



BARNBOUGLE CASTLE

From an Original Drawing by C. Mansfield R.S.A.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

It was long believed that the visitor was St. Andrew, the tutelary patron of Scotland. The whole is supposed to have been an experiment devised by Queen Margaret, to excite her consort's superstitious feelings and deter him from the invasion of England. It is not improbable that Sir David Lindsay was in the secret. The tradition at Linlithgow is, that the man eluded the grasp of those who would have seized him by gliding behind a curtain, which concealed a private stair leading to the upper part of the church, and that he crossed the court and entered the Palace by a small door under the window of the aisle. He is also said to have been a domestic of the Queen, and it is evident that he must have received some instructions from her, as his warning prominently introduces the King's incontinency, which could not fail to excite jealousy.¹ Before James IV. left Linlithgow, he presented the Queen with an order on his treasury for 18,000 crowns, to secure her from pecuniary embarrassment while engaged in the war with her brother Henry VIII.

The Town House, an edifice a short distance south of the Palace and St. Michael's Church, was erected in 1668 by Sir Robert Mylne of Barnton, then chief manager of the burgh, and evidently the cavalier Dean of Guild, who had assisted at the burning of the Solemn League and Covenant in 1662. This building was completely gutted by fire in 1847. In front of the Town House is the Cross Well, a curious hexagonal structure, rebuilt in 1805 on the site of the former erection of 1620, of which it is an exact resemblance. It displays a number of grotesque figures, from the mouths of which the water issues in thirteen jets, and some statues ornament a small gallery, the whole surmounted by a lion rampant, supporting the royal arms of Scotland. A statue of St. Michael on the former Well, or on another, carefully intimated that he was "kind to strangers."

BARNBOUGLE CASTLE—DALMENY PARK.

ON the beach of the Frith of Forth, and within the extensive, verdant, and beautifully wooded domain of Dalmeny Park, the seat of the Earls of Rosebery, is the solitary ruin of Barnbougles Castle, already mentioned as the residence of the Mowbrays of Barnbougles, a distinguished family of Norman descent. Sir David Mowbray of Barnbougles was in the Parliament held at Edinburgh on the 14th of March, 1481,² and his son or grandson Robert became one of the securities in 1546 for the surrender, within the Castle of Edinburgh, of John Sandilands, younger of Calder, under the penalty of 10,000*l.* Scots.³ In the following year he conferred a similar obligation on a Stephen Bell, who was prosecuted for demolishing an image of St. Mary Magdalene.⁴ The Mowbrays about that time intimately connected themselves with their relatives, the Napiers of Merchiston, and in 1572, when the illustrious inventor of Logarithms, son of Sir Archibald Napier of Edinbellie and Merchiston, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Stirling of Keir, the said Sir Archibald selected for his second spouse his cousin, also named Elizabeth, daughter of John Mowbray of Barnbougles.

The wife of the Laird of Barnbougles was the sister of Kirkaldy of Grange, and two of the daughters, named Barbara and Giles, were younger than the stepmother of the philosopher.⁵ Barbara Mowbray was only eight years old when Queen Mary fled into England, and both sisters joined her, and were her affectionate attendants till the Babington conspiracy was made a pretext for her condemnation. On the morning of Mary's execution, Barbara Mowbray and a young French lady, named Beauregard, complained to her physician Bourgoin that they were omitted in her Will, which she had herself hastily written, and with tears entreated that this should be mentioned to their royal mistress. No sooner was the Queen informed of the circumstance than she rose from a kneeling posture, and inscribed a remembrance of her two devoted friends on a blank leaf of her book of devotions. After the execution of the Queen her domestics were cruelly treated, their requests to be allowed to return to their paternal homes were refused, and Barbara and Giles Mowbray, the daughters of one of the oldest houses in Scotland, were consigned to prison for no

¹ Picture of Scotland, by Robert Chambers, 12mo. 1830, vol. ii. pp. 33, 34; New Statistical Account of Scotland—Linlithgowshire, p. 172. Pinkerton, in his History of Scotland, severely censures Lindsay of Pitscottie for his "credulity" in this affair of the mysterious warning against the invasion of England.

² Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 137.

³ Pitcairn's Criminal Trials of Scotland, vol. i. Part I. p. 333.

⁴ Ibid. p. 335.

⁵ Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston, by Mark Napier, Esq., Advocate, 4to. p. 140.

other reason than that they had been the affectionate companions of their captive sovereign. Their father now interfered, and complained to James VI. He obtained a royal commission to proceed to London, and demand from Elizabeth the release of his daughters, and of Mary's household. He was successful in his application, and the names of Barbara and Giles Mowbray are in the list of those ladies who attended the obsequies of their mistress in Peterborough Cathedral. After this melancholy duty Barbara Mowbray married William Curle, who had been Mary's favourite secretary throughout the period of her captivity. They retired to the Continent, and never returned. Their tombs are in the church of St. Andrew at Antwerp, close to a pillar on which was long affixed a portrait of Mary presented by them, with an inscription recording her misfortunes. It is also said that the head of the Queen, which they had contrived to abstract, is deposited at the base of the pillar. Nothing is known of Giles Mowbray, who is supposed to have accompanied her father to Scotland.¹

Francis Mowbray, designated "son to the Laird of Barnbogle," was the brother of those ladies, and was one of the then turbulent and reckless persons who were justly considered dangerous to the community. He was the intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch and Branxholm, Warden of the West Marches, the step-son of Francis Stuart Earl of Bothwell, nephew of the notorious Earl. Sir Walter Scott was the hero of the rescue of a marauder known as "Kinmont Willie" from the custody of Lord Scrope in the Castle of Carlisle, on the 13th of April, 1596, and it may be assumed that Francis Mowbray had some connexion with that daring achievement. On the following day Mowbray killed a person named William Shaw, by thrusting a rapier through his body, for which he was outlawed.² Mowbray was afterwards connected with those noblemen known as the "Popish Lords," and proceeded to the Low Countries, attaching himself to the Court at Brussels, and identifying himself with all the Roman Catholic plots against James VI. He was in England in 1602, when an Italian named Daniel accused him before Queen Elizabeth of conspiring to assassinate the Scottish monarch. They were both sent to Scotland, and committed to Edinburgh Castle, the Italian occupying an apartment immediately above Mowbray. No credible charge was produced against the latter, who denied the accusation in language which James VI. ordered to be recorded and subscribed by him. Mowbray now demanded the combat with Daniel, which he had done in England, which was a condescension on his part, as the Italian was merely a fencing-master. The 5th of January, 1603, was appointed for the duel, which was to be in the court-yard of Holyrood, but the deadly encounter was delayed by the King, who had resolved to confront Mowbray with "other two Scottish men sent out of England, of light account." On the 30th of January, the day after he had been examined before the witnesses, Mowbray was found lifeless and frightfully mangled at the base of the precipices of Edinburgh Castle. It is alleged that he endeavoured to escape by means of his bed-clothes tied together, and that as these were not of sufficient length to admit a descent, he was killed by the fall, though his friends maintained that he had been strangled, and the body thrown out of the window, which received little credit.³ So exasperated was the King against Mowbray, that he and the Privy Council wrote to the Lord Justice-Clerk, Cockburn of Ormiston, and the attempt to escape is specially noticed as an undoubted evidence of guilt, ordering him to try Mowbray for the crime of high treason as if he was alive. The body was dragged backwards through the streets, and produced at the bar of the Justiciary Court. The sentence was that the corpse was to be suspended from a gibbet at the Cross of Edinburgh, and afterwards quartered, his head, a leg, and an arm to be spiked on the Nether-Bow gate, the other leg on the West Port, and the other arm on the Potterrow gate.⁴

Barnbogle in a few years ceased to be the property of the Mowbrays, who, it is said, were latterly of the female line. Sir John Mowbray, the last male descendant of this ancient family, conveyed the estate of Cockairnie near Aberdour in Fife to his uncle William Mowbray, and Barbara, his only child and heiress, married Robert Barton, who assumed the name of Mowbray.⁵ In 1615 the Barony of Barnbogle was sold to Sir Thomas Hamilton, the wealthy first Earl of Haddington, who also, among his other extensive

¹ Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston, by Mark Napier, Esq. pp. 142-145, 510, 511.

² Birrel's Diary, p. 37.

³ Archbishop Spottiswoode's History of the Church and State of Scotland, folio, p. 471.

⁴ Pitcairn's Criminal Trials of Scotland, vol. ii. pp. 405-400; Birrel's Diary, p. 57.

