



CULZEAN CASTLE.

From an Original Drawing by W. P. Little

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

CULZEAN CASTLE—DUNURE—THE KENNEDYS.

THIS grand edifice, or rather series of castellated buildings, sometimes written Colzean and Cullean, the seat of the Earls of Cassillis in the peerage of Scotland, created Marquises of Ailsa in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, in 1831, was commenced by David, tenth Earl of Cassillis, in 1777, from a design by Robert Adam. This mansion is situated on the summit of a perpendicular basaltic cliff projecting into the sea one hundred feet in height, and is remarkable for the magnificence and solidity of the architecture. The whole buildings, including the approach, cover four acres, and the principal apartments command splendid views of the Frith of Clyde and the stupendous Ailsa Crag. On the land side below the Castle are the gardens of the old mansion of Culzean, formed into three terraces, and the "policy" includes about seven hundred acres, ornamented by fine old trees and thriving plantations.¹

Near Culzean Castle, and below some parts of the fabric, are six caves, known as the Coves of Culzean. The largest of the three towards the west is entered at high-water mark; the roof is about fifty feet in height, and extending inwards, with varying breadth, probably two hundred feet. This cave communicates with the other two, which are considerably less, and of a similar irregular form. The entrance is by a door built of freestone, three feet above which are a window and an apartment commanding the access. The three eastward caves are each nearly of the same dimensions and appearance, and all were evidently from time to time inhabited as secure fastnesses inaccessible to assailants. The want of supplies only could have compelled the occupants to surrender.

The noble family of Kennedy, Earls of Cassillis, have been for centuries connected with the Carrick district of Ayrshire. The Kennedys were the aboriginal inhabitants of Carrick; and previous to his death, in 1256, Neil, Earl of Carrick, grandson of Fergus, Lord of Galloway, granted a charter in favour of their ancestor Roland, in which he is declared the head or chief of his race.² Alexander III. confirmed this charter on the 20th of January, 1275-6, and it was ratified by Robert II., on the first of October, 1372. After that grant the family assumed the name of Kennedy, which they derived from Kenneth, an alleged Thane of Carrick. The Kennedys became eventually so powerful as to be the terror of the district, and committed many barbarous, cruel, and oppressive acts in defiance of the Government. The sobriquet of Gilbert, Earl of Cassillis, and some of his successors was "King of Carrick," as expressing the almost boundless power which they exercised over the inhabitants of those districts unhappily under their heritable jurisdiction.³ It would be out of place in this sketch to furnish an outline of the genealogy of this family. Their original settlement seems to have been Dunure, and they date from the said Kenneth, styled Thane of Carrick, who was one of the "captains" of the fabulous King Gregory, though they claim relationship to three previous monarchs who were called Kenneth. This Captain or Thane distinguished himself in the estimation of King Gregory by "rolling down stanes from ane high hill," by which exploit he "wan ane grit battell to King Gregorie." The "Black Book of Scone" locates the founder of the family in the reign of Malcolm II., who was crowned in 1010, and links them with a Mackinnon of the Isles, who and his successors were much engaged in warfare with the Danes. One of those Mackinnons, after the battle of Largs, in which the Danish King Haco was defeated in August 1263,

¹ The former mansion of Culzean is thus described—"The Cove is the Laird of Colain's mansion-house, standing upon a rock above the sea, flanked on the south with very pretty gardens and orchards, adorned with excellent terraces,"—Description of Carrick, by Mr. William Abercrombie, Minister at Maybole, *apud* Pitcairn's Historical Memoirs of the Kennedys, p. 168.

² Historical and Genealogical Account of the Principal Families of the Name of Kennedy, by Robert Pitcairn, W.S., 4to. 1830, pp. 75, 76.

³ The power of the Kennedys was long expressed in a local rhyme which Sir Walter Scott preserved from tradition; and it is to this effect—

"Twixt Wigton and the town of Ayr,
Portpatrick and the Cruives of Cree,
No man need think for to bide there
Unless he court Saint Kennedie."

The older version, however, is probably more significant, and is as follows—

"Twixt Wigtonne and the town of Aire,
And laigh down by the Cruives of Cree,
Ye shall not get a lodging there
Except ye court a Kennedy."

"As to the civil jurisdiction of this country," says a local writer, "it is a bailiary, and belongs heritably to the Earl of Cassillis, who exercises his power by a depute, and has the privilege to appoint his own clerk.—The offices of depute or clerk are advantageous posts to any the Earl bestows them upon, for by the plenty of wood and water in this country, which tempt men to cut stob or wattles for necessary uses, they find a way yearly to levy fines for cutting of green wood, and killing fry or fish in prohibite times, that makes a revenue to their offices, and is a constant tax upon the people."—Description of Carrick, by Mr. William Abercrombie, Minister at Maybole, *apud* Pitcairn's Historical Memoirs of the Kennedys, p. 174.

sheltered himself, with his sons, in "ane craig in Carrick, whereon was ane strength buildit by the Danes low, by the sea-syde," the captain of which the said Mackinnon and his sons killed, and was rewarded by a grant of the "strength" with "certain lands lying thereto," and this was the "first beginning of the name of Kennedy in the mainland. On the strength and craig is now ane fair castle, which the chief of the Lowland Kennedys took their style from for ane long space, and were called Lairds of Dunure, because of the don of the hill above that house. This house remained ane lang tyme in sober estate, not having great rent, nor commandment of the country, for we hear no mention of them in Wallace's days, nor the Bruce's time."¹

It is said that the original name of the Kennedys was Carrick, which they relinquished in the thirteenth century. Sir John Kennedy of Dunure, who was a personage of great local note in the fourteenth century, had three sons, the second of whom, called John, is the assumed ancestor of the Kennedys of Culzean. Sir Gilbert, the eldest son, married Marion, daughter of Sir James Sandilands of Calder, and after her decease Agnes, daughter of Sir Robert Maxwell of Calderwood. Gilbert, the eldest son, was disinherited by his father, and the reason assigned is thus quaintly narrated,—“King James the First sent ane of his dochters to this Laird of Dunure to foster, wha remanit with him till she was ane woman, at the quhilk time the lady's awin sone having mair credeitt in his moderes house nor her step-sone, he being in luiff with this young lady, gets her with bairn, and the King her fader, offendit thereat, could find no better way nor to cause him to marie her.” It would be tedious to trace the authenticity or probability of this statement in reference to one of the five daughters of James I., and it may suffice that Sir James Kennedy of Dunure, who was killed by his disinherited brother, married Mary, second daughter of Robert III., father of James I., and widow of George, first Earl of Angus, of the Douglas family. The issue of this alliance were Gilbert, created Lord Kennedy about 1452, or at least before 1457, and the illustrious James Kennedy, successively Bishop of Dunkeld and St. Andrews. David, third Lord Kennedy, grandson of the first Lord, was created Earl of Cassillis in 1510, and fell with his relative James III. at Flodden. Gilbert, the second Earl, was killed by the retainers of Hugh Campbell of Loudon, sheriff of Ayr, on the sands of Prestwick, in December 1527. He was succeeded by his son Gilbert, described as “ane wonder wyse man,” whose third son, Sir Thomas, became “Tutor” and Laird of Culzean at the death of his elder brother, David.

