shaped shafts—covered with flat foliage of a Renaissance character. The monument is evidently much older than the church (which was not erected until 1819), but owing to the panel at the bottom being blank, there is nothing to form a guide to the name of the person whom it commemorates, nor can any information be obtained on the spot. It seems not unlikely, however that it was brought from the church of Kinkell. . . .

These eminent architects are correct in their conjecture that the monument belonged originally to Kinkell Church, but it is strange that they have not been enabled to give the further facts, namely, that it formed the reredos or back of an altar to the Virgin in Kinkell Church, that it was carried off and ultimately found its way into a builder's yard in Aberdeen, where it was seen, identified, and recovered by the late Robert Shand, advocate, who had it built into its present position.

The branks, or scolding-bridle, pertaining to the old church was in the possession

of the late John Rae, antiquarian collector, Aberdeen, and after his death was sold in Edinburgh for £3 18s. Several stone hammers from Kintore were also disposed of at the same time.

Further details respecting the parish antiquities, extracts from the burgh and barony records, and many particulars regarding the old burgh and district will be found in Alexander Watt's "The Early History of Kintore."

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## St. Fergus.

This parish originally bore the name of Inverugie, thereafter of Longley, and its present title of St Fergus from 1616.

From an early period, the parish formed a detached portion of Banffshire—an arrangement which was doubtless made to accommodate the Cheynes, who were the proprietors of the parish lands, and at the same time hereditary Sheriffs of Banffshire. That no authentic record of this arrangement was preserved, and that it had proved inconvenient, are shown by the appointment, in 1649, of a Parliamentary Commission to determine whether "Inverugie and Straloch" were situated in Banffshire or Aberdeenshire. (Acts of Parliament.) By an Order of the Boundary Commissioners, dated 24th October, 1890, the parish ceased to be a portion of Banffshire, and was added to the county of Aberdeen.

### OLD CHURCHES.

The original Parish Church is supposed to have been built by St Fergus, a Scotch-Irish bishop or missionary, regarding whom many particulars are given in the Breviary of Aberdeen, and in the preface to the Book of Deer. After his death, his relics were objects of veneration, and were believed to perform miracles. The

saint's crosier was preserved at St Fergus, his head at Scone, and an arm in the treasury of the Cathedral of Aberdeen. All these disappeared at the Reformation.

About 1200, the church of "Inverugie, with the Chapel of Fetterangus" (see Fetterangus), was given to the monks of St Thomas at Arbroath by Ralph le Neym, a member of a family which flourished in the north-east of Scotland as well as on the Borders for a century after 1153. The grant was confirmed by William the Lion between 1212 and 1214; by Adam, Bishop of Aberdeen, before 1228; and by Pope Honorius III. on 13th May, 1220. (Regist. Aber.) In 1484, the church was made over by David, Abbot of Arbroath, to Gilbert Keith of Inverugie.

The original church had doubtless stood within the area of the present parish graveyard, close to the sea, and within the extensive downs known as "the Links of St Fergus." Several renewals of the edifice on the same site may no doubt have taken place, but the graveyard church was finally deserted in 1616. Of the reasons which led to the transportation, the Buchan Field Club article, "Early Protestantism Beside the Ugies," by Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield, presents a few particulars. In the Presbytery records of 23rd August, 1603, it is recorded that "both kirk and kirkyard is ourcassin with the sand, and therefore Mr David Robertson ordaint to voyce the building of the new kirk at the burn of Cuttie, according to the contract betwixt my Lord Mairischal and the minister." The new church was not erected at Cuttie, however, and Earl Marischal—the heritor and patron—delayed action till the patience of the Presbytery, minister, and parishioners was exhausted. This is shown by an entry in November, 1612—"As the Mother Kirk is now standin' at the east-



most end of the paroch in ane wilderness oerblawin with sand, it is ordaint that the minister, with all possible diligence, sall deil and travile with my Lord Keith to transport the Auld Kirk to the middle of the paroch, for the ease of the hail parochiners, that they may have hearing of the Word every Sabbath. And for the better provision of the minister, especially in the meantime, ane glebe land, whilk now he wantes. . . .” Ultimately, on 29th September, 1615, Commissioners met with the Earl “to design manse and glebe and place for kirk,” and in September of the following year the new church was opened for service. The site selected was about two miles to the west of the old structure, and at a much higher elevation. A tablet of sandstone built into the building bore the enigmatical letters and figures—

L.

16 V.      K. 16.

This simply means that Lord William Keith removed the church in 1616. The letters “M. D. R.,” representing Mr David Robertson, were also shown. Subsequently, on extensive repairs being executed on the structure, the letters “M. I. R.,” representing Mr John Robertson, were added, as also the initials “W. E. M.” and a shield for arms, representing William, Earl Marischal, heritor and patron.

It was in 1616—the date of the transportation of the church from the graveyard—that the name St Fergus was first applied to the parish, although the title, Longley, continued to be used in legal documents long after.

A new church was erected in 1763, and, according to Dr Pratt (Buchan), it was of plain but substantial construction, having a belfry at one end and a cone at the other. It bore the Latin letters representing “To God, the Best and Greatest,” and the Scriptural text, “Holiness

becometh, O Lord, thine house for ever more.” The letters and figures “M. R. G., 1763,” were also shown. They represent Mr Robert Garden—1763 being the date of the erection.

The present church was erected in 1869-70, and was substantially improved about nine years ago.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

Rev. Gilbert Chisholm, formerly Prior of the Abbey of Deer, was minister of Longley, Deer, Foveran, and Peterhead in 1567. (See Old Deer.)

Rev. Archibald Keith, previously at Legie, in Fife, was minister here in 1570, with Peterhead and Crimond likewise in charge. The stipend was £11 2s 2½d sterling. He was translated to Peterhead prior to 1571, readmitted from Crimond—having it also in charge—before 1585. He returned to Crimond after 1590, and died about four years later. (See Crimond.)

William Murray officiated as reader, at a salary of £1 13s 4d sterling. He was succeeded in the same office by James Kyd.

Rev. James Leask, previously at Cruden, was admitted as minister before 1597. He removed to Coldstone before 1599.

Rev. David Robertson, previously Regent in King's College, was appointed, in 1599, with Fetterangus also in charge. He attended the forbidden Assembly of 1605, for which he was summoned before the Privy Council. Upon admitting that the Assembly in question was unlawful, he was reprimanded and dismissed. Subsequently, on signifying his willingness to continue, he was presented to the modified stipend. He demitted before 28th June, 1637.

Rev. John Robertson, M.A., son of the preceding, was admitted in 1637. He died before April, 1683, survived by his wife, Isobel Middleton.

Rev. William Dalgarno, M.A., previously minister of Dunsyre, was inducted in 1678. He died in 1696, aged about 70. He had married Anna Keith, and they had a family of at least two sons—James and John.

Rev. Alexander Hepburn, M.A., a native of Buchan, was the succeeding minister. He was deposed in 1716 for declining the authority of the Presbytery, and complying with the Rebellion so far as “aiding and abetting a mob to proclaim the Pretender King, and praying for the Pretender.” After dismissal from St Fergus, he resided in Peterhead, where he officiated as an Episcopal minister. He married Eliza Clark, who died on 17th September, 1703, aged 42, and they had a family of two sons—George and William—and three daughters—Ann, who married Captain Arbuthnot, Peterhead; Jean, who married J. Duncan, dyer, Peterhead; and Mary. Mr Hepburn left in manuscript a Description of Buchan in 1721 (Macfarlane's Geographical Collections), part of which is printed in the Spalding Club's “Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff.” He died in 1737, aged upwards of 80.

A large stone fixed into the wall in the parish graveyard commemorates the next incumbent. At the top are various representations and the initials M. W. L. The inscription is—

Here lyes the body of Mr William Leslie, late minister at Saint Fergus, who departed this life the 23 of January, 1729, aged 55 years. Also the body of James Leslie, one of his sons, who departed this life the 20 of June, 1723, aged 9 years.

Also Anna Leslie, his daughter, who died of a long illness Febreuarie the 7, 1757, aged 55.

Her life good sense and virtue did adorn;  
Her pains acute with Fortitude were born.

Rev. William Leslie, M.A., was previously minister of Kemnay and subse-

quently of Chapel of Garioch, being inducted to St Fergus on 13th November, 1718. He was the eldest son of James Leslie of Bruckles and of his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of John Garden of Bruckles and Bakyhill. Ho had married Anna, second daughter of George Gordon, fifth laird of Terpersie, and they had a family of four sons and three daughters. George, the eldest son, was a merchant in Aberdeen, and married Katherine, daughter of Arthur Irvine and of his wife, Cecilia Barclay. They had one son, William, who (17th February, 1778), got licence to adopt the name of Irvine in addition to that of Leslie, and to bear the arms of Irvine. He died in London, evidently unmarried, and his eldest sister, Katherine, widow of William Young of Sheddocksley, some time Provost of Aberdeen, succeeded, circa 1823, as heiress of entail to the estate of Glassel in consequence of her descent from the Irvine family.

Rev. James Leslie, M.A., translated from Crimond, was inducted to St Fergus on 2nd October, 1729, and died 29th April, 1745. He was the immediate younger brother of the preceding incumbent, and on 2nd November, 1731, married Jean, eldest daughter of Alexander Forbes of Ludquharn and of his wife, Jean, only surviving child of Alexander Galloway, Treasurer of Aberdeen. Of their sons, Alexander was minister of Durris and afterwards of Fordoun, while James was a captain in the 15th Regiment of Foot, was twice wounded in the American War, and fought under Wolfe at Quebec.

The succeeding minister has a mural tablet to his memory thus—

To the memory of Mr Robert Garden, who was minister of this parish 27 years, and died 8th of November, 1772, in the 57 year of his age, highly valued by all who knew him, and deeply lamented by his parishioners. In testi-

mony of the most sincere affection, and as a tribute to virtues which adorned his character, as a man, as a Christian, and as a minister, and of talents that distinguished him as a polite scholar, this monument was erected by his afflicted widow, Mary Gordon.

Rev. Robert Garden was the son of John Garden of Midstrath and of his wife, Catherine Farquharson. He was ordained to St Fergus on 12th September, 1745.

On 20th October, 1773, Rev. John Craigie, M.A., was ordained. It is recorded that when on trials for ordination before the Presbytery he thought himself harshly dealt with, inasmuch as a Greek Testament in contracted characters had been put into his hands with a request that he would read from it. Having done so with perfect freedom, he was asked to stop, when he sarcastically observed—"Weel, I shall dae sa, an' if ye hae ony mair buiks whilk ye canna read yersells, ye'll ken wha to apply to." He was translated to Old Deer in 1798. (See Old Deer.)

The following incumbent is commemorated by a marble tablet on the wall, the inscription whereon is—

In memory of Mrs Mary Groat, the affectionate spouse of The Rev. William Anderson, minister of the parish of St Fergus, and daughter of Robert Groat, Esq., of Newhall, M.D., ob. 25th September, 1819, aet. 62. Her amiable and benevolent disposition made her regretted by all who knew her. Her husband has erected this as a testimony of the merited affection and regard he bore her.

Here is interred the body of the said Rev. William Anderson, who was minister of the parish for the space of twenty-five years. He died the 5th of March, 1823, in the 77th year of his age. Previous to his settlement at St Fergus, he had been upwards of twenty years minister of the parish of Evie, in the county of Orkney.

Rev. William Anderson, M.A., was admitted on 15th November, 1798. He was

the son of Rev. Thomas Anderson, minister of Aberdour. The above Mary Groat was his second wife, his first wife having died at Evie.

The name of the next incumbent is included in a long wall tablet inscription thus—

Erected by John Anderson, English Mill, to the memory of his lamented wife, Ann Park, who died the 22nd of September, 1836, aged 72 years. She was a woman of eminent but unostentatious piety, and of exemplary virtue in all the relations of life.

The above John Anderson died on the 22nd May, 1855, aged 91 years. His grandfather, his father, and himself had been successively tenants of English Mill for upwards of 140 years.

Here also are deposited the remains of his grandson, James Anderson, son of Rev. James Anderson, formerly minister of this parish, who died the 16th October, 1842, aged 4 years and 10 months.

The Rev. James Anderson, D.D., the above-named, was minister of this parish from 1822 to 1843, thereafter at Morpeth, Northumberland, where he died on 17th May, 1882, and is there interred in St Mary's Churchyard.

John Anderson, eldest son of the last-named James Anderson, died at Morningside, near Edinburgh, 27th March, 1897, aged 65.

Under Peterhead are inscriptions to the earlier tenants of English Mill referred to.

The above inscription gives a fairly full sketch of the career of Rev. James Anderson, M.A., and that of his forebears. He married, in 1826, Margaret, daughter of Dr Alexander Gavin, Strichen. Joining the Free Secession of 1843, he conducted services throughout the parish till 18th September, 1845, when he was admitted minister of the English Presbyterian Church at Morpeth. He had the degree of D.D. from Marischal College in 1860. He was the author of numerous hymns, verses, and sermons.



The succeeding incumbent has a table-stone to his memory—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. James Robertson, who died at St Fergus on 12th September, 1854, in the 59th year of his age, and 25th of his ministry—having been for 15 years minister of Mid Yell, in Shetland, and 10 years minister of St Fergus. Also of his wife Ursula Spence, who died at Aberdeen on her way from Shetland to St Fergus.

Rev. James Robertson was born at Cortiecrum, where a nephew of his is still resident. Of his marriage with Ursula Spence no family survived.

A handsome monument to the next minister bears—

Sacred to the memory of John Mitchell, minister of the parish from 1855 to 1895. Died 20th July, 1895, aged 69 years. . . .

Also of his wife, Jane Garden Mitchell, his faithful partner even unto the end. Died 17th July, 1901, aged 73 years. . . .

Also of their daughter, Margaret Alice Macgregor, who died at Farr, Sutherlandshire, 7th April, 1891, aged 31 years. Also of their son, Frederick Garden Mitchell, who died at Liverpool 1st January, 1894, aged 24 years. Also of their son, Hugh Garden Mitchell, who died at Johannesburg, South Africa, 24th May, 1902, aged 36 years.

Rev. John Mitchell, who, in 1850, had been ordained minister of Holburn, Aberdeen, was inducted to St Fergus in 1855. He was born at "The Deep," in the parish of Arbuthnott, and graduated in Arts at King's College in March, 1846. He married Jane, daughter of Hugh Garden, Piccadilly, London, and of their surviving family, John is in Ceylon, William Garden is in Mexico, and Charles Robert is in London. The remaining four daughters are all married—three of them in London. Mr Mitchell was a shrewd man of business, and acted for many years as Synod clerk.

The present incumbent is Rev. Andrew Watt, B.D., who was ordained assistant

and successor on 17th January, 1895. He is married to a daughter of his predecessor.

#### INVERUGIE.

The parish lands of Inverugie, before 1160, belonged to the family of Le Neym, who also held extensive possessions in Tweeddale and various parts of the south of Scotland. Besides conferring the church of Inverugie, with the chapel of Fetterangus, on the monks of St Thomas at Arbroath, they were considerable benefactors of land to the monasteries of Kelso and Melrose.

In the following century, Inverugie passed from the Le Neyms to the knightly house of Le Chen, or Cheyne, from whom descended, among others, the Cheynes of Arnage, Esslemont, Straloch, Dundarg, and Pitfichie. In 1264, Reginald le Cheyne was Sheriff of the Mearns, and for a time was "Fermer of the Thanage of Fermartyn." In 1267, he became Great Chamberlain of Scotland, and was proprietor of Inverugie and of other extensive estates in Aberdeen, Banff, Caithness, etc. He and his son—who bore the same name—were among those who, in 1284, bound themselves to accept the Princess Margaret as Queen of Scotland. They were both present at the Parliament at Brigham in 1290, and in the following year they agreed to act as commissioners in support of the cause of John Baliol. Sir Reginald, the father, died soon after, and the son swore fealty to Edward I. at Aberdeen on 17th July, 1296. Appointed Sheriff of Inverness in 1292, he became one of the Justiciaries in the north thirteen years later. He died before 1313, and was succeeded by his son Reginald, who is best known through his being a party to the spirited letter despatched by the Scottish barons to the Pope in 1320, repudiating the unjust aggression of Edward and declaring the

independence of Scotland. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333, and died about 1350. He was succeeded by two daughters, as heiresses, the elder of whom, Mariota, married, first, Sir John Douglas of Strathbrock, and, secondly, John de Keith of Ravenscraig, second son of Sir Edward Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, and thus carried Inverugie to the Keiths.

It is unnecessary here to enter into particulars regarding the early history of the Keith family. Suffice it to say that it was honourable, and the family honoured the order of knighthood and the hereditary office of Great Marischal of Scotland conferred upon it at an early period. Perhaps the most illustrious ancestor was Sir Robert de Keith, the companion of Bruce, who fought at the battle of Barra, and is thus spoken of by Sir Walter Scott in "The Lord of the Isles," after the reference to the disposition of the Scottish forces made for the battle of Bannockburn—

Behind them, screen'd by sheltering wood,  
The gallant Keith, Lord Marshal, stood;  
His men-at-arms bare mace and lance,  
And plumes that wave, and helms that glance.

The description is appropriate, as Sir Robert held the command of the 500 horse in reserve; and, at the time when the English archers were mowing down the Scottish ranks, he made a circuit round Miltown bog and charged them in flank with such dash and efficiency that they were quickly overthrown. For his valuable services he was in 1324 rewarded with a grant of Hallforest, etc. He was also appointed Justiciary of Scotland "from the Forth to the Month."

Sir William Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, and elder brother of the above John de Keith, married Margaret Fraser, grand-daughter and eventually heiress of Sir Alexander Fraser, High Chamberlain of Scotland, and of his wife, the Princess

Mary, sister of King Robert Bruce, Through this marriage he acquired the forest of Cowie, the barony of Strachan, and other lands in the Mearns. He acquired, in excambion for lands in Fife and Stirling, the estate of Dunnottar, on a bold, rocky headland of which he erected the massive castle of Dunnottar, which, from that time, became the chief family residence and stronghold.

#### THE EARLS MARISCHAL.

Sir William Keith—the eleventh in direct descent from the founder of the family—was created Earl Marischal of Scotland in 1455. He married Mary, daughter of Sir James Hamilton of Cadzow, and, dying in 1476, was succeeded by William, second Earl, who served in the Parliament of 1476 and 1488. He married Muriella, daughter of Thomas, first Lord Erskine; and of their family William became third Earl; Alexander got the lands of Auquhorsk, and was the ancestor of Rev. Dr George Skene Keith, minister of Keith-hall, and subsequently of Tulliallan; and John was designed of Craig, and was the ancestor of Sir Robert Murray Keith, K.B., a celebrated Ambassador.

William, the third earl, in 1481, married Lady Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of George, second Earl of Huntly. Their two eldest sons—Robert, Master of Marischal, and William—both fell at Flodden, and their pennon—emblazoned with the motto, "Veritas Vincit"—which was carried in the battle, is preserved in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

William, the fourth earl, son of Robert, Master of Marischal, and of his wife, Lady Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of John, second Earl of Morton, succeeded on the death of his grandfather in 1530. Through his marriage to Margaret, elder daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Keith of Inverugie, he reunited the Inverugie branch

to the main line. He possessed immense property, which lay in so many counties that he could travel from Berwick to the northern extremity of Scotland, eating every meal and sleeping each night on his own estates. He accompanied James V. to France in 1535 on the marriage of that monarch to the daughter of Francis I. In 1547, he took part in the battle of Pinkie, at which his eldest son William, Master of Marischal, was taken prisoner. Robert, the second son, was the Commendator of Deer, and was created Lord Altrie in 1587. (See Old Deer.) The earl was a zealous supporter of the Reformation, and was the mover of the Protestant Confession of Faith in the Parliament of 1560. He died in 1581.

George, grandson of the preceding, succeeded as fifth earl, and is declared to have been "one of the most important and powerful men of his day in Scotland." He was chosen by King James as Ambassador to go to Denmark to negotiate a marriage between the King and the Princess Anna. This mission he carried out in the most lavish and princely style at a cost of £15,000. He was the founder of Marischal College, Aberdeen, in 1593, and was Royal Commissioner to the Scottish Parliament in 1609. He married—first, Lady Margaret, daughter of Alexander, fifth Lord Home, and of their family William succeeded as sixth earl; Anne married William, Earl of Morton; and Margaret married Sir Robert Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott. He married, secondly, Lady Margaret, daughter of James, Lord Ogilvy of Airlie; and their family consisted of two sons—James, who got the lands of Benholm, and John. The earl's later days were sadly embittered by the unfeeling conduct of his wife, who, not content with neglecting him and carrying on a scandalous intrigue with Sir Alexander Strachan of Thornton (she married him within the time then prescribed for

mourning for the death of her husband), robbed Benhohn, belonging to the earl, of jewels, silver plate, household stuff, gold, silver, and title deeds. Pitcairn, in enumerating the articles, mentions— "Portugal ducats and other species of foreign gold to the avail of 2600 pounds or thereby; thirty-six dozen gold buttons; the Queen of Denmark's picture set in gold, set about with rich diamonds, estimated at 5000 merks; a chain of 'equal perle,' wherein were four hundred pearls, great and small; two chains of gold, worth 3000 merks; a great pair of bracelets, all set with diamonds, price thereof 600 crowns, etc., etc., etc.; also 16,000 merks of silver and gold ready coined, etc." Dunnottar was also stripped of "the whole tapestry, silver work, bedding, goods, gear, and plenishing; and what was a distinct aggravation of the crime was that it took place a little before the earl's death, which occurred at Dunnottar in 1623, in his 70th year.

William, the sixth earl, was a Privy Councillor of Charles I. He married a daughter of John, Earl of Mar; and of their family, William succeeded as seventh earl, George as eighth earl; and John, in 1660, was appointed Knight Marischal of Scotland, whilst on 26th June, 1677, he was elevated to the peerage by the titles of Earl of Kintore and Baron Keith of Inverurie and Keith-hall. These honours were conferred for alleged services rendered in preserving the Regalia of Scotland from falling into the hands of the soldiers of Cromwell.

William, the seventh earl, who succeeded in 1635, for some years supported the cause of the Covenanters, but after the surrender of Charles I. in 1646 he became an ardent Royalist. Raising a troop of horse at his own expense, he marched into England and took part in the battle of Preston, in which he narrowly escaped being



taken prisoner. He entertained Charles II. at Dunnottar Castle in 1650, and, with the Earls of Crawford and Glencairn, had charge of the country on behalf of the King. After the defeat at Worcester, he was attainted by Cromwell's Parliament, and, being captured at Elliot, was conveyed to London and imprisoned in the Tower. There he remained till the Restoration. In recompense for his merits and suffering, he was appointed a Privy Councillor by Charles II. in 1660, and for a brief period he was Lord Privy Seal. He married—first, in 1637, Lady Elizabeth Seton, daughter of George, Earl of Winton; and, secondly, in 1654, Lady Ann Douglas, daughter of Robert, eighth Earl of Morton.

George, the eighth earl, brother of the preceding, was a staunch Royalist, and fought for Charles I. at Preston, and for Charles II. at Worcester. In the latter battle he was taken prisoner. He married Lady Mary Hay, daughter of George, second Earl of Kinnoull, and died at Inverugie in 1694.

William, the ninth earl, only son of the preceding, was a bitter opponent of the Union. He was generous to a fault, and greatly impoverished the family estates. He married Lady Mary Drummond, daughter of James, Earl of Perth; and their family consisted of George, the tenth earl; James Francis Edward, who became a Field-Marshal in the Prussian service (see Peterhead); Mary, who became Countess of Wigton; and Anne, who became Countess of Galloway.

#### THE LAST EARL.

George, the tenth earl, succeeded on his father's death in 1712, and in early life served under the Duke of Marlborough—being appointed, in 1714, Captain of the Scottish troop of horse, Grenadier Guards. In the following year he and his brother

James—influenced by their mother, who was a zealous Roman Catholic—joined the rising under the Earl of Mar on behalf of the Stuarts. The failure at Sheriffmuir, and the subsequent inability of the Chevalier's personal presence to rouse Scotland, compelled the Earl and his brother to make a rapid flight to the Continent. They arrived in Paris in May, 1716. At this time—says Dr William Chambers—their prospects were dreary in the extreme, and James, the younger brother, had perforce for a time to live by "selling horse furniture!" The two went to Spain, and joined in a further effort for the Stuart cause. This was the attempt of 1719, but it ended in defeat at Glenshiel, when a second flight to the Continent became imperative.

Before this, however, the Earl had been proscribed and all his property confiscated to the Crown. It was shortly afterwards acquired by the York Buildings Company. It is recorded that an old domestic servant having paid a visit to the aged Countess, took the liberty to express regret at the action taken by her sons which had brought such disaster upon themselves and their relatives, when the noble lady rose from her chair, and in the most scathing tone replied, "Woman! if my sons had not done what they did, I would have gone out myself with my spindle and my rock!" Doubtless, however, the Countess felt keenly the ruin of her sons, her prolonged separation from them, and the impossibility of their being permitted to visit her in her final illness in 1729. She was the heroine—if not, indeed, the authoress—of the Jacobite ballad, "Lady Keith's Lament," which concludes—

My father was a guid Lord's son,

My mither was an Earl's daughter,  
And I'll be Lady Keith again

The day our King comes o'er the water.

George, the forfeited earl, after many

vicissitudes, secured employment in the service of Frederick the Great of Prussia, of whom he became the confidential friend. The King gave him the government of Neufchatel in Switzerland, which canton then pertained to the House of Hohenzollern. He also filled the position of Ambassador for Prussia to the Court of France in 1750, and to that of Spain in 1759. While acting in the latter capacity, and resident at Madrid, he had the good fortune to discover the existence of a secret alliance of the various branches of the Bourbon family. Considering this inimical to British interests, he revealed the information to the leaders of the British Government, with the result that George II. accorded him a free pardon for all former treasonable acts. The Act of attainder against him was reversed on 25th May, 1759. On his visiting England, he was graciously received by King George, who granted him authority to uplift £3618, besides accrued interest which had not been paid to the Government by the purchasers of his estates. In 1761, he bought back the lands of St Fergus, including the Castle of Inverugie, at the price of £12,620 10s, or thirty years' purchase of the rental of £420 13s 8d. After an absence of forty-six years, he resolved to revisit Inverugie, but, when nearing it, was overcome by his feelings, and retraced his steps. Frederick pressed him to return to Prussia, "Come," said he, "to ease, to friendship, and philosophy—these are what, after the battle of life, we must all have recourse to." The earl obeyed the summons, and lived on terms of the closest intimacy with His Majesty, by whom he was made a Knight of the Black Eagle. He died peacefully at Potsdam on 28th May, 1778, aged 85.

#### INVERUGIE CASTLE.

In 1766, the lands and castle of Inver-

ugie were acquired by James Ferguson of Pitfour (see Old Deer), with whose descendants they still remain.

Till recently, the ruins of the castle—situated on the north bank of the Ugie, and about two miles from Peterhead—consisted of a square central block with two corner towers, a gateway, and double court, with massive coped walls. Some believe that a portion was erected by John de Keith about 1380, but Messrs Macgibbon and Ross point out that no part of the structure can be referred to such an early period, and still less is there to support local belief that a "Cheyne Tower" was incorporated in the building. They favour the view of numerous authors that the castle was erected by Earl George, the founder of Marischal College, about the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century. It is evident, however, that his grandson, Earl William, carried out certain of the operations.

Over the gateway was a stone panel with the Marischal family arms engraved upon it, while a separate stone bore the letters W. (for William) C. A. M. (for Countess Anna Morton), and the date 1670.

The cope of the outer wall was ornamented with figures representing a closed carriage drawn by four horses—an early illustration of such a vehicle in Scotland. Underneath were the initials G. B. (probably those of the carver) and the date 1670. In front were two outriders at full speed, the Scotch thistle, and a lion close to the gateway, while at the extreme south end of the cope was another figure.

A fine coat of arms carved in oak was recently recovered, and an illustration of it was issued with "Scottish Notes and Queries" for May, 1893. At the top is an earl's coronet, while underneath are the arms of the Marischal and Douglas families. The letters W. E. M. (representing William, Earl Marischal) and A. C. M.

(representing Anna, Countess Marischal) and the date 1660 are also shown.

The last Countess was permitted to live in the castle till her death in 1729, after which it quickly fell into decay. Indeed, it was looted by predatory bands from Peterhead, who, not satisfied with carrying away everything movable, stripped off the panelling and other fixtures. In the beginning of the last century, Mr Ferguson refloored and reroofed the building. As the repairs were not kept up, however, the roof fell in many years ago. On 22nd April, 1890, a westerly gale blew over the main or western tower, which contained the principal staircase, and reached a height of about 100 feet; and again on 1st January, 1899, after a three days' gale, what was called the Cheyne Tower gave way. The clearing away of the debris, and the carrying out of blasting operations to remove such portions of the walls as were insecure, so weakened the ruins that it became necessary to almost entirely demolish them.

The utter ruin of the castle and the alienation of the property and lands from the Keith family were felt to fulfil the old prophecy ascribed to Thomas the Rhymer.

Inverugie by the sea,  
 Lordless shall thy lands be,  
 And underneath thy ha' hearth-stane  
 The tod shall bring her bairns hame.

Mr David Scott kindly states that the following articles from the castle are now preserved in the Arbutnot Museum, Peterhead, namely—An ancient wall clock, an old bureau, a dainty cream jug, and a well-preserved flint-lock pistol, silver-mounted, with the letter "K." engraved on the silver plate. This pistol is said to have belonged to the last Earl Marischal.

In earlier times the Marischal family buried in the church of the Dominican or Black Friars, situated on the north side

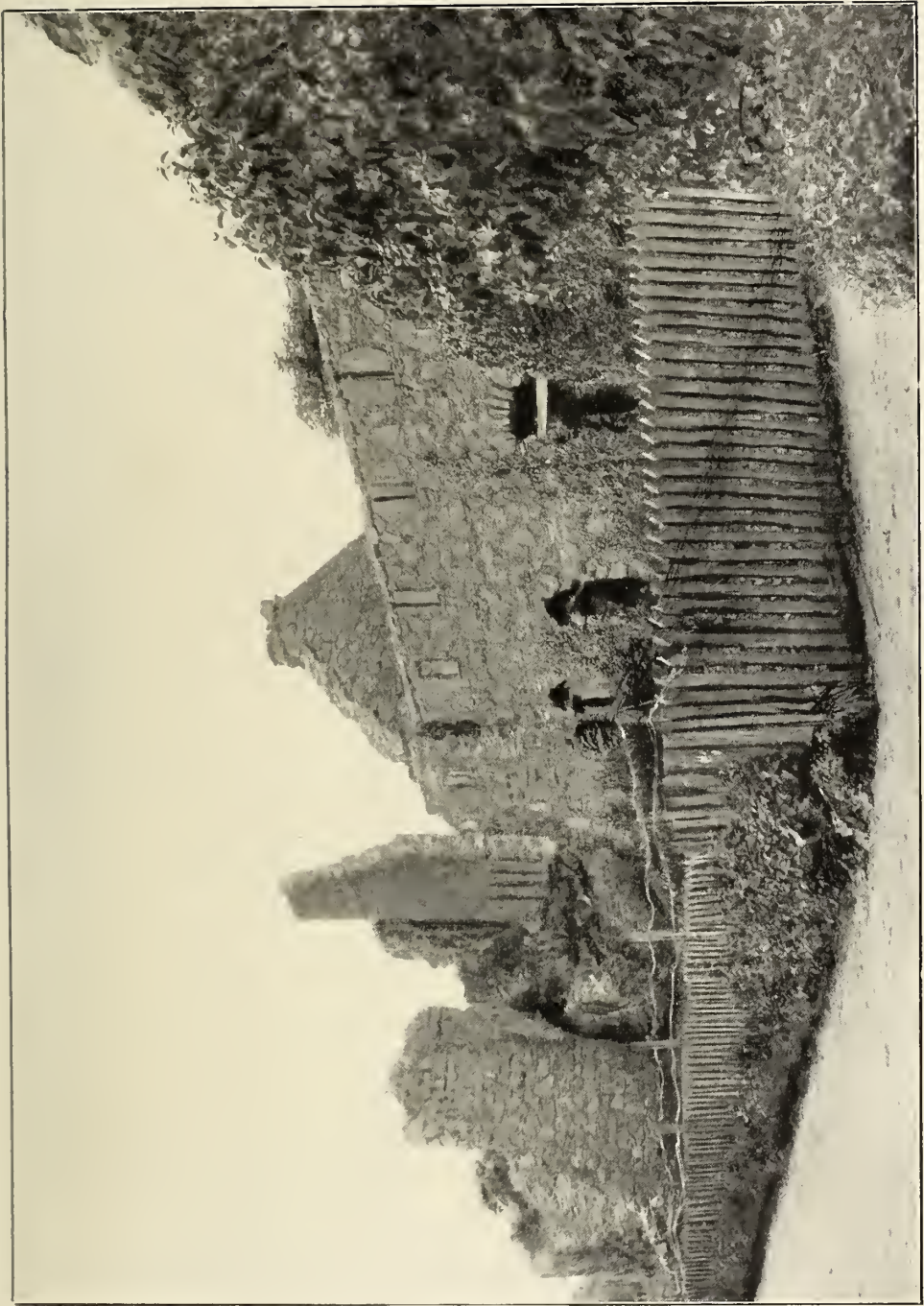
of what now forms Schoolhill, Aberdeen. As late as 22nd August, 1510, Earl William granted the order on annuity of £10 out of the lands of Dunnottar. At the Reformation their property reverted to the Crown, but in 1587 it was acquired through purchase by Earl George. Five years before this, however, he erected a burial aisle or vault upon the east side of the graveyard of Dunnottar, a shield upon the door lintel of which bears the Keith arms, also the date and initials, 1582, G. K. It is probable, therefore, that the remains of his ancestors, which had been interred in the Black Friars Church, were exhumed and reburied at Dunnottar. This is the more likely seeing that the Earl almost immediately sold the Black Friars Church, Manse, etc., to David Anderson of Finzeau, while the adjacent crofts with other properties were given in 1593 for the support of Marischal College.

Further interesting particulars are given in Pratt's "Buchan" (revised edition); Chambers's "History of Old Families"; Barron's "Barony Court Book of Urie"; Boyd's "Old Inverugie"; Privy Council Registers; "Scottish Notes and Queries"; Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland"; Hay's "Castles of Aberdeenshire"; Macleod's "Castles of Buchan"; Ferguson's "Twelve Sketches"; Scots Magazine; Pitcairn's "Criminal Trials"; Jervise's "Epitaphs and Inscriptions"; Burke's "Peerage"; Kennedy's "Annals of Aberdeen," and the New Spalding Club's "Records of Marischal College and University."

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

As already explained, the parish graveyard stands on the Links, near the seashore. It is comparatively small, and the number of tombstones is not great. Many of the inscriptions record advanced ages,





Inverugie Castle.



as well as long lists of families who had occupied farms for generation after generation.

Dr Beattie, the author of "The Minstrel," and "for 43 years the illustrious Professor of Moral Philosophy in Marischal College," who died on 18th August, 1803, spent portions of many summers at Peterhead, enjoying its baths and mineral waters, which were then famous. On those occasions he frequented the graveyard of St Fergus, doubtless attracted by its primitive situation and the feelings which it stirred. It is known that he expressed a desire to have his remains interred in the graveyard—

Far from the haunts of men,  
And hum of city life,  
Where nature still holds ruling sway,  
And billows break in strife.

#### THE ARBUTHNOTS.

A mural tablet—showing an angel and other ornamentation at the top—is inscribed as follows—

Here lye the bodies of Robert Arbuthnot and Beatrix Gordon his spouse. He died aged 72 and she 76 years, and both in the year of our Lord MDCLXXXII.

The Arbuthnots of that ilk, in Kincardineshire, intermarried with the Earls Marischal; and, accordingly, about 1560, three brothers of the Arbuthnott family came to Buchan, from which time they spelt their surname Arbuthnot. John, the eldest, bought the estate of Cairngall, while Robert and Alexander, the two other brothers, settled at Rora, Longside. Robert married and left two sons—John and Alexander. John was a notary public, and Alexander accompanied Earl Marischal to Denmark in 1589. John, the eldest son of Robert, married and left a son, Robert, who is commemorated by the above inscription. He settled at Scots-

mill, near the Castle of Inverugie; and of his marriage with Beatrix Gordon there were four sons—Alexander, who became minister of the parish of Arbuthnott; John, who was factor to Earl Marischal; William, who purchased the estate of Invernettie, near Peterhead; and Robert, who was a farmer in various parts of Buchan.

The above Rev. Alexander Arbuthnot had three sons—John, Robert, and George. John, the eldest, studied medicine, and became a man of mark. He was physician to Queen Anne and the intimate and valued friend of Pope, Addison, Swift, Gay, etc. He was a celebrated wit, philosopher, and poet, and was the author of "John Bull" and many other satirical and poetical compositions. Robert, the second son, having been engaged with Viscount Dundee at the battle of Killiecrankie, left Scotland, went to France, and settled at Rouen as a banker, where he had a successful business career, and became known as the philanthropic Robert of Rouen. He lived there in great style, the friend of the unfortunate adherents of the exiled King, as well as of others in distress. Pope did not hesitate to pronounce him a superior man to his brother, the celebrated Dr John Arbuthnot. George, the third son, was an officer in the Guards. He lived some time in France, and afterwards entered the service of the Honourable East India Company, in which he died.

The foregoing particulars are chiefly taken from a manuscript history of the family; and under Peterhead inscriptions and particulars of other descendants are given.

#### PETER BUCHAN.

A headstone bears the following inscription, the letters of the major portion of



which were personally engraved by the erector—

Dedicated by Peter Buchan, printer, Peterhead, to the memory of his infant daughter Janet Buchan, who died June 21st, 1826, aged ten months.

Revere this spot ye passers by,  
Nor on it trample carelessly;  
For she whom parents' hearts held dear,  
Sweet Jessie Buchan's dust lies here.

And of his mother Janet Buchan, who died 15th July, 1837, aged 82.

Buchan's father, Peter Buchan, and his sister Janet (Mrs Davidson), are also buried here.

Peter Buchan, son of Peter Buchan, pilot, was born in Peterhead in 1790, and claimed descent from General Buchan in Rathen, the Cumyns, Earls of Buchan, and the ancient family of Irvine of Drum. He early manifested a love for the sea, and was promised a midshipman's commission in the navy. His father opposed the scheme, however, and, instead, sent him to learn the trade of a wheelwright. His heart was never in this work, and beyond giving him practice in the handling of tools, it did him little good. An early marriage to Miss Margaret Mathew, dressmaker, Peterhead—of which his father disapproved—led to paternal estrangement.

Buchan was a diligent reader—poetry, ballads, and curious books proving a fascination for him. At the age of 24, he published a volume of poems and songs, entitled "The Recreation of Leisure Hours," which commanded immediate success. This fired him with the ambition of starting a printing press in Peterhead; and, with that object, he taught himself copper-plate engraving. In 1816, he proceeded to Edinburgh and Stirling, and in the latter town he secured a ten days' insight into the technicalities of the printing art. Returning to Peterhead, he founded the "Anchmedden Press," which was of

the most primitive order. Indeed, but for the innate genius and dogged determination of the man, instant failure must have resulted. An idea of the difficulties contended with may be formed from the statement in the preface to his interesting volume, "Annals of Peterhead," that "having none who could assist me, I was obliged to be author, caseman, pressman, etc., and many of the following pages were never in MS., being actually composed while printing them." The press was worked by the feet instead of the hands, and took impressions from stone, copper, and wood, as well as from types, and would have answered equally well for printing on cloth. About 1822, Buchan went to London, where it is said he held an appointment at a salary of £150 a year; but "Modern Babylon," as he styled the great city, had no charms for him, and he speedily returned to Peterhead.

As a collector of old ballads, Scotland owes Buchan a debt of gratitude. In 1828, he published in two volumes "Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland, hitherto unpublished, with Explanatory Notes." This work is most favourably commented upon by Sir Walter Scott in his introduction to the "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border," adding, as it did, upwards of forty to the mass of recovered songs, while improving and completing a number previously printed.

A wonderfully complete list of the many works published by Buchan is given in a paper by Mr James Cameron, read to the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society on 14th December, 1899, and in an article by Mr W. L. Taylor, F.S.A. Scot., published in the Transactions of the Buchan Field Club for 1901.

In 1831, Buchan removed to Aberdeen and in 1838 to Glasgow. Between 1844 and 1846 he purchased a small estate at Dennyloanhead, near Stirling, to which he

gave the name of Buchanstone. The superior subsequently claimed the minerals, and an expensive litigation followed. A final decision having been given adverse to Buchan, he was obliged to sell. For the next two years, he resided with his eldest son, Dr Patrick Buchan, in Leitrim. In 1854, he proceeded to London with the view of publishing another volume of "Ancient Scottish Ballads," but died suddenly on 19th September. His remains were interred in Norwood Cemetery, London.

His eldest son was Patrick Buchan, M.A. and M.D. of Aberdeen, and Ph.D. of Jena. He was the author of many excellent songs and ballads, legendary tales, essays, a few works on geology, and a number of lectures. His second son was Rev. Charles Forbes Buchan, D.D., minister of Paisley Abbey, and subsequently of Fordoun. He wrote and published a number of small books, chiefly devotional.

#### THE REIDS OF ELLISHILL.

A wall tablet, showing cross-bones, angel, skull, bell, and sand-glass, has the inscription—

1755. Here lies the body of Iean Reid, daughter to Iames Reid at Inverugie, factor on the estate of Mareschall, and Margaret Murray, his spouse. She departed this life 30th March, 1755, aged 16.

Fair lovely maid, thy voyage, alas! how short,  
Scarce launch'd, when landed at the heavenly  
port.

Pleasant in life; at death, O, how resign'd.  
How rare such piety in so young a mind.  
Hark! the angel sounds aloud. Ye dead arise!  
And lo the grave the great command obeys,  
The waking virgin cloath'd in bright array,  
With joy serene salutes the glorious day.

To the memory of the above James Reid, late in Alehousehill, who departed this life the third day of November, 1778, aged 78.

Hear lies the body of Mr Robert Reid, son of the above J. R. and M. M., preacher of the

Gospel at St Fergus, who departed this life the 23rd of June, 17—, aged 33.

James Reid was for a long period factor for Mr Alexander Garden of Troup, advocate, tacksman from the York Buildings Company of the forfeited estate of Earl Marischal. His wife, Margaret Murray, belonged to Elgin. Their son Robert studied for the ministry, but never held a charge, having died of consumption at the early age of 33. Mr Reid bought the property of Alehousehill (Ellishill), on which he built a small house in which he lived.

A tablet within an enclosure bears—

Here lys the body of Margret Abernethie, eldest daughter of William Abernethie, Esq., of Crimonmogate, spouse to Ja. Reid in Balmure, who departed this life the 16th of April, 1784, aged 34 years. Also the body of the said Jas. Reid, Esq., of Alehousehill, who departed this life the 8th day of August, 1825, aged 87.

The above James Reid was the son of James Reid mentioned in the previous inscription. Like his father, he was for a time tenant of Balmure. He also bought a portion of the Alehousehill estate, on which he erected a residence. His eldest daughter, Margaret, married Rev. George Ross Monro, M.A., parish minister of Huntly, 30th August, 1803, and died 5th June, 1804.

Over the above grave is a fine granite monument, inscribed as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Captain William Anderson, late of H.M.'s 96th Regiment, fifth son of the late James Anderson, Esq., Rispond, Sutherlandshire, died May, 1816, aged 36 years, and of Amelia, his widow, daughter of the late James Reid, Esq., of Ellishill, and granddaughter of the late William Abernethy, Esq., of Crimondmogate; died at Huntly 6th November, 1866, in the 85th year of her age. In the hope of a joyful immortality her remains are interred in this vault. . . .

Sacred to the loving memory of Catherine, 3rd daughter of the late Captain and Mrs

Amelia Reid Anderson, who died 28th March, 1893. . . .

Also of Georgina, last surviving daughter of the late Captain and Mrs Amelia Reid Anderson, who died 20th October, 1900. . . .

Dear as thou wert, and justly dear,  
We will not weep for thee;  
Oh! who that saw thy parting hour,  
Could wish thee here again?  
Gently thy parting spirit fled,  
Sustained by Grace Divine,  
Joy breathed in thy expiring sigh  
To think the fight was won.

Captain and Mrs Anderson had a family of eight daughters, the last of whom—Georgina—died on 20th October, 1900.

#### SIR ANDREW CLARK.

A four-sided monument bears the following inscriptions—

In memory of Margaret Milne, who died 25th February, 1819, in the 61st year of her age, and James Clark, her husband, farmer, Gallowhiils, who died 19th February, 1840, in the 82nd year of his age.

In memory of Jane Clark, who died 1st January, 1844, in the 45th year of her age. And William Hastie, her husband, farmer, the Retreat, Longformacus, who died 26th August, 1855, in the 68th year of his age, and were both interred in the churchyard of Hutton, Berwickshire.

In memory of James Clark, merchant, Stonemills, who died 10th November, 1860, in the 66th year of his age. And Alexander, his brother, also merchant, Stonemills, who died 18th June, 1882, in the 71st year of his age.

In memory of Andrew Clark, surgeon, St Fergus, who was born 23rd June, 1797, and died 21st December, 1837.

Now we know in part, but then shall we know even as we are known.

Also Mary Ann, infant daughter of Alexander Hastie, Stonemills, who died 29th April, 1880.

The above Andrew Clark, surgeon, was the father of Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., the eminent physician, whose mother was Amy or Amelia Anderson, Blackwater, St Fergus. Sir Andrew was born in Aber-

deen on 28th October, 1826, and was educated by his uncles, the above Alexander and James Clark, millers and merchants, Stonemills. He studied in Edinburgh, and graduated M.D. at Marischal College, Aberdeen, in 1854. Settling in London, he quickly secured a world-wide reputation as a physician. He counted amongst his patients Mr W. E. Gladstone, "George Eliot," and many other celebrities. He was President of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and was the author of many medical tracts, etc. He was twice married—first, to Seton Mary Percy, daughter of Captain Forster, R.N.; and, secondly, to a daughter of Alphonso Doxat of Leytonstone. He died at 16 Cavendish Square, London, on 6th November, 1893, survived by two sons and four daughters. His elder son, James Richardson Andrew Clark, who succeeded to the baronetcy, was nominated a C.B. in 1902, and is Colonel of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Militia).

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A tombstone lying against the wall, having at the top the initials W. C. and M. S., with representations of a skull, cross bones, hour-glass, etc., is inscribed—

Here lyes the corpse of William Chalmers, sometime tennent in Pittenheath, who departed this life December 22nd, 1757, aged 65 years. Also three of his children—Jannet, who died November 25, 1726, aged 5 years; Jane, November 3rd, aged 6 months; and Elizabeth, April 29th, 1736, aged 4 months.

William Chalmers was the great-grandfather of Rev. Andrew Chalmers, St John's Mount, Wakefield, who has done yeoman service in elucidating the early history of Buchan, of which he is a native. The Transactions of the Buchan Field Club contain many of his articles, which are a mine of reliable information to the student of topography and genealogy.



## A headstone bears—

This stone marks the grave of Jas. L. Duff, Officer of Excise, who died at St Fergus, 12th Dec., 1826, aged 30.

## Another has—

Here lyes the corps of George Purdie, sometime Gardner at Inuerugie, who departed this life the 11 of June, 1738, aged 73 years. Also here lyes the body of Iean Bannerman, spouse to the above George Purdie, who dyed Feby. the 7th, 1756, aged 80.

Also here lyes the corps of Aelx. Walker, sometime in Bauds of Drum, who died at Inverugie the 2 day of March, 1746, of age 65 years.

George Purdie, besides being skilled as a gardener, attained considerable fame as "an herbalist and district leech." Large numbers of people waited upon him periodically for the purpose of being bled and treated to his innocuous herb ale and other concoctions. The site of his garden (the old bowling green) at the back of the castle is pointed out; and in it herbs are still found. Wild roses also continue to grow from crevices in the old garden walls.

A mural tablet—one of the oldest in the graveyard—bears the following inscription—

In hope of ane blessed resurrectione here lyes the dust of John Robertson in Newseat, who dyed June 28, 1652, of his age the 49 year, and Elspet Grig, his spouse, who dyed February 26, 1693, of her age the 82 year. . . .

A wall tablet showing various emblems, etc., at the top, is inscribed thus—

Here lyes the corps of Mr John Innes late minister of the gospel at Gamry, who departed this life the 14th of June, 1731, aged 82 years. . . .

Rev. John Innes, M.A., was ordained minister of Gamrie before 12th December, 1675. He was summoned before the Privy Council on 7th November, 1689, for not reading the Proclamation of Estates, and praying in terms thereof. He was deposed on 13th June, 1716, for praying for the

Pretender and reading his Proclamation. According to Dr Scott (Fasti), he married Margaret Gordon, who, with a daughter, survived him.

## A headstone bears—

Saered to the memory of Gilbert Thom, farmer in Essie, St Fergus, who died 11th February, 1849, in his 80th year.

Gilbert Thom had one son and one daughter. The son—William—studied for the Church, took holy orders, and went to Australia.

Several bearing the same surname have reached advanced ages, such as George Thom, farmer, who died in 1872, aged 92.

A wall monument, displaying sundry emblems, is inscribed—

Under this ston lyes the corps of William Fraser, some time in Northessie, who departed this life Februarie, —, 1725, of age 59 years. Also the corps of Elizebeth Robertson, his spouse, who departed this life the 20th of January, 1741, of age 73 years. Exemplary for their piety and charity. Also here lyes the corps of William Fraser, some time at Stone-mill, who departed this life upon the 17th day of June, 1749 years, of age 55.

Two mural tablets are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lies William Henderson, one of the Town Clerks of the city of Edinburgh, who died of a lingering illness at Newseat, the place of his nativity, the 28th day of November, 1760, aged 40. In business acute and upright, in disposition benevolent and obliging. He lived csteemed and died regreted.

Mr Hunter, town clerk, Edinburgh, kindly states that there is no trace in the Edinburgh records of the above William Henderson having been appointed either town clerk or depute. The probability is that he was merely a clerk or writer in the town clerk's chambers. On 11th February, 1747, he was admitted a "burges and gildbrother" of the burgh of

Edinburgh, "dispensing with the dues for the good services done by him to the interest thereof."

(2).

Here lyes the corps of Jean Willson, spous to William Stephen in Nevseat, who departed this life October 15, 1720, and of age 63 years. Here lies the corps of the abou William Stiven, who dyed 13th December, 1728, aged 63 years. Also here lyes the corpse of William Henderson, late farmer in Newseat, who died August, 1761, aged 84 years. Also the corpse of Margaret Steven, his spouse, who died Agust, 1764, aged 68.

This tablet is embellished at the top with sundry funereal emblems, the scroll Memento Mori, the date 1721, and the initials W. S.—I. W.

A tablestone bears the inscription—

To the memory of Thomas Shevis, farmer, in South Essie, of this parish, who died the 30th day of December, 1824, aged 68 years. And Barbara Park, his spouse, who died the 23rd day of December, 1824, aged 58 years.

"They were lovely in their life, and in their deaths they were not divided."

The farm of South Essie formed part of the forfeited lands of Earl Marischal, and Alexander Garden of Troup, advocate, their tacksman, in granting in 1728 a new lease of South Essie to Alexander Ogston, imposed several peculiar conditions, among which were that neither Ogston nor his servants should drink brandy or other spirits unless the produce of Great Britain or British plantations, under the penalty of £3 Scots for each time and of voiding the tack on thrice offending or upon being convicted so much as once of merchandising in or importing the same. Another condition was that the tenant should within two years plant ash, elm, or such proper timber as agrees with the ground, around the dykes of the "kail yard."

The following inscription has a couplet which is often met with in varied forms—

Sacred to the memory of John Sangster, who died the 30th of December, 1848, aged 67 years.

Also Margaret Sangster, his beloved wife, who died the 23rd of December, 1852, aged 78 years. Erected by their son John Sangster, of London. They were, but language fails to utter what, Think then what parents should be—they were that.

William Sangster, who died the 4th April, 1832, aged 75 years. John Sangster, of London, died 3rd March, 1890, aged 76 years. Margaret Gray, his consin, died 30th June, 1890, aged 82 years.

John Sangster, who commemorates his parents in such complimentary terms, after serving an apprenticeship as a merchant at Rora, went to London, where he engaged in business on his own account. He possessed much enterprise, and was one of the first to import dairy produce in quantity from Holland. Besides being an author, he ran for a time a commercial newspaper in London. He never married, and at his death the larger portion of his means went to his cousin, the above Margaret Gray.

A well-proportioned cross of polished Peterhead granite has been erected at the grave of Alexander Scott, Peterhead, who died 10th December, 1860, aged 72, and of his wife, Ann Buchan, who died 19th April, 1883, aged 87.

Mr Scott was a most intelligent man, of fine character, and a favourite with all who knew him. His wife was a sister of Peter Buchan, the famous printer of Peterhead. To her watchful care, industry, and frugality in eking out a slender income is due the credit of bringing up to manhood and womanhood a family of twelve. It was probably these characteristics which suggested the insertion of the motto "Amo" at the top of the cross and the following quotation from Shakespeare at the end of the inscription—

"After life's fitful fever, *she* sleeps well."

Mr David Scott, now librarian of the Public Library, Peterhead, is a son of the above couple. For thirty-five years he was proprietor and publisher of the "Peter-

head Sentinel"—a temperate and highly respectable provincial weekly newspaper. He also printed and published many works, and conducted an extensive printing, lithographic, and general wholesale stationery business. He is married to Marion, second and only surviving daughter of William Thom, the Inverurie poet. They have three daughters, who possess the hereditary literary talent.

A lairstone, which is finely carved with elaborate scrolls and armorial bearings, has the following inscription—

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Here lye the devout and learned gentilman Mr Richard Irvine of Cairnfield, who died anno 1703, ae 77, 4 IVLI, and his spous Margart Aedie, anno —, and at the right the religious gentilman Mr Cristophr Abercrombie, S.I.S., who died anno 1702, ae 55, 7 IVNE. Memento Mori.

Richard Irvine was a younger son of John Irvine of Artamford and of his wife, Beatrix, daughter of John Irvine of Pitmurchie and Lumphanan. About 1670, he acquired the estate of Cairnfield, the original title of which was Balgownie. It afterwards, for a time, was called Fraserfield, but for many years it has been known by its old name of Balgownie. Mr Irvine's wife, Margaret Aedie, was a daughter (or near relative) of David Adie or Aedie, of Newark, an Aberdeen merchant, who traded extensively with Dantzic. They had an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Gordon, some time Commissary of Aberdeen, and subsequently Civilist in King's College, Aberdeen. Mr Irvine possessed considerable means, and loaned money extensively on the security of landed property. Among other lands to which he had sasine were Kirktown of Brasse (Birse), Balfour, etc., 25th April, 1659; Nether Park, 1st August, 1668; Kirktown of Rayne, 21st April, 1671; and Over and Nether Park, 15th September, 1685.

Captain Wimberley obligingly furnished many of the foregoing particulars, while others are based upon Colonel Forbes-Leslie's "Historical Narrative relative to the Irvines of Drum."

A mural tablet—having at the top the representation of an hour-glass, skull, cross-bones, the initials W. P., and date 1721—is inscribed—

Here lyes the corps of William Penny in Old Kirktown, who departed this life August 10, 1721, and of age 65 years.

O' what is man whose life's a span,  
He's vanity at best,  
Who lived weal and died—  
In Heaven with God shall rest.

Also lyes the corpse of Margaret Melven, who died June 17, 1774, aged 82.

Members of the Penny family were long tenant farmers in the parish, and were justly respected throughout the district. They intermarried with the Inneses, as shown by the next inscription on a tablet alongside—

Children of William Innes and Iannet Pennie. Here rests, we hope in the Lord, the corps of Gilbert Innes, who departed this life October 30th, 1753, of age 35. Also Alexander Innes, aged 3 weeks. Also Isobel Innes, aged 12 years. Also the corps of Robert Innes, aged 4 years. Also the corps of the above William Innes, who died July the 9th, aged 79 years, 1756. Also the corps of Jannet Pennie, his spouse, who died the 27th of November, 1766, aged 81. Also the corps of Jannet Innes, his daughter, who died March the 26th, 1758, aged 36 years. Also here lies the corps of William Innes, late tennant in Old Kirktown, son to the above William, who died December the 11th, 1755, aged 44 years.

Died the 20th September, 1802, Jean Pennie, spouse to the above William Innes, aged 79 years.

The above branch of the Inneses represents the forebears of the family of Stow, the immediate progenitor of which was George Innes, of the farms of Berryhill,



Toddlehills, and Downiehills, near Peterhead. He was born in 1672, and married Jane Fraser in 1701. Their son, George, who was born in 1703, went to Edinburgh, and married Marion Lauder, daughter of David Lauder, of Huntly Wood, of the same line as Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. This George Innes was the founder of the Stow fortune of upwards of a million pounds, and which gave rise to protracted litigation.

A marble tablestone has the appended inscription—

Inscribed as a token of sincere affection for their revered parents by their surviving family.

To the memory of their father, Alexander Innes, tenant of Old Kirktown, who died the 11th October, 1799, aged 43 years; and of their mother, Elizabeth Johnston, who died 21st November, 1830, aged 74 years. Also of their beloved brother, James Innes, tenant of Old Kirktown, who died 3rd January, 1841, aged 45 years.

Also in memory of the said survivors, Janet Innes, who died 20th August, 1871, aged 81 years. Margaret Innes, widow of Captain Geo. Anderson (who lies in the Churchyard of Peterhead), died 5th January, 1872, aged 79 years. And Jane Innes, died 13th December, 1872, aged 75 years.

Alexander Innes was a son of William Innes and of his wife Jean Pennie mentioned in the preceding inscription. His wife, Elizabeth Johnston, was a sister of Mr Johnston, Hillhead, Crimond. Their son, James, was believed by many to be the rightful heir to the Stow estate, of which he got a portion. His sister, Margaret, married Captain Anderson, of Hallmoss, Inverugie, and his nieces, who still survive, are Mrs John Logan, late of Lunderton, and Mrs Wernham, The Links, Peterhead.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

A wall tablet is inscribed—

Here lyes the corps of Alexander Dalgarno, laite tenent in Netherhill, who departed this life October 25th, 1719, of age 86. . . .

Here lyes the corps of Iean Dalgarno, spouse to Mr Robert Cheyne, who departed this life the 19 of Febreware, 1738, of age 64 years.

Here lyes the corps of Mr Robert Cheyne, sometime schoolmaster at Saint Fergus. . . .

Robert Cheyne, who died before 1745, bequeathed 100 merks Scots to the kirk-session, directing that the interest be applied towards "the education of poor scholars" at the parish school.

A tablestone bears—

In memory of Mr John Henderson, schoolmaster at St Fergus, who served in that office for the space of 44 years, and departed this life the 18th day of March, mdclxv., aged 70. Also of William, his son, who spent part of the last four years of his time as a student at the Marischal College of Aberdeen, and departed this life the 24 day of March, mdclxiii., aged 35.

Sweet solitude; when life's gay hours are past;  
Howe'er we range in thee we fix at last,  
Toss'd thro' tempestuous seas the voyage o'er,  
Pale we look back and bless the friendly shore.  
Our own strict judges, our past life we scan,  
And ask if Virtue has enlarg'd the span,  
If bright the prospect we the grave defy,  
Trust future ages and contented dye.

This stone is erected at the sole expence of Andrew, eldest son of the above deceased.

A wall tablet is inscribed—

To the memory of James Fraser, tenant in Neuseat of Saint Fergus, who died the 26th day of August, 1785, aged 59 years. Janet Fraser and 3 of her children are inter'd here. She was a daughter of Wm. Fraser, at Mains, and spouse of Alexr. Watson, schoolmaster, St Fergus. Also James Fraser, sometime tenant of the Farm of Savock of Lonmay, only son of the above named James Fraser; he died at Aquharney, 29th August, 1846, aged 62 years.

An enclosed grave has a headstone bearing the inscription—

Erected to the memory of John Kennedy, A.M., who was schoolmaster of this parish for the space of 52 years. He died the 24th April, 1855, in the 87th year of his age.

Also his sister Elspet, who died the 6th October, 1846, aged 69 years.

John Kennedy was the son of James Kennedy, residenter in Turriff. He graduated in Arts at Marischal College in 1803, and served his whole time as schoolmaster at St Fergus—retiring from active service in 1836-7.

The succeeding teacher was Robert Stuart, brother of Alexander Stuart, farmer, North Kirton. Both are now deceased, and interred in St Fergus graveyard.

The next teacher was Rev. James Taylor who graduated in Arts at King's College in March, 1848. He afterwards became minister of Cookney, and died 31st January, 1904.

Alexander Whyte succeeded.

The churchyard was enclosed by a substantial wall, and a tablet fixed into it bears the inscription—

Erected at the expense of the Parochiners of St Fergus in the year 1751. Mr Robert Garden minister.

The wall has since been put into a condition of thorough order, the graveyard levelled up, and a plan of the graves drawn out.

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH.

Upon an imposing site at Shielhill stands a neat, substantial church belonging to the United Free Church. For some time after the Disruption, the superior refused to allow a Free Church to be erected, but the promoters having complied with his stipulation that the edifice should stand at least one mile from the Parish Church, the site was granted. Several eminent ministers have held the charge. The first was Rev. Alexander Forbes Moir, M.A., a native of Strathdon, who was ordained on 28th December, 1848, and continued for twelve years, till his translation to Woodside, in 1860. He is still senior minister of that charge, and is now resident at Cults. Rev. John Ross succeeded Mr

Moir, and remained till 1870. The next minister was Rev. Alexander Linn, now of Cranstonhill United Free Church, Glasgow. He was followed, in 1877, by Rev. Peter Thomson, who died in 1880. He was a native of Portsoy, and had a brilliant career at King's College, finally graduating M.A. He was the author of the "Life of David," one of the Bible class primers, edited by Professor Salmond. His death at the early age of 29 was much deplored. The succeeding incumbent was Rev. John Skinner, who also had a distinguished University career. He removed to Kelso in 1886, and four years later was appointed Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis and Criticism in the English Presbyterian Theological College, London. He received the degree of D.D. in 1895. The next minister was Rev. A. P. Davidson, M.A., who, after an incumbency of three years, emigrated to New Zealand, but is now settled at Skirling, in the Presbytery of Lanark. Rev. James Strachan, M.A., was ordained to the charge in 1890, but in May, 1903, accepted a call to the Belgrave Presbyterian Church, London.

The present incumbent is Rev. John Rainy Wright, M.A.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Blackwater gave the surname to a family who long owned the lands. Laurence de Foty, laird of Waterton and part of Rubislaw, who was Provost of Aberdeen in 1367, and again in 1385-90, married "Marjorie Blackwatre." Having thus acquired Blackwater, he, on 20th March, 1402-3, with consent of his wife and his son John, disposed half of its lands in favour of William de Dalgarno, laird of Fintry, afterwards known as Dalgarno-Fintry. Dalgarno was the founder of a family which had a prominent standing in St Fergus for three centuries.

From the Watsons of Cairnhill descended George Watson, wine merchant, Calcutta, whose son, the late J. P. Watson, became proprietor of the estate of Blackford, Auchterless.

Tradition asserts that there lie in the graveyard the remains of Sir Alexander Guthrie, laird of Ludquharn, who is said to have met with an ultimately end.

The partially-broken font which pertained to the old Parish Church is built into the churchyard wall.

Near the graveyard is the "Mason's" or "Mess John's" Well, which never fails to give forth its refreshing draught.

All traces have disappeared of the ancient fishing village of Drumlinie, which stood on the seashore to the east of the graveyard. It is said to have been buried by a prolonged sandstorm.

On the links, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were held the Peter-head horse races, which drew large crowds from all the surrounding districts.

As recently as 1805 a captain and a doctor met on the links for the purpose of fighting a duel. Fortunately, their seconds succeeded in settling the quarrel before the combat took place.

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## Fetterangus.

Fetterangus was originally a small independent parish, and belonged to the family of Le Neym, subsequently passing to the Cheynes of Inverugie, hereditary Sheriffs of Banffshire, at whose instance it was included in that county. It continued to form a detached portion of Banffshire till 1890, when, by an order of the Boundary Commissioners, it was incorporated in Aberdeenshire.

### PARISH CHAPEL.

The parish chapel was dedicated to St Fergus—"Buchan's third great apostle"

—and, along with the church of Inverugie—now known as St Fergus—was granted to the monks of St Thomas at Arbroath by Ralph le Neym about 1200. For nearly three centuries thereafter Fetterangus was supplied by a cleric from the Abbey at Arbroath. At the Reformation, the glebe was in the possession of Keith of Ludquharn, who seized the last vestige of property which belonged to the chapel.

In 1574, Fetterangus, Deer, and Rathen had as their minister Rev. Gilbert Chisholm, formerly Prior of the Abbey of Deer, who had adopted the new faith. Two years later, his charge was reduced to Fetterangus and Deer alone. (See Old Deer.) In 1599, Rev. David Robertson was elected to Fetterangus and Inverugie. He used every effort to induce the parishioners of Fetterangus to attend service at Inverugie, or Longley—"their mother kirk"—and in 1603 a supreme effort was made by the Presbytery to compel them to do so. Ultimately a compromise was arrived at, under which the minister undertook to conduct the services at Fetterangus every third Sunday—"the common Reidar" officiating on the other Sundays. Mr Robertson continued to hold the dual charge till 1618, when Fetterangus was formally attached to Old Deer, of which parish it still forms a portion.

The ruins of the ancient chapel may still be seen within the graveyard near the village of Fetterangus. The edifice had been very small, measuring about 33 by 12 feet internally. The entrance was through the south wall, and about a third of its length from the west end. The old font, or holy water stone, is lying within the ruins, and is said to never get dry. The site of both the chapel and the graveyard was originally a small knoll which had probably been a stone circle. At all events, a sculptured stone of waterworn whinstone was discovered in the graveyard



in 1876, and a drawing of it is given in Vol. XII. of the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The following is a reproduction from a photograph—



The Presbytery records show that in the sixteenth century many of the laity were buried within the church, for which privi-

lege a small fee was exacted. In 1604, a family of the name of Thomson, resident in Pitfour, gave much trouble by withholding payment of the charge. They were summoned before the Church Courts for "burying their parents in the Kirk of Fetterangus without satisfaction of the penalty ordered in such cases."

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

About thirty years ago, a large sum was subscribed in the district, and the graveyard was put into order and enclosed by a substantial stone and lime wall upwards of six feet in height. A record of this excellent work is preserved in the following inscription on a tablet on the outside of the wall near the entrance gate—

BUILT BY  
SUBSCRIPTION,  
1877.

The tombstones are not numerous, but several of them form a feature rarely met with. This remark applies to the small headstones of half-circle and half-octagon shape, having the inscription—not on the face as in the usual way—but round the top. Some give the simple initials of the deceased, while others bear no letters or dates whatever.

#### LAIRDS OF FETTERANGUS.

A large tablestone shows considerable ornamentation at the top, including a shield surmounted by the head and wings of an angel. On the shield are the initials A. G. and C. M., on the left of which is a skull, while on the right is a skeleton in an upright posture, all rudely carved. The inscription is—

Here lyes, in hopes of a blessed resurrection, the corps of Alexander Gordon of Cloves, who departed this life Aprile the 22nd, 1710; also the corps of James Gordon, his son, who departed this life Aprile 21, 1712; also here lyes the corps of Charles Morison of Fetterangus,

who departed this life the 26th January, 1733 years; also five children of Sir Robert Innes and Dame Janet Gordon of Balvenie; also Jean Morison spouse to Alexander Gordon of Cloves who died May 5, 1739, aged 65, also the body of Charles Gordon of Fetterangus who died October 4th 1767, aged 62.

Thomas Gordon in Cloves — or Mon-auchty—in the parish of Alves, near Elgin, was the third son of Sir William Gordon, third Baronet of Lesmoir, and his wife, Christian Walker. He was twice married—first, to Janet Brodie, who died in 1666, survived by two sons, Alexander and William; and, secondly, at Aberdeen, on 1st July, 1668, to Helen Seton, and they had at least one son, James, who became minister of Kinloss, and a daughter, Katherine, with probably the above-mentioned Janet, who married Sir Robert Innes, grandson of the first baronet of Balvenie. The lands of Balvenie had left his family before Sir Robert's time, and few genealogists even mention that he was married.

The above Alexander Gordon—who was the last Gordon in Cloves—married Jean Morison, probably a sister of Charles Morison of the Pitfour family of that surname (see Old Deer), who acquired the lands of Fetterangus from James Scott of Auchtydonald, who had secured sasine on them on 28th January, 1706, for an annual rent of £65 15s 2d Scots. Of the family of Mr and Mrs Alexander Gordon, James died on 21st April, 1712, and Charles was served "heir general" to his father on 20th May and 28th July, 1718. He married Margaret, daughter of Rev. Walter Stewart, parish minister of Ellon, and of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Forbes of Waterton. He was long in Cairnurchies, and acquired Fetterangus from the above-named Charles Morison. His son, William Gordon, graduated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, in

1747, and on 22nd July and 13th August, 1768, was served "co-heir of provision general" to his grandfather, the said Rev. Walter Stewart, who, during his ministry, had become proprietor of Fortrie, in Ellon. He married Katherine, daughter of Nathaniel Arbuthnot of Hatton, near Peterhead (Arbuthnot MS.), and on 2nd May, 1757, he secured from Charles Cumine of Kininmonth a "Moss Tolerance," under which (says Rev. Andrew Chalmers) Fetterangus has ever since boiled its kettles with Kininmonth peats, and had the best of the bargain. He was the last laird of the Gordon surname to possess Fetterangus, having, about 1760, sold it to James Mackie. Many of these particulars have been furnished by Captain Wimberley, Inverness; Rev. Stephen Ree, Boharm; and Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill of Auchinroath.

James Mackie was some time in Castle-town, King-Edward, and married—first, Barbara, third daughter of John Fordyce of Gask, in the parish of Turriff. Mr Fordyce's affairs having become involved, Mr Mackie bought Gask about 1770. He married—secondly—Elizabeth, daughter of Captain John Forbes of Boyndlie, and widow of Baillie George Philips, merchant, Banff. (See Peterhead.) About 1770, Mr Mackie sold Fetterangus to the proprietor of Pitfour, to which estate it is still attached.

A small flat stone bears—

Here lyes Margaret Taylour spouse to Will Watson in Corte-cramb, dyed 5 of May, 1690.

Another alongside has the inscription—

Here lies the body of George Taylor sometime in Cortiecramb. He died May, 1765, aged 83. Also Iean Reid his spouse and Agnes Watt his 2d wif.

In describing Jean Reid as Mr Taylor's "spouse" and Agnes Watt as his "2d wif," there is an ingenious variation of the substantive rarely met with.

A tablestone within the area of the old church is inscribed—

Here resteth the body of George Hay late of Thorniebank, Esqr, who died Janr 31st, 1751. He was son to Mr John Hay, late Minister of the Gospel at Raffin and of Mrs Margaret Gordon his consort, who were descended from the noble families of Tweedale and Gordon respectively, by their intermediate progenitors viz. Raness and Buckie.

Here also are repositied the bodies of Barbara Fordyce his spouse who died Aprile 9th, 1768. And of Anne Hay their Daughter who died July 18th, 1766. 1 Cor 15 chap 57 ver-- But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The above George Hay was a son of Rev. John Hay, M.A., who, in 1669, became minister of the parish of Rathven—his mother being Margaret Gordon, of the Buckie family of that surname. He was proprietor of Thorniebank before 12th March, 1713, when he was served heir to his deceased father. (Retours.) He married Barbara Fordyce, younger daughter of Rev. Alexander Fordyce, minister of the parish of Rafford, sister of Thomas Fordyce of Ayton, Writer in Edinburgh, sometime factor to the York Buildings Company, and of Christian Fordyce, who married Rev. John Stuart, minister of Inveraven. It was no doubt through his brother-in-law's influence that Mr Hay was induced to settle near Fetterangus as lessee of Gaval. Of his family, Anne was baptised at Rafford on 28th March, 1709, and died as above, while Margaret, on 29th January, 1740, was married to Rev. John Forbes of Pitnacalder, the famous parson of Deer. (See Old Deer.)

A small flat stone has the following inscription—

Here lyes the corps of Alexander Park, husband to Mary Taylour in Cairnurchies who departed out this life upon the 18th of May, 1724.

A tombstone has the following unusual form of supplementary tribute to the person commemorated—

He never courted the favours, nor was dismayed at the frowns of any man. But on a principle, founded on religion, he uniformly adhered to what was honest and right; and, in consequence, was by his superiors esteemed, and by his equals respected.

One of the oldest stones in the graveyard is a small flat one, which has the appended inscription—

Here lyes William Taylour in Gavel, who departed this lyf March 9, 169-.

Another old stone bears the inscription—

Here lyes the corps of Lean Robertson, spovs to Robert Mvrro in Gavel, who was intered the 27 of April, 1681.

It will be noticed that the above is one of the old forms of the surname Murray.

A tablestone has—

To the memory of Alexander Morison, son to Alexander Morison in Little Elrick, who died 5 Sep 1783, aged 19. Also William Morison his other son who died Nov the 6, 1790, aged 31. Also Jean Miln spouse to Alexander Morison, in Little Elrick. She died Sept. 20, 1801, aged 70 years. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Also the foresaid Alexander Morison, tenant in Little Elrick, who died Feb. 4, 1807, aged 82.

Called from this fleeting stage in shining bloom  
Of youth and beauty to a better home,  
What tho' my race of life was early run  
The young believer dyes, but not too soon.

It will be noted that the above flattering certificate to Mrs Morison is taken from Proverbs, xxxi., 29. These Morisons were of the same family as that of Fetterangus, etc.

A tablestone has the inscription—

Here lies in hopes of a Blessed Resurrection the children of John Davidson and Isabel Mill, in Little Mains of Pitfour. Rachel Davidson, who died June 4, 1791, aged 25. And John Davidson, who died Dec. 13, 1791, aged 19



years. Also the first named John Davidson, who died March th28, 1804, aged 80. Also Isabel Milne, his spouse, who died Feb. 7, 1813, aged 80.

Death often lays the young ones low,  
And spares the hoary head;  
Ye living youths be wise in time,  
And learn from the dead.

A tablestone in the area of the old church, having at the top emblems of a skull, coffin, sand-glass, bell, cross-bones, and crossed spades, bears the following inscription—

Here lyes the body of George Fraser some-time in Cortiecramb, who dyed October th12, 1726, and of age 77 years.

In 1696, Fraser had an annual fee of £5, and his poll tax was 8s 6d. (Poll Book.) He is said to have been wounded in the battle of Killiecrankie, in which he fought as a trooper. He belonged to Perthshire.

An old tablestone has on one of the end supports—

Ias. G. and A. A.  
1768.

And on the other—

This stone is erected by James Greig at Wakemill of Hythie and Anne Alexander, his spouse.

The principal inscription on the stone is undecipherable.

A headstone bears—

Here rest in hope of a happy Resurrection the body of Alexander Milne, late in Mains of Auchtiedonald, who died 29 November, 1823, in the 59 year of his age. A virtuous and affectionate Husband and a sincere Christian.

This melancholy tribute of respect is given to his memory by his sorrowing widow Margaret Sim.

A headstone in a railed enclosure within the area of the old church bears—

Sacred to the memory of Margaret Fraser. Born at Brieneden, Abernethy, Aug. 26, 1798, Died at Toux, Old Deer, Dec. 5, 1874—William J. Grant, Born Feb. 7, Died April 15, 1840.

John Grant, born March 26, 1828. Died at Shanghai, China, Sept. 6, 1862. George Arthur Grant, Born Jan. 1st, 1836; Died at Umritsir, East Indies, October 21st, 1864. Alexander Grant, husband of Margaret Fraser, born at Braes of Abernethy, November 15, 1793, died at Toux, Old Deer, Sept. 19, 1876. Elizabeth J. Grant, born Sept. 28, 1829, died at Schoolhouse, Fetterangus, Feb. 28, 1887. Alexander Grant, M.A., M.D., born Nov. 19, 1837. Died March 15, 1904.

Alexander Grant, when a young man, was employed as gamekeeper to Lord Fife at Duff House. He afterwards acted in the same capacity for Admiral Ferguson at Pitfour—subsequently becoming tenant of the farm of Toux. Of his family, the eldest son, John, was for several years factor for Mr Duff of Drummur. He ultimately went to fill a mercantile situation in China, and died at Shanghai as above. The second son, George Arthur, was a doctor in the Indian military service, and died from the effects of a fall from his horse. The third son, Alexander, had an extensive practice as a doctor in the East End of London, where he was esteemed for his medical skill, and respected for his integrity and generosity. He married a daughter of Rev. Mr M'Kechnie, Congregational minister in Stuartfield.

A headstone bears—

Here lies the wife of The Rev. Mr Fisher, New Leeds.

Resting in hope.

This inscription is probably unique, inasmuch as it does not give the Christian name, age, nor date of death of the lady commemorated. It is known, however, that she was Jane Wilson, wife of Rev. William Fisher, of the United Presbyterian Church, New Leeds, and died about 1853. Mr Fisher left New Leeds in 1868, and died at Leven, Fifeshire.

A tablestone bears—

To the memory of Charles Reid, Farmer in

Mains of Kinninmonth, who departed this life on the 30th June, 1851, aged 77 years.

He on the Name of Christ relied,  
In Christian Hope he lived and died.

And two breadths south from this stone is interred his beloved son, James Reid, who died on the 12th of January, 1857, aged 44 years.

Respected by all who knew him.

And of Ann Simpson, spouse of the said Charles Reid, who departed this life on the 28th Novr., 1861, aged 77 years.

#### THE VILLAGE.

The village of Fetterangus was founded by Mr Ferguson of Pitfour in 1772, and forms practically one long street. Besides a public school, it has a church, which was re-erected by the United Presbyterians in 1882. The first regularly ordained minister of it was the present incumbent, Rev. David Conochie, who, as assistant to Rev. Hugh Glen, of Stuartfield, had for some time previously discharged the ecclesiastical duties at Fetterangus.

The Church of Scotland has also a chapel of ease or mission church in the village, in which service is held every Sunday. It is subordinate to the Parish Church at Old Deer.

The most prominent building, however, is the hall and institute, opened on 4th May, 1896. The following date and inscriptions are upon the gable facing the roadway—

1895. PUBLIC HALL AND  
CHALMERS' INSTITUTE.

The latter title was conferred in appreciation of the handsome contributions made to the building and equipment fund by Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield, who was the moving spirit in securing the erection of the structure. He also presented to the Institute Library upwards of 1500 carefully selected volumes. In 1897, and again in 1905, he presented to the members and friends of the Institute copies

of a complete printed catalogue of all the books "in the earnest hope that the number of readers" might "soon be largely increased." (See also under St Fergus.)

The hall has accommodation for about 300. At the back of the platform are displayed a model of the old village drum and the old village horn. The former is said to have been used to rouse the labourers on a fine morning, and the latter when the morning was unsuitable for outside work.

In 1696, John Dalgarno, tenant of the large farm of Crichtie, Kintore, was heritor of Kirktown of Fetterangus, which had then a valuation of £80 per annum.

Further interesting particulars regarding the early history of Fetterangus and district will be found in the respective articles "The Barony of Fetterangus" and "Early Protestantism beside the Ugies," in the Transactions of the Buchan Field Club.

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## Cabrach or Strathdovern.

The name Cabrach is derived from the Gaelic, and is said to signify a place abounding in trees — a theory which is strengthened by the numerous remains of wood found in the district mosses.

In early times, the parish was occasionally known by the title of Cloueth, and its church or monastery, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, depended upon Mortlach. It is mentioned in the confirmation bull of Pope Adrian IV. to Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen, dated 1157. (Reg. Epis. Aberd., I., pp. 6 and 85.) In 1520, as one of the common churches of the chapter of Aberdeen, it was leased for ten pounds. In 1549, the whole parish church lands were leased by the bishop to Robert Lumisdane, at the rent of £9 6s 8d, plus

one mart, twelve kids, four geese, and 3s 4d for bondages, with services — the tenant being bound to defend the rights and liberties of the Church, and to resist heretics and enemies of the orthodox faith. (*Ibid.*, p. 433.)

The lands of Strathdovern were annexed to Cabrach by order of the Commissioners of Teinds, dated 27th February, 1665.

The present parish church, which is of plain design, has no gallery. Internally, it has a neat and tasteful appearance.

According to the session records, the bell was made at Aberdeen in 1782-3, the old bell being given in part payment.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

The parish of "Cabreth" was supplied by Thomas Christesoun, reader, from 1567 to 1580, his salary being 16 lib.

Rev. Alexander Hay held the dual charge of Cabrach and Rhyne in 1586. He removed to Dipple within three years thereafter.

The readership was held by James Warrok from 1588 to 1599.

Rev. Peter Calmeroun or Cameron, M.A.—previously at Glassford—was inducted about 1608.

Rev. Andrew Ker, M.A., was admitted from Glenbucket before 1652, but was retranslated thither about 1661 when "in decrepit old age." (See *Glenbüchat.*)

Rev. James Ross was inducted from Strathdovern about 1662. In March, 1666, he was unable to attend the Presbytery, being "restrained by the Katherin" (Cateran). In September following, his absence from Presbytery was excused "through the loosenes of the cuntry, some parties of loose Highlanders being about the said fields." (*New Spalding Club's "The Exercise of Alford,"* pp. 77 and 86.) He was translated to Tarland and Migvie in the spring of 1668.

Rev. John Irving was ordained in 1668. He soon quarrelled with his parishioners, one of whom called him "a dwarf and rogge," and a "dwarf bodie." The Presbytery interposed and suspended him, pending investigation. The cause of the minister was upheld, and he was reponed—"the people being rebuked for their insolent carriage towards him." The storm broke out afresh, however, and he was ultimately deposed on 15th June, 1677.

Rev. James Irvine was ordained in May, 1678, and continued till the autumn of 1681, when he is believed to have been removed on account of the Test.

There is an old tombstone to the succeeding minister and one of his sons. It is inscribed—

Here lyes Mr Alexander Brown, some tyme minister here, who departed this life the 53 year of his age, July 13, anno. 1705. Also the Rev. William Brown, his son, minister of the Gospel, Burnside, Auchindore, who died 16 March, 1772, aged 86.

Rev. Alexander Brown, M.A., was instituted 30th April, 1682. Dr Scott (*Fasti*) records that he was obliged during his incumbency to live in a furnished room at a considerable distance from the church for want of a manse. Besides the above son William, he had a son, John, who graduated in Arts at King's College on 15th April, 1725.

Rev. William Anderson, son of Rev. George Anderson, D.D., Professor of Divinity in King's College, was ordained as successor on 12th March, 1707. Two years subsequently he was translated to Premnay.

Rev. Robert Gray was ordained on 30th January, 1711, but was translated to Edzell in 1714.

Rev. David Strang or Strange, who had been officiating as a preacher at Glenlivet, was ordained as successor on 15th May, 1717. He was suspended in 1729, and



finally deposed on 11th March, 1730, for neglect of duty and other faults. He is said to have afterwards lived in Edinburgh, where he solemnised irregular marriages till excommunicated and imprisoned. Even in jail he continued his illegal practices. He died in confinement on 1st September, 1744, aged 70.

Rev. Theodore Gordon was ordained on 17th February, 1731. He was the son of William Gordon, in Drumbug, Gartly (not of Professor George Gordon as inadvertently stated by Dr Scott and other writers), and graduated M.A. at King's College on 29th March, 1722. For some time he acted as schoolmaster of Cairnie. He married "Ann Gordon, eldest daughter of Mr George Gordon, Professor of Oriental Languages, King's College." (Tablet at Kennethmont.) They had a son, George William Algernon Gordon, who became minister of Tullynessle, and subsequently of Keith. (See Tullynessle.) Mr Gordon expressed his sorrow to the Presbytery on 10th November, 1736, for having "given offence by going to see a rope-dancing at the Brick Hills of Old Aberdeen." He was translated to Kennethmont in 1738, where he died 29th August, 1779. His grandson, Theodore Gordon of Overhall, erected a tablet bearing a highly complimentary inscription to his memory.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Thomas Gordon, only son of Rev. James Gordon, minister of Kinloss (1699-1750); grandson of Thomas Gordon in Monaughty, otherwise in Cloves; and great-grandson of Sir William Gordon, third Baronet of Lesmoir. He was a student at Marischal College, 1722-26, was licensed by the Presbytery of Forres in August, 1734, and ordained minister of Cabrach, 25th June, 1740. From the outset he made strenuous efforts to get the financial and other affairs of the kirk-session put upon a sound basis.

In this, however, he was only partially successful, several minutes, etc., having been carried off by the clerk, who enlisted as a soldier. On 12th February, 1747, Mr Gordon was inducted to the parish of Auldearn, and died there, unmarried, on 25th November, 1793. It is interesting to add that he and his father were parish ministers for the long period of 104 years.

The two succeeding incumbents are commemorated by tablets in the church. The oldest one has a carving of the Gordon and Grant arms impaled, surmounted by the motto, "Bydand." The respective inscriptions are—

(1).

Before this stone lyes Elizabeth Grant, late spouse to Mr James Gordon, minister here, who died March 9, 1771, aged 46 yrs, and yr two sons, viz., George and John Gordons.

(2).

To the memory of the Rev. James Gordon, minister of Cabrach, who died the 6th of April, 1795, aged 77 years.

Also of the Rev. John Gordon, his son, minister of Cabrach, who died 29th of October, 1816, aged 49 years. And of his son, Robert Gordon, who died 19th June, 1817, aged 19 years.

This stone is erected as a mark of esteem and affection by Elizabeth Gordon, widow of the Rev. John Gordon, who also died 29th January, 1819, aged 46 yrs., and was likewise interred here.

Rev. James Gordon was schoolmaster of Rhynie, 1740-47; licensed by the Presbytery of Strathbogie, 18th September, 1745, and ordained to Cabrach 5th November, 1747. On 19th December, 1751, he married Elizabeth Grant, whose parentage is not stated in the parish registers. Besides the family above stated, they had a daughter, Elizabeth, who, on 30th July, 1789, married Rev. Thomas Tait, minister of Meldrum (1784-98), and subsequently of Ellon.

Rev. John Gordon, son of the preceding,

studied at Marischal College, 1783-87, and was inducted to Cabrach on 24th September, 1795. A daughter, Jane, married Captain John Grant.

Rev. William Cowie was the next minister. He graduated in Arts at King's College, 31st March, 1806, was appointed schoolmaster of Mortlach in 1811, and was ordained to Cabrach on 6th August, 1817. He married, on 8th November following, Elizabeth Ogilvie, who belonged to the parish of Forglen; and of their family a son, David, and two daughters, Mary and Sophia, were born at Cabrach. He was translated to Cairnie in 1826, and died 31st May, 1866, aged 80.

The succeeding incumbent is interred in a railed-in enclosure, over which is a coffin-shaped monument, with a large red granite shield or plate on the top, inscribed—

The Rev. James Gordon, A.M., Minister of Cabrach for 23 years. Died 29th December, 1849, aged 65.

Rev. James Gordon was the son of Alexander Gordon, miller, Aberdeen. He attended Marischal College, was Gray mathematical bursar and gold medallist in 1822, graduating M.A. on 31st March, 1823. He became master of the Mathematical School, Aberdeen, and, securing licence as a preacher of the Gospel on 19th October, 1826, was ordained minister of Cabrach on 28th March, 1827. He died unmarried as above.

A granite tablet in the inner wall of the church bears the inscription—

The Reverend Gordon Smart, M.A., minister of the parish of Cabrach for upwards of 31 years, died on the 21st February, 1882, aged 68 years.

Erected by heritors, parishioners, and friends in loving remembrance of an earnest and assiduous pastor, a pious and accomplished man.

An esteemed and lamented friend.

Rev. Gordon Smart was the son of Robert Smart, Badcheir, Cabrach, and graduated M.A. at King's College, Aberdeen, in March, 1842. As parish minister he was much esteemed. He died a bachelor.

The present incumbent is Rev. George Gilfillan Macmillan, who was licensed by the Presbytery of Glasgow in 1880, and was ordained to Cabrach on 10th August, 1882.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A headstone bears the inscription—

To the memory of John Gordon, late farmer in Aldivalloch, who died 14th September, 1836, aged 50 years. And of Jane Walker, his wife, who died 25th February, 1861, aged 73 years. Also of Alexander Gordon, late farmer, Aldivalloch, who died 11th December, 1875, aged 55 years.

James Gordon was the principal tenant of Aldivalloch in 1696; and amongst other Gordons who have since resided there may be named—Robert Gordon in 1712, Charles Gordon in 1724, and Paul Gordon, who, in August, 1768, married Margaret Gordon, who belonged to Cabrach. The last-named was buried on 7th April, 1789. John Gordon and his wife, Jane Walker, who belonged to Glenbuchat, were married on 18th December, 1814. Besides the son, Alexander, mentioned in the inscription, they had at least two daughters, Beatrice and Helen. (All from Parish Registers.)

The name Aldivalloch has been rendered historical through the popular and stirring song, "Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch"; and the subjoined extracts from the old session records, now in the Register House, Edinburgh, are believed to refer to the marriage of Roy and his wife—"1727, January 29. It being found yt John Roy, lawfull son to Thomas Roy in Aldvalloch, and Isabel Stuart, lawfull daughter to ye deceased Alaster Stuart, sometime in ye said Aldvalloch, were contracted in order for

marriage they were this day proclaimed pro 1 mo." On February 5th and 12th, they were proclaimed for the second and third times, and on the 21st of the same month the said "John Roy and Isabel Stuart were married." Their first-born child was baptised on 25th February, 1728, and received the name of Thomas, after his paternal grandfather.

The composition of the common version of the song of "Roy's Wife" is attributed to Elizabeth Grant, daughter of Lieutenant Joseph Grant, who married her first cousin, Mr Grant of Carron, Strathspey, after whose death she married Dr James Thompson Murray, of Bath, and died there on 26th February, 1828 (not in 1814, as stated by the majority of authors), aged 82. (Bath Registers.) Her portrait was exhibited in Aberdeen in 1859, during the sittings of the British Association, and it attracted much attention. It belonged to the Earl of Seafield. It may be pointed out that an older and less refined copy of the song—alleged to have been written by a shoemaker in Cabrach—is locally asserted to be the original, while against Mrs Grant Murray's authorship is urged the fact that she was not born till about nineteen years after the occurrence of the incidents narrated in the song, when they would have ceased to create interest.

Margaret Roy, a descendant of the family of Aldivalloch, died in December, 1859, aged 74.

One of the most interesting tombstones is that to Alexander Scott, farmer, Aldunie, "in which place his progenitors sojourned for several generations," who died 7th March, 183-, aged 85. It gives the advice—

Reader be admonished!

You are moving on to meet the  
King of Terrors.

Scotts occupied Aldunie as early as the middle of the seventeenth century. The tenant in 1673 was John Scott, from whom the above Alexander Scott was descended. The holding even then frequently received its Lowland name of "Old-downic." The admonitory advice cannot fail to remind one of the story of the old man who, when visited in his final illness by the parish minister, and asked if he was ready to meet the King of Terrors, brusquely replied—"I might well be, for I've lived now for 40 years with the Queen of Terrors!"

The following inscription from a headstone gives an idea of the difficulties and dangers that have to be encountered during the frequent severe snowstorms which occur in this exposed and high-lying parish—

Sacred to the memory of Gordon William Stuart, 4th son of William Stuart, Ardwell, Cabrach, who lost his life by a slip of snow when abstracting sheep out of the burn of Hillock, on the 30th January, 1865, aged 19 years.

Weep not for me my parent,  
Brothers and sisters dear,  
I am not dead, I am sleeping here.  
My end you know,  
My grave you see,  
Prepare yourselves to follow me.

This stone is erected to his memory by his sorrowing parent.

A headstone on a railed-in grave is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Jane, daughter of Rev. A. Wither, who, on 6th July, 1877, after 16 days earthly sojourn, was taken home for ever to be with the Lord.

"Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Rev. A. Wither was minister of Cabrach U.P. Church. He is now retired, and living in Edinburgh.

There are several tombstones to families bearing the surname of Souter, many of



whom died octogenarians. Among others may be mentioned John Souter, Nether Howbog, who died 1st May, 1834, aged 88, and his wife, Margaret Robertson, who died 28th August, 1840, aged 88. William Souter, Buck, died 6th June, 1869, aged 86. His first wife, Jane Gordon, died 25th August, 1837, aged 45, and his second wife, Ann Kellas, died 22nd February, 1865, aged 72 ; while his daughter Jane died 5th April, 1895, aged 74. David Souter, also in Buck, died 10th April, 1883, aged 53, and his wife, Ann Reid, died 20th September, 1868, aged 41. His son James died 21st July, 1888, aged 27 ; and William died 4th March, 1890, aged 25.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies the body of John Grant, late in Shenual, who died the 14th January, 1814, aged 65.

Done by the care of his widow Jannet Innes.

A tablestone has the following inscription—

Erected to the memory of Robert Grant, late farmer in Largue, who died 5th February, 1848, aged 78 years. And of Janet Gordon, his wife, who died 3rd June, 1858, aged 76 years. Also of their son John Grant, farmer in Largue, who died 3rd March, 1869, aged 59 years.

The name of this holding probably means hillside or slope.

#### THE GORDONS.

A tablestone has at the top the representation of an angel, while at the foot figures of a skull, cross bones, and hour-glass are given, together with the scroll "Memento Mori." The inscription is—

Here lyes John Gordon, sometime farmer in Drwmferg, who dy'd July 21, 1759, aged 51 years, lawfl husband to Elisabeth Gordon.

John Gordon is believed to have been a grandson of Alexander Gordon, fifth laird of Birkenburn, his parents being Peter Gordon, in Haddoch of Cabrach, and his wife, Bessie Gordon. He was some time

in Auchmair, and subsequently in Drumferg. He was a keen Jacobite, and was "out" in the '45. In consequence he was treated with great rigour, which undermined his system, and he died at the age of 51. According to the late Mr Jervise and Captain Wimberley, he was the father of Lieut.-Colonel John Gordon, of the 92nd Highlanders, who died at Coynachie 27th March, 1827, aged 75, and whose widow—Elizabeth Soutar—died at Aberdeen 23rd April, 1842, aged 82. Their eldest son, William Gordon, M.D., one of the Judges of the Supreme Court and member of H.M. Council of the island of Jamaica — who married twice and left a family—died at Elgin 26th January, 1838, aged 52. John, the other son, was a General in the Royal Engineers. He died at Culdrain in 1861, and was buried at Drumblade. He was twice married—first, to a daughter of Rev. Dr Skene Ogilvy, minister of Old Machar ; and, secondly, to Jane, daughter of Andrew Macpherson, Gibston, Huntly. Of their family, William was a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, and died unmarried in 1875 ; while Cosmo George was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and was afterwards in Culdrain.

A tablestone has the inscription—

In memory of John Gordon, late farmer in Gagh, who died 27th July, 1813, aged 70 years. Also three of his children, Ann, Janet, and Alexr., who died young.

Done by the care of his son Peter.

Also of Isabel Scott, wife of the above said John Gordon, who died in 1818, aged 71 years. Also of Hellen Lindsay, wife of the above said Peter Gordon, farmer in Reekimlane, who died 25th February, 1852, aged 69 years. Also of their son Charles Gordon, who died 4th June, 1838, aged 20 years. Also the above Peter Gordon, who died June 20, 1874, aged 94 years.

The name Gagh is frequently spelt Gauch, and the holding is occasionally called The Dauch.

The tradition as to the origin of the name Reekimlane is interesting. It is declared that during a famine nearly all the people left the district, and that this house had the only "reeking lum" to be seen, the inmates supporting themselves by fishing in the local burns. (Place Names of West Aberdeenshire.)

Gaugh, or "Geach," was tenanted in 1696 by Peter Gordon; in 1785 by John and Adam Gordon; and in 1825 by Peter, Alexander, and John Gordon, the rental of each of the three last-named being 2 hens and £33 6s 8d money.

The first-named John Gordon married Isabel Scott, daughter of Alexander Scott, farmer, Hillock, Lower Cabrach. Their son, Peter, on 5th June, 1808, married Hellen Lindsay—a native of Glenbuchat—and was long tenant of Reekimlane. He died at the advanced age of 94. Besides the son Charles above mentioned, there were one daughter and four sons—Christina, who died in Aberdeen; John, who married Jannet, daughter of James Sheed, farmer, Aldunie, and died in Reekimlane on 15th February, 1882, aged 70; Peter, who died in Aberdeen (he was a glass and china merchant, and under his deed of settlement bequeathed to the parish of Cahrach a bursary of the annual value of twenty pounds—hoys bearing the surname Gordon to have a preference); and William, who graduated M.A. at King's College in March, 1847, and was some time assistant schoolmaster of Fyvie, then schoolmaster of Auchindoir, thereafter minister of Glenbuchat, and subsequently of Glenhervie, who died 14th May, 1902, aged 78. (See Glenhuchat.) The surviving son is Alexander, who resides at Aldivalloch.

Reekimlane is now tenanted by Peter Gordon.

A tablestone alongside is inscribed—

In memory of Adam Gordon, farmer, Pykc,

who died 15th March, 1770, aged 63 years. Also his daughter Rachel Gordon, who died 22nd November, 1769, aged 18 years. Also his son James Gordon, farmer, Bank, who died 1st November, 1836, aged 83 years. Also his son John Gordon, farmer, Oldtown, who died 3rd July, 1847, aged 86 years.

The above Adam Gordon, who married Charlotte Hay, of the parish of Rhynie, met his death under tragic circumstances. He had a large flock of sheep wintering in the neighbouring parish of Auchindoir, and, a severe snowstorm coming on, he left home with the view of giving the shepherd assistance. He perished in the snow at a point east of the Moss of Creak, where a cairn of stones—still known as Pyke's Cairn—was raised to his memory.

It may be added that these Gordons of Gaugh, Reekimlane, Pyke, and Bank all claim descent from the old Gordons of Pitlurg.

A tablestone, which shows at the top the head of an angel and at the foot a skull, coffin, hour-glass, and hones, as also the scroll "Memento Mori," is inscribed—

This stone was erected by Alexander and John Gordons in Auchmair in memory of Patrick Gordon, their father, who departed this life May the 19th, 1788, in the 73rd year of his age.

Death of all men is the total sume,  
The period unto which we all must com;  
He livs but a short life that lives the  
longest,  
And he is weak in death that in life was  
strongest.

In 1727, John Gordon, tenant in Auchmair, married Isabel Burgess. In 1767, William Gordon, Auchmair, married Ann Ross, who belonged to Glenbuchat, and they had a large family. Early in the following century, William and Alexander Gordon were joint tenants at a rental of 4 hens and £38 money. The former, on 29th November, 1810, married Jean

Pyper, Cabrach; and the latter, before 1820, married Margaret Gordon, who died 11th June, 1866, aged 76. Alexander Gordon himself died on 26th April, 1871. Of their family, William Gordon, who was born 9th April, 1820, occupied Auchmair, and, on 13th February, 1851, married Elizabeth, daughter of James M'Combie, sometime in Nether Ardwell. He died 10th February, 1899; and his son, Alexander Gordon, is the present tenant of Auchmair.

Patrick Gordon, who is commemorated by the above inscription, was a merchant at Ardwell at the time of his death. His widow and the two sons mentioned in the inscription carried on the business for a time. John, the younger, took the "kiss and coin from the Duchess," and joined the 92nd Highlanders, serving in many of the campaigns in Egypt, Portugal, Spain, and at Waterloo. He married and ultimately settled in Aberdeen. Alexander Gordon, the elder brother, left Auchmair, and settled at Fichlie, Towie, where he died 19th December, 1843, aged 84. His wife, Elspet Gordon, was a native of Cabrach, and died 18th June, 1822, aged 60. Besides two of a family who died in infancy, they had five sons, of whom the eldest, Alexander, settled at Upper Ley, Towie; the second, John, at Lower Ley; and the remaining three, Peter, James, and William, at Fichlie, Towie. Alexander Gordon in Upper Ley, who died 22nd July, 1866, aged 78, was twice married—first, to Margaret Smith, who died 9th January, 1818, aged 33, and of their children, Alexander married, and has a family in America; John settled in Braidley, and, besides a daughter Jane, had another daughter, Annie, who married Peter Anderson. Of Alexander Gordon's second marriage to Margaret Kellas, daughter of Hugh Kellas, Tornachelt, who died 29th January, 1850, aged 52, there

were three sons and four daughters—Peter, who died without issue, 15th May, 1852, aged 26; James, who married Ann, daughter of Peter Gordon, Fichlie, and died 20th April, 1902, aged 67; their son, Hugh, became tenant of Ley, Towie. Alexander Gordon's other son, Hugh, married, and has family in Australia. Of the daughters, Annie married William M'Conachie, and is now a widow residing in Keith; Jane married Peter Ellis, of which family there are representatives in Windy-side, Sinnahard, Keith, etc.; Catherine married J. Macdonald, and they have family now abroad; Isabella married Alexander M'Intosh, and they have a family, of whom some are in Kildrummy. John Gordon, second surviving son of the above Alexander Gordon, Fichlie, settled in Lower Ley, and died 23rd April, 1871, aged 82. He married Jane, daughter of Robert Forbes, farmer, Upper Towie, a descendant of Forbes of Brux. She died 15th May, 1825, aged 40. Their son, John Gordon, J.P., was long the enterprising and successful tenant of Upper Towie, from which he recently retired, and is now resident at Lumphanan. His father married, secondly, Jane Forbes, a cousin of his first wife; and besides three daughters, Elspet, Jane, and Mary, they had six sons—Alexander, Peter, James, George, William, and Charles, who all went to Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand, and America.

Peter, James, and William Gordon, the remaining sons of Alexander Gordon, first of Fichlie, succeeded to that farm. Of these, James married Kate Dawson, Aulton, and, like his brother William, left no family. Peter, the eldest of the three, married Jane Shand, daughter of James Shand, Nether Ballandy, Glenrinnnes. He died 22nd December, 1870, survived by his wife, who died 31st May, 1881. Of their family, Alexander is the present farmer of



Braeside, Leochel-Cushnie; Elspet married Alexander Gordon, son of the late John Gordon, Lower Ley (they are now in the United States); Isabella married Alexander Glennie, farmer, Invernochty, Strathdon; Ann married James Gordon, son of the late Alexander Gordon, Upper Ley; and Jane is unmarried.

The parish, in the eighteenth century, was truly the home of the Gordons, as shown by the foregoing particulars, and by the following list of twelve married couples (each of whom had a family), extracted from the old registers between 1755 and 1782 — Hugh Gordon and Marjory Russell in Bracklach; Patrick Gordon and Ann M'Kondachie in Nether Ardwell; Adam Gordon and Jean Marshall in Oldtown; Adam Gordon and Isabell Gordon in Craigencaat; James Gordon and Margaret Gordon in Kirktown; Robert Gordon and Agnes Green in Gauch; James Gordon and Anna Bonnyman in Hillock of Echt, and subsequently in Bank; John Gordon and Jean Baxter in Hillock of Echt; Theodore Gordon and Margaret Thomson in Craigencaat, and afterwards in Whitehillock; James Gordon and Jane Brown in Kirktown; James Gordon and Helen Grant in Tornachelt; Francis Gordon and Isabell M'Robbie in Hillock of Echt.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

In 1687 it was reported to the Presbytery that "there is no school, the parish not being able to afford any provision competent for a schoolmaster." Matters seem to have improved, however, for in 1728 John Clerk, student in philosophy, was elected at a salary of £3 6s 8d. He was also appointed precentor and session clerk; and, in lieu of the former emoluments of 16s 8d from these offices, it was agreed to give him "for his encouragement" the penalties exacted from delinquents.

Among other teachers who held office during the last century may be mentioned John Murray, M.A.; John Yeats, M.A.; George Cran, and Rev. William Ronald. The last named is said to have been descended from the Macdonalds of Keppoch, and was probably the son of Patrick Ronald, sometime in Upper Wheedlemont, who died at the Schoolhouse, Cabrach, on 23rd April, 1831, aged 89. He officiated not only as schoolmaster, precentor, and session clerk, but also as parish registrar. In the last-mentioned capacity he received a notice of the vaccination of a child, which is here given (from Jervise's MSS.) as an illustration of how liberties are sometimes taken with the King's English—

Mr William Ranle,

My Wife got on the Nocklecaction on her Son; they reasen fine and she was bedden let you knaw.

William Duncan.

D. Mitchel his the Shedel.

#### LANDS AND FOREST.

Cabrach originally formed a forest, and the Chamberlain Rolls (Vol. III., pp. 385 and 531) show that its glens were at one time pastured by the Royal stud.

In 1373-4, Robert II. granted to William, Earl of Douglas, the lands and forest which had previously pertained to David Brown of Glandriston. (Reg. Mag. Sig., I., No. 47.)

In 1508, the lands and forest were granted by the Crown to Alexander, third Earl of Huntly, who, in the same year, disposed of them to his kinsman, James Gordon of Auchmally. (Ibid., XV., No. 140.) The Huntly family re-acquired the possessions shortly afterwards, and the portions capable of being cultivated or pastured were, in 1600, divided into 21 holdings and leased to 26 tenants, who paid an aggregate rent of 366 merks

money and 17 stoues butter. The tenants were chiefly landed proprietors and allies of the Huntly family, who in times of stress would be expected to support the cause of their chief. A copy of the rental at the date stated is given in the Miscellany of the Spalding Club (Vol. IV., pp. 279-82), and the following names of some of the holdings and tenants appear in it:—Auchmair and Ouer Howboige, young Gordon of Lesmoir; Elrick, James Gordon of Knokaspack; Baldebaes, John Gordon of Newtown; Rochefindzeache, George Gordon of Tarpersie; Learge, George Gordon of Couclarachie; Tornakelt, James Gordon of Prony; Reidfuird, John Gordoun in Lichestoun; Nether Howboige, Robert Gordoun in Andett.

In 1669, Parliament granted to Charles, Earl of Aboyne, authority to hold an annual public fair at the Kirk of Cabrach on the 3rd Tuesday of August and two following days. The reason assigned for the granting of this privilege was that the lands of Kirktown of Cabrach "are public places of resort and lie upon the hie way betuixt the hellands and lowlands." (Acts of Parliament.)

In 1686, the Duke of Gordon received Parliamentary powers to hold three yearly fairs in the parish.

#### LESMURDIE.

The estate of Lesmurdie, or Lesmorthe—extending to about 2000 acres—belonged to the family of Strathachin (Strachan) at an early period, and in 1474 the proprietor, George Strathachin, had a confirmation charter of a third part of Balchere, Enuercheroche, and Auchnastank. (Reg. Mag., Sig. VII., No. 278.)

In 1562, a descendant, James Strachan, had a grant of the goods and estate of Alestir M'Grasycht (the old form of the surname Grassick), at the Mill of Lesmurdie, which had fallen to the Crown.

The family of Strachan of Lesmurdie continued in the male line until about 1663, when James Strachan was succeeded by five grand-daughters as heirs portioners. One of these ladies—Elsplet Strachan—married James Stewart; and by arrangement with all interested Stewart became proprietor of Lesmurdie. He was so designed in 1667, when he and his wife were scheduled as "professed papists." A descendant married Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr Duff of Keithmore, ancestor of the Earls and Duke of Fife.

May Stewart, only daughter of William Stewart of Lesmurdie, married Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse, and died on 1st April, 1849, aged 84. (See Tough.)

#### HISTORICAL EVENTS.

In the autumn of 1592 a roving band of the Clan Mackintosh entered Strathbogie and gathered together a large quantity of plunder. While returning by way of Cabrach they were overtaken by a small body of horsemen under the Earl of Huntly and Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindoun. After a sharp skirmish, the marauders were completely routed—about sixty men and the spoil being left in the hands of the victorious Gordons. The exploit is commemorated by an old ballad, which includes the following lines—

O, Willie Mackintosh, O, Willie Mackintosh,  
Whaur left ye a' yer men?  
Ye've left them in the granes o' the Gauch,  
Feeding the Cabrach swine.

The forces of the Earls of Huntly and Erroll mustered at Cabrach prior to the battle of Glenlivet, which was fought on the 3rd of October, 1594.

John Duff of Bowmakillock, the staunch friend and follower of Montrose, who was taken prisoner, with others, on the downfall of that leader in 1650, effected a miraculous escape here. Through having had grazings in the district, he was well

known to the inhabitants, and on the soldiers reaching the inn for refreshments while on the march south with their prisoners, the landlord and his assistants at once recognised Duff, taking care, however, to conceal the fact. Means were taken to get the soldiers intoxicated, and during the debauch Duff was assisted to make off.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

At Forteach, stone coffins, constructed of rough, undressed slabs, and containing human bones, clay urns, etc., have been unearthed. Flint arrow-heads and stone axes have also been got in the same locality. In other portions of the parish, remains of the stone age have been discovered, and the numerous arrow-heads which have been met with support the view that their owners had been keen followers of the chase.

A century ago, a Roman Catholic chapel stood at Bracklach, and several of the earlier priests served as professors at the College of Scalan, Glenlivet. A second chapel was situated at Shenval, in the Lower Cabrach, and was in good order as late as 1816.

Within the last century, the old village of Horseward has entirely disappeared, and the ground which its inhabitants were wont to cultivate is now covered by bent and heather. In addition, nearly one hundred dwelling-houses in the valley of the Deveron, where hardy sons and daughters were brought up in peace and contentment on wholesome country fare, are now in ruins. A decrease has also taken place in the neighbourhood of Aldivalloch, Bridgend, etc. An idea of this general parochial reduction may be formed from the fact that whereas the population in 1831 was 978, it had dropped in 1901 to 581.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The parish has been described as "remote and inaccessible," as also "the coldest and bleakest district in all Scotland." (Gordon's *Chronicles of Keith*, p. 216.) The late Principal Sir William D. Geddes calls it a "famous parish," and adds that "Besides possessing a hospitable and hard-headed people, who have to carry on a great struggle with Nature, it is a parish unique in this respect—that, in common parlance (as old as 1435, in Lord Crawford's 'Earldom of Mar,' I., p. 258, etc.), it can claim a distinction of its own, being known as The Cabrach. It therefore ranks above a parish, as, if a district or province, like 'The Enzie,' 'The Garioch,' 'The Mearns.'" (New Spalding Club's "Musa Latina Aberdonensis," I., p. 305.)

From Rhynie a good road leads past Lesmoir and Belhinny, and on to the Parish Church. It passes through excellent scenery, and what strikes the tourist on a summer day as remarkable are the high wooden poles which run almost parallel to the roadway and are fixed at regular distances for many miles to guide the traveller in the winter season, when snow renders the ordinary road impassable.

The Dukes of Gordon, and subsequently the Dukes of Richmond and Gordon, as proprietors of the lands, have ever proved themselves considerate and indulgent. Late and wet spring seasons frequently retard the seed sowing, and owing to early frost on the one hand and a backward summer on the other the crops occasionally prove a failure. In such cases the utmost consideration is shown by the proprietor to his tenants, who have always been an industrious, contented, and warm-hearted body.

Between 1693 and 1700, "the seven bad years," the parish suffered severely through a succession of adverse seasons. The upper district became almost tempor-



arily depopulated, and the few families who remained were driven to such straits that they bled the handful of cattle and sheep which remained. The blood thus obtained was carefully mixed with a little meal, and this was considered a luxurious repast.

In former times the parish was famous for its cattle kings or coopers, as they designed themselves. They were excellent judges of both cattle and sheep, which they bought extensively in the north and drove south to such markets as Amulree, Falkirk, Edinburgh, and Brechin, where they were disposed of to English dealers. These Cabrach dealers were inured to all sorts of labour and danger. They are said to have known no fatigue and were proof against fear. They accustomed themselves to extraordinary journeys. Walking one hundred miles in twenty-four hours was a trifling experience, and the extensive transactions of those times would surprise the modern dealer! Perhaps the last and certainly one of the most famous of the parish cattle kings was Mr Scott, Milton, who died a few years ago. The sons and daughters of the cottar population went south every autumn to engage in harvesting operations. They carried their reaping hooks with them, for scythes and reaping machines were then unheard of. It is said that upwards of fifty men and women left Cabrach every summer to engage in these operations. Many travelled to the Borders on foot, and the following lines of the poet will show the length of a Cabrach shearer's journey and his rate of progression—

His breakfast Rocky Buck did see,  
He took his supper in Dundee;  
And yet before he curbed his speed  
He saw the bonny banks of Tweed.

A century ago smuggling was largely engaged in, upwards of a score of illicit stills being in active operation. The

whisky thus manufactured was carried in curracks for disposal to Aberdeen, Brechin, and Dundee. Stories are still told of the sharp encounters which took place between its carriers and the preventive officials.

"The Buck of the Cabrach" is a picturesque hill of about 2368 feet in height, and is said to have derived its title from a large projecting stone near the top. Several other hills exceeding 2000 feet in height are on the boundaries of the parish.

Cabrach has long been renowned for its hill game, from which fact the Richmond Hotel was designated "The Grouse Inn."

The parish is watered by the Deveron, Blackwater, and several minor hill burns. They are all subject to occasional heavy floods.

The Cabrach formed the subject of one of the famous Duchess of Gordon's broad Scotch conundrums to the Englishman who boasted that he understood and could explain any Scotch expression. Several versions are recorded, the following being one—

Ther' wis a quinyie [corner] in our quinyie.  
An' it wis ca'd "The Cabrach";  
It dang [rained] on for sax ouks [weeks],  
An' never cence devall'd.

The oldest parish register contains numerous entries regarding the severity of the winters of former times. Between 2nd November, 1722, and 10th February, 1723, there was no complete church service owing to "the coldness of the day," "the great storms of snow and drift," or "the great storms and frost." On 5th December, 1725, there was "no sermon in regard of great drifts of snow, none being able to come out of a house." 18th December, 1727—"In regard of the great storms of snow, the session supersede all their former affairs." 30th December, 1739—No sermon "by reason of a violent storm of snow and drifts so that no body was able to look out, etc." 9th January, 1740—

“Being the Fast Day the storm having come on so vehemently that by excessive drifts no body was able to attend.” 20th January, 1740—“No sermon in regard the storm was rather growing than ceasing, so that none was able to travel this length.” 27th January, 1740—“This day being nothing calmer than the last, there was no sermon.”

## Fraserburgh.

(FORMERLY PHILORTH.)

This interesting parish, which embraces the thriving seaport and town of Fraserburgh, is situated in the north-eastern portion of Aberdeenshire, at the entrance to the Moray Firth. It is uncertain when the parish was actually formed, but under the ancient name of Philorth—the derivation is doubtful—it is referred to in many deeds of the thirteenth century. From an early period a village stood upon the site of the eastern portion of the town. It was known by the name of Faithlie; and, before 1382, was conveyed, along with a small tract of adjoining ground, including the rocky headland of Kinnaird Head, and the more extensive lands of Tyrie, by Walter, Earl of Ross, to Andrew Mercer. Charter evidence shows that Faithlie remained in the possession of the Mercer family down to 1504, when it was sold by Sir Henry Mercer of Aldie to William Fraser of Philorth.

By charter granted by Queen Mary, 2nd November, 1546, Alexander Fraser, the proprietor of the period, had the village erected into a free burgh of barony, carrying all the usual privileges. This progressive step aroused the jealousy of the city of Aberdeen—its Town Council and citizens holding that their prior-dated rights were thereby imperilled and encroached upon.

A lengthened quarrel and litigation followed. The Burgh Records of Aberdeen show that on 18th January, 1564, “the hail town being warnit consentit to persew to the final end the actionne and caus movit and persewit be thame aganis Alexander Fraser of Phillorth anent the preuilege vsurpit be him of ane fre burght in the towne of Faythlie, contrar the libertie and ald preuileges of this burgh [of Aberdeen].” As may be supposed, nothing resulted from this hostile action, and subsequently the rights of Faithlie were confirmed by a Royal charter, with the additional grant of a free port, and free regality to be called in all time coming the burgh of Fraserburgh. In honour of the conferring of the new title, and as an admonitory advice to the residents, Rev. David Ratray, the parish minister, composed a Latin epigram, which in English is—

The King, O Fraserburgh! has given to thee  
A name, through ages known to knightly  
fame,  
Long flourish thou! upheld by piety;  
And aye be mindful of thine honoured name.

The latter privileges were conferred during the ownership of Alexander Fraser, the eighth laird of Philorth, who (Crawford's Lives of Officers of State, p. 283) enjoyed an eminent degree of favour with James VI. Indeed, it is known that more than once he relieved that impecunious monarch, and played an important part in the negotiations which preceded the Royal marriage. Upon 30th August, 1594, he received the honour of knighthood, this being the occasion of the baptism of Prince Henry, eldest son of the King. In Sir Alexander Fraser's case, the ennoblement was deservedly bestowed, for he maintained a high standard of honour in all his actions, and no proprietor ever strove harder for the advancement of his parish and people. Soon after he succeeded

to his extensive estates, he began to build a large and beautiful town, which he adorned with public buildings and streets of a width then almost unheard of. He induced skilled artisans, wealthy merchants, and relatives of his own who had entered into trade to settle in the town; and the advantages resulting from this beneficent and far-sighted policy are felt to the present day.

#### FRASERBURGH COLLEGE.

Among other Crown rights which he secured for the advantage of the town was one to erect "an university equal in privileges to any other in the kingdom." Certain authors express doubt as to whether this university was ever in working order, while others deny that its buildings were even erected. That the college was built is beyond question. Upon 16th December, 1597, five years after the Royal power to build had been granted, the Scottish Parliament passed the following Act (abridged and modernised in spelling)—

. . . Parliament understanding that Sir Alexander Fraser . . . being of deliberate mind and purpose to erect an university . . . has begun to edify and build up colleges which not only will tend to the great decoirement of the country, but also to the advancement of the lost and tint youth in bringing them up in learning and virtue, to the great honour and weill of our . . . nation, which honourable intention made and to be made by the said Sir Alexander upon his exorbitant and large expenses ought and should be furthered and advanced, and the said Sir Alexander not only allowed thereunto, but also helped and supported to do the same. Therefore, . . . Parliament, for the further advancement of the said burgh and colleges, and for the sustentation . . . of masters, teachers, and officemen within the colleges of the same, has, with express consent and assent of the said Alexander, marked, given and mortified the parsonages, vicarages, prebendaries, chaplainries, and altarages of the parish kirks of

Philorth, Tyrie, Crimond, and Rathen, whole teinds . . . and emoluments whatsoever, and . . . disposed the same to the said college . . . Providing always the said ministers . . . either serve the duties of the said kirks, or then the said masters . . . furnish sufficient men for serving the duties of the said kirks, so that the parishioners be not deprived of the Sacraments, teaching, and preaching of the word of God.

We thus have evidence that the parish ministers of Philorth, Tyrie, Crimond, and Rathen were to act as professors in the College; and further important light is thrown upon the matter by the subsequent action of Rev. Charles Ferme, minister of Fraserburgh, in refusing to accept the appointment of College Principal whilst continuing his pastorate of the parish, till he was specially ordered to do so by the General Assembly of March, 1600. This order was made upon the initiative of the Presbytery of Deer, whose printed supplication to the Assembly describes the College as completed—i.e., "the Laird of Philorth having erectit ane Colledge." (Book of the Universall Kirk, III., p. 958.)

In view of these facts, it seems absurd to argue that not only Sir Alexander Fraser and the minister of Fraserburgh, but also the level-headed members of the Presbytery of Deer, would have stultified themselves to the extent of permitting the appeal to the Assembly of 1600 to be proceeded with had the scheme not been at the time an accomplished fact. The likelihood is that its speedy collapse was brought about by Mr Ferme's persecution and imprisonment by the Government, Sir Alexander Fraser's financial embarrassment produced by extensive unremunerative schemes, its inability to compete with its powerful and more richly-endowed rivals, King's and Marischal Colleges, Aberdeen, and the lack of students in attendance. Probably the editor of the Records of Marischal College and



University, printed by the New Spalding Club (Vol. I., pp. 78-9), in dealing with the question gives a fair and unbiassed summary of the facts, and his remark that "for five sessions the work of the newly-founded College probably went on without interruption" will be noted with especial interest. A large house which formerly stood in High Street, and was demolished in 1898, is believed to have been erected with materials removed from the College buildings. According to Pratt's "Buchan," some of the stones built into the front of this house bore the inscription—

Trust in God, for He is good.  
His mercy is for ever.  
Give him thanks for all you have.  
For He's the only giver.

The old Statistical Account, in describing the erection of a new schoolhouse in the town, states that there was built into it a good freestone carving of Moses and the Ten Commandments, found in the College of Fraserburgh, and said to have been intended for the altar-piece of its chapel. Moses was portrayed in a reverent and studious attitude, with one hand pointing to the tables bearing the commandments. Underneath was a scroll bearing the words—

YE COMMANDMENTS OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

The school was acquired by the East Free Church congregation, who had the tablet built into the vestry of their church, where it still is.

#### THE WINE TOWER.

It is probable that the beautifully-carved pendants hanging from the arched roof of the upper room of the Wine Tower had been long ago removed from the College Chapel and fixed there. Several bear a close resemblance to those in the Chapel at Bothwell Castle. Messrs Macgibbon and Ross (Castellated and Domestic Architecture of

Scotland, Vol. II.) give excellent illustrations of these pendants and also of the Wine Tower, together with the following particulars and opinion:—

This [the Wine Tower] building of rough masonry is oblong in plan, and measures on the outside 26 feet 7 inches by 21 feet, and is 27 feet high. It contains three stories, all vaulted. The upper floor, which measures 18 feet by 10½ feet, is remarkable and interesting. From the vaulted roof hang three finely-carved pendants, while there are others of smaller size in the soffits of the windows. The former have the Royal Arms, and supporters, with the crest and motto *IN DEFENS* on a scroll round the top. This crest and motto was first assumed by James V., so that this fixes the erection of the tower as subsequent to the first quarter of the 16th century. The next contains a shield with the arms of the Frasers of Saltouu timbered with the motto *IN GOD IS ALL*. The shield is held in the claws of an eagle having a key in its beak, and on an entwined ribbon is the inscription

THE GLORY OF THE HONOURABLE IS TO FEIR GOD.

The third pendant is an angel supporting a shield, and pointing with one finger to the emblem of the Crucifixion which it contains, viz., the pierced hands and feet, the heart, the nail, hammer, and the scourge. On the window pendants are the Fraser, Erskine, Douglas, and other arms. This apartment had doubtless been used as a chapel.

#### GENERAL PARTICULARS.

The educational facilities of Fraserburgh are of an advanced character, and further schemes are under the consideration of the School Board. A marble slab in the front wall of Strachan's School in High Street is inscribed—

STRACHAN'S SCHOOL, INSTITUTED BY MISS STRACHAN OF CORTES, IN MEMORY OF HER BROTHER, JAMES STRACHAN, ESQ., M.D., INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF ARMY HOSPITALS, MADRAS, 1863.

Besides the Parish Church, Fraserburgh contains the West Parish Church, Quoad Sacra; three United Free Churches; Congregational Church; Evangelical Union

Church; new Episcopal Church in Charlotte Street (erected as a memorial of the saintly Bishop Jolly, who for half a century—1788-1838—was incumbent of the congregation) superseding St Peter's in Mid Street; Baptist Chapel; and Roman Catholic Church—the last named being dedicated to "Our Lady, the Star of the Sea."

The opening of the railway from Aberdeen and the south in 1865, the substantial enlargements and deepening of the harbour, the development of the herring fishing industry, and the general enterprise of the inhabitants have raised the town to a high standard of commercial importance. In 1903 a light railway was opened to Cairnbulg and St Combs, and extensive new steel works have recently been erected.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

The Parish Church formerly stood in the graveyard by the side of the links. It was probably dedicated to St Modan, a Bishop and Confessor, whose feast day was observed on the 14th November. (Spalding Club, *Miscell.*, IV., p. xxii.) The Saint's name is still preserved in the parish by St Modan's gate.