⁵ Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. pp. xxi. 55, 56.—The charters and writs of the Mowbrays of Barnbogle, extending from 1346 to 1615, are in possession of the Earl of Rosebery, and the family is believed to be represented by Mowbray of Cockairnie.

purchases, acquired the adjoining Barony of Dalmeny. This Robert Mowbray married Lady Anne Erskine, daughter of Thomas first Earl of Kellie. The only memorial of this honourable family is their roofless Castle, which has been long a sea-mark, and even the title of their Barony is supplanted by the modern appellation of Dalmeny Park, so called after the designation of the parish. In 1662 John, fourth Earl of Haddington, sold Barnbogle and Dalmeny for 160,000 merks to Sir Archibald Primrose of Carrington, an eminent lawyer and judge, whose son was created Earl of Rosebery in 1703.

Dalmeny Park, the seat of the Earl of Rosebery, is an elegant specimen of the Tudor style, surrounded by magnificent old trees, which abound in the numerous avenues, especially in that entered near Cramond Bridge on the Queensferry road, and is a very romantic approach to the mansion. This was the access traversed by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at the royal visit to the Earl of Rosebery on the 3d of September, 1842. Behind the mansion are beautifully wooded undulating hills, and the lawn below is terminated by the ruins of Barnbogle Castle close to the margin of the sea. The grounds of Dalmeny Park extend from the mouth of the Almond at Cramond, about six miles west along the shore of the Frith of Forth to South Queensferry.

The parish church of Dalmeny, supposed to have been erected in the tenth or eleventh century, is one of the finest specimens of Saxon architecture in Scotland. It for centuries possessed altars dedicated to St. Adamnan and other holy persons. The edifice is of small dimensions, of cut stone, eighty-four feet long and twenty-eight feet broad, contracting at the east end into a semicircle. The pediments of the doors and windows are richly carved, and round the upper part of the structure is an embossment of sculptured faces, each dissimilar, and of grotesque appearance. The principal door on the west is deservedly admired for its exquisite workmanship. The interior is divided into three parts by two semicircular arches, both ornamented by successive zig-zag or starry-shaped mouldings, and as the arch over the chancel is much smaller than the other, the effect is peculiarly elegant. At the door of the church is a large stone coffin cut from a single block, and covered on the lid and sides with sculptured signs which cannot now be deciphered.¹

In the neighbourhood is Dundas Castle, the seat of the ancient family of Dundas of that Ilk, from whom descend several collateral branches. This is the oldest Barony in the district, and can be traced to the reign of William the Lion, which commenced in 1115. Dundas Castle is supposed to have been erected in the eleventh century, and is situated on the slope of a crag or hill in connexion with a modern mansion. Some additions were made about 1416, when it was constituted a fortress by the Regent Duke of Albany, and sanctioned as a place of strength in 1424 by James I. The walls of the original edifice are of great thickness and solidity, the apartments arched, and the views from the roof grand and extensive. Opposite the north front is an ornamental fountain, displaying sculptured figures in stone, the sides containing inflated and barbarous Latin inscriptions, assigning the reasons for its erection in 1623 by Sir Walter Dundas, in the sixty-first year of his age.²

The little royal burgh of Queensferry, so constituted by Charles I. in defiance of the opposition of the burgesses of Linlithgow, is close to the Queen's Ferry, which is said to derive its name from the canonized Queen Margaret, who crossed here in her journeys to and from Dunfermline. Newhalls Inn, or the "Haws," as it is locally designated, is prominently introduced by Sir Walter Scott in the commencement of "The Antiquary," as the inn in which Mr. Oldbuck and Lovell dined after their ride from Edinburgh in the luckless vehicle called the "Queensferry Fly," on their journey to Fairport.

The small rocky islet of Inchgarvie in the middle of the Frith of Forth, which at the Queensferry is contracted to within two miles, is connected with the Barony of Dundas. It was conceded to Dundas of that Ilk in 1491 by James IV., as a compensation for the property forfeited by him at Bothkennar in Stirlingshire, occasioned by his loyalty to James III., with liberty to erect a fortalice on the islet,³ some remains of which still exist on the west of the fortification. The grant was disputed in 1526 by Patrick Wemyss, described as "captain of the Castle of Inchgarvie," who applied to the Estates of Parliament

¹ New Statistical Account of Scotland—Linlithgowshire, p. 102.

² It is stated on the authority of local tradition, that the cause of the erection of this Fountain by Sir Walter Dundas was his disappointment at the loss of the Barony of Barnbogle, for the purchase of which he had collected a large sum of money, when it was acquired by the first Earl of Haddington, and that he never recovered from the

difficulties in which it involved him. While it was in the progress of erection, he delighted "so much in the noise of hewing the stones, that in a fit of sickness, which confined him to his bed, he ordered the masons to perform that operation in his ante-chamber."—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Linlithgowshire, p. 100.

³ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 270.

respecting its "sure keeping, as the Laird of Dundas claimed it to belong to him.¹ Secretary Paniter, Archdeacon of Moray and Abbot of Cambuskenneth, was imprisoned on the islet by the Regent Albany, and it was garrisoned by French soldiers in 1517. Though Inchgarvie is a small barren rock, the possession of it must have been of some importance to the Lairds of Dundas, who were entitled to levy specified dues from all vessels passing up the Frith of Forth. The islet was surrendered to Cromwell in 1651, and was neglected till 1779, when the appearance of Paul Jones off Leith caused the present square fortification to be repaired, and mounted with four pieces of artillery, which were increased during the alarm of the French invasion.

THE BATTLE-FIELD OF PRESTONPANS.

THE "Battle-field of Prestonpans," in the western and level part of the county adjoining Mid-Lothian, is selected under this general title on account of the interesting localities. From the parish-village of Tranent, ten miles east of Edinburgh, the most delightful landscape is commanded on a summer day, including the expanse of the Frith of Forth, forming the Bays of Musselburgh and Aberlady, curving the shore nearly two miles distant, and bounded by the coasts of Fife and Mid-Lothian. On the immediate shore is the small tidal harbour of Morison's Haven, and the villages of Prestonpans, Cockenzie, and Port-Seton. On the East-Lothian shore are also Gosford House, the magnificent mansion of the Earl of Wemyss, the pretty sea-bathing village of Aberlady, and the coast terminated by the conical hill known as North Berwick Law. On the Mid-Lothian shore are the towns of Musselburgh, Portobello, Leith, and the eastern suburbs of Edinburgh. On the Fife coast are its numerous towns and villages, with the lofty Lomond Hills in the background, and the Islands of Inchkeith and Inchcolm are conspicuous in the Frith of Forth.

Tranent is pleasantly situated on a declivity, and is a large irregularly built village on the road to Haddington and Berwick-upon-Tweed. The streets, if they may be so called in a village where every man seems to have erected his dwelling according to his own fancy, are of ample width, yet the place has a poor appearance, chiefly, if not solely, resulting from the indolent and apparently irreclaimable habits of the people. Its barn-like parish church, of outrageous deformity, erected on the site of the former edifice, in which the brave Colonel Gardiner was interred, is only important because it includes his grave. Notwithstanding the local advantages which the village long possessed as a stage on the east road to and from England, before the construction of the North British Railway, the inhabitants, most of whom are colliers, invariably resisted any improvements. They are also considered a disorderly and ignorant community, whose habits were not likely to be improved by the existence of a large number of drinking establishments. Previous to 1773, when the practice was disallowed, the colliers and salters in the village and parish were little better than slaves, who were literally with their families bound to the coal-pits and salt-pans for life, and sold to the new purchasers of the properties on which such works were in operation.

The monks of Newbattle Abbey commenced the coal mines in this district, and the exports were shipped at their harbour of New-Haven, afterwards Acheson's, and now Morison's Haven. About A.D. 1202 Seyer de Quincy, lord of the manor of Tranent, granted to those monks a coal-pit on their lands of Preston.² In 1547 the mines extended a considerable distance under ground, and many of the inhabitants fled into the coal-pits for safety from the advance of the English army before the battle of Pinkie. The English, after repeatedly attempting to dislodge them, closed the apertures of the pits, at which they placed fires, either to expel them by other entrances, or to suffocate them. The perpetrator of this atrocious cruelty was a man named George Ferrers, described as a "gentleman of my Lord Protector's, and one of the commissioners of carriages in the army." The assailants saw the smoke ascending through an opening in the vicinity, and departed without ascertaining whether the people were suffocated or had escaped.³

The tower or fortalice of Falsyde, upwards of two miles west of Tranent, is of considerable antiquity. It at one time belonged to a younger branch of the Setons, Lords Seton and Earls of Winton, who are said to

¹ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 311.

² Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. ii. p. 400.

³ Expedition into Scotlände of Edward Duke of Somerset, by W. Patten, Londoner, p. 44, in "Fragments of Scottish History," by Sir John Graham Dalyell, Bart. 4to, 1798.

have obtained a grant of the Barony of Tranent from King Robert Bruce for their zealous support of his claims to the throne in the person of Sir Alexander Seton, the successor of Sir Christopher Seton, supposed to have been his brother, and whose descendants assiduously wrought their coal-mines.¹ Additions of a later date were erected at the tower, when it belonged to Falsyde or Fawside of that Ilk, who removed in 1618 to a more commodious mansion in the vicinity. The first story and the roof of the tower are arched, and in the stair is a curious place of concealment. On the morning of the battle of Pinkie a small garrison considerably annoyed the English by firing at them from the windows and apertures of this old fortalice. Between Falsyde Tower and Tranent a fierce conflict occurred between the English and Scottish cavalry on the day before the battle of Pinkie, when the latter were repulsed with the loss of 1300 men—a disaster which seriously influenced the result of the following day. The fortalice is the only memorial of the family of Fawside of that Ilk.

About a mile below Tranent is the mansion of Bankton, close to a station of the North British Railway. At the time of the battle of Prestonpans this residence was the property of Colonel Gardiner, who seems to have inherited it from his mother.² The victorious Highlanders plundered Bankton, destroying the beds, tables, and other furniture, and slashing the walls of the apartments with their broadswords, before they returned in triumph to Edinburgh. They were aware that the brave and good Colonel Gardiner had fallen in the conflict, and was removed from the scene of earthly strife.³

The hamlet of Preston in the vicinity, once a considerable town, is situated in rural seclusion amid gardens and orchards. This place was often visited by the Scottish monarchs, and, if tradition is to be credited, was the occasional scene of revels and carousals most discreditably to the parties who delighted in such amusements. Some curious traditions are also preserved of the proprietors, the monks of Newbattle, and their enterprising mercantile affairs. The hamlet now consists of a few stately old mansions and cot-houses. In a field or garden at the east end is the ancient Cross—an elegant stone pillar about fifteen feet in height, rising from the centre of a small octagonal structure nine feet high from the ground. The fraternity, styled the “Chapmen of the Three Lothians,” or itinerating sellers of wares in the counties of Haddington, Edinburgh, and Linlithgow, acquired Preston Cross as their property in 1636, and though the avocation has long ceased, the association still exists under the same title, assembling annually on the second Thursday of July at this Cross, and electing their office-bearers, the chief of whom is designated “My Lord,”—a title most ludicrous when attached in the newspaper notices of their proceedings to the plebeian surnames of some who are in temporary possession of the visionary honour.⁴ His Royal Highness Prince Albert was elected a member of this association, which now consists of respectable merchants, professional gentlemen, and many persons of high rank, and politely became a “Chapman” of the Three Lothians.

A most prominent object in the landscape is Preston Tower, which is on the north side of the decayed hamlet. This is a massive square edifice six storeys in height, the upper one rising from an open battlement on each side. Preston Tower is said to have been erected, or probably enlarged and repaired, about 1500;

¹ Mr. George Sinclair, the “Professor of Philosophy in Glasgow College,” states in the Preface to his now very rare production entitled “Satan’s Invisible World Discovered,” that the Earl of Winton of his day—probably George third Earl, who died in December 1650—had constructed free levels below ground to drain his coal works, by excavating “impregnable rocks with more difficulty than Hannibal cutted the Alps,” by pits and air-holes, “and floods of water running through the labyrinths for several miles.” It is not easy to perceive the connexion of coal-mines with “Satan’s Invisible World Discovered,” unless the learned “Professor” held that the utter darkness was an analogy which could not be mistaken.

² Bankton was afterwards the property of Andrew Macdowal, Esq., appointed a Judge in the Court of Session in July 1755, and sat as Lord Bankton till his death in 1761.

³ Colonel Gardiner married Lady Frances Erskine, second daughter of David fourth Lord Cardross, who succeeded as ninth Earl of Buchan. By this lady, who was with her family in Stirling Castle at the time of the Colonel’s death, he had thirteen children, of whom two sons and three daughters survived their father. The sons adopted the military profession, and the eldest daughter married, in 1750, Sir William Baird of Saughtonhall, Bart., and their son, Sir James Gardiner Baird, succeeded as fifth Baronet in 1770. Colonel Gardiner’s widow died at Edinburgh in 1774, aged seventy-four.

⁴ The real chapmen or pedlers, all of whom kept pack-horses and carried on a prosperous business, formerly met in a field at Preston annually, on the second Thursday of October, the day on which St. Jerome’s Fair was held. This fair was transferred to the adjoining village of Prestonpans about 1732, and twenty years afterwards ceased to be observed. Nothing is known of the institution of the Fraternity of the Chapmen of the Three Lothians, or of their inducement to select Preston as their stated place of yearly resort. The members residing in East-Lothian were always the most numerous, and Preston was the town nearest the central county of Edinburgh. They commenced their proceedings at Prestonpans by holding a court, and electing a provost, or preses, six bailies, a depute-preses, clerk, treasurer, and councillors. The bailies were, one for Prestonpans and Cockenzie, one for Haddington and North-Berwick, one for Dunbar and Oldhamstocks, one for Musselburgh and Dalkeith, one for Queensferry and Borrowstownness, and one for Linlithgow and Bathgate. They next proceeded to regulate and collect the fines due by the offenders of their rules, and then marched to Preston Cross, preceded by a band of music, where they drank wine, and returned to Prestonpans to finish the ceremonial by a dinner. About 1750 the number of chapmen in East-Lothian were fifteen, in 1796 they had diminished to six, and all the members were only twenty-four.—Sir John Sinclair’s “Statistical Account of Scotland,” vol. xvii. pp. 79, 80.

and, though in a ruinous state, it is not externally much dilapidated. Sir Walter Scott visited this Tower in 1830, and conjectured that the alleged venerable edifice at one time was an outpost of the Lords Home, long powerful in the south-eastern parts of Scotland before the rise of the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell, and the termination of a series of fortalices extending from Ford Castle on the borders of Berwickshire; but it is uncertain whether this supposition was founded on initial letters or armorial bearings sculptured on the outer walls. The Barony of Preston was acquired by marriage towards the end of the fourteenth century by the Hamiltons of Fingalton¹—a family who are the nearest cadets of the Ducal House of Hamilton, and consequently could not be then the property of the Lords Home. Preston Tower was burnt by the English in 1544,² and by Cromwell in 1650, when the title-deeds and other documents belonging to the Hamiltons of Fingalton, who had assumed the designation of Preston, were all unfortunately destroyed. The Tower was accidentally burnt in 1663, after which it never was inhabited. The ravages which Cromwell's soldiers inflicted after burning the Tower in 1650, are detailed by Sir Thomas Hamilton, then the proprietor. His lands of Preston were devastated, his coal-mines destroyed, his estates sequestrated, and he was fined 1000*l.* sterling. In noticing his personal services and losses he particularly mentions the wilful burning of Preston Tower, in which, among other valuables, his family papers in his charter-chest were consumed, and his subsequent exertions and privations.³ One of the earliest proceedings of the Parliament after the Restoration was to acknowledge his losses, and another Act estimated his losses at 51,866*l.* Scots.⁴ His eldest son William, born in 1647, was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1673, and sold his lands of Preston, apparently reserving the Tower, to Sir James Oswald his brother-in-law, in 1681; and Robert, his brother and successor in the title, who was conspicuous in the Covenanted conflicts of Drumclog and Bothwell Bridge, never had any personal connexion with the property.

On the shore is the decayed tidal harbour formerly mentioned as Acheson's Haven, and now Morison's Haven, still the deepest and best on that part of the coast of the Frith of Forth.⁵ This little port is only interesting as having been originally formed by the monks of Newbattle, who designated it Newhaven, for the exportation of their coals. This deserted place was considered of such importance in the seventeenth century, that an Act was passed by the Parliament allowing an annual fair in 1698.⁶

The village of Prestonpans, formerly called Salt-Preston on account of its salt pans, extends along the rocky shore in one continued street of no great breadth, nearly a mile from its western extremity. Before the Union it possessed a very extensive import trade with the Continent, which entirely ceased about 1743. Latterly Prestonpans possessed for some years potteries for stone ware, which were relinquished in 1840, and the village is notoriously in repute for its celebrated ale, and the oysters known as Pandores. On the eastern wall of the churchyard is a monument to the memory of Stewart of Physgill, an officer of the royal army, who was killed by the Highlanders at the conflict in 1745.