It would be tedious to enumerate all the atrocities committed by the Kennedys, and their numerous feuds are prominent in the criminal records. Gilbert, fourth Earl of Cassillis, who succeeded his father in 1558, and died in December 1576, was one of the most unprincipled men of his time. He is described as “very greedy,” and “cared nocht how he got land so that he culd come by the same.” This Earl trafficked with the Abbot of Glenluce to obtain a perpetual lease of the lands of that Abbey, and the death of the Abbot only prevented the alienation. Not to be disappointed, he induced one of the Monks to counterfeit the signatures of the deceased Abbot and of the members of the convent, and having secured the document, he ordered his guilty dupe to be hanged on a charge of theft. His treatment of Alan Stewart, Abbot or Commendator of Crossraguel, was another of his crimes. This act of barbarity, which consisted in literally roasting the Abbot before a fire on the 1st and 7th days of September, 1570, in the Black Vaults of Dunure, is well known in Scottish history. Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, “Tutor” of Cassillis, the Earl's uncle, who was afterwards murdered at the instigation of Mure of Auchindraine, on the 11th of May, 1602, was deeply implicated in this horrible violence inflicted by the avarice of the “King of Carrick.”

John, eighth Earl of Cassillis, who was born in 1700, and died in August 1759, married his cousin-german Lady Susan Hamilton, by whom he had no issue. In March of the latter year, while his Countess was enjoying herself at a dancing party, he privately made a strictly entailed settlement in favour of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, Bart., descended from Sir Thomas Kennedy, second son of Gilbert, third Earl of Cassillis, and who, it is previously noticed, fell a victim to the revenge of Mure of Auchindraine.² This deed of the

¹ “This country (Carrick) is the ancient seat of the Kennedys, whose principal dwelling was the Castle of Dunure, standing on the sea-syde, on a rockie shoar, in the parish of Mayboll, and gives designation to a barony lying round about it; but this being wholly ruined, their chief mansion is the House of Cassillis, standing upon a high ground, on the south syde of the river Dun (Doon), having the Wood of Dalruple opposite to it, on the other syde, in Kyle, which gives it a very agreeable prospect of wood and water. The house, in the body of it, is very high, having a fine stone stair turning about a hollow

easement, in which there are many opens from the bottom to the top, that by putting a lamp into it, gives light to the whole turn of stairs.” It is also stated—“The Cove is the Laird of Colain's mansion-house, standing upon a roek above the sea, flanked on the south with very pretty gardens and orchards.”—Mr. William Abercrombie's Description of Carrick, in Piteairn's Account of the Kennedys, 4to. p. 168.

² John, fifth Earl of Cassillis, who succeeded his father Gilbert, fourth Earl, in 1576, subscribed a bond to pay 1200 merks annually to his brother Hugh Kennedy, commonly called the Master of Cassillis,



DUNURE CASTLE

From an Original Drawing by J. D. Harding

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ALISA GRATO

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

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eighth Earl in favour of the then Baronet of Culzean, as the nearest heir male of the family, originated a law process between the said Baronet and William, Earl of March and Rutherglen, grandson of Lady Anne Kennedy, the daughter of John, seventh Earl of Cassillis. This nobleman, who assumed the title of Earl of Cassillis, was opposed by Sir Thomas Kennedy, who claimed under the entail of 29th March, 1759, and was served heir to the eighth Earl. The House of Lords decided in his favour in 1762, and he succeeded as ninth Earl of Cassillis, obtaining possession of the extensive estates. He was never married, and died at the old mansion of Culzean on the 30th of November, 1775. His brother David, who also died a bachelor at Culzean Castle, on the 18th of December, 1792, succeeded as tenth Earl, and the eleventh Earl was Archibald, descended from Alexander Kennedy of Craigoch, second son of Sir Alexander Kennedy of Culzean, the son of Sir Thomas Kennedy, murdered at the instance of Mure of Auchindraine. It may be noticed that Mure and his son were convicted and executed for their crimes in 1611, and their career is the subject of a drama by Sir Walter Scott, entitled "Auchindrane, or the Ayrshire Tragedy."¹

AILSA.

THE stupendous insulated rock of Ailsa, between the shores of Ayrshire and Cantyre in Argyllshire, is about eight miles from the nearest point of the Ayrshire coast, and is generally considered as belonging to the parish of Dailly, as it is included in the Barony of Knockgerran, which is the property of the Earl of Cassillis, now Marquis of Ailsa. This huge mass, probably two miles in circumference at the base, and rising to a height variously stated at 1140, 1100, and 1008 feet above the level of the sea, is of a conical appearance when seen from the north or south, and the summit is covered with heath and grass. Ailsa is precipitous on all sides, and is only accessible on the east or south-east, at a small beach formed by the accumulation of *débris*. The cliffs in many places are columnar, and the western side rises perpendicularly from the ocean. Ailsa occupies the same position at the entrance to the Frith of Clyde from the Atlantic as does the Bass at the entrance to the Frith of Forth from the German Ocean, both appearing like vast solitary sentinels, or memorials of a former world, rising abruptly from the deep, and displaying their immense forms as if to show the wonderful operations of nature.

Ailsa, sometimes designated the "Perch of Clyde," is a remarkable object at sea. It is visible from an extraordinary distance, and appears as if defying the billows which have dashed against its dark sides thousands of years. A close inspection and examination increase the awe felt by the sight of this summit of an extraordinary submarine mountain. The world contains many remarkable objects which cannot be adequately described, and Ailsa, like the Bass, Skye, and Staffa, is one of them. Around, hovering over, and clinging to its sides, are myriads of wild sea-fowl, which almost darken the atmosphere when on the wing, uttering the most discordant sounds and screechings. From the landing-place a comparatively easy ascent of two hundred feet leads to the ruins of a square building, said to have been erected by Philip II. of Spain—a circumstance very improbable as it respects that monarch. As Ailsa could not be excelled as a prison for silencing feudal enemies, as its sea-fowl could tell no tales, and the roaring Atlantic beneath would soon close over those who were precipitated into the abyss from the cliffs, it is more probable that this is the memorial of an erection by the powerful family of Kennedy as a prison for those who fell into their hands. It is also conjectured that this ruin may indicate an eremite residence depending on Lamlash in Arran, and it is stated that in this island are the "ruines of ane old castle and chapel possessed by the Earls of Cassillis, who hold the same off the Abbey of Corsregall."² Above this ruin the ascent is extremely laborious over pieces of broken rocks and large nettles. Near the summit are two copious springs of excellent water.