At Berwick, on 28th August, 1296, Andreu, the parson, with others, swore fealty and homage to Edward I. of England on his temporary subjugation of Scotland. (*Rag. Rolls.*)

In 1330, the patronage of the church, which then pertained to Hugh, Earl of Ross, was resigned by him in favour of David II. (Acts Parliament). That monarch subsequently bestowed the patronage on the Cathedral of Old Machar (Robertson's Index), and thereafter Bishop Alexander Kinninmond II. added the parson to the Cathedral Chapter. (*Antiq. Aberdeen and Banff.*) The church thus became a prebend of Old Machar, and in 1437 the prebendary

was required to find a sub-deacon, as his vicar, to serve in the Cathedral. The salary of the vicar, from Philorth, was 40s yearly, but a manse on the east side of Chanonry, Old Aberdeen, was subsequently provided. (Orem.)

According to Craford, a new parish church was erected by Alexander Fraser of Philorth in 1571, when the site was changed from the graveyard to the town. Records show that this edifice gave place to at least one new church before the erection in 1802 of the present large church, which is seated for upwards of 1000. It was recently substantially repaired and modernised. It stands in the town's square near to the Townhall, and has a high tower and clock. The bell bears the inscription—

Thomas Mears and Son, of London. Fecit 1807.

A tablet in the vestibule is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Reverend Peter M'Laren, minister of Fraserburgh from 1861 till 1887.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."—Matthew xxv., 40.

Within the church is a tablet which bears the inscription—

In memory of Alexander M'Donald, ship-master in Fraserburgh, born at Burghead, 1793; perished at Hamburg, 1830. Margaret Milne, his wife; born at Macduff, 1795; died of grief, 1830. Alexander, their eldest son; born 1817; died 1828. Lewis, their third and youngest son; born 1824; lost in Canada, 1849.

Erected by James M'Donald, their second son, merchant at Shanghai, China; and London. Anno, 1873.

Honour thy father and mother.

#### PARISH MINISTERS.

Probably the first minister who held office after the Reformation was Rev. David Howesoun, who had also in charge the parishes of Aberdour, Gamrie, and Tyrie. The contemporary reader at

Fraserburgh was David Brodie, who had a salary of sixteen pounds Scots and the kirk lands. In 1583, — Keythe would appear to have held the pastorate, but he is not noticed by Scott. ("Notes and Queries," May, 1903, p. 170.) His successor was Rev. David Rattray, who, before 1598, removed to Cruden.

Of the many interesting tombstones probably the one which attracts most attention is a horizontal slab to the left of the entrance gate, inscribed thus:—

Here lyes ane faithful preacher of God's Word, at Fraserburgh, called Mr Charles Farme, who departed the 24 day of Septuer, 1617. [Arms and emblems are here shewn—a shield in the centre being surrounded by the letters M C F.]

Also here lyes, under the stone of the said worthie man, the body of Geo. Auchinleck, son to Mr Alex. Auchinleck, minister of Fraserburgh, by Eliz. Fraser, his spouse. He was of uncommon qualifications from his infancy, and had solid evidences of airy saving acquaintance with, and love to, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whome he sweetly fell asleep, on July 2, 1733, in the 14 year of his age.

Rev. Charles Farme, or Ferme (a contraction for Fairholm), M.A., was translated in 1598 from the professorship of philosophy in Edinburgh University to the ministry of Fraserburgh, with a view to becoming Principal of the College of Fraserburgh (already referred to), which latter appointment he was directed to accept by the General Assembly of 1600. For taking part in the forbidden Assembly of 1605, at Aberdeen, and subsequently declaring that it was "a very lawful Assembly," he was imprisoned in various parts of Scotland. After undergoing much suffering and privation he was, about 1609, permitted to return to Fraserburgh, "where he zealously discharged his duties, teaching both in public and private, till, worn out by study and shattered by incessant toil," he died, as

above, aged about 51. An interesting sketch of his career is given in Wodrow's Biographical Collections, recently edited by Rev. Dr Lippe for the New Spalding Club.

The next incumbent, admitted in 1618, was Rev. William Forbes, formerly minister of Towie. He married a daughter of Arthur Forbes, son of Patrick Forbes of Corse, and they had a son—Arthur—who became minister of the parish of Pitsligo. In 1643, Rev. John Hay, M.A., was translated from Rafford, but he resigned seven years later. In 1652, Rev. Arthur Forbes, M.A., was admitted from Innerwick, his appointment being made by the Synod, as the local Presbytery considered him "to be of too sweet a nature for so perverse a people." The proof of this perversity was doubtless the strong adherence of the people to the tenets of Episcopacy. Rev. Arthur Forbes died in August, 1663.

The succeeding two ministers are commemorated by mural tablets, inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lyeth the Body of the Reverend Mr James Moore, Parson of Philorth and Minister of Fraserburgh, the space of 44 years, who died 23 March, A.D. 1703, and of his age 73. [A shield is here shown charged with an open book and surrounded by a scroll. The inscription proceeds in Latin, which may be translated]—This open book denotes a diligent pastor, such as the testimony of his flock proves Moore to have been. He faithfully discharged his apostolic office, praying and working, and his deeds at length follow him. He shines with greater brilliance than the stars, he lives secure from eclipse, and surpasses the sunbeams in splendour.

(2).

At the foot of this tomb lyes the body of the Reverend Mr Alexander Moore, of Rathen, and Minister of the Gospel at Fraserburgh, who departed this life upon the 20 of April, 1717, in the [figures uncut] year of his age.



(3).

Here lie beside their father's grave, Isabel, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Helen Moores. Margaret, who died March 4, 1686, and Helen, who died Septr. 9, 1688. At the east end of it, and at the south side of it, first Isabel, who died Janr. 4, 1710, and next Elizabeth, who died June 28, 1710, and is buried under the tomb stone of Mr Charles Fairme. Here also lies in the same grave of Mr James and Mr Alexander Moor's, the body of Margaiet Crafuird, spouse to Mr James Moore, above designed, and mother of the said Mr Alexander Moore, and all the forementioned children. She died on the 31st of May, 1717, in the \*\* year of her age.

Dr Pratt and other writers experienced difficulty in defining the relationship between Rev. James Moore and Rev. Alexander Moore, but the foregoing inscription (No. 3) proves that the latter was son of the former. The complimentary epitaph to Rev. James Moore is based on an erroneous significance of personal merit attached to the open book cut out upon his tombstone, which merely formed part of his arms thus registered by himself—Arg., on a fess az. three mullets or, in base a book expanded ppr. (Sir J. Balfour Paul's Ordinary of Scottish Arms, p. 162.) Bishop Keith, in referring to Rev. Alexander Moore, says he was "the best of men he ever saw." A poem to his memory was written by George Halket, and published along with other pieces by Peter Buchan, Peterhead.

Rev. Alexander Auchinleck was ordained in 1707, and died 11th September, 1753. He married Elizabeth Fraser, and they had a son, George, who died 2nd July, 1733, as shown by the foregoing inscription on Rev. Charles Farme's tombstone.

The next incumbent was Rev. Alexander Fraser, M.A., who was ordained 19th June, 1754, and died 17th August, 1779. In 1755 he married Jean, third daughter of Andrew Arbuthnot of Broadland, who

survived till November, 1810. (Arbuthnot MS.)

A marble tablet to the left of the gate bears a Latin inscription, which, translated, reads—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Simpson, Minister of this Church for 34 years, who died 21st July, 1814, in his 75th year. Farewell! After death thou enjoyest the reward of a life of faithfulness.

Rev. Alexander Simpson, on 1st June, 1786, married Rachel Scroggs, daughter of Alexander Scroggs, merchant, Aberdeen, who survived him, and died at Lochhead, Aberdeen, on 18th August, 1819. Of their sons, George Alexander became minister of the parish of Tyrie, and William, who was admitted advocate in Aberdeen, became procurator-fiscal for the county, was subsequently proprietor of Glenythan, and died 20th November, 1858, aged 67.

An obelisk alongside is inscribed—

In memory of The Reverend John Cumming, for 42 years Minister of the Parish of Fraserburgh, who died on 26 January, 1857. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Rev. John Cumming, who was ordained at Fraserburgh on 6th April, 1815, was a native of Kilmarnock, and for some time had acted as librarian at Glasgow. He died unmarried at Cove, Roseneath, in his 85th year. (Scott's Fasti.)

Rev. John Lockhart, LL.D., was elected assistant and successor in 1846.

He was followed by Rev. John Storie, who is commemorated in an upright stone—

Erected to the memory of The Rev. John Storie, Minister of Fraserburgh, who died 14th Oct., 1860, aged 34 years. And his son James Gillics, who died at Fochabers 17th Decr., 1872, aged 16 years. And of his son Day Macdowall, died January 3rd, 1882 (on board s.s. Orient, on his way home from Sydney), aged 21 years.

A massive granite cross close to the entrance gate but outside the main wall has been erected to the memory of the succeeding minister. It bears the inscription—

In affectionate remembrance of The Reverend Peter M'Laren, for 26 years Minister of Fraserburgh. Born at Ardoch, Perthshire, 2nd August, 1824. Died at Lochs, in the Island of Lewis, on 1st August, 1887, while serving on a commission appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Also of Jane Glasgow or M'Laren, his wife. Born at Port-Glasgow 7th March, 1834. Died at Fraserburgh 30th April, 1885. Erected by their family and inhabitants of Fraserburgh, and surrounding district. 1889. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."—Dan. xii. 3.

During the incumbency of Rev. Peter M'Laren a new manse and church vestry were built.

The present incumbent, Rev. Michael P. Johnstone, B.D., was inducted 5th July, 1888.

#### OGSTONS AND URQUHARTS.

A tablestone displaying shield, mantlings, arms, sand-glass, coffin, bell, skull, cross-bones, etc., bears the following inscription—

Here lyes the bodie of ane pious and virtuous man William Ogstone, late bailie of Fraserburgh, who departed this life the 23 of Ian. 1707, aetatis suae 66. Here lyes under this stone the bodie of ane pious and virtuous woman Isobel Laurence, spous to William Ogstone, late bailie in Fraserburgh, who died the 29 of June 1696.

In 1696, Baillie Ogstone gave up his stock at 5000 merks, for which, and himself, his wife, and three children he paid £5 10s of poll. His sons were named respectively William, Alexander, and John. The first named became a merchant in Aberdeen, and the two last were merchants in Fraserburgh.

The Ogston family held extensive property in Buchan from an early period. In 1464, John Ogston is designed as of "The Crag," and it is known that he also bought the lands of Raxton, or Rawyston, in Tarves. In 1660, William Ogston of Auchmacludy purchased the lands of Ardlaw, but when he died in the following year his properties were divided between his sons George and William. At other times the Ogstons possessed Tilliegreig, Little Meldrum, Pittendrum, and Ludquharn. They belonged to the ancient stock of Ogston of that Ilk in Morayshire, the arms of which family were allowed, in 1876, by the Lyon King to Alexander Milne Ogston of Ardoe, who claimed and established to the satisfaction of that official a descent from the above-mentioned William Ogston of Auchmacludy. (See Stodart's "Scottish Arms.")

A mural tablet is inscribed—

Here the under named John Vrquhart lyes who lived well and well he dyes.

May 8, 1624.

Here lyes the bodies of John, Alex, and Helen Vrquharts, children lawfully procreat between John Vrquhart, Merc. in Fraserburgh, and Helen . . . edie his spouse.

Helen Kennedie was wife of the above John Urquhart. She probably belonged to the family of Kennedy of Carmuck, who had to "fly the country."

Alongside is a double mural monument surrounded by a raised coping displaying a skull, ball, and sand-glass, and bearing a Latin inscription, which, translated, reads—

The extended burial ground of James Urquhart, merchant, Fraserburgh.

Underneath are the inscriptions in English—

(1).

Here lyes a virtuous woman Christian Adamson, spouse to James Vrquhart, who departed

this life the 20 of Agust 1683. Also here lies their son Iohn Vrquhart, who departed this life the 15 of Agust 1683.

(2).

Here also lies the body of the fore named James Vrquhat, Baillie in Fraserburgh, who departed this life Nov. 10, 1727, of age 75. Also of Iohn Vrquhart, shipmaster in Fraserburgh, his eldest son by Margaret Whyt, his second spouse. He departed this life Aprile 5, 1730, in the 40 year of his age. Here lies the bode of Margar Whyt, spouse to the above designed Baillie James Urquhart, who departed this life Dec. 27, 1741, aged 74.

Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill, in his brochure "Gill of Blairythan and Savoeh," p. 18, expresses the opinion that the above Baillie James Urquhart was a son of James Urquhart of Oldcraig, in Banffshire, fourth son of John Urquhart, Tutor of Cromarty, and brother of Patrick Urquhart of Lethenty. He further adds that it was under the auspices of the Philorth family—to whom the Urquharts were nearly related—that this James Urquhart settled in Fraserburgh as a merchant. Whatever doubt there may be upon that point, there can be none that Urquhart was a man of position and influence. It is believed that his first wife, Christian Adamson, was a daughter of George Adamson, in Glaslay, who, according to the Ogston genealogical table, had married Christian Ogston, daughter of William Ogston, notary, of Auchmacludy. Their son, William Urquhart, was also a baillie in Fraserburgh, and at the baptism of his son John, on 22nd August, 1743, the witnesses were the Right Hon. Alexander, Lord Saltoun, and William Fraser of Mensie. ("Gill of Blairythan and Savoeh," p. 18.)

#### THE GILLS.

Two tablestones bear the respective inscriptions—

(1).

Here lyes the body of George Gill shipmaster, in Fraserburgh, who dyed Sep. 17,

1741, aged 37. Also Isobell, his daughter, dyed Feb. 10, 1733, age 12 days. Also Barbara Gill, daughter to the forenamed George Gill and Christian Cato who died Nov. 18, 1744, aged 14 years.

(2).

Here lyes the body of Isobel Catto, spouse to Alexander Gill, shipmaster in Fraserburgh, who departed this life May 1, 1743, aged 55. Also Barbara Isobel and Christin Gills, their children.

George Gill, shipmaster, referred to in the first inscription, was the second son of Alexander Gill, one of the foremost Aberdeenshire agriculturists of the period, and for some time in Mains of Pitfour, who had married Barbara, daughter of James Urquhart, merchant and baillie in Fraserburgh. The shipmaster, who was a strong Jacobite, died on 17th September, 1741, leaving at least three sons and one daughter, viz. : — Patrick, Alexander, George, and Christian. Alexander Gill referred to on the second tombstone was elder brother to the above George Gill.

Of the same family was Patrick Gill, born about 1680, long taxman of Mill of Phingask, who married Barbara Spence. They acquired property in what is now known as the Back Street, Fraserburgh, on which they erected two houses. Messrs Macgibbon and Ross in fig. 1199, p. 83, Vol. V., of their "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland," give an illustration of these houses, and say that it "is interesting as showing a survival till the eighteenth century of the style of early Scottish houses with enclosed courtyards." The panel over the arched gateway contains the initials "P.G. and B.S.," with the date "1746." The panel is now built into the wall of the mansion house of Auchinroath, Rothes (this property belongs to Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill, who furnished extracts and much information regarding the Gills and other families), where also is preserved a fine old oak chair bearing the



initials and date P.G. 1739. B.S., and in which the said Patrick Gill is alleged to have died at the age of 101 years.

The family is now represented by Sir David Gill, K.C.B., of Blair-Ythan, late H.M. Astronomer Royal, Cape of Good Hope.

#### GORDON OF KINELLAR AND FRASERS OF PARK.

Near the middle of the old portion is a large brick-built vault with arched roof above ground, over the entrance door of which is—

The family burial place of John Gordon, Esq., of Kinellar, and of his son-in-law, William Fraser, Esq., Park.

Inside there are three tablets inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here are interred the remains of John Gordon, of Kinellar, Esq., ob. 1764, aet. suae 80, and of The Honourable Henrietta Fraser, daughter of The Right Honourable William, Lord Saltoun, his wife, ob. 1751, aet. sui 53.

And of their children,

Jean, ob. 1776, aet. suae 58.

Joan, ob. 1780, aet. suae 58.

Mary, ob. 1786, aet. suae 59.

Henrietta, ob. 1789, aet. suae 59.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of William Fraser, of Park, Esquire, who resided 50 years in the adjoining mansion, highly respected, and died, most sincerely regretted, on the 2nd day of December, 1800, in the 79th year of his age.

Catherine Ann Gordon, his beloved wife, departed this life on the 20th day of September, 1795, aged 73. Her amiable, mild, and gentle manner, her good sense, and sweetness of disposition, endeared her no less, to her friends and acquaintances, than the spotless purity of her mind; and the uniform practice of all her virtues which adorned private life attracted their admiration and esteem, and occasioned her loss to be greatly lamented.

In grateful testimony of their united worth, and as a small tribute of pious respect for

their beloved memory, this monument is erected by their surviving family, the 22nd day of December, 1801.

(3).

Here are interred the remains of Mrs Margaret Gordon, spouse to the late George Shand, Esquire, Provost of Aberdeen, obit. 30th April, 1799, in the 79th (or 70th) year of her age.

John Gordon of Kinellar, referred to in the first inscription, was the fourth son of Sir James Gordon, fifth baronet of Lesmoir. (See Kinellar.) His son-in-law, William Fraser, is believed to have been a cadet of the Lovat Frasers. Certain it is that he was for long factor to the Saltoun family, and that he acquired by purchase the small estate of Park, situated about six miles south of Fraserburgh. He left that property equally between his two daughters, Henrietta, who married John M'Bean, of Jamaica, and died without issue, and the younger daughter Eleanor, who died unmarried. Besides these daughters there were two sons — George, who became a prosperous merchant in London, and John, who entered the army, saw much active service, was knighted, and died Governor of Chester Castle on 14th November, 1843, aged 83. He married Evorilda, daughter of James Hamer, a Lancashire landed proprietor, and besides three daughters—Catherine, Evorilda, and Eleonora—had one son, William James, who ultimately succeeded to Park, which had been bought from his sisters at a price far exceeding its actual value, and had been willed to him by his uncle, George Fraser, who died 8th August, 1838. This latter married Mary Ann, daughter of Robert Cumming of Logie, Morayshire, and by her had a son, George, and four daughters—Leslie Anne, who married Rev. Edward Whately, son of the Archbishop of Dublin; Grace Louisa, who married T. G. Rose Innes of Netherdale; Eliza, who died

unmarried 30th June, 1842; and Evorilda Eliza Maria, who married Lieutenant J. G. Gordon Stuart, 42nd Highlanders. George Fraser, who succeeded his father in Park, entered the army, and attained the rank of Captain in the 42nd Highlanders. He married Angusina, daughter of Thomas Macdonald, Fort-William, and had an only son, William James Fraser, the present proprietor. (*Frasers of Philorth, II.*, pp. 155-56, etc.)

George Shand, who was Provost of Aberdeen in 1764-65, and again in 1770-71, was one of the three children of Rev. James Shand, minister of Kintore. (See Kintore.) The Provost was twice married, first to Jean Marr, daughter of David Marr, merchant in Aberdeen, and, secondly, to Margaret Gordon as previously mentioned. He died at Aberdeen on 14th October, 1792. (*Munro's Provosts*, pp. 241-42, etc.)

#### THE ANDERSONS.

A tablestone on the south walk bears the following inscription—

Here lyes the body of James Brockie, late Tennant in Fingask who died Novr. 29th 1774 aged 70. Also Margaret T . . . his wife who died May . . . aged 86, and . . . their daughter who died August . . . . . James Anderson, Wright in Fraserburgh died 11th March 1817 aged 61. Helen Webster spouse of John Anderson, Wright in Fraserburgh who died . . . April 1824 aged 32. Their daughter Jean died 19th October 1830 aged 15

James Anderson, above mentioned, was a son of Alexander Anderson, farmer, Mains of Phingask, and was the father of John Anderson, also referred to in the inscription. Alexander Anderson settled in Phingask about 1750.

Upon a headstone near the south wall—

Sacred to the memory of the late John Anderson, Housebuilder, Fraserburgh, who died on the 8th December 1868 aged 79 years.

Deceased officiated as Precentor in Fraserburgh for a period of nearly sixty years.

Also his wife Jane Lunan who died 13th March 1882 aged 82 years.

These were the parents of Sir George Anderson, Knight, Treasurer of the Bank of Scotland. Born in 1845, Sir George entered the service of the North of Scotland Bank in 1857, and after filling various positions in the Bank became General Manager in 1889. In November, 1898, he was appointed Treasurer of the Bank of Scotland. In June, 1905, the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him by King Edward. In 1906 a very beautiful memorial window, designed by Mr Douglas Strachan, artist, Aberdeen, was presented by Sir George to the Parish Church of Fraserburgh in memory of his parents. His father having been for 35 years leader of the praise in that church, the subject dealt with in the memorial window was the appropriate one of "Praise," and it bears the following inscription—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN ANDERSON BORN IN FRASERBURGH 1789; DIED THERE 1868, FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS PRECENTOR IN THIS CHURCH; AND OF JEAN LUNAN, HIS WIFE, BORN IN FRASERBURGH 1800, DIED THERE 1882. ERECTED BY THEIR GRATEFUL SON, SIR GEORGE ANDERSON, KNIGHT, TREASURER OF THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, 1906

The dedication service took place in the church on Sunday, 13th May, 1906, when Sir George unveiled the window. He also at the same time presented to the town of Fraserburgh a handsome clock, which graces the tower of the South United Free Church, having four dials of tasteful design. His wife, Lady Anderson, is a daughter of the late Mr Alexander Anderson, merchant, London, who was also descended of the Andersons of Phingask. In October, 1906, she presented to St Peter's Episcopal Church, Fraserburgh, in memory of her father, who had originally been a member of that congregation

under Bishop Jolly, a bishop's chair or throne, and a credence table, both of fumed oak, magnificently carved, from the designs of Mr John Kinross, R.S.A., and executed by Scott, Morton, and Co., Edinburgh, bearing the inscription—

PRESENTED BY LADY ANDERSON OF BEECHMOUNT IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER FATHER, ALEXANDER ANDERSON, A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH, BORN IN FRASERBURGH, 1805, DIED IN LONDON 1878.

Another son of the above-mentioned John Anderson and his wife, Jane Lunan, was James Mackenzie Anderson, born in 1829. For upwards of forty years he took a prominent part in the parochial, municipal, and ecclesiastical affairs of Fraserburgh, serving in almost every capacity, including commissioner, magistrate, treasurer, session clerk, and elder. At his death, which took place on 28th December, 1906, he was one of the oldest enrolled magistrates of the county.

His younger brother, Robert Anderson, who was born in 1835, was a solicitor of ability and standing, who built up a large business connection in Fraserburgh. He died 21st November, 1882. He inherited in a remarkable degree the musical gifts of his father, nearly all his spare time being devoted to musical composition, in which he attained considerable proficiency. Among his works are "Songs of Zion," published by Messrs Novello, Ewer, and Company, London. They evince much care and thoughtfulness. The charm of his compositions lies in their simplicity and the sweet and melodious character of the harmonies. Two gems of hymn tunes, "Opus" and "Nidus," which he composed in 1877, appear in Mr Carnie's "Northern Psalter." Mr Anderson also excelled as a vocalist.

#### CAIRNBULG.

Upon a small headstone—

Hear lya the body of George Marten. Lawfull

son to James Marten, Presently residing at the House of Cairnbulge, who died January the 8, 1781, aged 18 years.

Sir Theodoré Martin, the biographer of the late Prince Consort, and collaborator with W. Edmonstone Aytoun, in the "Bon Gaultier Ballads," is said to be a great-grandson of the above James Martin, who was ground officer on the estate of Cairnbulg, in which office he was succeeded by his son Theodore.

Many attach importance to the foregoing inscription, holding it as proof that the old house or castle of Cairnbulg had been occupied as recently as 1781. Excellent drawings of Cairnbulg, together with a descriptive account, are given in Macgibbon and Ross's *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*. (Vol. I., pp. 309-13.) The castle was long the family residence of the ancestors of the Lords Saltoun, when it was designated the Manor Place of Philorth. The date of its erection is uncertain, but it had evidently been of considerable size and strength, the latter feature being enhanced through its having been moated. In 1615-16, Sir Alexander Fraser sold it with the adjoining lands to Robert Fraser of Durris for £3166 13s 4d sterling. The name Cairnbulg was then adopted, Philorth being afterwards applied to the mansion still known by that title. In 1619, Cairnbulg was disposed to Andrew Fraser of Stoneywood, father of the first Lord Fraser of Muchalls, who was an indefatigable supporter of the Solemn League and Covenant. Charles, the last Lord Fraser, in 1703, sold it to Colonel John Buchan of Auchmacoy; the next proprietor being, in 1739, Alexander Aberdein, merchant in Aberdeen, whose son, Alexander Aberdein, junior (he was Lord Provost of Aberdeen in 1742-3), disposed it, in 1775, to George third Earl of Aberdeen, who was familiarly known by the sobriquet of "Us" from his



superfluous use of that pronoun. The Earl bequeathed the property to his son, John Gordon, after whose death, on 18th September, 1861, at the age of 75, the Trustees of William Duthie, shipowner, Aberdeen, became the purchasers. The present proprietor is John Duthie, barrister-at-law, London; and nine years ago he successfully restored the ancient castle, which presents an imposing appearance in its isolated situation near Fraserburgh Bay.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A flat stone bearing the initials G. W. and B. H., with arms, etc., is inscribed—

Here lyes Barbara Hay, spovse to George Wilson, baylif of Fraserburgh, who departed this life Ian 24. an 1658. Here also are bvriet vnder hope of a blest resvrrection the bodies of their children lavfully begotten viz Janet, Christian, William, Anna, Helen Wilsons.

Wilson, who had been a prominent and active magistrate, registered arms—"Arg, a chevron between two mullets in chief and a crescent in base gu." (Sir J. Balfour Paul's Ordinary of Scottish Arms, p. 46.)

On a flat stone ornamented with armorial bearings, etc.—

Here lyes John Cheyne of Kethin, merchant in Fraserburgh, who dyed the first of Aprile 1716. Here also lyes Mary Seton, his spouse, who dyed the 8 of Sept 1710.

Kethin is a small property in the parish of Monquhitter, and was for a considerable period in the hands of the Cheyne family. In the middle of the seventeenth century the proprietor was William Cheyne, whose daughter Isabella became the wife of George Leslie of Little Folla. The heritor in 1696 is given in the Poll Book as James Cheyne, whilst George Cheyne and his daughter Barbara are returned as residents. John Cheyne named on the tombstone was the elder son of the above

James Cheyne. His stock for the poll was returned as under 5000 merks, and for this, and himself, and wife, he paid £3 2s of tax.

A horizontal stone near the centre of the old portion records the death of a septuagenarian who lived a century before his time—

Here lyes the body of Andrew Harlaw, who departed this life 11 November 1746, in the 76th year of his age.

He lived and died a speaking witness against the defections of the Church of Scotland.

A railed-in grave close to south wall has a stone bearing the following inscription—

Erected by John Smith, in affectionate remembrance of his true and faithful lover Margaret Kelman, who fell asleep in Jesus, on the 6th Jan. 1865, aged 21 years. "Be ye also ready, for the Son of Man cometh in a day and an hour that ye think not."

Smith, the erector of this tombstone, was a coachman at Cortes, and Margaret Kelman, whose affection he thus commemorates, was instantaneously killed at Gowanhill through the falling upon her of a chimney stalk during a gale of wind.

In a railed-in grave in the south-east corner are two wall monuments, inscribed respectively—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of the late Alexander Begg, A.M., Pastor of the Congregational Church in Fraserburgh, who, after a faithful and laborious discharge of the duties of his office for the period of 22 years, departed this life on the 7th November, 1840, aged 53.

This is erected as a tribute of respect by the members of the Church.

(2).

In memory of Mrs Jessie Begg, widow of the Rev. Alex. Begg, who died on 10th May, 1877, in her 88th year.

A son, David Gray, became a law apprentice in Aberdcen in 1847.

A large tablestone displays on the one side a crossed sceptre and spade, and on the other a skeleton in an upright position. It bears a long inscription, part of which runs—

Here lyes Isabel Drummond, lawfull daughter to John Drummond, merchant in Fraserburgh.

A verse, in distinct letters, runs round the rim of the stone—

Grieve not when friends and kinsfolk die,  
They gain by death eternalie.  
In dust no difference is made  
Betwixt the scepter and the spade.

The Poll Book of 1696 shows that John Drummond was then a merchant in Fraserburgh, and that for himself, his wife, six children, and a stock valued under 5000 merks he paid £4 18s of poll, 17s 4d being also paid for two women servants, whose wages were 8 merks each.

A tablestone bears—

In memory of William Ramsay, ship carpenter, who died April 14, 1754, aged 71. He was descended from a branch of the family of Melross, which settled in Fraserburgh at the first building of the town. Being honest in his dealings and innocent in his manners, Providence, on which he trusted, conducted him throughout a life of trouble, without censure or reproach. Also of Margaret, his wife, of the family of Pourie Ogilvie. She died Aug. 18th, 1772, aged 76. In her youth she preferred a long, painful attendance on her aged, sickly parents to a settlement in marriage, and Providence, in her latter days, repaid the pious care by means of her own offspring. She has often shared her last morsel with the poor, and always had a morsel to share with them. Reader, is innocence of life and goodness of heart rewarded in this world, how much more in that which is to come! . . .

Melross, or Melrose, is a property in the parish of Gamrie, which was owned by the Barclays of Towie-Barclay at the close of the fourteenth century. It subsequently came into the possession of the Ramsay family, who, in 1692, succeeded to the ex-

tensive lands in the parishes of Turriff, Inverkeithny, etc., which had belonged to Rev. George Meldrum, sometime parish minister of Glass. Powrie is a property near Brechin, which for long was held by the Ogilvy family. James Ramsay, the eminent philanthropist, and one of the first to denounce the slave trade, was of this Fraserburgh family, descendants of which are still resident in the town.

A flat stone, displaying arms and various emblems, is inscribed—

Heir lyes ane verteous Christian, Iohn Craik, late bailiff of Fraserburgh, who was called from Tyme to Eternity, the 25th of April, 1677. Lykvayes heir lyes the bodies of Helen, Anna, James, Georg, and Janet Craiks, lauffull begotten with Isobel Greig, his spovse.

Mr Craik, in 1672, in his capacity of merchant burges of Fraserburgh, registered arms—per fess azure and sable, a ship under sail or, masts, sails, and tackling proper. (Stodart's Arms, II., p. 217.) John Craik, son of the above-mentioned couple, died at Fraserburgh upon 16th February, 1755, at the reputed age of 105 years.

The following inscriptions are from tablestones—

(1)

Here lyes the body of William Robertson, a virtuous young man, lawfully procreate betwixt Alexander Robertson, merchant in Fraserburgh, and Christian Forrest, his spouse, who departed this lyfe Jany. 20, 1724, being the 21 year of his ag.

(2)

Here lyes the body of Andrew Noble, late White Fisher in Broadsea, who dayed March 8, 1784, aged 77, with his children.

(3).

Sacred to the memory of John Gordon, late manufacturer in Fraserburgh, who died 15th April, 1793, aged 56. His inflexible integrity and inoffensive manner procured him the confidence and esteem of all. His constant exercise

of kindness and humanity gained him the affection and gratitude of many, for he was not only careful to avoid evil, but active and zealous in doing good. "Go thou and do likewise." Luke x., 37. His wife, Margaret Mitchell, died 23rd March, 1837, aged 88.

## (4).

Here lyes the corps of Isabell, John, Christian, Margaret, George, Alexander, Robert, James, and Janet Forrests, lawfully procreat betwixt Thomas Forrest, merchant in Fraserburgh, and Christian Taylor, his spouse. Here also lyes the body of the said Thomas Forrest, who departed this life the 30 of September, 1702, and his spouse, Christian Taylor.

Round the margin is—

Here lyes the body of William Forrest, late Bailiff of Fraserburgh, who died 15 Iunc, 1738, aged 59.

## (5).

Barbra Knight lys under this stone,  
Orecome by death that spareth none.

. . . She died 26 May, 1763, aged 33.  
John Mories, in Mill of Pitendrum, her husband, erected this stone to her memory.

## (6).

In memory of John Reid, late farmer in Hamoss, Inverallochy, who died 11th Decr., 1807, aged 55 years.

The body now in dust dooth rest,  
The soul dooth sleep in Jesus brest,  
When dust and soul dooth meet again,  
They shall in God their glory shine.

There are several imposing tablestones to various members of a family named Greig. A descendant, Alexander Greig, went from Fraserburgh to Bergen in the eighteenth century, and was an ancestor of Edward Grieg, the eminent musical composer. (See Grove's "Dictionary of Music.")

## CURIOUS EPITAPHS.

On a fragment—

" . . . . . full children. . . . .

Though we be here among this heep

We hop our Savi . . . . for to meet."

(Jervise's MS.)

On a small headstone, undated—

Patrick Anderson, Maragt. Kelman's son, lays Hear on Elisabeth Gordon, his grandmother's breast bone.

On a tablestone with defaced monogram—

By the lins on this ston you'l see,  
Five children's corps under it ther be.  
Of them, actual sins foure had non,  
For mem' their dust lyes under this ston.  
Receivd all Christendoom, as wil appear,  
Our parents nams ye will find here.  
The secod born, and fifth ye'l see  
Our parents prepared this ston for me.  
Tho Donaldson by name, a II. years was I,  
Not thinking so soon wth dust to ly,  
But to the dust all must come,  
Let non for the dead excessively mourne,  
From the King to the begger all must dy,  
& lay down their robes in the dust to ly,  
As for memorie, go and return,  
Repent for sins, & for them doe mourn.  
Read the x of the Proverbs, and 7 you'l see,  
The memorie of the Iust bles'd shall be,  
For God's word will not fail on Iot.  
But the name of the wicked it shal rot.

Thomas Donaldson.

Elspet Whyte.

1698.

[Monogram.]

Here lyes the body of Elspet Whyt, spouse to Thomas Donaldson, Merch in Frasersburg, and mother of the forsaied children, who departed this life Ianuary 26, 1732, in the 66 year of her age. Here lyes the body of Thos. Donaldson, Merchant in Fraserburgh, who departed this life the 19th of Ianuary, 1738, aged 88.

In 1696, Donaldson held stock valued under 5000 merks, and, for himself, his wife, and two children in family, he paid £3 14s of poll—7s being also paid as poll for a servant, whose fee was 4s. (Poll Book.)

On a tablestone—

Wpon Jean Cock, a child of eight years, who dyed Oct. 22, 1717.

Here lyes beneath this ston

A pleasant child,

Was lovely to behold,

Who dying smil'd



To hear her Saviour call her unto bliss,  
Come unto me!  
Of such my kingdom is.

Also James Downie, sometime merchant in Fraserburgh, and factor for Lord Saltoun, who died the 13th day of June, 1742, aged 41 years. As also Thomas Kilgour, Mt. in Fraserburgh, who departed this life the 6th of April, 1783, aged 57.

## VARIOUS.

(1).

Erected by Alexander Melville, mariner, Fraserburgh, in memory of his daughter Mary Mair Melville, who died 9th November, 1855, aged 9 years and 4 months.

Why should we tremble to convey  
The body to the tomb?  
There the exalted Saviour lay,  
And cheered the dreary gloom.

(2).

Erected by Helen Smith in memory of her husband, John Barclay, carter, Fraserburgh, who, unfortunately and accidentally, lost his life by his horse and cart, on the 4th March, 1850, aged 23 years.

Remember man when ye pass hy,  
As ye are now, so once was I,  
As I am now, so must you be,  
Prepare in time to follow me.

(3).

Hark! from the tomb, a solemn sound;  
Prepare, prepare, it cries,  
To drop your body in the dust,  
Your soul to mount the skies.

Erected by Edward Galloway, fishcurer, Fraserburgh, in memory of two of his sons who died in infancy. . . .

(4).

Erected by Alexander Noble, mariner, Fraserburgh, in memory of his beloved wife, Margaret Clark, who departed this life on the 18th of October, 1853, aged 27 years, highly esteemed and much regretted.

Why should we mourn departed friends,  
Or shake at death's alarms;  
Death's but the servant Jesus sends,  
To call them to His arms.

The said Alexander Noble died 27th April, 1857, aged 37.

(5).

Erected in memory of Alexander Moodie, sometime officer of Inland Revenue, thereafter Farmer at Tillykiera, and thereafter resider in Fraserburgh. He was born at Boghall, in the parish of St Martin's, Perthshire, on the 12th, and baptised on the 18th June, 1786. He died on the 1st day of March, 1866.

In his age, twenty three, he got the thing which he remembered till he died.

To be remembered—

The law demands all; Jesus paid all,  
And set the sinner free,  
A bargain good, by faith in His blood,  
Which I can certify.

Two of those distressing calamities peculiar to seaside towns are recorded on separate headstones—

(1).

Here rests the body of Alexander Taylor, who died January 25th, 1822, in the 26th year of his age, and of George, who died at the same time in the 21 year of his age; they were both Mariners in Fraserburgh.

Erected by their disconsolate Parents,  
Whose hopes are now cast off on earth,  
Deprived of children six;  
But trusting unto Christ our Lord  
Our hope in Heaven we fix.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Duncan M'Pherson, a native of the parish of Ardersier, Invernessshire, who lost his life at the age of 20, whilst on board the brig "Lady Campbell" during a tremendous gale on the 26th February, 1854, on her outward voyage to Greenland. This token of esteem for him, and sympathy with his disconsolate parents is placed here, over his grave, by the young men of his native place, to whom he had greatly endeared himself, and who have to lament his untimely fate.

The two following inscriptions are from the more modern portion of the graveyard—

(1).

Erected by Capt. Joseph Duthie, Fraserburgh, in memory of his son Thomas Laing,

who died 17 Dec. 1868, aged 1 year and 11 months. . . .

Safely moored in heaven's wide haven,  
 Storms and tempests vex no more,  
 Fare thee well dear fond and fair one,  
 Dear wee Tommie fare thee well;  
 God who gave thee—He has ta'en thee  
 Home with Him, in heaven to dwell.

(2).

In loving memory of St John William Keith, only son of Lt. Col. W. H. Dick-Cunyngham, V.C., Gordon Highlanders, aged 10 years and 10 months, who on the 11th of September, 1897, was accidentally drowned in Fraserburgh Bay while gallantly rescuing a comrade.

"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friend."

The circumstances attending the death of this bright and promising youth were very pathetic. While on a visit at Philorth, he and the son of Lord Saltoun had gone to bathe in the bay. The latter got beyond his depth, and was saved solely through the efforts of his brave companion, who, alas! sank through exhaustion.

Colonel Dick-Cunyngham, it will be noted, was the possessor of the coveted Victoria Cross. He had a long, distinguished record, which terminated by his fall at Ladysmith upon 12th January, 1900.

The Fraser family have their burial aisle in the heart of the town alongside the Parish Church. On the outside of this very ancient structure are several coats-of-arms, and mottoes, now much defaced. It was probably erected in 1623, upon the death of Sir Alexander Fraser, who had left instructions that he should be buried "at the scuth side of the kirk and an ile to be built there and ane little woult to be buildt." Till then the family burying-ground had no doubt been within the Parish Church, the usual place of sepulture for the leading families and heritors.

## Keig.

The origin of the name of this parish is uncertain.

The church was dedicated to St Diaconianus, and, previous to the Reformation, belonged to the Priory of Monymusk. (See Monymusk.)

The walls of the old edifice are still standing by the side of the ancient graveyard within the policies of Castle Forbes. It stood practically east and west, and had a gallery in the west end, the entrance to which was by an outside stone stair. The roof was so low that worshippers in the gallery and underneath could scarcely stand upright. It is believed to have been erected before the Reformation.

The small church bell, which was originally suspended from a tree, bore no inscription. It is now at Castle Forbes.

A new church, in the Gothic style of architecture, was erected in 1835, on an elevated site a short distance from the old church. It is seated for about 500, and has a gallery at one end. A new graveyard was laid out on the lower side of the church, and an extension of it was recently made.

Lord Forbes provided a new and larger church bell than the old one above referred to.

### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

In 1567, Rev. Andrew Ogilvie was minister of Keig, with Leslie and Premnay also in charge. His stipend was £3 6s 8d. He was translated to Airlie after 1568. Robert Raitt acted as his reader at "Kyg" at the salary of 20 lib.

In 1574, Patrick Strathachin succeeded as reader, the emoluments being altered to £16 Scots and the kirklands.

In 1576, Rev. John Strathachin was

translated from Cushnie, with Awfurde, Loquheill, and Kindrocht likewise in charge.

Before the autumn of 1624, Rev. William Forbes was ordained.

In, or before, 1638, Rev. John Young became minister. He was translated to Birse after January, 1650, and died in 1671, his remains being interred at Leochel.

Rev. Thomas Forbes, M.A., son of the sixth laird of Corsindae, and previously minister of the parish of Tough, was inducted in 1651. He married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Gordon of Grandholm, and their family consisted of a son William; and a daughter Isobel, who was married to Robert Lumsden, third son of the laird of Cushnie. (*Macfarlane's Geneal. Coll.*, II., p. 262.) Mr Forbes died in 1665, aged about 53.

In 1666, Rev. Adam Barclay, M.A., son of Rev. Adam Barclay, minister of Alford, was inducted from the parish of Kinbattock, or Towie. He married Marjory, daughter of John Forbes of Asloun, and his wife, Marjory Ferguson. (*Ibid.*, II., pp. 250-51.) He was deprived, about 1681, for refusing to take the Test. He afterwards held a charge at Perth.

In 1683, Rev. Andrew Livingstone, who had for some time acted as chaplain to the Earl of Kintore, was ordained. He was deposed on 22nd August, 1716, for supporting the cause of the Pretender. He married, and, besides a daughter, Margaret, had three sons—William; Andrew, merchant in Aberdeen; and Alexander.

In 1717, Rev. George Middleton, M.A., was inducted from Leochel. His call was made by the Presbytery "jure devoluto," and was the reverse of popular. It is asserted that at his settlement party feeling ran so high that 50 soldiers had to be sent to preserve the peace. During the induction service, they were stationed

near the present bridge which crosses the Don, and between the old ford and the church. Mr Middleton married Elizabeth Farquhar, and had a family of at least three sons—George, Hugh, and Samuel—and a daughter, Joan. He died on 15th June, 1739, aged 58, and, like several of his predecessors, was interred within the old Parish Church. A rough tablet stands to his memory in the inner wall of that ruin, but the letters have been cut so faintly that it is now impossible to decipher them correctly.

On 30th April, 1740, Rev. Alexander Strachan was admitted from Footdee, Aberdeen. It is recorded that on the night of 16th October, 1746, the manse was entered by a band of armed men, who demanded the instant delivery of £100 stg. Failing to secure this, they robbed the minister of his watch, a quantity of wearing apparel, linen, and other articles. Mr Strachan died on 10th October, 1771, in his 75th year, and his wife, Elizabeth Wilson, who died 27th August, 1789, in her 82nd year, left a legacy of £50 for behoof of the poor of the parish.

In 1772, Rev. William Duff, M.A., was inducted from Glenbuchat. He died, unmarried, on 28th June, 1773.

In 1774, Rev. Alexander Smith, previously at Forbes and Kearn, was inducted. He died at Huntly 12th May, 1833, in his 83rd year, and 63rd of his ministry. His wife, Elizabeth Smith, died 21st October, 1841, aged 88. They were both buried at Cairnie. During the last seventeen years of the ministry of Mr Smith, he had an ordained assistant in the person of Rev. Gordon Raeburn, the parish schoolmaster.

The next incumbent is commemorated by a headstone within an enclosure. — It is inscribed as follows—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Low, M.A., C.R., S.S.A., for 39 years minister of Keig; born 5th May, 1800; died



3rd May, 1873. Within this family burying-ground are also interred the remains of Magdalene, third daughter; born 1st July, 1857; died 23rd August, 1858. John, third son; born 28th December, 1851; died 19th September, 1882. Rev. Walter Forbes, M.A., B.D., fifth son; born 12th March, 1856; died 1st September, 1893, buried in Cemetery, Kilmarnock. George Inglis, eldest son; born 20th September, 1847; died 22nd February, 1897, buried in this family burying-ground. Magdalene, wife of the above-mentioned Rev. Alexander Low; born 5th May, 1823; died 7th November, 1897, buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

There is also in the church a white marble tablet to the memory of Mr Low. It bears to have been "erected as a tribute of affection and regard by his attached parishioners and friends."

Rev. Alexander Low was the son of James Low, merchant, and thereafter farmer at Headhouse, Clatt. He was for some time schoolmaster of Clatt, and was ordained minister of Keig on 27th June, 1834. He was the author of a "History of Scotland" and of "Scottish Heroes of the Days of Wallace and Bruce." At a Presbytery dinner, one of the ministers who was famed for his rhyming proclivities, was asked to give, instantler, an epitaph which would be suitable for Mr Low's tombstone. He immediately recited—

Beneath this stane, upon this knowe,  
Lies single-handed Sandy Low;  
He wrote a book nae man could read,  
Noo book an' author baith are deid!

Mr Low's family, who still survive, are—Alexander Hay, who is in business in London; Charles, who is in an English bank; James Gillan, and Catherine Mary. The last-named attained fame as a musician. Mrs Low was the daughter of Mr Inglis, who was for some time Dean of Guild of Aberdeen. Rev. Walter Forbes, the fifth son, was minister of the

second charge, Kilmarnock, from which he accepted a call to St Andrew's Parish, Glasgow, but he died before induction.

Rev. Duncan Campbell, B.D., was ordained 28th September, 1873, being translated to Grahamston on 3rd February, 1876. He subsequently was minister of Rosemount, Aberdeen, and from 11th June, 1894, till his death on 20th July, 1903, he held the charge of St Matthew's, Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

The present senior incumbent is Rev. Thomas Bell, who, on 14th May, 1868, was ordained minister of Fauldhouse, being inducted to Keig on 6th July, 1876. He acted as clerk to the Presbytery of Alford and to the Synod of Aberdeen. He edited for the New Spalding Club "Records of the Exercise of Alford"—a work which gives much reliable information on the ecclesiastical affairs of Upper Donside for the period 1662 to 1688. He was recently honoured with the degree of D.D.

In November, 1906, Rev. J. R. Stewart, assistant, St Michael's, Edinburgh, was elected colleague and successor.

Many amusing anecdotes are still related of the parochial experiences of the old ministers. One of these gentlemen was most methodical in his diets of catechising, and he knew the bent of every individual parishioner. An old man who was well versed in the Catechism and Bible had a habit of answering one question simultaneously with putting another. A neighbouring clergyman, being on a visit to Keig, was told of the peculiarity, and he undertook to conduct the catechising, at the same time promising to effectually silence the further questioning. Everything went well till our hero's turn for interrogation came. "My friend, can you tell me how long Adam was in Paradise?" asked the minister. "Till he got a wife, sir! Can you tell me how long he was

there after that?" replied the imperturbable parishioner.

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH.

A church which now belongs to the United Free body was erected in 1845 on a site granted by the late Lord Forbes. It was seated for about 260, and was intended to accommodate residents in Keig and Tough parishes. Extensive internal alterations and improvements were made about sixteen years ago. A headstone within an enclosure in the new parish graveyard of Keig commemorates the first minister thus—

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel and afterwards receive me to glory.

In memory of Mary Jane, daughter of the Rev. W. P. Smith; born 11th July, 1845; died 15th May, 1864. Here also are interred Eliza S. Smith; born 9th November, 1852; died 5th October, 1857, and an infant who died on the day of his birth.

George M. Smith, A.M.; born 23rd February, 1848; died 27th April, 1866. Herbert Smith, born 8th February, 1862; died 17th December, 1887.

William Pirrie Smith, D.D.; born 14th April, 1811; ordained minister of the Free Church Keig-Tough 5th December, 1845; died 24th February, 1890. And his wife, Jane Robertson; born 22nd January, 1821; died 2nd December, 1899.

Rev. Dr Smith in early years learned the trade of a wood-turner. Being of an intellectual disposition, he devoted all his spare time to learning. Entering King's College, he proved a distinguished student, carrying off the Hutton Prize and graduating M.A. in March, 1839. He was for a short time schoolmaster of Kincardine O'Neil, and then rector of the West-End Academy in Aberdeen. He discharged the ministerial duties at Keig-Tough with much ability and acceptance till 1881, when impaired health compelled him to resign. In 1868, he published "The Unity of the Christian Church." His wife

was the daughter of Peter Robertson, who for many years was head of the West-End Academy, Aberdeen. (See Pratt's "Buchan," revised edition, 1901, p. 144.)

Mr P. J. Anderson kindly states that the above-mentioned George Michie Smith in 1866 carried off every University honour open to him, viz.:—The Simpson Greek Prize, Simpson Mathematical Prize, Hutton Philosophy Prize, and Town Council Gold Medal. This record has never been beaten.

The present minister, Rev. Hugh Hart Currie, B.D., was ordained on 3rd February, 1881.

#### PROFESSOR ROBERTSON SMITH.

Alongside the headstone in the Smith enclosure above noticed is a neat but unpretentious obelisk, which bears the simple inscription—

In memory of William Robertson Smith, Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge; born 8th November, 1846; died 31st March, 1894.

William Robertson Smith, eldest son of Rev. Dr Smith, received his early education at home under the care of his father, and such progress did he make that it is said he could read Hebrew when about six years of age. Entering King's College, he took a foremost place in every subject, but serious illness prevented his sitting the Honours Degree examination, in which he would almost certainly have established a record in scholarship. He studied theology at the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and subsequently at Berlin, Bonn, and Gottingen. Returning to Scotland, he was (when only 24 years of age) appointed Professor of Oriental Languages and Old Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, Aberdeen. He likewise engaged as one of the staff of contributors to the "Encyclopædia Britannica." Some of the articles thus written by him were in ad-

vance of the views generally held in the Free Church at the time, and he was libelled for promulgating doctrine of a dangerous and heretical character. Of this charge he was acquitted by a small majority; but, in consequence of another article on "Hebrew Language and Literature" from his pen which appeared in June, 1880, he was removed from his Chair by the Assembly of 1881. His many friends and sympathisers presented him with a gift of £1000. He settled in Edinburgh, and was associated with Professor Baynes as editor of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." On the death of the latter, Mr Smith became editor-in-chief. In 1883, he was appointed Lord Almoner's Reader in Arabic at Cambridge, which office he held till December, 1886, when he was elected to the chief librarianship. The latter post he exchanged in 1889 for the Adams' Professorship of Arabic. Among the degrees conferred upon him were—LL.D., Aberdeen; M.A., Cambridge; Litt.D., Dublin; and D.D., Strassburg. He was a voluminous writer; and among his more outstanding works may be mentioned—"The Old Testament in the Jewish Church" (1880; revised edition, 1892); "The Prophets of Israel and their Place in History to the close of the Eighth Century, B.C." (1882); "Kinship and Marriage in Early Arabia" (1885); and "Lectures on the Religion of the Semites" (1889).

#### SCHOOL AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

In May, 1685, it was reported to the Presbytery that "there is a school and schoolmaister provyded, unto whom the minister, heritors, and elders gave a good testimonie."

In 1803, the salary was 300 merks Scots, which in 1829 was augmented to £29 18s 10d.

In 1710, the schoolmaster was Robert

Ross, whose successor was Francis Coutts. Before 1733 . . . . Tayler held the appointment. On 4th June, 1734, a complaint of negligence was lodged with the Presbytery against him, whereupon that body warned him that "they have a watchful ewy over him."

In May, 1753, John Taylor was elected schoolmaster, precentor, and session clerk.

A successor who held the appointment for the long period of 58 years has a headstone which is inscribed—

In memory of the Rev. Gordon Raeburn, 58 years schoolmaster, 18 of that period assistant minister in this parish; died 29th March, 1861, aged 79 years.

Erected by his pupils and friends.

Also his grand-daughter, Barbara B. Raeburn, who died 20th September, 1870, aged 22 years. Barbara Benton, his spouse; died 8th January, 1881; also their daughter, Catherine Raeburn, who died 22nd June, 1898, aged 64 years.

These graves are enclosed by the widow of James, only son of the Rev. Gordon Raeburn.

In 1839, Alexander Milne acted as assistant schoolmaster to Mr Raeburn. He afterwards became parish minister of Tough. (See Tough.)

In 1842, John Watt was assistant. He subsequently was elected minister of the parish of Strathdon.

In 1846, Andrew Christie officiated as assistant. He is now minister of the parish of Kildrummy.

In 1848, Peter Keay was assistant. He afterwards qualified for the ministry.

In 1850, William Skinner was assistant. He was long minister of the united parishes of Tarland and Migvie.

In 1852, Lewis Beaton acted as assistant. He is now senior minister of the parish of Carnwath.

In 1855, William Milne was assistant. He was afterwards schoolmaster of Kinnoir, Huntly.

In 1861, George Chree (brother of the



late Rev. Charles Chree, D.D., minister of Lintrathen) was elected schoolmaster. He is now living in retirement in Aberdeen. Three members of his family are commemorated by a headstone, within an enclosure, thus--

Erected by George Chree, schoolmaster, Keig, in memory of his son James, bank accountant, who died at Strichen, 3rd March, 1894, aged 27 years. Also his daughters--Helen; died 1st April, 1884, aged 16 years; Elizabeth; died 30th January, 1873, aged 18 days. His son, Robert Dawson, bank accountant; died 5th February, 1897, aged 25 years.

A son, Rev. George Johnstone Chree, B.D., is senior chaplain (Church of Scotland) on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment; while another son—Rev. William Chree, B.D.—is Principal of the Church of Scotland Missionary Institution, Madras.

#### EPITAPHS.

A headstone commemorates the first person whose interment took place in the new graveyard—

Erected in memory of Jean Milne, wife of Peter M'Combie, New Keig, aged 46 years, being the first person interred in this churchyard. 16th July, 1841.

An enclosure has two headstones, which are inscribed—

(1).

Erected in affectionate remembrance of Alexander Bruce, of this parish, who was born at Quarry, 18th April, 1800, and died at Wealthiton, 26th February, 1877. Also of his wife, Agnes Mitchell, who died on the 5th December, 1890, aged 87 years.

This stone was erected by the children of Alexander Bruce.

Alexander Bruce was a successful merchant at Keig. Several of his sons have attained eminence in various walks of life. Of them, William, M.A., M.D.,

LL.D., who resides at The Castle, Dingwall, is, perhaps, the leading medical authority north of Aberdeen. He is largely interested in educational matters. John Mitchell, M.A., M.D., LL.D., is a medical specialist in London, and formerly held the appointment of Lecturer, Charing Cross Hospital. Robert is secretary to the Irish Agricultural Society; while George was long secretary and treasurer of the Royal Northern Agricultural Society.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of John Mitchell Simpson, youngest son of James and Mary B. Simpson, Forbes Cottage, who was accidentally drowned at Fintray, on 9th September, 1900, aged 17 years.

James Simpson, who was a medical practitioner, died—as the result of a driving accident—on 1st October, 1903.

There died in the parish early in the last century Peter Anderson, at the reputed age of 115 years, having lived in three centuries. In an obituary notice in the "Aberdeen Journal," it is mentioned that Anderson was first married in the 95th year of his age; that there were four of a family—three of whom, with their mother, survived him—that he retained his mental faculties, and even his bodily strength, till within a short time of his death; and that he was a very tall, straight, stout, well-made man—his acquaintances observing that they knew no difference in his appearance for the last 60 years of his life! He gained his livelihood chiefly as a travelling chapman—old books being his staple commodity.

#### ESTATES.

The principal estate in the parish is that of Castle Forbes, belonging to Lord Forbes. Particulars respecting it and the family of Forbes are given under Forbes.

## BALGOWAN.

One of the old conditions under which the property of Balgowan, or Balgonen, was held required the annual delivery of a nest of merlin hawks. These birds were formerly used in hawking partridges and small game. The estate, which is now known by the name of Airlie, was bequeathed by the late Robert C. Grant to trustees for behoof of Blairs Roman Catholic College.

## FINZEAUCH OR HARTHILL.

The old estate of Finach, or Finzeauch, was long in the possession of the Forbeses, the descents of several of whom are given in Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections, II., p. 228.

The estate was acquired by David Anderson, merchant and burgher of Aberdeen, whose mathematical skill and ingenuity won for him the title of "Davie-do-a'-thing." His principal achievement was the removal, in 1610, of a large rock which obstructed the entrance to the harbour of Aberdeen. He married Jean, daughter of Matthew Guild, armourer, Aberdeen, and died 9th October, 1629. (Theater of Mortality, pp. 90-91.) Their son, David, succeeded to the property, and died 19th December, 1643.

From the Andersons, the property passed to George Wilson, burgher of Aberdeen, who died on 25th October, 1675. George Wilson, the next owner, in 1696, for his property, himself, wife, three sons, one daughter, one male servant, and two female servants, paid £12 12s 8d of poll. (Poll Book.) A son—Thomas—became an advocate in Aberdeen, and died on 7th July, 1747. Probably the last proprietor bearing the surname was David Wilson, physician in Peterhead, who died in August, 1791, in his 59th year.

The name of the estate was altered to Harthill, and it was bought by Rev.

William Forsyth, minister of Aboyne. (See Aboyne.)

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The parish was originally formed out of the extensive church lands which pertained to the Culdees of Monymusk, for whom a Priory was erected. By 1245, the Culdees were disinherited of their lands, which were bestowed on the Canons Regular of St Andrews—the Bishop of St Andrews having a seat in the Scottish Parliament under the title of Lord Keig and Monymusk. The original Baillie of the Regality was Lord Forbes.

Two ancient stone circles, and a ruinous circular enclosure composed of loose stones, called the Barmkin, are the principal antiquities.

The parish, which extends to upwards of 8000 acres, is intersected by the Don, which is spanned by a handsome stone bridge of one arch. It was erected in 1816-17.

Many natives of the parish, although now resident at a distance, evince the keenest possible interest in its welfare. Amongst these may be mentioned John Benton, Rochester, who generously gives an annual sum to provide prizes for the school children.

## OLD CHURCHYARD.

The situation of this small graveyard within the extensive and finely-wooded policies of Castle Forbes is unique, and it might be greatly improved at little cost.

## THE MITCHELLS OF AUCHNAGATHLE.

A tablestone is inscribed as under—

Here lies interred Alexander Mitchel, late farmer in Annegathle, who died November 22th, 1764, aged 72 years. And also his spouse, Marjory Innes, who died May 23rd, 1767, aged 72 years.

By the care of their son, William Mitchel. Likewise is here interred the body of Mary Mitchel, lawful daughter to Wm. Mitchell in Inver

of Monymusk, who died September 24th, 1795, aged 17 years.

Also William Mitchel, late farmer in Auchnagathle, who died 22nd December, 1820, aged 72. Also his spouse, Isabell Carr, who died 15th November, 1844, aged 91 years.

The progenitor of the Mitchells of Auchnagathle was Alexander Mitchell, who, in 1696, was tenant of Burnside, Keig (Poll Book)—a farm which has since disappeared. He married Helen Low; and, besides a female servant, had two male servants, to whom he paid £16 Scots and £8 Scots of wages—a considerable sum in those days. His son, Alexander Mitchell, who is commemorated by the above inscription, was tenant in 1740 of Auchnagathle and Brindy, for the former of which he paid 100 merks (£5 11s 1½d stg.), and for the latter £50 Scots (£4 3s 4d stg.), plus inconsiderable kain and carriages. He was twice married; and Alexander Mitchell, a son by the first marriage, became tenant of the farm of Strathlunach, on the Forbes estate. It was his family who afterwards became tenants of Burnside, and in 1821 succeeded to money through the death of a relative. This excited the cupidity of George Thom, who had married a daughter, Jean. With the diabolical design of cutting off the whole family and getting possession of the money, he visited Burnside and surreptitiously mixed a quantity of arsenic amongst the cooking salt. As a result, William Mitchell died, and several others of the family suffered intense pain. For the crime, Thom was tried, found guilty, and executed. This branch of the Mitchells is now extinct.

By the second marriage of the above Alexander Mitchell to Marjory Innes, there was an only son, William. He succeeded to the tenancy of Auchnagathle, which he had to relinquish for a time on behalf of a favourite servant of Mrs Leith-Hay of Leithhall, the proprietrix. He removed to Pittendrigh, Keig, and thence to Upper

Inver, Monymusk. In 1800, he returned to Auchnagathle under a 30 years' lease. He married Isabell Carr (she and two of her sisters, Mrs Adam and Mrs Cobban, died, aged upwards of 90 years, and are interred in the old churchyard, Keig), one of the seven daughters of the tenant of Culhay, Forbes. Of their family, Alexander, the eldest son, became a chemist, and was for many years manager of the Apothecary's Hall Company in Glasgow. Two of his grandsons occupy prominent positions in London—one being the owner of Condy's Chemical Works. The next son, William, received a classical education, and ultimately emigrated to Canada. He became Provost of Kingston, but succumbed to an attack of malarial fever. The youngest son, John, went out to realise his brother's estate, but also fell a victim to fever. The third son, George, continued the tenancy of Auchnagathle. He married, and in 1855, within the short period of six weeks, had to mourn the untimely death of two sons—the younger being drowned in the farm mill dam, while the elder was killed by a fall from a tree at Pitfichie, Monymusk, the home of his mother. Mr William A. Mitchell, the present tenant of Auchnagathle, is a surviving son. He studied at the parish school, and thereafter at the old Grammar School, where the late Sir William D. Geddés was one of his teachers. Subsequently he attended Marischal College. He is one of the foremost agriculturists in Aberdeenshire, and has made his farm famous for its herd of shorthorn cattle.

A tablestone—showing various emblems—is inscribed—

Here lies Jean Clariehue, lawfull daughter to Euan Clariehue and Margaret Lawson, in Balfour, who died May 6th, 1775, aged 2 years. Her disconsolate parents, remembering that they also must soon die, have erected this stone to her memory.



There are several other tombstones to members of this family.

The following tablestone inscription commemorates three nonagenarians—

Sacred to the memory of James Adam, late tenant in New Burnside of Keig, who died 8th May, 1838, aged 90 years. The undersaid William Adam died the 29th of August, 1842, aged 97 years. And his wife, Ann Carr, died the 16th April, 1847, aged 93.

Erected by his brother, William Adam.

Mr Adam bequeathed a sum for behoof of the poor of the parish.

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## Chapel of Garioch.

(FORMERLY LOGIE-DURNO.)

The church of Logie-Durno was dedicated to the Virgin Mary; and, previous to the Reformation, belonged to the Abbey of Lindores. As the Church of "Durnoch," it is included in the Confirmation Bull by Pope Celestine III., of 1195.

An expert who visited the ruins and the old graveyard in the beginning of the last century has left in MS. the following notes—

This church was situated near the old Huntly road, which, being now stopped, except on occasion of a funeral, gives the burial-ground and ruins a very secluded aspect. They are surrounded by woods.

The vestigia of the building are inconsiderable, but appear to have been well built and cemented with excellent lime. The form has been long and narrow. . . .

Logic Durnot, the Durnot in the valley.

The high ground towards Benachie, now forming the parish of Chapel, was formerly distinguished as Drum Durnot—the height of Durnot.

There was also in the parish a chapel, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was built and endowed, before 1357,

by Christian Bruce, Lady of the Garioch, and sister of King Robert I. She had married, for her third husband, Sir Andrew Moray, Pantelar of Scotland, and, after his death, she erected the chapel for the weal of his and of her own soul. It was subsequently further endowed until, before the Reformation, it had as many as six chaplainries.

In 1599, the old church of Logie-Durno ceased to be used—a new and more central parish church having been erected on the spot where the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Garioch had stood. From this circumstance, the name Chapel of Garioch was given to the parish, although it was not till after 1700 that the older title of Logie-Durno ceased to be used.

James Logan, author of "The Scottish Gael," gives the following MS. particulars regarding the old church of Chapel of Garioch and that of the present edifice, which was erected in 1812, and opened for service on 10th January, 1813—

The present kirk is a neat, modern building in the pointed style, the old one having been taken down in ? It had an aisle on the south side, which belonged to Erskine of Pittodrie, and is the burial-place for the family. It stands detached from the present church—which is built a few feet further northwards—and is now unroofed, and a window towards the south closed up. For several years before the old church was taken down, it was found necessary, from the ruinous state of the building, to remove the bell to a tree in the churchyard, where it was hung. The church, like the former, stands east and west, and is a well-built, plain structure, with circular-headed windows.

A gateway in the west wall of the churchyard is of solid and imposing dimensions contrasted with the simple walls enclosing the burying-ground, and bears the date—1626—in relief.

[Logan gives a sketch of the gateway, and adds—"It is called 'Pittodrie's Yeat,' being that by which the laird enters the churchyard

in coming from his castle." He seems to have been unaware that the gateway was in reality a funeral porch, through which the dead were carried into the sacred place, and under the roof of which the coffin had, in old times, been set down during the burial service.] Near it is a fine well, called Mary's Well, from the Virgin to which the church was dedicated.

It appears this became the parish church after the reduction of Logie Durno, being originally a chapel dedicated to Mary the Virgin of Garioch. It then contained a rich chaplainry, as we see by the following entry relative to the "Chaplainry of Warthill within the Chapel of St Mary the Virgin of Gariocht. The Lands of Meikle Warthill with the pertinents pertaining in patrimony to the said chaplanry lying in the Regality of Gariocht sett to Leslie of Tullifoir for maill. grassum. augmentation, and converted customes £20."

"Ane peice land of the said chaplanry with houses, yairds, etc., within the said territory of Drumdurnot, parochen of Logie durnot, and shyre of Aberdein, sett to Ereskine for 3s 4d (Harl MS. 4613)."

About 1450, Patrick Ogilvie of Grandon mortified 10mk. yearly out of his lands of Strathalvain, in Banffshire, for a chaplain in Mary Kirk of Garviach (Harl MS. 4620).

From these extracts it is evident that the Chapel of St Mary, in the parish of Logie Durno, did not receive its name from having been first erected for the purpose of having prayers made for the souls of those who fell at Harlaw in 1411, according to a tradition recorded by Kennedy. ("Annals of Aberdeen," II., p. 324).

In the walls of the old kirk were to be seen the large blocks of stone that had once formed a Druidical place of worship in this place. (Cordiner's Antiquities.) . . . .

The old church was very long, narrow, and low, the pulpit, as usual, close to the side wall.

In one end was the common loft, and in the other the singers'.

The Pews were amply ornamented with carvings and paintings, and those of the heritors and principal parishioners provided with canopies. . . . .

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

The parish was supplied by John Leslie.

reader, in 1567; by Walter Leslie from 1574 to 1576; and by Andrew Spens from 1578 to 1586. In 1567, and for a few years subsequently, Rev. Stephen Masoun was minister, with Inch and Culsalmond likewise in charge.

Rev. Alexander Abercrombie was incumbent in 1574, with Oyne and Premnay also under his jurisdiction.

William Strathauchin was minister of this charge alone in 1588.

Rev. Alexander Patersoun was translated from Inch and inducted here in 1592. He continued in 1628. (Family of Leslie, III., p. 88.) His son—John—afterwards became Bishop of Ross.

Rev. Andrew Strachan, who had previously officiated as a Regent in King's College, was the succeeding incumbent. On 30th December, 1634, he became Professor of Divinity, and got the degree of D.D.

Rev. Alexander Strachan—brother of the preceding—was admitted in 1635. He refused to sign the Covenant in 1640, but appears to have done so later. On 7th October, 1675, he was ordered by the Synod to secure a helper.

Rev. George Clark was admitted between 1677 and 1685, but he was deposed on 9th April, 1702, for negligence and faults of a more grave character.

Rev. William Leslie, M.A., was admitted from Kemnay 26th February, 1707. Dr Scott (Fasti) records that "he was barbarously treated, hindered from casting his peats, had them destroyed, and was obliged to claim his right by a process before the Court of Session against George Lesly of Balquhynne, brother of Count Lesly in Germany." He was translated to St Fergus in 1718.

Rev. Gilbert Gerard was ordained 1st July, 1719, and died 3rd February, 1738, survived by his wife, Marjory Mitchell, who died 24th October, 1785, aged 81. Of

their sons, Alexander, who was "distinguished in literature," became, on 11th June, 1760, Professor of Divinity in Marischal College; in 1769, minister of Greyfriars, Aberdeen; and on 19th June, 1771, Professor of Divinity in King's College. Another son—Gilbert—was, in 1751, admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, and died fifteen years later.

The succeeding incumbent has a table-stone in the graveyard, and a tablet within the church, to his memory, inscribed thus—

(1).

This stone marks the burying-ground of the late Rev. Robert Farquhar and of his family.

Ann Farquhar, his daughter, and the last survivor of his children, died the 12th of January, 1825, in the 91st year of her age.

(2).

This is inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Robert Farquhar, minister of Chapel of Garioch, who died in 1787, in the 88th year of his age and 61st of his ministry. Also of his wife, Katherine Turing, who died in 1798, aged 87 years. And of their children, James, who died, aged 20 years. The Rev. John Farquhar, minister of Nigg, who died in 1768, aged 36 years, and whose literary merit is well known. Thomas, who died in 1801. Margaret, who died in the 16th year of her age. Robert, who died in 1778. Katherine and Forbes, who died in their youth; and Martha, who died in 1787, wife of Patrick Davidson, D.D., minister of Rayne.

By Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., M.D., their son, and Ann Farquhar, their daughter.

Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

—Numbers, chap. 23 verse 10.

Rev. Robert Farquhar, previously minister of Peterhead, and a descendant of Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounie, was inducted here on 18th October, 1738. He lived to be Father of the Church of Scotland, the parish records bearing that he died the 4th and was buried the 9th

February, 1787, "going the 88th year of his useful life." His wife, Katherine Turing—whom he married in 1729—was the eldest daughter of Rev. Walter Turing, minister of Rayne, and she was "distinguished by amiability and endearing qualities joined to the strongest understanding." She died 7th November, 1798. Of their family, as enumerated in the above inscriptions, Robert died while on embassy from Bengal to the King of Berar. Walter was probably the most distinguished London physician of his time, among his patients being George IV. (when Prince Regent), Mr Pitt, Lord Melville, etc. In March, 1796, he was created a baronet, and it is worthy of note that his second son — Robert Townsend-Farquhar — received a similar honour in 1821, while his great-grandson — Horace Brand Townsend-Farquhar—was also created a baronet in 1892, and was raised to the peerage, as Baron Farquhar, in 1898. The last-named is the present Master of the King's Household.

Rev. John Shand, M.A., was admitted from Kemnay 11th October, 1787. He was translated to Kintore in 1799. (See Kemnay and Kintore.)

The succeeding incumbent has a table-stone to his memory—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Smith, D.D., minister of Chapel of Garioch, who died on the 6th of January, 1817, in the 47th year of his age, and the 17th of his ministry. This monument to departed worth and to high attainments in science and literature, consigned to an early grave, is erected by his sorrowing widow. He rests here between two of his children, Rachel and Graeme, who died in infancy.

Also to the memory of his wife, Margaret Simpson, interred here, who died at Aberdeen on the 11th day of June, 1856, in the 81st year of her age. Deeply regretted by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Here also are interred James—third son of the above—formerly minister of the Parish



Church, Dumbarton, and latterly of the Free Church there. He died at Aberdeen on the 1st November, 1862, aged 55. Elizabeth, fifth daughter of Dr Alexander Smith, died 22nd July, 1873, aged 60. William Smith (second son), merchant in Aberdeen, died 31st August, 1878, aged 75. Rachel Smith (fourth daughter) died 15th June, 1887, aged 72.

Rev. Alexander Smith, who was the son of Richard Smith, paper manufacturer, Peterculter, graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1790, and was ordained 5th June, 1800. Dr Scott says that he was "celebrated for worth and high attainments in science and literature." He published a "Translation of Michaelis' Commentaries on the Laws of Moses," in 4 vols., etc., and he was honoured with the degree of D.D. His wife, Margaret Simpson, was a sister of Archibald Simpson, architect, Aberdeen. The names of two sons are not included in the inscription—Robert, who was a medical practitioner in Aberdeen; and Francis, who was Accountant in the North of Scotland Bank, Aberdeen. William was the author of "The People's Tune Book." (See Carnie's "Reporting Reminiscences," Vol. I., pp. 23-25.)

An enclosure has a headstone to the next minister—

In loving memory of the Rev. Henry Simson, who died 30th January, 1850, in the 61st year of his age. He was 33 years minister in this parish, loved as a pastor and friend. He left the established Church in 1843, and was the first minister of the Free Church of Scotland in Chapel of Garioch. This tablet is erected by his sorrowing widow and family.

Also are interred here his children, Isabella, Mary, and James Dalrymple, who died in infancy; and Henry, who died 4th April, 1843, in his 13th year. In memory also of Mary Shepherd, wife of the Rev. Henry Simson, born 9th October, 1794, died 19th January, 1871.

Them who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.—1st Thess., iv. 14.

Rev. Henry Simson, brother of Rev. David Simson, Oyne, and son of Rev. David Simson, minister of Tulliallan, was presented to Chapel of Garioch by Robert D. H. Elphinstone (created a baronet in 1827) of Logie-Elphinstone, to whose family he had for some time acted as tutor. He was ordained 26th November, 1817. Joining the Free Secession, he carried with him a large and attached congregation. He was so much trusted by the parishioners that it is said he held nearly all the parish deeds of settlement. He married Mary, second daughter of Rev. Robert Shepherd, minister of Daviot; and, besides the family mentioned in the above inscription, they had four sons, of whom David, Robert, and James entered the Bengal Civil Service, and John Thomas, who became a W.S. in Edinburgh in 1860, but who (along with a daughter, Isabella Mary Garioch, who married Charles Robertson, of the Bengal Civil Service), are now all deceased. Two daughters — Anne and Mary — are unmarried, and reside in Edinburgh.

A red granite tombstone commemorates the succeeding incumbent thus—

To the memory of the Rev. James Greig, 16 years minister of Chapel of Garioch, who died 14th Aug., 1859, aged 48 years.

Erected as a token of respect by his parishioners and a few friends.

Here are also interred his wife, Caroline Mackie, who died 25th December, 1852, aged 38 years. His father George Greig, who died in 1848, aged 81 years. His sister, Margaret, who died July 4th, 1857, aged 40 years.

Rev. James Greig was born at Hillocks, Newhills, and graduated M.A. at King's College in April, 1830. He was for some time schoolmaster of Keithhall, and Murray Lecturer in 1839-40. In 1843 he was ordained here. It is stated (Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord," p. 633) that to his accomplishments as a scholar he added those of a skilled player of the violin and

an apt writer of songs. Among his pieces received with favour was "The Blinkin' o't."

Rev. Walter Irvine, M.A., was translated from Dollar 24th November, 1859, and to Kilconquhar 1st February, 1866.

Rev. George Washington Sprott, M.A., was inducted from Kandy, Ceylon, 28th March, 1866, and, on 8th May, 1873, translated to North Berwick, his present charge. He is now D.D.

Rev. Alexander Young, M.A., the present incumbent, was formerly in St Andrew's Church, Colombo, Ceylon, and was inducted here 15th January, 1874.

#### THE TAIT FAMILY.

An enclosure has an imposing monument, bearing the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of George Tait, who departed this life the 23rd November, 1775, and of Mary Erskine, his wife, who departed this life the 2nd June, 1785.

With the utmost reverence, gratitude, and filial duty, their children William, John, and Margaret Tait desire to record on this monument their infinite obligations to such valued Parents, and their unfeigned respect for their Singular Virtue.

In this burial place are deposited the mortal remains of Margaret Tait, of John Tait, and of Mary Smith, his wife.

The progenitor of this branch was Thomas Tait, who, before 1715, was farmer in Mill of Thainston. He married Anna Moir, and died 8th February, 1759, aged 80. He was the brother of William Tait, cartwright in Ludquharn, sometimes designed as of Braeside and of Longside, in Buchan, who married Agnes Clerk, and was the grandfather of John Tait, who acquired the property of Harvieston, Clackmannan, the great-grandfather of Craufurd Tait, who bought the adjoining estate of Castle Campbell from the Duke of Argyll, and the great-great-grandfather of Dr Archibald Campbell Tait, Arch-

bishop of Canterbury (1868-82). (See Pratt's "Buchan," Revised Edition, 1901, p. 215.) Of the family of Thomas Tait and Anna Moir were John, farmer, Old Balbithan, who left no issue; Alexander, farmer, Mill of Carden; Thomas; and George, farmer, Craigmill, who married Mary Erskine—as shown by the above inscription. The last-named couple had, in addition to the sons and daughters who erected the monument, a son, Charles, who passed advocate in Aberdeen, 24th February, 1764, and was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Aberdeenshire on 5th November, 1793. He was a burghess and portioner of the ancient royal burgh of Inverurie, and for long the trusted legal adviser of its Town Council. He married, in 1768, Bathia, daughter of the deceased David Auchterlony, in Tillyfruskie, Birse. He died 12th March, 1799, survived by his wife, one son—William, who had emigrated to Jamaica—and one daughter, Mary, who became the wife of William Smith, of the Royal Navy. The widow died 8th November, 1800, aged 66. It is a singular coincidence that David Morice of Tulles, who was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen on the same day as Charles Tait, succeeded him as sheriff-substitute.

John Tait, also in Craigmill, and his wife, Mary Smith, had two sons—William, born 31st May, 1789; and George, born 22nd July, 1793. The latter entered the army, and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Engineers. The newspapers, in recording his death—which took place at Port Louis, Mauritius, on 30th August, 1851—made touching reference to his amiable disposition, scientific attainments, and distinguished military service. The last-named Thomas Tait—the second of the name in Mill of Thainston—married Margaret Cruickshank, and died in 1782,

aged 60. They had—besides a daughter, Marjory, who died in 1851, aged 96—at least two sons—John, who was for some time in business in Jamaica, and died at Aberdeen 30th July, 1818, in his 60th year; and William, also in Mill of Thainston, and subsequently at Crichtie, to which he removed in 1783. He married Elspet Smith, and died in 1823, aged 70. Of their family, Thomas succeeded as farmer at Crichtie, and was the founder of the well-known and extensive paper mills at Port-Elphinstone. He married Catherine Fraser (she still survives, and is in her 96th year), and died 11th September, 1870, aged 68. They had a family of five sons, of whom William, LL.D., Alexander, Thomas, and Anthony are deceased. The surviving son, John, is lessee of Crichtie, and conducts an extensive farming business.

#### THE ALEXANDERS.

A tombstone bears the following inscription—

In memory of James Alexander, Damhead, who died July 27th, 1856, aged 67 years. And of his wife, Anne Wilson, who died March, 1889, aged 85 years.

James Alexander was the son of William Alexander, blacksmith in Rescivet, who died on 4th November, 1806, in his 58th year, and was buried at Bourtie, of which he was a native. He was endowed with a double share of native shrewdness and marked by striking individuality of character. Of his family, William, the eldest son, was editor of the "Aberdeen Free Press," and author of "Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk," "Life Among My Ain Folk," and "Sketches of Northern Rural Life in the Eighteenth Century"—works which are highly appreciated for their vivid delineation of peasant life in Aberdeenshire and the north of Scotland. For his literary accomplishments and publications, the University of Aberdeen

conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He died on 19th February, 1894, aged 67. Another son of like character and ability was James, sometime farmer in Damhead, who emigrated, and died in Nebraska about four years ago. Other sons who still survive are George, stationmaster, Monymusk; Leslie, ironmonger, Inverurie; and Henry, who succeeded his brother as editor of the "Aberdeen Free Press."

#### THE DEUCHARS.

Members of this family are commemorated on two railed-in monuments—

##### (1).

Erected by John Deuchar to the memory of his father John Deuchar, son of George Deuchar of Deuchar, who died at Chapel of Garioch the 2nd of March, 1859, aged 72 years. Also to the family of the above. James, died at Demerara, August 4th, 1837, aged 20 years. William, died August 7th, 1841, aged 7 years. Margaret, died February 28th, 1843, aged 10 years. Janet died December 9th, 1844, aged 30 years.

##### (2).

In memory of Mary Anne Deuchar, wife of William Hunter, merchant, Aberdeen, who died 1st June, 1856, aged 27 years.

Deuchar is an ancient estate in the parish of Fearn, Forfarshire. Tradition asserts that, for special services rendered at the battle of Barry in 1010, it was conferred upon a family, who thereupon assumed its title as a surname. Be this as it may, there is evidence that the Deuchars held the property in 1379 as vassals of "Lindsay of Glenesk, Lord of l'erne"; and a local rhyme descriptive of the locality of Fearn includes the couplet—

Deuchar sits in Deuchar Hill  
Lookin' doon on Birnie Mill.

The family continued in possession down to 1819, when George Deuchar sold the estate to James Marnie, sometime Provost of Arbroath, and went to New Zealand. The above inscription shows that a son,



John Deuchar, came north and settled in Chapel of Garioch, where he engaged in farming.

William Deuchar, passenger superintendent, Great North of Scotland Railway, and James Deuchar, of Glenburnie Cottage, Abergeldie Road, are descendants of the main branch.

A granite headstone is inscribed—

Erected by John Gordon, merchant, Chapel of Garioch, in memory of his son John Fowler, who died 20th November, 1892, in his 30th year.

John Gordon, who erected the above headstone, has been long merchant and postmaster at Chapel of Garioch, on the ancient history of which he is an authority.

A spirit as commendable as it is rare is shown in the following inscription—

Erected by Robert Spence, Chapel, in memory of his beloved wife, Margaret Bisset, who died 25th December, 1855, aged 52 years. Also, in accordance with a purpose of hers in memory of her former husband James Scott, builder in Chapel, who died 13th June, 1851, aged 60 years, and of their son James, who died 26th April, 1846, aged 17 years.

A headstone bears—

In memory of Margaret Low, who died 12th December, 1901, aged 64 years.

“Lay not up your treasures on earth.”

Margaret Low was of the most parsimonious disposition, and was generally supposed to be penniless. Falling into delicate health, she was admitted an inmate of the West Poorhouse, Aberdeen. When searched, there was found carefully concealed in an undergarment cash to the value of £350 7s 1d. Margaret was excited by the discovery of her hoard, and much more by the dread of its appropriation by the authorities, who, however, calmed her fears by the assurance that they would return it on her convalescence.

A tablestone, showing sundry orna-

mentation, including two angels blowing trumpets, a tree, a sand-glass, skeleton, and scoop, is inscribed—

Here lie the remains of John Duffus, who died September 29th, 1774, aged 87, and of Elizabeth Duffus, who died October 15, 1774, aged 84. This stone was erected to their memory by their son John Duffus. . . .

“True to the end.”

A descendant, Alexander Duffus, was long farmer at Newbigging, Pittodrie, and is now at Gariochsford.

An obelisk, with an urn upon the top, bears—

In loving memory of Alexander Nicol of Auchentarf, Rayne, who died 28th December, 1890, aged 68 years. Erected by his widow and family.

In memory of James Nicol, feuar, Oyne, who died at Beechwood, Oyne, the 19th day of February, 1895, aged 76 years.

There are also several tombstones to a family bearing the same surname, who for about a century and a half have been farmers in Cowbyres

#### POETICAL INSCRIPTIONS.

A headstone has the following inscription—

Erected in memory of Thrisa Watt, late spouse of William Reid, Woodside, Oldmachar, who died 29th December, 1852, aged 43 years.

Mourn not my Friends

The world you all must leave,

You saw me in my narrow Rest,

The clods upon my coffin prest.

The precious dust beneath that lies

Shall at the call of Jesus rise,

To meet the Bridegroom in the skys.

Dear Friends, that day we'll meet again.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of George Knight, son to William and Kathrine Knights, in Craigmill, who died 11th of March, 1811, aged 18 years.

Ye sprightly forms of Painted clay,  
Oh, be not proud of your short day:

For like a Lily fresh and green  
He was cut down and no more seen.

A tablestone has the following—

Here lie in firm hopes of a blessed resurrec-  
tion the body of Alexander Sangster, sometime  
farmer in Balquhain, who died 1st May, 1784,  
aged 71.

The keys of death, and of the grave,  
My Saviour brought from Heaven.  
O' death, thou had'st no power of me,  
'Till to thee it was given;  
But very shortly, ghastly death!  
This will I sweetly sing,  
O' grave, where be thy triumph now,  
And where, O' death, thy sting?

#### PARISH LANDS.

The parish lands originally formed a  
portion of the extensive Earldom of the  
Garioch, which was bestowed upon David,  
Earl of Huntingdon. They afterwards  
reverted to the Crown, and were gifted  
by King Robert Bruce to his sister, Lady  
Christian, already referred to. The lands  
were subsequently broken up into separate  
estates.

#### PITCAPLE.

The barony of Pitcaple and lands of  
Harlaw, Rescivet, etc., were acquired on  
5th March, 1457, by David Leslie, eldest  
son of the third marriage of William  
Leslie, fourth baron of Balquhain. He  
was succeeded by his younger brother,  
James, who married Elizabeth, daughter  
of Seton of Meldrum. Eight proprietors  
of the same line followed, and in their day  
took part in many stirring events. George  
Leslie signalised himself by killing George  
Leith of Freefield. He was remarkable for  
strength and courage, which probably  
saved him from reprisals at the hands of  
Leith's numerous partisans. He was  
obliged to leave the country, however, and  
ultimately became a captain in the German  
Army.

James Leslie was implicated in the  
quarrel between the Crichtons of Fren-

draught and the Gordons of Rothiemay.  
The burning of the house of Fren draught  
was a tragic result.

The old mansion house was occasionally  
visited by Royal and aristocratic person-  
ages. James IV. was one of its visitors;  
as also was Mary Queen of Scots, when on  
her way from Balquhain to Rothiemay,  
after attending mass at "Our Lady's  
Chapel of the Garioch," where the parish  
church and graveyard now stand.

The famous parson, Rev. Andrew Cant,  
was for a time kept a close prisoner in  
Pitcaple by the rebels after the battle of  
Kilsyth. The building took fire under sus-  
picious circumstances, and many blamed  
Cant for being privy to it. The Scottish  
Parliament, however, exculpated him in  
1649.

When the renowned Marquis of Montrose  
was taken prisoner in Ross-shire in the  
spring of 1650, his captors placed him on  
an old shaggy Highland pony, and tying  
his feet underneath it by straw ropes, con-  
veyed him south. A herald preceded him,  
exclaiming—"Here comes James Graham,  
a traitor to his country!" The escort and  
their prisoner halted at Pitcaple, and it is  
said that on Mrs Leslie's suggesting to  
Móntrose a means of escape, he replied  
that "he would rather take his chance  
in Edinburgh." His hurried trial and  
execution are matters of history.

In July of the same year, Charles II.,  
after landing at Garmouth and resting at  
Bog of Gight—now Gordon Castle—sent  
notice to Mr Leslie that he would dine with  
him on the way south. Leslie received the  
intimation while in St Sair's Fair, and,  
fearing that his private stock of wine  
might not be sufficient for the King and  
his suite, he bought up all the claret in  
the market. When Charles crossed the  
Ury near Pitcaple, he is said to have been  
impressed by the luxuriance of the crops,  
and to have observed that it reminded him

of England. In consequence, the farm which called forth this allusion was ever after called England. When Charles left Pitcaple on the following morning, the Duke of Buckingham was mounted on his right hand and Argyll on his left. In the crowd which assembled to witness so rare a sight as a Royal cortege was a shrewd old dame, known as the "Gudewife of Glack," who, undeterred by the presence of a Sovereign, or of Argyll, exclaimed in a shrill voice—"God bless Your Majesty, and send you to your ain; but they are on your left hand that helped to tak aff your father's head, and if you takna care they will hae aff yours next!"

James Leslie, the last proprietor of the old line, went in early youth to the Continent, and entered the French service. He attained the rank of Brigadier-General, and was made a Knight of St Louis. He was also Commandant of the Royal Swedish Regiment. He died, without issue, on 12th March, 1757, and was succeeded by his eldest sister, Jane, who had married Rev. John Lumsden, minister of Keith-hall and Kinkell (1721-28), then of Banchory-Devenick (1728-36), and thereafter Professor of Divinity in King's College. Their two daughters, who succeeded as co-heiresses, sold the estate to Hary Lumsden of Belhelvie, advocate in Aberdeen, who married Catherine, daughter of Hugh M'Veagh, manufacturer, Huntly. (See Belhelvie.)

The succeeding proprietor is commemorated by one of four tombstones within an enclosure. It is inscribed—

(1)

In memory of Hugh Lumsden, Esq., of Pitcaple, who was for thirty-one years Sheriff of the county of Sutherland. Born 22nd April, 1783; died 27th January, 1859. "Be ye also ready." Also of Isabella Fergus, his wife, daughter of Walter Fergus, Esq., of Strathore,

Fifeshire. Born 7th May, 1798; died 8th June, 1887.

Hugh Lumsden, son of the above Hary Lumsden of Belhelvie, passed advocate and became Sheriff-Depute of Sutherland-shire. He married, first, on 30th April, 1813, Frances, second daughter of Alexander Brebner of Learney, and their only daughter, Christina, became the wife of Rev. George Bain, Free Church minister of Chapel of Garioch. Isabella Fergus became Mr Lumsden's second wife on 8th July, 1824, and two of their daughters and a son are referred to in the inscriptions which follow—

(2).

In memory of Charlotte Fergus, second daughter of Hugh Lumsden of Pitcaple, who died at Pitcaple Castle on the 29th of June, 1865, aged 38. Also of her sister, Isabella Lumsden, who died at Danestone House, Aberdeen, on the 27th December, 1874, aged 44.

With Christ, which is far better.

(3).

In memory of Walter Lumsden, second son of Hugh Lumsden of Pitcaple, and late lieutenant 22nd Bombay N. Infantry, who died at Rome, 8th April, 1872, aged 38 years.

The present proprietor is Henry Lumsden, eldest son of Sheriff Lumsden; and the undernoted inscription from a cross within the same enclosure refers to two of his sons—

(4).

In memory of Hugh Robert Lumsden, lieutenant, 79th Highlanders, eldest son of Henry and Edith Lumsden of Pitcaple; died 2nd July, 1892, aged 28 years.

Also of Henry Charles, third son of Henry and Edith Lumsden of Pitcaple. Killed in action on 30th April, 1900, at Thaba Nchu, S. Africa, while serving in Lumsden's Horse, aged 26 . . .

Pitcaple Castle, which stands near the Ury, mostly dates from the seventeenth century, but a part is said to be still older.



About 1830, it was restored and enlarged from plans by the late William Burn, architect.

## PITTODRIE.

As already explained, the old proprietors of Pittodrie buried within an aisle which formed a portion of the ancient church of Chapel of Garioch. A part of the aisle still remains, but is now roofless, and has been changed in form by the building up of its windows and other alterations. There are no tombstones or tablets to the older proprietors.

The estate was long in the possession of a branch of the family of Erskine. The founder of the line was Thomas Erskine of Haltoun, second son of John Erskine of Dun, who fell at Flodden in 1513. In 1525, he became Secretary to James V., then a boy of twelve, and he retained that appointment till the King's death, in 1542. He was knighted, and made Warden of Tantallon Castle in 1529-30, in exchange for which office he soon after received a grant of the lordship of Brechin and Navar. In 1550, he exchanged these lands for the Barony of Balhaggardy, which had for long been in the possession of another branch of the Erskines. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Scrimgeour of Dudhope, and their son, John, succeeded. He had a Crown charter to the town and lands of Pittodrie, Balhaggardy, etc., on 19th August, 1558. (Reg. Mag. Sig., XXXII., 232.) His great-great-grandson, William Erskine, founded a hospital at Balhaggardy, consisting of "two chambers and one mid-room," for the "upholding four poor men who ought to have each one peck of meal and half a peck of malt weekly, to wear livery gowns, and go to church on Sundays before the family." His grand-daughter, Mary Erskine, became proprietrix of Pittodrie, and married Colonel Henry Knight, who assumed her surname. Their son,

Colonel William Knight Erskine, succeeded. He married Grace, daughter of Captain James Norwood; and their elder son, who became proprietor, is commemorated by the following inscription on a tablet on the inner wall of the aisle—

Henry Knight Erskine of Pittodrie, lieutenant-colonel. Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders. Born 4th July, 1813; died 16th November, 1870. And his wife, Mary Ann Moir. Born 15th March, 1829; died 22nd August, 1896.

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The above Mary Ann Moir, wife of Lieutenant - Colonel Erskine, was a daughter of George Moir of Denmore. Of their family, a son, Henry William Knight-Erskine, succeeded to the estate; while a daughter became the wife of Rev. Mr Flower.

The estate, which extends to upwards of 3000 acres, was sold in June, 1903, to George Smith, shipowner, Glasgow.

## INVERRAMSAY.

The estate of Inveramsay has passed through many hands. In 1357, it belonged to Sir Robert Erskine. It was then for a lengthened period in the possession of a family named Smith, of the same line as the Smiths of Mill of Tiftie, Fyvie. Ultimately it was broken up and sold in three portions — one (the northern) to James Murray, bookseller, St Nicholas Street, Aberdeen; another (the middle) to James White, merchant, Queen Street, Aberdeen, who built a mansion house and gave it and the property the name of Legatesden after one of the farms, which the once well-known ballad, "The Battle of Harlaw," gives as the burial-place of Donald of the Isles, and on which, about fifty years ago, a stone enclosed grave, with a skeleton in it, was found. The third and southmost portion was sold to Alexander Collie, slate merchant, Aberdeen. A massive granite obelisk in Chapel

of Garioch graveyard commemorates him and his wife—

Sacred to the memory of Isabella, the beloved wife of Alexander Collie, Esq., of Inveramsay, who died at Harlaw House on the 18th May, 1896, in her 60th year. And the said Alex. Collie, who died at Harlaw House on the 14th January, 1898, in his 74th year.

Alexander Collie was the son of Alexander Collie, slater, Aberdeen, and his wife, who died 18th May, 1896, was Isabella Connon. Their family consisted of a son, Alexander, who died in infancy; a daughter, Elizabeth Leys; and a son, William Leys, who is now joint proprietor with his sister.

Alexander Collie also purchased from the representatives of Rev. Henry Simson a house at Harlaw, on which, in 1883, he erected an imposing tower. In it is fixed a granite tablet inscribed—

This tower was erected in 1883 by Alexander Collie, slate merchant, Aberdeen, as a tribute to the memory of those brave citizens of Bon-Accord, who, along with their noble Provost, Sir Robert Davidson, fell fighting for their country's rights against the usurper, Donald of the Isles, on Friday, 24th July, 1411.

The old mansion house of Inveramsay was known by the name of Pulwa's. Mr Hacket, who long occupied it, was an enthusiastic Jacobite, as well as a hospitable entertainer. With his friends around him, he systematically drank to "The King" with a movement of the hand over the punch-bowl, or a suggestive glance towards a portrait of the Pretender which hung over the fireplace in the dining-room. Having a dislike to modern customs, he is said to have, while on his death-bed, made complete arrangements for his funeral dinner, adding that he "would hae nae caul', hungry burial." He named all those who were to be invited, and specified the proposers of the toasts he desired them to drink. The selection of the proposer of his favourite toast, however, caused him

much perplexity. After deep and silent cogitation, he at length groaned out, "To gie that toast properly, I would need to be there mysel'!"

#### LOGIE-DURNO CHURCHYARD.

This small, ancient graveyard is romantically situated within the finely-wooded grounds of Logie, and close to the old but now disused Huntly road. Its tombstones are not numerous, but many of them record ages of unusual length. The area of the old church—measuring about 20 by 60 feet—is used for interments, but no crowding has been allowed.

#### EPITAPHS.

Perhaps the oldest is that upon a granite tablet—

Here lays John Wat. . . end who departed this life by the pleasure of the Almighty God in hops of a glorious resurrection. AP 27 1720.

The above refers to John Wat, who in 1696 was tenant of Bridgend. For himself and his wife, Marjorie Anderson, he paid 12s of poll.

The two following inscriptions from headstones within the area of the old church probably refer to descendants—

(1).

In memory of Jean Walker, spouse of Alex. Watt in Fordmouth, who died 9th July, 1830, in the 63rd year of her age. Also of Alexander Watt her husband who died 12th Sept., 1833, aged 87 years.

(2).

Erected by William Watt in memory of his father John Watt, sometime farmer in Newlands, who died 14th June, 1836, aged 82 years. Also the above William Watt, died 17th June, 1860, aged 80. Also his wife Elspet Smith who died 29th July, 1879, aged 76 years.

A headstone has the following—

In memory of Arthur Gray, Esq., late of Thripleton, who died at Kebbaly on the 26th of July, 1825, aged 57 years. Also of Mrs Jane

Mason, his mother-in-law, who died at Harthill on the 8th of June, 1803, aged 70 years; and of Mary Mason, his wife, who died at Aberdcen on the 13th day of October, 1843, aged 74 years.

Arthur Gray was the eldest son of Thomas Gray, farmer, Eastertown, Fyvie, thereafter of the home farm, Westhall, Oyne. He became a purser in the Royal Navy; and, having accumulated considerable means, purchased the small property of Thripleton. He and his wife, Mary Mason, had a son — Thomas, who died young—and four daughters, Mary; Sarah; Janet, who married John Milne, LL.D., long Principal of Dollar Academy; and Alice, who married Dr James Leonard, father of Mrs George Cadenhead.

The following is from a headstone—

Erected by Margaret M'Culloch, in memory of her beloved husband, George H. Cooper, fourth son of the late Alexander Cooper, Whiteford, who died at Aberdeen on 21st April, 1862, aged 35 years. . . .

Above my grave the birds will sing,  
From sin and sorrow free;  
But little birds can never sing  
That Jesus died for me.

The two following inscriptions are from headstones erected by members of the old family of Logie, who knew how to appreciate long and faithful service—

(1).

Here lies the body of Thomas D. Beaton, who died August 6th, 1838, aged 41.

This stone is erected by the sons of Sir R. D. H. Elphinstone as a tribute to the memory of an honest man and a faithful friend.

(2).

In memory of Janet Booth, who was born at Old Logie, A.D., 1777, and died March 26, 1857, aged 80 years.

This stone is erected by the Dowager Lady D. H. Elphinstone, to whom for more than half a century she was an attached and faithful servant.

A headstone bears—

Erected by James Jaffrey in memory of his father, Alexander Jaffrey, wright at Logic, who died Oct., 1790, aged 52; also his sister Elizabeth, who died July, 1804, aged 20. And his sister Mary, who died Nov., 1804, aged 28. Also of his affectionate mother, Barbara Lesslie, who died 4th Jan., 1837, aged 88 years, much respected by rich and poor. . . .

Alexander Jaffrey was extremely jealous of the credit of Logie, and anyone having the hardihood to impugn its merits in his presence invariably came off second best. It is said that, on one occasion in St Laurence or "Lowriu" Fair, a farmer from the Alford district innocently remarked that he considered his own farm worth twice as much per acre as any land on Logie. With one blow, Jaffrey felled him to the ground, coolly remarking—"That's bit a sma' sample o' Logie; maybe you would like 'twice as much' o't." At a later date, he accompanied several of the estate carts to Aberdeen, when, in passing through the Gallowgate, the horsemen in charge were subjected to insulting remarks from four half-intoxicated workmen. One, more impertinent than his fellows, commenced to jostle the Logie men, at the same time challenging any two of them to fight. Jaffrey, watching his chance, suddenly seized the ringleader and pitched him like a sheaf of corn into one of the carts. The exploit was heartily applauded by the crowd which had gathered, and effectually stopped the molestation.

A tombstone records the death of three octogenarians—

In memory of William Booth for 40 years blacksmith at Crombie, in the parish of Mar-noch, who died 26th October, 1866, aged 86 years; and of his daughter, Isabella Booth, who died 10th June, 1899, aged 86 years. Also of his wife, Margaret Allan, who died 24th January, 1862, aged 83 years. . . .



A tablestone bears—

In memory of Thomas Hall, for many years farmer in Kinaldie, in the parish of Kinellar, who departed this life the 31st December, 1814, aged 95 years. . . .

Seven headstones alongside commemorate Halls, of whom William Hall, late farmer, Mill of Westhall, died at Rhyhill, 16th March, 1846, aged 76; George Hall, of Hallfield, Newhills, at one time farmer in Logie-Durno, died at Hallfield, 17th August, 1890, aged 77; and his brother, William Hall, died 14th November, 1898, aged 77 years.

There are also several headstones to Diacks, long tenant farmers in the parish.

A headstone is—

Erected by friends and fellow-servants at Logie in memory of John Pirie, gardener, youngest son of George Pirie, Torries, Oyne, who was accidentally drowned in the Urie 3rd August, 1894, aged 22.

The waters compassed me about—Jonah ii. 5.

A tablestone bears the following inscription, several letters of which are cut upside down—

This stone was erected by Ann Crombie in memory of her father, Alexander Crombie, who departed this life May 13, 1739, aged 72 years; and Helen Wright, his Spowse, who departed this life 1766, aged 69 years; and their son, Patrick Crombie, sometime farmer in M S tead, who departed this life March 25, 1780, aged 75 years.

Crombies had an old connection in the parish. In 1696, James Crombie was tenant of "Whytecorss," John Crombie of "Balquhine," and Patrick Crombie of "Maynes." The last-named, for himself, his wife, and son, paid £3 8s of poll. (Poll Book.)

A handsome granite monument is inscribed—

Agnes Selbie, died November 18, 1882. Rev. George Selbie, M.A., died November 4, 1892.

Rev. George Selbie, son of John Selbie, in Inverurie, graduated in Arts at King's College in 1849, and was for a lengthened period schoolmaster of Chapel of Garioch. His son, Rev. George Alexander Selbie, M.A., is the present minister of the parish of Clatt.

In the earlier part of last century the graveyard was more than once visited by the resurrectionists, and bodies were carried off. On one occasion, the members of the watching party divided—one portion putting to flight the body-snatchers, whilst the other succeeded in annexing the dog-cart in which they had driven out from Aberdeen. No claim was ever made for either horse or vehicle.

#### LOGIE PRIVATE CEMETERY AND ESTATE.

Contiguous to the upper end of Logie-Durno graveyard is a small, substantially-walled private cemetery, which was formed in 1798. Before presenting its various inscriptions, however, it may be proper to give a few particulars respecting the estate of Logie-Durno and its earlier proprietors.

Like the other parish lands, Logie-Durno originally formed a portion of the Earldom of the Garioch, but in the fifteenth century it was in the possession of a branch of the Forbeses, the first of whom was Henry, son of Sir John Forbes, second laird of Tolquhon. (Antiq., I., p. 531.)

Between 1670 and 1677, Mr James Elphinstone, son and heir of William Elphinstone of Ressiviot, otherwise designed as "in Milntown of Durnoch," and "in White Inches," (who was second son of James Elphinstone of Glack, descended from Elphinstone of Pittendreich, a cadet family of the Elphinstones of that Ilk), acquired Logie-Durnoch and other lands, of which

he had a Crown charter on 28th February, 1677, ratified by Act of Parliament 6th September, 1681. He was admitted a Writer to the Signet 16th August, 1671, and was appointed a Judge of the Commissary Court of Edinburgh in November, 1679. On 24th December, 1689, he had a ratification of the same for life; and on 27th August, 1705, he and Mr John Elphinstone, his son, had a re-grant of the office for their joint lives. He represented Aberdeenshire in Parliament from 1693 to 1702; and "for his pure zeall for King William's Government," etc., he was, on 2nd December, 1701, created a Baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia, with remainder to his heirs male. In 1679, he built a lofty tenement in the Mint Close of Edinburgh, enclosing a small area called Elphinstone Court; and in 1697 he acquired the lands and manor place of Craighouse, near Edinburgh. He seems to have made additions to the manor house, over one of the entrance doors of which appears his coat of arms, impaled with the arms of Denholme of Westshields. Motto, "Sedulitate." He was a Commissioner of the Signet in 1720, and died in Edinburgh 10th March, 1722, in his 77th year. He married, (contract dated 2nd September, 1673), Cecilie, daughter of John Denholme of Muirhouse; she died 10th November, 1706, aged 60 years, and was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard. Their family consisted of two sons and two daughters. The second son, Mr Robert, who resided chiefly at Logie-Elphinstone, married his first cousin, Elizabeth Lunan, (daughter of the Rev. Alexander Lunan, minister of Daviot, by Janet Elphinstone, sister of Sir James). She survived her husband, who died, apparently without issue, about the beginning of September, 1704. Sir James's elder daughter, Margaret, was married, (contract dated in

1692), to Mr Robert Forbes, advocate, (son of Sir John Forbes of Craigievar, Bart.), afterwards Sir Robert Forbes of Learney, with issue. Anna, the second daughter, was married, in or before 1701, to Captain Thomas Gordon, R.N., of H.M.S. "Royal William," and had issue a daughter, Anna, who was married to Sir Henry Stirling, third Baronet, of Ardoch. Captain Gordon left the British service and entered that of Peter the Great, in which he attained the rank of Admiral; he also became Governor of Cronstadt, and Knight of the Order of St. Alexander. He died in Russia 18th March, 1741, aged 79.

John Elphinstone, advocate, elder son of the preceding, succeeded his father as second Baronet, and in Logie-Elphinstone and Craighouse. He was appointed Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeenshire in 1707, which appointment he resigned before 14th April, 1712. He was one of the Commissioners appointed to visit the University of Aberdeen in 1716. He died 14th March, 1732, having retained his appointment as one of the Commissioners of Edinburgh till his death. He married on 23rd August, 1703, Mary, only daughter of Sir Gilbert Elliot of Headshaw, afterwards of Minto, first Baronet, by his first marriage with Marion (or Helen) Stevenson. She survived him, and died 18th May, 1767. By her—besides two sons, afterwards referred to—he had a family of seven daughters, viz.:(1) Cicell, who was married, (contract dated 27th August, 1737), to Mr James Balfour of Pilrig, with issue. (2) Marion, who died unmarried at Pilrig, 27th April, 1770. (3) Mary, who was married after 1745, as his second wife, (without issue), to Sir Andrew Mitchell, advocate, of Westshore, Shetland, second Baronet, who died 29th June, 1764. She survived him, and died at Edinburgh 14th August, 1786. (4) Jean, who died unmarried before 14th

May, 1760. (5) Margaret, who died unmarried, at Pilrig, 21st February, 1767. (6) Helen, who was married, 28th March, 1751, to Dr Thomas Elliot, M.D. He died the same year; his wife died in 1807. (7) Elizabeth, who was married to Henry Crawford of Monorgan, and had issue.

James Elphinstone, advocate, the elder son, succeeded as third Baronet. He married, 30th September, 1733, Jean, daughter of Thomas Rattray, D.D., of Craighall Rattray, Bishop of Dunkeld, and Primus. (She survived her husband, and was married, secondly, 2nd April, 1747, to Lieutenant-Colonel George Mure, brother of Mr William Mure of Caldwell, with issue.) She died 25th September, 1765. Their family consisted of two daughters—Mary, who ultimately succeeded to Logie-Elphinstone; and Margaret, who died unmarried 8th August, 1765. Sir James died in April, 1739.

Sir John Elphinstone, younger brother of the preceding, succeeded. He was a promising officer in Long's Regiment of Foot, but died at Glasgow in January, 1743, at the early age of 26, and the baronetcy thereupon became extinct.

The above-mentioned Mary Elphinstone, daughter of Sir James, succeeded to Logie-Elphinstone, as already stated. On 9th July, 1754, she was married to Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Dalrymple Horn of Horn—a descendant of the first Viscount Stair—who thereupon assumed the additional name of Elphinstone. He was third son of Hew Dalrymple, S.C.J. as Lord Drummore, and Anne Horn, heiress of Horn (the manor place of which barony was Westhall), and was at the time of his marriage in command of the 1st Royal Scots Regiment. He was afterwards lieutenant-general, and colonel of the 53rd Regiment of Foot. It is recorded that the attainted Lord Pitsligo, who had one of his places of concealment

on Bennachie, occasionally found an evening's respite and enjoyment with the general at Logie. The kindly hostess once remarked upon the hard drinking which the two friends indulged in on a safe night, when the forfeited lord humorously replied that "if she was sitten upon a cauld, bare stane up in Bennachie, wi' naething but burn water, she micht ca' that hard drinkin'." General and Mrs Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone had, besides other issue who died young, a family of two sons—James and Robert—and six daughters—(1) Janet, who was married, with issue, to Captain Alexander Davidson of Newton, second son of Alexander Gordon, eleventh Laird of Gight (see *New Spalding Club's "The House of Gordon,"* I., p. 116); (2) Mary, who was married to Sir Ernest Gordon, Bart., of Park, and died 3rd July, 1810 (see *Jervise's "Epitaphs,"* I., p. 28); he died at Park 5th November, 1800; (3) Marion, who was married, with issue, 21st November, 1785, to James Mansfield of Midmar, and died 20th October, 1824; he died at Midmar 17th December, 1823 (see *Ibid.*, ii., pp. 81-82); (4) Margaret, who was married, at Logie, 16th September, 1785, to Sir Robert Burnett of Leys, seventh Baronet, and died 18th March, 1849 (see *New Spalding Club's "Family of Burnett of Leys,"* pp. 97-98); Sir Robert died in January, 1837; (5) Eleanora Jane, who was married on 21st October, 1790, to William Wemyss of Cuttlehill, Fifeshire, and died 5th December, 1835; and (6) Elizabeth, who was married at Edinburgh 5th June, 1803, to George Leith of Overhall, and died in 1838; he died in 1815. Mrs D. H. Elphinstone died at her town residence, Balmerinloch House, Leith (which had been purchased for her by her trustees on the forfeiture of Lord Balmerinloch in 1746, when she was a child), on March 3rd,



and was buried in the vault at Restalrig Church 6th March, 1774. Her husband survived her, and, dying 20th, was buried in the same vault 24th April, 1794.

The succeeding proprietor is commemorated by a white marble mural tablet within the private cemetery before mentioned. Over the entrance gate to the cemetery the arms of the family are shown with the motto, "Firm," for Dalrymple, and the motto (below the shield) "Moneo et munio." The tablet is inscribed—

## (1).

This cemetery was erected to the memory of James Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, of Horn and Logie, who died at sea the 21st day of April, 1798, on his return from Lisbon, aged 37: by his widow Margaret, only child and heiress of James Davidson of Midmar Castle, who survived him 43 years, and also lies here.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.—John vi. 37.

Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—I. Cor. xv. 57.

James Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone was the elder of the two surviving sons of Lieutenant-General Robert Dalrymple Horn and Mary Elphinstone. The village of Port-Elphinstone was named after him in grateful recognition of the signal services he rendered for the construction of the canal which had its terminus there.

The younger brother of the preceding succeeded, and the following inscription on a red granite monument gives a brief sketch of his career—

## (2).

Sacred to the memory of Sir Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, Baronet, born February 27, 1766, died October 11, 1848, aged 82 years 8 months.

He entered the army in 1782, and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards.

He succeeded to the estates of Horn and Logie-Elphinstone on the death of his brother James, in April, 1798, who also lies here.

The title he represented through his mother Mary, only daughter of Sir James Elphinstone, Bart., was renewed to him in 1827, the fifth baronet of Logie-Elphinstone.

He was a most affectionate husband and father, a steady and zealous friend, liberal and kind to all who were dependent upon him.

He devoted his long life to the improvement of this district, and died in the humble but steadfast hope of eternal life through the merits of our Blessed Redeemer.

Sir Robert was a model landlord, and besides interesting himself in the affairs of the Garioch, he rendered for many years efficient service as Convener of the County of Aberdeen. He served with his battalion of the 3rd Guards in the Duke of York's campaign in the Low Countries in 1796, and retired from the service on succeeding his brother. He married at Edinburgh, 21st May, 1800, Graeme, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel David Hepburn, second son of James Congalton-Rickart-Hepburn of Keith Marischal, and of Rickarton *jure uxoris*; and they had a family of fifteen, of whom seven predeceased their father. The surviving children were— (1) James, who succeeded; (2) Hew Drummond, Master Attendant at Madras, who married Helenora Catherine, daughter of Sir John Heron Maxwell, Baronet, of Springkell, and died in April, 1893, aged 85, leaving issue Robert Graeme, who succeeded his cousin as 5th baronet in 1900, and a daughter, who died unmarried; (3) Mary Frances, who was married 17th August, 1830, to Patrick Boyle, afterwards of Shewalton, Ayrshire, eldest son of the Right Honourable David Boyle of Shewalton (afterwards Lord Justice General), and had issue; he died 4th September, 1874; she survived him, and died 15th September, 1880; (4) Francis Anstruther, of the E.I. Company's Civil Service, who married Mary Anne, daughter of General Herbert Bowen, C.B., with issue; (5) Charles, of Kinellar Lodge, whose

first wife is commemorated by a headstone within the private cemetery inscribed thus—

(3).

Here rest in hope the mortal remains of Harriet Albinia Louisa, the beloved wife of Charles Elphinstone Dalrymple. She was the eldest daughter of Alexander Gordon, Esq. of Ellon, and her husband the seventh son of Sir Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, Bart., of Logie-Elphinstone.

They were married September 12, 1849, but after four years and four months of wedded happiness—too quickly passed—it pleased their Heavenly Father to part them, by taking her to Himself, twelve days after the birth of their first and only child, a son.

She was born September 14, 1816, and died February 13, 1854.

“ Father not my will but Thine be done.”

The son here mentioned was named William Robert. He entered the 4th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, served as A.D.C. to Sir Bartle Frere, High Commissioner in South Africa, and was promoted to captain. He died in New Zealand, unmarried, in 1890.

Mr Charles Elphinstone Dalrymple, who died in 1891, married, secondly, on 24th April, 1860, with issue a daughter, Anne Alexandrina, Christian, now of Kinellar, daughter of the late Colonel William Gordon-Cuming-Skene of Pitlurg and Dyce. (See Kinellar.) Sir Robert's other children were:—(6) John Hamilton, General, late of the Scots Guards, C.B., and Knight of the Turkish Order of the Medjidie, who married, in 1851, without issue, Georgina Anne (daughter of William P. Brigstocke, of Birdcombe Court, Co. Somerset, and widow of Francis Garden-Campbell of Troup and Glenlyon), who died in 1887; he died in 1888; (7) Henrietta Marion, who was married, in 1857, to Thomas Coats Leslie, youngest son of William Leslie of Warthill, and died at Woodend House,

Banchory-Ternan, on 26th February, 1903, aged 78, without issue; he died in 1862; and (8) George Augustus Frederick, sometime Colonial Secretary, Queensland, who died in 1876, unmarried.

Sir James Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, the next proprietor, in early manhood commanded an East Indiaman, and, as Captain Dalrymple, closely identified himself with the public affairs of the county. Before his father's death he resided at Westhall, which estate he sold some years after succeeding to the family properties. He was for long M.P. for the Borough of Portsmouth, and was also a Junior Lord of the Treasury from 1874 till 1880. He married, in 1836, Mary, fourth daughter of Lieut.-General Sir John Heron Maxwell, Bart., of Keroughtrie and Springkell, and three of their children, who died in infancy, have a tablet to their memory with the inscription—

In loving remembrance of Robert, born October 17, 1837, died March 10th, 1839. Mary Heron born April 5th, 1846, died March 23rd, 1850. James Edward, born April 3rd, 1849, died May 5th, 1850.

The beloved children of Sir James and Lady Dalrymple Elphinstone. . . .

Other children were (1) John, commander in the navy, who died v. p.; (2) Robert, who succeeded his father as 3rd Bart., and married, without issue, Nina, daughter of John Balfour, who survived him, and was married, secondly, in 1901, to Lieutenant-General Sir James Bevan Edwards, K.C.M.G.; (3) Graeme Hepburn (he ultimately succeeded his brother as 4th Bart.), who married, with issue two daughters, Mary Constance and Esther Winifred, on 5th January, 1875, Alice, daughter of James Ogilvie Fairlie of Coodham, Co. Ayr, and died 27th May, 1890, aged 49; and (4) Margaret Burnett, who was married, with issue, on 11th September, 1873, to the Rev. John Maturin Warren.

Sir James and his lady were buried in a private enclosure adjoining the family cemetery already mentioned. Small, grey granite crosses commemorate each with the inscriptions—

(1).

In memory of Sir James Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, Bart.; born Nov. 20, 1805; died Dec. 26, 1886.

(2).

In memory of Lady Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone; born Sept. 17, 1811; died Nov. 16, 1876.

In 1903, the estate—greatly reduced in extent from that originally held by the first Sir James, but still yielding a gross rental exceeding £4000—was disposed of by public sale; and thus disappeared from the roll of Aberdeenshire proprietors the name of one of the oldest and most respected families. The purchaser was George Milne, younger, of Kinaldie, whose wife is Florence, only surviving child of the late James William Barclay of Glenbuchat (see Glenbuchat), and they have a family of one son — James Barclay — and four daughters. Mr Milne is a resident landlord, and has carried out extensive improvements upon the mansion-house, a portion of which dates back to the seventeenth century. It is beautifully situated on a plateau on the left bank of the Ury, and commands a fine view of Bennachie, a considerable portion of which belongs to the estate. The praises of the district streams and woods have often been sung by rustic bards, and according to William Thom, the Inverurie poet—

Ury wi' its murmurs sweet,  
Gadie wi' its waters fleet,  
They hae trystit aye to meet  
Amang the woods o' Logy.

These particulars were kindly contributed by Colonel The Hon. Robert Boyle.

## Fetternear.

The name Fetternear—or “Fethyrneir,” as it was originally called—is believed to be of Pictish origin, and to signify “the western forest.”

In early times, the district formed a small independent parish, which status it continued to enjoy, with all the usual parochial privileges, till considerably after the Reformation.

The church was dedicated to St Ninian, and—with its lands and pertinents—was granted to the See of Aberdeen. The donor was probably King Malcolm the Maiden, and confirmation was given by Pope Adrian IV. in 1157. (Reg. Epis. Aberd., I., pp. 5-7 and 84-86.) In 1242, Alexander II. erected the land of “Fethyrneir”—as also those of Brass (Birse)—into a free forest in favour of Bishop Ralph and his successors in office.

The names of several of the old parish priests and ministers have been preserved. In 1236, William was parson, with John as vicar. In 1487, Thomas Strachan was vicar. In 1504, James Chamer was rector. In 1529, Andrew Cullen was parson. He was the son of Andrew Cullen, Provost of Aberdeen, and, besides his appointment at Fetternear, he held the office of vicar of St Nicholas Church, Aberdeen. He died 7th July, 1560. The succeeding minister was Rev. Andrew Leslie. The date of his death and the appointments he held are thus recorded—“The VIII day of Aprill, the yeir of God 1571 yeris, Maister Andro Lesly, person of Fetterner and scherrefe clark of Aberdein, depertit owit of this present lyfe.” (Chronicle of Aberdeen.) In 1586, Rev. Walter Gordon was parson and vicar; and in 1593, Rev. James Johnston was minister of Fetternear and Monymusk.

On 15th August, 1606, Rev. Alexander Paterson, minister of Logie-Durno, was



collated to the benefice of Fetternear. Seven years before this, however, a new parish church for the united parishes of Logie-Durno and Fetternear was erected, where the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin of the Garioch had stood, and the new parish gradually assumed the present title of Chapel of Garioch. From 1599, therefore, Fetternear ceased to be an independent parish, although it was not till 1620 that its glebe was formally resigned in favour of the Chapel of Garioch minister.

#### LANDS.

Fetternear lands, as already explained, belonged to the See of Aberdeen, and the Bishop had a summer palace thereon. At the Reformation, both lands and palace were bestowed by Bishop William Gordon, brother of the Earl of Huntly, upon William Leslie, who was Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeen, and the ninth baron of Balquhain. With his retainers, he had assisted to preserve the Cathedral of Aberdeen from the fury of the Reformers of Angus, who advanced in a body over Tollohill to attack it. The disposition to Leslie was granted in 1566, and thirty-six years later James VI. gave confirmation to John Leslie, the Sheriff's son, who had the additional honour of being made "Constable of the place and chief messuage of the Bishopric of Aberdeen" with a rental of £120 to maintain the dignity of the appointment. (*Antiq.*, III., pp. 381-83.) He was Sheriff of Aberdeenshire for a considerable period, and lived in an extravagant and princely style. It is declared that he never rode out without a mounted escort of at least twenty retainers. The Privy Council Registers (Vol. V., pp. 55 and 364-5, etc.) show that, although a law administrator, he was also a law-breaker in committing offences of fire-raising and inciting his servants to attack and injure to the danger of life certain

officers of the law whom it was his paramount duty to protect. For these offences, he and his servants were summoned before the Privy Council, and, not comparing, were ordered to be denounced as rebels.

On 15th June, 1625, John Leslie, eleventh baron of Balquhain, mortgaged Fetternear for 11,000 merks to his brother-in-law, Sir Alexander Hay of Delgaty, and to William Hay, his son, from whom, in 1627, Hector Abercromby of Westhall, second son of Alexander Abercromby of Birkenbog, acquired the mortgage title and rights. In 1645, Abercromby was declared by Parliament to be a "malignant," and warrant was granted for the uplifting of his rents. (*Acts of Parliament.*)

Alexander Abercromby succeeded, and, on 20th September, 1670, secured a Papal Charter from Clement X. to Fetternear. He married Jean, daughter of John Seton, of Newark, and one of their sons, Patrick, was an eminent Scottish antiquary and author, among his works being "The Martial Achievements of the Scots Nation." The eldest son, Francis, succeeded to Fetternear; and on his marriage, in 1685, to Anna, Baroness Sempill, he was created Lord Glassford, the title being restricted to his own lifetime. In 1690, he disposed of Fetternear to Patrick Leslie of Balquhain, and both estates have since continued Leslie property.

Balquhain Castle ceased to be occupied by the Leslies in 1715, and it was fired by the Duke of Cumberland and his forces when marching through the Garioch in 1746. A plan and view of the ruins, together with a descriptive report, are given in Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" (Vol. I., p. 304, etc.). (See also Sir Andrew Leith Hay's "Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire." and C. S

Leslie's article in "Castles of Aberdeenshire," 1887.)

Further information regarding the Leslie family and their estates will be found in the *Laurus Leslaeana*; Burke's "Landed Gentry"; Colonel Leslie's "Historical Records of the Family of Leslie" (3 vols.); and Davidson's "Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch."

#### OLD PARISH GRAVEYARD.

The principal relic of the parish is the old churchyard on the left bank of the Don, about a mile below Kemnay bridge. All traces of the pre-Reformation church, which stood in it, have disappeared, a new private church, erected by the Leslie family, occupying its site. The graveyard itself has been levelled up, and is now seldom used for interments. This sequestered spot, surrounded by the murmuring Don and trees of patriarchal age, calls forth emotions consonant with its hallowed purpose and associations.

The oldest memorial is probably a defaced tablet fixed into a recess over the arch of the entrance gate. It is inscribed—

. . . Lord Elphinston hath in this year 17—9 re—aired and built anew in memory of her dear husband George Lesley of Balquain (Wt, a Son) herein interred, who leaving behind him these children, James and Ernest, then infants, dyed at Fetternear in the 34th year of his age, June 17, 1715.

The first portion of the above inscription is entirely removed, but it is known that the lady who originally erected the monument was the Hon. Margaret, second daughter of John, eighth Lord Elphinstone, who, in 1706, married George Leslie, sixteenth baron of Balquhain. About five years after Mr Leslie's death, his widow married Sir James Gordon of Park, and it is alleged that a son of this marriage, James Gordon—afterwards of Cobairdy—ac-

quired considerable portions of land in Insch district, to the prejudice of the Leslie family.

A headstone is inscribed—

I.H.S. †Pray for the soul of The Rev. Thomas Chisholm, who died at Inverurie, 22 February, 1872, aet 65. And also for eight students, who died at Aquhorties from 1813 to 1827. R.I.P. . . .

About 1796, the lands of Aquhorties, extending to nearly 800 acres, were secured under a 99 years' lease by Bishop Hay, Vicar-Apostolic of the Lowland district of Scotland. A Roman Catholic College was erected on it (the seminary at Scaln, Glenlivet, being closed), and it continued in operation till the opening of St Mary's College, Blairs, on 2nd June, 1829. The lease of Aquhorties was subsequently renounced.

A rough, unpolished headstone has the simple inscription—

This ston is set up here in memory of Margrat Mearns. 1777.

