

her school-days, in after life, with great glee. The spelling-book was not in use in schools in those days, and only one scholar besides herself were learnt to spell. The other favoured individual was John Carstorphin, who was taught that art because he was the son of a landed proprietor, and was himself to become a laird. Mrs Murray recollected not only of the French Revolution, but also of that in America, and told another curious anecdote in connection with the latter event:—A poor man, who supported himself by making and selling broom besoms and heather ranges, called at the door one day, soon after the commencement of hostilities with America, and asked Mrs Murray to buy a heather range. The price of this article was a halfpenny, but the seller now sought a penny for it. On being asked the reason why he had raised the price to double what it was formally, he replied, "Ou, ye ken its on account o' the American war." Mrs Murray was a universal favourite with old and young. Her personal attractions, her kind and amiable disposition, her excellent principles, and clear, good sense, rendered her a welcome visitant of every society into which she entered. She died at Craig on the 8th of August 1862, aged 101 years.

MURRAY, of Clermont, THE FAMILY OF.—This is a branch of the ancient house of Murray of Blackbarony, springing from Sir William Murray, fourth and youngest son of Sir Andrew Murray of Blackbarony (who lived in the reign of Queen Mary). This gentleman received the honour of knighthood from James VI., and having acquired the lands of Clermont, County of Fife, thence assumed his designation. He married a daughter of Sir James Dundas of Arniston, and was succeeded by his only son, William Murray, Esq. of Clermont, who was created a *Baronet of Nova Scotia*, 1st July 1626. Sir William married Mary, daughter of William, first Earl of Stirling, by whom he had four sons, and was succeeded at his decease by the eldest, Sir William of Newton, who was succeeded by his only surviving son, Sir William. This gentleman was succeeded by his only son Sir William, at whose death, without issue, the title devolved upon his kinsman, Sir James (grandson of the first baronet, through his youngest son, James Murray, Esq., and his wife, Magdalene, daughter and heiress of Johnston of Polton). This gentleman, who was Receiver-General of the Customs of Scotland, married Marion, daughter of James Nairn, Esq.; but dying without issue in Feb. 1769, the title devolved upon his nephew, Sir Robert (son of Colonel William Murray by Anne, daughter of Hosea Kewman, Esq.). This gentleman married, first, Janet, daughter of Alexander, fourth Lord Elibank, by whom he had one son, James, and a daughter. He married, secondly, Susan, daughter of John Renton, Esq. of Lamerton, and by that lady had, with five daughters, two sons, John, his successor as eighth baronet, and William,

in holy orders, who succeeded as ninth baronet. Sir Robert died in 1771, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir James, as seventh baronet, a distinguished military officer during the first American war, and Adjutant-General of the forces serving upon the Continent in 1793. He married, in 1794, the Right Hon. Henrietta, Baroness Bath in her own right, and in consequence assumed the arms and surname of Pulteney. Sir James subsequently held the office of Secretary at War, was Col. of the 18th Foot, and a general officer in the army. He died 26th April 1811 (his lady having predeceased him), and leaving no issue, the title and family estates devolved upon his half-brother, Sir John, as eighth baronet, a lieutenant-general in the army, and Col. of the 56th Regiment of Foot. He married, in August 1807, Anne Elizabeth Cholmondeley, only daughter and heiress of Constantine John, second Lord Malgrave; but dying without issue, in 1827, the title devolved upon his only brother, the Rev. Sir William, as ninth baronet, who married, in 1809, Esther Jane Gaytin, and had issue. Sir William died 14th May 1842, and was succeeded by his elder son, Sir James Pulteney, as tenth baronet, who died unmarried in 1843, when the honours devolved on his brother, Sir Robert, as eleventh baronet; born Feb. 1, 1815; succeeded his brother, 22d February 1843; married, 21st August 1839, Susan Catherine Saunders, widow of Adolphus Cottin Murray, Esq., and daughter and heiress of the late John Murray, Esq. of Ardeley Bury, Herts, lineally descended from Sir William Murray (father of the first Earl of Tullibardine), by the Lady Margaret Stewart, his wife, and has issue, William Robert, born, 19th October 1840, and Emily Mary.