The most remarkable event in the vicinity was the battle fought on the 21st of September, 1745, in which Sir John Cope was entirely defeated by the Highland Adventurers under Prince Charles Edward in person, and usually designated the battle of Prestonpans, though the field of action was in the parish of Tranent. The Highlanders in their accounts termed it the battle of Gladsmuir, a parish upwards of three

¹ Sir John Hamilton of Fingalton, Knight, married as his first wife Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir James Liddell of Preston, and this alliance conveyed the Barony into his family. His grandson Sir Robert, who succeeded before 1460, granted salt-pans, garners, and other donations to the Abbey of Melrose. Sir David Hamilton of Preston accompanied James V. in his matrimonial voyage to France, and Preston and Salt-Preston, or Prestonpans, were constituted a burgh of barony in his favour, with various privileges, in 1552.

² Sir David Hamilton of Preston, as a reward for his services in the war after the burning of the Tower in 1544, was created Knight-Banneret and Deputy-Marshal of Scotland. Though he actively promoted the Reformation, his judicious conduct recommended him as a negotiator between the contending parties, and his town of Preston was mutually selected as the place of conference, in 1559, by the supporters of the Queen-Dowager and her opponents, the Lords of the Congregation.

³ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. vi. p. 594; vol. vii. p. 98, and Appendix, p. 69.

⁴ Act "in favour of Sir Thomas Hamilton of Preston concerning

the making up his writs that were burnt by the late usurpers in the month of October, 1650 years," and Act estimating his expenditure of "horses, arms, moneys, and other necessars both at Dunbar and Worcester."—Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. vii. p. 98, and Appendix, p. 69.

⁵ The name of Acheson's Haven is said to have been derived from Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford, created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1628, and appointed a Judge in the Court of Session in 1626, when he adopted the title of Lord Glencairnie. He was ancestor of the Earls of Gosford in Ireland, yet the sea-port of the ancient monks, which is on the estate of Prestongrange, never appears to have been his property. The present designation of Morison's Haven is from a family of that name, one of whom was a contemporary of Sir Archibald Acheson on the bench, and assumed his seat, also in 1626, by the title of Lord Prestongrange. Morison's Haven, formerly the harbour for Prestonpans, is now almost superseded by the excellent harbour of Cockenzie, two miles eastward.

⁶ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. x. p. 180.

miles distant; but they believed a tradition that a battle was to be fought on a muir, the resort of gleds or kites, well-known birds of prey, which would restore the rightful heir to the throne; and their credulity applied this to the locality.

The Adventurers marched from their camp at Duddingstone, under Arthur's Seat, on the 20th of September, apparently without expecting immediately to encounter the royal army, though they knew that Sir John Cope had disembarked his troops at Dunbar, and instead of the road to Prestonpans by the shore they advanced east to Tranent along the elevated grounds. The contending forces were nearly equal in numbers. Those of Sir John Cope consisted of about 2300 cavalry and infantry, and those of the Adventurers were at least 2500 individuals. But every advantage was in favour of Sir John Cope, who commanded infantry properly disciplined, supported by two regiments of cavalry, and by artillery, which the Highlanders then viewed with superstitious terror. Few of the Adventurers, on the contrary, had ever been under fire, and their cavalry were limited to fifty gentlemen and their retainers. They had only an iron gun, without a carriage, drawn by a Highland pony; and though the Prince proposed to dismiss this useless article, the Chiefs insisted that it should accompany them, alleging that their men attached an extraordinary importance to the possession of the "musket's mother," which in their language was the phrase for a cannon, and that its absence would considerably dispirit them. Many of the Highlanders had no fire-arms, while some possessed merely a broad-sword, a dirk, or a pistol, and the majority of them carried the blade of a scythe nailed to the wooden handle of a pitchfork — a weapon, however, which proved most formidable in the conflict. Such was the motley array who defeated the Hanoverian General, as they designated Sir John Cope.

The Adventurers, on the afternoon of the 20th of September, formed in order of battle on an eminence, a short distance west of Tranent, called Birsley Brae, in sight of the royal troops, by whom they were saluted with shouts of defiance, to which they responded by imprecations in the Gaelic language. They ascertained that Sir John Cope was prepared to receive them on level ground east of Prestonpans, and also that the march over the morass, which now consists of fertile fields, was dangerous, if not impracticable. Lord George Murray, who acted as their lieutenant-general, was concerting the mode of attack, and halting opposite Preston Tower, he appeared to threaten the flank of the royal troops, which induced Sir John Cope to change his position. The evolutions of the Adventurers compelled him to alter his arrangements at least four times. He was aware that his situation was unfavourable, and that he could act only on the defensive. This was the conviction of Colonel Gardiner, who was at the head of his regiment, now the Fourteenth Light Dragoons, and knew intimately the localities in the vicinity of his own residence. It is said that the Colonel offered Sir John Cope his house and grounds of Bankton if he would be allowed to place the artillery. This was refused, and the Colonel retired with a strong presentiment of the result, and of his own fate.

The Adventurers encamped in the fields east of Tranent, and a "council of war" was held in the village, at which it was decided, by the advice of Lord George Murray, that the attack should commence at sunrise. The principal inn of Tranent, a tenement of merely two apartments, afforded temporary accommodation to the Prince, the titular Duke of Perth, and another officer of rank. They dined in this hostelry in the afternoon, and the landlady cautiously removed every article of value even from such distinguished guests, lest the unceremonious cupidity of the "wild Highlandmen" might be excited. She regaled the Prince and his companions with "kail," or broth, and beef, of which they partook from a shallow wooden platter, and she produced only two wooden spoons, the one exclusively used by the Prince, and the other alternately by the Duke and his friend. They were obliged to cut the animal food with a common butcher's knife, and to eat it with their fingers. A few piquets were placed round the bivouac for the night, and the Highlanders reposed in the open air, which, by their mode of life, was no privation. The Prince selected a sheaf of peas for his pillow, and stretched himself on the stubble with his officers. It is sentimentally asserted, that while Sir John Cope was in comfortable quarters at Cockenzie House, the "unfortunate descendant of Robert Bruce lay on a bed of peas straw, and in the open field, surrounded by his humble but devoted retainers."¹ This, however, was merely prudential choice, and resulted from peculiar circumstances.

¹ *Memoirs of the Pretenders and their Adherents*, by John Henegge Jesse, 8vo. 1845, vol. i. p. 267.

The morass was carefully examined by an officer, who declared that it was almost impassible by the Highlanders, and peculiarly dangerous. A gentleman named Anderson of Whitburgh was at this so-called "council of war" when the report was delivered, who had often shot snipes on the ground, and was intimately acquainted with its condition. He was silent during the discussion, after which he waited on Hepburn of Keith and Lord George Murray, informing them that he knew a dry part of the morass which could shelter the Highlanders from exposure to the fire of the royal forces, and who would not even see them at such an early hour. He was brought to the Prince, who sat on his couch of peas straw, and listened with delight to the announcement. The offer was eagerly accepted, and the plan of attack finally arranged.

The fight commenced at the morning twilight, in the narrow road leading from the village of Preston by Colonel Gardiner's mansion of Bankton to Tranent. It is unnecessary to detail minutely the particulars of a conflict which lasted only a few minutes. The royal troops were panic struck from the sudden and stealthy attack by the Highlanders at the daybreak of a very hazy morning, were completely routed, and fled in every direction. Sir John Cope passed through the victorious Adventurers unchallenged by displaying a white cockade, the badge of the adherents of the House of Stuart, and was the first to carry into England the tidings of his defeat.¹ A small body of cavalry rode furiously to Edinburgh, and demanded admission into the Castle. They found the gates closed by order of General Guest, the commander of the garrison, who intimated to them that if they refused instantly to depart he would discharge his artillery on cowards who had deserted their colours. Only one hundred and seventy of the infantry escaped, about four hundred fell in the brief conflict, and the remainder surrendered as prisoners. The greater number of the standards of the royal forces, and the whole of their artillery, fell into the hands of the Adventurers, who also obtained possession of Sir John Cope's military chest at Cockenzie House, containing nearly or probably upwards of 2500*l*. The loss of the Adventurers was only three officers and thirty men, with seventy or eighty wounded. Many of the slain were interred near the farm-house of Thorntree-Mains, so called from the thorn-tree which marks the pit into which the dead bodies were indiscriminately thrown.