Another old stone bears the date and initials—

1781. A. H.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of James Laing, who died 16th January, 1809, aged 73 years. And of his spouse, Ann Scott, who died 29th January, 1832, aged 85 years.

A headstone commemorates Robert Laing, farmer, Overtown, Fetternear, who died 21st January, 1838, aged 56, and his wife, Mary Hill, who died 26th April, 1834, aged 46. Their son-in-law, Alexander Reid, who succeeded to Overtown, died 15th February, 1883, aged 79, while his wife, Mary Laing, died 22nd April, 1875, aged 64.

There are several headstones to Crombies, of whom Thomas Crombie, late farmer, Middleton of Balquhain, died 15th January, 1820, in his 60th year. His wife, Isobel Nicol, died 4th June, 1826,

aged 58. John Crombie died at Mill of Braco, 14th September, 1883, aged 76. Alexander Crombie, merchant, Aberdeen, died 4th January, 1809, aged 61, and his spouse, Jane Philip, died 1820, aged 71. Jean Crombie, spouse to Peter Middleton, farmer, Newton, Fetternear, died 12th January, 1826, aged 74, and the said Peter Middleton died 27th April, 1847, aged 98 years.

A tombstone bears—

Erected by Alexr. Skinner, in memory of Janet Grant, his laffull spouse, who died the 23rd of May, 1828, in the 30th year of hir age.

behold the dust which here doth ly  
in peace with god and man did dy  
they are gone to heaven the place of rest  
where they shall be for ever blist  
their glass is run and yours is running  
beware of sin for judgment's coming.

A tombstone is inscribed—

Erected by his parents in memory of their son James Grant, late agent, G.N.S.R., Kintore, who died 17th July, 1857, aged 21 years.

O parents dear, don't weep for me,  
I am not dead but sleeping here;  
My mouldering dust doth cry to thee,  
Prepare thyself to follow me.

His father, James Grant, died at Westertown, Fetternear, 29th March, 1879, aged 75 years. And his mother, Jean Reid, died 20th December, 1890, aged 89 years.

## Blairdaff.

### QUOAD SACRA PARISH CHURCH.

In 1839, a Chapel-of-Ease, in connection with the Church of Scotland, capable of accommodating 500 worshippers, was erected at Blairdaff on a site generously granted by Robert Grant of Tillyfour at the nominal feu-duty of one penny Scots, if asked. The ground—extending to upwards of an acre—provided ample space, not only for the church and accessory

buildings, but also for a graveyard. The district intended to be served was the remote corners of Chapel of Garioch, Oyne, and Monymusk, wherein the residents were too far removed from their respective parish churches to be regular in attendance. The church was opened for public worship on 9th June, 1839, and the fact that 318 communicated in the following year proves that its erection was required.

The church continued as a Chapel-of-Ease till 15th March, 1895, when—sufficient endowment having been secured—it was raised to the status of a parish, quoad sacra.

For the first two years after it was built, the parish ministers and sundry probationers officiated. The first regular preacher was Rev. David Mitchell, who was installed in 1841. At the Disruption he came out, along with many of the congregation, and formed the Free Church of Blairdaff, as afterwards explained. He died on 31st May, 1876, and was interred in the graveyard adjoining his former church. An obelisk at his railed-in grave is inscribed thus—

In affectionate remembrance of the Rev. David Mitchell, for 33 years minister of the Free Church of Blairdaff, who died 31st May, 1876, aged 67 years. And Jane Mitchell, his wife, who died at Stonehaven 23rd November, 1891, aged 69 years. . . .

Also of their son, David James John Mess, artist's colourman, Stonehaven, who died 3rd June, 1904, aged 42 years; beloved and respected by all who knew him.

Mr Mitchell's memory is still revered in the district. A quiet, scholarly, and generous-hearted man, he won the esteem of all who knew him.

The succeeding preacher was Rev. — Thomson, who, in 1846, gave place to Rev. Gordon Smart, M.A., who was also teacher



of Lord Cullen's School. In 1849, Mr Smart became minister of the parish of Cabrach (see Cabrach), and was succeeded in both his Blairdaff appointments by Rev. James Mitchell Laing. A granite headstone is inscribed to him and his wife—

Erected by the Blairdaff congregation and other friends.

In loving memory of the Rev. James Mitchell Laing, M.A., who faithfully and affectionately ministered to them in the Gospel for 37 years, during which he was also incumbent of Lord Cullen's School. He entered into rest from his active life 27th February, 1886, at the age of 71 years. Also of Jane Reid, his wife, his faithful and devoted co-worker for 34 years, who died at Aberdeen, 25th March, 1902, aged 75 years. . . .

Mr Laing possessed scholarly accomplishments, and his services were frequently requisitioned for school examinations throughout West Aberdeenshire. His gentle bearing and encouraging advice proved a stimulus to many scholars, who remember him with affection.

In 1886, Rev. George Keith, M.A., was appointed missionary, and continued till 1889, when, after a brief assistantship in Greyfriars Church, Aberdeen, he emigrated to New South Wales, and became Presbyterian minister at Condobolin and Cudgellico. Rev. Alexander Wilson, M.A., succeeded him in 1889, but removed to Ythan Wells in the following year, when he was succeeded by Rev. Richard Robb, who was inducted 26th April, 1891.

It is disappointing to have to add that, during the last sixty years, there has been a large diminution in the population of the district. Various causes account for this. Formerly, many workmen found employment in connection with a large sawmill at Ramstone, and a wool mill at Burnhervie, but both have disappeared. At present, there are about 50 houses fewer than there were thirty years ago, some of the proprietors adopting the

policy of pulling down the houses in need of repair or rebuilding, and adding the crofts to the adjoining holdings. There are now few crofts in the district, and there is a distinct scarcity of houses for working people. In justice to Sir Arthur Grant, however, it should be stated that he has erected many excellent cottages.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Near the site of Blairdaff Quoad Sacra Parish Church stood an Episcopal Church, the roof of which was thatched with heather. Rev. Alexander Lunan became minister on 9th November, 1729, and his MS. diary records that he dispensed the Sacrament to a congregation of between 270 and 300. He removed to North Water Bridge in 1744.

As evidence of the slender stipends then paid to Episcopal clergymen, it may be stated that Mr Lunan's successor received only 234 merks—or about £13 sterling—with a small house as substitute for a manse.

In 1801, the congregation removed to Monymusk Village. (See Monymusk.)

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH.

A church stands by the right side of the public road leading from Kemnay Village. Its site was originally granted by Sir James Grant, Bart., of Monymusk, to a friendly society, who disposed of it to the Free Church.

The first minister, as already stated, was Rev. David Mitchell.

Rev. Alexander Yule, M.A., succeeded in 1876, but his promising career was terminated by death in 1887, at the early age of 36. He interested himself greatly in educational and general parochial affairs.

Rev. John Stalker, M.A., the present incumbent, was ordained to the charge on 8th November, 1887.

## CHURCHYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The churchyard contains about 50 tombstones, many being of ornate design.

A headstone—bearing at the top the date 1875—is inscribed—

Erected by public subscription to commemorate the first interment in Blairdaff Churchyard, 30th August, 1875—Rev. J. M. Laing officiating.

In memory of George Ewen, who died 26th August, 1875, aged 48 years. . . .

A headstone bears—

Erected by Mary Reid, in memory of her husband, Robert Dow, late farmer, South Keithney, Fetternear, who died 4th May, 1891, aged 59 years.

Mourn not, my friends, nor weep in vain,  
This silent tomb heals all my pain;  
For death, ere long, will visit thee,  
So now prepare to follow me.

A red granite monument is inscribed—

Erected by Mary Lily Grant in memory of her father, Thomas Grant, flockmaster, Inverurie, who died 28th May, 1899, aged 25 years. Her mother, Mary Jane Melvin, wife of Thomas Grant, who died 8th August, 1899, aged 25 years.

The parents of the daughter who erected the above monument were carried off within three months of one another by the same fell disease—consumption—and at the same age, 25.

A massive obelisk, in an enclosure, has the following inscriptions on front and side respectively—

(1).

In loving memory of George Dawson, for 26 years Garioch District road surveyor, who died at Woodend Cottage, Fetternear, 18th February, 1892, aged 55 years.

(2).

In loving memory of John Dawson, for 21 years road foreman, Garioch District, who died at Jessimine Cottage, Kemnay, 9th December, 1901, aged 45 years.

George Dawson's great-grandfather,

William Dawson, died 12th July, 1851, at the long age of 101. His remains were interred in the churchyard of Premnay.

A grey granite headstone—within an enclosure—is inscribed—

In affectionate remembrance of William M'Leod, farmer, Enzean, Monymusk, who died there on the 29th of March, 1903, aged 84.

“At evening-time it was light.”

William M'Leod, besides being a successful farmer, was a skilful valuator, whose services were widely in demand.

Monymusk Kirk Session Records bear that on the night of 27th December, 1792, a “dreadful catastrophe” happened at Enzean, when its kiln was burned to the ground, and four men perished in the flames. Their names are recorded thus—George Rhice and his son George Rhice, John Black in Upper Coullie, and James Watt, a young man of 18.

Interesting anecdotes connected with Blairdaff and Balquhain districts are given in the volume “Glimpses o' Auld Lang Syne,” by William Watson. (See also “Materials for a History of the Church and Priory of Monymusk,” by Rev. W. M. Macpherson, D.D.; and “The Life and Times of the Rev. John Skinner, M.A., of Linshart,” author of “Tullochgorum,” by Rev. Dean Walker, LL.D.)

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## Monymusk.

The origin of the name Monymusk has not been satisfactorily explained. It is known, however, that the parish was one of the earliest centres of Christianity on Donside.

The parish church, which stands at the east side of the village, was dedicated to St Mary. It is very ancient, and, in the course of centuries, has been repeatedly

altered and repaired. Before the Reformation, it contained several altars, including one to St Michael. (Protocol MS. Vol.) In 1722, Mr Jaffray, school-master, noted the following facts regarding it (Macfarlane's Geog. Coll. MS.)—

The church, one of the handsomest country churches in Scotland, is about five hundred ells west of the house of Monymusk; but by whom, or when, built, whether the parochial church, or the Church of the Priory hard by it, is entirely uncertain, there being no date to be found about it to instruct the one, or record yet heard of to determine the other.

From a very early date a monastery stood at Monymusk, and it is of interest as being the only Culdee establishment that ever existed between the rivers Dee and Spey. In 1078, Malcolm Canmore, while proceeding northward with a considerable force to quell the rebels of Moray, halted at Monymusk, and vowed that, if success followed his expedition, he would make a grant to the church. The rebels having submitted without bloodshed, the King granted to the church of St Andrews the Culdee monastery, and parts of the parishes of Monymusk and Keig, with smaller portions of Oyne, Chapel of Garioch, and Cluny. Finally, the Culdee order was suppressed in favour of the Canons-Regular of St Andrews, for whom, between 1199 and 1207, the Earl of Mar is believed to have erected a Priory at Monymusk.

It is asserted by some that King Malcolm erected the Parish Church, and that he stood in the centre of the tower and marked its four corners with his spear, in proof of which they urge the fact that the arches of Dunfermline Abbey (the work of Malcolm's Queen) resemble those at Monymusk in many details.

In the middle of the fifteenth century, the church—which was quite separate from the Priory—was added to the Diocese of Aberdeen by Bishop Lindsay; and till after

the Reformation it was served by a vicar, the rector being in close attendance at the Cathedral in Old Aberdeen, where, on the north side of Chanoury, a manse, yard, and glebe were assigned to him.

Monymusk was one of the special places where, in 1662, it was ordered that "morning and evening prayeris be said," and "that the liturgie in the old psalme book be used and practized."

Between 1685 and 1693, extensive alterations on the fabric of the church were made, and it was entirely re-seated at the cost of the kirk-box. The letters I. F. (for Sir John Forbes, third Baronet) and date 1692 on the outside stair leading to the gallery commemorate some of these operations. Sir John's great-great-grandfather, William Forbes of Corsindae, on 2nd June, 1535, executed his deed of settlement, wherein, after commending his "soul to the Most High Creator and to the Blessed Virgin and the Court of Heaven," he directed his body to be buried in the choir, which has been the burial-place of the Grant family since 1712. The present place of worship is the nave of the old church.

Four silver Communion cups were purchased in 1691 and two of larger size in 1712. The four are very finely engraved, and show the vine and its fruit. Each has an inscription in contracted Latin, of which the English is—

Communion cup purchased at the expense, and for the use of, the parish of Monymusk, in the year 1691, during the ministry of Mr John Burnett.

The church also possesses a beautiful baptismal bowl of solid silver, which was presented by Lady Grant of Monymusk in 1772. It bears the inscription—

Dame Jane Johnston, Lady Grant, to the Church of Monymusk, June, 1772.



The church bell is specially interesting, being an excellent specimen of the work of John Mowat, bell-founder, Old Aberdeen. It has an inscription, partly in Latin. The translation is—

John Mowat, Old Aberdeen, made me, 1748, for the use of the church of Monymusk. Sabbaths I proclaim: at funerals I toll.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

In 1567, and for several years thereafter, James Murray acted as reader.

In February, 1572, Rev. John Forbes received a Crown presentation, but he was not admitted. He became laird of Camp-hill, which his descendants possessed for many years.

In 1574, Rev. James Johnston—a cadet of the family of Caskieben—was appointed. For a time he had Cluny and Fetternear likewise in charge. He died 19th March, 1615, aged 76, survived by at least one son, James, who was nominated as his executor.

In 1613, Rev. James Irving, previously of Tough, was inducted. He was deprived before the winter of 1615, but returned to Tough, whence he was translated to Arbirlot in 1617. He died in 1625.

In 1615, Rev. William Forbes was presented from Alford. His career from boyhood was exceptionally brilliant. The son of Thomas Forbes, burghess of Aberdeen, and a descendant of Forbes of Corsindae, he graduated in Arts when only 16. He acted for a time as Professor of Logic in Marischal College, and was offered the Professorship of Hebrew at Oxford, which he declined. After acting as minister of Alford for about a year, and as minister of Monymusk for about a similar period, he was called to Aberdeen. In 1620, he became the fourth Principal of Marischal College, but demitted in the following year. He was Rector in 1632, and was consecrated first Bishop of Edinburgh in

February, 1635, but he died in less than three months after.

In 1617, Rev. Thomas Forbes was inducted, but he removed, in 1622, to Leochel, where, in August, 1638, his manse was invaded by a band of robbers.

In 1622, Rev. Adam Barclay, M.A., was admitted from Leochel, but, three years later, was translated to Alford.

Rev. Alexander Lunan, who had graduated in Arts at King's College in 1615, and been Regent there from 1618, was admitted in 1625. In 1628, he was transferred to the charge of Kintore.

In 1629, Rev. John Gellie, previously at Premnay, was inducted. He was infest in the lands of Blackford in 1635, but within the next twelve years underwent much privation and suffering for his ardour as a Covenanter. He died before January, 1654, when Patrick Gellie, burghess of Aberdeen, was served curator to George, Robert, Elizabeth, and Marie, his children.

In 1653, Rev. Alexander Ross or Rose was admitted from Kinnernie. He was the proprietor of considerable property in Inch, and died in April, 1680. He had married Anna, second daughter of John Forbes of Corsindae; and of his sons, John became minister of Foveran, and Alexander was Bishop of Moray, and afterwards of Edinburgh.

In 1678, Rev. John Burnett, M.A., previously at Culross, was admitted. He died on 22nd May, 1728, and was buried three days later "in the middle of the church floor before the lectern." Of his family, Alexander was for some time Regent in King's College.

Rev. Alexander Simpson, previously minister of Inch, was inducted 29th May, 1729. He died Father of the Church of Scotland on 3rd January, 1781, in the 83rd year of his age, and 61st of his ministry. He had two sons. One, Patrick, was

minister of Kennay, 1747 to 1757, and then of Inverurie from 1757 till his death, in 1768. The other son was Archibald. A daughter—Dolly—was married, on 30th May, 1759, to Edward Eyres, then an officer in the regiment commanded by Lord Charles Manners.

Rev. William Marr, M.A., who, in 1764, became parish schoolmaster, and thereafter assistant minister, was ordained assistant and successor to Mr Simpson in December, 1772. He died in June, 1773, aged about 28.

In 1776, Rev. Alexander Duff, M.A., became assistant to Mr Simpson, at whose death he received a presentation to the parish, and was admitted on 27th June, 1781. He died in February, 1814, aged 75, survived by two sons. His widow, Elizabeth Mortimer, who died on 22nd February, 1791, and two daughters are referred to in the annexed inscription on a headstone in the graveyard—

Here are laid the wife and two daughters of Rev. Alex. Duff, minister of Monymusk, 1781-1814.

The residue of their means was left to the poor of the parish for all time.

A railed-in grave has a headstone to the succeeding incumbent. It is inscribed—

To the memory of the Rev. Robert Forbes, M.A., minister of the parish of Monymusk. Born 16th August, 1778. Died 22nd February, 1853, in the 39th year of his ministry; also, of Rachel Copland, his wife. Born 9th December, 1779. Died 12th September, 1837.

Erected by their affectionate family. Also of Robert, their third son, Proctor in Colombo, who died at Cuddalore on 18th May, 1854.

Rev. Robert Forbes, who was for some time a teacher in Aberdeen, was ordained at Monymusk on 21st September, 1814. His family consisted of six sons and two daughters. Of the former, William was admitted a member of the Society of

Advocates, Aberdeen, 28th June, 1832, and was subsequently connected with the Scottish Amicable Assurance Company, Glasgow; Alexander was for some time teacher of Lord Cullen's school at Blairdaff, and was subsequently a minister in Canada; James went to Ceylon; John died in Glasgow; and Charles became vicar of South Banbury.

A railed-in grave has a headstone to the next minister. It bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Henry Dawson, A.M., minister of the parish of Monymusk, who died 22nd October, 1867, in the 43rd year of his age, and the 15th of his ministry.

This stonc is erected by the parishioners of Monymusk in grateful remembrance of the many virtues of their late beloved and lamented minister.

He being dead yet speaketh.

Rev. Thomas Henry Dawson, who was a native of Culsalmond, was for some time schoolmaster of Chapel of Garioch. He married Mary, daughter of George Milne of Kinaldie, and they had a family of three daughters. Mrs Dawson afterwards married George Jamieson, wholesale merchant, who was Provost of Aberdeen, 1874-79.

Rev. William Mearns Macpherson, M.A., who, on 30th January, 1866, had been ordained minister of the parish of Kennethmont, was inducted here in 1868, and still actively discharges his ministerial duties. He got the degree of D.D., and is the author of a comprehensive work to which he gives the modest title of "Materials for a History of the Church and Priory of Monymusk."

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

At the southern entrance to the village stands the Episcopal Church, which is of

plain design. Indeed, the structure was erected for a secular purpose, but, in 1801, it was fitted up as a church, and taken possession of by the Episcopal congregation, which had met for many years previously at Blairdaff, on the north side of the Don. It accommodates 150 of a congregation. Among its outstanding incumbents may be mentioned Rev. James Andrew (1799-1801), who became Principal of Addiscombe College, and in 1823 published a "Hebrew Dictionary and Grammar Without Points." He received the degree of LL.D.

The most cultured and attractive minister, however, was Rev. William Walker, M.A., who was ordained to the charge in 1842. He was elected Dean of Aberdeen, and in 1885 was honoured with the degree of LL.D. He is the author of many works, among which may be quoted "The Life and Times of the Rev. John Skinner, M.A., of Linhart, Longside, Dean of Aberdeen, author of 'Tullochgorum,' etc.;" "Life of Bishop Jolly of Moray"; "The Life of Bishop Gleig of Brechin"; "The Life of Bishop John Skinner, of Aberdeen"; "Moses and Deuteronomy"; and "The Kings of Israel."

The church contains two memorial tablets, one of which is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Catherine Duff, widow of William Stewart, Master Commanding R.N., who died May 11th, 1844, æt. 68. Also to the memory of Catherine Elizabeth Mary Fyffe Duff, wife of William Johnstone Fyffe, Staff Surgeon, who died August 21st, 1859, æt. 24. Also to the memory of Joseph Rolleston Sterritt Duff, Esq., of Corsindae, husband of Mrs Sterritt Duff of Corsindae, who died November 18th, 1866, æt. 70. Also to the memory of Mrs Sterritt Duff of Corsindae, who died November 5th, 1874, æt. 74, and of her sister Elizabeth Anne Duff Stewart Duff, who died July 18th, 1881, æt. 71.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord;

even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.—Rev. xiv., v. 13.

A granite monument erected in the Corsindae burial ground at Midmar, and a marble tablet in the new church there have almost similar inscriptions.

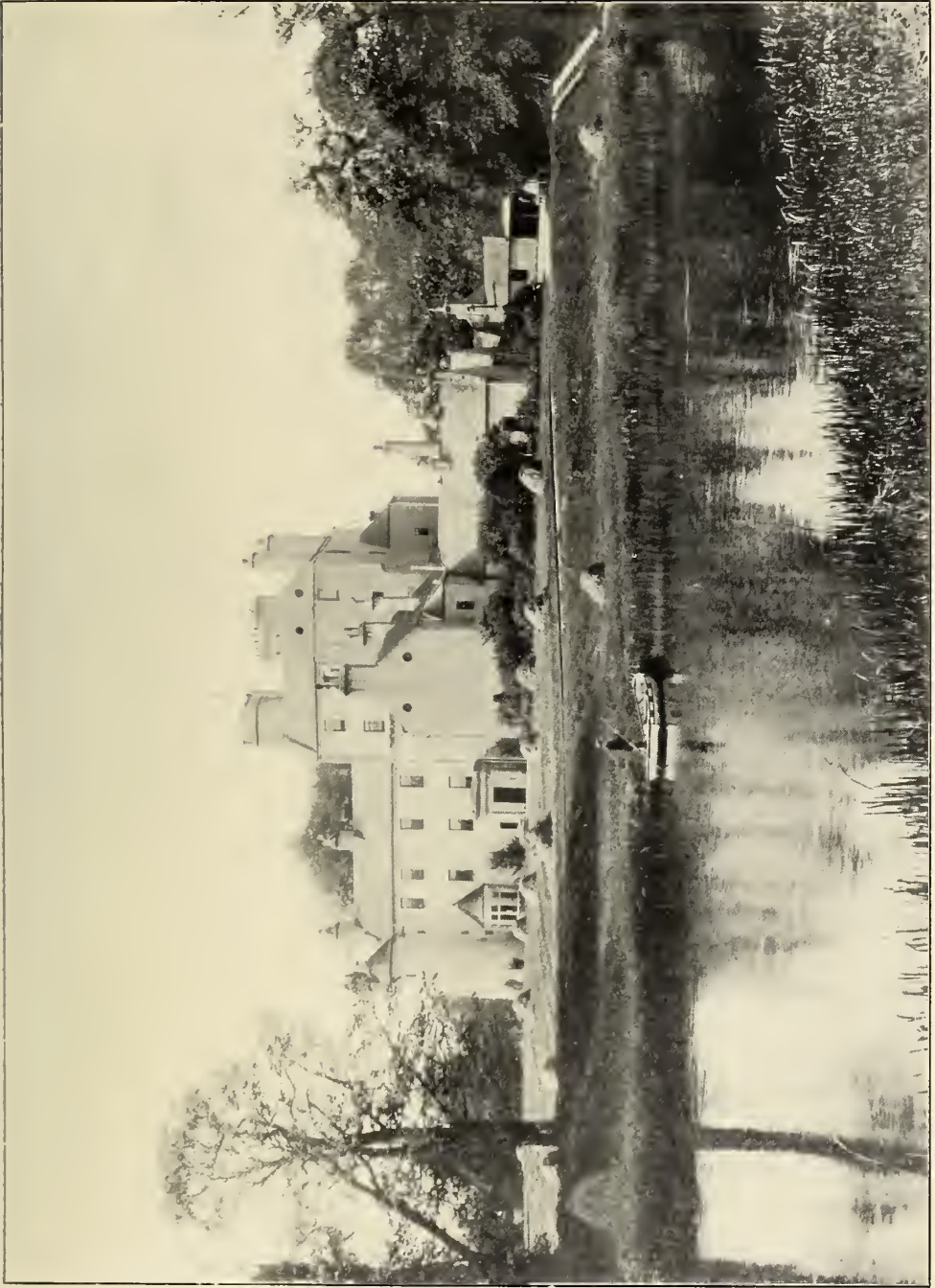
Catherine Duff, who married Commander Stewart, succeeded to Corsindae on the death of her brother. Their daughter, Patience Huddart, married—first, Lieutenant James Reid, R.N.; and, secondly, Joseph Rolleston Sterritt, of which union no family survived. By the former marriage there was an only daughter—Catherine Elizabeth Mary Reid, who married William Johnstone Fyffe, then surgeon in H.M. Dragoon Guards, and had an only daughter, who, on the death of her grandmother on 5th November, 1874, succeeded to the estate, and assumed the patronymic of Duff.

#### MONYMUSK ESTATE.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries extensive portions of the parish belonged to a family who adopted the surname of Monymusk, and obtained the order of knighthood. The proprietor, in or about 1210, erected the original mansion-house for the protection of the Priory and its possessions from the lawless Highlanders. The site selected held, in the military view of those days, the access to the pass of Tillyfourie, the passages to the west by Castle Forbes, and the path leading to the north by the eastern shoulder of Bennachie.

In the protracted fight for Scottish independence, the Monymusk family seem to have favoured the English, and when Bruce was firmly seated on the throne of Scotland he confiscated all their estates in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. In consequence, Edward III., on 28th May, 1343, for the long adherence made by "Henry





Monymusk House.



de Monymusk," granted him, till recovery of his lands in Scotland, an annuity of 12 pence daily. (Calendar of Scottish Documents, III., p. 257.) Fourteen years later, David II. granted a charter to Henry, remitting all action and suit for his abiding in England with the enemy, and restoring to him all his lands in the two counties named. The reconciliation seems to have been complete, for, three years later, the King is believed to have visited Henry at Monymusk. Be this as it may, the Exchequer Rolls (Vol. II., p. 32) bear that William de Coryne, burgess of Aberdeen, was paid £6 13s 4d for carrying wine for the King to Monymusk; while, at the same time, Lawrence of Garvock was paid for carrying wheat.

Marjory de Monymusk, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Monymusk (his wife was Janet Barclay, of the Towie-Barclay family), married Sir John Fraser, who, in 1388, had a charter to the lands of Forglen.

Before and at the Reformation, the family of Forbes of Corsindae advanced various sums of money to the Priory on the security of the lands of Monymusk. Ultimately, Duncan Forbes was obliged to foreclose, and the charter in his favour (see the late Mr C. Elphinstone-Dalrymple's article on the subject in "Scottish Notes and Queries," Vol. I., pp. 187-89) disproves the tradition that the Priory and its lands were "seized." Further, it is erroneously declared by numerous authors that Forbes and his son built the house of Monymusk out of the stones of the Priory. These proprietors may have enlarged or altered the mansion-house, but that they used the Priory stones for the purpose is incorrect, for Miss Sinclair, of the Thurso family, who visited the district about 1300, states, in her description of the Priory walls, that the greater part of them were then stand-

ing. Even now there still remain above the ground the threshold stone and a few wall blocks of various sizes. Others are overgrown by the surrounding old wood. Sir Arthur Grant's workmen recently exposed what was believed to be the Priory ash-pit, which was full of apparent kitchen refuse.

The above Duncan Forbes of Monymusk was the second son of William Forbes of Corsindae. He was for some time a magistrate of Aberdeen, and in 1564 he and John Forbes of Pitsligo were prosecuted on the charge of coining "ffalse balbeis." Bail was provided, and the case is understood to have been dropped. (Fitzcairn's Criminal Trials.) In 1574, Forbes laid claim to the "Grey Friar's place" in Aberdeen, but the Privy Council decided against him. He married Agnes Gray (her escutcheon—a lion rampant—is still preserved at Monymusk), daughter of Baillie William Gray, Aberdeen, and, dying on 21st February, 1584, was succeeded by his son, William Forbes, who, on 20th January, 1588-89, had a Crown charter erecting the town of Monymusk into a burgh-of-barony with the privilege of holding two free fairs annually on the Muir of Monymusk. He married Margaret Douglas, daughter of Sir William Douglas of Kemnau, who, in 1588, became the ninth Earl of Angus. Their son, William Forbes of Monymusk, married Elizabeth Wishart, daughter of the laird of Pitarrow, near Fordoun. He speculated largely in property, securing infefment in Banchory, Portlethen, and the barony of Torry. By patent, dated 2nd April, 1626, he was, by Charles I., created a baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia, but he suffered severely through his attachment to the Royal cause. Of his family, the eldest son, William, succeeded as second baronet; Robert became proprietor of Barnes; and Alexander was in Abersnithack. Jean, the eldest daughter,



married Rev. Alexander Lunan, minister of Monymusk, and afterwards of Kintore; Isobell married John Forbes of Asloun; and Anna died unmarried.

Sir William Forbes, the second baronet, in 1632, married Jean, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett, first Baronet of Leys. He was a Covenanter, and his mansion and estates received considerable attention at the hands of Montrose. In October, 1644, through the tact and influence of Lady Forbes, the place "was exempted from pillage," and at a later date the lands were spared "unplundered upon some private conditions." Sir William died in 1654, and was succeeded by his son John as third baronet. He was twice married—first, to Lady Margaret, daughter of the first Viscount Arbutnott; and, secondly, to Barbara, daughter of Sir John Dalmahoy of Dalmahoy, Midlothian. The eldest son, William, succeeded as fourth baronet in 1702. He married Lady Jane Keith, eldest daughter of John, first Earl of Kintore; and their elder son, John, who married Mary, daughter of John, Lord Pitsligo, died before his father, survived by two sons, the eldest of whom, William, succeeded his grandfather and became fifth baronet. He was an advocate, and Professor of Civil Law in King's College, Aberdeen, but died 12th May, 1743, aged 36. His remains were interred at Kearn, where there is a monument to his memory, with a highly complimentary inscription composed by Dr Beattie, author of "The Minstrel," etc. He had married Christian, daughter of John Forbes of Boyndlie, and their son became Sir William Forbes, Bart., of Pitsligo, the celebrated banker.

In 1712, Monymusk was purchased from Sir William Forbes, the fourth baronet, by Sir Francis Grant, Bart., a descendant of the ancient family of Grant of Freuchie. He was the son of Archibald Grant of Ballintomb, Knockando, and was born in

1658. He passed advocate, and became proprietor of the estate of Cullen, in Gamrie. By patent, dated 7th December, 1705, he was created a baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia. In 1709, he was elected a Senator of the College of Justice under the courtesy title of Lord Cullen. Disposing of the estate of Cullen, etc., he bought Monymusk at the price of £120,000 Scots (£10,000 sterling), but an engraved brass which he left in the library proves that he regretted the purchase and had completed it under wrong advice. Surprise at this is removed on a perusal of the description of the mansion-house and property drawn up by his son in 1716. (See Spalding Club's "Miscellany," Vol. II., pp. 96 and 97.) "The house," he says, "was an old castle, with battlements, and six different roofs of various heights and directions, confusedly and inconveniently combined, and all rotten; with two wings more modern, of two stories only, the half of windows of the higher rising above the roofs, with granaries, stables, and houses for all cattle, and of all the vermine attending them, close adjoining. . ." "Not one acre enclosed, nor any timber upon it, but a few elm, cypress, and ash. . ." "All the farms ill disposed and mixed. . ." "Not one wheel carriage on the estate; nor, indeed, any one road that would allow it." A vigorous policy of improvement was initiated throughout the whole estate, and within a brief period upwards of thirty million trees were planted.

On 17th May, 1720, Sir Francis received a special warrant under the hand of George I., granting him the unusual armorial addition of a bordure ermine, together with two angels as supporters, the motto "Suum Cuique" on a scroll above, and the motto "Jehovah Jireh" on a scroll below—the only instance (says Sir

Bernard Burke) in Scottish heraldry of a Hebrew motto. He was thrice married—first, to Jean, daughter of Rev. William Urquhart, Meldrum; secondly, to Sarah, daughter of Rev. Alexander Fordyce of Ayton; and, thirdly, in 1718, to Agnes, daughter of Henry Hay. He died in 1725, and was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh. The parish has cause to remember him with gratitude for his mortification of two chalders of meal (32 bolls) yearly from the lands of Monymusk for educational purposes.

Sir Archibald Grant, the second baronet, eldest son of the preceding, qualified as an advocate in Edinburgh. He was elected Member of Parliament for Aberdeenshire in 1722, and again in 1727. In 1748, he was appointed Keeper of the Register of Hornings. He was four times married—first, in 1717, to Anne, daughter of James Hamilton of Pencaitland; secondly, to Anne, daughter of Charles Potts, of Castleton, Derby; thirdly, to Elizabeth Clark, widow of Dr James Calendar, Jamaica; and, fourthly, in 1770, to Jane Johnston, widow of Andrew Millar, London. The last-named, under her deed of settlement, left £765 for behoof of the poor of Monymusk.

Sir Archibald Grant, the third baronet, eldest son of the preceding, was born in 1731. He entered the service of the Honourable East India Company in 1748. He married, first, Mary, only child of Dr Calendar, and of his step-mother, but she died at Edinburgh in 1787. He married, secondly, in 1794, Jessie, daughter of Macleod of Coldbecks.

Sir Archibald Grant, the fourth baronet, and eldest son of the preceding, is commemorated by a marble tablet within the parish church, which bears the following inscription—

Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, Bart., eldest son of Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., and

Mary Calendar. Born 7th May, 1760, and died 17th April, 1820.

In grateful and affectionate remembrance of his worth, his widow places this inscription near the grave of her lamented husband, of whom it may be justly said, "Those who knew him best esteemed him most."

Near this place is also interred Johanna Grant, youngest daughter of Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., and Mary Forbes, who died 14th June, 1818, aged 14 years. Also Lady Grant, who died 15th December, 1852, aged 83.

"Honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years; but wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age."

Sir Archibald, in 1788, married Mary, only child of John Forbes of Newe. Their eldest son, Archibald, has a tablet to his memory inscribed thus—

Sacred to the memory of Archibald Grant, eldest son of Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk and Dame Mary Grant, his spouse, who, born 1st January, 1789, was lost on board the *Abergavenny*, Indiaman, on the 6th of February, 1805, at the entrance of Portland Roads, and whose body, being found on board, was interred in Weymouth Churchyard on the 16th of June.

This marble is erected by his afflicted parents, December, 1805.

Though Gracious God made thee to close  
Thy youthful eyes so soon on day;  
'Tis that He readiest welcomes those  
Who love Him best and best obey.

James Grant, second son of Sir Archibald, succeeded as fifth baronet. A marble headstone to his memory—within the private burying-ground of the family in what was part of the Parish Church—bears the following—

Sir James Grant, Bart. Born 17th February, 1791; died at Woodhill, near Aberdeen, 30th August, 1859.

Isaac Grant, the immediate younger brother, succeeded as sixth baronet, and

a marble headstone commemorates him in the following inscription—

Sir Isaac Grant, Bart. Died in Aberdeen July 19th, 1863, aged 71.

Three sisters have their deaths recorded on tablets in the church—

(1).

In memory of a beloved sister, Sophia Grant. Born October 11th, 1794; died November 10th, 1862.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"—St Matthew, c. 5, vr. 8.

(2).

In memory of Anne, fifth and last surviving daughter of Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, fourth baronet, and Mary Forbes, his wife. Born April 8th, 1803; died November 15th, 1891. . . . Also of her sister, Louisa Brodie, who died April 3rd, 1874, aged 73 years.

"Rest in the Lord."

Robert Grant of Tillyfour, brother of the preceding, has a church tablet to his memory inscribed as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Robert Grant, youngest son of the late Sir Archibald Grant, Bart., of Monymusk, who died at Staindrop Hall, County Durham, the residence of his son-in-law, on the 15th March, 1857, aged 60.

He was several years in the 4th Dragoons, and for upwards of 23 years Convener of the County of Aberdeen. Beloved, respected, and deeply regretted by all.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"—Revelation, II. chap., 10th verse.

I. H. S.  
Erected 1857.

Robert Grant married Charlotte, granddaughter of Sir William Yea, Bart., of Pyrland Somersetshire, and she has a tablet to her memory in the Episcopal Church, Monymusk, bearing the inscription—

In memory of Charlotte, for twenty-seven years the affectionate and beloved wife of Robert Grant of Tillyfour. Born 2nd May, 1795; died 28th November, 1847, at St Leonard's on the Sea, in the county of Sussex, after a

protracted and painful illness, which she bore with Christian resignation, fortitude, and patience. Her remains are interred in the vault of her family, in St James's Church, Taunton, in the county of Somerset.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours."

Archibald, son of the preceding, succeeded as seventh baronet, as shown by the undernoted parish church tablet inscription—

To the honoured memory of God's faithful servant, Sir Archibald Grant, seventh baronet of Monymusk, who gained his rest, after 61 years, September 5th, 1884.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee."—Isaiah xxvi. 3.

Sir Archibald Grant was born 21st September, 1823, and was for a time an officer in the 4th Light Dragoons. On his death, as above, his younger brother, Francis William, succeeded as eighth baronet. His career is briefly expressed in the following tablet inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Sir Francis William Grant of Monymusk, eighth baronet, formerly captain in the 16th Lancers, younger son of the late Mr Robert Grant of Tillyfour. Born 10th February, 1828; married 2nd December, 1886; died 13th December, 1887.

This tablet is placed here by his sorrowing wife, Laura Fraser, Lady Grant.

"Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it."—Jeremiah x. 19.

"Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come."—Hebrews xiii. 14.

Sir Francis William Grant married Laura Fraser of Bunchrew, Inverness, and his unexpected death, as above, was much regretted. His widow has since married Lieutenant-Colonel Cumberland.

A sister of Sir Francis has also a tablet to her memory, bearing the inscription—

To the memory of Mary Jane Forbes Gregson, wife of John Gregson, Esq., of Bramham House, Yorkshire, and of Murton and Burdon.



county of Durham, daughter of Robert Grant, Esq., of Tillyfour, and sister of Sir Archibald Grant, seventh baronet of Monymusk. Born January 5, 1821; died in Paris, April 16th, 1880. Her body rests in the adjoining burial-ground of her family. . . .

The death of Sir Francis opened the succession to Arthur Henry Grant, who became ninth baronet. He is the great-grandson of Sir Archibald Grant, the third baronet. His father, who served with distinction in the navy, has a tablet to his memory in the parish church inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Commander Arthur Grant, R.N., who was killed by a fall from his horse on the 6th of April, 1850, in the 42nd year of his age.

“Not my will, but Thine, be done.”

This tablet is erected by his widow.

Boldly accepting a great responsibility, he, by his bravery and consummate seamanship, saved H.M.S. *Fiscard*, 42 guns, in the Straits of Magellan, October 14th to 30th, 1843.

He was for this good service specially promoted by Her Majesty the Queen. His body was laid in the Churchyard of Monymusk on the 12th September, 1902.

Sir Arthur H. Grant is well known from the active part he takes in county and local affairs. Throughout his estate he has erected many commodious cottages (with inscriptive tablets), which are a model of neatness and good taste. He also built on the north side of the Don a fine new school, the whole cost of which he personally defrayed.

PITFICHIE.

The lands of Pitfichie belonged in the thirteenth century to the family “de Monymusk.” On the forfeiture of Henry de Monymusk, they were granted by David II. to David Chalmer (Robertson’s Index), whose descendants long retained possession of them.

Through marriage the Urrys became proprietors. The first of the family (says Sir George Mackenzie, in his MS. of

Genealogies) came from England to Scotland in the reign of John Baliol. The name of “Hugo de Urre” appears in the list of those who swore fealty to Edward I. in 1296. (Ragman Rolls.) Several of his successors made fortunate marriages. John Urry married Catherine, daughter of Lord Forbes. William Urry, the seventh laird, married Elizabeth Erskine of Dun, and was one of the gentlemen in the north who, in 1574, granted a bond of allegiance to James VI., promising co-operation in repressing outrages and crimes. (Privy Council Register, II., pp. 398-401.) John Urry, son of the preceding, married Marjory, daughter of Alexander Chalmers of Cults; and their son, John Urry, was the most remarkable personality of his line. In early youth, he proceeded to the Continent, where he underwent a thorough course of military training and obtained experience as a cavalry officer. He married Maria Magdalene, daughter of Christopher Sebastian van Yaxheim, of Erlabrun, Germany; and of their family of three daughters, Elizabeth married Rev. John Hamilton, Bishop of Dunkeld, and Maria Margaret became Lady Lamont. On the outbreak of the Civil War, Urry returned to England, and quickly found scope for his military genius. His career, however, was singularly unfortunate. He was at first a Royalist, then a General in the Covenanting forces, with whom he suffered defeat at Auldearn and Alford. Thinking that the cause of the Covenanters was then hopeless, and with a supreme desire to be on the winning side, he turned Royalist a second time. The honour of knighthood which he had received from Charles I. in 1643, and his high reputation as a soldier, gave him considerable influence. He was welcomed by Montrose, and was with him in the final defeat at Invercharron on 27th April, 1650. They were both made prisoners, and were executed together at

Edinburgh in the following month. Spalding and various other writers call Urry "a soldier of fortune," but perhaps the most sarcastic commentary upon him is that of Carlyle (*Life of Cromwell*, II., p. 29, 1872 Edn.)—"Colonel Hurry is the ever-changing Sir John Hurry . . . who whisks like a most rapid actor of all work, ever on a new side, ever charging in the van, through this Civil War drama. The noblest feat he ever did was leading Prince Rupert on that marauding party from Oxford to High Wycombe, on the return from which Hampden was slain. . . . He was taken at last when Montrose was taken, and hanged out of the way."

Sir John Urry was never laird of Pitfichie, the property having been sold in 1597 by his father to John Cheyne of Fortrie. On 25th February, 1600, Cheyne was chosen Commissioner for the city of Aberdeen to attend the Estates Convention on 27th March following, being allowed £200 Scots for expenses. On 25th June of the same year, he purchased the lands and barony of Esslemont, etc., from Patrick Cheyne. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 674.) He appears to have had a serious quarrel with William Forbes of Monymusk, and, apprehending personal injury, had Forbes, in October, 1600, put under security for 2000 merks against assault. (*Privy Council Register*, VI., p. 665.)

In 1661, Sir John Forbes, third Baronet of Monymusk, had a Crown charter to the lands of Pitfichie, and they have since continued Monymusk property. The castle for a long period formed the residence of the young lairds of Monymusk; and in this connection it may be stated that when William Forbes, son of Sir John, married Lady Jean (called Jane previously) Keith, daughter of the first

Earl of Kintore—whose family seat was Keith-hall—a ballad banteringly asks—

Hoo dee ye like Pitfichie,  
Hoo like ye there to dwell,  
Hoo dee ye like Pitfichie,  
Gentle Jean o' Keith-hall?

The lady is then represented as replying—

Oh, weel I like Pitfichie,  
An' I like there to dwell,  
Oh, weel I like Pitfichie,  
But nae half sae weel's Keith-hall.

Rev. Dr Davidson ("*Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch*," p. 405) says that the sale of the Monymusk lands was probably contemplated before the death of her father-in-law, Sir John Forbes, as Lady Jean is credited with the comparison of herself looking from Pitfichie towards Monymusk House with Moses looking from Pisgah to the land of Canaan.

Pitfichie Castle is now a picturesque ruin, standing at the foot of Pitfichie Hill, which, with the exception of the adjoining Cairn William, is the highest ground in the parish. The outer walls of the structure are from five to six feet in thickness, and appear quite sound. The main entrance is flanked by two guard-rooms, through the walls of which are shot holes—openings also being left above the doorway through which molten lead could be dropped upon besiegers. In the centre is a large baronial hall, while the upper portion is reached by a stone staircase now in a ruinous condition.

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The parish graveyard was enlarged by Sir Arthur Grant a few years ago, and it has been levelled up and re-turfed. Outside the surrounding walls the remains of long forgotten dead are come upon when drains or foundations have to be made. The churchyard itself contains many interesting tombstones.

One is inscribed—

To the memory of Katharine Dounie, spouse to Robert Adam, farmer in Blairdaff, who died 20th November, 1773, in the 32nd year of her age.

The surname Adam is one of the oldest and most common in the parish. Alongside the above tablestone are twelve tombstones to persons bearing it, of whom Peter Adam, farmer, "Arnedly," died 27th July, 1820, aged 63; Peter Adam, farmer, "Arnedlie," died 22nd January, 1825, aged 38; William Adam, farmer, "Cornabow," died 18th October, 1836, aged 86; and Peter Adam, farmer, Upper Todlochie, died 17th May, 1866, aged 68.

A tablestone, showing a skull, coffin, cross-bones, etc., has the inscription—

Here lies James Donald, some time farmer in Mains of Asloun, lawfull husband to Jannet Hosie, who departed life March 2, 1751, aged 60.

Three tablestones bear inscriptions which vary considerably in style, thus—

(1).

The Corpse of Francis Lamb, sometime in Kirktown of Monymusk, who died the 10th December, 1751, aged 53 years, lies interred under this gravestone, which is erected by Lillias Stephen, his surviving spouse.

(2).

In memory of John Dickson, farmer in the Glack of Castle Fraser, who died 7th February, 1813, aged 75 years. And of Jean Fowler, his spouse, who died 8th February, 1813, aged 73 years. After being married 43 years, they both died of a very short illness within 20 hours of each other, and were buried here together . . . . .

(3).

To the memory of Margaret Grub, late spouse to George Law, wright in Monymusk, who departed this life the 5th of May, 1772, aged 32 years. She was a dutiful wife, a loving mother, and a Careful mistress of her family. This stone is put on by her surviving husband

here. Also lies the remains of Mary and George Law, two of her children who died in childhood.

A tombstone is inscribed—

Erected by George Watson, farmer in Bog-raxie, in memory of his wife, Helen Stewart, who died 25th April, 1870, aged 62 years. Also of their family—Stewart, who died 23rd June, 1835, aged two years; William, who died 12th February, 1847, aged three years; George, who died 22nd February, 1853, aged eleven years; James, who died 14th May, 1861, aged 26 years; Alexander, died 31st January, 1873, aged 42; Stewart, died 22nd May, 1875, aged 35; John, died 20th February, 1879, aged 53; Annic, died 8th January, 1881, aged 32. Also of the above George Watson, who died 10th October, 1883, aged 76. Also his daughter, Findlater, died 22nd February, 1887, aged 52.

George Watson, who erected the above tombstone, was a native of Montrose, where his father was a druggist. He belonged to a family, members of which for several generations, were distinguished for intellect and piety. (Tombstones at Montrose.) He married Helen Stewart, and had eight sons and two daughters. The eight sons had only six different names, two being baptised Stewart and two William. None of the family were married, although seven reached the age of manhood and womanhood. All are now deceased, the last surviving son, William—who, a few years ago, published a poem on Monymusk, and was the author of a racy volume entitled "Glimpses o' Auld Lang Syne"—having died on 8th December, 1905, aged 53.

Several military veterans who had secured the patronage of the Grant family elected to spend the evening of their days at Monymusk. Three monuments to such are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lies interred the body of John Gillan, Esq., late captain in the 66 Regiment of Foot, who died February 27th, 1770, aged 67 years.

. . . . .



(2).

Under this stone are deposited the remains of Lieutenant James Farquharson, of the late 88 Regiment of Foot, who died at Nether Coullie on the 12th of May, 1787, aged 58 years. Also of Jean Simpson, his spouse, who died on the 24th of June, 1810, in the 76th year of her age.

(3).

Here lies the body of George Watt, Royal Horse Artillery. He did his duty to his King at Waterloo, 18 June, 1815.

The above George Watt died at Monymusk in July, 1879, at the advanced age of 84. Besides taking part in the battle of Waterloo, he was present at the entry of the allied forces into Paris. He held the Waterloo medal, and was in receipt of a pension.

A tablestone bears the following inscription—

In memory of Patrick Wilson, who was born in the parish of Ordequhil, January, 1722, and came in the year 1747 to the parish of Monymusk, where he died 24th February, 1789, leaving behind him two sons, Archibald and Patrick. This stone is erected by his widow, Jean Thomson.

In July, 1790, the above Jean Thomson was married, secondly, to John Simpson, and they had two children—Ann and John. In 1889, fully fifty years after all connection had been lost with Monymusk, Alexander Wilson Simpson, M.A., youngest grandson by the second marriage above-mentioned, was appointed schoolmaster of Monymusk, where the Wilson branch of the family still retain the right of burial—grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Jean Thomson having been buried there in recent times.

A tablestone bears—

This stone is erected to the memory of Jean Coots, lawful daughter to Alexr. Coots and Helen Ogg, sometime of Tulloch, in the parish of Keig, who died the 19th of August, 1799,

aged two years and eight months, and was interred in the bosom of her grandmother, Jean Murray, aged 73 years. . . .

The above inscription gives an item of supplementary information which is probably unique.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies, in hopes of a glorious resurrection, the body of Anna Grant, spouse to Frances Lunan, in Kirktown of Monymusk, who departed this life the 19th August, 1759, aged 31.

Francis Lunan was a grandson of William Lunan, who, in 1696, was tenant of Kirktown of Monymusk, and had then a stock exceeding five hundred merks in value. (Poll Book.)

A tablestone, displaying various emblems, is inscribed—

Here lies, under this stone, in hopes of a glorious resurrection, Anne Johnston, spouse to John Davedson, sometime in Pitfichie, departed this life March 16th, 1754, aged 66 years, and had children Jon., Jas., Eliz., Ro., and A. Davedsons.

A small headstone has the following inscription—

Here lies Elspet Moir, a faithful spouse to James Ewan, near Castle-Fraser. She departed this life 22nd December, 1800, aged 34 years. They were married 8½ years.

A parishioner of Monymusk, Janet Blair, died in December, 1758, at the phenomenal age of 111 years, and the "Aberdeen Journal," in noting the fact, says that the age "can be attested by the parish registers."

#### POETICAL INSCRIPTIONS.

(1).

In memory of Charles Copland, late farmer in the parish of Alford, formerly in Delab, in this parish, who died at Aberdeen, March 3, 1785, aged 72 years. This stone was erected to his memory by his son James Copland, merchant in Aberdeen.

? What am I. Gravel am and Dust;  
 And to the grave discern'd I must,  
 O painted piece of living clay,  
 Man be not proud of thy short day.

(2).

Erected to the memory of Elizabeth Adam, spouse to Alexander Archibald, in Lay of Cluny. She departed this life the 22nd July, 1803, in the 50th year of her age. Likewise of James Archibald, their son, who died the 12th February, 1816, in the 27th year of his age.

All you that comes my grave to see,  
 As I am now, so most you be;  
 Therefore repent, make no delay;  
 I in my bloom was call'd away.  
 Life is uncertain; Death is most sure;  
 Sin is the wound, and Christ is the cure.

(3).

Erected by Isaac Meston in memory of his mother, Sophia (fifth daughter of Alexander and Isabell Dickie, Auchrevie), who was born 27th June, 1811, and died 11th November, 1835, in the 25th year of her age.

No pomp's display'd nor meant by this plain stone,

To draw the attention of the passing eye;  
 But the due tribute of an only son,  
 That marks where lies a mother's mouldring clay.

(4).

On a headstone to two members of the family of Charles Donald, who died in 1862 and 1885 respectively—

Dear is the spot where Christians sleep,  
 And sweet the strain which angels pour;  
 Oh, why should we in anguish weep,  
 They are not lost, but gone before.

(5).

Erected by Charles Sievwright . . . in memory of his father . . . who died May 13th, 1791, aged 52.

The vicissitudes of life no more  
 Involves my soul with grief;  
 The silent grave with rest abounds,  
 And grants me due relief;  
 Secure from harm and worldly cares,  
 I here below recline,  
 The ambitious world and all its pomp  
 I cheerfully resign.

SCHOOLMASTERS.

A tablet monument is inscribed—

In memory of the Reverend Lewis Alexander Duff, schoolmaster in Monymusk, who died 2nd May, 1840, aged 72 years.

Also of his spouse, Mrs Mary Garden, who died on the 18th August, 1840, aged 71 years.

Rev. Lewis Alexander Duff was the son of Rev. Alexander Duff, parish minister of Monymusk.

A tablestone is inscribed—

To the memory of the Rev. John Donald, late parish schoolmaster, who died 12th June, 1849, aged 36 years. Erected by his spouse, Margaret Snowie.

Rev. John Donald was the son of John Donald, farmer, Monymusk, and, graduating M.A. at Marischal College in 1834, was appointed parish schoolmaster of Monymusk in 1846. He was a descendant of John Donald, farmer at Brankanentum in 1696.

A still older schoolmaster — William Gordon—died at Moss-side, Monymusk, on 25th July, 1794, in his 75th year. In a notice of his death which appeared in the "Aberdeen Journal" at the time, mention was made that Mr Gordon had been 50 years a teacher, 32 of which were passed at Monymusk; that many of his pupils had arrived at the highest dignity in the learned professions, and that they would long remember with affectionate gratitude the instruction of their venerable teacher.

PARISH CHURCH TABLETS.

In the church, a mural tablet stands to the memory of Robert Grant, for a lengthened period land steward on the Monymusk estate. It is inscribed—

Erected, A.D., 1841, by Lady Grant of Monymusk, in memory of Mr Robert Grant, whose faithful and affectionate service under two generations of her husband's family won for him the esteem and friendship of its different members, towards whom Mr Grant manifested

through life the most devoted attachment, and by a codicil to his will bequeathed a considerable portion of his property to Lady Grant and her three eldest daughters, which became available on the death of his widow, at the advanced age of 92. The useful and upright life of Mr Grant closed in a peaceful, happy old age. . . .

As further evidence that the Grants of Monymusk have always prized good servants and that their servants have appreciated good masters, it may be stated that there died at Monymusk, in 1903, Alexander Dickie, who and his forebears had served continuously as estate officials for the long period of 192 years.

Less remarkable, but still worthy of note, was the 133 years' tenure of the church officership held by the Allan family previous to Whitsunday, 1835.

A second wall tablet, in excellent preservation, having at the top the Leslie and Forbes arms, flanked by the initials I. L. and A. F., and having at one side the motto, "Grip Fast," and on the other "Grace me Gyide," bears the following inscription in raised letters—

The monvments of Iohne Forbes of Aber-  
snithak and Elspet his dochter ye first vyf of  
Iohn Lesly Balcarne go deprted 1583. Heir  
also lvis in one graif Agnis Forbes dochter to  
Iohn Forbes of Finyach secvnd vyf to ye said  
Iohn Lesly, and George Lesly thair yovng sone  
go deprted ye 4 of April 1590. And in yis same  
bviriall lvis ye said Iohn Lesly go deprted anno  
.1.

The above monument was erected by John Lesly in Balcairn after the death of his second wife in 1590, he himself dying in 1601. The Forbeses of Finyach (afterwards Harthill), in Keig, and the Leslies were otherwise connected by marriage, Alexander Forbes having married a daughter of George Leslie of New Leslie; while John Forbes of Finyach married Isobel, daughter of Leslie of Kinraigie.

(See Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections, II., p. 228.)

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The parish had, in early times, besides the Parish Church and Priory, an oratory, or small chapel, which was dedicated to the Virgin. There was also a chapel near Todlochy, and a third at Abersnithack, now known as Braehead. The last-mentioned, dedicated to St Finnan, had a burying-ground attached. It is known that an interment was made in it as late as 1775.

There are remains of at least four stone circles—one near Monymusk House, one at Tombeg, one near Whitehill, and the fourth at Nether Coullie. A finely-sculptured stone which was discovered in a field near the Don about a century ago is now carefully preserved at Monymusk House. It is illustrated and fully described in the Spalding Club's "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," and also in J. Romilly Allan's "Early Christian Monuments of Scotland."

A fine gold coin was discovered in 1823, at a considerable depth, during the digging of a grave in the churchyard. It bore an Arabic inscription, and was dated 1097. The general opinion is that it had been buried with the remains of a soldier who had returned from foreign service.

On the Home Farm is Campfield, where it is believed that Bruce's army lay prior to the battle of Barra.

"The Brebennach," or consecrated banner, associated by tradition with the memory of St Columba, was held in the beginning of the fourteenth century by the family de Monymusk, from whom it passed by descent to the Urrys, Frasers, Irvines, etc. Particulars regarding it will be found in the Spalding Club's "Antiquities," I., pp. 510-18.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

John Wesley, who visited Monymusk in 1761, and again in 1764, recorded in his journal a glowing account of the fertility of the soil, the beauty of the landscape, and the heartiness of the church music.

The stirring strathspey "Monymusk" is well known. It was composed by Daniel Dow, violinist, who died in Edinburgh in January, 1783.

Rev. John Skinner, author of "Tullochgorum" and other pieces, became assistant schoolmaster here in 1739. Two of his poems were inspired by the place and its customs. One was "On a Visit to Paradise"—a lovely wooded spot on the banks of the Don, laid out with much taste by the Grant family, which still excites the admiration of visitors as it had done that of Skinner. The other piece is entitled "The Monymusk Christmas Ba'ing," and graphically describes the sport of football now so popular, then chiefly played at the festive season of Christmas.

Rev. Alexander Nicoll, D.C.L., Professor of Hebrew, Oxford, a famous Oriental scholar, was born in the village on 3rd April, 1793. His linguistic acquirements were such that it was commonly believed he might pass to the Great Wall of China without the services of an interpreter. One of his principal works was the cataloguing of the Oriental MSS. in the Bodleian Library, numbering about 30,000—a laborious task, increased in difficulty by the imperfect preservation of many of them.

Another native no less famous in another walk of life was Archibald Robertson, portrait painter, known as "the Reynolds of Scotland." He frequently spent the summer at Monymusk House, of which he painted an excellent water-colour picture. He went to America in 1791, where he is said to have laid the foundation of the art of American portraiture. An interest-

ing account of his career is given in the "Century Magazine" for May, 1896. (See also articles in the "Aberdeen Journal" of 5th, 9th, and 19th December, 1895, under the title of "A celebrated Family of Artists," dealing with a volume published at that time by Eyre and Spottiswoode, embodying Letters and Papers of Andrew Robertson, A.M., and a Treatise on the Art of Miniature Painting by his brother, Archibald Robertson.)

Gawin or Gavin Douglas, third son of Archibald, fifth Earl of Angus, was parson of the parish for two years from 1496. He was the translator of Virgil's "Æneid."

Further particulars regarding the parish will be found in the various authorities quoted. (See also Gordon's Monasticon, Vol. I., pp. 100-109; Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. VI., pp. 218-32; MS. Valuation of Priory Lands of Monymusk in Advocates' Library, Aberdeen; and Monday's "From the Tone to the Don" (1886).)

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## Foveran.

The name Foveran is understood to have been derived from the Gaelic "fueran," meaning a spring of pure water. The title was singularly appropriate, there having been from early times a powerful spring at the foot of the old castle wall.

The advowson and donation of the kirk of "Fouerne" were made, under charter, by Robert I. to the Abbey of Deer. (Robertson's Index, p 1.) Subsequently, the Abbot and Convent gave consent to the erection, from the fruits of the benefice, of a chaplainry in the Cathedral of St Machar of Aberdeen. The salary of the chaplain, in 1437, was £4, and in 1506 it had increased to £6 13s 4d. (Regis. Epis. Aberd., II., pp. 66, 95, and 108.)

The old Parish Church, which stood

within the graveyard, became ruinous in 1794, and it was taken down—a new church of plain but substantial design being erected a few feet further north. It bears the date 1794 on a corner stone of the east gable. This edifice still serves as the parish church, but it has undergone various structural improvements. An aisle, known as the “Turing Aisle,” which was connected to the south side of the older church, was entirely removed along with it.

The church bell bore the inscription—

CAST AND MADE BY JOHN MOWAT,  
FOUNDER IN OLD ABERDEEN,  
FOR THE USE OF THE PARISH OF FOVERAN.  
A.D. 1760.

The bell having got cracked, it was recently recast, the same inscription being put upon it.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

The church was supplied by Alexander Traill, reader, from 1567 to 1569, and by David Laird, reader, from 1569 to 1579, the salary pertaining to the readership being xx. lib.

In 1567, Rev. Gilbert Chisholm, formerly Prior of the Abbey of Deer, but who had adopted the new faith, was minister of Foveran, Deer, Peterhead, and St Fergus.

A rearrangement of charges was shortly afterwards made, and in 1574 Rev. John Gartly held the incumbencies of Foveran, Slains, Logie-Buchan, and Ellon, at the small stipend of £80 Scots.

Rev. Thomas Tullidaff, who, from 1574, had been officiating as reader at Logie-Buchan, was admitted as minister of Foveran in 1582. He demitted after August, 1629. In an application to the General Assembly made ten years later, when 98 years of age, he stated that he had no better security for 400 merks of income than the simple bond of his suc-

cessor, and he, therefore, craved that he might be secured in the above sum, which was granted. He had a son, Samuel, who entered the ministry.

Rev. John Paterson, son of Rev. Alexander Paterson, minister of Inch, and subsequently of Logie-Durno, who had graduated M.A. at King's College in 1624, was admitted 1632. He gave his predecessor a yearly allowance of 400 merks. Being unfriendly to the Covenant, he is said to have fled to the King along with four other ministers and a preacher. Returning, he was reponed after censure. In 1649, he removed to Ellon, whence he went to St Nicholas Church, Aberdeen, subsequently becoming Bishop of Ross.

Rev. John Seaton, previously minister of Kemnay, was inducted 7th October, 1649. He joined the Protesters in 1651, and is alleged to have been present at the battle of Worcester with his heritor, Sir John Turing. He died on 24th April, 1666. He was proprietor of Schethin, in which property and in his moveable estate he was succeeded by his brother, Rev. William Seaton, minister of the parish of Logie-Buchan.

Rev. John Ross or Rose, son of Rev. Alexander Ross or Rose, minister of Monymusk, and a descendant of the Roses of Kilravock, was admitted in March, 1667. He had the degree of D.D. conferred on him in 1684. He married Isobel, daughter of John Udny of Udny, and they had a family of at least two sons—Alexander, afterwards proprietor of Lethenty, and John—and a daughter, who married Rev. James Lorimer, minister of Kelso. In 1680, he succeeded his father in the patrimonial properties of Inch, Flinders, Boddom, etc. He died after 1st February, 1690.

Rev. James Gordon (son of Rev. James Gordon, minister of Banchory-Devenick, laird of Ardoe, and author of “The

Reformed Bishop," and other works) intruded at Foveran in 1692. His settlement was bitterly opposed by a large body of the people, "many of the fishers crying out that they would not have Mr James to be their minister." He was summoned before the Courts at the instance of the laird of Udny, but the quarrel continued. "It would fill a volume to give an account of this affair," wrote Wodrow's correspondent, Langlands. Suffice it to say that Gordon ultimately demitted office, then became a rector in Yorkshire, and was thereafter Episcopal minister of Montrose.

Rev. David Anderson was ordained on 11th May, 1699. He was appointed Professor of Divinity in King's College on 7th February, 1711, and died 13th February, 1733. He married Katharine Mitchell; and their daughter, Katharine, became the wife of Rev. William Dyce, minister of Belhelvie, 1716-24. (See Belhelvie.)

Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., was ordained on 24th January, 1712. He died 11th September, 1726, survived by his wife, Rachel Gellie, and by at least two of a family.

Rev. James Gilchrist, previously minister of Essil, was inducted in October, 1727. He died 26th September, 1773, the parish records bearing that he was in his 74th year, and that he was buried within the old church "in the place where the minister stands and serves the Tables." He was survived by his wife, Ann Fraser, who died 28th May, 1782. They had a family of two sons—Alexander and James.

A headstone and a tablestone within a railed enclosure commemorate the next incumbent and members of his family in the following inscriptions—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Reverend William Duff, minister of Foveran, who was ordained to the office of the holy ministry as minister

of Glenbucket in 1754. After some years, he was translated to the parish of Peterculter, and thence, in 1775, to the parish of Foveran. He died at Foveran on the 23rd of February, 1815, aged nearly 83 years, and in the 61st year of his ministry.

As a man he was much esteemed; as a husband and parent greatly beloved; and as a minister of Christ deeply revered.

In the same burial-ground are interred the remains of his two unmarried daughters, Isabella, who died at Aberdeen on the 16th of November, 1847, aged 72, and Helen, who died also at Aberdeen on the 24th of September, 1848, in her 76th year. They lived together in sisterly affection, enjoyed the cordial esteem of a wide circle of friends, endeared themselves to their relations by unwearied kindnesses, the remembrance of which can never be effaced.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Mary Duff, spouse to Alexander Forbes, Esq., late of Jamaica, and youngest daughter of the Rev. William Duff, minister of Foveran; and of Ann Mitchell, daughter of Baillie Mitchell of Colpna. She died 13th February, 1808, in the 23rd year of her age, and is interred in the same grave with her mother, her brother Robert, and her two sisters, Ann and Rachel, who died in early youth.

This stone is erected in commemoration of her amiable disposition, and manners, by her affectionate husband.

In the same grave are also interred the remains of the said Alexander Forbes, Esq., of Saltpond Huts, Jamaica, who died at Aberdeen the 14th of February, 1814, aged 55 years.

Rev. William Duff, at his death, as above, was Father of the Synod of Aberdeen. He was ordained to Glenbucket 8th October, 1755 (not in 1754 as incorrectly stated in the inscription). Mrs Duff died 20th March, 1797. Besides the family stated, they had two sons and two daughters—Alexander, merchant, Amherstburg, Canada; Robert, who went to Batavia; Jean, who, in August, 1809, married John Booth, merchant, Aberdeen; and Margaret, who married James Perry, surgeon, Bilbo Park, Logie-Buclan. Mr



Duff was the author of several works, including "Essays on Original Genius in Philosophy and the Fine Arts."

An enclosure in the south-east corner of the graveyard has three tombstones commemorating the succeeding minister, his family, and his brother. They are inscribed—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Maxwell Gordon, 24 years minister of this parish, who died 31st January, 1840, aged 46. George Robertson, his eldest son, who died 25th June, 1845, aged 16. Robert, his second son, who died 21st May, 1845, aged 14. Maxwell Gordon, his third son, who died at Jersey, 12th June, 1848, aged 15. Alexander Gordon, his fourth son, who died 3rd September, 1849, aged 15.

(2).

Sacred to the beloved memory of Margaret Robertson, widow of the Rev. Maxwell Gordon late minister of this parish, who died at Aberdeen, 25th December, 1874, aged 71 years. And of their daughter, Mary, who died at Aberdeen, 25th February, 1892. And their last surviving son, William Gordon, solicitor in Aberdeen; born 15th January, 1840; died 4th August, 1901. . . .

(3).

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Robert Abercrombie Gordon, who died 9th August, 1841, aged 35.

Rev. Maxwell Gordon, M.A., was the son of Rev. Dr George Gordon, minister of St Nicholas, Aberdeen. His daughter, Mary, and son, William, were substantial benefactors and enthusiastic supporters of Mannofield Parish Church, Aberdeen, in all its needs and activities.

Rev. Robert Abercrombie Gordon was a brother of Rev. Maxwell Gordon. He acted as schoolmaster of the parish.

The succeeding minister has an obelisk to his memory inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Rev. William S. Watt, minister of this parish, who died 26th

March, 1872, in the 63rd year of his age and the 32nd of his ministry.

Erected by the parishioners.

Rev. William Strachan Watt graduated M.A. at King's College in 1828, and for some time was schoolmaster of Durris. He was ordained to the parish of Foveran in 1840. His wife, who was a daughter of John Peter, farmer, Canterland, has a cross to her memory alongside the obelisk to her husband. The inscription is—

In loving memory of Bathia Peter, wife of Rev. W. S. Watt, who died July 24th, 1900, aged 84 years.

A headstone in the same ground as the obelisk and cross to Mr and Mrs Watt commemorates several of their family—

In loving memory of the following members of the family of Rev. W. S. Watt, minister of Foveran:—John Peter, born 8th January, 1847, died 16th January, 1852. William, born 20th August, 1842, died 11th February, 1864. Alexander Barclay, born 8th January, 1847, died 21st April, 1870. George, born 4th December, 1843, died in Ceylon, 18th March, 1882. The Rev. John Peter Watt died 21st June, 1899, and was buried in Dundee.

Rev. John Peter Watt, M.A., was minister of Hogganfield, Lanarkshire, from 1879 till 1882, when he was translated to the parish of Bellie. Other sons are Rev. Charles J. Watt, M.A., minister of Polwarth; and Dr James Peter Watt, M.A., medical officer of health for the county of Aberdeen, and proprietor of Invernettie, Strathdon.

The succeeding minister has also an obelisk to his memory, within an enclosure, the inscription whereon is—

In memory of the Rev. William Murray Keay, M.A., minister of Foveran, born 26th November, 1828, died 17th February, 1880.

Also his wife, Roselle, who died at Liverpool, 16th March, 1892, in her 63rd year, and interred in Toxteth Cemetery.

Erected by proprietors and parishioners of Foveran as a token of their esteem.

Rev. William Murray Keay, for some time schoolmaster of Oldmeldrum, was ordained in 1859, and became minister of Woodside. He was appointed to Foveran 19th September, 1872. He married Roselle, daughter of Captain Morice, Aberdeen, and was survived by four children.

The present incumbent is Rev. John Smeaton Loutit, who, in 1875, was ordained minister of the quoad sacra parish of New Pitligo. His induction to Foveran took place on 5th August, 1880. He married, on 23rd June, 1883, Susan Abernethy Harvey, daughter of the deceased Alexander Harvey, younger, of Ardo. (See Belhelvie.) On the occasion of the baptism of his son, John Harvey, he presented to the kirk-session and church a handsome baptismal font, which bears the inscription—

Presented by the Rev. John S. Loutit to the kirk-session of Foveran, 11th January, 1885, on which day his son, John Harvey, was baptised.

“Suffer little children to come unto Me.”

William, the younger son, died 25th March, 1906, aged 16.

#### FOVERAN LANDS AND BARONY.

In the 13th century, the lands and barony of Foveran—which comprehended practically the whole parish—were in the possession of the Cumyns, Earls of Buchan. On their forfeiture, the lands passed to the Crown, and were (with Ardache and three parts of Auchmacoy) bestowed by Robert the Bruce on William Strabrok (Robertson's Index, p. 1)—a member of an old Aberdeen burgh family—who, in 1329-31, and again in 1333-34, was Provost of that city. (Kennedy's Annals and Munro's Provosts, pp. 4 and 5.) In the following reign, Henry Strabrok resigned the barony in favour of William Toryn, or Turing (Robertson's Index, p. 45), who, as the

King's “beloved and faithful,” received a Crown charter, dated at Edinburgh 11th June, 1359. (Sir Egerton Brydges's Scotch Peerage MSS.)

Authorities are not agreed as to the antecedents of the Turings. One account bears that they were French, that they befriended King David while in exile, and came along with him on his return to Scotland. Another, while admitting their Norman extraction, asserts that they had settled in Angus for several generations before removing into Aberdeenshire in the 14th century. It is further stated that William Turing was a burghess of Aberdeen, that he married Mary Skene, and that their son Andrew succeeded to Foveran, which continued in the possession of the family in direct line for three centuries.

Space precludes the noting of the various succeeding proprietors between the time of the above Andrew Turing and that of William Turing, who had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by James VI., and died before May, 1613. Search has failed to discover his wife's name, but various writs prove that they had a family of at least four sons—William; John; Henry of Savocho; and Thomas, in Aikenshill. The three last-mentioned granted a discharge on 7th June, 1628. (Grant-Leslie's MSS.)

William Turing, who succeeded, died in early manhood in 1616, eight days after his marriage—

The hope, the honour of a noble race,  
Here midst his kindred Turing finds a place;  
Death paused so long as love's soft dalliance  
pleased;  
When love abated, Death the victim ceased.

John Turing, the immediate younger brother, succeeded, and had a chequered career. In 1620, he married Barbara, eldest daughter of George Gordon, sixth laird of Gight. Three years later, they

are both named as "recusants" (Mair's "Presbytery of Ellon," p. 67); and in a list, drawn up about 1625, of adherents to the Catholic faith "and resaitteris of Jesuites" Turing's name appears. (Balfour's MS.) Enthusiastically espousing the cause of Charles I. in the north of Scotland, he is said to have raised and maintained at his own expense a body of horse, for which service he was, in 1638, granted a warrant for the creation of a baronetcy. He fought bravely for Charles II. at Worcester in 1651, but the defeat of the King's forces and the complete ascendancy of Cromwell left him heavily embarrassed. The Great Seal Register shows that he had mortgaged his estates to a large extent, and being unable to clear himself, the bondholders ultimately foreclosed, and enforced a sale of the whole lands. On 18th September, 1655, John Jamesone, younger, merchant, burghess of Aberdeen, had a claim of £2818 6s 8d Scots, the security being "the mains and manor place of Foveran. . . . Pitgerso, Pitcaff, Pitmellen, Drumess, New Tyll, Aikenschill, Arda, Kirkhill, Ewerhill, Savoche, and Lauchmyre." At the same time, Robert Forbes had a claim of £1076 6s 8d Scots, and Agnes Beanes one of 3375 merks, besides expenses, the security being the lands of Foveran. Lady Turing died in 1639 (New Spalding Club's "House of Gordon," Vol. I., under "Gight," p. 99), and in 1652 Sir John married as his second wife Margaret, daughter of John Forbes of Leslie. They had a son, John, who died unmarried in 1682, when the baronetcy devolved upon the nephew of the first baronet, Rev. John Turing, minister of Drumblade, eldest son of Henry Turing of Savoch before mentioned. He married Jean, daughter of Rev. John Dunbar, of Forglen, and their eldest son (correctly the fourth baronet) was Rev. Alexander Turing, minister of Oyne, who married

Anne, daughter of Captain Brown, from Ireland (Brydges's MSS.), and had a large family. (See Oyne.) The eldest son, Inglis—who was nominally fifth baronet—died in Jamaica in 1791. The second son, Robert, who was educated as a physician, went to the East Indies and amassed considerable wealth. While there, he married, and had two daughters, one of whom became the wife of General Askeil, of the Honourable East India Company's service. In 1792, Mr Turing was served heir-male to his great-grand-uncle, Sir John Turing, Bart., who died in 1662. In October, 1797, he married, as his second wife, Anne, eldest daughter of Colonel Donald Campbell of Glensaddel, Argyleshire, "who had returned from Madras in 1771 with a handsome fortune." In 1802, Sir Robert was admitted a burghess of Banff, from which time till his death he interested himself largely in the affairs of that ancient town, his hand being ever open to relieve those in distress. For at least twenty years he resided in Banff Castle, where he exercised a princely hospitality. A marble tablet in the west wall of the parish church there commemorates him in the inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Sir Robert Turing,  
of Foveran, Baronet, who departed this life the  
21st October, 1831, aged 85 years.

The earth has claimed her own: the mortal  
clay

Must share the general destiny, decay!  
Life has gone forth, and we must yield the  
grave

What human love essayed in vain to save.  
'Tis but a little dust that moulders here,  
The Christian's soul has sought the Christian's  
sphere.

The good have many friends; and he who  
sleeps

Beneath this stone was one the mourner weeps;  
Regretting, not repining at the doom  
Which gave the aged rest, though in the tomb.  
And now, with the deep love of many years,  
With earnest prayers and meek though bitter  
tears,



To mark the memory of a father's claim,  
His children raise this tablet to his name.

(New Spalding Club's "Annals of Banff," II., pp. 364-65.)

In 1836, Sir Robert's daughter, Mrs Askell, anonymously presented to Banff Parish Church four fine solid silver Communion cups, while, at a later date, her sister, Miss Turing, bequeathed a handsome legacy for the schemes of the church. It is interesting to add that Mr Alexander Colville, solicitor and Honorary Sheriff-Substitute of Banffshire, who, for many years has been proprietor and occupant of Banff Castle and grounds, possesses many of Sir Robert's furnishings. Amongst others are an eight-day clock, in oak inlaid case, bearing upon it, in carved antique letters, the inscription "Sir Robert Turing, Banff Castle"; an inlaid library table; and a dozen library chairs of Archaic design. The clock and table occupy the exact spots which they did in Sir Robert's time.

The title and representation of the family now devolved upon James Henry Turing, for some time H.B.M. Consul at Rotterdam, and cousin of the preceding, who, dying on 13th February, 1860, was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Robert Fraser Turing, the 8th and present baronet, whose claim to the title was admitted in 1882. From 1852 to 1860 he was Vice-Consul at Rotterdam, and Consul from 1860 to 1874. He resides at Chilgrove, Chichester, the heir presumptive being his son, James, born in 1862.

The representatives of the late Henry Rannie of Greenlaw, Banff, possess an old portrait painted in copper of one of the Turing family.

Of Turing's Tower and Foveran Castle, with which it was incorporated at a later date, not a vestige remains. Respecting

the former, Thomas the Rhymer is said to have predicted—

When Turing's Towr falls to the land,  
Gladsmoor then is near at hand;  
When Turing's Towr falls to the sea,  
Gladsmoor the next year shall be.

The tower has fallen both to the land and to the sea, and the stones have been used in building the present mansion-house of Foveran.

While proprietors of Foveran, the Turing family buried in an aisle which stood immediately to the south of, and connected with, the old Parish Church. The aisle was entirely removed when that church was taken down in 1794. All that remains to mark the site is a massive flat stone, whereon are tracings of two men in armour. It bears seven letters of a Latin inscription—"Hic jace." Tradition names it the "Crusader's Stone"; and that it had been intended for the commemoration of two members of the Turing family is shown by its bearing the coat of arms with the Turing bend, but without the boars' heads. A marble bust in the dress of the time of Charles I., supposed to represent Sir John Turing, the last proprietor of Foveran, is still preserved in Foveran House.

#### THE FORBESES OF FOVERAN.

The first of this family to possess portions of the Turing lands, including "Petgerso, Petscaff, and Drumes," was Robert Forbes, who, on 7th November, 1673, was succeeded by his son, John Forbes, writer, Edinburgh. (Retours.)

The next proprietor of Foveran was Alexander Forbes of Ardo, a descendant of the ancient family of Tolquhon. His relationship, if any, to the two preceding owners has not been determined. He obtained possession before 1681, when he secured an Act of Parliament ratifying and confirming a charter passed under the

Great Seal, of the barony of Foveran in favour of himself in life-rent, and of Samuel Forbes, his eldest son, in fee. He married—first—Margaret, daughter of Samuel Hunter, apothecary, Edinburgh, and their family consisted of two sons and three daughters—Samuel, who succeeded; John, of Knaperna; and Rachel, who married Dr Patrick Chalmers, physician, Aberdeen (from this couple descend the family of Chalmers of Auldbar). The two other daughters married, respectively, the lairds of Glack and Glenkindie.

Samuel Forbes, son of the preceding, who was born in Edinburgh in 1653, was served heir to his father on 26th August, 1697. He was one of the joint Commissioners for Aberdeenshire to the Scottish Parliament in 1693-98, and 1700-1701. In August, 1700, while a member of the Scottish Convention of Estates, he was raised to the dignity of a Baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia. He erected the mansion-house of Tillery, on the adornments of which he expatiates in his "Description of Aberdeenshire," written about 1715, and printed by the Spalding Club in Vol. I., "Antiquities." He married a daughter of Udney of Udney, and they had a family of three sons and one daughter—Alexander, John, Patrick, and Anne. He died in January, 1717.

Sir Alexander Forbes, second baronet, was served heir 12th September, 1718. He married Jean, daughter of Major George Skene of Caralstone; and of their family, George, the eldest son, who was an officer in the Dutch service, was drowned at sea in 1751 through the loss of the Hopewell, of and for Leith. Alexander, the other son, died young in 1752. Sir Alexander died at an advanced age on 10th August, 1755, and in an obituary notice the "Aberdeen Journal" describes him as having been "a gentleman of great learning, ex-

tensive knowledge, and polite behaviour." He was the last Forbes to possess Foveran.

#### THE ROBERTSONS OF FOVERAN.

About 1757 the estate of Foveran was purchased by John Robertson of Pitmillan, stocking merchant, who, in 1736-37, was Provost of Aberdeen. (Munro's Provosts, etc., p. 219.) He married Jean, daughter of Baillie Alexander Mitchell of Colpna. She died 1st June, 1735, aged 27. Of their family, the eldest son, John, died 25th November, 1742, aged 13; the third son, Thomas, who was an advocate in Aberdeen, died 13th October, 1757, at the early age of 24; while a daughter, Jean, married (contract dated 8th February, 1748) James Ligertwood of Tillery. Provost Robertson died 23rd January, 1776, at the patriarchal age of 88. The "Aberdeen Journal," in recording his death, states that he "was not more beloved by his acquaintance for his vivacity and good humour than esteemed by all for his integrity through life."

Andrew Robertson, the second son, succeeded to the estate of Foveran, and in the business as a stocking merchant. A tablestone in Foveran parish graveyard commemorates him, his wife, and son in the inscription—

Underneath this stone are interred the Remains of Andrew Robertson, Esquire of Foveran, who died the 2nd of January, 1817, in the 86th year of his age. Likewise of Jean Davidson, his wife, who was born 20th June, 1742, was married on the 11th February, 1765, and died the 17th of February, 1823.

In this spot lie interred the remains of John Robertson, Esquire of Foveran, who was born the 27th of March, 1770, and departed this life the 6th of May, 1824.

Within the church and near the pulpit is a marble wall tablet to Mr and Mrs Andrew Robertson, the inscription on which is in terms almost similar to the above. Mrs Robertson was the eldest

daughter of William Davidson, who, in 1760-61, was Lord Provost of Aberdeen. Of their family, John died in infancy on 14th February, 1769; William graduated M.D., became a physician in Aberdeen, married in September, 1794, Mary (she died 11th October, 1846, in her 73rd year), daughter of Alexander Carnegie, Town Clerk, and died 20th January, 1807, in his 39th year; Helen died 30th May, 1794, aged 18 (tombstone in St Nicholas, Aberdeen); while an elder sister, Julia, married David Sandie-man of Kirkwood, Dumfries.

John Robertson, mentioned in the above inscription, was the second son of Andrew Robertson to bear that name. He and his wife have a marble tablet in the church inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of John Robertson, Esq. of Foveran, who departed this life the 6th of May, 1824, and to Mary Sophia Robertson, his wife, daughter of the late David Stewart, Esq., merchant, Edinburgh.

The father of Mrs Robertson was David Stewart, of the family of Stewart of Dalguise, Perthshire. He was for some time Provost of Edinburgh.

Andrew Robertson, the elder son, succeeded. He was a captain in the 14th Light Dragoons, and died 11th May, 1893. About 1857, he sold off various portions of the estate, the largest portion, including the mansion-house of Foveran, being disposed of to Miss Christina Mackenzie, youngest daughter of Roderick Mackenzie of Glack, who bequeathed it to her cousin, Major-General Roderick Mackenzie, the present proprietor.

The old family of Robertson of Pitmillan and Foveran is now represented by Mary Frances, only surviving child of the late Alexander Robertson of Balgownie Lodge, and wife of Thomas Longueville of Penyllan, Salop.

#### TILLERY.

This estate originally formed a portion of the barony of Foveran, and belonged to the Turings.

In 1530-40, Andrew Udny, second son of Ranald Udny of Udny, is designed as proprietor.

About the middle of the following century, the Setons of Minnes acquired the property, and erected a mansion-house upon it.

Shortly afterwards it was in the possession of Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran, who, before 1715, erected a new mansion-house. William Forbes, a succeeding proprietor, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Urquhart of Meldrum.

About 1750, the Forbeses sold the estate to James Ligertwood, a magistrate and merchant in Aberdeen, and for some time convener of the county. He married Jean (not Marjory as inadvertently stated by numerous writers), daughter of John Robertson of Pitmillan and Foveran. Of their family, John was a physician in Aberdeen; Alexander was an officer in the army; Margaret married (contract dated 21st November, 1775) Sir William Seton, sixth Bart. of Pitmedden; while Jean and Barbara died unmarried.

In 1788, the estate was purchased, at the price of £9500, by John Chambers, who had acquired wealth in South Carolina. He married Agnes Cooper, niece and sole heiress of James Hunter, merchant in Aberdeen, and laird of Darrahill, Middle Ardo, and Gateside. He subsequently assumed the surname of Hunter, and became proprietor of the additional estates of Coldwells, in Ellon, and Auchiries, in Rathen. His eldest son, William Chambers Hunter, succeeded. He married Rachel, daughter of James Thom, formerly merchant in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and they had a family of



four sons and four daughters, of whom John died in 1867; James died in early youth; William, who was an advocate in Aberdeen, died in 1871; and Alexander, who was a captain in the army, died 24th March, 1901.

On the death of the last-named, William Chambers Hunter, son of Dr Keith Jopp and of his wife, Rachel, eldest sister of Captain Alexander Chambers Hunter, succeeded, and is still the proprietor.

These notes upon Tillery and its lairds are based upon Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill's MSS., Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," pp. 576-79; A. Dingwall Fordyce's Family Record, pp. 40, 172, etc.; and Notes from the Register House.

#### BLAIRYTHAN AND SAVOCH.

In 1857, the properties of Blairythan and Savoch were purchased from Andrew Robertson, of Foveran, by David Gill, only son of Patrick Gill, who, about 1773, established an extensive wholesale watchmaking business in Aberdeen, which was successfully continued by his son. The Gills deduce their descent from the Gills of Gillsland, in Cumberland, and, more recently, from those of Torsopy and Haltoun, Perthshire, of whom John Gill of Haltoun, Provost of Perth in 1403, was the progenitor of Alexander Gill, born about 1550, who settled at Auchlyne, in Aberdour, and died before 18th March, 1618. His son, Robert, continued the tenancy of that farm, and direct descendants became noted farmers in Warielip, Mains of Pitfour, etc., as also captains in the merchant service. (See Fraserburgh.) David Gill himself was a Commissioner of Supply, and, for nearly sixty years, a magistrate for the county; also for some time an officer in the Aberdeenshire Militia. On 20th November, 1838, he married Margaret, daughter of Gilbert Mitchell in Savoch and Haddo, and of his wife,

Margaret Bruce, sister of James Bruce of Inverquhomery and Longside. Two separate headstones batted to the churchyard wall within an enclosure commemorate him and members of his family. The first bears the initials D. G. and M. M., with the arms and crest, Gill of Blairythan impaling Mitchell—viz., sable, a fesse between three mascles, or, the fesse charged with a Moor's head of the first. The translation of the motto above the crest is "Upwards and Onwards"; and of that below the shield—"In Thee, O Lord, is our trust." The inscription is—

To the memory of David Gill of Blairythan, a magistrate for Aberdeenshire, B. 26 May, 1789, D. 6 April, 1878. Margaret Mitchell, his wife, B. at Savock, in this parish, 8 March, 1809, D. at Aberdeen, 18 Decr., 1870. Two of their children who died in infancy, Patrick in 1840, David in 1841, and are interred in St Peter's Churchyard, Aberdeen, beside their grand-parents (viz.), Patrick Gill, B. 1757, D. 1850; Margaret, his wife, daughter of David Anderson, planter, of Kingston, Island of Jamaica, B. 1757, D. 1828.

Also of Patrick Gilbert Gill of Monomeith, Victoria, a magistrate for that colony and for Queensland, second son of David Gill of Blairythan and Margaret Mitchell, B. 15 Octr., 1845, D. at Melbourne 21st June, 1886, and is interred in the cemetery there.

The second inscription is—

In loving memory of Margaret, only daughter of the late David Gill, Esq. of Blairythan, and widow of Rev. Henry Powell, M.A., Clare Camb, rector and patron of Stanningfield, Suffolk, B. 8th Dec. 1851, D. at Bournemouth 29th April, 1892, and is buried at All Saints' Cemetery, Kensal Green, London.

Besides the children of Mr and Mrs David Gill above enumerated, three sons still survive. The eldest, who is now proprietor of Blairythan, is Sir David Gill, K.C.B., F.R.S., etc., late Astronomer-Royal at the Cape, who, on 7th July, 1870, married Isabella Sarah (authoress of "Six Months in Ascension," etc.), second

daughter of the late John Black of Linhead. The second surviving son is Andrew John Mitchell, who succeeded to the estate of Savock, and is also proprietor of Auchinroath, near Rothes, on which he has erected a fine mansion-house. He is a J.P. for both Aberdeenshire and Morayshire. F.S.A. (Scot.), and author of "The Houses of Moir and Byres," etc. In 1894, he married Margaret, second daughter of Charles S. Lindsell, J.P. and D.L. of Holme, Bedfordshire. The third surviving son is James Bruce, now of Runnymede, Victoria, who, in 1885, married Ruth, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-General James F. Pennyquick, C.B., Royal Artillery, formerly of Logie, etc., Perthshire.

The roll of apprentices to the watch-making business of the Gill family is specially interesting from the following particulars — Hugh Gordon, watchmaker and jeweller, Madras, acquired a fortune, and in 1808 bought the estate of Badifurrow, the name of which he changed to Manar, after the Gulf of Manaar, where he was interested in pearl-fishing. A second apprentice was George Angus, father of John Angus, advocate, who for a long period was town clerk of Aberdeen. Another was William Allan, whose daughter Margaret was mother of the late Sir James T. Mackenzie, Bart., of Glenmuick.

In the Blairythan and Savock enclosure is a headstone battled against the churchyard wall. It is inscribed—

To the memory of Andrew Mitchell, of Woodland Park, Tasmania. Born at Savock in this parish, 3rd August, 1802. Died at Foveran House 23rd April, 1878.

Andrew Mitchell was the eldest surviving son of Gilbert Mitchell, and brother of Mrs David Gill, of Blairythan and Savock. While a young man, he went to Tasmania,

and purchased the fine estate of Woodland Park. Returning to Scotland, he resided at Foveran House till his death as stated. He married Margaret, daughter of William Fasken, life-renter of Fortrie, Banffshire; and they had a family of one son, Andrew William, and two daughters, Margaret Beatrice, who married Archibald John Watt Storie, S.S.C., Aberdeen; and Bertha Mary Bruce.

## KINCRAIG.

In 1857, Alexander Mitchell, merchant and shipowner, Newburgh, bought part of the estate of Foveran, previously known by the title of Latch or Lotch, and extending to about 476 acres. He married Margaret, eldest daughter of Patrick Robertson, Montrose; and of their family, Patrick Andrew was accidentally drowned in the Ythan by the upsetting of a pleasure boat in January, 1867; Isabella Margaret married 21st May, 1868, Charles B. Glover, shipowner, Aberdeen; and Ann married Rev. James Emslie Duguid, Free Church minister, New Machar, and died 5th January, 1905. On the death of Mr Mitchell, he was succeeded by his two daughters above mentioned.

An obelisk, in a large railed enclosure, commemorates Mr and Mrs Mitchell and their son in the inscriptions—

(1).

Erected by his sorrowing parents to the memory of Patrick Andrew Mitchell, only son of Alex. Mitchell, Kineraig, who died January 8th, 1867, aged 27.

(2).

Also to the memory of Margaret Robertson, wife of Alexander Mitchell, of Kineraig, Foveran, who died on the 24th November, 1887, aged 78 years.

(3).

In memory of Alexander Mitchell of Kineraig. Born February 7, 1807. Died December 21, 1890.

A tablestone in the same enclosure bears—

Intered here Andrew Mitchell, farmer in Saak of Foveran, who died 13th May, 1799, aged 62 years.

Also Jean Mitchell, who died 4th July, 1867, aged 63 years. Also Isabella Mitchell, who died 8th August, 1886, aged 86 years. The above both daughters of Alexander Mitchell, farmer, Fiddesbeg.

Andrew Mitchell was the second son of William Mitchell, merchant, Newburgh, and of his wife, Jean, daughter of Andrew Moir, Culter-Cullen, progenitor of the family of Moir-Byres of Tonley. He settled about 1750 as life-renter at Savock or Saak, and married on 5th June, 1759, Margaret Cattanach (she died 15th February, 1815), only child of John Cattanach—known as “Catnach Mhor” in Bellastraid and Ballochbuie — and grand-daughter of Robert Lumsden of Corrachree. The date and initials of Mr and Mrs Mitchell are on a lintel slab built into the house of Savock thus—

17. A. M. M. C. 73.

Their second son Andrew, farmer, White-ness, Slains, who married Isabella Gray, Knapsleask, was father of Alexander Mitchell of Kinraig. The third son, Alexander, who settled in Fiddesbeg, and his wife, with their son, Andrew of Logierieve, are commemorated by a headstone in the same enclosure, inscribed—

To the memory of Alexander Mitchell in Fiddesbeg, who died on the 18th January, 1853, aged 82 years. Isabella Mutch, his wife, who died on the 18th March, 1852, aged 77 years. Also of the sons of Andrew Mitchell in Fiddesbeg, who died on the 7th May, 1856, aged 22 months. Alexander, who died on the 25th January, 1857, aged 10 years. Also of Jane Fiddes, wife of Andrew Mitchell of Logierieve, Udney, who died on the 13th November, 1879, aged 67 years. And of the above Andrew

Mitchell, of Logierieve, who died 16th May, 1885, aged 77 years.

Also of Andrew James Hunter Harvey, son of Robert Mitchell of Logierieve. Born 14th August, 1879. Died 16th May, 1894, aged 14 years.

A tablestone in the same enclosure commemorates Mr and Mrs Andrew Mitchell's fifth son in the inscription—

To the memory of Gilbert Mitchell, farmer, Haddo, in this parish, who died 10th July, 1844, aged 71 years, and five of his children—Gilbert, Barbara, James, Robert, and Alexander. And of his spouse, Margaret Bruce, who departed this life, 7th April, 1846, aged 64 years. Also of his son Gilbert Mitchell, farmer, Haddo, who died January 14th, 1874, aged 57 years. And of his spouse, Mary Bruce, who died at Haddo Cottage, Longside, on 14th September, 1883, aged 68 years. Also of his son John Mitchell, of Christmas Creek, Queensland, Australia, who died at Waterton, Ellon, 1st February, 1890, aged 69 years. And of his daughter, Catherine Mitchell, who died at Waterton, Ellon, 20th June, 1890, aged 70 years.

A few notes on Gilbert Mitchell and his family are already given under Blairythan and Savock.

#### NEWTYLE.

In 1657, Alexander Skene, eldest son of Robert Skene, burgess of Aberdeen, purchased this property. He married Lilius Gillespie, daughter of Rev. John Gillespie, Kirkcaldy. He was a magistrate of Aberdeen, and (as pointed out by the late Dr Joseph Robertson) has obtained local immortality by his “Memorials for the Government of the Royal Burghs in Scotland,” and his “Succinct Survey of the Famous City of Aberdeen,” which he published in one volume in 1685. Becoming a Quaker, he wrote two pamphlets from that standpoint, to which he gave the respective titles of “The Way Cast Up” and “A Plain and Peaceable Advice to Those Called



Presbyterians in Scotland." In 1680, he sold part of the estate—burdened with certain life-rent provisions—to William Gordon, Sheriff Clerk of Aberdeenshire, and Agnes Blackburn, his wife. In 1681, Gordon had a ratification of the lands under Act of Parliament. These Gordons buried on the south side of the church, where a small marble tablet bears the simple inscription—

THE BURIAL PLACE  
OF  
THE FAMILY OF NEWTYLE.

Near the above is an undated tablet showing the inscription—

Here are interred the remains of Charles Gordon of Buthlaw, and of Jean Udny, his spouse, also of Jean, Susan, and Elizabeth Gordons, their daughters.

The above Charles Gordon, son of Thomas Gordon of Buthlaw, was an advocate in Aberdeen, and in 1724 married Jean, daughter of John Udny (Member of Parliament for Kintore, 1681-86), of Culter-Cullen, and proprietor of the portion of Newtyle not already in the possession of the Gordons. Subsequently, Gordon acquired the whole property of Newtyle, with whose descendants it remained till it was purchased by Mr Lumsden of Balmedie. (See Belhelvie.) According to the "Aberdeen Journal," Mr Gordon died at a very advanced age in January, 1752, having "acquired a handsome fortune."

The old mansion-house, which was erected by Baillie Skene in 1667, was demolished in the middle of the last century, its stones being used in the construction of buildings in the neighbourhood.

Within a railed enclosure are a tablestone and a headstone, inscribed respectively—

Here are interred the remains of Robert Fiddes, late farmer in Pitgerso, who died 30th

May, 1832, aged 75 years; also Elspet Black, his spouse, who died the 9th March, 1837, aged 78 years.

William Fiddes, farmer, Dubbystyle, son of Robert Fiddes, died 23rd July, 1873, aged 80. Also Mary Mitchell, his wife: died 11th September, 1830, aged 75 years.

The first-named Robert Fiddes, who was a successful farmer, married Elspet, daughter of Thomas Black of Wateridge-muir. He was tenant of Pitgersie before May, 1799, when a son, Robert, died.

Erected by George Fiddes, farmer, Auchloon, in memory of his children, Elspet, who died 19th February, 1831, aged 4 years. Margaret, who died 21st April, 1848, aged 22 years. Also Janet Fiddes, wife of the above George Fiddes, who died 1st February, 1882, aged 82 years. Also the said George Fiddes, who died 1st February, 1883, aged 87 years. Also their daughter, Jessie, died 2nd December, 1884, aged 41 years. Also their son, Robert, died 29th January, 1884, aged 59 years.

A tablestone showing numerous ornaments—including angels, coffin, bell, sand-glass, spade, mattock, compass, etc.—presents the following inscription—

My flesh which all consumed,  
The very same shall rise;  
Yea! I will see Christ's lovely face  
With those my very Eyes.

Here lyes Intered in hopes of a Blessed Resurrection the dust of William Clark, sometime in Pitmillon, who died 16th of March, 1765, aged 79 years—Likways, Jannet Hay, his Lawful spouse, who died 22nd of March, 1765, aged 68 years. Also two children who died in infancie.

It will be noted that Clark (he was a carpenter to trade) and his wife died within six days of each other.

Another old tablestone has, in the upper part of the face, representations of a skull, cross-bones, open book, sand-glass, bell, coffin, spade, mattock, and shield, with the initials A. M. and I. D. The inscription is—

Here lyes the corpse of the Rev. Mr Alexander

Mouat, sometime minister of the Gospel at Lesly, who departed this life the 28th day of October, 1735, aged 91 years. As also the corps of Iean Dalgardno, his spouse, who departed this life the 21st day of July, 1736, aged 85 years.

The bodies here, the souls above,  
Wher is the centre of our love;  
Our King, our husband, and our head,  
By whom we live, though we bee dead;  
With whom we shal bee evermore  
In perfect bless & endless glore.

Rev. Alexander Mouat graduated M.A. at King's College in 1665, and, according to Dr Scott (Fasti), was admitted minister of Leslie, Aberdeenshire, previous to 24th April, 1674. The settlement having been made contrary to the wishes of John Leslie, the patron, Mr Mouat and his lady withdrew from attendance at the parish church and went elsewhere. For this offence the minister was fined, on 19th August, 1684, no less a sum than £1860 sterling. He refused to take the Test, and was finally deprived. A son, Patrick, attended Marischal College in 1694-98, being Crombie bursar (Records Marischal College, II., p. 270), and a daughter married Nathaniel Craig, factor on the Pitsligo estates.

There are several tombstones to a family bearing the surname Chrystal, some of whom reached advanced ages. William Chrystal, farmer, Dykeside, died 28th May 1854, aged 87; Jane Stewart, his wife, died 5th April, 1841, aged 76; and Margaret Chrystal, their daughter, died 9th January, 1890, aged 98. Helen Burgess, wife of William Chrystal, grain merchant, Aberdeen, died 16th October, 1837, aged 29. John Chrystal, farmer, Hill of Ardo, died 12th November, 1848, aged 50; his daughter, Margaret, died in infancy, and Mary Milne, his wife, died 13th July, 1883, aged 73. William Chrystal, in Mill of Kingoody, Bourtie, and subsequently of Gateside, Newhills, died at Aberdeen, 13th

January, 1878, aged 72; his wife, Margaret Burr, died at Aberdeen 9th March, 1885, aged 69; their sons, John, died 19th July, 1850, aged 6, and William died 9th August, 1854, aged 13. Another son, George, is now Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and is proprietor of Gateside.

The sexton's notes bear that on 7th March, 1770, he "Interred James Christall, lawfull sone Robert Christall, in Cotton of Mains of Foveran; his grave is upsids with Andrew Raney's att the back of the oyl [Turing's Aisle]; he dyed in the lands of Belhelvie, and was found by some traveler on the 5th of March, carried to the kirk of Belhelvie, where he was to remain till he was put in a coffin. But the docters of the infirmary brok the windows of the kirk and carried him to Aberdeen. But the minister of Foveran, sending some letters to the magistrates and docters, they were oblidged to send him to his place of interment in a hearce att Foveran, and fined for thir indecent behavouir."

#### THE BLACKS OF WATERIDGEMUIR, ETC.

On the left side of the entrance gate to the graveyard is a railed enclosure, containing several tombstones, some of which are of handsome design. These three inscriptions appear with others—

(1).

Here are interred the bodies of Alexander Black, some time blacksmith in Newburgh, who died the 23rd of January, 1769, aged 76 years. Likewise Agnes Stephen, his spouse, who died the 25th of June, 1771, aged 87 years. Also Elisbath Black, there daughter, who died the 17th of March, 1762, aged 31 years. This stone is erected to there memory by . . . their son-in-law.

Here is interred George, son of Thomas Black of Wateradgemuir, who died 15th April, 1847, aged 77.

Alexander Black was a son of Alexander Black, who, in 1696, was tenant of Auchnacant. He was the progenitor of the well-known and highly-respected family of Black of Waterridgemuir, Logie-Buchan, merchants and shipowners in Newburgh. His son, Thomas, who acquired that property in 1776, is mentioned in the next inscription—

(2).

Here are interred the remains of Thomas Black of Watridgemuir, many years merchant in Foveran, who died the 7th May, 1801, aged 76. Also Mary Sangster, his spouse, who died the 20th June, 1806, aged 72. Also of Barbara, their daughter, who died the 6th August, 1777, aged 13. Also of Alexander, their son, who died the 17th of September, 1812, aged 52. Here also is interred his son, Alexander Black, M.D., assistant surgeon, 84th Foot, who died at Torquay, Devonshire, 21st January, 1837, aged 28. Also of Ann Clark, spouse of Alexander Black, who died 9th December, 1847, aged 80. Also Alexander, son of John Black, Linhead. Born 11th April, 1841; died 4th September, 1848. And his daughter, Elspet; born 11th June, 1854; died 19th January, 1855. And his daughter, Mary Garden; born 11th June, 1854; died 24th March, 1856. Also the said John Black, Linhead, who died at his residence in Aberdeen, 12th January, 1885, aged 77. And his wife, Elizabeth Garden, who died there also 9th February, 1892, aged 80.

Thomas Black, first of Waterridgemuir, and his wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Sangster, Mill of Leask, Slains, had several sons, of whom John is referred to in the next inscription. Another son—William—became a stocking merchant in Aberdeen. The above son, Alexander, who was a merchant and shipowner in Newburgh, and some time of Linhead, married Ann, daughter of John Clark, Walton-on-Thames. John Black, their eldest son, succeeded to Linhead, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Garden of Millfield. Their three daughters—Anne, Isabella, and Bessie—erected a separate

tombstone commemorative of their parents. Isabella, in 1870, married Sir David Gill, K.C.B., F.R.S., etc., as mentioned under Blairythan and Savceh.

(3).

In memory of John Black, merchant and shipmaster, Newburgh, who died June 16th, 1843, aged 81 years. Also his spouse, Jane Kilgour, who died 15th December, 1847, aged 77 years.

In memory of Thomas Black, merchant, Newburgh, who died 1st October, 1840, aged 39 years. Also of Margaret Perry, his spouse, who died 20th February, 1848, aged 40 years. And also of Thomina Mary, their only child, who died at Adelaide, S.A., where she had gone for the recovery of her health, on 9th August, 1863, aged 22 years.

The above John Black married Jane, daughter of Patrick Kilgour of Woodside. Thomas Black was their son, and his wife was the daughter of Dr James Perry, Bilbo Park, Logie-Buchan. Mary, daughter of John Black, married James Adamson, shipbuilder, Aberdeen, and died on 25th May, 1825, aged 32, survived by her husband, who died at Grangemouth on 10th October, 1860.

Mrs Pickering of Kincardine is a direct descendant of the family of Waterridgemuir, being the only surviving child of the late Alexander Black, wine merchant, London, who was third son of Thomas Black of Waterridgemuir.

A tablestone gives the following inscription and poetical advice—

In memory of George Henderson, late farmer in Cultercoulten, who died 5th February, 1791, aged 73 years. Also of Jean Massie, his spouse, who died 12th February, 1772, aged 40. . . .

Let each who has a soul to save  
Extend his views beyond the grave;  
And while salvation yet is nigh  
To Christ, the friend of sinners, fly.

A tablestone, displaying skull, cross-



bones, spade, mattock, and sand-glass, has the inscription—

Here lyes, under the hope of a blessed resurrection, Andrew More, Burges of Aberdeen, who departed this life the 14th day of December, 1694, and of his age 73 year. Also Agnes Montgomery, spouse to Andrew Moir, who died March, 1730, aged 80 years. Likewise, Andrew Moir, their eldest son, who died May, 1733, aged 60 years. Also Elizabeth Simpson, his spouse, who died 20th September, 1761, aged 86 years. Likewise Isobel Moir, his daughter, spouse to John Meders, Burges in Aberdeen, who died the 30th of May, 1777, aged 70 year.

The above Andrew More, or Moir, some time laird of Overhill, was the direct progenitor of the Moir-Byres family of Tonley. Agnes Montgomery was his second wife; and of their family, Andrew, the eldest son, settled at Cultercullen and married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Simpson of Thornton; Gilbert was Muster-Master Depute in Scotland; and George became minister of Towie, and subsequently of Kintore. (See Kintore.) Moir was a wealthy burges of Aberdeen, and at his death left personal estate representing 30,000 merks Scots.

A headstone is inscribed—

Here lies the Body of George Bain (son of Ronald Bain, Esq., of Dalney, Ross-shire), some time Residenter in Newburgh, who departed this Life 4th October, 1767, aged 64 years. Also Janet Gibson, his Spouse, who departed this Life 28th December, 1794, aged 83 years.

The above George Bain followed the business of a merchant in Newburgh. About the same time as he left Ross-shire, several other Highlanders forsook their native glens and settled in Buchan.

A stone has—

In memory of Robert Johnston, who died at Mill of Miness, 9th March, 1854, aged 52 years. Also his son, Robert, who died 17th March, 1851, aged 26 years. Also his wife, Barbara Kemp, who died 21st July, 1878, aged 76 years  
Until the day break.

Robert Johnston, who was a son of Robert Johnston, a respected native of New Machar, had, besides the eldest son Robert thus commemorated, James, who, for nearly thirty years, was a trusted official of the Aberdeen Corporation, and died 17th December, 1900, aged 74; William, John, Thomas, Margaret, Jane (these five married and have families); and Annie, who married William Robertson, grandson of Alexander Robertson, in Menie, Belhelvie. Barbara Kemp was grand-aunt of George Kemp, F.S.A.A., sometime a magistrate of Aberdeen.

There are several tombstones to members of a family bearing the surname Stoddart, which, traditionally, is derived from "standard." The progenitor of the family, it is said, came to England as standard-bearer in the army of William the Conqueror. Descendants acquired estates on the Border and in Midlothian—notably Loanhead, Kailzie, and Ormiston. James Stoddart, who was the first to settle in Foveran, came from Midlothian as manager at Monkshill. He subsequently settled on the farm of Davieshill, where he died on 13th February, 1819, aged 89. His wife, Jane Henderson, died in 1838, aged 84. Of their family, four sons became farmers, viz.—

Archibald Stoddart, who was in Davieshill, died 28th May, 1858, aged 76; his wife, Isabella Gray, died 24th October, 1892, aged 88; and their sons, James, died 13th September, 1875, aged 45; and George, died 5th April, 1880, aged 43.

George Stoddart, who was in Cultercullen, died 23rd June, 1880, at the advanced age of 97; his wife, Elizabeth Gray, died 7th May, 1878, aged 82; a daughter, Elizabeth, died 6th February, 1902, aged 87; while a son, James, settled at Muiryfold, Grange, where he died 17th November, 1885, aged 66. The last-named was twice married—first, to Catherine

Garden, who died 20th September, 1858, aged 32; and, secondly, to Jane Inkson, who died 25th March, 1872, aged 33. The family of the first marriage were a son, George, now a grain merchant and agent in Huntly; and a daughter, Jane, who married Magnus Mowat, East India merchant, London. Of the second marriage there were also a son, Patrick, now a grain merchant; and a daughter, Jemima, who married George Bisset, merchant, Inch.

John Stoddart, farmer, in Dams of Craigie, died 8th May, 1869, aged 81; his wife, Margaret Marr, died 22nd June, 1878, aged 81.

James Stoddart, Aryburn, Old Machar, died 3rd June, 1867, aged 76; and his wife, Elspet Fiddes, died 2nd October, 1887, aged 91. Their sons, William Gordon, died 25th February, 1855, aged 24; and James Fiddes, surgeon, R.N., died at Plymouth, 9th November, 1859, aged 33.

According to Logan's MS., the following verses occur on two tombstones—

On that to Andrew Mutch, some time in Ellas of Fiddes—

Our life's a flying shadow, God's the pole,  
The index pointing to him is our soul;  
Death's the horizon, when our sun is set,  
Which will, through Christ, a resurrection get.

Andrew Mutch was buried on 17th April, 1793, the parish registers recording that "he dayed of indropssay."

On George Duncan, in Mains of Auchnancant, and three sons, who all died in one year (1778)—Alexander at 22, George at 24, and Thomas at 16 years of age—

We have their names here, but themselves are gone;

They have the crown indeed, but we have the cross;

They find the gain, but we the loss.

Death broke the cage and let the sparrows fly,

Who now have found a house, a nest, on high,  
Even God's own altars, to eternity.

These three were pleasant in their life, and undivided in their death.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The old parish registers furnish considerable information respecting the parish and its people from 1753 downwards. The ailments from which deaths occurred are carefully noted, although in many instances the entries fall far short of the modern medical regulations. Among other fatal diseases recorded are "a decay," "the decay of nature," "a gravel," "a sore throat," "the flux," and "a lingering sickness." The following extract shows the minuteness of some of the entries— "27th January, 1768. Buried John Golespie, a poor travelin' man, born in the parish of Mortlich, aged 96 years; his Grave is at the North Dyke of the Kirk Yeard — upsids with Margrat Frazer. . . ." In 1775 record is made that a "corps cam From Aberdeen upon a hears."

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Of the old chapel, which formerly stood at Hill of Fiddes, no particulars have been preserved. A few years ago, the foundations were dug up, when a stone window mullion was discovered. Its appearance would indicate that the window at least possessed considerable architectural pretension. Fortunately, the stone has fallen into the hands of Rev. J. S. Loutit, who will see to its careful preservation.

In the churchyard has stood for many years a beautifully-ornamented stone column, which is likely soon to find a place in the church as a base for the baptismal font already referred to.

On the top of the gable of the congregational stable abutting on the churchyard is fixed an undressed granite stone which

may have formed a portion of the old church or aisle. It shows a rude representation of Janus, the Latin deity—with two faces—who presided over the commencement of all undertakings. On one of the sides there had been a sun-dial, but it is now broken off.

Ancient graves, urns, stone axes, etc., have been unearthed at various times, but they do not call for special comment.

### Newburgh.

The barony of Knockhall, or that of Newburgh, belonged, in the fourteenth century, to the family of St Clair or Sinclair, of Rosslyn, and continued in the same line for upwards of two centuries.

In 1565, Henry, third Lord Sinclair, erected the castle of Knockhall; but in 1633 John, seventh Lord Sinclair, sold both the barony and the castle to the Udney family, in the possession of whose descendants they still continue.

In 1639, the castle was taken by the Earl of Erroll and Earl Marischal, on the part of the Covenant, while, in the following year, it was attacked by a foraging party from Aberdeen. In 1734, it was accidentally burned, and has since remained a venerable roofless ruin. It was during the progress of the fire that "Jamie Fleeman, the Laird of Udney's fool," rescued the iron charter chest, which it usually required three ordinary men to raise.

#### NEWBURGH VILLAGE.

Newburgh has a pleasant situation near the mouth of the Ythan, and is largely patronised in the summer months by tourists and others, who find excellent sport in angling in the river and tidal waters, as also in golfing on the beautiful adjacent links. The village is very

ancient. In the halcyon days of the Abbey of Deer, the monks had a lodging in it with a small piece of land. It bore the appropriate title of "Monkshome," and was afterwards converted into an inn. (Logan's MS. and View of the Diocese.) It was probably this inn which was honoured in December, 1715, by a visit from the Chevalier, while on his way south from Peterhead. The room in which he slept is still pointed out.

The old cross is lying in neglect. It is worthy of re-erection on a suitable site.

In 1897, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Mrs Udney of Udney presented to the village a massive red granite fountain. Besides the date, arms, motto, etc., it bears the characteristic couplet—

No gift on earth pure water can excel,  
Nature's the brewer, and she brews it well.

In 1882, a new public school was erected, and, through the exertions of Rev. J. S. Loutit, minister of the parish of Foveran, the old school was transformed into a place of worship in connection with the Church of Scotland, a tablet being fixed into the outer wall bearing the title and date—

HOLY ROOD CHAPEL.  
1882.

Ten years after, a tower was erected on the chapel for a public clock presented by James Gordon Stewart, East India merchant, who is a native of Newburgh.

#### GRAVEYARD.

Within the small graveyard near the village stood the church long known as "The Red Chapel of Buchan," or Chapel of the Holy Rood, which was ratified, along with the right of patronage, to Alexander Udney of Udney in 1672. (Acts Parliament.) James Logan (MS.) states that, up to a century ago, the graveyard "was exposed to the water of the river at high tides, by







which some of the soil was removed and bones exposed." It is now securely protected, however.

## UDNY MAUSOLEUM.

Within the graveyard is the mausoleum of the Udny family. In a recess opposite the entrance door is a monument of elaborate design, showing in relief the effigy of one of the members of the Udny family. It bears in large letters a Latin motto, which translated is, "Virtue remains after death."

There are also several marble mural tablets, the inscriptions on which are—

(1).

George Udny, Esq., died 12 December, 1770, who never injured any man, and did all the good in his power.

(2).

William Udny Fraser, Esq., of Udny and Inveralachy, died 13th December, 1792. He lived esteemed and died regreted.

(3).

Mrs Mary Udny, widow of George Udny, Esq., died 16 December, 1807, aged ninety-one.

Esteemed and respected through a long life.

(4).

Sacred to the memory of John Augustus Udny of Udny, Colonel in the army, and Aide-de-camp to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. Born 17th July, 1817; died 6th May, 1859.

(5).

Sacred to the memory of John Robert Fullerton Udny of Udny, Colonel in the army, and Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen.

Born 14th November, 1779; died 29th November, 1861.

(6).

Sacred to the memory of Ann, widow of John Robert Fullerton Udny of Udny, born 16 July, 1820; died 16 April, 1870.

The first-mentioned George Udny, who was born on 24th February, 1710, became a merchant in London. He and Alexander

Udny of Udny—who was born 28th September, 1707, and died 20th August, 1788—are commemorated by a fine, massive marble tablet in the gable wall of the west gallery of the Parish Church of Foveran. Medallion heads of both are shown, while on the roof overhead is an alcove showing six separate cherubs. The whole was the work of J. Bacon, sculptor, London, whose beautiful monuments in Westminster Abbey attract much attention. The inscription underneath bears that the "Monument was erected by Robert Udny of Udny, Esq., as a testimony of their worth and as a tribute of his grateful remembrance of their friendship. 1794."

There is also a parish church tablet to the above John Augustus Udny of Udny and Dudwick, and to John Robert Fullerton Udny of Udny and Dudwick.

## WRECK OF THE "OSCAR."

A tablestone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Captain John Innes, aged 42 years, who was wrecked in the ship Oscar, near Aberdeen, the 1st April, 1813. This Stone is Erected by his disconsolate widow, Ann Mitchell, as a grateful tribute of her regard and affection for his departed worth. Their son, Thomas, who died in infancy, is also interred here.

Though Boreas' Blasts and Neptune's waves,

Have toss'd me to and fro,

In Spite of both, by God's Decree,

I harbour here below.

Here at an anchor I do lie,

With many of our Fleet,

Untill again we most set Sail,

Our Admiral Christ to meet.

Also his spouse, Ann Mitchell, who died the 16th November, 1823, aged 68 years.

Early on the morning of 1st April, 1813, the whaling ship "Oscar," of Aberdeen, with four other whalers, sailed out of the harbour, but for a few hours rode at anchor in the bay. A stiff gale—accompanied by blinding snow showers—



suddenly arose, and the "Oscar," being detained getting on board a portion of her crew, who had been left on shore, was speedily in difficulties. A supreme effort was made to ride out the storm, but the anchor dragged, and, finally, the gallant ship was driven ashore on the Greyhope, on a reef of rock. Tremendous seas broke over her, with the result that she quickly went to pieces, and out of a crew of 44, only two were rescued. Captain Innes and three or four seamen were the last to be observed clinging to the fore-castle, whence they vainly signalled for assistance from the crowds on shore, who were unable to give the slightest practical response.

[For further particulars of the wreck see the "Aberdeen Journal" of 7th April, 1813.]

Rev. James Smith, St George's-in-the-West, Aberdeen, states that the rescue of one of the two survivors of the wreck—John Jamson, first mate, who was a nephew of Mr Smith's great-grandfather, Captain Richard Jamson—was effected under miraculous circumstances. Captain Jamson was among the crowd attracted to Nigg Bay on the memorable occasion, and, observing an object floating in the sea, which he supposed was the drowned ship's dog, he reached out his staff and had it pulled ashore. It turned out to be his own nephew; and the vigorous efforts made to bring him round were, happily, successful.

A headstone bears—

Erected by Rev. Thomas Henderson, Demerara, West Indies, in memory of his father, John Henderson, who was lost off the Oscar, 1st April, 1813, aged 21 years. Also of his grandmothers, Agnes Henderson, who died 23rd December, 1843, aged 84 years, and Christian King, who died 26th March, 1844, aged 82 years.

Besides Captain Innes and John Henderson, two other seamen who were

drowned by the loss of the "Oscar" were buried at Newburgh. Their names have not been recorded, however.

According to Logan's MS., an old tombstone bears the quatrain—

Now here at anchor safe I ride,  
All on my native shore,  
Till Christ my Captain in Heaven I meet,  
Never to part no more.

A tablestone—having a compartment in which are representations of an open book, skull, sand-glass, bell, coffin, and cross-bones, surmounted by a scroll with the Latin words *Memento Mori*—has the following inscription—

Here lyes in hops of a Blessed Resurrection the corpse of William Mitchel, late merchant in Newburgh, who departed this life June 30, 1752, aged 87 years.

William Mitchel was the progenitor of the Mitchells of Logierieve, and of the family of Mitchell-Innes of Parson's Green, Stow, etc.

A headstone bears—

In memory of Mrs Margaret Youngson, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Millne, whose remains also lie near this spot. Born in this parish, 1809; died 6th September, 1893.

All members of the Original Wesleyan Society, and saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

An enclosure has several monuments, one of which—dated 1888—bears that the space enclosed had been the family burying ground of the Findlays for at least 150 years. John Findlay, farmer, Newburgh, died 20th December, 1883, aged 76. His wife, Ann Trail, died 24th December, 1856, aged 42, and their son, John, schoolmaster, died 7th February, 1884, aged 43.

In the beginning of the last century, John Mather, surveyor, son of Robert Mather, Mill of Newburgh, bequeathed £4000, from the interest of which he directed £55 per annum to be paid for

educating and clothing twenty poor fishermen's sons, so that they may be afterwards "indentured apprentices for the sea"; and £25 to the parson or schoolmaster for lecturing and reading prayers once a week to the poor of Newburgh and its environs, etc., etc.

Further interesting particulars respecting Newburgh, together with the poem on "The Ythan," by the late James Giles, R.S.A., will be found in Pratt's "Buchan," revised edition (1901), pp. 150 and 453-456.

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## Glass.

The name of this parish is derived from the Gaelic word "glas"—grey or green—and appropriately describes the appearance of the landscape.

By an order of the Boundary Commissioners in 1890, the whole parish, which previously was situated partly in Aberdeenshire and partly in Banffshire, was permanently attached to Aberdeenshire. Ecclesiastically, it is within the Presbytery of Strathbogie and Synod of Moray, but, prior to the Reformation, it was included in the diocese of Moray, while the parish of Dunmeith, which is now incorporated with Glass, was within the diocese of Aberdeen.

Glass was originally a small parish, and had its church dedicated to St Andrew, whose name is perpetuated in St Andrew's Fair, which is held in the parish each July.

In 1226, an agreement was arrived at between David of Strathbogie and the Bishop of Moray, under which the latter got all the churches in Strathbogie with their respective lands, with the exception of the patronage of Glass and of Essie, and the kirklands of same.

In 1621, the right of patronage was granted to Lord Spynie. (Acts Parliament.)

In 1767, the parish church, which measured 56 feet by 18, was considered to be in an unsatisfactory condition through general deterioration, and especially on account of the floor being below the level of the churchyard, thus admitting water when it rained. Although it was decided, in 1770, to build a new church of the same length, but ten feet wider, it was not till 1790 that the erection was proceeded with. This edifice did service till 1903, when a complete renovation and large extensions were made. The new wing harmonises thoroughly with the older portion, and altogether, the church is now one of the most tasteful and commodious in the county.

Two handsome memorial windows, commemorative of Alexander Geddes of Blairmore, were recently erected—one on each side of the pulpit. They were specially designed by Douglas Strachan, artist, Aberdeen, and are of great beauty. The first, which depicts the Nativity, bears appropriate Scriptural texts and the following inscription—

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Alexander Geddes, of Blairmore and Chicago, born 1843; died 1902.

The second portrays the Ascension, with appropriate Scriptural quotations, and the following inscription—

These windows were erected by his friends in Chicago as a tribute of affection and regard.

Notes upon Mr Geddes and his brother, the late Principal Sir William Duguid Geddes, appear under Walla'-kirk.

In 1906, Sir Frederick Bridge presented to the church a magnificent organ in memory of his wife, who died on 13th January of that year.

A brass thereon is inscribed—

To the glory of God and in memory of Helen Mary Flora, the beloved wife of Sir Frederick Bridge, M.V.O., of Cairnborrow

Lodge and Westminster Abbey. This organ was dedicated by her loving husband, 1906.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

In 1574, Rev. Alexander Leslie was minister of the combined charges of Glass, Botarie, and Elchies, at a stipend of £66 13s 4d. The contemporary reader at Glass was Patrick Mitchell. The succeeding reader was Robert Mossman, who was followed by William Clerk, and subsequently by John Fober or Forster.

In 1588, Rev. Alexander Gordon held the ministry of Glass, Rynie, Essie, and Petrufnie (Botriphnie).

In 1589, Rev. Thomas Anderson was presented to the charge of Glass, and in 1598 to that of Dunmeith (better known as Walla'-kirk) also. He married, and had a son who was Synod bursar in 1625.

In 1618, Rev. William Milne was translated from Ruthven, and inducted to the united charges. According to Dr Scott (Fasti), he died before 4th April, 1643.

On 24th April, 1644, Rev. George Meldrum, M.A., son of John Meldrum of Laithers, was ordained. For a time, he experienced difficulty in keeping in check various turbulent parishioners, one of whom threatened that he "sould cause that lowne—the minister—haue a fowll face." He was proprietor of the estate of Crombie, in Marnoch, and other extensive possessions in Turriff, Inverkeithny, etc. It is said that, when 60 years of age, he married his cousin (whom he had baptised), Jean Duff, second daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore. They had a family of three daughters, the eldest of whom—Jean—married James Duff, second son of Provost William Duff, Inverness; the second—Helen—married Alexander Abercrombie of Glassaugh; and the third—Isobel—married Archibald Ogilvie of Rothiemay, advocate. Refusing to conform to Episcopacy, Mr Meldrum was

deposed 5th October, 1664. He was imprisoned in 1684, and received a sentence of banishment in the following year. Confined for a time in Blackness Castle, he was ultimately liberated on providing security for his re-appearance, and payment of a fine of £6666 13s 4d.