Though many a dark deed has doubtless been perpetrated on Ailsa, of which the world knows nothing,

and his accomplices, the payment of which was to commence from their taking the life of the Laird of Auchindraine. The bond is dated Maybole, 3d September, 1602. The two brothers for years previously had been on terms of personal hostility, and their mutual friends succeeded, by this murder of their granduncle, to effect a permanent reconciliation.—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. iii. p. 622.

¹ All the documents connected with the murder of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, and the trial of the Mures of Auchindraine, are printed in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. iii. pp. 124–182.

² Sir James Balfour's Collection on the several Shores, with Additions by Sir Robert Sibbald, in Pitcairn's Genealogical Account of the Family of Kennedy, 4to. p. 189.

this "craggy ocean pyramid" is not conspicuous in history, and in this respect the "Perch of Clyde" differs from the Bass. The accounts are almost exclusively confined to the appearance and geological details. Dr. Macculloch says that "if a single pillar be examined near at hand, it will be found far less decided in shape than those of Staffa or Skye, while the whole mass appears as if blended together, and not as if each column could be separated; but when viewed in the mass, the general effect of a columnar and regular structure is as perfect as on the north coast of Skye." The diameter of the columns far exceeds those of Skye, ranging from six to nine feet, and in one place attaining an unbroken altitude of four hundred feet, thus affording the largest specimens of columnar basalt known, and exceeding by nearly one hundred feet those of the Fair-Head at the Giant's Causeway. According to the same authority, "nothing can exceed the magnificence of the columnar wall on this side of the rock, and even the high faces of Staffa sink into insignificance on a comparison with the enormous elevation and dimensions of Ailsa. He is an incurious geologist, or a feeble admirer of Nature, who is content to pass Ailsa unseen. The rock is traversed in various parts by large veins of greenstone or basalt. The whole of the island consists of one substance, in which slight differences of appearance here and there occur, but are unworthy of particular notice, and scarcely sufficient to constitute a variety. What Ailsa promises at a distance it far more than performs on a nearer acquaintance. If it has not the regularity of Staffa, it exceeds that island as much in grandeur and variety as it does in absolute bulk. Those who are only desirous of viewing one example of that romantic and wonderful scenery, which forms the chief attraction of the more distant islands, will be pleased to know that within a day's sail of Greenock, and without trouble, they may see what cannot be eclipsed by Staffa, or Mull, or Skye, if even it can be equalled by any of them."

ROTHESAY CASTLE.

THE ruins of Rothesay Castle, sometimes designated Bute Castle, are immediately adjoining the pleasant and thriving royal burgh of its name, the chief town of the Island of Bute in the Frith of Clyde, at the head of Rothesay Bay, on the north-east side of the Island. The Castle, which originated the town clustering near its walls for protection, is supposed to have been erected or commenced about 1098 by Magnus Baerfaet, or Barefoot, King of Norway, who subjugated the Isles in 1093, and was slain in an expedition against Ulster in 1103. It would be tedious to detail the history of the ancient kingdom of The Isles, of which Bute was an appendage. The date of the ruin of that kingdom is alleged to be 1156, when Goderick the Black nominally ceded the sovereignty to the sons of Somerled of Argyll, the founder of the great family of the Macdonalds, Lords of the Isles, and whose origin is involved in all the obscurity of Celtic tradition. By this treaty the Islands of Bute, Arran, Isla, Jura, Mull, several smaller islands, and the Argyllshire district of Kintyre, which by a stratagem of Magnus Barefoot, who practised a deception on Malcolm Canmore, by causing himself to be drawn in a galley across the narrow isthmus between Kintyre and Knapdale, was for centuries classed among the South Isles.

Before the reign of Alexander III., which commenced in 1249, Rothesay Castle, such as the fabric then was in its rude and insignificant condition, is said to have been the residence and property of a family named MacRoderick, or MacRuari, descended from Reginald MacSomerled, King of the Isles, the son of Somerled, and ancestor of the MacRuaries of the North Isles. Somerled is said to have been killed in 1164, while meditating a conquest of the whole of Scotland. The first territorial influence which the Scottish monarchs acquired in The Isles, in opposition to the sway of Norway, was soon after the death of Somerled, when Walter, High Steward of Scotland, seized the Island of Bute, which thus became one of the earliest possessions of the Royal House of Stuart. Angus MacSomerled, supposed to have been Lord of Bute, and his three sons, were killed in 1210, and James, one of those sons, left a daughter and heiress named Jane, who married Alexander, son and heir of Walter the High Steward, and in her right claimed the Island of Bute, and probably Arran.¹ This matrimonial alliance strengthened the

¹ "Alexander, High Steward of Scotland, was born 1214. He married Jean, daughter and heir to James, son to Angus Macrory or Roderick, Lord of Bute, descended of his own family, says Abereromby, so that probably the Isle of Bute was given by Walter [the first High Steward] in patrimony to one of his younger sons, and his posterity, to be held of the High Steward."—Stewart's Historical and Genealogical Account of the Royal Family of Scotland, 4to. 1739, pp. 45, 49, 50.



ROTHESAY CASTLE, ISLAND OF BUTE .

From an Original Drawing by C. Stanfield, R.A.

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claims of the family of the High Steward, who eventually obtained possession by the expulsion of the MacRuaries.

