



JEDBURGH ABBEY

*From an Original Drawing by T. Parker*

JOHN G. MURDOCH, LONDON



sixth Duke, who succeeded his father in 1823, it would be superfluous to attempt a description. The additions to this grand mansion render the edifice of great extent, and the situation is one of the most delightful in the vicinity of "pleasant Teviotdale."

### JEDBURGH ABBEY.

JEDBURGH, the country town of Roxburgh, and a royal burgh, is two miles above the influx of the river Jed with the Tweed, ten miles from Kelso, and forty-six miles by Lauder from Edinburgh. The ancient name was Jedworth, and the district was known as the Forest of Jedworth; but another Jedworth represented by a hamlet called Old Jedworth, is about five miles farther up the vales of the Jed.<sup>1</sup> The origin of the burgh, like that of many others, was the Castle of Jedburgh, the founder of which is unknown. This extinct edifice was one of the favourite residences of David I., who by the advice of his preceptor John, also designated Achaius, afterwards Bishop of Glasgow, induced a colony of Canons-Regular, or Augustines, of the Order of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, from the Abbey of St. Quentin at Beauvais in the department of the Oise, to settle at Jedworth near his Castle. The exact date is variously stated in 1118 and 1147.<sup>2</sup> The first may be the year of the arrival of the Canons, and the second that of the foundation of the Abbey, which was at first a Priory.

Few particulars are recorded of the Abbots of Jedburgh, whose names are involved in obscurity. The first is supposed to have been Daniel, the superior of the original Priory, whose name is recorded in a charter of David I. in 1139. After him appears Osbert, who styled himself Prior, and in the notice of his death, in 1174, he is designated the first Abbot of Jedwood in the Chronicle of Melros. The immediate successors of Abbot Osbert were Richard the Cellarer, who died in 1192; Ralph, one of the Canons, a reputed prophet, who died in 1205; and Hugh, Prior of Restennet, a dependent Priory in Forfarshire. An Abbot named Kennoch, a saint, is mentioned, whose festival was observed on the 14th of November.<sup>3</sup> He is the next on record after Hugh, whose age and infirmities compelled him to resign in 1239. His successors were Philip, one of the Canons who presided ten years; Robert de Gyseborn, another Canon, who died in 1249, the year of his election; Nicholas, who resigned in 1275; and John Morel, a Canon.

A remarkable circumstance occurred at Jedburgh in 1285-6, while John Morel was Abbot. Alexander III., bereaved of all his children, married Joletta, or Jolande, daughter of the Count de Dreux. The nuptials were celebrated in Jedburgh Castle, with unusual pomp, on a Sunday early in February. In the midst of the royal banquet, a theatrical masque, or company of performers, entered the hall, and proceeded through the centre, between the guests. A band of revellers first appeared, playing upon musical instruments, and followed by a party who displayed their agility in varied dances. An individual, one of the masquers, resembling a human skeleton, mixed with the dancers, which excited such terror in the royal bride and ladies, that the revelry was suddenly terminated. Another account states that this figure seemed to glide rather than to walk, and while the company gazed with consternation on the phantom it suddenly vanished. Though this was afterwards ascertained to be a mere frolic, it made a great impression on the public mind, when the King was thrown from his horse over a precipice in Fife, on the 16th of March thereafter, and killed by the fall. The spectral appearance on this occasion was long believed an omen of that calamity.

Abbot John Morel and the Convent of Jedburgh swore fealty to Edward I. at Berwick in 1296, nevertheless the Abbey was plundered and destroyed, and the lead taken from the roof of the church, by Sir Richard Hastings. The Canons were reduced to poverty, and the English monarch procured a

<sup>1</sup> Jedburgh is locally pronounced Jethart—a corruption of Jedworth, and means the *farm-hamlet on the river Jed*. A church or chapel was at Old Jedworth, in a cemetery still used for interment. Both Jedworths are said to have been built by Ezred, or Egred, Bishop of Lindisfarne from A.D. 830 till his death in A.D. 845, and it is recorded that he granted his two villages to the Monastery on that island.

<sup>2</sup> Wynton in his Chronicle assigns the year 1118, and Fordun says that the Monastery of Jedburgh was founded in 1147.

<sup>3</sup> This alleged Abbot St. Kennoch is produced on the very doubtful authority of Dempster; who introduces many persons into his biographical details.—*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*, vol. ii. p. 419.

refuge for them in houses of their Order in England till their Monastery was repaired. The successors of John were William, Robert, and another John, whose name occurs in charters from about 1338 to 1354. A long interval occurs, in which the Abbots are unknown. Walter is noticed in a deed or agreement, dated November, 1444; Robert was Abbot in 1473; John Hall in 1478; Thomas in 1494; and Henry in 1507 and 1511. John, a son of Alexander, second Lord Home, was Abbot at the time of the battle of Flodden, after which the most disastrous predatory warfare desolated the Borders, and Jedburgh was not overlooked.

The Abbey never recovered the visitation of the English in 1544, and the revenues were annexed to the Crown in 1559. Andrew, son of George, fourth Lord Home, is mentioned as Abbot at the time of the Reformation, and he was alive in 1578. The Kers of Fernihirst had long exercised the office of Bailies of the Abbey and Jedburgh Forest. In 1587 this was confirmed to that family by a grant of James VI. to Sir Andrew Ker, and in 1622 the lands belonging to the ancient Canons were erected into a temporal lordship in his favour, with the title of Lord Jedburgh. This extensive and valuable property is now held by his descendants, the Marquises of Lothian, whose beautiful modern seat of Mount Teviot is in the vicinity.

It is extraordinary, considering the inroads and ravages of the English from 1513 to 1547, and the predatory warfare of the Border freebooters, that so much of the stately Abbey of Jedburgh is entire. Nothing is known of the dispersion of the Monks, who seem to have fled in terror from the invaders. After the Reformation they disappeared, and no members of the Convent are mentioned. The only part of the Monastery remaining is the church, which was dedicated under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin. This grand edifice, in its entire state, consisted of a nave with side aisles, a cross and transept, and a choir with chapels. The east or altar end of the choir, and the cloisters and chapter-house, which were on the south side, no longer exist. Several distinct styles of architecture are apparent in this magnificent fabric. In the choir are massive Saxon pillars with deep circular arches, over which are specimens of the Norman style, and in the superstructure of the nave the Old English is displayed in a long range of narrow-pointed windows, and in the blank arches of the west end. Two splendid Norman doors ornament the church. The one at the west end, which is the principal entrance, is a semicircular arch, seven and a half feet deep, enriched with sculptured mouldings springing into the capitals of slender shafts. Above this door, in front of the edifice, is a radiated circular window or Catherine wheel, which has a superb appearance. The other Norman door, in the south wall of the nave, close to the transept, supposed to have been the entrance from the cloisters, is a fine specimen of workmanship less elaborate. The mixture of distinct styles indicates that Jedburgh Abbey was renewed at different periods. The only decorated Gothic specimens are the windows of the north transept, the cemetery of the Family of the Marquis of Lothian. This transept has buttresses, and was a subsequent addition. The south transept was unfortunately demolished at the alteration of the parish church in the eighteenth century. Above the cross is a lofty square tower, with angular turrets and projecting battlements. This tower and the choir are much decayed, and the marks of the battering of the English in 1544 are still visible. The eastern half of the nave is roofless, and the middle and north aisles in the western part are deformed by the inelegant appropriation as the parish church, with a modern roof lower than the original, which completely destroys the character of the fabric. By the external renovation of the church, and the removal of rubbish to the depth of several feet, the fine proportions and architectural details are now developed.