Rev. James Gordon, M.A., was ordained in 1666. On 23rd October, 1667, he was directed to be excommunicated for breach of promise of marriage, running off with another woman, going to Ireland, and deserting his charge. On his subsequently confessing in face of the congregation, the great scandal he had given to God's people by his "ryott" and "unlawful procedour in marriage with Helen, daughter of John Gordon of Cairnburrow," the sentence was relaxed. He was not reinstated, however—being declared incapable of holding another charge within the diocese.

Rev. Patrick Ross, M.A., was admitted in 1668. He died in 1679, survived by at least two daughters, Jean and Anna.

Rev. Alexander Alexander, M.A., previously Regent in Marischal College, was admitted in 1679. He was the son of Alexander Alexander, one of the magistrates of Aberdeen. As the owner of two half-nets fishing on the Mid-chingle on the Dee at Aberdeen, he failed to secure a tenant, and, accordingly, arranged for fishing it on his own behalf. Two years' work yielded a profit of only two shillings! and the fishing was given up. Half a century later, it let for £20, and thirty years after for £60! Mr Alexander was deprived by the Act of Parliament of 25th April, 1690, which restored ejected Presbyterian ministers.

The above Rev. George Meldrum was reinstated in 1690. He died in November, 1692, in his 76th year.

The above Rev. Alexander Alexander was re-installed in 1693. He married Margaret Collison, who— with a son,



Alexander, and four daughters—was alive in 1696, when Mr Alexander's heritage within the freedom of Aberdeen was stated as above 10,000 merks Scots. (Poll Book.) In February, 1708, he succeeded his brother William as proprietor of the lands of Mugiemoos, and died six years later.

On 23rd September, 1714, Rev. Walter Sim, or Sime, M.A., was ordained. He was translated to Mortlach on 3rd October, 1733, and died there in January, 1763. It is recorded that a putrid fever was then devastating the district, while the frost was so intense that fires had to be lighted in the churchyard of Mortlach to soften the ground preparatory to digging graves. Mr Sime's corpse was one of thirteen lying unburied at one time. (Statis. Account.)

Rev. Alexander Chalmers, son of Rev. George Chalmers, minister of Botriphnie, was ordained 19th March, 1735. He married Ann, daughter of the previous incumbent, and their family consisted of one son—George, surgeon and apothecary, Great Marlborough Street, London, who died in London in March, 1769—and a daughter, who married — Thomson. Mr Chalmers died after a long illness on 7th April, 1756, and his wife died on 27th July, 1786.

A tablestone, close to the church wall, commemorates the succeeding minister in the following inscription—

The Rev. Mr John Cooper exercised and adorned the Clerical character in the Parish of Glass for the space of 40 years. And died on the 20th of December, 1795, in the 78th year of his age.

With respectful gratitude to his memory, this stone is placed over his grave by his widow, Anne Thomson.

Here are also interred the mortal remains of Anne Thomson, widow of the Rev. Mr John Cooper, who died at Huntly on the 25th day of February, 1832.

Rev. John Cooper was ordained by the Presbytery of Abertarff on 11th August,

1752, as missionary at Fort-William. He was inducted to Glass on 8th December, 1756, and subsequently received from his Alma Mater the degree of D.D.

Rev. John Findlater, M.A., succeeded in 1796, but was translated to Cairnie three years later. He married Ann Smith, and their only daughter—Elizabeth—married John Thurburn of Messina, afterwards of Murtle. Mr Findlater died 20th August, 1825, in his 70th year.

An obelisk, within a railed enclosure at Walla'-kirk, has inscriptions on three sides to the succeeding minister and his family thus—

(1).

In memory of The Rev. John Cruickshank, A.M., Minister of Glass, who died at the Manse, 20th December, 1841, in the 76th year of his age, and the 43rd of his ministry. And of his wife, Jean Scott, who died at Aberdeen, 6th January, 1853, aged 75. And of their children, John Cruickshank, A.M., student of medicine, who died at Aberdeen, 12th May, 1824, aged 16; William Cruickshank, who died at Manse of Glass, 24th December, 1827, aged 4.

(2).

George Cruickshank, A.M., advocate, who died at Aberdeen, 21st March, 1848, aged 35. Alexander Cruickshank, A.M., M.D., who died at Elgin, 4th November, 1848, aged 39. Patrick Cruickshank, AM., M.D., H.E.I.C.S., who died at sea between Suez and Bombay, 10th December, 1851, aged 32. Morris Cruickshank, M.R.C.S.E., assistant surgeon of Bombay Army, who died near Murzee, on the Indus, 4th November, 1854, aged 33. Brodie Cruickshank, A.M., late member of the Legislative Council, Cape Coast Castle, who died at Lisbon, 17th November, 1854, aged 40.

(3).

Charles Cruickshank, A.M., late of the Civil Service, Victoria, who died at Fochabers, 3rd August, 1871, aged 52. Frances Margaret Cruickshank, who died at Fochabers, 8th June, 1881, aged 63. James Alexander Cruickshank, M.A., minister of Mortlach, who died at Manse of Mortlach, 1st November, 1885, in the 82nd year of his age, and the 50th of his ministry.

Jessie Cruickshank, who died at Fochabers, 19th October, 1886, aged 75. Jane Cruickshank, widow of Edward Wagstaff, who died at Fochabers, 10th January, 1888, aged 84.

There is also, in the Parish Church, a white marble tablet to the memory of Rev. John Cruickshank, which bears to have been erected by his widow and children. Of the large family above enumerated, it will be noted that no fewer than six sons died between the ages of 16 and 41. Dr Hew Scott describes Mr Cruickshank as "a shrewd, friendly, and intelligent man, of penetrating and vigorous mind, well fitted for clerical business, which was called into full exercise by the painful and arduous collision between the ecclesiastical and civil courts during his latter days." He was the Father of the Presbytery when the famous Marnoch case came to be dealt with, and to him, therefore, the members of Presbytery looked for direction and advice. He and six other ministers were deposed by the General Assembly of 1841 for failure to carry out the orders of the superior court. Mr Cruickshank died on 20th December following without knowing that the Assembly of 1843 found that the previous sentence of suspension and deposition had proceeded on incompetent grounds, and was, therefore, null and void. Mrs Cruickshank was a daughter of Rev. James Scott, minister of Gartly.

The fourth side of the Cruickshank obelisk at Walla'-kirk bears an inscription to the next minister and his wife and son, thus—

In memory of The Rev. William Duguid, D.D., Minister of Glass, who died on the 29th August, 1877, in the 83rd year of his age, and 35th of his ministry. And of his wife, Charlotte Cruickshank, who died on the 19th June, 1870, aged 64 years. Also of their son, William, who died at Elgin, September, 1840, in his second year.

A mural tablet in the Parish Church has an inscription which conveys the following

additional facts concerning Rev. Dr Duguid—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. William Duguid, D.D., parish schoolmaster of Glass, 1812-1821; rector of Elgin Academy, 1826-1842; parish minister of Glass, 1842-1877.

An eminent classical scholar and teacher. A faithful and beloved pastor.

From the above tablet inscription it will be noted that a period of no less than 65 years elapsed between the time of Mr Duguid's appointment as schoolmaster of Glass and that of his death as parish minister on 29th August, 1877. He was a native of Fyvie, and graduated in Arts at King's College on 28th March, 1812. Between 1821 and 1826 he conducted the Grammar School, Old Aberdeen, in concert with Adam Mitchell, afterwards minister of Inch. His wife, Charlotte Cruickshank, was a daughter of the preceding incumbent of Glass—Rev. John Cruickshank. A daughter married Dr Grant, son of Mr Grant of Beldorney.

The present incumbent is Rev. Duncan Mearns Ross, M.A., son of the late Rev. William Ross, minister of Kintore. (See Kintore.) He was ordained assistant and successor to Dr Duguid on 23rd August, 1876, and succeeded to the full charge on the latter's death on 29th August, 1877.

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH.

Glass was one of the first parishes in the north in which members who had seceded from the Established Church formed an independent body, which was afterwards merged in the Free Church. This took place in May, 1841, in consequence of the deposition of Rev. John Cruickshank and his six brethren of the Strathbogie Presbytery for the course they followed in the famous Marnoch case. The General Assembly of May, 1843, recalled the sentence of deposition, etc., but Mr Cruickshank had gone to his rest.

In 1841, a temporary wooden church was erected on the north side of the river, and this sufficed till 1845, when the present church was built on a site granted by the trustees of the Earl of Fife. Four years ago, the edifice was renovated internally at a cost of £200.

A railed enclosure in the parish graveyard contains two headstones to the first incumbent and his family, which are inscribed—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Isabella Davidson, the beloved spouse of The Rev. James Macdonald, the Free Church minister, Glass, who departed this life on the 8th March, 1861, in the 53rd year of her age.

Sincerely and deeply regretted by her bereaved family.

P.S. 73, 25-26.

The Rev. James Macdonald died 7th September, 1876, aged 69.

(2).

John Davidson Macdonald, M.D., died at Carlin Howe, Yorkshire, 11th September, 1876, aged 28.

Also his brother James Falconer Macdonald, M.A., died at Ayr, 9th November, 1882, aged 35 years.

Rev. James Macdonald, who was ordained in 1843, was held in much esteem by his congregation and the parishioners generally. Of his family, two daughters still survive—Jessie, who married Rev. George Rose, formerly at Bucklyvie, but now resident in Aberdeen; and Jeannie, who is unmarried.

The present incumbent is Rev. Duncan Macaulay, M.A., who was ordained in December, 1876.

#### BELDORNEY.

The ancient estate of Beldorney belonged for many years to a branch of the Gordons, descended from Adam Gordon, third son of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly.

Particulars respecting the family will be found in the New Spalding Club's "The House of Gordon," I., under Balbithan MS., pp. 11-12.

In 1807, Charles Gordon of Wardhouse sold the lands to Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy (MS. by Lord Caithness), but he resold them to Sir William Grant, who had a distinguished career. After studying civil law at Leyden, he entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the bar in 1769. Five years later, he was appointed Attorney-General for Canada, but, on returning to England, he was, in 1790, elected Member of Parliament for Shaftesbury. In 1793, he acted as a judge in the Carmarthen circuit; in 1795 was appointed Solicitor-General to the Queen; in 1798, Chief Justice of Chester; and in 1799 Solicitor-General, when he was knighted. He was Master of the Rolls 1801-17; Lord Rector of Marischal College and University 1808-13; and Member of Parliament for Banffshire 1796-1812. In legal circles he was known as William the Silent, his ironical terseness being unequalled. It is said that, with the view of exemplifying how time is frequently wasted by loquacious lawyers, he gave full rope to the counsel engaged in a case he was trying, and sat on the bench for two whole days listening to arguments on the meaning of an Act of Parliament. His ruling was brief and to the point—"The Act founded on is repealed"! He died unmarried at Dawlish, Devonshire, on 25th May, 1832, when Beldorney passed to his brother, Major John Grant of Dawlish, who died in 1838.

Major Grant's widow is commemorated by an antique cross in a railed enclosure on the south side of the church. The inscription is—

Sacred to the memory of Sarah Grant, widow of the late Major Grant. Died at Beldorney, 27th January, 1861, aged 60 years.



Major Grant was succeeded by his eldest son, William James, who died in 1869, and to whose memory a handsome granite monument—surmounted by a small cross—has been erected at Walla'-kirk. The inscription is—

In memory of William James Grant of Beldorney, who died at Aberdeen, 29th June, 1869, in the 35th year of his age.

This monument is erected in loving remembrance by his affectionate widow and children.

Mrs Grant and Mrs Simpson of Cobairdy were daughters of Alexander Carny, merchant in, and for some time Provost of, Macduff.

A headstone in the Beldorney enclosure in Glass graveyard bears—

Erected to the memory of John Alexander Cameron, Esq., Banff, who died at Beldorney on the 17th March, 1850, aged 49 years.

John Alexander Cameron, who was a solicitor in Banff, married a daughter of Major John Grant of Beldorney. He was also a votary of the Muses, and in 1849 published a volume, with interesting notes—extending to 119 pages—entitled "The Monks of Grange and Tam of Ruthven." His death was occasioned through his being unfortunately thrown from a gig near Beldorney.

#### ASSWANLEY.

In the middle of the fourteenth century, the estate of Asswanley belonged to a family named Cruickshank, of whom was Elizabeth Cruickshank, the reputed mother of "Jock and Tam Gordon."

On 31st August, 1440, Hugh Calder received a charter from Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, of the lands of "Asuanley," and the grant was confirmed by a Crown charter on 8th July, 1450. (Reg. Mag. Sig., IV., 44.) Calder, who was a

faithful adherent of the Earl, accompanied him to the battle of Brechin in 1452, and is said to have followed, in disguise, "Earl Beardie" in his flight to the Castle of Finhaven. Certain it is that Calder gained access to the castle, from which he made off with a silver drinking cup. This famous goblet (for the purloining of it and the furnishing of special information to the Earl of Huntly various authors erroneously declare that Calder got the lands of Asswanley) was afterwards pledged to a tavern-keeper, from whom it was redeemed by Sir Ernest Gordon; and it subsequently came into the possession of the Earl of Crawford.

An ornamental gate still standing at Asswanley commemorates George Calder and his wife, Isobel Skene, fifth daughter of Alexander Skene of Skene. It was erected in 1692, and bears the initials "G. C." and "I. S." In 1696, for himself, his wife, and children—Alexander, Hugh, William, Andrew, and Elizabeth—Calder paid £11 2s of poll. In 1698, and again in 1704, he was a Commissioner of Supply for the County of Aberdeen.

The last of the Calder family to possess the estate was Alexander Calder, who followed the business of a merchant and coppersmith in Old Aberdeen, being admitted a trade burghess of that town on 12th January, 1722. He died at Old Aberdeen, 6th February, 1768, in his 87th year. ("Aberdeen Journal.") Money had been borrowed freely, on the security of the estate, from Mr Duff of Braco, who, early in the eighteenth century, became proprietor. It afterwards came into possession of Mr Duff's descendant—the Duke of Fife—who sold it to the late Alexander Geddes of Blairmore, whose Testamentary Trustees still hold it.

Stodart (Arms II., 333) says that a repre-

sentative of the Calder family may be in America, as he had seen a service of 1809 to William Calder in Hertford, Connecticut, to his uncle, Alexander Calder of Asswanley.

James Calder, merchant, Elgin, who, in 1674, acquired the barony of Muirtown, near Kinloss, and was by patent, dated 5th November, 1686, raised to the dignity of a Baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia, belonged to the Asswanley branch.

#### CAIRNBORROW.

This estate was long possessed by a branch of the Gordons, the history of whom is given in the New Spalding Club's "The House of Gordon," I., under Balbithan MS., pp. 32-35.

The property, which has now a rental exceeding £800, belongs to Alexander Ogilvie Stevenson, Blairshinnoch.

#### PARISH GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The parish graveyard, which is comparatively small, is getting considerably congested. Extension is practically impossible, but the difficulty is likely to be solved by the substantial enlargement of Walla'-kirk churchyard, and the recognition of it as the principal parish graveyard. The tombstones are not numerous, and none of outstanding importance admit of being deciphered. One of the oldest is a tablestone having a compartment displaying a bell, sand-glass, coffin, skull, and bones, with an effaced scroll. The following is the inscription, which partly runs round the sides—

Under the hope of a blessed resurrection hear lys the body of Adam Archibald, who lived in Dumeath, who departed this life January the 9th, 1709. As also his spous, Margaret Grant, who departed this life January the 8th, 1726.

A tablestone bears the following—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Gauld, late farmer in Edinglassie, who died 9th April, 1836, aged 88 years. Also Margret Duncan, his spouse, who died 2nd April, 1821, aged 71 years.

There are many tombstones to those bearing the surname of Gauld. They were famous for their great stature and fine physique. In the times when the caterans used to visit the parish, the Gaulds, who were noted fighters, rendered excellent service in getting rid of the unwelcome visitors. To the Edinglassie branch belonged Private James Gauld, of the Gordon Grenadiers, who, in concert with Private Walter Somerville, rendered meritorious service at the assault of Fort Ragusa, in the surprise attack on Almarez, in May, 1812. These brave soldiers boldly leaped into the deep and rapid Tagus, and having encouraged others to do the same, swam to the other side under fire, and brought back boats with which the connecting bridge was taken. The enemy, seized with panic, took to flight, and the victory was complete. Lieut.-Colonel C. Greenhill Gardyne, who graphically tells the story in his "History of the Gordon Highlanders" (I., pp. 289-90), mentions the further pleasing fact that Sir Rowland Hill ordered two doubloons (£8 st.) to be given on the field to each of these two soldiers, and that in the case of Gauld, although he was not entitled to a pension—being a seven years' man—the Duke of Richmond secured one for him from the War Office in 1853.

Edinglassie is a fine sporting estate, and was the property of the Earl (now Duke) of Fife till 1888, when he sold it to John Walker, Kingswinford, Staffordshire, son of the late Very Rev. Dean Walker, Huntly. Mr Walker died 5th October, 1906, in his 84th year, leaving estate representing about a quarter of a million.

A headstone has—

Erected by James and Elizabeth Robertson, Barefolds, in memory of their sons—George, who died the 8th December, 1876, aged 21 years, and William Wans, who died the 26th August, 1860, aged 13 months; Alexander, M.A., student in divinity, who died the 14th April, 1888, aged 26 years. Also the above James Robertson, who died 7th December, 1892, aged 62 years.

He has called home our loved ones—

We have seen them leave our side :  
With our Saviour we will meet them  
When we, too, have crossed the tide.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies the body of W W , who died in Breatown of Glenmarkie, and departed this life the

Likewise I W  
His spouse, who Died the

Breatown, or Braeton, is in the parish of Mortlach, and W W erected the stone as evidence of his supposed right to the grave in virtue of forebears having buried therein. He had the inscription partially cut, as above, but the names and dates of death have not been added.

An old tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies the body of George Gordon, late farmer in Belnaboth, who died 10th August, 1799, aged 72 years.

Particulars regarding the old proprietors of the estate of Innermarkie—which now belongs to the trustees of the late Alexander Geddes of Blairmore—will be found in the Spalding Club's "The Familie of Innes"; while varied details respecting the parish are furnished in the club's "Antiquities," II.; the Statistical Account of Scotland, under "Glass"; and Dr William Cramond's "Notes, etc., on the Church of Glass."

## Dunmeith or Walla'-kirk.

The ancient parish of Dunmeith was contiguous to that of Glass, but higher up the banks of the Deveron. Its church was dedicated to St Volocus, Wolok, or Wallack, a Bishop who—according to the author of the View of the Diocese of Aberdeen—flourished in the fifth century. The people are described as having previously been "savage and unconverted, insomuch that they had no church among them." Selecting a spot near where Walla'-kirk graveyard now stands, the Saint erected a thatched hut, where he preached and wrought many miracles. His feast was observed upon 29th January (Breviary of Aberdeen), and the curative powers of his well and bath were recognised down to recent times. The well is almost thirty yards below the graveyard, but is now dry. It was specially frequented by those suffering from sore eyes, who were careful to leave a pin in a receptacle hewn out of an adjoining stone. The bath was a cavity in the rock about three feet in depth, and its virtues were largely believed in. On 7th June, 1648, the Presbytery of the bounds agreed to "censure all superstition at Wallak Kirk," but, as manifesting how ineffectual this had proved, it may be stated that for some time after Rev. William Duguid became parish school-master, in 1812, hundreds of ailing children were dipped in it every year. It was customary to leave a shirt, bib, or rag from each infant's body, and these offerings were invariably swept away when the river became flooded.

In 1575, William Abercrombie acted as reader, and ten years later he is named as exhorter. On 28th August, 1598, Rev. Thomas Anderson—who, nine years previously, had been ordained minister of



Glass—was presented by James VI. to this charge likewise. It has ever since formed a portion of Glass parish, its church being allowed to become ruinous, while it ceased to have an independent history. The old fountstone is now lying in the graveyard.

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The graveyard occupies a picturesque site about twenty feet above the level of the Deveron, which flows swiftly past. All the ground within the enclosing walls, including the solum of the old church, is used for interments, but there has been no crowding, even although the graveyard has, from time immemorial, been used as a place of interment for residents in Lower Cabrach as well as for parishioners of Dunmeith and Glass. There is ample room for extension, and no better situation could be got for the contemplated central graveyard for the whole parish. The tombstones are not numerous, but several recently erected are of pleasing design, and of excellent workmanship.

A roughly-dressed stone shows a somewhat defaced Latin inscription which may be translated thus—

To God the Best and Greatest.

Here lies The Reverend Thomas Brockie, priest, alumnus of the Scotch Seminary, Ratisbon, and Missionary Apostolic in the parishes of Mortlach, Drostan (Skirdrostan or Aberlour), Glass and Cabrach. He lived to the age of 58. For nearly twenty-eight years he discharged the duties of his mission with the greatest credit. Besides exemplifying considerable linguistic ability, he was a pattern in moral character, and being deservedly called "The Father of the Poor," he closed a life spent in pious labours by a death precious in the eyes of Heaven, 3rd May, 1759.

May his lot be in peace and his home in Zion?

Remember death!

Rev. Thomas Brockie was born in 1701, his father being a Protestant and his mother a Catholic of the family of Far-

quharson of Finzean. He was sent, to study for the priesthood, to the seminary attached to the Scotch Monastery of St James at Ratisbon, of which his elder brother, Daniel, was a professed Monk of the order of St Benedict. For some unexplained reason his name does not appear in the list of Scotch students at Ratisbon. He was ordained priest before the middle of June, 1731, when he returned to Scotland, and was placed in charge of the mission of the Cabrach. Shenval and the neighbouring districts subsequently came under his jurisdiction. After the rebellion of 1745, he was exposed to considerable danger. The country was constantly raided by troops of soldiers, who were urged to deeds of violence by those whose duty it was to preach the message of peace! For several years this state of alarm continued, and few of the priests were safe from pursuit and the danger of being seized. Mr Brockie had to undergo his full share of the peril. In June, 1750, a party of soldiers searched his house at Shenval, but, fortunately, he was absent at Aberlour. His safety, however, was precarious, as the soldiers were stationed only three-quarters of a mile away. During these troubles, divine service was held occasionally in various parts of the mission, but always with the greatest secrecy, and often during the night—a strict watch being kept to raise the alarm if any soldiers were seen. In his later years, Mr Brockie was subject to severe illness. Bishop Hugh Macdonald, residing at Shenval, wrote to Bishop Smith on 8th March, 1759—"Mr Brockie, who is now beginning to recover of a dangerous sickness, offers you his respects." But the recovery was of brief duration. He died 3rd May, following, and, by a holograph will, directed that his body should be buried in "St Walloch's Chapel."

Mr Brockie's brother, Daniel — in

religion, Father Marianus — was the author of a history of the Scotch Monasteries at home and abroad, the MS. of which is preserved at Blairs College. Alexander Cameron, Bishop of Maximianopolis, and Vicar Apostolic of the lowland district of Scotland—1798-1828—was a nephew of the Brockies.

Canon Wilson, Elgin, obligingly furnished these particulars.

In an enclosure are three separate tombstones, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Erected by John Smart in memory of his spouse, Isabel Smart, late in Beldornie, who died 9th October, 1825, aged 20 years. And of his son, who died in infancy.

(2).

Peter Smart, farmer, Mains of Beldorney, died on the 27th March, 1845, aged 65. His wife, Isabel Smart, died on the 4th November, 1860, aged 84.

(3).

In loving memory of Peter Smart, who died at Mains of Beldorney, 10th August, 1882, aged 70 years.

And of Alexander Smart, farmer, Mains of Auchindachy, Keith, who died 10th April, 1897, aged 81 years.

Members of the Smart family were for a long period farmers in Mains of Beldorney. The names Peter and Isabel were carefully perpetuated. Two died octogenarians.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies deposited the dust of John Bonnyman, some time farmer in Auchnahandoch, who died in the month of November, 1739, aged 73 years. Also of Margaret Jameson, his spouse, who died 1728, aged 63. Also of James Bonnyman, thear sone, some time farmer in Auchnahandoch, who died February 7th, 1762, aged 63. Also of Janet Morrison, his spouse, who died November, 1750, aged 40. Done by the care of John Bonnyman, son to the above James Bonnyman.

On the tombstone to the memory of William Stephen, Burnside, Glenmarkie, who died in 1842, aged 73, and his wife, Elspet Newlands, who died in 1850, aged 82, is the following verse—

Saint after saint on earth,  
Has lived and loved and died,  
And as they left us one by one,  
We laid them side by side.  
We laid them down to sleep,  
But not in hope forlorn.  
We laid them but to ripen their,  
Till the last glorious reign.

A headstone presents the following inscription—

Here lie the remains of Ann Watt, spouse of John Peterkin, carrier in Duftown, who died 16th March, 1842, aged 34 years.

A tender wife, a mother dear,  
A faithful friend lies buried here,  
In love she lived, in peace she died,  
Her life was asked but God denied.

. . . . .

A headstone bears the following inscription to two octogenarians—

Here lies the body of William Dawson, late resident in Aldewaloch, who died 25th January, 1830, aged 84, with his spouse, Ann Gordon, who died 14th March, 1838, aged 85.

Done by the remaining connections.

#### THE GEDDES FAMILY.

A headstone, in an enclosure, bears the inscription—

1872. In memory of James Geddes, farmer in East Braeton; Janet Moir, his spouse; William, James, and John Geddes, their sons. William Geddes, farmer in East Braeton, died in July, 1821; James Geddes, feuar in Huntly, died in October, 1817. John Geddes, farmer in East Bodylair, died 10th April, 1823, aged 65. Helen Annand, his spouse, died 16th March, 1811. William, James, Janet, and Helen Geddes, their children.

An obelisk in the same enclosure has inscriptions on three sides thus—

(1).

In memory of John Geddes. Born at Body-

lair, and some time farmer there, afterwards at Invermarkie, where he died 8th July, 1881, aged 84. And of his wife, Jane Maconachie, who died at Invermarkie, 25th January, 1886, aged 83.

Erected by their family in dutiful remembrance of parents both revered and loved.  
1887.

## (2).

In memory of their children buried here. Anne Geddes, born at Bodylair, 22nd February, 1832, died in infancy. John Geddes, born at Bodylair, 23rd October, 1833, died at Invermarkie, result of fall from horseback, aged 11 years. Peter Geddes, born at Bodylair, 10th June, 1838, died at Invermarkie, 7th January, 1893. Alexander Geddes, born at Bodylair, 3rd May, 1843, died at Blairmore, 2nd July, 1902.

## (3).

In memory of their children, Margaret Geddes, born at Bodylair, 20th April, 1837, died at Dresden, Saxony, 19th June, 1873. James Cruickshank Geddes, H.E.I.C.S., born at Bodylair, 1st March, 1841, died at Mozuffirpore, Bengal, 9th March, 1880. Sir William Duguid Geddes, LL.D., Principal of Aberdeen University, born at Bodylair, 21st November, 1828, died at Chanonry Lodge, Old Aberdeen, 9th February, 1900.

John Geddes and his wife, Jane Maconachie, were the parents of James Cruickshank Geddes, H.E.I.C.S.; of Principal Sir William Duguid Geddes; and of Alexander Geddes of Blairmore. A handsome wall tablet in brass was recently erected in Glass Parish Church to the memory of Principal Geddes. It bears the following inscription in ornamental letters, and with crests of the University and the Geddes family—

In memory of Principal Sir William Duguid Geddes, M.A., LL.D., D.Litt., from 1855 to 1885 Professor of Greek; and from 1885 to 1900 Principal and Vice-Chancellor in the University of Aberdeen. Born 21st November, 1828, in the parish of Glass. Died 9th February, 1900, at Chanonry Lodge, Old Aberdeen.

A large separate enclosure has a massive wall monument with the inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Geddes of Blairmore, and Chicago, U.S.A.

Born 3rd May, 1843; died 2nd July, 1902.

“Till the day break, and the shadows flee away.”

A beautiful raised granite stand has a shield on the top, on which is the inscription—

In grateful remembrance of the late Alexander Geddes of Blairmore.

Erected by his employees. 1902.

The brilliant career of Principal Sir William Geddes and that of his brother, Alexander Geddes of Blairmore, deserve special notice. Sons of a highly-respected farmer, who possessed much native shrewdness, and owned one of the finest libraries in the district, they both rose to eminence in different walks of life. The former for a time was schoolmaster of Gamrie; then classical master of the Grammar School, Aberdeen; subsequently rector of that institution; thereafter Professor of Greek in the University of Aberdeen; and, finally, Principal thereof, on which he shed a lustre by his classical scholarship, authorship, etc., which were recognised by the conferment upon him of the degree of LL.D. by the University of Edinburgh, the degree of D.Litt. by the University of Dublin, and the honour of knighthood at the hands of the late Queen Victoria.

To leave his native hills and vales for the boundless expanse of America, and to speedily rise there to be one of the grain kings, acquiring not only fortune and influence, but the sincere esteem and regard of numerous friends and employees (they have given enduring evidence thereof in the erection of handsome memorial windows and monuments at Glass Church and Walla'-kirk respectively), and to be enabled to return to his native parish to acquire there, through



purchase, thousands of acres of land on which he erected a beautiful castle—these achievements of Alexander Geddes are rarely equalled, and seem more like romance than reality.

It may be added that on 22nd July, 1905, Rachel Margaret Geddes, eldest daughter of the late Mr Geddes of Blairmore, was married to Ewen Allan Cameron, eldest son of Sir Ewen Cameron, K.C.M.G., London manager of the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

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## Lumphanan.

The church was dedicated to St Vincent, whose feast was observed on 22nd January. Various authors, however, argue that the dedication was to St Finnan, and also that the name Lumphanan—or Lumfanan, as it was written in old deeds—is derived from the two words Llan finnan—the Church of St Finnan. Dr Skene, the author of “*Celtic Scotland*,” supports the latter contention, and adds that “the dedication must have proceeded from a Welsh source.”

In 1250, Allan Durward gave, with other grants, the patronage of the Church of “Lumfannan” as an endowment for the support of the hospital which he had founded at Kincardine O’Neil. (*Antiq.*, I., p. 631, and *Regis. Epis. Aberd.*, II., p. 273.)

The present church was erected in 1762, and enlarged in 1851. It stands within the graveyard, to the south of the railway and north of the public road.

### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS AND READERS.

In 1567, Rev. George Levingstoun was minister here and at Kyncardin, Midmar, and Clwnye, at a stipend of four score merks, with forty merks “*mair sen Lambes 1569.*” (*Antiq.*, I., p. 227.)

From 1567 to 1580 the readership was held by John Mychell, whose salary was xx. lib.

Before the spring of 1597, Rev. John Ross was admitted as minister.

The next incumbent was Rev. Alexander Strauchane, M.A.

Rev. John Rosse followed.

About 1651, Rev. William Seaton was ordained, but he was translated to Drumblade before 1665.

Rev. Alexander Mitchell, M.A., was admitted before 16th May, 1665, on which day he married Marjory Menzies, sister of Rev. John Menzies, minister of Greyfriars and Professor of Divinity in Marischal College. (*Row’s Diary.*) He was deprived in 1681 for not taking the Test, and took up his residence in Aberdeen, where for himself (as a gentleman), his wife, a daughter “Margrat,” and a female servant, he, in 1696, paid £4 9s 4d of poll. (*Poll Book*, II., p. 623.) He died before March, 1699, survived by Mrs Mitchell (she died at Edinburgh in February, 1709) and their daughter, who married William Coutts, merchant, Edinburgh.

Rev. Patrick Leith, M.A., was admitted previous to the Revolution, but he was deposed on 4th September, 1716, for engaging in the Rebellion, etc. He had a son—William—who served as a soldier in the wars of King William and Queen Anne, and died at Aberdeen on 26th November, 1777, at the advanced age of 97.

On 27th June, 1717, Rev. Patrick Gordon (son of Rev. Patrick Gordon, Coull), previously minister of Cushnie, was inducted. He was in 1732 translated to Fintray, where he died on 4th July, 1744.

On 4th July, 1733, Rev. William Abel, M.A., was ordained. He was the son of William Abel, Ley Lodge, Kintore, and for some time acted as schoolmaster of Birse. He was in September, 1742, trans-

lated to Kincardine O'Neil, where he died in July, 1772.

On 8th June, 1743, Rev. Francis Daune, M.A., was ordained. He is described as having been "an excellent specimen of the ministers of the old school." He married Margaret Chalmers, and of their family, a daughter—Catherine—died 7th June, 1787, in her 34th year, and four others died in infancy. He was translated to Banchory-Ternan in June, 1758, and died there on 2nd April, 1800, in his 82nd year.

On 15th March, 1759, Rev. John Ogilvie, eldest son of Rev. James Ogilvie, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, was ordained. He was translated to Midmar in February following. He was a poet, with whom Dr Johnson once agreed to dine on condition that he gave the company none of his poetry!

On 6th May, 1761, Rev. William Morrice, eldest son of Robert Morrice, farmer, Waulkmill, on the Drum estate, was ordained. He had at an earlier period acted as tutor in the family of Sir Arthur Forbes, Bart., of Craigievar and Fintray, and, on the vacancy occurring at Lumphanan, was presented to the charge by Sir Arthur, who was patron. On 6th December, 1763, Mr Morrice married Helen, daughter of Rev. James Paterson, minister of Coull, and they had no fewer than seventeen children, of whom eight sons and three daughters attained majority. Mrs Morrice is said to have expressed the wish that she had had "just ae ither lassie to make out the dozen and a half!" Two of the sons—John and George—became prominent and opulent timber merchants in London. In June, 1772, Mr Morrice was translated to Kincardine O'Neil, where he died on 22nd January, 1809, in his 82nd year.

The succeeding incumbent is commemor-

ated in the following inscription on a tablestone within an enclosure at the east end of the church—

Sacred to the memory of The Rev. William Shand, who was minister of this parish from the 26th of August, 1772, to the 2nd of January, 1826, when he died, aged 86 years.

Also of Hary Lamond of Pitmurchie, his son-in-law, who died on the 17th day of January, 1830, aged 46 years. Also of Margaret Lamond, daughter of the Rev. William Shand, and widow of Hary Lamond, who died on the 8th July, 1882, aged 89 years.

There is a headstone in the same enclosure with the following inscription to two of Rev. William Shand's grand-daughters—

In memory of Rachel, third and youngest daughter of Hary and Margaret Lamond of Pitmurchie. Born 19th October, 1826; died 22nd December, 1879. Also Helen, second daughter. Born 16th September, 1823; died 18th January, 1883.

Rev. William Shand, M.A., was the son of William Shand, Craighall. He was, on 10th August, 1768, ordained assistant to Rev. James Howe, minister of Newhills, being presented to Lumphanan and admitted as above. He married, on 9th January, 1790, Margaret, eldest daughter of Rev. William Morrice, the preceding incumbent. She died 10th December, 1793, aged 28, and was interred at Kincardine O'Neil. Of their two daughters, Rachel married, in February, 1810, Hugh Arthur Low, merchant, Aberdeen, while Margaret married Hary Lamond, who, about 1812, purchased the estate of Pitmurchie from the Frasers of Findrack. [Particulars regarding the families of Morrice and Lamond will be found in Johnston's "Genealogical Account of the Descendants of James Young and Rachel Cruickshank," p. 18, and in the Dingwall Fordyce "Family Record," II., p. 22.] Mr Lamond's son sold the lands to the late Mr James Haddon Bower, granite

merchant, Aberdeen, whose family are still in possession.

A white marble tablet fixed into the wall of the church over the pulpit commemorates the next minister in the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of The Rev. Charles M'Combie, of Tillyfour, LL.D., for 49 years the respected minister of this parish, who died on 25th August, 1874.

This tablet is erected by his sorrowing congregation in loving remembrance.

Rev. Charles M'Combie, M.A., was the eldest son of Charles M'Combie, of Tillyfour, and his wife, Ann Black. He was ordained 24th August, 1826, and had the degree of LL.D. conferred by Marischal College 8th September, 1860. He married—first, on 11th June, 1835, Isabella Elizabeth Scott, daughter of Rev. Robert Scott, Glenbucket. She died 28th July, 1838, aged 23. They had a son and a daughter—Charles, who died at sea 22nd November, 1857, aged 21; and Mary Margaret, who died in infancy. Mr M'Combie married—secondly—9th May, 1843, Elizabeth Lamond, eldest daughter of Hary Lamond of Pitmurchie. She died 13th March, 1868, aged 46. Full particulars regarding their four sons and five daughters, together with tombstone inscriptions, will be found under Tough.

Rev. William David Herald, M.A., previously assistant in the East Church, Aberdeen, and son of the schoolmaster of Tannadice, was ordained 12th February, 1875. He was translated to Duns, Berwickshire, 5th May, 1882, and died in September, 1906.

The present incumbent, Rev. Matthew Charteris Thorburn, cousin to the Very Rev. A. H. Charteris, D.D., Edinburgh, and previously assistant to the Very Rev. John Rankine, D.D., Sorn, Ayrshire, was ordained 21st September, 1882.

It will be noted that between 1650 and 1772 the parish was singularly unfortunate in being unable to retain its ministers. Of eight incumbents who held the charge during that period, six accepted calls to other parishes, while two were deprived. Since 1772, however, there have been only four incumbents, of whom one alone accepted translation.

#### PARISH LANDS.

The Earls of Fife and Menteith, lords of the barony of "Coule and Onele," owned the greater portion of the parish lands of Lumphanan from an early period. Duncan, Earl of Fife, as superior, had Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, as vassal in the estate of Lumphanan. The latter granted to Sir James Garviehaugh, or Garioch, a charter of the lands of Balnacraig, Beltie, Cloak, and Tillyching. Subsequently, in 1357, Andrew Garviehaugh, son of the above knight, granted these lands to Robert Chalmers of Kintore, who is recognised as the founder of the well-known family of Chalmers of Balnacraig, which flourished for upwards of four centuries.

On 17th March, 1390-1, Robert, Earl of Fife, etc., confirmed to William Charteris a grant of the lands of Lumphanan made by the late Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, to Patrick Charteris, uncle of the said William. The Charteris family possessed the estates of Kinfauns in Perthshire and Canglour in Stirlingshire. In addition, the various representatives held powerful territorial sway. In 1605, Alexander Burnett of Leys, father of the first baronet, purchased from Sir Henry Lindsay, alias Charteris, the lands of Easter and Wester Camphill, Blairhead, Cormoir, Craigour, Fordyce, Millcroft, etc.

#### AUCHINHOVE.

This estate was for long in the possession of the Duguids, regarding whom



many particulars are furnished in Col. Leslie's "Family of Leslie." In 1445, Robert Duguid married Elizabeth of Auchinhove, Balcarne, and Warthill, and Balcarne having been parted with on 25th August, 1478, to Alexander Seton of Meldrum, Robert Duguid, son of the preceding laird, succeeded to the remaining estates, and also to that of Blelack.

It was during the proprietorship of William Duguid, grandson of the above-mentioned Robert Duguid, that the famous witchcraft trials from Lumphanan took place. Margrat Og was sentenced to be "brint to ashes" for having—among other cantrips of the black art—caused the death of the laird's wife, Agnes Ross, through getting her to eat a piece of roasted mutton which had been subjected to the spell of witchcraft. The indictment quaintly narrates that, when the lady partook of the mutton, she instantly contracted a deadly disease, wherein she continued for nine months—one-half of the day burning as if in a "fyrie fornace," and the other half melting away in a "cauld sweyt," till death put a period to her sufferings.

William Duguid, who is designed by Colonel Leslie as sixth laird, was, with certain of his servants, taken prisoner by the famous freebooter Gilderoy. Release was secured upon the payment of a ransom. On 13th February, 1643, he had the whole estates erected into a barony, to which he secured a Crown charter. He subsequently purchased Easter and Wester Kineraigie from George Forbes of Corse.

Robert Duguid, the ninth laird, succeeded on 7th February, 1698. He married Teresa Leslie, third daughter of Patrick, Count Leslie of Balquhain. Their son, Patrick Leslie Duguid, took part in the '45 Rebellion, and was at Culloden. Returning to Deeside, he saw from his hiding-place on an adjacent hill the burn-

ing of his mansion-house by the Government soldiers. Subsequently securing pardon, he, in 1775, succeeded to the Balquhain estates. Before this, however, large portions of the original estate had been sold to the family of Farquharson of Finzean (now represented by the Right Hon. Robert Farquharson, M.D., late M.P. for West Aberdeenshire). The remaining portion of the lands now belongs to Charles Stephen Leslie of Balquhain.

#### FINDRACK.

The mansion-house and a considerable portion of the estate of Findrack are situated in this parish, while the remainder lies in Kincardine O'Neil.

The lands for a time were Forbes property; but, in 1670, they were purchased by Francis Fraser, grandson of Thomas Fraser of Durris, a descendant of Sir Alexander Fraser, Thane of Cowie, and Lord Chamberlain of Scotland, who married the Lady Mary Bruce, sister of King Robert the Bruce. Mr Fraser also acquired the properties of Pitmurchie, Tolmaads, Drumlassie, Birsellassie, etc. He died 29th April, 1718, in his 69th year, and was succeeded by his only son, Francis (died 26th September, 1755), who had a family of at least six sons and one daughter. The eldest son, Francis, succeeded, and married Catherine, fourth daughter of Sir Robert Gordon, Bart., of Gordonston. He died 24th October, 1791; and of his family, the second son, William, who was an ensign in the army, fell in battle in America, while carrying the colours of the 42nd Regiment. A daughter—Janet—married Charles Forbes of Auchernach, and they were the parents of Nathaniel Forbes of Auchernach and Dunnottar, Lieutenant-General in the H.E.I.C.S., and colonel of the 24th Madras N.I. Mr Fraser's eldest son—Francis—succeeded to Findrack, etc. In 1761, ho

married Henrietta, daughter of William Baird of Auchmedden, and his wife, Anne, eldest daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William, first Earl of Fife. Of their family, seven sons died unmarried, but the eldest son, Francis, who succeeded, was a famous naval officer. He held the rank of Commander in the British Navy and Post-Captain in the Portuguese Navy, being also the holder of a Portuguese title. He was on board the Formidable, and shared in the memorable victory of Lord Rodney over Comte de Grasse on 12th April, 1782. He also took part in the relief of Gibraltar under Lord Howe, and in other important engagements. He married Garden, daughter of Charles Winchester, advocate, Aberdeen, and sister of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Winchester, of the 92nd Highlanders, who attained fame at Waterloo. He died 24th April, 1824; and of his sons, the second—William Nathaniel—married, in 1846, Philadelphia, daughter of Hugh Veitch, of Stuartfield, town clerk of Leith. The third son—Robert Winchester, M.D.—became a staff surgeon in the Army Medical Department, and married Mary Anne, daughter of Arthur Anderson of Deebank (now known as Newton Dee), and of Charlton, Forfarshire. The eldest son—Francis Garden—became a captain in the East Yorkshire Regiment, and married, in 1863, Elizabeth Mackenzie Stewart Menzies, only daughter of Rev. Dr Irvine and his wife, Margaret Stewart Menzies, of Foss and Chesthill, and great-niece of General David Stewart, C.B., of Garth, author of "The Highland Regiments."

As pointed out by Mr Stodart ("Arms," II., p. 258), Captain Francis Garden Fraser in 1864 established, in virtue of direct descent, his right to the arms and supporters as heir male of the Frasers of Durris, while he was also—in respect of

descent from the foresaid Fraser-Baird marriage—held to be the representative as heir general and of line of the ancient families of Baird of Auchmedden, and Hay, Earl of Kinnoull.

Captain Fraser died in 1883 (his widow and a daughter, Garden Louise, still reside at Findrack), and was succeeded by his eldest son, Francis David Stewart Baird Fraser, who died at Mombasa, East Africa, in 1890, leaving the estate to his uncle, William Nathaniel Fraser of Tor-naveen, S.S.C., Edinburgh.

The representation of the families of Durris, Findrack, Auchmedden, etc., then devolved upon the present holder, Alistair Robertson Irvine Fraser, younger and only surviving son of the above Captain Francis Garden Fraser.

The family burial-place is within the old church of Kincardine O'Neil, where there are several monuments commemorating various members.

Findrack was recently purchased by David Macbeth Moir Milligan, at the price of £18,500. Mr Milligan is a son of the late Rev. William Milligan, D.D., Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism in the University of Aberdeen. On 5th January, 1886, he was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, and on 23rd October, 1890, he married Barbara Ann, daughter of the late John Duguid Milne, of Ardmiddle, advocate in Aberdeen.

#### THE SMITHS OF GLENMILLAN.

The estate of Glenmillan, which was formerly known by the title of Cloak, belonged for a long period to a branch of the family of Forbes.

In the beginning of the last century, it was possessed by Alexander Smith, advocate in Aberdeen, who married Elizabeth Lamond, daughter of William Lamond. Mr Smith died 12th December,

1847, aged 64; while his wife died 29th November, 1855, aged 67. Four children died young. Their eldest surviving son succeeded, and a light granite cross set on separate bases—within an enclosure—bears inscriptions to his son and himself thus—

(1).

' He giveth his beloved sleep.'

Erected by Robert and Margaret Smith of Glenmillan in beloved memory of John Stuart Smith, their first born, who departed this life on 26th November, 1872, in the 17th year of his age.

(2).

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Robert Smith of Glenmillan, born 9th May, 1819; died 14th July, 1892.

"Though he die, yet shall he live;

For with Thee is the fountain of life."

Mr Smith, who was an advocate in Aberdeen, was for a time in partnership with his father, subsequently becoming the senior partner in the firm of Smith and Cochran. He was a devoted elder of the Church of Scotland, and was of a particularly generous disposition. In 1855 he married Miss Margaret Glennie, Maybank, Aberdeen.

#### THE ROSSES OF AUCHLOSSAN.

The estate of Auchlossan for several centuries belonged to the Rosses, who deduced their descent from the ancient family of Rose of Kilravock. John Ross is designed as proprietor before 1438. His son, John Ross, resigned his lands into the hands of William, Thane of Cawdor. Of his family, one daughter married Craigmyle of that ilk; another married Leslie of Kinraigie; while the eldest son, Thomas, succeeded to Auchlossan, and, dying in 1488, was followed by his son, John, who secured a Crown charter erecting the lands into a barony, 4th February,

1507-8. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Irvine of Drum; and their son, Nicholas, who succeeded, served on the jury which convicted John, Master of Forbes, 14th July, 1537. In consequence, a feud rose between the families, and in one of the conflicts, fought in 1544, Nicholas Ross was slain. His son, Charles, succeeded; and, marrying Beatrix Gordon, was followed by their son, John Ross, who signed a bond of allegiance at Aberdeen, 2nd September, 1574, and a second bond, "anent religion," in March, 1593. He married; and of his family, a daughter, Mary, became the wife of Alexander Forbes of Auchmillan; while a son, Nicholas, succeeded to Auchlossan. He married a daughter of Coutts of Auchtercoul; and their family included Patrick, who died before his father, leaving a son, Francis, who afterwards succeeded his grandfather; John, Baillie of Turriff, who married Barbara Hay, of the Delgaty family, and was the ancestor of the Rosses of Arnage; William, who married Elizabeth Lindsay Finlay, of Kinermit; and two daughters, who married Ross of Balnagowan and Forbes of Camphill respectively. Francis Ross, who was served heir to his grandfather in 1643, and died in 1690, had a family embracing Robert, his heir; Nicol, who, in 1702, married Margaret Leslie; Charles; Barbara, who, in 1681, married Henry Farquharson of Whitehouse; and Margaret, who married Robert Leith of Overhall.

Robert Ross, the succeeding proprietor, married, in 1669, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Maitland of Pittrichie, Bart., a Senator of the College of Justice; and their family included Francis, referred to later; Robert, who entered the army, and died unmarried in Flanders in 1708; Barbara, who married—first, Captain Francis Forbes, fifth son of Sir John Forbes, Bart., of Craigievar; and,



secondly, James Cheyne, W.S., and died December, 1750, aged 77; Catherine; Jean, who married, in September, 1701, Arthur, younger son of Forbes of Balfuig; Mary, who married John Gordon of Hallhead; and Euphemia, who married Francis Farquharson of Shiels and Whitehouse. Francis, the eldest son, was the last Ross of Auchlossan. He succeeded to the estate on the death of his father about 1703. He served as captain in the army, and was aide-de-camp to the Duke of Argyll. He fell at the battle of Malplaquet in September, 1709, and the estate was shortly afterwards sold by his creditors.

Captain Ross married Anne Carnegy, daughter of Alexander Carnegy and of Ann Blair of Kinfauns, Forfarshire, and had a daughter, Elizabeth Ross, to whose memory a marble tablet was erected in the parish church of Forfar. It bears the following inscription (translated from the Latin)—

Dedicated to God, the Best, and Greatest.

And to the memory of Elizabeth Ross, a young lady in person beautiful, but in piety and wisdom more beautiful—daughter of Francis Ross of Auchlossan and Ann Carnegy—daughter of Alexander Carnegy and Ann Blair of Kinfauns—the beloved only child, who having entered this mortal life on 2nd October, 1705, was received to immortality on the 7th December, 1732.

This marble tablet has been erected by her sorrowing mother and step-father William Lyon of Carse.

The representation of the family of Ross of Auchlossan thereupon devolved upon John Ross, whose common ancestor was the above John Ross, Baillie of Turriff. He acquired the estate of Arnage in 1702, was Provost of Aberdeen 1710-12, and married Jean, daughter of Arthur Forbes of Echt. Their descendants, the family of Leith-Ross of Arnage, now represent the Rosses of Auchlossan in the female line.

[These notes are based upon an interest-

ing article on the Rosses of Auchlossan, from the accurate pen of Colonel James Allardyce (a descendant of the family) of Culquoich, which was furnished a few years ago to Mr R. R. Stodart, late Deputy Lyon King-at-Arms, and appears in the recent issues of Burke's "Landed Gentry" under the heading of "Leith Ross of Arnage."]

The estate of Auchlossan has been brought into prominence through the draining and cultivating of the old loch, which extended to about 240 acres. This achievement was performed by Mr James W. Barclay, who, in 1860, secured a long lease of it. Particulars of the carrying out of the operations and of the excellent results subsequently secured will be found in Smith's "New History of Aberdeenshire," II., pp. 951-55.

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The graveyard which surrounds the church is neatly kept. A considerable addition, which was made to it a few years ago, is tastefully terraced.

On a stone, dated 1699, is the inscription—

Here lies Alexander Ross, lawful husband. . .

A tablestone bearing sundry emblems is inscribed—

Here lies Alexander Edie, mill wright, aged 67. He died February 22, 1762. Also Margr. Berrey, his spouse, and Margrat Edie, grandchild, daughter to John and Margrat Edies, at Comers. She died May, 1768, aged 21.

The surname Aldie or Edie was formerly very common in the parish. In the end of the seventeenth century there were families bearing it in Wester Kincaigie, Cairnbathie, Mill of Balnacraig, and Sauchenbush.

The annexed inscription is from a table-stone—

Erected by James Malcolm, farmer in Mills of Culsh, Tarland, in memory of his beloved spouse, Isobel Middleton, who departed this life the 20th October, 1830, aged 49 years. Also their son James, who died the 3rd May, 1842, aged 17. Also James Malcolm, late farmer in Milltown of Culsh, who died on the 13th August, 1872, aged 82 years.

Weep not for me, it is in vain,  
And your great loss is my great gain.

A tablestone bears—

Here ly the bodies of Alexander Milne, who died in Mukle Bogloch, May 25, 1775, aged 67; also Christian Milne, his wife, who died February 7, 1792, aged 68. Mr George Milne, their son, who died June 21st, 1788, aged 25. . . .

The above Alexander Milne was a son of Alexander Mill or Milne, who, in 1696, was tenant of Bogloch. (Poll Book.)

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies the bodie of Henry Campbell, lawful son of John Campbell, gardener in Auchin-hove, who died 19th January, 1787, aged 37 years.

Henry Campbell, who was a powerfully-built man, is believed to have met his death through an unfortunate encounter with a gang of tramps. He was injured internally, but lived for a month after the assault.

The following tablestone inscription (abridged) commemorates various members of the family of Shaw, long tenants in the farm of Tillyching—

In memory of James Shaw, farmer in Tillyching, who died 24th July, 1823, aged 65 years. Also of Charlotte Farquharson, his spouse, who died on the 9th of August, 1831, aged 69 years. Also their son, James Shaw, farmer in Tillyching, who died on the 1st January, 1845, aged 54 years. Also Mary Sherrett, his spouse, who died on 3rd June, 1871, aged 72 years.

In an enclosure at the west end of the

church is a headstone bearing the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Rev. Alexander Birnie, for 54 years parochial schoolmaster, who died 9th October, 1856, in the 74th year of his age.

Erected by his affectionate widow, Charlotte Emslie, who died at Kintore on the 21st October, 1891, aged 87 years.

Rev. Alexander Birnie, who was a native of Banffshire, graduated in Arts at King's College on 29th March, 1805. He was an excellent schoolmaster, and many of his pupils took high positions.

Among other schoolmasters who followed were—John Smith; Alexander Beattie, who afterwards became a minister in Newcastle; William Cramond, subsequently well known in the literary world as Dr Cramond, schoolmaster of Cullen; and Rev. Robert M'Lean, proprietor of Auchnacant, who died on 25th July, 1905.

Four old tablestones bear respectively—

(1).

Under this stone lyes the dust and bones of Alexander Wattie, lawful husband to Margaret Malcolm. He lived in Crooked Tree, in the parish of Kincardine O'Neil, and died September 25, 1774, aged 65 years.

Alexander Wattie was probably a son of John Wattie, who was resident at Cloak in 1696.

(2).

Here lyes John Yule, lawful husband to Margrat Forast.

(3).

In memory of Robert Black late farmer in Bellagowan, who dyed June VI., 1810, in the 65th year of his age.

Done by the care of his youngest son, Charles Black.

(4).

Here lies Thomas Adam, some time in Bogloch, who died 3rd of March, 1742, aged 61, and his spouse, Mary Sim, who dyed December 14, 1742, aged — years. And Mary Adam, their daughter, who dyed 30th of December, aged 33 years.

The surnames Adam and Adams were general in the parish in 1696. Robert Adam and Arthur Adams were then tenants in Glenmillan, while George Adam was heritor and farmer of Overburnside. Dr Francis Adams, the celebrated physician, classical scholar, and author, was born in the parish on 13th March, 1796, and died at Banchory on 26th February, 1861.

Another native well known in local educational circles was James Cromar, M.A., who, in 1803, was appointed rector of Aberdeen Grammar School. A relative—James Cromar, son of George Cromar, Milton of Auchlossan—after serving in the army, was a teacher at Kininmonth, Maud, and Finzean respectively. He was the author of various publications, including, "Ranjee of Jansee," "The Prodigal Son," and an edition of the "Deeside Guide" (1885).

#### HISTORICAL INCIDENTS.

At Lumphanan, on 15th August, 1057, Macbeth, King of Scotland, was slain by Malcolm Canmore, son of Duncan. Wynthown (Cronykil, VI., pp. 382-410) records the incident in versified form—

He (Macbeth) wes rycht wa', and tuk the flycht ;  
And owre the Mownth thai chast hym than  
Til the Wode of Lunfanan.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thus Mackbeth slewe thai than,  
In-to the Wode of Lunfanan.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Shakespearean story to the contrary is taken from Holinshed, who drew his information from unreliable sources.

Edward I., in his triumphal march through Scotland, was here on 21st July, 1296, when he received the homage of Sir John de Malevill.

It is traditionally asserted that James IV., while travelling in disguise in one of his many pilgrimages, spent a night in a

small thatched cottage in the parish. He cheerfully shared with the family in both fare and conversation.

Of residents who took part in the '45 Rebellion there were, besides Patrick Leslie Duguid of Auchinhove, already mentioned, John Frain, farmer, Mill of Auchinhove, who served as a sergeant; Peter Smith, labourer, Auchlossan, who carried arms at Falkirk and Culloden; and David Lumsden, farmer, Mains of Auchlossan who acted as a captain in the rebel army. The last-named is believed to have fallen at Culloden. At all events, he is reported as "dead" in the "List of Rebels." He was one of the old Aberdeenshire Lumsdens, and possessed considerable means.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The most interesting antiquity within the parish is the "Peel Ring," which lies about half a mile from the village and railway station. It formed a complete example of the earthwork fortifications which were constructed in various parts of Scotland prior to the 12th century. The circular mound rises upwards of twelve feet above the adjoining level, and is about 46 yards in diameter. Water from the Burn of Lumphanan was admitted into the surrounding hollow or moat, the sluice or opening through which it left being laid bare by the flood of 1829. A wooden fort originally stood upon the mound, but it gave place in the 15th century to a stone building. The ruins of the latter structure existed till about 1782, being known by the title of Haa-ton House. The walls were subsequently razed to the foundations, and the stones were used for building purposes in the neighbourhood. It is believed by several writers that the "Peel" existed in the time of Macbeth, and was one of his castles. In the 12th century it probably belonged to the Durwards. The name



frequently crops up. On the lands called the "Peill of Lumfannen," John Forbes, brother of William Forbes of Corsindae, murdered William Brown, servant to John Irvine of Artamford. On trial, 6th November, 1607, he was found guilty, his "heid" being ordered to be "streiken frome his body."

Macbeth's connection with the parish is commemorated in "Macbeth's Cairn," on the southern slope of the Perk Hill. It is marked by a clump of trees amidst cultivated land. It formerly consisted of a large cairn of stones, but upwards of a century ago these were removed for building operations. Since then, however, it has been largely used as a receptacle for small stones gathered off the adjacent fields. "Macbeth's Stone" on the Brae of Strettum is pointed out as the spot where the King received his mortal wound, and he is also remembered in "Cairn-bathie"—a corruption of Cairnbeth—and in "Macbeth's Well" near the parish church.

North from "Macbeth's Cairn" there were formerly many small cairns, in the neighbourhood of which numerous relics—such as sword blades, flints, and battle-axes—have been discovered.

#### VILLAGE.

The village of Lumphanan may be said to have originated through the opening of the Deeside Railway. It contains many tastefully-built villas, and has a commodious parish hall, which bears the inscription and date in the gable—

PARISH HALL,  
1897.

The building was erected by the Parish Council for the use of the parishioners generally. It was designed by George Spark, clerk to the Council.

The village has been formed into a special water and drainage district, and ground

for building purposes being obtainable at moderate feu-duties, a satisfactory extension may be speedily expected.

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH AND GRAVE-YARD.

At the Disruption, the members of the Established Church who seceded met for divine service in the barn of the farm of Cloak. Communion was administered on 20th August, 1843, to 65 persons—Rev. D. S. Ferguson, Strachan, officiating. A church was speedily erected, and it was formally opened on 10th December of the same year by Rev. Robert Reid, Banchory. It was sanctioned as a full charge in February, 1844, and did service till 1870, when the present beautiful church—with its graceful spire—was built.

The first incumbent was Rev. Alexander Grant, son of Alexander Grant, Aberdeen. He graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1820, after which he was for a time schoolmaster of Cookney. As an ordained missionary of the Free Church, he was appointed to conduct services at Lumphanan in June, 1844, receiving induction on 8th August following. He died on 25th April, 1870.

Tablets within the church commemorate the next minister and his wife in the inscriptions—

MDCCCXCIII. Erected by the office-bearers and members of this congregation and other friends in loving memory of the Rev. Thomas Stothert, B.A., who died in Edinburgh on 16th March, 1893. For 28 years the faithful pastor, the trusted friend, the wise counsellor of this people. "He walked with God."—Gen. v. 24.

MDCCCLXXXI. Erected by the office bearers and members of this congregation in loving remembrance of Helen Lundin Brown, wife of Rev. Thomas Stothert. She fell asleep in Jesus on 24th December, 1880. A Memorial of her Work of Faith and Labour of Love and Patience of Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.—I. Thes. i. 3.

Rev. Thomas Sothert was the second son of the second marriage of William Stothert of Cargen, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, with a daughter of Admiral Deans, Huntingdon. He was ordained as colleague and successor to Rev. Alexander Grant on 27th July, 1865. It was largely through his munificence and zeal that the present church and manse were erected. His wife was the eldest daughter of Rev. Robert Lundin Brown, minister of Largo, Fifeshire. Mr Stothert married, secondly, Grace Campbell. He died in Edinburgh, as above, and was buried in St Cuthbert's Churchyard.

The present incumbent is Rev. Alexander Shaw Adamson Bishop, who was ordained on 17th October, 1889.

The graveyard, which bounds the church on two sides, is beautifully laid out in terraces, and, being flanked by full-grown trees and intersected by gravel walks, etc., forms one of the most picturesque places of sepulture in the county.

A headstone, within a railed enclosure, bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of John Strachan, farmer, Tulloch, who died Feb. 28th, 1886, aged 77 years. Also his wife Elspet Meston, who died Sept 27th, 1886, aged 81 years.

Their union lasted 51 years, and their separation was short.

While known to all as a consistent Christian, Mr Strachan endeared himself to the members of the Free Church congregation, by his devotion to their interests, acting as an elder for the long period of 43 years.

Heb. xiii. 7-8.

Erected by their children.

Father. 1887. Mother.

John Strachan was the son of Charles Strachan, who, about 1800, became tenant of Cloak. The father of the latter was Lewis Strachan, farmer in Melgum, and subsequently in Milton of Auchinhove. He was a direct descendant of the old family of Strachan, lairds of Glenkindie.

John Strachan, who was highly respected for his sterling character, married Elspet, daughter of David Meston, farmer, Craighton. Their son Lewis continues the tenancy of Tulloch, which has been in the hands of the Strachans for the last seventy years.

The following inscription from another headstone commemorates other members of the family of the above-mentioned Charles Strachan in Cloak—

The burial place of Charles Strachan, Farmer, Cloak. Died 8th April, 1895, aged 83. Andrew Strachan died 5th Decr., 1893, aged 73. Jessie Strachan, or Walker, died 4th August, 1883, aged 73. Charlotte Strachan died 24th March, 1893, aged 71. Lewis Strachan died 10th Decr., 1902, aged 88.

“The memory of the just is blessed.”

The five persons above commemorated reached the average age of 77 3-5th years. Charles Strachan was one of the most active promoters of the Free Church, in which he served as a deacon, and subsequently as an elder. His brother, Alexander, is still in Cloak.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of George Spark who died 19th Feb., 1885, aged 83 years. Also Isabella Graham his wife who died 16 June, 1887, aged 78 years.

Erected by their family.

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.”

Matthew v. 8.

One of the sons of the above George Spark and Isabella Graham is George Spark, inspector of poor and clerk to the Parish Council, whose wife is Isabella, sister of Sir James Thomson, K.C.S.I., of the Indian Civil Service.

## Peterhead.

The parish of Peterhead was, in early times, known by the titles of Peterugie and Inverugie. The church was dedicated to St Peter, and belonged to the Abbey of Deer.

The parish was formerly very extensive, but in 1620 a church—designated “the ower kirk of Peter-Ugie”—was built. This church, with its lands, received the name of Longside, and in 1641 was “erectit in ane severall paroch kirk be it self, and disvinit fra the said mother kirk of Peferugie.” (Acts of Parliament.)

Portions of the ruins of what had doubtless been a pre-Reformation parish church are still to be seen in the graveyard at Kirktown. These embrace the old chancel arch, supported on square jambs, with Norman cushion caps. Run lime had been freely used, and the presumption is that the older portions had been incorporated into the church, which became ruinous in 1770. The bell tower (a comparatively modern erection) is still intact, although a short spire which originally surmounted it has been removed, and a weather cock substituted. The bell itself is still in the tower. It bears the same inscription as on the bells of Dyce and Maryton.

MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS, ME FECIT, 1642.  
SOLI DEO GLORIA.

In 1770, a new parish church was erected on the east side of the Kirktown, but within thirty years it fell into a dangerous condition and had to be vacated.

The present church, which accommodates nearly 2000, occupies a prominent site nearer the centre of the town. In the outer wall over the main entrance door is a tablet inscribed—

FOUNDED 25th May, 1804.  
OPENED 14th August, 1806.

### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS AND READERS.

In 1567, Rev. Gilbert Chisholm — previously Prior of the Abbey of Deer, but who had adopted the new faith — was minister of Peterhead, Deer, Foveran, and St Fergus. He subsequently relinquished the charge of Peterhead.

In 1567, the parish was served by Archibald Reid, reader, and thereafter, in the same capacity, by James Symson.

In 1571, Rev. Archibald Keith was inducted from St Fergus. He remained for only a short period, however, being translated to Crimond in 1573.

In 1578, Rev. Thomas Moresoun was ordained, with the parish of Cruden also in charge.

In 1585, Rev. Thomas Bisset was admitted, with Ellon likewise under his jurisdiction. About 1603, he was relieved, but on 4th June, 1607, was ordered by the Privy Council to be “wairdit in Edinburgh Tolbuith for coming with associates to the yeard of Mr James Martyne, minister of Peterhead, delving up and shoveling togidder his haille cornes, herbs, flowers, and making the fashion of sawing of the same over againe.” He was also ordered to find caution “that he should not invade the said Mr James.”

In 1604, Rev. John Keith was inducted from Dunnottar. He was retranslated to Dunnottar 12th September, 1605.

In 1605, Rev. James Martyne was admitted. He died before 1624, as shown by the pleadings in a process raised anent the claims of his widow and family on the one hand, and the Patron on the other, to the stipend of that year.

Rev. James Martin was the next incumbent. He appears to have given great offence through “keeping a fast on the Lord’s daye.” For this fault he was suspended by Bishop Ballantine. He is said to have pressed the Covenant on the



citizens of Aberdeen after service in the church of Old Machar on 5th April, 1639. He continued an energetic Covenanter, and died before 20th December, 1649, having been "accounted eminent either for gifts, grace, faithfulness, or success."

In 1650, Rev. Nathaniel Martin was inducted from Aberdour. In the following year he joined the Protesters. He was deprived by the Acts of Parliament and Privy Council in 1662, and went to reside in Turriff, carrying off with him the Exercise or Presbytery Book of Deer, as also the Peterhead kirk-session minute book. The former volume was ultimately recovered, but the latter disappeared; consequently, there are no extant minutes of session older than 1663. Mr Martin seems to have followed his own bent in attending conventicles, etc. He is described by Dr Scott (Fasti) as having been one of the three great men of the Presbytery who were called "the Triumviri of Deer," and to have been the one "who acted all." He died before the summer of 1676, survived by a daughter, who married Thomas Forrest.

In 1664, Rev. John Chalmers, M.A., son of Rev. William Chalmers, minister of Boyndie, was inducted from Arbuthnott. He married, 11th February, 1663, Mary, or Margaret, daughter of Robert Keith of Whiteriggs, Sheriff of the Mearns, and they had a family of at least three sons — Robert, William, and John. Mr Chalmers died subsequent to 8th October, 1678.

Before 21st April, 1674, Rev. Alexander Banks, M.A., was admitted (possibly as assistant and successor to Mr Chalmers), but he was translated to Dalmeny in 1682.

In 1682, Rev. Alexander Barclay, M.A., was admitted from Auchterless. He was deprived in 1695 for non-jurancy and pro-

testing against the Assembly's Committee. On appeal, he was dismissed and allowed by Parliament. He intruded before 12th May, 1708, and was finally deposed 8th May, 1716, for complying with the Rebellion, etc. He married Margaret Burnett, and they had a family of four sons and three daughters.

In 1699, Rev. Andrew Guthrie, previously minister of Edrom, was inducted. He resigned the charge 30th September, 1720, and died in May, 1722, survived by an only son, Thomas.

In 1716, Rev. William Smith, M.A., was ordained. He was translated to the second charge of Old Machar on 4th April, 1717.

In 1721, Rev. David Brown, M.A., was ordained, but he accepted translation to Belhelvie on 23rd June, 1725. (See Belhelvie.)

In 1726, Rev. Robert Farquhar, son of John Farquhar in Wester Coull, was ordained. On 16th August, 1738, he accepted, on account of delicacy of health, a call to the inland but less remunerative living of Chapel of Garioch. (See Chapel of Garioch.)

The next minister is commemorated by a monument in the chancel of the old church in the parish graveyard, which bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Sacred to the memory of a truly reverend man, James Walker, a most faithful minister of the Word of God in this church, who died 1st January, 1763, deeply regretted here, where his worth was fully known.

Rev. James Walker was ordained 9th March, 1739. His manse was accidentally destroyed by fire in the following year. He married, first, in January, 1750, the only daughter of Rev. John Gordon, minister, Old Deer. She died, without issue, in May, 1756. Mr Walker was survived by his second wife, Elizabeth Innes, who, on 28th May, 1772,

became the second wife of Thomas Gordon, then Regent, and afterwards Professor of Greek in King's College.

The succeeding minister, and his wife and one son, have a monument inscribed thus—

In memory of Dr Moir, during 55 years minister of this parish, who died 18th of March, 1818, aged 77. And of his wife, Martha, who died on the 17th November, 1816, aged 77.

Sacred to the memory of John Moir, Esq., who died on the 28th February, 1857, aged 82 years.

Rev. George Moir, eldest son of Rev. Andrew Moir, minister of Ellon, secured the degree of M.D. on 9th September, 1765. He was ordained minister of Peterhead on 11th August, 1763, and on 7th August, 1766, married Martha, third daughter of Patrick Byres, first of Tonley. Through this union, the families of Moir and Byres merged into one. Dr and Mrs Moir had a family of eight sons and two daughters — Andrew, who became an officer in the army, and died in India; Patrick or Peter, who became secretary to the Governor-General of India, Lord Minto; James, one of the leading physicians of his time in Aberdeen; Robert; John (referred to in the above inscription), who became an artist of considerable fame; William, who became a writer in Edinburgh, but subsequently went to Trinidad; Forbes; Andrew, merchant, Quebec; Janet, who, on 4th June, 1792, married Christopher Norton of Congreve, Stafford (she married, secondly, Captain John Davidson of Gothenburg); and Jane, who married Rev. William Donald, as below. Dr Moir's incumbency at Peterhead was probably unique in respect of his having had three separate churches and two manses. He had a keen sense of humour, and was a skilled punster. Having a church officer named Mutch, he used to remark, "There

is Mutch in the Kirktown, but Moir (locally pronounced More) in the Manse." (See Mr A. J. Mitchell-Gill's "Houses of Moir and Byres.")

An enclosure in the area of the old church has a tombstone to the succeeding minister and his second wife inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Rev. William Donald, 26 years minister of this parish, who died 15th January, 1844, aged 62. Here also lies still united to Christ the body of his wife, Mary Agnes Robertson, who died at the Manse of Keith-hall on the 23rd September, 1896, aged 81 years.

Rev. William Donald was the fourth son of James Donald in Mill of Keith-hall and of Ann Forbes, his wife (she was the granddaughter of Anna Lunan, the great-granddaughter of Sir William Forbes, Baronet of Mouynusk). He graduated in Arts at Marischal College in April, 1802, was licensed as a preacher on 31st August, 1808, and became parish schoolmaster of Peterhead in 1812. Receiving a Crown presentation, he was, on 12th December, 1816, ordained assistant and successor to Rev. Dr Moir. He married —first, Jane, second daughter of Rev. Dr Moir; and some time after her death, without issue, he, in 1839, married, secondly, Mary Agnes Robertson, eldest daughter of Alexander Robertson, baker, Peterhead, and Mary Wilson, his wife, who was a daughter of James Wilson, Petts, Fyvie, and sister of Very Rev. Dean Wilson, Woodhead. The family of the second marriage were—James, born 4th April, 1840, graduated M.A. at King's College, 1858, ordained minister of Innellan, 1865, inducted minister of Keith-hall and Kinkell, 1867, and received the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1904; and Mary, born 2nd February, 1842, married, 1865, Rev. P. N. Mackichan, minister of Lochgilphead (now of Inverary), and died 1867, leaving two sons.

The succeeding minister was Rev. Alex. Irvine, who, on 4th July, 1844, was inducted from Dunnottar. He was translated to Crimond on 29th March, 1855. (See Crimond.)

On 23rd August, 1855, Rev. James Mitchell was ordained. He was the son of Rev. James Mitchell, minister of Garvock, and graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1850. On 24th March, 1864, he was translated to South Leith. He received the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1881, and was Moderator of the General Assembly of 1901. He has now retired.

The present incumbent is Rev. James Stewart, D.D., who is a native of Inverkip, Renfrewshire, where his father was a fruit and market gardener and dairyman. After attending the Grammar School of Greenock, he entered St Andrews University, and graduated M.A. in 1850. Licensed by the Presbytery of Greenock in May, 1854, he was entrusted with the charge of a new mission in the east-end of Greenock. His efforts were crowned with such signal success that a large new church (since known as Cartburn Church) had to be erected, and to it he was ordained on 25th December, 1856. Being the choice of Peterhead congregation, he received a Crown presentation, and was inducted 20th October, 1864. On the occasion of his semi-jubilee, he was presented by the parishioners with a purse of sovereigns and a piece of silver plate. He has since been honoured with the degree of D.D., while more recently the Peterhead Public Library Committee, in recognition of his having presented upwards of a thousand volumes to the library, besides numerous works of art to the Art Gallery, and contributions to the Arbuthnot Museum, had his portrait painted by the late Mr Robert Brough, A.R.S.A., and hung in the Art Gallery. Simultaneously, the kirk-session,

in consideration of his forty years' successful ministry and public services to the town and parish, had a duplicate picture painted by the same artist for Dr Stewart's personal acceptance.

From the above notes it will be seen that of twenty-one individual ministers who have held the charge since the Reformation no fewer than eight accepted calls to other parishes, while five resigned or were deprived.

#### PARISH GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

Beside the Links, and close to Kirktown, stands the extensive old graveyard. No country parish churchyard in Aberdeenshire contains so many interesting tombstones. This arises in a great measure from the fact that the town long enjoyed a high reputation for the curative properties of its spring water, and delicate people of position from all parts of Britain were induced to give it a trial—only, however, in too many instances, to succumb to the ailments from which they had been suffering. A volume of goodly size might be written upon those commemorated.

A tablestone bears the following exceptional form of inscription—

My dearest, fairest, better half lies here  
Until that great and solemn day appear,  
Then shalt thou rise in everlasting bloom,  
And sing in triumphs o'er death and the tomb!

Here lie some of the first-fruits of Christ's purchase, being the earthly parts of Christian, Robert, and Margaret Finlater, who all died in infancy, with a manchild still born. Also Christian Gordon, their mother, wife to Wm. Finlater, who by her unrivalled industry so well provided for a large rising family that they scarce felt the unprecedented misfortunes of the above-named, their father.

Besides cleanness, beauty, and neatness of person, she was adorned with the principal ornaments of her sex. She was a most modest



maid, chaste and loving wife, and affectionate mother. She was piously religious, and lived and died in that assured faith of which she now rests in the enjoyment. She departed this life 1 p.m., the 8th of February, 1800, in the 53rd year of her age.

A tablestone, which displays sundry emblems, is inscribed—

In hope of a blessed resurrection, here lyes the corps of Andrew Iameson, merchant in Peterhead, who dyed Nover. 2, 1696, aged 53 years; also the corps of Beatrix Thomson, his spous, who dyed Decer. 24, 1729, and of age 73 years. Also the corps of Margrat Iameson, spous to John Taylor, carpenter in Peterhead, who departed this life April 7, 1743, aged 56 years.

In the Poll Book of 1696 Andrew Jamieson is described as "indwellar" in Peterhead. For himself and his wife he paid 12s of poll.

A marble tablet monument is inscribed—

Erected at the desire and expense of George Philips, Esq., late Major in the service of the Hon. The East India Company. To the memory of his mother, Elisabeth Forbes, daughter of Captain John Forbes of Boyndlie. She was born XIX. May, MDCCXXXV., and married XVII. July, MDCCLV., to Baillie George Philips, merchant in Banff, by whom she had three sons—Alexander, a captain; John, a surgeon, both in the army; and George, all now deceased.

She died XIII. July, MDCCXCIX., and lies behind this monument in the same grave with her second husband, James Mackie, Esq. of Gask.

Elizabeth Forbes was the younger of the two daughters of Captain John Forbes of Boyndlie, and the last of the direct line of the old family. The present owner is descended from Sir John Forbes, 3rd Bart. of Monymusk. (Respecting the Philips family, see Tyrie; and regarding James Mackie, see Fetterangus.)

THE SKELTONS, ANDERSONS, AND NICOLLS.

A railed-in grave in the area of the church has an obelisk, which is inscribed on two sides—

(1).

George Skelton of Invernettie Lodge, died 16th May, 1815, aged 62 years; also Jean Smith, his relict, died 17th March, 1846, aged 89 years.

(2).

George Skelton, shipowner, died 25th May, 1848, aged 59 years; also Jane Skelton, his wife, died 3rd December, 1854, aged 63 years.

A vault has over it a massive granite monument, which is inscribed on separate sides—

(1).

In grateful and loving remembrance of James Skelton, shipowner, died 31st May, 1830, aged 82. His wife, Mary Nicoll, died 25th December, 1792, aged 30 years. Their children, Margaret . . . . Mary, wife of James Marshall, surgeon, died 10th March, 1858, aged 72. John, shipowner, died 9th September, 1835, aged 48. James, shipowner, died at Naples, 8th May, 1822, aged 32. Jane, wife of George Skelton, shipowner, died 3rd September, 1854, aged 63 years. Two daughters died in infancy.

(2).

To the beloved memory of John Ford Anderson, M.D., died of fever, 27th April, 1812, aged 28 years.

His wife, Margaret Skelton, died 9th December, 1870, aged 86 years. Erected by their children—Alexander of Chanonry, Old Aberdeen; Mary, wife of Andrew Murray, advocate, Aberdeen; James, shipowner, London; Joan Ford, wife of James Yuill, minister F.C., Peterhead.

Various members of the Skelton family were well and honourably known as shipowners, shipmasters, etc., in Peterhead down to 1848. Through the courtesy of George M'Rae, sculptor, who possesses a copy of the inscription on a monument

now broken and decayed, the following additional particulars are furnished:—

James Skelton (died 31st May, 1830) married Mary Nicoll, daughter of John Nicoll, merchant, Lossiemouth, her mother being Isobel Proctor, daughter of John Proctor, Sheriff-Substitute of Moray. Their daughter, Mary, married Dr James Marshall, "late of the Winchelsea Indian." He died at Mains of Fintry, 8th August, 1813, aged 28, and was interred in Mains Churchyard. Another daughter, Margaret, married John Ford Anderson, M.D.; and they were the parents of the family above enumerated. Of them, James Anderson, shipowner, London, who purchased the estate of Hilton in Old Machar, was well known as the founder of the famous Orient Line of steamers.

James Skelton, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, who was Sheriff-Substitute at Peterhead, 1840-70, did not belong to the same family. His only son was John Skelton, C.B., Vice-President of the Local Government Board for Scotland, author of "The Table-Talk of Shirley" and other works, who died at Edinburgh in July, 1897, after his promotion to the dignity of K.C.B. had been gazetted, but before he had been invested with the insignia of the rank.

A marble tablet at the same grave bears—

This stone is inscribed with affection and gratitude to the memory of Patrick Nicoll, Esq., surgeon in the Honourable East India Company's service, who died here 21st August, 1804, aged 37 years.

Dr Patrick Nicoll was a son of the above-mentioned John Nicoll, and the brother of Mrs James Skelton and Rev. Dr Francis Nicoll, Principal of St Andrews University.

#### THE CORDINERS.

Two separate monuments are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In hopes of a joyfull resurrection, here lyes the corps of Robert Cordiner, shipmaster in Peterhead, who departed this life December 29th, 1712, aged 42 years. Also the corps of Elspet Mitchell, his spous, who lived a pious and virtuous life, and died the 10th of December, 1735, aged 76 years.

In spite of Neptun's waves and Boreas' blasts, I safely here arrived at the last.

Captain Robert Cordiner and his wife, Elspet Mitchell, had a son, Robert, who also became a ship captain, and traded to the East Indies. He married Ann Park, daughter of Captain Park, Peterhead. Their son was Rev. Charles Cordiner, minister of the Episcopal Church in Banff, and an antiquary of much artistic taste. He was the author of "The Antiquities of the North of Scotland," published in 1780. He married Jean, daughter of Provost James Shand, Banff; and among their family were Rev. James Cordiner, minister of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen; and Robert Cordiner, referred to below

(2).

R.I.P. The resting place of Robert Cordiner, merchant, Peterhead, who died 13th November, 1825, aged 48 years; and of his daughter, Elizabeth, who died 21st August, 1822, aged 15 years. And of his mother, Jean Shand, who died 20th November, 1834, aged 86 years. And of his daughter, Helen, who died 28th November, 1849, aged 40 years. And of his widow, Helen Abernethy, who died 5th April, 1855, aged 80 years.

"The Lord grant unto them that they may find mercy of the Lord in that day."

The above Robert Cordiner was a very successful merchant. His wife, Helen Abernethy, was a grand-daughter of William Abernethy of Crimonmogate, and of his wife, Helen Gordon. Mr Cordiner's

son, William Fraser, succeeded to the estate of Cortes on the death of Miss Strachan in 1867. He died at Cortes 15th January, 1907, aged 94.

A headstone commemorates various members of the Abernethy family, including "Thomas Abernethy, second officer in the ship 'Victory,' who shared in the perils and privations of the expeditions to the Arctic Seas commanded by Sir Edward Perry and Sir John Ross, in the years 1823 and 1829-1833. He was born in 1803, and died in 1860."

A second maritime veteran has his stirring career briefly sketched in the following inscription—

In memory of Captain George Anderson, of this town, who died in 1847, aged 63 years. He joined the transport service in 1794, and, as captain, took part in the revolutionary wars ending in the final overthrow of Napoleon Bonaparte, in which service he witnessed some of the great historical battles in the Baltic, Mediterranean, and Peninsula. Also of his first wife, Christie Chalmers, who died 11th July, 1811, aged 31. And also of Margaret Innes, his second wife, who died in 1872, aged 79 years, and whose remains are interred in the Churchyard of St Fergus.

A granite monument bears—

In memory of the Rev. T. G. Torry Anderson, son of the Right Rev. Patrick Torry, Bishop of St Andrews, who died 19th June, 1856, in the 51st year of his age. Also of Christian Torry, daughter of the above Bishop Torry, died 26th February, 1869, in the 70th year of her age.

Rev. Thomas Gordon Torry Anderson was the youngest son of the Right Rev. Patrick Torry, D.D., Bishop of St Andrews, etc., his mother being Jane Young, daughter of Dr William Young of Fawsyde. Born at Peterhead on 9th July, 1805, he was educated at the parish school, and subsequently at Marischal College, and the University of Edinburgh. In 1827, he received holy orders, securing

the charge of St John's, Portobello. He was afterwards for a time assistant in St George's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, and was subsequently appointed pastor of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Dundee. Whilst discharging his ministerial duties with earnestness and ability, he found much enjoyment in music and song. In 1833, he composed the words and air of "The Araby Maid," while the music and words of the songs "The Maiden's Vow" and "I Love the Sea" afterwards appeared from his pen. In 1855, he resigned his incumbency owing to bad health, and resided at Fawsyde, to which estate he had succeeded five years previously. He was three times married—first, in 1828, to Mrs Gaskin Anderson of Tushielaw, whose name he adopted to meet the exigencies of an entail; secondly, to Elizabeth Jane, daughter of Dr Thomas Sutter, R.N.; and, thirdly, to Mrs Hill, widow of William Hill, R.N. He was survived by the last-named and six children.

A monument bears—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Robertson, only son of Robert Robertson, of Boddom, Baillie of Peterhead, and Mary Elles, his spouse, who died the XXI. day of February, MDCCCXV., in the XIV. year of his age. Also of the said Robert Robertson, who died on the 11 day of December, MDCCCXXXII., in the LXXII. year of his age. And of the said Mary Elles, who died on the IX. day of January, MDCCCXLVIII., in the LXXVII year of her age.

Robert Robertson was a solicitor by profession, and for a long period acted as baillie on the barony of Peterhead; also as factor and commissioner on the local estates of the Merchant Maiden Hospital.

PROVOST RODERICK GRAY.

A granite monument bears the inscription—

In memory of Mary Gray, widow of John



Gray, some time in Broadplace of Daviot, born at Skellarts, in the parish of Daviot, 16th January, 1752; died at Peterhead, 23rd February, 1841. This stone was prepared by their youngest son, Roderick, who was born at Broadplace, Daviot, 1st July, 1788. Bred a conveyancer, during many years Provost of Peterhead, his useful life closed there 3rd February, 1858. His body rests here. His notarial motto was "Veritas Vincit" (Truth conquers). Affection, or (alias) vanity may erect a pompous tomb; the worth of the departed is the only valuable monument.

The above inscription is believed to have been composed by Adam Gray, an elder brother of Roderick Gray, who died in 1863, aged 80. The latter, having studied law in Aberdeen, went to Peterhead in 1807 as assistant to Baillie Robert Robertson previously referred to. In 1811, when only 23 years of age, he was appointed joint factor on the Aberdeenshire estates of the Merchant Maiden Hospital, and Baron-Baillie of Peterhead, along with Mr Robertson, with whom also he became a partner. In 1833, Peterhead became a Parliamentary burgh, with powers to the residenters to elect their own Town Council; and from that time till November, 1857, Mr Gray served with marked ability as a member of that body in all the grades, from Councillor to Provost. In 1852, the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital, in appreciation of his services as factor, had his portrait painted by Sir John Watson Gordon. As a work of art, the picture is much admired, and its excellence gained it — with two other portraits—the first-class prize medal at the Paris Exposition of 1855. The picture formerly hung in the hospital building, but is now in the Merchants' Hall, Edinburgh. Through the courtesy of Mr Alexander Heron, the following note bearing upon it from the printed catalogue of portraits, etc., in the hall is here given—

Portrait of Roderick Gray, Provost of the Burgh of

Peterhead, and Factor on the Estates of the Merchant Maiden Hospital in Peterhead.

(Born, 1788. Died, 1858.)  
Sir John Watson Gordon, Pinxt.

This portrait was painted at the unanimous request of the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital, to be preserved in the Hospital, as a token of their sense of his important services to the Institution during the last forty years as commissioner and factor upon their estate in Aberdeenshire, which, through his care, energy, and skill, has been greatly increased in value.—Edinburgh A.D. 1852.

Further particulars respecting the Gray family will be found in George Cadenhead's "The Family of Cadenhead," pp. 55-57.

A tablestone has a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation—

The body of Mary Smith, daughter of George Smith, Yockieshill, merchant in Peterhead, who died 18th September, 1725, in the seventh month of her age, lies here in the hope of a good resurrection. She expired with uplifted hands, and her eyes directed towards Heaven.

A monument has an inscription partly in English and partly in Latin. The whole in English is—

Sacred to the memory of the Right Rev. Mr Robert Kilgour, late Bishop of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Primus of the Scots Episcopal Church. This stone is erected by his spouse, Mrs Margaret Arbuthnot. Died XXIII. March, 1790; aged LXXVI.; minist. LII. While piety and a godly love of rectitude are cherished, while Scotland retains her ancient faith, such a man will a sacred band delight to call father, such a man will the latest posterity praise.

Mrs Margaret Arbuthnot died the 22nd February, 1805, aged 84 years.

The Right Rev. Robert Kilgour was the son of "Robert Kilgour, some time litster at Walk Mill of Cruden, and his wife, Isobel Barron." After studying for the Episcopal Church, he was ordained at Peterhead in 1738, being consecrated Bishop of Aberdeen in 1768. Fourteen

years later, he became Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Scotch Episcopal Church. In the latter capacity, he took the leading part in the consecration of Bishop Seabury, the first American Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States. He published in 1785 "A Treatise on the Nature, etc., of the Apostolic Communication," and in 1787 "Oratio Coram Episcopo." In announcing his death, the "Aberdeen Journal" noted that he was the oldest bishop in the Scotch Episcopal Church. A daughter was the first wife of Bishop Patrick Torry.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies the remains of William Grig, who lived some time in Cocklau, and died the 3rd of September, 1793, aged 81 years. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. Also his daughter, Margaret, aged 2 years.

To the memory of his son, William, commander of the July armed ship, who died at Fort St Juan, 9th September, 1780, aged 33 years. And also the remains of Agnes Robertson, wife of the above William Grig, who died 26th September, 1812, aged 91. She was an affectionate wife, a tender mother, a sincere friend, and a pious Christian. And also William Greig, his grandson, who died at Stuartfield, Old Deer, 6th January, 1874, aged 63 years.

John Greig, who studied at Marischal College 1765-69, and afterwards became eminent as a teacher at Chelsea, and the author of various educational guide books, was nearly related to—if not, indeed, the son of—the first-mentioned William Greig.

A marble slab set into a granite monument bears the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Margaret, youngest daughter of James Mackintosh, Esquire of Kyllachy, Inverness-shire, and wife of Duncan Campbell, Esquire of Fornightly, in the county of Nairn. She died at Peterhead on the 24th August, 1805, aged 61, from an illness occasioned by the sudden death of her eldest son, Captain Angus Campbell, H.M. 37th

Regiment of Foot, who lost his life at the early age of 21 in the Island of St Vincent.

This monument is re-erected to the memory of an affectionate parent by her surviving son, Major A. B. Campbell, Indian Army.

The above Margaret Mackintosh was one of the four daughters of James Mackintosh of Kyllachy, and of his wife, Marjory, daughter of John Mackintosh, Mid Coull of Petty. Her brother, Sir James Mackintosh, was twice married; first, in 1789, to Catherine Stuart, who died in 1797, leaving three daughters; and, secondly, in 1798, to Catherine, daughter of John Allen of Cresselly, Pembrokeshire, by whom he had a son, Robert James, who edited his father's memoirs, etc. (Mackintosh's "The Mackintoshes and the Clan Chattan," p. 374.) Fornightly is a farm in the parish of Ardcloch, Nairnshire, and Duncan Campbell, tacksman thereof, was factor for Mr Brodie of Lethen and his daughter, Miss Ann Brodie, who died in 1805. A tablestone in Barivan Churchyard records that he died 11th December, 1809, aged 67, "deeply lamented by all ranks." His son, Colonel Alexander Brodie Campbell, of the Bombay Army, died at Elgin, 17th September, 1855, aged 70.

A tablestone bears a Latin inscription, which, in English, is—

To the memory of Mr William Fraser of Hatton, a man of highly honourable descent, who, throughout his whole life, cultivated and practised holiness, temperance, and justice, and—wasted away by a lingering disorder—died a most peaceful death 11th May, 1749, in his 76th year.

His affectionate children erected this monument.

Here also are laid the ashes of Sophia Gordon, the dearly beloved wife of the aforesaid William Fraser, distinguished through life for her fervent piety towards God, and her unbounded liberality to the poor, who died 3rd July, 1731, in the . . . year of her age.

The memory of the just is blessed.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Underneath this stone lies all that is mortal of the late Robert Forbes, Esq. of Gask. . . . He resigned this life for one infinitely better, the 18th day of April, 1770 years, leaving his wife with sixteen children to bewail a loss which was his gain. A most affectionate father, a valuable friend. In grateful remembrance of so amiable and indulgent a husband, this stone is erected by his spouse, Ann Abernethie.

Robert Forbes, sometime proprietor of Gask, married Ann Abernethie, daughter of Alexander Abernethie of Corskie, in Marnoch, and his wife, Helen, daughter of William Gordon of Dallachy. Mrs Forbes died 19th May, 1810, in her 86th year, and of the sixteen children who survived their father were John, commander R.N., who, on 27th February, 1828, was created a baronet for his distinguished naval services, succeeded his maternal uncle in the estate of Hawthornden, Mid-Lothian, and died 28th May, 1829; Robert, captain R.N.; Hay, lieutenant; Margaret, who died unmarried; Mrs Champion, wife of a wealthy Indian civilian; Mrs Simpson, wife of a West India planter; Elizabeth, who married John Russell of Balmaud; May, who married Rev. George Pirie, D.D., thirty-two years minister of the parish of Slains; Mrs Mercer, wife of an officer who was killed in India; and several other sons who served in the navy. The above Rev. Dr George Pirie and his wife, May Forbes, were the parents of, among other children, Rev. William Robinson Pirie, D.D., who was ordained minister of Dyce in 1830, appointed Professor of Divinity at Aberdeen in 1843, Moderator of the General Assembly in 1864, for many years one of the leaders of the Church, and probably the real author of the Patronage Abolition Act. He was Principal of the University of Aberdeen from 1877 till his death in 1885.

He married Margaret Chalmers, daughter of Rev. Dr Lewis William Forbes, minister of Boharm, by whom, with three sons and four daughters, he was survived.

#### THE MOIRS OF INVERNETTIE.

An old tablestone bears the following inscription—

Under this stone is interred, in hopes of the resurrection to eternal life, the body of James Moir of Invernettie, who was born 28th March, 1703. He married Katherine Arbuthnott, lawful daughter to the Hon. John Arbuthnott of Fordoune, in the year 1744, with whom he lived in all the happiness of that state till it pleased God to call him off this life on the 21st May, 1765. As also the body of their son, James Arbuthnott, who was born the 16th July, 1753, and died the 16th of January next after. As a testimony of regard to the memory of her most loving and dear husband and beloved son, the disconsolate widow and sorrowful mother hath caused this to be placed here, who departed this life the 28th of January, 1775, in the 59th year of her age, and her remains are also interred under this stone. Also those of her niece, Jean Arbuthnott, spouse to Alexander Gordon of Invernettie, who died 11th March, 1820, aged 71.

The estate of Invernettie from an early date belonged to the Earls Marischal. About 1708, William Moir, merchant, Aberdeen (a younger son of John Moir of Stoneywood, and his wife, Jean Sandilands of Cotton) purchased it for some £500 stg. He was succeeded by his son, James Moir, who married Katherine Arbuthnott. This lady was the sister of John, sixth Viscount Arbuthnott—her mother being Margaret, daughter of James Falconer of Phesdo, one of the Lords of Session. Her niece, Jean Arbuthnott, was the daughter of Dr Thomas Arbuthnott of Balglassie. Mr and Mrs Moir's nephew, William Moir, succeeded to Invernettie. He married Jean, daughter of Colonel Lewis Hay. She died 25th December, 1770, in her



50th year. (Tombstone in St Nicholas Churchyard, Aberdeen.)

In an enclosure are three tablestones, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Hero lies interred in hope of a glorious resurrection, the corps of a virtuous and pious gentlewoman, Mrs Helen Gordon, spouse to James Donaldsone of Cocklaw, who departed this life the 8th day of February, 1723 years, and of her age the 63rd year. And also below this stone lies the body of James Donaldsone of Cocklaw, who dyed Aprill, the 13, 1745, in the 72nd year of his age. As also the body of Ann Donaldson, spouse to George Gordon of Sheillagreen, who dyed the 26th of September, 1746, in the 44th year of her age. . . .

(2).

Below this stone lies the body of George Gordon, some time of Shillagreen, who dyed the latter end of August, 1741, in the 67th year of his age. . . .

(3).

To the memory of Alexander Gordon, Esq. of Invernettie, who died on the 9th of April, 1827, in the 84th year of his age.

James Donaldson of Cocklaw, according to Dr Temple, was one of the Kinnairdie family. By his wife, Helen Gordon, he had a daughter—Ann—who married George Gordon, fourth laird of Sheelagreen, in Culsalmond. (See New Spalding Club's "House of Gordon," I., under Coclarachie, p. 12, etc.; and Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," pp. 264-67.) They had a family of two sons and three daughters. Mr Gordon sold Sheelagreen, and his second son—James Gordon—succeeded to Little Cocklaw. The elder son, Alexander Gordon, bought the estates of Invernettie and Glendaveny. He married Jean Arbuthnott, as above stated; and their son, Robert, sold Invernettie and purchased the estate of Ashmore in Perthshire; while their daughter, Catherine, married Major William Forrester, twenty-

second laird of Culmore and Culbeg, Stirlingshire. Of this union a daughter — Mary Forrester — married James Hutchison of Springfield, son of Colonel Hutclison of Cairngall.

In the same enclosure is a headstone commemorating the said James Hutchison, Springfield, who died 22nd January, 1876, aged 83. His wife, Mary Forrester, grand-daughter of Alexander Gordon of Invernettie, died 16th April, 1861, aged 64. Of their family, James and Alfred died in infancy; Catherine died 31st January, 1845, aged 25; George died 20th March, 1846, aged 17; Robert was drowned 5th January, 1849, aged 25; James was drowned 20th September, 1852, aged 27; and Isabella died 25th April, 1866, aged 36. A second headstone records the death of Alexander Hutchison of Cocklaw, who died 24th August, 1880.

THE LAWRANCES.

A vault has an imposing granite monument with three separate tablets, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

T. L.

E. P.

Erected by Thomas Lawrance, merchant, Peterhead, to the memory of his beloved spouse, Elizabeth Park, who died the 20th day of April, 1841, aged 47 years. Also inscribed by his nephews to the memory of the above Thomas Lawrance, merchant, Peterhead, who died the 24th day of July, 1841, in the 55th year of his age.

Captain Robert (Scott) Lawrance (M.S.), son of Charles Lawrance, jun., died at Port Said, 15th July, 1885, aged 40. . . . Louisa Mary Lawrance, daughter of above, died 2nd June, 1901, aged 19.

(2).

1834.

To the memory of Charles Lawrance, merchant, Peterhead, who died 1st of August, 1834, aged 44 years. And also of his son, George Lawrance, who died the 2nd day of October, 1838, in the 11th year of his age.

And of his son, Charles, who died 4th March, 1863, aged 44 years. Also of Margaret Bisset, spouse of Charles Lawrance, senior, who died 4th March, 1869, aged 81 years. Also of Christina Scott, wife of Charles Lawrance, jun., who died 26th April, 1889, aged 65 years.

(3).

C. L.

M. B.

To the memory of James Mitchell, son of Thomas Lawrance, jun., who died 2nd November, 1846, in the 3rd year of his age.

Also of the said Thomas Lawrance, who died 6th May, 1889, aged 72 years. Also of his spouse, Isabella Mitchell, who died 15th October, 1895, aged 77. Also Christian (Bisset) Lawrance Smith, who died 5th April, 1899, aged 78.

The immediate progenitor of this branch was Thomas Lawrance, farmer, Cairnchina, Lonmay, and some time in Invernettie, Peterhead, born before 1742. He was a successful farmer, and a pioneer in the introduction of implements calculated to simplify labour. He is referred to in a brochure, "The Life and Times of William Johnston, Horticultural Chemist, Peterhead." He and his wife, Isobel Reid, had a family of four sons and two daughters, of whom was George Lawrance, farmer, Reidbog, Strichen, who married Anne Blake. Of their family, Isabella married, in 1832, Robert Shaw, some time messenger-at-arms, Aberdeen, son of Shaw M'Shaw, said to be a descendant of Shaw of Rothiemurchus. Of their family were Alexander William, John Milne, advocate, who died 17th February, 1904; Elizabeth (died 1878, first wife of Professor Thomas Kyd, M.A., Marischal College, 1848, who died at Bulawayo, South Africa, survived by a family); Shaw Robert Warrender, an enthusiastic member of the Aberdeen City Rifle Volunteers, from which he retired with the honorary rank of major; Thomas Lawrance, sheriff officer, who died May, 1902; and Isabella, who was married to Alexander

Henderson, army captain and Civil Commissioner, Murraysburgh, Cape Town.

The first-mentioned Thomas Lawrance, who died without issue, leaving considerable means, was a draper and ship chandler. He founded a mortification for the benefit of the Poores' School connected with the Academy of Peterhead. (Peterhead Almanac, 1864, p. 56.) His brother, Charles, and his wife, Margaret Bisset (daughter of Robert Bisset, Ardlaw), had five sons and three daughters. (See Pedigree of the Bissets of Ardlaw and Inchdruer, by Mr John Christie, Edinburgh.)

The following further notes are extracted from the Murdoch-Lawrance MS.—

(1). Jean Lawrance (born 3rd February, 1815; died 1896), married Captain Charles Boyd, and had an only son, Charles Lawrance Boyd, born Peterhead, 27th April, 1840; he married in 1869, Elizabeth Tell, with issue.

(2). Thomas Lawrance (died at Aberdeen 6th May, 1889) succeeded George Wallace, bank agent, Fraserburgh, as registrar and poor inspector 22nd December, 1863. He married Isabella Mitchell, second daughter of James Mitchell, of Peterhead; of their sons were Robert Bisset Lawrance, who died at his estate of Balmoral, Ceylon, 1888, married Annie M'Leod (they had three of a family, Robert Clyde, an officer in the army; Norman, and Isabella, who died 15 May, 1904); William, who died young; Thomas James of Kingswood, Wallington, Surrey, who married Christian M'Culloch; and James Mitchell, who died in infancy.

(3). William Lawrance, merchant (1817-1896), who died at St Kilda, Melbourne, married Mary Watson, eldest daughter of James Watson, farmer, Netherton, Crimond, and of their family, Mary Jane Watson married Francis de Boulay, and James Watson Lawrance is a captain in the Australian Merchant Service.

(4). Charles Lawrance (1819-1863) and his wife, Christina Scott, had a family of ten, of whom the eldest son, Captain Charles Scott Lawrance,

purchased the property of Flete, Melbourne. He died 23rd September, 1904; and was well known as the captain of the "Thyatira," Aberdeen Line. His brother, Captain Robert Scott Lawrance (section 1), married on 19th June, 1877, Mary Ann Murdoch, daughter of Robert Murdoch, farmer, Craigielea, Strathdon, and his wife, Isabella Brodie. (See Glenbuchat.) Their family consisted of two daughters and one son—Ida Mary, Louisa Mary, and Robert Murdoch—the last named being the only male representative of the branch now resident in Aberdeenshire. The brothers of Captain Robert Scott Lawrance were all connected with the sea. Of these, Thomas was chief carpenter of the "Aristides," of the Aberdeen Line, which was lost in December, 1903; while George and Francis Taylor are chief engineers in the service of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Rangoon, and the West Australian Steam Navigation Company, Singapore, respectively. Their only sister, Margaret Bisset resides at Norseman, Western Australia.

(5). Christian Bisset Lawrance-Smith, mentioned in the last inscription, had with other children who died young, Margaret Bisset Lawrance-Smith, who married James Chessor, farmer, Craigiebanks, Fraserburgh; and Jane Ann, who married ex-Baillie Alexander Wood, Peterhead, whose second son, William, is M.B. and Ch.B.

(6). James Lawrance (1822-1872) married Mary Gemmel Macleod, and among their family is Annie Elfida, wife of Weyman Dickson, ship-builder, Middlesbrough.

(7). Elizabeth Lawrance (1825-1896) married Captain James Lowrie, long in the Australian shipping trade. He died at Sydney in 1836, survived by two sons and a daughter—James, William, and Mary.

A wall monument having at each side the representation of a lighthouse, etc., is inscribed—

John Reid, builder, Peterhead, to his spouse, Janet Reid. Born 19th January, 1790; died 29th March, 1825. What a wife should be; so indeed was she.

John Reid, the first principal light-keeper of the Bell Rock, died 12th December, 1843, aged 90 years; and his brother, Alexander Reid, the

first principal light-keeper, Island Glass, died 19th January, 1835, aged 79 years. . . .

A small tablestone beside the west entrance gate is inscribed—

This stone is hear to the memory of my 6 children—5 died in the year 1791, and now it covers the head of my loving husband and their loving father, Thomas Wildgoos, some time weaver in Peterhead, who died the 2nd of October, 1800, aged 60 years. I. C.

The following is a sketch of a wall tablet, which measures 19 by 27½ inches. The inscription is a curiosity, alike in form, composition, and the amount of information it conveys in such limited space—

DEPARTED AFTER CHRIST		I ROBERT FERGUSON HAVE CUT THIS STONE IN OBEDIENCE TO THE DIVINE COMMAND IN HONOURING MY DEAR FATHER & MOTHER VIZ	AGED	
	1800.21	GEORGE FERGUSON		82
		AND		
	1781.26	BARBARA SALMON		67
	1770	THEIR FIRST SON CHARLES		21
	1754	THEIR THIRD SON JOHN		34
	1785	AND ANNE THE DAUGHTER OF ME THEIR FOURTH & YOUNGEST SON ROBERT		1
		MY MOTHER'S MOTHER		
	1760	GRIZAL DUNCAND		80
	1761	OUR FRIEND MARJORY		80
	N.B THREE GRAVES ARE OURS. THIS IS THE MID ONE			

A headstone near the east gate is inscribed—

To the memory of Mrs Isabella Milne, spouse of the late Alexander Leslie, Esq., of Wartle, who died at Peterhead, 20th Ju., 1818, aged 65 years.

The above-mentioned Alexander Leslie, ninth laird of Warthill, was the third son of Alexander Leslie of Warthill, and his



wife, Helen, only daughter of George Seton of Mounie. His wife, Isabella Milne, belonged to the Fraserburgh district. He died on 16th January, 1799, leaving no family, and was succeeded by his nephew, William Leslie of Folla. (See Folla-Rule.)

A tombstone has a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Pray ye faithful for the Rev. Donald Carmichael. Born in 1782, he was ordained in 1808, and after discharging with the greatest assiduity the office of a good priest in different places for 46 years, he piously died pastor of the Catholic flock in this town, 18th September, 1854. May he rest in peace! Amen.

Rev. Donald Carmichael was born in the parish of Weem, Perthshire, in May, 1782. On 8th April, 1795, he entered the clerical seminary at Scaln, Glenlivet, with a view to studying for the priesthood. In 1799, the seminary was transferred to Aquhorties, near Inverurie, and there Mr Carmichael completed his studies. On 13th September, 1808, he was ordained priest by Bishop Cameron, Vicar Apostolic of the lowland district of Scotland. For twenty-nine years thereafter, he served the mission of Strathavon, in Banffshire. In 1837, he was appointed Procurator of Blairs College, with the charge of its temporalities—an office which he resigned in 1852 on account of failing health. He subsequently, for a year, took charge of the mission of Ballogie, and then removed to Peterhead, where he died as above.

The three following inscriptions furnish particulars of an unusual character—

## (1).

To the memory of Elizabeth Murdoch, wife of George Haddon, sometime Feuar in Peterhead. She died 7th of February, 1785, aged 83. Also, the aforesaid George Haddon, who died 25th of April, 1787, aged 87 years. Also, of their grandson, George Milne, Teacher of

Navigation and Nautical Astronomy in Peterhead. Ho was born in the year of our Lord 1770, and departed this life the 18th of March, 1811. He was a man of truly scientific genius, and eminently qualified, from his universal good conduct through life and his death were (sic.) sincerely regretted by all who knew him.

He's gone to view Eternity's vast space.

And make discoveries in his Saviour's face.

Also, his mother, Margaret Haddon, who died 25th of June, 1814, aged 75 years.

## (2).

Erected by James and Elizabeth Allan, in memory of their affectionate son, John Allan, who died the 5th October, 1856, aged 21 years. He lived esteemed and died regretted by a large circle of admiring friends and acquaintances. The appreciation of his talents and early acquirements, his honest and fearless advocacy of the rights of the community as conductor and editor of the "Peterhead Sentinel," will cause his townsmen ever to revere his memory and deplore his early death.

Also of the above James Allan, who died 18th July, 1869, aged 66 years. And of their son, James Allan, shipmaster, who died at Sydney on 14th April, 1873, aged 42 years. And of the above-named Elizabeth Allan, died 27th July, 1874, aged 68 years.

## (3).

Sacred to the memory of Rev. George Robb Sim, M.A., Free Church Probationer, who died 12th March, 1866, aged 35 years. He declined a unanimous call to the Free Church of Alva. He was seized with his last illness in the Free Manse of Portsoy, while on his way to preach on the short leet in the Free Church, Aberdour, Fifeshire. Scarcely had the Sabbath closed on which he was to have preached there when he was called to the higher services of the Sanctuary above.

Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

Also, in memory of his father, John Sim, mason, who died 2nd March, 1884, aged 77 years. And Barbara Robb, wife of John Sim, and mother of the above, who died 28th April, 1884, aged 74 years.

A headstone bears—

Erected by W. S. in memory of Peter Still,

author of "The Cottar's Sunday" and other poems, who died March 21st, 1848, aged 34 years 2 months 21 days. Also Grace, his daughter, who died September 29th, 1847, aged 1 year 7 months 3 days.

O what is life? A passing dream,  
Man like the grass does fade and die;  
His time is short—death calls him home  
To an eternal destiny.

Peter Still was the son of a small farmer in the parish of Fraserburgh, whom reverse of fortune compelled to take to manual labour. He received a limited education at the parish school of Longside; and, while still a boy, was sent to farm service. He married in his twentieth year, and thereafter wrought as a day labourer. Constitutionally delicate, he was frequently, for months together, laid aside by illness. On those occasions, when strength permitted, he composed verses which appeared in three separate publications. His last work, "The Cottar's Sunday, and Other Poems," was published in 1845. An excellent sketch of his career appears in Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord" (pp. 481-500).

A headstone against the west wall is inscribed—

Erected by James Mathew, cooper, in memory of his son, James, who died the 10th of February, 1857, aged 19 years. Also, his son, Alexander, who died the 1st of April, 1846, aged 5 years. Also his son, Alexander, who died at Melbourne 6th June, 1885, aged 38 years. Also his beloved wife, Christian Willox, who died 26th March, 1886, aged 72 years.

Also, of the above James Mathew, who died 29th September, 1894, aged 82 years.

"I have fought a good fight."

Beside the grave with the above headstone inscription two other families bearing the same surname have their burying ground. They are not known to

be related, although it is probable that they sprang from the same parent stock.

The above James Mathew was a nephew of Margaret Mathew (mentioned under St Fergus), wife of Peter Buchan, of Scottish Ballad fame, and was also a cousin of the late Rev. Dr Buchan, Fordoun. The eldest son, James, was an accountant in the City of Glasgow Bank, and served in that capacity both at Old Deer and Rothies. His death, at the early age of 19, terminated a career of much promise. Alexander, who died at Melbourne 6th June, 1885, was a ship carpenter. Three members of the family still survive—Mary (widow of Captain William Milne, Aberdeen), John, and Robert.

A tablestone is inscribed—

To the memory of John Burd, merchant, Peterhead, who through a long course of more than 50 years, in various branches of mercantile business, always retained the character of an honest man, and by the blessing of God, upon his strict probity and unweary'd application, was enabled to bring up a family of twelve children. This grateful mark of dutiful remembrance is laid over the bed of dust where his aged body now sleeps in faith and hope of a joyful resurrection.

Dyed December 10, 1792, aged 73.

In silent grave our cares and labour cease;  
O, may it be to us a bed of peace.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies in hopes of a blessed resurrection

Until the time that Christ shall say  
Arise, ye dead, and Come Away,

James Rhind, sometime farmer in Boggfehle of Udney, who departed this life 13th day of October, 1790, in the 85th year of his age.

A second monument at the same grave also commemorates the said James Rhind and William Rhind, baker in Peterhead, who died 10th February, 1831, in the 87th year of his age. His spouse, Sarah Clark, died 28th February, 1803, aged 66 years.

These Rhinds were descendants of the family bearing that surname who were long tenants in Dalweary, Kintore. (See Kintore.)

The two following inscriptions from monuments are to the memories of persons who were encouraged to go to Peterhead for a course of the baths and mineral waters—

(1).

Here lies buried Margaret Gulzean, a young Lady who, in her conduct through a short life did credit to her relations, and was justly esteemed by all her acquaintances. She was born at Elgin, the 6th day of October, 1760, and resided the last three years of her life in London with her brother Robert Gulzean, merchant, there, but becoming consumptive was advised to return to her native air, which, not succeeding on her return from England, she died at Peterhead, the 1st day of August, 1767, with perfect resignation to the will of her Creator.

(2).

To the memory of Elisabeth Coombs, daughter of Thomas and Elisabeth Hall of Arborfield, near Reding, Berkshire, England, who died 1st October, 1805, aged 36 years.

A headstone near the Bell Tower has the following inscription—

Erected by James Angus, shoemaker in Peterhead, in memory of his father, Alexander Angus, who died 31st December, 1834, aged 61 years. Also his wife, Mary Youngson, who died 24th Sept., 1836, aged 65 years. Also of Ann Milne, wife of the above James Angus, who died at East Grange, the 10th of April, 1870, aged 47 years.

Dear friends, remember when I'm gone.  
And for their work they may be known,  
By whose advice I was advis'd  
My life has now been sacrificed.

James Angus formed the utterly groundless opinion that his wife had not been properly treated by her medical attendant. He foolishly gave effect to his feelings in the above extraordinary verse, which ought

not to have been allowed upon any monument.

A tablestone near the centre of the graveyard shows various emblems, arms, scroll, and the initials I. M. and B. M. The following is the inscription—

Here lyeis ane discreit man Iames Ramsay, who departed of this lyfe the 18 of March, 1656.

A tablestone which displays sundry emblems, including a seal, is inscribed—

Here lyes the . . . Henderson, sometyne Merchant in Inverness, who departed this lyfe the 25 day of August, 1705. Fugit Hora. His life was a letter, full of piety and virtue, whereof death is the seal.

According to the Jervise MS., there is in the graveyard a very old stone with traces of a coat of arms, the initials R. M., and the following epitaph—

Here lyes a man of ancient stock and fame,  
Stout Captain Martyn of Clerkhill by name,  
He famous was and more in estimation  
Than many such who were within the nation.  
The just . . . morial sal eternal be,  
It never rots, it's like the cedar tree.

He departed this lyf July 31, 1657. . . . .

Here lyes their children, Jean, William, Marie, and George Martyn.

#### THE FAMILY OF ARBUTHNOT.

Particulars of the earlier history of the Arbuthnots of Buchan have already appeared under St Fergus, but it may be proper to add that their progenitors, John, Robert, and Alexander Arbuthnot, were sons of Robert Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott, and his second wife, Christian, daughter of Robert, Lord Keith, son of William, third Earl Marischal. They were well provided for—John getting the lands of Mondynes, while Robert and Alexander had between them Pitcarles and Auchterforfar, all of which were sold prior to their settling in Buchan in 1560.



Robert Arbuthnot (son of Robert Arbuthnot and Beatrix Gordon, who are commemorated by a mural tablet inscription at St Fergus), who was a farmer in various parts of Aberdeenshire, was survived by a son, John, who settled at Newseat, St Fergus. He had three sons—Robert, first of Haddo; Thomas, merchant in Peterhead, born 1702; and Andrew, ship captain and shipowner in Peterhead. Of these sons, the eldest, Robert, is commemorated by a handsome monument in Peterhead graveyard. It bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

To God the Best and Greatest, and to Robert Arbuthnot of Haddo, near Peterhead, in Buchan, who was born 29th September, 1695, and died 15th September, 1756, a most prudent, pious, and most indulgent father, a man of a mild and amiable disposition, and of a simple humane and kind heart, his deeply sorrowing wife and son erected this monument.

Robert Arbuthnot was a successful merchant in Peterhead, and purchased the estate of Haddo. He married Mary Petrie, by whom, and a son, Robert, he was survived. There were also three daughters, one of whom married Dr David Wilson, Peterhead, and another Mr Fraser, Mains of Inverugie.

Robert Arbuthnot, who was associated with his mother in erecting the above-mentioned monument, was for some time a merchant in Peterhead, but removed to Edinburgh, where he became secretary to the Board of Trustees for the encouragement of the manufactures and fisheries of Scotland. He married Mary, daughter of John Urquhart of Craigston; and of their family, Robert was for a time Government Secretary of Ceylon; John was a captain in the Royal Artillery; while William was twice Lord Provost of Edinburgh, being created a baronet by King George IV., in person, 24th August, 1822,

on the occasion of a banquet given to His Majesty by the municipality of Edinburgh.

Thomas Arbuthnot, merchant and landowner in Peterhead, married Jane, eldest daughter of Baillie Thomas Arbuthnot. Of their family, Robert died unmarried; Mary became the wife of Mr Leslie, Aberdeen; whilst Eliza married Mr Mackie, Peterhead. The eldest son, James, is commemorated in the following inscription—

Here are deposited the remains of Catharine Cumine, daughter of George Cumine, Esq., of Pitully, wife of James Arbuthnot, Esq., of Dens, merchant in Peterhead. Born 22nd February, 1752; died 6th November, 1787, aged 35 years. And the remains of their eldest son, Thomas Arbuthnot; born 3rd December, 1775; died 4th August, 1800, aged 24 years. Also here are deposited the remains of the said James Arbuthnot, Esq. of Dens; born 23rd August, 1741; died 19th March, 1823, aged 82.

This tablet has been erected by George, William, and Robert Arbuthnot, sons and brothers of the deceased, as a mark of their affection to them while living, and from respect to the memory of parents and a brother so deservedly dear to them.

James Arbuthnot of Dens was a merchant and shipowner in Peterhead, as well as an extensive whale, salmon, and herring fishery proprietor. Of his family, the eldest son, Thomas, died unmarried as above; George, born 1777, became proprietor of Invernettie; William, born 1779, succeeded to Dens; and Robert, born 5th November, 1783, became proprietor of Mount Pleasant.

The above-mentioned George Arbuthnot was for a time a cotton manufacturer in Glasgow, but subsequently became a merchant and shipowner in Peterhead. He was the first Provost of Peterhead after the passing of the Reform Act. He purchased the estate of Invernettie, and married Mary, eldest daughter of John Hutchison of Cairngall. Of their family were James, born 1821; John, who died

1855; William, who still survives; and three daughters—Eliza, who married George Gilbert Anderson, solicitor, Peterhead, and died 1845; Catharine, born 1819, died 1836; and Sibella, born 1825, died 23th November, 1854.

In a railed enclosure is a granite table-stone inscribed—

Erected to the memory of William Arbuthnot of Dens, who died 4th January, 1867, aged 83; Susan Marshall, his spouse, who died 12th July, 1859, aged 68; and William Arbuthnot, their son, who died 27th December, 1837, aged 9.

William Arbuthnot was the third son of James Arbuthnot of Dens above mentioned. On succeeding to that property, he greatly improved it—purchasing the contiguous property of Downiehills. In 1811, he married Susan, daughter of John Marshall, master in the Royal Navy. Besides the son William mentioned in the inscription, they had a family of three sons and five daughters—James, born 1816; John, born 1818, died in Ceylon in 1849; George, born 1831, died at Natal, 31st July, 1856; Catherine, born 25th December, 1812, married John Hutchison of Monyruey, Longside, and died 25th January, 1856; Margaret, born 1814, married William Alexander of Springhill, long Provost of Peterhead, and died 23rd January, 1907; Mary, born 1819, married Alexander Nicoll, shipowner, and died 13th May, 1846; Susan, born 1821; and Nicola, born 1823, married in 1844 to John Ross of Arnage.

A headstone in a railed enclosure bears—

In memory of Robert Arbuthnot of Mount Pleasant, born 5th November, 1783; died 28th May, 1858. Nicola Arbuthnot, his wife, born 1787; died 28th November, 1860. Also their children, Thomas, born 1818; died 1830. George, born 1824; died at Calcutta, 1842. Thomas, born 1832; died 28th July, 1868. Jane, born 1813; died 28th April, 1837.

Catharine, born 1815; died 11th June, 1887. Robert, born 1816; died 27th June, 1892.

Robert Arbuthnot of Mount Pleasant and Ugie Bank, was the fourth son of James Arbuthnot and of his wife, Catharine Cumine, before mentioned. He was a corn merchant and whale fishery proprietor in Peterhead. In 1813, he married Nicola, eldest daughter of Thomas Arbuthnot, first of Kinmundry. They had a family of four sons and two daughters—Robert, born 1816, senior partner in the firm of Arbuthnot and M'Combie, who, in 1837, purchased and largely extended Culter Paper Mills. He died 29th June, 1892. Thomas, born 1816, died at Peterhead in 1830; George, born 1824, died at Calcutta in 1842; Thomas, the second of the same name, born 1832, died 24th July, 1868; Jane, born 1813, married (as his third wife) William Allardyce, wine merchant, Aberdeen; and Catharine, born 1815, who married Thomas M'Combie of Asleid and Richmond Hill, and died 20th June, 1887.

Alexander Arbuthnot, second son of Robert Arbuthnot, who was in Rora in 1560, accompanied the Earl Marischal on his mission as Ambassador to the Court of Denmark, in 1589, to arrange the marriage between James VI. and the Princess Anna. He subsequently settled in Rora, and married Janet Stewart, one of the Queen's Maids of Honour. They had a son, Alexander, who was also in Rora. He married Elizabeth Stewart, and they had a family of three sons and three daughters—Nathaniel in Auchlee; Andrew and Robert, both in Rora; Margaret (Mrs Scott); Janet (Mrs Dalgarno); and Grisel (Mrs John Hay in Savock).

Nathaniel Arbuthnot, who was in Auchlee, Longside, married Elspet Duncan, Inverveddie, and they had a family of twelve sons, of whom six attained to manhood—Thomas, Baillie of Peterhead;

Andrew, known as "Old Fortrie"; James, in Rora; Alexander, who went to London; John, in Inverugie; and Nathaniel, who died on the coast of Guinea.

On one of three monuments within an enclosure is the inscription—

Here are deposited the remains of Thomas Arbuthnot, some time Baillie of Peterhead, and of Christian Young, his spouse. He departed this life the XXIV. day of March, MDCCLXII., and of his age the LXXXI. She the VIII. day of February, MDCCXL., and of her age the LV. Also the remains of James Arbuthnot, their eldest son, who died 7th of April, 1783, aged 73 years. And of John Arbuthnot, youngest son of James, who died 13th of April, 1786, aged 26 years.

Thomas Arbuthnot was the eldest son of the above-mentioned Nathaniel Arbuthnot. He was a merchant in Peterhead, factor for Earl Marischal, and Baillie on the barony of Peterhead. From his long tenure of the last appointment, he became known as "The Old Baillie." An enthusiastic Jacobite, he zealously assisted the Chevalier when he landed at Peterhead on 25th December, 1715, not only arranging for his being safely lodged in the Longate, but securing the visits of Earl Marischal and other friends. On the collapse of the movement and the forfeiture of the Marischal estates, his services as local factor and Baron-Baillie were retained. In the '45 rising, he gave active support to Prince Charles, and his name appears in the list of rebels subsequently published. He is there stated as having "Accepted a factory from the rebels of the estate Marshall forfeited in the year 1715, by virtue whereof he called in the tennants and uplifted some of the farms for the rebels, and exerted himself to the utmost of his power in that service." His wife, Christian Young, was a daughter of William Young, merchant, Peterhead. They had a family of two sons who reached

manhood, and five daughters—James, referred to in the foregoing inscription; Thomas, ship captain. [In the list of rebels, he is designed as "sailor," and is stated to have gone "out into the Rebellion, 1st October, 1745." As a lieutenant he fought in the Prince's army at Culloden]; Jane, who married Thomas Arbuthnot; Christian, who married Captain Fraser; Margaret, who married Bishop Robert Kilgour; Anne, who became the wife of William Scott; and Isabella, who married Captain Ferguson.

James Arbuthnot, the eldest son, was a merchant in Peterhead. He married, first, Elizabeth Gordon of Barnes, and they had a family of three sons and two daughters—Thomas, first of Inverveddie and Nether Kinmundy; James, and Charles James, who both died in infancy; Margaret, and Christian. Mr Arbuthnot married, secondly, Mary Balfour; and their family consisted of two sons and two daughters—James, who died at the age of 17; and John, thread manufacturer, Peterhead (he died unmarried 13th April, 1786); Mary, who married William Scott, junior, Peterhead; and Anne, who died unmarried.

Thomas Arbuthnot, eldest son of James Arbuthnot, senior, was a merchant and shipowner in Peterhead. He purchased the estate of Nether Kinmundy, and married Jane Buchan of Auchmacoy. Of their family were—James, born 1791, but who was cognosed in 1811; Thomas, born 1795; John, born 1798, died 1830; and Alexander, born 1802, died 1809; Nicola, who married her cousin, Robert Arbuthnot of Mount Pleasant; and Elizabeth, who married Dr Macduff Cordiner, Madras.