The first prominent notice of Rothesay Castle occurs in 1228, in the reign of Alexander II., when it was assaulted by Olive, surnamed the "Black" King of Man and the Isles, one of three of the race of Somerled so designated. He was assisted by a Norwegian chief named Husbac, and he possessed an aggressive fleet of eighty galleys. The Castle was secured by mining the walls, with the loss of nearly four hundred men. After the battle of Largs, which was fought on the 2d of October, 1263, between Alexander III. and Haco, King of Norway, to contest the sovereignty of the Hebrides, the Castle of Rothesay was retaken by the Scottish forces. The English were in possession during the brief and disastrous reign of John Baliol, and in 1311 it is said to have been recovered by King Robert Bruce—a statement doubted by a competent authority, who conjectures that a fortress in Galloway, probably Buittle, which belonged to Baliol's family, is indicated by Fordun in his notice of the "Castrum de Botha," or "de Bute."¹ The subsequent annals of Rothesay Castle can be easily recorded. In 1334 the Fortress was repaired by the partizans of Edward Baliol in the reign of David II., and not long afterwards it was captured by his nephew, Robert II., who succeeded him in 1370, and who, while High Steward of Scotland, was appointed to the Regency at the death of Sir Andrew Moray in 1338. Robert II. resided in Rothesay Castle in 1376 and 1381, and evidently rebuilt a great part of the fabric, which was now considered a royal palace and a military fortress. Robert III. died of grief within the walls in 1406, at the intelligence of the capture by the English of his son and successor, James I.² In 1475, John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, was cited by the Parliament for besieging Rothesay Castle, and other exploits.³ On the 24th of January, 1526-7, the Master of Ruthven obtained a "remission" or pardon for attacking the Castle and burning the town.⁴ In 1544 the Earl of Lennox, who entered the Clyde with an English armament, proceeded from Arran to Bute, of which, with Rothesay Castle, he easily obtained possession. Little occurs in the history of this occasional residence of royalty till the time of Cromwell, whose troops cannonaded the walls. The fabric was rendered an utter and irretrievable ruin in 1685 by the brother of the Earl of Argyll. This person destroyed the edifice by fire, and it was left to moulder in decay. The ravages committed by the eighth Earl of Argyll indicate his peculiar hatred to the inhabitants of Bute. The trial, in 1661, of this hero of the Presbyterian Covenanted martyrology, who had been created Marquis of Argyll by Charles I. in 1641, details numerous murders perpetrated by the command of Argyll at Dunoon, opposite Bute. One of the victims was the Provost of Rothesay, who was shot thrice through the body, and finding him still alive, they stabbed him with their dirks and other weapons, and cut his throat. Others were thrown into holes, and covered with earth to prevent their cries.⁵ Women and children were also murdered by those savage followers of the Covenanted Argyll, and if only a small part of the charges against him is true, he well deserved his fate at the Cross of Edinburgh in May 1661.

The ruins of Rothesay Castle consist of ponderous masses of dingy red stones, and the embellishment of some imposing ash-trees renders the desolation of this memorial of antiquity more observable, dispelling all the ideas usually associated with a palace. It is appropriately remarked that "as a piece of fortification, even on the ancient principles, it is wretched, and argues very little in favour of the military knowledge displayed in the erection. The gate is neither flanked nor machicolated, and it might have been mined or assaulted at almost every point." As now existing, the ruins form a circular court one hundred and forty feet in diameter, the walls high and thick. On four flanks are round towers, between two of which, on the north-east side, is a projecting structure ascribed to Robert II. The walls are profusely overgrown with ivy, and nourish tenaciously adhering trees and shrubs. John, fourth Earl and first

¹ Annals of Scotland, by Sir David Dalrymple, Bart., Lord Hailes, 4to. vol. ii. pp. 36, 37. This conjecture is supported by the fact that in 1311 King Robert Bruce was in that part of Scotland, and expelled the English from Dumfries, Dalswinton, and other fortresses.

² Sir James Balfour records—"King Robert the Third, hearing of the taking of his only son James by the English, when at supper in his Castle of Rothesay in the Isle of Bute, was so surprised with grief and sorrow of heart, that he expired within four hours thereafter, on

the 4th day of April, Palm Sunday, in the sixteenth year of his reign, and was solemnly interred at Paisley Abbey."—Annals of Scotland, vol. iv. pp. 143, 144. The detention of James I. by the English monarch was disastrous to Scotland.

³ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 109.

⁴ Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part I., p. 240.

⁵ Ibid. vol. iii. p. 199.

Marquis of Bute, renovated the interior, and the supposed crections of Robert II. are now easily accessible.

Sir John Stuart the "Black," a son of Robert II., and said to have been one of his many illegitimate offspring, obtained a grant of property in the Island of Bute, and the hereditary Sheriffship of his father's patrimony conjoined with Arran, which was confirmed, in November 1400, by Robert III. His grandson Ninian was appointed Keeper of Rothesay Castle, with a salary of eighty merks, in August 1498. John, the son of Ninian, was infested as Hereditary Constable of the fabric in March 1509. James, his great-grandson, created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1627, garrisoned his residence of Rothesay Castle at his own expense, and was appointed Lieutenant of the West of Scotland by Charles I. at the commencement of the Covenanted rebellion. After many privations, and flight to Ireland to avoid imprisonment, he was allowed to recover possession by the payment of five thousand merks, inflicted as a fine by the Covenanted Parliament in 1646. Cromwell's troops seized and occupied Rothesay Castle in 1651, and Sir James Stuart was divested of his hereditary office of sheriff, declared incapable of any public trust, and otherwise severely treated for his loyalty. He died in 1662, and was succeeded by his son Sir Dugald Stuart, who died in 1672. Sir James, son of Sir Dugald, created Earl of Bute in 1703, and interred at Rothesay in 1710, was apparently the last inhabitant of the Castle. His grandson John, third Earl, the celebrated Premier of Great Britain in 1762 and 1763, and conspicuous in the "Letters of Junius," was the father of John fourth Earl, who succeeded in 1792, was created Marquis of Bute in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1796, and his successors, who were also Earls of Dumfries, are Hereditary Keepers of Rothesay Castle. Their mansion of Mount-Stuart, a plain edifice, erected by James, second Earl, in 1718, four miles south-east of the burgh of Rothesay on the coast, commands a magnificent view of the Frith of Clyde, the Cumbræ Islands, and the Ayrshire coast, not surpassed in Scotland, while the domain is covered by extensive plantations, and displays many trees of remarkable height and circumference.

Rothesay Castle was merely a nominal royal residence after the death of Robert II., when it was acquired by the ancestor of the Bute family, and the succeeding monarchs of the House of Stuart seldom or never entered within the walls. The distance from the seat of Government, the difficulty of access, and the dangerous proximity to the Argyllshire Highlands, may partly account for this desertion. The now thriving royal burgh of Rothesay was long a mere village connected with the Castle, depending on the prosperity of the proprietors of that structure, and repeatedly captured and plundered by the Norwegians, the Islemen, and the invading English. After the confirmation in 1584 by James VI. of the charter of erection by Robert III. in 1400, the town gradually prospered, and eventually was the great mart for the exchange of commodities between the Lowlanders and the Highlanders and the Islemen. The Island of Bute was then considered by those traffickers as a kind of neutral territory, neither Lowland nor Highland. In 1700 Campbeltown, on the peninsula of Kintyre, was constituted a royal burgh, and the advantages offered to settlers almost extinguished Rothesay. After 1765, however, prosperity revived, and the salubrity of the climate has secured for this insular burgh a deserved reputation.