The revenues of Jedburgh Abbey at the Reformation are, like those of the other Monasteries, variously stated. In 1562 the rental, including the dependencies of Resteunet and Canonbie, was estimated at 1274*l.*, exclusive of payments in kind.<sup>1</sup> Another account reduces it to 618*l.*, and a third to 974*l.*<sup>2</sup> The temporal possessions and the "spirituality" of the Abbey were valuable and extensive, yet of the history of this Monastery, and its actual condition, little can be satisfactorily ascertained. Most of the documents perished

<sup>1</sup> These payments were—Wheat, 2 chalders, 2 bolls; barley, 23 chalders; meal, 36 chalders, 13 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck.—Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> Keith's History of the Church and State of Scotland, folio, Appendix, p. 185. In the "account" of the Thirds by Robert, Lord Boyd, Collector General for 1576, the Third of the Abbey of Jedburgh

was rated at 333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, exclusive of payments in kind—Wheat, 11 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks; bear, 7 chalders, 10 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks; meal, 12 chalders, 4 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks; and Third of the altarage of St. Ninian in Jedburgh, 3*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* In an Order to collect the King's Thirds of the Benefices in 1587, Jedburgh was to pay 200*l.*, and Resteunet 100*l.*—Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale, p. 54.



in the hostile incursions of the English, or were lost or destroyed by interested parties after the Reformation. No chartulary is known to exist, and only a few isolated deeds are preserved.<sup>1</sup>

The old royal burgh is beautifully situated on the west side of the river of its name, and is surrounded by hills of considerable height. The sylvan scenery of the vale of the Jed, the course of which to the Teviot, from its rise at the base of the Carlintooth mountain on the confines of Northumberland, is little more than twelve miles, is uncommonly romantic, and the town, with its venerable Abbey, and modern Castle or prison, is intermingled with ancient orchards, gardens, and plantations in rich profusion. The view of the Abbey, rising majestically above the houses, is grand and imposing, while the adjacent heights screen the town, and impart a sequestered and rural aspect. Jedburgh is of great antiquity, and its Castle is mentioned in the earliest Scottish annals. This Castle, of which no vestige appears, was a favourite residence of Malcolm IV., who died within its walls in 1165, and William I. and Alexander III. were frequent occupants. Prince Alexander, son of the latter, was born in Jedburgh Castle in 1263, and the extraordinary appearance at the revelry in honour of the marriage of the same monarch is already noticed. The English retained possession from the time of the battle of Durham, or Nevill's Cross, in 1346 to 1409, when the Castle was taken and demolished by the Teviotdale Borderers. So strong was the Fortress, that it was proposed to levy a tax of two pennies on every hearth in Scotland to defray the expense of time and labour necessary for its destruction, but the Regent Albany was afraid to hazard this tax, and the Crown revenues furnished the supplies.<sup>2</sup> The site is now that of the modern Castle of Jedburgh, and is pleasantly situated on an eminence at the Townhead.

In Jedburgh were convents of Carmelites or White Friars, and Franciscans, and a Maison-Dieu, of which the only memorials are the names of some localities in the town.<sup>3</sup> At the end of the bridge, next the suburb of Bongate, is a large stone displaying indistinct representations of animals, which was probably a part of an ancient obelisk or cross. In the vicinity is a bridge over the Jed of great antiquity, consisting of three semicircular arches. The old Cross stood at the head of the Bongate, between the High Street and the Townhead.

Jedburgh is prominent in the Border wars and inroads. The usual retreat of Sir James Douglas the "Good" was in Jed Forest, and for his services in protecting Teviotdale from the English garrisons he was rewarded by King Robert Bruce with a grant of the Castle, Forest, and town of Jedworth. In 1334 Edward Baliol ceded to Edward III., for pretended assistance in recovering the kingdom, certain rents and lands on the Borders, of the annual value of 2000*l.* sterling, and in this "donation" was included the town of Jedburgh, of which Robert de Maners was ordained to take possession, while the Castle and Forest were to be under William de Prestfen. This arrangement was altered on the 23d of September that year, when the English monarch assigned to Lord Henry Percy the Castle, Forest, town, and constabulary of Jedburgh, and the villages of Bonjedworth and Hassindean, receiving Annandale in return, which he granted to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, Lord High Constable, who had obtained Annandale from Edward I. But the Borderers would not be the subjects of Edward III., and in 1338 Sir William Douglas, of Liddesdale, expelled the English from Teviotdale, which they recovered, and held from 1346 to 1409.

The town was burnt by the English in 1410, when they invaded the vales of the Jed, the Kale, and the Rule. A similar calamity was inflicted a few years afterwards, and a third time in 1464 by the Earl of Warwick. For years after the battle of Flodden the town was severely ravaged by the English, yet the Earl of Surrey, in a dispatch to Henry VIII. in 1523, states that Jedburgh contained "two times more houses than Berwick, and well built, with many honest and fair houses in garrison, and six good towers." Those towers or bastel houses, in one of which Queen Mary is said to have lodged, have been long removed. The Earl of Surrey stormed and burnt the town in 1523, and dilapidated the Abbey by fire. Jedburgh soon recovered those disasters, and also the injuries sustained from the wild and lawless Border chiefs. Sir Ralph Eure, in a letter to the Earl of Hertford, dated 11th March, 1544, describes

<sup>1</sup> The Convent garden is still known as the "Lady's Yards," and another as the "Friars' Garden," both containing very old fruit trees.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Walter Scott's *Border Antiquities*—Introduction, vol. i. p. liv.

<sup>3</sup> In the Carmelite Convent of Jedburgh lived and died Adam Bell, author of "*Rota Temporum*,"—a history of Scotland down to 1535,

the original of which is said to have been destroyed at Roslin by the mob who invaded that Chapel at the Revolution. A chapel on the south side of the choir was long the grammar-school, at which the Poet of "*The Seasons*" received his elementary education. This building, which was entered from the Canongate, is now removed.

Jedburgh as the "strength of Teviotdale, which, once destroyed, a small power would be sufficient to keep the Borders in subjection." On the 12th of June that year the town received a hostile visit from the English under Eure and his son, who pillaged the Abbey, loaded five hundred horses with the spoils, and secured some pieces of artillery in the market-place. Upwards of one hundred and twenty of the inhabitants were killed in their flight to the woods. In subsequent years several ravages were committed, especially after the battle of Pinkie in 1547, when some companies of Spanish soldiers were stationed in the town to overawe the surrounding districts. To prevent the fortifying of Jedburgh by those foreigners, a number of French auxiliaries, under D'Esse, marched to dislodge the Spaniards, who fled at their approach.

The French auxiliaries, consisting of fifteen hundred foot and five hundred horse, continued some time at Jedburgh, and were compelled to retire from the Borders to avoid an English army of 8000 men, under the Earl of Rutland, who found the town deserted, and the houses unroofed. The Regent Arran, accompanied by the Queen Dowager, Mary of Guise, and sundry of the nobility, held a court of justice at Jedburgh in the autumn of 1552, when some of the principal Border leaders were rewarded with knighthood for their good conduct, and offenders were compelled to deliver their nearest relatives as pledges for their future behaviour. In 1561 the future Regent Moray, then Lord James Stuart, was sent to Jedburgh, and inflicted summary punishment on some of the most guilty marauders.

Queen Mary was at Jedburgh in October 1556, and rode to visit the Earl of Bothwell, who was lying wounded in Hermitage Castle. The Queen accomplished her long journey to and from that stronghold in one day, through dangerous morasses and dreary valleys. When she returned to Jedburgh, the fatigue induced an illness which threatened to be fatal. The house in which the Queen resided is a large tenement of thick walls, with small windows in the Backgate—a lane parallel to the High Street. A broad stone stair leads to the Queen's apartment, and it is said that a part of the tapestry of the walls is still preserved.<sup>1</sup> After Queen Mary escaped from Lochleven Castle, the burgesses espoused the "King's cause," in opposition to their powerful neighbour, Ker of Fernihirst, who was devoted to the Queen's interest. A poursuivant, countenanced by Ker, was sent to them in the Queen's name, to announce that all their proceedings without her authority were illegal. The Provost allowed him to read a part of the proclamation, and compelled him literally to "eat his letters," inflicting on his naked person a flagellation with a bridle, and threatening that if he ever entered the town with a similar message he would be put to death.<sup>2</sup>

To revenge this exploit of the stalwart burgesses of Jedburgh and other quarrels, Ker of Fernihirst seized and hanged ten of them, and burnt the whole store of provision deposited in the town for the winter.<sup>3</sup> About the time of this retaliation the enraged baron, who was always a dangerous personage, was prevented from burning the town by the advance of an opposing force.<sup>4</sup> This was probably the English under the Earl of Sussex, who entered Jedburgh on the 18th of April, 1570; and as he was well received by the magistrates and burgesses, who had not been connected with some recent hostilities, he spared the town, and returned to Berwick by Hawick on the 23d, after destroying upwards of fifty peel towers and fortalices, and three hundred hamlets and farm-steads. Those excesses were terminated in 1575 by an encounter known as the "Raid" of the Red Swire—a hill on the limits of the two kingdoms, in which the burgesses of Jedburgh decided the victory, and their war-cry was—"Jethart's here! A Jedworth! A Jedworth!" In 1601 a serious riot occurred between the Kers and the Turnbills, in which some were killed, and some of the leaders were capitally punished.