Thomas Arbuthnot, second son of the above, was a merchant and shipowner in Peterhead, and for some time its Provost. He purchased part of the lands of Invernettie, as also Meethill, on which he resided.



A headstone bears—

Na. Arbuthnot, Esq., of Hatton, ob. 6 Oct., 1783, aged 81. Elizabeth Arbuthnot, died July 19, 1821, aged 80. Ann Arbuthnot, died 31st January, 1823, aged 77 years. Miss Marjory Arbuthnot, daughter to the said Nathaniel Arbuthnot of Hatton, died at Peterhead on the 4th day of May, 1824, aged 76 years.

Nathaniel Arbuthnot was the second son of Andrew Arbuthnot, and grandson of Alexander Arbuthnot in Rora. He married Elizabeth Fraser, heiress of Hatton, and through her succeeded to that property. They had a family of four sons and three daughters—James, born 1730; Andrew, born 1731; William, born 1748; Charles, born 1750; Sophia, Margaret, and Grace.

Robert Arbuthnot, third son of Alexander Arbuthnot of Rora, lived there, and married Elizabeth Duncan. They had a son, Thomas, and two daughters, one of whom — Elspet — married Captain Park, and was the mother of M. and G. Park, thread manufacturers, Peterhead.

In an enclosure are three separate monuments inscribed as follows—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Arbuthnot, son of Bailie Thomas Arbuthnot of Peterhead, who died 1st Dec., 1773, aged 46 years, and of Margaret, his spouse, daughter of James Arbuthnot of Rora, who died 16th August, 1816, aged 78 years. Of their infant daughter Margaret, who died 17th July, 1768, aged three months.

(2).

Of their son Thomas, who died at sea 29th December, 1790, in the 21st year of his age. And also of Thomas, merchant in Peterhead, brother of the above Margaret Arbuthnot, who died 8th April, 1820, aged 76 years.

(3).

Sacred to the memory of Adam Arbuthnot, merchant in Peterhead, born 22nd September, 1773, died 4th October, 1850.

Thomas Arbuthnot, son of Baillie Thomas Arbuthnot, after his military exploit at Culloden, before stated, went abroad, where he commanded his own ship in the West Indian and American trade. He ultimately settled as a shipowner in Peterhead, and married his cousin, Margaret Arbuthnot, eldest daughter of James Arbuthnot of Rora. Besides the three children named in the inscriptions, they had a son, James, and a daughter, Christian, who married Mr Gordon of Auchleuchries.

Adam Arbuthnot, the son, as above, was a very successful merchant and shipowner in Peterhead. He was a diligent collector of curiosities, which are now preserved in the Arbuthnot Museum, Peterhead.

A monument is—

To the memory of James Arbuthnot, Postmaster, Peterhead, who died 9th February, 1829, in the 62nd year of his age. And of Grace Buchan, his spouse, who died 16th February, 1818, aged 62 years.

James Arbuthnot, elder brother of the preceding Adam Arbuthnot, was a chemist and druggist as well as a postmaster in Peterhead. He was a generous, public-spirited citizen, constructing out of the solid rock at his own expense a spacious seawater bath, and a complete range of hot baths. He also took measures to advertise over the country the advantages to be derived from visiting Peterhead and taking a course of the baths. He is best known as the author of an interesting volume entitled "Historical Account of Peterhead." His wife, Grace Buchan, was a daughter of the laird of Auchmacoy. They had no family.

Thus, in brief detail, are enumerated the more important members of the Arbuthnot family, although, had the descents been continued, the list would have included The Right Hon. Charles

Arbuthnot, some time British Ambassador at the Porte, and a Commissioner of Woods and Forests; Sir Robert Arbuthnot and General Sir Thomas Arbuthnot, who were each made Knights of the Bath for their military services; Captain John Arbuthnot, who distinguished himself during the siege of Gibraltar; Lieutenant Andrew Arbuthnot, who was aide-de-camp to General Wolfe in the victorious battle of Quebec; Charles Arbuthnot (he and Dr John Arbuthnot are described in the "Scots Magazine" of June, 1820, as having been "the best classical scholars and mathematicians of their time"), who became Abbot and President of the Scots Monastery and College of St James' at Ratisbon; and Alexander Arbuthnot, who became Bishop of Killaloe and Kilmellick.

For three centuries, the various representatives played an important part in the proprietary, commercial, and social history of Peterhead and Buchan generally. Noted alike for fine stature, physique, and dignified bearing, their honourable conduct and warm-hearted friendship have left impressions which cannot soon be effaced.

[Many of the above particulars have been compiled from MS. Notes left by the late Robert Arbuthnot of Mount Pleasant, and obligingly furnished by Colonel Allardyce of Culquoich.]

#### FAMILIES OF SMITH, FERGUSON, HUTCHISON, AND BRUCE.

Within an enclosure is a tablestone, which displays sundry emblems and the following inscription—

Waiting a blessed resurrection, here lies the corpse of John Smith, tennant in Innerwhomrie, who departed this life, February 1746, aged —.

Here lie the remains of Alexander Ferguson, shipmaster in Peterhead, who departed this life A.D. MDCCLXX., in the 51st year of his age. Also, Elizabeth Clark, his spouse, who departed this life 17th April, 1805, aged 69.

Also, Robert Ferguson, their son, who died 10th March, 1780, in the 18th year of his age.

A second tablestone in the same enclosure bears—

Here are deposited, in hopes of a happy resurrection, the remains of Robert Ferguson, Litster in Peterhead, son to Iohn Ferguson, sometime merchant in Aberdeen. He died the X. day of December, in the year of our Lord MDCCXXIX., and in the xliii. of his age. And Iean Smith, his spouse, who died the 19th day of January, 1772, aged 77 years. And three daughters—Elizabeth, Margaret, and Ann Ferguson. All these died in infancy.

Also are deposited here William Ferguson, their son, shipmaster in Peterhead, who died 1st March, 1806, aged 84 years. And Isabella Arbuthnot, his spouse, who de— July, 1812, aged 87 years.

John Ferguson, merchant, Aberdeen, was a descendant of the old family of Ferguson of Crichton, etc. His son, Robert, who followed the business of a dyer in Peterhead, married Jean, daughter of John Smith, farmer, "Innerwhomrie." Their eldest son was Captain Alexander Ferguson, mentioned in the first inscription. Besides Robert, who died at the age of 18, he and his wife, Elizabeth Clark, had two other sons, William and James. The last-named became the captain of a West Indian ship. He married, and was survived by one daughter.

William Ferguson, the second son of Robert Ferguson and Jean Smith, married, 16th January, 1752, Isabella, daughter of Thomas Arbuthnot, merchant in, and Baron-Baillie of, Peterhead. He held the rank of captain in the navy, but resigned it in deference to his wife's Jacobite feelings. On the death of Prince Charles Edward, however, he re-entered the navy. He received the freedom of the towns of Montrose, Aberdeen, and Dundee. He was for some time captain of the Peterhead

Artillery Volunteers, and his prowess is shown by his having, when about 80 years of age, manned the guns and driven off from Peterhead a hostile privateer, which thereupon made for Aberdeen and put the city under contribution. (Records Clan Ferguson, pp. 288-89.) He erected and lived in "The Brae," which — along with its subsequent inmates — is referred to in "Summers and Winters at Balma-whapple," by John Skelton, C.B., already mentioned. Captain Ferguson and his wife had a family of three daughters — Jane, Margaret, and Christian. Jane, the eldest daughter, married James Hutchison, merchant and shipowner in Peterhead, son of Robert Hutchison (his forebears belonged to Fifeshire), who settled in Peterhead, and commenced the Greenland whale fishing with the ship "Robert." They had a family of two sons and four daughters. One of the sons is commemorated by the following inscription on a marble tablet fixed into the side of an obelisk in the same enclosure —

Here rest the mortal remains of James Hutchison, late merchant in Peterhead, and of Anne Thom, his wife. She departed this life on the 8th of March, 1834, aged 33, and he on the 23rd of April, 1835, aged 44. Also of their children—James, who died on the 2nd November, 1823, aged 8 months, and Alexander, who died on the 12th December, 1830, aged one month.

James Hutchison (son of James Hutchison, sometime Treasurer of Peterhead, and captain of its Volunteer Artillery Company), who was proprietor of Richmond Hill, married Anne, daughter of James Thom, sometime merchant in Halifax, Nova Scotia, afterwards resident in Albyn Place, Aberdeen. (For an account of the Thom family see the Dingwall For-dyce Family Record.) Besides the children mentioned in the above and the following inscription, they had three sons—William,

born 1824, sometime an officer in the 24th Bombay Native Infantry, who died in 1880; James who was for sometime in Australia and New Zealand; and Thomas, of the National Debt Office, afterwards of Ingleside, West Cults, and Richmond Hill, Peterhead (died 12th January, 1907, aged 75), who married Nicola, only daughter of Thomas M'Combie of Asleid and Richmond Hill, near Aberdeen, and his wife, Catherine, daughter of Robert Arbuthnot of Mount Pleasant. Mr Hutchison and his wife possessed many valuable family heirlooms, including a piece of the plaid of Prince Charles Edward, and a massive diamond ring, which was presented to an ancestor, Colonel Gordon of Barnes, by James II., to whom he acted as gentleman-in-waiting. When the King fled from Whitehall, Colonel Gordon carried the infant Prince on board the barge.

A separate side of the obelisk bears—

(1).

The resting place of Rachel Hutchison, daughter of James Hutchison of Richmond. She fell asleep Jan. xii., MDCCCLXV., aged xxxix. "To be with Christ, which is far better."

Rachel Hutchison died unmarried as above. Her sister Jane married Captain Colin Campbell Abercromby Kane, R.N., whose mother was a daughter of Campbell of Melfort, Argyleshire.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Bruce, supervisor of Inland Revenue, who died at Oldmeldrum, 17th November, 1830, aged 69; and his spouse Margaret Ferguson, who died at Peterhead 28th April, 1820, aged 59, both of whom are interred here. And of Isabella, their only daughter, who died at Forres, 15th May, 1804, aged 9 years, and is interred there.

In memory of his Grandfather, William Ferguson, born 1722, died 1806; of his Grandmother, Isabella Arbuthnot, born 1725, died 1812, and of his aunt, Christian Ferguson, daughter of the above, born 1764, died 1853,



this tablet is gratefully and affectionately inscribed by William Bruce, M.D., R.N., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleets.

Alexander Bruce married Margaret, second daughter of the above Captain William Ferguson, and his wife, Isabella Arbuthnot. Besides the above-mentioned daughter, Isabella, they had four sons, of whom James, Alexander, and Fergus entered the Excise. The eldest son, William, is referred to in the above and in the following inscription on the same obelisk—

Jane, wife of William Bruce, M.D., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleets, and daughter of James Hutchison, Peterhead, died at Dunimarle House, Culross, December 4, 1875, aged 79 years, and is buried here.

Margaret, their daughter, died at H.M. Dockyard, Deptford, Nov. 4, 1852, aged 26 years, and is buried at Nunhead Cemetery, London. Robert Fergus, third son, Commander of R.M.S. *Essequibo*, died at sea, August 21st, 1873, aged 37 years.

William Bruce, R.N., Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, born at Peterhead, 9th Decr., 1793, died at Dunimarle House, Culross, 15th January, 1879. . . .

William Bruce, M.D., was surgeon of the ship which conveyed Queen Adelaide on her trip to the Mediterranean. He was beloved by the sailors, who gave him the title of "Old Benevolence." He married his cousin, Jane Hutchison; and, besides Margaret and Robert Fergus, who are commemorated in the above inscription, they had four children—William, Barbara, Christian, and Erskine Hay. The eldest—William, B.D. (Cantab)—is well known as Canon Bruce, of St Serf's Episcopal Chapel, Dunimarle, near Culross.

A monument bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Here lies interred all that was mortal of Elizabeth Park, the dearly beloved wife of

Alexander Ferguson, shipmaster, Peterhead, who was cut off by a premature death on the Feast of the Holy Apostles Simon and Jude, in the year of Christ, 1735, at the age of 23. Her surviving and disconsolate husband caused this monument to be erected to testify to the present and to future ages, the sincere and merited affection with which he ever regarded her.

Alexander Ferguson probably belonged to the family of Ferguson of Crichtie.

#### PROVOST WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

A railed enclosure has a monument inscribed—

In memory of George Anderson, who died 15th August, 1842, in infancy; Gilbert James, who died 18th April, 1852, aged 18, both sons of William Alexander of Springhill, solicitor in Peterhead, and Provost of the burgh for nearly 25 years. Also in memory of the said William Alexander, who died on the 19th April, 1885, aged 83.

William Alexander was the youngest son of Gilbert Alexander, tanner, Peterhead. After being educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and trained in law, he commenced business in 1825 as a solicitor in Peterhead. He speedily established an excellent practice, and in 1836 was appointed agent for the North of Scotland Bank. In 1833, he was elected town clerk—an office which he retained for twenty-seven years, and resigned in 1860 with the view of being elevated to the provostship. As Provost, he was appointed on eight successive occasions, and his tenure of the office extended for upwards of twenty years. He married Margaret, second daughter of William Arbuthnot of Dens, who died at Whitehill 23rd January, 1907, aged 92. During the later years of his life, his business (it embraced many valuable factorships) was conducted under the title of W. and W. A. Alexander, the partner being his son,

William Arbutnot. The latter died 17th July, 1885, and his wife, Margaret Stephen, died 19th June, 1888. George Erskine, their second son, died 9th October, 1879, aged 4 years.

A headstone in an enclosure is inscribed—

Erected by William Hacket, baker in Peterhead, in memory of his daughter, Mary Anne, who died 28th July, 1864, aged 1 year and 10 months. And of his son, A. R. Hacket, journalist, who died 27th November, 1889, aged 30 years. And of his daughter Christian, who died 5th December, 1891, aged 27 years. Also inscribed to the memory of the said William Hacket, baker, who died 9th March, 1892, aged 55 years.

William Hacket, who was a native of Macduff, had three sons, of whom the second—William—is now manager of the "Buchan Observer" Printing Works, Peterhead, while the third son—Robert—is chief reporter to the "New Zealand Herald." The eldest son—Alexander R. Hacket—who possessed brilliant literary talents, was for eight years editor of the "Peterhead Sentinel." He was a keen admirer of the works of Robert Louis Stevenson, and, before the talents of that writer were generally known, secured written permission to publish some of his works. Mr Hacket's death, from consumption, at the early age of 30, was much deplored, many newspapers paying a high tribute to his memory, while Mr John Fullerton ("Wild Rose") expressed his regret in a beautiful poem.

A headstone bears—

Erected by Jean Williamson in memory of her much lamented husband, James Clark, who died at Greenland, the 26th July, 1847, aged 46 years, and was interred here.

In a railed enclosure is an obelisk, into which a marble tablet is fixed, with the following inscription—

Erected by David Gray, shipmaster, in

memory of his daughter, Eliza, who died 17th October, 1825, aged 9 years.

Also of Jacob Johanes, a native of West Greenland, who died 21st March, 1826, aged 15 years.

Also his son, David, aged 21 years; and Robert, aged 17 years, who died at sea 3rd June, 1827; and his son, George, who died at Hamburg, 22nd May, 1833, aged 23 years. Also the aforesaid David Gray, who died 1st July, 1833, aged 57 years. Also his spouse, Lilly Cowan, who died 16th January, 1844, aged 71 years.

A second tablet in the same obelisk commemorates John Gray, shipmaster, who died at sea, 11th August, 1856, aged 51; also his wife, Barbara Geary, who died 14th June, 1882, aged 79 years. The well-known Captains David, John, and Alex. Gray were descendants.

Jacob Johanes was an Esquimaux, who was brought home for a season by Captain Gray. Others of the same tribe followed from Cumberland Gulf, including Capacia, Bulligaa, and Jesuine and his wife. After spending a winter in Peterhead, all returned safely to their native icy regions, excepting Johanes and Jesuine's wife (re-named Mary), who unfortunately died, and were buried in the old churchyard.

In the chancel of the old church is a beautifully-carved tablestone, bearing a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Here rests in the Lord, Bessie King, who died 8th July, 1615, in the . . . first year of her age.

Thine own death and the death of Christ, the world's deceitfulness; Heaven's glory, and the pains of hell should by thee pondered be.

Among other emblems sculptured on the stone are a skull and cross-bones, also a coat of arms showing that Bessie King was descended from a cadet of the old family of King of Bourtie and Barra, an impalement appearing with the arms of the family of Ord. Around the arms, in large letters,

are the initials M. W. O. and B. K., doubtless intended to represent Mr William Ord and his wife Bessie King. An illustration of the stone, together with an excellent article upon it from the pen of the late Colonel William Ross King of Tertowie, appears in "Scottish Notes and Queries" for September, 1889.

A tablestone bears—

Sacred to the memory of Andrew Sims, Esq., formerly of Jamaica, who died at Peterhead on the 9th day of February, 1803; also, Amelia Sims, wife of William Gray, surgeon, and daughter of the above, who died on the 10th of November, 1825, aged 31 years.

Amelia Isabella Sims, daughter of Lieutenant Andrew Sims, R.N., who died on the 13th day of July, 1839, aged 14 years.

A tombstone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Amelia, wife of Andrew Sims, Esq., and daughter of William Abernethie, Esq., of Crimonmogate, who departed this life on the 12th of November, 1848, in the 96th year of her age.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by Margaret Moore in memory of her husband James Hogg, shipmaster, Peterhead, aged 55 years, who was lost in the North Harbour in the awful storm of 10th January, 1849, when so many were swept off the pier and perished.

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it."

A headstone records that James Robertson, weaver, and other fourteen persons lost their lives at the same time. Full particulars regarding the tidal wave which caused such a melancholy loss of life will be found in Pratt's Buchan (revised edition, 1901), pp. 91-92.

A wall-monument is inscribed—

Thos Forbes ob 23rd February 1751, æ 68, and  
. . . Lpt Arbuthnot . . . an . . . 5.

Thomas Forbes was a vintner in Peterhead, and through his marriage connection with the Arbuthnots was induced to join

the '45 Rebellion. In the list of "Rebels" subsequently published, he is stated to have "joined the rebel army at Edinburgh."

A monument has the following eulogistic inscription—

In memory of Robert Dunbar, factor to the late Alex. Garden of Troup, who died at Peterhead, 18th January, 1802, in the 83rd year of his age; of Anna Dunbar, his youngest daughter, who died 18th March thereafter, in the prime of life; and of Ann Garden, his spouse, who died 9th August of same year, aged 69, all whose honoured remains lie here side by side in the order of their names, running eastward. This humble monument to record the silent, but not less exemplary merits of an honest man, an affectionate husband and tender parent, of a virtuous woman and a laborious wife, and of a daughter endeared to them by the warmest ties of nature and reason, and whose memory, with that of her parents, will be for ever dear to those of her surviving relatives, is erected with the truest filial and fraternal veneration by Robert and Garden Dunbar.

Robert Dunbar was held in much esteem by the Garden family. Alexander Garden, for whom he acted as factor on the estate of Troup, was Member of Parliament for Aberdeenshire from 1768 till his death in 1785, being considered the wealthiest commoner in the North of Scotland.

The following is an abridged inscription from a marble tablet fixed into a freestone monument—

Sacred to the memory of the Reverend William Laing, M.D., for more than forty years minister of St Peter's Episcopal Chapel in Peterhead, born xxix. March MDCCXLII., died xvii June MDCCCXII; and of Jean Hutcheon, his wife, born v January MDCCXLII., died 8th January MDCCCXIII.

Rev. William Laing was the son of William Laing, Fraserburgh, and graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1766, receiving also the degree of M.D. on 11th November, 1782. He was undermaster of



the Grammar School, Aberdeen, in 1770, and was ordained shortly afterwards by Bishop Trail to minister to the "English" or Qualified Episcopalians—i.e., those who prayed for King George instead of "the King over the water." Of his family, a son, William, graduated M.D. at Marischal College 1824, and was for many years a medical practitioner in Aberdeen.

REV. GILBERT RORISON, LL.D.

A later distinguished incumbent of the same church was Rev. Gilbert Rorison, LL.D., a descendant of a family who for several centuries were settled at Ardoch, in Glenkens. He was the only son of John Rorison, merchant, Glasgow, and of his wife, Isabella Neilson, daughter of Frank Neilson, surgeon, Glasgow, being born at Gourrock, 4th February, 1819. Left an orphan in childhood, he was brought up by his aged grandfather, and educated at Glasgow University. After qualifying for the Episcopal Church, he was ordained by Rev. Dr Michael Russell at Leith in 1842, and was for two years thereafter curate of St James's, Leith. He then became assistant to Bishop Torry, and was subsequently incumbent of St Peter's, Peterhead, until his death, which occurred at Mine House, Bridge of Allan, 11th October, 1869. He married Anna, daughter of Duncan Sinclair, Inverawe House, Argyleshire; and of their sons, William was a brilliant Oxford scholar, while Vincent Lewis, M.A., D.D., is the well-known Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, and Dean of the Diocese of St Andrews. Of their two grandsons, one—Rev. Harry Grey Rorison, B.A. (Oxon.)—is chaplain of H.M.S. "Cornwallis"; and the other is a lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry, and served in the recent South African war.

Rev. Dr Rorison was a voluminous writer to periodicals—"Hogg's Instruc-

tor," etc.—and early developed a remarkable style. He drew up a Hymnal for the use of his congregation, and his name is known to the whole Anglican Communion by his beautiful hymn entitled "Three in One and One in Three." In 1860, he published "The Three Barriers," a work which elicited warm encomiums from many eminent scientists. The University of Glasgow gave him the degree of LL.D. in 1862. He possessed talent and oratorical powers of the highest order, which were seconded by a commanding presence. Bishop Wordsworth characterised him as "the cleverest man in our Church" he "ever knew." Under more favourable auspices, he would have taken front rank, but the prominent part he played in the protracted Eucharistic controversy made his name disliked by the High Church party. He was an ardent supporter of Church Reunion, and he corresponded on that subject with Dr Bisset, of Bourtie; Dr Mitchell, and Dr Robert Lee. (See Story's Life of Lee.)

It may be added that Rev. Dr Rorison's surviving son, the Very Rev. Dean Vincent, is now the sole representative in this country of the ancient family of Rorison of Bardannoch in Galloway.

#### POETICAL INSCRIPTIONS.

The following notes and verses are taken from sundry inscriptions:—

From that to Mary Newbound, who died 27th September, 1820, aged 55—

Why! What is Pomp, Rule, Reign, but earth  
and dust.

And live we how we can, yet die we must.

From the one to Thomas Mackie, late master of the "Union," who died at Greenland, 10th May, 1831, in his 48th year—

There anchor'd safe, each weary soul  
Obtains a port of reast,

Where storms neer beat nor billows roll  
Across the peaceful breast.

From that to Thomas Mackie and his wife,  
Margaret Fidler, with various children—

The winter of trouble is past,  
The storms of affliction are o'er,  
Her strength is ended at last,  
And sorrow and death are no more.

From that to Christian Thom, wife of  
William Will, wright, who died 17th May,  
1846, aged 52, interred at Peterhead; and  
to their only son, James, who died, aged  
6½ years, and was buried at Longside—

Consider now reader, and drop a tear,  
Suppose mother and son lie not both hear.  
In Heaven it's hoped they will both meet,  
When all followers of Jesus who  
Trust in Him has fallen asleep.

#### REMARKABLE CASE OF LONGEVITY.

There died at Peterhead in June, 1798,  
Jean Petrie, who had reached the reputed  
age of 113 years. The "Aberdeen  
Journal," in recording the event, men-  
tioned that her age appeared to be  
sufficiently authenticated from answers  
given to questions put respecting past  
events, and other collateral circumstances;  
that she travelled through the country as  
a beggar till a few days before her death;  
that she seemed perfectly resigned to her  
fate from her full belief that her death  
would be announced in the newspapers;  
that she was truly a singular character,  
having worn the same apparel for 30 years  
without any alteration; that she seemed  
not only very comfortable but happy; that  
she was a native of Aberdeen, and was a  
domestic servant in the Hardgate when  
the battle of Sheriffmuir was fought in  
1715; that when her great age was men-  
tioned to her and the improbability of her  
living much longer, her reply was to the  
effect that her father had lived to be five  
score and fourteen and that she would do  
the same.

#### PETERHEAD CEMETERY.

Owing to the congested condition of the  
parish graveyard, the Governors of the  
Merchant Maiden Hospital, Edinburgh,  
superiors of the town, resolved, in 1868, to  
provide a new one. The site selected is  
a comparatively level one, lying between  
Kirktown and the railway. It is enclosed  
by massive walls, and has a tastefully built  
sexton's house.

On a grassy mound near the centre is a  
handsome runic cross in Peterhead granite.  
It bears the following inscription in large,  
raised letters—

The Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hos-  
pital, Edinburgh.—James Sandilands Duncan,  
Esquire, Preses, resolved in 1868 to form this  
Cemetery, and the same was publicly opened  
by Thomas Jamieson Boyd, Esquire, Preses,  
and a deputation of the Governors. 15th July,  
1869.

Perhaps the most massive monument in  
the cemetery is that to Thomas Heslop,  
leather merchant, Peterhead, who died  
11th March, 1866, aged 58, and to his wife,  
Mary Young, who died 28th September,  
1891, aged 77. Their son, William Heslop,  
of Howe-o'-Buchan, who died 30th May,  
1899, aged 59, is commemorated by a  
separate obelisk within the same en-  
closure.

A handsome red granite obelisk bears—

In memory of Margaret Comrie, Free Church  
teacher, Peterhead. Born 9th May, 1831.  
Died 8th February, 1871.

Erected by a grateful public.

#### REFERENCES.

Further particulars regarding the parish  
and town will be found in Rev. Dr William  
Laing's "An Account of Peterhead: Its  
Mineral Wells, Air, and Neighbourhood"  
(1793); Rev. Dr Moir's narrative on Peter-  
head in The Statistical Account of Scotland  
(1795); James Arbuthnot's "An Historical  
Account of Peterhead, from the earliest

period to the present time, comprehending an account of its trade, shipping, commerce, and manufactures; mineral wells, baths, etc., with an Appendix containing a copy of the charter of erection" (1815); Peter Buchan's "Annals of Peterhead" (1819); Roderick Gray's and Rev. William Donald's narrative on Peterhead in the New Statistical Account of Scotland (1843); Rev. J. B. Pratt's "Buchan" (revised edition, 1901); James Moir's "Peterhead" in "A New History of Buchan"; and J. T. Findlay's "History of Peterhead" ("Buchan Observer," 1896-7).

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## Old Deer.

(FORMERLY DEIR.)

This parish was probably so named because an extensive forest existed here in ancient times.

The church was dedicated to that zealous planter of churches, St Drostane, the contemporary and friend of St Columba, whose feast was observed on 14th December.

The parish was originally very extensive, and embraced all the land now included in the parish of New Deer. A church was erected at Auchreddie in 1622, after which it became the church of the separate parish of New Deer (the name Auchreddie was dropped shortly after the formation of the new parish)—the title Old Deer being given to the original parish.

The walls of the old church are still standing in the parish graveyard. They evidently belong to a period anterior to the Reformation.

### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

Rev. Gilbert Chisholm, formerly Prior of the Abbey of Deer, but who had adopted

the new religion, became minister of the parishes of Deir, Foveran, Peterhead, and St Fergus in 1567, at the slender stipend of £40 Scots, which was augmented to the extent of 40 merks Scots from Martinmas, 1570. He was made parson of Lonmay in 1569, and vicar of Rathen shortly afterwards. In 1574, his charges were reduced to Deir, Fetterangus, and Rathen—the last-named being withdrawn in 1576.

The next incumbent has a tablet monument fixed into the outer side of the north wall of the old church. At the top are the Sibbald arms, flanked by the initials A. S., while underneath is a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Mr Abraham Sibbald, of the family of Kair, in the Mearns, minister—having been lawfully appointed to the charge of this church on 18th June, 1586. With the utmost fidelity in learning and in teaching he sought the glory of God and the salvation of his flock, and the church edifice having been enlarged, he left that as a monument.

Rev. Abraham Sibbald, who was admitted, as above, from the parish of Nigg, possessed much territorial influence. In 1606, he was appointed constant Moderator of the Presbytery, and the members of that body were ordered to receive him as such within twenty-four hours after notice, under the pain of rebellion. He gave substantial pecuniary assistance towards the enlargement of his own church, and also the erection of the church of Longside, upon the west side of the belfry of which his initials and arms were inscribed. He died before 1635.

The succeeding minister was Rev. Alexander Martin, who had previously been minister of Longside. Dr Scott (Fasti) describes him as having been "accounted eminent in his day either for gifts, grace, faithfulness, or success." He married, and had a son, James, who attained the rank of major in the army.



Rev. Robert Keith, M.A., previously Regent in the Old College, St Andrews, was admitted before April, 1649. He joined the Protesters in 1651, and was deprived for non-conformity to Episcopacy after 17th April, 1660. He married Euphemia Kinnear, who died 2nd July, 1664, while he himself died 19th March, 1666. Row calls him "an able, godly man," while he is otherwise described as a zealous Covenanter and one of the three great ministers who ruled the Presbytery, being the special one who "plotted all."

Rev. Arthur Ross, M.A., previously minister of Kinnernie, was admitted before 27th October, 1663. In the following year he was translated to St Mungo's—the Cathedral Church—Glasgow. In 1675, he became Bishop of Argyll; in September, 1679, Bishop of Galloway; in October following, Archbishop of Glasgow; and, in 1684, Archbishop of St Andrews. In virtue of the last-named appointment, he became Chancellor of the University of St Andrews.

Rev. Alexander Garden, M.A., son of Rev. George Garden, minister of Clatt, was inducted from Gartly in 1665. It is uncertain how long he held the pastorate, but it is known that he signed a tack of Mains of Knock on 30th May, 1672. He married, and had a son, George.

Rev. Robert Bruce, M.A., was admitted in 1673. He had previously officiated as Regent in Marischal College, Aberdeen. Authors differ as to the time of his appointment to Old Deer, but the above date is probably correct from the fact that, in a bond dated 8th August, 1673, he is designed as "now apparent minister of Deer, and present Regent in College Marichall." In March, 1681, he was inducted to the Tron Church, Edinburgh, which he resigned in the same year rather than conform to the Test Act.

Rev. John Cockburn was inducted from Udny in 1681. Two years later, he was presented to Ormiston, Midlothian. An interesting sketch of his career is given in the Dictionary of National Biography.

Rev. George Keith, M.A., was admitted from Montkeggie in 1683. He died in July, 1710. He was twice married—first, to Mary, daughter of Rev. Robert Brown, minister of Bourtie; and, secondly, to Sophia, daughter of Rev. Alexander Ross, minister of Rathen. Of his family, a son by the latter marriage—Rev. Alexander Keith, Episcopal minister of Cruden—was the author of the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen."

The next settlement caused much quarrelling in the parish. No appointment having been made within six months following Mr Keith's death, the Presbytery "called" Rev. John Gordon, son of John Gordon, Provost of Aberdeen (1706-7), and arranged to ordain him in the church. The larger portion of the parishioners favoured the election of Rev. William Livingstone, a staunch Episcopalian, and resolved to forcibly prevent Mr Gordon's ordination. On the appointed day, the members of Presbytery, with their nominee, turned up, accompanied by 70 horse and a force of constables. They found the outer gate of the churchyard locked and barricaded with stones. These impediments were quickly forced, but the crowd, standing in a solid body in the graveyard and on the adjoining house-tops, commenced throwing stones and other missiles, with which they had armed themselves. Several members of the Presbytery were struck, and a retreat had to be made. The refreshments intended for the Presbytery were seized by the crowd, who carried the wine to the street, and with it drank to the health of the Pretender in the most jubilant

fashion. The rabble is commemorated by William Meston in his poem, "Mob contra Mob: or the Rabblers Rabbled." Mr Gordon was duly ordained at Aberdeen in April, 1711, and the chief oppositionists agreed to receive him peaceably as minister, as also to stand rebuke before the congregation and to pay all expenses. It is alleged that this settlement led to the passing of the Acts of Parliament regarding Toleration and Patronage. Mr Gordon died early in 1718. He was twice married; first, to Barbara, youngest daughter of John Gordon of Fechil; and, secondly, in 1717, to Jane, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Ludquharn. Of this latter union there was an only daughter, Janet, who was married, as his first wife, to Rev. James Walker, Peterhead. (MSS. at Birkwood.)

The succeeding minister is commemorated by a tablestone, which stands between the church and the older edifice. It bears the following inscription—

Dedicated by Mrs Margaret Hay, his widow, to the memory of John Forbes, of Pitnacalder, M.A., minister of Deer, who died AN. 1769, in the 81st year of his age, and the 52nd of his ministry. With a manly figure he possessed the literature of the scholar, the elocution of the preacher, and the accomplishment of the gentleman.

As a pastor his character was distinguished by piety, virtue, and entire devotion to the cause of Christ.

Beloved by his relatives, respected by his acquaintances, venerated by the body of the people, his life was useful and his end was peace. . . .

Rev. John Forbes was the son of James Forbes of Pitnacalder, or Pitnacadell, a small property in the parish of Aberdour. He was elected Presbytery bursar, and graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1707. He acted as a schoolmaster for a short time, was licensed as a preacher in

1716, and ordained minister of the parish of Pitsligo in 1717, from which he was translated here in 1718. He married, on 29th January, 1740, Margaret, daughter of George Hay, some time of Thorniebank, and lessee of Gaval, who was a descendant of the Hays of Tweeddale and Rannes. (See Fetterangus.) Her appreciation of his accomplishments finds expression in the foregoing high-flown inscription. That he was a man of outstanding individuality is manifest from the many anecdotes respecting him which still linger in the district. It is stated (Jervise's MS.) that he served as a captain of volunteers in 1745-46, and that, on going to Aberdeen to meet the Duke of Cumberland, he was challenged at the Old Bridge of Don by a sentry, to whom he justified his appearance with a sword by three cogent reasons—(1) That he served his King and country, (2) that he was a gentleman, and (3) that he could use the sword if necessity required. Many of his parishioners of the opposite way of thinking were annoyed at the partisan course he adopted, and, it having come to his ears that they were to lay hands upon him during service on a given Sunday, he boldly went to the pulpit armed with a pair of loaded pistols, which he placed on the desk in front of him, intimating at the same time that he would use them if disturbed. Needless to say, he was left unmolested. His hostility to Episcopacy led Rev. John Skinner, the genial author of "Tullochgorum," to satirise him and his congregation in the lines—

By the side of a country kirk wall,  
A sullen Whig minister stood,  
Enclosed in an old oaken stall,  
Apart from the rest of the crowd.  
His hat was hung high on a pin,  
With the cocks so devoutly displayed;  
And the cloak that concealed every sin  
On the pulpit was carefully spread.

In pews and in benches below  
 The people were variously placed;  
 Some attentively gazed at the show,  
 Some lolled like blythe friends at a feast.  
 With a volley of coughs and of sighs,  
 A harsh noisy murmur was made,  
 While Pitney threw up both his eyes,  
 And thus he began to his trade.

Mr Forbes was the author of "Some Scriptural Hymns," in which, however—Professor Lawson says—"there is not a breath of poetry." He is also credited with the authorship of "Nae Dominies for Me," but the claim to that was satisfactorily disproved by the late James Maidment. No family survived the marriage with Margaret Hay, who died at Cullen 22nd April, 1796. It is interesting to add that the minister's box-bed is still preserved in the district.

Rev. Charles Keay, son of James Keay of Snaigo, Forfarshire, was ordained 14th December, 1769. He was translated to Coupar-Angus in 1779, and died there in 1807.

Rev. Basil Anderson was ordained 25th November, 1779. He died suddenly on 16th June, 1797. He attained considerable notoriety through indulging in the quotation of Scriptural clauses and verses of the most irrelevant and disconnected character. A collection of these sayings was published under the title of "The Beauties of St Basil." Rev. Dr Davidson quotes (Old Aberdeenshire Ministers) the following specimen of his style—"The devil, my friends, is a ravening and a roaring lion, going about seeking whom he may devour; seek unto him, and he will never leave you, he will never forsake you."

A white marble monument within the old church bears the following inscription to the next minister—

Sacred to the memory of The Rev. John Craigie, late minister of this parish. Died 9th October, 1821, aged 81.

Rev. John Craigie, M.A., was inducted from St Fergus in 1798. According to Dr Scott (Fasti)—"He possessed very popular talents as a preacher, a strong and well-informed mind, and a vein of humour extremely keen and sarcastic." In his reputed encounter with Jamie Fleeman he came off second best. Mr John Milne, Atherb, recently communicated to the press many amusing anecdotes concerning him, but want of space precludes the giving of even a specimen. He married, on 19th April, 1774, Mary Burnett, who died 12th January, 1828. Of their family, Jonathan graduated in Arts, became a surgeon, and died 1810; John was a lieutenant in the 6th Native Cavalry, Bengal; James attained the rank of major in the Honourable East India Company's service; Anna married Patrick Robertson, merchant, Aberdeen; and Mary married Dr Williamson.

To the succeeding minister there is a white marble monument fixed into the outer wall of the old church, with the inscription—

The Rev. John Morrison, minister of this parish, ordained July 4th, 1822; died June 6th, 1854, in the 72nd year of his age. His life and ministry were eminently useful. He laboured with the utmost assiduity and energy in promoting both the temporal and spiritual interests of his numerous flock, and of all within the sphere of his influence, and few have been rewarded with a larger return of affection and respect. He earnestly exerted himself, and with no small success, in extending the means of education and pastoral superintendence in this district, and bequeathed £500 to aid in their further extension.

His memory will be long cherished, not only by his parishioners, but by a very wide circle of warmly attached friends.

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."



Rev. John Morrison, who was the son of William Morrison in Newmill, Keith, graduated in Arts at Marischal College in 1806, and died unmarried as stated. The inscription but partly expresses his genuine worth. As Rev. John Forbes was the outstanding parson of the eighteenth century, so was Rev. John Morrison the most prominent and most popular minister of the nineteenth century. His unflagging energies were spent in the interests of religion, education, and the general advancement of the parishioners.

A tablet in the outer wall of the old church is inscribed—

In loving memory of The Rev. James Peter, A.M. and F.S.A. (Scot.), for 33 years minister of Old Deer. Died A.D. 1886.

Revelation, XIV., 13.

Rev. James Peter, M.A., was the son of John Peter, farmer, Canterland, St Cyrus, and brother of Rev. George Peter, minister of Kemnay. He was the author of "The Peat Mosses of Buchan," and of an article on "The Stone Circles of the Parish." Of an affable and hospitable disposition, he interested himself greatly in the young people of the parish. He was no novice at painting and sketching, and had he followed out the art might have become a distinguished artist.

Of the succeeding ministers, Rev. George Andrew Johnston, B.D., is the present incumbent of John Knox's, Aberdeen, and Rev. Alexander Lawson, D.D., is now Professor of English Literature in the University of St Andrews. The present incumbent is Rev. Robert Sangster Kemp, B.D., who, previously, was minister of the parish of Inch.

Many of the foregoing facts were furnished by Mr Robert Wilson, M.A., Tarty, the venerable Emeritus schoolmaster of Deer.

#### ABBEYS.

The original Monastery or Abbey of Deer is believed to have been founded in the sixth century by St Columba, and his disciple, St Drostane. Details have not been preserved as to its site, style of architecture, extent, or tenancy. An interesting memorial of the edifice exists, however, in "The Book of Deer"—a Latin MS.—which contains "the Gospel of St John complete, and portions of the other three Evangelists, in writing, probably, of the ninth century, besides a collection of memoranda of grants by the Celtic chiefs of Buchan written in Gaelic at a later time."

The second Abbey—the ruins of which may still be seen within the grounds of Pitfour — was, in 1219, founded and endowed with extensive lands and possessions by William Cumyn, Earl of Buchan. A ground plan of the original structure, together with measurements and an exhaustive descriptive account, is given in Pratt's "Buchan" (revised edition, 1901), p 145, etc. It may suffice to state here that the Abbey was dedicated to St Mary, and that it was at first occupied by Cistercian monks from Kinloss, who were afterwards known as Bernardines. These monks not only performed the prescribed spiritual duties, but also proved excellent farmers and improvers. Their mitred Abbot had a seat in the Scottish Parliament.

In 1453, Robert Keith, brother of William, fourth Earl Marischal, was appointed Abbot, and at his decease in 1551 his nephew, Robert Keith, second son of the fourth Earl Marischal, succeeded. He is known in history as "The Commendator of Deer"—an office which he filled with unworthy selfishness. Instead of defending the rights of the Abbey when these monastic institutions were assailed at the Reformation, he suc-

ceeded in getting the buildings and whole lands and possessions erected into the temporal lordship of Altrie in favour of himself and of George, Earl Marischal, for personal behoof. Thus at one sweep were alienated from the religious purposes for which they had been bestowed the lands of

Clerkhill, Quartailhouse, Dennis, Meikle Auchrydie, Auchmwnyel, Carnebannoch, Litel Auchrydie, Craigmylne, Clauckriauch, Littill Elrik, Auldmad, Badforsky, Auchleck, Acherb, Cryalie, Skillymarno, Auchmacher, Altrie, Biffie, Raw of Biffie, and Parkhouse of Biffie, Brucehill, Scroghill, Kirktoon of Deir, Benvells, Meikle Elrik, Fechill, Monkishill, Grange of Raehill, Carkinsche, Monkisholme and Overalterlandis, and Nether Alterlandis of Fouerne, the mills of Crichtie and Bruxie, and the Abbey Mill of Deer, the "fischertown of Peterheid," etc.

It is significant that the primary reason put forward by the Commendator for the Abbey properties being assigned to him and his family was the hollow one that the greater part of the lands "had been dotit" by his progenitors. The Countess Marischal, who disapproved of the sacrilegious appropriation, had a remarkable vision, wherein she got warning of the decay and downfall of the Keiths, who, however, continued to inscribe on several of their buildings their defiance and disregard of the opinions of the people in the laconic lines—

THAY SAY,  
 QUHAT SAY THEY?  
 THAY HAIF SAID,  
 LAT THAME SAY.

THE FERGUSONS OF PITFOUR.

The lands of Pitfour were granted, in 1383, by Robert II. to his natural son, Alexander Stewart, from whose descendant one-half was bought, in 1477, by John Anderson, burghess of Aberdeen. In 1493, Walter Innes, son of Walter Innes of

Innermarkie, secured a half of the property, while, eleven years later, Thomas Innes, in "Cotts of Lanbride," bought the other half. The former also purchased the adjoining separate estate of Toux—or Touchis—and had his possessions erected into the free barony of Toux. In 1598, Walter Innes of Auchintoul is designed as proprietor of both Pitfour and Toux, whilst in 1635 the properties were held by Sir Robert Innes of that Ilk and Thomas Bodie in Peterhead. (See Spalding Club's "Miscellany," V., pp. 359-60.) In February, 1667, both properties were erected into the barony of Pitfour in favour of George Morrison, advocate (eldest son of William Morrison, burghess of Aberdeen), and of Janet Gordon, his spouse. In 1696, the proprietor of Pitfour was William Morrison, and the Mains was at the same time possessed by his brother, Charles Morrison. (Poll Book.)

About 1700, Pitfour, Toux, and other lands were purchased by James Ferguson, who, on 8th August, 1702, had a Crown charter, erecting the same into the free barony of Pitfour. Mr Ferguson, who was a descendant of the old family of Ferguson in Crichtie, Kintore, had previously owned the estate of Badifurrow, near Inverurie, but he sold it before purchasing Pitfour. In 1710, he was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Aberdeenshire. He married Anna, sister of Captain Stuart of Crichtie, Old Deer, who, on her decease, was buried in a railed enclosure within the old Parish Church. Over her grave is a tablestone, which records in Latin her name and designation. Fixed into the church wall is a white marble tablet, with side mouldings and an artistically finished pointed top, the latter displaying an angel bearing a cross in the one hand and weighing scales in the other. The monument rests upon a freestone ledge, between the two massive ogee

supports of which is shown in relief a boat laden with human bones. In the centre, and towering over the gunwale, is a skull in relief of a natural size. The conception is very fine, betokening, as it does, that the voyager had embarked to cross the river of death, and, having kept a careful look-out, had safely completed the journey, the boat now resting securely moored at prow and stern in a safe haven. The tablet has a long Latin inscription, which is here given (considerably abridged) in English—

. . . Sacred to God, the Best and Greatest, and in memory of Anna Stuart, his dearly beloved wife, who died on 16th October, 1731, in the 62nd year of her age, after enduring bodily suffering for twenty long years; . . . her surviving husband, James Ferguson of Pitfour . . . has erected this stone.

Mr Ferguson is commemorated by a separate monument in the same enclosure. It has a Latin inscription, which, in English, is—

Under this stone lies interred James Ferguson of Pitfour. . . . who was endowed with a rare kindness of nature. He was survived by a son and a daughter. He was born on the feast of St Michael and All Angels (29th September), 1672, and fell asleep on the feast of Circumcision (1st January) in the year of our Saviour Jesus Christ, 1734. . . .

James Ferguson, son of the preceding, succeeded. He was born in 1700, educated for the legal profession, became Dean of Faculty in 1760, and was raised to the Bench in 1764, under the title of Lord Pitfour. He was a keen humorist, and his wit manifested itself in various forms. On one occasion, when sitting with his brother Judges hearing a case debated, a zealous counsel had the hardihood to observe that he was "surprised at the conduct of their lordships." The court was indignant at the expression, which was considered disrespectful. On the

outburst subsiding somewhat, Lord Pitfour calmly remarked that "The expression must have been made through inexperience, because, if counsel had known the Judges as long as he (Lord Pitfour) had done, he would not have been surprised at anything which they might say or do"! Ramsay of Ochtertyre characterises Lord Pitfour as "one of the greatest and most popular lawyers of that period," and also as "a man of probity and amiable disposition." In 1733, he married Anne, daughter of Alexander Murray, Lord Elibank, and their family consisted of three sons and three daughters.

James Ferguson, the eldest son, succeeded on the death of his father on 25th June, 1777. He studied law, and was called to the Scottish Bar in 1757. He was elected Member of Parliament for Banffshire in 1789, and for Aberdeenshire in 1790, continuing to represent the latter constituency till his death, which occurred in London in 1820. During these 31 years he never addressed the House except to propose that a window behind where he sat should be repaired. He was, however, the intimate friend and supporter of Pitt and Dundas, to whose memory he erected a monument at the entrance gate to Pitfour. It bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated into English—

To the memory of William Pitt and Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, men of ancient virtue, this tribute, from the most durable native marble—than which their fame shall be more lasting—is given by James Ferguson of Pitfour, in the year of Salvation, 1816.

Mr Ferguson was a noted wit, and could give and take hard knocks. He forms the subject of one of the Duchess of Gordon's riddles—

My first is found upon the banks of Tyne,  
My second is scarce quite the half of nine;  
My whole a Laird of Aberdeenshire race.  
An honest fellow with an ugly face.





Pitfour House.



He had a favourite valet, named John, who considered himself not the least important in the trio "Pitt, Pitfour, and me." On one occasion this servant received a letter from the Duchess — "Dear John, — Come to Gordon Castle on — and bring your master with you." Not knowing how to answer, John consulted Pitfour upon the point, who advised that, as the Duchess had begun "Dear John," he could not do less than begin "Dear Jean"!

Patrick, Lord Pitfour's second son, entered the army, and, when Captain of the 70th Regiment, made great improvements on the service rifle, as also in the exercise and discipline of the soldiers. He took part in the American War, and was severely wounded in 1777. He was present at the siege of Charlestown in 1780, and fell in the action at King's Mountain, South Carolina, on 7th October of the same year. He had reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and his death, at the early age of 36, was much regretted.

George, the third and youngest son of Lord Pitfour, was for many years Governor of Tobago. In 1781, the island was attacked by a French squadron, which landed 2000 men. To meet this force, the Governor could muster only 427, half of whom were militia. To add to his difficulty, he had no fortifications nor shelter for the troops. He held out bravely for ten days, at the end of which time, on no relief being forthcoming from Admiral Rodney as expected, he entered into negotiations with the enemy, and secured favourable conditions. On the death of his eldest brother, James, in 1820, he succeeded to Pitfour, but lived for less than four months thereafter.

Within the Abbey grounds the Ferguson family erected a private mausoleum. Above the entrance is the motto "Virtute," underneath which the arms

of the family appear. In large letters is the appropriate legend (in Latin) — "Death is the gate of life." The oldest inscription is that upon a mural stone to the second wife of Admiral Ferguson and himself —

Sacred to the memory of the Honourable Elizabeth Jane, the beloved wife of Admiral Ferguson. Died 12th August, 1864; interred in the family vault, Kensal Green, 18th August, 1864. Also of Admiral Ferguson, died 15th March, 1867.

The Hon. Mrs Ferguson was the eldest daughter of Clotworthy, first Lord Langford, and niece of the famous Duke of Wellington. Her mother is interred in the mausoleum, where an inscription records —

The Right Honourable Frances, Baroness Langford, died 30th April, 1860, aged 86 years.

Admiral George Ferguson was the son of the above-mentioned Governor George Ferguson. He married, first, in 1812, Elizabeth Holcombe, only daughter and heiress of John Woodhouse of Yallon Court, Hereford. He was Member of Parliament for Banffshire, 1833-37, and at his death, in 1867, as above, was succeeded by his son.

George Arthur Ferguson, the present proprietor, entered the Grenadier Guards, in which he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He married the Hon. Nina Maria Hood, eldest daughter of Alexander, first Viscount Bridport.

The mansion-house of Pitfour, which is one of the largest and finest in Buchan, stands within extensive wooded grounds. The surrounding policies are strikingly beautiful, containing, as they do, a lake covering nearly fifty acres, ornamental flower gardens, shrubberies, and a miniature model of the temple at Athens erected to Theseus, the celebrated hero of antiquity.



THE RUSSELLS OF MONCOFFER AND  
ADEN.

Within an enclosure between the present and the old Parish Church is a monumental cross bearing the simple inscription—

THE RUSSELLS OF MONCOFFER  
AND ADEN SINCE 1758.

The Russells deduce their descent from a military veteran named Rozel or Russell, one of the family of the Russells of Kingston Lacey, afterwards created Dukes of Bedford. Their ancestor accompanied Edward III. to the siege of Berwick in 1333, and subsequently settled in Scotland, where he became known as Russell of that Ilk. His successors extended their possessions, and owned various estates in Roxburghshire, Galloway, etc.

In 1600, Alexander Russell acquired considerable property near Elgin, where he resided, and afterwards became Provost of the town. His son, who succeeded him—Patrick Russell, born 1630—married, first, the daughter of William Sharp, and sister of Archbishop James Sharp of St Andrews, who was assassinated at Magus Moor on 3rd May, 1679; and secondly, Catherine, daughter and heiress of Sir John Campbell, the last Baronet of Lundie, and his wife Helen, daughter of John Abercrombie of Glassaugh.

It is interesting to mention that the Baronetcy of Lundie, granted in 1627, had in its patent, in addition to heirs male, the unusual remainder of "assignees whatsoever," and that, although the Russells of Aden are the sole heirs and representatives of the Lundie family—having been granted authority by the Lyon King to quarter the arms—it appears that they have never raised any claim to the Baronetcy.

The above-mentioned Patrick Russell purchased, in 1680, with other lands, part

of the estate of Moncoffer, near Banff (see King-Edward). Of his second marriage there were two sons, the eldest of whom—Alexander, born 1697—married, first, in 1718, Katherine, second daughter of Alexander Skene of Skene. Of their family, their eldest son, Alexander, succeeded to Moncoffer, and married, first, Margaret, youngest daughter of Charles Hay of Rannes, and had an only daughter, who married Sir Alexander Gordon, Baronet, of Letterfourie. Mr Russell married, secondly, Eliza, second daughter of Alexander Innes of Rosieburn, son of Sir John Innes of Edingight, an aunt of Mrs Gordon Byron, Lord Byron's mother. Mr Russell of Moncoffer was appointed guardian and trustee for this unfortunate lady, and there are now at Aden some interesting papers connected with her affairs and those of her scapegrace husband.

Mr Russell sold Moncoffer, and acquired in 1758 the lands of Aden, Bruntbrae, and Biffie, which have since remained in the possession of his descendants.

The eldest son, Alexander Russell, who succeeded to Aden, married, in 1792, Margaret, daughter and heiress of James Cumine of Kininmonth (see Lonmay), and his wife, May Ferguson of Kinmundy. The eldest son of this marriage—also named Alexander—was in possession of Aden for only about two years, and, dying unmarried in 1831, was succeeded by his immediate younger brother, James, who, on 10th February, 1823, was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, and died in January, 1875, leaving two sons.

The eldest son, James George Ferguson Russell, who succeeded his father, was for many years in the diplomatic service, and married, in 1858, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Lawrence Young, Bart., M.P., of Hughenden, Bucks, but died, without issue, in 1887, when he was succeeded by

his brother, the present owner, Major-General Frank Shirley Russell, C.M.G.

In St Drostane's Episcopal Church, Old Deer, there are a stained glass window and brasses in memory of the eldest brother and of a sister of the late and present proprietor of Aden. These are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In memory of Alexander Cumming Russell, who was born XVII. Aug. A.D. MDCCCXXXIII., and died in the discharge of duty on the XXVI. Feb. A.D. MDCCCLII., in the nineteenth year of his age.

God is Love.

(2).

In memory of Catharine Georgiana Russell, who was born 11 Oct. A.D. MDCCCXXXIV., and died VII. Sept. A.D. MDCCCLIII., in the IX. year of her age.

"Suffer little children to come unto me."

The circumstances under which Alexander Cumming Russell met his death were peculiarly distressing. He was an ensign in the 74th Highlanders, and formed one of the detachment sent out on board the Birkenhead to reinforce the troops engaged in the Kaffir War. When the frigate was wrecked in Table Bay, the women and children were at once shipped in the boats and sent off to the shore in safety. Russell being one of the youngest soldiers on board was put into the last boat, but, seeing a drowning seaman alongside, he jumped into the sea and gave the latter his place, regardless of the sharks hovering around, which are supposed to have almost immediately drawn him under. A striking picture of the tragic incident, painted by the well-known artist of sea pieces, Charles Napier Hemy, A.R.A., is now at Aden.

The present proprietor, Major-General Frank Shirley Russell, was born in 1840, and educated at Radley and Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a second

class in Moderations in 1862, and graduated B.A. the same year. He entered the 14th Hussars in 1863; became a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1881; served in the Ashanti War of 1873-74, the Zulu War of 1879, and the Boer War of 1880-81. In 1882, he exchanged to the 1st Royal Dragoons, which he subsequently commanded, being appointed full Colonel of the regiment in 1900. In 1898, he was promoted Major-General, and in the same year retired from the army—receiving the C.M.G. in 1891 and the first class of the Prussian Crown in 1902. From 1889 to 1891, he was Military Attache in Berlin, and from 1895 to 1900 was Member of Parliament for Cheltenham. He is the author of various works, probably the best known of which are "Russian Wars with Turkey" (1877) and "Memoirs of the Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth" (1887). In 1888, he married Philippa, daughter of the Right Hon. Henry Baillie of Redcastle, and his wife, a daughter of the 7th Viscount Strangford; and has three sons and two daughters.

The lands of Aden (originally Almeden) were granted by King Robert the Bruce to Robert de Keith, Marischal of Scotland. On the forfeiture of the Marischal estates, they were acquired by the York Buildings Company, from which they passed to the Fergusons of Kinmundy about 1723. They were purchased by Alexander Russell, as already mentioned, in 1758.

In feudal times, Aden was a barony, and the Great Seal Register of 1653 (No. 197) shows that it comprehended the lands of Innerugie, town and lands of Peterhead, Innernetties, Grange, Achtigall, Balmuir, Bodomes, Tarterstown, Whitehills, Dumhills, Udny, etc

#### THE FEGUSONS OF KINMUNDY.

According to tradition the ancestors of the Aberdeenshire and Ayrshire (Kilkeran) Fergusons were the two younger

sons of the chief of the Clan in Athole who, before the wars of Scottish Independence, had made that district too hot to hold them. Corroboration is found in the close resemblance in the arms of the three families. It is believed that the Aberdeenshire Fergusons received a grant of extensive lands from Robert the Bruce in recognition of valuable services which they had rendered to his cause at the famous battle of Inverurie in 1308.

The burial-ground of this branch is within the old church, where there is a monument having at the top the family arms and the motto "Arte et Animo." Underneath is the inscription—

In memory of Major-General James Ferguson of Balmakelly, Colonel of the Cameronian Regiment, 1693-1705. D., 1705. B. in St John's Cathedral, Bois-le-Duc, the Netherlands; of James Ferguson of Kinmundy, 1699-1777; of James Ferguson of Kinmundy, 1734-1787; of James Ferguson of Kinmundy, 1759-1816; of James Ferguson of Kinmundy, 1789-1862; of James Ferguson, yr. of Kinmundy, 1819-1841. B. in Necropolis, Glasgow, and of others of their family who rest here.

Erected by William Ferguson of Kinmundy, 1892.

In the outside of the south wall of the old church there is a granite stone showing the arms of the Fergusons of Kinmundy, impaling those of Deans. Although wholly covered by ivy, it is probably dated not later than 23rd January, 1751, when Elizabeth Deans, the first wife of James Ferguson, the first proprietor of Kinmundy, died.

Major-General James Ferguson of Balmakelly was the third son of William Ferguson of Badifurrow, M.P. for Inverurie, in the Restoration Parliament of 1660. He had a distinguished military career. Attached to the Scots Regiment in the Dutch service in 1688, he came over with William of Orange, in whose behalf he fought in Scotland under Mackay, com-

manding the expedition which reduced the Western Islands, and began the building of Fort-William. In 1692, he took part in the battle of Steenkirk, subsequently being appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Cameronians. He led the regiment in the battle of Landen and at the siege of Namur. In 1704, he commanded a brigade under the Duke of Marlborough, was at the head of the most perilous advance in the battle of Blenheim, and successfully escorted into Holland the large body of prisoners captured. In the following year, he led a brigade in the attack on the enemy's lines in Brabant, and subsequently commanded — with the rank of Major-General — at Bois-le-Duc, or Bosch, where he died on 22nd October, 1705. In one of the letters by an officer of the regiment, published in 1897 by the Historical MS. Commission, the following interesting particulars are furnished—

The subject of this is to acquaint you that Brigadier Ferguson died . . . of a high malignant fever. The Duke [of Marlborough], being lately at the Hague, had wrote to him to meet him there, and acquainted him that he was going now to declare him Major-General, and would send him the Queen's Commission as soon as he got to London, but left him here this winter to command in chief all the British troops, as well horse as foot, on this side during the winter. The Brigadier had had a fit or two of an ague at the Bosch, but it seemed gone off, and he had been well for above a week; but his ague recurred at the Hague, and he was ill, yet, his lady being brought to bed of a daughter but a week before, he would not stay, but hastened home, and, by travelling in the cold, was seized so ill that he was carried speechless from the waggon to his house and without knowledge: these fits recurred every day from Sunday till Thursday that he died. All the English themselves, and even his greatest enemies while he was yet alive, allowed he was by much the best officer we had in all the British troops. He was brave, knew the service, had great and long experience in thirty years' constant service; and the Duke was so



sensible of this that when he had anything difficult or of importance to do, he constantly employed him, even out of his turn. Our regiment has a great loss, and I in particular more than they all, for he allowed me all his confidence and all his friendship.

Some years before his death, he purchased the estates of Balmakelly and Kirktonhill, Kincardineshire. He married—first—Helen, daughter of James Drummond of Cultmalindie, a descendant of the family of Cargill, and they had a son James and a daughter Elizabeth. By his second marriage with Hester Elizabeth Hibelet, daughter of a Dutch pastor, he had a daughter, who became the wife of Gerard Vinck, advocate, Bois-le-Duc.

James Ferguson, when a boy of six, succeeded to his late father's estates, which were disposed of about 1723. Kinmundy was then purchased from Gordon of Pitlurg, and other properties in Old Deer were acquired at subsequent dates. In 1758, he sold to Alexander Russell of Moncoffer the lands of Aden, Bruntbrae, and Biffie. He erected Kinmundy House in 1736, but the central structure was enlarged in 1820, and the entrance thrown out to the south. The existing courtyard still contains all the original features. In 1727, he married Elizabeth Deans, of the family of Longhermiston, who was an ardent Hanoverian. This led to the plundering of the mansion-house by Gordon of Glenbucket's Highlanders in the '45 rising, but the coolness and presence of mind of the lady saved it from being burned to the ground. Her husband being from home, she sent a message to the officer in command that refreshments had been prepared for his men, but as the place where the repast was to be served was on fire, they had better put out the flames if they wished to have their dinner—which apparently they did. Having a strong aversion to Episcopacy, she rode

over to Old Deer with a few of the estate tenants and pulled down the chapel which was being rebuilt on her husband's property there. She died 23rd January, 1751, and on 3rd February, 1752, her husband married Margaret Irvine, eldest daughter of William Irvine of Artamford. By the first marriage, there were a son and a daughter. The latter—May, or Marjory—married James Cumine of Kinmonth, and their daughter became the wife of Alexander Russell of Aden, grandfather of Major-General Frank Shirley Russell, the present proprietor.

James Ferguson, who was born in 1734, made a runaway love marriage, in 1756, with Elizabeth Urquhart, a descendant of the Urquharts of Braelangwell, of the same stock as those of Meldrum and Byth. There were six of a family — James, Thomas, William, Elizabeth, Isabella, and Margaret. Mr Ferguson died in 1787.

James Ferguson, eldest son of the preceding, was born in 1759, and married, in August, 1787, Isabella, daughter of Rev. William Brown, Craigmadam, grandfather of the late Principal Brown. He was a keen supporter of the Secession Church. He died in 1816, his wife having predeceased him on 4th June, 1807. Their children were James, William, Thomas, John, Alexander, and Isabella.

James Ferguson, the eldest son, was born 21st May, 1789, and married 6th August, 1817, Emily, daughter of Rev. Robert Chalmers, of Haddington. Of their family were James, who was accidentally killed in 1841 while serving an apprenticeship as a civil engineer in Glasgow; Robert, who died young; William, and Thomas. Mr Ferguson died in 1862.

William Ferguson, the third but eldest surviving son, succeeded. He received a commercial training in Glasgow, and was thereafter in business in Liverpool and London. For many years he acted as a

director and chairman of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company. He was a J.P. and D.L. for Aberdeenshire, LL.D. of Aberdeen University, and a member of several learned societies. As a landlord and a Christian gentleman, he was held in the highest esteem by all classes. In 1856, he married Eliza, eldest daughter of Andrew Williamson, Ayr; and they had a family of two sons and a daughter — James, Andrew Williamson, and Agnes Adair. Mr Ferguson died on 11th September, 1904, aged 80.

The present proprietor, James Ferguson — eldest son of the preceding—married, in 1885, Georgina Anne, eldest daughter of Captain John de Courcy Andrew Agnew, R.N., of Dacre Lodge, Cumberland, and grand-daughter of Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, and has one surviving son—James, born in 1886. A second son, John de Courcy Agnew, born in 1887, died in February, 1904. Mr Ferguson, who was called to the Scottish Bar in 1879, was senior Advocate-Depute from 1896 till 1898. He is a King's Counsel, and has held in turn the Sheriffship of Argyll, and of Inverness Elgin and Nairn. He is now Sheriff of Forfarshire. He is the author of several works on the Law relating to Railways, including a revised and largely extended edition of Mr Deas's standard work on the Law of Railways in Scotland, and "The Law of Roads, Streets, and Rights-of-Way in Scotland," and of other literary works. Mr Ferguson was for many years an officer in the 3rd (Buchan) Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders, and in 1900 raised and was the first Commanding Officer of the 9th V.B. (Highlanders) the Royal Scots — the Highland Volunteer Battalion of Edinburgh. He was the joint author of "Records of the Clan and Name of Ferguson," a comprehensive and accurate family history from

which many of the foregoing particulars are culled.

Although the Kinmundy estates are not now so extensive as formerly, they still extend to upwards of 4000 acres, and embrace within Old Deer parish the lands of Coynach and Millbreck, Shannas, Durie, Clola, Millhill, Over-Kinmundy, Kin-knockie, Smallburn, and Pettymarcus.

#### OTHER ESTATES.

An excellent general history of the other lands in the parish appears in "A Book of the Parish of Deir," which was edited by Rev. Alexander Lawson, B.D., minister of Deer, and published in 1896 in connection with a bazaar in aid of a scheme for the improvement of the Parish Church, etc. This volume was largely sold, and, as it is still readily accessible, it is unnecessary here to traverse the same ground. Reference to the lands, however, is made when the epitaphs touch upon the owners.

#### INTERMENTS IN THE OLD CHURCH.

A few years ago, the late Mr John Fullerton — "Wild Rose" — kindly furnished a number of extracts which he had made from a large MS. volume in his possession. One of these extracts was entitled "Notes of Monuments in the Abbey Church of Deer, taken down from the lips of one, Andrew Ogston, in 1799 or 1800, then in his 77th year, he having been born in Skelmuir some time in 1722, and had then (1799 or 1800) been resident in Old Deer upwards of 30 years."

"In the Quire-Crawford-Fedderat, east wall, marked C. C. 1603."

This tablestone is now somewhat decayed, but a coat-of-arms—flanked by the initials C. C., and the date 1603—may still be traced upon it. Mr Jervise (MS.) says it was supposed that these initials belonged to a member of the old family of Cumine, but that by a remarkable coinci-

dence an explanation was discovered. Upwards of thirty years ago, a Swedish gentleman, bearing the name of Charles Crauford, visited Old Deer, and waited upon Mr Wilson, schoolmaster, and the parish minister. He had in his possession a parchment bearing the seals of seven or eight of the leading Buchan families, and stating that the person on whom it had been bestowed was the descendant and representative of the family of Crauford, who originally owned the lands of Annochie, in Old Deer, and of Fedderate, in New Deer. On losing these possessions in the seventeenth century, the head of the family at the time proceeded to Sweden, in which country his successors have remained. The arms inscribed upon the tablestone were found on examination to be identical with those borne by the Swedish family, and the initials can therefore be identified as those of Charles Crauford, who died in 1603, and was interred in the Crauford, or Annochie, burying ground. Rev. James Peter had in his possession an interesting relic of Annochie in the shape of an oak carving, showing a shield bearing three roses and a diamond with two griffins as supporters, with the initials A. H., and the date 1589—referring to Ann Hay, who married into the Crauford family. The relic in question was for long in the possession of a tenant in Annochie, named Wildgoose.

On 3rd October, 1615, George Crauford was served heir to his father, William Crauford of Annochie. He married Elspet, daughter of Patrick Mowat of Balquhollie. Their son George, who afterwards succeeded, married Margaret Hay.

“North East Corner—Kath Burnett, Little Crichtie, 1754. South of that John Lunan of Honeyhook, no stone; next Ja. Keith, predecessor to Jno. Burnett, 1713; his wife

Marjory Smith, 1697. Jas. Keith was Sheriff Clerk, Banff.”

A tablestone at the spot mentioned bears the initials and date K. B., 21st August, 1754. It probably commemorates, not Kath. but Keith Burnett.

A second tablestone displays various emblems and the following inscription—

Here lyes waiting a blessed resurection the remains of Iames Keith of Crichy who dyed the 20 February, 1713, of age 52 year, and of Mariorie Smith his spous who dyed the 10 of August, 1697, of age 34 year.

In 1696, Meikle Crichtie, which had a valuation of £320 Scots, belonged to George Keith, advocate in Aberdeen. The above James Keith, “gentleman,” was then tenant, and for himself and his wife and children he paid £5 8s of poll. Little Crichtie, with a valuation of £133 6s 8d Scots, belonged to George Dalgarno.

“South East Corner—James Ferguson, uncle of George Scott at Mill of Aden, lived at Millbreak, came down with the Family of Kinmundy. Mr Keith, minister of Deer, lies north of Pitfour’s tomb, and that family ly in the place where the Tomb stands. George Irvine, north of Mr Keith, his father-in-law.”

The minister here mentioned is Rev. George Keith, who died 16th July, 1710. His son-in-law, George Irvine, was a dyer in Cruden. He married Giles Keith, daughter by the second marriage of Mr Keith to Sophia, daughter of Rev. Alexander Ross, of Rathen.

“ . . . . .

South-west corner—No stone. Dalgarno, Minisr; ’twixt and Kinmundys.

In the church, two founts—at east door and south door.

North—Bool for Roman Catholic Elements.

South wall— . . . Rob.Keith, of Old Maud, 1637, but in the arch Keiths of Marischal; A.K. 1603 C.K. Rob Keith, of Old Maud, said, ‘No man went over him in life, and should not in death,’ and ordered himself to



be buried below the church wall, where Mr Russell's tomb is. Strachan of Annachy, Crichtie, and Kinaldie were laid there."

In connection with the monument initialled and dated "A. K. 1603 C. K.," a male and also a female figure are shown—the former in armour. A Latin inscription follows, but it is in a decayed condition. It is stated (Jervise's MS.) that one of these old Keiths — a powerful, determined character, who had seen some military service—gave peremptory directions that his remains should be interred beneath the church doorway, which was then to be closed, and another opened. On being asked why he desired to be so buried, he is said to have replied that, while in life, he had never allowed anyone to walk over him, and he was determined that in death they should not do so. The eccentric order had doubtless been complied with, for the doorway is closely built up, and the ground on the outside has in the course of time risen till it is now level with the spring of the arch. Robert Keith of Old Maud, in 1607, was "tacksman and titular of Nether Altrie."

In the volume on the Strachans of Glenkindie, by Colonel James Allardyce, LL.D., of Culquoich (pp. 17 and 18), it is stated that the estate of Annochie was acquired in 1627 by Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie, and that it remained in the possession of his family till 1709, when it was purchased by Garden of Troup. The same author mentions that the lands of Kinaldie or Kinnadie also belonged to the Strachans for at least two generations. As proprietors of Auchnagatt, they held considerable influence in Buchan for upwards of two centuries.

"Quire not in church, but roofed in and a place for music.

Mr Forbes of Pitnacalder, minister of Deer, stone north, where the pulpit stood, two yards.

Family lofts in old kirk—Strachan of Annachy, Gordon of Pitlurg, Techmuiry of Skelmuir, Keith of Knock, buried in kirk; James Cumine's of Kininmonth, Gr.-Grandfather, north wall of Kinmundy's burial place; Family of Ker of Mearns."

Gordon of Pitlurg was proprietor of Kinmundy prior to the Fergusons. "Techmuiry of Skelmuir" means that James Gordon was proprietor of both estates, and "Family of Ker of Mearns" refers to the family of Sibbald of Kair, in the Mearns, the first of whom who settled in Buchan being referred to as under:—

"Abram Sibbald, first Protestant preacher at Old Deer, settled 18th June, 1586; stone where he was buried north of that, and below where Mr B. Anderson (Rev. Basil Anderson, who died 16th June, 1797) was buried; also thereabout were buried some Camerons who came down the country."

Rev. Abraham Sibbald was the second Protestant minister, having been preceded by Rev. Gilbert Chisholm, as already stated.

A marble tablet within the present church is inscribed—

In loving memory of John Davidson, Mains of Clackriach, died 9th February, 1900, aged 82, for 36 years an esteemed elder in the parish of Deer. And his sister, Jane, died 14th February, 1900, aged 72. Of singular piety. Full of faith and good works.

"They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided."

John Davidson was tenant of the large farm of Mains of Clackriach, which he and his ancestors occupied for nearly two centuries. He succeeded his father, James Davidson, and was, like him, an elder and devoted member of the Church of Scotland. He was the first agent of the North of Scotland Bank at Maud, and was long a member of the Parochial and School Boards and Road Trust. His sister, Jane,

co-operated with him in the promotion of the welfare of the church, of missionary efforts, and of every good work.

On a broken slab displaying a skull, hour-glass, etc., is the inscription—

Herelyes . . . . aret Cummin ., lafull davg . . . . to Geore Cumming, in Deer, who departed this life the 5th of December, 1692.

A separate slab alongside bears—

Here lyes John Cumming, lafull son to Andreu Cumming, agent in Edinburgh, 9th September, 1689.

A headstone commemorates Andrew Clark, a Waterloo veteran, but it is in such a decayed condition that the inscription is illegible. The following characteristic verse was upon it—

Billeted here by death,  
And here I shall remain  
Until the bugle sounds.  
I'll rise and march again.

A railed enclosure has a headstone and a tablestone, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Sacred to the memory of Mary Ann, wife of George F. Leith, who died 28th May, 1833, aged 53. Also, of their sons George, who died at Aracan, 16th July, A.D. 1839, aged 26; William, who died at Santa Maura, 25th October, A.D. 1842, aged 27; and John, who died 1st October, 1848, aged 28 years.

(2).

Erected by Lucy Fanny Forbes Leith in affectionate memory of her mother, Mary Anderson, who died at Knock, in this parish, on 10th December, 1863, aged 53 years. And of her father George Forbes Leith, who died at Knock on 20th March, 1864, aged 74 years, and who are both interred here, And also of her sister Maria, who died at Brighton on 24th March, 1858, aged 23 years. And her brother, Ralph James, doctor of medicine, died at Cariaco, in the West Indies, on 22nd August, 1868, aged 30 years.

George Forbes Leith was the second son of Theodore Forbes Leith of Whitehaugh, and his wife, Lucy Crankhorn. He was for a few years in the West Indies, and on his return was appointed surveyor of taxes for part of the shires of Aberdeen and Banff. Being obliging in disposition and a happy raconteur, he was considered a great social acquisition to the district. He was twice married—first to Mary Ann Godwin, and, secondly, to Mary, sister of Rev. Ralph W. Anderson, Episcopal minister. Three sons of the first marriage died in early manhood, while two daughters and one son by the second marriage also died in the prime of life.

There are five tablestones alongside each other to members of a family named Murray. The oldest one is inscribed—

Here lyes the corpse of Gilbert Murray, some time farmer at Miln of Creichie, who died the 12th November, 1724, aged about 60. Also the corpse of Sylvester Murray, his son, tacksman of said Miln, who died 28th May, 1737, aged 32. Also the body of Elspet Murray—relict of the aboue Gilbert Murray—who died 8th August, 1749, aged 75.

A tablestone has the following inscription—

Here was laid in hopes of a blessed resur-rectu the body of John Falconer who lived sometime in Knock, Arnage, and Clochcan where he departed this life 12 Oct. 1745, aged 84; and of Margract Murison his spouse who dyed 14th Feb. 1749, aged 77. Also of Andrew Falconer their eldest son who died 4th March 1745, aged 43 years.

Death our Victory—1 Cor. 15ch., 57ver.

The above John Falconer, brother of Lord Falconer of Halkerton, in Kincardineshire, was Deputy Governor of Duntottar Castle at the time when the order was given to drown the Covenanters held as State prisoners there. Rather than be a party to such a barbarous deed, he took to flight by sea, with the intention

of going to Holland, but, either by shipwreck or from want of provisions, he landed on the coast of Buchan, where, meeting with friends, he remained in hiding during the greater part of his life. One of his sons, Sylvester, was for some time factor to the sons of the second Earl of Aberdeen; thereafter factor for part of the Earl's estates, and also those of Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy. He lived at Fechil House, and was buried at Ellon. Of his sons, Patrick became Chairman of the Stock Exchange in Glasgow; Cosmo was a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh and the intimate friend of Adam Smith, author of "The Wealth of Nations"; John was minister of the parish of Fyvie (1794-1828); and Alexander farmed the property of Artrochie, near Ellon.

A tombstone inscription records that Isabella Hogg died on 27th November, 1814, in the 81st year of her age, and 56th of her conjugal felicity.

Within a railed enclosure are several tombstones, one of which bears—

In memory of Joshua Smith, manufr., Millbreck, died 3rd Aug., 1853, aged 64 years. Also his children Joshua died 22nd May, 1822, aged 4 years. Mary Alice died 18th July, 1834, aged 18 years. And Christian died 1st March, 1846, aged 18 years.

In 1818, Joshua Smith, who was a native of Osset, Yorkshire, started, in concert with his brother Thomas, a small woollen manufactory at Millbreck. The business has since been largely extended, and it, along with the mill at Kirktown, Peterhead, has been continued by his son Thomas, who for many years was Provost of Peterhead.

A very small monument bears—

Here lyes George Andersono in Terriefield who dyed the 8 of Febervr, 1691.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

The public records furnish the names of only two schoolmasters who held office in the seventeenth century, viz., John Brown and George Clark. The former was appointed in 1615, but resigned on becoming assistant to Rev. Abraham Sibbald, the parish minister. George Clark was elected in 1649. — Urquhart held the appointment in the beginning of the eighteenth century, and was followed successively by William Perry, James Taylor, sen., and James Taylor, jun. The last-named graduated at Marischal College in 1782, and was appointed schoolmaster in the lifetime of his father. Mr Taylor, jun., secured licence as a preacher, and went out as a missionary to the West Indies, where he had the degree of D.D. from his Alma Mater. George Cruden, M.A., who was born at Waulkmill of Pitfour in 1775, succeeded. Securing licence as a preacher, he gave much assistance to Rev. Basil Anderson, the parish minister, who was in delicate health. He was the author of the account of the parish given in Sir John Sinclair's "Statistical Account of Scotland." Leaving Old Deer in 1803 to fill the office of writing master in the Aberdeen Public School, he was subsequently presented as minister to the parish of Logie-Buchan, where he died in 1850.

In a railed enclosure is a mural tablet bearing—

Near this place lie interred the mortal remains of Alexander Webster, A.M., who discharged with zeal and success the duties of Parochial Schoolmaster of this Parish for nearly thirty-seven years, after having filled with equal credit several highly respectable situations of a similar kind. He was born at Fortrie in the Parish of Inverkeithny on the 27th of Jany., 1773, and died at Old Deer on the 15th of Dec., 1839. His surviving relations erected this tablet to his memory.



Alexander Webster graduated in Arts at King's College 27th March, 1795, and eight years later was appointed parish schoolmaster. He was an excellent teacher, and, during his long tenure of office, passed through his hands many pupils who afterwards took high positions in various walks. Among others may be named James Smith, who became the eminent schoolmaster of Keith, and George Smith, of Chicago, the generous benefactor of his native parish.

Rev. James Cruden, M.A., son of the above Rev. George Cruden, succeeded. In 1842 he was presented as minister of Tyrie (see Tyrie), being, in 1855, translated to Gamrie, where he died in 1875. Rev. Alexander Milne, M.A., succeeded, and in 1844 was ordained minister of the parish of Tough, where he died 15th March, 1900. (See Tough.) Rev. William Cruickshank followed, but in 1849 he went to Canada, where he acted as a teacher and preacher till his death. Robert Wilson, M.A., succeeded in 1850, but resigned in 1889. He has an intimate knowledge of the old history of the parish and its people, his lectures and writings on which have been drawn upon for these notes. George Cameron, M.A., succeeded in 1889, but died on 20th December, 1895, at the early age of 35. John Gillies, M.A., is the present teacher.

A headstone bears—

Here lyes the corps of Alexr. Barclay in Clackriach who departed this life the 20th of Augst., 1737, aged 30. . .

A marble slab fixed into the outer wall of the old church has the inscription—

In memory of The Rev. William Burgess, M.A., Minister of Ardallie, and grand-nephew of The Rev. John Morrison, Minister of this Parish, died at Manse of Ardallie 10th November, 1889, aged 61.

The deceased was the first Minister of the Quoad Sacra Parish of Ardallie and discharged

the duties of the office with untiring zeal and faithfulness for the period of thirty-one years.

Rev. William Burgess, son of James Burgess, farmer, Rathven, graduated in Arts at Marischal College, after which he was appointed schoolmaster of Boharm, where he studied for the ministry. He was the first minister of the quoad sacra parish of Ardallie, having been appointed to the charge when it was a chapel of ease, out of respect and gratitude to his grand-uncle, Rev. John Morrison, parish minister of Deer, who had done much for its erection and endowment. Mr Burgess, like his relative, was a zealous and faithful pastor, and an exemplary visitor on the sick and the poor, as well as a generous contributor to their needs. He died unmarried.

#### EPISCOPAL CLERGYMEN.

A headstone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of The Rev. Ralph W. Anderson, who for six years was a zealous and faithful pastor of the Episcopal Congregation in this parish. He departed this life on the 25th day of March, anno domini, MDCCCXXXIV., in the 28th year of his age, to the great sorrow of his attached flock, who, as a tribute to his many virtues, have erected this stone.

Rev. Ralph W. Anderson, who was educated at King's College, was incumbent of the Episcopal Chapel at Stuartfield. He was beloved by his congregation, who erected the above-mentioned headstone to his memory.

In a railed enclosure is a red granite obelisk, which bears the following inscription—

In memory of Arthur Ranken, D.D., Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney. Born October 23, 1806; fell asleep in Christ September 24, 1886.

For 52 years priest of St Drostane's, Deer.

This cross is erected by the members of his congregation and other friends.

Arthur Ranken was the son of William Ranken, feuar and small farmer, New Pitsligo. After receiving his early education in the country, he became a student at Marischal College. Here, like many another lad who afterwards rose to eminence, he had a tough struggle with poverty.

"I rented a bedroom (he said), which was shared by another student, for which we each paid two-and-sixpence a week. My mother sent me oatmeal, cakes, butter, eggs, and potatoes, as also occasionally a roasted chicken, which was a 'bonne bouche,' although it came at uncertain intervals, on Sundays. I had a small supply of salt herrings, and these, with the potatoes, the cakes, and the cheese, were for the most part my ordinary dinner; while brose or pottage and milk enabled me to make a very hearty breakfast or supper. . . . When I wished to pay my parents a visit, I had to travel on foot from Aberdeen after college hours on Saturdays, and on returning I had to start about two or three o'clock on Monday mornings, my father accompanying me to Auchnagatt. It was sometimes sharp work getting to Aberdeen in time for my classes, particularly if, as frequently happened, there was snow on the ground, but I always managed it, and, in spite of hard pinching and short commons, I completed my classes, obtained my degree, and gained the grand object of my ambition—not a very great one you may perhaps think—of becoming an ordained priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church."

While still a deacon, Mr Ranken secured the charge of the congregation at Portsoy, where he "went one better" than Goldsmith's country parson, for his stipend was but thirty pounds a year. After six years, he was transferred to Deer, where he laboured with success and credit to himself for upwards of half a century. In 1835, he was appointed Synod Clerk of the diocese of Aberdeen, the duties of which office he discharged with marked efficiency for 45 years, when, in 1880, he was advanced to the office and dignity of Dean.

In 1885, his Alma Mater also recognised his merits by conferring on him the honorary degree of D.D.—a distinction of which he was doubly proud, inasmuch as he was the first priest of the disestablished Scottish Church to whom that degree had been offered by the University of Aberdeen since the Revolution of 1689. He was recognised as an authority on antiquarian matters, and was the author of several works, including "Sketches of the History of the Church of Scotland from the Period of the Reformation." His humour and skill in administering a rebuke are exemplified in the following case. Happening to visit his fields early one morning, he found a woman helping herself to a bagful of potatoes. "This is a fine morning, honest woman," he observed, passing on as if he had not noticed what she was about. "Oh, aye, sir, nae that ill," replied the woman, sadly put out, "but ye needra mock a body!"

Rev. J. H. Burn, B.D., F.R.S.E., The Parsonage, Ballater, obligingly furnished these particulars.

#### CENTENARIANS.

The annexed inscription from a headstone commemorates a centenarian—

Erected to the memory of James Godsman, who lived some time in Auchmachar, and died 11th April, 1835, aged 100 years. His wife Sophia Lawrence died March 20th, 1836, aged 95 years. His son Alexander Godsman died September 25, 1835, aged 53 years.

James Godsman, who reached the advanced age of 100, was the tenant of a small farm at Backhill of Auchmachar. He was of a sober, quiet, and industrious disposition. A grandson—his sole surviving relative—is now in Otago.

Issues of the "Aberdeen Journal" recorded the deaths of at least four other reputed parish centenarians thus—

27th February, 1760. Andrew Kinloch, aged 105.

22nd February, 1762. Alexander Anderson, gardener at the Abbey, aged 102. He had a vigorous frame and constitution, and till about two months before his death never knew what it was to suffer from sickness or disheath.

2nd March, 1772. Michael Yule, Skelmuir, aged 105.

6th March, 1797. Catherine Ogston, aged 102.

Jean Johnstone who resided in the parish in the spring of 1732, distinguished herself in another role. Being then 80 years of age, and the widow of three husbands, she married for her fourth a young man of eighteen, who then bound himself as apprentice to a wheelwright. "She seems exceedingly well pleased with him, and remarks that, had it not been for the many changes of husbands she had been blessed with, she must have long ago been dead." She lived, too, in hopes of a fifth husband, should this one, unfortunately, not live long. (Chambers's "Domestic Annals of Scotland," III., p. 622.)

#### OLD DEER CEMETERY.

For a lengthened period, the parish graveyard had been in a congested condition, and as its surroundings rendered extension impracticable, active steps were taken in 1872 to obtain a new cemetery. A field, extending to about two acres, on the right side of the public road leading from Old Deer village to Stuartfield, was secured. It was thoroughly drained, walled in, and most tastefully laid out in terraces, while a neat and commodious sexton's cottage was erected. The cost was nearly £2000. The first interment was that of George Anderson, farmer, Benwell, who died on 15th August, 1875. The funeral took place five days later, when Rev. Arthur Ranken, D.D., Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney, conducted the service and blessed the grave. Many inter-

ments have since taken place, and there are numerous tombstones of beautiful design and finish.

#### ST DROSTANE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The parish has been recognised as one of the strongholds of the Episcopalian form of worship; and, till the death of Rev. George Keith in 1710, Episcopalianism was in possession of the parish church. Presbyterianism then gained the ascendancy, however, and a separate Episcopal Church was erected, in 1711, in the grounds of Aden. It was burned down in the stirring times following the rising of '45. In 1766, a new edifice was erected on the north bank of the Ugie, a short distance above the bridge. It was a large building, devoid of architectural pretensions, but capable of accommodating 500 of a congregation. Having fallen into disrepair, it was finally abandoned.

In 1850, the present beautiful church was erected in the centre of the village. It is in the Early English style of architecture, and consists of a chancel 20 feet by 16 (enlarged in 1896 to 29 feet by 16 as a memorial of Dean Ranken), a nave 60 feet by 25, a north porch, a bell turret of tasteful design in the west gable, and a sacristy.

The bell has an antique form of Latin inscription, which, translated, is—

To God and St Drostan abbot and confessor. 1851.

Funerals I toll; lightnings I break; Sabbaths I proclaim; I rouse the slothful; I scatter the winds; I appease the cruel.

C. and G. Mears, founders, London.

The church has a good two-manual organ by J. Porrit, organ-builder, Leicester. The font, of Elgin freestone, was gifted by Lord Stanmore, uncle of the Earl of Aberdeen. The elegant and costly Communion plate was the offering of James Russell of Aden.



## EAST WINDOW OF CHANCEL.

A stained-glass window placed in the triple lancets in August, 1853, is a fine specimen of the art workmanship of Messrs Hardman, of Birmingham. It was the gift of two members of the congregation—Mr and Mrs James Russell of Aden. The centre light consists of three medallions; that in the middle, of large size, representing the Crucifixion, with the Blessed Virgin and St John standing at the foot of the Cross. The upper medallion is descriptive of our Blessed Lord and St Mary Magdalene in the garden—"Woman, why weepest thou?" "Touch me not." The lower group shows the figure of the Angel, clothed in white, announcing to the Three Holy Women, who had come with sweet spices for the embalming, that the Lord was risen. Underneath is a brass bearing the inscription—

He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The lancets on both sides of the centre light are filled with memorial subjects, that on the north (or left) side depicting St Michael the Archangel (and soldiers' patron) fighting against and overcoming the Dragon, and the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea. These memorials are commemorative of Mr A. C. Russell, whose career has already been sketched. The lancet on the south (or right) side consists of two groups of figures—St Catharine feeding the hungry and clothing the naked; and the raising of Jesus of the daughter of Jairus. The work is filled in with beautifully-designed and effectively-coloured tracery. It was dedicated to the memory of Catharine Georgiana Russell, who died 7th September, 1843, in her 9th year.

The reredos, designed by Mr J. N.

Comper, is in Gothic style, the same length as the altar, and just filling in the space between it and the window, which it does not obscure. There is no shelf, and the two candlesticks stand directly upon the mensa of the altar, which is of large size, and with its rich white frontal and "riddels," or side curtains, accurately reproduces the appearance of the east ends of old churches as they looked in mediæval times. The reredos was erected by Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. and the Hon. Mrs Ferguson of Pitfour to the memory of their son, who died in Rhodesia. On it are two figures representing St Drostane and St Columba respectively. There is a small brass on the south side with the inscription—

To the Glory of God and in memory of Francis William, second son of Col. Ferguson of Pitfour. Born July 29, 1863; died Jan. 24, 1896.

The south side chancel window shows the Royal Banner of Scotland and the initials of Christ's name. The central light portrays St Michael the Archangel. The lowest light displays a coat-of-arms, with initials J. G. V. D. (John Graham, Viscount Dundee) on either side, at each corner, and the motto "Bon Fin." A brass is inscribed—

† Sacred to the memory of John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, who died in the arms of victory, and whose battle cry was "King James and the Church of Scotland." †

These memorials to Viscount Dundee, which are probably unique, show the veneration in which his name was held in the parish. Dean Ranken's admiration reached almost hero-worship, and long after the family vault at Blair-Athol (in which the remains of the resourceful general were interred) had been desecrated, he had the bones collected, brought

to Old Deer, and buried within the precincts of the church.

In the north wall of the church is a plain modern Sacrament House, and a piscina has been formed in the sill of the south window.

Descending westwards are the following windows and brasses—

First window—(1) Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (2) Christ embracing little children. (3) Christ in the Temple when 12 years of age.

Brass—

† To the glory of God and in sweet memory of William-James and Barbara, children of William and Barbara Milne, in Upper Crichton. They slept in Christ's peace, XXIII. December, MDCCCLXIV.; and XX. February, MDCCCLXV. Aged VI. and X. years. †

Second window: (1) Infant Christ and Magi. (2) Christ the Good Shepherd. (3) Aged Simeon and Infant Christ.

Brass—

† To the Glory of God. † In memory of John Smith, a native of this parish, born 10th July, MDCCCLXXI., called to his rest at Aberdeen XXII. March, MDCCCLXX.; also of Elizabeth, his wife, born VIII. February, MDCCCLXXXIX., entered upon her rest XV. September, MDCCCLXIX.

† Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. †

Third window—(1) Figure of Christ standing. (2) Christ with cross. (3) Martyrdom of St Stephen.

Brass, with Latin inscription, the translation being—

To the honour of God and to the pious memory of William Arthur Ranken, Presbyter in the diocese of Aberdeen, who was born on the festival of St Fabian (20th January), bishop, and fell asleep in Christ on the festival of St Stephen, the first martyr (26th December). 1868, this memorial was erected by his sorrowing widow.

† Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen. †

Rev. William Arthur Ranken was the only son of Dean Arthur Ranken, D.D. He was incumbent of St Luke's Cuminestown, and died at the age of 26. He married Louise Augusta, youngest daughter of Alexander Hutchison, Peterhead. She died at Woodfield, Banchory-Ternan, 1st June, 1905.

A stained glass window was placed in one of the side lancets in 1858 by George Buchan Hepburn, Stuartfield, in memory of his parents. The subjects are connected with the doctrine of Holy Baptism. The top medallion portrays Moses and the Israelites passing through the Red Sea. The centre cartoon represents St Drostane baptising the native Celts at Aberdour, where the Saint was buried, and of which church and parish he was the Tutelar Saint. The scene—worked up from a sketch taken on the spot—represents the rock and the fountain scooped out of it, called (formerly) St Drostane's Well, and latterly "Mess John's," or "St John's Well." The third painting depicts the visit of Nicodemus to our Lord by night.

A brass is inscribed—

† To the Glory of God, and in pious memory of John Buchan Hepburn and of Mary, his wife, who died, the former on the XXI. and the latter on the XI. February, MDCCCLVII. Their only child, George, dedicates this window. †

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.—Eph., iv., 5.

In April, 1860, a stained glass window, in memory of their beloved wife and mother, was placed by Rev. Arthur Ranken and children in the western lancet, south side. The subjects are—(1) St Anne teaching the Blessed Virgin, when a child, to read (from an ancient drawing); and (2) our Blessed Lord, during the Sermon on the Mount, in the act of saying, "Behold the lilies of the field how they grow!" . . . "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed

like one of these." A brass, with Latin inscription, reads in English—

† To the honour of God and to the pious memory of Anna, the dearly loved wife of Arthur Ranken, presbyter and pastor of this church, who departed in the peace of Christ on the 30th day of April, 1858; also (in memory) of Anna Elizabeth, their eldest daughter, and wife of William Boyd, who was born on the festival of St Athanasius, archbishop, 1834, and who fell asleep in the Lord on the festival of St Dunstan, archbishop, 1864, the sorrowing widower and father erected this memorial.

Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. Amen. †

The chancel north window shows—(1) Coronet above Cross, which has letter M embracing it; (2) Figure of St Margaret; (3) St Andrew's Cross, with motto round it, "Nemo me impune lacessit." A brass is inscribed—

† To the Glory of God and in memory of St Margaret of Scotland, Queen. Also of Margaret Cumine of Kininmonth, widow of Alexander Russell of Aden and Moncoffer.

"Her children shall rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her." †

In the nave, westwards—First light—(1) Christ's Resurrection; (2) Christ knocking at door, "Behold I stand at the door and knock"; (3) Joseph being raised from well. A brass bears—

† To the Glory of God and in pious memory of Caroline, wife of James Russell of Aden. She fell asleep in Christ on Sunday, the 2nd October, A.D., MDCCCLXIV.

"Eternal rest give unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her." "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." †

Second light—(1) Salutation of Mary by angel; (2) Virgin and Child; (3) Mary

and John after the Crucifixion. A brass is inscribed—

† To the Glory of God, and in memory of Mary, wife of William Russell, Kininmonth, who died XXVI. September, MDCCCLXXII. †  
† Jesu mercy. †

Third light—(1) Christ's Ascension; (2) Last Supper, St John leaning upon Christ's breast; (3) Priest administering Holy Communion. A brass bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

To the Glory of God, and to the pious memory of Arthur Ranken, priest, who was born on the 23rd day of October, 1806, and fell asleep in Christ on the 24th day of September, 1886.

† O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant him Thy peace. †

Fourth light—(1) Adoration of Lamb. Figure of lamb. Figures in attitude of adoration; (2) a wise virgin with lamp burning; (3) Ark borne through the Red Sea. A brass bears a Latin inscription—in English it reads—

† To the honour of God and to the pious memory of Caroline Russell, her deeply sorrowing friends . . . have erected this memorial, A.D., 1865. †

The west window consists of two lancets, with smaller light above, displaying figure of cross. It was the gift of the ladies of the congregation at the time the church was built, and formerly formed the south window of the chancel. It is filled with diamond-shaped glass—plain, except medallions, of which there are three in each lancet.

No. 1 displays (1) Ox, with wings, representing St Luke; (2) Pelican feeding young from its own breast; (3) Eagle, St John.

No. 2 shows (1) Lion, with wings, St Mark; (2) Lamb, with banner; (3) Man, St Matthew.



In connection with the latter lancet window, it may be pointed out that some consider that the symbols of St Matthew and St Mark ought to be reversed, as the lion represents St Matthew and the man St Mark. St Augustine adopts this view, but St Jerome adopts the opposite one. St Mark's Cathedral in the Piazza at Venice supports the latter, and the lion of St Mark is adopted by the Venetian Senate as its crest. Thus the mistake has been stereotyped for many centuries. The point is so interesting that the following may be added:—Ezekiel's vision of the "four living creatures" is typical of the four Evangelists, thus—The Lion—St Matthew: royalty; "King of the Jews"; the lion of the tribe of Judah. The Man—St Mark: humanity; "Touched with the feeling of our infirmities," perfect man. The Ox—St Luke: priesthood; the charter of our salvation. The Eagle—St John: divinity; St John soars on eagle's wings to the very highest heaven, and teaches of the pre-existence of the Word.

Over the inside door of the porch is a brass with a Latin inscription, which reads in English—

To the Glory of God and to the honour of blessed Drostane, confessor, this church was dedicated by William, Bishop of Aberdeen, on the octave of Ascension Day (Thursday, 5th June), in the year of our Lord, 1851.

In the west wall of the church there is a brass inscribed—

In affectionate remembrance of George Urquhart, for 24 years Verger of this church. Born 29th August, 1830; at rest 23rd November, 1902.

Out of 446 names recorded in the Burial Register 78 reached the age of eighty and upwards, whilst 19 died aged ninety and upwards.

## New Deer.

The whole of this large parish—which may be said to date from 1622—originally formed a part of the parish of Deir.

A chapel connected with the Abbey stood at the hamlet of Auchreddie (this was the name of the parish for about a century after its formation, and a small portion of it, on the property of the Earl of Aberdeen, still retains the title) from an early period, and in 1620 a permanent minister was presented to it. Two years later, a new church was erected within the graveyard. Unfortunately, the particulars of the style of architecture and dimensions of the edifice have not been preserved. It is known, however, that it bore the date 1622, that an aisle was added in 1773, that the church was seated for 900, but that in 1838 it had become "very old and ruinous." The west doorway, which was pointed and richly moulded, disappeared for many years, but was afterwards discovered on the rafters of a barn at Auchreddie. It is now in the possession of Rev. George Scott, who is a native of the parish.

The square enclosure to the right of the entrance gate to the graveyard, known as "The Nethermuir Tomb," contains several stones which composed the old church belfry. When the church was demolished about 1839, the tomb was erected, many stones for the purpose being carted from Nethermuir. Amongst these was a triangular slab of granite, which is now fixed over the doorway. It has at the top the motto, "Sveir Nocht," below which is a shield showing the Gordon arms, flanked by the initials D. G., and the date 1595. The name David Gordon (he was the son of James Gordon of Methlick and Haddo) follows, underneath which are three ornaments, one of which is a sand-

glass. Below is a shield displaying the Mowat Arms, flanked by the initials I. M. This block rests upon a red sandstone lintel, which is believed to have formed part of the kirk belfry. It bears in bold form the letters K. and A.; W. E. M. L., representing William, Earl Marischal, Lord Keith and Altrie, who was patron of the parish.

In 1839, a commodious new church in Third Pointed style with 1500 sittings was erected on a site on the opposite side of the village roadway. A tower, which was completed in 1865, contains a bell and clock fitted up under the superintendence of Mr David Gill (now Sir David Gill, K.C.B., of Blairythan), who, in his earlier years, frequently visited Rev. James Welsh, who gave him both encouragement and assistance in his astronomical studies.

The church possesses four solid silver chalices purchased with money gifted by the congregation to the minister, Rev. David Sibbald. They bear the inscription—

For the Church of Auchreddy.  
Anno, 1694. M. D. S.

The initials represent—Mr David Sibbald.

Chief Justice James Reid, of Montreal, presented to the church in 1844 a costly service of solid silver Communion vessels, which included two large flagons, four chalices, four bread baskets, and four small baskets for the offertory. The generous donor is commemorated by a white marble tablet in the vestibule of the church. It bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

This tablet was erected by the desire of his sorrowing widow to the memory of James Reid, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, Montreal, Lower Canada, where his remains were interred. He was a man of a generous disposition, and died lamented by many friends, 19th January, 1848, in the 79th year of his age. Born in the village of New Deer,

he was not unmindful of his native place, for he presented to this church the elegant service of silver vessels to be used in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

A tablestone in the graveyard has the following inscription to Mr Reid's mother, sister, and nephew—

Under this stone lie the body of Jean Hatt, late in New Deer, who died 5th December, 1816, aged 74 years, also her daughter, Jean Reid, who died in February, 1794, aged 23 years.

This stone is erected to the memory of his affectionate mother, Jean Hatt, as a tribute of filial love and gratitude by her only son, The Honourable James Reid, Montreal, North America.

Also in memory of his nephew, John Taylor, merchant, New Deer, who died 17th February, 1831, aged 31 years.

Justice Reid's father was William Reid, feuar, New Deer. His mother made great sacrifices to give him a good education, his appreciation of which is expressed in the above inscription. He studied at Marischal College in the sessions 1783-86, and through sheer ability and force of character ultimately rose to the first rank in Canada. He married Elizabeth, sister of Sir William MacGillivray, Montreal.

#### PARISH MINISTERS.

The first minister was Rev. John Broune, who was instituted 25th June, 1620.

Rev. William Jaffray, who graduated M.A. at King's College in 1619, and was for some time schoolmaster of Fraserburgh, was admitted as minister before May, 1636. He remained for at least eleven years, and is believed to have been translated to King-Edward in 1647. (See King-Edward.)

Rev. Alexander Douglas was admitted before 2nd May, 1650, but he was deposed by the Presbytery on 4th October, 1653, for "unedifying doctrine, inability in discipline, excessive drinking, swearing, lying, etc." "In regard of his verie mean and

poor condition," he was granted "a charitable supplie" by the Synod of 22nd April, 1659; while — "as a suffering minister"—he was recommended by Parliament, 13th March, 1661.

Rev. Gilbert Clerk, who had graduated M.A. at Edinburgh University, 30th July, 1646, received a call to be minister on 22nd January, 1654. His settlement was violently opposed by a section of the parishioners, which necessitated the admission taking place—not in the church, as customary, but in the mansion-house of Meikle Auchreddie. He continued till at least 12th October, 1680. He married his relative, Jean Clerk, who, with three daughters—Mary, Janet, and Jean—survived him.

Rev. David Sibbald, who graduated in Arts at King's College, 9th July, 1668, was admitted in the summer of 1682. On 2nd October, 1683, he married Elizabeth Sibbald, and had a family of at least four daughters—Elizabeth, Catharina, Christian, and Marjory, who in 1713 was married as his second wife to Rev. John Angus, Kinellar. Mr Sibbald died 15th May, 1706, aged 55.

Rev. John Webster, M.A., previously minister of the parish of Fetteresso, was inducted 29th April, 1707. He was translated to Cruden in 1720, and died 8th March, 1743.

Rev. George Mair, son of Rev. George Mair, minister of Culross, and subsequently of Tulliallan, was ordained 21st March, 1722. He died 13th April, 1736. On 18th April, 1723, he married Margaret, daughter of William Lindsay of Culsh, and their only son, William, who was born in 1724, became minister of the Associate congregation at Muckhart in 1745, and died in February, 1780. According to M'Kelvie's "History of the United Presbyterian Church," Rev. George Mair was one of the ministers "who protested against the Act

of Assembly, 1732, which restricted the election of ministers in vacant parishes to a certain class," and otherwise took part with the "four brethren" who seceded, but did not himself secede. In consequence, many of the parishioners took offence, and this led to the formation of the Secession congregation at Craigmadam, and ultimately to that at Clola and Whitehill.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. William Taylor, who graduated in Arts at King's College in 1728, and was ordained 9th February, 1737. After a ministry exceeding sixty years, he died 29th April, 1797. He is said to have been the first person in the parish to possess a cart. He married; and of his family a daughter—Agnes — married Rev. Andrew Youngson, minister of Aberdour.

Rev. Hugh Taylor, son of the preceding, who graduated M.A. at Marischal College in 1766, was ordained assistant and successor 1st December, 1773. He died, unmarried, 4th July, 1831, in his 85th year.

The succeeding minister is commemorated by a headstone against the churchyard wall. It bears a Latin inscription, which in English is—

Erected by James Welsh, Minister of New Deer, in memory of his beloved wife Isabella Munro, who was born 15th November, 1796, and died 7th June, 1848. Her remains rest here, together with those of her daughter, Elizabeth Crombie, who was born 23rd January, 1830, and died 10th January, 1831. The remains of his sons, James Ronald, who was born 5th October, 1824, and died 2nd December, 1825, and Robert, who was born 1st September, 1825, and died 6th April, 1830, rest in the churchyard of Footdee, Aberdeen. Beside her mother lies also his younger daughter Eliza, who died 20th May, 1855.

The Reverend James Welsh, M.A., who erected this monument, and was Minister of New Deer for 42 years, died 25th March, 1872, in the 83rd year of his age. A grave, learned, and pious man.



Rev. James Welsh, who was a native of Brechin, graduated M.A. at King's College 30th March, 1807. Dr Scott (*Fasti*) says he was "a mathematician of no mean power, who about 1810 composed a treatise on algebra, manufactured many of the types and diagrams requisite, set up the types, printed the book, and bound it in his father's house." He became teacher of the Aberdeen Academy (40 Union Street), and in 1828 published "An Introduction to Geography, History, Chronology, and Astronomy . . ." On 2nd December, 1830, he was ordained assistant and successor here. Of his daughters, Joanna married Rev. James Cruden, Gamrie (George Cruden, advocate, Aberdeen, is their son); Isabella married Rev. James Wilson, Savoch, and subsequently of Aberdeen; while Rachel and Catherine died at Cults, unmarried, about twenty years ago.

The next minister has a tombstone within a railed enclosure. It bears the following inscription—

Erected by the congregation of the Parish Church of New Deer in affectionate memory of the Christian character and faithful labours of The Rev. John Wallace, Minister of the Parish, who died December 26th, 1875, aged 40 years.

"He being dead yet speaketh."

Rev. John Wallace was the brother of Dr Robert Wallace, at one time minister of Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh, and afterwards M.P. for East Edinburgh; and of Mr William Wallace, M.A. (Aberdeen), LL.D. (St Andrews), editor of the "Glasgow Herald," and editor of the new edition of Chambers's "Burns."

The congregation by a majority elected to the vacancy Rev. William Bruce, minister of Portlethen; but, as he was then temporarily under suspension, the Higher Courts of the Church declined to sustain the appointment. Many of the supporters of Mr Bruce thereupon seceded from the

Parish Church, and formed themselves into an independent Congregational body. They built for themselves a church, to which they appointed as minister Rev. James Rae, who has since been provided with a commodious manse.

The "jus devolutum" having fallen to the Presbytery, they appointed, in April, 1877, Rev. George Forbes Innes Philip, M.A., but, owing to appeals and litigation, he was not inducted till 27th March, 1879. Mr Philip—who was the son of Thomas Philip, schoolmaster of Grange, and subsequently of Portsoy—was for a short time schoolmaster of Inverkeithny. On receiving licence, he was appointed to supply the new church at Ythan Wells, continuing, however, his teaching as stated. In 1868, he was elected minister of the parish of Skene, from which he was translated in 1870 to St Clement's, Aberdeen. His ability and tact were rewarded with such success that during his brief ministry there the congregation increased from 500 to 2000. On taking up the charge at New Deer, he found the congregation divided in opinion and embittered through the protracted wrangle mentioned. His zeal, kindness of heart, and talents as a preacher smoothed many difficulties and won the hearts of the people. In the beginning of 1897, he was obliged, owing to failing health, to apply for the appointment of an assistant and successor. This having been agreed to by the Presbytery, he took up his residence at Cults, near Aberdeen, where he died 21st April, 1900, aged 67. He was survived by his wife, Barbara Morrison, and six sons—Thomas, sometime merchant, Cape Town, afterwards residing at Wayside, Cults; Alfred Morrison, minister of the parish of Avoch, Ross-shire; William Marshall, land surveyor and civil engineer, Johannesburg; George Davenport, missionary of the Scotch Episcopal Church, Chanda,

Central Provinces, India; James Porter, who has a large medical practice in Morpeth, Northumberland; and John Anderson, minister of the Scotch Episcopal Church at Kirriemuir.

The present incumbent is Rev. William Adams, who is a graduate in Arts and Divinity of Aberdeen University. He was ordained assistant and successor to Mr Philip, 22nd July, 1897.

#### FEDDERATE.

The ruins of the ancient castle of Fedderate stand in the midst of an arable field in a slightly elevated situation, about two miles to the north of New Deer Village and one mile to the west of Brucklay Castle. The castle is believed to have been erected by William Crauford, who was proprietor of the surrounding estate from at least 1474 to 1519. In the days of its strength, it had been surrounded partly by a morass and partly by a fosse, access being got by a causeway and draw-bridge, traces of which were visible till about a century ago. By 1840, the morass had been drained and many of the best stones of the castle carried off by the farmers in the district for building purposes. Indeed, to procure these stones the more easily, gunpowder was employed to blow up part of the ruins. This probably accounts for the remark of Messrs Macgibbon and Ross (*"Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland,"* I., p. 357) that "The castle has the appearance of having been crashed right through diagonally, as if by heavy artillery." Although much has been demolished, a considerable portion remains intact, standing out solitary, gaunt, and bare, to the height of about 40 feet.

The plan of the structure had been an incomplete square, measuring 58 feet 8 inches by 44 feet, with walls ranging from 7 to 8 feet in thickness. The ground floor,

as well as the first floor, was vaulted; and, in the opinion of Messrs Macgibbon and Ross, there were altogether four floors, with numerous closets and garde-ropes, in the walls. Dr Pratt, in his "Buchan," expresses the view, on the other hand, that the castle had been carried up to the height of six or seven storeys. It is agreed, however, that the first floor was divided into only two apartments, from which fact it will be realised how little real accommodation these early-built, thickly-walled castles afforded.

Fedderate was besieged on at least three occasions—first, in December, 1590, when Robert Keith, brother to Earl Marischal, after being dislodged from his six weeks' possession of the Abbey of Deer, took shelter in it. Earl Marischal and his followers endeavoured to take the castle, but, failing, arranged terms with the besieged. (Gordon's "Scots Affairs," I., p. xxxiii.) About the same date—after the Craufords had given place, as proprietors, to the Irvines of Drum—George Crauford, son of William Crauford (the seller of the castle and estate to Alexander Irvine of Drum in 1573), with numerous members of the clan, surprised and took possession of the castle. James VI. thereupon granted a commission to George, Earl of Huntly, to convocate the lieges in arms for the siege of Fedderate and the capture of Crauford and his associates, who were declared to have "put all law and order at defiance." They treated the King's messenger with contempt, compelling him to eat and swallow—"to the gryt hesard and perrell of his lyff"—the letters of diligence which he had gone to serve upon them. (Antiquities, IV., p. 52.) Again, "some days after the battle of Cromdill, several gentlemen of the King's party came there (to Fedderate) and caused the country people carry in a great deal of provisions for them; but, after the regular

forces had lyen some four weeks before it, they surrendered and were carried abroad." (*Antiquities*, I., p. 405.)

The lands of Fedderate belonged before 1214 to Fergus, Earl of Buchan. They afterwards passed to the Craufords, who erected the castle as mentioned. In 1573, they were acquired by the Irvines of Drum. Mr Robert Keith of Lentush, Regent in Marischal College from 1683 to 1688, was the next owner. He married Marjory Irvine, daughter of John Irvine of Brucklay. According to Captain Wimberley, he got involved in a peculiar difficulty. Having arranged a marriage between Alexander Irvine of Drum and his niece, Marjory Forbes, he, in 1688, "as Drum was fickle, supplied the place of a minister, and celebrated the marriage himself, but dreading the loss of his position, as Regent, which actually followed, he took a bond for £10,000 from the lady the day before the marriage." He was still in possession of Fedderate in 1696 when he paid of poll, for himself, £12 6s; for his wife, 6s; for "William and Alexander Keiths, his sons," £3 12s; and for Anna Keith, his daughter, 6s. (*Poll Book*.) The next proprietor was Dr Patrick Chalmers, eldest son of Rev. William Chalmers, minister of the parish of Skene. After studying on the Continent, he, in 1701, became the first Professor of Medicine in Marischal College, which appointment he held till 1716, when he was deprived. He married Rachel Forbes, eldest daughter of Alexander Forbes of Foveran, and they are said to have had a family of thirteen, the names of nine of whom are recorded in the *Poll Book*—Alexander, Samuel, Patrick, George, John, Janat, Margrat, Elizabeth, Rachel. About 1716, Dr Chalmers lost an expensive lawsuit, which necessitated the selling of his landed property. Fedderate was then purchased by Mr Forbes of Ballogie.

William, second Earl of Aberdeen, purchased the estate in 1737; and, in 1839, George, fourth earl, sold it to John Duff Dingwall of Brucklay. At his death on 26th October, 1840, the property passed to his father-in-law, Sir Henry Bridges of Beddington House, Surrey. The latter was succeeded by his son, Rev. Alexander Henry Bridges, Rector of Beddington, and honorary Canon of Winchester. Canon Bridges died 16th October, 1891, when his son, John Henry Bridges, of Ewell Court and Beddington Park, Surrey, became the proprietor. He is also the owner of the estate of Ardlaw, in the parish of Pitsligo.

#### BRUCKLAY AND CULSH.

As pointed out in Pratt's "*Buchan*" (revised edition, Aberdeen, 1901, p. 178), the family of Dingwall-Fordyce owes its origin to an intermarriage between the Dingwalls of Brucklay and the Fordyces of Culsh in 1744. The Dingwalls deduce their descent from the family of that surname who owned the lands of Cambuscarry, in Ross-shire. In the end of the fifteenth century, members of the family, to escape from the violence of their old foes, the Mackenzies, left their Highland home and settled in Buchan. Of this line was William Dingwall of Seilscrook, Monquhitter, born about 1590, who married Barbara Barclay, and their eldest son, Arthur, of Brownhill, married Lucretia, second daughter of John Irvine of Brucklay. There were two sons of this marriage, of whom the second son, Arthur, inherited Brownhill, while the eldest son, William, succeeded to Brucklay. In 1696, William Dingwall was in the service of Mr (afterwards Sir) Samuel Forbes of Foveran, his yearly fee being the modest one of £5 sterling. On 25th October, 1711, he married Ann, daughter of John Gordon of Nethermuir. Both were buried within the old church of New Deer, on the demolition



of which the space was enclosed and a tablestone erected over their grave. It bears the following inscription—

In memory of William Dingwall and Ann his wife, late of Brucklay, died May, 1733. Also, William Dingwall, son of the above, died March 1803, aged 85 years.

A separate marble tablet bears—

William Dingwall of Brucklay, Esq., also his Lady, Ann Gordon of Nethermuir, died in one week in May, 1733. Leaving six sons and three daughters all under age.

As a Justice of the Peace, he was a zealous Protector of his Neighbours and the Poor from every specious of Fraud and Oppression.

William Dingwall, the eldest son—who is stated in the first inscription to have died in March, 1803, at the age of 85—succeeded to Brucklay. He was for a time a surgeon in the army, but latterly lived almost as a recluse, being known in the district as "The Miser." He died unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother, John, who for many years carried on a successful jewellery business in London. He married Patience Huddard, but they had no family. He died 28th May, 1812, leaving personal estate representing a quarter of a million pounds, which was settled on the heirs of his estates of Brucklay and Artamford. He was succeeded by the grandson of his sister Lucretia—John Dingwall of Aberdour and Woodston, fifth son of Baillie John Dingwall, jun., of Aberdeen, and Magdalen Duff, his wife. He married, 6th November, 1813, Mary, eldest daughter of William Gordon of Aberdour. He died 21st January, 1833, and was succeeded by his only surviving child, John, who assumed the additional surname of Duff on succeeding to the estate of Corsindae, which had been entailed on him by his grand-uncle, William Duff. On 14th September, 1837, he married Fanny, daughter of Sir Henry Bridges of Beddington House, Surrey. They had no

family. Both are commemorated by a tablet in the enclosure in New Deer Churchyard, already referred to. It has at the top the sacred letters I. H. S., followed by a Latin inscription, which, in English, is—

To the memory of my most affectionate, faithful, and lovely wife Fanny, daughter of Sir Henry Bridges, who died June 15th, 1840, in her 25th year. This memorial was erected by John Duff Dingwall.

Also in memory of her dearly loved husband John Duff Dingwall, Esquire, who died October 26th, 1840, in his 25th year. This inscription was added by his beloved father-in-law Sir Henry Bridges.

The greater portion of the landed property fell, in terms of the entail, to the descendants of Jean Fordyce, second wife of Mr John Duff Dingwall's great-grandfather, William Dingwall. Corsindae devolved on his aunt, Mrs Stewart, while Fedderate went to his wife's family, as already mentioned.

Arthur Dingwall Fordyce of Culsh, eldest son of William Dingwall Fordyce of Techmuiry, succeeded to Brucklay, Aberdour, etc. He studied law, and was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen in 1821. On 17th October, 1822, he married his cousin, Jessy Stewart Dingwall Fordyce, eldest daughter of Captain Arthur Dingwall Fordyce, Bengal Engineers. He died 30th December, 1843, and, leaving no family, was succeeded by his next surviving brother, Alexander Dingwall Fordyce, captain in the Royal Navy, who was Member of Parliament for the city of Aberdeen from 1847 till 1852, when he retired from political life. On 14th July, 1835, he married Barbara, daughter of James Thom, sometime merchant in Halifax, Nova Scotia; and they had a family of four sons and four daughters. He died at Aberdeen, 16th July, 1864.

William Dingwall-Fordyce, eldest twin-son of the preceding, succeeded. He graduated in Arts at Edinburgh University, and became a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1861. In 1866, on a vacancy taking place in the Parliamentary representation of the county of Aberdeen, he was elected—being the first Liberal ever returned by the county. He married, 8th April, 1870, Christian, daughter of Robert Horn, advocate, and Dean of Faculty, by whom and four children he was survived. He is commemorated by a square-sided tower erected on the top of the hill of Culsh, which is seen from a great distance. A tablet above the door is inscribed—

Erected to the memory of William Dingwall-Fordyce, M.P., born 31st March, 1836, died 26th November, 1875, by tenants and friends in token of their sorrow for his early death, and their warm remembrance of him as a just and liberal landlord, a trustworthy Member of Parliament, and an exemplary Christian gentleman.

“No man liveth to himself.”

An obelisk within the grounds of Brucklay Castle bears—

To the dear memory of William Dingwall-Fordyce. Born in Aberdeen 31st March, 1836. Died at Brucklay Castle 26th Nov., 1875. In sure hope of a blessed resurrection. . . .

A small cross has the following inscription—

“God is love.”

Barbara Rachael Dingwall-Fordyce.

Born 18th August, 1872.

Died 13th April, 1892.

Alexander Dingwall-Fordyce, eldest son of Mr William Dingwall-Fordyce, succeeded to Brucklay, his majority being celebrated in 1894.

The estate of Culsh was, by a family arrangement, made over to James Dingwall-Fordyce, twin-brother of William Dingwall-Fordyce; and on the death of James Dingwall-Fordyce in 1899 the estate

fell to his son, Alexander, who holds the degree of M.D., and resides in Edinburgh.

#### AUCHREDDIE.

The lands of Auchreddie were long in the possession of a branch of the Barclays of Towie. According to Macpherson (Preface xxx., 1), it was for George Barclay that the Royal MS. of Wyntoun's “Cronikyl of Scotland” was transcribed. It is believed to have been written between 1420 and 1430, and at the top of the page, in large characters, is the following—

This buik dois perteine  
To ane rycht honorabill man,  
Georg Barclay of Auchrody  
And mony wther propirty.  
Brother german is he  
To Schyr Patrik of Tollie,  
Cheif of Barclays in Scotland,  
And mony guid deid he's had in hand.

In 1559, Walter Barclay had sasine on the lands of Auchroddy with Mekille Siggat, Mains of Towie, castle, manor place, etc. In 1587, Patrick Barclay had sasine on the same properties, and also on the lands and barony of Caircok, Perthshire. Ninety years later, Jean Barclay, daughter of William Barclay of Auchreddie, as nearest heiress of Patrick Barclay of Auchreddie, her grand-uncle, had service on Auchreddie, held in chief of the lairds of Towie in free blench farm for yearly payment of one penny.

#### LITTLE AUCHREDDIE.

Part of the lands of Little Auchreddie belonged, in 1690, to John Davidson, son of William Davidson, in Kirktown of Skene, and his wife, Lucretia Morgan. He died 8th January, 1694, in his 31st year, when his estate passed to his next surviving brother, Abraham, merchant burgess in Aberdeen, who died 14th December, 1717, aged 48. A younger brother, William, died 14th April, 1697,

aged 26; while a sister, Margaret, who married John Burnet, merchant, Aberdeen, died 4th January, 1712, in her 31st year.

## KNAVEN.

On 24th January, 1441, Robert, Earl of Mar, lord of Erskine, sold to Andrew of Culane, burges of Aberdeen, the lands of Knavane, in the barony of Kellie. (Antiq., IV., p. 49.) In 1472, David Lesly, lord of Petcapill, granted a charter to Robert Culan, burges of Aberdeen (probably a son of the preceding), of an annual rent of four merks Scots, from the half of the lands of Crechtmonde, with the mill in the regality of the Garioch. In 1510, John Cullane of Knaven, also designed as burges of Aberdeen, conveyed this annual rent to William Elphinstone, rector of Clatt, who, two years later, granted it to the chaplains of the choir of the New College of the University of Aberdeen. (Antiq., III., pp. 419-20.) In 1517, Cullane is stated (Laing's Seals) to have borne—on a bend between two boars' heads, coupéd; a cinquefoil inter two buckles, tongues erect.

The property shortly afterwards was purchased by Gordon of Nethermuir.

## NETHERMUIR.

The lands of Nethermuir were long possessed by a branch of the Gordons, whose progenitor was David Gordon, son of James Gordon of Methlick and Haddo, who died in 1582. In 1696, the estate appears to have been divided between Patrick Gordon and John Gordon. The former married Anna Strachan (died 1699), and their son, William, was then living in family with them. John Gordon married Elizabeth Gordon, who died in 1699. Their family consisted of one son and two daughters—George, Anna, and Elizabeth. Mr Gordon married as his second wife Mary Cumming.

An account of the funeral expenses of John Gordon, who died in August, 1732, has been preserved. The details which are given below may prove of interest as showing not only the long way that money went, but also the customs which were observed at the interment of a country laird in those days—

Imp. To a phisitian .....	£2	2	0
It. To a surgean .....	1	3	8
It. For a coffin and mortcloth and charges to the church officer .....	1	10	10
It. Spent in entertaining the gentlemen at James Gerart's after the bureil .....	0	7	6
It. To the servt for bying small necessors at that time and to the poor people .....	0	6	8
It. To Mrs Craig, the baker, per account .....	1	0	0
It. To Mr Forrest, merchant, for vine, per account .....	2	8	4
It. To the price of the relick's mournings, per two discharged accounts	5	3	11
It. For mutton and some other things	0	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£14	7	11

The estate was purchased by William Leslie (in 1872), whose parents have a headstone to their memory in the parish graveyard. It bears the inscription—

In memory of Alexander Leslie, mason in Auchreddie, who died 23rd November, 1842, aged 74 years. And of his wife, Elizabeth Ironside, who died 14th December, 1851, aged 86 years.

William Leslie was a builder and architect, and a partner in the firm of Macdonald and Leslie, granite merchants. He was Provost of Aberdeen, 1869-73. He was three times married, first to Mary, daughter of Robert Watson, manufacturer, Stoneywood, and his wife, Margaret Jaffrey. She died 21st July, 1853, aged 53, and on 20th August, 1861, he married, secondly, Stansmore Read, daughter of Captain Richmond, inspecting commander of Coastguard. She died 11th June, 1867,



aged 44, and on 3rd December, 1874, he married, thirdly, Katherine E. Primrose, daughter of Rev. William Primrose. Mr Leslie, who was a Deputy-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, died 18th February, 1879, aged 77, and is buried in a handsome tomb in Old Machar graveyard. For the future upkeep of this tomb he mortified £100. An excellent sketch of his career is given in Munro's "Provosts of Aberdeen," pp. 288-89.

Nethermuir is now in the possession of John Dean Leslie, nephew of the preceding.

#### CAIRNBANNO AND AUCHMUNZIEL.

The lands of Carnebannocht and Auchmonzell, with Ardmauchter, originally formed a portion of the extensive possessions of the Abbey of Deir, and in 1539 they were let by John, the Abbot—under a nineteen years' lease—to George Gordon of Scheves. (*Antiq.*, IV., p. 551.)