Rothesay Castle originated the first Dukedom in the Scottish Peerage hereditarily connected with the Royal House of Stuart. The title of Duke of Rothesay was created in a Council held at Scone in 1398, and assigned to David Earl of Carrick, Prince and Steward of Scotland, eldest son of Robert III. The alleged fate of this Prince in 1402 is well known, and the title was acquired by his brother, afterwards James I., which was ratified by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1409. This Act confirmed to the male heirs-apparent of the reigning sovereign the Lordship of Bute, with the Castle of Rothesay, the Lordship of Cowal, with the Castle of Dunoon, the Earldom of Carrick, the lands and Castle of Dundonald, the Barony of Renfrew, with other designations, some of the names of which are not very intelligible. Since that period the nominal dignities of Duke of Rothesay, Prince and Steward of Scotland, Earl of Carrick, Lord of the Isles, and Baron of Renfrew, have been vested in the eldest son and heir-apparent of the sovereign, who for centuries has possessed no territorial property in the localities and districts from which the titles are derived. The only privilege, exclusive of the rank, which is of secondary importance, seems to be the right of voting at the election of the sixteen representative Peers of Scotland, who are summoned for every Parliament.



TOYMOBARRON, FROM THE BARRON RIVER
From an Original Drawing by W. L. Fisher
JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

DUNBARTON CASTLE.

THE county of Dunbarton is part of the district anciently designated "The Lennox," which included portions of Renfrewshire on the south of the Clyde, and extended into Stirlingshire. This was an Earldom, some of the possessors of which are prominent in Scottish history. Dunbarton Castle was one of the residences of the original or ancient Earls of Lennox, of the surname of Lennox, until about 1238, when the fortress was relinquished to Alexander II., who, in 1222, constituted the town in the plain a royal burgh. The town is separated from the rock by a bend of the Leven at the junction with the Clyde.

The most conspicuous object on the Clyde is Dunbarton Castle, on a stupendous mass of basalt, cleft near the centre, and presenting two conical summits, on which are the fortifications and other buildings. The rock is nearly surrounded by the Clyde and the Leven, and is almost insulated at high water. This was an important position in early times, long considered one of the keys of the Western Highlands, and commanded the navigation of the Clyde. The immense rock, five hundred and sixty feet high, rugged and almost perpendicular, rises abruptly from a flat level, and projects considerably into the river, enhancing the picturesque scenery. The basalt appears as if violently detached from the adjacent Dunbuck Hill by some extraordinary natural phenomenon. The monkish tradition is, that when St. Patrick, who was a native of the neighbouring parish of West Kilpatrick, sailed from the Clyde in a small skiff to convert the Irish, the rock was torn from Dunbuck Hill and thrown after him to prevent his design.

Dunbarton Castle is the Alcluith or Alcluyd of the aboriginal Britons, and the Dunbriton of their Scoto-Irish descendants. Bede mentions the rock as Alcluyd, which means "the rocky height on the Clyd."¹ The rock was a Roman station, the only one beyond the Wall of Antoninus on the western side, and is supposed to indicate the municipal town of Theodosia.² When Maldwin, third Earl of Lennox, obtained the Earldom from Alexander II., the fortress and a portion of land in the vicinity were specially excepted from the grant. Along with other royal strongholds the Castle was delivered to Edward I. during the competition of Bruce and Baliol for the Crown, and when the dispute was decided in favour of the latter in 1292 he obtained possession. In 1296 the Castle was again occupied by the English, and Alexander de Ledes was appointed governor by the English monarch. From 1305 to 1309 the fortress was held for the English by Sir John Menteith, the alleged betrayer of Sir William Wallace, who was transmitted from Dunbarton Castle to London in 1305, heavily fettered, and under a powerful escort.

After the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333, Sir Malcolm Fleming, of Cumbernauld, secured the Castle for David II., and towards the end of that century the fortress was held successively by Sir Robert Erskine and Sir Robert Danielston. The latter died in 1399, when his relative, Walter Danielston, parson of Kincardine O'Neil, forcibly obtained possession, and held the fortress till 1402, when he surrendered to the Crown. The next event of any importance was in 1425. In that year Sir James Stewart, called the "Gross," son of Murdoc, Duke of Albany, ex-Regent, when informed of his father's imprisonment, appeared with a party of Highlanders, burnt the town, and killed Sir John Stewart of Dundonald, governor of the Castle, the uncle of James I., for which he was compelled to obtain a refuge in Ireland.³ In 1481 the fleet of Edward IV. menaced the fortress, which was successfully defended by Sir Andrew Wood of Largo. The next event occurred in 1489, the year after the assassination of James III., when John, first Earl of Lennox, Governor of the Castle, engaged in an insurrection against James IV., from whom he had received his Peerage, and the command of Dunbarton, which his son Matthew held six weeks against

¹ Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 238. "When Harding," adds Chalmers, "visited this rock in 1434, the tide regularly flowed round it. In his Chronicle he says —

"That mai been hold out long, when ye begyn,
Save Dunbretain, the sea aboute doth ryn,
Eche daie and night twice withouten doubt,
Whiche maie be woone, by famishyng aboute."

² Stuart's *Caledonia Romana: a Descriptive Account of the Roman Antiquities in Scotland*, 4to. 1845, pp. 172, 176.—"As to Dunbarton, the first of the known Municipia it has been our fortune to reach,

every trace of its existence as a Roman-British town has disappeared. Tradition has long pointed to the foundations of a circular building still to be seen near the principal flag-staff as the remains of a Roman lighthouse or watch-tower, but nothing beyond tradition can be referred to as evidence on the subject. The situation of Dunbarton rock must have been at all times regarded as of great military importance, and certainly could not have been left unoccupied by the prætor of Antonine, standing as it did near the termination of his great rampart."

³ Pinkerton's *History of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 113.

the royal authority. The garrison at last yielded, and the next Parliament granted a remission to the prisoners.¹ In 1514, this Matthew, second Earl of Lennox, and Cuthbert, third Earl of Glencairn, in a dark and stormy night, seized the fortress by breaking open the lower gate, and expelling Erskine, the governor. This was to oppose the Queen-Dowager, who immediately after the birth of a posthumous child had married the Earl of Angus—a connexion which under the circumstances enraged the nobility.²

The result of the battle of Pinkie in 1547 rendered the care of the infant Queen Mary of first importance, and in February 1547–8 she was removed to Dunbarton Castle from the island of Inchmahome in the romantic lake of Menteith in Perthshire, preparatory to her departure for France. In 1548 the Queen, then in her fifth year, was delivered to Monsieur de Breze, who had been commissioned by Henry II. to receive her. The French galleys sailed from the Clyde with the Queen, her ladies, and numerous attendants of high rank, towards the end of July, and arrived safely at Brest on the 13th of August.³ On the 14th of July, 1563, Queen Mary was in Dunbarton Castle on one of her numerous excursions, and again on the 17th and 18th.⁴