The reproachful phrase of "Jethart justice" is still proverbial, and means that persons accused of crimes were executed summarily, and then tried—a procedure by no means uncommon in the unscrupulous times of the Scottish Wardens of the Borders, who often resorted to this mode of procedure.<sup>5</sup> It is more directly supposed to have originated in the severity inflicted on some irreclaimable offenders in 1608 by George Home, Earl of Dunbar, who is said to have condemned and executed them without trial.

<sup>1</sup> In the Privy Council Record this tenement is designated the "house of the Lord Compositor." A group of pear-trees in an adjoining garden is traditionally believed to be the offshoots of a large tree destroyed by a storm on the night James VI. entered England to assume the Crown.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Bannatyne's *Memoriales* (Secretary to John Knox), printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, pp. 176, 177.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Walter Scott's *Border Antiquities*—Introduction, vol. i. p. lxxii.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Bannatyne's *Memoriales*, p. 224.

<sup>5</sup> Sir Walter Scott's *Border Antiquities*—Introduction, vol. i. p. xciv.



The ancient charters of Jedburgh, which dates as a royal burgh from the reign of David I., perished in the conflagrations of the English and Border wars. Those documents were renewed in the name of Queen Mary in 1566, and the magistrates obtained a charter in 1569, conveying to them the property and revenues of the Abbey within the parish for the erection of hospitals, and the support of the poor and infirm, which was ratified by the Parliament in 1597.<sup>1</sup> No infeftment, however, was obtained, and those revenues were never acquired.

In the channel of the Jed, about a quarter of a mile south of the town, is a section of rock geologically interesting, as displaying the junction of the greywacke formation with the old red sandstone. It is one of the most complete instances of the kind to be found, and was first noticed by Dr. James Hutton in 1769. In some parts of the course of this romantic stream remarkable breaks occur, and the general tendency of the strata falls in an opposite direction.<sup>2</sup> Caves excavated out of the solid rock for refuge and the concealment of property are in various parts of the precipices of the Jed, and are now almost inaccessible. Above the cave at Lintalee are the remains of the camp constructed by the "Good" Sir James Douglas for the defence of the Borders while King Robert Bruce was in Ireland, and described, with the battle which ensued in the glen of the Lintalee rivulet, in Barbour's Bruce.<sup>3</sup> This fierce encounter was between Douglas and the English, who invaded Jed Forest to level the timber in 1317, under the Earl of Arundel. Douglas drew the English into ambush, compelled them to fight, and defeated them.<sup>4</sup> In this battle was killed Thomas de Richmond, the English Warden, whom Barbour assumes to have been the commander, and who he alleges fell by the hand of Bruce.

Jed Forest, which included many hundred acres, was finally levelled in the eighteenth century, though numerous trees have germinated from the old stocks. A few specimens of the ancient Forest, chiefly birch-trees, are in the vicinity of Fernihirst. Two venerable surviving oaks are about a mile from the town. One is known as the "King of the Wood," and towers above the other trees, its circumference near the ground fourteen feet. The other is the "Capon Tree," believed to be upwards of a thousand years old, and its circumference twenty-one feet. Beyond these trees a narrow path, overshadowed by the branches of ancient oaks, leads to Fernihirst Castle, on a steep bank overlooking the Jed, three miles above Jedburgh. This original seat of the Earls and Marquises of Lothian, the grey turrets of which rise amid lofty old trees, was erected about the end of the fifteenth century by Thomas Ker, of Kersheugh, who designated the stronghold Fernihirst, and consists of a lofty square tower, with smaller buildings forming a court-yard half ruinous, and occupied as a farm-house.

Fernihirst and its owners figure considerably in the Border wars. The Castle was taken by the Earl of Surrey and Lord Dacre in 1523, after a brave defence by Sir Andrew Ker, the son and successor of the founder. His son, Sir John Ker, recovered his Castle in 1549, by storming the walls, assisted by a party of the French auxiliaries then in Jedburgh. The savage Borderers inflicted dreadful cruelties on the English garrison, whose eyes they tore out before they put them to death, to retaliate for their licentious and barbarous oppressions.<sup>5</sup> In 1570 Fernihirst Castle was demolished by the Earl of Sussex and Sir John Foster, to revenge an incursion into England by Sir Thomas Ker, Scott of Buccleuch, and other Border chiefs, on the day after the murder of the Regent Moray, of the design against whom they were evidently aware, and exulted at its success. The Castle was rebuilt in 1598 by Sir Andrew Ker, first Lord Jedburgh.

<sup>1</sup> Acta Parl. Scott. folio, iv. p. 153.

<sup>2</sup> New Statistical Account of Scotland—Roxburghshire, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> The Bruce and Wallace, 4to. 1820, vol. i. pp. 322-326.

<sup>4</sup> Annals of Scotland, by Lord Hailes, 4to. vol. ii. p. 72.

<sup>5</sup> The governor of the English garrison, after Fernihirst Castle was scaled by means of long poles instead of ladders, offered to capitulate, on the condition that their lives should be spared. D'Esse, the commander of the French auxiliaries, would listen to nothing else than an absolute surrender, and the English leader submitted to two French officers, imploring them to protect his life, rather than leave him to encounter the furious Borderers, who had forced an entrance by the gate into the lower court. One of the latter, recognising him as the

ravisher of his wife, came suddenly behind, and struck off his head with such a well-aimed blow, that it fell some paces from his body. The other Borderers vied with each other in mangling and insulting the corpse. Not satisfied with the victims whom they secured, they even purchased those taken by the French, on whom they exercised such cruelties as their ferocious revenge suggested.—Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale, pp. 39-41, Sir Walter Scott's Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, vol. i. p. xxxv.; 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, translated by Dr. Abercrombie, 8vo. 1707, Book III. chap. ii.

## NEWARK CASTLE—BATTLE-FIELD OF PHILIPHAUGH.

THE ancient royal burgh of Selkirk is the designation of a county long and still traditionally known as "The Forest," including the vale of the Etterick, called Etterick Forest. This name is no longer applicable to the district, which is a continuous sheep-walk, thinly peopled, the surface consisting of lofty mountains green to the summits, and deep lonely glens, the mossy beds of which are traversed by the tributaries of the Yarrow, the Etterick, the Tweed, and the Borthwick Water—the last-mentioned stream entering the Teviot, and all absorbed in the Tweed. The pastoral character of Selkirkshire is indicated from the parish of Yarrow, which extends eighteen miles at the greatest length, and is sixteen miles broad, the assumed area one hundred and eleven square miles, or 71,410 acres, of which only three thousand acres are capable of cultivation, upwards of six hundred acres are under natural or planted wood, and the immense assemblage of mountains and vales an uncultivated sheep-walk. The woods of "The Forest" were gradually levelled, and the only memorials are considered to be a few old small and stunted oaks on a mountain known as West Faldshope Hill. At Hangingshaw, formerly the residence of the "Outlaw Murray," are many splendid trees, which ornament that part of the Vale of Yarrow, and the soil is so congenial to the growth of timber that copses shoot up spontaneously in the enclosed grounds.