The principal calamity was the death of Colonel Gardiner, whose life was worth hecatombs of the semi-barbarian mountaineers who defeated the royal troops.² He had passed the night in a field, wrapped in his cloak, under the shelter of a rick of barley near his own mansion of Bankton, and his anticipations of his fate appear to have been increased by religious excitement. About three in the morning he summoned his four domestic servants who were in waiting, and dismissed three of them with affectionate and pious advices, which apparently intimated that it was his last farewell of them. He then applied himself to devotional exercises during the remainder of the time, which could not have been more than an hour. At the commencement of the onset he was wounded by a bullet in his left breast, which made him spring in the saddle. His servant, who led his horse, urged him to retire, but he said it was merely a wound in the flesh, and continued in action, though he immediately received a shot in his right thigh. It was discerned that some of the insurgents fell by him. He was for a few moments supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Whitney, who was shot through the arm, by Lieutenant West, and by a few dragoons, who continued with him to the last. It was in vain attempted to rally the royal troops, who precipitately fled after a faint fire. In the brief conflict, deserted by his soldiers, and almost the only officer who remained faithful to his duty, he perceived a small party of infantry gallantly defending themselves. He exclaimed—"These brave fellows will be cut to pieces for want of a commander;" and he rode to them, saying—"Fire on, my lads, and fear nothing." Colonel Gardiner had scarcely uttered these words, when he was struck by a Highland savage armed with a scythe fixed to a long pole, and he received a severe wound on his right arm, which compelled him to drop his sword.³ Others assailed

¹ This latter circumstance is most sarcastically noticed in the Jacobite ballad, universally known in Scotland, entitled "Johnnie Cope," in which is the doggrel couple—

"Says Lord Mark Kerr, you are no blate
To bring the news of your ain defeat."

This Lord Mark Kerr, who was hated by the Jacobites, was the fourth son of Robert, fourth Earl and first Marquis of Lothian.

² The biography of the brave and excellent Colonel Gardiner, by his friend Dr. Philip Doddridge, is well known, and he is prominently introduced in "Waverley" as commander of the regiment of Dragoons, then designated Gardiner's Dragoons, in which Edward Waverley obtained his commission.

³ It is usually alleged that a stalwart Celt, known as the "Miller of Invernahayle," cut down Colonel Gardiner. This statement must be erroneous, if the following, written in 1835, is correct:—"Samuel



THE FIELD OF PRESTONPANS, (DEATH OF COLONEL GARDINER.)

From an Original Drawing by Sir W. Allan, P. R. S.

JOHN G. MURDOCH, LONDON



TANTALLON CASTLE

from an Original Drawing by J. G. Murdoch Esq.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

him, and he was dragged from his horse. When the Colonel fell, another Highlander, who is said to have been executed twelve months afterwards, inflicted the mortal blow on the back of his head. He could only say to his servant as his last words—"Take care of yourself." This occurred near the west end of the hamlet, not then in existence, called the Meadow Mill, and not more than a fourth of a mile from his own house. The servant fled to a mill two miles distant, and returned in the disguise of a miller, with a cart, about two hours after the conflict had terminated. The Colonel was found breathing, though insensible, plundered of his watch, money, and every article of value, and even stripped of his boots and upper clothing. As his mansion was in possession of the Adventurers, he was conveyed to the then manse of Tranent, where he was laid in bed, and continued frequently groaning till about eleven in the forenoon, when he expired, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.¹ He was interred on Tuesday, the 24th of September, within the parish church of Tranent—an edifice supplanted by the present structure, erected in 1800. No monument has been reared to the memory of this most worthy hero, whose very grave was long forgotten, until it was accidentally discovered, and the Colonel's skull retained the mark of the stroke of the Lochaber axe, while his military "club," bound firmly with silk, dressed with hair-powder, was almost quite fresh.

Many anecdotes were long preserved of the Highlanders in connexion with the conflict. They indiscriminately plundered friend and foe, literally acting as thieves, and rifling the pockets of those who had resorted from the villages to view the scene of battle. They eagerly appropriated every article on which they could lay hands; and from their ignorance of the value of the spoils, especially watches, they often committed ludicrous mistakes. A pit was excavated below Tranent churchyard to inter some dragoons, into which they were thrown undivested of their clothes. A Highlander happened to pass, and seeing boots on one of the soldiers, he desired the person who was filling the pit to draw them off. This was refused, and the mountaineer, after some hesitation, commenced operations. While stooping, the indignant rustic struck him with his spade on the head, and he was inlumed unceremoniously with the dragoons. Many deserted, and returned to their fastnesses and glens with the plunder, convinced that they had acquired a competency for life.

TANTALLON CASTLE.

THE position of Tantallon or Tantallan Castle, the former stronghold of the once powerful Douglasses, appears in remarkable contrast to the objects in East-Lothian already described. We now leave the smooth or undulating fields of the most celebrated district in Scotland for cultivation, and proceed to the coast, where a broken line of rocks, rough and brown, or of the darkest hue, in reality an almost iron-bound continuation of rugged and wild precipices, overlooks the entrance to the Frith of Forth and the broad expanse of the German Ocean. On the most conspicuous of these stern projections are the ruins of Tantallon Castle, a fortress prominently introduced by Sir Walter Scott as the stronghold in which Marmion took leave of Archibald fifth Earl of Angus, commonly designated the "Great Earle" and "Bell-the-Cat." This vast pile, which was once some distance from the sea, is three miles east of North-Berwick and eight miles north-west of Dunbar, on the summit of an extensive and lofty promontory of trap-tuff, which is hollowed into inaccessible precipices by the action of the waves, and is surrounded on three sides by the sea.²

The date of the erection of Tantallon Castle is unknown. Sir Walter Scott states that the Fortress

Anderson, who by his Lochaber axe killed the pious and brave Colonel Gardiner, was a native of this parish (Kilmalie). His grandson is one of the elders at present. He used to say that he and his comrade acted in self-defence, for the Colonel galloped up and attacked them.—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Inverness-shire, p. 121.

¹ The manse now occupied by the parish minister of Tranent was built in 1781, and must not be mistaken, as it commonly is, for the house in which Colonel Gardiner died, and from which he was carried to the church for interment.

² The situation of the fortifications of Tantallon Castle is thus briefly described in "Marmion,"—

"Broad, massive, high, and stretching far,
And held impregnable in war,
On a projecting rock they rose,
And round three sides the ocean flows.
The fourth did battled walls enclose,
And double mound and fosse.

“is believed to have belonged in more ancient times to the Earls of Fife, the descendants of Macduff. It was certainly in the possession of Isabel, the last Countess of that renowned line, and was comprehended in the settlement which she made of her honours and estates upon Robert Stewart, Earl of Menteith, whom she recognised by that deed as her lawful and nearest heir in 1371.” This Earl of Menteith, who married Margaret, Countess of Menteith in her own right, grand-daughter of Murdoch eighth Earl, was the third son of Robert II., and was afterwards Earl of Fife, Duke of Albany, and Regent of Scotland. Their son Murdoc, second Duke, who succeeded his father in 1419, and also obtained the Regency while James I. was a captive in England, was the next proprietor. He was beheaded, with two of his sons and the Earl of Lennox, at Stirling, in May 1425, the year after his Duchess, who was implicated in the sudden arrest of himself, his family, and adherents, had been transferred as a prisoner from the hall to the dungeon of the Castle which she at the time inhabited. In 1427, Alexander Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, who had been the leader of a rebellion in the Highlands, was after his submission to James I. committed to Tantallon under the charge of George, fourth Earl of Angus, the King’s nephew, and father of “Bell-the-Cat,” and who obtained a grant of the King’s Castle of Temptallone,” and the adjacent lands, which were constituted a Barony in June 1452. This acquisition by the House of Douglas was confirmed to “Bell-the-Cat” in October 1479. After the downfall of the chief of that family the Fortress and Barony were obtained by a younger branch, whose increasing power endangered the throne.