In 1550, not long after the Queen sailed to France, the governor and captain of the Fortress was a gentleman named George Stirling, an ancestor of the Stirlings of Glorat.⁵ It is not stated who was the immediate successor, unless Lord Fleming may be so considered, who defended the Castle in her name. Mary, after she joined her friends and supporters, had resolved for obvious reasons to shelter herself in Dunbarton, which was prevented by the Regent Moray, who intercepted and completely defeated her forces at Langside near Glasgow. Lord Fleming was in possession till May 1571, when the fortress was taken by escalade in a very daring manner under Captain Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill, who made prisoners of the garrison, and of several persons of distinction, one of whom was Archibald Hamilton of St. Andrews. In this exploit the assailants lost not a man, and of the garrison only four were killed. It is said that Crawford obtained information of the mode of access from soldiers whom he had bribed, especially from a man who had been a warder, and knew familiarly every step. He explained to his soldiers at Dunbuck Hill the dangerous service on which they were to be employed, providing them with ropes and ladders, and the party reached the base of the rock, the summit of which was enveloped in a dense mist. They commenced their operations, which they found were of no ordinary difficulty. The ladders lost hold with the weight of the soldiers, and, if the garrison had been on the alert, the noise must have betrayed them. They listened, and as the silence was not interrupted, they again placed their ladders, fixing their steel hooks in the crevices, and gained a small projecting ledge where an ash-tree had inserted its roots, to the branches of which they fixed their ropes, and speedily upreared the scaling materials and the rest of their companions. The day was breaking, and they had only reached the middle of the rock, when one of the soldiers was seized with illness, and could not proceed. Crawford tied him to the ladder, which he turned, and ascended with the rest of his men. They were now at the bottom of the wall, with narrow and precarious footing, yet they resolutely fixed their machinery on the copestones, and three of them effected the ascent. Though instantly discovered, and the alarm sounded by the sentinel, they leaped down, slew him, and sustained the attack of three others until joined by Crawford and his men. Their weight brought down the old wall, and they rushed through the breach, shouting—“A Darnley! a Darnley!” The garrison were panic-struck, and offered no resistance. Lord Fleming, long familiar with the place, escaped down the face of an almost perpendicular cleft or ravine, and passed to Argyllshire in a fishing-boat, leaving Lady Fleming his wife, who was treated with great courtesy, and was ultimately permitted to depart, and to remove all her plate and furniture.

Subsequently Dunbarton Castle was at times a state prison. The ex-Regent Morton was sent thither in December 1580, from whence he was removed to Edinburgh on the 27th of May, 1581, and on the 1st of July tried, convicted, and condemned for his knowledge of the murder of Darnley. His chief accuser was Captain James Stewart, afterwards created Earl of Arran—a worthless, unprincipled, and profligate individual—at the time the King's favourite. When Morton was told in the castle that this man had arrived to escort him, he observed that his doom was fixed.

¹ Pinkerton's History of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 9.

² *Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 125.

³ Chalmers' Life of Mary Queen of Scots, vol. i. pp. 5, 10, 11.

⁴ Chalmers' Life of Mary Queen of Scots, vol. i. p. 107.

⁵ New Statistical Account of Scotland—Stirlingshire, p. 246.



VIEW OF LOCH LOMOND FROM THE SOUTH
From an Original Drawing by H. Mac Culloch, R.S.A.

JOHN G. MURDOCH, LONDON

At the commencement of the Civil War the fortress was in possession of the Government. The insurgents were masters in the early part of 1639, and the King recovered the stronghold in the same year. In 1640 the castle was again in the hands of the Covenanters, and the Scottish ordered the fortifications to be destroyed, which was not obeyed. Cromwell garrisoned Dunbarton in 1652.

About the time of the Union the Duke of Montrose acquired the offices of Hereditary Keeper and Constable of the castle, which in former centuries had belonged to the Earls of Lennox, and latterly the Dukes of Lennox. After the death of the Dowager Duchess of Richmond and Lennox in 1702, the Duke of Richmond and Lennox sold all his property, feu-duties, and jurisdictions, to the Duke, then Marquis of Montrose. The latter resigned those offices, and the castle has been since a royal military fortress, one of the four stipulated to be constantly in repair, and was long a sinecure establishment, consisting of a governor, lieutenant-governor, barrack-master, store-keeper, and surgeon, the first vacant since the death of Lord Lynedoch. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited the Castle in the progress from the Clyde to Balmoral.

The fortress is entered by a gate at the base of the rock, and within the rampart are the guard-room and apartments for officers. A long flight of steps conducts to the division of the rock, at which are barracks, a battery, and well of excellent water. The access to the higher and narrower peak is steep, and this disjunction bears the name of Sir William Wallace, whose huge two-handed sword is shown among the curiosities. Splendid views are obtained from the batteries in all directions.

LOCH LOMOND.

LOCH LOMOND, often poetically and fancifully designated the "Queen of Scottish Lakes," though not a few others are rivals, has been often minutely described, and, like all lake and marine scenery combined with lofty mountains, must be seen to be appreciated. It is universally admitted that this "pride of Scottish Lakes" and "Lake full of Islands" presents landscapes of beauty and magnificence which can scarcely be excelled. The length is variously stated at twenty-four and about thirty miles, and the breadth at the southern end from eight to ten miles, diminishing at the middle and towards the northern extremity in some places to less than a mile. The broad expanse on the south, terminated by two bays, from one of which, at Balloch on the south, issues the Leven, is diversified by a number of picturesque islands, some of considerable height, and many of the larger finely wooded. At least thirty islands of different sizes are scattered over the surface. In this quarter the hills by which the lake is surrounded are gently swelling, presenting a green and pastoral aspect, and the opening vales traversed by tributary streams display scenes of sequestered and attractive interest. Towards the north extremity the appearance is different, and is thoroughly mountainous, displaying all the features of Highland character. The lake is here narrowed to the appearance of a river, and at the head receives the Falloch stream from the wild and romantic Glenfalloch, overlooked by lofty mountains, and another tiny rivulet. The narrowed lake in this quarter winds among bold and rugged mountains, which appear in some places as if closing over the water to prevent any further expansion. The broken and serrated summits are often enveloped in mist and clouds, and are a great part of the year covered with snow. The valleys are deep and narrow, and the sides are everywhere marked by the rough beds of torrents. The different ranges amidst which Loch Lomond is completely imbedded are the Kilpatrick Hills at the south end, which terminate near Kilmarnock; the mountains of Luss and Arrochar on the western shore; at the upper or northern extremity rise the mountains of Glenfalloch; and on the eastern shore the great chain, of which Benlomond is the conspicuous and towering elevation. These ranges are intersected by deep glens, the streams of which descend into the lake. The Fruin, Luss, Finlas, and Douglas, from their respective vales, drain the mountains of Dunbartonshire. The largest river is the Endrick, which flows into a bay on the south-east shore.