The Vale of Yarrow, beyond the woods of Hangingshaw, is enclosed by green mountains relieved by opening glens. The parish church, truly pastoral in its situation, and said to be an erection of the year 1640, is a pleasing object in this retired and lonely Vale. A short distance westward of this humble edifice are two massive upright stones at the distance of eighty or one hundred yards, displaying almost illegible inscriptions. This is said to be the locality of the ballad known as the "Dowie Dens of Yarrow," which is similar in theme and sentiment to another fragment entitled "Willie's drowned in Yarrow." Some allege that these rude stones commemorate a conflict in which the leaders were slain, and the bodies of their followers thrown into the "Dead Lake"—a marshy pool in an adjoining haugh. Others suppose the event described in the ballad to refer to a duel between John Scott of Tushielaw and Walter Scott of Thirlestane, which was fatal to the latter, though it is ascertained that this encounter occurred at the locality of Deuchar Swire farther distant. Three stones are also identified with a feud in which a son of Scott of Harden, residing at Kirkhope, was killed by his relative Scott of Gilmanscleuch.

Some miles above Yarrow Church is the solitary glen of the Douglas rivulet, in a wild tract, formerly one of the most ancient possessions of the powerful Family of Douglas, and a retreat of the "Good" Sir James Douglas, when levying forces to support King Robert Bruce. Tradition reports this glen as the scene of the "Douglas Tragedie," and seven large stones on the surrounding heights are said to mark the spots on which the seven brothers mentioned in the ballad were slain. Two miles up the Douglas Water is Blackhouse Tower, one of the old fortalices which abound in Selkirkshire; and onwards, in the direction of St. Mary's Loch, is Dryhope Tower, a lofty square keep near the eastern extremity of the lake, and the reputed birth-place of Mary Scott, celebrated in song as the "Flower of Yarrow," daughter of John Scott of Dryhope. The "Flower" married Walter Scott of Harden, who was as locally renowned for his freebooting adventures as this lady was for her personal attractions, and she was the ancestress by this alliance of the Elliots of Minto and Stobs, the Scotts of Polwarth, and of Sir Walter Scott. Lord Heathfield of the Noble Family of Minto, distinguished for his defence of Gibraltar, was also one of the descendants of the "Flower of Yarrow."

The Yarrow issues from the east end of St. Mary's Loch, a lake four miles in length and one mile in breadth, with a depth in some places of thirty fathoms. The hills, green to the summits, rise from both sides of the lake, which reposes placidly under their protection, and receives their streams and torrents. St. Mary's Loch is connected with the Loch of the Lowes—which means lakes or lochs—a lake about a mile in length, by a small stream which issues from the latter through a narrow isthmus raised by the opposite currents of the Corsecleuch and Oxcleuch rivulets. It is evident that both were originally one lake, and the difference of level is only fifteen inches. On the south side of St. Mary's Loch, about a mile west of Dryhope Tower, is the site of St. Mary's Chapel, its solitary cemetery still the place of sepulture





NEWARK CASTLE.

*From an Original Drawing by G. Cattemole*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON



of some families in the vicinity. Within this cemetery is a mound designated "Birnam's Cross," with a few stones on the summit, the reputed grave of a "wizard priest" who was not allowed to be interred in "company of holy dust." This mountain chapel is alleged to have been injured by the Scots in a feud with the Cranstouns, though the structure was used for divine service in the early part of the seventeenth century.<sup>1</sup> The vale of Meggetdale opens on the north side of St. Mary's Loch, leading to Henderland Castle, the residence of a noted freebooter named Cockburn, who was hanged over his own gate for his atrocities by order of James V. A mountain-stream rushes through a rocky chasm in the vicinity, and in a cave behind the wife of Cockburn is said to have concealed herself during his execution. The ballad of the "Lament of the Border Widow" commemorates this event. West of the entrance into Meggetdale is the hill of Merecleuch-head, across which the road extends over the opposite mountains into the vale of the Etterick. At the head of the solitary Loch of the Lowes are Kirkenhope on the east and Chapelhope on the west. A few miles onwards in this uninviting region is Birkhill, noted in the annals of the Covenanters as the place where four of them were shot by Graham of Claverhouse. Near Birkhill is the waterfall of Dobb's Linn, in the vicinity of which was a cave, often the refuge of those stern religionists, whose sentinels on the Watch Hill announced the approach of the enemy. Two miles beyond Birkhill, to the north-west, is the majestic cataract of the "Grey Mare's Tail," which issues from the dreary Loch Skene, about two miles distant, and falls over a precipice upwards of three hundred feet high into a gulf near the hollow of the "Giant's Grave."

The utter loneliness of this mountainous region must be seen to be understood. The "hills whence classic Yarrow flows" are the high grounds of the beautiful and romantic Moffatdale, and discharge numerous streams into the Loch of the Lowes and St. Mary's Loch, the principal of which is the Megget Water, or Little Yarrow. The source of that celebrated stream, however, may be traced to the vicinity of Yearnscleuch and Birkhill, assuming the Peeblesshire Megget Water to be a tributary of St. Mary's Loch. Few human habitations are in the solitudes traversed by the Yarrow after leaving its placid lakes, in its course to the Etterick of fourteen miles, yet this was long the region of superstitious legends, and of deeds of violence, the recollection of which lingered after the real events were obscured or forgotten. It is stated that the publication of Sir Walter Scott's "Minstrelsy of the Border" dispelled the traditional charm of the old ballads which had been transmitted for ages to successive generations, and "these relics of Border song, thus laid bare to the light of day, have, like the friendly and familiar spirits of Border superstition, when noticed with peculiar kindness, entirely disappeared, and that, too, in consequence of the very effort made to preserve them."<sup>2</sup>

The vales of "The Forest" abound with old deserted towers, and one of the most prominent is Newark Castle on the south bank of the Yarrow, within three miles of its confluence with the Etterick, and at least five miles of the burgh of Selkirk. This massive and desolate pile, the name of which designates other old castles and residences in various counties, is built on a peninsula formed by the encircling stream in the woods of the Duke of Buccleuch, whose fine seat of "Sweet Bowhill" is a short distance down the Yarrow. The scenery in this part of the Vale is wild and sequestered, yet impressive and beautiful, and is duly celebrated in song and ballad. Hence the comparison of the peel tower on Leader-side, which "stands as sweet as Newark does on Yarrow." Wordsworth, in his "Yarrow Visited," notices the "shattered front of Newark's tower, renowned in Border story," and the fabric is immortalised in the "Lay of the Last Minstrel" as the scene of the said "Lay" recited to Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch, when it was her residence for a time, after the execution of her husband the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth, in 1685.<sup>3</sup> The widowed Duchess, who had "wept o'er Monmouth's bloody tomb" in her youth, though it is known that they were not on very friendly terms for some time previous to his insurrection, enjoins her domestics "to tend the old man well," listens to his "Lay" of chivalry in the hall, and eventually locates the "Last Minstrel" in a cottage in the vicinity.

<sup>1</sup> Parts of the banks of St. Mary's Loch are ornamented by plantations, which evince the taste of Lord Napier, the proprietor, and the margin is skirted by a few old trees. A graphic description of the scenery is in the Introduction to the Second Canto of "Marmion," in which are celebrated the placidity of the lake, its solitude on every side, and the unbroken slopes of the hills.

<sup>2</sup> New Statistical Account of Scotland—Peeblesshire, p. 58.

<sup>3</sup> Chalmers erroneously asserts in a note (Caledonia, vol. ii. p. 974) that "Anne, the first Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleuch, was born in this Castle of Newark." The Duchess was born in Dundee, in 1651, at the time of the siege of that town by General Monk.