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NAIRNE, of East Newton Rires, THE FAMILY OF.—The first of this family, was Simon Nairne, probably of the Nairnes of Sandford. Through his mother, who was a daughter of William Kemback or Parle, then tacksman of the King's Courts of Newton Rires, he succeeded to this property, and obtained a charter of feu farm in 1526. Simon died in 1552, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth Auchmutie, three sons, James, David, and Peter. James does not appear to have ever married, and in 1558 he handed over his interest in the estate to his brothers. David Nairne had several children by his wife, Elizabeth Auchmutie, (probably his cousin), of whom Peter, the younger son, is probably the Peter Nairne mentioned as tutor of the Master of Edzell at the University of St Andrews in 1598. Two daughters, Agnes and Elspath, died unmarried. David died in 1596 at the age of sixty-three, and seems to have been buried near the high altar of Kilconquhar Church. The broken tombstone lies in the churchyard with an in-

scription still legible. David Nairne, the eldest son of the last, sold Newton Rires in 1604. He seems to have taken up his residence in Elie, where he was proprietor of a "great lodging." He appears to have had three sons: David, who married Catherine Duncan, and had a son William; William, who married Bessie Small, and had a daughter Alison; and Peter. The great lodging stood on the site of the large house in Elie, now belonging to Mr William Wood of New York. Peter Nairne married Margaret Wood, and his children were James, born 1648; Robert, born 1655; Margaret; Peter, born 1659; Catherine and Agnes. We shall speak first of the descendants of the second son, Robert, who was captain of a vessel and merchant in Elie. He married Susanna Duncan, and his children were Janet, married in 1705, William Scott, merchant in Edinburgh; Margaret, married in 1714, to Alexander Chalmers, merchant in Elie; Susanna, married in 1715 to Peter Nairne, her cousin; Christian, and some others, James Nairne, the eldest son of Peter, married in 1678, Janet, daughter of John Small and Margaret Lucklaw. Margaret was a daughter and co-heiress of Simon Lucklaw of Newton Rires, and John Small had acquired that property through her. The children of James Nairne were, James, born in 1680; Margaret; Alexander, born 1686; Peter, 1687; Jean married in 1689, Philip Brown, skipper in Anstruther; Robert, merchant in Elie, born in 1691; Thomas, surgeon in Anstruther, born in 1693; John, skipper in Elie, born in 1695; Christian married in 1742, William Dalglish of Scotsraig, minister of Ferry-Port-on-Craig. Of these, Peter was captain of the Dolphin of Elie, and married in 1715 his cousin, Susanna Nairne, by whom he had James, born in 1716, who was a skipper in London, and afterwards resided in the Abbey of Pittenweem, and had the management of the mining operations at the coal farm. He married before 1758 Elizabeth, daughter of William Brown, writer in Pittenweem, and Margaret Cook, but had no issue. Peter Nairne's other children were, Robert, born in 1721, and Peter in 1723. This James sold the house in Elie already mentioned, to the ancestor of Mr William Wood, and the initials of his father, or of a remoter ancestor, P. N., are still to be seen on a flagstone in the pavement opposite the house. James Nairne, the eldest son of James, was ordained minister of Forgan in 1703, and of East Anstruther in 1717. He married in 1706 Ann, daughter of John Anderson, Principal of St Leonard's College, St Andrews, by whom he had four children, three of whom died young. He died in 1771. John Nairne, son of James, born in 1711; assistant and successor to his father in 1741. He married in 1749 Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Gordon, W.S. (who died in 1780), by whom he had James, born in 1750; Alexander, born 1753, married, in 1794, Mar-