Extensive plantations and numerous splendid mansions ornament the banks of the lake, at the base of the hills, and the openings of the valleys, increasing the natural grandeur by art and cultivation. The view of the lake from Mount Misery on the south-west is most extensive and splendid, and this hill, the name of which is the very opposite of the designation it ought to receive, is often selected by artists.

Duncryne or Duncruin Hill in this quarter commands, with few exceptions, all the objects seen from Mount Misery. The view of the lake from the road on the western shore is often interrupted by luxuriant trees skirting the margin, while Benlomond is continually prominent as the monarch of the mountain range, and surrounded in the distance by Benvoirloch, Benvenue, and Benarthur, or the Cobbler. On this side and on the south, the projecting headlands and receding bays increase the variety and beauty of the fairy islands at the base of the massive Benlomond.¹

The bed of Loch Lomond is in general a soft mud produced from the deposits of the surrounding mountains, and the greatest depth is where the lake contracts to the northward. In this quarter the lake never freezes, and beyond the village of Luss the depth is at least six hundred fathoms. On the eastern shore the lofty Benlomond rears its giant form, extending north and south in lengthened slopes, the conical summit towering to the clouds, and surveying with dignity the mountains of Arrochar and Glenfalloch. The altitude is variously stated at 3242 feet, and 3175 feet. The journey to the summit is laborious, and from the inn at Rowardennan is about six miles. On the north-east side the mountain is peculiarly formidable, one side of which seems forcibly rent, and leaving a stupendous precipice of two thousand feet to the base. Those who ascend the mountain, which cannot be achieved by strangers without guides, wisely shrink from this fearful precipice, as a stumble would involve certain destruction. Benlomond is chiefly composed of granite, interspersed with immense masses of quartz near the summit, which appear like patches of snow when seen from the village of Luss and the west side of the lake. The mountain rises at the narrowing division, opposite the isthmus which separates Arrochar from Loch Long. The view from the summit to the north is impressively sublime, presenting vast piles of lofty and sterile mountains. On the west are the counties of Renfrew and Ayr, the Frith of Clyde, Ailsa Crag, the Islands of Arran and Bute, the distant Atlantic, and the coast of Ireland. Eastward appear the county of Stirling, the windings of the Forth, the Castle of Edinburgh, the coasts of Fife, Edinburgh, Haddington, the Bass Rock, and the German Ocean. The view on the south includes the Vale of the Clyde, and is bounded by the distant mountains of Cumberland.

The scenery of Loch Lomond was not appreciated by Wordsworth, who resided among the splendid lakes in Cumberland. After stating that "in Scotland the proportion of diffused water is often too great," the poet asks—"Who ever travelled along the banks of Loch Lomond, variegated as the lower part is by islands, without feeling that a speedier termination of the long vista of blank water would be acceptable, and without wishing for an interposition of green meadows, trees, and cottages, and a sparkling stream to run by his side?" To this and other general remarks Professor Wilson replies—"We shall not be suspected of an inclination to dissent on light grounds from any sentiments of Wordsworth;" and after justly remarking that the poet's sentiments are not applicable to Loch Lomond, Professor Wilson says—"It is out of our power to look on Loch Lomond without a feeling of perfection. The 'diffusion of water' is indeed great, but in what a world it floats! At first sight of it how our soul expands! Sea-like, indeed, it is, enclosed with lofty hills and as lofty mountains. We shall not dwell on the feeling which all must have experienced on the first sight of such a vision—the feeling of a lovely and mighty calm. It is manifest that the spacious 'diffusion of water' more than conspires with the other components of such to produce the feeling—that to it belongs the spell which makes our spirit serene, still, and bright as its own. The islands that before had lain we know not how—or we had only felt that they were all most lovely—begin to show themselves in the order of their relation to one another and to the shores. The eye rests on the largest, and with them the lesser combine; or we look at one or two of the least, away by themselves, or, remote from all, a tufted rock; and, many as they are, they break not the breadth of the liquid plain, for it is ample as the sky. And then the long promontories, stretching out from opposite mainlands, and enclosing bays that in themselves are lakes—they, too, magnify the empire of water; for, long as they are, they seem so only as our eye

¹ These headlands are called "Rosses," such as Nether Ross, Middle Ross, Ross-Finlas, Ross-Dhu, and Ross-Arden—the word Ross signifying in Celtic a promontory. Inch-Murrin, on which is a lodge, and at the west end of the ruins of the Castle of the ancient Earls of Lennox, is the most southerly of the Lochlomond Islands. North-east of Inch-Murrin are those of Inch-Crom, For-Inch, and Inch-Caillach, near the latter Clare-Inch, and southward Aber islet,

not far from the confluence of the Endric Water. Onwards are Galbraith, Castle-Inch, Inch-Fad, Inch-More, Inch-Tavanach, Inch-Cruinn, Inch-Conag, and Inch-Loanag, which is the last in the northern direction of the lake. Inch-Loanag, on which are many fine old trees, is a deer-preserve. Inch-Murrin is a deer-park, beautifully wooded, and has a hunting-seat and offices, belonging to the Duke of Montrose.

attends them with their cliffs and woods from the retiring shores, and far distant are their shadows from the central light. Then what shores! On one side, where the lake is widest, low lying they seem, and therefore lovelier—undulating with fields and groves, where many a pleasant dwelling is embowered, into lines of hills that gradually soften away into another land. They soon form into mountains, which become majestic, yet beauty never deserts them. Far off as they are, Benlomond and Benvoirlich are seen to be giants. Magnificent is their retinue, but they too are supreme, each in his own dominion, and clear as the day is here, they are diademed with clouds. The upper portion of Loch Lomond is felt by all to be most sublime. Wordsworth says that lakes should be small. The Highlands have them of all sizes, and that surely is best. But here is one which, it has been truly said, is not only ‘incomparable in beauty and dimensions, exceeding all others in variety, extent, and splendour, but uniting every style of scenery which is found in the other lakes of the Highlands.’ He who has studied, and understood, and felt, all Loch Lomond, will be prepared to enjoy any other fine lake; nor will he admire nor love it the less, though its chief character should consist in what forms one part of that wonder in which all kinds of beauty and sublimity are combined.”