Newark Castle is said to have been erected as a hunting-seat for James II., which connects the fabric with the middle of the fifteenth century. The Castle and adjacent lands seem to have been acquired in the seventeenth century by the Buccleuch family, who had long before obtained several extensive grants in "The Forest." In February, 1634, Francis, second Earl of Buccleuch, father of the Duchess Anne, was served heir to this and other territorial possessions of his father, the first Earl, and his elder daughter, the Countess Mary, was served heiress in October of that year. The Duchess Anne was served heiress to her sister on the 17th of October, 1661, the month in which the Countess died at Wemyss Castle in the thirteenth year of her age.<sup>1</sup> It appears from these documents that Newark Castle, otherwise Whitelibræ, Hillbræ, or Catchmurlie, was so called to distinguish the tower from the Cartermauch, or Auldwarck, the ruins of which were long visible on the south-east bank of the Yarrow, nearly a mile below Newark, in the domain and near the mansion of Bowhill, and this was probably the original royal hunting-seat, which was assigned to the warden of the royal forests in that quarter. It is ascertained that Auldwarck Castle, popularly so called after the erection of the other, existed in very early times, when none of the nominal proprietors could obtain lime and stone.<sup>2</sup>

William, first Earl of Douglas, acquired the Forest of Selkirk in the fourteenth century. Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas, and first Duke of Tourane, dated a lease of certain lands in the Forest to his chaplain, Sir Walter Middlemas, at "the New-wark," on the 2d of March, 1423-4. After the attainder of Earl James in 1455, when the power of the House of Douglas was long prostrated, the whole Forest was annexed to the Crown, with all its jurisdictions, by Act of Parliament.<sup>3</sup> The district was governed by the King's steward for thirty-three years throughout the disturbed reigns of James II. and James III. In February, 1489-90, Alexander, second Lord Home, Great Chamberlain, was appointed by Parliament to collect the Crown rents and casual revenues in the counties of Selkirk and Stirling, and he was then keeper of Newark and Stirling Castles. In 1503, John Murray of Falahill, an ancestor of the ancient family of Murray of Philiphaugh, was Sheriff of Selkirkshire, and he delivered seizin of Etterick Forest, including the manor of Newark, and the Castle within that Forest, to the Princess Margaret of England, as a part of her jointure lands at her marriage to James IV.<sup>4</sup> In 1509, John Murray, then designated of Philiphaugh, and his heirs, obtained from James V. the sheriffdom of Selkirkshire, and it appears that he was soon afterwards killed in a Border feud with the Kers and Scotts.<sup>5</sup>

After the forfeiture of the Earl of Douglas, the Murrays occupied Newark Castle, and the edifice was soon "renowned in Border story." It is frequently mentioned in the records of the Parliaments of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. At the death of his mother the Queen-Dowager Margaret in 1541, James V. resumed his rights to the Forest of Etterick and manor of Newark. This monarch was induced to increase his revenues by breeding sheep, which Sir Ralph told in 1540 was considered derogatory to his station by his uncle Henry VIII., who suggested that he should seize the castles and lands of his rebellious subjects. Such quietness ensued after decisive measures had been adopted against the Border chiefs, some of whom were imprisoned, that the flocks belonging to James V. in Etterick Forest, to the number of 10,000 sheep under the superintendence of Andrew Bell, were as profitable and secure as if they had been pastured in the county of Fife.<sup>6</sup>

It was often the practice of the Scottish monarchs, in controlling the Border districts, to commission one powerful turbulent family to compel their neighbours to subjection. The Murrays of Philiphaugh had probably claims to a part of the lordship of Etterick Forest, which was mixed with their own possessions; and as, like other Border septs, they were fierce and violent, it is not unlikely that they held their lands merely by occupancy, without any feudal title. This seems to have been the origin of the old ballad for centuries popular in Selkirkshire, entitled the "Song of the Outlaw Murray."<sup>7</sup> The scene is supposed

<sup>1</sup> Inquisitionum Retornatarum Abbreviatio in Publicis Archivis Scotiæ adhuc servantur—Selkirkshire, folio, 1811, cols. 41-76.

<sup>2</sup> Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. ii. pp. 974, 977.

<sup>3</sup> Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 42.

<sup>4</sup> Etterick Forest and Newark had been the dowry of Mary of Gueldres, the immediate predecessor of Queen Margaret, and mother of James IV. It is ingeniously conjectured that the two farms of Deloraine and Deloraine Hill, between the Yarrow and the Etterick, received the designation from *de la reine*, or afterwards from Mary of

Lorraine, or of Guise, Queen of James V.—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Selkirkshire, p. 44.

<sup>5</sup> Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part i. pp. 68, 69. The descendants of John Murray of Philiphaugh retained the hereditary office, with various interruptions caused by their turbulence, till 1748, when John Murray of Philiphaugh received 4000*l.* for the hereditary jurisdictions.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Lindsay's (of Pitscottie) History of Scotland, folio, p. 279.

<sup>7</sup> This ballad was published by Sir Walter Scott in his "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border." Chalmers (Caledonia, vol. ii. p. 991) sneers



by the peasantry to be Newark Castle, which Sir Walter Scott denies, because that was always a royal fortress, and alleges on good authority that the unicorns and other insignia noticed in the ballad were on the old tower at Hangingshaw, now greatly demolished, a residence of the Murrays a few miles up the Vale of the Yarrow, in a romantic and solitary locality on the road to Yarrow parish church. One tradition in Etterick Forest states that the "Outlaw," who was often at deadly feud with the Scotts, was killed by Scott of Buccleuch, or some of his followers, on a mount covered with fir-trees near Newark Castle; and another is, that he was mortally wounded below the Castle with an arrow aimed by Scott of Haining from a ruinous cot-house on the opposite side of the Yarrow.<sup>1</sup>

Newark Castle, which is a large square tower with flanking turrets and projecting battlements, has long ceased to be connected with any historical or remarkable incidents, and the descendants of the "Outlaw Murray" are quiet country proprietors of their patrimonial estate of Philiphaugh. The vicinity of Newark contains several localities of interest, which are enhanced by the profusely wooded Vale of the Yarrow, in its course by Hangingshaw, Broadmeadows, and Newark, from the upper pastoral and mountainous region of the lonely St. Mary's Loch. Nearly opposite Newark Castle is the farm-house of Fowlshiels, where Mungo Park was born, and his residence before his last expedition to Africa. Below Newark Castle and Bowhill is the entrance to the Vale of the Yarrow at the Carterhaugh, where the Etterick receives the tributary; and the united streams, passing the mansion of Philiphaugh and the town of Selkirk, enter the Tweed, under the name of Etterick, between Selkirk and Abbotsford.

Upwards of a mile from Selkirk, on the north side of the Etterick, is the plain of Philiphaugh, on which the Marquis of Montrose fought his last battle, and was entirely defeated by the Covenanting forces under General David Leslie on the 13th of September, 1645. Montrose, after his important victory at Kilsyth, resolved to enter England, and he expected to be joined in the Border counties by the Earls of Home, Roxburghe, and Traquair, who were rumoured to be favourable to the royal cause. He also expected a reinforcement of cavalry from the King under Lord Digby and Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who were totally routed in their advance through Yorkshire, while another body of horse raised by those leaders in Lancashire was dispersed near Carlisle. Montrose halted at Selkirk on the 12th of September, and occupied a tenement shown in the town. He quartered his cavalry in Selkirk, and encamped his infantry on Philiphaugh, not aware that General David Leslie was on the Borders from England, having crossed the Tweed, on the 6th of September, with an army of from 5000 to 6000 men, comprising the very best of the Scottish cavalry. In this army John Middleton, the future Earl of Middleton, held an important command under Leslie, and most efficiently aided in the defeat of the Royalists.

Montrose was surrounded with difficulties, in addition to those disasters in England, and others impending over him of which he was of necessity ignorant at the time, and a surprise by some thousands of men chiefly, if not altogether cavalry, was almost certain to be fatal. The Highlanders had left him after the victory of Kilsyth, with all the plunder they had secured; his Irish infantry were not more than from 500 to 700; his recent levies were peasants who scarcely knew the management of their horses; and the Ogilvies were only sufficient for his body-guard. His entire promiscuous and motley forces were little above 2000 men. The surrounding mountains and vales were enveloped in a dense fog, and as the peasantry were inclined to the Covenanting cause, they were not likely to report any intelligence to the Marquis, whom they refused to acknowledge as the King's Lieutenant. Unfortunately Montrose entrusted to others most essential duties which he usually discharged himself, such as the stationing of his horse patrols in proper quarters, and the sending forth of faithful scouts in every direction—matters arranged on this occasion by the captains of his horse. After entrenching his infantry on the plain of Philiphaugh, under the shelter of the Harehead-wood, on the north bank of the Etterick, which he considered sufficient protection against a sudden assault of cavalry, he continued most of the night at Selkirk in writing despatches to Charles I., which were to be sent at daybreak by a trusty messenger. Rumours, indeed, reached him of the approach of the Covenanting army, but the reply of the officers of the guard invariably

at the "frigid dulness" of the ballad, and in reference to the localities of the Forest which it mentions, the "brave Outlaw" and his "chvalrie," asserts that "the history of Selkirkshire, as it appears in

the chartularies, reprobates the fictitious follies of this 'Sang' as wholly unwarranted by facts."