garet, daughter of James Anderson of Newbigging; Peter, born in 1761, died unmarried 1786; Helen married in 1780, George, son of George Hall, merchant, Dundee; Ann married in 1780, Alexander Wood, merchant, Elie; Jean married in 1779, James Forrester, minister of Kihrenny. He died in 1795. The Rev. James Nairne of Claremont, D.D., ordained minister of Pittenweem in 1776, of whom we give a separate life, was married in 1778, to Helen, (daughter of Captain James Kyd of Craigie, R.N.), who died in 1836, by whom he had John, a captain in the Royal Navy (of whom see a subsequent article), who died in 1807 unmarried; James, born in 1782, married in 1807, Elizabeth Hill, eldest daughter of Professor Hill, proprietor of Brown Hills by St Andrews, and died in 1847; Alexander, a captain in the Hon. East India Co.'s service (of whom afterwards), who married in 1824, Anne Spencer Demett, and has issue, five children; and Charles, the youngest son, a writer to the signet, who married in 1820, Amelia Forbes Bell, eldest daughter of the Rev. Andrew Bell of Kilduncan, minister of Crail, and died in 1837, leaving one son, James, secretary to the North British Railway Company; Hannah married in 1805, John Forcman, Esq., W.S.; Elizabeth, who died in 1788, and Ann, married in 1817, William Scott, Esq. of the Stock Exchange, London, who left issue, a daughter, married to James Forman, Esq., advocate, Edinburgh, her cousin.

NAIRNE, The Rev. JAMES, D.D., was the son of the Rev. John Nairne, minister of Anstruther-Easter, and was born on 14th September 1750. He was ordained minister of Pittenweem in 1776, married Helen, daughter of Captain James Kyd of Craigie, R.N., and by her had four sons and three daughters, all of whom are now dead except Alexander, who was sometime captain in the Hon. E. I. Company's Sea Service, and is now a director of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. Dr Nairne was a worthy and much esteemed minister of the gospel in his day. Shortly after he was inducted he found many of the old parishioners not very well acquainted with their Bibles, and for the purpose of preparing them for the communion, he used to catechize them in the church on the Sabbath evenings. He divided the parish into sections, and placed each under the care of an elder of the church, who attended the meetings with that part of the congregation under his charge. One Sunday evening, the section at the west shore was to be examined, which was under the superintendence of James Robbie, a sailor, who lived near the house on the Rock, one well known to all parties connected with Pittenweem. James was married to Janet Cooper, an old servant of the former minister, who was well read in her Bible, and used to explain texts of Scripture to her neighbours. On one occasion, Margaret — finding herself

rather deficient in her catechism, went to the learned Mrs Janet Robbie for advice, who instructed her as far as she thought would be required; but, lest the minister should ask any other questions, advised Margaret to sit near her, to watch the answers she gave, and say the same. Unfortunately for Margaret she did not hear distinctly, which in the end was the cause of a very awkward mistake. Mr Nairne commenced with Janet Robbie. "Who made you?" Answer—"God." "What are you made of?" "Dust and clay." That's right, Janet, said his reverence. Now Margaret, "Who made you?" Answer—"God." Very good, very good, Margaret, and "What are you made of?" "Curds and whey," was the quick reply. "Oh, Margaret, Margaret," said Mr Nairne, shaking his head, "these are very soft materials indeed!" Dr Nairne belonged to the moderate party in the church, and was imbued with what is now called Conservative principles in politics. He was amiable in his manners, liberal in sentiment, independent in spirit, and as much beloved for his private virtues and good qualities, as he was admired for his piety and learning. He died at Pittenweem on 15th July 1819.

NAIRNE, Captain JOHN, R.N., was the eldest son of the Rev. James Nairne of Claremont, D.D., the subject of the preceding article, and was born at Pittenweem in the year 1780. He entered the navy at an early age, to which service he entirely devoted himself for seventeen years, during the whole of which time he was actively employed. He was nine years a lieutenant, the last three of which he was first and flag-lieutenant of the "Leander," when she captured the "Milan" and "Cleopatra" frigates. After the capture, Mr Nairne was put in charge of the "Milan," then a wreck dismantled, which he fitted at sea, and conducted in safety to Bermuda, when Vice-Admiral Sir Andrew Mitchell appointed him commander of the "Driver" sloop, and sometime after of the Cleopatra, on a vacancy occurring to that vessel. Captain Nairne joined that frigate on the 25th April 1805, with only three warrant officers, and eleven marines belonging to the ship (the remaining part of the crew having been transferred to the "Milan"), and with great exertions, and at considerable private expense, he manned her so as to be able to sail on the 28th of April following, with troops for St John's in Newfoundland; on entering which he experienced no small difficulty by obstructions from ice. Captain Nairne soon afterwards returned to England, and the Lords of the Admiralty appointed him to the command of the "Halifax" sloop, then building at Halifax, to which he forthwith repaired and joined her. On the death of Vice-Admiral Sir Andrew Mitchell, Captain Beresford, then senior officer upon the station, appointed him Captain of the "Cambrian," in which frigate he cruized till ordered to England to give evidence at a court martial held for the trial of Captain