Cairnbanno and Auchmunziel were purchased in the latter half of the eighteenth century by James Wilson of Auchaber, who married Liliias Ogilvy. Of their family, James married Isabella Gordon of Merdrum, and they had a son, James, who succeeded to Auchaber. A daughter of James Wilson and Liliias Ogilvy, Ann Wilson, married Mr Reid, Portsoy, and their son, James, succeeded to Cairnbanno and Auchmunziel, and thereupon assumed the surname of Wilson. He died at Rose Acre Cottage, Portsoy, on 27th October, 1833, aged 42, survived by his wife, Jane Margaret Knight, who died 3rd October, 1863, aged 79. Mr Reid Wilson having no family, sold both properties before his death.

In the "Slacks," smuggling was carried on extensively till a comparatively recent date.

#### ARTAMFORD.

The estate of Artamford was for a lengthened period possessed by the Irvines, of whom was John Irvine, fifth son of Alexander Irvine, eighth laird of Drum. He married Beatrice, daughter of John Irvine of Pitmurchie, and they had a family of eight sons, among whom were Alexander of Learney, Richard of Cairnfield or Balgownie, and James, who succeeded to Artamford. He married Anne, daughter of Keith of Ravenscraig, and they had a family of two sons and two daughters. Of these sons, James of Artamford married, in 1673, Margaret, daughter of James Sutherland of Kinminity, Keith. Besides a daughter, they had five sons, of whom were Alexander (heir to Artamford, but who afterwards sold it to his brother William, bought the estate of Crimond, and became laird of Drum in 1737), Robert, Thomas, and Charles.

Of the family of a subsequent laird George Irvine, Margaret, on 26th August, 1767, married William Urquhart of Craigmston; while Alexander, who entered the army, rose to the rank of captain in the 1st Regiment of Guards, and died 24th December, 1789.

The estate has been for many years merged in the Brucklay properties, and the mansion-house is entirely removed. Its site, near the public road leading from Maud through the parish, is still pointed out.

#### PARISH GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The parish graveyard (it includes the site of the demolished old church), which is situated within the village, is surrounded by high walls. It is considerably congested, and, extension being found impossible, owing to the surrounding roadway and buildings, a new cemetery

on the Hill of Culsh was formed in 1890. This cemetery is largely taken advantage of for interments.

An old tablestone embellished by sundry emblems, including a blacksmith's tongs, hammer, etc., bears the inscription—

Heir lys en honest and vertous voman caled Besse Sangster, spovse to Vellem Horn, who departed this lyf 1682, May 28.

Horn was an excellent specimen of the old robust country blacksmith. Several of his descendants still follow the same avocation.

#### REV. ALEXANDER CHRISTIE.

A headstone bears—

Erected by James Christie at Auchry in memory of his beloved parents and much esteemed brother, late Episcopal clergyman at Crichtie. His father James Christie died 1st October, 1803, aged 82. His mother, Mary Galloway, 3rd March, 1774, aged 52. His brother, the Rev. Alexander Christie, 18th April, 1816, aged 54. James Christie died 25th February, 1828, aged 75 years. . . .

James Christie, sen., was a farmer at Auchry, Monquhitter, and was succeeded by his son James. Rev. Alexander Christie attended Marischal College in sessions 1779-83, after which he qualified for the Episcopal Church. He subsequently became Episcopal minister of Keith (he had also the charge of Ruthven and Aberchirder), and, having succeeded in getting a new church built, he opened it on the seventh Sunday after Trinity, 1791, by the preaching of an appropriate sermon. It is interesting to record that this sermon fell into the hands of Mr Sutherland, who—on the present and larger church being erected—sent it to the incumbent, Rev. John Archibald. The latter states that, upon the anniversary of the consecration of the edifice, he read it to the congregation. In 1800, Mr Christie was trans-

lated to the charge at Crichtie (or Stuartfield), which he continued to hold till 1810, when illness compelled him to resign. He afterwards supported himself by teaching writing and selling copies of his sermons. He had several peculiarities, not the least pronounced being a strong prejudice against the Hanoverian Government. The following title of one of his sermons (which was duly published) is characteristic of the man and the times:—"The undeserved favour of God to these nations. A sermon preached on November 9, 1798, being the day appointed by the King's proclamation, to be observed as a General Thanksgiving for the many signal and important victories obtained by His Majesty's navy in the present war. By the Rev. Alexander Christie, at Ruthven, presbyter of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. Aberdeen: Printed by Burnett and Keith."

#### REV. JOHN AND REV. JAMES BUNYAN.

A tablestone bears—

Erected to the memory of the Rev. John Bunyan, minister of the Gospel in the Ass. Cong. at Whitehill, who died on thurs. the 20th December, 1821, in the 70th year of his life, and 24th of his ministry. As a man and a minister he was universally respected and beloved. His affectionate wife, Mrs Janet Ireland, his dear brother, the Rev. James Bunyan, from a deep sense of the worth of their departed friend, have dedicated this stone to his memory.

Rev. John Bunyan was the second minister of the church, which belonged to the Original Seceders at Whitehill. His younger brother, Rev. James Bunyan, was minister of the first United Associate congregation in Keith, and died 1st June, 1828, in the 71st year of his age, and 41st of his ministry.

According to Jervise's MS., the Gordon aisle (otherwise known as "The Nether-

muir Tomb") had formerly a loose coping, partly consisting of old cut stones, some of which were ornamented "with something like a fesse-checky." The same authority gives the following inscription as being on one of the pieces—in incised capitals—

. . . RE LYES GEORGE FERGUSON, HUSBAND TO  
JEAN HUTCHEON IN NEITHERMUIR. 1729.

A tablestone bears the following inscription and couplet—

Here is interred the body of Christian Bettie,  
spouse to Iohn Foulie, farmer in Auchmungel.  
She departed this life July 26, 1771, aged 47.  
If death was a thing that money could buy,  
The poor could not live, nor the rich would not die.

The above John Fowlie died February 13,  
1797, aged 66. Catherine Duguid, his second  
wife, died in 1819, aged 74.

John Fowlie was the grandson of James  
Foullie, who, in 1696, was a cordiner or  
shoemaker in "Greisychill."

#### THE JOHNSTONS.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies in hopes of a blessed resurrection,  
the body of William Johnston, some time  
farmer in Catcraig, who departed this life 4th  
September, 1773, aged 71 years. . . .

There are numerous tombstones to members of the Johnston family, who are believed to be descendants of a branch of the Border clan which migrated northward upwards of three centuries ago, and settled in what now forms the parish of New Deer. Documentary evidence of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries shows that there were Johnstons in Catcraig, Savocho, Oldmaud, Ashock (or Ashole), Northseat, Over Auchnagatt, Clochrockford, Mill of Inkhorn, Upper Barrack, Mains of Auchnagatt, and Overton of Auchnagatt. In the nineteenth century, however, various members of the "clan" went southward, while others emigrated. As a result, their

holdings of land in the district were reduced to Loanhead, Mains of Inkhorn, Hillhead of Fedderate, Mains of Drumwhindle and Overton.

The last-named farm was vacated by Mrs George Johnston at Martinmas, 1904. Receipts in her possession bear that the original rent of the farm was 5s, which was afterwards increased to £2. To make up the latter rental, which was considered high, the male as well as the female hands employed on the farm knitted stockings in the evenings. The rent is now £163, but the farm is a much superior holding to what it was three centuries ago. Mrs Johnston's husband died in 1836, while his brother—John Johnston, LL.D., banker, Milwaukee—died 1st June, 1904.

Other representatives have taken good positions. Among these may be mentioned Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Johnston, M.A., M.D., who died at Southsea, 11th December, 1898.

A tablestone has the following inscription to a couple who reached an advanced age—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Taylor,  
late farmer in Oldtown of Atherb, who died  
24th April, 1789, aged 80 years. Also Mary  
Thomson, his spouse, who died 20th March,  
1815, aged 92. . . .

Of children, Jean died 6th April, 1758,  
aged 8, and James died 13th May, 1778,  
aged 19. In 1696, William Taylor was  
tenant in "Corsgight," William Taylor  
was in "Oykhorne," Andrew Taylor was  
in "Over Ironside," James Taylor was in  
"Weetinshill," and Mitchell Taylor was in  
"Over Whitehill."

A railed-in vault has a headstone bearing the inscription—

In memory of Mrs S. M. Allardyce, late of  
Greenhall, Maryculter, who died at New Deer,  
29th December, 1833, aged 82 years. Also of  
James Ogilvie Allardyce, her son, who died 6th



September, 1858, aged 74 years. And of David Stuart, late of Reform Cottage, New Deer, who died 22nd July, 1866, aged 79 years.

Mrs S. M. Allardyce was Sophia Mary Ogilvie, daughter of Theophilus Ogilvie, collector of Customs in Aberdeen, who, in 1771, acquired by purchase the estate of Auchluines or Greenhall, Maryculter, and died 13th April, 1807, aged 85. On 21st November, 1783, she married Andrew Allardyce, merchant, Aberdeen, who was Dean of Guild in 1786, and died in 1797. His widow lived for many years at Artamford, and bequeathed a large portion of her means to David Stuart, who was the trusted adviser of the parishioners in their difficulties.

A headstone is inscribed—

Here rests in hope of a blessed resurrection, Margrat Legg, her corps, who departed out of this life the 14th of February, 1726, in the 24th year of her age.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of George Walker, some time in Mains of Federet, who died March the 5th, 1797, aged 75 years. This stone is erected at the desire an expence of Alexander Walker, his son.

The above closing sentence is met with in several graveyards. It was the form the erector used to protect his right to the grave as well as to the lairstone.

Upon the tombstone of Barbara Murdoch, wife of George Mitchell, Old Maud, who died in 1763, aged 50, is the following verse, which appears in other graveyards, but in more grammatical form—

Farewell vain world, I had enough of thee.  
And now I'm careless what you say to me;  
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,  
My days is past, my head lys quietly here.  
What ill you've seen in me take care to shun  
And look at home, enough there's to be done.

A tablestone showing various emblems is inscribed—

Here lyes in hopes of a blessed resurrection, the corps of James Ironside, who died February 7, 1723, aged 3 years. . . . Also Elizabeth, who died June 19, 1739, age 22—all children to James Ironside and Sarah Crawford in Auchmaliddy. Here lyes the body of Sarah Crauhuford, spouse to James Ironside. She died at Craigiemill the 27th of September, 1755, aged 70. . . . .

In the eighteenth century the surname Ironside was very common in the district. Between 1696 and 1737 the following tenants bore it—Andrew Ironside in Auchmaludies, William Ironside in Honycrook, Alexander and William Ironside in Auchnagatt, William Ironside in Clochrockford, James and George Ironside in Barrack, John and James Ironside in Knaven, and William Ironside in Catcraig.

The parishioners were, till comparatively recent times, most bitter in opposing the interment of suicides within the graveyard. This arose from the deeply-rooted superstitions that the body of a suicide did not deserve to be laid in sacred ground; that those taking part in the burial—if made in the churchyard—would cease to prosper; and that whoever first stepped over the newly-made grave—if not in a crossed spot—would become unfortunate. As a consequence, the bodies of suicides were invariably interred at cross paths or on the borders of neighbouring parishes. For many years, the minister and certain of the proprietors did their utmost to eradicate these superstitions, till at last the death of one of the Craufords by drowning (whether by accident or intention is not known) gave them an opportunity of carrying their views into practical effect. The minister accordingly arranged that the remains should be laid in the graveyard in the ordinary way; but popular feeling being stirred against him,

he ultimately modified the arrangement to the extent that the spot of sepulture should be in a corner on the north side of the now demolished church, and that the ceremony should take place "between the sun and the sky." Everything passed off quietly, but by a coincidence two of those who took part in the burial (including the carpenter who made the coffin) died suddenly within a few months thereafter. It is almost needless to add that the parishioners became more bigoted than ever in their prejudice, and it is a well-known fact that they were among the last in Aberdeenshire to allow Christian burial to suicides.

The watch-house, in the corner of the graveyard, which did service in the times of the "resurrectionists," is still standing.

#### THE JOINER FAMILY.

For almost a century, the surname Joiner has been a household word in banking and mercantile circles in the parish, and throughout East Aberdeenshire. The forebears of the family were for a lengthened period landowners in Ross and Cromarty, but John Joiner, the great-great-grandfather, and Thomas Joiner, the great-great-granduncle of the present generation, having taken up arms on behalf of Prince Charlie, having aided materially in securing recruits to his cause, and been in the heat of the battle on Culloden Moor on 16th April, 1746, were—according to the State papers relative to the event—outlawed, with the forfeiture of their respective estates. They were also themselves proscribed, £200 of a reward being offered for the head of the former and £100 for that of the latter. Fortunately, both found a place of hiding in the neighbourhood of Portsoy, and the political storm having at length blown past, they attained a peaceful and ripe old age. Both left

families. John Joiner, the elder son of the former, married Sarah Dunoon, and they were both interred at Boyndie, where a tombstone stands to their memory. John Joiner, their son, came to New Deer in 1816, and was the founder of the business referred to. He married Isabella Hilton (see King-Edward), who died 29th January, 1870, aged 84. Mr Joiner himself died 29th January, 1872, aged 86; and they are both interred in the old graveyard, near the tomb of Rev. James Welsh. A headstone marks the spot. A son—James Joiner—who was for many years associated with his father in business, died unmarried 12th November, 1882, aged 62, and was laid to rest in the same grave as his parents. John Joiner, the eldest son, who died 18th August, 1892, aged 75, and Alexander Joiner, the youngest son, who died 4th March, 1905, aged 78, were both interred in the new cemetery on the Hill of Culsh, where separate monuments have been raised to their memory.

A red granito obelisk has an inscription as follows—

James Hendry, farmer, Crossgight, died August 20th, 1849, aged 82. Agnes Ironside, his wife, died April 24th, 1850, aged 76. Isabella died March 20th, 1820, aged 18. Agnes died June 18th, 1831, aged 34. James died April 28th, 1846, aged 40. Elizabeth, wife of Alexander Bruce, Crossgight, died October 13th, 1851, aged 51. George, farmer, Hilton of Dunlugas, died June 26th, 1879, aged 72.

James Hendry and his wife, Agnes Ironside, were highly respected. They have many descendants alive in Canada, the United States, and the Argentine Republic, as well as in Aberdeenshire. A daughter, Ann—whose name does not appear in the above inscription—married James Milne, farmer, Gilkhorn (Gilkhorn means White Cairn), and was the first to be buried in the site of the old church

after its demolition. They were the parents of Mr John Milne, M.A., LL.D., the retired schoolmaster of the parish of King-Edward, who has rendered substantial service in preparing these notes.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies the body of John Hutcheon, late in Old Maud, he died September 28th, 1788, aged 86. And of Elspet Whyte, his spouse, she died February 13th, 1774, aged 76.

A descendant, James Hutcheon, was a sergeant in the King's Dragoon Guards, and shared in the battle at Gilzen on 26th August, 1794. In the heat of the fray, Captain Fraser of Strichen had his horse shot under him, and Hutcheon being at hand, at once offered his one as a substitute. While dismounting and uttering the words "Never mind me, Captain; I will soon find an empty saddle!" he was unfortunately killed. Captain Fraser had not only a brass fixed to a pillar in Strichen Church to the memory of the heroic sergeant, but, as pointed out by the late Mr Jervise ("Epitaphs," Vol. II., p. 143), also had his body reverently interred apart from the rest of the fallen, and a monument placed over his grave with an inscription similar to that upon the brass—

#### DEATH OR GLORY.

Sacred to the memory of James Hutcheon, late sergeant, King's Dragoon Guards, a native of New Deer Parish, who fell gallantly fighting near Gilzen, 26th of August, 1794, under the command of Captain Fraser of Strichen.

Can storied urn, or animated bust,

Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?

Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,

Or flatt'ry soothe the dull, cold ear of death?

A tombstone bears—

Here lies the body of William Greig. Fewer in Newdeer, who died 1786, aged 71. This stone is erected by George, William, James, and John, his sons, to the memory of their affectionate Parent, also George, wife Jean

Dick, who died 29th December, 1809, aged 71. John has two sons interred here, James, who died 1795, aged 17, and his son, John, died 1798, aged 12 years 6 months.

William Greig was one of the oldest feuars in New Deer. Relatives bearing the same surname were long previously resident in the parish. In 1696, James and Patrick Greig were in Stevensburn; Thomas, George, and Isobel Greig in Savoch; George Greig and Jean Annan, his wife, in Mains of Artamford; Arthur Greig and Marjorie Pirrie, his wife, in Meikle Auchoch; George Greig and Christane Mersie, his wife, in Mains of Whytehill; James Greig and Jannet Watson, his wife, in Meikle Auchredie; and William Greig in Oldwhat.

A tablestone—which, unfortunately, has got broken through the middle and is otherwise in bad order—has an inscription as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Margret Mair, who died April 4th, 1810, aged 91 years.

Erected in testimony of his affection and regard by her only son, John Mitchell, who in . . . round the world . . . Byron.

John Mitchell, who erected the above tablestone, attained local fame through forming one of the small squadron—composed of the ships "Dolphin" and "Tamar"—which set sail from Plymouth 2nd July, 1764, primarily on a voyage of exploration in the Indian Seas, under the command of Commodore John Byron (known as "Foul-weather Jack" from his ill-luck at sea), second son of William, fourth Lord Byron, and grandfather of Lord Byron the poet. High expectations were formed as to the discoveries and benefits which would accrue from the voyage, but the ships returned to the Downs on 9th May, 1766, with no greater feat to their credit than the establishment of a time record for "rounding the world"! Byron had had previous experience in a



circumnavigating squadron, having been a midshipman in Lord Anson's ship "Wager," when he was cast upon a desolate island in the South Seas, where he underwent five years of great hardship. Having at length been rescued, he returned to England in 1748, and twenty years later he published a Narrative of his experiences.

A headstone is inscribed—

In memory of George Haynes, who died 1833, his wife, Isabella Johnston, 1854, and their daughter, Jane Haynes, 1886.

A handsome flat stone over the same grave bears that Mary Haynes, their second daughter, died at New Deer in October, 1898, at the advanced age of 90.

#### REV WILLIAM FORDYCE MAJOR, LL.D.

One of the most famous natives of the parish was William Fordyce Major, who was born at Culsh 1st August, 1758. In 1775, he became assistant in a school at Burford, Oxfordshire, but he subsequently took holy orders in the Church of England. Before 1783, he settled at Woodstock and continued teaching, for an advertisement in Jackson's "Oxford Journal" of 4th January, of that year, announces that young gentlemen would be received in his academy at 16 guineas a year. That he was a supporter of the drama is shown by an advertisement in the same newspaper of 14th June following, that "On Thursday, 19th inst., previous to their breaking up for the mid-summer holidays, the young gentlemen will attempt 'Cleone, a Tragedy,' with 'The Mayor of Garrett,' when the presence of their parents or guardians will be esteemed a particular favour." For a time Mr Major had the children of the Duke of Marlborough under his tuition, and as a consequence he won the friendship of that family. The Duke presented him to the vicarage of Hurley, and in 1789 the degree of LL.D. was con-

ferred upon him by Marischal College. He afterwards became rector of Stonesfield, and in 1810 of Bladon with Woodstock. In 1808, he was elected Mayor of Woodstock, serving no less than ten times in that office. He was a voluminous writer, among his work which attracted special attention being "Universal Stenography," "British Nepos," and an "English Spelling Book," all of which passed through many editions. His remains were interred at Woodstock, where on the west gable of the church a tablet was erected to his memory. Through the courtesy of Mr A. Ballard, town clerk, the inscription is here given—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. William Major, LL.D., the first great promoter of the catechetical method of instruction in all branches of Human as well as Divine Knowledge, who, though dead, yet speaketh for the improvement of youth and infancy in the volumes which he benevolently and judiciously adapted to the growing powers of the mind. He was Rector of Bladon with Woodstock, and Vicar of Hurley, Berks. A Magistrate for the County of Oxford, and Ten times Mayor of this Borough.

Beloved and Esteemed by Relatives and Friends, and respected by those whom—as a minister and a magistrate—he had so long and faithfully served he departed this life, December 29th, 1837, in the 80th year of his age.

The feeling soul may linger here,  
Soft pity's bosom heave a sigh;  
But spare my dust and come not near  
Cold apathy with cheerless eye.

#### REV ALEXANDER MURRAY, D.D.

Alexander Murray, who was a native of the parish, after graduating in Arts at King's College in 1746, qualified for the ministry, and for a time held an appointment in London. He afterwards went to Reading, Pennsylvania, where he acted as a missionary. In 1784, he received the degree of D.D. from his Alma Mater. Retiring to Philadelphia, he died 14th September, 1793. Under his deed of

settlement, executed eight days previously, he bequeathed (subject to the life rent of his widow, who survived till 28th May, 1811) three-fourths of the residue of his estate to endow a course of Sunday morning lectures, to be delivered during the winter session in King's College Chapel, and the remaining fourth to be applied in forwarding "the education for three years of some ingenious youth" "in such secular profession or trade as his natural propensity points to." The estate as handed over was sufficient to yield an annual dividend of £191 13s 4d. For particulars as to the lectures delivered, and the alterations made on the bequest by the Scottish University Commissioners, see "Scottish Notes and Queries" (Vol. I., pp. 135-37, and 155-58).

James Cruickshank, farmer, Toukshill, who died 30th January, 1814, aged 71, by his last will and testament bequeathed to the Principal and Professors of Marischal College the sum of £400 for the maintenance and education of a student in the said college—one bearing the name Cruickshank, Top, or Tap, to have a preference.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

On the Hill of Culsh there was formerly a Stone Circle, known by the title of "The Standing Stones of Culsh." About 1770 all the stones were removed for the building of the Parish Church Manse.

The "Muckle Stane" of Auchmaleddie, which was in early times a rocking stone, moveable at a particular spot by the slightest touch, now lies firm on the ground.

Of "finds," not the least interesting was that made in May, 1897, in the moss of Auchmaleddie of two bronze shields in good preservation, and measuring 28 and 18 inches in diameter respectively. Both

have been deposited in the National Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh.

Tumuli, containing urns, bones, ashes, etc., have on numerous occasions been met with, as also have flints, arrow-heads, stone-axes, stone-anvils, stone-balls, etc.

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### Savoch.

The name is derived from the Gaelic, and signifies pleasant, mild, quiet. This probably accounts for the title being found in at least three other Aberdeenshire parishes. It has undergone various forms of spelling, including Sayhok, Sayhock, Salquhok, Saphock, Sauchak, Sauchock, and Savach. In Robert Gordon of Straloch's map of 1654, it is marked Saok—a contraction which represents a still frequent pronunciation of the name.

#### PARISH CHURCH (QUOAD SACRA).

For the accommodation of the parishioners resident in the eastern district of New Deer—as well as those in adjacent corners of Old Deer, Ellon, Methlick, and Tarves—a Chapel of Ease of the Church of Scotland, containing 658 sittings, was erected at Savoch in 1834. The site selected was a knoll a little above the Ebrie, and the edifice now forms a conspicuous object from the railway. On a tablet fixed into the outer gable is the inscription—

ERECTED BY  
SUBSCRIPTION,  
1834.

From the outset, the services were well attended, and the necessary funds for endowment having been forthcoming, the Court of Teinds, in May, 1851, raised the chapel to the status of a parochial church (quoad sacra), with a definite district attached.

In 1897, extensive improvements were carried out, and the church is now an exceedingly tasteful one. On either side of the pulpit is a stained glass window showing floral representations of the Vine. One of these windows—which was presented by Mrs Udney of Udney—bears the sacred monogram I. H. S., and the text—“I am the Vine, ye are the branches.” At the foot is added—

THE GIFT OF MRS UDNY OF UDNY. 1897.

The other window—which was presented by the Women’s Guild of the congregation—has the monogram A. Ω. (Alpha and Omega), and the text—“Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” At the foot is inscribed—

CHURCH BUILT 1834. RENOVATED 1897.

In 1851, Rev. John Davidson, schoolmaster, Ellon, was appointed minister, but he resigned before ordination.

Rev. James Wilson, M.A., schoolmaster of Cairnie, was thereupon elected, and was ordained in February, 1852. He was translated to Aberdour in June, 1857. He married Isabella, daughter of Rev. James Welsh, minister of New Deer, and died 3rd August, 1883, in his 62nd year.

Rev. John Reid, M.A., schoolmaster. Tarland, succeeded, and was ordained in October, 1857. He still survives, and now engages in farming.

Rev. William Wallace Wilson, M.A., a native of Beith, Ayrshire, and previously assistant in St George’s, Glasgow, was elected successor. His ordination took place on 18th November, 1887, and he still holds the charge.

#### UNITED FREE CHURCH.

A church was erected in 1828 by the Original Secession body on a barren knoll on the farm of Backhill of Inkhorn. The edifice, from its elevated situation—close to the right side of the public road leading

from Auchnagatt to Methlick—justly bears the local title of “The Visible Kirk.” Its architecture is of an extremely plain but substantial character. The pulpit stands at the side between two large lancet windows, and a gallery runs round three sides. The date—A.D. 1828—is above the east gable door.

Nearly forty years ago, a vestry or classroom was built at the western end of the church, but six years ago it was removed, and a hall (it is capable of seating about 140), vestry, and cloak-room were erected on the site.

For a considerable time before the erection of the church, praying societies existed at Quilquox, Savocho, Barrack, Auchnagatt, etc., and these formed the nucleus of the congregation. In July, 1830, Rev. David Caw, probationer, received a call to the charge signed by 70 members and 38 adherents; and, having accepted it, he was ordained 30th November following. It is said that the minister who “kirked” him preached from the text—“Unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given.” Mr Caw had the misfortune to be somewhat diminutive in stature, and his wife’s name being Grace, he recognised the text as a deliberate insult. In May, 1832, he demitted, and went to America.

Rev. John Hunter was ordained 11th July, 1833. His stipend was only £70. In about seventeen years he increased the congregation to upwards of 200 members. He possessed considerable scholarly accomplishments, and was a diligent and painstaking minister. He died 3rd June, 1865.

Rev. George Blair, from Leslie, was ordained April, 1866. After a ministry of twelve years, he received and accepted a call to the newly-built church of Oatlands, Glasgow. He died there in the summer of 1903, shortly after celebrating his semi-jubilee of the charge of Oatlands.



The succeeding minister, Rev. Robert Paterson, still holds the charge. He is a graduate in Arts of Glasgow University. His ordination to Savocho took place on 3rd September, 1879, and for a few years prior to the union of 1900 he discharged the duties of clerk to the Presbytery of Buchan. His semi-jubilee was celebrated in October, 1904.

#### LANDS.

The lands of Savocho were originally included in the extensive barony of King-Edward, and belonged successively to the Earls of Buchan, Margaret Cumyn, the Earls of Ross, the Lords of the Isles, and also to John Stewart, Earl of Buchan, whose title was invalid. They fell to the Crown on the forfeiture of John Macdonald, Lord of the Isles, and were in 1598 granted to Alexander Buchan of Auchmacoy, and his wife, Agnes Fraser. They were subsequently in the possession of the Irvines of Shivas, and more recently have been owned by the Earls of Aberdeen.

#### GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The graveyard which surrounds the Parish Church is most tastefully laid out in terraces. A small monument of the obelisk pattern — which was erected by public subscription—has an inscription as follows:—

This churchyard laid out by the Parishioners at a cost of £300, was opened 1877.

The reverse side is inscribed—

The grave of Arthur Forbes, Annochie, 1877.

Arthur Forbes, crofter, Annochie, Auchnagatt, was the first to be interred, and thus the above monument was placed over his grave.

A granite headstone bears—

In memory of James Brebner, late farmer, Green of Savocho, who died 27th June, 1887,

aged 81. Also his infant grandson, who died 10th February, 1902. Elsie Fiddes Walker, the beloved wife of James Brebner, died 27th July, 1902, aged 42.

The progenitor of this family was James Brebner, a native of the Black Isle, who, as a young man, took part in the '45 Rebellion. On the collapse of the movement, and dreading capture by the authorities, he forsook his Highland home and settled in New Deer, taking care to conceal his identity. Subsequently coming under the general pardon, he settled in Auchmalleddie Farm, and married Margaret Johnston, of the Loanhead branch of that "clan." On 24th April, 1778, they had a son baptised William, besides whom they had two other children. The parents dying while the children were in infancy, William Johnston, merchant, Savocho, adopted them, and William Brebner succeeded Mr Johnston in both shop and farm. He married Margaret Garden, Ardlethen, Ellon, and they had a family of twelve, of whom was James Brebner, the first-mentioned in the above inscription. A son of the latter is James Brebner, the present tenant of Green of Savocho, whose deceased wife, Elsie Fiddes Walker, was a daughter of John Walker, Blackpots, Old Deer, and his wife, Margaret Low.

A granite obelisk bears—

Erected by William Leask, Skilmafilly, in affectionate remembrance of his wife, Jane Balfour, who died 14th February, 1879, aged 65.

Also the above William Leask, who died at Edinburgh, 27th May, 1892, aged 74 years.

William Leask, who succeeded his father in the tenancy of Skilmafilly, was a well-known agriculturist. He died suddenly in Edinburgh while attending the General Assembly. His wife, Jane Balfour, belonged to Braeside, Savocho; and of their family a son died young, while of the two daughters one married John Maitland,

East Balhaggardy, and the other John Mackie, Mains of Elrick.

A granite obelisk is inscribed—

Erected by the family in memory of Alex. Wyness, for 54 years farmer at Drakemyre, who died there, 17th July, 1894, aged 78 years.

A tombstone has the following inscription—

In loving memory of John Heatherwick, late of Mains of Auchnagatt, who died 20th January, 1894, in his 89th year. Also Margaret Cassie, his wife, who died 23rd November, 1890, in her 86th year.

An obelisk is inscribed—

In memory of Jane Johnston, wife of William Johnston, farmer, Loanhead, died 20th January, 1889, aged 81 years. . . . Their son, Hugh, M.A., M.D., Surgeon-Colonel I.M.S., died at Southsea, 11th December, 1898, aged 56, and is buried there. William Johnston, for 40 years an elder in this parish, died at The Firs, Ellon, 13th June, 1894, aged 89.

In memory of George Johnston, farmer, Loanhead of Savocho, who died there on the 20th October, 1889, aged 49.

(For notes on the family of Johnston, see New Deer.)

That residence in the district is conducive to longevity is shown by the advanced ages reached by the following persons, all of whom have their names included in inscriptions—

John Brown, East Auquhadlie, died 24th October 1899 aged 86, and his wife, Christian Cooper, died 23rd January, 1899, at the age of 86.

Alexander White, crofter, Skilmafilly, died 16th June, 1880, aged 81, and his sister, Jane, died 20th May, 1887, at the age of 82.

John Wallace, Inkhorn, died 13th April, 1878, aged 75, and his wife, Agnes Brown, died 21st February, 1884, aged 83.

John Ross, Crofter, Ardlin, died 21st March, 1878, aged 77, while his wife, Christina Milne, died 2nd January, 1881, aged 70.

John Davidson, Whitestone, Dudwick, died 17th March, 1898, aged 74.

James Kirton, Denmore, died 28th October, 1886, aged 71.

John Shand, Mill of Inkhorn, died 15th February, 1902, aged 77, while his wife, Margaret Scott, died 7th January, 1903, at the age of 72.

Andrew Wilson, Quilquox, died 8th May, 1890, aged 80.

George Mutch, Ardlin, died 26th May, 1903, aged 75, while his wife, Sarah Mackie, died 15th January, 1896, at the age of 75.

Alexander Knox, Little Annochie, died 6th January, 1896, aged 79.

John Will, farmer, Quilquox, died 11th December 1882, aged 79, while his wife, Margaret Ogilvie, died 15th December, 1888, aged 70.

Margaret Simpson, Annochie, died 15th December, 1882, aged 84.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

In the seventeenth century, a chapel (probably an Episcopalian one) stood at Savocho—now Green of Savocho—but its history is not known. Many of the stones taken from the ruins were built into the United Free Church. Several of the stones which apparently had formed part of the interior of the chapel were long preserved on the farm, but they have gradually disappeared.

There was also in earlier times a castle at Savocho, and, although the structure has been entirely removed, part of the garden wall is still standing with a few trees around. About thirty-five years ago, when trenching operations were being prosecuted, a ring and coin were found. Both were of gold, and on the ring were the words, "Love and Honor evermore." Experts considered this no ordinary find, and felt warranted in assuming that, long before, a lady had been buried at the spot with the ring upon her finger, the coin being thrown into her grave in payment of Charon. The custom of the ancients of burying a coin with the corpse to pay its

ferrying over the dark floods, and finally over the Styx, died very hard. In the belief, however, that any coin would serve this purpose, it was not unusual to employ such foreign or obsolete ones as would not pass current on this side of the water.

A quern, in an excellent state of preservation, was also discovered. It is now in the museum at Haddo House.

A stone circle formerly stood near the site of the United Free Church, but it has been entirely removed.

## King-Edward.

(FORMERLY KINEDAR.)

The name is probably derived from the Gaelic words *ceann*, head, and *ioch-dair*, signifying the howe stretching from the castle to below the manse. The modern title King-Edward was given through its having been engraved upon Communion cups presented in 1619.

### PARISH CHURCH.

The church—which was dedicated to St Peter—was bestowed by John Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, on the Abbey of St Mary of Deer, between 1289 and 1306. Robert I. subsequently confirmed the grant. (Robertson's Index, and Antiq., II., p. 360.) On the suppression of the Abbey at the Reformation, Robert Keith, second son of William, fourth Earl Marischal, was appointed Commendator with a grant of all its possessions and revenues. Out of these funds, he made an addition at the east end to the church of King-Edward. This part has since been entirely removed for the purpose of providing additional burying space; but Dr John Milne, who is the recognised historian and antiquary of the district, had two of its inscribed stones built into the spurs of the west wall

for preservation. The one shows the shield and initials of Robert Keith, Commendator, and the other the date 157-.

George, Earl Marischal, and his heirs and representatives secured, in 1592, a Crown grant of the church and patronage of King-Edward, etc., but subject to the payment of the customary burdens. On 17th July, 1695, 28th August, 1696, and 31st August, 1698, the Scots Parliament assigned the vacant stipend of the parish to Marischal College, to be applied towards the cost of its new buildings. On the forfeiture of the Marischal estates, etc., in 1715, the right of patronage of the parish fell to the Crown, with whom it continued till 1874, when the Patronage Abolition Act was passed.

Above the old church door at the west end is a stone showing the initials "M. W. G.," for Mr William Guild. Underneath is a shield—now much worn and defaced—bearing the arms of Arthur, Lord Forbes, who, in the earlier part of the seventeenth century, was laird of Blacktoun, Balchers, etc. There are other shields and tablets, referred to under the respective estates.

The western or older portion of the church is still standing, although now roofless. The structure had been long and narrow, with a central passage, and a door at each end. The floor was of earth, but the passage was paved with flagstones. The pulpit stood in the middle of the north wall. There were two galleries—one in the west gable, to which entrance was got by an inner stair, and the other in the east gable, with separate ingress from the outside. Mr Edie explains that the latter gallery was erected in 1757 by the kirk-session, who levied a charge of sixpence per sitting therein.

The bell—which still hangs in the belfry



—bears a very inaccurately lettered Latin inscription, which may be translated—

JOHN MOWAT MADE ME, 1755, FOR THE USE OF THE CHURCH OF OLD ABERDEEN. KING-EDWARD. SABBATHS I PROCLAIM. AT FUNERALS I TOLL.

It is evident that Mowat had cast the bell in the same mould as one for Old Aberdeen. The word "King-Edward" had been clumsily added afterwards.

The Communion vessels comprise six cups and a flagon. The two oldest cups are of fine beaten silver, and bear in Latin that they were the joint gift, in 1619, of Mr William Guild, minister of King-Edward, and of Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromartie, and John Urquhart of Craigfintrie (now Craigston).

A new church—seated for 600—was erected, in 1847-48, on a much more elevated site by the side of the public road and close to King-Edward Railway Station. It is a superior edifice, and has several beautiful lancet windows, with an attractive bell turret. The bell itself weighs 4½ cwt., and was provided by public subscription.

#### POST-REFORMATION READERS AND MINISTERS.

The parish was supplied, in 1567, by Alexander Schand, reader, whose emoluments reached £1 13s 4d sterling per year.

Rev. David Howesoun was appointed minister in 1570, with Philorth also in charge. His stipend was £5 11s 1½d. He removed to Gamrie in 1574.

In the same year, Rev. John Philip held the charges of King-Edward, Turriff, Forglan, and Auchterless. He had the assistance of William Craig as reader.

Rev. Walter Maitland was minister in 1588. On 31st July, 1612, his son Thomas was served heir.

Rev. Henrie Ross, M.A., was ordained

about 1606, but he removed to Essie in 1607.

Rev. Andrew Keith succeeded in 1608. Immediately following his settlement, he was deprived, the libel served upon him quaintly narrating that he had "fallen in adultery with a wyfe in Aberdeen" before he was a minister.

#### REV. DR. WILLIAM GUILD.

Rev. William Guild, son of Matthew Guild, armourer, in Aberdeen, succeeded in 1608. He studied at Marischal College, and early gave evidence of literary ability. In 1617, he secured the friendship of Bishop Andrews, and Dr Young, Dean of Winchester, by whose influence he secured appointment as one of the King's chaplains. He was also honoured with the degree of D.D., then (says Dr Scott) almost unknown in Scotland. In 1631, he was translated to the charge of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, and nine years later was elected Principal of King's College. He held the latter appointment till 1651, when he was displaced by Cromwell's Military Commissioners. Living in retirement thereafter, he died 26th July, 1657, in the 71st year of his age. Possessing considerable wealth, he, in 1633, bestowed on the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen the convent property of the Trinitarians or Red Friars, liberally endowing it as a hospital. His old parish of King-Edward was not forgotten, for among numerous legacies provided for under his deed of settlement was one of 1000 merks to its poor. In satisfaction thereof, his widow, Katherine Rolland, daughter of John Rolland of Disblair, directed under her will that the parish should receive 18 bolls of meal annually for the support and education of two bursars. This legacy has been applied since 1723 for the relief of the poor. Dr

Guild for a time was proprietor of the property of Balchers, and, while minister of King-Edward, had the assistance of Alexander Duncan as reader.

Rev. James Guthrie succeeded about 1632.

A tablestone, now much decayed—but still showing traces of a coat-of-arms and the initials W. I. and B. H.—has the following inscription to the next incumbent. Part of it runs round the margin of the stone—the arms being in the centre—

Under the hope of a blessed resurrection here lie the remains of the religious and accomplished Master William Jaffray, minister at King-Edward, who, full of years, yielded to fate the 9th of December, 1671.

Rev. William Jaffray graduated in Arts at King's College in 1619, and became schoolmaster of Fraserburgh, and subsequently minister of New Deer, from which he was translated hither about 1646. A son—John—was the first minister of Monquhitter, to which he was ordained on 1st August, 1650.

Rev. William Jaffray, M.A., son of the preceding, and some time chaplain to James, Earl of Buchan, was admitted as assistant and successor 21st October, 1651. He was afterwards translated to Fyvie.

Rev. Alexander Jaffray succeeded, and died in November, 1702, aged about 65.

Rev. William Chalmers, M.A., was admitted from Rathven 3rd August, 1704. He died in 1718.

Rev. William Clarehue was inducted from Culsalmond on the call of the Presbytery 1st October, 1719, but his settlement was held by the Synod to be null and void.

The succeeding incumbent has a tombstone with a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

Here are laid the mortal remains of The Very Reverend George Johnston, for about thirteen

years minister of this church, who died 29th January, 1733, in the 51st year of his age.

Rev. George Johnston, M.A., was inducted 2nd November, 1720. He had previously held in turn the charges of Cluny and Skene.

The two following ministers have a headstone at a railed-in grave. It is inscribed as follows—

In memory of William Duff, minister of King-Edward from A.D. 1735 to 1765, when he was translated to Rothiemay, where he died 19th August, 1786.

Also of his son and successor, Robert Duff, D.D.; born, 25th September, 1739; ordained, 18th September, 1765; died, 31st October, 1825. Jannet Turing, wife of said Robert Duff, died 3rd February, 1826, aged about 74. Their children buried here with them were—Helen, born 23rd June, 1794; drowned in the burn 5th October, 1796. Jannet, born 15th October, 1796; died at Banff 7th January, 1854. Grace, born 20th April, 1789; died at Banff 13th February, 1867. Their eldest son James, born 2nd August, 1786, was supposed to have been lost at sea. Robert, born 17th April, 1791, was drowned at sea, the ship being burned. William, born 7th January, 1793 killed in retreat from Cabool, 1842. Ann, born 17th November, 1787, married to Charles Gibbon, minister at Lonmay, and died there 11th December, 1867.

Rev. William Duff graduated in Arts at King's College 7th April, 1727, and was ordained to King-Edward on 27th September, 1733. His translation to Rothiemay took place on 29th May, 1765. He was held in high esteem by the parishioners, at whose request his son Robert was called as successor.

Rev. Robert Duff, M.A., had the degree of D.D. from King's College 30th October, 1811. He married Jannet, daughter of Rev. Alexander Turing, minister of Oyne; and of their family, three sons and one daughter met with an untimely end, as shown by the above inscription. The case of the daughter, Grace, led to the creation

of the Supplementary Orphan Fund of the Church. Dr Duff, who was a courtly-mannered gentleman, followed the practice of asking, after performing the marriage ceremony, the leave of the bridegroom to kiss the bride. Upon one occasion, on putting the question in his usual dignified manner, he got the nonchalant answer, "Help yourself"!

A railed-in grave has a headstone to the next incumbent. It bears the inscription—

In memory of The Reverend William Findlay, minister of King-Edward, who died on the 23rd of October, 1869, in the 81st year of his age, and the 44th of his ministry. Rev. xiv., 13. This tribute of affection is erected by his sorrowing widow and family.

Isabella Dalrymple, widow of the Rev. Wm. Findlay, died 8th July, 1878, aged 86 years. Rev. xxi., 4.

Their youngest daughter Elizabeth Farquhar, died December 12, 1897, aged 70 years. St Matthew v., 8.

Rev. William Findlay was the son of David Findlay, a highly respectable gardener at Brechin. After graduating in Arts at Marischal College in 1808, he took the divinity course, and was licensed as a preacher on 30th September, 1812. After teaching at Fraserburgh and Aberdeen, he was presented by the Crown to King-Edward, being ordained 12th July, 1826. His ministry "was marked by a tenderness and wisdom that might almost be termed apostolic." As evidence of the devotion of the parishioners, they twice presented him with gifts exceeding an aggregate value of £400.

A marble tablet fixed into the vestibule wall of the church bears the following inscription—

Erected to the memory of The Rev. Donald Stewart, M.A., who was for 25 years the faithful and esteemed Minister of King-Edward

Parish. He died at Las Palmas, 16th May, MDCCCXCIII., aged 53 years.

'Faithful in all his house.'

Rev. Donald Stewart, M.A., was ordained in 1868 as assistant and successor to Mr Findlay. He was a most lovable man, and possessed talents of a high order.

Rev. William Edie, B.D., previously assistant at St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, was ordained in 1893. He was translated to Greyfriars Parish Church, Dumfries, in 1905.

The present incumbent is Rev. William Alexander Rattray Selkirk, M.A., who was ordained 7th July, 1905.

#### KING-EDWARD BARONY.

Although at various times the parish gave lands to make up the baronies of Fisherie, Ogilvie, Craigintray, etc., yet the largest and most ancient barony was that of King-Edward, which, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, extended from the Deveron at Muiresk to Rattray Head, and included important estates in the parishes of Turriff, King-Edward, Tyrie, Fraserburgh, Rathen, Strichen, Foveran, and Udry. Up to 1308, the Cumyns held possession, and they were followed by John Ross and his wife, Margaret Cumyn, whose son, William, became baron of King-Edward, and (on the death of his uncle at Halidon Hill in 1333), Earl of Ross. He was survived by two daughters, Euphemia and Johanna, co-heiresses. The elder daughter married, first, Sir Walter Leslie of Leslie, who, in right of his wife, became Earl of Ross and baron of King-Edward. Johanna married Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, and in 1375 an excambion of lands between these sisters, with the consent of their respective husbands, took place, under which Fraser and his wife received Ashogle, Meikle Fintry, Balchers, Black-



toun, and Delgaty. After the death of Sir Walter Leslie, Euphemia married as her second husband, in 1382, Sir Alexander Stewart, fourth son of Robert II., who thus became Earl of Ross and baron of King-Edward. He is occasionally designated Earl of Buchan, but is better known in history as The Wolf of Badenoch. Ruling over the north of Scotland in the most despotic fashion, he speedily deserted his wife, and led a profligate life. On the Church dealing with his case, and the Bishops of Ross and Moray ordering him to adhere to his lawful wife and not to maltreat her, he resented their interference, and satiated his revenge by burning the religious houses in Forres, and also Elgin Cathedral. He died before March, 1406 (*Scots Peerage*, II., p. 263), leaving no lawful issue, although a natural son—Alexander Stewart—became Earl of Mar. Another son was ancestor of the "Barons Roy" of Kincardine (Strathspey), of whom was the famous poet-soldier, John Roy Stewart, colonel of the Edinburgh Regiment in the service of Prince Charles Stewart, 1745-46.

By her first marriage (with Sir Walter Leslie) Euphemia had a son, Alexander, who became Earl of Ross as well as baron of King-Edward. He married Isobel, daughter of the Regent Albany, and—dying in 1402—was survived by a daughter, Euphemia, who succeeded to the titles and barony. Entering a nunnery, she resigned her estate, etc., in 1415, in favour of her uncle, John Stewart, second son of the Duke of Albany, who, in 1394, had become Earl of Buchan. This nobleman had a great military reputation, and, having signally contributed to the defeat of the English at Beauge, in Anjou, 22nd March, 1421, Charles VII. conferred upon him the sword of Constable of France. He fell at the battle of Verneuil, 17th August, 1424.

On 5th October, 1442, Alexander, Earl of Ross, Lord of the Isles, and Justiciary beyond the Forth, granted the barony, with the patronage of all the benefices therein, to Sir Alexander Seton, Lord Gordon, for his lifetime, commanding all the tenants to obey him. (*Reg. Epis. Aterd.*, I., p. 241.)

In 1490, John, Lord of the Isles, resigned the barony, with the patronage mentioned, into the hands of James IV., who thereupon made a grant of the same to James, Earl of Buchan, Lord Auchterhouse—better known as "Hearty James"—second son of Sir James Stewart, the Black Knight of Lorn, and Joan Beaufort, Queen of Scotland, widow of James I. In 1491, the Earl designs himself "Baron of King-Edward" in a charter of "apprysing" in favour of William Cuming of Inverallochy in the half of the lands of Kindrocht and Audyal, in the said barony. He died in 1499, and was succeeded by his son Alexander.

Many further interesting facts regarding the barony and its various holders, together with a narrative of the circumstances under which it fell to the Crown in the beginning of the sixteenth century, will be found in an article on "The Barons of King-Edward," by Dr John Milne, published in 1897.

In 1517, the lands of Castletown, with others, were in the possession of Walter Barclay of Grantuly, who succeeded in getting them disjoined from the old barony of King-Edward and attached to that of Barclay, which pertained to his family. On 22nd August, 1536, he sold them to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Dunlugas and his wife. Sir Walter, who was some time Provost of Banff, acquired extensive estates in Berwickshire, through his marriage with Alison Hume, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Patrick Hume of Fastcastle. He disposed of these southern

properties, and with the proceeds purchased at various times the lands of Alvah, Newton, Sandlaw, Moutcoffer, Iuverichnie, Gaveny, Scatterty, Castletown, Carnousie, Monycabok, etc. He died on 29th November, 1558.

In 1696, Castletown belonged to Patrick Duff, who was then farmer at the Mains. For himself, his wife, and four sons, he paid £10 16s of poll. (Poll Book.)

#### KING-EDWARD CASTLE.

This large and imposing castle—which stood on a bold, precipitous rock on the northern margin of a deep ravine, through which flowed the burn of King-Edward—is believed to have been erected by the Cumyns, Earls of Buchan, early in the thirteenth century. It subsequently became one of their principal seats, and was the head of the barony—near it being the Fairy Hillock, where the barous dispensed justice to those within their jurisdiction. Probably the first mention of it in history occurs in 1272, when the titles of the adjacent lands were granted by Alexander Cumyn, second Earl of Buchan, to the prebendary of Turriff. The charter was signed, sealed, and duly witnessed at the castle.

John Cumyn, third earl, succeeded in 1289, and seven years later the castle was visited by Edward I. while on his triumphal march through Scotland. The earl temporised for some time, but, ultimately, with the whole Cumyn “clan,” vigorously supported the English cause. As a result, when Bruce got firmly seated on the Scottish throne, he executed drastic reprisals, a chronicle of the time (“*Extracta e variis Cronicis Scociae*,” p. 103) stating that of the proud name which numbered at one time the three Earls of Buchan, Mar, and Mentieth, and more than thirty belted knights who were settled in various parts of the country, there remained no

memorial. The earl himself, who was crushingly defeated at Barra, and found himself powerless to oppose the subsequent “Harrying of Buchan,” escaped into England, where he died in 1313.

It was probably on account of the family relationship subsisting between Bruce and the Earl of Ross, and the loyalty of the Countess of Buchan, Isabel Macduff, sister of the Earl of Fife—who, although too late in her arrival at Scone to place the crown on King Robert’s head, was enabled two days later to raise it to his brow—that the King afterwards granted a charter to John Ross, son of the Earl of Ross, “in togher with Margaret Cumyng, doghter to the Earl of Buchan,” of one half of the earl’s haill lands within Scotland. (Robertson’s Index.)

Thus the Ross family secured a hold in the parish and district; but it is believed that the victorious forces of Bruce had rendered the castle uninhabitable. It continued, however, as the head of the barony, and, after passing through many hands—practically contemporaneous with the barony itself—it was, in 1509, conferred by James IV. upon John, Lord Forbes, then laird of the neighbouring property of Blacktoun. The grant included the Castle Hill, with the stones and lime and pertinents thereof. (Reg. Mag. Sig. Lib., XV., No. 107.) Licence was at the same time granted to Forbes to build a new castle, tower, or fortalice with suitable defences, including a barmkin, draw-bridge, iron gates, and all necessaries. Power was also given to appoint constables, janitors, watchmen, jailors, and other needful officers.

Messrs Macgibbou and Ross agree with the following description of the ruins by the late Mr James Spence—

Of the castle itself very little now remains beyond a few masses of masonry showing the main lines of the walls, and the position and

area of the principal chambers on the ground floor. The gateway of the castle, still marked by some of the largest fragments of masonry, faces the north-west, and immediately in front of this gateway the neck of the peninsula is cut across by a deep, dry ditch. On the other side, the fortress was inaccessible. Outside the ditch, and directly in front of the gate, there is a level field of considerable extent, known as "The Lichtin' Green" (where horsemen dismounted). Within the gateway lay a rectangular courtyard, 103ft. by 56ft., and around this court there are still well-defined traces of rooms, differing in size and strength of masonry, according, apparently, to position and use. Of such chambers there had been three on each side of the courtyard, while at the east end, opposite to the gate, one of larger dimensions seems to have occupied the space between the two sides. Nothing now remains among the ruins themselves except the ground plan to enable us to form an opinion as to the style of architecture—no trace of arch, pillar, or moulding; but a few distinctive pieces of mason work have been saved from the general wreck, and placed by Mr Runcieman, of the farm of Castletown, in situations where they can be seen to advantage, and will be safe for many years to come.

All traces of the old chapel which stood at the castle have been removed. The name is, however, perpetuated in that of the "Chapel Haugh," which is applied to a small tract of ground at the site of the castle.

#### GUTHRIE FAMILY.

Members of the family of Guthrie— "cadets of the ancient and distinguished stock of Barons of Guthrie, in Forfarshire, chiefs of their name"—held lands in the parish and district for several generations.

On 27th January, 1672, Charles II. granted to Sir Henry Guthrie, Knight Baronet, and Barbara Urquhart, his spouse, the lands of Fisherie and others (described in the Great Seal Register, Vol. X., No. 665), the mill of King-Edward, and half the lands of Dunlugas,

which had previously belonged to Sir Alexander Urquhart of Dunlugas, afterwards of Cromartie—Barbara Urquhart being the eldest lawful daughter of Sir Alexander Urquhart and his wife, Dame Jean Elphinstone. The parentage of the last-mentioned lady is not given by Douglas, but Urquhart and Nisbet say that she was the daughter of Lord Elphinstone. Sir Henry died between 1692 and 1694, survived by his second wife, Janet Wallace, and of his family by his first marriage, a daughter—Margaret—married Mr Ferguson, of the Crichton family, while Christian married William Cumine of Auchry and Pitullie, for some time chief magistrate of Elgin, who died 29th October, 1707, aged 74. (Tombstone at Monquhitter, etc.)

A son, John, succeeded to the baronetcy, and had a Crown charter to the barony of King-Edward in 1694. (Reg. Mag. Sig., Vol. 73.) He married, first, Agnes Robertson, and had a son Charles, and at least five daughters. Along with George Leslie of Eden, he acted as a Commissioner for taking up the Poll in King-Edward in 1696. The lands in the parish belonging to him had then a valuation of £666 13s, and that he and his lady lived in considerable style is shown by the fact that they kept in their service three male servants, two female servants (their aggregate wages reached 86 merks—a considerable sum in those days), and a "gentlewoman," whose fee was £20. Of the family, Charles died in early youth, and Ann, before 1722, married William Burnet of Campfield. Sir John married, secondly, Mary Forbes, and, dying in August, 1722, was survived by her and their family—Alexander, Catherine, Jean, Christian, and Mary. He had sold the King-Edward lands and purchased the estate of Ludquharn, in the parish of Longside, and bequeathed its mansion as a dower house to his widow.



Alexander Guthrie, the son of the second marriage, succeeded to the baronetcy and estates, and was served heir to his father, Sir John, on 9th February, 1723. Designed as of Fairfield (of Ludquharn in his test: dative), he died on 26th October, 1761, aged 42. His sisters, Jean, Christian, wife of George Cumine of Pitullie, and Mary, wife of John Fullerton, younger of Dudwick, were subsequently appointed his executors.

With the death of Sir Alexander Guthrie the baronetcy became extinct.

Rev. John Anderson, Curator of the Historical Department, H. M. General Register House, Edinburgh, obligingly furnished many of these particulars.

#### THE URQUHARTS OF CRAIGSTON, ETC.

The name of Urquhart is one of the most ancient in Scotland, documentary evidence showing that members of the family were, as early as the time of the wars of Scottish Independence, hereditary Sheriffs of Cromarty. They owned extensive possessions in the shires of Ross, Cromarty, and Inverness, and upwards of five centuries ago they secured a proprietorial hold in Aberdeenshire.

In 1369, David II. granted confirmation of a charter by Hugh, Earl of Ross and Lord of Philorth, to Adam Urquhart, Sheriff of Cromarty, and his heirs, of the lands of Fohesterdy (afterwards known as Fisherie). At the same time, the King confirmed another charter of the same lands by David Lesly to John Urquhart, son of this Adam Urquhart. A descendant, Alexander Urquhart, Sheriff of Cromarty, had, in 1503, a charter from James IV. of these lands of "Fechrie," along with "Clochquorby," in the barony of King-Edward. He married Katharine, daughter of Sir James Ogilvie of Deskford, and on 27th October, 1506, their son, Thomas

Urquhart, had service on the lands as heir of line to the said Alexander Urquhart, then deceased. He married Helen, daughter of Alexander, Lord Abernethy of Saltoun, and they are said to have had a family of eleven daughters and twenty-five sons! Of the latter, seven are alleged to have fallen at the battle of Pinkie in 1547.

A son, Alexander Urquhart of Cromarty, and Sheriff thereof, married Beatrix Innes, daughter of Innes of Auchintoul, and they had a younger son, John Urquhart, who became proprietor of Craigintray (now known as Craigston). The last-named and his mother are mentioned in a Latin inscription on a monument still standing on its original site, which was included in the area of the church of King-Edward before its eastern portion was removed. The English translation is—

John Urquhart erected this monument to the glory of God, and in memory of his mother, Beatrix Innes, Lady of Cromarty. A. D. 1590.

When a grave was being dug in the eastern portion of the old church there was found, at the depth of several feet, a flat stone bearing the Urquhart arms and the still older inscription—

HEIR LYSIS ELIZABETH VRQVHART,  
—ED 4 OF IVLLI, 1590.

The above John Urquhart was born in 1547, and, becoming tutor and guardian to his grandnephew, Sir Thomas Urquhart,\*

\* Sir Thomas Urquhart is known as the translator of Rabelais, and the author of various works, including "The Adventures of the Admirable Crichton," a "Treatise on Trigonometry," "Epigrams," "Introduction to Universal Language" in six books, and "The Jewel," with tracts containing the genealogy of the Urquhart family traced back to the time of Adam, which last-mentioned work was doubtless intended as a satire on those setting up extravagant and groundless claims to ancient lineage, although some argue that it was specially written for the purpose of drawing the King's attention to the losses and sufferings which the Urquhart family had sustained for their loyalty.

was afterwards well known as the "Tutor of Cromarty." He was three times married—first, to the eldest daughter of John Gordon of Cairnborrow, and relict of — Meldrum of Eden; secondly, to Jean, daughter of Alexander Abernethy, Lord Saltoun, and widow of Alexander Seton of Meldrum; and, thirdly, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Alexander Seton, younger of Meldrum. In 1621, he erected a special gateway into the graveyard. Over it were placed stones showing the date 1621, the motto "I Hope," and his arms impaled with those of Seton. The initials I. V. and E. S. flanked the arms, these representing John Urquhart and his third wife, Elizabeth Seton. A tablet in the church wall also bears his name, etc.—

IOHN VRQART.  
WIL VEIL & WIS VEIL.  
DEA GREA.

Underneath is a shield showing his arms, flanked by the initials I. V.

Spalding pays him a high tribute in a single sentence—"He left behind him ane fair estait conquest, but court or sessioun (meaning without court favour or by legal oppression), and from ane small beginning, and provydit his children honestlie." (Trubles, I., p. 26.) His death, which took place at Craigston on 8th November, 1631, in his 84th year, was bewailed by Dr Arthur Johnston, the celebrated Aberdeenshire classical poet, in a Latin epigram, which may be translated into English—

Urquhart is gone, happiest of his time, now full of years, and of those riches which he turned into ministering servants. Ye posterity of his, inheritors of his lands and fame, learn by his example how to live: learn also how to die.

John Urquhart of Laithers, the eldest son, being deeply involved financially, his father settled Craighntray or Craigston upon the next heir, John Urquhart (son of John of Laithers), who married Elizabeth,

daughter of the laird of Innes. Both the son and grandson died within four years of "The Tutor" under sad circumstances. (See Chambers's Domestic Annals, II., pp. 82-83.)

Craigston was shortly afterwards acquired by the Duke of Gordon, who, early in the eighteenth century, sold it to Patrick Duff.

Of the third marriage of the first-mentioned John Urquhart, there was a son, Patrick Urquhart, who married a daughter of James, first Earl of Airlie, and succeeded to the estate of Meldrum. Of their family were John, who died before his father, unmarried; Adam, who succeeded to Meldrum (the Meldrum and Byth Urquharts are now represented by Mrs Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton), and was Member of Parliament for Aberdeenshire, 1665-78; and James, of Knockleith, who married Margaret Fraser, daughter of the laird of Tyrie, and may be said to be the real founder of the Craigston branch. Many of the foregoing particulars are confirmed by a Latin inscription on a tablet within the Craigston Aisle, which is attached to the older portion of the church of King-Edward. The translation is—

To the memory and for the remains of John Urquhart of Craighntray (who was commonly called the Tutor of Cromarty), son of Alexander Urquhart, Sheriff of Cromarty. He was a man remarkable for his great prudence. He died 8th November, 1631.

Of John Urquhart of Leathers, his eldest son, who died 11th December, 1631.

Of John Urquhart of Craigston, his grandson, who died 30th November, 1634.

Here also rest James Urquhart of Knockleith, son of Patrick Urquhart of Meldrum; and James Urquhart of Byth, son of Adam Urquhart of Meldrum. The latter was the great-grandson, the former the grandson of the aforesaid John, Tutor of Cromarty. Both were highly commended for the uprightness of their

lives, and for their loyalty to their Sovereigns (even in times of adversity).

The former died on 6th December, 1710, and the latter on 10th September, 1728.

In this tomb also the remains of others of the same family are interred.

From a small roughly-dressed whinstone slab is the following additional translation—

The burial place of the family of Urquhart of Cromarty, Craigston, and Byth.

Remember my judgment, for so shall thine also be, it is my turn to-day, it will be thine to-morrow.

Captain John Urquhart, only son of the above James Urquhart of Knockleith, became proprietor of Craigston, and he also acquired the old patrimonial estate of Cromarty. He and his wife and daughter-in-law have a tablet bearing a Latin inscription, which may be translated into English—

Here lies all that was mortal of John Urquhart of Cromarty and Craigston, son of James Urquhart of Knockleith, a man endowed with primitive virtue, also of Joanna Urquhart, his wife, daughter of William Urquhart of Meldrum, a woman adorned with every matronly grace. The former departed this life on 19th June, 1756, and the latter on 3rd December, 1757.

This monument was erected to their memory by their eldest son, William Urquhart of Craigston.

Here also rests Margaret Irvine, spouse of the aforesaid William Urquhart of Craigston, and daughter of George Irvine of Artamford, a woman pre-eminently distinguished for the elegance of her manners and the stainless integrity of her life, which, alas! was only too brief. She died on 30th May, 1773.

The above William Urquhart of Craigston was twice married. Of the daughters of his first marriage with Margaret Irvine were Jane, who married Francis Gregor of Trewarthenick, in Cornwall, and Eleanor. He married, secondly, on 27th December,

1780, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Ogilvie of Auchiries. She erected a separate monument to her husband, which is inscribed—

Here are deposited the remains of William Urquhart of Craigston, born 30th January, 1741; died 14th June, 1796. Wise, modest, sincere, generous, benevolent, distinguished by gentle manners, kind affections, and that delicacy which makes virtue itself more amiable. He loved and was beloved. She who pays this tribute of just praise to him whose memory she reveres, whilst she longs to mingle with his dust, does not grieve, without Hope.

Susan Mary, William, and Alexander, his children, who died in infancy, are also interred here.

Of such is the Kingdom of God.

Of the family of the second marriage, Adam married Mary, daughter of the Right Rev. Dr Maltby, Bishop of Chichester; Elizabeth married Major J. C. Champion, 21st Regiment; and Frances married Captain Green.

John Urquhart, a son by the first marriage, succeeded. He and his wife and two sons are commemorated in this inscription—

In memory of Isabella Urquhart, who died 31st March, 1855, aged 79 years, daughter of George Moir, Esq. of Scotstown, wife of John Urquhart, Esq. of Craigston. Her mortal remains rest here beside those of her husband and her eldest son, William Urquhart, Esq. of Craigston. This stone is erected by their surviving children, Lieut.-Colonel Francis Gregor Urquhart, Margaret Forbes, and Eleanor Jane Clegg, that their descendants may know the place of sepulture of one whose memory they will be taught to revere, and whose many virtues they will be incited to emulate.

Also in memory of George, the second son of the above named Isabella and John Urquhart of Craigston, who died at sea on the 13th October, 1825, aged 19 years.

The above-mentioned Margaret Forbes married Lieutenant - Colonel Jonathan Forbes (afterwards Leslie) of the 78th



Regiment, youngest son of John Forbes of Blackford. (See under Rothienorman, Fyvie.)

The eldest son, William Urquhart, who succeeded to Craigston, married Mary, daughter of Alexander Fraser of Fraserfield (or Balgownie), and their only child and heiress, Mary Isabella, is commemorated by the following inscription—

Mary Isabella Pollard-Urquhart of Craigston, only child of William Urquhart, Esq. of Craigston, was born on the 24th May, 1826; married the 20th August, 1846, to William Pollard, Esq. of Castle Pollard, Co. Westmeath; and died in London on the 11th December, 1873.

William Pollard, who assumed the additional surname of Urquhart, was the son of William Dutton Pollard, of Castle Pollard, and his second wife, Louisa Ann, daughter of Admiral the Hon. Sir Thomas Pakenham, G.C.B. He was educated at Harrow and Cambridge, and subsequently qualified for the Bar. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace of Westmeath, was High Sheriff of that county in 1840, and represented it in Parliament for many years. He died at Brighton in June, 1871, being succeeded in his Irish estates by his eldest son, on whose death they passed to the present proprietor of Craigston, Colonel Francis Edward Romulus Pollard-Urquhart.

Craigston Castle, which was erected by John Urquhart, "Tutor of Cromarty," is an excellent specimen of the Scoto-Franco style of architecture. It resembles in several respects the more ancient Castle of Fyvie. An inscription to the right of the front door runs—

I. V. THIS VARK FOVNDIT YE FOVRTINE OF MARCH, ANE THOVSDAND SEX HOVNDER FOVR ZEIRIS, AND ENDIT YE 8 OF DECEMBER, 1607.

#### EDEN (FORMERLY IDEN).

The estate of Eden (in Gaelic, Aodann, signifying bare face), extending to up-

wards of 1000 acres, was originally included in the barony of King-Edward. From the proprietor of the barony it was purchased early in the fifteenth century by the Meldrums of Fyvie (see Fyvie), with whose descendants it continued till about 1630. In 1602, security was lodged for 5000 merks that Thomas Meldrum would answer to the charge of "fals cuzie," and he was put to the horn for not appearing to give evidence regarding the burning of Frendraught in 1630. In an action in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeenshire between Andrew Meldrum, Baillie and burges of Aberdeen, and Patrick Meldrum, respecting the proprietary rights of Eden, decree was granted in favour of the former, 23rd September, 1636. He appears to have sold the estate about 1630, and to have died on 18th May, 1668. (Row's Diary.)

The purchaser was Patrick Leslie, elder son of Patrick Leslie, burges of Aberdeen, by his wife, Isabella Seton. The former was twice married—first, to Jean Leslie, daughter of John Leslie, tenth baron of Balquhain; and they had a family of four sons and two daughters—Patrick, who, on 20th May, 1645, married Miss Fraser, daughter of Lord Saltoun; John, who married Isobel Galloway, daughter of John Galloway, merchant, Aberdeen; Alexander; Isabella, who, on 18th October, 1642, married Alexander Gordon of Birmoair; Mary, who married Alexander Lumsden of Ruthrieston; and Robert, who died in infancy. Mrs Leslie died in November, 1630, and Mr Leslie shortly afterwards married, as his second wife, Isobel Cheyne, eldest daughter of Baillie John Cheyne (descended from the knightly family of Inverugie, Esslemont, etc.), and his wife, Elizabeth Cruickshank, daughter of William Cruickshank of Tillymorgan. Of this union there were eight of a family—Thomas, Ann, Bertha,

William, George, another son baptised 9th June, 1646; Elspet, and Walter. Mr Leslie represented the burgh of Aberdeen in Parliament in 1633, and again in 1640-41. His appearance in the first Parliament gave such offence to Charles I. that when, in the following year, Leslie was elected Provost of Aberdeen, the King sent a special letter to the magistrates ordering them to remove Leslie and to appoint Sir Paul Menzies—a gratuitous interference which was meekly acquiesced in by all interested.

In the following year, the King again forbade Leslie's appointment to the provostship, and the Royal command was again obeyed. This hostility doubtless arose from Leslie's opposition to the King's principles. He was one of the first to sign the Covenant in Aberdeen; and that he wielded influence in the controversy may be inferred from Spalding calling him "a strong Covenanter," and later, in 1644, "a vehement Covenanter." The influence of the King being on the wane, Leslie was elected Provost in 1639, 1642, and 1647 (see Munro's Provosts, etc.), and in 1651, on the occasion of the visit to the city of Charles II., he received the honour of knighthood at the King's hand. Numerous authors, following Colonel Leslie's "Family of Leslie" (Vol. III., pp. 412-13), give the date of Sir Patrick's death as 1660, but the following inscription from a tablestone at King-Edward shows that he survived till 16th February, 1674—

UNDER THE HOPE OF A BLESSED RESURRECTION HERE LYIS SIR PATRICK LESLIE OF EDIN, WHO DEPA, FEB. 16, 1674.

AND DAME ISOBEL CHAINE, HIS LADYE, WHO DEP., 30 APRIL, 1666. P. L. I. L.

The stone lies level with the grass, and has in the centre two large plain shields which had doubtless been intended for the Leslie and Cheyne arms. The one shield is flanked by the initials S. P. L., for Sir

Patrick Leslie, and the other has the initials D. I. C., for Dame Isobel Cheyne, his second wife. The arms, however, have not been cut.

Sir Patrick was succeeded by his eldest son of the second marriage, George Leslie, who married Margaret Gordon of Park. He attained some reputation as a violinist, and in Hogg and Motherwell's edition of the works of Burns there is an old version of the beautiful song, "Go, fetch to me a pint o' wine," for which Mr Leslie composed a tune. Perhaps (as suggested by Dr John Milne) this old song had been brought under the notice of Burns when on his visit to Banff, and in this way the celebrated poet was possibly led to write the modern version.

George Leslie, the eldest son of the preceding, succeeded. Along with Sir John Guthrie of King-Edward, he was a Commissioner for taking up the parish poll in 1696. For himself, "with his bedfellow, his tuo sones, and three daughters, viz. :—George, Alexander, Helen, Sophia, and Mary," he paid £11 2s of poll.

George Leslie, fourth laird, married, in 1710, Margaret, sixth daughter of Patrick Count Leslie, fifteenth baron of Balquhain. In 1727—when proprietor of the estate of Tyrie—he presented to King's College a curious manuscript in vellum relating to the Cathedral Church of Aberdeen. He died in 1740. Early in the century he had sold the estate of Eden to Sir Francis Grant of Cullen, afterwards of Monymusk (see Monymusk), who, in 1712, parted with Eden to William Duff, son of Alexander Duff of Braco, and grandson of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, from whom also descends the Duke of Fife. William Duff—who was afterwards designed of Braco—in 1713, executed a deed of entail of his estates in favour of heirs male and female. Under it, his grandniece, Margaret Miln (daughter of Margaret Gordon and her

husband, John Miln, and grand-daughter of the entailor's sister, Margaret Duff, and her husband, Gordon of Glengarroch), ultimately succeeded to Eden. She had married John Grant of Kincardine O'Neil (he died 9th May, 1799, aged 63, and is buried at Kincardine O'Neil), who erected the mansion-house, and did much in the way of planting and beautifying that Deeside estate. Mrs Grant, on succeeding to Eden, adopted the surname of Duff, and, dying at Eden on 20th August, 1824, was interred in the private family mausoleum within the old church of King-Edward. Two white marble tablets therein bear the following respective inscriptions—

## (1).

In the hope of a blessed resurrection here rest the remains,

1. Of MRS GRANT DUFF of Eden, relict of JOHN GRANT, Esq. of Kincardine O'Neil (first resident proprietor and third possessor of the estate of Eden under an entail executed by her grand uncle, WILLIAM DUFF Esq. of Braco, A.D. 1713 in favor of heirs male and female), died at Eden 20th August, 1824, aged 67.

2. Of MARGARET GRANT DUFF, her grand-daughter, who died 6th January, 1835, aged 21 months.

3. Of Sir WHITELAW AINSLIE, son of ROBERT AINSLIE, Esq. of Darnchester, Berwickshire, who died at London, 29th April, 1837, aged 70.

4. Of Lady AINSLIE, relict of said Sir WHITELAW AINSLIE, and daughter of Colonel JAMES CUNINGHAME, of the Scots Brigade, in the service of the United Provinces, who died at Eden, 17th March, 1840, aged 70.

## (2).

5. Of MARY CUNINGHAME GRANT DUFF, daughter of JAMES GRANT DUFF, Esq. of Eden, who died at Eden, 6th September, 1845, aged 17.

6. Of DOUGLAS AINSLIE, Esq. of Cairnbank, Berwickshire, who died at Eden, 19th August, 1850, aged 79.

7. Of JAMES CUNINGHAME GRANT DUFF, Esq. of Eden, who died at Eden 23rd September, 1858, aged 69.

8. Of JANE CATHRINE CUNINGHAME GRANT DUFF, widow of the above, and daughter of the late Sir WHITELAW AINSLIE, who died in London, 1st May, 1866, aged 65.

James Grant, son of the first-mentioned couple, had a distinguished career. Entering the army, he was early appointed Persian Interpreter and Adjutant to his regiment, filling in turn important posts, both civil and military, including that of Political Resident at Sattara. His administration was marked by ability as well as success. The "History of the Mahrattas," which he published in 1826, will be a lasting memorial to his diligence and research. Retiring with the rank of captain, he assumed his mother's patronymic of Duff on succeeding to Eden 20th August, 1824. He married Jane Cathrine, only child of Sir Whitelaw Ainslie (Sir Whitelaw, who was the younger brother of Robert Ainslie, W.S., the friend of Burns, was the son of Robert Ainslie of Darnchester, Berwickshire, became a celebrated physician, was the author of numerous medical works, including "Materia Medica Indica," and being much attached to Eden, his remains were brought from London and interred at King-Edward as stated) and his wife, who was the daughter of Colonel James Cuninghame, of the Scots Brigade, in the service of the United Provinces. On her succeeding to the heritable property which had pertained to her grandfather, she and her husband assumed the additional surname of Cuninghame. Captain Duff took much interest in the estate of Eden, and for many years spent more than its rental in improving it. He made an addition to the dwelling-house—which was originally but a fishing cottage—and laid out the policies and gardens, besides planting extensively.

Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, eldest son of the preceding, succeeded. He



was Member of Parliament for the Elgin Burghs from 1857 till August, 1881, when he resigned on being appointed Governor of Madras. He was Under-Secretary of State for India 1868-74, and Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies 1880-81; and he was Lord Rector of Aberdeen University 1866-72. His administration in Madras was most thorough, a careful record being preserved by him of his personal survey of the twenty-two districts of the presidency. He was made a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India in 1886, and he returned home in the end of that year. He married, on 13th April, 1859, Anna Julia, only child of Edward Webster, North Lodge, Ealing, and they had a family of four sons and four daughters. Sir Mountstuart died in London 12th January, 1906, aged 76, and his remains were interred within the nave of Elgin Cathedral.

In 1875, Eden was purchased by the late Earl of Fife; and his son, the Duke of Fife, in 1891, disposed of it to Thomas Adam, bank agent, first at Banff, and subsequently at Aberdeen. It was the fact of an Adam being again in possession of Eden which suggested the joke in "Punch" that it signified Paradise Regained. Mr Adam died in May, 1893, at the advanced age of 86, and the estate was sold in May, 1895, to Edward Brudenell Thomson, who re-sold it in May, 1901, to the present owner, Sir Richard Nicholson, F.S.A., of Cleveland Gardens, Hyde Park, London. Mr Thomson, immediately after selling Eden, purchased the neighbouring estate of Inverichnie.

The original Castle of Eden, which has for long been in ruins, is believed to have been erected by the Meldrums some time before 1560. George Leslie, who became proprietor in 1674, added an additional storey, but the workmanship was inferior to that of the main structure. The record

of the alteration is preserved in the initials and date upon the wall—

G. L., 1677, M. G.

These initials stand for George Leslie and his wife, Margaret Gordon.

As usual in old castles, the ground floor was low and arched, and divided into apartments for the storage of fuel and provisions. These were reached by a private stair in the east wall. The great hall was in sufficiently good preservation about the beginning of the last century to serve as a ballroom for the surrounding residents on high occasions. The whole castle, however, is now virtually in ruins, and the adjoining fields are cultivated up to its very walls.

Adjoining the castle is a large enclosure, with walls of the same style of masonry as the castle itself. This enclosure may have served both as a garden and as a shelter for cattle and horses at night.

A chapel formerly stood at the castle, and it has been suggested that it may be located by the mark of a building not forming part of the main structure but joined to it at the west end. It is not known when or by whom it was built.

Dr John Milne has written many interesting articles on Eden, and further facts regarding it will be found in Spence's "Ruined Castles in Banff" and Pratt's "Buchan" (revised edition, Aberdeen, 1901, pp. 342-43).

#### BALMAUD.

In the fifteenth century, the lands of Balmaud, in the barony of King-Edward, belonged to a branch of the family of Burnett. In August, 1503, Robert Burnett had a Crown grant to the estate, which, twenty-four years later, he resigned in favour of his son, Thomas, whose Crown charter embraced not only Balmaud, but "Garrochy and Craighead." The "frank tenement, etc.," of Robert Burnett and

his wife, Mariot Pittendreich, were duly reserved. (Reg. Mag. Sig., XXII., 1.)

A few months later, Balmaud was sold by Thomas Burnett to James Gordon of Coldstone. (Ibid., XXII., 31.) In March, 1543, George, Earl of Huntly, for services done to him and his predecessors, granted to James Gordon, designed of Balmaud, the lands of Esse, the croft of Auchleck, with the place and house of Lesmore and lands of Balhenny, in the barony of Strathbogie. (Ibid., XXX., 449.) James Gordon married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford and Findlater; and, in 1546, they acquired the lands of Earlsfield and Seggieden, in Kennethmont. Of their family, James Gordon succeeded to Crichtie; Alexander Gordon acquired Birkenburn, about 1550; William Gordon was designed of Terpersie; Patrick Gordon was named of Oxhill, in Enzie; John Gordon was styled of Licheston, in Enzie; Henry Gordon was designated of Dilspro; and Thomas Gordon succeeded to Seggieden. The eldest son, George Gordon, designed as "of Coldstone," was retoured heir to his father, James Gordon of Lesmore, in the property of Balmaud, etc., on 23rd June, 1559.

The lands — embracing Craighead, Gorrachrie, Broomhill, Haulkillock, and Moirless — were afterwards in the possession of the Ogilvies of Boyne. On 16th July, 1703, Sir Patrick Ogilvie sold them to the managers of the Reidhyth Mortification connected with King's College, Aberdeen.

#### MONTCOFFER.

The lands of Montcoffer, or Moncoffer, were originally included in the barony of King-Edward. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, nearly one-half was held by Alexander Tulloch, and the balance by the Barclays of that ilk. On 1st October, 1549, George Barclay was served heir to his father, Walter Barclay of Towie-

Barclay, in half the lands of Montcoffer, with the fishings in the Deveron pertaining thereto. In 1568, George Barclay sold his share of Montcoffer and Gowneis to Alexander Irvine of Drum in life-rent and to Robert Irvine, his second son, in fee.

The Tullochs disposed of their portion to the Meldrums, between whom and the Barclay family a bitter feud arose. This culminated in the murder of Sir Walter Barclay at Edinburgh in June, 1589, but the influence of the Meldrums in high places was such that they and their accomplices were afterwards pardoned for the foul deed.

Before 1696, Montcoffer was acquired by the Russells, who, in the middle of the following century, purchased the estate of Aden. (See Old Deer.)

Montcoffer is now the property of the Duke of Fife. Its mansion-house has a beautiful situation on the southern declivity of Montcoffer Hill, and commands an excellent view of the lower valley of the Deveron.

#### SCHOOLMASTERS.

The parish has been particularly fortunate in its selection of schoolmasters, the success of many of its sons being traceable to the superior early training received at the parish school.

The earliest recorded teacher was James Petrie, who, in 1649, was appointed to Banff.

Rev. Robert Duff, prior to his appointment as parish minister in 1765, officiated for some time as schoolmaster.

Alexander Simpson was appointed about 1780. He afterwards became minister of the Second Charge of Old Machar, and in 1804 was translated to the parish of New Machar. (See New Machar.) While at King-Edward, he interested himself greatly in parochial affairs. He wrote for Sir John Sinclair's "Statistical

Account" the account of King-Edward and of Turriff.

A succeeding schoolmaster has a massive headstone close to the east wall of the churchyard. It has—

Near this place are interred the remains of John Harden, who was, for the space of 25 years, schoolmaster of the parish, and by the fidelity and success with which he discharged the duties of his office, attained the approbation and confidence of parents, as well as the esteem, affection, and gratitude of his numerous pupils. In private life he was endeared to those who knew him, and deservedly respected for the engaging simplicity of his manners, the correctness of his motives, and the unostentatious benevolence of his heart.

As a tribute of grateful respect to his memory his scholars have raised this humble memorial to his name.

John Harden died 12th August, 1824, aged 46.

John Harden was the son of a butler to the Earl of Fife, and it was through the Earl's patronage that he secured the appointment.

A succeeding teacher was Rev. James Steinson, who graduated in Arts at King's College on 31st March, 1809. He died in 1854, and is buried at Boyndie.

The veteran schoolmaster was John Milne, who, in 1849, graduated in Arts at Marischal College, secured an appointment as teacher in Laurencekirk in 1850, and, two years later, removed to King-Edward. Here, for forty-eight years, he taught with much success, and his resignation in 1900 was accepted with much regret. In 1886, his Alma Mater honoured him with the degree of LL.D., in recognition of his scholarly attainments and his literary works, which have thrown much additional light upon the past history of the north-east of Scotland.

#### GENERAL EPITAPHS.

A headstone—showing at the top an

open book—bears the following inscription—

Erected by John Morison, D.D., LL.D., London, and the Rev. Joseph Morison, Millseat, in affectionate remembrance of their parents, John Morison, Millseat, 1754-1833, and Isobel Hepburn, 1757-1827. Also of Janet Morison, their sister, 1781-1868.

John Morison, in Millseat, was the descendant of a highly respected family, who for many generations had been turners and general carpenters. He was an active promoter of the Evangelical movement.

A tombstone alongside is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Joseph Morison, late pastor of the Congregational Church, Millseat, who died 29th June, 1856, aged 62 years. Also of his son, John Morison, who died 9th September, 1855, at Rochester, New York, aged 24 years. And of four infant children. Also in loving remembrance of Margaret Collier, his wife, who died at Aberdeen, 10th December, 1892, aged 90 years, and is interred in Nellfield Cemetery.

The law of truth was in his mouth,  
And iniquity was not found in his lips;  
He walked with me in peace and equity,  
And did turn many away from iniquity.

—Malachi, chap. 2, v. 6.

Rev. Joseph Morison was the first incumbent of the Congregational Church, Millseat, Crudie. The edifice, built in 1830, was at first known as "The Heather Kirk," from its roof being so thatched. It has since been practically rebuilt, and is now a comfortable church. (See "Memoir of the Life and Times of the Rev. Joseph Morison" by A. Gruar Forbes.)

Mr Morison's brother, Rev. John Morison, D.D., LL.D., became an eminent Congregational minister in London, as well as a voluminous author. He acted for many years as editor of the "Evangelical Magazine." He died in 1859



The following is an exceptional form of inscription—

Here lyes the ashes of ane honest and pious woman named Panton, lawfull spouse to Andrew Mackie, some time at Mill of Balmaud, who departed this life March 14, 1717, years . . .

All old and young that look hereon  
Remember death is coming on.

A wall monument, which was erected by Alexander Mackie, in Gardenstown, to the memory of his brother, William Mackie, in Clochforbie, who died 25th January, 1782, aged 33, gives the poetical advice—

Now slain by Death who spareth none,  
And lies so low near by this stone,  
Take care to read and you shall see

What though another shine in power,  
And honours him surround,  
The grave will make us all alike,  
And level with the ground.

A tablestone bears—

Under the hope of a blessed resurrection here lyes the body of an honest man named George Kenedy, some time in Hillhead, who departed this life May 4, 1736. This is erected by Anna Porter, his spouse, who died March the 8, 1765.

A headstone at the same grave records the death of William Kennedy, Clayforbie, who died 16th May, 1838, aged 84, and of his wife, Mary Torry, who died June 21, 1831, aged 87.

A headstone bears—

Under the hope of a blessed resurrection here lyes the body of an honest man named William Davidson, some time in Walkmill of Carnousie, who died March 26, 1724; as also

The conclusion of the above inscription has not yet been added.

A headstone bears—

Erected by William Manson, farmer, Muirtown, to the memory of his spouse, Ann Adam, who died 5th November, 1847, aged 51 . . .

A tender mother we regret,  
A loving mother dear,  
We hope she's gone to endless bliss.  
Left all her sorrows here.

A tablestone bearing a monogram, emblems, and the initials I. S. and I. B. has the following inscription—

Heir lyeth the ashes of ane honest man, James Smith, who dvald in Lyncarty, who departed this life October, the 17, 1689.

As also John Smith, his lawfull son, who departed this life August, 1732.

James Smith, son of the above-mentioned James Smith, was tenant of the farm of Easter Luncarty in 1696, and for his own and his wife's poll paid £1 2s.

A headstone is inscribed—

Here lyes the body of a young woman, named Christian Milne, lawfull daughter to Robert Milne and Christian Fouly, sometim in breadthless, who died aPrille 20, 1746. Also their daughter Elizabeth Milne, some time in Holymill, died October 20, 1773, aged 56.

The place-names Holymill and Hollymill are variations of Holmsmill. A farm near the Manse is called The Holm, and the mill seems to have been an outfarm belonging to it.

An inscription to John Gow and his wife, Margaret Cruickshank, has the following verse—

Here pride insults not, Fortune cannot spurn,  
No craving vex, no lawless passions burn,  
Here no device, no Regret racks the brain;  
Here's rest from labour, ease for every pain.  
But mark frail mortal, in this drear abode,  
There's no repentance, no converse with thy  
God;

Go then, and learn how swift thy minutes fly,  
Go learn (what thou knowest not) how to die.

A headstone bears the following inscription and eulogium—

Erected to the memory of John Hilton, late of Balmade, who died 8th Dec., 1812, aged 60 years, and his wife Elspet Adams, who died 17 April, 1823, aged 72 years.

As friends and parents few equalled and none excelled them.

A headstone has—

Erected by Isobel Leslie to the memory of her beloved husband James Adam late farmer

in Jackston, who died at Macduff, the 5th September, 1831, aged 62 years.

In Thy fair book of life divine,  
My God inscribe my name,  
There let it fill some humble place  
Beneath the slaughter'd Lamb.

The said Isobel Leslie, who died 3rd April, 1856, aged 77 years.

A headstone is inscribed—

This stone was erected to the memory of George Davidson, sometime at Wakmill of Pladie, who died January the 6th, 1778, aged 56 years, and Isabel Scot, his spouse, who died November the 5th, 1798, aged 63.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

In the Statistical Account of Scotland (1794), it is stated that "A law was lately opened on the farm of Strathairy, in which was found a small urn containing some ashes. In digging away the earth many loose, irregular stones were found, particularly round the base of the mound, and in some places marks of fire were discovered."

Till near the year stated there was on the same farm a small spot called Given Ground, or the Goodman's Ground, which it was deemed sacrilege to attempt to cultivate. The ultimate breaking up of it was urged as a proof of the decline of superstition.

The old standing stones of Auchnagorth have been entirely removed, as also have other cairns in various parts of the parish.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The kirk-session registers or minute books begin in 1704, but there are several blanks, including one extending from 1708 to 1736. In the Register House, Edinburgh, are birth records 1701 to 1854, marriage records 1783 to 1854, and death registers 1852 to 1854. The entries are meagre and difficult to follow.

Two of the old parish beadies temporarily

attained unenviable notoriety. One (see Rev. Dr Davidson's "Old Aberdeenshire Ministers," p. 138) made the kirkyard the scene of the close of life's account in more senses than one. Having made a gross overcharge for the interment of a parishioner, the minister demanded an explanation. The beadle coolly replied that the deceased "ance took a nip o' me wi' the price o' a calf, an' I never got the chance o' gettin' my ain till then!"

Another beadle, during the time of the body-snatchers, was believed to connive at the removal of remains from the graveyard. Becoming aware that suspicion was aroused, he considered it necessary to do something to regain the lost confidence of the parishioners. Knowing the methods followed by the resurrectionists, he determined to secure the booty of a rival party. Nor had he long to wait, for, in the middle of a winter night, he espied a horseman advancing at a rapid rate with a long, suspicious-looking bundle slung in front. Seizing the bridle of the horse by one hand, he, with one blow of a stout cudgel held in the other, felled the rider to the ground. Annexing the horse and bundle, he made off to his home, and in the morning took pains to spread the report of his capture. Needless to say, this exploit restored confidence, for the parishioners argued that none but a brave and honest man could have performed such an achievement. Neither horse nor body was ever claimed.

Among curious cases affecting the parish which were dealt with by the Church Courts was that of Donald M'Keddie, piper, who, in 1647, was cited before the Presbytery "for drinking the devills health and pyping to those who drank it." M'Keddie protested that he was only "feied to be pyper at ye drinking of ye devells health at the Cross of Turreff, refused yt he drank it himself." Still he

was ordained to appear in church in sack-cloth for the offence.

#### NEW GRAVEYARD.

A new graveyard has been tastefully laid out adjoining the Parish Church. It contains several handsome monuments, but they are all of recent date. One of the oldest is a headstone commemorating George Moir, for 36 years a servant at Craigston Castle, who died 25th May, 1875, aged 65.

An obelisk displays the initials I. H. S. and the following inscription—

Here are laid the remains of John Hannay, J.P., D.L., formerly of Cairnhill, for nearly forty years Nobleman's factor, gifted, able, and kind who after prolonged, patiently borne suffering, died, aged 78, November 28th, 1901, 'midst widespread esteem, affection, and regret.

John Hannay was the trusted factor on the extensive estates belonging to the Earl of Fife. He interested himself greatly in parochial as well as scholastic affairs, and at various times held the chairmanship of the Parochial and School Boards of King-Edward, Alvah, Gamrie, Monquhitter, Turriff, and Marnoch. He purchased Cairnhill, in the parish of Monquhitter, and died at Southville, Dollar, as above.

A separate inscription records the death of his son, John Fitzpatrick Hannay, who died 1st May, 1883, aged 12.

An obelisk bears—

Erected to the memory of Benjamin S. Panton, schoolmaster, Clinterty, Gamrie, by his neighbours and friends as a mark of respect.

Born 4th January, 1852.

Died 15th June, 1891.

## New Byth.

#### BYTH ESTATE.

The lands of Byth (called Bath in a charter of 1351) were originally included in the barony of King-Edward. After passing through various hands, including those of the Earls of Ross and the Frasers of Philorth, they were acquired in the sixteenth century by a branch of the Forbesees, who also purchased the adjacent property of Auchnagorth.

Before the middle of the following century, Byth was purchased by James Baird, advocate, and one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh. He married Bathia, daughter of Sir John Dempster of Pitliver; and they became the immediate progenitors of the Baird families of New Byth and Saughton Hall. Their eldest son, who afterwards succeeded to Byth, was John Baird, who passed advocate 3rd June, 1647. He was knighted at the Restoration, and became a Senator of the College of Justice, being afterwards well-known as Lord Newbyth. He was returned as Member of Parliament for the county of Aberdeen in 1665, and again in 1667. In the latter year, he sold the lands of Byth to his cousin, Sir James Baird of Auchmedden, and, purchasing those of Foord and Whitekirk, in Haddingtonshire, he had them erected into the barony of New Byth. From the last-mentioned title his descendants are still designated.

In 1681, James Baird, younger of Auchmedden, sold Byth to James Leslie, then designed in Chapeltowne; and in 1711 James Urquhart, son of Adam Urquhart of Meldrum, became the proprietor. He married Jean, daughter of Patrick Porterfield of Comiston; and they had a numerous family. Two sons and two daughters sur-



vived—James, Captain Adam, Mary, and Elizabeth, all of whom at different times were in possession of the estate. (For further notes on the family of Urquhart, see Meldrum and King-Edward.)

The mansion-house of Byth was erected by Deacon Forbes in 1593. Over the entrance door is the characteristic motto "Velcvm Freindis, 1593," and the arms of Forbes quartered with those of Udny, his wife having been Christian Udny, daughter of Udny of that Ilk. In the entrance hall is valuable and interesting old tapestry representing Scriptural subjects.

#### NEW BYTH VILLAGE.

The village of New Byth—which may be said to consist of two streets, crossing each other almost at right angles—dates from 1764. James Urquhart, the superior, then began to give off small feus on favourable conditions for the erection of dwelling-houses. By 1794, the village contained 195 inhabitants, and a gradual increase took place down to 1871, when the population was 609. Since then, however, there has been a decrease. Most of the villagers rent and cultivate plots of land, but, in common with other country villages, there is a scarcity of labour in the immediate vicinity.

The old Free Church, which was erected at the Disruption, was replaced in 1894 by a handsome modern edifice. It is now associated with the United Free Church of Monquhitter.

The remains of a Roman Catholic Chapel which formerly stood in the village were entirely removed in 1903.

#### PARISH CHURCH.

On 13th June, 1792, a deputation of the residents in the south-eastern portion of the parish of King-Edward waited upon the Presbytery, and craved the establishment of a Chapel of Ease at New Byth.

It was explained by the deputies that they had purchased a linen-weaver's shop in the village, and that, if encouragement and help were afforded, the building might be altered and fitted up as a chapel. The proposal was approved, and for a time the clerical members of the Presbytery in turn conducted the services.

In the following year, through the instrumentality of the parish minister of King-Edward, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge became bound to give a sum of £25 a year towards the stipend of a permanent missionary.

The first settled minister was Rev. James Rainy, M.A., who had been ordained by the Presbytery of Tain. He was inducted to New Byth 7th May, 1794. He removed to the parish of Meldrum in May, 1799, and died there 1st May, 1800, aged 35. (See Meldrum.)

Rev. George Urquhart was ordained 5th March, 1800. He resigned in August, 1813—probably from inadequacy of income.

Rev. Gilbert Brown was ordained 27th November, 1816, but seceded in 1843.

The next minister is commemorated by a marble tablet in the wall of the church porch. The inscription is—

Erected by his congregation, his relatives, and friends in memory of the Rev. John Falconer, M.A., who died 13th May, 1895, aged 81 years, who for almost half a century was the faithful and much-beloved minister of New Byth. A gentle, upright, manly Christian; the counsellor and friend of his people. "He being dead, yet speaketh." 1895 A.D.

A silver plate attached to the Communion table bears—

Associated with his memorial tablet, the memory of Anne May, wife of the Rev. John Falconer, the worthy partner of his beautiful life, who died 8th March, 1882.

Rev. John Falconer was a native of Moyness, Nairn, and graduated in Arts at King's College in March, 1834. Passing

through the Divinity course, he was for some time Murray Lecturer, and he also engaged in tutorial work. His ordination to New Byth took place in 1846.

In 1851, he succeeded in getting a new church erected. It was seated for 550, and cost £650. In December, 1867, the Court of Teinds raised it to the status of a parish, *quoad sacra*, with a district attached, drawn from the *quoad civilia* parishes of King-Edward, New Deer, and Aberdeen.

The present incumbent is Rev. Thomas M'William, M.A., who was ordained to the charge on 27th June, 1889. He is the author of "Speakers for God, being Plain Lectures on the Minor Prophets"; and "Sketch of a Quiet Buchan Parish," besides which he edited "The Kirks of the Turriff Presbytery" (1894).

A large sum was recently expended in enlarging the manse, adding a vestry, decorating the interior of the church, introducing suitable heating and ventilating apparatus, etc.

In the west wall, to the right of the pulpit, is a chaste and handsome memorial tablet. It has a framework of richly-veined Derbyshire alabaster, surmounted by a cornice of the same material, and lined round by "opus sectile" of various hues. Four cherub heads, the letters A. O. for Alpha and Omega, and the Greek letters CH.R. for Christ, are also shown. An inner bordering encloses two spaces, the smaller one bearing the Urquhart arms, with the mottoes "Weigh well," "Per mare et terras," and "Mean, Speak, and Do Well"; while the larger space contains the following inscription—

To the memory of Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart of Meldrum and Byth, captain, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Gazetted Major 5th April, 1898; killed in the battle of the Atbara, Soudan, 8th April, 1898. He fell while leading his company over the Dervish

entrenchments, his last words being, Go on, lads; never mind me. And when he had said this he fell asleep. The Acts vii. 60. Our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.—I. Thess. v. 9-10.

#### CEMETERY.

In 1894, ground for a cemetery was acquired within half a mile of the village and close to the public roadway. It was tastefully laid out and walled in at the public expense. A good many neat tombstones have been erected. Perhaps the most important one is that which was provided by public subscription on the initiative of Rev. Thomas M'William. It has the following inscription—

Erected by his many friends as a public token of esteem and affection to the memory of Ebenezer Gibb, J.P., chemist and merchant, New Byth, who died 30th April, 1899, aged 68 years. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—Rev. xiv. 13.

Ebenezer Gibb was recognised as an authority upon the old history of the district. He took much interest in the advancement of the village.

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## New Machar.

According to the Chartulary of Aberdeen, St Colm's Chapel of Monycabock was founded about 1256, the rector of the church of Kirktown of Seatown, or Old Machar, in whose parish it stood, being directed by the Bishop to provide a chaplain to perform services of devotion in the chapel.

On 28th August, 1607, a new church was ordered to be built; and on 9th May, 1609, the Bishop and Presbytery of the bounds disjoined the northern portion of Old Machar and formed it into the new parish, which was designated successively—the

Upper Parochine of St Machar; Upper Machar; and, finally, New Machar.

In 1639, a church was erected at Summerhill, where the parish church now stands. In 1641, the parish minister, who had previously officiated at Monycabock, removed to it. The chapel thereafter gradually became ruinous, but remains of it were to be seen as late as 1815. It "appears to have been very small." (Logan's MS.)

The present parish church, which contains 650 sittings, was erected in 1791, during the incumbency of Rev. William Stronach. It is a plain structure with circular-headed windows, and stands east and west.

There were three other pre-Reformation chapels in the parish—all dedicated to the Virgin Mary; one at Clubsgoval, or Parkhill; another at Straloch, supposed to have been erected by the Cheynes, who were proprietors of the estate; and the third at the Bishop's Manor in Loch-Goul.

#### READERS AND PARISH MINISTERS.

For several years after the Reformation, the district was served by readers. Alexander Garioch held the appointment in 1570, and was followed in turn by Bereowald Innes, Alexander Forsyth, and Robert Williamson.

The first settled minister was Rev. James Hervie, M.A., sometime Humanist in King's College. The date of his entry, as well as several other doubtful points, are settled by the following extract from Logan's MS. in reference to a parish record which, unfortunately, had gone amissing—

The oldest record belonging to this parish is that of Kirk discipline, which commences with the settlement of the stipend, and the Solemn League and Covenant, written in a very neat hand. The title of it runs thus—"This Booke being begun vpon the 24 day of Janvar 1641 yiers containis tharin sick thingis as ar acted

and done in the sessione of the wpper parrochin of St Machar. Be the minister and elders thairof, and that because the vther Sessione Booke, which was begun vpon the 13 day of August, Ane thousand sax hundereth tvantie sax yeiris at the tyme of the said Maister James Hervie. His entry to be Minister at the said Parochin is wreit in out. Even unto the End."

Rev. James Chalmers, M.A., second son of Rev. William Chalmers, minister of Boyndie, was admitted about 1650. He had previously acted as Regent in Marischal College, and did service for the cause of Charles II. When afterwards received in audience by the King, he was greeted with the unusual welcome, "God save you, Mr Chalmers." In 1652, he was translated to Cullen, where, upon one occasion, from Jotham's parable, he preached with such vehemence against the usurpation that Cromwell's soldiers seized and carried him prisoner to Elgin. In 1662, he was appointed to the charge of Dumfries, and was subsequently translated to Paisley, being afterwards nominated by the King to the bishopric of Orkney. He died in Edinburgh before consecration, however. He was twice married—first, to a daughter of Rev. William Scroggy, Bishop of Argyle; and, secondly, to Elizabeth, sister of Provost Robert Petrie, of Portlethen.

Rev. George Melville, M.A., was translated hither from Bourtie in 1652. Eleven years later, he removed to Udny, from which he was called to Alford in 1668. He died in 1679.

Rev. Alexander Leask, M.A., was admitted 14th May, 1665. Before 12th January, 1669, he was translated to Cruden.

Rev. James Garden, M.A., son of Rev. Alexander Garden, minister of Forgue, was ordained in 1672. He was translated to Maryculter in 1675, and thence to Balmerino in 1676. Four years later, he was



appointed Professor of Divinity in King's College, and in the following year he had the degree of D.D. On 25th January, 1697, he was removed from his office by a Parliamentary Commission. He died 8th April, 1726.

Rev. Adam Sutherland, M.A., a native of Caithness, and previously minister of the second charge of Old Machar, was inducted in 1676. He was translated to Duffus in 1687, and died there on 5th November, 1695.

In the same year, Rev. George Seaton was admitted. He married Barbara Beddie, and they had at least five of a family—George, Alexander, John, Archibald, and Anna. He died in 1704. The last-mentioned son was ordained Deacon in the oratory of Dr George Garden, Aberdeen, 10th March, 1723. (MS. at Woodhead.)

Rev. William Mitchell, M.A., was inducted 9th January, 1706. He had been ordained as minister of Kearn 4th January, 1699, but demitted it in 1705. He resigned the ministry of New Machar in May, 1716, and seems to have become impecunious, as, in the following year, he was recommended by the General Assembly for charitable supply.

Rev. John Bisset was ordained 13th March, 1717. He is believed to have been the son of Patrick Bisset, messenger in Tyrie, and subsequently in Old Deer. He married Agnes Pirie, and among their family were John Bisset, who became minister of Culsalmond and afterwards of Brechin, and William Bisset, who was minister of Drumblade and subsequently of Dundee, both being noted preachers. Mr Bisset himself was translated to Aberdeen in 1728, and remained there till his death, which occurred in 1756. He was a famous minister, albeit his views occasionally took eccentric turns.

Rev. Thomas Ray was ordained 29th October, 1729. His appointment was made by a roving Commission, influenced by John Cuthbert, of Rosehall, writer, Edinburgh. He proved unsatisfactory to the bulk of the parishioners, who left no stone unturned to get rid of him. As a result, he was accused by the Presbytery of powdering his periwig on the Sabbath day! From this alleged scandal he was ultimately absolved by the General Assembly 22nd May, 1730. The vindication availed little, for, on 8th September, 1736, he was deposed on a libel for fornication and desertion of the charge.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Thomas Reid, M.A., son of Rev. Lewis Reid, minister of Strachan. His ordination took place on 12th May, 1737. Several of his ancestors distinguished themselves for piety, talents, and genuine worth. From 1733 to 1737, Mr Reid acted as Librarian of Marischal College, and, although his appointment to New Machar was keenly opposed by a large section of the parishioners, he quickly won their affection and esteem. In 1751, he was elected Regent in King's College, and in 1762 was made D.D. In 1764, he was elected Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow. He was a famous metaphysician, and the founder of the common-sense school of Scottish philosophy. He was one of the originators of the Aberdeen Philosophical Society. He died 7th October, 1796, in his 87th year. A portrait of him by Raeburn is in the possession of Lord Leith of Fyvie. It is reproduced in the New Spalding Club's "Records of Marischal College and University," Vol. II. (See "Thomas Reid," by A. Campbell Fraser, in the Famous Scots Series.)

Rev. John Maxwell, M.A., was inducted from the parish of Auchindoir 26th September, 1752. He died 7th March, 1778.

He was twice married—first, to Jean Lumsden; and, secondly, to Agnes Lumsden. By the first marriage, there was a daughter Jean, and by the second marriage there were three sons and six daughters—Francis, John, Henry, Anne, Barbara, Agnes, Mary, Henrietta, and Eliza, who, on 8th June, 1797, married Andrew Dun, joint Rector of the Grammar School, Aberdeen.

Rev. Robert Lumsden, previously minister of Auchindoir, was inducted 14th July, 1774. He died 4th May, 1781. He married, 14th January, 1755, Elizabeth Stevenson, and they had a family of four sons and three daughters—George, Robert, Alexander, John, Katharine, Anne, and Elizabeth, who, on 15th September, 1796, married Alexander Forbes, late of Jamaica.

On 26th June, 1782, Rev. William Stronach, M.A., son of Alexander Stronach in Knock of Grange, was ordained. He was translated to Marnoch 19th September, 1804, and died 11th April, 1837, in his 83rd year. The appointment of his successor led to the great Marnoch controversy which hastened the Disruption. Mrs Stronach and a son and grand-daughter are memorialised by a tablestone within an enclosure in the churchyard of New Machar. The inscription is—

In memory of Harriot Reid, wife of The Rev. William Stronach, who died at New Machar on the 18th of February, 1796, aged 28 years. Also in memory of James Stronach, Surgeon, his second son, who died June 1st, 1817, aged 23 years. Also of Jean Stuart, his grand-daughter and eldest daughter of the late William Stuart of Inverugie, Morayshire, who died at Aberdeen on 9th October, 1849, aged 26 years.

Harriot Reid was the second daughter of Sir James Reid of Barra, Bart., by his third wife, Miss Stronach, Old Aberdeen. Of her marriage with Rev. William Stronach, the eldest son was Alexander Stronach of Drumallan, advocate, Aber-

deen (noticed later); the second, the before-mentioned James Stronach; the third, Lieutenant William Stronach, who died at Ardmeallie in 1893, aged 98; and the fourth, David Stronach. The eldest daughter, Jane, on 14th September, 1829, married Rev. Robert James Brown, minister of Drumblade, and afterwards Professor of Greek in Marischal College. The second daughter, Helen, married William Stuart in Inverugie, Morayshire.

The next incumbent, with his wife and son, is commemorated in the following tombstone inscription—

To the memory of Isabel Cowie, spouse of The Rev. Alexander Simpson, New Machar, who died 8th January, 1837, in the 78th year of her age. Inscribed also to the memory of The Rev. Alexander Simpson, who died 2nd February, 1840, in the 84th year of his age and 45th of his ministry, having faithfully and uprightly discharged the duties of his office as Minister in Old Machar for the space of 10 years, and in New Machar 35 years. And of their son The Rev. Alexander Simpson, who died in Aberdeen, 19th January, 1866, aged 65 years.

Rev. Alexander Simpson, M.A., was for several years schoolmaster of King-Edward. (See King-Edward.) His son, Rev. Alexander Simpson, was for many years in Jamaica.

The succeeding minister has a headstone at a railed-in grave in the corner of the churchyard. It is inscribed—

Erected by the parishioners and members of the Free Church, Newmachar, in memory of the Rev. George Moir. He was ordained Minister of this Parish in 1840.

At the Disruption, in 1843, he became Minister of the Free Church. His ministrations were faithful, zealous, and acceptable, and not without fruit. He died respected and beloved on the 17 June, 1857, aged 47 years. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Edith Emma Moir, born Oct. 31st. 1856, died May 13th, 1860.

Ellen Shelly, wife of The Rev. George Moir,

born Nov. 30th, 1822, died June 24th, 1896, buried at Wokingham, Berkshire.

Rev. George Moir, who went out at the Disruption, became the first minister of the Free Church of New Machar. A son, Alexander Dyce Davidson Moir, died at Townsville, Queensland, 8th January, 1905.

An obelisk on a railed-in grave commemorates the next minister. It bears two Scriptural quotations and the following inscription—

The Reverend Alexander Allan, for twenty-three years Minister of this Parish, died on 10th February, 1866, in the 50th year of his age.

Consecrated to the memory of their pastor and friend by the people of New Machar, 1867.

A white marble tablet on a black marble background has been erected within the church to the next minister. It is inscribed—



Over the grave of Dr Bruce an obelisk has been placed in memory of himself and his daughter, Charlotte Brown, born 1836, died 1884. Prior to his settlement as minister at New Machar, he officiated as schoolmaster of Urquhart. He was held in the highest esteem by the parishioners, and in the Courts of the Church his counsel and advice carried much weight.

Rev. Robert Nelson, B.D., succeeded. In 1904, he was translated to Abbotsford Parish (Quoad Sacra), Glasgow, when Rev.

A. Hood Smith, B.D., previously minister of Kemnay, was elected.

From the foregoing particulars it will be noted that of the twenty individual incumbents who have held the charge, eight accepted translations to other charges, one demitted, one was deposed, one resigned on becoming a Professor, and one seceded at the Disruption.

#### MONYCABOCK AND ELRICK.

About 1343, David II. bestowed upon Donald Strathechin, and Annabell, his wife, the barony of "Monycabbok," along with various lands in Forfarshire. (Robertson's Index.) Before 1405, the barony was in the possession of Sir David Fleming of Biggar in right of his wife. On 10th August, 1405, Sir David had a charter from Robert III. to the lands and barony of Cavers and of the office of Sheriff of Roxburgh. (Antiq., IV., pp. 171 and 172.) A fortnight later, he granted "Monycaboc" to the Earl of Mar during the life of his wife, Dame Isabel, Countess of Mar. (Ibid., 172.) In 1509, John, Lord Fleming, had a Crown grant to the barony, with the mill, etc. (Antiq., III., p. 203.)

In 1528, Walter Ogilvie was designed as laird, and in that capacity he, in the following year, witnessed the charter granted by Bishop Gavin Dunbar to the Provost and community of Aberdeen of the lands of Ardlair for the support of the Bridge of Dee. (Antiq., I., p. 622.) Ogilvie, through his marriage with Alison Hume, daughter of Sir Patrick Hume of Fast-castle, acquired extensive possessions. He received the honour of knighthood, and was afterwards well known as laird of Dunlugas. (See King-Edward.)

In 1492, a decree of Council ordained that "John Flemyng, knight, aire to the deceased David Flemyng and Malcolm Flemyng his father, should warrant and keep to George, Earl of Huntly, the lands



of Elrig, Tillymaud, and a quarter of Little Goule," etc.

Before the middle of the following century, Elrick had passed to the family of Innes of Innermarkie. On 8th May, 1553, Robert Innes was served heir to his father, Robert Innes of Innermarkie, in the lands and barony of Monicaboc, with the advowson of the church, etc. Before 1629, James Hamilton was proprietor, probably under deeds of wadset. On 1st September, 1630, James Hamilton was served heir to David Hamilton, burgess of Edinburgh, lawful son of the then deceased James Hamilton of the Westport, his father, in the barony of Elrick, comprehending the town and lands of "Monycaboc," the lands of Elrick, Chapel Croft, Aldgoul, Snailend (afterwards Swailend), and Littlegoul.

Before 1656, both Elrick and Monycabock were in the possession of Gilbert Hervie, elder, burgess of Aberdeen. He was a well-to-do merchant in the city, but, being a staunch Royalist, suffered considerably during the Covenanted struggle. On May 18th, 1631, he presented to the Guild Brethren's Hospital a folio Bible which had been printed in 1617. (Robertson's "Book of Bon-Accord," pp. 129, 170-1; "Scottish Notes and Queries," 1st Series, Vol. II., p. 86). He married Annas Lawson, and they had a family of at least one son and four daughters. He died 18th December, 1656, and on 18th December, 1657, his son, Thomas, was served heir in the properties mentioned. On the death of the last-mentioned, his four sisters succeeded.

The Inneses, however, continued to hold an interest in the lands. On 16th November, 1662, William Innes of Kinnermonie assigned all right which he possessed in Elrick, etc., in virtue of an assignation granted in 1634 by Sir Walter Innes, fiar of Balvenie, with consent of Sir Robert

Innes, his father, to the reversion in Elrick, etc., mortgaged to the above Gilbert Hervie, elder. The deed narrated that Robert Cruickshank, late Baillie in Aberdeen (he died 5th January, 1664, aged 77, and was designed as sometime laird of Elrick), and John Burnett of Colpnay—to whom Hervie had disposed his wadset rights—had, by certain obligations, become bound to hold the lands redeemed and to make over the whole rights to William Innes on payment of 21,000 merks. The full proprietary interest in Elrick thus passed to John Burnett, who, in 1663, 1664, and 1666, was one of the magistrates of Aberdeen. He was twice married—first, to Marjorie Howison, who died 19th May, 1663; and, on 24th April, 1664, he married, secondly, Bonny Mary Jamesone, daughter of George Jamesone, the famous artist. (Row's Diary.) Mr Burnett died 9th December, 1666, in his 38th year, and his widow, Mary Jamesone, married, as her second husband, in 1669, her cousin, James Gregory.

John Burnett, the only son of the first marriage of Baillie John Burnett, succeeded to Elrick, but he died in 1675, at the age of 15. George Burnett, the eldest son of the second marriage, thereupon became proprietor, but died in 1684, aged under 20. Robert Burnett, the younger brother, succeeded—his service being dated 14th May, 1684. He was twice married—first, to Bessie, daughter of Andrew Burnett of Durris; and, secondly, to Isobel Irvine. Andrew Burnett, eldest surviving son of the first marriage, succeeded. In May, 1707, he married Marjory, elder daughter of Sir John Johnston, fourth baronet of that ilk and of Caskieben. As a marriage portion, he received with his wife the lands of New-place. They had a family of at least three sons and four daughters. Mr Burnett died in November, 1720, aged about 35,

and his widow died in October, 1723. Robert Burnett, the eldest son, succeeded, but died unmarried in 1737, aged 29. His immediate younger brother, John Burnett, followed as proprietor. He was Dean of Guild of Aberdeen in 1741, and a magistrate of the city in 1743-45, and again in 1746-48. He married Margaret Strachan, and they had several of a family. Mr Burnett, in 1739, sold New-place to the Synod of Aberdeen, with whom it still continues. He died on 26th October, 1748, aged 35. The "Aberdeen Journal," in a complimentary notice respecting him, adds that, "As he was generally beloved, his death is justly lamented." A marble slab inserted into the wall of St Nicholas Churchyard, Aberdeen, has a Latin inscription, which may be translated—

If integrity, if kindness and ever-pleasing sincerity could forbid the approach of death; if the love of his relatives, the esteem of his friends, and the goodwill of all could recall his departed spirit: not here would lie John Burnett of Elrick, who died A.D. 1748, aged 35.

Mrs Burnett, about 1750, married, as her second husband, Sir Arthur Forbes, fourth Baronet of Craigievar.

Andrew Burnett, the eldest son of the preceding, succeeded, but he died on 21st April, 1766, "in the flower of his youth."

John Burnett, a younger brother, became proprietor. He married Helen, daughter of Patrick Garden Campbell of Troup and Glenlyon, and had several sons and daughters.

Peter Burnett, the eldest surviving son, succeeded. He married, and his son, Peter Burnett, then became proprietor.

Rev. Dr Temple, in his interesting notes upon this family, says it is remarkable how frequently brother succeeded brother. It is no less singular that so many were cut off by death in early manhood.

## KINGSEAT.

The property of Kingseat has recently been brought into prominence through its having been acquired in 1899 by the Aberdeen District Lunacy Board for the purpose of erecting thereon an Asylum for the lunatic poor of the town. The buildings, which are very extensive, have been occupied for some time.

According to tradition, the name was originally applied through one of the Kings of Scotland, while passing through the parish, seating himself here in order to rest.

The lands formerly formed a portion of the extensive forfeited Belhelvie estates, which were acquired by the York Buildings Company. Subsequently, Alexander Duthie, advocate, Aberdeen, became proprietor, but in 1792 he sold them to Alexander Thomson of Banchory-Devenick. The next owner was Alexander Fraser, who was followed in 1842 by James Morrison, the enterprising tenant farmer of Balhaggardy. (See Kintore.) In 1859, Sir Thomas Blaikie, knight, became proprietor. A wall monument in St Nicholas Churchyard shows that Sir Thomas was born on 11th February, 1802, and died 25th September, 1861; that he was for eleven years Provost and Chief Magistrate of Aberdeen; and that he married Agnes, daughter of Alexander Dingwall of Rannieston, who was born 5th May, 1806, and died 22nd October, 1885.

In 1874, the estate was purchased by Rev. William Gordon, minister of Glenbervie, who sold it to the Aberdeen District Lunacy Board as above.

The adjoining estate of Rainnieshill, which was long in the possession of the Thomsons of Banchory, was acquired in 1869 from the Trustees of the last Alexander Thomson of Banchory by George Thompson, Junior of Pitmedden, whose son, Cornelius Thompson, subsequently

became proprietor. The Aberdeen District Lunacy Board, with a view to acquiring certain water rights, etc., off Rainneshill, purchased the whole estate, but—subject to the conservation of the Asylum requirements which were accurately defined—sold it, in 1900, to William Watson, Kirk-Knowe House, Wishaw.

#### MAMEULAH.

The lands of "Malmeulach" are said to have been bestowed, about 1153, by King Malcolm the Maiden upon Edward, Bishop of Aberdeen. Along with other properties in the district, they continued in the possession of the Church till about 1549, when a commencement was made in feuing them out to laymen. In 1558, Nigel Pook and his wife had a feu charter from William, Bishop of Aberdeen, to an eighth part of Mameulah, called Mallamorish. In 1571, the same Bishop feued to Master James Hervey of Boynds another eighth portion. In 1681, Robert Hervey had a special Act of Parliament authorising him to hold two yearly fairs at Mameulah. In 1696, the larger share of the property belonged to Rev. Patrick Harvey, parish minister of Fergie. In 1706, William Hervey, as heir of Robert Hervey, his father, had service on three quarter portions.

It may be here pointed out that a prolonged quarrel and litigation took place respecting the proprietary rights of the estate. Heavy mortgages were taken upon it, and George Gordon, Professor of Hebrew in King's College, became the owner through an enforced sale brought about by the bondholders foreclosing. He was no sooner in possession than his cousins Mary, Elizabeth, and Catherine Harvey, daughters of the above Rev. Patrick Harvey, brought an action against him, alleging that he had deprived them of their father's estate, which had a rental of £886 Scots. As pointed out by Mr J.

M. Bulloch ("Scottish Notes and Queries," 2nd Series, Vol. II., pp. 17 and 18), the petition and counter petitions are preserved in a collection of Broad-sides in the British Museum (1891 c 3). The ladies, in trying to make good their case, declared that Gordon had got the estate through their cousin, William Harvey, "an idiot, or not many degrees from it." The litigation extended from 1723 to 1748, and cost a heavy amount to all concerned.

In 1733, the lands were purchased by Alexander Thomson, advocate, Aberdeen.

Thomas Gray, who was Provost of Aberdeen upon three separate occasions between 1645 and 1656, is designed as proprietor, but this probably means no more than that he had advanced considerable sums on the security of the lands. (For further particulars see Munro's "Provosts," pp. 154. 55, and 57.)

#### KINMUNDY.

In 1549, the Bishop of Aberdeen feued to Thomas Downie and James Davidson four oxengangs each of the lands of Kinmundy upon the following yearly conditions:—Money, 33s 4d; half a quarter of a mairt, half a mutton, half a peck of bear, three firlots of oats with the straw, one capon and a half, one goose, tenpence for bondages, besides the usual services.

Shortly afterwards, Thomas Menzies of Pitfodels, who had received a disposition to the property of Boighall, acquired Kinmundy also.

An outstanding proprietor was Paul Menzies, son of Thomas Menzies of Kirkhill and Durn, and his wife, Margaret Ogilvie, heiress of Durn. He was Provost of Aberdeen from 1623 to 1633. He attended the coronation of Charles I. in Edinburgh in 1633, and was one of the fifty-four gentlemen who received the honour of knighthood at the King's hand during his stay in Scotland. He died 18th



December, 1641, being succeeded in the lands of Kinmundy by his son, Alexander. The property continued in the possession of the Menzies family down to about 1730, when it was sold to the Guild Hospital, Aberdeen. In 1750, Maitland of Pittrichie feued the lands from the Master of the Guild Hospital. Subsequently, they were owned by the Earls of Aberdeen, and in 1846 they passed to Alexander and William Stephen. They are now the property of the Trustees for the Cruickshank Botanical Gardens, Aberdeen.

South Kinmundy belongs to Rev. Duncan George Mearns of Disblair. (See Oyne and Fintray.)

#### STRALOCH.

For a long period, dating from the thirteenth century, the lands of Straloch were in the possession of the Cheynes, who, as hereditary Sheriffs of Banffshire, had them attached to that county. Besides Straloch, the family, at different periods, owned Inverugie, Esslemont, Arnage, Dundarg, Pitfichie, etc. (See St Fergus.)

Christian Cheyne, a daughter of the proprietor of Straloch, married Sir Alexander Seton of Seton—ancestor of the Earls of Winton—who, having been made Governor of Berwick-on-Tweed, signalised himself by his gallant defence of the town against Edward III. and the powerful English army in 1333. Rather than surrender his charge, Sir Alexander submitted to his son, Thomas—then a hostage in the hands of the English—being put to death.

About 1348, David II. granted to Henry Cheyne a yearly payment of forty shillings from the lands of Straloch and Achstukis.

In 1441, John Cheyne of Straloch granted a bond in warrandice of the infettment made by him of the lands of Esslemont and Meikle Arnage in favour of his son Hary.

In 1461-64, Ranald Cheyne of Straloch was in possession of a rental of £5 from lands in the Castlegate of Aberdeen. On 12th October, 1466, he renounced the appointment as baillie of the barony of "Monycabo."

After being in the possession of the Cheyne family for upwards of three centuries, Straloch was sold by James Cheyne in 1600. It is significant that, five years before this, he was at "deidlie feid" with William King, the proprietor of the estate of Barra, which was afterwards to be so closely associated with Straloch. The quarrel assumed such a serious character that both proprietors were charged to appear before the King in Council.

The purchasers were George Gordon, of Chapeltown of Schivas, and his son, William; but in 1603 they disposed the lands to Sir Thomas Gordon of Cluny, who, three years later, sold them to John Gordon of Pitlurg, eldest son of Sir John Gordon of Pitlurg, who erected the original Gordon aisle at Cairnie. Mr Gordon married Nicolas, daughter of Kinnaird of Kinnaird, and, dying, s.p., in 1619, was succeeded by his brother, Robert Gordon of Fechil, but better known as of Straloch, which he had previously purchased. From his outstanding abilities as a geographer and antiquary, Robert Gordon was specially invited by Charles I., in 1641, to undertake the preparation of a complete Atlas of Scotland. This great work—which was published by Bleau, of Amsterdam, in 1648, under the title of "Theatrum Scotiae," comprises 46 maps, seven of which are said to have been executed from actual survey and mensuration by Mr Gordon himself. He appended interesting descriptions and treatises on the antiquities of Scotland, etc.; and the work speedily passed through three editions. Besides criticising the histories of Boece,

Buchanan, and Knox, he compiled a History of the Gordon Family, and collected materials for a History of his own times. He married Katharine, daughter of Alexander Irvine of Lynturk; and they had a family of eleven sons and six daughters, among whom were John of Feehil, and James, minister of Rothiemay, author of a "History of Scots Affairs from 1637 to 1641," which was published by the Spalding Club in three volumes. Robert Gordon died on 18th August, 1661, in his 81st year. A portrait of him by George Jamesone is now in Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen.

Robert Gordon, the eldest son, succeeded. In 1638, he married Katherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett, first Bart. of Leys, by his first marriage with Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie. Their second son, John, was designed of Colliston, near Arbroath; while a daughter, Catherine, married Robert, second Viscount Arbuthnott. Mr Gordon died in 1681.

Robert Gordon, the eldest son, succeeded. He married Jean, daughter of Sir Richard Maitland, Lord Pittrichie; and their daughter, Mary, afterwards married William Baird of Auchmedden. Mr Gordon died in 1682.

Alexander Gordon, only son of the preceding, succeeded. In 1702-7, he was Member of Parliament for the county of Aberdeen. He married Jean, daughter of James Gordon of Ellon; and of their family a son, Alexander, and a daughter, Jane, both died unmarried. Unfortunately, Mr Gordon's affairs became considerably embarrassed, and he was obliged to part with the lands of Pitlurg and Kinmundy, but still retained Straloch. He died in 1748.

The representation of the family and the proprietorship of Straloch then devolved upon James Gordon of Hilton,

M.D., grandson of John Gordon of Colliston previously mentioned. On 6th June, 1734, he was elected Professor of Medicine in Marischal College. He married, in 1731, Barbara, daughter and heiress of Robert Cuming of Birness, by his second wife, Mary Skene, only daughter of Andrew Skene, of Dyce. (See under Parkhill.) The "Aberdeen Journal" records that he died, "after a tedious illness," 28th September, 1755.

John Gordon, son of the preceding, succeeded; and, on being served heir to his mother's estate of Birness, he adopted the patronymic of Cuming. He married Mary, daughter of John Fullerton of Gallery; and they had two sons, the second of whom—Thomas—succeeded to the estate of Harperfield, in Lanarkshire. John Gordon Cuming died in February, 1768; and Straloch was sold during the minority of his eldest son, John Gordon Cuming, afterwards Skene.