<sup>1</sup> Sir Walter Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, 4th edition, vol. i. pp. 82, 83. These statements, however, are mere conjectures.



was, that no cause of alarm existed. At dawn the scouts returned, declaring that they had examined every road and byepath, and that no enemy was within ten miles.

Leslie had advanced from Melrose on the evening of the 12th, and encamped under the protection of the thick mist within four miles of Selkirk. Before his approach was known in the morning he was less than half-a-mile from Philiphaugh, and his cavalry immediately attacked the Royalists, who were taken by surprise. As soon as he heard the firing, Montrose mounted the first horse he found, and galloped with his guard to the scene of action. The effect of his temporary absence was soon evident, as not an officer was in his place, or a lance mounted, when Leslie's trumpeters sounded the assault. The right wing of Montrose's infantry was opposing the full attack of the Covenanting cavalry, assisted by about one hundred and fifty mounted noblemen and gentlemen. Twice were the Covenanters repulsed with slaughter, yet these successes were of no avail. Leslie ordered two thousand of his cavalry, by an easy detour across the Etterick, to fall on the rear of this chivalrous band, who were sustaining in front the charge of nearly double that number. The defeat may be said to have been effected before Montrose appeared. His infantry, after assurance of quarter, threw down their arms. Montrose with about thirty cavaliers rallied his troopers, and repeatedly attacked the enemy, who surrounded him in masses, and his daring bravery caused the loss of more men than would otherwise have fallen. Imagining that he had no chance of escape, he resolved to die on the field, when his friends, especially the Marquis of Douglas, and Sir John Dalziel, brother of the Earl of Carnwath, forced a passage in a desperate charge while the Covenanters were preparing to plunder the baggage. They were followed by a party of the Covenanting cavalry led by Captain Bruce and two cornets, each carrying a standard. Montrose turned on them, and some of them fell. The Marquis and his few companions went up the Vale of Yarrow, and crossing the rough and mountainous tract of the Minchmoor, along the subsequent post road from the south, entered Peeblesshire, overtaking a party of their own cavalry who had sooner left the field. Sixteen miles from the scene of his defeat the Marquis first drew bridle, and halted at Traquair House. He requested to see the Earl of Traquair and his son Lord Linton, who were denied, though it was well known that both were in the mansion, and purposely avoided an interview.<sup>1</sup>

It is said that a thousand of the Royalists fell at Philiphaugh, and at least one hundred of the Irish prisoners were shot by an ordinance of the English and Scottish Parliaments. Another authority states that comparatively few were slain in the battle, and scarcely any in the flight, and that the principal slaughter was of defenceless prisoners, particularly the Irish, after quarter had been granted. Close to Newark Castle is a field called the "Slain Man's Lee," where the Covenanters cruelly massacred many of their captives. Those of rank and importance were reserved for the public executioner.

It is curious that General David Leslie, who was voted 50,000 merks and a chain of gold for his services at Philiphaugh, was created in 1661 by the inconsistent Charles II. a peer by the title of Lord Newark.<sup>2</sup> Middleton, his minor colleague, received a grant of 25,000 merks, and was created Earl of Middleton in 1660. He died in disgrace or exile as Governor of Tangier in 1673.

The county town of Selkirk, which is built on rising ground overlooking the channel of the Yarrow, contains no remarkable object except the Town Hall, with its elegant spire one hundred and ten feet high. In front of the edifice is a statue of Sir Walter Scott on an isolated pedestal. David I. brought his colony of monks to Selkirk, who afterwards removed to the more inviting and congenial locality of St. Mary at Kelso. In 1309, Selkirk Castle, every vestige of which has disappeared, is noticed as a stronghold in possession of the English. The great event in the annals of the burgh is the battle of Flodden, to which disastrous field a number of the inhabitants, variously stated at eighty and one hundred, followed James IV.,

<sup>1</sup> Montrose and the Covenanters, by Mark Napier, Esq., Advocate, 8vo. 1838, vol. ii. pp. 467-477; Sir Walter Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*,—the Battle of Philiphaugh, vol. ii. pp. 15-32. The chief value of this ballad, in Sir Walter Scott's opinion, consists in the accuracy of its details. It has been long known in Selkirkshire.

<sup>2</sup> The title was derived, not from Newark on the Yarrow, the scene of Leslie's cruelties, but from another Newark, close to the fishing village of St. Monance in Fife—a now ruinous mansion which belonged to the family of Sandilands of Abererombie and St. Monance, purchased from them by Leslie, in 1649. His Cavalier enemies, after his

elevation, sarcastically remarked, that instead of creating him Lord Newark, the King should have hanged him for his *auld wark*. This celebrated Covenanting General had fought, however, for Charles II. against Cromwell, who fined him 4000*l.*, and he was a prisoner in the Tower of London from 1651 to 1660. For these and other privations Lord Newark was also rewarded with an annual pension of 500*l.*, and, as his enemies continued to molest him for his "auld wark," he procured a letter from Charles II., in 1667, in which the king declared his entire satisfaction with his conduct and loyalty while he acted as Lieutenant-General in England and Scotland.



who knighted William Brydone, the town-clerk, whose descendants long resided in Selkirk. From that battle a very few returned, with a flag said to have been taken from the English, which is still preserved in the town. The lieges of Selkirk have been popularly known as "Souters," from the trade of shoemaking, or properly the manufacture of brogues—a covering for the feet with a single sole—having been extensively and almost exclusively practised by them. As a sobriquet it is applied to all the inhabitants of the quiet ancient rural burgh, who figure in the ballad—"Up with the Souters of Selkirk, and down with the Earl of Home," which has been applied to the battle of Flodden, and also ascribed to a wager more recently between the Homes and the Murrays of Philiphaugh, when the "Souters" supported the latter, and achieved the victory at a match of foot-ball. It is, however, denied that such a contest occurred; and though the Earldom of Home was not created till 1604, ninety years after the battle of Flodden, the ballad may refer to the bravery of the "Souters," and to Alexander, third Lord Home, who with the Earl of Huntly led the van of the Scottish army, dispersed the English who opposed him, and was one of the few who escaped. His father, Alexander, second Lord, who died in 1506, obtained a charter of the bailiary of Etterick Forest in January 1489-90, and his successors procured a grant of the crown lands of Tinnis Forest, some miles above Newark Castle on the north side of the Yarrow, in the direction of the rugged and elevated Minchmoor, and the Cat-Crag, in October 1512. Those grants would naturally cause frequent and irritating collisions between Lord Home and the "Souters," who would rejoice at his attainder and execution in 1516, more especially if his successors coveted the numerous acres of the common.<sup>1</sup> His second brother George was restored to the title and crown grant as fourth Lord in 1522, and with numerous other charters he obtained, in 1535 and 1538, two to the Forest of Tinnis in Etterick Forest.

The Vale of the Etterick, in the parish so called, resembles that of the Yarrow. The summits of the mountains are freely rounded, and covered with verdant turf, or in a few instances with heath. On the south side of a range of hills called the "Back-Bone of the County," the Etterick rises from among a small bed of rushes between Loch-Fell and Capel-Fell, two miles from Pottburn, said to be the highest farmhouse in the south of Scotland. After a course of probably thirty miles in a north-east direction nearly parallel with its tributary the Yarrow, the Etterick enters the Tweed between Sunderland Hall, near Selkirk, and Abbotsford.