Whitby, who was honourably acquitted. Captain Nairne was afterwards appointed to fit out and command "The Favourite" sloop, on board of which he died in 1807. During the whole time Captain Nairne was an officer in the navy, he was in active employment, and saw no little hard service; and it is clear that he was much appreciated and confided in by his superior officers. He was in ten actions, assisted in capturing twelve of the enemy's ships and vessels of war, and had commanded two frigates for some time. He gave promise of distinction in his profession, had he been spared. He was promoted to his lieutenantcy at the age of eighteen. The following extract from two naval publications, viz., "The Portsmouth Telegraph" and "Naval Chronicle," shews the high estimation in which he was held by naval people. "Died, on 24th July 1807, on the Coast of Africa, Captain John Nairne, of His Majesty's sloop 'Favourite.' The loss of this young officer is not greater to his friends than to his country. His natural temper and habits eminently qualified him to become a distinguished ornament to his profession. In the company of his friends he was mild and amiable; in the presence of an enemy he was cool, intrepid, generous, and brave; and in his deportment to his ship's company, he happily formed the difficult combination of kindness and firmness. His remains were interred in Cape Coast Castle."

NAIRNE, Captain ALEXANDER, of Grovehill, Camberwell, London, is the third son of the Rev. James Nairne of Claremont, before noticed, and was born at Pittenweem in the year 1784. He received his early education in the parish school, and while yet a mere boy in years, he entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman on board His Majesty's Ship "Polyphemus," then commanded by Captain (afterwards Admiral) Lumsdaine, of the Innergellie family. Mr Alexander Nairne remained only a few years in the navy, but while there he was constantly employed, and saw a good deal of active service, and *inter alia* he was present, and took part in the battle of Copenhagen in 1801, and he is now one of the few survivors who are entitled to wear the medal given to those who fought in that action under Sir Hyde Parker and Lord Nelson. Mr Nairne left the navy on the declaration of peace in 1802, tempted by the brilliant prospects then held out by the service of the East India Company, in which his maternal uncle, General Kyd, possessed much influence; and after going two voyages as mate, he obtained the command of the teak-built ship "General Kyd," which was named after, and partly owned, by his uncle. In this fine vessel Captain Nairne made a number of voyages to the East Indies, and was for some time Commodore of the India fleet. During the whole period of his command he was much beloved by his officers and men, and acquired a universal degree of popularity among all with whom he was

brought into contact. Captain Nairne married an English lady in 1824, and a few years afterwards he retired from the command of the "General Kyd;" but in place of retiring from active life, he rendered his nautical knowledge and practical experience useful to others as well as to himself, by giving his attention, to the promotion, direction, and management of various public companies. Some of these have proved of great importance and inestimable benefit to the community, and among others, may be mentioned the Peninsular and Oriental Navigation Company and the Marine Insurance Company. With both Captain Nairne has been connected all along as a director, and he still continues to take a deep interest and an active share in the management of these and various other concerns of similar magnitude and importance. During his long life, Captain Nairne, both while in command of the "General Kyd" and subsequently, has had it in his power, and made good use of it, in aiding many young men in their pursuits in life, and not a few of those for whom he has obtained employment have been connected with Fife, his native county. To the greatest purity of life, and most polished manners, Captain Nairne adds a gaiety and benignity of heart, a cheerfulness of disposition, and a vivacity of mind rarely to be found in one of his advanced years. The young and the old equally enjoy his society—the one suffering no restraint, and the other experiencing additional exhilaration in his presence. Indeed, in the long measure of his days he exhibits that contentment and happiness which habits of piety and virtue alone can produce, and render the evening of life calm and serene.