In July 1528, James V., then a youth of about fifteen years of age, escaped from the thralldom of Archibald sixth Earl of Angus, against whom a war was commenced to seize his strongholds; and the operations to reduce Tantallon indicate its strength as a fortress to resist the rude artillery of that time, although its position is commanded from all the adjacent fields. In September an act of attainder was passed against the House of Douglas, and the forfeiture of their possessions included Tantallon. An army of 12,000 men, with a train of artillery, invested the fortress, and after a siege of twenty days were compelled to desist. The Earl of Angus was absent in Berwickshire, declining to hazard himself in any place of strength, and observing the maxim of his predecessor, that “it was better to hear the lark sing than the mouse cheep.” Two of the cannons brought against Tantallon were known as “thrawin-mouthed Meg and her Marrow.” James V. was obliged to return to Edinburgh, and withdrew his forces, leaving a small detachment to protect the artillery. Angus suddenly issued from his retreat at the head of one hundred and sixty followers, routed the detachment, and captured the leader, whom he released after conveying the artillery to some distance in its destined passage, telling him to assure the King of his loyal services, and that his hostility was solely directed against his evil advisers. The proceedings to crush the House of Douglas were eventually successful, and the Earl fled to England. Tantallon was surrendered on the 4th of December, 1528, to the royal forces by Simon Penango, who had intimated to Angus that he was “evill victualled,” and wanted ammunition and artillery, which the Earl was unable to supply. James V. rewarded Penango, placed in Tantallon a sufficient garrison with ample stores, repaired the walls, and conferred the command on his favourite, Oliver St. Clair. The King visited the Fortress in 1537 to inspect its condition and the artillery. While in the possession of the King the fortifications appear to have been enlarged and considerably strengthened.¹ After the death of James V., in December 1542, the Earl of Angus returned from exile, was restored to all his castles and estates, and rendered Tantallon stronger than it had been at any time; but he never recovered his former power, and in reality he came to Scotland by the favour of Henry VIII. Sir Ralph Sadler resided some time in Tantallon Castle for his personal security, while the unpopular negotiations which he was sent to superintend were in progress with the young Prince Edward and the infant Queen Mary, and he has recorded a notice of the declining resources of the House of Douglas. The Earl of Angus was unwilling that he should inspect the bareness of his establishment, and he sent his servant, who reported that the Castle was “cleanly unfurnished both of bedding and all manner of household stuff, and none to be bought or hired, nor no manner of provision to be made thereof, nor any kind of victual nearer than this town, which is twenty miles off.” Sadler again observes, that though Tantallon is “easily” or “poorly” furnished, and “slendour lodging in it, yet, I assure you, it is of such strength as I must not fear the malice of mine enemies, and therefore do now think myself to be out of danger.” The Earl of Angus died in Tantallon Castle in 1556. Another English ambassador was an inmate of the Fortress in

¹ In the Lord High Treasurer's Books is this entry, under date 6th October, 1536—“To Olipher Sinclaire at the Kingis command to the Warkis at Tamtallome, lxxvj li. xiijs. iiijd.”—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part I. p. 298.

1572. This was Killegrew, who was sent by Queen Elizabeth, secretly instructed, to devise the execution of the captive Queen Mary in a manner the least likely to excite a dangerous sensation, and his first residence was in Tantallon, in which the Earl of Morton was then confined by indisposition.

In 1639 the Covenanters besieged and secured Tantallon Castle, to revenge the loyalty of William eleventh Earl of Angus and first Marquis of Douglas, who adhered to Charles I., and they garrisoned the Fortress against the king. In January 1651, the Captain of the Bass seized an English vessel laden with stores, on the voyage to Leith, and some of the crew were imprisoned in Tantallon. General Monck resolved to reduce the Fortress, and advanced with three regiments of horse and infantry. He stationed his artillery on the high ground south of the spring, known as St. Baldred's Well. The garrison under Alexander Seton refused to surrender, and Monk plied his mortar-pieces two days. These made little impression, and his battering guns were more successful. Sir James Balfour states that the siege continued twelve days, and that the assailants entered by a large breach, the stones of which filled the ditch. The garrison entrenched the tower and obtained conditions. This was the last military operation against Tantallon, and closes its historical career.

This huge pile was considered so impregnable, that to "ding down Tantallon," and to "mak' a brig to the Bass," were by the local peasantry long held to be equally impossible.¹ The latter difficulty is undeniable, but the events of 1639 and 1651 disproved the former. Nevertheless, so strong is the position of Tantallon Castle, that the adage would apply before the invention of artillery. The only entrance is from the west, where the Fortress was defended by two ditches, the vestiges of which are still very distinct, and the interior, close to the principal part of the pile, rendered steep by the scraping of the rock. The remains of considerable works are beyond the area of the outer ditch. The Fortress was also secured on the west side by massive towers, and here was the drawbridge in connexion with the gateway, which led into the main court. The enclosed area is cut off by these towers and curtains, and the dilapidated edifices rise immediately over the precipices on the west. The central portion of the Fortress may be said to be a rounded front, which projects considerably forward from two extensive curtains of a lofty wall stretching obliquely towards the sea. On this edifice are seen the remains of a coat of arms, the only piece of sculpture on the gloomy pile, except a slightly perceptible moulding round the circular arch of the doorway beneath, at which are the indications of buttresses, probably connected with the drawbridge of the inner moat. Tantallon consists of three circular and square towers, the walls of enormous thickness, united by lofty ramparts. The east and west towers and the curtains are the oldest portions, and the central is supposed to be of the time of the sixth Earl of Angus. The buildings towards the sea are almost entirely destroyed, yet the Castle was habitable before it was dismantled by Lord President Sir Hew Dalrymple, who died in 1737. The interior displays broken staircases, inaccessible apartments, and fragments of roofless chambers. Beneath the piles of ruins are arched vaults and dark excavated dungeons, in which many acts of cruelty were inflicted on the miserable captives in feudal times. One of the deepest and most dismal is without the Castle, at the north-west angle, and is conjectured to have been the donjon-keep of the guard-house. These vaults were long the haunts of smugglers, and the unsuspected receptacles of their commodities.² The neglected garden, fringed on the north and east by thickets of diminutive elder-bushes, is the

¹ This ancient familiar proverb for centuries characterised supposed exploits which cannot be achieved, and is an old military tradition said to have formed the burden of the "Scots March." It is usually presented as a half stanza—

"Ding down Tantallon,
Mak' a brig to the Bass."

Hamilton of Gilbertfield complimented Allan Ramsay, the author of the "Gentle Shepherd," that—

"Nowther Hiellanman nor Lawlan,
In poetrie,
But mocht as weel ding down Tantallon
As match wi' thee."

Time, however, is fast "dinging down" the stately and massive towers of Tantallon Castle.

² A band of thieves, headed by an old sailor who had been wrecked

on the rocky islet of Fidra, near North-Berwick, entrenched themselves in the upper apartment of Tantallon Castle. They had constructed a ladder of ropes, which they could use and remove at pleasure, and for weeks they sallied out at night, plundering the neighbourhood of clothes and provisions. Some of the North-Berwick fishermen had seen lights at night twinkling in the upper part of the ruins, from slit-openings and shot-holes, which, as these lights were considered supernatural, excited no suspicion. A Highland servant, while planting ivy at the base of the old walls, was invisibly pelted with pieces of lime, and superstitious fear constrained him to be silent. At last the general dismay was relieved by some young women, who, while working in the Castle garden, was startled by perceiving a weather-beaten face intently gazing at them from a window in the fourth storey. They fled and raised the alarm, which was soon followed by the capture and punishment of the marauders.—Geology of the Bass, by Hugh Miller, in the "Bass Rock, its Civil and Ecclesiastical History," &c., 8vo. 1848, pp. 75, 76.

only memorial of the scene admirably described in "Marmion" as the favourite resort of the Lady Clare, and was certainly, with the sight of the Bass, the opposite Island of May, the expanse of the Frith of Forth, and the German Ocean, a most appropriate locality for meditation. The whole is now one of the many remains of extinct feudal grandeur and lordly power.

THE BASS.

NEARLY opposite Tantallon Castle, and apparently close to the ruins, though in reality at least two miles distant, is the "sea-rock immense, amazing Bass," which rises abruptly from the sea upwards of four hundred and twenty feet, and from the fathomed depth of the water probably six hundred feet of elevation. This huge and wondrous mass of clinkstone, the abode of myriads of sea-fowl, is peculiarly perpendicular, and appears in dark and isolated grandeur, presenting a series of rude columns bent forward on the shelves formed by cross-jointings, on which the sea-fowl rear their young. The highest side is on the north, and on the south the surface is conical, sloping rapidly towards the sea. The Bass is fully a mile in circumference, and the area of grassy surface, nearly seven acres, affording pasturage to a few sheep. A cavern, nearly thirty feet high, and five hundred feet in length, perforates the Rock from north-west to south-east, which can be explored at ebb tide, and is entered by a natural niche upwards of one hundred feet high, the roof displaying minute tufts of rock-fern. The interior contains nothing attractive, and the roof closes at the entrance, where a projection excludes the daylight. In the centre of this cavern is a dark pool of three or four feet water at low ebb, and within the south-eastern entrance an accumulation of boulders occupies the remaining portion of the length. Near the north-west opening is a gravel beach, chiefly covered at spring tides, when it is lashed by the violence of the waves, but generally the surrounding channel is free from rocks or sand, and is of great depth.