Loch Lomond abounds with historical associations and traditions. At the south end of the lake, in the vicinity of the discharge by the Leven, are some fragments of Balloch Castle, the residence of the Earls of Lennox in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Many of their charters are dated from this stronghold, and from these documents it appears that the name of the lake, previous to the fourteenth century, was Loch Leven. The earls of Lennox subsequently removed to the island of Inch-Murrin, and Balloch Castle was left in ruins.

At Cragroyston, on the western side of Benlomond mountain, is a cave, the traditional shelter of King Robert Bruce after his defeat by Macdougall, the powerful Lord of Lorn, in 1306. The battle was fought on a desolate locality since called Dalree, or the “King’s Field,” in Glendochart near Strathfillan in Perthshire, which is reached from the north extremity of Loch Lomond through Glenfalloch, and is between the hamlets of Crianlarich and Tyndrum. Bruce is said to have passed the night in this cave, attended by a flock of goats, and he was so much pleased with his companions, that he afterwards exempted the owners of these animals from grass-mail or rent. On the following day he went to Malcolm, fifth Earl of Lennox, of the family of Lennox, one of his most zealous supporters, who sheltered his discomfited sovereign till he was enabled to proceed to Kintyre in Argyllshire. Cragroyston was subsequently the property of Rob Roy, and on the north is another cave which was the occasional resort of that celebrated marauder of the Clan Macgregor, to whom most of the northern shore of Loch Lomond originally belonged.

Nearly three miles north of the summit of Benlomond, and a mile inland from the lake, are the ruins of the Fort of Inversnaid, at the confluence of the stream so called with a rivulet which leaves Loch Arklet. This military station was erected in the earlier part of the eighteenth century to repress the turbulent Highlanders of the district, and principally the Macgregors. Inversnaid was garrisoned in the reign of George II., and is interesting as the quarters of General Wolfe when a subaltern. The rivulet traverses a romantic glen after passing the deserted military erection, and near the debouch into Loch Lomond makes a fine cascade. The lake in this quarter is less than a mile in breadth.

In Glen-Fruin, on the south-west of Loch Lomond, between the lake and the Clyde inlet of the Gare Loch, was fought a savage conflict between the Macgregors and Colquhouns in 1603. The Macgregors of Loch Lomond had been long a proscribed clan, and though divested of the best portions of their property by the rapacity of their neighbours and their own deeds of violence, they continued in their mountain retreats, and existed solely by predatory incursions. They were at feud with the Colquhouns of Luss, and their quarrels were fomented by Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyll, the “King’s Lieutenant in the Bounds of the Clan Gregor,” who had his own reasons for provoking the strife. The hostile clans met a short distance from Luss in Glen-Fruin, or the “Vale of Lamentation,” and the Colquhouns were defeated with considerable loss, while only a few of the Macgregors were slain, one of whom was the brother of their chief, the locality of whose death is marked by a stone known as the “Grey Stone of Macgregor.” Tobias Smollett, designated as a Bailie of Dunbarton, who was an ancestor of the novelist, and sundry burgesses of that town, were killed on the side of the Colquhouns. The victors, who committed wanton atrocities, thoroughly plundered their prostrated enemies. The result of the outrage was an Act of the Privy Council abolishing

the very name of Macgregor, and rendering the meeting of four of them together at one time a capital crime. Other enactments against them were occasionally renewed, and those proscriptions were in force until the eighteenth century.

In 1715 occurred the "Loch Lomond Expedition," against the Macgregors, who, in defiance of the laws against them continued their marauding expeditions under the celebrated Rob Roy Macgregor, and were in reality public robbers. They had seized all the boats on the lake, invaded the island of Inch-Murrin, killed many of the deer belonging to the Duke of Montrose, and committed other excesses. A strong force of volunteers from towns in the counties of Renfrew and Ayr was sent against them to recover the boats, assisted by about one hundred seamen from the ships of war in the Clyde, commanded by seven officers. They sailed up the Leven, and were drawn three miles in the course by horses. The contemporary account quaintly states that when "the pinnaces and boats within the mouth of the Loch had spread their sails, and the men on the shore had ranged themselves in order, marching along the side of the Loch for scouring the coast, they made altogether so very fine an appearance as had never been seen in that place before, and might have gratified even a curious person." The Macgregors, however, had disappeared, and the volunteers returned to Dunbarton, after securing the captured booty, without any demonstration of their courage.

The Leven is the discharge from Loch Lomond, and traverses the beautiful vale nearly six miles to the Clyde at Dunbarton Castle. This fine river is navigable for lighters and small boats, and the pureness of the water has attracted numerous bleachfields. The Leven is celebrated by Smollett in his admired ode—"On Leven's banks, while free to rove." A monument, an elegant Tuscan column, with a Latin inscription written by Dr. Johnson, two miles from Dunbarton, is in the native vale of the author of "Humphry Clinker," and numerous other now almost antiquated productions.

Argyllshire.

KILCHURN CASTLE—LOCH AWE.

THE splendid lake known as Lochawe, about twelve miles distant from Inverary, extends at least thirty-four miles in length, the breadth not more than a mile, except at the discharge of the river Awe into Loch Etive, where the expansion is upwards of four miles. Lochawe is surrounded by mountains, the most conspicuous of which is the ridge of Ben-Cruachan, rising simple and majestic, throwing dark shadows on the water, and towering as the superior of the adjacent rugged and barren elevations. The dark "Pass" of the Awe is along the western base of Ben-Cruachan. A considerable portion of the mountain appears as if violently separated for the discharge of the lake, and the Awe traverses the "Pass" or ravine, nearly three miles in length, bounded on the east by the almost inaccessible steeps of Ben-Cruachan, which rise almost perpendicularly from the river.

On the south-eastern shore of this grand, wild, and desolate Highland lake is Kilchurn Castle, occupying a projecting rocky elevation near the confluence of the Orchy, and frequently inundated when the rains increase the river and lake. Though now connected with the land by a narrow plain or peninsula of alluvial formation, the rocky site has been evidently an island, and was of some strength in feudal times. The founder of Kilchurn Castle is said to have been Sir Colin Campbell, Knight of Rhodes, third son of Duncan, first Lord Campbell of Lochawe, and ancestor of the Earls of Breadalbane. The date of the erection is 1440, when the wife of Sir Colin Campbell completed the fabric during his absence. This tower was five storeys in height, and the second storey was entirely the baronial hall. The remaining portions of Kilchurn Castle, which form a square enclosing a courtyard, are more recent than the tower, and the edifice was garrisoned in 1746 by the royal troops. Kilchurn is now a desolate ruin, and, though carefully preserved, is a mere "shade of departed power," which, in the poetical opinion of Wordsworth, is "lost on the aerial heights of the Crusades." It is stated that "the strength of the keep is nearly treble that of the rest of the fortress.