In the Vale of the Etterick are several memorials of former times. Proceeding upwards from the confluence with the Yarrow at Carterhaugh, and opposite the woods of Bowhill, is Oakwood Tower, an alleged residence of the famous Wizard Michael Scott. Some miles farther is Deloraine, which designates a hill, a farm, and various localities.<sup>2</sup> The next object of interest is the ruinous Tower of Tushielaw, once the residence of a noted Border family of freebooters. Adam Scott of Tushielaw, whose power and depredations procured for him the sobriquets of "King of the Borders" and "King of Thieves," was convicted in the presence of James V. on the 18th of May, 1529, and sentenced to be beheaded, and two days after a similar punishment is recorded against William Cockburn of Henderland.<sup>3</sup> The Scotts of Tushielaw were long renowned as moss-troopers, and are prominent in song, tradition, and crime.

The Etterick opposite Tushielaw receives the Rankleburn, which traverses a lonely vale formed by a dense mass of hills. In this vale—the theme of the ballad of the "Maid of Rankleburn"—are the two forlorn farm steadings of Easter and Wester Buccleuch, from which the noble family of Scott derive their titles of Dukes, Earls, and Barons of Buccleuch, and supposed to be a portion of their most ancient territorial possessions. It is at least certain that Rankleburn was a very early designation of the Scotts of Buccleuch. In a deep ravine near the road from these farms to Hawick, is the spot where "the buck in the clench was slain," which originated the name and title, if the rhyming tradition of Scott of Satchells is to be credited. Nearly two miles above Easter Buccleuch are the almost extinct vestiges of the chapel

<sup>1</sup> As a compensation for disasters inflicted on the "Souters" some years after the battle of Flodden they obtained a grant of one thousand acres adjoining their burgh to be held by the community for ever.—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Selkirkshire, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Deloraine gave the title of Earl to Lord Henry Scott, third and second surviving son of the Duke of Monmouth and Buccleuch and the Duchess Anne, who was so ennobled in 1706, and the Earldom

became extinct at the death of his grandson, Henry, fourth Earl, without issue, in 1807.

<sup>3</sup> The tradition in Etterick Forest is that Adam Scott was ordered by James V. to be hanged on an ash-tree before his own gate, on the principal branches of which were marks and hollows formed by the ropes by which the freebooter had suspended many an unfortunate captive. This is altogether unfounded, as Scott and Cockburn were decapitated at Edinburgh, and their heads spiked on the Tolbooth.—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part I. pp. 144, 145.

in which, according to the same quaint authority, many of the ancient Barons of Buccleuch were interred. Such is an outline of the remote solitude which designates one of the most illustrious families in the British Empire.

Two miles beyond Tushielaw, on the north-west side of the Etterick, is the old Tower of Thirlestane, surrounded by a few venerable ash-trees. In the immediate vicinity is the modern mansion of Thirlestane, embosomed among woods, the seat of the Lords Napier, who represent the ancient family of the Scotts of Thirlestane, and the Napiers of Merchiston Castle at Edinburgh, immortalised by their great ancestor the "Marvellous Napier," the inventor of Logarithms. The noble family of Napier, elevated to the Baronetage and Peerage in 1627 in the person of Sir Archibald Napier, only son, by his first marriage, of the philosopher, are connected with Etterick Forest by their paternal descent from the Scotts of Thirlestane in 1703.<sup>1</sup> Francis, the only son of William and Elizabeth Napier, who succeeded his grandmother, and became the fifth Lord in 1706, though paternally Scott of Thirlestane, assumed the surname of Napier in terms of the new patent granted to Archibald, third Lord Napier in 1677, and was the great-grandfather of William John, eighth Lord, who was appointed Commissioner for regulating the trade with China, in which office he died in China in October 1834. His Lordship added to the modern mansion, which was commenced by his father, Francis, seventh Lord, and was conspicuous for his agricultural and sheep-farming improvements.<sup>2</sup> On the opposite side of the Etterick is the Tower of Gamescleuch, erected by Simon, called "Long Spear," second son of John Scott of Thirlestane, in the reign of Queen Mary or James VI.

In an old cottage at Etterick Hall, about a quarter of a mile from the parish church, was born James Hogg. Among the many contemporary notices of the "Etterick Shepherd," as he designated himself from his avocation as a shepherd, one of the most summary, in reference to his literary adventures as a self-taught individual, is in the Annual Register for 1835. Sir Walter Scott patronised him, and he has obtained a position in Lockhart's biography of that great man, who tolerated his eccentricities and coarse manners. Hogg died in the sixty-third year of his age at Altrive in the Vale of Yarrow, a short distance from his former farm residence of Mount Bengier, thirteen miles from Selkirk.

On the south side of the Tweed is the mansion of Ashiesteel. From 1792 to 1802 this beautifully situated mansion was the country residence of Sir Walter Scott, partly from choice, and partly in his official capacity as Sheriff of Selkirkshire. In this seat of his kinsman, Colonel William Russell, distinguished for military exploits in India, Sir Walter Scott commenced his brilliant literary career, and a hillock covered with trees, beneath the shade of which much of his poetry was written, is still known in the phraseology of the peasantry as the "Shirra's Knowe."

Farther up the Tweed, towards Innerleithen, is Elibank Tower, which gives the title of Baron to a branch of the family of Murray of Blackbarony, ennobled in 1643 in the person of Sir Patrick Murray, who had been created a Baronet in 1628, and who was the son of Sir Gideon Murray—a personage who held several high appointments in his time. This ruinous pile, which was either built or enlarged by Sir Gideon Murray on the lands of Eliburn, is situated amid wild and pastoral scenery, surrounded by green hills, and appears to have been a double tower, with subordinate buildings, and a terraced garden on the south and west sides. Sir Gideon Murray, whose public and official transactions are curious, died in 1621, of grief at a false charge of "abusing his office of Treasurer Depute to the prejudice of the King," which was preferred against him by James Stewart, designated Lord Ochiltree, and was interred in the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood at Edinburgh.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Francis, fifth Lord Napier, whose mother, Elizabeth, daughter of Elizabeth, Baroness Napier, married William, son of Sir Francis Scott, Baronet, of Thirlestane, inherited that title, which was created in 1666, and his successors are also Baronets of Nova Scotia of that date, but the Baronetcy of 1627 is possessed by the Napiers of Milliken House in Renfrewshire.

<sup>2</sup> In 1822, Lord Napier published a "Treatise on Practical Store-Farming as applicable to the Mountainous Region of Etterick Forest and the Pastoral Part of Scotland in general," which attracted considerable notice, and his Lordship's suggestions were followed by beneficial results.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Gideon Murray was imprisoned some time in Edinburgh Castle on a charge of manslaughter or murder, and after his "remission," or pardon, he acted as chamberlain to his relative, Sir Walter

Scott of Buccleuch, who had retired to France about 1596, in obedience to the royal mandate, and avoided any connexion with the disturbances of the turbulent Earl of Bothwell, who had presumed to calculate on his assistance. While residing in Elibank Tower, Sir Gideon Murray engaged in a feud with the Scotts of Harden, who then possessed Oakwood Tower on the Etterick. Sir Walter Scott, their descendant, relates a curious traditionary story connected with this feud, asserting that it "is established in both families, and often jocularly referred to upon the Borders." The son of Scott of Harden had prepared an expedition against the Murrays, their ancient enemies, and as their possessions were contiguous, they were at no loss for opportunities to exercise their hostility. Young Harden was defeated and secured by the Murrays while driving off their cattle. He was conducted a prisoner to Elibank Tower, and Sir Gideon's lady, whose





ELNOCKIE TOWER.

*From an Original Drawing by G. Cattermole.*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON



His descendants soon deserted Elibank Tower, which fell to ruin—a memorial of the rude masonry and ferocity of the times of the construction.

The inhabitants of "The Forest" were long and still are a peculiar people. For centuries they were in bondage as serfs, and completely at the mercy of the owners of the fortalices, who were their masters. Many years after the Union their information, such as it was, rarely extended beyond the limits of their own district and their immediate neighbours and relatives. About 1750 not a cart was employed, and manure for the fields and peats from the hills for fuel were conveyed in creels on the backs of horses. The store-farmers removed their flocks into Annandale for winter shelter and pasturage, and the black-faced sheep, the wool of which was of the coarsest kind, and of little manufacturing value, were the principal occupants of the mountains and "walks." The Cheviots, or white-faced, are now preferred, but the introduction of this breed was not effected without difficulty, of which numerous amusing stories, illustrating the credulity, ignorance, and superstition of the peasantry, are recorded.