The only landing-place on the Bass is on the south-east side, beneath the now ruinous fortifications, and is remarkably steep and difficult. This landing-place, which is cut out of the solid rock, leads to the first of three terraces of the sloping acclivity. This terrace contains the ruinous Fortress, so constructed that a single line of wall built across the point from east to west renders it inaccessible, and completely secures the whole island, joining at one extremity a steep cliff which rises towards the second terrace, and terminates with the rock-edge descending perpendicularly into the sea. On this middle platform or terrace, which is exactly above the cavern, are the remains of the Chapel. The upper and largest terrace is immediately under the summit of the rock, on which was the flag-staff. Here is a levelled space, formerly the garden, enclosed by a dilapidated wall, and in the centre is a deep square excavation called the Well, the water of which is very disagreeable. All the doors of the ruins are open, with the exception of one, by which the tenant protects the upper part of the Rock, and the sheep and unfledged birds, from rude visitors. This door divides the surface of the Rock into two unequal lower and upper parts, confining the sheep to the latter, while over the surface of both range a colony of rabbits.

The Bass is one of the most stupendous natural curiosities in Scotland, and rises from the sea like an enormous eruption of a former world. From the opposite coast of Fife the view is peculiarly impressive, especially when the setting sun reflects on its huge columns, or the foaming billows dash against its massive sides.¹ The earliest notice of the Bass is connected with religious seclusion. At the end of the sixth

¹ Boece, in the sixteenth century, describes the Bass, in his antiquated phraseology, as "ane wonderful crag risand within the sea, with so narrow and strait hals (passage), that no schip nor boat may arrive bot allenarlie at ane part of it; and (is) unwinnabil be engine of man." He also states that "every thing in that crag is full of admiration and wonder," and he describes "ane multitude of fish callit by the pepil bassinates,"—evidently seals or sea-dogs, which frequent the mouth of the Tyne at Tynninghame House, and no longer excite the terror of man, or cause murrain to cattle. Monsieur Beague, in "the Regency of Mary of Guise," states that the Bass is an "impregnable rock of a small extent and oval figure, cut out by the hands of nature. It has only one avenue that leads to it, and that is

towards the castle, but so very difficult and uneasy, that by reason of the hidden sands that surround the Rock, nothing can approach it but one little boat at a time.—Those that enter the castle must climb up by the help of a strong cable thrown down for the purpose, and when they have got with much ado to the foot of the wall, they sit down in a wide basket, and in this position are mounted up by strength of hands. There is no getting into this wonderful fortress by any other means."—Beague's History of the Campaigns, 1548 and 1549, between the Scots and French on the one side, and the English and their Foreign Auxiliaries on the other, 8vo. 1707, translated from the French by Dr. Abereromby. The assertion that "hidden sands" render the Bass difficult of access is erroneous.



THE BASS ROCK

From an Original Drawing by C. Hanford Esq.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

century flourished St. Baldred, the apostle, as he is called, of East-Lothian, and designated "Doctor of the Picts," though Christianity is said to have been preached in East-Lothian a century earlier. St. Baldred is traditionally alleged to have selected the Bass for his devotions, and he is consequently known as St. Baldred of the Bass. He is said to have been a disciple of St. Mungo of Glasgow, and a credulous authority represents him as the successor of the same St. Mungo in that See.¹ It is also stated, that though he selected the Bass as his residence, his pastoral care extended from the Lanmermuir range to the Esk at Musselburgh—that he performed numerous miracles—and that he died on the Rock in March, A.D. 606. Sundry remarkable prodigies are recorded of his interment.² This anchorite has transmitted his name to various localities on the shore, which were long held in veneration, and well known to the peasantry of the respective vicinities.³ Whatever credit may be assigned to St. Baldred and his labours, a chapel existed on the Bass in remote times. The Rock anciently formed a parish, and the "kirk in the Crag of the Bass" was consecrated in honour of the holy man in 1542, by the authority of Cardinal Beaton.⁴ This was the present ruinous chapel, erected on the site of St. Baldred's cell, which was used for divine service till after the Reformation, when the want of inhabitants rendered a preacher unnecessary.⁵ The Bass is now parochially annexed to North-Berwick, the incumbent of which, as representing the vicar, receives annually twelve solan geese "entire with feathers."

The earliest known proprietors of the Bass were the family of Lauder, the chief of whom was usually styled "Lauder of the Bass," though their residence is supposed to have been in the burgh of North-Berwick. A charter from William Lambertson, Bishop of St. Andrews, in favour of Robert Lauder, one of the companions of Sir William Wallace, was dated 4th June, 1316.⁶ In the aisle of the old church at North-Berwick was long visible the tombstone of this proprietor's father, containing the pompous inscription—"Here lies the good Robert Lauder, the great Laird of Congalton and the Bass." This monument existed in 1722, and the original inscription, with its doubtful date, was carved in Saxon letters.⁷ It is said that the Priory of St. Andrews possessed a right to a part of the Bass, but the Lauder family had acquired the greater portion of this singular property long before the date of Bishop Lambertson's charter, and it is ascertained that the Rock belonged to them nearly five centuries.

In 1405 Robert III. placed his son, afterwards James I., on the Bass, for security from the projects of his brother the Duke of Albany, till a vessel was prepared to convey him to France, and the young Prince embarked from the Rock to be seized by the English off Flamborough Head—the very misfortune which his father was anxious to avoid, and when informed of it in Rothesay Castle, caused his death in bitter anguish in 1406. James I. returned from his captivity of nineteen years in 1424, when Walter Stewart, eldest son of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, was committed a prisoner to the Bass. The Island is seldom subsequently mentioned in the records of the Parliaments. The family of Lauder refused the solicitations of successive monarchs to sell the Rock. About 1569 or 1570, the Earl of Morton attempted to obtain it, and some

¹ Dempsteri *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1829, vol. i. p. 65.

² St. Baldred was so much esteemed, that the three mainland parishes of Aldhame, Tynninghame, and Preston, claimed his remains. As it was impossible to satisfy rival demands, and to prevent a conflict for the body of the holy man, the disputants were advised to devote the night to prayer, and in the morning they found three biers with three bodies decently covered, and so like each other that no man could perceive the least difference. Each corpse was joyfully carried by the parties to their respective churches, and interred with great solemnity.—St. Baldred of the Bass, and other Poems, by James Millar, 8vo. 1824, pp. 5, 6.

³ A rock near the mouth of the Tyne is called "St. Baldred's Cradle;" another rock, which the holy man miraculously removed from the middle of the channel between the Bass and the mainland, is known as "St. Baldred's Boat;" half a mile south of Tantallon Castle is "St. Baldred's Well;" and his alleged statue, which was broken by an "irreverent mason," was long in Prestonkirk churchyard.

⁴ Under date 1542 it is stated—"The v. day of January, M. Villielm Gibsone, Byschop of Libariensis, and Suffragenens to David Beton,

Cardynall and Archbyschop of Santandrois, consecrat and dedicat the parish kirk in the Craig of the Bass in honour of Sant Baldred, Byschop and Confessor, in presence of Maister John Lawder, Archdene in Teuidail, noter publict."—*Extracta ex Chronicis Scocie*, printed for the ABBOTSFORD CLUB, 4to. 1829, p. 255.

⁵ In the "Buik of Assignations of the Ministeris and Reidaris Stipends," for 1576, it is stated, "Bass and Auldhame neidis na Reidaris." A curious incident occurred on the Bass in more recent times. This was the reception into the Roman Catholic Church of a young lady in presence of her father and the tenant and his boat-assistant. The ceremony was performed by the officiating priest in the ruinous chapel consecrated to St. Baldred.—*New Statistical Account of Scotland—Haddingtonshire*, p. 331.

⁶ Bishop Lambertson's charter, which was confirmed by John de Forfar, Prior of St. Andrews, was stolen from the Grange House, near Edinburgh, with a number of other documents and articles, on the night of the 18th September, 1836, and was never recovered.