The purchaser was John Ramsay of Melross and Barra, son of John Ramsay of Melross and Laithers. He and his wife and daughter, with various descendants, are commemorated by a white marble tablet within the Straloch Mausoleum in New Machar graveyard. The inscription is—

In memory of John Ramsay of Barra, who died 22 August, 1787, in the 87th year of his age.

Mrs Isabella Shepherd, his widow, who died 18th January, 1803, in the 54th year of her age; and of Mary Ramsay, their only child, the wife of John Innes, Advocate in Aberdeen, now John Ramsay of Barra, who died 18th December, 1811, in the 43rd year of her age.

This tomb and monument have been erected as a small testimony of grateful remembrance and affectionate regard on the part of the Son-in-law and Husband.

In this tomb are also interred the remains of the last-mentioned John Ramsay of Barra, who died 14th April, 1814, in the 59th year of

his age. Of Isabella, eldest daughter of the said John and Mary Ramsay, who died 12th January, 1803, in the 16th year of her age. And of Elizabeth, third daughter, who died 11th November, 1818, in the 26th year of her age. Also the remains of their eldest son, John Ramsay of Barra, who died 23rd October, 1832, in the 46th year of his age. And of Helen, their youngest daughter, who died 19th August, 1850, aged 46.

In this tomb are also deposited the remains of Leonora Sophia, wife of John Ramsay of Barra (only son of the last-named John Ramsay), who died 4th February, 1862, aged 24.

(Her remains were removed in July, 1863, to St Matthew's Churchyard, Old Meldrum).

Isabella Shepherd, wife of the first-named John Ramsay, was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Shepherd, minister of Bourtie, and his wife, Janet Leith of Blair. Mary Ramsay, their only child, married, on 25th June, 1785, John Innes, advocate, Aberdeen, son of James Innes of Maisley, who was third son of John Innes of Edingight, and thus a descendant of the old family of Innermarkie. On the death of Mr Ramsay as above, his properties of Barra and Straloch fell—under a deed of entail executed by him—to his son-in-law, Mr Innes, who thereupon changed his name to Ramsay.

Of the children of Mr and Mrs John Innes (afterwards Ramsay), there were, besides those above mentioned, James, the second son, who died in 1867; William, the third and youngest son, who has a separate grey granite tablet to his memory, bearing that he was born November 22nd, 1800, and died November 26th, 1881; Mary, the second daughter, who married, first, William Brebner, and, secondly, Mr Leslie of Dunlugas; and Margaret, who married, in August, 1822, Sir George Turner of Menie. (See Belhelvie.)

John Ramsay of Barra and Straloch, the eldest son, who died 23rd October, 1832, married Susan, third daughter of

Alexander Innes of Pitmedden, and his wife, Christian Susan Forbes, daughter of George Forbes of Boyndlie. (See Dyce.) Mrs Ramsay is memorialised in the following inscription on a grey granite tablet in the wall of the mausoleum referred to—

†

Susan, 3rd daughter of Alexander Innes, Esq., of Pitmedden, born December 21st, 1802, married 1st, February 15th, 1831, to John Ramsay, Esq., of Barra, 2ndly, October 24th, 1844, to Captain Nares, R.N. Died at Straloch, August 5, 1887, aged 84.

A son of the second marriage above stated has a tablet to his memory bearing the following inscription—

†

Major Henry Innes Nares, The Leicestershire Regiment, son of Captain Nares, R.N., and Susan, his wife. Born August 19th, 1845. Died September 5th, 1887, aged 42.

Of the marriage of Mr Ramsay and Susan Innes were a son, John, and a daughter, Christina Susan Mary.

John Ramsay, the last of the name, was born on 3rd December, 1831, and succeeded to Barra and Straloch when barely a year old. He was educated at the University of Cambridge, of which he graduated M.A. He held the rank of major in the Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders, and was a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Aberdeen. On 16th September, 1858, he married Leonora Sophia, only daughter of Rev. Nathaniel Bond, of Creech Grange, Dorset, but she died 4th February, 1862, at the early age of 24. Mr Ramsay erected the chancel of St Matthew's Church, Old Meldrum, to her memory. He died 29th May, 1895, and was succeeded by his only child, Mary Agnes Ramsay, who married the late Francis Hugh Irvine, son of Alexander Forbes Irvine of Drum, and his wife, Anna Margareta, daughter of Colonel Jonathan Forbes-Leslie of Rothienorman. Of this



marriage, Alexander Forbes Irvine, the eldest son, has succeeded as laird of Drum, while the second son, Quentin Hugh Innes Irvine, born February 16th, 1888, is the prospective heir to both Barra and Straloch.

Within the private grounds of Straloch a family burying-ground has recently been laid out in excellent taste, and in this burying-ground the remains of Miss Christina Susan Mary Ramsay are interred. A large grey granite cross lying flat over the grave is inscribed—

Here lies in the faith of Christ and in hope of the resurrection, Christina Susan Mary Ramsay of Barra. Born 24th April, 1833. Entered into her rest 12th September, 1905.

A chastely-designed private chapel has also been erected by Mrs Irvine in the burying-ground referred to. It has appropriately been dedicated to S. Mary, and thus keeps green the title of the old chapel which is known to have stood at Straloch in pre-Reformation times. Its site was within the garden, and human bones were discovered a few years ago when improvements were being executed. The well of S. Mary is in close proximity.

The late Major Ramsay erected the Mission Church of All Saints, Whiterashes, in the vicinity of Straloch. For a time it was used as a day school, but Sunday services were always held in it. Ultimately the building was conveyed to the Church, and consecrated by the Bishop of Aberdeen in 1880. It has a beautiful memorial window executed by Mr J. N. Comper, London, and inscribed to the memory of Miss Ramsay as above.

#### PARKHILL.

The lands of Parkhill were originally incorporated in the Thanage of Fermartyn, and they subsequently formed a portion of the extensive estate of Belhelvie. (See Belhelvie.)

In 1714, Andrew Skene, merchant, Edinburgh (younger son of Alexander Skene of Dyce, and his wife, Ann Johnston, daughter of Dr William Johnston, Professor of Mathematics in Marischal College, youngest son of George Johnston of Caskieben and his wife, the Hon. Christian Forbes), purchased Parkhill and its fishings in the Don. Two years previously, he had acquired Clubsgoval and manor place—his title to the whole being secured 24th May, 1714. (*Sasine Register*.) He was also the owner of Lethenty, but his interest centred in Parkhill, on which he erected the original mansion-house. In 1729, through the death of his elder brother, John Skene, he succeeded to the estate of Dyce. He married Marion Russell, only daughter of John Russell, London; and they had a family of one son—Alexander—and a daughter—Mary—who became the second wife of Robert Cuming of Birness. Mr Skene died 27th December, 1732.

Alexander Skene, the only son, succeeded. He married Margaret Forbes, and had a family of two sons. He died in 1743.

John Skene, the elder son, succeeded. He had a natural daughter, Margaret, who married William Smith, and their eldest son, Andrew Smith, afterwards Skene, subsequently became proprietor of Lethenty under his uncle's deed of entail. (*New Spalding Club's "Family of Skene,"* pp. 88-89.) He died in 1747.

Andrew Skene, younger brother of the above John Skene, thus became laird of Parkhill, Dyce, etc. He never married, and was the last of the old family of Dyce in the male line.

The remains of the majority of these proprietors and their families were interred in the private burying-ground on the wooded mound on the right bank of the Don almost directly opposite Park-

hill House. This place of sepulture is believed to have been originally laid out and walled in by the first-mentioned Alexander Skene, whose proprietorship of Dyce extended from 1665 to 1704. Certain it is that the date, 1689, in bold, incised letters, appears on a plain inner stone above the entrance door, while portions of the inner wall are of the style of workmanship which dates from the seventeenth century. The oldest inscription is that upon a white marble tablet—

Erected by the family of Pitlurg to the memory of Andrew Skene of Dyce, who died at Parkhill, 2d January, 1815, aged 84.

On 19th February, 1794, Mr Skene entailed the lands of Parkhill, Dyce, etc., upon John Gordon Cuming, upon condition that he and his heirs, who might individually succeed to the estates, should assume the patronymic of Skene. Mr Cuming, who was the eldest son of John Gordon Cuming of Straloch and Birness, had a distinguished military career. Entering the army in 1779, he was early appointed major in the Gordon Fencibles, but, additional forces being required, he raised on the Duke of Gordon's Highland estates a body of 500, which formed a portion of the Inverness Fencibles. He commanded this regiment throughout the Irish Rebellion, and with it received the thanks of the King. As Lieutenant-General, he subsequently commanded a brigade on the Sussex coast, while the country was being threatened with invasion by Napoleon. On settling in Aberdeenshire, he gave the old family estate title of Pitlurg to his properties of Birness and Leask. He married Lucken, youngest daughter of Sir Hew Crawford Pollok, Bart., of Jordanhill and Pollok Castle; and they and their third daughter are commemorated by a white marble tablet within

the Straloch mausoleum in New Machar Churchyard. The inscription is—

Sacred to the memory of Lieutenant-General John Gordon Cuning Skene of Pitlurg and Dyce, who died upon the 6th of April, 1828. Of his spouse, Mrs Lucken Crawford Gordon, who died upon the 13th December, 1850; and of Robina Lucan Gordon, their daughter, who died 28th December, 1848. . . .

Thomas Gordon, the second son, who married Harriet, third daughter of General Sir William Hutchinson, K.C.H., has a grey granite headstone set against the wall in the Parkhill and Dyce private burying-ground referred to. The inscription is—

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Gordon, Esq., late captain in 74th Regiment of Infantry, who died at Tynholm House, in County of East Lothian, on the 23rd day of September, 1852, aged 56 years.

This stone was erected by his widow.

James Gordon, the third son, captain in the 4th Foot, married Jane-Adelaide, daughter of Sir Thomas MacKenny, Bart. The eldest daughter, Crawford, married William Forlong of Errins, in Argyleshire; the second daughter, Isabella, became the second wife of Francis Gordon of Kincardine, subsequently also of Craig. The fourth and youngest daughter has a grey granite shield inscribed as follows—

Sacred to the memory of Luckin Norwich Gordon, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-General Gordon of Pitlurg. Died 23rd October, 1864, aged 70 years, and lies interred beneath this stone.

“Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.”  
Rev. xiv. 13.

William Gordon Cuming Skene, the eldest son, while a youth, carried the colours in his father's regiment. He subsequently served for several years in the 92nd, or Gordon Highlanders, being promoted as Captain into the 6th Regiment. In the latter capacity, he took part in the

battles of Vittoria, Nivelles, etc. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Aberdeenshire Militia and a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county. In the Parkhill burying-ground there is a monument to him and his wife, inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of William Gordon Cumine Skene of Pitlurg and Dyce, who died at London, the 14th January, 1837, in the 53rd year of his age.

With feelings of devoted attachment for her departed husband, this monument is erected by his affectionate wife.

Also Anne his wife, youngest daughter of Alexander Brebner, Esq., of Learney, who died in London on 8th January, 1881, in the 82nd year of her age.

“The redeemed of the Lord shall return with singing unto Zion, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head.” Isaiah li., 11.

It will be noted that the name Cuming has a different form of spelling in the above inscription.

A white marble tablet, surmounted by a draped field gun, has the annexed inscription to the second son—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Gordon, captain, Royal Artillery; younger son of the late William Gordon Cuming Skene, Esqre., of Pitlurg, and of Anne, his wife, who was killed while on duty in the Gordon Battery before Sebastopol on the 5th of July, 1855, aged 26.

“The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Christian, the elder daughter, on 24th April, 1860, married Charles Elphinstone-Dalrymple of Kinellar Lodge, seventh son of Sir Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, Bart., of Logie-Elphinstone (see Kinellar); and Lucan, the younger daughter, in 1859, married Colonel William Ross King of Tertowie (Ibid.).

John Gordon Cuming Skene, the elder son, succeeded. In 1856, he married Maria, daughter of Captain William Henry Nares, R.N. She died in 1857; and in January, 1860, Mr Skene

married, secondly, Margaret Maria, only daughter of Sir David Brewster, Principal of the University of Edinburgh. By the former of these marriages there was issue a son, Alexander, who afterwards succeeded to the estates. Mr and Mrs John Gordon Cuming Skene and their son are memorialised in the annexed inscription from a white marble tablet—

To the memory of Maria, wife of John Gordon C. Skene, of Pitlurg and Dyce, who departed this life at Parkhill, June 23rd, 1857, aged 31 years.

“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Joel ii., 32. Acts ii., 21. Rom. x., 13.

Also John Gordon Cuming Skene, Esqr., of Pitlurg and Dyce, husband of the above, who was born the 9th February, 1827, and who died at San Remo, Italy, the 20th February, 1882.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . their works do follow them.” Rev. xiv. 13.

In memory of Alexander Gordon Cuming Skene, Esqr., only child of above. Born June 14, 1857; died June 4th, 1894. Interred at Kensal Green.

Alexander Gordon Cuming Skene (latterly known as Alexander Gordon) served in the 90th Regiment through the Kaffir and Zulu Wars of 1878-9. He was subsequently transferred to the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), but retired in 1885. He married Miss Ada Wilson, by whom—and two sons, John and Charles—he is survived. He bequeathed the family portraits at Parkhill (sixteen in number) to the Governors of Robert Gordon's College. (See “Aberdeen Journal,” 22nd and 23rd April, 1895; “Scottish Notes and Queries,” January and February, 1896.)

The family registered arms—Azure, three boars' heads, within a bordure, or. Crest—a dove, arg. beaked, membered, gu. in its beak an olive branch ppr. Supporters Dexter, a knight in complete armour, his



visor up, with shield and lance, all ppr; sinister, a boar ppr. Motto—I hope.

#### THE NARES FAMILY.

The long connection of this family with the district warrants the record of the following particulars.

Their common ancestor was George Nares of Albury, Oxfordshire, for some time steward to the Earl of Abingdon. His elder son, James, was an eminent organist and composer, in both of which he held appointments to George II. and George III. In 1757, he graduated Mus. Doc. at Cambridge. He died 10th February, 1783, and was buried in St Margaret's, Westminster. His son, Robert, held the degree of D.D., became Archdeacon of Stafford, and was the author of "A Glossary."

The younger brother of Dr James Nares was George Nares, who was called to the English Bar in 1741. He was Recorder of Oxford, and its Member of Parliament from 1768 to 1771. He resigned in the latter year on being appointed a Justice of the Common Pleas. He was knighted in 1771, and two years later was made D.C.L. of Oxford University. He married Mary, third daughter of Sir John Strange, Master of the Rolls; and of their family Edward, D.D., a younger son, was for some time Professor of Modern History at Oxford and the author of several works.

John Nares, the eldest son, became a magistrate in London and a bencher of the Inner Temple. He died 16th December, 1816, survived by his son, William Henry Nares, who was well known in Aberdeenshire as the lessee of Danestone. He had a distinguished career in the navy, in which he held the rank of captain. He married, on 24th October, 1844, at St Paul's Chapel, Aberdeen, Susan, third daughter of Alexander Innes of Pitmedden, and widow of John Ramsay of Barra

and Straloch. The eldest son of this marriage was Henry Innes Nares, who was a major in the Leicestershire Regiment, and died 5th September, 1887, aged 42. The second son is Alexander Forbes Nares, who resides at Parkhill Cottage. He married, in 1887, Ida Johanna, elder daughter of George Jackson, who was long Provost of the Royal Burgh of Inverurie.

Another son by an earlier marriage of Captain W. H. Nares is Sir George Strong Nares, K.C.B., F.R.S., the well-known Arctic explorer, whose brilliant career is too well known to require recapitulation.

#### PARISH GRAVEYARD AND EPITAPHS.

The graveyard surrounding the parish church is now under the management of the Parish Council. It was lately levelled up and put into thorough order. It contains many interesting tombstones.

#### THE LUMSDENS, HARVEYS, AND ABERNETHYS.

A large railed enclosure, on the south side of the church, contains two tablestones and two upright monuments, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

In memory of John Lumsden, many years in Bogheads of Kintore, who died at Monykeback, 5th Novr., 1808, aged 81 years.

John Lumsden was the third son of Alexander Lumsden, and grandson of William Lumsden in Titaboutie, Coull. He succeeded his father in the tenancy of Boghead, Kintore, and married Christian, daughter of Alexander Stephen, Goval, Fintray. (See Kintore.) From them descend the families of Belhelvie, Pitcaple, Auchindoir and Clova, Balmedie, Auchry, etc. (See Belhelvie.) Mr Lumsden spent the closing years of his life at the home of

his daughter, who is mentioned in the next inscription—

(2).

In memory of William Harvey, 57 years farmer in Monykebbock, who died 22 Decr., 1834, aged 82 years, and of Jean Lumsden, his spouse, who died on the 3rd January, 1837, aged 76 years. As also of their children—John, who died in infancy, Jean who died 2nd Aug., 1802, aged 11 years, and James, farmer at Highlands, who died on 16th Aug., 1837, aged 41 years. Also, Alexander, advocate in Aberdeen, who died 18th November, 1866, aged 66 years.

Members of the family of Harvey, or Harvie, have been resident in New Machar for at least three centuries. William Harvie was tenant of the "South Tack of Moneykeback" in 1696, while George Harvie held "a hook's land" of same. (Poll Book.) William Harvey and his wife, Jean Lumsden, had eleven of a family, of whom the above-mentioned James and Alexander Harvey both died unmarried. Of the others, Christian married, first, James Adams, farmer, Cairnton (they had four children, of whom a daughter, Jean, married James Duncan, Highlands, whose only son, Alexander Adams Duncan, is the father of Rev. Alexander Adams Duncan, B.D., minister of the parish of Auchterless); and, secondly, Peter Singer, farmer, Bourtie (their son, Patrick Singer, was a partner in D. Wyllie and Son, booksellers); Ann is referred to in the next inscription; Catharine married John Crombie, manufacturer, Cothal Mills (see Fintray); Susan married her cousin, Peter Harvey of Ardo (see Belhelvie); Barbara married James Bisset, Town House, Aberdeen; Isabella married George Strachan, factor, Fintray; and William—born 1802—graduated in Arts at Marischal College in 1821. He succeeded his father in the tenancy of the farm, and is mentioned in the New Statistical Account as having been the greatest improver in agriculture in the parish. He

married Margaret Cruickshank, daughter of James Cruickshank, surgeon, R.N., Wardend, Forgue; and of their family, William became an insurance manager in Aberdeen, and married Mary Lyon (both are now deceased). James and George are both share brokers in Aberdeen, and the present tenants of the farm; Alexander, John, and Agnes are all deceased; and Robert, who married Lucie Beaton, is a cloth merchant in London.

(3).

In memory of James Abernethy, iron-founder, Ferry-hill, Aberdeen, born at Auchtertool, Fifeshire, 13th May, 1774, died 5th June, 1844; also of his wife, Ann Harvey, born at Moneykebbock in this parish, 5th October, 1784, died at Ferry-hill, 2nd October, 1866. And of William, their son, who died in infancy.

James Abernethy was the son of James Abernethy, Clentrie, Auchtertool. In 1806, in partnership with George and Robert Tower of Ferryhill, and Alexander Gibbon, advocate (afterwards of Johnston, Laurencekirk), he founded the business of James Abernethy and Co., ironfounders and sawmillers, Ferryhill. Of his marriage with Ann Harvey there was a family of four sons—James, Robert, John, and William—and five daughters. Of these, James Abernethy married Isabella Bathia Wyllie, and their son, David Wyllie Abernethy, is now a partner in James Abernethy and Co. Robert Abernethy married Sophia Cameron; and John Abernethy married Miss Lyall Grant, and their son, James Washington Abernethy, is now a partner in James Abernethy and Co.

(4).

In memory of Eliza Christie Penn, daughter of Mr Robert Penn, of Hillhouse, Innerleithen, who died 4th June, 1836, aged 28 years.

Eliza Christie Penn was a favourite governess to the children of Mr and Mrs James Abernethy.

A tablestone bears—

Here are deposited the dust of Mr William Henderson, once schoolmaster at New Machar, who died 28th Feby., 1772, aged 86 years. Also of Margaret Hutcheon, his wife, who died 5th Septr., 1798, aged 88.

A white marble tablet within the Straloch Mausoleum bears the following inscription—

In memory of William Leslye, Esqr., lately residing at Straloch, who departed this life the 3rd of August, 1776, aged 67 years.

This stone is erected by his affectionate widow Mary Duff.

William Leslie, who died at Straloch, as above, was the son of William Leslie of Melross, grandson of Patrick Leslie, some time Sheriff-Clerk of Banffshire, and great-grandson of George Leslie of Birdsbank, Cullen, and his wife, Christian Baird of Auchmedden. The "Aberdeen Journal," in recording Mr Leslie's death, designs him as "of Melross."

A handsome monument of polished grey granite has the following inscription, the effect of which is considerably spoiled through the blunders of the letter-cutter—

To the memory of John Black, for many years a Merchant and member of his Majesty's Council in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He died at Summerhill, near Aberdeen, the 4th day of September, 1823, aged 61 years. Also of Andrew Black, his Brother, who died at Foresterhill, 30th November, 1861, aged 88, and whose remains are interred in the adjoining grave, in which are also interred the remains of Helen Pirie, relict of Andrew Black, who died at Aberdeen, 3rd Feby., 1869, aged 81 years.

A flat stone which was unearthed at the recent levelling of the graveyard is inscribed—

Here lyes George Watson, Farmer in Waikmill of Gouele who dept this life the 27 of May, 1742, aged 70.

And Allso G

It will be noticed how abruptly the foregoing inscription terminates.

A headstone has the following inscription—

Erected by James Cassie, Artist in Aberdeen, in memory of his mother Katherine Daune, who died 6th June, 1846, aged 58 years. His father James Cassie, late Merchant in Aberdeen, who died 1st May, 1852, aged 73 years.

James Cassie, who erected the above headstone, was born at Keith-hall in 1819 (his father, who afterwards had a shop in the Justice Port, Aberdeen, was uncle of Tom Gray, who at one time gave promise of becoming an artist of distinction), and early gave proof of his ability as an artist. He commenced his career in Aberdeen, but in 1869 removed to Edinburgh, when he was elected an Associate of the Royal Scottish Academy. He became an Academician in February, 1879, and died 11th May of the same year, his remains being interred in the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh. A detailed list of his principal pictures was given in the "Aberdeen Journal" of 12th May, 1879. "He is almost exclusively known as a landscape painter, latterly confining his subjects to the sea and seashore, which he represented with breadth and simplicity, combined with sweetness of colour. He regularly contributed many good pictures to the Academy's exhibitions, his 'Dumbarton Castle—Sunset' (1874) being one of the many very favourably noticed by the press. He is represented in the National Gallery by a small picture—'Morning on the East Coast.'" ("Art in Scotland," by Robert Brydall, 1889. See also "The Scottish School of Painting" by William D. McKay, R.S.A., 1906; and the Dictionary of National Biography.) According to Mr George Walker, in "Aberdeen Awa'," Mr Cassie was the originator of the now familiar saying—"Tak' awa' Aiberdeen and twal' mile roun', an' faur are ye!"



A small, flat stone bears—

AH. Yt. DIED JULY 19 1736 age 16. A.H. elder Died Januar 9 1742 aged 58. LIKUY'S ISO HUNTR His Spous Who Dyed Febr. 21st 1756 aged 73.

A railed-in grave has a tablestone bearing—

Here are deposited the remains of John Stephen, late Tacksman of North Kimmundy, who died 26th Sept., 1787, aged 73 years.

This monument was railed as a small tribute of filial regard in memory of a valuable and most Indulgent Parent. . . .

A massive Celtic cross—within the railed enclosure which contains the tablestone to Rev. William Stronach—is inscribed—

In memory of Magdalene Milne, wife of Alexander Stronach of Drumallan, who died 10th January, 1871, aged 64 years. And of Alexander Stronach, who died 13th January, 1880, aged 87 years.

Alexander Stronach was the son of Rev. William Stronach, minister of New Machar, and subsequently of Marnoch. Qualifying for the legal profession, he was, on 13th November, 1818, admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen. For many years he was in partnership with Peter Duguid (now Peter Duguid McCombie of Easter Skene and Lynturk), and also for some time with Charles Duncan, the firm being known as Stronach, Duncan, and Duguid. For forty-five years Mr Stronach was the trusted factor and clerk to Gordon's Hospital (now Robert Gordon's College). His wife, Magdalene Milne, was a daughter of Rev. Alexander Milne, minister of Boyndie.

A tablestone bears—

Here lies the body of John Seymour, late Farmer in Mains of Elrick, who departed this life the 2nd February, 1797, aged 86 years. Also his wife, Janet Keith, who died the 9th March, 1791, aged 75.

A headstone has—

In memory of William Sim, an Elder in this Parish, who died Novr. 6, 1792, aged 34 years.

Probably the oldest monument in the graveyard is a tablestone which has the following inscription, part of which runs round the margin—

Here rests in the Lord, William Moir Fermurer of Broom Bray, who departed this life . . . day of . . . As also Isobell Cruickshank, his spoues, who departed this life the 12 day of March, 1691. And Margrat Moir, his daughter, who departed this life the 22 of March, 1681. Also William Moir, his son, who departed this life the 24 day of July, 1687. And Isobell Moir, his daughter, who departed this life the 24 of October, 1687. And James Moir, his son, who departed this life the 24 day of May, 1691. Also Thomas Moir, late Farmer in Stanry-Foord, who died February 9, 1775, aged 77.

A tablestone alongside commemorates a descendant, Alexander Moir, farmer, "Mack-Tarrie," who died 30th March, 1788, aged 47, and his wife, Catharine Davidson, who died 15th September, 1820, aged 65.

A tablestone at the end of the church has the scroll "Mors Janua Vitae"; also representations of cross-bones, sand-glass, coffin, and a skull with ear enlarged, intended to symbolise the hearing ear. The inscription is—

Here lies, in hopes of a glorious Resurrection, George Smith, Sometime Farmer in Selbie, who departed this life Nvr. 21st, 1742, aged 53 years. This ston wase erected by Margret Logen, his spous, and his sons George, William, and Alexr. Smiths.

William Smith, late Farmer in Broomend, Kintore, died 7th Aug., 1778, aged 49 years, and his wife, Helen Garden, died 1 May, 1799, aged 61 years.

A white marble tablet at the head of the same stone records—

In memory of Alexander Smith, Farmer in Broomend, Kintore, who died 5th May, 1849,

aged 84. Elizabeth Rae, his spouse, who died 31st December, 1866, aged 93, and of their whole family—as under—Alexander Smith, died 17th Feby., 1801, aged 10 months. Jane, died 19th Decr., 1813, aged 9 years. Robert, died 23rd Decr., 1813, aged 1 year. William, Baker in London, died 2nd April, 1822, aged 24 years. James, Parochial Schoolmaster, Kintore, died 5th March, 1836, aged 27 years. John, Merchant, Dublin, Ireland, died 19th Novr., 1836, aged 26 years. Robert, died 10th August, 1837, aged 22 years. George, Wood Merchant, Port-Elphinstone, died 16th October, 1846, aged 45 years. Alexander, died at New York, 19th April, 1852, aged 45 years, and lies buried there in Greenwood Cemetery. Anthony, Farmer, Broomend, died 5th April, 1853, aged 36 years. And Ann Innes, his wife, died 7th March, 1891, aged 73 years.

It will be noted that of the family of Alexander Smith and his wife, Elizabeth Rae, no fewer than seven died in the prime of life.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Burnett, Esq., late of Bengal, who died at Aberdeen the 2nd day of January, 1811, aged 57 years; and of Mrs Barbara Maxwell, his spouse, who died the 20th day of April, 1819, aged 53 years. Agnes, their daughter, who died the 15th day of April, 1805, aged 15 years, also lies interred here.

The "Aberdeen Journal," in announcing the death of Alexander Burnett, designed him as "late Commissary of Ordnance in the Hon. East India Company's Service in the Bengal Establishment." A local work gives him as the fifth son of John Burnett of Elrick, but this is a mistake, that gentleman having died at Union Island 18th June, 1790.

A rough headstone which was sunk in the ground for many years was recently raised and re-set. It bears the inscription—

Here lyes John Morou, Farmer in Morker, Let Husband to Isbel Paterson, who died 4th July, 1769, aged 31 years.

On a tablestone is the following inscription—

In memory of John Rae, late in Burnside of Kinnundy, eleven years an Elder in this Parish, who lived respected, and died the 6th of March, 1801, aged 38 years.

It is stated (Logan's MS.) that a slabstone over the remains of Margaret Rae, spouse of John Gawn in Kinnundy, had the verse—

From mortal eyes, our spirits flies,  
Our bodies dead and rotten;  
But still this stone will keep our name,  
While others are forgotten.

#### MONYCABOCK GRAVEYARD.

This small graveyard, which stands on a mound in the centre of a cultivated field, presents a desolate and neglected appearance. Around the inner margin are several large trees, but their roots have shaken the surrounding wall and caused several parts to give way. The iron entrance gate is broken, and, as a result, cattle and horses get into the graveyard for pasturing purposes.

In the middle of the wall, close to the left of the entrance gate, is an old, rough slab, having in the centre traces of a coat of arms, flanked by the initials A. H. and date 1586. Its history is unknown, but it probably formed one of the old chapel stones. On the opposite side of the gate is a larger slab showing the date 1840, which probably commemorates the erection of the wall.

As explained in a former chapter, all traces of the old chapel which stood in the centre have disappeared. The greater portion of its site is occupied by the burial-place of the lairds of Elrick, which is surrounded by a substantial wall, on the top of which is a strong iron railing. No monuments or inscriptions to these proprietors are visible.

There are some fifteen tombstones in the

graveyard, none of which are of outstanding importance. It may be mentioned, however, that four of the inscriptions record the deaths of persons who reached an age exceeding 90 years.

A rough headstone has the following in primitively cut letters and figures—

G. W. DIED 1796. AGD. 57.

A headstone is inscribed—

1848.

Erected to the memory of John Rae, Parochial School-master of Dyce for the period of 28 years, who died the 16th July, 1839, aged 45 years. And his youngest daughter Eliza, who died 25th August, 1842, aged 10 years and 11 months. Jane, who died the 14th April, 1853, aged 25 years. Also of his wife, Jane Joss, who died at Dyce Cottage, January 22nd, 1865, aged 73 years.

A headstone bears—

In memory of George Knight, Farmer, Humlyhillock, who died 11th Oct., 1820, aged 91 years. Also Margaret Harvey, his spouse, who died 5th March, 1830, aged 84 years.

A headstone bears—

Erected in memory of Alexander Harvey, who was born and lived in Burnside, Swailend, and died there 3rd September, 1854, aged 79 years.

An old and much worn tablestone is inscribed—

Under this stone are deposited the remains of Alexander Mutch, blacksmith in Longhill, who died July fifth, 1768, aged 81 years.

A tablestone has—

Hear lies in hope of a Blessed Resurrection Alexander Joss, late Farmour in Chapel of Elrick, who died March 13th, 1785, aged 58 years. Also his spouse Janet Stephen, who died April 9th, 1808, aged 75 years. And their son John Joss, fifty-five years farmer in Mickle-Dyce, who died Aug. 30th, 1852, aged 83 years. Also his spouse Ann Christie, who died Aug. 23rd, 1855, aged 94 years. And their son Alexander, who died in infancy in 1800. And their son John Joss, thirty-five years farmer in Old Govel, who died 18th Dec., 1856, aged 61 years. Also his spouse Jane Runciman, who died 15th Nov., 1856, aged 59 years.

Three tablestones are inscribed respectively—

(1).

To the memory of George Davidson, sometime shipmaster in Aberdeen, who died 8th December, 1786, aged 34 years. Of his father, William Davidson, late tacksman in Mill of Pinkie, who died 12th January, 1814, aged 91 years.

(2).

Here lies the body of William Smith, sometime farmer in Kings-seat, who died January the 26th, 1781, aged 70 years. Also of Barbara Davidson, his spouse, who departed this life the 1st day of August, 1808, aged 83 years. . .

(3).

Here lies the body of John Allan, late tenant in Woodhill of Dyce, who died October the 9th, 1778, aged 66 years. Also his spouse, Janet Davidson, who died 17th December, 1820, aged 93 years. Also the body of Barbara Allan, their daughter, who died July the 8th, 1770, aged 8 years.

In a nameless grave lie the remains of Agnes Melvin, who died in September, 1794, at the reputed age of 104.

#### NEW CEMETERY.

On the estate of Rainnieshill, and comparatively near to the present parish graveyard, a new cemetery was recently laid out. It was consecrated and opened for interments in January, 1905.

### Glenbuchat.

The district has been known by various titles, among which were—Inverbuquhate in 1451, Glenbuchat in 1473, Glenbouchat in 1507, Glenbuket in 1549, Glenbuchat in 1582, Inner Buchet in 1654, Glen Buicket in 1792, and Glenbucket in 1810 onwards, till recently altered to the title it possessed at the date of the formation of the parish. (Chamberlain Rolls; Reg. Epis. Aberd.; Reg. Mag. Sig.; Antiquities, IV.; Church Tokens, etc.) Old writings show varia-



tions in these forms, and indicate that there was no fixed title.

CHAPEL, PARISH CHURCH, AND  
FORMATION OF PARISH.

The district had in early times a chapel which depended upon the Church of Logie-Mar. It was erected into an independent parish in 1473, by Bishop Thomas Speus, with the consent of the dean and chapter of the Cathedral of Aberdeen, and of Sir Edward Makdowel, vicar of Logie. The deed of erection recites the perils of storms and floods besetting the inhabitants while passing and repassing between Glenbuchat and the Mother Church of Logie, through an uninhabited tract of hill and waste, where, in one day at Eastertide five or six people perished on their way to the Church of Logie. The Church of Glenbuchat—dedicated to St Peter—was to be served by a resident parochial chaplain, who was to have the church land of Chapel-tone, with the great tithe as well of Chapel-tone as of the tow of Belnaboth, according to their ancient and fixed limits, viz.—“from the Inuor of Aldecassen even to the torrent of Corunobagen, and from hence even to Clachuelle,” with the altarages and other small perquisites from the district which had previously pertained to the vicar of Logie, together with 20s Scots yearly from the vicar of Logie in respect of his being released from the cure of Glenbuchat. (Reg. Epis. Aberd., I., pp. 307-309.)

The first parish church is believed to have stood in the graveyard and within a few feet of the present church. Portions of its foundations—or, at least, of the church erected in 1629—are still occasionally come upon when new graves are being dug. It is supposed to have had built into its walls a bishop's mitre and head, doubtless emblematical of the gratitude of the parishioners to Bishop Thomas Spens for

his influence and services in connection with the formation of the parish. In later times this relic was in the outer wall of the manse, from which it was recently removed when extensions were executed.

Duncan Rede was vicar in 1498. On 3rd November of that year he gave sasine to the prior and procurator of the monastery of the Carmelite Friars in Aberdeen of an annuity of 13s 4d, which he had purchased from William Udny of Udny, arising from certain crofts in the burgh of Kintore. This grant was declared by Mr Rede to be made for the salvation of his soul.

In 1549, Sir John Carlile (the title was a courtesy one) was perpetual vicar, while John Ray held the office of curate. Carlile, anticipating the Reformation, succeeded, in 1549, in getting the Chapter of Aberdeen to grant a charter of feu-farm to Alexander Thomuilsoone, who had married Carlile's relative—Helen Carlile—of the lands of the Kirk Town and glebe of the vicarage of the parish, with the Alehouse and Alehouse crofts, under reservation, however, of the toft, croft, manse, and garden possessed by the curate. Ultimately, these church lands became the property of the Gordous.

The minister is largely dependent on the Exchequer for his stipend. The above-mentioned church lands, with their shootings, are now assessed at almost £300 stg. per annum. At an early period, they were valued at nearly the same amount in Scots money, or one-twelfth of the present value. In 1778, Rev. James Douglas was paid £388 Scots of stipend. Dissatisfied with this, he claimed the sum paid in 1762, which was £516 17s 11d Scots. The heritor resisting, the case went to court, with the result that the stipend was definitely fixed at £396 8s 4-5d Scots, which included £8, owing to Kirktown or Alehouse, belonging to Mr Strachan, Glenkindie, being omitted

from the valuation. A servitude on the tenantry of casting, drying, and driving peats to the minister was so badly performed in the time of Rev. Robert Scott (1808-55) that it was commuted into money—£1 10s a year. Thus the present stipend paid by the heritor is £34 10s 8d, inclusive of money for communion elements.

The present Parish Church, which is a plain, unpretentious building, was erected towards the close of the eighteenth century. It has a belfry at the east end, removed hither from the west end, by David Wood, mason, Kildrummy, about fifty years ago. The bell was cast in Holland by Peter Jansen, whose name it bears, with the date 1643. The pulpit stands against the side wall, and at one end is a small gallery which was erected about 1828 for the accommodation of the people of Glenkindie, who for a time paid seat rents.

#### POST-REFORMATION MINISTERS.

Rev. Arthur Skene was minister in 1582, but the principal duties were discharged by William Cowper, reader, whose tenure of office extended from 1567 to 1591. As salary he had £16 Scots and the kirk glebe.

Rev. Thomas Meluile (Melville) became resident minister in 1599, with Kildrummy, Cabrach, and Logie-Mar likewise in charge.

Rev. William Brown was minister in 1608, with "Innerauchie" (Strathdon) also in charge. He removed to Strathdon prior to April, 1618, and continued there for at least fifteen years.

Rev. Andrew Ker, M.A., was ordained in 1618. In 1633, he held a mortgage over the lands of Kirktown of Glenbucket for 1600 merks. He was a sufferer from the depredations of the "broken clans," and was one of those summoned to give evidence against them. In 1633, he was translated to Cabrach, but was re-trans-

lated here "while in decrepit old age." He died in December, 1662. (Row's Diary.) A tablet inscribed M. A. K., 1629 (Mr Andrew Ker, 1629), was built into the wall of the church erected during that year. This tablet, which is still in excellent preservation, is now fixed into the top of the west gable of the present church.

Rev. David Milne, chaplain in the parish, was presented to the charge by John, Earl of Mar, in 1663, and was ordained about the summer of 1665. The charge became vacant before 26th September, 1666. Mr Milne is believed to have gone south and been afterwards settled at Cadder. (Scott's Fasti.)

Rev. William Christie, M.A., was instituted 24th July, 1667. He married, and had a son, Robert, besides four daughters—Christian, Ann, Elizabeth, and Joan. In October, 1673, he complained to the Bishop and Synod of "the meannes of his present maintenance," but no practical result followed. On 20th January, 1675, he "was sharplic reuked for his absence from the last session of the Synod, and his frequent absence from the Presbytrie." He died in 1695.

Rev. William Law was ordained 4th November, 1697. Eighteen years before this, he had been appointed schoolmaster of Strichen, and was subsequently an Episcopalian minister. On 27th November, 1700, he was translated to Crimond.

Rev. Alexander Shand, M.A., was ordained 10th May, 1704. He removed to Insch in June, 1708, and died there about 1719.

Rev. John Gordon, M.A., was ordained on 9th August, 1710. He acted for some time as clerk to the Presbytery of Alford. He was translated to Gamrie in 1717, and fourteen years later was deposed for "scandalous and unedifying conversation."

Rev. Adam Oliphant was ordained 25th November, 1718. On 14th March, 1721,

he married Margaret, daughter of Baillie Martin, Hawick, and had at least one son—James. He died 29th July, 1746, and, according to the custom of the period, was buried within the church.

Rev. Thomas Johnstone, who had been officiating as tutor to the family of Lord Braco, was presented by George II., and ordained 16th July, 1747. He was translated to Boharm 2nd May, 1753, and died 6th February, 1783.

Rev. Patrick Duff, son of Rev. Robert Duff, minister of Aberlour, was called in January, and ordained 2nd May, 1754. He was translated to Old Machar in 1755, and died 6th March, 1784, in his 57th year. He married (1) Henrietta Lumsden, who died 15th November, 1777, in her 47th year; and (2) Elizabeth Forbes, who died 21st December, 1828, in her 85th year.

Rev. William Duff, M.A., was called in September, and ordained 8th October, 1755. He was translated to Peterculter in 1767, and thence to Foveran in 1775. (See Foveran.)

Rev. William Duff, M.A., son of Rev. William Duff, minister of Rothiemay, was called in August, and ordained 17th September, 1767. He was translated to Keig 14th May, 1772, and died there, unmarried, 28th June, 1773, aged about 32.

Rev. James Douglas was called in July, and ordained 26th August, 1772. He was translated to Premnay 12th July, 1787, and died 29th November, 1823, in the 79th year of his age. He married Ann Duff; and their son, Robert Douglas, became minister of Ellon. During the incumbency of Mr Douglas at Glenbuchat, the church was covered with heather, and the couples were exposed inside. Poultry getting ready access during the week, it is said that a hen made her nest in "the crap o' the wa', and, getting alarmed during service on the Sunday, she flew down and lighted on the head of a

parishioner." This hapless individual wore a wig, which was carried off in the bird's flight, to the great amusement of the congregation.

The succeeding incumbent has a monument to his memory in the parish graveyard. The inscription is—

In memory of the Reverend William Spence, Minister of Glenbucket, who died 27th October, 1807, aged 59. Mary Grassick, his spouse, died 9th December, 1864, aged 90. Mary Ann, their eldest child, died 7th July, 1814, aged 14. Robert, their second son, died and was buried at sea 23rd January, 1841, aged 38. George Booth, their grandson, died 11th August, 1850, aged 14. William, their eldest son, who died at Edinburgh 1st December, 1874, aged 73. Jane, their youngest daughter, widow of A. A. Booth, Aberdeen, who died 8th October, 1883, aged 77.

The Rev. Alexander Spence, D.D., Minister of Free St Clement's, Aberdeen, their third son, who died August 30th, 1890, in the 86th year of his age and 54th of his ministry.

Rev. William Spence, M.A., who was a native of Moray, was ordained 27th September, 1787. His wife, Mary Grassick, survived him for upwards of 57 years, and at the time of her death was the oldest annuitant on the Ministers' Widows' Fund. William Spence, their eldest son, was secretary to the British Linen Company Bank, Edinburgh. Rev. Alexander Spence, D.D., third son, graduated in Arts at Marischal College in 1822, and, qualifying for the ministry, was, in 1837, ordained as colleague to Rev. John Thomson, M.D., of St Clement's Parish Church, Aberdeen. He seceded at the Disruption in 1843, and became minister of Free St Clement's. He possessed outstanding abilities, and was the author of various works.

The next minister has a railed grave with a headstone bearing the following inscription—

In memory of The Rev. Robert Scott, 47 years Minister of the Parish of Glenbucket, who died June 16th, 1855, aged 77 years.



Rev. Robert Scott, son of William Scott, farmer, Rothiemay, graduated in Arts at King's College on 27th March, 1800, and for a time was engaged in tutorial work. Qualifying for the ministry, he was presented to this charge by George III. in March, and ordained 9th June, 1808. On 15th April, 1812, he married Mary Margaret, third and youngest daughter of Rev. James Forsyth, minister of Belhelvie. (See Belhelvie.) They had two daughters—Elizabeth Mary, who married Rev. William Reid, Auchindoir, and Isabella Elizabeth, who was the first wife of Rev. Charles M'Combie of Tillyfour, minister of Lumphanan. (See Tough.)

Rev. William Gordon, son of Peter Gordon, farmer, Reekimlane, Cabrach, who had graduated in Arts at King's College in 1847 and had been for some time assistant schoolmaster of Fyvie, thereafter schoolmaster of Auchindoir, was ordained here in 1854 assistant and successor to Mr Scott. In 1863, he was translated to Glenbervie. He married Helen, daughter of Rev. James Drummond, his predecessor in the charge at Glenbervie, and died on 14th May, 1902, aged 78. His three sons all qualified for the ministry, Rev. Patrick Lindsay Gordon, B.D., now minister of Glenbervie; Rev. James Drummond Gordon, M.A., Chaplain (Church of Scotland) on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment; and Rev. William Lindsay Gordon, B.D., minister of Athelstaneford, Haddingtonshire. There were also two daughters — Helen Jane Drummond Gordon, who died in 1869, and Margaret Collie Gordon, who died in 1884.

The succeeding minister has a headstone inscribed—

In memory of The Rev. John Bremner, Minister of Glenbucket. Born 26 June, 1815; Died 1st December, 1880. And his wife Helen Stewart Innes, daughter of Lieutenant Robert Innes, Aberlour, born 5th April, 1831; died 16 July, 1895. Also their son Robert Garden

Bremner. Born 11 July, 1864; Died 12 March 1898.

It is told by an old parishioner that on one occasion, when Rev. John Bremner was preaching, a mason seated in the gallery of the church fell asleep. The minister had been remonstrating with a few of his people on their failings, and, waxing eloquent, he shouted at the top of his voice, "It is easily known when the Devil is at work in the church!" Whether it was the power of his voice or the thud of his hand on the pulpit, a portion of the plaster on the roof of the loft gave way and fell upon the unconscious sleeper, who thus rudely awakened cried out—"Aye, aye! Rin, boys!" Subsequently, on being asked to explain, he told that he had been dreaming that his men were building a wall, and seeing it falling he shouted to them to run for their lives.

Rev. John Scott, a native of Dumfriesshire, and previously minister of Armadale, Linlithgow, was inducted 6th July, 1881, but died at Edinburgh in May, 1886.

The present incumbent is Rev. William Arthur Spark, who was ordained to the charge on 18th October, 1886.

It will be noted that of the foregoing twenty-one ministers who have held the charge since the Reformation eleven accepted calls to other parishes.

#### THE EARLS OF MAR.

The lands of Glenbucket originally formed a portion of the barony of Kildrummy and lordship of Strathdon. As such, they belonged to the Earls of Mar, but, on account of complications afterwards arising respecting the title to and the possessions of the earldom, the following brief explanations are made:—

Margaret, daughter of Donald, Earl of Mar, who fell at Dupplin in 1332, became Countess of Mar on the death of her brother Thomas, in 1377. She married, as

her first husband, William, first Earl of Douglas, and, besides a son, James, second Earl of Douglas, who fell at Otterburn in 1388, she had a daughter, Isabel, who succeeded as Countess. This lady married, first, Sir Malcolm Drummond; and, secondly, in 1404, Alexander Stewart, natural son of Alexander, Earl of Buchan. Stewart had already taken possession of the Countess and her castle of Kildrumny under circumstances which are well known. On the death of the Countess, her scheming husband succeeded in securing from the King a grant of the earldom in favour of himself and his natural son, Thomas. After the decease of the survivor of the two, Robert, Lord Erskine, was, in 1438, retoured heir to the Countess Isabel. He died in 1452, leaving a son, Thomas, Lord Erskine, whose succession to the earldom was resisted by the Crown. In 1457, the service of Robert, Lord Erskine, was reduced, and the earldom, with its numerous possessions, including Glenbucket, thereupon reverted to the Crown.

From time to time the Crown made grauts from the original Mar estates. Thus, in 1507-8, James IV. granted three separate charters to Alexander Elphinstone, son of John Elphinstone of Elphinstone (and his wife Elizabeth Berlay or Barlow, who had been a servant or maid of honour to the Queen), of various lands on Upper Donside, including "Balnaboath in Glenbouchat," "Forrest of Baddynone and Kilvalauch," "Inuerbuchet, Wester Inuerbuchet, Eister Inuerbuchet, etc." (Antiq., IV., pp. 217-218 and 278.) Elphinstone was best known in Aberdeenshire as laird of Invernochty, or Strathdon, and he secured a new Crown charter to his possessions in 1513, before which date he had been honoured with the title of Baron Elphinstone of Elphinstone. He

fell with his King and the flower of the Scottish nobles at the battle of Flodden.

#### THE GORDONS.

From the Elphinstones, Glenbucket passed to a branch of the Gordons, whose early history being somewhat confused may be cleared up by the following notes:—

According to the Balbithan MS., "John Gordon of Cairnborrow married Bessy Gordon, Buckie's daughter," and their eldest son,

John Gordon, Laird of Edenglassie and representative of the Family of Cairnborrow, married, first, the Laird of Wattertons daughter Bennerman, now Laids of Elsieck, with whom he begat three Sons and two daughters, his eldest son, William Gordon, Laird of Rathemay, and [who got the] Stock of Cairnborrow, his second son Sir Adam Gordon of Park, Glenbucket, Innermarkie, Edenglassie, and Auchin- andach, his third son, John Gordon, Laird of Invermarkie, Edenglassie, etc.; his eldest daughter married the Laird of Brux Forbes, his second daughter married Robert Coutts, Laird of Achterfoull. The said John Gordon, Laird of Edenglassie, etc., married to his second wife the Lady Benum and Lady Foveran, her name is on the House of Glenbucket which he built, but by that Lady he had no Succession.

The last-mentioned John Gordon and his first wife, Elizabeth Bannerman, had sasine on Badinzone (Badenyon), also on Easter and Wester Inverbuchettis in the barony of Kyldrymmie, on 10th September, 1572. In 1573-4 they had an action of removing in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeenshire against William Anderson in Drumnahuif relative to the town and lands of Badinzone, while in July or August, 1584, the same John Gordon, but then designed as "apparent of Carneburrow" was the pursuer in an action of cognition in the same court against Alexander Elphinstoun of "Balnaglaik," in which he produced his title to Easter and Wester Innerbuchettis

as above. (See New Spalding Club's Sheriff Court Records, I., pp. 195 and 308.) On the property of Easter Bucket, Gordon—who appears to have been in affluent circumstances—erected, in 1590, the strong castle of Glenbucket. On the lintel stone of the door he caused his own name with that of his second wife to be inscribed. Only the following words and letters are now legible—

. . . . . NE . HELEN . CARNEG. . . . .  
 . . . . . AR . . . EMANIS . BOT . . . . .

At the time, however (1845-52), that Mr R. W. Billings made his sketch of the castle for his "Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland," the whole inscription was intact—

IOHN . GORDONE . HELEN . CARNEGIE:  
 1590. NO . THING . ON . EARTH . REMANIS .  
 BOT . FAIME.

Mr Billings in his description remarks that the word "faimé" in this case "is not intended to mean celebrity but the humbler attribute of good repute."

The castle occupies an elevated and picturesque situation on a declivity of Ben Newe. It commands the passage up Glendon, as also the comparatively narrow inlet to Glenbucket. Messrs Macgibbon and Ross (Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland) describe it as a fine specimen of the house or castle with square towers at diagonally opposite angles. The windows are considerably larger than those in many old Aberdeenshire castles, but precautions were taken against assault by having them well protected by upright and cross bars fixed securely into the stonework about six inches apart. In the upper portion a slight effort at ornamentation had been made, one specimen still remaining. Although the building has been roofless for a lengthened period, it still stands forth in solitary grandeur as an almost

permanent certificate of the excellence of its construction.

Helen Carnegie was the widow of ——— Turing of Foveran, and John Gordon having purchased the estate of Benholm, she is designed in the preceding extract as "the Lady Benum and Lady Foveran."

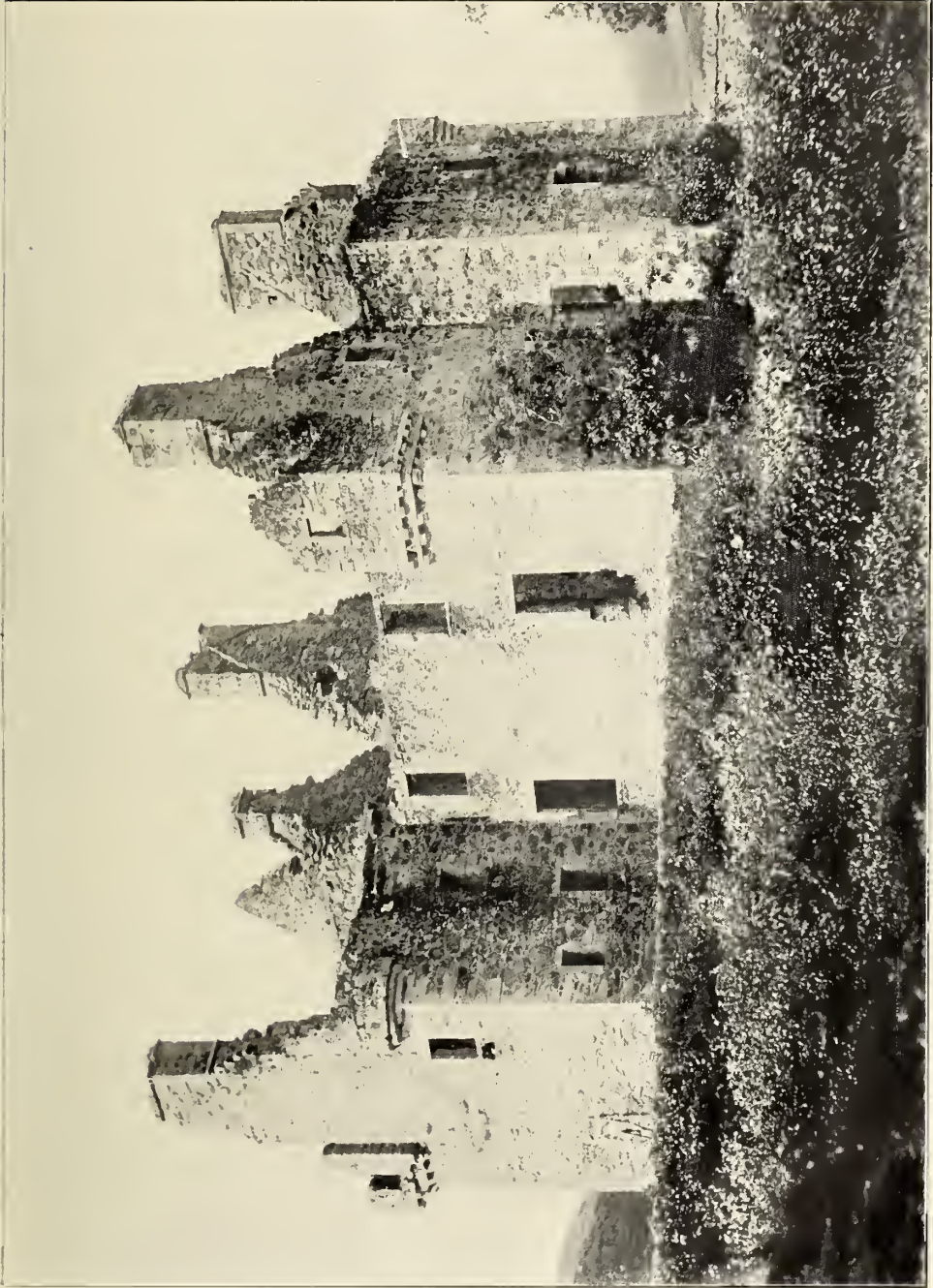
The Pitfour MS. bears that it was not till 1591 that Gordon acquired the full proprietary rights to Glenbucket, the seller being Lord Elphinstone, at the price of £35,000 Scots, or £2916 13s 4d sterling. New Infetment was granted on 3rd April, 1594. (Antiq., IV., p. 450.)

Gordon possessed the warlike and proud characteristics of his clan at that period. He was charged with participating in the murder of the Bonny Earl of Moray and the burning of Donibristle in February, 1592. For a time he was "at the horn," but this was ultimately relaxed. He was at the battle of Glenlivet (4th October, 1594), along with his father and seven brothers, each being attended by a "Jackman and a footman." This made up "a good company, being twenty-seven well-mounted men out of one Family." (Balbitban MS.)

Late in life, Gordon contracted a third marriage—with Elizabeth Wishart, who, as his wife, is mentioned in a charter of confirmation dated Aberdeen 15th June, 1620, granted by the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter of Aberdeen of the town and lands of Dumethis, etc., to be held by the said John and Elizabeth in conjunct fee. (Wimberley's Gordons of Knockespoek, p. 49.) Gordon died 22nd January, 1622. (Pitfour MS.)

Adam Gordon, the second son of the first marriage above stated, succeeded to Glenbucket during the lifetime of his father, his sasine being dated 11th June, 1620. He received the honour of knighthood. About 1617, he purchased the estate of Corncairn, Ordiqhill, and re-named it





Glenbucket Castle.



Park—a title which it has since retained. He also built the village of Old Cornhill. He was twice married—first, to Christian, daughter of William Gordon, fifth laird of Gight. The eldest son of this marriage was Sir John Gordon of Park, who, in 1631, married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Sibbald of Rankeillor. It was he who, in 1665, erected the Gordon of Park aisle in the graveyard of Ordiquhill. Sir Adam Gordon married, secondly, Helen Tyrie, daughter of Sir William Tyrie, of Drumkilbo, and their eldest son, Patrick, succeeded to Glenbucket. Sir Adam died in September, 1629, and, according to the Balbithan and Pitfour MSS., was buried within the church of Glenbucket. It is worthy of note that in the same year a new parish church was erected. Perhaps it was intended as a memorial of Sir Adam, who was warmly attached to the glen.

Patrick Gordon, the succeeding laird, was a noted free-booter. He levied blackmail over many parishes, and did not hesitate to annex property according to his erratic will. He believed that might was right, and followed—

The good old rule, the simple plan,  
That they should take who have the power,  
And they should keep who can.

The parish of Cushnie received considerable attention at his hands and those of his followers. In 1647, before the Commissioners of the General Assembly, he and a confederate "acknowledged their accession to the rebellion, humbly upon their knees." In 1651, he married Jean, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Arbuthnott of that Ilk, and widow of Alexander Burnett, younger of Leys. He died in Aberdeen, "of sore disease," on 16th January, 1666 (Row's Diary), "and was buried in the Gordon's Isle in the Cathedral Kirk of Oldmacher, being Laid down by my Lord Gordon's side who was killed at Alford being both of them very Intimate

in their life, and brave men as the age produced, and now no doubt are more ardent in Love and affection in heaven." (Balbithan MS.)

Adam Gordon, the eldest son, succeeded. He appears to have had a bitter hatred towards Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie, whom he succeeded, in 1676, in getting accused of the murder of Alexander Stour. £20,000 Scots of bail was accepted for Strachan, and, after a protracted litigation, an Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed in Strachan's favour and declaring that the charge had originated in the malice of Gordon. (Acts of Parliament, 1695, — 471.) He married Jean Douglas, daughter of Douglas, laird of Glenbervie, and died in 1693, survived by his wife and eight children, the five youngest of whom were unprovided for. (Poll Book.) Mrs Gordon's allowance under her marriage contract was £1000 Scots of rent out of the best of the lands of Glenbucket "nearest adjacent to the house." She "entered on the possession of the mains and house" on her husband's death "and uplifted some of the rents, out of which she did aliment her eight children till May [1696]" when an unfortunate quarrel arose between her and her eldest son, Adam Gordon, over their respective rights. The son behaved in the most callous fashion, necessitating an appeal by the lady to the Privy Council. In her complaint it was alleged that "she was coming south to take advice regarding her affairs, when her son Adam Gordon followed her with an armed force, and, on her refusal to comply with his request that she would return, avowed his determination to have her back though he should drag her at a horse's tail. Then seizing her with violence, he forced her to return to Glenbucket, three miles, and immured her there as a prisoner for thirty days,



without attendance or proper aliment; indeed, she could have hardly eaten anything that was offered for fear of poison." The Privy Council seemed satisfied with the accuracy of the statement, but it is believed that, through influence and promising amendment of his conduct, Gordon got the procedure sisted indefinitely. (Privy Council Register, and Chambers's "Domestic Annals of Scotland," III., pp. 159-60.)

Adam Gordon, who entered the army, attained the rank of captain. He "died abroad in Holland of a Decay" (Balbithan MS.), before which, however, Glenbucket had been sold to John Gordon, son of George Gordon of Noth, Chamberlain of Strathbogie and laird of Knockespock. John Gordon sold Knockespock, and was afterwards designed as of Glenbucket. He was the father of John Gordon, the famous Jacobite General.

"OLD GLENBUCKET," THE GREAT  
JACOBITE.

John Gordon (better known as "Old Glenbucket") married, in 1702, Jean, daughter of Harry Forbes IV. of Boynddie; and among their family were—John, who married Ann, daughter of Sir Alexander Lindsay of Evelick; David, of Kirkhill; George, a medical practitioner in Jamaica; Alexander, who fell in Russia; Helen, who married John Macdonnell, of Glengarry; Isobel, who married Donald Macdonnell II. of Lochgarry; Christian, who married George Forbes of Skellater, father of "Marshal - General John Forbes - de - Skelater" of the Portuguese service; Henrietta; Clementina; and another daughter whose name is uncertain.

A keen Jacobite, and of a brave and chivalrous disposition, Gordon joined the rising of 1715, in which he rendered considerable service in the way of raising troops and encouraging proprietors to

enlist in the movement. Letters still extant prove that his influence, fidelity, and zeal were relied upon by the Jacobite leaders, and the Earl of Mar, who recognised him as a "hard fighter," sent him many private communications couched in the most friendly terms. Want of space prevents the following of the various movements which led up to the battle of Sheriffmuir, on 13th November, 1715. Suffice it to say that Gordon fought in that engagement in the first line, but the indecision of Mar made the issue only partially successful and utterly unprofitable. So disappointed was Gordon that he could not refrain on the field from expressing his mind in the words—"Oh, for one hour of Dundee!" For a time thereafter he was obliged to go abroad.

Before 1724, Gordon had returned and had been invested by the Duke of Gordon in certain property in Badenoch by virtue of a mortgage. The tenants, who belonged to the Clan Macpherson, took umbrage at the change of management, and refused to pay their rent. Glenbucket, in consequence, instituted legal proceedings for their ejection—a measure which was even then (Chambers's Domestic Annals, III., pp. 488-90) as much calculated to engender murderous feelings in Scotland as it has since been in Ireland. Five or six of the Macphersons called one evening at Glenbucket's house, and, on being admitted, expressed regret for the difficulty which had arisen—at the same time promising to pay the arrears sued for. Glenbucket, who was sickly, was sitting on his low-framed bedstead preparing to go to rest. This opportunity the visitors determined to turn to account, and, while talking in a conciliatory tone, they gradually drew close and fell upon him with their dirks. Having an advantage for the moment, they gave him many wounds, but fortunately none that were deadly. At length,

getting hold of his broadsword, he speedily drove the scoundrels from the house. The Duke of Gordon followed up the case, with the result that the three principal offenders were compelled to take refuge abroad. (See Captain Burt's "Letters from the Highlands," II., p. 73.) It may be added that the attack upon Glenbucket was at first reported to have ended fatally, which suggested the poem "A Curse on the Clan Macphersons"—

May that cursed clan up by the roots be  
plucked  
Whose impious hands have killed the good  
Glenbucket!

Villains far worse than Infidel or Turk,  
To slash his body with your bloody durk.

(See Alexander Pennecuik's Poems.)

Within five years of this episode, Gordon was suspected by the Government officials of again intriguing on behalf of the Jacobite cause. How far this was justified has not been clearly stated. In the summer of 1729, however, General Wade characterised him as a "dangerous fellow," and likely to "play the fool" if "encouraged by the agents from abroad." (Culloden Papers, No. cxlii.) In 1738, he accepted a commission—as Major-General—from James Stuart, and no King in storm and stress was ever more loyally served by a subject. As late as 14th August, 1745, the hope was expressed by Lord President Forbes that Glenbucket's prudence and temper would not only keep himself out of the rising, but also lead him to dissuade his relative Glengarry from rushing to "his certain destruction." This anticipation was speedily belied, for six days later it was reported by the Lord President "that Glenbucket with a few Highlanders is in the neighbourhood of Strathbogie and amongst Diveronside, busy trying to levie men for the Pretender's service, and prowling about to intercept all intelligence." Again, on 5th September, the

same correspondent reported that "Glenbucket is not with the rebels, but has gone down to the low country to try to raise men." On the 4th October, with a body of about 400 troops raised in the districts of Strathdon, Strathaven, Glenlivet, etc., he joined Prince Charles at Edinburgh, and became a member of his Council. He accepted the Colonelcy of the company, his eldest son John acting temporarily as Lieutenant-Colonel, and his grandson William as Captain. From depositions which were subsequently taken against him, it is evident that he went by the title of "General," was "an old man," "not very tall," "much crouched," wore "a white cockade," "rode on a little gray highland beast," "marched with the rebel army between Manchester and Wigan," etc., and "back again to Glasgow." (New Spalding Club's "Historical Papers," II., pp. 353-54.) The retreat northwards, and the crushing defeat sustained by the Jacobite army at Culloden—in both of which he took part—are matters of history. The subsequent privations which he underwent had better be told in his own words—

. . . by ways and means I made it my business to keep up a spirit amongst the King's friends until the Prince came, who I had the pleasure to wait off when arrived (old and infirm as I was) amongst the first, and continued with him till that fatal and unhappy day at Culloden; and since that time it is not possible to represent what dangers and fatigue His Royal Highness underwent; and, for my part, all looks on me as a miracle that escaped, considering my situation of health and age. It would be too long a tale to give an account of all; but I thank God I got this length after all this misfortune has befallen me. I do not despair, but hope to live to see the King restored is my earnest prayer and wish. I am now a very poor man, 74 years of age, banished my country, and attainted—my house burnt, my wife and family obliged to leave the country

where I lived, and go amongst her relations, and I . . . supported meanly on their charity. The damned Government of England had such spite and malice against me that when all was burnt, and taken away her back clothes and children's, she got into a poor cottage, a tenant's house, there came a party to burn it, and did burn the next, which obliged her in the melancholy situation the children were. I had come out of a desert that morning, twelve miles from any country, where I had lain 48 hours under a rock, and had travelled terrible rocks and mountains in a prodigious rainy night; and after I had got a bit of meat, such as my wife had to give, I laid myself down on a little straw to rest, but behold I was not lain three minutes, when I was told there was a party within half a mile, which obliged me to make off in haste. The party came before I got to a hill on the other side of a river, and burnt a house at the door where my wife and children staid, which obliged them to remove in all haste. I retired to a little wood, and continued there till night, when I travelled till day-break, and lay in a hill all the day. Some parties were near me searching; however, I was not found. When the night came, I went to a poor man's house and changed my clothes with his rags, prevailed with the poor man to go along with me, and he put me down to the coast in the low country and returned, where I turned beggar, and allowed my hair to grow on my face, but that could not save me. Whatever disguise I put myself in, I had the misfortune to be suspected. Parties were sent from all places to search all the shires of Aberdeen and Banff for me, and not spare money to find me. In this way I continued for some months.

The remainder of the letter bewails the loss he had sustained when his "house was robbed and burnt," of the commission as Major-General which had been granted him in 1738 by James, his king.

(Letter by Gordon to Mr Edgar from St Ouen, 21st August, 1747, copied from No. CXV. of "The Stuart Papers" in Browne's "History of the Highlands.")

The popular impression that Gordon for-

feited the estate and castle of Glenbucket through his adhesion to the Stuarts is erroneous. Many years before Culloden he had received cash advances from William Duff of Braco, Balvenie, etc. (created Baron Braco of Kilbryde in 1735), to whom, in 1737, he sold the whole lands and castle. His expenditure in securing recruits and otherwise furthering the Jacobite cause had doubtless been considerable. The result was that when the Lords Justices instituted an inquiry into the value of his belongings in 1749-50, they found as follows—"Yearly rent of Real Estate £4. Value of Personal Estate £3. The debts exceed the value." (New Spalding Club's "Records of Invercauld," p. 430.)

It is thus seen that practically everything was staked by Gordon on the second rising, and, although its non-success left him almost a penniless exile, the following letter (copied from the Jervise MSS.) shows that he kept up a brave and cheerful spirit, that he honourably discharged certain monetary obligations, that he lived economically, that he manifested a tender interest in the welfare of his daughters, and that his loyalty to the Prince remained unshaken—

G. Innes to General Gordon of Glenbucket.

Hon'd. Dr. Sr.—Lest night I had yr's of 9 June, and as you are curious for news about The Prince, I must tell you that last post from Rome brought above twenty letters assuring that H.R.H. did latly cast up at Venice, whence he immediatly wrote to the King then at Albano, who immediatly returned to Rome with the Duke, and after a long conference with the pope, it was concluded that The Prince should repair to Ferrara or Bologna. Some of the letters assuring this are from men of the best intelligence in Rome, who would never give out such news so confidently, unless they were positively true. Yet we have scepticks here who want them confirmed. I'm sure you could not be glader to receive than I was to transmit you the accounts of your gratification [?], qch I shall pay by your order



to M. Hay vpon sight. I wonder I have no letters from Hallhead nor Coabardie, to whom M. Gordon and I wrot as soon as to you. There was no need of your being so exact in the triffle you owd me, which was always at your service so long as you pleas'd, tho' it had been much more. I don't look upon you as an ordinary person; your age and long, distinguished services, with many other considerations, do require a particular regard to be had for you.

I'm very sorry for my friend Lochgarrie's case. It seems he must be strangely altered from what I saw him. He does ill to let himself be so dejected; and I can't but commend you mightily for keeping up as you do. Both of you certainly are much in the right in going to such a cheap place as you mention. It were telling several we have here in a reall starving condition they had taken such a wise course so long as they had where with all to do it, whereas now it is past time, they having neither subsistence here nor to go elsewhere. Tho an gvent list be compos'd of near ninety persons, yet all the Court has (been) gratified by the list given we (which) is only fourteen persons, with promises to do for ware in a short time. I wrot to evry one of the fourteen that were not in reach of me, and I'll surely do the same without losing a moment to every one that anything shall be allotted to hereafter; and this pray tell them from me, as occasion shal offer, that you either see or write to them. Do what we will, or say what we will, the Court will take its own method with us. 'Tis very hard your Daughters should meet with such unnatural usage at home; but I believe the natures of our folks at home are become generally as ill turned as the times we live in. Could I possibly think on any place for these young gentlewomen to be received in at any easy rate, I would most readily acquaint you, but realy at present I know not of one single place, especially for a stranger, but is most unaccountably dear. The heavy taxation on communities (commodities) of all kinds being exhorbitant, these difficulties are the less to be wondered at. However, to serve you, I shall use my utmost diligence aud enquiry, so as nothing at least shall be wanting on my

side. Meanwhile I am, most respectfully and sincerely,

My dear and worthy Sir,  
Your most obedient humble servant,  
G. INNES.

Paris, 14th June, 1749.

All yr friends here offer you and Lochgarry their most humble service.

(Addressed)

A. Monsieur.

Monsieur Le General Gordon  
de Glenbuket a Boulogne sur Mer.

Far from the Scottish hills which he loved so well, Gordon died at Boulogne-sur-Mer, 16th June, 1750, aged 77. The banner which he carried in 1715, and again in 1745, is illustrated in the New Spalding Club's "Historical Papers," Vol. II. The old-fashioned musket which he used at Culloden is preserved in the museum of Mr Hugh Gordon Lumsden of Clova. A painting of him was recently bequeathed to the National Gallery of Scotland by a gentleman in London who claimed to be a descendant, but—for a reason which may be readily guessed—it was not accepted. An etching of him has also been sold, but its accuracy is doubted. It shows a half-length of a stout old man in uniform (minus head-gear), with a broad, determined face, and bald on the crown, but having long, smooth hair hanging down on the shoulders.

As previously explained, Glenbucket was purchased in 1737 by William Duff—Lord Braco—who, in 1759, was created Viscount Macduff and Earl Fife. The property remained with his descendants till sold in 1884 by Alexander William George Duff, the sixth earl, who, in 1889, became first Duke of Fife. The history of the duke and of the various earls is too well known to require repetition.

The purchaser was Henry Burra, a prominent banker, and one of the leading citizens of Rye, Sussex. He died at his

residence, Springfield, Rye, in February, 1886.

MR JAMES W. BARCLAY.

From Mr Burra's trustees, the estate was purchased in 1901 by Mr James William Barclay, who at once adopted a policy of improvement, alike by planting, renewing buildings, and giving encouragement to the tenants to adopt advanced methods of farming. Mr Barclay was a direct descendant of the Barclays who possessed the lands of Mathers in Kincardineshire for three hundred years, dating from the early part of the fourteenth century, and the following notes on his more immediate forebears may prove of interest.

David Barclay, twelfth laird of Mathers, born in 1580, married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of — (Sir John, according to Playfair) Livingstone of Dunipace; and, secondly, Margaret, eldest daughter of Alexander Keith of Benholm, and widow of — Guthrie. (Acts and Decrees, Vol. 504, p. 42.) Besides a daughter, who married John Douglass, younger of Tilwhilly, he had five sons—John; Alexander; David, first of Urie; Robert, rector of the Scots College in Paris; and James, an officer in the army, who fell in battle. David Barclay, senior, through extravagance in living much about Court, was obliged, in 1633, to surrender the old family estate of Mathers, and to take up his residence at "Lunane." He also suffered the indignity of being "put to the horn." (Ibid.)

David Barclay, the third son, born in 1610, entered the army, and served as an officer on the Continent under Gustavus Adolphus. Returning to this country on the outbreak of the Civil War, he became Colonel of a regiment of horse, and did good work on the side of the King. On Cromwell's party gaining the ascendancy,

however, he retired from active service, and, in 1648, purchased from William, seventh Earl Marischal, the estate of Urie, near Stonehaven. He founded a family, and many genealogists (misled by the inaccurate and incomplete "Genealogical Account of the Barclays of Urie," drawn up, and published in or about 1740, by Robert Barclay of Urie) name him as the chief of the family of Mathers, and brush aside John and Alexander, his two elder brothers, with the simple remark that they "died young and unmarried."

That statement is incorrect, for neither died young or unmarried. Alexander, the younger of the two, born about 1608, appears in December, 1631 (Ibid., 442, p. 319) as pursuer—in conjunction with his wife, Anna Ross, and others—against David Barclay of Mathers, his father, for 6000 merks paid "in the first end of the tocher." As James, Archbishop of Glasgow; and Gabriel Cunningham, Provost of Glasgow, are named, with others, as trustees under the marriage settlement (Ibid., p. 282, etc.), the presumption is that Anna Ross belonged to Glasgow, in the neighbourhood of which she and her husband settled.

John Barclay, the eldest son of David Barclay, last of Mathers, born between 1604 and 1607, was old enough in 1619 to witness a deed executed by his father. (Kincardineshire Sasines, I., p. 109.) In 1633 he appears as defender in an action by William Keith of Bruntoun to have "transumed" a charter of the kirklands of Aberluthnot—otherwise Marykirk—by David Barclay of Mathers, dated 17th January, 1628. (Acts and Decrees, Vol. 460, p. 311.) Again, reference is made to a bond granted, 6th June, 1628, by "David Barclay of Mathers and John Barclay, his eldest lawful son and heir apparent." Unfortunately, John Barclay allowed himself to become involved in his father's

obligations, and diligence was done against him. He is named as defender in a process which was before the Court of Session on 23rd February, 1643. (Court of Session Acts and Decrees, Vol. 521, p. 168.) From that time he lived a retiring and unobtrusive life, and appears to have taken no part in the transactions which followed his father's death. He married, and had at least one son—George—who was born in or about 1660.

This George Barclay repeatedly visited his aunt at Tilwhilly, and married, 20th August, 1704 (Banchory-Ternan Registers), Anna, daughter of Thomas Reid in Eslic, second son of Rev. Robert Reid, of Birness and Balnakettle, minister of Banchory-Ternan, descended from the old family of Reid of Pitfodols—her mother being Jean Burnett, daughter of Burnett of Campfield. Thomas Reid had considerable wealth, among his debtors on heritable bonds being his kinsman, Sir Peter Fraser of Durris. George Barclay (incorrectly named John in the New Spalding Club's "Family of Burnett of Leys," p. 64) and his wife lived with the latter's parents at Eslic till after 1723, when the parents removed to Pilmuir, retaining, however, the wadset rights over Eslic, to which their son, Dr George Reid, and their grandsons, David Reid in Gellan and Rev. Thomas Reid, minister of New Machar, had sasine in 1750. (Reid Family Papers.) George Barclay and his wife had at least two sons and a daughter—Thomas, baptised 2nd March, 1706; Lewis, baptised 9th January, 1708; and Jean, baptised 1st February, 1710. (Banchory-Ternan Registers.) The last-mentioned married, 2nd December, 1731, Robert Burnett, laird of Sauchen, Cluny (Ibid.), and died in 1780.

Thomas Barclay, the eldest son, received a liberal education, and studied law. Preferring farming, however, he, in 1737,

became tenant of Letterbeg, Strachan. On 8th November, 1733, he married Margaret, daughter of John Lumsden, in Ard-huncart, Kildrummy (Lumsden, whose wife was Helen Shirrefs, traded extensively with Turkey, acquired means, purchased the estate of Towie in Clatt, and became known as "The Grand Turk" or "The Old Turk"), and died in December, 1764, aged 58. Among Thomas Barclay's debtors for loans were James Grant of Grant, Francis Farquharson of Finzean, James Lumsden of Cushnie, John Chalmers, and John Douglass, senior, of Tilwhilly. He had two sons and three daughters—John; George (John Lumsden, his maternal uncle—known as "The Young Turk"—son of the above-mentioned John Lumsden and Helen Shirrefs, sold Towie and bought Blairmormond, otherwise known as Knowsie, which estate he left to this George Barclay, who, thereupon, dropped the name of Barclay, and assumed that of Lumsden-Shirrefs, John, the elder brother, being cut off with a single shilling through umbrage taken at his threat to take the testator's nose in the tongs for speaking harshly to his sister, John's mother); Margaret, who married James Wood, some time in Kirktown, Fetteresso (it was through this marriage that the Barclay family afterwards had a claim to the movable estate in the protracted Wood-burnden succession case, which claim they compromised for about £10,000); Helen, and Jean, who died in youth before their father.

John Barclay, the eldest son, served an apprenticeship as a ship carpenter in Leith, but took to farming, and occupied successively Curran in Strachan, Blerie-dryne in Durris, Burnhaugh in Fetteresso, and Easter Tilburies in Maryculter. He married, 21st September, 1777, Isabel, daughter of Alexander Hogg (brother of Rev. James Hogg, D.D., minister of



Skene), then deceased, and of his wife, Christian Scroggie, who continued the farming of Blieriedryne. He was looked upon by his neighbours as a highly-educated man, but by others was accused, along with Thom of Banchory, of being versed in "the black art." When at Burnhaugh (1782-88), he was frequently visited by Mr Robert Barclay (Barclay-Allardice) of Urie, who correctly claimed with him the relationship of third cousin once removed. Mr Barclay of Urie was in the habit of carrying a long pike-staff, on which, before starting on his visit, he marked the height of his son "Rob" (the famous Captain Barclay) to compare it with that of his fourth cousin, John, eldest son of his host, both lads being then under ten years of age. John Barclay, senior, died at Easter Tilburies in 1828, aged 88. He had five sons and three daughters—John above mentioned, Robert, George, James, Alexander, Margaret, Isabella, and Jean. John, the eldest son, occupied the farm of Quoshes, and died without issue. Robert, the second son, married Miss Scroggie, occupied the farm of Blaikiewell, Maryculter, and had a large family, of whom male descendants survive in Australia.

George Barclay, the third son, married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Massie, Maryculter. He became a builder and valuator at Cults, and died 29th May, 1858, aged 73. He had five sons and three daughters—George, who married Marion Roy and died in December, 1896, leaving issue one son and three daughters; John, who died at the age of 10; Alexander, some time builder in Aberdeen, who died 6th March, 1907, in his 80th year, survived by his wife, Barbara Stewart, and a family of two sons and three daughters; James William; Morison, agricultural implement maker, Aberdeen, who married Elsie Adams, Auchinhove, and died 16th

March, 1906, survived by four daughters; Isabella, who married Alexander Hepburn, Cults, and died 23rd August, 1889, leaving a family of three sons (George, consulting engineer and naval architect, Liverpool; Alexander, consulting engineer and naval architect, Newcastle-on-Tyne, who died in December, 1889; and John Barclay, now managing director of The Liverpool Engineering and Condenser Company, Limited) and five daughters; Jane, who died, unmarried, 3rd July, 1885, aged 61; and Margaret Campbell, who is unmarried.

James William Barclay, the fourth son before mentioned, was Member of Parliament for Forfarshire from 1872 to 1892. He married, first, in 1862, Jane, daughter of John Smith, Strathdon (they had one daughter—Florence, who married George Milne, younger of Kinaldie, shipowner, now proprietor of Logie—and one son, James Smith, who died 9th June, 1875, from the effects of a fall from a tree); secondly, Lillian Alice Novelli, daughter of A. H. Novelli, a Spanish merchant, whose father came from Milan and made a fortune in the Manchester export and calico printing trade; and, thirdly, Agnes Clifford, daughter of Rev. Henry Smith, H.M. Inspector of Schools. Mr Barclay died suddenly while on holiday in Algeria, 26th February, 1907, his remains being brought home and interred at Glenbuchat. His daughter, Mrs Milne, has succeeded as proprietrix.

#### EPITAPHS.

In the wall of the church, to the left of the pulpit, a neat bronze cenotaph, set in polished granite, has recently been erected. It bears the Farquharson family motto and crest, and the following inscription—

FIDE ET FORTITUDINE.

This Cenotaph is placed here by John Farquharson of Whitecairns as a mark of filial

devotion to the memory of his father, John Farquharson, born at Belnaglack, in this parish, and died there April 12, 1862, aged 91 years, and was buried under the Allargue Tablet on the south wall of Strathdon Church, and of his mother, Isobel Breber, who died at Cove, near Aberdeen, December 12, 1889, aged 90 years, and was buried in Nigg Cemetery. Also of his grandfather and grandmother, Alexander Farquharson and Janet Ritchie, who died at Belnaglack, aged respectively 78 and 95 years, and were interred in the family burial ground within the former church of Strathdon.

The above Farquharsons are descended from Findlay Farquharson, fifth son of Findlay Farquharson of Invercauld—better known as "Findla Mhor"—who fell at Pinkie in 1547. Prior to his father's death Findlay Farquharson acquired the lands of Auchriachan and Cumdell, in Strathaven, and thereafter his third son, Robert Farquharson, got Aldinlairg—or Allargue—and "Tolduchull," in Strathdon. From him in lineal descent was William Farquharson of "Toldquhill" in 1762. His eldest son was the above Alexander Farquharson, who married Janet Ritchie, eldest daughter of Jerome Ritchie. [Ritchie then occupied several holdings in the Strathdon district, and also Belnaglack, in Glenbucket, which he vacated in 1770 in favour of his daughter and her husband, Alexander Farquharson.] Their eldest son, John Farquharson, married Isobel Breber, eldest daughter of John Breber, farmer, Comerton, Strathdon, and the "Banffshire Journal," at his death, paid a high tribute to his character and unobtrusive disposition. It is there stated that "In 1822 deceased became heir to a property in Jamaica belonging to his brother, Alexander, estimated at about £30,000. However, he allowed his cousin, Alexander Glennie of Maybank to obtain the property. . . . In May, 1859, deceased contested the succession to the Breda property

. . . with Mr Farquharson of Allargue, and was believed by many old people in the district to have been the heir to that property." The eldest son, John Farquharson, J.P., who erected the above cenotaph, purchased, in 1897, the property of White Cairns, Belhelvie, from Sir Charles Forbes, Bart., of Newe.

It will be noted that the aggregate age of the four persons commemorated in the inscription was 354 years—three averaging no less than 92 years.

When the manse buildings were recently undergoing repair and extension a broken slab was discovered. It shows the slightly raised figure of a lady of position, having on the left side a small shield, within which is a cross. The shield is dated 1686, and initialled A. A. Whom this stone had commemorated is not known.

Another small stone of nearly square shape was also found. It bears the date 1775.

In 1696, the chief surnames in the parish were Robertson, Gordon, Reid, and Roy. The Reids have increased largely, and there are few tombstones on which the surname is not found.

A railed wall monument is inscribed as follows—

In memory of Charlotte Lindsay, who died on the 29th September, 1836, aged 63. And her husband, John Reid, farmer in Milltown of Glenbucket, who died the 8th October, 1844, aged 87.

This Mausoleum is erected to express the veneration and filial piety of their son, the Reverend William Reid, Minister of Auchindoir.

Here also is interred the remains of The Rev. Wm. Reid, Minister of the United Parishes of Auchindoir and Kearn for the period of 48 years, who died the 2nd January, 1882 aged 78.

And of his daughter, Mary Forsyth Reid, who died the 27th Sept., 1883, aged 39. Also

of his wife, Elizabeth Mary Scott, who died on November 9th, 1890, aged 76.

John Reid and his wife, Charlotte Lindsay, were highly respected parishioners. Their son, Rev. William Reid, married Elizabeth Mary Scott, daughter of Rev. Robert Scott, minister of Glenbucket (1808-55), and niece of Rev. Alexander John Forsyth, LL.D., minister of Belhelvie. (See Belhelvie.) Among others of the family of this union who still survive are Major-General Sir Alexander John Forsyth Reid, M.A., LL.D., who, for his distinguished services in connection with Indian frontier warfare (his name was frequently mentioned in despatches and he was twice promoted for service in the field), was created a K.C.B. in November, 1900; Robert William Reid, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng., Professor of Anatomy in Aberdeen University; and William Reid, M.D., medical superintendent of the Royal Asylum, Aberdeen.

A railed grave has an obelisk showing the following inscription—

Sacred to the memory of Archibald Reid, Farmer, Dockington, Glenbucket. Born 29th May, 1797, died 11th January, 1873. And of his children, Sophia, born 9th June, 1859, died 26th July, 1860. Isabella, born 29th November, 1862, died 3rd December, 1862. And of his wife, Isabella M'Hardy, who died at Balquharn, Tullynessle, 10th Oct., 1889, aged 62 years.

Also of his son, Archibald Reid, M.B., C.M. Born 18th November, 1857, died at Udney, Aberdeenshire, 6th January, 1880.

The above were the parents of Mr William Reid Reid, of Inchgarth, advocate in Aberdeen.

A tombstone bears—

In memory of John Wattie, Farmer, Milton, died 17th February, 1890, aged 86 years. Also his wife, Charlotte Reid, died 25th January, 1901, aged 92 years. Also their son, Charles L. Wattie, M.D., died 25th May, 1883, aged 42 years. And their daughter, Helen, died 16th August, 1894, aged 51 years.

The above Charlotte Reid was a daughter of John Reid, farmer, Milton, and sister of Rev. William Reid, Auchindoir. She was very neat-handed, and when 82 years of age gained several first prizes at the Highland Industrial Society's Exhibition for homespun blankets and yarn. Her husband, John Wattie, acted for many years as land steward to the Earl of Fife, and during his tenancy of Milton he reclaimed nearly the half of the farm from heath and moor. Their son, Charles Lindsay Wattie, was an M.D. of Aberdeen University. Having acquired considerable hospital experience, he joined the Red Cross Society, and went through the Russo-Turkish War. He gained the silver medal for distinction in surgery from the Turkish Government, and later the Gold Cross from Prince Milan. He was taken prisoner in Sofia, and was sentenced to be shot. Happily, however, he was identified and claimed by one of the sick-nurses, and was released. After these terrible experiences, and the prolonged exposure to climatic changes, his health gave way, and he died at Milton as above. His brother, John Wattie, is now farmer, and a distinguished breeder of black polled and cross cattle.

On a tablestone bearing sundry emblems is the following inscription—

Here lies the body of Jean Reid, lawful spouse to Alex. Grigorson, who lived sometime in Uppertown. She died May 24th, 1782, aged 80 years, leaving behind her of their children Archibald and Janet Grigorson.

Now slain by death, who spareth none,  
And lies full low under this stone,  
Take heed and Read and thou shall see  
As I am now, so shalt thou be,  
Rotting in dark and silent dust.  
Prepare for death, for die thou must.  
Life is uncertain, death is sure;  
Sin is ye wound, Christ is the cure.

Done by the care of Archibald Grigorson, Baker in London.



A tablestone and headstone are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lyes John Rainy, late Merchant in Easter Bucket. He died June 4th, 1767, aged 29. Done by the care of his brother, Arthur Rainy, and who died January 12th, 1836, aged 94. And his wife, Ann Gibbon, who died February 20th, 1836, aged 80 years. Also their son, William Rannie, who died at Easterbucket, 10th August, 1882, in his 89th year.

The surname Rannie was inadvertently cut as Rainy in the first half of the above inscription.

Arthur Rannie, who died at the advanced age of 94, remembered the Government redcoats searching in the parish for "Old Glenbucket" after Culloden. Besides the above-mentioned William Rannie, he had a son, James Rannie, who married Janet Fraser, daughter of Arthur Fraser, who served as an elder in the parish for 45 years.

(2).

1876. In memory of William Rannie, sometime Farmer at Easterbucket, Glenbucket, who died 23rd December, 1875, aged 46 years.

Also James Rannie, M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., youngest son of the above, who died at Klerksdorp, South Africa, 20th August, 1894, aged 30 years. . . .

William Rannie, son of the above-mentioned James Rannie and Janet Fraser, married Hellen Bremner, eldest daughter of Thomas Bremner, miller, Mill of Glenbucket. She died 8th August, 1905, aged 79. Their eldest son is Robert Rannie, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Petereulter. The youngest son, James Rannie, who died at the age of 30, had a brilliant College career, carrying off no fewer than four first and two gold medals, besides five first and second prizes. He was a poet of no mean ability, and it is hoped that a collection of his pieces may be published on an early date.

Two tablestones are inscribed respectively—

Sacred to the memory of Peter Grant, sometime farmer, Bucham, who died 7th Decr., 1776, aged 57; and of his sons Hugh, who died 20th June, 1777, aged 27; and Moses, who died 12th Janr., 1789, aged 25. And likewise his spouse Isobel Gordon, who died in Old Morlich 3rd March, 1803, aged 79. Also their daughter Hellen, spouse of Alexander Robinson, Banff, who died 11th July, 1823, aged 61. And their sons Wm., who died at Morlich 21st March, 1830, aged 73, and Peter, who died at Banff 29th July, 1832, aged 77. And Katharine Reid, wife of the aforesaid William Grant, who died 22nd May, 1840, aged 83 years.

Peter Grant, sometime farmer Milton of Glenbucket, and subsequently in Buchaam, belonged to a branch of the Clan Grant, being one of the five sons of the laird of Tullochgorum, Cromdale. He married Isobel Gordon, daughter of — Gordon in Auchavaich, and his wife, — Oliphant, sister of Rev. Adam Oliphant, minister of Glenbucket, 1718-46. Besides their family mentioned above, they had five other sons—Alexander, James, John, Robert (he is commemorated in the next inscription), and George.

In memory of Robert Grant, late farmer in Old Morlich, who died 16th February, 1838, aged 74. Also his daughter Isobel Grant, who died 25th August, 1826, aged 7 years. Also his wife Isobel Ross, who died at Manse of Ordiquhill 30th October, 1849, aged 67 years.

Robert Grant married Isobel Ross, daughter of William Ross, farmer, Little Tolly, Strathdon, and his wife, Janet Michie. Among their family were William Grant, who went to America; Rev. James Grant, who became minister of Ordiquhill, and subsequently of Fordyce (he held the degree of D.D., and died at the Manse of Fordyce 10th February, 1902, having been an ordained minister for upwards of 55 years); and Rev. Robert Grant, who is minister of the

parish of Stracathro, his jubilee as an ordained minister having been celebrated in 1901. Among Rev. Dr Grant's family is Rev. John F. W. Grant, D.D., minister of St Stephen's, Edinburgh.

A tablestone—with emblems—bears the inscription—

Here lyes John Daison, sometime farmer in Belta Mor, who died June 23rd, 1763, aged 57 years. Done by the care of Margrat Yeat, his spouse.

My Redeemer is exalted, and so shall I.

Mr James Forbes, Tombreck, possesses, among other old documents, a lease of the above farm of Baltimore, granted by the Right Hon. William, Lord Braco, in December, 1738, to James Begg, previously in Mains of Glenbucket, for 9 or 19 years, at the rental of £221 10s 10d Scots in cash, 3 "letts" peats, or £8 Scots for each "lett," 3 dozen poultry fowls, or £1 4s Scots per doz., and six reek hens, or 4s Scots for each hen. At the same time, Tombreck was let for £40 18s 8d Scots in cash,  $\frac{1}{2}$  "lett" peats, half a stone butter or £2 Scots, half a wedder or 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  merks, half a dozen fowls or 12s Scots, and 2 reek hens or 8s Scots.

A tablestone which displays sundry emblems has the following unusual form of inscription—

Here lyes Robert, William, Jean, and Mary Reid, children to A. R. and J. R., Farmer, Bedyon. . . .

A tablestone bears—

Here lies the dust of Hary M'Robie, who lived some time in Belnaboth, and died 1766, aged 87. Also . . . his lawful spouse, who died 1781, aged 97, and also two of their children, viz., Alex. and Isobel M'Robie. Alexr. died 1781, aged 31, and Isobel died 1783, aged 20 years. Hary M'Robie, their lawful son, has placed this stone here to their memory's: [Virtue lives after the funeral] 1793.

The first-mentioned Hary M'Robie was a

son of George M'Robie, who, in 1696, was a tenant in Belnaboth.

A tablestone bears the following extraordinary inscription—

Here lies John Gordon, sometime farmer in Achavaich, who died Feby. 23rd, 1779, aged 45, and a daughter Hellen, and John, Alexr., Jean, and Henerita Gordons, who surviva.

Done by ye care of Hellen Morrison, his spouse.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lyes the body of William Hay, sometime Taylor in Belnacraig, and Departed this life Dec. 22, 1775, aged 65 years; and 2 of his children, John and William Hays, also James Hay, his son, who died Dec. 5th, 1760, aged 21 years . . .

The following inscriptions and explanations are extracted from the Murdoch-Lawrance MS.

#### THE BRODIES AND MURDOCHS.

##### (1).

Erected by William Paterson and Margaret Murdoch his wife in Memory of their daughter Margaret who died in Belnacraig, 13 May, 1861, aged 23 years; and their mother, wife of William Paterson, farmer, Belnacraig, who died 4th August, 1865, aged 67 years; also the above William Paterson who died 3rd March, 1867, aged 76.

Erected by Charles Beattie, farmer, Wardhead, Inch, in Memory of his wife Elizabeth Brodie, who died 26th Sept., 1856, aged 45, also the above Charles Beattie, who died 3rd Dec. 1866 aged 64.

##### (2).

In Memory of Mary Margaret, daughter of James Brodie, farmer in Drumnagarrie, who died on the 7th March, 1853, aged 18 years. The above said James Brodie died 1st April 1885 aged 89 years and his wife Barbara Murdoch died 4th June 1868 aged 81 years. Also their oldest son William who died 6th April, 1896, aged 65 years. Also their daughter Jane who died at Huntly 24th March 1905, aged 60 years.

(3).

Sacred to the Memory of William Brodie late gamekeeper at Backie's who died on the 26th day of March, 1839 aged 53 years, also of his infant son William who died on the 23 April, 1839, aged one year. And Margaret his daughter who died at Aberdeen on the 25th day of February, 1838 aged 18 years. His wife Mary Reid, died 28th February, 1864, aged 74 years.

(4).

Sacred to the Memory of Alexander Duff Brodie, who was born 20th Sept. 1823, and died 18th of Feb. 1861, aged 38 years, And his wife Mary Farquharson died in Aberdeen 25th March, 1886, aged 61 years; also of their son James, Engineer, Aberdeen, who died 27th April, 1879, aged 26 years. . . . .

(5).

Sacred to the Memory of William Brodie, farmer, Belnaglack, died 28 May, 1897, aged 84, and his wife Mary Grassick 9th Oct. 1895, aged 82, and their son John died 17th March, 1852, aged 6 years; also their infant grandson. . . . .

(6).

Sacred to the Memory of William Brody sometime farmer in Belnaglack who died 10th Octr 1802 aged 59 years. Also his spouse Agness Anderson who died 1st May 1783 aged 38th years. Also their daughter-in-law Jean Gibbon spouse of their son John Brodie farmer in Belnaglack who died 6th of October 1841 aged 59 years. Done by the care of their son John Brody farmer in Belnaglack.

These Brodies claim descent from John Brodie, third son of Alexander Brodie, twelfth laird of Brodie, by his second wife, Margaret, widow of Dunhar of Benagefield. This John Brodie married in 1616 Helen M'Kenzie, whose second son, John ("Honest John Brodie." of James Brodie's Diary), married Catherine Paterson, and had, with others, Alexander, who came to Glenbuchat and settled at Belnacraig; and John, who married Barbara Cumming. Alexander, who married Jean Morris, and had, with others, William, Alexander, and John. One of the two last-named went south, and the other fled the country to escape the vengeance of Anderson of Candacraig.

William Brodie, above-mentioned, was ser-

geant-of-horse in Gordon of Glenbucket's regiment, and the Highland brooch which he wore at Culloden is now in the private museum of Mr H. G. Lumsden of Clova. He was tenant of Dalfrankie, and it is said that he annually treated Lord Fife to a glass of whisky while passing to Braemar. Besides several daughters he had three sons, John and Alexander (both went to Newcastle and started a pottery business), and William.

The last-named, who died in Belnaglack in 1802, was twice married--first, to Agnes Anderson (by her he had an only son, John, progenitor of the Brodies in Belnaglack), and, secondly, to Janet Gauld, daughter of William Gauld, Netherton, by whom he had three sons and four daughters.

The last-mentioned John Brodie married before 1812, Jean Gibbon, and had William, who, in 1845, married Mary Grassick; Alexander, who died unmarried at Ballarat; Isabella, who married John Reid, farmer, Ardler, Towie; Margaret, who married William Kellas; Jane, who married John M'Donald; Elizabeth, who married Charles Beattie, farmer, Wardhead, Insch; and Annie, who died unmarried.

William Brodie, by his second wife, Janet Gauld, had William (ancestor of the Brodies in Backies), land steward to Lord Fife; Alexander, who died unmarried; James (ancestor of the Brodies in Drumnagarrie), who married Barbara Murdoch; Elizabeth, who married James Roy; Isabella, who married William Begg; Helen, who married Peter Forhes; and Jane, who married — Johnston, whose only son was drowned in Aherdeen Harhour in 1848.

William Brodie, by his wife, Mary, daughter of Archibald Reid, Kirktown, had James, who married Elizabeth Gordon; William, who died young; Alexander Duff, who married Mary, sister of John Farquharson of Whitecairns; William (iron-founder and partner in the firm of Blaikie Brothers, Aberdeen, who married Elizabeth Ferrier Nicol Baillie, and had, with others, Charles Fraser, who married Jessie Davidson, and William Hampden, M.D., who married Rachel Paterson); Margaret, who died young; Isabella, who married Robert Murdoch; and Mary Ann (died 4th March, 1905), the last of the name to reside in the parish, who married Jonathan Gauld, and had an only son, Jonathan.



The Brodies in Belnaglack are now represented by Rev. William Brodie, B.D., born at Belnaglack in 1848, minister of Kirkpatrick-Juxta. His brothers, Alexander and James, are farmers at Standingstones, Durris, and Lampool, Dunnottar, respectively.

Tombstones bear—

(1).

In Memory of Robert Murdoch lately in Belnaboth who died 10 April, 1824, aged 45. Jane M'Kenzie who died 8 April, 1822, aged 38, and their son William who died 22 May, 1823, aged 11 years. In filial regret this stone is erected by the family.

(2).

In memory of John Murdoch who died at Belnaboth 11 January, 1869, aged 62. Christina M'Bain, the beloved wife of the above who died at Belnaboth 20th Nov. 1905 aged years; and of their family Margaret who died in infancy March 1837, also their son Peter Murdoch beloved husband of Jane Ross who died at Belnaboth 20th Nov. 1905 aged 51 years, also their son William Ross who died in infancy.

In filial regard this stone was erected by their family.

The above-mentioned Robert Murdoch and his wife, Jane M'Kenzie, had the following children:—Margaret, who married Harry Reid; John in Belnaboth, who married Christian, daughter of Angus Macbean; Robert in Craigielea, who married Isabella, daughter of William Brodie; William, who died young; and Alexander in Dalfrankie, house carpenter and violin maker, who married Isabella Ingram, and had one son and eight daughters.

William Murdoch, brother of the first-mentioned Robert Murdoch, married Jean Milne, and had, with three daughters, a son, William, who married Jessie M'Donald, who, with others had a son, John, who is married to Mary Beattie. Margaret, sister of the first-mentioned Robert Murdoch, married John Glennie, who died at Leochry, Glenkindie, survived by numerous descendants.

John Murdoch and his wife, Christian Macbean, had, with others, Robert, now in Pyke, Inch, who married Jessie Dunbar; Mary, who married Peter Elrick; Peter, who married Jean Ross; and Jean, who was married to

William Ross. Glenkindie Mills, whose daughter, Christina, is the wife of Alexander Law, Parkside, Glenkindie.

Robert Murdoch and his wife, Isabella Brodie had, with others, James; John Watt, drowned in the Irrawaddy in 1882; William, now in Finnylost, Strathdon, who married Isabella Mackintosh; Alexander, in Toronto; Archibald, in Toronto, who married Agnes Geddes; Mary Ann, who was married to Captain Robert Scott Lawrance (see Peterhead); Margaret, who married William Gordon; and Ann, who married James Alexander, Nether Savoeh, Longside.

James Murdoch married Georgina, daughter of James Lyon, New Deer, and, with two daughters, had a son, James Lyon, who, in 1878, married Ann, daughter of Dr William Sangster Wood, New Deer.

A tombstone is inscribed—

1845.

Erected by Mary Farquharson, in memory of her husband John M'Kenzie, sometime miller at Mill of Glenbucket, who died 7th July, 1825, aged 51. Also 4 of their family, viz.—John who died 14th Octr. 1843, aged 32. James who died 20th April 1843, aged 27. Charles who died 13th April 1842, aged 25. Robert who died 17th May 1822, aged 2. And their daughter Ann who died 28th June 1845, aged 25. Also the above named Mary Farquharson who died 13th May 1848, aged 67 years.

The above-mentioned Mary Farquharson was a daughter of Alexander Farquharson and his wife, Janet Ritchie, before-mentioned. Her husband John M'Kenzie, had a brother James, who left the parish when a young man, and is believed to have been actively engaged in the Red River Rebellion. He never returned to this country, and the family connection with the parish is now extinct. His sister, Jane, was the wife of Robert Murdoch, already referred to.

#### THE GAULDS AND ROSSES.

Three tombstones are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lies the dust of John Gauld, sometime farmer in Nethertown of Glenbucket, who died 6th February, 1802, aged 91. Also his spouse

Elizabeth Gracie who died March 12, 1796, aged 55. Also there Daughter Jean Gauld, who died 8th April 1798, aged 45 years. . . .

Also their son William Gauld, late farmer in Crofts, who died the 25th April 1841, aged 84 years. Done by the care of Wm. and John Gaulds their sons.

(2).

In loving memory of William Gauld who died at Auchavaich, Glenbucket, June 4, 1895, aged 88 years. Also their daughters Mary, who died July 16, 1878, aged 3 years. Margaret Ann, who died at Edinburgh Nov. 23, 1881, aged 16 years, and is interred in North Merchiston Cemetery. Erected by his widow and family.

(3).

In memory of Jonathan Gauld, late farmer in Crofts, Glenbucket, who died 16th Jany. 1876 aged 76 years. Also his son William who died 6th May 1863, aged 4 years. And his daughter Mary Ann who died 29th June 1878, aged 15 years. And his wife Mary Ann Brodie, who died 4th March 1905, aged 76 years.

These Gaulds hailed from Glass, and were an exceedingly tall and strong race. James Gauld (referred to under Glass) stood six feet four inches in height, as also did several members of his family. There were two distinct families in Glass—one dark and the other fair. The former were famed as fist fighters, but the latter have been more peaceably inclined.

John Gauld belonged to the latter family, and his son, William in Netherton, afterwards in Crofts, married Helen, daughter of George Michie, farmer, Invernochty.

William Gauld, Auchavaich, married Margaret Stuart, and had issue, William, Muir of Greystone; Archibald Reid, Yukon, Canada; Jonathan, George, James, Helen, and Isobel.

Jonathan Gauld, by his wife, Mary Ann Brodie, daughter of William Brodie, had, in addition to the children mentioned in the inscription, a son Jonathan, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Bell Stewart.

Tombstones bear—

(1).

1771. Erected by John Ross in memory of his Father William Ross, who died at Upper-

ton, 10th October 1771, aged 58 years. His wife Isabella Michie who died 26th August 1787, aged 65 years. The above said John Ross died at Sunnybrae, 4th August 1830, aged 82 years, and his wife Isabella Reid, died 7th June 1783, aged 36 years. Isabella Atkinson Dawson, wife of William Ross, their grandson, died 27th October 1851, aged 35 years.

(2).

1871. In memory of James Ross, who died at Mill of Glenkindie 24th August 1871, aged 91 years, and his wife Isabella Dawson, who died at Mill of Glenkindie 4th January 1870, aged 87 years. And of their family, viz.—Charles and Anne who died in infancy, and of Margaret who died 26 June 1846, aged 32 years. And of John who died at Mill of Glenkindie 22 July 1884, aged 67 years. . . .

(3).

In loving memory of William Ross who died at Baltimore Croft 26 July 1893, aged 72 years, and his wife Jane Rannie who died at the same place 24th Oct. 1895, aged 62 years. And the following of their family who died in the month of March 1869, Charlotte aged 9 years, Charles aged 2½ years, Donald aged 1½ years.

The first-mentioned William Ross and his wife, Isabella Michie, had issue—Ann, John, James, Margaret, William, William, Isobel and Jean. John who married Isabella Reid, had issue—William, Isobel, James, and John. James (referred to in the second inscription) and his wife Isabella Dawson, had issue with others—James, who married Ann Gordon, Pyke; and William, who married, first, Isabella Atkinson Dawson, and, secondly, Jane Rannie, by the latter of whom he had with others, a son, William, who succeeded his uncle, John Ross, as miller and joiner at Mills of Glenkindie.

#### SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

On the occasion of a visit to the parish by the Presbytery on 16th June, 1675, the minister was asked "If there was a Schoolmaster, to which he answered negative. Wherefor the heritors were seriouslie dealt with for the amendment of this defect." (New Spalding Club's "Exercise of

Alford," p. 243.) Practical steps were taken and brought to a successful issue, as evidenced by the entry of 27th July, 1687—"That there is a School and some tolerable maintenance for a Schoolmaster." (Ibid., p. 383.)

A century ago, the parish school stood at Belnacraig, the teacher being Mr Rae-burn. He also officiated as session clerk. Unfortunately, during his tenure of the combined offices, the school buildings were destroyed by fire, and a large proportion of the Kirk-Session records were consumed. He retired about 1826.

A new schoolhouse was then erected on the present site, and Mr Forbes, a native of the parish, was elected schoolmaster. He resigned in 1839, and was succeeded by William Reid, son of the minister of Kildrummy. He died in 1865, and was followed by James Cameron, who continued to hold office till June, 1897, when he retired. He is now resident at Rosebank, Crathes.

In 1868, a handsome new school was built, and six years later an addition was made to it.

In 1868, a combination school was erected at Balloch (a pass between the top of Glenbuchat and Strathdon), which was intended to accommodate the outlying portions of both parishes. In this remotely-situated seminary several successful teachers commenced their professional career, among whom may be instanced Alexander James Barclay, M.A., now of Cove, Nigg; James Philip, M.A., now of Inverurie; and William Stewart, now of Clatt.

In proportion to population, no parish has sent forth more sons who have taken high positions in educational, medical, ecclesiastical, military, and commercial circles. Whether this has arisen from the superiority of the grounding imparted at these schools, the determined character of

its people—which has, doubtless, been fostered by the free natural beauties of the district—or from a mixture of both, is uncertain.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Stone-axes, flint-knives, and arrow-heads have repeatedly been found, giving evidence that in early times the pastime of hunting was largely engaged in.

On the hills of Glenbucket, on 25th August, 1843, was found the body of Alexander Davidson, the last of the old Deeside poachers. Under the canopy of heaven, with the "bonnie blooming heather" as a couch, and on the hills over which he was wont to roam with all the freedom of a king, died this wonderful man, whose presence was as welcome at the entertainments at Gordon Castle as in the most humble cottage. A cairn was raised to mark the spot, but the body was interred in the Churchyard of Glenmuick. (See "Romance of Poaching in the Highlands of Scotland," by the late William M'Combie Smith.)

The farm of Drumnagarrow was for a considerable period occupied by a family named Strachan, who claimed descent from the Strachans of Glenkindie. The last of the family was an expert violinist, and had a deservedly high reputation as a player of strathspeys. (See Colonel Allardyce's "Strachans of Glenkindie," p. 43.) Indeed, many hold that he was the finest player of dance music that ever existed.

At Badenyon there formerly stood a castle or mansion which is believed to have been erected by the Mouats in the 13th century. The Pitfour MS. bears that it was occupied by Mr Gordon of Glenbucket prior to the erection of Glenbucket Castle in 1590. Between Badenyon and Glenbucket Lodge a standing stone used to be pointed out as the spot where Mouat fell in his encounter with Alexander Forbes,



son of Lord Forbes, whose victory won him the hand of Miss Cameron, the heiress of Brux. Unfortunately, the stone—known by the title of Clachmouat or Mouat's Stone—was broken up and carried off by a mason for building purposes. Alexander Walker, gardener, Castle Newe, caused diggings to be made about the spot, and unearthed a dirk which is supposed to have dealt the fatal blow. He subsequently presented it to the Banff Museum, and an attached card bears the following inscription—

A Dirk. Believed to have belonged to Mouat of Abergeldie from the fact of its having been found near the place where the fatal affray took place between him and Forbes of Castle Forbes, Mouat having fallen mortally wounded.

Badenyon has been rendered famous through the stirring song "John o' Badenyon," by Rev. John Skinner, the author of "Tullochgorum."

Poaching and smuggling were the chief industries of the eighteenth century. To engage in the illegal manufacture of whisky was then, in the eye of the Church, considered no sin, but to aid in the carrying of it on Sundays in kegs to the Lowlands for disposal was deemed a heinous offence. Such operations were severely dealt with by the Kirk-Session, although a monetary payment invariably squared matters. By the end of the century, however, a distinct improvement had taken place, as the writer of the Statistical Account of the parish reports that "The people are sober and very industrious. There are few that do not make their own ploughs and carts, and also their brogues or shoes." The same writer remarks that "The parish lies at a great distance from every market town. Aberdeen, the post town, is about 30 miles off. To it the people must carry whatever they have for sale, and from thence all their necessaries are procured. None but those who have

felt it can imagine how inconvenient it is to be at such a distance from a post office and market town, when for six or eight weeks sometimes all communication is stopped."

Lying at a high altitude, and surrounded on all sides by high hills, the parish suffers considerably in late or severe seasons. The grain and potato crops occasionally get frosted down, but the frugality and industry of the parishioners do much to mitigate the evil. In 1838, both these crops were rendered wholly unfit for use, and an application was accordingly transmitted to the factor for the Earl of Fife, craving that 25 bolls of meal for the poor, with 115 bolls of meal for the tenants, as also a quantity of seed corn, be sent into the parish. In 1888, 1892, 1902, and 1903, the grain crop was again frosted to a greater or less extent, but sufficiently severe to call for the importation of seed corn for the following season. It is but bare justice to the proprietors to state that they have ever shown a sympathetic and helpful spirit on those trying occasions.

In 1795, the population was 449, but the high-water mark was reached in 1871, when the population was 570. Since then, however, there has been a rapid decrease, till now the inhabitants are estimated to number no more than 345. One of the oldest parishioners remembers 45 inhabited houses and crofts which have now entirely disappeared.

## Fyvie.

Fyvie—anciently Fyvyn—is one of the most important and beautiful parishes in Aberdeenshire. It possibly derived its title from the Gaelic—*Fia-chein*, signifying Deer-hill.

The church was dedicated to St Peter, and the district was the centre of religious activity from an early period.

On 25th February, 1178, the church—with all its lands, tithes, etc.—was bestowed upon the Abbey of Arbroath, which had been erected by King William the Lion in memory of Thomas a' Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. The grant was subsequently confirmed by Alexander II.

In 1207—before the period when surnames became common—Walter was parson.

The old parish church, which measured 90 by 22 feet in the inside, is described as having been “one of the best and most commodious old churches in the county.” It contained a desk fitted up as early as 1502.

The present church, which stands in the graveyard, was erected in 1808. It underwent several minor alterations, and two fine memorial windows were erected by Colonel W. Cosmo Gordon and Mr A. H. Gordon. In 1902, however, the present proprietor of Fyvie made an extensive and most tasteful addition to the edifice, a brief record of which is preserved on a brass on the floor. The inscription is—

... This church was built in 1808. In 1902, A. J. Forbes-Leith of Fyvie added the Apse, Castle Aisle, Organ Chamber, Vestry, and Session House.

In memory of his beloved son Percy-Forbes Forbes-Leith.

It might with accuracy have been added that, at the same time, the area of the church was re-seated, and other important improvements effected, the whole being executed in excellent harmony. In the east window of the apse is a magnificent figure of St Michael standing girt with the panoply of God, conqueror of earth's darkness and evil. In the words of the late Rev. Dr Milne, “This exquisite window outvies description. It is a marvellous work of art, and must be seen to be understood.” Below it is a brass inscribed—

To the Glory of God and in memory of Percy Forbes Forbes Leith, Younger of Fyvie, Second Lieutenant The Royal Dragoons. Born 13th March, 1881. Died in Hospital at Newcastle, Natal, South Africa, on 31st December, 1900, while on active service with his Regiment.

Erected by his friends in the United States of America.

In the Castle Aisle is a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Forbes-Leith by his sister, Mrs Burn. It bears an appropriate inscription, together with the following touching verses—

Remember what he was—with thankful heart  
The bright, the brave, the tender and the true.  
Remember where he is—From sin apart  
Present with God—yet not estranged from you.  
And never doubt that love, and love alone  
Removed thy dear one from this trial scene  
Nor think—since he to God has gone  
Had he been spared, of what he might have  
been.

The splendid organ has a brass bearing the inscription—

In affectionate memory of Mary Grace Gordon and of her husband William Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie Castle. This organ is presented to Fyvie Church by the former's only surviving brother [James Abercromby] and sisters July 14th, 1889.

It may be noted that the organ was rebuilt and enlarged by E. H. Lawton, Aberdeen, in 1902.

The Communion table was gifted by Miss Chalmers, while the baptismal font, the pulpit, and sundry other furnishings were all gifts from members of the congregation or their friends.

In the belfry, which is of ecclesiastical Norman design, are two bells. One bears a Latin inscription, which, translated into English, is—

John Burgerhuys made me in 1609. Glory be to God alone.

The other bears the date 1809, commemorative of the year of the opening of the church.

The Communion Plate is very fine. In 1618, Alexander, first Earl of Dunfermline, and proprietor of Fyvie, presented a beautiful silver chalice. It bears his coat of arms and a Latin dedicatory inscription. The parishioners at the same time presented a similar vessel, which is inscribed—

Coft be ye Parichin for ye Kirk of Fyvie.  
[Coft is the old word for bought.]

Rev. George Dalgarno in 1693 presented a large pewter paten.

In 1843, the parishioners presented two silver chalices, and the Kirk-Session subsequently provided two more of the same design.

Mr Chalmers of Monkshill gifted a flagon, while Rev. Dr Milne presented two silver patens and a silver baptismal basin in memory of three sons.

#### POST-REFORMATION READERS AND MINISTERS.

The parish was supplied by William Chalmer, reader, in 1567, and by Alexander Barron, reader, from November, 1570. The latter had his salary increased from 16 to 20 lib.

Rev. Thomas Gormok was translated from Rescobie and inducted in 1574. He had Methlick and Tarves also in charge. His stipend was £8 6s 8d.

Rev. Stephen Masoun was translated from Bethelnie and inducted in 1578.

Rev. William ——— held the charge in 1593.

Hieromie Innes, second son of John Innes of Edingight, was minister in 1594. He died between 1st December, 1634, and 6th June, 1635. He married Margaret Seaton, and had at least two sons, Thomas, sometime in Poland, who died in the Kirk-town of Rayne in February, 1650, James, who on 5th March, 1628, was admitted a burghess of Aberdeen, and a daughter Janet, who married John Leslie, second son of James Leslie of Wartle. (Macfarlane's Geneal. Coll., II., p. 35.)

Rev. George Sharp, M.A., was ordained in 1635. He appears to have speedily quarrelled with the redoubtable George Gordon of Gight. He petitioned Parliament for payment of the arrears of stipend due by Gordon, as also for reimbursement of the losses sustained through the plundering of his goods by malignants and delinquents. On 21st June, 1644, payment was ordered to be made, but with little practical result. On 27th August, 1647, he was recommended by the General Assembly to the Committee of Estates for reparation of his losses, amounting to six (eleven) years' stipend, for which an Act of Parliament was immediately passed. On 7th February, 1636, he married Elizabeth Anderson. He continued in 1653.

Rev. Alexander Abercrombie was admitted (probably as assistant) in 1649. About 166-, he was translated to Kirkoswald.

Rev. William Jaffray was translated from King-Edward in 166-.

Rev. George Seton, M.A., was translated from Broughton, Peebles, in 1672, and continued in 1683. He married Mary Shaw, who survived him, and died in August, 1706.

Rev. George Dalgarno was admitted 8th



March, 1685. Three years later, he subscribed xx. merks Scots towards the cost of repairing King's College. He married Sarah Robertson, by whom he had a family of two sons and four daughters—James, Thomas, Jean, Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah. He died 21st July, 1717. (Row's Diary.)

Rev. Robert Hay, in Prestonkirk, was ordained 1st May, 1718, but he was deposed 1st July, 1719, for fornication.

Rev. Thomas Scott was ordained 13th July, 1720. He married and had a family of two sons and two daughters—John, Thomas, Anna, and Elizabeth. He died 3rd July, 1748.

The succeeding minister is commemorated by a tablestone bearing the following inscription—

In memory of The Reverend William Moir, who died at the Manse of Fyvie March 19th, 1794, in the 68th year of his age and the 45th of his ministry there. And Helen Constable his spouse died at Aberdeen 26th February, 1817, aged 67 years.

Rev. William Moir was the son of Rev. George Moir, minister of Kintore. Of his marriage with Helen Constable were a son, George, and a daughter, Catherine Jane, who on 20th March, 1800, became the second wife of John Dingwall of Ardo and Ranniaston, then Provost of Aberdeen.

Mr Moir, who was the author of the account of the parish in the Statistical Account of Scotland, records that he paid his first man-servant 15s in the half-year, and to his first female servant 12s!

A tablestone now within the apse of the church bears—

In memory of The Rev. John Falconer, minister of Fyvie, who died 19th December, 1828, in the 73rd year of his age and 34th of his ministry. And of his only child Elizabeth Jane, who died 20th December, 1825, aged 12 years.

Rev. John Falconer was the son of Sylvester Falconer, for some time tutor to

the sons of the second Earl of Aberdeen, and thereafter factor for part of his estates, and also for those of Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy. (See Old Deer.) He married, 23rd May, 1807, Margaret, youngest daughter of William Touch, R.N. She afterwards married Rev. Dr Cruickshank, as shown below.

A railed grave has an obelisk inscribed—

In memory of The Rev. John Manson, M.A., minister of the parish of Fyvie, from 1829 to 1843, and of the Free Church from 1843 to 1872. Died 20th November, 1872, aged 66 years. A faithful pastor, a wise counsellor, a warm-hearted friend, a devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He being dead yet speaketh. Heb. xi. 4.

Erected by his congregation and other friends.

On the obverse side is—

Alexander James Manson, elder son of The Rev. John Manson, died while a student in Aberdeen University, at 7 Chanonry, Old Aberdeen, on 14th February, 1864, aged 17 years, and is interred here. . . .

Grace Edmonstone, third daughter, died 18th December, 1892. Buried in the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

Until the day break.

Rev. John Manson was a son of Alexander Manson, merchant, Oldmeldrum. Seceding at the Disruption, he became the first Free Church minister in Fyvie. He was the author of the excellent article on Fyvie printed in the New Statistical Account of Scotland. A daughter, Mary, married William Milne, surgeon, Medical Staff.

In the apse of the church is a second tablestone alongside Rev. John Falconer's one above mentioned. It is inscribed—

Here rest the remains of Mrs Margaret Touch, who was relict of The Rev. John Falconer, and by second marriage the beloved wife of The Reverend James Cruickshank. She died at Manse of Fyvie, 27th September, 1854, aged sixty-nine years. Also the remains of The Rev. James Cruickshank, D.D.,

minister of Fyvie, who died at the Manse of Fyvie on the 1st day of April, 1858 years, in the 71st year of his age and the 42nd of his ministry at Turriff and Fyvie.

In the inner north wall of the church a white marble tablet has been erected to Rev. Dr Cruickshank's memory. It is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of James Cruickshank, D.D., for 15 years the beloved and respected pastor of this parish.

A faithful dispenser of the Bread of Life, a kind and generous benefactor to the poor, and to all the warm and sympathising friend. He possessed the esteem and affection of an attached people, who have erected this tribute to his memory. 1858.

Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like His.

Rev. James Cruickshank was the son of John Cruickshank, rector, Banff Academy. He was ordained in 1816, and at first acted as assistant to Rev. William Stewart, minister of Turriff, after whose death he succeeded to that charge. Inducted to Fyvie 5th October, 1843, he received the degree of D.D. from King's College on 8th November, 1856. He is described as having been "of a most amiable disposition, a good scholar, and a sound divine." He bequeathed many legacies to Fyvie, Turriff, and Banff.

Rev. John Marshall Lang was inducted from the East Church, Aberdeen, on 5th August, 1858. Seven years later, he was translated to Anderston Church, Glasgow, subsequently holding in turn the charges of Morningside, Edinburgh, and Barony, Glasgow. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of 1893. It may be added that the Very Rev. Dr Lang, who holds the degrees of D.D. and LL.D., is now Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Aberdeen, and in 1906 was nominated C.V.O.

Rev. Gavin Lang, younger brother of the preceding, was ordained in 1865. In

February, 1870, he was translated to the parish of Glassford, in the Presbytery of Hamilton, where his father — Rev. Gavin Lang — had been minister for a long period. He is now minister of the Second Charge, Inverness.

Rev. Andrew Jamieson Milne, M.A., LL.D., son of Alexander Milne, farmer, Petty, Fyvie, was inducted 22nd June, 1870. He had been ordained in July, 1855, to a colonial appointment in Kingston, Jamaica, and while there completely reorganised the educational system of the island and had it placed on a sound basis. He proved a model minister, everything calculated to benefit the parish and its people having his zealous support. He was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland), and he possessed a full and accurate knowledge of the ancient history of the district. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of 1905, and his death on 15th May, 1906, evoked much regret throughout the country. He married Annie Lewis Hodgson, daughter of Rev. John Hodgson (Mr and Mrs Hodgson and four of Dr Milne's children are commemorated in the annexed inscription from a monument at Fyvie), and of their family two sons and a daughter survive—Dr Allan Milne, Liverpool; Dr Arthur Dawson Milne—who is at present in Uganda—and Bessie.

A monument, within an enclosure beside the church wall, is inscribed—

. . . In memoriam.

The Reverend John Hodgson, born in Liverpool, 10 June, 1806, died in Kingston, Jamaica, 5 July, 1861.

His beloved wife, Mary Lewis, born in Liverpool, 6 Dec., 1812, died at the Manse, Fyvie, 28 Jan., 1880.

Their grandchild, Mary Lewis Milne, born in Kingston, Jamaica, 28 May, 1862, died there 16 July, 1863, older daughter of Andrew Jamieson Milne, LL.D., minister of Fyvie, and of Annie Lewis Hodgson, his wife. Here rests their third son, Charles James Barclay Milne,

B.A., H.M. Inspector of Schools, born 27 May, 1864, died 6 May, 1892. Their second son, John Alexander Radcliffe Milne, born 16 November, 1860, died at New Orleans, U.S.A., 24 October, 1896. Their eldest son, George Leslie Hodgson Milne, M.A., M.D., born 9 April, 1859, died at Tulbagh Valley, South Africa, 28 August, 1897.

Here also lie Annie Lewis Hodgson, born 14 Jan., 1836, died 4 July, 1905. And the Right Rev. Andrew Jamieson Milne, born 13 Mar., 1831, died 15 May, 1906. Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and for 36 years Minister of Fyvie.