NICOL, ROBERT, Provost of Cupar.—This gentleman, who had held his office for twelve years, and who, during a residence in the burgh of half a century, had sustained a high reputation as a man and a Christian, died suddenly on Saturday, the 22d November 1851. The disease was affection of the heart, and the sad event was touchingly referred to in all the churches of Cupar next day, and was the most striking lesson of that Sabbath. The death of no other public man in Cupar, it was believed, would have produced the same sense of privation, whether that death was viewed as withdrawing from the community at large a sagacious, upright, and diligent magistrate, and from the poor a ready and steady benefactor; or, as abruptly interrupting and ending the numerous and daily pleasant associations in the minds of the inhabitants of Cupar and the neighbourhood, connected with his presence at public meetings, and even in the streets. For upwards of twenty years he had been the real and acknowledged head of the Liberal party in the burgh. He took a prominent share in the local agitation for the Reform Bill, and never was sparing of exertions that were openly and manly, or of means and money

that could be honestly and uprightly applied. He had long been regarded by his townsmen as their future Provost, and, indeed, possessed the authority, in reference to burgh matters, of a *de facto* Provost. By the first reformed Town Council of Cupar he was elevated to that office; and, with the exception of a few years, during which it was held by another in consequence of Mr Nicol's resignation, he remained the first magistrate of Cupar up to the time of his death, discharging all the duties with ability and fidelity, and amid universal approbation. Nothing short of a resignation insisted on by himself, or the occurrence of a vacancy by death, would ever have tempted the public to look out for a successor. Though he was the head of the magistracy and the Town Council, and wielded the greatest influence, yet there was no assertion of paramount authority—there was even no egotism—he was always ready to co-operate with his brethren, and rule in harmony. He as willingly adopted, and vigorously prosecuted, improvements suggested by others, as if they had occurred first to his own mind. He had no pet notions to obtrude; practical plans for doing good to Cupar, whether devised by himself or others, engaged his equally earnest advocacy. Town Council meetings under his presidency were not like sederunts of coarse debating societies; nor were they frigidly formal, for his genial presence dissipated restraint and produced harmony. Nor should his many and important efforts for better education and for improved prison discipline be forgotten. If his meekness ever gave way, it was when he contemplated the custom whereby our low felons are housed, fed, and attended to like gentlemen, at the expense of industry and honest poverty. His charity to the poor was up to the measure of his ability, and given in a kindly way. The distressed knew that his offerings came from the heart as well as the hand. The week before he died he sent loads of coals to some who might be shivering in that inclement season. We may say that the memory of the Good Provost of Cupar will long be green.

NIMMO, ALEXANDER, Esq., F.R.S.E., and M.R.I.A., was born at Kirkcaldy in 1783. His father, although he latterly kept a hardware store, was originally a watchmaker, and by nature and acquirements a very extraordinary man. The son was educated at the Grammar School of Kirkcaldy, afterwards studied for two years at the College of St Andrews, and finally completed his studies at the College of Edinburgh. He was an excellent Greek and Latin scholar, and the higher branches of mathematics and algebra were his favourite studies. At the age of nineteen he was appointed Rector of the Inverness Academy, by the unanimous vote of the proprietors, after a severe contest with other candidates of no ordinary attainments during an examination of three days. Whilst occupying this office, Mr Nimmo was first employed in a public