⁷ Nisbet's *Heraldry*, folio, 1722, vol. i. p. 443. Nisbet adds, in reference to the date, "Some read mcccxi, and others mcccxi."

notices of his designs are preserved.¹ In 1581 James VI. visited the Bass, and was anxious to secure it for the Crown, which appears from the reply of the proprietor to have been in temporary possession.²

It is said that the Lauders of the Bass, never very opulent, decayed as a family in the seventeenth century. During the Civil Wars the proprietor of the Bass was a zealous royalist; and his daughter, whom some identify with the heroine of Anstruther or Anster Fair, is mentioned as a lady of masculine qualifications. In 1649 the Earl of Haddington and Hepburn of Waughton were conjunct proprietors, and about the time of the restoration of Charles II. the Bass was the property of Sir Andrew Ramsay, of Abbotshall, in Fife, who was several years Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and who sold the Rock to the Government for 4000*l.* in 1671. The Bass was then constituted a state prison, and the Chapel was the magazine for the garrison. Numbers of the turbulent Covenanters were consigned to safe custody on the Rock in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. A list of thirty-nine individuals is recorded, the first of whom was a Robert Gillespie, who was sent to the Bass in 1672. The most conspicuous of those prisoners were John Blackadder, minister of Troqueer, father of Colonel John Blackadder, Sir Hugh and Sir George Campbell of Cessnock, Alexander Gordon of Earlstoun, and Major Learmonth, a Covenanting officer. Blackadder died on the Bass in 1685, after a confinement of five years, and was interred in North-Berwick churchyard, in which a large flat stone, with a poetical inscription, marks his grave. A wretched apartment, called "Blackadder's Cell," is shown, its three small iron-barred windows looking to the west. It is curious that all those "martyrs of the Bass," as they are foolishly designated by their admirers, were offered liberty, if they would promise not to molest the Government; and some of them were, by their obstinacy, imprisoned years. James Mitchell, who attempted to assassinate Archbishop Sharp of St. Andrews in the High Street of Edinburgh, in July 1668, and Fraser of Brae, a noted Covenanting preacher, were brought to the Bass on the 30th of January, 1677, under a guard of twelve horse and thirty foot. The last Covenanting prisoner was John Spreul, a fanatical apothecary in Glasgow, who was committed in July 1681, and released in May 1687, in which year Major Learmonth was liberated on account of his health, after a domicile of five years. The Government, however, sent persons to the Bass who were not Covenanters. One of them was a Leith Quaker, for railing at his parish minister; a second was a Roman Catholic priest, named George Young, whose offence in 1769 is not recorded; and a third was John Philip, the episcopal incumbent or "curate" of Queensferry, who was deposed for refusing the "Test," and was accused before the Privy Council in March 1683 for denouncing the Duke of York as a "great tyrant," who was "detestable to the subjects;" for asserting that the Bishop of Edinburgh and the Lord Advocate—Dr. John Paterson and Sir George Mackenzie—were "bloody and cruel men, and that he hoped to see them suffer for it;" and for maintaining that the Earl of Argyll had been unjustly forfeited. This political "curate" was fined 2000*l.* sterling, to be paid within a fortnight, declared infamous, and ordered to be imprisoned for life on the Bass, where his avowed principles would render him a more suitable companion to the Covenanters than the Leith Quaker and the Roman Catholic priest.

The garrison of the Bass refused to acknowledge the Revolution, and held out under Charles Maitland, the deputy-governor, in the name of James II. till 1690, when they surrendered. In that year some adherents of James II. contrived to obtain temporary possession. They had been sent as prisoners, and having expelled the garrison, they were supplied with provisions by their friends on shore, plundered merchant-vessels, exacted tribute from every ship which approached within reach of their artillery, and resisted every attempt to dislodge them for four years. Their commander was David Blair, son of Blair of Ardblair, who caused Andrew Fletcher of Salton, the Revolution governor, considerable trouble and expense. William III. at last sent two large ships of war against them, which, assisted by small vessels, intercepted their provisions, and compelled them to capitulate in 1694. They obtained easy terms, probably by a stratagem of their leader, who, having some bottles of excellent French wine and brandy, and a quantity of biscuits, regaled the deputation sent to negotiate, and pretended that he had abundance of supplies. He also ordered all the hats and coats to be placed on muskets, which he ranged close

¹ Wishart of Pitarrow told the Regent Moray—"I hear say my Lord of Morton is trafficking to get the house of the Bass, which, if he does, he will stop some devices your Grace knows; and therefore, were I in your Grace's stead, I would go between the cow and the corn. I tell you the auld Crag is a good starting-hole; at least it will serve

to keep them that you would be sure of."—Richard Bannatyne's *Memoriales of Transactions in Scotland, 1569-1573*, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1836, pp. 9, 10.

² The reply was, "Your Majesty must e'en resign it to me, for I'll have the auld Crag back again."



DUNÉA.

From an Original Drawing by G. Stanfield R.S.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON.

to the walls, as if the Fortress was full of soldiers; and this device had its influence on the Privy Council. The fortifications and defences were reduced to ruins in 1701, and in 1706 the Bass was granted to Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart., the Crown reserving the assumption of possession. The King of the Belgians, while Prince Leopold, visited the Bass in 1819. The landing-place was prepared in 1822 for George IV., who was contented with the salute from the artillery brought from Leith Fort. One corroded gun is the only memorial of the former cannon. The buildings, in front of which was a small parade ground, were long accessible only by ladders, or a bucket raised by a chain at the crane bastion. Subsequently the ingress was and still is by three flights of steps, protected by as many gates, which have disappeared. Though roofless and in complete desolation, the ruins are externally entire, and the garden produces some wild flowers, such as the common daffodil and the pale narcissus. Fraser of Brae mentions cherry-trees, of the fruit of which he occasionally partook. Formerly visitors were constituted "burgesses of the Bass" by drinking the water of the well, and receiving a flower out of the garden.

The Bass, in its ocean solitude, has been long inhabited by sea-fowl, a colony of rabbits, and a few sheep, and is superintended by the tenant or keeper, who resides in the hamlet of Canty Bay on the mainland. The gannets, or solan geese, the puffin, large black gull, kittiwake, common marot, or guillemot, razor-billed millot, or common puffin, falcon or hawk, large raven, eider duck, cormorant, and innumerable flocks of smaller birds, resort to and breed on the Bass. The solan geese are annual migratory birds, arriving at the Bass early in February in successive myriads. Their gannets are taken in the beginning of August, after which the parents depart, though many linger till October, and thousands often remain throughout the winter, attracted by the herring shoals, the movements of which regulate these sea-fowl.

DUNBAR CASTLE.

THE royal burgh and seaport of Dunbar, eleven miles from Haddington and twenty-eight miles east from Edinburgh, was originated by its Castle, which was anciently enclosed by a strong wall, and was entered by three ports or gates. Dunbar Castle is of such antiquity that it was burnt in A.D. 856 by Kenneth II., according to the tradition related by Buchanan. The same suspicious narrator of fabulous Scottish history gravely asserts that the town derives its name from a warrior called Bar, though it is more likely that the appellation describes the situation of the stronghold on the summit of cliffs projecting into the sea. In 1072 Malcolm III. bestowed the manor on Cospatrick, Earl of Northumberland, the reputed first Earl of Dunbar and March, who appears to have held the Castle. This personage, who was the ancestor of a great and martial family, came to Scotland in 1063 with Edgar, the deprived heir of the Saxon line, and his sister Margaret, who became the Queen of Malcolm. It is unnecessary to detail the adventures of Cospatrick after the conquest of England by William the Norman, with whom he was at one time in favour, and obtained the government of Northumberland, of which he was deprived in 1072. Dunbar Castle, or "Earl Patrick's Stronghold," was the principal baronial residence of his descendants, who during four centuries maintained an almost regal power and authority in the eastern districts of Scotland. Lord Hailes alleges that the account by Boece of this family is an "ignorant fiction," and ridicules his narrative that the founder was a Patrick Dunbar, who attacked a formidable band of robbers about the year 1061, killed six hundred of them, hanged eighty, and presented the head of their commander to King Malcolm, who as a reward created him Earl of March, and granted to him certain lands, with the privilege of displaying a banner on which the bloody head of a robber was painted.¹

Patrick, fifth Earl of Dunbar and March, invited his relatives and neighbours to celebrate Christmas, in 1231, at Dunbar Castle, and after an entertainment of four days he received the monastic habit from the Abbot of Melrose. In 1285 Patrick, seventh Earl, was visited by no less a personage than Thomas Learmonth, called the "Rhymer," renowned for his supposed prophetic gifts, and who on that occasion announced to the Earl the fate of Alexander III., who was killed by a fall from his horse near Kinghorn in Fife. The Rhymer arrived at the Castle on the night preceding the accident, and in the course of conversation he was asked if the following day would produce any remarkable event. "Alas for to-morrow!" replied the Rhymer; "a day

¹ Annals of Scotland, 4to. vol. i. p. 18.