### GILNOCKIE TOWER.

In the parish of Canonbie, which is traversed by the Esk in its course to the Solway Frith, and receives numerous tributaries, is a small promontory encircled on three sides by the river, and known as Gilnockie, from which a noted Border freebooter is supposed to have derived a kind of territorial designation. The roofless tower resembles those throughout the district, and the chief attraction is the romantic scenery in the Vale of the Esk in the vicinity. The site is steep and rocky, and is of difficult access except on the land side, which was protected by a ditch. Gilnockie Tower, called from its situation the Hollows, or Hollows House Tower, a few miles below Langholm, is near the eastward of Hollows Bridge, and is an oblong square, about sixty feet in front length and upwards of forty-six feet in breadth. On each side of the east and west angles are two round turrets with loopholes. The structure, which is at least seventy feet high, is of red sandstone, and was evidently of considerable strength as a Border stronghold. The natural beauty of the situation can scarcely be excelled.

John or "Johnnie" Armstrong, as he is familiarly designated in ballad and local tradition, the proprietor, or resident in, Gilnockie Tower, or the Hollows, lived in the reign of James V., and was a brother of Armstrong of Mangerton. He was one of the leaders of a numerous Border race of his name, and at the head of a daring band of moss-troopers levied "black-mail," or "protection money," many miles round the Vale of the Esk. The terror of this freebooter was felt even at Newcastle, and his contributions were exacted from the counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, part of Northumberland, and generally throughout the West Marches of England. His influence was such that he utterly defied the authority of the Crown, and the complaints against him from the English Borders were importunate and furious. In 1528, James V., who thoroughly disliked the Border leaders for their turbulence and oppression, advanced into their districts under the pretence of hunting, though in reality to repress and punish the aggressors. Armstrong was summoned to appear before the monarch, and his evil genius, or the advice of some designing courtiers, induced him to obey in all the parade of local chivalry, attended by thirty-six horsemen. It is said that Armstrong was aware of his enormities, yet his position induced him to expect favour from a sovereign who had resolved to "danton the thieves of Teviotdale, Annandale, Liddesdale, and other parts of the country," and who had

name was Margaret Pentland, was anxious to know the intended punishment. Sir Gideon announced that he intended to hang him,— "To the gallows," he exclaimed, "with the invader!" "Hoot no, Sir Gideon," answered the considerate matron in her native vernacular, "would you hang the winsome young Laird of Harden while ye hae three ill-favoured daughters to marry?" "Right," said Sir Gideon; "he shall either marry our daughter, muckle-mouthed Meg, or strap for it." When the alternative was proposed to the captive, he at first preferred the gibbet to "muckle-mouthed Meg,"—the sobriquet of the young lady, whose name was Agnes, and only one daughter is mentioned in the Peerage accounts. Young Harden was led forth to

execution, and having no chance of escape he retracted his ungallant resolution. The lady and her compulsory husband were a loving and happy couple, and had a large family. Four sons are mentioned, to each of whom Sir William Scott of Harden bequeathed good estates, viz., Sir William, who carried on the line of the family; Sir Gideon Scott of Highchester, whose son was created Earl of Tarras, for life only, at his marriage to Mary, Countess of Buccleuch, elder sister of the future Duchess Anne, of which juvenile union was no issue; Walter Scott of Raeburn, from whom the Author of Waverley was descended; and John Scott, ancestor of the Scotts of Wooll.



previously executed Cockburn of Henderland, and Scott of Tushielaw, the "King of the Borders," besides committing many other dangerous persons to ward or prison.

The reception of Armstrong by the King is minutely recorded by a quaint writer, and has been often cited. As already observed, he was attended by thirty-six horsemen "richly apparelled, trusting that, in respect of the free offer of his person, he should obtain the King's favour. But the King, seeing him and his men so gorgeous in their apparel, with so many brave men under a tyrant's commandment, frowardly turning him about, he bade take the tyrant out of his sight, saying—'What wants that knave that a King should have?' But John Armstrong made great offers to the King—that he should sustain himself with forty gentlemen ever ready at his service, on their own cost, without wronging any Scottish man—that there was not a subject in England, Duke, Earl, or Baron, but within a certain day he would bring him to his Majesty either quick or dead. At length, seeing no hope of favour, he said very proudly—'If I had known this, I would have lived on the Borders in despite of King Harry and you both, for I know King Harry would downweigh my best horse with gold, to know that I were condemned to die this day.'"¹

This writer carefully notices that the unfortunate Laird of Gilnockie was "heavily lamented, for he was the most redoubted chieftain that had been for a long time on the Borders either of Scotland or England," and that he "never molested any Scottish man,"—a statement which may be doubted. The locality at which Armstrong and his followers were silenced is at Caerlanrig Chapel, about ten miles above Hawick on the road to Langholm, and they were interred in a sequestered burial-place, in which their graves are still shown. The peasantry of the district venerate the memory of the Laird of Gilnockie, and maintain that the trees on which he and his followers were executed immediately decayed. It is also asserted that one of Armstrong's attendants escaped by the strength and swiftness of his horse, forcing a passage through the King's assemblage, and conveying the tidings to Gilnockie Tower. In the reign of James VI. the Armstrongs were finally suppressed, their leaders brought to the scaffold, their strongholds destroyed, and their extensive possessions forfeited, and transferred to strangers. It is probable, however, that the leaders of this once ancient and powerful Border sept never had any legal rights to the lands they occupied as independent and unscrupulous freebooters, even admitting that the celebrated Gilnockie "never molested any Scottish man."²

One of the descendants of the Laird of Gilnockie, who followed the marauding avocation in a limited way, kidnapped Sir Alexander Gibson of Durie, a judge in the Court of Session from 1621 to his death, in 1644. He seized the judge while riding on Leith Sands, and conveyed him blindfolded to Graham's Tower, an old castle in Annandale, in which he secretly immured him three months. This bold stratagem was to promote the interest of the first Earl of Traquair, who was seriously connected with a lawsuit before the Supreme Court, the decision of which his Lordship feared would be unfavourable to his interest by the casting vote of Lord Durie, who was then acting as Lord President. As a contrast to this bold and daring abduction, the extraordinary nature of which induced Lord Durie's friends to consider him defunct, Sir Walter Scott mentions that another descendant of Gilnockie was in his time the landlord of the Tower Inn in Hawick, and, "instead of his ancestor's perilous marauding achievements, levied contributions upon the public in that humbler character."³ On the banks of the Liddell, some distance from Penton Linns, are the ruins of Harelaw Tower, the residence of Hector Armstrong, who, by the bribery of the Regent Moray betrayed Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland, who had fled to Harelaw Tower for protection, and was treated for some time with confidence and regard. Moray delivered the Earl to Queen Elizabeth, by whom he was consigned to the scaffold, at York, in August, 1572. It is recorded that this Armstrong, soon after his treachery, fell into poverty and disgrace, and was the origin of the Border proverb, as applied to any one who betrayed his friend or guest, that he had "put on Hector of Harelaw's coat."⁴

¹ History of Scotland from February, 1436 to March, 1565, by Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie, folio, 1728, pp. 145, 146.

² The fate of Gilnockie is noticed by Sir David Lindsay, Buchanan, and other writers of that age. In the "Complaynt of Scotland" John Armstrong's "dance" is mentioned as a popular tune—the said "dance" meaning his execution. The ballad of "Johnie Armstrong"

was first published in 1724, in the "Evergreen," by Allan Ramsay, who avers that he wrote it from the recital of a gentleman named Armstrong, who was the sixth in lineal descent from Gilnockie.

³ Sir Walter Scott's Border Antiquities, 4to., 1817, vol. ii. pp. 201, 202.

⁴ New Statistical Account of Scotland—Dumfriesshire, p. 489.