capacity, at the recommendation of Mr Telford, by the Parliamentary Commissioners, for fixing and determining the boundaries of the Scottish Counties. This undertaking he accomplished during the vacations, and performed it in the most able and satisfactory manner. His report, which is of considerable magnitude, is one of the most interesting documents ever published in that form. Shortly after this performance, he was again recommended by Mr Telford to the Commissioners for reclaiming the bogs of Ireland. In this situation he became well acquainted with the habits and wants of the Irish peasantry, and his reports and maps of the Irish bogs would alone have handed his name with credit to posterity. After completing the bog surveys, Mr Nimmo went to France, Germany, and Holland, and personally inspected the great works of those nations. On his return he was employed in the construction of Dunmore Harbour, a work of immense magnitude and utility, on a shore much exposed to the roll of the Atlantic, and where the depth of water at the extremity of the pier exceeds that of the Plymouth Breakwater. Mr Nimmo was employed by the Fishery Board in making surveys of the harbours of Ireland, and constructing harbours and piers all round the coast. He was also employed by the Ballast Board to make a chart of the whole coast, which is now published, and is executed with great skill and accuracy. He likewise compiled a book of sailing directions of St George's Channel and the Irish Coast, and, from the paucity of the present information on that subject, is of the greatest use to navigators. During the great distress in the year 1822, he was appointed engineer to the "Western District" of Ireland, and from the outlay of £167,000 up to 1830, he caused, by the improvement of land, and the formation of what may be termed new settlements, no less an increase of revenue in that district than £106,000 per annum. In reviewing Mr Nimmo's professional practice, its extent and variety are calculated to excite surprise. Upwards of thirty piers or harbours on the Irish Coast were built under his direction; also one in South Wales; he designed the Wellesley Bridge and Docks at Limerick; and latterly was engaged in Lancashire, projecting a railway from Liverpool to Leeds, and also the Manchester, Bolton, and Bury Railway. He was consulting engineer to the Duchy of Lancaster, the Mersey and Irwell Navigation, the St Helen's and Runcorn Gap Railway, the Preston and Wigan Railway, and Birkenhead and Chester Railway. In addition to his classical and mathematical knowledge, Mr Nimmo was well versed in modern languages, particularly French, German, Dutch, and Italian, and was also well acquainted with practical astronomy, chemistry, and geology. To the last named science he was much attached, and wrote an excellent paper, showing how it might

become available in navigation, which was published in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. He was also the author of the article on Inland Navigation in Brewster's Cyclopaedia; also, in conjunction with Mr Telford, of that on Bridges; and, with Mr Nicholson, of that on Carpentry. Besides these he wrote several papers, for various periodicals, of the greatest interest and amusement. His evidence on the trial, which took place a few years ago, between the Corporation of Liverpool and the Mersey Company, is among the most interesting to engineers and practical mathematicians ever published. The Lord Chancellor was the counsel by whom Mr Nimmo was cross-examined, and the latter was undoubtedly the only engineer of the age who could at all have competed with Mr Brougham's knowledge of the higher mathematics and natural philosophy, on which the whole subject in dispute depended. He died at Dublin on 20th January 1832.

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OSWALD, Sir JOHN, of Dunnikier, in Fifeshire, a distinguished officer, entered the army when very young, and was engaged in active service for nearly fifty-three years. He was appointed second lieutenant in the 7th Foot in March 1789; and, in July 1790, he embarked for Gibraltar. In January 1791 he was appointed captain in an independent company; and, two months after, was transferred to the Third Foot. In July 1793 he was nominated Brigade-Major to General Leland, which situation he resigned upon the grenadier company he commanded being ordered for foreign service. He joined the second battalion of Grenadiers under Lieutenant-Colonel Cradock in November 1793; and embarking for the West Indies with his battalion, which formed a part of the expedition under Sir Charles Grey, was present at the capture of the Islands of Martinique, St Lucia, and Guadaloupe, and personally engaged in the various actions and sieges of that arduous service. From thence he proceeded to St Domingo, where he remained in garrison till his company was drafted, and the officers and non-commissioned officers returned to England. In April 1797 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in the 35th Foot, and in 1799 he embarked in the expedition to Holland. He was wounded in the action of September 19, and obliged to return to England for the recovery of his health. For his conduct on this occasion he was particularly thanked by the Duke of Gloucester, then Prince William, to whose brigade he belonged. In February 1800 he embarked for the Mediterranean with the corps under General Pigot. He landed in Minorca, and thence proceeded to the blockade of Malta, at the capture of which island he was present. He remained there till the conclusion of the peace of Amiens. On the recom-