Rev. George Wauchope Stewart, B.D., was elected to the charge in September, 1906. He was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and from 1891 was minister of the West Church, Fraserburgh, being translated to Rosemount, Aberdeen, in 1901.

#### ESTATE AND CASTLE.

Fyvie is believed to have been originally a royal hunting seat, evidence existing that the early Scottish Kings, William the Lion and Alexander II., resided temporarily at it with their respective Courts. The last-named granted a charter while in residence in 1221.

The lands subsequently formed a portion of the Thanage of Fermartyn, Fyvie Castle being the principal messuage.

About 1380, Robert II. conferred the thanage upon his eldest son, the Steward of Scotland, who shortly afterwards resigned it in favour of his cousin, Sir James de Lindsay, historically known as "Dominus de Crawford et Buchan." He married Margaret Keith, daughter of the Earl Marischal. This lady, in her husband's absence in the south, was besieged at Fyvie by her nephew, Robert Keith, and his followers. Bravely defending the castle, she contrived to get notice sent to her consort, who at once marched northward with 400 followers, determined

to punish the besiegers. Keith, having learned of the advance, moved off to meet his foe, and gave battle near the kirk of Bourtie. He was signally defeated, however, with the loss of 50 of his men.

The thanage was granted in 1390 to Sir Henry Preston, son of Sir Simon Preston of Craigmillar, Midlothian, for the redemption of Sir Ralph de Percy, who, two years previously, had been taken prisoner at the battle of Otterburn. Sir Henry married Lindsay's sister, and, dying about 1433, was survived by two daughters, who thus became co-heiresses. This led to the division of the thanage—Tolquhon going with one daughter, who married Sir John Forbes, brother of the first Lord Forbes.

Fyvie lands and castle, by the marriage of the other daughter, were carried, in 1438, to Alexander Meldrum, of the family of Meldrum of Meldrum. Sir George Meldrum of Fyvie and Banchory, their grandson, is described by Bishop Lesley as "ane vailyeant and wyse gentleman." In 1544, he was despatched as Ambassador to Henry VIII. of England, and at other times he was engaged on important Government missions. Before the end of the century, however, the family had become greatly embarrassed, which necessitated their borrowing extensively. They neglected the castle and estate to such an extent that, in October, 1576, George Meldrum, son and apparent heir of the late William Meldrum of Fyvie, raised an action of damages in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeenshire against Dame Jean Gordon, Lady of Fyvie, his grandmother, "For the latting of the Tour, fortalice, and maneir plaice of Fyvie, woddis thairof, and uthers office houssis fall down, decay, ruyne, and the said wods cuttit and destroyit." (Sheriff Court Records.)

In 1596, the estate and castle were sold to Alexander Seton, fourth son of George, seventh Lord Seton, and younger brother



of Robert, eighth Lord Seton and first Earl of Winton. In the language of the author of the revised edition of Pratt's Buchan (pp. 401-2)—

Alexander Seton was one of the ablest and most distinguished lawyers and statesmen of his time. He was appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session in 1586, with the title of Lord Pluscarden—a title derived from the Priory of Pluscarden, in Morayshire, which, with the accompanying lands, had been conveyed to him by Queen Mary, his godmother, as "ane goodbairne gift." Two years later, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Session under the title of Lord Urquhart (from the lands of Urquhart, in Morayshire, which also belonged to him); and in 1593 he became Lord President of the Court. He was created a peer of Scotland, with the title of Lord Fyvie, in 1597; he became Chancellor of Scotland in 1604; and in the following year he was created Earl of Dunfermline. He played a conspicuous part in the politics of the time. He rendered considerable service to James VI. of Scotland when that sovereign became King of England; he was a Commissioner for the union afterwards projected between England and Scotland; and he was King's Commissioner at the Parliament of Edinburgh, 1612, which confirmed the proceedings of the Glasgow Assembly of 1610 and rescinded the Act of 1592 establishing Presbytery. He continued Chancellor till his death at Pinkie House, near Musselburgh, in 1622.

In the Parish Church of Fyvie is an oak panel bearing his arms in heraldic colours flanked by the date 1603. At the top is the motto "Semper," while underneath are the name and title

ALEXANDER SETON  
LORD FYVIE.

It was probably in the time of the Setons that the following rhyme was composed—

There are six great barons of the north—  
Fyvie, Findlater, and Philorth;  
An' if you ask the other three—  
Pitligo, Drum, and Delgaty.

Charles, the second Earl of Dunfermline and the second Lord Fyvie, son of the

third marriage of the first Earl with Margaret Hay, sister of the Earl of Tweeddale, succeeded. He was for a time an active Covenanter, which led to Fyvie Castle being captured and occupied in 1644 by Royalist troops under Montrose. A battle followed in the immediate vicinity between these troops and those of the Covenanters led by the Duke of Argyll. After the execution of Charles I., the Earl attached himself to the cause of Charles II., and at the Restoration he was made a Privy Councillor. In 1669 he was appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session, and in the same year a Lord of the Articles, while in 1671 he was elected Lord Privy Seal. He married Lady Mary Douglas, daughter of William, Earl of Morton; and, dying in 1672, was succeeded by his eldest son.

Alexander Seton, the third Earl of Dunfermline and the third Lord Fyvie, enjoyed the title for only a brief period. He died within two years, and was succeeded by his youngest brother.

James Seton, the fourth and last Earl of Dunfermline and the fourth Lord Fyvie, unfortunately was induced to join Viscount Dundee, and he fought at Killiecrankie in 1689. For this he was outlawed, and the Fyvie estate and castle were forfeited to the Crown. He died in exile at St Germain in 1694.

Fyvie was purchased in 1726 by William Gordon, second Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., who married as his third wife Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon. By his marriage contract with this lady, he became bound to settle an estate of a certain value upon her eldest son. In implement of this condition, he bequeathed Fyvie to the eldest son of the marriage—General the Honourable William Gordon. He was for many years a Member of Parliament and Groom of the Bed Chamber to George III. A

tablestone within a railed enclosure on the south side of Fyvie Church commemorates him and his lady and their only son, the inscription being—

General the Honourable William Gordon of Fyvie, died 25th May, 1816, aged 80. And the Honble. Mrs Gordon of Fyvie, died 3rd June, 1824, aged 80. Also William Gordon of Fyvie, their only son, who died 9th January, 1847, aged 71.

A separate monument within the same enclosure portrays a phoenix rising from the flames, while underneath is a Latin inscription, which may be translated into English—

Oh race dismayed by the dread of cold death!  
Why fear the Stygian shore? Why darkness?—  
Empty names.

If your lives have been upright and unstained  
by crime

Think not that your bodies can suffer harm,  
Whether they consume by flame of funeral pile  
Or crumble slowly to dust in the grave.  
Your souls are exempt from death.

There is also, within the church, a white marble wall tablet to the above William Gordon, which is inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of William Gordon of Fyvie, only son of General the Honble. William Gordon of Fyvie, who died on the 9th day of January, 1847, in the 72nd year of his age.

This tablet was erected by his kinsman William Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie as a mark of respect to his predecessor, who for a long period possessed the highest regard of a numerous tenantry, and the warmest affection of a wide circle of friends.

William Gordon was considered "a good scholar and antiquary." He rendered material aid in the preparation of the account of the parish published in the New Statistical Account of Scotland.

Charles Gordon, cousin of the preceding, and the eldest son of the Honourable Alexander Gordon (Lord Rockville), third son of William Gordon, second Earl of

Aberdeen, succeeded. Inside the church, and on its south wall, is a white marble tablet surmounted by an urn, bearing the inscription—

In memory of Charles Gordon Esq. of Fyvie, eldest son of the Honble. Alexander Gordon (Lord Rockville) and Anne, Countess of Dumfries; who died at Southsea, in the county of Hants, on the 17th February, 1851, and of Eliza his wife who died at the same place on the 9th September, 1853. Also of their youngest son, Captain Charles William Gordon, Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed, who died in London on the 15th June, 1863.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

This tablet and the two east windows are placed in the parish church of Fyvie by William Cosmo Gordon and Alexander Henry Gordon, as a tribute of love and respect to their beloved parents and brother. February, 1864.

These beautiful memorial windows are now in the west end of the church. The one in memory of Mr and Mrs Gordon represents Paul preaching at Philippi—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The other, in memory of Captain Charles William Gordon, depicts Moses lifting up the brazen serpent—"By faith Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness." Charles Gordon married Eliza, widow of William Clutton; and, besides the youngest son commemorated in the inscription, they had two other sons—William Cosmo Gordon and Alexander Henry Gordon—each of whom became in turn the proprietor of Fyvie and Maryculter.

William Cosmo Gordon has a handsome granite monument batted to the south wall of the church. The inscription is—

In loving memory of William Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie and Maryculter, born 17th May, 1810, died 18th December, 1879. A devoted husband, and to all a true loving and sympathising friend. "He is not dead but sleepeth." Erected by his sorrowing widow Mary Grace,

3rd daughter of Sir Robert Abercromby, 5th Baronet of Birkenbog and Forglen.

The above named Mary Grace Gordon died 4th December, 1887. . . . .

William Cosmo Gordon was for some time a Captain of Artillery in the service of the Honourable East India Company, and he was afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel of the Aberdeen Artillery Volunteer Corps. Among many philanthropic works which he carried out, he built and endowed Fyvie Cottage Hospital, and also the church at the Cross of Jackston.

The next proprietor has a massive Celtic cross to his memory within an enclosure. The inscription is—

Alexander Henry Gordon of Fyvie and Maryculter, born Jan. 14, 1813, died March 5, 1884. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Erected to his memory by his very dear wife Catharine Jane Bradby, daughter of Admiral Douglas, born Nov. 30, 1819, died July 9, 1891. . . . .

Mr Gordon provided funds for the erection of a hall connected with Fyvie Parish Church, and it was built by his widow.

Sir Maurice Duff-Gordon, Bart., of Halkin, Ayrshire, only son of Sir Alexander Cornewall Duff-Gordon, and the grandson of William Gordon, second son of Lord Rockville, succeeded, but, falling into financial difficulties, the estate was disentailed, and sold in 1889.

The purchaser was Alexander John Forbes-Leith, son of Rear-Admiral John James Leith (second son of General Alexander Leith Hay of Rannes and Leith-hall), and his wife, Margaret Forbes, the heiress of Blackford. In 1905, he was created a peer as Baron Leith of Fyvie—an honour which gave much satisfaction, not only in the parish, but throughout the country, on account of the tangible interest which he manifested in the Gordon Highlanders who volunteered for

service in the late South African war. Lord Leith's maternal descent is given in an inscription on a massive monument within the family burying-ground at Fyvie. From it the following extracts are taken—

Alexander Forbes of Aquhorthies and Lethentie, 2nd son of John Forbes of Leslie and Margaret Skene of Skene, born 1625, died 1681.

Alexander Forbes, born 1657, died 1713. Married Helen Gellie of Blackford, 1702, who died 1731.

Alexander Forbes of Blackford, born 1703, died 1750. Married Mary Askew, 1727.

Alexander Forbes, born 1728, died 1759. Married Catherine Gordon of Badenscoth, 1754.

Alexander Forbes, born 1755, died 1784.

John Forbes of Blackford, born 1758, died 1840. Married Anna Margaret Gregory, 1784, who died 1825.

Alexander Forbes of Blackford, born 1786, died 1851. Married Margaret Bannerman, 1816, by whom he had two sons and three daughters, who all predeceased him except one daughter Margaret.

With respect to the site of Fyvie Castle, its selection on a plateau close to the left bank of the Ythan had doubtless been influenced by the fact that the undulating ground around was permanently covered by water in remote times. The small island would thus have formed—before the days of gunpowder—a strong natural defence for any building erected upon it.

The original "Chastel of Fyvyn" is believed to have been erected between 1165 and 1214, and to have occupied practically the same site as the present castle, the older portion of which is known to date from about 1400. Sir Henry Preston was the builder, and he left an indelible memorial in the massive Preston Tower which he raised at the east end of the main structure. At the opposite end of this portion the Meldrums erected another tower, known as the



Meldrum Tower, while the first Earl of Dunfermline built the Seton Tower between the two, and carried out other improvements of such tasteful and high-class architectural design as to make the castle the wonder and admiration of experts who visit it from all parts of the country (the date is preserved in the inscription "1599 ZEIRIS" upon a small sandstone block built over a doorway facing the south). From the west end the castle is carried northward, where there is the Gordon Tower, erected in 1777 by General the Honourable William Gordon, who likewise made various alterations in the general structure. Westward from the Gordon Tower, a Forbes-Leith Tower was erected by the present proprietor in 1890. On each of the two south oriel windows of this addition are the initials "A.J.F.L., V. 1890 R.I., M.L.F.L.," while the following homely inscription in large letters is divided between the two—

GANG EAST & WAST  
BUT HAMES BEST.

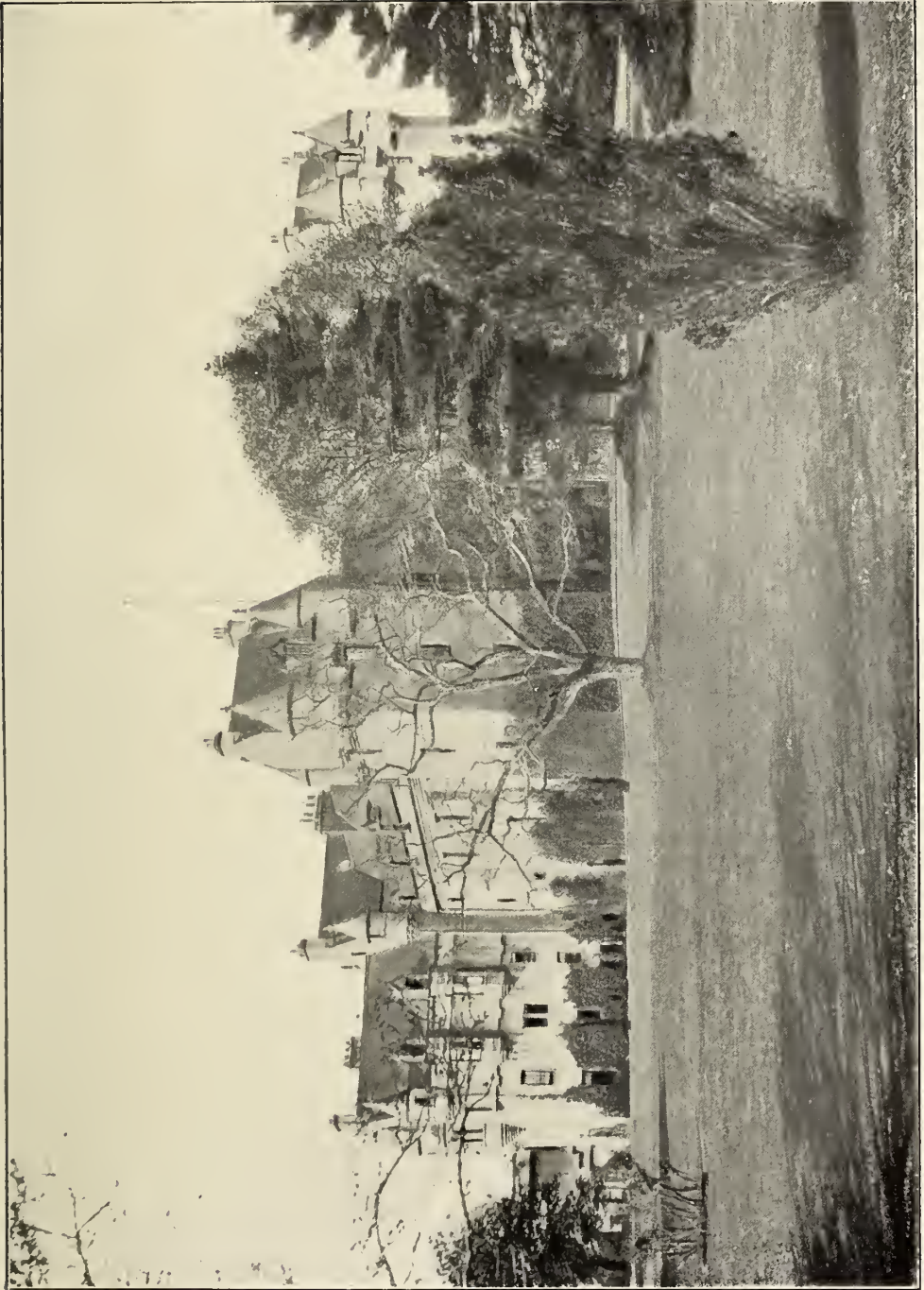
Lord Leith has also effected numerous improvements, exercising the utmost care, however, that all additions and alterations should harmonise with the general character of the magnificent structure. Plans, drawings, and technical details respecting the architecture are given in Billings' "Baronial Antiquities of Scotland," and Messrs Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland." (See also Hay's "Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire"; Dr William Ferguson's "Twelve Sketches"; The New Statistical Account of Scotland under "Fyvie"; Pratt's "Buchan" (revised edition, Aberdeen, 1901); and Temple's "Thauage of Fermartyn," in all of which particulars are given of the weird sayings, prophecies, and stirring events connected with the castle.)

It may be added that when recent excavations were being made near the Preston Tower, in connection with the castle water supply, the foundation of a massive wall was exposed. This had doubtless been a portion of the original castle or of the other half of the square long since removed.

#### GIGHT.

The lands of Gight (locally pronounced Gicht) belonged in the fifteenth century to the family of Maitland (ancestors of the Maitlands of Pittrichie), of whom Sir Patrick Maitland was also laird of Netherdale, Shives, etc. He was succeeded by two heiresses — Jauet Maitland, who married her cousin, Thomas Baird of Ordinhivas; and Elizabeth Maitland, who married Annand of Auchterellon. From a cause which has not been satisfactorily explained—one authority says "because of many unwary securities"—Sir Patrick's affairs became much involved. As a result, the two heiresses resigned the lands on 25th May, 1467, in favour of "George, Lord Gordon and Master of Huntlie" (afterwards the second Earl of Huntly). The charter (which is written in the vernacular) uarrates the great assistance which had been rendered by Gordon to the granters in connection with the property, and it also acknowledges his having helped them till their marriage with "gret souns of gold and silvuyr, and other moveabels, gudes, etc." Gordon, in completion of his title, secured a Crown charter on 12th June following. On 8th October, 1479, he bestowed Gight upon his second son, Adam Gordon, who, on 1st November, 1490, exchanged it with his immediate younger brother for Aboyne.

This William Gordon, who fell at Flodden in 1513, may be said to be the first of the Gight Gordons, the history of whose respective lawless careers and con-



Fyvie Castle.





sequent misfortunes, for a period extending to three centuries, reads more like a chapter of romance than of reality. The ruffian character was so ingrained in the family that it doubtless suggested to the rhymer the well-known lines—

Twa men sat down in Ythan Brae;

The ane did to the ither say—

“ And what sic men may the Gordons o' Gight  
hae been?”

History and the criminal records furnish a too vivid reply.

William Gordon married Janet Ogilvie, daughter of the laird of Boyne, and they had a family of four sons and probably one daughter—George, second of Gight; James of Cairnbannoch [his eldest son William was drowned in the Bogie, his second son John fell in battle, while his grandson John aided in the assassination of Wallenstein]; John, fourth of Gight; Thomas; and (probably) Barbara.

Sir George Gordon, the second laird, with others, was ordered, in 1562, to keep within the burgh of Edinburgh “and four miles thereabout till freed by the Queen's Majesty.” He married Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Robert Gordon of Fetterletter, who was the son of James Gordon, first of Haddo. According to Pitcairn's “Criminal Trials” (Vol. I., p. 453), they had one son George. This hopeful, with his father and eighteen others, was charged before the Privy Council on 12th October, 1564, with “the crewale invasion of William Con of Auchry and hurting and wounding of him in divers parts of his body to the great effusion of his blude; and striking and dragging with a brydill three of Con's cottars and others.”

George Gordon, the third laird, was a leading spirit in the Gordon-Forbes feud, of which the burning of Towie in 1571 formed an instalment. In the winter of 1579-80 he was shot by the Forbesees on the shore of Dundee. He had married

Agnes Beaton, a natural daughter of Cardinal David Beaton and Mariota Ogilvy, sister of Lord Ogilvy. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who afterwards married Sir George Home of Spott, created Earl of Dunbar in 1605.

John Gordon, son of the first laird, succeeded. He married Marjory Gordon, daughter of the laird of Lesmoir, and they had a family of four sons and several daughters, among whom were—William, the fifth laird; John, who was severely wounded at the murder of the Bonnie Earl of Moray and the firing of Donibristle, for participation in which he was executed at Edinburgh 12th February, 1591-2; Alexander, a soldier, who came to an untimely end; George, who, according to the Balbithan MS., was killed by the “Master of Monteith”; Margaret, who became the second wife of Alexander Chalmers of Strichen—their son John took part in the Donibristle attack above mentioned; Catherine, who married John Keith of Clachriach, whom her brother William murdered on 2nd December, 1589, at the Justice Port, Aberdeen; and Elspet, who married Arthur Garden of Banchory.

William Gordon, long before succeeding as fifth laird, had graduated as a brigand of the most brutal type. He was the murderer of William Leslie, son of William Leslie, first of Warthill, and son-in-law of Gordon of Auchindoir. On 23rd December, 1576, he murdered Thomas Fraser of Strichen at the Bridge of Ugie, near Old Deer. For this crime he had to pay 5000 merks as compensation. In 1589, he was ordered “as a rebel” to surrender Gight within six hours after demand. In 1590, he had to find caution for £10,000 for the preservation of good order on his estate. In 1598, he was engaged in a protracted feud with the Mowats of Balquholly, and when, in 1601, a Privy Council messenger went to serve letters upon him to compare

and answer for his conduct towards Mowat as also to find legal monetary security, he took what he believed were the principal letters, "kaist thame in a dische of bree," and with "ane drawne dagger foirament his hairt," compelled the officer to swallow the same. This scandalous conduct was resented at headquarters, and the Marquis of Huntly, as King's Lieutenant, was directed to apprehend Gordon and to bring him, "quick or deid," before the King. On 18th July of the same year, accompanied by many armed followers, he made a midnight attack upon Turriff, and grossly maltreated William Duffus. He died in 1605, and his interment with Roman Catholic honours caused dire offence to the King and Council. By his wife, Isobel Ochterlony, he had a family of seven sons and seven daughters—George, his successor; John, of Ardlogie, who gained an unenviable notoriety through his connection with the gang of marauders known as the "Societie and Companie of Boyis," or "Knights of the Mortar"; William, who was implicated in the raid on Turriff above stated, and was put to the horn; Patrick, in Boghead, who, in 1601, murdered Robert Catto, servant to Mowat of Balquholly, was a party to the attacks upon Fraser of Stoneywood and Fraser of Durriss in 1609, upon Alexander Bannerman of Waterton in 1612, upon the Hays in 1615, and upon William Leask of Leask in 1615-16, and at length was shot by his own son Richard, whom he had persecuted in a barbarous manner for marrying the girl of his own choice!; Adam, who assisted in the Fraser and Bannerman attacks, and fought a duel on 15th December, 1615, with Francis Hay of Logierieve, who, in wrath at his defeat, shot Gordon dead; Alexander, who, in 1616, was proclaimed a rebel for attacking Leask of that Ilk, and who was an overbearing, heartless scoundrel, as proved by the record of his

onslaughts on Keith of Balmure and his tenants, upon the luckless parson of Methlick, Rev. John Mercer, and also upon John Hedderwick in Boddum; Robert, who was probably as wild as his brothers; Janet; Christian, who married Sir Adam Gordon of Park; Anna, Jean, Lucy, Elspet, and Marjorie.

George Gordon, the sixth laird, excelled his predecessors—if possible—in defying the law and terrorising the county. He was the ringleader in the protracted quarrel with the Hays, in which Francis Hay was put to death with much brutality. A record of his escapades would fill a volume. He died in prison in 1640. He was twice married—first, to Isobel Wood, daughter of Sir Patrick Wood of Bonnyton; and, secondly, to Jean, daughter of George Abernethy, seventh Lord Saltoun, and widow of Sir John Lindsay of Kinfauns. His family included George, who succeeded; John, who aided in the raid on Montrose, and was in prison in Edinburgh in 1644; Alexander; Barbara, who, in 1620, married John Turing, the last laird of Foveran of that surname (see Foveran); Mary, who married Alexander Innes of Coxtou; and Lilian, who married the Hon. William Hay of Fetterletter, son of the eighth Earl of Erroll.

George Gordon, the seventh laird, formed, in 1644, one of the body of Royalists who rode into Aberdeen and took the Provost and others connected with the Magistracy as prisoners, carrying them to Strathbogie, and thence to Auchindoun. A month later he aided in an attack upon Banff. He kept the minister of Fyvie for many years without payment of the stipend due from the estate of Gight. In 1648, he was summoned by Parliament to "compear and answer for the cryme of malignancie," etc. He married Lady Elizabeth Ogilvy, daughter of the sixth Lord Ogilvy of Airlie; and

of their family were George, who succeeded, and Barbara.

George Gordon, the eighth laird, in July, 1642, married the daughter of Keith of Ludquharn, and put forward a claim to possession of Gight on the plea that his father—who was a fugitive in Germany when the sixth laird died—had never been “infest thairintill.” His mother resisted and refused to deliver up the titles, whereupon the unnatural son—aided by his father-in-law and a considerable force—besieged the castle. Ultimately, a friendly settlement was arranged. In February, 1644, he took part in the plundering of the lands of Tartie belonging to Dr Dun. He managed to escape safely when the castle was surrendered to the Covenanters in the same year. He had two children, George and Marie.

George Gordon, the ninth laird, would seem to have been honoured with a baronetcy. On the back of the Gight monument in Fyvie Churchyard is an imposing coat of arms, having at the top the motto “Bydand,” below which are the initials S G. G. and D E. V. The date 1685 flanks the coat of arms, below which is the motto, “By sea and land.” These markings undoubtedly commemorate Sir George and his wife, Dame Elizabeth Vrqhart, only daughter of Patrick Vrqhart of Meldrum, who were survived by an only daughter.

Marie Gordon, who succeeded, married, in 1701, Alexander Davidson, younger of Newton, Culsalmond, who undertook to liquidate certain debts due by his mother-in-law. This led to much trouble, Davidson doing his utmost to evade his obligation. Of the family were George, Alexander first, Alexander second, Alexander third, who became eleventh laird of Gight; Elizabeth, who married James Gordon of Techmuiry; Isobel, who married William Fordyce of Monkshill; and Jean,

born 1st June, 1709. The last-named is stated by several authors to have married Andrew Robertson, of Foveran, but such is not the fact, the Jean Davidson whom he married having been born on 20th June, 1742, and died 17th February, 1823. (Tombstone at Foveran.)

Alexander Gordon, the eleventh laird, and his wife and twelve children are commemorated by a monument at Fyvie, the inscription being—

To the Memory of Alexander Gordon, Esq., of Gight, who was born the 3rd of May, 1710, and died at Gight the 24th of January, 1761; and of Margaret Duff, his Spouse, who was born the 20th of December, 1720, and died at Banff the 13th November, 1801. They had issue 9 Sons and 3 Daughters, viz. :—George, Alexander, Patrick, John, Willm., James, Archibald, Robert, Adam, Elizabeth, Mary, and Margaret.

This is erected by their only Surviving Child, Elizabeth, who also died at Banff, 20th June, 1804.

The above inscription incorrectly gives the year of Mr Gordon's death as 1761, instead of 1760. The “Aberdeen Journal” of 29th January, 1760, records the event thus—

We hear, from Fyvie, that on Thursday last, died, Alexander Gordon, Esq., of Gight, much regreted. He was an honest, inoffensive Gentleman; an affectionate Husband, indulgent Parent, sincere Friend, kind Master, and a good Christian. He having frequently found Benefit to his health by using the Cold Bath, had the Misfortune to perish in the Water of Ythan, while he was bathing, the Water being suddenly swelled by melted Snow.

Mr Gordon's wife was Margaret, daughter of Patrick Duff of Craigston, uncle of the first Earl Fife and the progenitor of the Duffs of Hatton.

George Gordon, the eldest son of the preceding, succeeded as twelfth laird. He died at Bath 9th January, 1779. His wife was Catherine, daughter of Alexander



Innes of Rosieburn, and they had a family of three daughters—Catherine, Margaret, and Abercromby.

Catherine Gordon, the eldest daughter, succeeded. On 13th May, 1785, she married an impecunious widower of questionable character in the person of Captain John Byron, and on 22nd January, 1788, gave birth to a son, George Gordon, who afterwards became Lord Byron, the famous poet. Unfortunately, she had taken no steps before marriage to safeguard her patrimony, which amounted to £3000 in cash, certain bank shares, and the lands of Gight and Monkshill, besides the superiority of two salmon fishings on the Dee. Within three years the landed property had gone, and all that remained for her future support was the slender annuity of £150.

In 1787, Gight was purchased at the price of £17,850 by George, third Earl of Aberdeen, for his son, Lord Haddo, who, on Sunday, 2nd October, 1791, died there through a fall from his horse. The "Aberdeen Journal," in announcing the death, made no mention of the cause, but an elegy on Lord Haddo, which appeared in a later issue, contained the lines—

How in the prime—the glory of his age  
A much lov'd lord, by sudden fate cut down,  
Did meet his death, which nought seem'd to  
presage.

The estate is still Aberdeen property.

Plans and a full description of the old castle are given in Messrs Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" (Vol. I., p. 323). These authors say that the structure, "now a shapeless ruin, was formerly celebrated for its great strength. . . . It occupies a strong and commanding site on the summit of the Braes o' Gight, which rise precipitously from the river Ythan about three miles from Fyvie. . . . The estate became the property,

in 1479, of William Gordon, third son of the second Earl of Huntly, and the castle is supposed to have been built by him" (between 1480 and 1513).

#### MONKSHILL.

The lands of Monkshill originally formed a portion of the possessions of the Priory of Fyvie, which depended upon the Abbey of Arbroath.

In 1508, the property—together with the Kirklands of Fyvie and Tarves—was leased by the Abbot to Sir Alexander Mason, monk, for his life-time. Before 1550, Sir George Gordon of Gight, second son of the fourth Earl of Huntly, had Papal confirmation of a charter to the lands and others by James Beaton, Abbot of Arbroath. As hereditary tenant, or feuvar, Sir George was called upon, in May, 1558, to vindicate in the Sheriff Court of Aberdeenshire, his rights to Monkshill, which had been challenged and encroached upon by William Forbes of Tolquhon and William Meldrum of Fyvie, each of whom owned land adjoining. The boundaries of the estate were given—

Begyannand at the Monkis . . . and passand doun the Monkis Burne as the watter rynniss quhill it cum to the lang furd at the nethir end of the Monkis Hillok. And frathyne passand up the stripe that cumis furth of the greyne myre that lyix betuix the Monkis Hillok and the Moss of Tifty, and haldand up the said stripe and outmaist myre quhill it cum to the well heid at the North-west nuik of the peit myre of Monkis-hill. And frathyne directlie to the Kilslak.

In 1625, James, Marquis of Hamilton, was served heir to his father in the superiority of the lands of Monkshill, Kirktown of Fyvie, Mill of Fyvie, Ardlogie, and others. In 1634, when a valuation of the parish was taken in order to get the value of the teind fixed, the name of Nathaniel Gordon appears as heritor of Monkshill.

On 1st April, 1662, George, Earl of Panmure, was served heir to his father in the superiority, etc.

Before 1670, Robert Dunbar, Mill of Balcairn, and his wife, Marjorie Leslie, had become proprietors, probably through foreclosing mortgage bonds which they held over the property. Mrs Leslie was the daughter of James Leslie of Chapeltown. In 1696—"as relict of the deceased Robert Dunbar"—she was resident at Monkshill, where also resided her three children—Alexander, Anna, and Mary. That the family had occupied good social standing is shown by Mrs Leslie having kept two female domestic servants, to each of whom she paid £8 of wages. An interesting memento of Mr and Mrs Dunbar is preserved in Fyvie Church in a small mural oak panel. It is in the south-east corner beside the Monkshill pews; and, besides showing a coat of arms and the date 1671, it gives the initials R. D., as also M. L., representing Robert Dunbar and his wife, Marjorie Leslie.

Alexander Dunbar succeeded his father in both Monkshill and Balcairn, his service being dated 10th May, 1700. (*Antiq.*, III., p. 416.) He married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of William Smith, Mill of Tiftie, and sister of "Tiftie's Annie." William Smith younger in Tiftie succeeded his father, but having been carried off by fever on 13th March, 1705, Dunbar secured a lease of the historic holding, as also of that of Mill of Gourdas. He and his wife and family—with a daughter's husband—are commemorated by a tablestone on the south side of the church. The inscription is—

To the memory of George Dunbar, late in Mill of Tiftie, who died in the year 1794, aged 79. Jean Dunbar, sometime spouse to James Fraser in North Essie, who died in 1781, aged 75. Also William, Alexander, Robert, Sarah, and Elizabeth Dunbars, the sons and daughters of Alexander Dunbar of Monkshill and

Elizabeth Smith, his spouse, who lived and died at Mill of Tiftie, and are interred here.

William Dunbar, the eldest son, continued in Mill of Tiftie, and, dying before 1744, was succeeded by his younger brother, George Dunbar, who died in 1794, as stated in the inscription. The late Rev. Dr Milne was a descendant of these Dunbars.

According to Rev. Dr Temple (*Thanage of Fermartyu*, pp. 79-80), the above-mentioned Alexander Dunbar received, in 1702, from Marie Gordon of Gight and her husband, Alexander Davidson, a precept of "clare constat," whereby the town and lands of Monkshill were declared redeemable by them as superiors for the sum of 3000 merks. The same authority bears that Alexander Gordon of Gight, shortly after his accession on 29th January, 1740, redeemed the lands of Monkshill by paying up the 3000 merks. Four years later, however, he sold them to William Fordyce, merchant, and formerly a baillie of the city of Aberdeen, and William Fordyce, his only son, the price being 6000 merks. This was doubtless a family arrangement to tide over Gordon's pressing liabilities. In 1768, the last-named William Fordyce, who was a captain of the Marines, resold Monkshill to the succeeding laird of Gight, George Gordon.

From 1768 to 1787, the history of Monkshill is that of Gight, but on 10th March of the latter year Mrs Captain Byron sold, for £480, Monkshill and the superiority of certain fishings in the Dee.

The purchaser was James Hay, Bridgend, Fyvie, who was factor for Lord Aberdeen and others. He and his wife and eldest daughter have a tablestone within an enclosure in Fyvie Churchyard. The inscription is—

To the memory of James Hay of Monkshill, who died 11th February, 1801, aged 75, and Elizabeth Fraser, his spouse, who died at Bridgend of Fyvie, 25th July, 1813, aged 77.

To the memory also of Jane Hay, their eldest daughter, who died at Bridgend upon the 24th day of January, 1840, aged 67 years.

James Hay, the only surviving son of the preceding, succeeded to Monkshill. He is commemorated by two separate monuments in the same enclosure. The inscriptions are—

(1).

The place of interment of James Hay, Esq. of Monkshill, who died 14th February, 1828, aged 53 years. Also Elizabeth Hay, his youngest sister, who died 29th April, 1863, in the 87th year of her age.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of James Hay of Monkshill, who died 14th February, 1828, aged 53.

In public life he was honourable, intelligent, and useful; in private benevolent, hospitable, and friendly. His memory will long be cherished, and his loss lamented in his native Parish and by a wide circle of Acquaintances.

The "Aberdeen Journal," in announcing the death of Mr Hay, adds the following tribute—

Died at Aberdeen, on the 14th inst., James Hay, Esq. of Monkshill, aged 53; a gentleman of the strictest probity and honour; a warm-hearted friend; and a most intelligent and extensively useful member of society. His unaffected kindness and benevolence will be long remembered in his native parish, and among a very extensive circle of acquaintance.

Mr Hay lived on terms of the closest intimacy with Mr Charles Chalmers, who named his first-born son James Hay Chalmers. Mr Hay bequeathed Monkshill to Mr Chalmers, but subject to the life-rent of the testator's youngest sister, Elizabeth, and to other small annuities.

On the outer south wall of the church, within an enclosure, are two polished granite tablets with highly ornamental mouldings. The inscriptions are—

(1).

Under the shadow of the Almighty, Here rest the remains of Charles Chalmers of Monkshill,

in this parish, Advocate, Aberdeen, and of his wife, Mary, daughter of Alexander Henderson of Stemster, Caithness. The former was born 6th July, 1790, and died 28th November, 1877. The latter was born 6th Aug., 1796, and died 23rd July, 1869.

(2).

Here also are interred James Hay, their eldest son, Advocate and Commissary Clerk of Aberdeenshire, who was born 7th January, 1829, and died at Torquay 24th April, 1867; and Alexander Henderson, their second son, Writer to Her Majesty's Signet, Edinburgh, and Commissary Clerk of Aberdeenshire, who was born 30th Sept. 1830, and died 3rd Nov., 1871.

William Gordon, their third son, Captain in H.M. Bengal Staff Corps, died at Kussowlie, Upper India, 21st August, 1868, and rests in the graveyard there.

Here also rests their fifth and youngest son, Patrick Henderson Chalmers of Avochie, Advocate, Aberdeen: born 12th July, 1839, died 19th Feb. 1889.

For so He giveth His beloved sleep.—  
Ps. cxxvii., 2.

And also their fourth son, Charles David Chalmers of Monkshill, Major-General, late Royal Artillery. Born 8th June, 1837, died 20th July, 1893. . . .

A small marble cross in the same enclosure bears—

In memory of James William Douglas, 2nd son of Patrick Henderson and Jane Chalmers. Born April 30th, 1884: died May 22nd, 1886.

Charles Chalmers was the youngest son of James Chalmers, proprietor of the "Aberdeen Journal." Admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen in 1812, his abilities and high character enabled him speedily to build up a wide professional connection. He was political agent for the Hon. Admiral Gordon, M.P. for Aberdeenshire, and for Lord Haddo, afterwards Earl of Aberdeen. He was also factor for many estates.

James Hay Chalmers, the eldest son, became a member of the Society of Advo-



cates in 1854, and soon after a partner in the firm of Chalmers and Farquhar, advocates, Aberdeen. In 1861, he was appointed Commissary Clerk for the county. He had a taste for archaeological pursuits, and wrote several papers upon the subject to the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland), of which he was a Fellow. Along with Mr C. Elphinstone-Dalrymple, he rendered yeoman service in bringing together the collections of antiquities and fine pictures which were exhibited at Aberdeen during the sittings of the British Association in 1859. His premature decease was much deplored, the press in its tribute characterising him as one of Aberdeen's "most accomplished and honourable citizens." Colonel and Mrs W. Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie, for whom he acted as legal adviser, etc., included his name in the inscription on the cross which they erected to mark the site of the Priory of Fyvie.

The "Edinburgh Courant" inserted a touching notice on the death of Alexander Henderson Chalmers, the second son, who removed from Edinburgh to Aberdeen in 1867 on being appointed to succeed his brother as Commissary Clerk for Aberdeenshire.

Captain William Gordon Chalmers, the third son, who was born in Fyvie on 30th April, 1835, entered the army in 1854, and was posted to the 51st N.I., with which he served until, in the Mutiny of 1857, his regiment ceased to exist. (See Life of Sir Herbert Edwards.) Like most British officers in those dark days, he believed to the last in the fidelity of his men, over whom, through his familiarity with the language, his courage, and personal strength, he had secured great influence. He received a touching proof of their devotion by their voluntarily forming a guard around his hut while he continued to sleep in the lines. Afterwards

actively engaging in the drilling of the levies who helped to save the Punjaub and aid in the capture of Delhi, he subsequently served with the 19th and 15th Punjaubees. With the latter he went to China, and was present at the capture of Peking and the other engagements there. Returning to India, he took part in the Umbeyla campaign. Frequently mentioned in despatches, a brilliant future seemed to lie before him, but it was otherwise ordered, and, when only 33, his earthly career was closed, after a short illness.

A tablet in the church describes him as

A true man,  
A gallant soldier.  
He did his duty.

And a scroll bears the words—

India, Taku Forts, Peking, Umbeyla.

Major-General Charles David Chalmers, the fourth son, who succeeded to Monkshill on the death of his father, received his commission in 1855, and in May, 1857, sailed for the Cape. Before arrival, however, the Indian Mutiny had broken out, and he was hurried forward to Calcutta. He took part in many of the stirring engagements of that trying period, including the capture of Lucknow. For these services he received the medal and clasps. He is commemorated by a separate and most artistic champléve enamel brass—with bronze head medallion—designed by Pittendrigh MacGillivray, R.S.A.

Patrick Henderson Chalmers, the fifth and youngest son, was admitted a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen on 11th April, 1864. He worthily maintained the high reputation of his father and brothers. He acted for many years as Conservative agent for the county, city, and University, and he was also Clerk of Lieutenancy. His widow—Jane, daughter of the late Aneas R. Macdonnell, of the old family of Glengarry—subsequently

married James Sinclair of Glebe Court, Goring, Oxfordshire, and of Bearwell, Ceylon, who died 21st October, 1905.

Besides the foregoing five sons, Mr and Mrs Charles Chalmers had a daughter, Margaret Douglas, who resides at Rothie-brisbane.

The present proprietor of Monkshill and Avochie is Charles Hugh Lindsay Henderson Chalmers, eldest son of the above Patrick Henderson Chalmers. He attained his majority on 1st June, 1903, when he received gifts and congratulations from the tenantry on both estates. He is qualifying as a barrister.

#### ROTHIENORMAN, Etc.

Before 1360 the lands of Rothienorman were formed into a barony, which subsequently embraced various properties in Fyvie and adjoining parishes. About the period stated, it was possessed by the family of Leslie. In 1390, Norman de Leslie had a charter from Robert III. confirming to him, as heir of Sir Andrew de Leslie, various lands, including Rothienorman and Cushnie. In 1457, these properties were again confirmed—on this occasion by James II. to George Leslie, Earl of Rothes, his "beloved cousin."

The lands of Little Rothie were conferred by Robert the Bruce upon Thomas Brisbane, and from this circumstance they became afterwards known as Rothiebrisbane. Details respecting the Brisbane family are very meagre. It is known, however, that a descendant, Thomas Brisbane, was cousin to Isobel, Countess of Mar, and that in 1402 he witnessed the signature to one of her charters. He was afterwards laird of Laithers. In 1449, John of Fyffe, collector of the King's rents in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, accounted for thirty-six shillings of rent of the third part of Rothiebrisbane, which belonged to the widow of John Duncan.

The lands of Little-Folla for a long period were in the possession of the Gordons of Tilphoudie. About 1600, they were bought by William Leslie, third laird of Warthill, from Mr Gordon, who was his son-in-law. Leslie married Margaret Gray, and they had a son, William Leslie, who, in 1611, got the lands from his father. Colonel Leslie (Family of Leslie) states that in buying the property William Leslie met with great opposition from the Raits, who were then tenants, and whose descendants remained in the parish for many generations.

As early as 1633, George Rait possessed Meikle-Folla, and his son, Archibald Rait, succeeded. In 1696, the property was owned equally by John, George, and William Rait. John Rait married Jean Findlater, and had two sons, John and William. George Rait married Jean Collinson, and had two children, Robert and Elspet. William Rait married Marjorie Brown, and their family at the period stated consisted of a son and a daughter, John and Janet. (For further particulars regarding the Raits see Kintore.)

The last-mentioned William Leslie of Little-Folla married Marjory, daughter of William Crichton, brother of Viscount Frendraught, and it is averred that they suffered much from witchcraft! Mr Leslie died in 1657.

James Leslie, son of the preceding, succeeded. He married Isabella, daughter of Alexander Milne in Monkshill. They had four of a family—William, George, James (George Leslie, son of this James Leslie, was the first Leslie of Kinbroon and Rothienorman, purchased with money bequeathed by his uncle, William Leslie), and Janet. Mr Leslie married, secondly, Agnes Innes, but the union did not prove a happy one. He died in 1693.

William Leslie, the third laird, entered the Church, and was settled for a time at

Aquareagh, Co. Fermanagh. He died unmarried in 1722, aged 71.

George Leslie, younger brother of the preceding, succeeded. He married Isabella, daughter of William Cheyne, Kaithen, and they had a family of two sons and three daughters — William, John, Agnes, Margaret, and Janet. He died 21st June, 1730.

William Leslie, the fifth proprietor, elder son of the preceding, was Episcopal minister at Ellon during the rising in 1715. In the following year he was ejected, and the chapel was burnt. He died unmarried 31st July, 1743.

George Leslie, the younger brother, succeeded. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Gordon of Cults, and they had ten of a family. He died 25th April, 1783, aged 86.

George Leslie, the seventh laird, married Mary, third daughter of Alexander Leslie, eighth laird of Warthill, who became heiress of Warthill on the death of her brother. They had at least two sons—William and George.

James Gordon in Coclarachie, who was long factor to the Duke of Gordon, purchased Little-Folla from the above George Leslie. Alexander Gordon, the eldest son of the second marriage, succeeded, but he sold the property to William Leslie of Warthill.

As already explained, George Leslie, eldest son of James Leslie, third son of James Leslie, second laird of Little-Folla, purchased the lands of Upper Rothie or Rothienorman, Longman's Wells, etc., in 1723. He married Margaret, daughter of James Gordon of Chapeltown, and they had a family of one son and two daughters — James, Margaret, and Elizabeth. He died in 1781.

James Leslie, son of the preceding, succeeded. In 1760, he married Jane, second daughter of William Gordon of Badenscoth,

in right of whom he, in 1779, succeeded to half the estate of Badenscoth. The other half of that property went to Mrs Leslie's sister, Catherine Gordon, or Forbes, widow of Alexander Forbes (1728-1759) of Blackford, from which lady Mr Leslie purchased it, thus uniting Badenscoth and Rothie. Mr and Mrs Leslie had nine of a family — James; George; John, who died at sea; William, who died in India; Jonathan, sometime a merchant in Dublin; Robert; Mary; Grace; and Catherine. Four of these sons are commemorated by inscriptions on three separate monuments within a railed enclosure against the south wall of the church in Fyvie graveyard—

(1).

To the memory of James Leslie of Rothie, who died the 20th of June, 1823, in the 60th year of his age.

(2).

To the memory of George Leslie of Rothie, who died 12th January, 1842, in the 77th year of his age.

And of Jonathan Leslie, his younger brother, who died at Badenscoth, 4th October, 1851, in the 78th year of his age.

(3).

Sacred to the memory of Robert Leslie of Rothie, who died upon the 18th day of February, 1861, in the 87th year of his age, much esteemed and respected.

Erected by his sorrowing widow, Mrs Barbara Niven or Leslie.

His widow died 22nd May, 1873, in her 78th year, and is here interred.

The stone to James Leslie—the elder son, who succeeded to the estates—displays the Leslie arms along with the motto "Grip Fast." Mr Leslie was the builder of the mansion-house of Rothienorman (it was superseded by the present one) and also that of Kinbroon, about a mile to the south-west. He executed a deed of entail of a very stringent character.

George Leslie, the immediate younger brother, succeeded. Like his predecessor,



he never married. He laid out the beautiful grounds about Rothie, planted extensively, and, in addition, took a keen interest in agriculture.

Robert Leslie, the youngest brother, succeeded. His wife, Barbara Niven, was a daughter of Robert Niven, Bruckhills. She succeeded to the small estate of Meadaple, which she bequeathed to her nephew, Robert Niven in Bruckhills.

At Mr Leslie's death, the lands went, in terms of the entail, to Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Forbes, 78th Highlanders, youngest son of John Forbes of Blackford (1758-1840) and his wife, Anna Margaret Gregory. He assumed the patronymic and arms of Leslie. He married Margaret Forbes, eldest daughter of John Urquhart of Craigston, and they had two daughters—Isabella, who succeeded, and Anna Margareta, who, in 1849, married Alexander Forbes Irvine of Drum, sometime Sheriff of Argyllshire, and for the long period of twenty-seven years Convener of the County of Aberdeen. Colonel and Mrs Forbes-Leslie have a massive Celtic cross of grey granite to their memory in the centre of Folla-Rule Cemetery. On the large upper base on which the cross is fixed is the inscription—

In memory of Jonathan Forbes-Leslie of Rothie, late Lieutenant-Colonel of the 78th Highlanders, youngest son of John Forbes of Blackford. Born February 22nd, 1798. Died December 23rd, 1877.

Margaret, widow of Jonathan Forbes-Leslie and elder daughter of John Urquhart of Craigston. Born January 12th, 1800. Died October 15th, 1882.

Isabella Forbes-Leslie married, in 1845, Lieutenant-Colonel James Henry Graham Crawford, of the Bombay Engineers, who died in 1860. They had a family of three sons and two daughters—Henry, Colonel Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who, in 1872, married Susan Annabella Edith Hunter

(issue, four sons and three daughters); Reginald James, who died at Rouen in 1867; William Francis, who died at Cheltenham in 1855; Margaret Elizabeth, who married Alexander Morrison Gordon of Newton, the present Convener of the County of Aberdeen; and Isabella, who married Richard Gcodall Gordon, of the King's School, Canterbury. (See under Folla-Rule Church and Cemetery.) Mrs Crawford-Leslie and her eldest son are commemorated in the following inscription upon one of the sides of the Celtic cross base above mentioned—

Isabella Crawford-Leslie of Rothie. Born 6th January, 1827. Died 25th April, 1904. Daughter of Jonathan Forbes-Leslie, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. G. Crawford, Bombay Engineers. Also, their eldest son Henry Crawford, Colonel Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Born 1st February, 1847. Died 5th December, 1898.

The present proprietor of Rothie-norman, Badenscoth, etc., is Reginald William Henry Crawford-Leslie, eldest grandson of the preceding proprietrix. While comparatively young, he went to Australia, and engaged in various avocations. He afterwards served in the South African War in the Imperial Yeomanry. On 2nd July, 1902, he married Janet Macfie Blaikie, daughter of Walter Blaikie (son of Rev. William Garden Blaikie, D.D., and grandson of James Blaikie, Provost of Aberdeen, 1833-35), one of the partners in Archibald Constable and Company, the well-known printers and publishers.

#### PRIORY.

The old Priory of Fyvie, which stood on a gentle eminence between Lewes and the Parish Church, is held by numerous authors to have been founded in 1179 by Fergus, Earl of Buchan, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to have been conveyed by him to the Benedictine Abbey

of Arbroath, the grant being confirmed by his daughter, Margaret, who afterwards became Countess of Buchan. Others argue that the founder was King William the Lion, while, in the Register of Arbroath, it is stated that a charter was granted at Aberdeen on the Feast of St Luke, 1285, by Reginald le Chen or Cheyne, "giving to God and the Church of St Thomas the Martyr, at Arbroath, and to the Monks of said Monastery in the Religious House built on the Land of Ardlogy, near the Church of St Peter, founded by him at Fyvie, the whole lands of Ardlogy and Leuchendy." The truth may be (as suggested by Rev. John Manson) that the Priory was originally founded by the Earl of Buchan, and that confirmation was granted by his daughter and King William, a re-endowment being made in 1285 by Cheyne.

Henry Cheyne, Bishop of Aberdeen in 1285, issued an order stating that "since the Vicarial Church of St Peter at Fyvie had become vacant through the resignation of Ferchard, he, with the unanimous consent of the Chapter, and at the instance of the Religious of the Abbey and Convent of Arbroath, to whom the Presentation of the Vicarage belonged, decrees that the Religious living together in the said House at Fyvie shall find one Chaplain, who shall administer the Sacraments day and night (if there be necessity) for the Parishioners of the said Church of St Peter at Fyvie, and that he shall be paid for so doing 100s yearly." Looseness and corruption among the monks at Fyvie quickly set in, and in 1325 it became necessary for Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath and Chancellor of Scotland, to send an admonitory letter to Albertinus, the Prior at Fyvie. This remarkable missive, after animadverting on the disorder and want of discipline prevalent at Fyvie, commanded the Prior (or Custodier, as he

was then designated) to hold within the Chancel of the Chapel a Chapter three times each week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—to reform Divine Worship on Sundays and Festivals, to keep the Fasts, and if any of the Brethren should be found drunken, clamorous, abusive, rebellious, or disobedient, to reclaim him if possible by good counsel, and if otherwise to punish him by a course of silence and a diet of bread and water, and, in a secret place, beyond the hearing of the secular world, to cause him to be soundly flogged, and, failing amendment, to transmit him, with a note of the delinquency, to the Abbey, there to be dealt with!

The Priors of Fyvie had a seat in the Scottish Parliament, and possessed considerable influence. They were repeatedly ordered to convene their vassals and tenants for apportionment of taxation. (Acts of Parliament.) The advent of the Reformation, however, swept away their power, and led to the secularising of their possessions.

The author of the View of the Diocese declares that "All that can now (say 1723) be traced of the whole building is the churchyard." Seventy years later, the writer of the Statistical Account says that "From the appearance of the foundations which were extant some years ago, it (the Priory) should seem to have been three sides of a court, the middle of which was the church, and the two sides the cells and offices of the monks." In 1840, the outline of a part—said to have been the chapel—was still distinguishable.

In 1868, Colonel and Mrs William Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie erected a handsome Celtic cross on the site of the Priory. It is inscribed—

This Cross is erected by W. Cosmo and Mary Grace Gordon of Fyvie, A.D., 1868, to mark the site of the Ancient Priory of St Mary, founded in the year 1179, and in memory of J. Hay Chalmers, who died 1867.

## ROYAL BURGH.

A Royal Burgh existed in Fyvie at an early period, but the actual date of its erection has not been ascertained. The burghers (doubtless in appreciation of the honour conferred upon them, and in anticipation that their town would flourish and extend under the Royal patronage) generously advanced a sum of money to the King and Queen; but borrowers then were as slow in paying up as now, for in 1292 it is recorded that the burgh sent a letter remitting the debt. (Acts of Parliament.) In the same year the burgh is mentioned in the deed executed between Edward I. and John Baliol. In an order of King Robert Bruce in 1325 for fixing marches, the rights of the burgesses in the peat moss of Ardlogie are directed to be ascertained, and the finding subsequently given refers to the privileges which had been enjoyed by the burgesses in the time of Reginald le Chen or Cheyne (1250 to 1296). In the Exchequer Rolls repeated entries occur of the dues paid by the burgh. A payment was made in 1343, when probably the Royal Burgh ceased to exist.

It is argued by many that as an old Cross, stone tolbooth, etc., formerly stood at Woodhead, sufficient evidence is thereby afforded that that hamlet was the site of the ancient Royal Burgh. The Cross referred to having got into a decayed condition, it was replaced in 1846 by a substantial stone one. The expense was defrayed by public subscription; and, in this connection, Dr Farquhar kindly communicates that an old man, on being asked for a contribution, naively replied—"Na, na! The de'il a bawbee will ye get frae me for a new Cross; the auld ane did my jobbie tichtly!"—meaning thereby that his effects had been "roupit" at the old Cross.

## PARISH GRAVEYARD.

The graveyard surrounding the church is of considerable size, and has had several additions made to it. Apart from the Forbes-Leith addition, the most important and extensive enlargement was made about twenty years ago from the lower ground alongside — the two portions being connected by a flight of steps. All the old tombstones off the level were re-set and had the lichen cleared off. At the same time, the ground was levelled up on the surface and sown out in grass. Everything is kept in the most perfect order, and no more beautiful God's acre could be desired. A somewhat singular regulation is enforced with regard to the new graveyard: the lots are assigned in regular order as required — no individual can select a lot, but must accept the next vacant one to the one last occupied. There are many interesting tombstones.

## "TIFTIE'S BONNIE ANNIE."

The grave which probably attracts most attention is that of "Tiftie's Bonnie Annie." Hundreds visit it annually—some from morbid curiosity, but the majority from feelings of regret for the lady whose fate is so finely told in the well-known ballad. The heroine Agnes (then commonly called Nannie, but strained by poetic licence into Annie) Smith was the daughter of William Smith, Mill of Tiftie. He belonged to a highly respectable and fairly affluent old family—his brothers being John Smith, proprietor of Inveramsay; Robert Smith, proprietor of Smiddieburn; James Smith, in Meikle Fetterletter; Nathaniel Smith, burgess in Aberdeen; and Patrick Smith, at the Mill of Ardoyne. William Smith, in 1672, secured a new tack of Mill of Tiftie at the following rental—

Of maill three score sax bollis, of money one pound, of wadderis three, of lambis three, of



capounis three dozen, of hennis three dozen, of paitts one lait, one miln swyne, and one ston brew tallow.

He married Helen Black; and among their family were a son, William, a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Alexander Dunbar, afterwards of Monkshill; and a daughter Agnes. The last-named in youth attended Fyvie School, where she first met Andrew Lamb (metamorphosed into Lammie), of the Mill of Ardlogy family. When Lamb left school he was taken into the service of Lord Fyvie at the Castle, and, among other duties, performed that of trumpeter. He appears to have been of handsome appearance, and as he had no doubt picked up polish through travelling with his master, it is not surprising that he succeeded in captivating the heart of his old playmate, Agnes Smith. Unfortunately, between the older members of the Smith and Lamb families bitter animosity subsisted, and the father and brother of Agnes refused to countenance the courtship. Secret meetings were resorted to, and, this being brought to the notice of the Smiths, the young lady was kept a prisoner, and she sank broken-hearted into an early grave. A tombstone was erected to her memory, but in 1835 it had got much broken and decayed. Mr Gordon of Fyvie—with the characteristic liberality and consideration so marked in the various proprietors—had an exact duplicate of the stone made and placed over the grave, the broken parts of the older monument being placed underneath. In 1869 the general public subscribed funds for the erection of a grey granite Iona cross, and it was fixed near the head of the grave—Mr Gordon's stone being securely cemented down between the massive kerb, into which is fixed a huge

iron railing which surrounds the grave. The respective inscriptions are—

(1).

HEIR LYES AGNES SMITH, WHO DEPARTED  
THE 19 OF JANVARI, 1673.

(2).

AGNES SMITH, "TIFTIE'S ANNIE," DIED 19TH  
JANUARY, 1673.

ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION. 1869.

Rev. Dr Milne stated that in his boyhood a loose portion of a broken tombstone, bearing the single word Lamb, lay over the grave, but that it had disappeared by the time he returned from Jamaica.

On one of the turrets of Fyvie Castle (at the back of the Preston Tower) a stone figure of the famous trumpeter may still be seen in the act of blowing his horn towards Tiftie.

William Smith, senior, and his wife, Helen Black, were both alive in 1696. Smith then polled as a "Gentleman." William Smith, junior, also in Mill of Tiftie, married Agnes Shand, and had at least one daughter, Elizabeth. He died from an attack of fever on 13th March, 1705, aged 62.

A tablestone, on the site of the old church, has the following inscription running round the margin—

HERE LYES ROBERT SMITH OF SMIDDIEBURN,  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 6TH DAY OF  
OCTR., 1690.

The above Robert Smith of Smiddieburn was an uncle of "Tiftie's Bonnie Annie." He married Margaret Lindsay, who died 13th January, 1697, aged about 71. (Row's Diary.) Their third daughter, Isobel, married 5th January, 1684, Thomas Mercer of Todlaw, who afterwards succeeded to Smiddieburn. The youngest son, Robert Smith, was killed at Guardbridge 9th April, 1692.

A very old tablestone—it had got split,

but has been repaired—shows the following inscription—

HEIR LYS GEORGE WATSONE QUHA DEPARTIT THE 5 IA . . . 1592 ZEIRIS. IANAT ANGVS DEPARTIT THE . . . 18 NOV., 1602.

A tablestone is inscribed—

Here lies George Gray, Sometime Farmer in Annet, who died 15th June, 1785, aged 74. Also James Gray, late Mercht in London, who died 15th August, 1785, aged 80 years, being both sons of Alexander Gray, sometime farmer in Mill of Burns, who died in the 96th year of his age. Having had Thirty-two Legitimate Children by Two Wives.

In these times, when the diminution in the birth-rate is being so much deplored, the venerable patriarch above mentioned is surely worthy of a permanent memorial!

Alexander Gray was tenant in Mill of Burns in 1696, when his wife, Jannet Blachree, and a daughter, Margaret, were living in family with him. Local tradition avers that he once attended worship in the church of Fyvie accompanied by his second wife and twenty-six of his sons!

A tablestone has the following unusual form of inscription—

Reader, if a diligent and faithful discharge of duty, if the strictest integrity, if sincere and affectionate attachment in service, if one possessed of these excellent qualities and dispositions, suddenly cut off, in the early progress of his useful tho' humble career, by an epidemical disease, can claim a share of thy sympathy, let a tear fall to the memory of James Henderson, who died in London 15 August, 1833, aged 25 years, and whose ashes now mingle with his native soil beneath this humble memorial.

He was a dutiful son, an affectionate brother, and a faithful servant.

An old undated tablestone, showing emblems of skull and cross-bones on end supports, is inscribed—

To the memory of an honest goodman.

Here lyes the body of Iohn Richie, some time in Lewis of Fyvie. This stone was erected by his son Iohn Richie, at the earnest desire of

his son Iames Richie, Merchant at Kingston, in Iamaica.

A slab now under the back of the Gight Tomb—but which is believed to have been originally in the wall of the old church—has a Latin inscription in very faint letters. The translation is—

HERE LIES THOMAS DE CRANNO. PRAY FOR HIS SOUL.

Thomas De Cranno, who invariably was honoured by the courtesy title of "Sir," was vicar of Fyvie. He died before 3rd May, 1489, when Sir Alexander Lychtoun was presented to the vacancy.

The following inscription from a headstone is to a veteran sexton—

To the memory of James Brown, Kirk-Officer and Sexton of this Parish for upwards of 50 years, who died 8th March, 1843, aged 90 years. And of his wife Jane Duguid, who died 21st April, 1842, aged 82 years. . . .

It is computed that during Brown's tenure of office he interred the remains of upwards of 3000 persons.

A tablestone has an inscription which is here given in abridged form—

Erected by Robert Stott in Cammalines in memory of his wife Isobel Burr, who died 22nd Nov., 1829, aged 71 years. Their youngest son, The Reverend John Stott, A.M., Schoolmaster of this parish, died 8th December, 1867, aged 69, and was buried here. His eldest son, John Stott, Assistant Surgeon R.N., died at Ascension on board H.M.S. Archer, 6th November, 1865, aged 23, and was buried at sea. Jane Mary Elmsly, wife of Rev. John Stott, died 4th Dec., 1897, aged 78.

Rev. John Stott was for some time schoolmaster at Bourtie, and subsequently at Fyvie, where also he officiated as session-clerk. Of his family of ten no fewer than nine still survive—Robert, who graduated in Arts at Aberdeen University in 1861, headmaster of St Andrew's School, St John's, Newfoundland, 1862-76,

and now farmer at Clonlard, Duncannon, Waterford; James, merchant, St John's; David, superintendent of Newfoundland telegraphs; George, merchant, Kaslo, Canada; William Gordon, M.A., fleet-surgeon, Royal Navy, Chatham; Elizabeth Hay, who married J. F. Chisholm, bookseller, St John's; Isobel, who married D. Monroe, merchant, St John's; Jane Mary, who married W. Beedie, farmer, Pitgair, Gamrie; and Agnes. The late Assistant Surgeon John Stott, when a student, went two voyages to the Arctic Seas, and brought home walrus and other skulls, which he presented to the museum at Marischal College.

A marble tablet within the church is inscribed—

In memory of John Cowieson, Master Gardener, who died at Canmaloun, 3rd November, 1852, aged 86 years.

He bequeathed the earnings of his long, active, and unblemished life principally for pious and charitable purposes in Aberdeen, and in his native Parish of Fyvie.

Among other charitable bequests by John Cowieson was one of £320 to Fyvie, the interest whereof is applied in providing warm clothing for the poor.

A tablestone has—

In memory of Gilbert Clark, who was farmer in Kirktown of Fyvie during the seven ill years; James Clark, his son, farmer, Gourdas; Andrew, in Stonemanhill.

A descendant, William Clark, sometime merchant, Stonehouse, Gight, thereafter feuar of Woodhill Cottage, Kinellar, who, by sobriety and industry, amassed a small fortune, with which he built and endowed a Free School in the Burgh of Inverurie, and left money for prizes in the School of Fyvie for ever—who died on 13th July, 1883, in the 85th year of his age.

Gilbert Clark married Jean Black, and, besides the two sons mentioned in the inscription, they had a daughter, Grizel.

The "seven ill years" were those preceding 1700. The weather continued "most unnatural," and the crops were repeatedly blighted. In 1696, Aberdeenshire and adjacent counties "were nearly destitute of victual," and many "died from want." On 9th March, 1699, a solemn fast was observed over the country on account of "the lamentable stroke of dearth and scarcity."

A headstone bears—

Erected by the Episcopal congregation at Meiklefolla as a mark of respect to the memory of Joseph Duguid, who led their choir for upwards of 21 years. As he lived respected, so on 23rd August, 1834, he died at Mill of Mead-able deeply regretted as a steady churchman, an obliging and truly honest man, aged 44 years.

A headstone bears—

Sacred to the Memory of Robert Gordon, known as the "Astronomer," who perished in the Ythan near Reamshill on the 21st January, 1867. His body was discovered on the 3rd of March following, and interred here.

Cheerfull, contented, harmless, and honest, homeless, and unknown to relatives, he wandered over this district for upwards of a quarter of a century. To mark His last resting place the Public have erected this Memorial.

This is mine, my lowly lot,  
Here I lie, and envy not  
Peer or peasant read who may.  
Remember there's a dying day.

"Stromy" Gordon was an inoffensive gangrel, and it says much for the good hearts of the people of Fyvie to have thus marked his last resting-place.

A headstone bears—

Alexander M'Kay, from the Parish of Farr, Sutherlandshire, died at Lewes of Fyvie, the 2nd of October, 1825, and is interred here.

Alexander M'Kay was a cattle-dealer, and, while travelling northwards from Coupar-Angus, fell in with William Allan, crofter, Monquhitter. The two then walked together, but M'Kay began to suspect his



companion, who insisted on taking by-roads. In the Den of Rothie, Allan suddenly felled M'Kay with a loaded whip and struck him repeatedly till the skull was fractured and bones broken. Robbery was the object of the outrage, but all that the pockets of the victim yielded was 36s. M'Kay lived for a few days in great agony. His assailant was afterwards executed for the crime.

On a marble monument, set in massive grey granite, is the inscription—

George Williamson, late in St John's Wells, of this parish, died 17th April, 1823, aged 75.

To whose Memory this Monument was erected by the Aberdeenshire Agricultural Association as a Mark of Respect for his upright and honourable Conduct in private and public life, and in testimony of the great benefit derived by the County of Aberdeen from his meritorious exertions as an eminent Cattle Dealer for upwards of 50 years.

Underneath is a separate oval-shaped marble tablet, inscribed—

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Forbes, Relict of George Williamson, who departed this life 26th January, 1825, in the 75th year of her age, having discharged under Divine Guidance the various duties of Wife, Parent, and Friend in a very exemplary manner.

The foregoing tribute to George Williamson was thoroughly deserved. As a cattle-dealer, his transactions were on a colossal scale, and his word was ever recognised to be as good as his bond.

A granite tablet battled to the outer wall of the church at the south-west corner is inscribed—

IN MEMORIAM.

As a mark of respect and esteem for the late Alexander Fiddes Greig, M.R.C.S.E., Sunnyside, Fyvie, who, for the long period of 42 years, discharged the duties of his profession in this district, with eminent and disinterested ability.

This tablet is erected here, and a Medical bursary, bearing his name, founded in the

University of Aberdeen, by his fellow-parishioners and friends.

1882.

A headstone is separately inscribed—

In memory of Alexander Fiddes Greig, M.R.C.S.E., Sunnyside, Fyvie, who died 18th July, 1880, aged 64 years; and of his son James, who was drowned off Formosa 17th July, 1874, aged 22 years. Also, of his daughters Jane, who died 30th November, 1859, aged 6 years; Anne Grant, died 20th May, 1868, aged 1 year.

Alexander Fiddes Greig was the son of a wood merchant in Aberdeen. After being for a brief period in practice at Old Meldrum, he removed to Fyvie, where his services as a surgeon and general practitioner were highly prized. He married Jane Tocher Cormack (only daughter of Peter Cormack, Bridgend, Fyvie), who is now aged 89 years. Their family consisted of six sons and five daughters. The second son, James, who was in Lloyd's Agency, was drowned at Tamsui, as above recorded. Of the four younger sons, two are engaged in sheep farming in Australia, one is in business in Chicago, and one resides with his mother. The eldest daughter is the widow of John Forbes, merchant, Fyvie; the second is married to William Henderson, Camaloun, Fyvie; and the third resides with her mother. The Dr Greig bursary referred to is of the annual value of £11 10s or thereby, tenable for three years. It is open "for competition to students commencing the second winter session of their medical studies, preference being given in cases of equality to natives of the parishes of Fyvie, Auchterless, Methlick, Tarves, and Old Meldrum.

Dr Greig was succeeded at Fyvie by his eldest son, Dr Charles Cormack Greig, whose promising son died in December, 1905. A separate monument commemorates him in the inscription—

In loving memory of Fiddes Manson Greig,

medical student, died 17th December, 1905, aged 20 years.

In a railed enclosure are two monuments, which are inscribed respectively—

(1).

Here lyes William Milne and Janet Panton his spouse. He died November 11, 1711, and she November, 1698. Son of Alexander Milne and Elspet Milne his wife. William, George, John, Mary, and James Milnes their children departed. . . .

On the reverse side—

In memory of Alexander Milne, late farmer in Mill of Crichtie, who died the 2nd February, 1804, aged 60 years, and his spouse Sarah Hay, who died the 14th of September, 1794, aged 42 years. Likewise six of his children, Margaret, Peter, Isobel, Christian, Robert, and Christian. . . .

(2).

In loving memory of Alexander Milne, farmer, Petty, born 5th May, 1787, died 26th March, 1862, and of his wife Margaret Leslie Jamieson, born 17th March, 1806, died 15th February, 1880. Their son William Jamieson Milne, died in infancy 10th November, 1833. Their daughters Margaret Coutts Milne, born 31st August, 1825, died 21st September, 1896; Mary Lessel Milne, born 7th September, 1834, died 13th September, 1897.

Their eldest son Alexander Milne, born 8th June, 1827, died in New Zealand 9th April, 1894.

The above-mentioned Alexander Milne and his wife, Margaret Leslie Jamieson, were the parents of the late Right Reverend Andrew Jamieson Milne, LL.D., parish minister. The Milnes have been farmers in Fyvie for many generations.

A cross on the new part bears—

In loving memory of Wee Frankie, died 3rd January, 1899, aged 3 months, infant son of F. T. Lawrance.

“Suffer little children to come unto Me.”

The above inscription refers to Francis Taylor, born at Mains of Fyvie, eldest son of Francis Taylor Lawrance, Singapore

(see Peterhead), and Emily Thompson, and grandnephew of Rev. Francis Taylor, Methodist missionary in Africa, who died many years ago. His wife was Hannah Scott, daughter of Robert Scott, Roseheart, afterwards merchant in Peterhead, and for some time a Commissioner of Police.

There are several tombstones to members of a family bearing the surname of Pratt. One very old stone, the date on which is worn off, bears the name Alexander Prat and that of his wife, Elspet Fraser. John Pratt died 20th April, 1778, aged 89. James Proat, in Mill of Ardlogie, died 2nd January, 1775, aged 82, and his wife, Jean Johnstone, died 21st December, 1774, aged 80. Alexander Pratt, their son, lived there, and died 3rd December, 1805, aged 76. William Pratt, born at Mill of Ardlogie, June, 1779, for 38 years tenant in Mill of Tiftie, died 18th February, 1853. George Pratt, born at Mill of Ardlogie, April, 1797, died at Mill of Tiftie, 7th May, 1852. Other members of the family were in Darnabo and Macterry. They were relatives of Rev. John Burnett Pratt, LL.D., the accomplished and kindly minister of St James's, Cruden, author of “The Old Paths,” “Buchan,” etc.

#### LEITH FAMILY INSCRIPTIONS.

The following four inscriptions are on monuments within the Forbes-Leith mausoleum—

(1)

John James Leith, 2nd son of General Alexander Leith-Hay of Rannes and Leith Hall Born 1788, Died 1854. Rear-Admiral in the Royal Navy. Married Margaret Forbes of Blackford. Born 1820, Died 1899. And their 3rd daughter, Harriet. Born 1846, Died 1848.

(2).

Sacred to the memory of Margaret Leith, wife of Rear-Admiral John Leith, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Blackford. Born August 1st, 1820, Died April 12th, 1899. And

of Rear-Admiral John Leith, Royal Navy, Born October 22nd, 1788, Died October 25th, 1854.

Rear-Admiral John James Leith was the second son of General Alexander Leith-Hay of Rannes and Leith Hall, and his wife, Mary, daughter of Charles Forbes of Ballogie. His brother was Sir Andrew Leith-Hay, who served with distinction throughout the Peninsular War. The Rear-Admiral entered the navy in 1803, and was almost continuously on active service until he was invalided in 1841. Of his marriage to Margaret Forbes, heiress of Blackford, were a family of two sons and two daughters—Alexander John Forbes-Leith, now Baron Leith of Fyvie; Albert Howe Leith, who is commemorated in the next inscription; Margaret Mary, who married the late Patrick Stirling of Kippendavie; and Elizabeth Alexandrina, who is married to Major Duncan Forbes Gordon, M.V.O., formerly of the 92nd Highlanders, now Chief Constable of Aberdeenshire.

(3).

In Memoriam.

Albert Howe Leith, son of Admiral John Leith and Margaret, his wife, of Blackford. Born in Aberdeen June 1st, 1851.

Having lived an adventurous life in Australia, United States of America, and Mexico Died at Flushing, Cornwall, June 1902, from the effects of illness contracted while serving as an officer of the South African Horse in the relief of Ladysmith.

(4).

In loving memory of Grace Elizabeth Lindell, second daughter of A. J. and M. L. Forbes-Leith of Fyvie. Born 12th July, 1874. Died, Edinburgh, 12th March 1875.

The following three inscriptions are from monuments within an enclosure—

(1).

To the memory of James Wilson, late farmer in Fetterletter, who departed this life Feb. 6th, 1810, aged 84 years.

Close by his right side lies his spouse, Elspet Duncan, who died Jan. 26, 1805, aged 89.

Underneath are likewise deposited the Remains of James Wilson, their son, who also occupied the Farm of Fetterletter for nearly 50 years, and died at Petts, 20th Feby., 1835, aged 81 years. And of his wife, Mary Wilson, who died 19th Aug., 1828, aged 65 years.

Here also in close proximity to the Graves of her parents rests the body of Elizabeth Christie, wife of Alexander Wilson and Daughter of the Very Rev. Alexander Christie and of Elizabeth Wilson, who departed this life 19th Sept., 1889, aged 90 years.

The said Alexander Wilson was born at Fetterletter, 4th June, 1800, and occupied the farm for 38 years. He removed in 1865 to Kirkhill, Oldmeldrum, where he died on 3rd January, 1890. Surviving his wife only 15 weeks.

"They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided."

The above James Wilson and his wife Mary Wilson were the parents of The Very Rev. David Wilson, M.A., Dean of Aberdeen. Dr James Wilson referred to in the next inscription was another son. His wife, Mary Hay Grieve, was the daughter of Rev. Nathaniel Grieve, Ellon.

(2).

In memory of James Wilson, M.D., Staff Surgeon, who died at Ellon 17th Feby. 1853, aged 60 years. And of Mary Hay Grieve his wife who died 2nd May, 1891, aged 79 years. . .

(3).

To the memory of James Christie of West Crichtie, Surgeon, who died on the 15th June, 1837, aged 42 years.

And of Margaret Smith his spouse who died at Kinmundy 24th April, 1845. aged 43 years.

Dr James Christie was the son of Rev. Alexander Christie, minister of the Episcopal Church at Woodhead.

A monument bears—

In loving memory of The Rev. Patrick Beaton, M.A. Born 8th June, 1825, Died 11th



October, 1904. In 1851 appointed first chaplain to Mauritius. Founder of St Andrew's Church, Port Louis, which was opened by him in December, 1856. In 1858 appointed chaplain to the forces, and attached to the Scots Guards, London, and Windsor. Served in New Zealand through the Maori War, afterwards in London, Aldershot, and Edinburgh. In 1883 retired from the army, and took over the charge of the Scotch congregation, Paris, where he was mainly instrumental in raising funds to buy the Scots Church, Rue Bayard, which he opened in November 1885.

He was author of various literary works.

At Brighton, in his 80th year, beloved and respected by many friends, he fell asleep in Jesus.

Rev. Patrick Beaton, son of Mr Beaton, farmer, Lethenty, graduated in Arts at King's College in 1844. He served in New Zealand as senior chaplain to the forces during the Maori War. Here he was decorated for services in the field. A brief record of the chief work which he accomplished is given in the inscription. He married a daughter of the late Professor Macgillivray, Aberdeen. Both have given considerable bequests to Fyvie and district.

A headstone has—

Erected by James Ewen, Mill-wright in Balquhyndauchie, Methlic Parish, in memory of his son James, who died on the 31st day of July, 1847, in the 19th year of his age. And of his daughter, Elspet, who died 14th October, 1848, aged 3 years. Also of his son William, who died on the 7th of November, 1848, in the 15th year of his age. And his affectionate wife Catharine Smith, who died 1 July, 1851, aged 47 years. Also their son Robert, died 27th October, 1851, aged 19 years.

The above named James Ewen died 2nd August, 1869, aged 73 years.

James Ewen was in his time a mill-wright of "credit and renown," whose technical services were requisitioned far beyond the bounds of his native parish. He introduced into the district machinery

in connection with threshing mills, and his fitting up a steam-mill at Balquhyndochy sent the countryside into a lively state of excitement. To witness the start of the "new-fangled machinery" the present tenant's grandfather, Alexander Brebner, invited a large gathering of farmers in the district, and so favourable a report did they disseminate that the hospitable tenant arranged for successive gatherings—extending over a whole year—when the mill was in operation. Mr Ewen had on many occasions nearly twenty journeymen in his employment.

The parish is credited with having produced at least three centenarians—Grizel Strath, who died on 19th April, 1777; William Taylor, Old Moss, who died in October, 1842, at the reputed age of 102; and Mrs Jane Milne, Braehead, Jackston, who died in November, 1905, in her supposed 103rd year.

Want of space prevents particulars being given regarding such old families as those of Mackie, Rennie, Cocker, etc.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The antiquities of the parish are of a specially interesting character. Probably the most ancient are the four sculptured stones which were built into the outer east end of the church when the recent extension took place. These stones have been found at different times and places throughout the parish. One long one shows runic patterns and a St Andrew's Cross. Surmounting it is another stone portraying two fishes, underneath which is a large circle with three inner circles typical of Trinity in Unity. At the top of the third stone is carved the crescent and the rod symbol, underneath which are the elephant and mirror, but without the usual accompanying comb. The handle of the mirror has a semicircular end. On the fourth stone is an eagle with a

speculum—an exceedingly rare conjunction. It is believed that all those stones are older than the Priory, and it is probable that some of them had belonged to a stone circle which stood where the parish church and graveyard now are.

High up the east church wall, in a tasteful niche, is preserved a fleur-de-lis crown standing upon a pediment with ornaments around. This ancient relic was found in the Mary field at a depth of seven feet. It is supposed to have formed the finial of St Mary's Chapel in the Fyvie Priory.

Near the parish school is a cross bearing the following inscription—

Erected by Parishioners on the site of Eastern's E'en, one of the chartered markets of the Royal Burgh of Fyvie, to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII. 1902.

A stone which is of much local interest is the "Feet Stone" in the garden at Fyvie Castle. Neatly carved on it are representations of two large human feet with the inscription—

SUNDAY.  
SEPT. 19<sup>TH</sup>  
1830.

It commemorates the theft of a large quantity of apples by a man on the date mentioned.

In June, 1885, a large-sized clay urn was discovered in a field on the farm of Smiddyburn. It contained ashes and small pieces of human bones. On the outskirts of St John's Wells farm are remains of a cairn (Cairnchedly) which have yielded a number of urns. The barrow or mound at the upper end of the Old Wood is marked on old maps as having also had urns within it, while they are found also in other parts of the parish.

Mr J. C. Henderson, Fordoun, Fyvie, is a keen collector of curios, and he possesses a large assortment of objects of antiquarian interest, many of which were discovered in the parish. Amongst them

is an extremely rare specimen of an arrow-head having a portion of the shaft attached.

Mr George Sim, late of Gourdas, Fyvie—a well-known naturalist—was for many years a devoted collector. He formed a splendid museum of old coins, stone and bronze antiquities, birds (he stuffed them himself), birds' eggs, reptiles, butterflies, beetles, and moths, all of which he classified and arranged with loving care. For his exhibits in Natural History at Aberdeen some years ago he was awarded a gold medal. Owing to the family leaving Gourdas the collection was sold off, and it is much to be regretted that it was not retained in the parish.

At different times in various parts of the parish beautiful specimens of stone axes, flint darts, and arrow-heads have also been discovered. A fine stone cup, with perforated handle, was found on the farm of Slack-o-Causey several years ago. Another valuable find occurred about twenty years ago, when a heart-shaped wooden spade was discovered in the moss at Tifty at a depth of about six feet. It is made of the original black oak, and measures three feet in length—the spade proper being one foot long, and eleven inches broad at the stamp, from which it tapers in V-shaped form to the point. Both cup and spade are in the possession of Dr Farquhar, who has also in excellent condition several knobbed stone balls, a stone hammer, stone axe, and bronze axe—all from Fyvie.

An old canoe, or "dug-out," was found about seven feet below the surface of the ground when peat was being cut on the estate of Monkshill. It is upwards of nine feet in length, and is formed of an oak log hollowed out, excepting about a foot at one of the ends, which had been left to form a seat. At the opposite end is a projection about eleven inches in breadth. In it there is a hole of about

four inches in diameter, which had doubtless formed an aid to propelling or mooring. The canoe is in the possession of Miss Chalmers, Rothiebrigsbane.

In December, 1905, a quern was unearthed on the farm of North Haddo.

The "Weeping Stone" at Fyvie Castle forms a mystery to many. The late Dr Ferguson of Kinmundy ("Twelve Sketches") records that he saw it upon two occasions—once when the bowl in which it stood was nearly full of water, the stains on the floor indicating that it sometimes overflowed. On the other occasion the bowl was dry, and the stone encrusted with a white, salty efflorescence. Dr Farquhar thus describes the stone ("The Fyvie Lintie," pp. 11 and 12)—

Some years ago I had frequent opportunities of handling and examining this wonderful stone. It was then kept in one of the upper rooms of the Gordon Tower. It lay in a large milk-basin, and, in appearance, looked not unlike a lump of what is commonly called rocksalt. It was of irregular round shape, seven inches in diameter, three inches in thickness at one part of its margin, and about one inch thick in the rest of its circumference. It was of a brownish grey colour, with several slightly opaque or crystalline-looking patches embedded on its surface. It weighed four pounds, was of medium hardness, and had a taste somewhat like salt. It seemed to possess deliquescent and absorbent properties.

#### WELL-WORSHIP.

Abundant evidence exists that Well-Worship had been practised in the parish during the middle ages. Holy wells—generally named after a particular Saint—were supposed to possess curative properties, those afflicted being allowed to bathe in, or drink, the water. Of such wells, the following are located in Fyvie:—St Mary's Well, St Peter's Well, St Paul's Well, St John's Well, St Katherine's Well, The Cardinal's Well (at Cardenwell), and Stockar's Well (near Fyvie Castle).

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The parish has sent forth many sons who have risen to eminence in various walks. The military, legal, clerical, medical, diplomatic, and other professions have each been strengthened through it. Only one, however, takes first rank as a local Burns—William Abercromby Gordon Farquhar, L.R.C.P. and S. (Ed.), son of the late Robert Farquhar, who was for about fifty years head gardener at Fyvie Castle. Dr Farquhar is the gifted author of "The Fyvie Lintie," a work which contains upwards of one hundred excellent poems, many of which breathe fine feeling, an ardent love of nature, and admiration for the beauties of Fyvie.

The parish is probably unsurpassed in Scotland in its diversity and beauty of hill, vale, wood, meadow, and stream; while, thanks to the generosity of Lord Leith of Fyvie, it has an ideal attraction in its Pleasure Park and Social Club.

#### ALL SAINTS, WOODHEAD.

As explained by Rev. Dr Temple ("Thanage of Fermartyn," p. 63), the congregation now represented by All Saints has existed since the Revolution of 1688.

Probably the earliest authentic reference to the congregation is contained in a manuscript in the custody of the incumbent. From this document it would appear that "in the Oratory of Dr George Garden, in the Parish of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, on 10th March, 1723, being the second Sunday in Lent, Robert Mitchell, M.A. (ordained Deacon by George, Bishop of Aberdeen in his Cathedral on 10th October, 1687), was ordained Priest to the Episcopal Congregation at Fyvie."

The same document bears that, on 29th August, 1726, Bishop James Gadderer, D.D., ordained William Bادهhell to the



diaconate in the Meeting House at Woodhead.

The Meeting House referred to existed down to 1746, when Alexander Gordon, laird of Gight, on whose lands it stood, ejected the congregation. This harsh step had doubtless been taken by Gordon in case he might be suspected of being a Jacobite.

The congregation, which possessed considerable vitality, built another Meeting House at Macterry, which did service till 1796, when a return was made to Woodhead. A new church was erected, one-half of the expense of which was defrayed by James Wilson, Fetterletter, and the other half by James Hay of Monkshill.

On the Festival of St Mark, 25th April, 1849, the foundation-stone of the present beautiful church was laid. The work was pushed vigorously forward, and on 6th December following the church, being finished, was consecrated by Bishop William Skinner, D.D. According to Rev. Dr Pratt ("Buchan") it "is one of the best specimens of a village church perhaps in Scotland." The date 1849 is inscribed over the entrance door, while the date 1870 was cut by Dean Wilson on a stone which is fixed into the vestry on the north side. The spire, rising above the lofty surrounding trees, forms a conspicuous object in the landscape for many miles around. It stood originally in the west end of the church, but, being covered by zinc, could not be kept water-tight. This led to its being taken down and rebuilt at the north side.

In the east wall of the church are three very ancient red sandstone crosses, two of which bear, in large raised letters, the sacred initials I. H. S. These crosses formed portions of the belfry of the preceding church. In a niche of the vestry under the tower is a beautiful sculptured sheaf of arrows, and over the entrance

porch is a sculptured stone also showing the letters I. H. S. All these stones are said to have originally belonged to the Priory of Fyvie.

In 1757, Rev. John Milne was the incumbent. He was followed by Rev. John Cruickshank, who was translated to Ellon in 1783. He and his wife and two sons are commemorated by a stained-glass window in the east wall of the church. It illustrates the chief events in our Lord's life. The inscription in the central light is—

This window is dedicated to the memory of the Rev. John Cruickshank, his wife, and two sons, by Sarah Cruickshank, widow of John the younger, late laird of Piltochie, who died in London, 16th September, 1866.

The two side lights were filled in 1874—"A thank-offering by (now Sir) Alexander Wilson, of Jardine, Skinner, and Company, Calcutta, and his wife, Isabella Adelaide Dunn."

The succeeding incumbent has a head-stone, in Fyvie parish graveyard, which bears a Latin inscription. The translation is—

In memory of Alexander Christie, S.T.P., minister of the Episcopal Church at Woodhead, who died 29th December, in the year of Salvation 1827, aged 69. In the sacred assemblies he was grave, and a cultured orator, not without the gifts of eloquence. As a worthy pastor, he laboured assiduously to his utmost for the church. He was skilled in theological science, and well versed in literature of various kinds. He was humorous, courteous, and as free of ambition as he was devoid of riches. He lived free from crime, agreeable to very many, and by his own was most beloved. His widow and surviving children placed this to his memory.

Mrs Christie was a daughter of James Wilson, farmer, Fetterletter. Elizabeth, the only daughter, married Alexander Wilson, farmer, Fetterletter, afterwards in Kirkhill, Old Meldrum. One son, Dr

James, has been already noticed under Fyvie Graveyard. The other son, Jonathan Henry—after a brilliant career at Oxford—became a barrister in London, where he attained a high reputation as a conveyancer. He was the intimate friend of John Gibson Lockhart (son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott), who was attacked with bitterness in the "London Magazine" by its editor, John Scott, son of one of the principal upholsterers in Aberdeen. Friends on both sides took up the quarrel, and a duel between Christie and Scott was fought on 16th February, 1821. Christie did not fire at the first round, and matters might have been adjusted had not Scott's second—the somewhat notorious litterateur, Peter George Patmore (father of Coventry Patmore, the poet)—according to popular belief, insisted on Scott firing again. This time Christie, in self-defence, took direct aim, and mortally wounded his opponent, who, according to Byron, "died like a brave man, and he lived an able man." Christie was tried at the Old Bailey, but was acquitted. He died 15th April, 1876, aged 84.

The middle window in the south side shows—Feeding the hungry; Clothing the naked; Moses collecting the gifts for the Tabernacle; and Solomon dedicating the Temple. It is inscribed—

In memory of James Hay of Monkshill, ob. February, 1828, æt. 54.

On a brass underneath the window is the inscription—

Jane Hay, died 24th January, 1840, aged 67 years.

Elizabeth Hay, the last of the Family, by whom the above Window was placed in 1861, died 29th April, 1863, aged 86 years.

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place were Thine honour dwelleth."

(See under Monkshill.)

The first window in the north side is inscribed—

In affectionate memory of M. G. W., departed 1864; and of her friend, E. H., departed 1872.

The west window, which consists of two lights, appropriately depicts the Divine Character, and commands—"I am the Good Shepherd"; "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep." There is also a Latin inscription, which may be translated into English—

To the pious memory of The Very Rev. David Wilson, M.A., for fifty-two years pastor of this church. Died 14th November, 1880.

One of the altar chairs bears—

Gift of Mrs Shearer, Ardlogie. 1832.

Around the church is a tastefully-laid-out burial-ground. It was consecrated by Bishop Suther on 5th September, 1864. It contains a good many neat tombstones, a striking feature in connection with many of those commemorated being the advanced ages they reached. This characteristic of longevity is borne out by the Church Burial Register. It shows that out of a list of thirty-three who died within a period of six years three reached 80, whilst five attained 90 and upwards.

Two granite headstones are inscribed respectively—

(1).

The Very Reverend David Wilson, M.A., Dean of Aberdeen, and for fifty-two years incumbent of this church, entered into his rest 14th November, 1880, aged 75 years.

(2).

Mary G. Skinner, wife of Dean Wilson, entered into her rest 14th October, 1864, aged 58 years.

"Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

A headstone in Fyvie Graveyard commemorates two of Dean Wilson's infant children—

Mary, infant child of Dean Wilson, born 4th

February; died 20th March, 1840. Charles, born 5th January, 1845; died 24th May, 1849.

The Very Rev. David Wilson was a son of James Wilson, farmer, Fetterletter, and of his wife, Mary Wilson. He was ordained to Stuartfield in 1826, and translated to Woodhead in the following year. In 1849 he was appointed Dean of the diocese. He married Mary Garioch, only daughter of the Right Rev. William Skinner, D.D. (Primus and Bishop of Aberdeen), and his wife Johanna Brand. Besides the children mentioned in the above inscription, Dean Wilson and his wife had five sons and four daughters—Johanna, who, in 1861, married Rev. Alfred A. Jenkins, of St Peter's Church, Galashiels; James, who went to Australia, entered into business, and died there in 1893; Rev. William Skinner, B.A., Oxon., who was ordained at Woodhead in 1862, went to Australia, and died there in 1883, after having for nineteen years held the charge of Merriwa and Cassilis, in the diocese of Newcastle; Colonel Sir David, K.C.M.G., V.D.; Mary Grace; Sir Alexander, of Jardine, Skinner, and Company, Calcutta, of which city he was High Sheriff in 1887; Elizabeth Hargreave; the Very Rev. John Skinner, B.A., Cantab.; and Alice Gordon, who, in 1881, married George Grant, cocoa planter, and formerly of the firm of Gordon, Grant, and Company, Trinidad, West Indies.

Of the above family, Colonel Sir David was for forty-five years in the colonial service, from which he retired as Governor of British Honduras in 1903. He was one of the founders and earliest members of the London Scottish volunteers, and subsequently took an active part in the establishment of local forces in three colonies—first, in New Brunswick, Canada, where he held for some time the post of adjutant of the School of Instruction, and

was afterwards major of the first battalion of Canadian volunteers who went on active service during the Fenian disturbances, for which he received the Canadian medal; secondly, in Trinidad, where he organised, and for eleven years commanded the volunteer forces; third, in British Honduras, where, as Governor, he raised and organised a volunteer force. He married, first, in 1870, Jane—died 1874—daughter of Alexander Milne, by whom he has surviving issue—David Charles, chartered accountant, London, and Mary Jeannie, who married George Busbe, Trinidad. He married, secondly, Nora Kate, daughter of the late Norval Clyne, advocate, Aberdeen, by whom he has surviving issue—Harry Stuart, lieutenant in the Royal Munster Fusiliers; John Skinner, lieutenant in the Royal Navy; Nora Kathleen; and Eric Ronald.

In the case of Sir Alexander, the honour of knighthood was conferred in 1887 on the occasion of the jubilee of the reign of the late Queen Victoria. He married, first, in 1874, Isabella Adelaide—died 1891—daughter of R. D. Dunn, late Queen's Bays, and they had a family of one son and four daughters. He married, secondly, Louisa Benita, daughter of Major Robert Poore.

The Very Rev. John succeeded his father as incumbent at Woodhead. In 1884, he removed to St George's Church, York Place, Edinburgh, being afterwards appointed Canon of the Cathedral, and subsequently Dean of the diocese. He married, in 1883, Lizzie Mary, daughter of Norval Clyne, advocate, Aberdeen, and they have surviving issue six sons and two daughters.

It will thus be seen that the family of Dean Wilson have not only shed lustre on their native parish of Fyvie, but, as the grandchildren of Bishop William Skinner, the great-grandchildren of Bishop



John Skinner, and the great-great-grandchildren of Rev. John Skinner ("Tullochgorum"), of Longside, have worthily upheld the high reputation of their ancestors.

Rev. John Skinner Wilson was succeeded at Woodhead by Rev. William Watson Hawdon, B.A., who for some time had acted as curate of Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, thereafter was Vice-Principal of the Peterborough Training College for Schoolmasters, and subsequently incumbent of Lonmay. He continued as rector of All Saints, Woodhead, till 1903, when he removed to Banchory-Ternan.

The present rector is Rev. Francis Turreff, M.A., who received orders in 1896. For upwards of six years he held office at Ayr, and was thereafter for a brief period at Banchory, till his appointment to Woodhead was made in April, 1903.

#### FOLLA-RULE CHURCH AND CEMETERY.

At an early period a church was erected at Folla—or Meiklefolla—and dedicated to St Regulus, or Rule. The word Folla is said to have been derived from the Gaelic Follach—a place inaccessible because of mosses, such as this well-nigh was. (View of the Diocese.)

On 20th January, 1365, Barnard of Rowle, lord of Foleroule, resigned the lands of Foleroule into the hands of Hugh of Ross, lord of Fylorthe, who afterwards granted them, with the consent of William, Earl of Ross and lord of Skye, his brother, to Adam Pingle, burgess of Aberdeen. (Reg. Epis., Aberd.: I., p. 106-7.) This Pingle, or Pringle, on 20th August, 1376, gave the lands to the Cathedral Church of Aberdeen for the support of a chaplain performing religious services for the souls of himself, of his wife, and of Alexander,

Bishop of Aberdeen. The chaplain had a mause, yard, and glebe at Folla-Rule. About 1574, the chaplaincy was annexed to King's College, and the lay proprietor of Folla subsequently acquired the church lands subject to the feu-duty of £40. (Orem.)

Indications of the site of the chapel existed down to 1847, when the whole foundation was dug out. It was situated in a field about 400 yards to the west of the present church.

In 1672, and for many years thereafter, the Episcopal parish minister of Daviot served the districts of Folla-Rule, Rayne, etc. Rev. Alexander Lunan succeeded his father as minister then, and continued till 1716, when he was deposed for refusing to pray for George I. He married a daughter of Elphinstone of Glack, by whom he had a large family. He was the author of two works—one upon "The Office of the Holy Communion," and the other upon the "Festivals of the Church." (Jervise.) Notwithstanding his deposition, however, he continued to preach to his people in the kiln-barn until his death in 1731.

Rev. Patrick Lunan, son of the preceding, ministered at Meikle Wartle, which the Daviot flock attended. The Meeting House had been small and uncomfortable, but the devotion and enthusiasm of the people were strong, a writer in "St Stephen's Magazine" stating that "the gentles were admitted within, and as many of the poorer people as the place could hold." The rest of the "poorer people" had to remain outside exposed to the weather conditions.

In 1763, Rev. Arthur Petrie was appointed to Meiklefolla—or Folla-Rule—where he succeeded in erecting a large but unpretentious chapel capable of accommodating 400 worshippers. At his first Easter Communion 358 communicated, while in 1766 no fewer than 134 were con-

firmed by his uncle, Bishop Alexander. Mr Petrie was a zealous pastor and a man of primitive humility and piety. He was nominated by Bishop Falcouer as co-adjutor and successor for Moray, and was consecrated at Dundee in 1776. In the following year he became sole bishop of the diocese. His house at Meiklefolla was in reality "a school of the prophets," many clergymen living to bless the assistance ungrudgingly given by the bishop. Bishop Petrie took part in the consecration of Dr Seabury, the first bishop of the American Church; and in this connection it is interesting to record that two flagons and three pieces of Communion Plate as used by Bishop Petrie at Meiklefolla were exhibited at the recent Seabury centenary. The following inscription on a card was attached to one of the pieces—

This Chalice, used at Meiklefolla by Bishop Petrie, was the gift of the Presbytery of Garioch to The Rev. Patrick Lunan, in lieu of two Chalices which were presented to the Church of Daviot by his Father, Rev. Alex. Lunan (about 1711-15), and are still used in the Parish Church of Daviot, notwithstanding that they bear the inscription

"For ye use of Episcopal Ministers only."

Bishop Petrie died at Meiklefolla, and his remains were interred in the Churchyard of Dunbennan, where a tablestone has been erected over his grave. It bears a Latin inscription, which may be translated into English—

Kind reader, mourn for Arthur Petrie, whom this stone, erected by the piety of his brethren, covers. A learned, pious, and faithful Bishop of Moray, he was deservedly beloved. After a life of 55 years, and 10 years of sacred work in the Episcopate, he departed, alas! too soon, never to return. Yet spare your tears; he possesses the joys of a better life, and the rewards of the peace which he ever studiously cultivated. He died April 19th, 1787, in the 56th year of his age, and the 11th of his Episcopate of Ross and Moray. May he rest in peace.

Rev. James Innes, M.A., son of Rev. John Innes, Forgue, succeeded. It was during his ministry—1796—that a new church was erected and a new parsonage provided. He and his wife and infant son are commemorated by a white marble tablet in the church, inscribed—

In memory of The Rev. James Innes, for forty years the faithful and respected pastor of the Episcopal congregation at Meiklefolla. Born 16th July, 1761; died 4th Nov., 1826. Also of Helen Leslie, his spouse, only daughter of George Leslie of Folla. Born 25th Jan., 1775, died 15th Nov., 1851, who, with their infant son James (died 7th March, 1820, aged 5 months), lie interred in the Churchyard of Rayne.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life." Rev. xi., 10.

The succeeding incumbent was Rev. Charles Grant, who had previously held office at Portsoy. He is commemorated by a white marble tablet in the church and a headstone in Fyvie Parish Graveyard, the respective inscriptions being—

(1).

† In affectionate memory of The Reverend Charles Grant, incumbent of this church from 1827 to 1851.

(2).

In memory of The Rev. Charles Grant, Episcopal Clergyman at Meiklefolla for upwards of 23 years, who died 21st June, 1853, aged 63 years. And of his children Eliza, John, Jane, and Louisa, who all died young.

Rev. Alexander Leslie succeeded. A grey granite cross in the graveyard fixed upon three separate bases is inscribed—

In loving memory of Rev. Alexander Leslie, for 42 years Rector of St George's, Folla-Rule.

Born 30th October, 1826.

Died 5th December, 1893.

A separate grave alongside has an ornamental granite kerbing bearing the inscription—

Norman Robert Leslie, born Feby. 17; died June 3rd, 1875. Helen Lyel Leslie, born March 15th, died April 17th, 1877.

Rev. Alexander Leslie, M.A., was ordained deacon when only 21, and his first appointment was as curate at St Luke's Church, Cuminstown. He received priest's orders in 1851, in which year he was elected incumbent of St George's, Folla-Rule. His scholarship was of a high order. He was the author of a Manual on "The Christian Ministry," "The Sacraments," and "The Book of Common Prayer." He married Isabella, daughter of the late Dr Samuel Davidson, Wartle, by whom, and a large family, he was survived.

The present rector is Rev. George Low, M.A.

The church, which occupies a picturesque situation, is both attractive and commodious. An aisle was recently added, on one of the five massive supporting pillars of which is a brass bearing the inscription—

To the Glory of God and in memory of Robert William Disney Leith, General, C.B., these Pillars were given by his widow, 1897.

Three years ago a neat Church Hall was erected, and the proprietor of Rothie, Mr Reginald W. H. Crawford-Leslie, recently gifted the site to the church. This generous act — an evidence of the thoughtful kindness of Mr and Mrs Crawford-Leslie—is much appreciated by the congregation.

A brass in the church pulpit bears—

† In memory of her Father and Mother—Colonel and Mrs Forbes Leslie of Rothie—this Pulpit and the Choir Seats were given by Mrs Crawford Leslie, 1897. †

A brass in the centre of the Reader's desk bears—

In memory of Alexander Maitland, Tocher, born 8th February, 1791, died 9th June, 1875, for 42 years a Manager and 36 years Treasurer of Meiklefolla Church.

The portable Altar desk of brass bears—  
To the Glory of God.

Presented by Major and Mrs Seton of Mounie. November, 1897.

A brass is inscribed—

†

The Altar Rails are given by Isabella Gordon in memory of her husband and brother, Richard Goodall Gordon, and Reginald James Crawford.

1898.

A brass in the centre of an ornately carved Fauldstool is inscribed—

To the Glory of God and in memory of Henry Crawford, Yr, of Rothie-Norman, who died 5th December, 1898. This Fauldstool is given by his Widow and Children.

The end window depicts "The Epiphany." It is inscribed—

To the Glory of God and in memory of her husband and sons this window is dedicated by Isabella Crawford Leslie, 1899. Her husband, James Henry Graham Crawford, Colonel of the Bombay Engineers, died 1860. Of her three sons, William Francis died in infancy, 1855. Reginald James died 1867, aged 17. And Henry, Colonel of the Inniskilling Fusiliers, died 1898, aged 51.

Another beautiful window portrays Christ calming the raging of the sea. It is inscribed—

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Isabella Crawford Leslie of Rothie. Born 6th January, 1827, died 25th April, 1904.

Her children arise up and call her blessed.

Erected by her daughters, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren.

The Altar window depicts the Crucifixion of Christ, and has appropriate Scriptural quotations, as also the following inscription—

To the Glory of God and in memory of his father, mother, and wife, this window and the Altar are dedicated by George Singer, 1897.



Near the entrance, and on the inner wall of the church, is a marble tablet inscribed—

To the beloved memory of William Leslie of Warthill. Born 16th March, 1814. Died 4th March, 1880.

This tablet is placed by his sorrowing widow.  
"Till He come." I. Cor. xi., 20.

The above William Leslie was the son of William Leslie of Warthill, and was Member of Parliament for the County of Aberdeen from 1861 till May, 1866. He was a partner in the firm of Dent and Company, China; and on 16th November, 1848, he married Matilda Rose, second daughter of William Rose Robinson, of Clermiston, Midlothian; and they had a family of twelve, of whom the seven sons died young.

#### CHURCHYARD.

A tastefully - laid - out graveyard was gifted to the church in 1863 by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Forbes-Leslie of Rothienorman. It contains a good many interesting monuments, the inscriptions on some of which have already been given.

A tasteful cross is inscribed—

Richard Goodall Gordon died at Rothienorman July 22nd, 1892, aged 49.

"Where I am there shall also My servant be."

Richard Goodall Gordon was M.A. of Exeter College, Oxford. He brought the King's School, Canterbury, into prominence through his ripe scholarship and the excellence of the tuition imparted. He married Isabella, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel James Henry Graham Crawford, and his wife, Isabella Forbes-Leslie of Rothienorman.

On a beautiful grey granite monument, with a large cross on the top, is the inscription—

Rev. George Walker, M.A., for 30 years Vicar of Belford, Northumberland, fell asleep

in Jesus at St Andrew's Parsonage, Banff, February 24, 1883, aged 64 years.

"He giveth His beloved sleep." Psalm cxxvii.

On a separate side of the same monument is—

Mary L. Davidson fell asleep in Jesus October 23rd, 1891, aged 65, at the Rectory, Banff. Also her husband, Rev. James Davidson, February 23rd, 1893, aged 65. Rector for 30 years of St Andrew's, Banff.

With Christ in peace.

Rev. George Walker, who was a graduate of Marischal College, resided at Banff for the last ten years of his life. He is gratefully remembered by the clergy of the Episcopal denomination for having instituted a fund for the benefit of the incumbents of the diocese of Aberdeen in sickness, etc.

Rev. James Davidson, who was brother-in-law of Mr Walker, was, from 1856 to 1862, incumbent of St Matthew's, Old Meldrum, and, from 1862 till his death, rector of St Andrew's, Banff. He was a keen botanist, as well as an authority upon the religious history of Banff and district.

Three connected monuments are inscribed respectively—

(1).

James Hall, Teacher, Meadaple. Died Novr. 22nd, 1875, aged 74 years. A true Christian, whose labours were devoted for 23 years to the best interests of his pupils by whom this stone is erected in affectionate remembrance.

1877.

"Wherefore should Christians mourn and weep  
When friends in Jesus fall asleep?  
Short loss is ours, theirs endless gain,  
For soon in joy we'll meet again."

J. H.

(2).

Mary Ann Clark, wife of James Hall, born 1810, died 1879. Alexander, their second son, born 1844, died 1872. James, their third son, born 1846, drowned in Broad River, South Carolina, 1872.

(3).

George, second son of T. C. Hall, born 8th Sept., 1884, died 12th April, 1885.

James Hall, teacher, was the son of John Hall, farmer, Birkenhills, Turriff. He was held in high esteem by his pupils, alike for kindness of heart and the interest which he manifested in their welfare. He married Mary Clark, daughter of Alexander Clark, weaver, Camalynes, Fyvie. Of their six children, John and James were builders, and whilst engaged erecting a bridge, the latter was unfortunately drowned through the upsetting of a boat. John married a Cornish lady, and is now living in Cardiff. Alexander died after a lingering illness which commenced in boyhood through the kick of a horse. Thomas Cummine, the youngest son, is a bookseller in Aberdeen. Mr Hall published "The War of Life" in two volumes, and he had another collection of his poems in manuscript ready for publication under the title of "Religious Musings."

A headstone, surmounted by a cross, bears the inscription—

In loving memory of Margaret Watson, wife of Samuel Davidson, M.D., Wartle, who died 3rd July, 1890, aged 76 years.

Samuel Davidson, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., J.P., died at Meikle Wartle on the 30th April, 1895, in his eighty-third year.

Samuel Davidson was a native of Tarves, where his father was farmer at West Auchedly. He was of the same family as the present Archbishop of Canterbury, and was also related to Thomas Davidson, the philosopher, and to Professor A. B. Davidson, of Edinburgh, the distinguished Hebrew scholar. Settling at Meikle Wartle, he attained much fame as a physician, and enjoyed a huge practice. He and his wife, Margaret Watson (she belonged to Pitcaple, and a characteristic reference to her is given in Carnie's "Reminiscences," Vol. II.), had a family of eleven—Rev.

Charles Alexander, minister of the parish of Lhanbryd till his death in 1873 (his widow latterly resided in Inch, where their only son, Samuel George Davidson, was a medical practitioner till October, 1906); Adam, who, since 1860, has been a successful sheep farmer in Queensland; Dr Samuel (born 1842, died 1875), who was some time in the navy, but afterwards settled in Aberdeen, where he prepared medical students for examinations, married a daughter of Rev. Dr Cushny, of Rayue; Isabella, who married Rev. Alexander Leslie of Folla-Rule, as already mentioned; Robert Innes, who is a merchant in Londou; Rev. William Leslie, M.A., LL.D., formerly minister of Bourtie, and now Professor of Logic in the University of Aberdeen; Margaret, who resides with her brother last mentioned; Jane, who married the late James Topp Jamieson, formerly of Assam; Helen Gordon, who married Dr Nathaniel Lawrence, Longside (both are now deceased, but were survived by one daughter); John Irvine, who for the last thirty years has successfully engaged in business in Toronto, Canada; and Dr Alexander Gordon, who for some time continued his father's practice at Meikle Wartle, but afterwards went to London. He is at present in Africa.

A grey granite cross set in a massive base — and having the sacred letters I.H.S. interlaced in the centre of the cross — is inscribed—

Alexander Leith of Freefield and Glenkindie, died 14 July, 1886, aged 68 years.

"I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

On a separate side of the base is—

Mary Anna Halkett, wife of Alexander Leith, died 16 November, 1900, aged 82 years.

Alexander Leith was the eldest son of the first marriage of General Sir Alexander Leith, K.C.B., a distinguished

Peninsular officer, with Maria, eldest daughter of Robert W. Disney Thorp, M.D., physician in Leeds. He was of a family of distinguished soldiers, his brothers being General Robert William Disney Leith, C.B.; Major James Leith, V.C.; and Major Thomas Leith. He was an M.A. of Cambridge, and became a member of the Faculty of Advocates, although he never practised. Succeeding to the family estates in 1859, he chiefly resided at Freefield. In 1843, he married Mary, daughter of General Sir Alexander Halkett, K.C.B., of Pitfirrane, Fifeshire, and they had one daughter, Georgiana, who, under the deed of entail, succeeded to Freefield, while General R. W. Disney Leith succeeded to Glenkindie.

A headstone bears—

†In memory of James Beattie, Shoe-maker, Gordonstown, Auchterless, who died 27th June, 1867, aged 84.

An obelisk alongside is inscribed—

James Beattie, Gordonstown, died April 25th, 1884, aged 81 years. Margaret Mathieson, his wife, died April 19th, 1900, aged 83 years. William Beattie, their son, died Jan. 14th, 1890, aged 37 years.

The first-mentioned James Beattie was the son of William Beattie, shoemaker, Riddlehead, Rayne (and his wife, Jean Durno), who removed to Gordonstown about 1789. He was one of a family of twelve, and, while still a youth with his trade barely half-learned, had the misfortune to lose his father. Application and energy overcame all difficulties, however, and he built up a comfortable, if not opulent, business. Although at school for only eleven weeks, he was most intelligent and succeeded in picking up a fair education. Knowing the value of instruction, he, as a labour of love, admitted the children of the district into his workshop, where for upwards of sixty years he gave them a splendid grounding in education.

In this way he passed through his hands upwards of 1500 scholars, many of whom rose to good positions. Dr Kerr, late H.M.I.S., contributed to "Good Words" an appreciative article on Mr Beattie and his work, entitled "Lessons from a Shoemaker's Stool."

The second-named James Beattie, son of the preceding, was also a shoemaker at Gordonstown. He married Margaret Mathieson, and their son is James Beattie, who also learned the same business. In 1874, he was appointed inspector of poor and collector of rates in Auchterless, in 1880, started farming, and five years later became land steward on Rothie and Baden-sooth. His son continues the shoemaking business.

Two sisters who reached advanced years have a cross to their memory inscribed—

Jane Pirie died at Drum of Wartle in 1893, in her 92nd year. Elizabeth Pirie her sister, died at the same place in 1897, in her 91st year.

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## Millbrey.

### CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD.

In 1833, a Chapel of Ease in connection with the Church of Scotland was erected at Millbrey. On 25th March, 1834, Rev. Alexander Chapman was elected minister, and on 30th March, 1835, he was formally ordained. He proved an able pioneer, labouring assiduously for thirteen years on the slender stipend of £60. Ultimately the income was increased to £100. The worthy minister not only attended well to all his ministerial duties, but with his own hands reclaimed the land which had been gifted to the church for a glebe, etc. On its completion, he remarked that his work was now done — a presentiment which proved but too true, for he died suddenly on the following morning. A railed tomb-



stone in the graveyard adjoining commemorates him in the inscription—

Sacred to the memory of The Rev. Alexander Chapman, A.M., first minister of Millbrex, who died at Manse of Millbrex on the 24th October, 1860, in the 60th year of his age and the 25th of his ministry.

A good and faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. A sincere and kind-hearted man.

He walked with God, and he is not; our God hath taken him.

At the memorial service held in the church on the following Sunday, a pillar gave way, and the gallery lurched forward about a foot. Without the least panic, the large congregation quietly withdrew, and the preacher—Rev. John Marshall Lang, then minister of Fyvie, but now Principal of Aberdeen University—taking his stand by the side of the grave of his late co-Presbyter, preached an eloquent discourse.

In 1858, Millbrex was raised to the status of a parish “*quoad sacra*,” with a definite district assigned to it, part being taken from Fyvie and part from Monquhitter.

Rev. John Stevenson was ordained in 1861, but in 1865 he removed to Dun, and subsequently was translated to Glamis, where he died recently. He held the degree of LL.D.

Rev. James M'Gavin Smith was ordained in 1865. He retired in 1891, and took up his residence at Dyce. He died a short-time ago.

The present incumbent, Rev. Charles Giles, was ordained in 1892.

The present church was founded in 1882, and opened on 13th March, 1883. It cost £2000, and is seated for 750. It possesses a handsome Communion table, which is inscribed—

Presented to the Church of his native parish by the Rev. P. Beaton, M.A., in memory of his Father and Mother. Paris, 1898.

A headstone marks the grave of the first person interred. It is inscribed—

In memory of John Anderson, pensioner, 92nd Foot, a native of Boharm; some time after being discharged, he settled at Millbrex, where he died 9th December, 1855, aged 66 years. Much regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom this stone was erected.

He was the first interred in the churchyard.  
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A headstone, having a carving of a 93rd Highlander in complete uniform surmounting it, is inscribed—

In memory of a brave and gallant soldier, Private James Finnie, of the 93rd, died 14th September, 1892, aged 92.

This headstone was erected by public subscription. Finnie, when stationed at Gibraltar, had frequently to carry water in vessels thrown over the back of an ass, which sometimes proved stubborn. On such occasions Finnie, who was a powerfully-built man, afforded great merriment to his companions by walking in with both ass and water in his arms. He was the third soldier buried here, and when it was remarked in his presence as a peculiar coincidence that two soldiers were the first to be interred, he naively replied—“There is nothing surprising in that, for it is well known that soldiers are always required to keep the garrison!”

A headstone bears—

Erected by William Chapman, merchant, Lethenty, in memory of his beloved wife, Betsy Jolly, who died 25th November, 1865, aged 40 years.

Also his son, John A. F. Chapman, who died 22nd April, 1865, aged two months.

She is not dead; no, the spirit has fled  
Far, far from the grave, the confines of the  
dead;

She has gone through the starlight path of the  
sky

To join in the song of immortals on high.

She is not dead; no, the soul is on high.  
And shall reign evermore in the courts of the  
sky,

Where the ransomed with Jesus for ever shall  
dwell,  
And with loud hallelujahs the chorus shall  
swell.

He is not dead; no, the soul cannot die,  
But has gone up to share in the mansions on  
high;  
To the little immortal a bright crown is given;  
Weep not, for of such is the kingdom of  
Heaven.

A headstone is inscribed—

Erected by George Cran, in Berryhill, in  
memory of his beloved wife, Mary Ironside,  
who departed this life 18th June, 1876, in the  
56th year of her age—deeply regretted.

She lived to die, and died to live;  
And lives to die no more.

Also, of his mother, Helen Anderson, who  
died April 1878, aged 85 years. The above  
George Cran died 26th April, 1896, in his 82nd  
year.

An elder in the parish for 37 years.

A headstone bears the following inscrip-  
tion—

Erected by Gavin Catto, some time farmer  
in Burnside of Gight, in memory of his be-  
loved wife, Isabella Middler, who died at  
Auchmagorth, New Byth, 10th November, 1877,  
aged 71 years. The said Gavin Catto died at  
Newstead, Monquhitter, 10th May, 1884, aged  
79 years. Also their son, James, died at New-  
stead 9th April, 1886, aged 34 years.

The above Gavin Catto was an elder at  
Millbrex, as was also his son, Gavin Catto,  
farmer, Mains of Gight. An obelisk,  
surmounted by an urn, commemorates  
Barbara Paterson, wife of the latter, who  
died at Mains of Gight 29th August, 1898,  
aged 59; also a daughter, Jane, and two  
sons, John and Gavin. The last-mentioned  
—who was farmer in Lendrum, Mon-  
quhitter—died 8th December, 1890, aged  
26.

An obelisk, surmounted by an urn, is  
inscribed—

Erected by Elisa Imlah in memory of her  
husband, Donald Keir, who died at Asleed,  
22nd June, 1878, aged 55 years. Also of Jane  
Eliza, their daughter, who died at Bruckle-  
seat on the 6th July, 1884, aged 30 years.

“ ‘Tis but a little while,  
And Christ shall come again;  
And we shall be with those that rest  
Asleep within the tomb.”

Mrs Keir married, as her second hus-  
band, James Mitchell, farmer, Bruckleseat,  
who died 18th September, 1890, aged 76  
years. He has a separate monument to  
his memory. Mrs Mitchell has been a  
generous contributor to the endowment  
fund and other organisations connected  
with the church.

A tablestone has the following inscrip-  
tion—

To the memory of Barbara Beaton, who died  
at Millbrex, 17th January, 1857, aged 53  
years.

This stone has been placed here chiefly by  
her grateful pupils, who received from her the  
early part of their education, and by other  
attached friends.

Barbara Beaton was an excellent teacher  
notwithstanding her deformity and depri-  
vation of the use of her hands and limbs.  
She was a favourite with her pupils, who  
made good progress under her tuition.  
When—as rarely happened—punishment  
had to be inflicted, Rev. Alexander Chap-  
man was called in for the purpose.

An obelisk, having an urn on the top,  
bears the inscription—

Erected by George Beaton, farmer, Millbrex,  
in memory of his daughter, Catherine, who  
died 10th September, 1883, aged 6½ years.  
Notre chere. Martha Simpson died 10th May,  
1891, aged 18 years.

“ For ever with the Lord.”

Also the said George Beaton, died 10th June, 1891, aged 71 years. Also Maggie, who died at Cheltenham, 28th December, 1897, aged 31 years.

The above George Beaton was the father of the wife of Rev. Charles Giles, minister of Millbrex.

An industrious patriarch who reclaimed the most of his farm, he married for the first time when upwards of sixty, and lived to see several of a family reach manhood and womanhood. He and a son are commemorated in the following inscription upon an obelisk—

Erected in memory of John Henderson, who

died at Upper Mains of Aslead, 15th April, 1901, aged 91 years.

Also his son, William, who died 15th November, 1897, aged 26 years.

An obelisk, having an urn on the top, is inscribed—

Erected by Jane Grant in memory of her beloved husband, Francis Beaton, who died at Little Millbrex, 2nd August, 1891, aged 71 years.

A son, James, still occupies Little Millbrex, while another son, William, is tenant of Netherton.

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## SUPPLEMENT.

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### ABOYNE (Page 128).

At the east end of the ruins of the church at Kirktown are three tombstones bearing the following inscriptions:—

(1).

In memory of Grigor Grant who died the 4th March 1815 aged 7 years. Also Lewis and Margaret Grants who died in infancy.

(2).

In memory of George Grant, late Mill Wright, Craigmile, died 17th January 1883, aged 56 years.

(3).

1847. In memory of George Grant, late Farmer in Oldtown Aboyne who died 16th January 1820, aged 54 years, and of his wife Ann Forbes who died 16th June 1845 aged 72 years. Also of their daughter Catherine who died 22 Aug. 1834 aged 26 years. Also Mary Grant wife of Robert Smith, Oldtown who died 26th March 1852 aged 23 years. Also the said Robert Grant who died the 6th March 1860, aged 54 years.

George Grant mentioned in the preceding epitaph was the third son of William Grant, farmer, Meikle Tillylair, who hailed from Aberlour, where the family had long been settled, and who fled to Deeside after the '45. The family consisted of Robert, William, George, Janet, Lewis, Elspet, and Joseph. Janet, born in 1769, married first, in 1803, James Smith, tailor, Newburgh, and became the mother of Lewis Smith, the well-known wholesale bookseller and stationer in Aberdeen, and a man who, in his day, filled every civic office in the Town Council, except the Provostship, which he declined. She married secondly George Cruickshank, wright, Aberdeen, and a native of Belhelvie, who died in 1813, she surviving till 1854. From her son, Lewis Smith, and his spouse, Mary Spalding, sprang a family of ten sons and four daughters, the eldest son, James (also a wholesale bookseller), being father of Rev. James Smith, of St George's-in-the-West Parish, Aber-



deen, and the next son, John Rae Smith, being also a bookseller in Aberdeen. The eldest daughter, Mary, married James Hay, of the firm of J. and J. Hay, carvers and gilders, Aberdeen; Jean Thomson Smith married Dean of Guild Alexander Walker, LL.D., a well-known Aberdeen litterateur and merchant; and the youngest daughter, Janet, was married, first, to Mr E. H. Gray, ironmonger, Aberdeen, and, secondly, to Dr Robert Cowie, of Lerwick, author of the *Standard Guide to Shetland*, published by his father-in-law, Mr Lewis Smith, who died in 1880, aged 76 years.

Others of the Grant family lie in Coull Churchyard, including the Grants of Glen-cat, Birse.

#### GLENBUCHAT (Page 483).

A tablestone—on which is cut the representation of a heart, flanked by the initials J. M. and B. H.—bears the inscription—

Here lyes the dust of John Moir some time Farmer in Kirktown of Glenbucket who died August 29th 1767, aged 56 years. Also Barbara Hay his spouse who died June 8th 1781, aged 66 years. Also his children John, James, and William, Jean, Jean, and Mary Moirs.

In memory of John Moir late Farmer in Buchaam who died Decr. 12th 1828, aged 85 years. Also his spouse Mary William who died May 6th, 1824, aged 62 years.

Done by the care of his sons John, James, and Alexr. Moirs.

The ancestor of this family was in Invernettie in 1696 (*Poll Book*), and afterwards in Badenyon.

The eldest son of John Moir and Barbara Hay became tenant of the farm of Buchaam, Strathdon. He married Mary William, and their eldest son James, who was farmer at Faichley, Strathdon, married Jane, daughter of John Kellas, Midtown, Strathdon (John Kellas died a centenarian), and their son, who still survives, is Rev. Alex. Forbes Moir, M.A., the senior minister of Woodside U.F. Church. (See page 231.) He married Elspet Hay, who died in 1888, and of their family, Rev. Alexander Forbes Adam held a charge for many years in Rangoon; John Hay, M.D., served as a surgeon during the South African War, 1878-79, and has now an extensive medical practice at Newhall, Burton-on-Trent; George Watt is an architect in Canada (the two sculptured stones at Dyce, which face page 1, are from drawings by him); Thomas Wilson Gibson is in business in Johannesburg; Robert Harvey is a diamond merchant in Kimberley; Francis Walker, M.B., C.M., served in the Boer War, 1899-1902, as medical officer of the 26th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and now holds an important medical appointment at Ashanti, West Africa; Walter MacGillivray is in business in South Africa; and there is one daughter, Elsie.

Another son of John Moir and Mary William was Alexander Moir, many years carrier at Strathdon, who married Ann Stuart, and died 27th July, 1853, aged 73.

James Moir, second son of John Moir and Barbara Hay, already mentioned, was long a brewer in North Broadford, Aberdeen.

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